

2018 Regional Parks System Annual Use Estimate

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Community Development Committee

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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

2018 Annual Use Estimate



Photo credit: Washington County

- 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

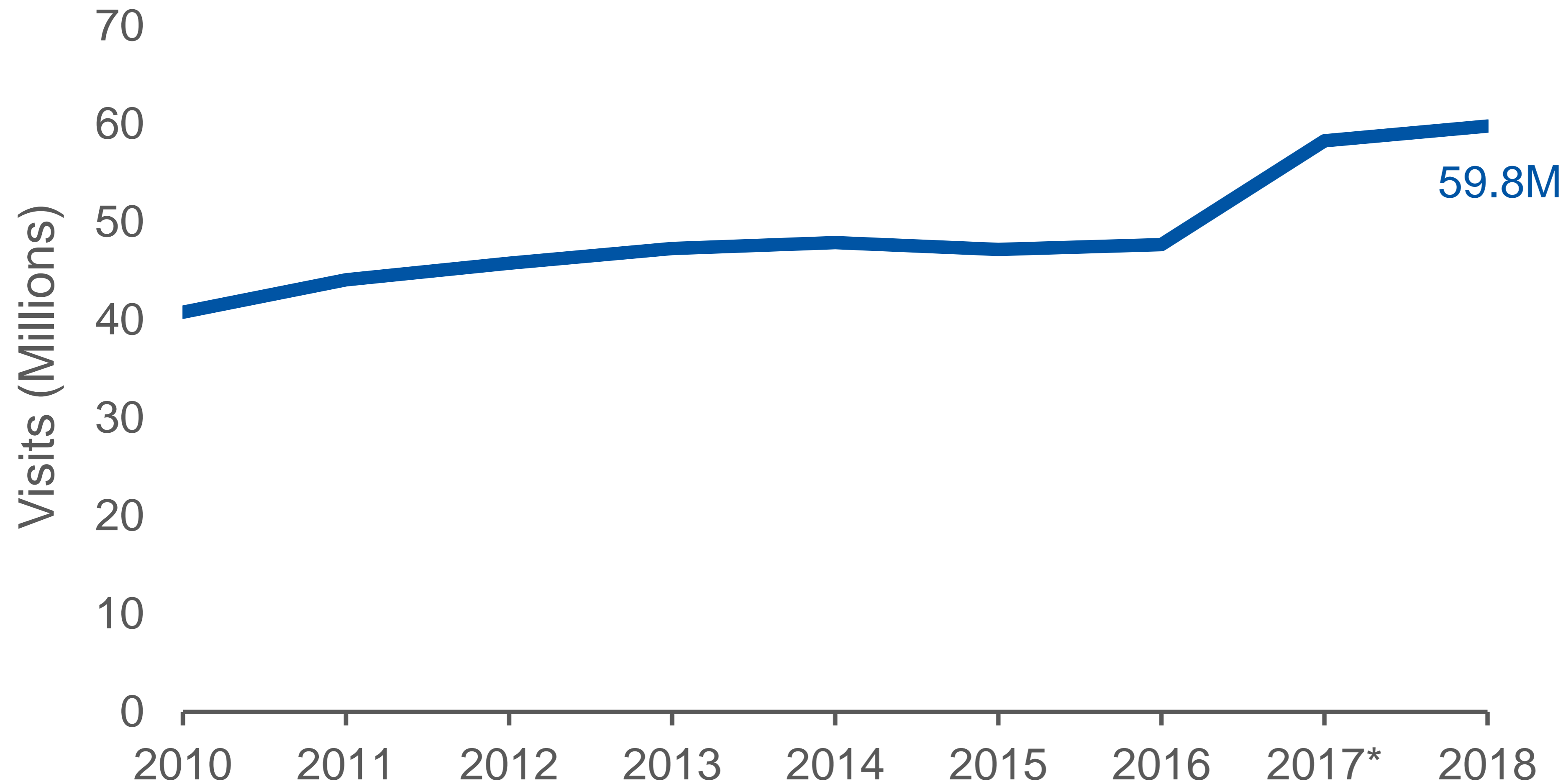
Counts are “expanded” to apply to all days and entrances.

