



2022 Regional Parks System Annual Use Estimates

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Community Development Committee

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Use Estimates Background



- Produced annually since 1995.
- Used in formulas to calculate each implementing agency's share of Regional Parks & Trails System grant program dollars
- Allows for monitoring trends over time
- One of two ongoing research responsibilities: Other is Visitor Study, approximately every 5 years

2022 Annual Use Estimates



- The estimates include data from 128 regional parks, trails, park reserves and special recreation features.
- Second year of multipliers from the 2021 Visitor Study.
- Annual estimated visitation is one way to demonstrate the value of the Regional Park System. Others include climate mitigation and public health benefits.

Calculating Annual Use Estimates

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

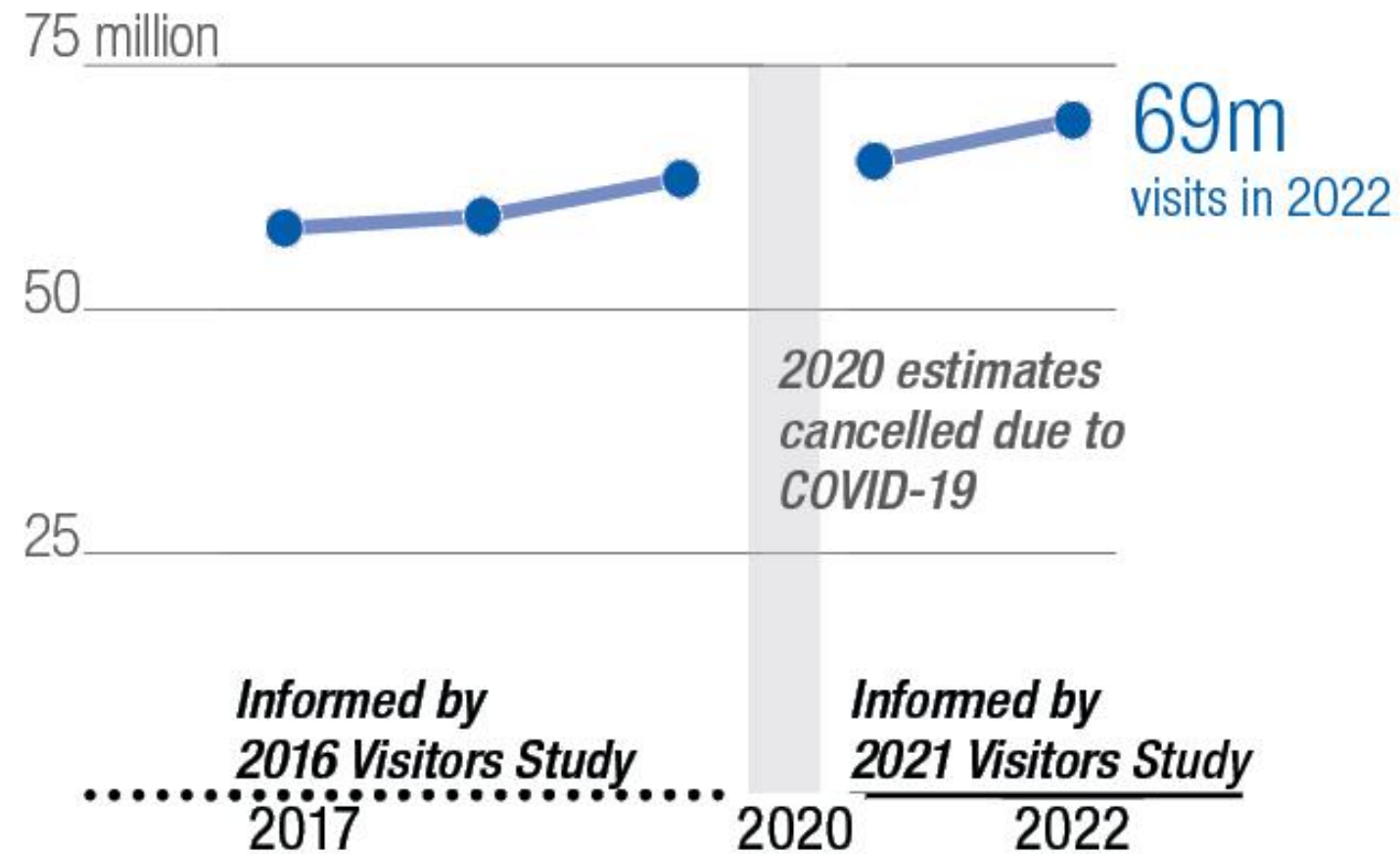
Special Events / Camping

- Agency-submitted special event, camping use is added in
- Estimated non-summer use based on 2021 Visitor Study multipliers

Annual Visits to the Regional System



Number of estimated visits



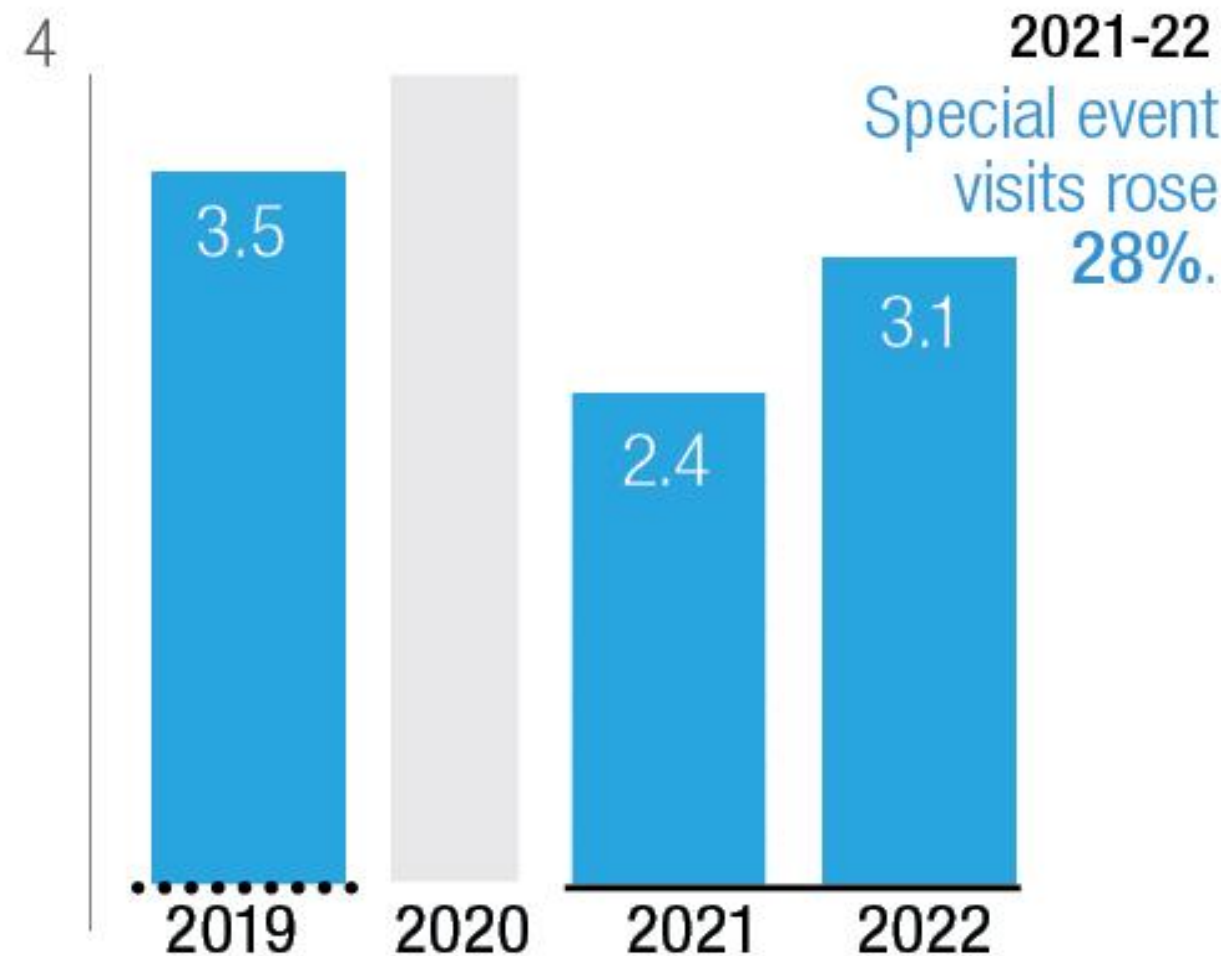
Note:
We caution against making direct comparisons across sets of estimates.

