Metropolitan Council:
Regional Parks System Visitor Study Report

November, 2016

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Background, Objectives and Methodology

Background

Metropolitan Council contracted Information Specialists Group, Inc. (ISG) to fulfill sample planning, fielding, analysis and reporting for the 2016 Regional Parks and Trails Visitor Survey for the Metropolitan Council.

Learning Objectives

- Provide benchmark measurement of regional park and trail visitor experiences in terms of:
    - Reasons for visiting and activity participation
    - Frequency and length of visits
    - Travel distances and modes of transportation
    - Group sizes
    - Quality of facilities, services and recreation opportunities and sense of safety
    - Information behavior

Fielding Methodology

Metropolitan Council provided a survey instrument of approximately five to 10 minutes in length, that was fielded at all regional park and trail units within the 10 regional park implementing agencies between May 30 and September 5, 2016. A total of 65 parks and 52 trails are included in the sample. The survey was conducted by professional interviewers employing a live intercept method. Strategic intercept scheduling ensured that all agencies received appropriate coverage across the season, days of week and times of day.

For analysis purposes. the number of completed surveys for each agency is weighted so that each agency is statistically representative of their respective proportion of summer visits within the overall system, as reported in 2015 Annual Use Estimate of the Regional Parks System: https://metrocouncil.org/Parks/Publications-And-Resources/PARK-USE-REPORTS/2015-Annual-Use-Estimate-of-the-Regional-Parks.aspx. **Additional details on methodology, statistical testing methods, weighting and agency level weight tables can be found in the Appendix.**

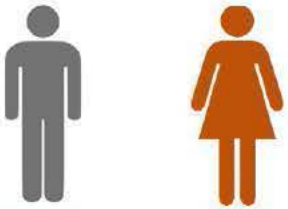
Respondents

Survey Completes Per Agency: UNWEIGHTED TOTALS

Agency	Number of Survey Completes		
	Parks	Trails	Total
Anoka County	407	251	658
City of Bloomington	385	NA	385
Carver County	126	268	394
Dakota County	273	116	389
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	376	310	686
Ramsey County	286	201	487
City of Saint Paul	320	71	391
Scott County	253	132	385
Three Rivers Park District	689	606	1295
Washington County	312	77	389
Totals	4009	1450	5459

Respondent Summary: Unweighted Demographics

Gender

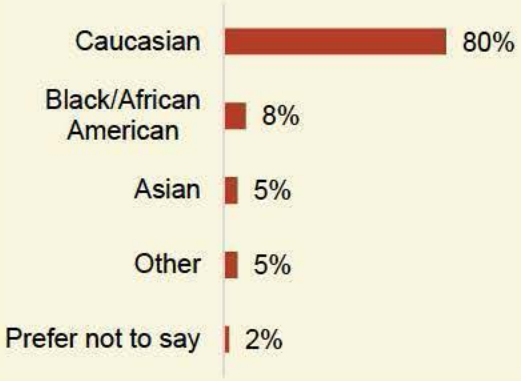


Prefer not to say
50%	49%	1%

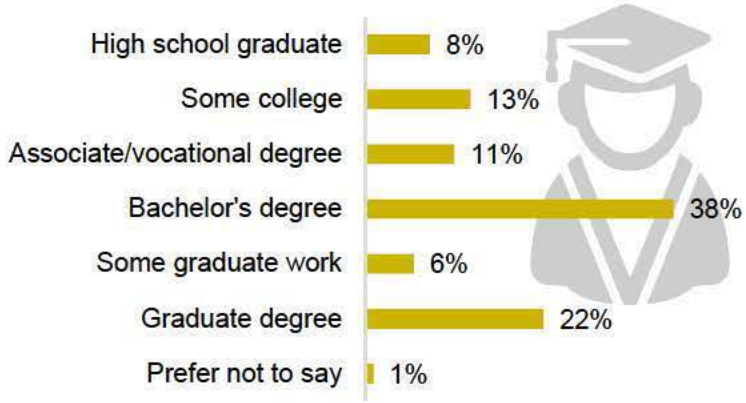
Age

18-36	37-56	57 or over	Prefer not to say
32%	32%	18%	19%

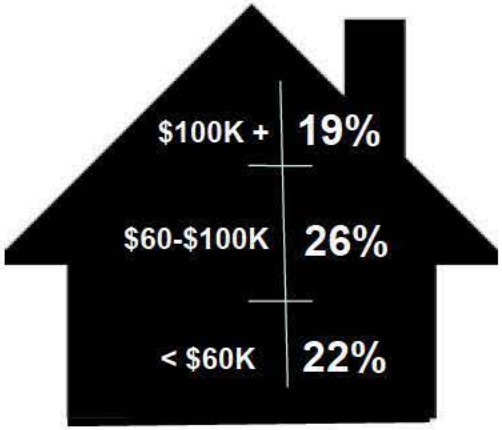
Ethnicity



Education



Household Income



Key Findings

Key Findings

- **Hiking, walking and biking are the most popular activities.** They are also the most commonly mentioned **primary reason** for visiting a regional park or trail.
  - Dakota County agency has the most breadth of activity participation, with significantly higher participation in eight of 13 activities measured.
  - Ramsey County, Scott County, Three Rivers Park District and Washington County agencies have the narrowest participation, with significantly lower participation in six or more of the 13 activities measured.

- **Visitors are either very loyal to their park or trail, or simply prefer familiar surroundings.** Most respondents (89%) had visited the park or trail where they were surveyed before and visit it fairly regularly, as demonstrated by:
  - **Frequency:** Visitors average 56 visits per year (52 parks and 68 trails) and 19 visits in summer (17 for parks and 22 for trails).
  - **Frequency satisfaction:** Four-fifths say they spend about the right amount of time visiting the park. Two-thirds (67%) of those who would like to spend more time say that not having enough time is the primary barrier.
  - **Length:** Visit length averages 1.74 hours, and visitors spend significantly more time in parks (1.84) than on trails (1.47).
    - Visitors spent more time when their primary reason for visiting was swimming, a special event, picnicking or fishing. The spent significantly less time when they came to hike, walk, jog or run.

- **Few gathered outside information about their destination prior to visiting.** More than four-fifths (86%) did not obtain any outside information prior to visiting. The most frequently used information resource is previous personal knowledge, which may serve as further evidence of loyalty to the most familiar parks or trails. The most popular outside information sources are family and friends (36%), park or trail websites (16%) and other internet sources (13%).

- **Overall, visitors are satisfied with facilities and feel safe.** Nearly all (95%) gave the regional park or trail they visited a rating of good or very good in terms of facility quality, services and recreation opportunities.
  - Those who were primarily there for socializing or a playground were significantly more likely to give this rating, while those visiting to bicycle or fish were significantly less likely to rate the location as good or very good.
  - Most (91%) said that they felt very safe during their visit.

Key Findings (Cont.)

- **Age, ethnicity and income have the most noteworthy impacts on usage and experiences.** Key distinctions include:
  - **Age:** Frequency of visiting increases directionally and significantly with age. Those under age 35 are significantly more likely to use family and friends, Google Maps or Facebook for information prior to visiting, and to use the park or trail for commuting purposes. Respondents age 35-54 are significantly more likely to use park websites. Visitors over age 55 visit significantly more often than other ages and are significantly more likely to rate facilities, services and recreational opportunities as good to very good.
  - **Race/ethnicity:** Caucasians visit significantly more often than non-Caucasians (60 vs. 36 times per year). They are also significantly more likely to rate facilities quality, services and recreation opportunities as very good and to say that they had no safety concerns during their visit. Caucasians are significantly more likely to walk, run or use inline skates to get to parks or trails and to use prior knowledge rather than outside information sources, while non-Caucasians are more likely to rely on family and friends for information. Non-Caucasians are also significantly more likely to participate in fishing, special events and picnicking activities than Caucasians.
  - **Household income:** Those with household incomes exceeding $100,000 visited significantly more frequently than the lower income segments and had fewer safety concerns. They were also significantly more likely than those earning less than $60,000 to use park or trail websites and to rate facility quality and recreation opportunities as very good. Those earning less than $60,000 are significantly more likely to arrive using public transportation and to use parks or trails for commuting purposes.

- **Parks differ from trails in terms of usage and visitor demographics.** Key distinctions include:
  - **Parks:** The parks visitors indicated more socializing and larger groups of visitors of broader age ranges. Visitors travelled farther from home to get to parks (18 miles vs. 8 miles for trails), were more likely to look for information prior to visiting and indicated a wider variety of activity participation.
  - **Trails:** Visits to trails were significantly more solitary (63% go alone vs. 45% for parks). Trails had a higher frequency of visits across seasons and significantly higher summer visits than parks, but less time spent per visit.

- **Very few were limited by a physical or mental condition.** Just 3% said that a member of their group had a physical or mental condition that could impact their participation in activities. Of those impacted, 97% cited a mobility issue.

Significant Distinction Summaries: Agency and Demographics

Significant Agency Distinctions

- **Statistically significant distinctions by agency include:**

Anoka County	City of Bloomington	Carver County	Dakota County	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Arrived in an automobile and more likely to rely on previous knowledge than outside information sources	Arrived in automobile and travelled farther from home	Closer to home and less likely to have looked for information prior to visit, more likely to rely on previous knowledge than outside information sources	More likely to have looked for information prior to visit and arrived in an automobile, more likely to rely on previous knowledge than outside information sources	Less likely to have arrived in an automobile
Brought kids age 11-18	Brought kids under age 18	Brought kids under age 10 and reported a larger average group size	Brought kids under age 10	Strongest and broadest use of outside information sources
Brought a pet	Larger group sizes	Feel safe	Longer visits and the most breadth and diversity of activities	More likely to be African American/black
Longer visits but fewer total visits	Broader primary reasons for visiting	Longer visits and more likely to have visited 60+ days in past year	Likely to say they spent more time than they'd prefer	
Less likely to say the quality of facility, services and recreation opportunities is good to very good	More likely to say that they spent more time than they prefer and that lack of time is the primary barrier to going more	Lack of time is the primary barrier to going more	More likely to have a household income of $150K or higher and Caucasian	
Less likely to have a household income over $150K and more likely Caucasian	More likely to have a household income of $150K or more and Caucasian	More likely to have a household income of $200K or more and Caucasian		

Significant Agency Distinctions (Cont.)

Ramsey County	City of Saint Paul	Scott County	Three Rivers Park District	Washington County
Closer to home	Shorter visit length and lower reliance on outside information sources	Arrived in an automobile and lower reliance on outside information sources	Closer to home and more likely to rely on previous knowledge than outside information sources	Closer to home, more likely to have arrived in an automobile and more likely to have looked for information prior to visiting, but lower use of most outside information sources
Brought a pet	More likely to be Asian or "other" race/ethnicity	Brought a pet	Brought kids under age 10	Brought kids under age 18 and reported a larger average group size
Shorter visit length and less breadth of activities		More likely to have visited the park or trail before and more likely to have visited 60 times or more in the past year	Lower breadth of activity participation but broader range of primary reasons for visiting	More likely to say that quality of facilities, services and recreation opportunities is good or very good
		Shorter visit length and less breadth of activities	More likely to have visited 60 times or more in the past year	Longer visit length but narrower range of activity participation
		More likely to say they spent more time than they'd prefer and that family obligations are the primary barrier to more visits	More likely to have a household income of $200K or higher and Caucasian	More likely to say they spent more time than they'd prefer and to say that no free time is the primary barrier to visiting more often
		More likely to have a household income of $200K or higher and Caucasian		

Significant Demographic Distinctions: Age

- **Age has significant impacts on information behavior, activities, frequency of visiting and satisfaction:**

Significant Demographic Distinctions: Income and Ethnicity

- **Income and ethnicity also have some significant impacts on usage, information behavior and experiences:**

> $100K

- Jogging
- Using playgrounds
- Satisfied with quality of facilities, services and recreation opportunities
- No safety concerns
- Using parks or trails websites for information
- Higher annual visits (64)

$60-100K

- Swimming
- Using parks or trails websites for information

< $60K

- Using parks or trails for commuting
- Using public transportation to get to parks and trails

Caucasian	Non-Caucasian
Walk, run or inline skate to get there	Fishing, picnicking and attending special events
Higher annual visits (60)	Average number of annual visits (36)
Satisfied with quality of facilities and rec opportunities	Getting info from family and friends
No safety concerns	

Visit Frequency Distinctions by Season

- **At the agency level, Scott County stands out for significantly higher visits across three seasons, while Anoka County, City of Bloomington and Washington County exhibit significantly fewer visits in at least three seasons.**

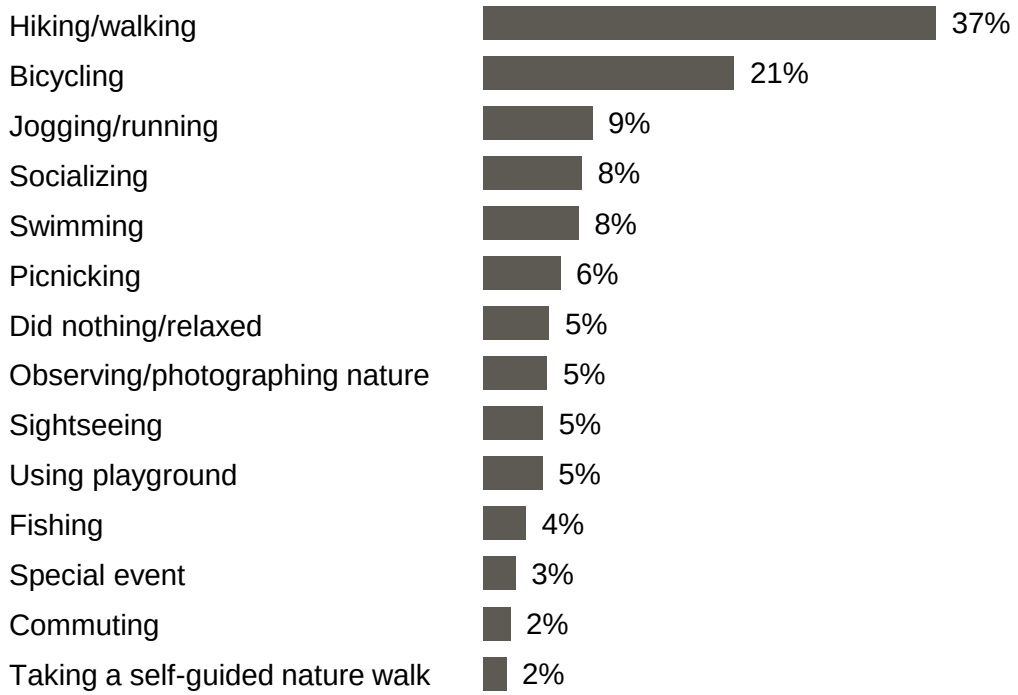
Visits Relative to TOTAL Sample				
Significantly Higher Visits	- City of Bloomington - Carver County - Dakota County - **Scott County** - Three Rivers Park District	- **Scott County**	- **Scott County**	- None
Average Visits	- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board - City of Saint Paul	- Carver County - Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board - Ramsey County - City of Saint Paul - Three Rivers Park District	- Carver County - Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board - Ramsey County - City of Saint Paul - Three Rivers Park District	- Anoka County - Carver County - Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board - Ramsey County - City of Saint Paul
Significantly Fewer Visits	- **Anoka County** - Ramsey County - **Washington County**	- **Anoka County** - **City of Bloomington** - **Dakota County** - **Washington County**	- **Anoka County** - **City of Bloomington** - **Dakota County** - **Washington County**	- **City of Bloomington** - **Dakota County** - Scott County - Three Rivers Park District - **Washington County**

Detailed Findings

Activities

Activities Participation

Hiking, walking and bicycling are the most popular activities, accounting for 58% of all activity.



