2018 Regional Parks System Annual Use Estimate

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Use Estimate Background

• Produced annually since 1995
• Used in formulas to calculate regional park implementing agency’s share of Regional Parks System grant program dollars
• Allows for monitoring trends over time
The estimate includes data from 113 regional parks, trails, park reserves and special recreation features.

Two new trail sections were in this year’s count:
- Point Douglas Regional Trail (Washington County)
- Nokomis-Minnesota River Bluffs Regional Trail (Bloomington)
Calculating the Annual Use Estimate

**Raw Counts**

Parks staff count all people entering all parks and trails at designated locations.

Schedule has randomized times, days, and entrances, Memorial Day to Labor Day.

**Expansion**

Averaged with previous three years to account for weather, flooding

Counts are “expanded” to apply to all days and entrances.

**Special Events/Camping**

Agency-submitted special event, camping use is added in

Estimated non-summer use based on Visitor Study multipliers
Regional Parks System Annual Visits

Visits (Millions)


* Increase due to implementation of new visitor study multipliers

59.8M
Visits by Agency

- Anoka County
- Bloomington
- Carver County
- Dakota County
- Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
- Ramsey County
- Saint Paul
- Scott County
- Three Rivers Park District - Hennepin
- Three Rivers Park District - Scott
- Washington County

Millions of visits
Highest Visitation Parks

Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park
Como Regional Park, Zoo, and Conservatory
Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park
Minnehaha Regional Park
Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park
Elm Creek Park Reserve
Phalen Regional Park - Saint Paul
Mississippi Gorge Regional Park
Lilydale-Harriet Island Regional Park

Millions of visits
2019-2020 Parks Research Underway

• Analyzing visitation using cell phone data (Streetlight): July 1 CDC
• 2020 Visitor Study – a survey to ask visitors about park experience, set funding formula statistics, provide key data on equity, and Streetlight verification
• Qualitative study on youth in parks: Collaborative, participatory, subgroup-specific