Special Events/ Camping

Agency-submitted special event, camping use is added in

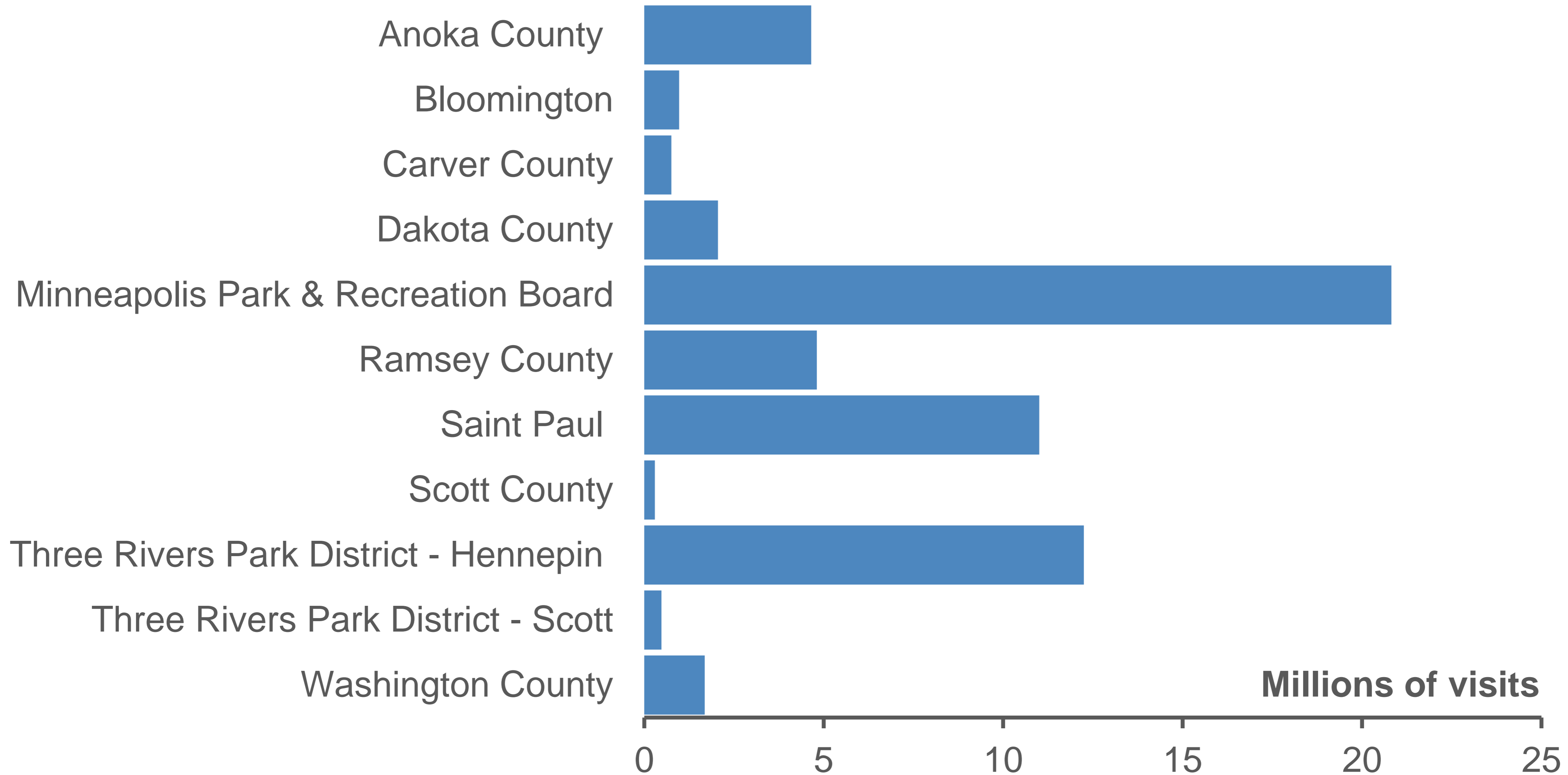
Estimated non-summer use based on Visitor Study multipliers