Facility Type	
Regional Park (n=4009)	**Regional Trail (n=1450)**
36%	***41%**
13%	***42%**
8%	***12%**
***9%**	5%
***11%**	1%
***8%**	2%
***6%**	2%
***6%**	3%
***6%**	3%
***6%**	2%
***5%**	1%
***4%**	0%
2%	3%
2%	2%

n=5459

Q1 - Which of the following activities did the use of this [Park/Trail] allow you and your group to participate in on this visit?

* Indicates a significant difference between regional parks and regional trails

Activities Participation

Compared to the total, the Dakota County agency has significantly stronger activity participation across eight of the 13 categories measured. Carver County, Scott County, Ramsey County, Three Rivers and Washington County each have significantly lower levels of activity across six or more activities. Carver County, Scott County, Three Rivers and Washington County agencies have significantly lower levels of participation in the most popular activity of hiking and walking.

		Agency									
Activities Participation	**Total (n=5459)**	**Anoka County (n=658)**	**COB (n=385)**	**Carver County (n=394)**	**Dakota County (n=389)**	**MPRB (n=686)**	**Ramsey County (n=487)**	**City of Saint Paul (n=391)**	**Scott County (n=385)**	**Three Rivers Park District (n=1295)**	**Wash. (n=389)**
Hiking/walking	37%	35%	33%	24%	33%	40%	40%	44%	24%	31%	25%
Bicycling	21%	16%	10%	28%	22%	23%	15%	15%	26%	26%	22%
Jogging/running	9%	10%	8%	7%	11%	10%	9%	8%	15%	7%	9%
Socializing	8%	4%	10%	10%	16%	9%	6%	7%	10%	8%	6%
Swimming	8%	16%	27%	21%	20%	6%	13%	<1%	4%	10%	17%
Picnicking	6%	8%	19%	9%	10%	6%	8%	5%	5%	6%	3%
Did nothing/relaxed	5%	4%	11%	8%	11%	7%	5%	5%	3%	3%	5%
Observing/photographing nature	5%	5%	6%	4%	10%	7%	5%	3%	3%	3%	2%
Sightseeing	5%	4%	6%	1%	9%	9%	2%	5%	1%	3%	1%
Using playground	5%	4%	12%	8%	2%	3%	5%	3%	2%	9%	11%
Fishing	4%	8%	9%	2%	8%	2%	6%	2%	3%	2%	14%
Special event	3%	2%	2%	1%	1%	4%	1%	5%	2%	<1%	<1%
Commuting	2%	1%	0%	<1%	<1%	4%	<1%	1%	1%	1%	<1%
Taking a self-guided nature walk	2%	1%	3%	2%	7%	4%	1%	1%	3%	2%	<1%

n=5459

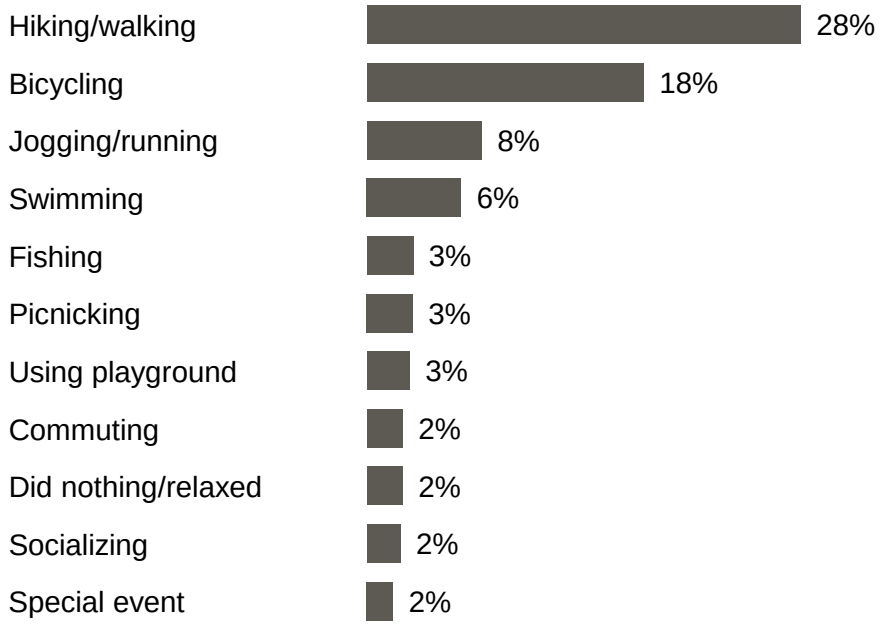
Q1 - Which of the following activities did the use of this [Park/Trail] allow you and your group to participate in on this visit?

Indicates score is significantly lower than Total score

Indicates score is significantly higher than Total score

Primary Reason for Visit

Hiking, walking and biking are also the most commonly selected **primary reasons** for visiting regional parks and trails.



Facility Type	
Regional Park (n=4009)	**Regional Trail (n=1450)**
27%	***32%**
11%	***38%**
6%	***11%**
***8%**	<1%
***4%**	1%
***4%**	1%
***3%**	1%
2%	2%
***3%**	1%
3%	2%
***3%**	0%

n=5459

Q2 - Which one of the above activities was your primary reason for visiting this [Park/Trail]?

* Indicates a significant difference between regional parks and regional trails

Primary Reason for Visit

City of Bloomington, Three Rivers Park District and Washington County visitors are significantly more likely than the total to display a broader range of primary reasons for their visit.

Primary Reason for Visit	Total (n=5459)	Agency									
		Anoka County (n=658)	COB (n=385)	Carver County (n=394)	Dakota County (n=389)	MPRB (n=686)	Ramsey County (n=487)	City of Saint Paul (n=391)	Scott County (n=385)	Three Rivers Park District (n=1295)	Wash. (n=389)
Hiking/walking	28%	27%	26%	15%	21%	31%	27%	37%	17%	23%	18%
Bicycling	18%	14%	8%	25%	19%	18%	13%	13%	23%	25%	20%
Jogging/running	8%	8%	6%	6%	8%	8%	7%	8%	12%	6%	6%
Swimming	6%	12%	20%	17%	14%	4%	11%	<1%	2%	8%	12%
Fishing	3%	7%	6%	1%	4%	2%	4%	2%	3%	2%	13%
Picnicking	3%	3%	5%	1%	3%	4%	4%	3%	1%	3%	1%
Using playground	3%	1%	6%	3%	1%	2%	3%	<1%	<1%	6%	8%
Commuting	2%	1%	0%	<1%	0%	4%	<1%	1%	1%	1%	<1%
Did nothing/relaxed	2%	2%	3%	4%	2%	3%	3%	3%	1%	1%	2%
Socializing	2%	<1%	4%	3%	5%	3%	1%	2%	3%	3%	3%
Special event	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	3%	1%	4%	2%	<1%	<1%

Indicates score is significantly lower than Total score

Indicates score is significantly higher than Total score

Q2 - Which one of the above activities was your primary reason for visiting this [Park/Trail]?

Other Activities Done by Primary Reason for Visit

Socializing, hiking and walking are the most common secondary activities across primary reasons for the visit.

Hiking/Walking (n=1554)	Bicycling (n=992)	Jogging/Running (n=411)	Swimming (n=337)	Picnicking (n=165)
Socializing (6%)	Hiking/walking (3%)	Hiking/walking (16%)	Picnicking (13%)	Socializing (18%)
Sightseeing (5%)	Sightseeing (3%)	Socializing (4%)	Using playground (9%)	Hiking/walking (16%)
Observing/photographing nature (4%)	Socializing (3%)	Bicycling (3%)	Did nothing/relaxed (8%)	Observing/photographing nature (15%)
		Observing/photographing nature (3%)	Socializing (8%)	

Fishing (n=165)	Using Playground (n=153)	Socializing (n=128)	Nothing/Relaxed (n=128)	Special Event (n=120)
Socializing (7%)	Hiking/walking (12%)	Hiking/walking (32%)	Hiking/walking (9%)	Socializing (12%)
Picnicking (4%)	Picnicking (8%)	Sightseeing (21%)	Picnicking (6%)	Taking a self-guided nature walk (12%)
Hiking/walking (3%)	Swimming (7%)	Swimming (13%)	Socializing (5%)	Did nothing/relaxed (9%)
Observing/photographing nature (3%)				
Did nothing/relaxed (3%)				

Q1 - Which of the following activities did the use of this [Park/Trail] allow you and your group to participate in on this visit?

Q2 - Which one of the above activities was your primary reason for visiting this [Park/Trail]?

Primary Reason for Visit by Demographics

The youngest and lowest income segments are significantly more likely than others to say that commuting is their primary reason for visiting a regional park or trail.

		Gender		Age Group			Ethnicity		Household Income		
Primary Reason for Visit	**Total (n=5459)**	**Male (n=2724)**	**Female (n=2698)**	**18-34 (n=1503)**	**35-54 (n=1793)**	**55+ (n=1111)**	**White (n=4295)**	**Non-white (n=836)**	**Under $60K (n=1216)**	**$60K-$100K (n=1392)**	**$100K+ (n=1066)**
Hiking/walking	28%	26%	***31%**	19%	***25%**	****40%**	29%	26%	26%	27%	29%
Bicycling	18%	***23%**	13%	17%	19%	18%	19%	16%	19%	18%	19%
Jogging/running	8%	7%	8%	***9%**	***10%**	4%	8%	8%	6%	9%	***10%**
Swimming	6%	4%	***9%**	6%	***8%**	4%	7%	6%	4%	***7%**	5%
Fishing	3%	***5%**	1%	4%	3%	3%	2%	***7%**	3%	4%	2%
Picnicking	3%	3%	3%	***4%**	***4%**	1%	2%	***7%**	2%	3%	4%
Using playground	3%	2%	***4%**	3%	***4%**	2%	3%	2%	2%	3%	***5%**
Commuting	2%	2%	2%	****4%**	1%	1%	2%	1%	****4%**	2%	1%
Did nothing/relaxed	2%	2%	3%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	***2%**	2%	<1%
Socializing	2%	1%	***3%**	***3%**	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%
Special event	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%	***5%**	3%	3%	2%

* Indicates a significant difference from lowest comparison
** Indicates a significant difference from both lower comparisons

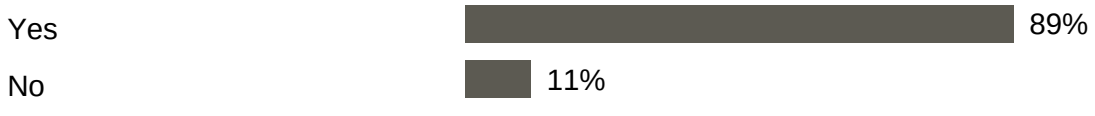
Q2 - Which one of the above activities was your primary reason for visiting this [Park/Trail]?

Frequency and Length of Visits

Visited Regional Park or Trail Before/Number of Visits in Past 12 Months

The majority of respondents (89%) had visited the regional park or trail before, with trail visitors significantly more likely than parks visitors to say so. Park visitors are significantly more likely to have visited the park seven times or fewer in the past year, while trail visitors are significantly more likely to have visited more than 60 days.

Visited Park/Trail Before



Facility Type	
Regional Park (n=4009)	Regional Trail (n=1450)
88%	***94%**
***12%**	6%

Number of Visits in Past 12 Months

Facility Type	
Regional Park (n=4009)	Regional Trail (n=1450)
***30%**	21%
13%	12%
11%	***16%**
10%	12%
23%	***32%**
***12%**	6%

n=5459

Q8 - Have you visited this [Park/Trail] before?

Q8A - Including this visit, how many days in the past 12 months have you spent time at this [Park/Trail]??

* Indicates a significant difference between regional parks and regional trails

Visited Regional Park or Trail Before/Number of Visits in Past 12 Months

Scott County agency visitors are significantly more likely than the total sample to have visited the park or trail before, and they show significantly more frequent usage over the past year. Carver County and Three Rivers Park District visitors are also significantly more likely to have visited more than 60 days in the past year

		Agency									
	Total (n=5459)	Anoka County (n=658)	COB (n=385)	Carver County (n=394)	Dakota County (n=389)	MPRB (n=686)	Ramsey County (n=487)	City of Saint Paul (n=391)	Scott County (n=385)	Three Rivers Park District (n=1295)	Wash. (n=389)
Visited Park/Trail Before											
Yes	89%	88%	86%	88%	90%	91%	90%	87%	96%	90%	84%
No	11%	12%	14%	12%	10%	9%	10%	13%	4%	10%	16%
Number of Visits in Past 12 Months											
1-7 days	28%	29%	30%	31%	29%	30%	30%	27%	14%	24%	32%
8-14 days	13%	17%	11%	9%	10%	13%	14%	13%	9%	11%	17%
15-30 days	13%	12%	8%	12%	11%	15%	14%	9%	9%	14%	13%
31-60 days	10%	9%	13%	5%	9%	10%	9%	11%	15%	11%	8%
More than 60 days	26%	21%	24%	31%	31%	23%	22%	28%	49%	30%	14%
Have not visited before	11%	12%	14%	12%	10%	9%	10%	13%	4%	10%	16%

Q8 - Have you visited this [Park/Trail] before?

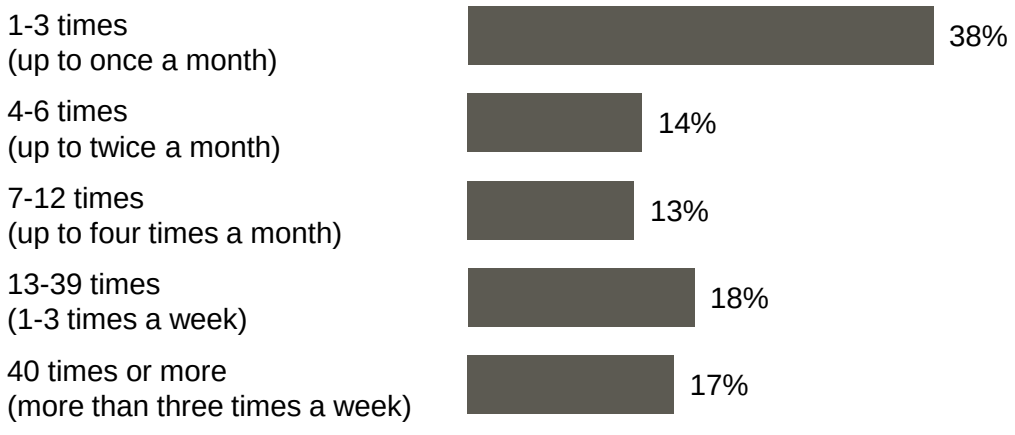
Q8A - Including this visit, how many days in the past 12 months have you spent time at this [Park/Trail]??

Indicates score is significantly lower than Total score

Indicates score is significantly higher than Total score

Visits to Regional Parks and Trails This Summer

The average number of summer visits is significantly higher for regional trails (22) than parks (17).



Facility Type	
Regional Park (n=4009)	**Regional Trail (n=1450)**
***41%**	27%
14%	13%
13%	15%
16%	***24%**
16%	***20%**
17.19	****22.49***
5.00	*10.00*

n=5459

Q8B_r1 - Including your visit today, how many times have visited this [Park/Trail] this summer?

* Indicates a significant difference between park and trail totals

Visits to Regional Parks and Trails This Summer

City of Bloomington, Carver County, Dakota County, Scott County and Three Rivers Park District agencies all have significantly higher average summer visits than the total sample. Anoka County, Ramsey County and Washington County have significantly fewer summer visits.

