

CEDAR FAIR L P  
Form 10-K  
February 29, 2012  
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UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended: December 31, 2011

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

Commission file number 1-9444

CEDAR FAIR, L.P.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE

34-1560655

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

One Cedar Point Drive

Sandusky, Ohio

44870-5259

(Address of principal executive office)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (419) 626-0830

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class

Name of each exchange on which registered

Depository Units (Representing Limited Partner Interests)

New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.

Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting

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company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/> (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company	<input type="checkbox"/>

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes  No

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The aggregate market value of Depositary Units held by non-affiliates of the Registrant based on the closing price of such units on June 26, 2011 of \$18.71 per unit was approximately \$994,234,844.

Number of Depositary Units representing limited partner interests outstanding as of February 15, 2012: 55,370,005

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Part III of this Form 10-K incorporates by reference certain information from the Registrant's definitive proxy statement to be used in connection with its annual meeting of unitholders to be held in June 2012.

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The Exhibit Index is located on page 66

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### PART I

#### ITEM 1. BUSINESS.

##### Introduction

Cedar Fair, L.P. (together with its affiliated companies, the "Partnership") is a publicly traded Delaware limited partnership formed in 1987 and managed by Cedar Fair Management, Inc., an Ohio corporation (the "General Partner") whose shares are held by an Ohio trust. The Partnership is one of the largest regional amusement park operators in the world and owns eleven amusement parks, six outdoor water parks, one indoor water park and five hotels.

In 2011, the Partnership entertained more than 23 million visitors. All of the Partnership's parks are family-oriented, with recreational facilities for people of all ages, and provide clean and attractive environments with exciting rides and entertainment. The amusement parks include: Cedar Point, located on Lake Erie between Cleveland and Toledo in Sandusky, Ohio; Kings Island near Cincinnati, Ohio; Canada's Wonderland near Toronto, Canada; Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom ("Dorney Park"), located near Allentown in South Whitehall Township, Pennsylvania; Valleyfair, located near Minneapolis/St. Paul in Shakopee, Minnesota; Michigan's Adventure located near Muskegon, Michigan; Kings Dominion near Richmond, Virginia; Carowinds in Charlotte, North Carolina; Worlds of Fun located in Kansas City, Missouri; Knott's Berry Farm, located near Los Angeles in Buena Park, California; and California's Great America ("Great America") located in Santa Clara, California. Additionally, the Partnership has a contract to manage and operate Gilroy Gardens Family Theme Park in Gilroy, California.

The Partnership also owns and operates the Castaway Bay Indoor Waterpark Resort in Sandusky, Ohio, and six separately gated outdoor water parks. Three of the outdoor water parks are located adjacent to Cedar Point, Knott's Berry Farm and Worlds of Fun, the fourth is located near San Diego, the fifth is in Palm Springs, California, and the sixth is Wildwater Kingdom (formerly known as Geauga Lake) located near Cleveland in Aurora, Ohio. All rides and attractions at the amusement and water parks are owned and operated by the Partnership.

The Partnership's seasonal amusement parks are generally open during weekends beginning in April or May, and then daily from Memorial Day until Labor Day, after which they are open during weekends in September and, in most cases, October. The six outdoor water parks also operate seasonally, generally from Memorial Day to Labor Day, plus some additional weekends before and after this period. As a result, virtually all of the operating revenues of these parks are generated during an approximately 130- to 140-day operating season. Both Knott's Berry Farm and Castaway Bay Resort are open daily on a year-round basis. Castaway Bay's indoor water park is generally open daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day, plus a limited daily schedule for the balance of the year. Each park charges a basic daily admission price, which allows unlimited use of most rides and attractions.

The demographic groups that are most important to the parks are young people ages 12 through 24 and families. Families are believed to be attracted by a combination of rides, live entertainment and the clean, wholesome atmosphere. Young people are believed to be attracted by the action-packed rides. During their operating season, the parks conduct active television, radio, newspaper and Internet advertising campaigns in their major market areas geared toward these two groups.

##### Description of Parks

###### Cedar Point

Cedar Point, which was first developed as a recreational area in 1870, is located on a peninsula in Sandusky, Ohio bordered by Lake Erie and Sandusky Bay, approximately 60 miles west of Cleveland and 100 miles southeast of Detroit. Cedar Point is believed to be the largest seasonal amusement park in the United States, measured by the number of rides and attractions and the hourly ride capacity, and the park has been named the Best Amusement Park in the World for fourteen consecutive years by Amusement Today's international survey. It serves a six-state region in the Midwestern United States, which includes nearly all of Ohio and Michigan, western Pennsylvania and New York, northern West Virginia and Indiana, and southwestern Ontario, Canada. The park's total market area includes approximately 26 million people, and the major areas of dominant influence in this market area, which are Cleveland, Detroit, Toledo, Akron, Columbus, Grand Rapids, Flint, and Lansing, include approximately 15 million people.

Located adjacent to the park is "Soak City," a separately gated water park that features more than 20 water rides and attractions, as well as "Challenge Park," which features several extra-charge attractions including two 18-hole themed miniature golf courses and two go-kart tracks.

Cedar Point also owns and operates four hotel facilities. The park's only year-round hotel is Castaway Bay Indoor Waterpark Resort, an indoor water park resort, which is located at the Causeway entrance to the park. Castaway Bay features a tropical Caribbean theme with 237 hotel rooms centered around a 38,000-square-foot indoor water park. The park's largest hotel, the historic Hotel Breakers, has more than 600 guest rooms. Hotel Breakers has various dining and lounge facilities, a private beach, lake swimming, a conference/meeting center, one indoor pool and two outdoor pools. Located near the Causeway entrance to the park is Breakers Express, a 350-room, limited-service seasonal hotel. In addition to the Hotel Breakers and Breakers Express, Cedar Point offers the lake-front Sandcastle Suites Hotel, which features 187 suites, a courtyard pool, tennis courts and a contemporary waterfront restaurant.