Source: Metropolitan Council's annual parks use estimates (July 2023).

Special events are rebounding

- Special events increased by 676,000 in 2022
- Not yet equal to pre-pandemic levels

Number of special events visits (in millions)

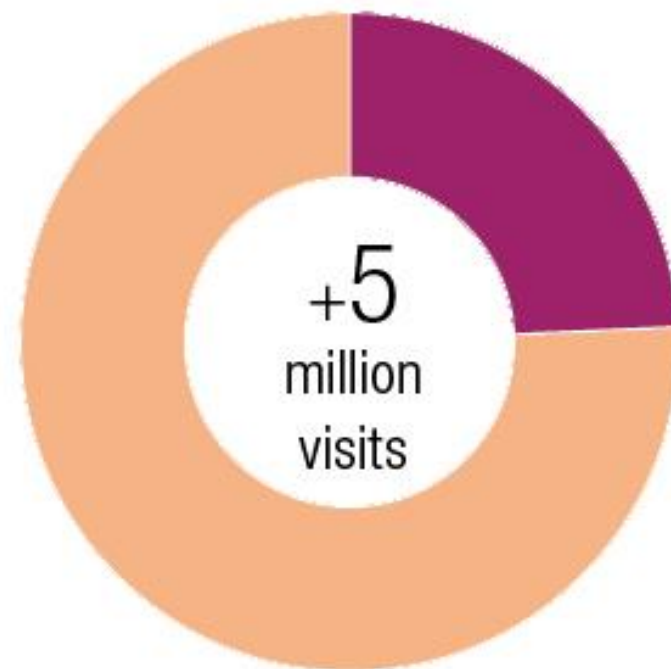


Source: Metropolitan Council's annual parks use estimates (July 2023).

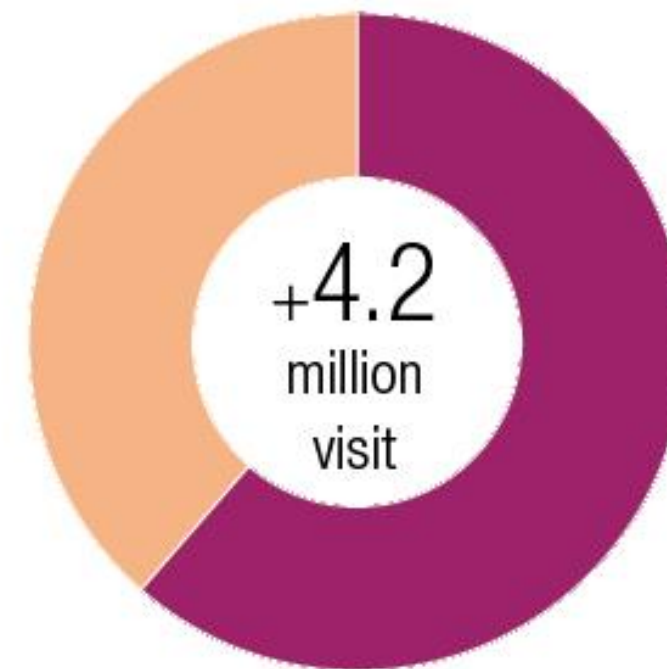
Visits at trails drive visitation increases

- 15 miles of trail added since 2019; now over 400 miles, up from about 350 miles in 2016.
- **Trail visits** grew by **14%** between 2021 and 2022, while the change in **visits at parks** increased by just **3%**.

