

2021 PARKS AND TRAILS VISITOR STUDY

REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS

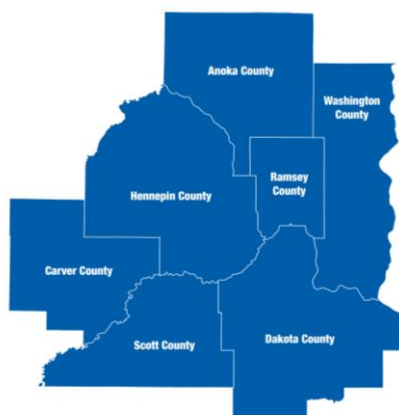


METROPOLITAN
COUNCIL

The Council's mission is to foster efficient and economic growth for a prosperous metropolitan region

Metropolitan Council Members

Charlie Zelle	Chair	Raymond Zeran	District 9
Judy Johnson	District 1	Peter Lindstrom	District 10
Reva Chamblis	District 2	Susan Vento	District 11
Vacant	District 3	Francisco J. Gonzalez	District 12
Deb Barber	District 4	Chai Lee	District 13
Molly Cummings	District 5	Kris Fredson	District 14
John Pacheco Jr.	District 6	Phillip Sterner	District 15
Robert Lilligen	District 7	Wendy Wulff	District 16
Abdirahman Muse	District 8		



The Metropolitan Council is the regional planning organization for the seven-county Twin Cities area. The Council operates the regional bus and rail system, collects and treats wastewater, coordinates regional water resources, plans and helps fund regional parks, and administers federal funds that provide housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. The 17-member Council board is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor.

On request, this publication will be made available in alternative formats to people with disabilities. Call Metropolitan Council information at 651-602-1140 or TTY 651-291-0904.

2021 PARKS AND TRAILS VISITOR STUDY

REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS

Table of Contents

List of Tables.....	ii
List of Figures.....	iii
Executive summary	iv
Introduction and research process.....	1
Visitors surveyed at 114 locations, response rate was 52%	1
Survey carried out in two phases.....	1
Park agencies explored results and assisted with analysis.....	1
Enjoying the regional park system: Visitor satisfaction and activities.....	3
Vast majority of visitors are satisfied with park and trail facilities	3
Visitors desire better general maintenance, improved facilities.....	3
Park agencies reflect on visitor satisfaction data	6
Travel	7
Visitor demographics: Equitable use and social characteristics of visitors.....	9
Age	10
Race/ethnicity.....	13
Age and race/ethnicity demographics combined	16
Disability.....	16
Gender	18
Income	20
Other visitor characteristics	21
Park agencies reflect on visitor demographics.....	22
Popular Activities	22
Activity patterns by social characteristics	25
Park agencies reflect on activity patterns.....	26
Barriers to visitation	34
Welcoming new visitors	35
How visitors seek information ahead of visit.....	39
Appendix I: Survey Instrument.....	42

List of Tables

Table 1: Percent of visitors rating park or trail facilities on the day of visit as “excellent” or “very good,” by park agency	3
Table 2: Top recommendations for improvement to the day’s visit, parks	4
Table 3: Top recommendations for improvement to the day’s visit, trails	4
Table 4: Top five visitor suggestions to improve the park/trail on their day of visit, by park agency (categories disaggregated)	5
Table 5: Visitation by income level across park agencies and for parks and trails systemwide.	20
Table 6: Complete list of answers to the question “What language do you speak most at home?”	21
Table 7: List of activities that visitors did on parks and trails on day of visit. Visitors could choose more than one activity	23
Table 8: Top primary activities by park agency	24
Table 9: Top three most popular activities, disaggregated by social characteristics	26
Table 10: Percent of visitors in groups vs solo on parks and trails by gender and race/ethnicity	32
Table 11: Changes selected by visitors that would allow them more frequent visits to parks.....	34
Table 12: Changes selected by visitors that would allow them more frequent visits to trails.....	35
Table 13: Comparison of most popular activities for new vs returning visitors in parks.....	37
Table 14: Comparison of most popular activities for new vs returning visitors on trails.....	37
Table 15: All categories of information that visitors say would be helpful to plan a visit to parks and trails in the region.....	40
Table 16: Information sources used, compared by park agency	41