Cedar Point also owns and operates the Cedar Point Marina, Castaway Bay Marina and Camper Village. Cedar Point Marina is one of the largest full-service marinas on the Great Lakes and provides dock facilities for more than 740 boats, including floating docks and full guest amenities.

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In addition, Cedar Point Marina features a Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que restaurant and an upscale seafood restaurant, called Bay Harbor, both of which are accessible by the general public. Castaway Bay Marina is a full-service marina featuring 160 slips. Camper Village includes campsites for more than 100 recreational vehicles and Lighthouse Point, which offers lake-front cottages, cabins and full-service recreation vehicle campsites.

The Partnership, through a wholly owned subsidiary, owns and operates the Cedar Point Causeway across Sandusky Bay. This Causeway is a major access route to Cedar Point. The Partnership also owns dormitory facilities located near the park that house up to 3,500 of the park's approximately 4,100 seasonal and part-time employees.

### Knott's Berry Farm

Knott's Berry Farm, located near Los Angeles in Buena Park, California, first opened in 1920 and was acquired by the Partnership late in 1997. The park is one of several year-round theme parks in Southern California and serves a total market area of approximately 20 million people centered in Orange County and a large national and international tourism population.

The park is renowned for its seasonal events, including a special Christmas promotion, "Knott's Merry Farm," and a Halloween event called "Knott's Scary Farm," which has been held for more than 30 years and is annually rated one of the best Halloween events in the industry by Amusement Today's international survey.

The Partnership also owns and operates three water parks in California. Adjacent to Knott's Berry Farm is "Knott's Soak City-Orange County," a separately gated seasonal water park that features more than 20 water rides and attractions. Just south of San Diego in Chula Vista, California is "Knott's Soak City-San Diego," a seasonal water park which offers its guests more than 20 water rides and attractions. "Knott's Soak City-Palm Springs" is a 16-acre seasonal water park, located in Palm Springs, California, that offers 20 separate water rides and attractions, including 13 water slides, a giant wave pool, a lazy river inner tube ride and a children's activity area, as well as various food and merchandise shops.

The Partnership also owns and operates the Knott's Berry Farm Resort Hotel, a 320-room, full-service hotel located adjacent to Knott's Berry Farm, which features a pool, tennis courts and meeting/banquet facilities.

### Canada's Wonderland

Canada's Wonderland, a combination amusement and water park located near Toronto in Vaughan, Ontario, first opened in 1981 and was acquired by the Partnership in June of 2006. It contains more than 200 attractions, including 16 roller coasters, and is one of the most attended regional amusement parks in North America. Canada's Wonderland is in a culturally diverse metropolitan market with large populations of different ethnicities and national origins. Each year, numerous cultural festivals featuring renowned music artists from across the world perform in the Kingswood Music Theatre located within the park. The park's total market area includes approximately 9 million people.

### Kings Island

Kings Island, a combination amusement and water park located near Cincinnati, Ohio, first opened in 1972 and was acquired by the Partnership in June of 2006. Kings Island is one of the largest seasonal amusement parks in the United States, measured by the number of rides and attractions and the hourly ride capacity. The park features a children's area that has been named the "Best Kids' Area in the World" for eleven consecutive years by Amusement Today.

The park's total market area includes approximately 15 million people, and the major areas of dominant influence in this market area, which are Cincinnati, Dayton and Columbus, Ohio, Louisville and Lexington, Kentucky, and



Indianapolis, Indiana, include approximately 8 million people.

#### Dorney Park

Dorney Park, a combination amusement and water park located near Allentown in South Whitehall Township, Pennsylvania, was first developed as a summer resort area in 1884 and was acquired by the Partnership in 1992. Dorney Park is one of the largest amusement parks in the Northeastern United States and serves a total market area of approximately 35 million people. The park's major markets include Philadelphia, New Jersey, New York City, Lancaster, Harrisburg, York, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Hazleton and the Lehigh Valley.

#### Kings Dominion

Kings Dominion, a combination amusement and water park located near Richmond, Virginia, first opened in 1975 and was acquired by the Partnership in June of 2006. The park's total market area includes approximately 19 million people and the major areas of dominant influence in this market area, which are Richmond and Norfolk, Virginia, Raleigh, North Carolina, Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, D.C, include approximately 12 million people.

Additionally, the park offers Kings Dominion Campground, a camping area featuring a swimming pool, playground, volleyball courts, miniature golf, and laundry facilities. The campground also offers a free shuttle service between the campground and amusement park.

The Partnership also owns a dormitory facility located adjacent to the park that houses up to 440 of the park's approximately 3,100 seasonal employees.

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### Carowinds

Carowinds, a combination amusement and water park located in Charlotte, North Carolina, first opened in 1973 and was acquired by the Partnership in June of 2006. Carowinds' major markets include Charlotte, Greensboro, and Raleigh, North Carolina as well as Greenville and Columbia, South Carolina. The park's total market area includes approximately 14 million people.

The park also offers Camp Wilderness Resort, a camping area that offers a convenience and merchandise store, laundry facilities, a swimming pool, miniature golf, shuffleboard, and sand volleyball courts. The campground has more than 140 RV sites and 57 spacious tent and pop-up sites. The campground also offers a free shuttle service between the campground and amusement park.