		Agency									
Visits to Park/Trail This Summer	**Total (n=5459)**	**Anoka County (n=658)**	**COB (n=385)**	**Carver County (n=394)**	**Dakota County (n=389)**	**MPRB (n=686)**	**Ramsey County (n=487)**	**City of Saint Paul (n=391)**	**Scott County (n=385)**	**Three Rivers Park District (n=1295)**	**Wash. (n=389)**
1-3 times (up to once a month)	38%	41%	38%	38%	33%	37%	42%	42%	19%	32%	44%
4-6 times (up to twice a month)	14%	17%	11%	11%	16%	14%	15%	13%	10%	14%	21%
7-12 times (up to four times a month)	13%	14%	11%	10%	10%	16%	12%	9%	5%	14%	14%
13-39 times (1-3 times a week)	18%	18%	19%	18%	13%	20%	19%	15%	18%	19%	14%
40 times or more (more than three times a week)	17%	10%	19%	23%	28%	13%	12%	21%	47%	21%	6%
Average	18.60	14.04	20.10	22.77	25.24	16.07	15.30	20.68	40.40	22.21	9.86
Median	6.00	5.00	7.00	10.00	7.00	6.00	5.00	5.00	30.00	10.00	4.00

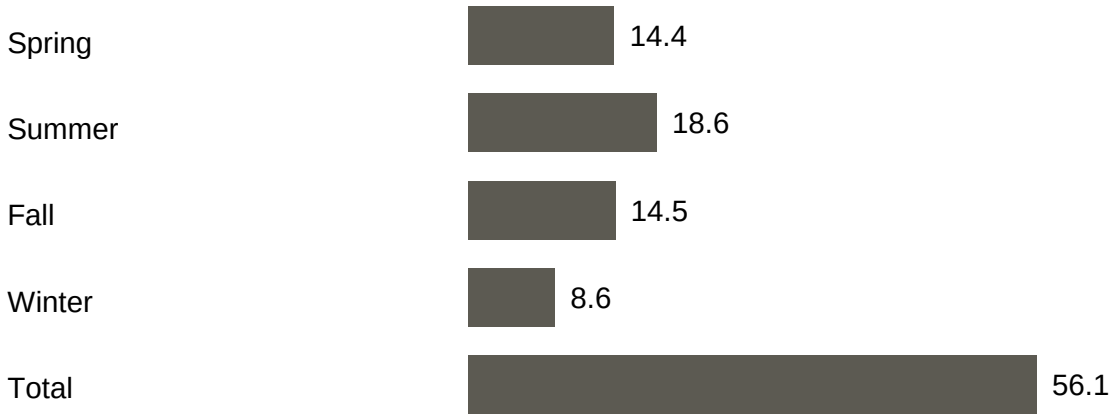
Indicates score is significantly lower than Total score

Indicates score is significantly higher than Total score

Q8B - Including your visit today, how many times have visited this [Park/Trail] this summer?

Average Visits Per Season

Trails have significantly higher levels of visitation across seasons.



	Facility Type	
	Regional Park (n=4009)	Regional Trail (n=1450)
Spring	13.1	***18.0**
Summer	17.2	***22.5**
Fall	13.1	***18.4**
Winter	8.4	8.8
Total	51.9	***67.7**

n=5459

Q8B - How many times have visited this [Park/Trail] this [season]? (Summary)

* Indicates a significant difference between park and trail totals

Average Visits Per Season

Scott County has significantly higher average visits in every season except winter. Anoka County, City of Bloomington, Dakota County and Washington County have significantly fewer average total visits, with Washington County significantly lower than the total in every season.

Average Visits Per Season	Total (n=5459)	Agency									
		Anoka County (n=658)	COB (n=385)	Carver County (n=394)	Dakota County (n=389)	MPRB (n=686)	Ramsey County (n=487)	City of Saint Paul (n=391)	Scott County (n=385)	Three Rivers Park District (n=1295)	Wash. (n=389)
Spring	14.4	12.3	10.6	14.3	12.3	12.7	13.1	19.0	21.3	15.2	7.7
Summer	18.6	14.0	20.1	22.8	25.2	16.1	15.3	20.7	40.4	22.2	9.9
Fall	14.5	12.2	9.1	13.6	8.9	13.8	13.2	18.3	18.5	15.4	7.5
Winter	8.6	7.5	4.3	8.2	3.2	7.8	8.0	14.0	6.3	7.0	4.1
Total	56.1	46.0	44.1	58.8	49.7	50.4	49.5	72.0	86.5	59.9	29.2

Indicates score is significantly lower than Total score

Indicates score is significantly higher than Total score

Q8B - How many times have visited this [Park/Trail] this [season]? (Summary)

Average Visits Per Season by Demographics

The frequency of visiting regional parks and trails increases significantly and directionally with age. Caucasians visit significantly more often than non-Caucasians (60 vs. 36), as do those with household incomes over $100,000.

		Gender		Age Group			Ethnicity		Household Income		
Average Visits Per Season	**Total (n=5459)**	**Male (n=2724)**	**Female (n=2698)**	**18-34 (n=1503)**	**35-54 (n=1793)**	**55+ (n=1111)**	**Caucasian (n=4295)**	**Non-Caucasian (n=836)**	**Under $60K (n=1216)**	**$60K-$100K (n=1392)**	**$100K+ (n=1066)**
Spring	14.4	15.0	13.7	8.1	***13.1**	****21.2**	***15.3**	9.2	13.7	12.5	***16.0**
Summer	18.6	19.5	17.6	13.0	***17.1**	****25.0**	***19.7**	13.2	17.2	16.0	****23.0**
Fall	14.5	14.7	14.2	8.4	***12.9**	****21.7**	***15.7**	8.9	14.2	12.1	***16.0**
Winter	8.6	9.1	7.9	4.4	***7.1**	****14.3**	***9.3**	4.6	8.2	8.0	9.0
Total	56.1	58.3	53.4	33.9	***50.1**	****82.1**	***60.0**	35.9	53.2	48.7	****63.9**

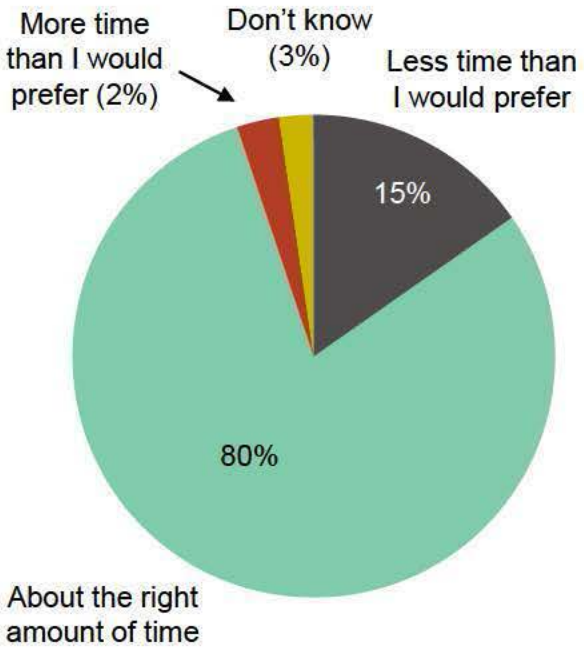
* Indicates a significant difference from lowest comparison
** Indicates a significant difference from both lower comparisons

Q8B - How many times have visited this [Park/Trail] this [season]? (Summary)

Amount of Time Spent at Park or Trail in Past 12 Months

Four out of five feel that they have spent about the right amount of time at the park or trail where they were surveyed over the past year, and 15% say it was less time than they would like.

Amount of Time Spent at Park/Trail in Past 12 Months



	Facility Type	
	Regional Park (n=4009)	Regional Trail (n=1450)
Less time than I would prefer	***17%**	12%
About the right amount of time	78%	***84%**
More time than I would prefer	2%	3%
Don't know	***3%**	2%

n=5459

Q9 - Which of the following best describes your feeling about the amount of time you have spent at this [Park/Trail] in the past 12 months?

* Indicates a significant difference between park and trail totals

Amount of Time Spent at Regional Park or Trail in Past 12 Months

Those surveyed at Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Scott County agency parks and trails are significantly more likely to say that they have spent less time than they would have liked in the park or on the trail in the past year than the total sample. Respondents in City of Bloomington, Dakota County, Scott County and Washington Count yare significantly more likely to say that they've spent more time that they prefer.

Amount of Time Spent at Park/Trail in Past 12 Months	Total (n=5459)	Agency									
		Anoka County (n=658)	COB (n=385)	Carver County (n=394)	Dakota County (n=389)	MPRB (n=686)	Ramsey County (n=487)	City of Saint Paul (n=391)	Scott County (n=385)	Three Rivers Park District (n=1295)	Wash. (n=389)
Less time than I would prefer	15%	11%	13%	14%	16%	20%	13%	11%	22%	14%	8%
About the right amount of time	80%	85%	81%	78%	73%	74%	83%	85%	64%	82%	86%
More time than I would prefer	2%	2%	5%	3%	9%	2%	2%	<1%	13%	3%	5%
Don't know	3%	2%	2%	6%	2%	4%	1%	4%	1%	1%	2%

Indicates score is significantly lower than Total score

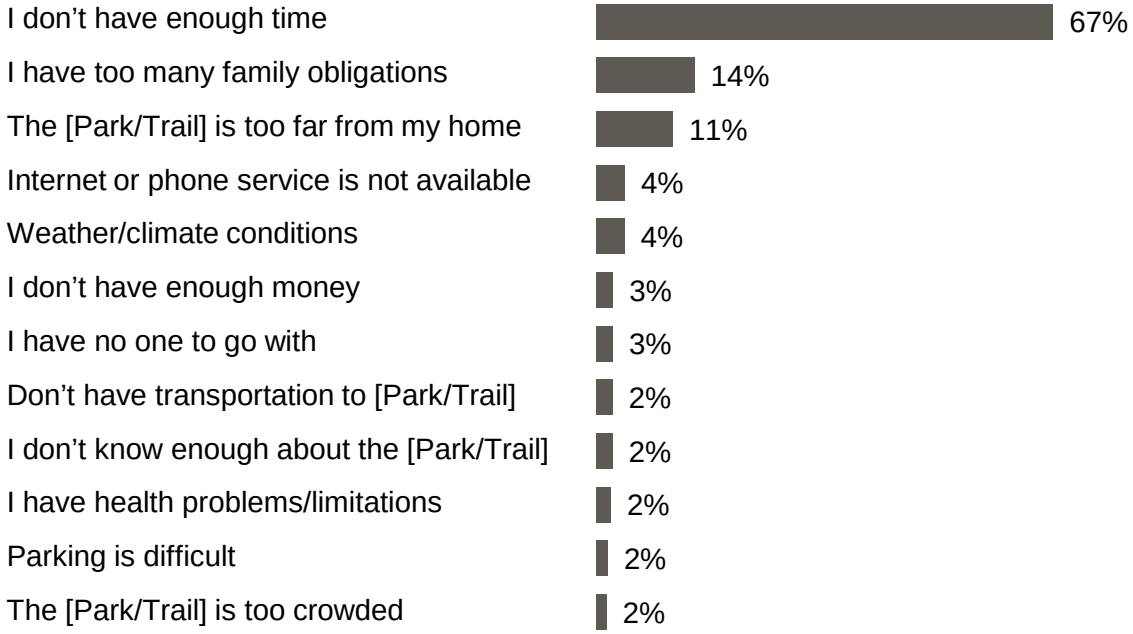
Indicates score is significantly higher than Total score

Q9 - Which of the following best describes your feeling about the amount of time you have spent at this [Park/Trail] in the past 12 months?

Factors Limiting Visits to Regional Parks and Trails

Among those who indicated that they spent less time than they would prefer, lack of free time is the most common barrier preventing them from visiting regional parks and trails more often. Family obligations is significantly more an issue for trail visitors than park visitors, and distance is a significantly stronger challenge to park visitors.

Factors Limiting Visits to Park/Trail



Facility Type	
Regional Park (n=667)	**Regional Trail (n=168)**
65%	74%
13%	***21%**
***13%**	5%
5%	2%
4%	7%
3%	1%
3%	2%
2%	1%
3%	1%
2%	3%
***3%**	<1%
2%	<1%

n=835

Q9A - What factors limit your visits to this [Park/Trail]? [Asked of those who responded "Less time than I would prefer" to Q9]

* Indicates a significant difference between regional parks and regional trails

Factors Limiting Visits to Regional Parks and Trails

Washington County agency visitors are significantly more likely to say that their park or trail visits are limited by time constraints, and Scott County agency visitors are significantly more likely to say that family obligations restrict them.

		Agency									
Factors Limiting Visits to Park/Trail	**Total (n=835)**	**Anoka County (n=70)**	**COB (n=51)**	**Carver County (n=54)**	**Dakota County (n=63)**	**MPRB (n=139)**	**Ramsey County (n=65)**	**City of Saint Paul (n=43)**	**Scott County (n=83)**	**Three Rivers Park District (n=182)**	**Wash. (n=30)**
I don't have enough time	67%	76%	49%	48%	70%	67%	67%	63%	65%	67%	83%
I have too many family obligations	14%	12%	24%	23%	17%	16%	14%	7%	24%	15%	7%
The [Park/Trail] is too far from my home	11%	9%	16%	10%	21%	13%	10%	8%	9%	10%	2%
Internet/phone service not available	4%	1%	2%	0%	3%	6%	2%	8%	3%	1%	0%
Weather/climate conditions	4%	3%	12%	1%	10%	3%	10%	1%	11%	4%	11%
I don't have enough money	3%	6%	4%	0%	0%	3%	4%	1%	3%	1%	0%
I have no one to go with	3%	0%	6%	<1%	4%	3%	2%	1%	6%	3%	0%
Don't have transportation to [Park/Trail]	2%	2%	0%	0%	2%	2%	0%	0%	4%	2%	0%
I don't know enough about the [Park/Trail]	2%	2%	0%	<1%	2%	3%	1%	0%	1%	4%	0%
I have health problems/limitations	2%	2%	2%	0%	1%	2%	2%	5%	8%	1%	0%
Parking is difficult	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	2%	4%	2%	1%	0%
The [Park/Trail] is too crowded	2%	0%	4%	0%	4%	2%	4%	0%	1%	1%	0%

Indicates score is significantly lower than Total score

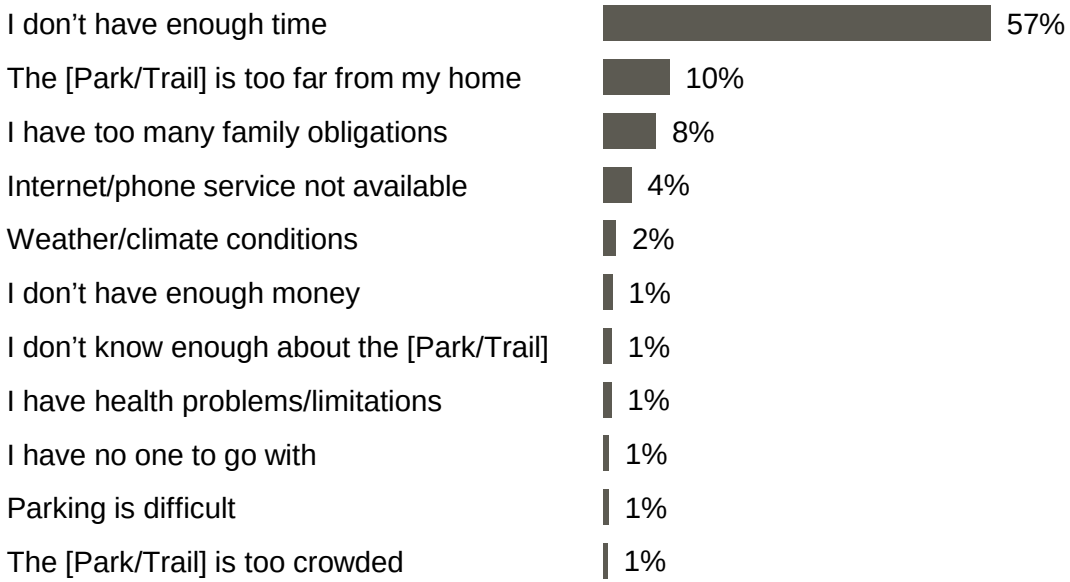
Indicates score is significantly higher than Total score

Q9A - What factors limit your visits to this [Park/Trail]? [Asked of those who responded "Less time than I would prefer" to Q9]

Primary Factor Limiting Visits to Regional Parks and Trails

Lack of time is also the primary reason visitors provide for not going to the park or trail more frequently.