List of Figures

Figure 1: Park agency analysis of improvement suggestions	6
Figure 2: Modes of travel to visit parks and trails (percent)	7
Figure 3: Modes of travel to visit parks across park agencies (percent)	7
Figure 4: Modes of travel to trails across park agencies (percent)	8
Figure 5: Age of surveyed visitors 12 and older for parks and trails across the system compared with the seven-county regional population (percent).....	10
Figure 6: Comparison of youth visitation by park agency compared with population (percent).....	11
Figure 7: Percent of groups with youth visiting parks, trails across the system	11
Figure 8: Percent of park visitor groups with youth, by park agency.....	12
Figure 9: Percent of trail visitor groups with youth, by park agency.....	12
Figure 10: Visitor groups with youth at oversampled parks and trails (percent).....	12
Figure 11: Visitation by race/ethnicity across the entire regional park and trail system.....	13
Figure 12: Visitation by race/ethnicity, excluding white, across the entire regional park and trail system.....	13
Figure 13: Surveyed visitors by race/ethnicity for parks, trails compared with the seven-county regional population (percent).....	14
Figure 14: Comparison of system visitation by visitors of color to park agency population (percent)	15
Figure 15: Percent of BIPOC and white visitors, by age.....	16
Figure 16: Percent of groups including someone with a disability, by park agency.....	17
Figure 17: Percent of groups with a disability, by units oversampled in the visitor study	17
Figure 18: Percent of groups including person with a disability, by age of visitor responding to the survey.....	18
Figure 19: Summary of gender nonbinary and transgender visitation findings in the 2021 Visitor Survey	18
Figure 20: Gender of surveyed visitors for parks and trails compared with the seven-county regional population (percent).....	19
Figure 21: Gender proportion in trail visitation, by oversampled trail or park agency (percent, statistically valid only)	19
Figure 22: Likelihood of activity participation by Asian American visitors compared with all other visitors in survey	27
Figure 23: Likelihood of activity participation by African American visitors compared with all other visitors in survey	27
Figure 24: Likelihood of activity participation by Latino/Latina visitors compared with all other visitors in survey.....	28
Figure 25: Likelihood of activity participation by White visitors compared with all other visitors in survey	28
Figure 26: Likelihood of activity participation by visitors ages 12-24 compared with visitors ages 45-64	29
Figure 27: Likelihood of activity participation by groups including someone with a disability compared to groups without a person with a disability	30
Figure 28: Likelihood of activity participation by gender nonbinary and women visitors compared with men	31
Figure 29: Analysis of activity data by park agencies in summer workshops.....	33
Figure 30: New visitors as total proportion of visitors, parks vs trails.....	35
Figure 31: Proportion of first-time visitors as percent of total, agency parks and trails	36
Figure 32: Comparison by park agency of proportion of BIPOC visitors, new vs. return visitors.....	38
Figure 33: Information seeking by new and returning visitors compared by park and trail (unweighted data, percent)	39
Figure 34: Analysis of new visitor and information seeking by park agencies in summer workshops ...	42

Executive summary

The 2021 Metropolitan Council Park and Trail Visitor Study presents findings from a Met Council survey of visitors to the regional park system in the seven-county Twin Cities area. The survey was developed to:

- Help inform planning, policy, and management
- Evaluate and strengthen equitable usage of regional parks and trails in accordance with the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan
- Update data in funding formulas to help determine where funding goes for parks and trails

What was the survey process?

In total, 5,405 people took the survey during their park or trail visit. The response rate was 52%. Surveys were done at 114 park, trail, park reserve and special recreation feature units across the regional system. Visitors ages 12 and older could participate.

A consultant, Wilder Research, administered the surveys during the 2021 summer season (between May 31 and September 12). The survey asked visitors about their reasons for visiting, activities they participated in at the site, information used and desired for planning their visit, how they got to the site, group size, seasonal visitation, and demographic information.

Met Council staff checked the data for errors and analyzed the results. Staff from all 10 park agencies participated in a summer workshop series to add context to the results. Unless otherwise noted, all analysis in this report uses weighted data. Only statistically significant results are reported.

Are visitors satisfied with their experience when going to parks and trails? What improvements do they suggest?

For parks and trails systemwide, 89% of visitors reported that the facilities on the day of their visit were “excellent” or “very good.” Visitor satisfaction was similar across parks and trails. Satisfaction was slightly lower in historic systems with older facilities (Minneapolis and Saint Paul).

Visitors were asked to name one thing that would improve their visit. For parks, the top suggestions were all issues related to “general maintenance” (20%), followed by “nothing at all” (16%). The most popular suggestions were basic improvements like bathrooms and drinking water access, trail conditions, and improved signage/information. Reflecting on the data, park agencies discussed the need for adequate funding to provide the basic amenities the public needs and how bathroom and water access are key to making new and underserved visitors comfortable in the regional park system.

Who visits regional parks and trails?

Systemwide, 38% of visitors are from outside the geographic area of a given park agency (“nonlocal”) and 62% are visiting from within the park agency’s boundaries.

New and infrequent visitors represented 18% of parks visitors and 6% of trail visitors. These visitors’ answers can help us understand how to attract people who have not before visited the park and trail system.