### Great America

Great America, a combination amusement and water park located in Santa Clara, California, first opened in 1976 and was acquired by the Partnership in June of 2006. The park's total market area includes approximately 13 million people and draws its visitors primarily from San Jose, San Francisco, Sacramento, Modesto and Monterey, among other cities in northern California.

### Valleyfair

Valleyfair, which opened in 1976 and was acquired by the Partnership's predecessor in 1978, is a combination amusement and water park located near Minneapolis-St. Paul in Shakopee, Minnesota. It is the largest amusement park in Minnesota. Valleyfair's market area is centered in Minneapolis-St. Paul, which has a population of approximately 3 million, but the park also draws visitors from other areas in Minnesota and surrounding states with a combined population base of 9 million people.

The Partnership also owns a dormitory facility located adjacent to the park that houses up to 420 of the park's approximately 1,750 seasonal employees.

### Worlds of Fun

Worlds of Fun, which opened in 1973, and Oceans of Fun, the adjacent separately gated water park that opened in 1982, were acquired by the Partnership in 1995. Located in Kansas City, Missouri, Worlds of Fun serves a total market area of approximately 7 million people centered in Kansas City, but also including most of Missouri, as well as portions of Kansas and Nebraska.

The park also features Worlds of Fun Village, an upscale camping area that offers overnight guest accommodations next to the park in 20 wood-side cottages, 22 log cabins and 80 deluxe RV sites. Also, included within the Village is a clubhouse with a swimming pool and arcade games.

Oceans of Fun, which requires a separate admission fee, is located adjacent to Worlds of Fun and features a wide variety of water attractions.

### Michigan's Adventure

Michigan's Adventure, which was acquired by the Partnership in 2001, is the largest amusement park in Michigan. The combination amusement and water park located near Muskegon, Michigan serves a total market area of approximately 5 million people, principally from central and western Michigan and eastern Indiana.

## Wildwater Kingdom

Wildwater Kingdom, formerly known as Geauga Lake, located near Cleveland, Ohio, was first developed as a recreational area in 1888, and was acquired by the Partnership in 2004. This family-oriented water park serves a total market area of approximately 6 million people. The park's major markets include Cleveland, Akron and Youngstown.

## WORKING CAPITAL AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

During the operating season, the Partnership carries significant receivables and inventories of food and merchandise, as well as payables and payroll-related accruals. Amounts are substantially reduced in non-operating periods. Seasonal working capital needs are funded with revolving credit facilities, which are established at levels sufficient to accommodate the Partnership's peak borrowing requirements in April and May as the seasonal parks complete preparations for opening. Revolving credit borrowings are reduced daily with the Partnership's strong positive cash flow during the seasonal operating period.

The Partnership believes that annual park attendance is influenced to a large extent by the investment in new attractions from year to year. Capital expenditures are planned on a seasonal basis with the majority of such capital expenditures made in the period from October through May, prior to the beginning of the peak operating season. Capital expenditures made in a calendar year may differ materially from amounts identified with a particular operating season because of timing considerations such as weather conditions, site preparation requirements and availability of ride components, which may result in accelerated or delayed expenditures around calendar year-end.

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### COMPETITION

In general, the Partnership competes for discretionary spending with all phases of the recreation industry within its primary market areas, including several destination and regional amusement parks. The Partnership also competes with other forms of entertainment and recreational activities, including movies, sports events, restaurants and vacation travel.

The principal competitive factors in the amusement park industry include the uniqueness and perceived quality of the rides and attractions in a particular park, its proximity to metropolitan areas, the atmosphere and cleanliness of the park, and the quality and variety of the food and entertainment available. The Partnership believes that its amusement parks feature a sufficient quality and variety of rides and attractions, restaurants, gift shops and family atmosphere to make them highly competitive with other parks and forms of entertainment.

### GOVERNMENT REGULATION

The Partnership's properties and operations are subject to a variety of federal, state and local environmental, health and safety laws and regulations. Currently, the Partnership believes it is in substantial compliance with applicable requirements under these laws and regulations. However, such requirements have generally become more strict over time, and there can be no assurance that new requirements, changes in enforcement policies or newly discovered conditions relating to its properties or operations will not require significant expenditures in the future.

All rides are run and inspected daily by both the Partnership's maintenance and ride operations personnel before being put into operation. The parks are also periodically inspected by the Partnership's insurance carrier and, at all parks except Valleyfair and Carowinds' South Carolina rides, by state or county ride-safety inspectors. Valleyfair contracts with a third party to inspect its rides per Minnesota law and submits the third-party report to the state agency. Carowinds contracts with a third party to inspect its rides located in South Carolina per the law and submits the third-party report to the state agency.

### EMPLOYEES

The Partnership has approximately 1,700 full-time employees. During the operating season, the Partnership employs in aggregate approximately 37,000 seasonal and part-time employees, many of whom are high school and college students. Approximately 3,500 of Cedar Point's seasonal employees, 400 of Valleyfair's seasonal employees, and 440 of Kings Dominion's seasonal employees live in dormitories owned by the Partnership. The Partnership maintains training programs for all new employees and believes that its relations with its employees are good.

### AVAILABLE INFORMATION

Copies of the Partnership's annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, and current reports on Form 8-K and all amendments to those reports as filed or furnished with the SEC are available without charge upon written request to the Partnership's Investor Relations Office or through its website ([www.cedarfair.com](http://www.cedarfair.com)).