Primary Factor Limiting Visits to Park/Trail



Facility Type	
Regional Park (n=667)	**Regional Trail (n=168)**
56%	62%
***11%**	4%
8%	8%
5%	2%
2%	3%
2%	0%
1%	1%
1%	2%
1%	1%
1%	<1%
1%	0%

n=835

Q10 - Which one of the factors above is the primary factor limiting your visits to this [Park/Trail]? [Asked of those who responded "Less time than I would prefer" to Q9]

* Indicates a significant difference between regional parks and regional trails

Primary Factor Limiting Visits to Regional Parks and Trails

Visitors surveyed in City of Bloomington, Carver County and Scott County agencies are significantly less likely than the total sample to consider lack of free time to be the primary reason they don't visit more often.

Primary Factor Limiting Visits to Park/Trail	Total (n=835)	Agency									
		Anoka County (n=70)	COB (n=51)	Carver County (n=54)	Dakota County (n=63)	MPRB (n=139)	Ramsey County (n=65)	City of Saint Paul (n=43)	Scott County (n=83)	Three Rivers Park District (n=182)	Wash. (n=30)
I don't have enough time	57%	66%	31%	32%	55%	56%	58%	58%	45%	59%	73%
[Park/Trail] is too far from my home	10%	8%	16%	10%	12%	12%	9%	8%	5%	8%	0%
I have too many family obligations	8%	4%	14%	15%	7%	11%	5%	2%	11%	6%	3%
Internet/phone service not available	4%	1%	0%	0%	3%	6%	2%	8%	1%	1%	0%
Weather/climate conditions	2%	1%	10%	<1%	3%	<1%	9%	0%	5%	3%	11%
I don't have enough money	1%	1%	2%	0%	0%	2%	2%	0%	0%	<1%	0%
I don't know enough about the [Park/Trail]	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	3%	0%
I have health problems/limitations	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%	0%	2%	5%	5%	1%	0%
I have no one to go with	1%	0%	2%	0%	4%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%
Parking is difficult	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	2%	1%	0%
The [Park/Trail] is too crowded	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	0%	1%	1%	0%

Indicates score is significantly lower than Total score

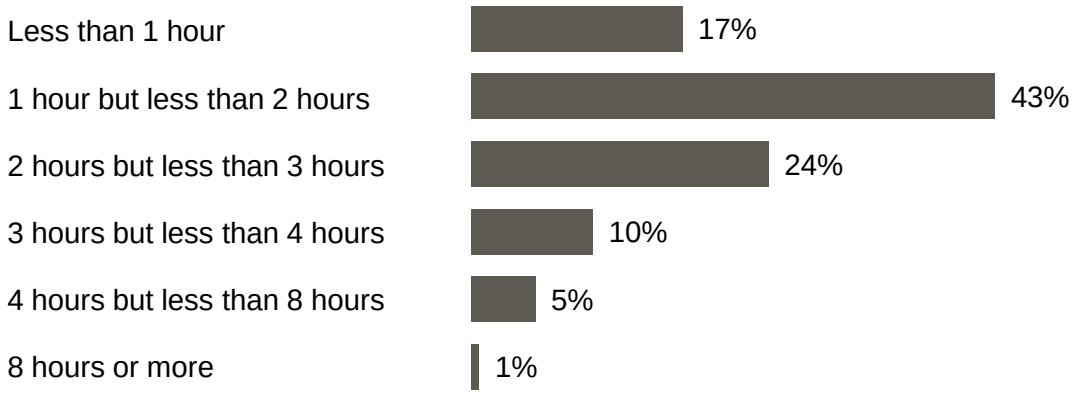
Indicates score is significantly higher than Total score

Q10 - Which one of the factors above is the primary factor limiting your visits to this [Park/Trail]? [Asked of those who responded "Less time than I would prefer" to Q9]

Hours Spent at Regional Park or Trail This Visit

The average length of visit is 1.74 hours. Respondents spend significantly longer amounts of time in regional parks than on regional trails.

Hours Spent at Park/Trail This Visit



	Facility Type	
	Regional Park (n=4009)	Regional Trail (n=1450)
Less than 1 hour	16%	***20%**
1 hour but less than 2 hours	41%	***47%**
2 hours but less than 3 hours	24%	24%
3 hours but less than 4 hours	***11%**	6%
4 hours but less than 8 hours	***6%**	2%
8 hours or more	1%	<1%
Average	****1.84***	*1.47*
Median	*1.50*	*1.00*

n=5459

Q3 - How many hours did you spend at the [Park/Trail] on this visit?

* Indicates a significant difference between park and trail totals

Hours Spent at Regional Park or Trail This Visit

Average visit lengths among Anoka County, Carver County, Dakota County and Washington County agency visitors is significantly longer than the total. Ramsey County County, City of Saint Paul and Scott County agency average visits are significantly shorter.

Hours Spent at Park/Trail This Visit	Total (n=5459)	Agency									
		Anoka County (n=658)	COB (n=385)	Carver County (n=394)	Dakota County (n=389)	MPRB (n=686)	Ramsey County (n=487)	City of Saint Paul (n=391)	Scott County (n=385)	Three Rivers Park District (n=1295)	Wash. (n=389)
Less than 1 hour	17%	11%	12%	9%	14%	16%	17%	26%	26%	15%	15%
1 hour but less than 2 hours	43%	44%	45%	35%	34%	41%	48%	45%	40%	44%	32%
2 hours but less than 3 hours	24%	22%	23%	33%	28%	26%	23%	18%	21%	27%	30%
3 hours but less than 4 hours	10%	13%	12%	15%	15%	12%	7%	7%	8%	9%	10%
4 hours but less than 8 hours	5%	7%	8%	5%	7%	5%	5%	4%	6%	5%	8%
8 hours or more	1%	3%	0%	3%	2%	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	<1%	5%
Average	*1.74*	*2.42*	*1.78*	*2.60*	*2.23*	*1.67*	*1.57*	*1.41*	*1.60*	*1.69*	*3.01*
Median	*1.00*	*1.50*	*1.50*	*2.00*	*2.00*	*1.50*	*1.15*	*1.00*	*1.00*	*1.50*	*2.00*

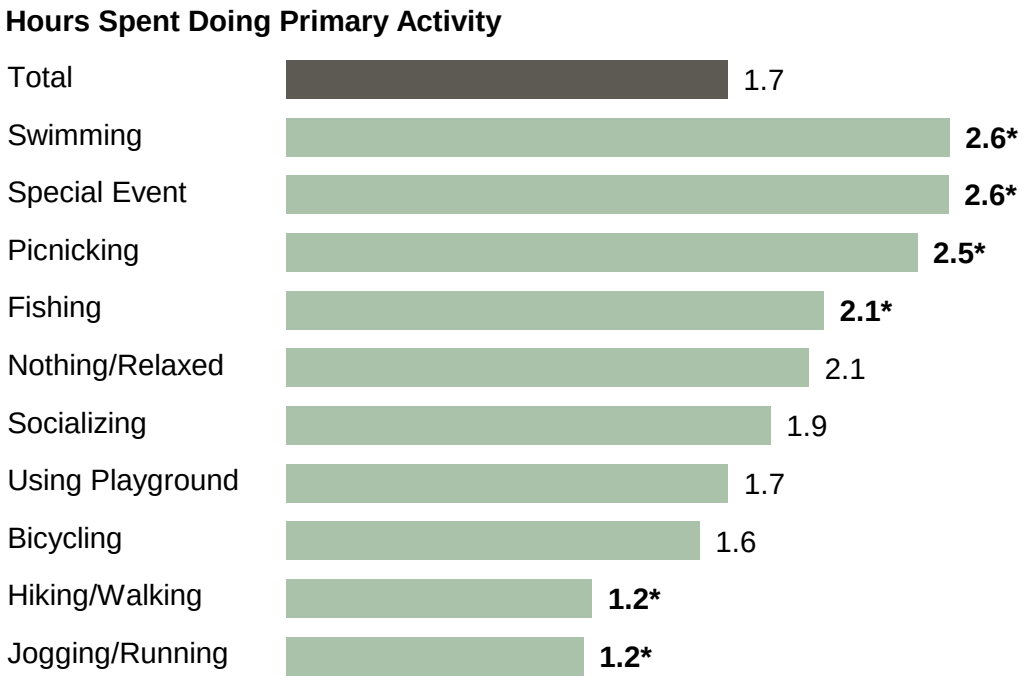
Indicates score is significantly lower than Total score

Indicates score is significantly higher than Total score

Q3 - How many hours did you spend at the [Park/Trail] on this visit?

Hours Spent Doing Primary Activity

Visitors spend significantly more time than average in the regional parks and trails when their primary activity is swimming, attending a special event, picnicking or fishing. They spend significantly less time when their primary activity is hiking, walking, jogging or running.



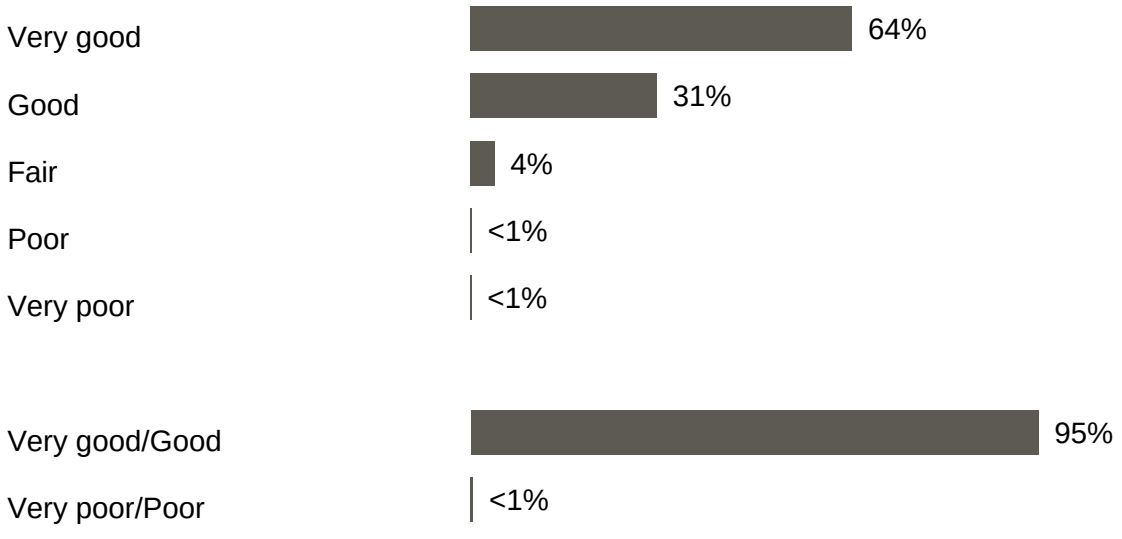
Q3 - How many hours did you spend at the [Park/Trail] on this visit?

* Indicates a significant difference from total

Experiences

Quality of Facilities, Services and Recreation Opportunities

Overall, respondents have very positive impressions of regional parks and trails facilities quality, services and recreation opportunities.



	Facility Type	
	Regional Park (n=4009)	Regional Trail (n=1450)
Very good	***66%**	60%
Good	30%	34%
Fair	3%	***6%**
Poor	<1%	<1%
Very poor	<1%	<1%
Very good/Good	***96%**	94%
Very poor/Poor	1%	<1%

n=5459

Q4 - Overall, how would you rate the quality of the facilities, services, and recreation opportunities offered at the [Park/Trail] during this visit?

* Indicates a significant difference between park and trail totals

Quality of Facilities, Services and Recreation Opportunities

Anoka County units are significantly less likely than the total to be rated good to very good. Washington County visitors provide significantly higher ratings.

Quality of Facilities, Services and Recreation Opportunities	Total (n=5459)	Agency									
		Anoka County (n=658)	COB (n=385)	Carver County (n=394)	Dakota County (n=389)	MPRB (n=686)	Ramsey County County (n=487)	City of Saint Paul (n=391)	Scott County (n=385)	Three Rivers Park District (n=1295)	Wash. (n=389)
Very good	64%	61%	72%	62%	72%	59%	62%	59%	79%	76%	73%
Good	31%	31%	24%	34%	24%	37%	33%	36%	16%	20%	25%
Fair	4%	7%	3%	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%	4%	2%
Poor	<1%	<1%	1%	0%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%	<1%	0%
Very poor	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%	0%	0%	1%	<1%
Very good/Good	95%	92%	96%	96%	96%	96%	95%	95%	95%	96%	98%
Very poor/Poor	<1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	0%	1%	<1%

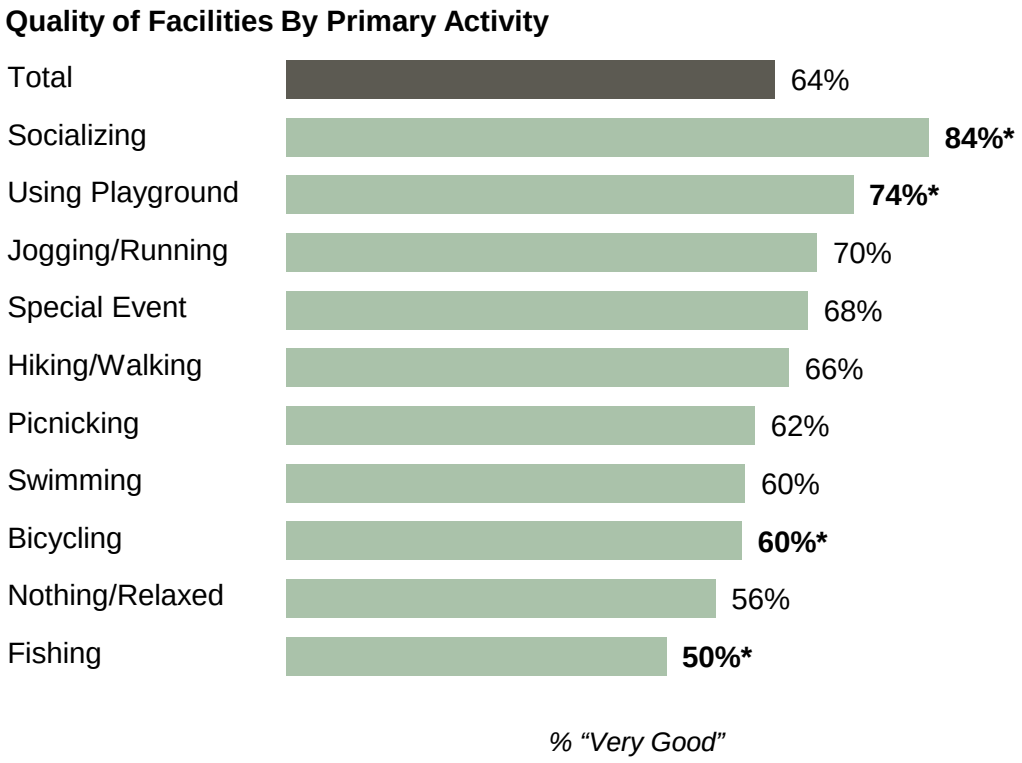
Indicates score is significantly lower than Total score

Indicates score is significantly higher than Total score

Q4 - Overall, how would you rate the quality of the facilities, services, and recreation opportunities offered at the [Park/Trail] during this visit?

Quality of Facilities by Primary Activity

Respondents who visited the park or trail primarily for the purpose of socializing or using the playground are significantly more likely to rate facilities as very good. Those whose primary reason for visiting are fishing, doing nothing or bicycling are significantly less likely to rate facilities as positively.



Q4 - Overall, how would you rate the quality of the facilities, services, and recreation opportunities offered at the [Park/Trail] during this visit?