Adults ages 45 to 64 are the largest share of visitors. Teens, young adults, and adults older than 75 are underrepresented in park and trail visitation. On trails, adults age 25-44 are also underrepresented. Ramsey, Dakota, and Scott counties have the greatest disparities in young people’s visitation, with Bloomington, Three Rivers Park District (Suburban Hennepin County), and Anoka County having the smallest disparities.

Throughout the region, Asian American, Black, and Latino system visitors are underrepresented relative to the regional population. Visitors ages 18-24 were more racially/ethnically diverse than older visitor groups. Carver, Anoka, and Washington counties have the smallest racial/ethnic disparities relative to population, while Dakota County, Minneapolis, Three Rivers, and Bloomington have the greatest. Trail disparities are higher than for parks, but both are large.

Men and women visit parks in equal proportions. Women are underrepresented in regional trail visitation. Minneapolis and Anoka County showed no gender disparities in trail use, while Three Rivers Park District, and Ramsey and Dakota counties, had the widest gender disparities on trails.

Transgender and gender nonbinary visitors represent slightly greater than 1% of system visitation.

Regional system visitation skews slightly towards higher-income earners compared to the regional population. 48% of visitors reported household incomes over \$100,000 per year, and 25% reported incomes under \$60,000. By comparison, 41% of the metro area households earn over \$100,000, while 27% earn under \$50,000. The disparities were greater for trails than for parks. Most agencies had similar findings, with Dakota County having the greatest proportion of visitors with household incomes over \$100,000 (55%) and Saint Paul having the highest of under \$60,000 (34%).

11% of visitor groups included a person with a disability. Except for Saint Paul (15%) and Scott County (7%), all park agencies were about this proportion.

Two-thirds of park visitors go in groups, while two-thirds of trail visitors go alone. White visitors and men are more likely to go alone compared with visitors who are women, nonbinary, and people of color.

What information do visitors need and how do they look for it?

15% of all visitors and 52% of first time/infrequent visitors, looked for information prior to their park or trail visit. Park visitors (18%) more often looked for information prior to visiting than trail visitors (6%), likely since parks attract more new visitors.

When seeking information, visitors most often consulted maps, activity guides, and information about available natural features such as lakes or woods. New visitors were more likely to want details on park hours, parking information, and park rules. Return visitors more often want trail condition information compared with new visitors.

Park and trail visitors use diverse information sources. Most popular included smartphone maps, family and friends, a specific park or trail website, and an onsite map or recreation guide. Other sources used included phone apps, social media, onsite help desk, and emails from the park agency.

White visitors were more likely than BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) visitors to consult onsite maps, a specific park or trail website, and emails from the park agency. BIPOC visitors were more likely to consult with family and friends and social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and others). These findings do not name the most frequently sought sources, but these sources are more popular with one race/ethnic group compared with another.

How do visitors travel to regional parks and trails?

Visitors traveled to parks mostly in cars (59%), but they traveled to trails via mostly people-powered methods (81% by bike or foot). Urban core regional parks and trails have higher rates of people-powered transportation compared with other parts of the region.

On average, 2.25 people traveled in each automobile to get to parks. For trails, an average of 1.59 people were in each visiting car. These averages reflect a declining trend over time as well as the reflect the effects of COVID-19 social distancing guidelines in summer 2021.

What do people do in parks and trails?

The top five primary activities of summer day visitors to the regional parks are walking/hiking (33%), dog walking/dog park (13%), biking (10%), swimming (6%), and jogging/running (5%). Primary activities are those reported by visitors as the main reason they visited on that day.

The top five primary activities of summer day visitors to the regional trails are biking (48%), walking/hiking (25%), jogging/running (9%), dog walking/dog park (6%), and commuting (4%).

The five most popular activities (when visitors could report all the activities they were doing) in the regional park system are hiking/walking (55%), relaxing/doing nothing (27%), observing nature (27%), biking (22%), and meeting up with family or friends (18%).

The five most popular activities on regional trails are biking (54%), hiking/walking (41%), dog walking/dog park (16%), jogging/running (16%), and observing nature (15%).

All visitors, regardless of social characteristics, enjoyed a diverse range of activities. However, analysis of differences in activity patterns among underserved users may help identify how to better serve these communities at parks and trails.

What are key takeaways by park agency staff?

Staff from the 10 regional park agencies as well as Met Council staff met to discuss visitor study findings. Reviewing the data, they identified important implications from the study:

- Adequate, sustainable funding for operations and maintenance of the system is necessary to provide the level of service visitors want. The system requires regular investment from the state, regional, and local levels to maintain visitor satisfaction. Deferring operations and maintenance investments can result in degraded facilities and trigger the need for greater capital investment.
- When regional parks and trails are not adequately maintained, use will diminish.
- Efforts are underway to create a park and trail system that is welcoming to underserved population groups, and these efforts need to be expanded and deepened. Operations and maintenance funding as well as programming funding are important investments to enhance equitable use.
- Visitors have less satisfaction with trails, and trails have greater social disparities in visitor use, than parks. We need to address trail issues in the areas of policy, research, and funding.