You may read and copy any materials filed with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at Headquarters Office, 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, DC 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC maintains an Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains the Partnership's reports, proxy statements and other information.

See Item 6 for Selected Financial Data, including net revenues, net income (loss) and total assets.

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## SUPPLEMENTAL ITEM. Executive Officers of Cedar Fair

Name	Age	Position(s)
Matthew A. Ouimet	53	Matt Ouimet has served as Chief Executive Officer since January 2012. Prior to that, he served as President of Cedar Fair since June 2011. Before joining Cedar Fair, Matt served as President and Chief Operating Officer for Corinthian Colleges from July 2009 to October 2010 and as Executive Vice President – Operations from January 2009 to June 2009. Prior to joining Corinthian Colleges, he served as President, Hotel Group for Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide from August 2006 to September 2008.
Richard A. Zimmerman	51	Richard Zimmerman has served as Chief Operating Officer since October of 2011. Prior to that, he served as Executive Vice President since November 2010, previously serving as Regional Vice President since June 2007. Before serving as Executive Vice President, he served as Vice President and General Manager of Kings Dominion since 1998.
Brian C. Witherow	45	Brian Witherow has served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since January 2012. Prior to that, he served as Vice President and Corporate Controller beginning in July 2005. He served as Corporate Treasurer from May 2004 to June 2005 and as Corporate Director of Investor Relations from 1995 through 2004.
H. Philip Bender	56	Phil Bender has served as Executive Vice President, Operations, since November 2010, previously serving as Regional Vice President beginning in June 2006. Prior to that, he served as Vice President & General Manager of Worlds of Fun / Oceans of Fun since the end of 2000.
Robert A. Decker	51	Rob Decker has served as Corporate Vice President of Planning & Design since the end of 2002. Prior to that, he served as Corporate Director of Planning and Design since 1999.
Craig J. Freeman	58	Craig Freeman has served as Corporate Vice President of Administration since September 2005. Prior to that, he served as Vice President and General Manager of Knott's Camp Snoopy at the Mall of America from 1996 through 2005.
Duffield E. Milkie	46	Duff Milkie has served as Corporate Vice President and General Counsel since February 2008 and Corporate Secretary since February 2012. Prior to that, he was a partner in the law firm of Wickens, Herzer, Panza, Cook, & Batista since 1998.
David R. Hoffman	43	Dave Hoffman has served as Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer since January 2012. Prior to that, he served as Vice President of Finance and Corporate Tax since November 2010. He served as Vice President of Corporate Tax from October 2006 until November 2010. Before joining Cedar Fair in 2006, he served as a tax consultant with Ernst & Young.
Kelley Semmelroth	47	Kelley Semmelroth has served as Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer since February 2012. Prior to joining Cedar Fair, Kelley served as Senior Vice President, Marketing Planning Director for TD Bank beginning in 2010. From 2005 to 2010, Kelley served as Senior Vice President of Brand Strategy and Management at Bank of America.

## ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS.

We compete for discretionary spending with many other entertainment alternatives and are subject to factors that generally affect the recreation and leisure industry, including the recent economic downturn. Our parks compete for discretionary spending with other amusement, water and theme parks and with other types of recreational activities and forms of entertainment, including movies, sports events, restaurants and vacation travel. Our business is also subject to factors that generally affect the recreation and leisure industries and are not within our control. Such factors include, but are not limited to, general economic conditions, including relative fuel prices, and changes in consumer tastes and spending habits. The difficult regional economic conditions and recessionary periods may adversely impact attendance figures and guest spending patterns at our parks, and disproportionately affect different segments of our target customers within our core markets. For example, group sales and season-pass sales, which represent a significant portion of our revenues, are disproportionately affected by general economic conditions. Both attendance and guest per capita spending at our parks are key drivers of our revenues and profitability, and reductions in either can directly and negatively affect revenues and profitability. The principal competitive factors of a park include location, price, the uniqueness and perceived quality of the rides and attractions, the atmosphere and cleanliness of the park and the quality of its food and entertainment.

The uncertain economic conditions, such as higher unemployment rates, a constrained credit market and housing-related pressures, have affected our guests' levels of discretionary spending. A continued decrease in discretionary spending due to decreases in consumer confidence in the economy, a continued economic slowdown or further deterioration in the economy could adversely affect the frequency with which our guests

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choose to attend our amusement parks and the amount that our guests spend on our products when they visit. The continued materialization of these risks could lead to a decrease in our revenues, operating income and cash flows.

Bad or extreme weather conditions can adversely impact attendance at our parks, which in turn would reduce our revenues.

Because most of the attractions at our parks are outdoors, attendance at our parks can be adversely affected by continuous bad or extreme weather and by forecasts of bad or mixed weather conditions, which negatively affect our revenues. We believe that our ownership of many parks in different geographic locations reduces, but does not completely eliminate, the effect that adverse weather can have on our consolidated results. For example, we believe that our operating results in 2009 were adversely affected by abnormally cold and wet weather in a number of our major U.S. markets.

The operating season at most of our parks is of limited duration, which can magnify the impact of adverse conditions or events occurring within that operating season.

Ten of our amusement parks are seasonal, generally operating during a portion of April or May, then daily from Memorial Day through Labor Day, and during weekends in September and, in most cases, October. Our outdoor water parks also operate seasonally, generally from Memorial Day through Labor Day and during some additional weekends before and after that period. Most of our revenues are generated during this 130- to 140-day annual operating season. As a result, when conditions or events described as risk factors occur during the operating season, particularly during the peak months of July and August or the important fall season, there is only a limited period of time during which the impact of those conditions or events can be mitigated. Accordingly, such conditions or events may have a disproportionately adverse effect upon our revenues.