* Indicates a significant difference from total

Quality of Facilities, Services and Recreation Opportunities by Demographics

Although ratings are consistently positive across demographics, women, visitors age 55 and over, Caucasians and those in the highest income group are significantly more likely to give a rating of very good than other segments.

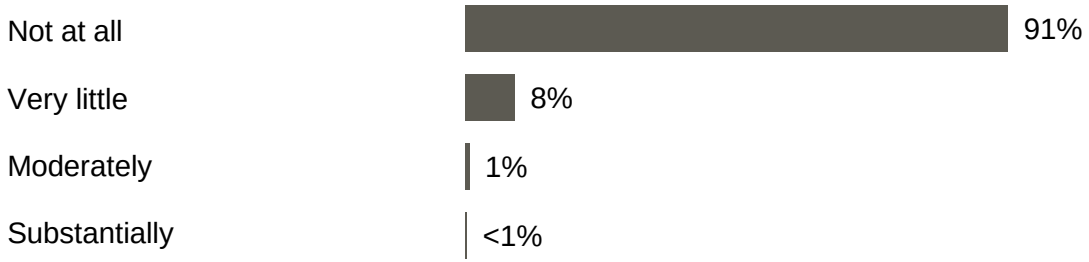
		Gender		Age Group			Ethnicity		Household Income		
Quality of Facilities, Services and Recreation Opportunities	**Total (n=5459)**	**Male (n=2724)**	**Female (n=2698)**	**18-34 (n=1503)**	**35-54 (n=1793)**	**55+ (n=1111)**	**Caucasian (n=4295)**	**Non-Caucasian (n=836)**	**Under $60K (n=1216)**	**$60K-$100K (n=1392)**	**$100K+ (n=1066)**
Very good	64%	62%	***66%**	61%	65%	****73%**	***66%**	58%	61%	61%	****75%**
Good	31%	33%	30%	***33%**	***30%**	25%	30%	***37%**	***33%**	***35%**	22%
Fair	4%	5%	3%	***5%**	***5%**	2%	4%	4%	***6%**	***4%**	2%
Poor	<1%	<1%	<1%	****1%**	<1%	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%	****1%**
Very poor	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Very good/Good	95%	95%	96%	94%	95%	****98%**	96%	95%	94%	96%	***97%**
Very poor/Poor	<1%	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%	1%

Q4 - Overall, how would you rate the quality of the facilities, services, and recreation opportunities offered at the [Park/Trail] during this visit?

* Indicates a significant difference from lowest comparison
** Indicates a significant difference from both lower comparisons

Safety Concern

Overall, visitors feel very safe, with trails visitors significantly more likely to indicate some level of concern, albeit minimal.



	Facility Type	
	Regional Park (n=4009)	Regional Trail (n=1450)
Not at all	***92%**	87%
Very little	7%	***11%**
Moderately	<1%	***1%**
Substantially	<1%	<1%

n=5459

Q5 - On this [Park/Trail] visit, were you concerned about your safety?

* Indicates a significant difference between park and trail totals

Safety Concern

Carver County agency visitors are significantly more likely than the total to say they are not at all concerned about safety.

Concerned About Safety	Total (n=5459)	Agency									
		Anoka County (n=658)	COB (n=385)	Carver County (n=394)	Dakota County (n=389)	MPRB (n=686)	Ramsey County County (n=487)	City of Saint Paul (n=391)	Scott County (n=385)	Three Rivers Park District (n=1295)	Wash. (n=389)
Not at all	91%	93%	92%	98%	94%	91%	91%	88%	89%	92%	92%
Very little	8%	7%	7%	2%	6%	8%	7%	10%	11%	8%	8%
Moderately	1%	<1%	1%	<1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%	0%
Substantially	<1%	<1%	0%	0%	<1%	<1%	1%	1%	<1%	0%	0%

Indicates score is significantly lower than Total score

Indicates score is significantly higher than Total score

Q5 - On this [Park/Trail] visit, were you concerned about your safety?

Concerned about Safety by Demographics

Caucasian respondents and those with household incomes over $100,000 are significantly more likely to say that they were not at all concerned about their safety during their visit.

		Gender		Age Group			Ethnicity		Household Income		
Concerned About Safety	**Total (n=5459)**	**Male (n=2724)**	**Female (n=2698)**	**18-34 (n=1503)**	**35-54 (n=1793)**	**55+ (n=1111)**	**Caucasian (n=4295)**	**Non-Caucasian (n=836)**	**Under $60K (n=1216)**	**$60K-$100K (n=1392)**	**$100K+ (n=1066)**
Not at all	91%	92%	90%	91%	92%	92%	***92%**	85%	91%	91%	***94%**
Very little	8%	8%	9%	8%	7%	7%	7%	***14%**	8%	***9%**	5%
Moderately	1%	<1%	1%	<1%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%	0%	1%
Substantially	<1%	<1%	***1%**	1%	<1%	1%	<1%	1%	***1%**	<1%	<1%

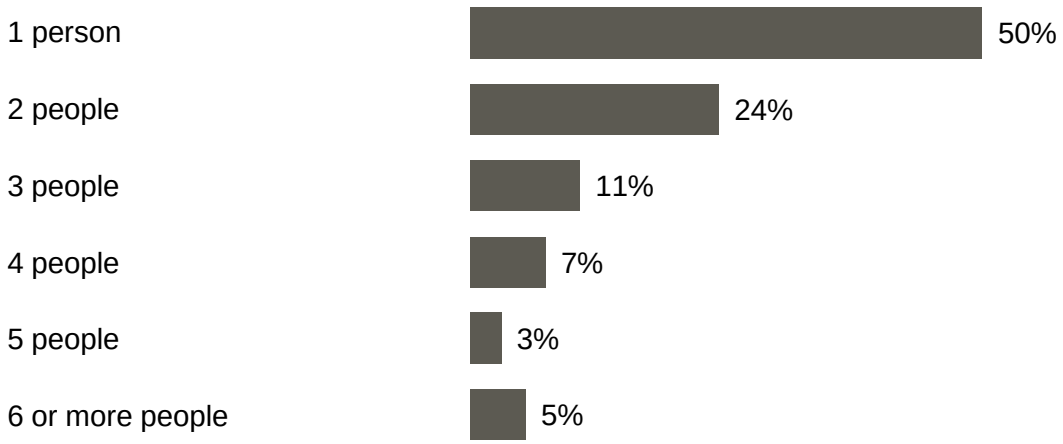
* Indicates a significant difference from lowest comparison
** Indicates a significant difference from both lower comparisons

Q5 - On this [Park/Trail] visit, were you concerned about your safety?

Number of People in Group

Significantly more trail visitors went alone (63% vs. 45% for parks). Park visitors are significantly more likely to have gone in groups of two or more.

Number of People in Group



	Facility Type	
	Regional Park (n=4009)	Regional Trail (n=1450)
1 person	45%	***63%**
2 people	24%	25%
3 people	***12%**	7%
4 people	***9%**	3%
5 people	***4%**	1%
6 or more people	***7%**	1%
Average	****2.67***	*1.69*
Median	*2.00*	*1.00*

n=5459

Q11 - Including you, how many people are in your group?

* Indicates a significant difference between park and trail totals

Number of People in Group

Average group sizes for visitors of City of Bloomington, Carver County and Washington Countyagencies are significantly higher than the total sample.

Number of People in Group	Total (n=5459)	Agency									
		Anoka County (n=658)	COB (n=385)	Carver County (n=394)	Dakota County (n=389)	MPRB (n=686)	Ramsey County (n=487)	City of Saint Paul (n=391)	Scott County (n=385)	Three Rivers Park District (n=1295)	Wash. (n=389)
1 person	50%	50%	41%	41%	44%	48%	49%	57%	62%	49%	38%
2 people	24%	23%	17%	30%	20%	26%	24%	25%	16%	22%	26%
3 people	11%	8%	12%	10%	16%	12%	13%	6%	10%	12%	17%
4 people	7%	8%	10%	6%	9%	9%	6%	5%	5%	7%	10%
5 people	3%	4%	7%	4%	5%	2%	3%	3%	2%	4%	3%
6 or more people	5%	7%	12%	9%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%	6%	7%
Average	*2.41*	*2.65*	*3.92*	*2.86*	*2.59*	*2.30*	*2.64*	*2.04*	*2.33*	*2.54*	*2.84*
Median	*2.00*	*2.00*	*2.00*	*2.00*	*2.00*	*2.00*	*2.00*	*1.00*	*1.00*	*2.00*	*2.00*

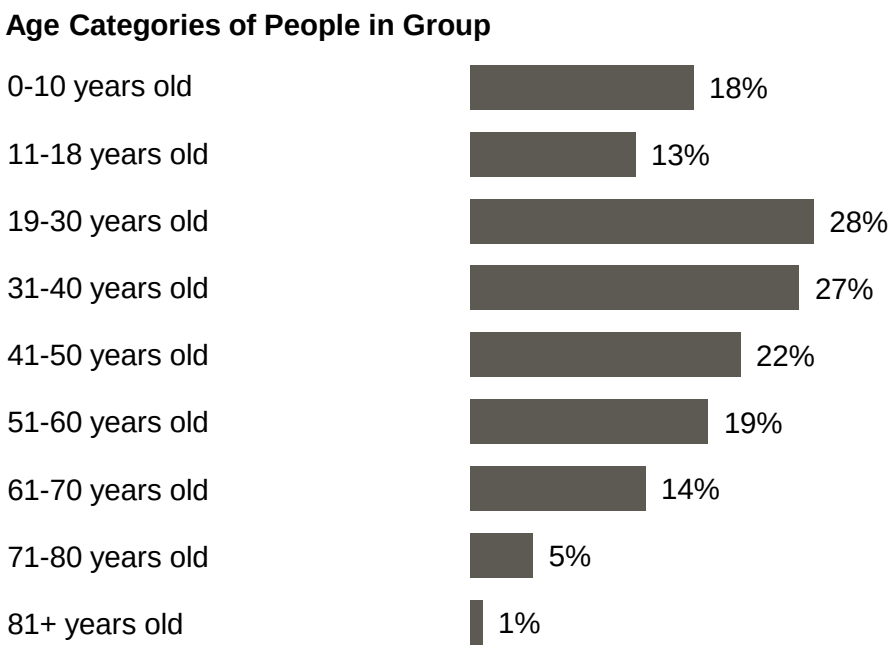
Indicates score is significantly lower than Total score

Indicates score is significantly higher than Total score

Q11 - Including you, how many people are in your group?

Age Categories of People in Group

Regional parks have a broader distribution of varying age groups visiting compared to trails, which have stronger concentration of visitors between 19-60.



Facility Type	
Regional Park (n=4009)	**Regional Trail (n=1450)**
***21%**	9%
***15%**	8%
***29%**	24%
***28%**	24%
22%	21%
19%	21%
14%	15%
***6%**	3%
***1%**	<1%

n=5459

Q11 - Including you, what are the age categories of the people in your group? (Percentage)

* Indicates a significant difference between park and trail totals

Age Categories of People in Group

Visitors to City of Bloomington, Carver County, Dakota County, Three Rivers Park District and Washington County agencies are significantly more likely than the total sample to be accompanied by children age 10 and under. Those surveyed in Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, City of Saint Paul and Scott County agencies are significantly less likely to have young children with them.

		Agency									
Age Categories of People in Group	**Total (n=5459)**	**Anoka County (n=658)**	**COB (n=385)**	**Carver County (n=394)**	**Dakota County (n=389)**	**MPRB (n=686)**	**Ramsey County (n=487)**	**City of Saint Paul (n=391)**	**Scott County (n=385)**	**Three Rivers Park District (n=1295)**	**Wash. (n=389)**
0-10 years old	18%	20%	38%	28%	28%	14%	21%	13%	14%	23%	30%
11-18 years old	13%	18%	22%	13%	15%	12%	12%	13%	13%	14%	18%
19-30 years old	28%	25%	27%	23%	20%	34%	28%	27%	22%	21%	23%
31-40 years old	27%	29%	35%	26%	29%	26%	30%	23%	25%	28%	30%
41-50 years old	22%	23%	20%	28%	26%	18%	23%	25%	28%	23%	23%
51-60 years old	19%	17%	17%	21%	22%	18%	21%	18%	24%	21%	20%
61-70 years old	14%	15%	14%	16%	11%	12%	13%	17%	14%	15%	13%
71-80 years old	5%	5%	5%	3%	3%	5%	4%	6%	2%	5%	5%
81+ years old	1%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	2%	0%	1%	<1%	1%	2%

Indicates score is significantly lower than Total score

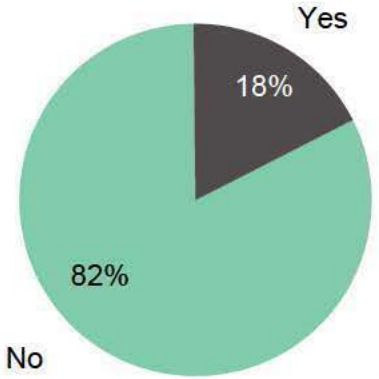
Indicates score is significantly higher than Total score

Q11 - Including you, what are the age categories of the people in your group? (Percentage)

Brought Pets and Services Animals to Regional Parks and Trails

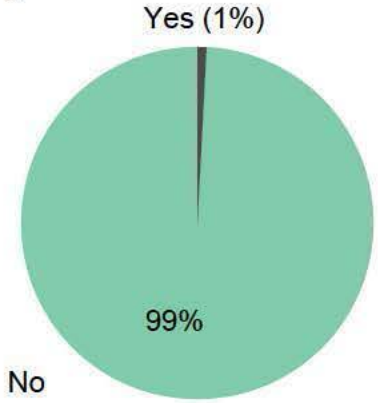
Almost one-fifth of respondents (18%) brought a pet to the park or trail, but just 1% brought a service animal.

Brought Pets to Park/Trail



	Facility Type	
	Regional Park (n=4009)	Regional Trail (n=1450)
Yes	18%	16%
No	82%	84%

Brought Service Animals to Park/Trail



	Facility Type	
	Regional Park (n=4009)	Regional Trail (n=1450)
Yes	1%	1%
No	99%	99%

n=5459

Q12 - On this visit, did you bring any of the following animals to the [Park/Trail]? – Pets
Q12 - On this visit, did you bring any of the following animals to the [Park/Trail]? – Service animals

* Indicates a significant difference between park and trail totals

Brought Pets and Service Animals to Regional Parks and Trails

Anoka County, Ramsey County and Scott County visitors were significantly more likely to have brought a pet, while significantly fewer in City of Bloomington and Washington County agencies did so.

		Agency									
Brought Pets to Park/Trail	**Total (n=5459)**	**Anoka County (n=658)**	**COB (n=385)**	**Carver County (n=394)**	**Dakota County (n=389)**	**MPRB (n=686)**	**Ramsey County (n=487)**	**City of Saint Paul (n=391)**	**Scott County (n=385)**	**Three Rivers Park District (n=1295)**	**Wash. (n=389)**
Yes	18%	22%	14%	20%	15%	16%	28%	14%	27%	18%	13%
No	82%	78%	86%	80%	85%	84%	72%	86%	73%	82%	87%
Brought Service Animals to Park/Trail											
Yes	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%	4%	1%	<1%
No	99%	99%	100%	100%	99%	99%	100%	99%	96%	99%	100%

Q12 - On this visit, did you bring any of the following animals to the [Park/Trail]? – Pets
Q12 - On this visit, did you bring any of the following animals to the [Park/Trail]? – Service animals

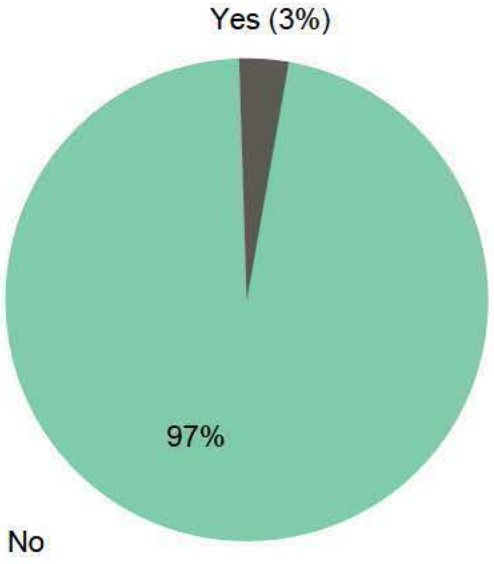
Indicates score is significantly lower than Total score

Indicates score is significantly higher than Total score

Group Member with Physical or Mental Condition

Only 3% had a group member with a physical or mental condition that could limit their participation in park or trail activities.