Regional Parks System Annual Visits



* Increase due to implementation of new visitor study multipliers

Visits by Agency

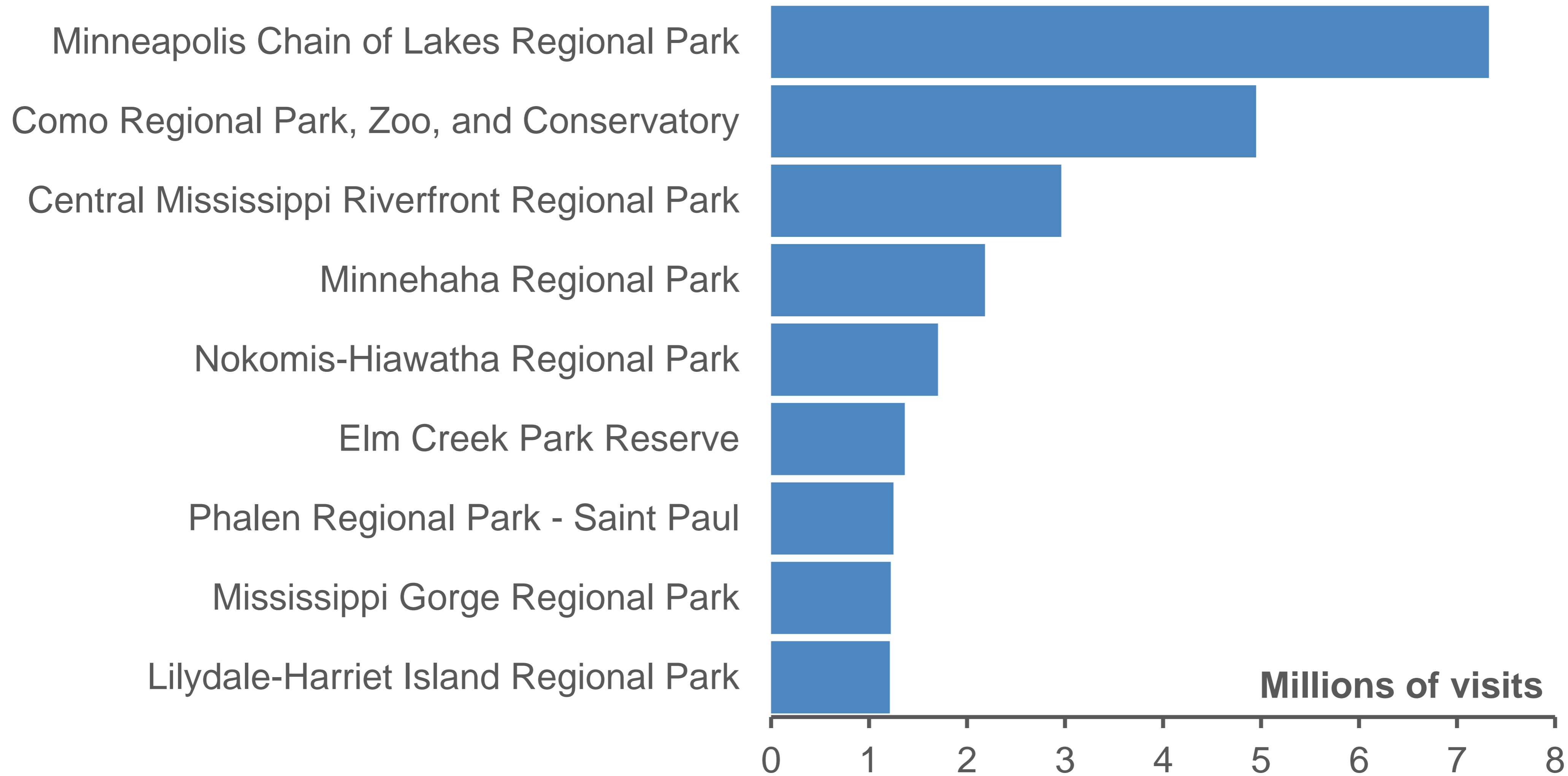


Millions of visits



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Highest Visitation Parks



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



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