Unanticipated construction delays in completing capital improvement projects in our parks and resort facilities, or significant ride downtime, can adversely affect our revenues.

A principal competitive factor for an amusement park is the uniqueness and perceived quality of its rides and attractions in a particular market area. Accordingly, the regular addition of new rides and attractions is important, and a key element of our revenue growth is strategic capital spending on new rides and attractions. Any construction delays or ride down-time can adversely affect our attendance and our ability to realize revenue growth.

If our customers' credit card data is compromised/stolen, we could be exposed to data loss, litigation and liability, and our reputation could be harmed.

In connection with credit card sales, we transmit confidential credit card information securely over public networks and store it in our data warehouse. Third parties may have the technology or know-how to breach the security of this customer information, and our security measures may not effectively prohibit others from obtaining improper access to this information. If a person is able to circumvent our security measures, he or she could destroy or steal valuable information or disrupt our operations. Although we have not had any cyber-security incident's resulting in a breach, any security breach could expose us to risks of data loss, litigation and liability and could disrupt our operations and any resulting negative publicity could harm our reputation.

Increased costs of labor and employee health and welfare benefits may impact our results of operations.

Labor is a primary component in the cost of operating our business. We devote significant resources to recruiting and training our managers and employees. Increased labor costs, due to competition, increased minimum wage or employee benefit costs, including health care costs, or otherwise, could adversely impact our operating expenses. In addition, our success depends on our ability to attract, motivate and retain qualified employees to keep pace with our needs. If we are unable to do so, our results of operations may be adversely affected.

There is a risk of accidents occurring at amusement parks, which may reduce attendance and negatively impact our revenues.



All of our amusement parks feature thrill rides. The safety of our guests and employees is one of our primary concerns. There are inherent risks involved with these attractions, and an accident or a serious injury at any of our amusement parks may result in negative publicity and could reduce attendance and result in decreased revenues. In addition, accidents or injuries at parks operated by our competitors could influence the general attitudes of amusement park patrons and adversely affect attendance at our amusement parks.

If we lose key personnel, our business may be adversely affected.

Our success depends in part upon a number of key employees, including our senior management team, whose members have been involved in the leisure and hospitality industries for an average of more than 20 years. The loss of the services of our key employees could have a materially adverse effect on our business. With the exception of several executive officers, we do not have employment agreements with our key employees.

Instability in general economic conditions throughout the world could impact our profitability and liquidity while increasing our exposure to counter-party risk.

Unfavorable general economic conditions, such as higher unemployment rates, a constrained credit market, housing-related pressures, and higher prices for consumer goods may hinder the ability of those with which we do business, including vendors, concessionaires and customers, to satisfy their obligations to us. Our exposure to credit losses will depend on the financial condition of our vendors, concessionaires and customers and other factors beyond our control, such as deteriorating conditions in the world economy or in the theme park industry. The unprecedented levels of disruption and volatility in the credit and financial markets have increased our possible exposure to vendor, concessionaires and customer credit risk because it has made it harder for them to access sufficient capital to meet their liquidity needs. This market turmoil, coupled with a reduction of business activity, generally increases our risks related to our status as an unsecured creditor of most of our vendors, concessionaires and customers. Credit losses, if significant, would have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Moreover, these issues could also increase the counter-party risk inherent in our business, including with our suppliers, vendors and financial institutions with which we enter into hedging agreements and long-term debt agreements, such as our credit facilities. The soundness of these counter-parties could adversely affect us. In this difficult economic environment, our credit evaluations may be inaccurate and we cannot assure

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you that credit performance will not be materially worse than anticipated, and, as a result, materially and adversely affect our business, financial position and results of operations.

Our operations and our ownership of property subject us to environmental regulation, which creates uncertainty regarding future environmental expenditures and liabilities.

We may be required to incur costs to comply with environmental requirements, such as those relating to water resources, discharges to air, water and land; the handling and disposal of solid and hazardous waste; and the cleanup of properties affected by regulated materials. Under these and other environmental requirements we may be required to investigate and clean up hazardous or toxic substances or chemical releases from current or formerly owned or operated facilities. Environmental laws typically impose cleanup responsibility and liability without regard to whether the relevant entity knew of or caused the presence of the contaminants. The costs of investigation, remediation or removal of regulated materials may be substantial, and the presence of those substances, or the failure to remediate a property properly, may impair our ability to use, transfer or obtain financing regarding our property. We may be required to incur costs to remediate potential environmental hazards, mitigate environmental risks in the future, or comply with other environmental requirements.

Our insurance coverage may not be adequate to cover all possible losses that we could suffer, and our insurance costs may increase.

Companies engaged in the amusement park business may be sued for substantial damages in the event of an actual or alleged accident. An accident occurring at our parks or at competing parks could reduce attendance, increase insurance premiums, and negatively impact our operating results. Although we carry liability insurance to cover this risk, there can be no assurance that our coverage will be adequate to cover liabilities, or that we will be able to obtain adequate coverage should a catastrophic incident occur.

Our debt agreements contain restrictions that could limit our flexibility in operating our business.

Our credit agreement and the indenture governing our notes contain, and any future indebtedness of ours will likely contain, a number of covenants that could impose significant operating and financial restrictions on us, including restrictions on our and our subsidiaries ability to, among other things:

- incur additional debt or issue certain preferred equity;
- pay distributions on or make distributions in respect of our capital stock or units or make other restricted payments;
- make certain investments;
- sell certain assets;
- create restrictions on distributions from restricted subsidiaries;
- create liens on certain assets to secure debt;
- consolidate, merge, amalgamate, sell or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets;
- enter into certain transactions with our affiliates; and
- designate our subsidiaries as unrestricted subsidiaries.