Group Member with Physical/Mental Condition



	Facility Type	
	Regional Park (n=4009)	Regional Trail (n=1450)
Yes	3%	3%
No	97%	97%

n=5459

Q13 - Does anyone in your group have a physical or mental condition that makes it difficult to access or participate in [Park/Trail] activities or services?

* Indicates a significant difference between park and trail totals

Group Member with Physical or Mental Condition

Although still marginal, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Park and Recreation Board agency visitors were significantly more likely to say that a member of their group had a physical or mental condition.

Group Member with Physical/Mental Condition	Total (n=5459)	Agency									
		Anoka County (n=658)	COB (n=385)	Carver County (n=394)	Dakota County (n=389)	MPRB (n=686)	Ramsey County (n=487)	City of Saint Paul (n=391)	Scott County (n=385)	Three Rivers Park District (n=1295)	Wash. (n=389)
Yes	3%	2%	2%	2%	3%	5%	2%	3%	4%	2%	2%
No	97%	98%	98%	98%	97%	95%	98%	97%	96%	98%	98%

Indicates score is significantly lower than Total score

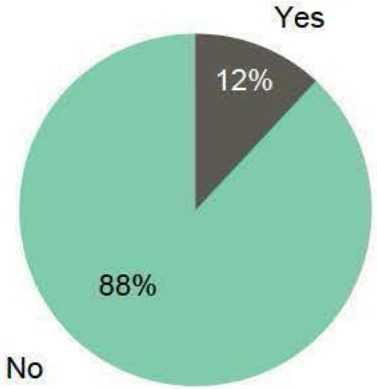
Indicates score is significantly higher than Total score

Q13 - Does anyone in your group have a physical or mental condition that makes it difficult to access or participate in [Park/Trail] activities or services?

Condition Restricted Activity Participation

Of those who did have someone in their group with a physical or mental condition, 12% said that the condition did make it difficult to participate in activities. The most commonly mentioned difficulties related to mobility.

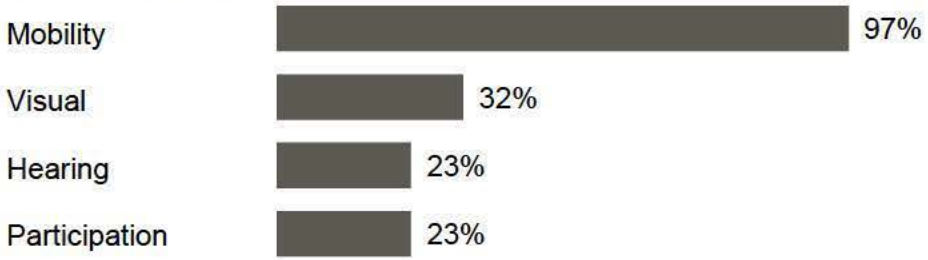
Condition Made it Difficult to Participate in Activities



n=179

	Facility Type	
	Regional Park (n=138)	Regional Trail (n=41)
Yes	11%	16%
No	89%	84%

Specific Difficulties



n=21

	Facility Type	
	Regional Park (n=15)	Regional Trail (n=7)
Mobility	100%	92%
Visual	41%	11%
Hearing	33%	0%
Participation	33%	0%

Q13A - Did that condition make it difficult to access or participate in park activities or services on this visit?
Q13B - Because of the physical or mental condition, what specific difficulties did the person(s) have?

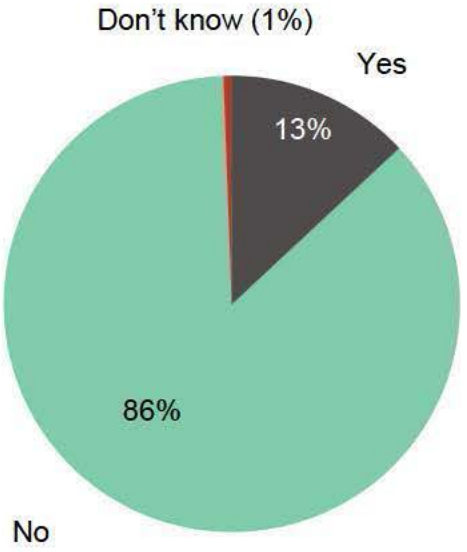
* Indicates a significant difference between park and trail totals

Information Behavior

Obtained Information about Regional Park or Trail Before Visiting

Most (86%) did not obtain information about their destination prior to visiting. Park visitors are significantly more likely to have obtained information than trail visitors.

Obtained Information about Park/Trail Before Visiting



	Facility Type	
	Regional Park (n=4009)	Regional Trail (n=1450)
Yes	***15%**	9%
No	85%	***91%**
Don't know	1%	<1%

n=5459

Q7 - Prior to this visit, did you or your group obtain information about this [Park/Trail]?

* Indicates a significant difference between park and trail totals

Obtained Information about Regional Park or Trail Before Visiting

Dakota County and Washington County agency visitors are significantly more likely to have obtained information prior to their visit. Carver County agency visitors are significantly less likely to have obtained information.

Obtained Information about Park/Trail Before Visiting	Total (n=5459)	Agency									
		Anoka County (n=658)	COB (n=385)	Carver County (n=394)	Dakota County (n=389)	MPRB (n=686)	Ramsey County (n=487)	City of Saint Paul (n=391)	Scott County (n=385)	Three Rivers Park District (n=1295)	Wash. (n=389)
Yes	13%	13%	14%	7%	20%	12%	11%	15%	14%	13%	18%
No	86%	86%	85%	93%	79%	88%	89%	84%	85%	87%	81%
Don't know	1%	<1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%

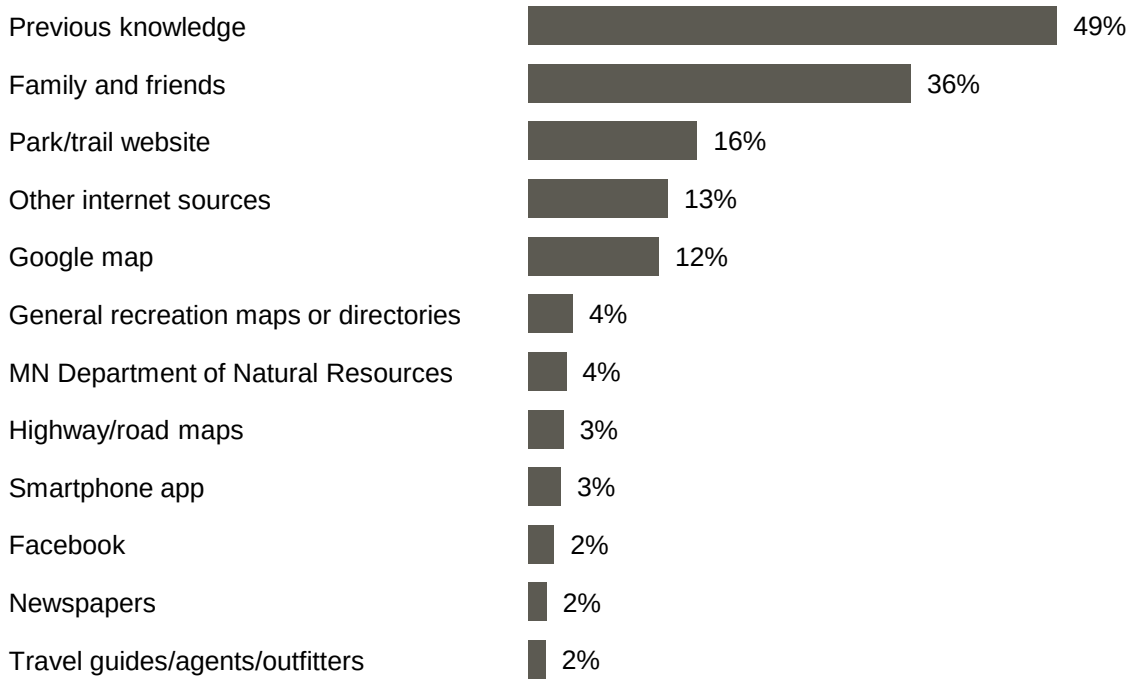
Indicates score is significantly lower than Total score

Indicates score is significantly higher than Total score

Q7 - Prior to this visit, did you or your group obtain information about this [Park/Trail]?

Information Sources

Nearly half of respondents (49%) rely on their personal knowledge and experience as opposed to seeking outside information about regional parks and trails, and trail visitors are significantly less likely than park visitors to use outside sources for information. The most frequently mentioned outside information sources are family and friends, park or trail websites and other internet sources.



	Facility Type	
	Regional Park (n=4009)	Regional Trail (n=1450)
Previous knowledge	45%	***61%**
Family and friends	***39%**	27%
Park/trail website	16%	16%
Other internet sources	***14%**	9%
Google map	12%	11%
General recreation maps or directories	4%	5%
MN Department of Natural Resources	***4%**	2%
Highway/road maps	3%	4%
Smartphone app	3%	3%
Facebook	2%	2%
Newspapers	2%	1%
Travel guides/agents/outfitters	2%	1%

n=5459

Q6 - When you obtain information about [Park/Trail], what are your most important information sources?

* Indicates a significant difference between regional parks and regional trails

Information Sources

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board agency visitors show significantly stronger use of eight information sources than the total.

Information Sources	Total (n=5459)	Agency									
		Anoka County (n=658)	COB (n=385)	Carver County (n=394)	Dakota County (n=389)	MPRB (n=686)	Ramsey County (n=487)	City of Saint Paul (n=391)	Scott County (n=385)	Three Rivers Park District (n=1295)	Wash. (n=389)
Previous knowledge	49%	54%	49%	63%	58%	45%	48%	44%	59%	57%	51%
Family and friends	36%	31%	41%	29%	42%	40%	34%	33%	30%	33%	35%
Park/trail website	16%	21%	20%	16%	23%	21%	9%	4%	16%	17%	22%
Other Internet sources	13%	10%	13%	18%	7%	16%	10%	17%	8%	8%	9%
Google map	12%	8%	10%	9%	10%	16%	11%	10%	6%	11%	9%
General recreation maps or directories	4%	4%	5%	9%	7%	7%	4%	2%	2%	2%	1%
MN Department of Natural Resources	4%	4%	1%	2%	3%	3%	5%	6%	1%	2%	5%
Highway/road maps	3%	6%	2%	11%	5%	6%	2%	1%	1%	2%	<1%
Smartphone app	3%	2%	2%	7%	1%	4%	3%	4%	2%	2%	2%
Facebook	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	<1%	4%	2%	2%
Newspapers	2%	1%	1%	5%	1%	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Travel guides/agents/outfitters	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	3%	1%	<1%	1%	1%	1%

Indicates score is significantly lower than Total score

Indicates score is significantly higher than Total score

Q6 - When you obtain information about [Park/Trail], what are your most important information sources?

Information Sources by Demographics

Noteworthy demographic distinctions include:

- The youngest group is significantly more likely to rely on family and friends, Google Maps and Facebook.
- Those age 35-54 and those with household incomes of $60,000 or more are significantly more likely to go to a park or trail website.
- Respondents over age 35 and visitors in the highest household income group are significantly more likely to use other internet sources.
- Caucasians are significantly more likely to rely on previous knowledge, while non-Caucasians are significantly more likely to use family or friends for information.

		Gender		Age Group			Ethnicity		Household Income		
Information Sources	**Total (n=5459)**	**Male (n=2724)**	**Female (n=2698)**	**18-34 (n=1503)**	**35-54 (n=1793)**	**55+ (n=1111)**	**Caucasian (n=4295)**	**Non-Caucasian (n=836)**	**Under $60K (n=1216)**	**$60K-$100K (n=1392)**	**$100K+ (n=1066)**
Previous knowledge	49%	51%	48%	41%	46%	***48%**	***50%**	43%	44%	47%	41%
Family and friends	36%	32%	***39%**	****43%**	37%	34%	33%	***47%**	37%	37%	33%
Park/trail website	16%	15%	16%	17%	****22%**	16%	16%	14%	11%	***18%**	****31%**
Other Internet sources	13%	13%	14%	12%	***17%**	***16%**	13%	12%	14%	13%	***18%**
Google map	12%	13%	12%	****18%**	13%	11%	12%	14%	13%	16%	12%
General recreation maps	4%	3%	5%	4%	5%	4%	5%	3%	3%	5%	***6%**
MN DNR	4%	3%	4%	2%	***6%**	***4%**	4%	3%	5%	3%	3%
Highway/road maps	3%	3%	4%	2%	***5%**	3%	3%	4%	2%	***6%**	4%
Smartphone app	3%	3%	3%	3%	***5%**	3%	3%	2%	3%	4%	4%
Facebook	2%	2%	***3%**	****5%**	***2%**	1%	2%	3%	3%	2%	3%
Newspapers	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	****4%**	***2%**	1%	2%	1%	1%
Travel guides/agents/outfitters	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	3%

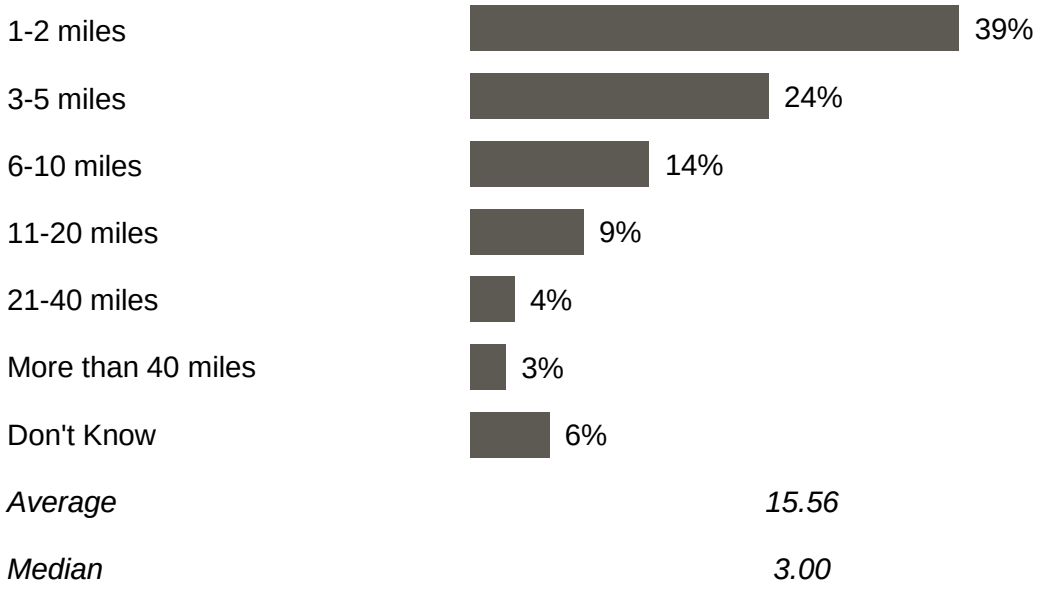
* Indicates a significant difference from lowest comparison
** Indicates a significant difference from both lower comparisons

Q6 - When you obtain information about [Park/Trail], what are your most important information sources?