Trail visits are **24%** of all estimated visit increase between **2017 and 2019**.



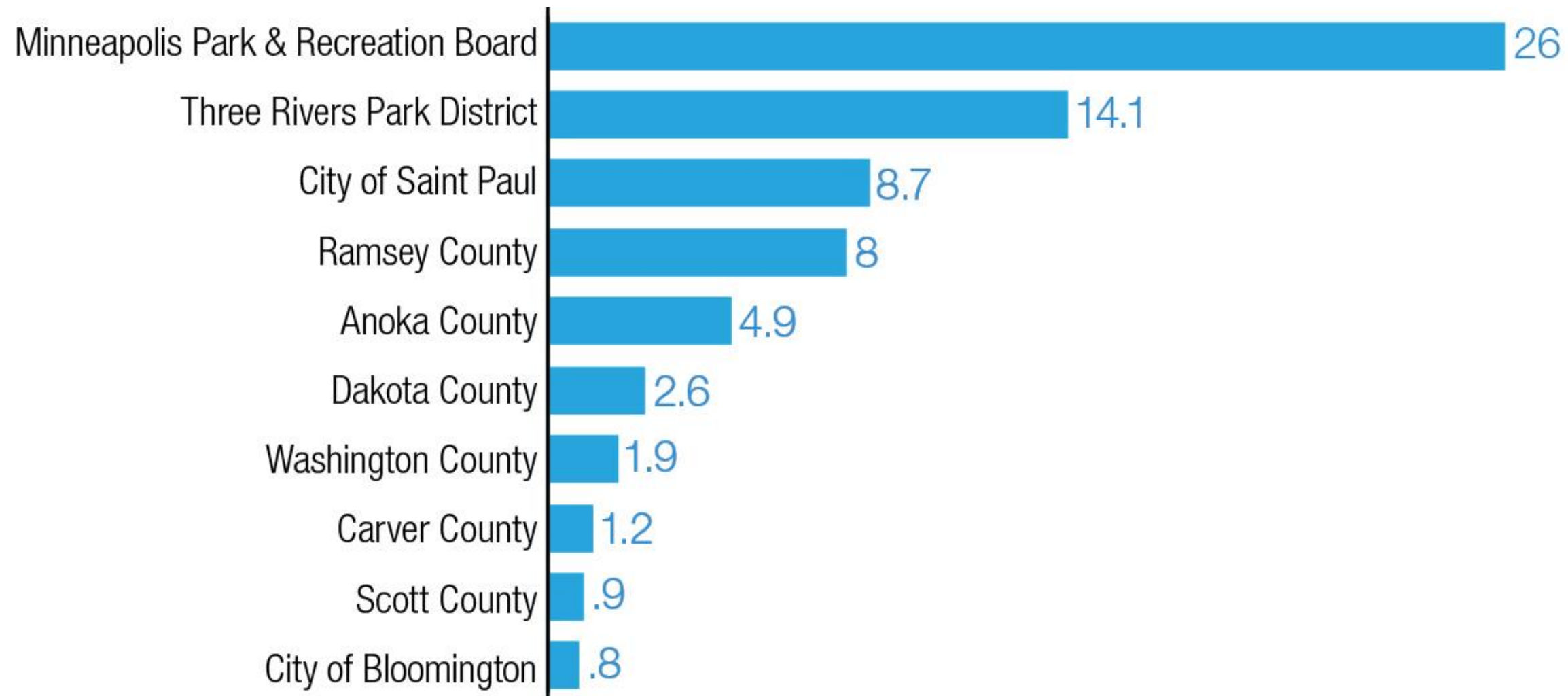
Trail visits are **61%** of all visit growth between **2021 and 2022**.



Source: Metropolitan Council's annual parks use estimates (July 2023).