Our credit agreement requires us to meet certain maximum leverage ratios and minimum fixed charge coverage ratios and the failure to do so may constitute an event of default under our credit agreement. As a result of these covenants, we could be limited in the manner in which we conduct our business, and we may be unable to engage in favorable business activities or finance future operations or capital needs. The most critical of these ratios is the Consolidated Leverage Ratio. At December 31, 2011, this ratio, as set forth in our credit agreement, was 6.00x consolidated total debt (excluding revolving debt)-to-consolidated EBITDA. Based on 2011 results, our consolidated total debt (excluding revolving debt)-to-consolidated EBITDA ratio at December 31, 2011 was in compliance with the covenant at 4.16x, providing \$115.2 million of EBITDA cushion on the Consolidated Leverage Ratio. To the extent that our 2012 attendance levels are negatively impacted by deteriorating economic and market conditions, and consolidated Adjusted EBITDA falls below approximately \$260.0 million, based on debt levels at December 31, 2011, our ability to satisfy the Consolidated Leverage Ratio could be difficult.

Our credit agreement and the indenture governing our notes also contain liquidity ratios that govern restricted payments, including our ability to declare and pay partnership distributions. Per the terms of the credit agreement, beginning in 2012 our ability to make restricted payments is permitted based on an Excess-Cash-Flow formula, should our pro-forma Consolidated Leverage Ratio be less than or equal to 4.50x consolidated total debt (excluding revolving debt)-to-consolidated EBITDA (as defined), measured on a quarterly basis. Per the terms of the indenture governing our notes, our ability to make restricted payments in 2012 and beyond is permitted should our trailing-twelve-month Total-Indebtedness-to-Consolidated-Cash-Flow Ratio be less than or equal to 4.75x consolidated total indebtedness (including average revolving debt)-to-consolidated EBITDA, measured on a quarterly basis. As of December 31, 2011, Total-Indebtedness-to-Consolidated-Cash-Flow Ratio was 4.33x, providing \$33.2 million of Consolidated Cash Flow cushion on the ratio.

We were in compliance with all other terms of the credit agreement and indenture governing our notes as of year-end.

Variable rate indebtedness subjects us to the risk of higher interest rates, which could cause our future debt service obligations to increase significantly.

As of December 31, 2011, after giving consideration to current outstanding interest-rate swap arrangements, we had \$99.6 million of indebtedness under our term loan facility that accrues interest at a variable rate and \$1,456.8 million that is either fixed or swapped to a fixed rate. After giving consideration to the swap agreements, certain of our borrowings may be at variable rates of interest and expose us to interest rate risk. If interest rates increase, our annual debt service obligations on any variable-rate indebtedness would increase even though the amount borrowed remained the same, and our net income would decrease.

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Our substantial indebtedness could adversely affect our ability to raise additional capital to fund our operations, limit our ability to react to changes in the economy or our industry and prevent us from fulfilling our obligations under our debt agreements.

We had \$1,577.6 million of outstanding indebtedness as of December 31, 2011 (after giving effect to \$16.5 million of outstanding letters of credit under our revolving credit facility and \$4.7 million of unamortized original issue discount on our notes).

Our substantial indebtedness could have important consequences. For example, it could:

- limit our ability to borrow money for our working capital, capital expenditures, debt service requirements, strategic initiatives or other purposes;
- limit our flexibility in planning or reacting to changes in business and future business operations;
- make it more difficult for us to satisfy our obligations with respect to our indebtedness, and any failure to comply with the obligations of any of our debt instruments, including restrictive covenants and borrowing conditions, could result in an event of default under the agreements governing other indebtedness;
- limit our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business and the industry in which we operate;
- make us more highly leveraged than some of our competitors, which may place us at a competitive disadvantage; and
- require us to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to the repayment of our indebtedness thereby reducing funds available to us for other purposes, such as making strategic acquisitions, introducing new rides and attractions and exploiting business opportunities.

In addition, we may not be able to generate sufficient cash flow from operations, or be able to draw under our revolving credit facility or otherwise, in an amount sufficient to fund our liquidity needs, including the payment of principal and interest on our debt obligations. If our cash flows and capital resources are insufficient to service our indebtedness, we may be forced to reduce or delay capital expenditures, sell assets, seek additional capital or restructure or refinance our indebtedness. These alternative measures may not be successful and may not permit us to meet our scheduled debt service obligations. Our ability to restructure or refinance our debt will depend on the condition of the capital markets and our financial condition at such time. Any refinancing of our debt could be at higher interest rates and may require us to comply with more onerous covenants, which could further restrict our business operations. In addition, the terms of our existing or future debt agreements, including our credit agreement and the indenture governing our notes, may restrict us from adopting some of these alternatives. In the absence of such operating results and resources, we could face substantial liquidity problems and might be required to dispose of material assets or operations to meet our debt service and other obligations. We may not be able to consummate those dispositions for fair market value or at all. Furthermore, any proceeds that we could realize from any such dispositions may not be adequate to meet our debt service obligations then due.

Turmoil in the credit and capital markets could impede our future ability to refinance our long term debt or prevent us from obtaining additional funds required to effectively operate our business, including funds from our revolving credit facility.