Distance and Transportation

Distance from Primary Residence

On average, respondents in parks are significantly farther from their primary residences (18 miles) than those visiting trails (8 miles).



	Facility Type	
	Regional Park (n=4009)	Regional Trail (n=1450)
1-2 miles	32%	***60%**
3-5 miles	***26%**	20%
6-10 miles	***17%**	9%
11-20 miles	***11%**	5%
21-40 miles	***4%**	2%
More than 40 miles	***4%**	1%
Don't Know	***7%**	4%
Average	****18.31***	*8.19*
Median	*4.00*	*2.00*

n=5459

Q15 - About how many miles is the [Park/Trail] (your access point today) from your primary residence?

* Indicates a significant difference between park and trail totals

Distance from Primary Residence

City of Bloomington agency visitors were significantly farther from home than the total sample. Those surveyed in Carver County, Ramsey County, Three Rivers Park District and Washington County were significantly closer to home.

		Agency									
Distance From Primary Residence	**Total (n=5459)**	**Anoka County (n=658)**	**COB (n=385)**	**Carver County (n=394)**	**Dakota County (n=389)**	**MPRB (n=686)**	**Ramsey County (n=487)**	**City of Saint Paul (n=391)**	**Scott County (n=385)**	**Three Rivers Park District (n=1295)**	**Wash. (n=389)**
1-2 miles	39%	37%	39%	41%	23%	38%	43%	47%	35%	40%	20%
3-5 miles	24%	27%	22%	19%	24%	26%	25%	22%	28%	23%	21%
6-10 miles	14%	17%	15%	15%	24%	11%	15%	12%	21%	17%	29%
11-20 miles	9%	9%	10%	12%	17%	8%	9%	6%	9%	11%	15%
21-40 miles	4%	4%	5%	7%	7%	3%	4%	2%	5%	3%	8%
More than 40 miles	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	4%	2%	4%	2%	1%	1%
Don't Know	6%	3%	5%	4%	4%	9%	2%	7%	<1%	5%	7%
Average	15.56	19.31	28.23	11.20	12.77	22.47	8.76	12.42	12.18	9.96	9.51
Median	3.00	3.00	3.00	5.00	6.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	4.00	3.00	7.00

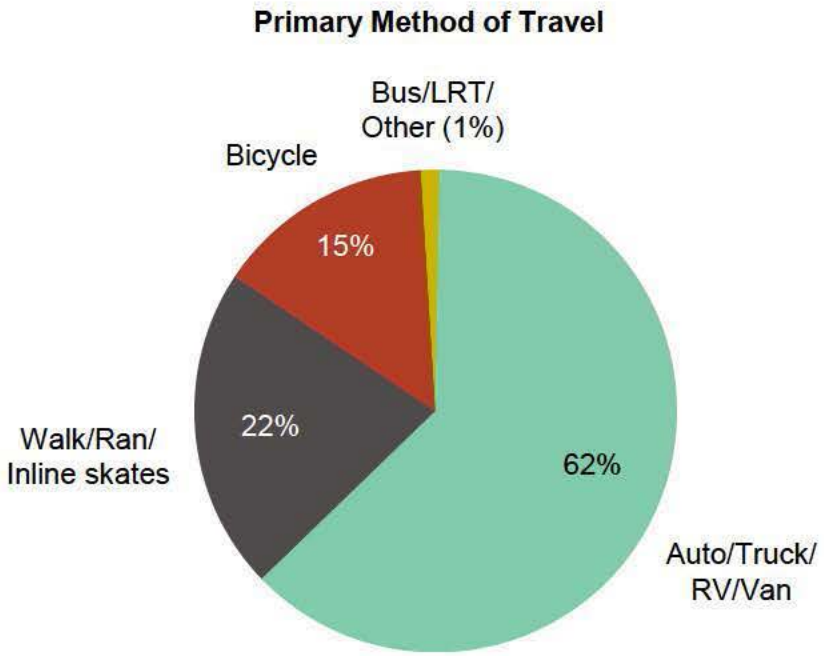
Indicates score is significantly lower than Total score

Indicates score is significantly higher than Total score

Q15 - About how many miles is the [Park/Trail] (your access point today) from your primary residence?

Primary Method of Travel

Nearly three-quarters of parks visitors (73%) used an automobile to get to their destination, which is significantly higher use of this mode of transportation than trails visitors (33%).



	Facility Type	
	Regional Park (n=4009)	Regional Trail (n=1450)
Auto/Truck/RV/Van	***73%**	33%
Walk/Ran/Inline skates	17%	***35%**
Bicycle	9%	***30%**
Bus/LRT/Other	1%	2%

n=5459

Q15A - How did you travel to this [Park/Trail] on your visit today? If two methods of travel, what is the dominant form of transportation you took to get here?

* Indicates a significant difference between park and trail totals

Primary Method of Travel

Anoka County, City of Bloomington, Dakota County, Scott County and Washington County agency visitors are significantly more likely than the total to use automobiles to get to the park or trail, while Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board visitors are significantly less likely to do so.

		Agency									
Primary Method of Travel	**Total (n=5459)**	**Anoka County (n=658)**	**COB (n=385)**	**Carver County (n=394)**	**Dakota County (n=389)**	**MPRB (n=686)**	**Ramsey County (n=487)**	**City of Saint Paul (n=391)**	**Scott County (n=385)**	**Three Rivers Park District (n=1295)**	**Wash. (n=389)**
Auto/Truck/RV/Van	62%	73%	81%	60%	87%	52%	67%	65%	77%	65%	81%
Walk/Ran/Inline skates	22%	17%	11%	19%	5%	28%	19%	22%	14%	20%	6%
Bicycle	15%	10%	7%	20%	7%	19%	12%	12%	9%	15%	12%
Bus/LRT/Other	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	<1%	1%	1%

Indicates score is significantly lower than Total score

Indicates score is significantly higher than Total score

Q15A - How did you travel to this [Park/Trail] on your visit today? If two methods of travel, what is the dominant form of transportation you took to get here?

Primary Method of Travel

Females are significantly more likely than males to arrive in some form of automobile, as are visitors age 35-54. Caucasians and those in the 18-34 and 55 or over age ranges are significantly more likely than those age 35-54 to walk, run or use inline skates to get to their destination. Visitors reporting a household income under $60,000 are significantly more likely to have used public transportation.

		Gender		Age Group			Ethnicity		Household Income		
Primary Method of Travel	**Total (n=5459)**	**Male (n=2724)**	**Female (n=2698)**	**18-34 (n=1503)**	**35-54 (n=1793)**	**55+ (n=1111)**	**Caucasian (n=4295)**	**Non-Caucasian (n=836)**	**Under $60K (n=1216)**	**$60K-$100K (n=1392)**	**$100K+ (n=1066)**
Auto/Truck/RV/Van	62%	60%	***66%**	59%	***66%**	62%	62%	65%	62%	64%	62%
Walk/Ran/Inline skates	22%	20%	23%	***22%**	18%	***23%**	***22%**	17%	18%	21%	22%
Bicycle	15%	***19%**	11%	16%	15%	14%	15%	16%	18%	14%	15%
Bus/LRT/Other	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	****3%**	1%	1%

Q15A - How did you travel to this [Park/Trail] on your visit today? If two methods of travel, what is the dominant form of transportation you took to get here?

* Indicates a significant difference from lowest comparison
** Indicates a significant difference from both lower comparisons

Appendices

Appendix A: Demographics

Demographics

		Facility Type		Agency									
Year Born	Total (n=5459)	Regional Park (n=4009)	Regional Trail (n=1450)	Anoka County (n=658)	COB (n=385)	Carver County (n=394)	Dakota County (n=389)	MPRB (n=686)	Ramsey County (n=487)	City of Saint Paul (n=391)	Scott County (n=385)	Three Rivers Park District (n=1295)	Wash. (n=389)
Before 1950	7%	7%	5%	7%	7%	6%	4%	7%	5%	7%	5%	6%	5%
1950-1959	11%	11%	11%	11%	12%	13%	15%	11%	9%	12%	16%	11%	10%
1960-1969	14%	13%	16%	14%	14%	12%	19%	14%	17%	14%	21%	12%	12%
1970-1979	18%	***19%**	15%	17%	24%	21%	25%	16%	16%	18%	23%	19%	16%
1980-1989	17%	17%	15%	16%	21%	16%	19%	20%	16%	13%	20%	15%	16%
1990-1999	15%	***15%**	12%	12%	12%	6%	9%	19%	11%	17%	11%	10%	9%
Prefer not to say	19%	17%	***26%**	22%	11%	27%	9%	13%	25%	18%	4%	27%	31%
Gender													
Male	50%	48%	***55%**	58%	46%	46%	51%	49%	48%	51%	56%	47%	50%
Female	49%	***51%**	44%	42%	53%	51%	49%	49%	51%	48%	44%	52%	50%
Prefer not to say	1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%	3%	0%	1%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	0%

* Indicates a significant difference between park and trail totals

Indicates score is significantly lower than Total score

Indicates score is significantly higher than Total score

Q16 - In what year were you born?
Q17 - Are you...?

Demographics

Highest Level of Education	Total (n=5459)	Facility Type: Regional Park (n=4009)	Facility Type: Regional Trail (n=1450)	Agency: Anoka County (n=658)	Agency: COB (n=385)	Agency: Carver County (n=394)	Agency: Dakota County (n=389)	Agency: MPRB (n=686)	Agency: Ramsey County (n=487)	Agency: City of Saint Paul (n=391)	Agency: Scott County (n=385)	Agency: Three Rivers Park District (n=1295)	Agency: Wash. (n=389)
Did not finish high school	<1%	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Completed high school	8%	***9%**	6%	10%	8%	9%	7%	8%	9%	9%	6%	6%	8%
Some college but no degree	13%	14%	12%	14%	14%	8%	8%	15%	13%	12%	11%	13%	11%
Associate/Vocational degree	11%	11%	11%	14%	11%	11%	20%	9%	13%	12%	15%	12%	9%
College bachelor's degree	38%	36%	***42%**	45%	39%	44%	41%	38%	39%	31%	37%	40%	43%
Some college graduate work	6%	6%	7%	4%	7%	6%	9%	6%	7%	7%	11%	6%	5%
Completed graduate degree	22%	22%	21%	11%	20%	21%	13%	23%	17%	25%	18%	23%	23%
Prefer not to say	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	<1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	1%	<1%	1%

Hispanic/Latino/Spanish Origin	Total (n=5459)	Facility Type: Regional Park (n=4009)	Facility Type: Regional Trail (n=1450)	Agency: Anoka County (n=658)	Agency: COB (n=385)	Agency: Carver County (n=394)	Agency: Dakota County (n=389)	Agency: MPRB (n=686)	Agency: Ramsey County (n=487)	Agency: City of Saint Paul (n=391)	Agency: Scott County (n=385)	Agency: Three Rivers Park District (n=1295)	Agency: Wash. (n=389)
Yes	5%	6%	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%	6%	6%	7%	3%	3%	2%
No	94%	93%	***95%**	95%	94%	94%	94%	93%	93%	92%	96%	96%	97%
Prefer not to say	1%	1%	1%	<1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	<1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

* Indicates a significant difference between park and trail totals

Indicates score is significantly lower than Total score

Indicates score is significantly higher than Total score

Q18 - What is the highest level of education you have completed?
Q19 - Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

Demographics

Race/Ethnicity	Total (n=5459)	Facility Type		Agency									
		Regional Park (n=4009)	Regional Trail (n=1450)	Anoka County (n=658)	COB (n=385)	Carver County (n=394)	Dakota County (n=389)	MPRB (n=686)	Ramsey County (n=487)	City of Saint Paul (n=391)	Scott County (n=385)	Three Rivers Park District (n=1295)	Wash. (n=389)
White	80%	79%	***86%**	88%	87%	94%	91%	77%	82%	71%	88%	88%	88%
Black or African American	8%	***9%**	6%	4%	7%	1%	3%	12%	6%	7%	6%	6%	4%
Asian	7%	***8%**	5%	5%	6%	1%	4%	6%	8%	13%	4%	4%	7%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	<1%	<1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	<1%	<1%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%
Pacific Islander	<1%	<1%	***1%**	<1%	<1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Other race	5%	5%	4%	3%	4%	3%	3%	5%	4%	9%	4%	3%	2%
Prefer not to say	2%	***2%**	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%

* Indicates a significant difference between park and trail totals

Indicates score is significantly lower than Total score

Indicates score is significantly higher than Total score

Q20 - How would you describe your race?

Demographics

Household Income	Total (n=5459)	Facility Type		Agency									
		Regional Park (n=4009)	Regional Trail (n=1450)	Anoka County (n=658)	COB (n=385)	Carver County (n=394)	Dakota County (n=389)	MPRB (n=686)	Ramsey County (n=487)	City of Saint Paul (n=391)	Scott County (n=385)	Three Rivers Park District (n=1295)	Wash. (n=389)
Less than $20,000	4%	***4%**	2%	4%	4%	5%	1%	5%	2%	6%	1%	2%	1%
$20,000 - $29,999	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	<1%	1%	2%	3%	4%	2%	2%	1%
$30,000 - $39,999	4%	***5%**	3%	3%	3%	1%	2%	4%	5%	8%	3%	3%	1%
$40,000 - $49,999	6%	6%	5%	4%	4%	3%	3%	5%	7%	8%	4%	5%	3%
$50,000 - $59,999	6%	6%	7%	5%	7%	2%	5%	7%	7%	7%	3%	5%	5%
$60,000 - $69,999	7%	7%	6%	7%	6%	5%	6%	7%	6%	8%	5%	6%	5%
$70,000 - $79,999	7%	7%	6%	8%	9%	3%	8%	8%	9%	5%	7%	6%	7%
$80,000 - $89,999	7%	7%	7%	8%	10%	6%	8%	7%	6%	7%	7%	6%	7%
$90,000 - $99,000	5%	5%	5%	6%	6%	4%	8%	5%	5%	6%	9%	4%	7%
$100,000 - $149,999	10%	10%	9%	12%	12%	11%	10%	12%	8%	7%	12%	9%	8%
$150,000 - $199,999	5%	6%	5%	3%	9%	4%	11%	7%	3%	3%	14%	6%	6%
$200,000 or more	4%	4%	4%	2%	9%	15%	4%	4%	2%	1%	21%	7%	2%
Prefer not to say	33%	31%	***38%**	37%	19%	42%	33%	28%	37%	29%	12%	40%	46%

* Indicates a significant difference between park and trail totals

Indicates score is significantly lower than Total score

Indicates score is significantly higher than Total score

Q21 - Which of the following best describes your total household income from all sources before taxes last year?

Appendix B: Methodology

Methodology

Fielding Methodology

Metropolitan Council provided a survey instrument, of approximately 10 minutes in length, which was fielded at all regional park and trail units within the 10 agencies. The survey was administered by live intercept method, with professional interviewers recording visitors' responses on electronic tablets. Surveying took place between May 30 and September 5, 2016.

Quality assurance measures involved quality assurance managers routinely and randomly visiting interviewers on-site. All interviewers were also required to randomly check in through a GPS tracking application installed on their tablets.

Metropolitan Council supplied a sampling strategy and fielding methodology guidebook titled "Handbook for Minnesota Parks and Trails Surveying," authored by University of Minnesota. This year marks the first time implementing this study design. Although significant effort was made to adhere to as many of the fielding instructions outlined in the handbook as possible, there are several directives that were considered unduly restrictive, and if followed as prescribed would have made the study fulfillment impossible and/or cost prohibitive for Metropolitan Council. Some modifications were made prior to fielding in accordance with assumptions expressed in the original RFP (prior to finalization and release of the Handbook). After a period of testing the methodology in field, ISG recommended and received permission to make additional changes to improve production and efficiency without compromising the study integrity.

Methodology (Cont.)