2022 Visits by Parks Agency

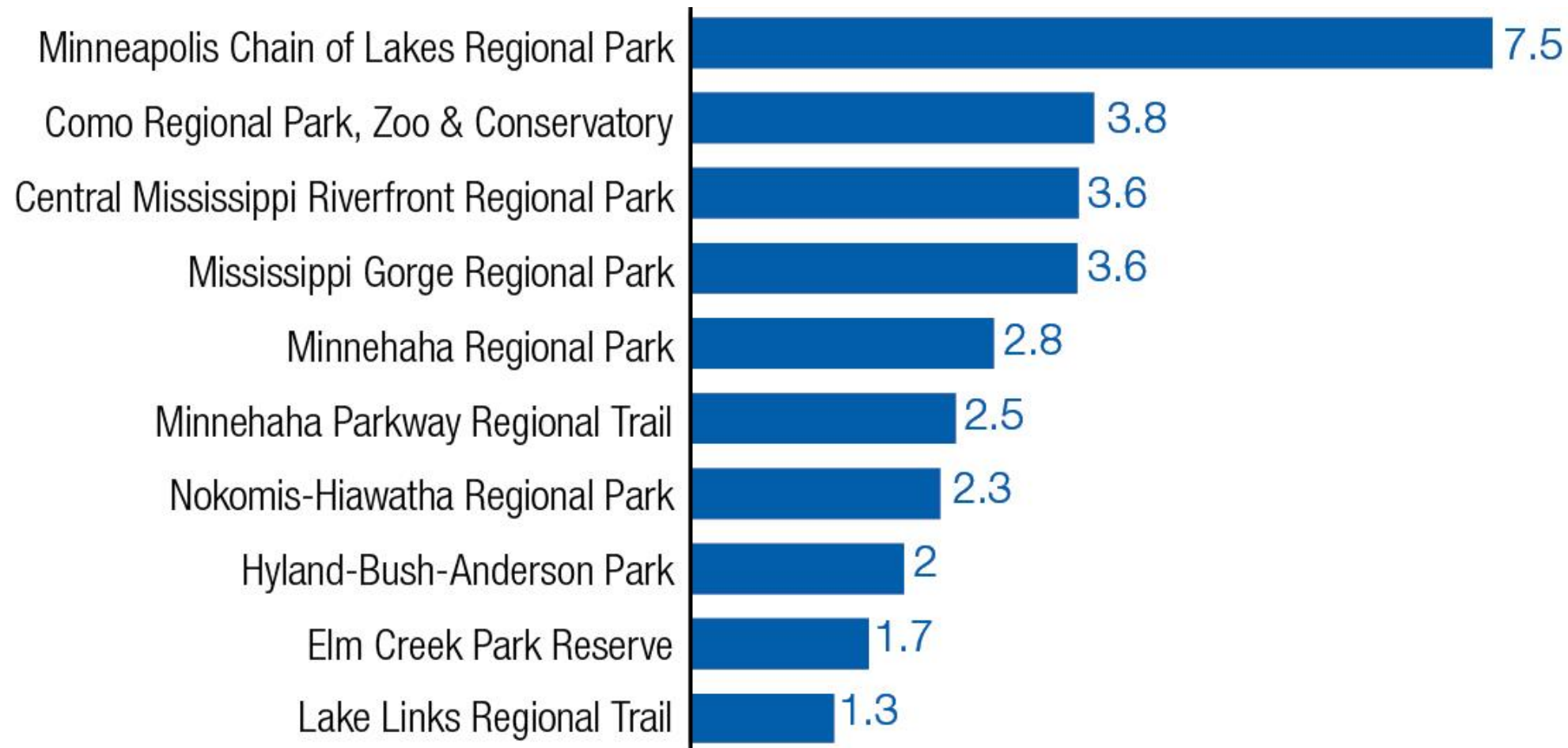
(in millions)



Source: Metropolitan Council's annual parks use estimates (July 2023).

2022 Most Visited Units in the System

(in millions)



Source: Metropolitan Council's annual parks use estimates (July 2023).



THANK YOU

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