From 2008 through 2010, U.S. and global credit markets experienced significant disruption, making it difficult for many businesses to obtain financing on acceptable or previously customary terms. Additionally, the volatility in equity markets due to rapid and wide fluctuations in value has resulted in a reduction of public offerings of equity securities. If these conditions persist or worsen, our borrowing costs may increase, and it may be more difficult to secure funding for our operations, including capital expenditures for theme park attractions. These risks could also impact our long-term debt ratings which would likely increase our cost of borrowing and/or make it more difficult for us to obtain funding. These factors are particularly important given our substantial long-term debt as of December 31, 2011 of \$1,561.1 million (before reduction of \$4.7 million of original issue discount on our notes).

Our tax treatment is dependent on our status as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. If the tax laws were to treat us as a corporation or we become subject to a material amount of entity-level taxation, it may substantially reduce the amount of cash available for distribution to our unitholders.

We are a limited partnership under Delaware law and are treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. A change in current tax law may cause us to be taxed as a corporation for federal income tax purposes or otherwise subject us to taxation as an entity. If we were treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes, we would pay federal income tax on our entire taxable income at the corporate tax rate, rather than only on the taxable income from our corporate subsidiaries, and may be subject to additional state taxes at varying rates. Further, unitholder distributions would generally be taxed again as corporate distributions or dividends and no income, gains, losses, or deductions would flow through to unitholders. Because additional entity level taxes would be imposed upon us as a corporation, our cash available for distribution could be substantially reduced. Although we are not currently aware of any legislative proposal that would adversely impact our treatment as a partnership, we are unable to predict whether any changes or other proposals will ultimately be enacted.

Other factors, including local events, natural disasters and terrorist activities, can adversely impact park attendance and our revenues.

Lower attendance may result from various local events, natural disasters or terrorist activities, all of which are outside of our control.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS.

None.

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ITEM 2. PROPERTIES.

Cedar Point and Soak City are located on approximately 365 acres, virtually all of which have been developed, on the Cedar Point peninsula in Sandusky, Ohio. The Partnership also owns approximately 100 acres of property on the mainland adjoining the approach to the Cedar Point Causeway. The Breakers Express hotel, the Castaway Bay Indoor Waterpark Resort and adjoining TGI Friday's restaurant, Castaway Bay Marina and two seasonal-employee housing complexes are located on this property.

The Partnership controls, through ownership or an easement, a six-mile public highway and owns approximately 38 acres of vacant land adjacent to this highway, which is a secondary access route to Cedar Point and serves about 250 private residences. The roadway is maintained by the Partnership pursuant to deed provisions. The Cedar Point Causeway, a four-lane roadway across Sandusky Bay, is the principal access road to Cedar Point and is owned by a subsidiary of the Partnership.

Knott's Berry Farm and Knott's Soak City, located in California, are situated on approximately 147 acres and 13 acres, respectively, virtually all of which have been developed. Knott's Soak City-San Diego is located on 60 acres, of which 27 acres have been developed and 33 acres remain available for future expansion. Knott's Soak City-Palm Springs is located on 23 acres, of which 17 acres have been developed and 6 acres remain available for future expansion.

Kings Island, located in Ohio, is situated on approximately 677 acres, of which 349 acres have been developed and 328 acres remain available for future expansion.

Canada's Wonderland, located near Toronto near Vaughn, Ontario, is situated on approximately 290 acres, virtually all of which have been developed.

Kings Dominion, located in Virginia, is situated on approximately 738 acres, of which 279 acres have been developed and 459 acres remain available for future expansion.

Dorney Park, located in Pennsylvania, is situated on approximately 208 acres, of which 181 acres have been developed and 27 acres remain available for future expansion.

Carowinds, located in North Carolina, is situated on approximately 398 acres, of which 299 acres have been developed and 99 acres remain available for future expansion.

Valleyfair, located in Minnesota, is situated on approximately 180 acres, of which 113 acres have been developed and approximately 77 additional acres remain available for future expansion.

Worlds of Fun, located in Missouri, is situated on approximately 350 acres, of which 250 acres have been developed and 100 acres remain available for future expansion or other uses.

Great America, located in California, is situated on approximately 167 acres, virtually all of which have been developed.

Michigan's Adventure, located in Michigan, is situated on approximately 250 acres, of which 119 acres have been developed and 131 acres remain available for future expansion.

At Wildwater Kingdom, located in Ohio, the Partnership owns approximately 670 total acres, of which 65 acres have been developed and are in use at the water park and an additional 65 acres are available for future expansion. The remaining acreage is available for sale or for future development.

The Partnership, through its subsidiary Cedar Point of Michigan, Inc., also owns approximately 450 acres of land in southern Michigan.

All of the Partnership's property is owned in fee simple, with the exception of Great America in Santa Clara, California, and encumbered by the Partnership's credit agreement. The Partnership leases the land at Great America from the City of Santa Clara through a long-term lease agreement that automatically renews through 2074 with options to terminate at the Partnership's discretion. The Partnership considers its properties to be well maintained, in good condition and adequate for its present uses and business requirements.

### ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Jacob T. Falfas vs. Cedar Fair, L.P.

On July 23, 2010, Jacob T. (Jack) Falfas, the former Chief Operating Officer, filed a demand for private arbitration as provided by his employment agreement. In that demand, Mr. Falfas disputed the Partnership's position that he had resigned in June 2010, alleging instead that his employment with the Partnership was terminated without cause. That dispute went to private arbitration, and on February 28, 2011, an arbitration panel ruled 2-to-1 in favor of Mr. Falfas finding that he did not resign but was terminated without cause. Rather than fashioning a remedy consistent with the employment agreement, the panel ruled that Mr. Falfas should be reinstated. The Partnership believes that the arbitrators exceeded their authority by creating a remedy not legally available to Mr. Falfas under his contract with Cedar Fair. On March 21, 2011, the Partnership filed

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an action in Erie County Court of Common Pleas (Case No. 2011 CV 0217) seeking to have the award modified or vacated. On March 22, 2011, Mr. Falfas commenced a related action in the Erie County Court of Common Pleas (Case No. 2011 CV 0218) demanding enforcement of the arbitration ruling. The two actions have been combined into Case No. 2011 CV 0217, before Judge Roger E. Binette. On February 22, 2012 the Erie County Common Pleas Court issued a ruling partially vacating the arbitration award and declaring that Mr. Falfas was not entitled to reinstatement of his employment. The ruling also provided that in accord with paragraph 2 of the arbitration award Mr. Falfas was entitled to certain back pay and other benefits under his 2007 Amended and Restated Employment Agreement. The parties have thirty (30) days from the date of the ruling in which to file an appeal. The Partnership believes the liability recorded as of December 31, 2011 to be adequate and does not expect the arbitration ruling or the court order to materially affect its financial results in future periods.

Q Funding III, L.P. and Q4 Funding, L.P. vs. Cedar Fair Management, Inc.

Nomination Rights Action

On October 14, 2010, Q Funding III, L.P. and Q4 Funding, L.P. (together, "Q Funding"), both Cedar Fair, L.P. unitholders, commenced an action in the Delaware Court of Chancery against Cedar Fair Management, Inc. ("CFMI") and Cedar Fair, L.P. seeking to establish a right to nominate for unitholders.

Q Funding voluntarily dismissed this action without prejudice on November 15, 2011.

June Special Meeting Action

On June 14, 2011, Q Funding commenced an action in the Delaware Court of Chancery against CFMI and Cedar Fair, L.P. seeking declaratory and injunctive relief to the plaintiffs' May 17, 2011 request for a special meeting of Cedar Fair's unitholders to consider, among other things, a proposal to remove CFMI as the general partner of Cedar Fair and to amend the Fifth Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership (the "LPA") to allow unitholders to nominate directors for election to the board of directors of the general partner.

Q Funding voluntarily dismissed this action without prejudice on November 15, 2011.

Texas and Ohio Filings

In May of 2011 Q Funding also initiated suit in Ohio and Texas against individual board members alleging a breach of fiduciary duty regarding statements included in or omitted from the Partnership's 2004 Proxy statement concerning unitholders' right to nominate directors. The Company filed a motion to dismiss in both of these cases.

Q Funding voluntarily dismissed the actions in Ohio and Texas without prejudice on January 13, 2012 .

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

PART II - OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S DEPOSITARY UNITS, RELATED UNITHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF DEPOSITARY UNITS.

Cedar Fair, L.P. Depositary Units representing limited partner interests are listed for trading on The New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "FUN." As of January 31, 2012, there were approximately 7,100 registered holders of Cedar Fair, L.P. Depositary Units, representing limited partner interests. Attention is directed to Item 12 in this Form 10-K



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for information regarding the Partnership's equity incentive plans, which information is incorporated herein by reference. The cash distributions declared and the high and low prices of the Partnership's units for each quarter of the past two years are shown in the table below:

	Distribution	High	Low
2011			
4th quarter	\$0.70	\$23.73	\$16.86
3rd quarter	0.12	21.96	16.44
2nd quarter	0.10	22.69	18.09
1st quarter	0.08	20.00	15.03
2010			
4th quarter	\$0.25	\$15.80	\$12.93
3rd quarter	—	14.09	10.99
2nd quarter	—	15.79	11.21
1st quarter	—	13.50	10.92

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The Partnership's credit agreement, as amended on February 25, 2011, includes provisions that allow the Partnership to make restricted payments up to \$20 million in 2012 annually and thereafter, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, so long as no default or event of default has occurred and is continuing. These restricted payments are not subject to any specific covenants. Beginning in 2012, additional restricted payments are allowed to be made based on an Excess-Cash-Flow formula, should the Partnership's pro-forma Consolidated Leverage Ratio be less than or equal to 4.50x consolidated total debt (excluding the revolving debt)-to-consolidated EBITDA, measured on a quarterly basis. Per the terms of the indenture governing the Partnership's notes, the ability to make restricted payments in 2012 and beyond is permitted should the Partnership's trailing-twelve-month Total-Indebtedness-to-Consolidated-Cash-Flow Ratio be less than or equal to 4.75x consolidated total indebtedness (including average revolving debt)-to-consolidated EBITDA, measured on a quarterly basis.

## Unitholder Return Performance Graph

The graph below shows a comparison of the five-year cumulative total return (assuming all distributions/dividends reinvested) on Cedar Fair, L.P. limited partnership units, the S&P 500 Index, the S&P 400 Index and the S&P - Movies and Entertainment Index, assuming investment of \$100 on December 31, 2006.

	Base Period	Return				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Cedar Fair, L.P.	\$100.00	\$79.43	\$51.63	\$53.43	\$72.20	\$142.57
S&P 500	100.00	105.49	66.46	84.07	96.70	98.74
S&P 400	100.00	107.98	68.86	94.60	119.80	117.72
S&P Movies and Entertainment	100.00	90.46	52.58	27.53	32.14	35.79

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ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA.

2011	2010 <sup>(1)</sup>	2009 <sup>(2)</sup>	2008 <sup>(3)</sup>	2007 <sup>(4)</sup>
(In thousands, except per unit and per capita amounts)				