Methodology Modifications

Modifications made to the original methodology can be summarized as follows:

Aspect of Study Design	Handbook Instruction Summarized	Modified Approach Summarized
Sampling Plan	Required randomized scheduling at the week, day, time-part and survey block levels, along with two-hour time block maximums per day and per unit required an inordinate number of visits to each unit and was not feasible within the budget nor project schedule.	**Sample strategically.** The season is divided in two parts and units are randomly scheduled to meet 55% weekday and 45% weekend requirement. Time blocks are randomly distributed. Units are grouped by proximity to one another, maximizing geographic coverage potential within time blocks. Time block maximums are extended to four hours.
Sample Size	The prescribed sampling methodology called for 400 visitors per park. However, this was designed for state park surveys where individual parks are the focus, rather than a study of a regional parks and trails system.	**Sample according to usage.** A minimum of 385 surveys per agency, with actual agency total counts and unit quotas determined by usage of individual units as reported in 2014 usage data. Employing an appropriate data weighting strategy based on 2015 usage data achieves a +/-5% confidence interval at the 95% confidence level for agencies.
Survey Administration	Paper fulfillment, requiring manual response tracking, management and data entry processes.	**Employ technology.** Electronic tablet administration resulting in subsequent alteration of instructions for disposition tracking, respondent identification and data processing activities.
Surveying Location	Fielding the survey only at designated park or trail exits with representative coverage of high, medium and low volume exits, and only survey individuals leaving the park or trail was not feasible based on observed unit volumes.	**Go where people are.** Survey individuals who have spent a minimum of 30 minutes in the park or 10 minutes on a trail. Move throughout the units to capture data from different activity areas within parks and from multiple points along trails.
Unit Coverage	Each park and trail unit must receive at least 80 hours of surveying across the season.	**Spend only the necessary time.** Unit time allotments are modified in accordance with sample plan adjustments summarized above.

Methodology (Cont.)

Sample Plan Modification Details

Initial sampling plan:

- Survey a sufficient number of park/trail users at regional parks and trails units from each of the 10 agencies to achieve a confidence interval of +/-5%at the 95% confidence level.
- Conduct a minimum of 385 total surveys per agency and a minimum of 30 interviews at each of the parks/trails units within each agency.
- Weight surveys at the agency level so that the number of interviews completed within each agency approximates the proportion of summer visits, as reported in the 2014 Annual Use Estimate Survey (https://metrocouncil.org/getdoc/28348fab-6815-466f-a969-dce378d246e9/BusinessItem.aspx).

Modified sampling plan:

- Six new regional parks and trails *(Dakota County (Whitetail Woods and Minnesota River Greenway), City of Saint Paul (Trout Brook) and Three Rivers Park District (Kingswood, Crystal Lake and Nokomis – Minnesota River)* were not included in the 2014 Annual Use Estimate Survey. Projected usage estimates for these six units were provided by Metropolitan Council, and quotas for these units were calculated using those estimates.
- Lake Minnetonka Islands in the Three River Park District is only accessible by boat and therefore was not included in the survey.
- Due to a variety of issues, filling minimum quotas in 13 of the units was not achievable. With Met Council approval, quotas for these units were reset to 10.
- Toward the end of data collection, the 2015 Annual Use Estimate Survey was released (https://metrocouncil.org/Parks/Publications-And-Resources/PARK-USE-REPORTS/2015-Annual-Use-Estimate-of-the-Regional-Parks.aspx) and Metropolitan Council requested weighting survey responses at the agency level against the 2015 summer visitor data.
- Analysis of the 2015 Annual Use Estimate Survey revealed an error in the 2014 report for Carver County, which resulted in oversampling of Southwest Regional Trail. Although the Carver County data is weighted to reflect the accurate 2015 Usage data, the weight for Dakota County Rail Regional Trail is much higher than weights for other facilities due to the oversampling.

Methodology (Cont.)

Significance Testing

Data tables were created using WinCross Version 14.0.

- Differences between percentages (either agency vs. total or regional park vs. regional trail) were identified using the Z-test procedure, testing at the 95% confidence level.
- Differences between means (either agency vs. total or regional park vs. regional trail) were identified using the T-test procedure, testing at the 95% confidence level.

Appendix C: Weighting and Weights

Weighting Strategy

Data Weighting: Overall

- The number of completed surveys for each agency is weighted so that each agency is statistically representative of their respective proportion of summer visits within the overall system.

	Summer Visits	Visits Percent of Subtotal	Completes	Completes Percent of Subtotal	Weight
Anoka County	1343.6	0.068	658	0.121	0.56639
City of Bloomington	278.7	0.014	385	0.071	0.20079
Carver County	284.0	0.014	394	0.072	0.19993
Dakota County	501.0	0.025	389	0.071	0.35724
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	6798.7	0.345	686	0.126	2.74902
Ramsey County	1613.8	0.082	487	0.089	0.91917
City of St Paul	3809.6	0.194	391	0.072	2.70258
Scott County	267.6	0.014	385	0.071	0.19279
Three Rivers Park District	4185.5	0.213	1295	0.237	0.89650
Washington County	598.0	0.030	389	0.071	0.42641

Data Weighting (Agency Level)

Data weights for each agency:

	Summer Visits	Visits Percent of Subtotal	Completes	Completes Percent of Subtotal	Weight
Anoka Co. Riverfront RP 3	77.9	0.058	39	0.059	0.97820
Bunker Hills RP	182.1	0.136	91	0.138	0.97999
Coon Rapids Dam RP	193.7	0.144	93	0.141	1.02000
Lake George RP	88.1	0.066	47	0.071	0.91798
Martin-Island-Linwood Lakes RP	60.7	0.045	10	0.015	2.97265
Mississippi West RP	91.0	0.068	18	0.027	2.47585
Rice Creek Chain of Lakes PR	166.2	0.124	79	0.120	1.03029
Rum River Central RP	30.8	0.023	30	0.046	0.50278
Bunker Hills-Chain of Lakes RT	39.8	0.030	30	0.046	0.64970
Central Anoka RT	33.4	0.025	30	0.046	0.54523
Coon Creek RT	67.9	0.051	30	0.046	1.10842
East Anoka County RT	39.1	0.029	10	0.015	1.91484
Mississippi River RT	61.3	0.046	30	0.046	1.00067
Rice Creek North RT	63.7	0.047	30	0.046	1.03985
Rice Creek West RT	125.2	0.093	61	0.093	1.00514
Rum River RT	22.7	0.017	30	0.046	0.37056
ANOKA COUNTY TOTAL	1343.6	1.000	658	1.000	

	Summer Visits	Visits Percent of Subtotal	Completes	Completes Percent of Subtotal	Weight
Bush and Normandale Lakes RP	278.7	1.000	385	1.000	1.00000
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON TOTAL	278.7	1.000	385	1.000	1.00000

Data Weighting (Agency Level)

Data weights for each agency:

	Summer Visits	Visits Percent of Subtotal	Completes	Completes Percent of Subtotal	Weight
Baylor RP	21.2	0.075	32	0.081	0.91910
Lake Waconia RP	41.1	0.145	40	0.102	1.42542
Lake Minnewashta RP	68.8	0.242	54	0.137	1.76755
Minnesota River Bluffs RT	65.5	0.231	46	0.117	1.97543
Southwest RT4	29.0	0.102	210	0.533	0.19158
Dakota Rail RT 5	58.4	0.206	12	0.030	6.75164
CARVER COUNTY TOTAL	284.0	1.000	394	1.000	

	Summer Visits	Visits Percent of Subtotal	Completes	Completes Percent of Subtotal	Weight
Lake Byllesby RP	46.5	0.093	30	0.077	1.20349
Lebanon Hills RP	238.5	0.476	164	0.422	1.12916
Miesville Ravine PR	11.9	0.024	10	0.026	0.92397
Spring Lake PR	38.3	0.076	32	0.082	0.92931
Big Rivers RT	44.4	0.089	37	0.095	0.93173
Mississippi River RT	41.5	0.083	12	0.031	2.68521
North Urban RT (Now River to River Greenway)	7.2	0.014	30	0.077	0.18634
Whitetail Woods	20.7	0.041	37	0.095	0.43439
Minnesota River Greenway	52.0	0.104	37	0.095	1.09122
DAKOTA COUNTY TOTAL	501.0	1.000	389	1.000	

Data Weighting (Agency Level)

Data weights for each agency:

	Summer Visits	Visits Percent of Subtotal	Completes	Completes Percent of Subtotal	Weight
Central Mississippi Riverfront RP	850.1	0.125	58	0.085	1.47890
Minneapolis Chain-of-Lakes RP 3	2166.9	0.319	123	0.179	1.77759
Minnehaha RP	797.1	0.117	52	0.076	1.54670
Mississippi Gorge RP	445.6	0.066	36	0.052	1.24893
Nokomis-Hiawatha RP	633.9	0.093	44	0.064	1.45367
North Mississippi RP	151.6	0.022	33	0.048	0.46353
Theodore Wirth RP	234.7	0.035	30	0.044	0.78938
Cedar Lake RT	187.9	0.028	30	0.044	0.63198
Columbia Parkway RT	33.7	0.005	30	0.044	0.11334
Kenilworth RT	235.3	0.035	30	0.044	0.79140
Luce Line RT	50.4	0.007	30	0.044	0.16951
Minnehaha Parkway RT	545.7	0.080	40	0.058	1.37655
Northeast Diagonal RT	66.6	0.010	30	0.044	0.22400
Ridgeway Parkway RT	9.3	0.001	30	0.044	0.03127
St. Anthony Parkway RT	89.1	0.013	30	0.044	0.29967
Shingle Creek RT	56.6	0.008	30	0.044	0.19036
Victory (Wirth) Memorial Parkway RT	244.2	0.036	30	0.044	0.82133
MPLS PARK AND REC TOTAL	6798.7	1.000	686	1.000	

Data Weighting (Agency Level)

Data weights for each agency:

	Summer Visits	Visits Percent of Subtotal	Completes	Completes Percent of Subtotal	Weight
Bald Eagle-Otter Lake RP	117.7	0.073	32	0.066	1.10995
Battle Creek RP	229.7	0.142	65	0.133	1.06641
Grass-Vadnais-Snail Lake RP	308.4	0.191	66	0.136	1.41009
Keller RP	266.8	0.165	54	0.111	1.49097
Long Lake RP	156.1	0.097	36	0.074	1.30851
Tony Schmidt RP	120.5	0.075	33	0.068	1.10192
Birch Lake RT	39.8	0.025	32	0.066	0.37532
Bruce Vento RT	126.9	0.079	37	0.076	1.03499
Highway 96 RT	131.6	0.082	42	0.086	0.94555
Rice Creek North RT	51.4	0.032	30	0.062	0.51703
Rice Creek West RT	45.9	0.028	30	0.062	0.46171
Trout Brook RT	19.0	0.012	30	0.062	0.19112
RAMSEY COUNTY TOTAL	1613.8	1.000	487	1.000	

Data Weighting (Agency Level)

Data weights for each agency:

	Summer Visits	Visits Percent of Subtotal	Completes	Completes Percent of Subtotal	Weight
Cherokee Heights RP	151.0	0.040	31	0.079	0.49993
Como RP, Zoo & Conservatory SRF	1764.1	0.463	111	0.284	1.63116
Hidden Falls-Crosby Farm RP	172.4	0.045	35	0.090	0.50555
Indian Mounds RP	159.2	0.042	30	0.077	0.54465
Lilydale-Harriet Island RP	214.9	0.056	30	0.077	0.73521
Mississippi Gorge RP	573.6	0.151	45	0.115	1.30825
Phalen RP	428.9	0.113	38	0.097	1.15843
Bruce Vento RT	99.2	0.026	31	0.079	0.32843
Samuel Morgan RT	167.6	0.044	30	0.077	0.57339
Trout Brook	78.7	0.021	10	0.026	0.80774
CITY OF ST PAUL TOTAL	3809.6	1.000	391	1.000	

	Summer Visits	Visits Percent of Subtotal	Completes	Completes Percent of Subtotal	Weight
Cedar Lake Farm RP 3	15.1	0.056	10	0.026	2.17245
Spring Lake RP 4	30.2	0.113	36	0.094	1.20692
Cleary Lake RP	98.9	0.370	160	0.416	0.88930
Murphy-Hanrehan PR	32.6	0.122	47	0.122	0.99791
Scott County RT	90.8	0.339	132	0.343	0.98966
SCOTT COUNTY TOTAL	267.6	1.000	385	1.000	

Data Weighting (Agency Level)

Data weights for each agency:

	Summer Visits	Visits Percent of Subtotal	Completes	Completes Percent of Subtotal	Weight
Baker PR	169.6	0.041	48	0.037	1.09321
Bryant Lake RP	197.8	0.047	47	0.036	1.30211
Carver PR	116.8	0.028	34	0.026	1.06288
Clifton French RP	260.9	0.062	64	0.049	1.26129
Coon Rapids Dam RP	116.2	0.028	40	0.031	0.89881
Crow-Hassan PR	24.7	0.006	33	0.025	0.23158
Eagle Lake RP	32.6	0.008	30	0.023	0.33621
Elm Creek PR	420.8	0.101	93	0.072	1.39995
Fish Lake RP	147.4	0.035	41	0.032	1.11233
Gale Woods SRF	42.1	0.010	10	0.008	1.30258
Hyland Lake PR	313.8	0.075	73	0.056	1.33000
Lake Minnetonka RP	96.8	0.023	33	0.025	0.90757
Lake Rebecca PR	79.8	0.019	31	0.024	0.79645
The Landing 4	3.0	0.001	10	0.008	0.09282
Noerenberg Gardens SRF	21.9	0.005	30	0.023	0.22586
North Mississippi RP	26.7	0.006	30	0.023	0.27536
Silverwood SRF	103.2	0.025	32	0.025	0.99781
THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT (Cont.)					

Data Weighting (Agency Level)

Data weights for each agency:

	Summer Visits	Visits Percent of Subtotal	Completes	Completes Percent of Subtotal	Weight
Bassett Creek RT	40.1	0.010	30	0.023	0.41356
Cedar Lake LRT RT	280.1	0.067	62	0.048	1.39779
Dakota Rail RT	217.5	0.052	54	0.042	1.24620
Lake Independence RT	27.0	0.006	11	0.008	0.75944
Lake Minnetonka LRT RT	167.5	0.040	43	0.033	1.20522
Luce Line RT	190.1	0.045	52	0.040	1.13110
Medicine Lake RT	240.1	0.057	58	0.045	1.28081
Minnesota River Bluffs LRT RT	92.8	0.022	30	0.023	0.95708
Nine Mile Creek RT 5	49.1	0.012	30	0.023	0.50638
North Cedar Lake RT	159.1	0.038	51	0.039	0.96521
Northeast Diagonal RT	20.7	0.005	10	0.008	0.64046
Rush Creek RT	108.4	0.026	31	0.024	1.08190
Shingle Creek RT	109.8	0.026	30	0.023	1.13240
Twin Lakes RT	39.8	0.010	30	0.023	0.41047
Kingswood	0.4	0.000	10	0.008	0.01237
Crystal Lake	60.6	0.014	31	0.024	0.60483
Nokomis - Minnesota River	208.3	0.050	53	0.041	1.21600
THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT TOTAL	4185.5	1.000	1295	1.000	

Data Weighting (Agency Level)

Data weights for each agency:

	Summer Visits	Visits Percent of Subtotal	Completes	Completes Percent of Subtotal	Weight
Big Marine PR	98.2	0.164	70	0.180	0.91256
Cottage Grove Ravine RP	30.4	0.051	31	0.080	0.63791
Lake Elmo PR	240.6	0.402	118	0.303	1.32636
Pine Point RP	43.2	0.072	31	0.080	0.90650
Square Lake SRF	45.3	0.076	30	0.077	0.98225
St. Croix Bluffs RP	44.3	0.074	32	0.082	0.90053
Hardwood Creek RT	96.0	0.161	77	0.198	0.81101
WASHINGTON COUNTY TOTAL	598	1.000	389	1.000	