2021 REGIONAL PARK & TRAIL VISITOR STUDY

Introduction and research process

The 2021 Metropolitan Council Park and Trail Visitor Study presents findings from a Met Council survey of visitors to the regional park and trail system. The survey was developed to:

- Help inform planning, policy, and management
- Evaluate and strengthen equitable usage of regional parks and trails in accordance with the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan
- Update data in funding formulas to help determine where funding goes for parks and trails

Visitors surveyed at 114 locations, 52% response rate

Wilder Research staff administered the survey during the 2021 summer season (between May 31 and September 12). In total, 5,405 visitors participated in the survey through an interview, a self-administered questionnaire (SAQ), or an online SAQ. An additional 5,013 visitors declined or were not eligible to participate. Response rate was 52%.

Visitors were surveyed at 114 park, trail, park reserve, and special recreation feature units in the regional system. All park and trail units with usage greater than 50,000 annual visitors were included in the sample. Surveys were done at 204 separate location points. Points were selected by a representative of the park implementing agency (“park agency”) where the unit was located. Each park agency had at least 393 completed surveys, with additional modifications to ensure accurate weighting for the analyzed data. One oversampled unit per agency was selected by the Local Technical Advisory Committee and the Met Council to provide a representative sample at that individual unit level.

Survey carried out in two phases

The sampling plan was developed in two phases for the first and second halves of the summer. Using 2019 use estimates, we obtained agency level and oversample quotas as well as consideration of proportional visitation, temporal distribution, and inclusion of units with higher proportion of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color visitors. Wilder Research implemented an extensive quality control process to ensure rigorous data collection, staff safety, and visitor comfort.

At the determined trail locations, staff intercepted visitors to participate in the survey. If visitors came as a group, the person over 12 years old with the most recent birthday was asked to participate in the interview. The survey asked visitors about their reasons for visiting, activities they participated in at the site, information used and desired for planning their visit, how they got to the site, group size, seasonal visitation, and demographic information.

The data were checked for errors (cleaned) and analyzed by Met Council staff in winter 2021 and spring 2022. The data are weighted to make sure the number of completed surveys at each unit is proportional to the visitation of that unit according to the 2019 use estimate. Unless otherwise noted, all analysis in this report uses weighted data. Only statistically significant results are reported here. For additional explanation of the survey and analysis process, please email the Met Council’s Community Development Research Department at research@metc.state.mn.us.

Park agencies explored results and contributed to analysis

Park agencies are experts about their systems. A series of workshops explored subsections of this report with agency staff. Staff were invited by their agency’s local technical advisory committee member. A separate workshop was held with agency communications staff. Staff roles attending the workshops included directors, planners, communications staff, equity staff, and programming staff. This report contains quotes and ideas shared within these workshops to contextualize the data. Met Council parks staff facilitated the workshops.

Research process notes

- This report compares visitor study demographics with information about the region’s residents. Systemwide data are compared to the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan region. Park agency visitor composition is compared to population within the agency’s boundaries. Oversampled parks and trails are compared to population within a five-mile buffer of the unit. Demographic responses are compared to the census or American Community Survey (ACS) data as follows: Age 12 and older for age; all residents for gender, race/ethnicity; age 25 and older for income and education attainment. Comparisons are drawn from the 2020 decennial census and 2016-2020 five-year ACS estimates and relevant results from previous Met Council parks studies.
- The survey results reflect the views of visitors aged 12 and older who agreed to participate in the survey. They are referred to as “visitors” in this report. Their responses may not represent opinions of all regional park and trail visitors.
- Only statistically significant differences (for example, parks vs trails, differences by demographic characteristics) are included in the report. The report notes when statistics should be used with caution due to margin of error higher than 10%. As the report explores segments of the data such as parks, trails, park agencies, or individual units, the data cannot be disaggregated for these units to the same extent as the system overall due to larger margins of error. This results in greater disaggregation of race and gender data at the system level than for subsections.
- Respondents provided additional comments and suggestions for improving the regional park and trail system. Selected comments are included to illustrate the relevant findings throughout the report as well as in the Appendix.
- The sample and methodology in the 2021 Park and Trail Visitors Study is different from previous studies. To read the 2016 report, please visit the Met Council’s parks research page: <https://metro council.org/Parks/Research/Visitor-Study/2016.aspx>.

Enjoying the regional park system: Visitor satisfaction and activities

Vast majority of visitors are satisfied with park and trail facilities

Visitors across the region express high levels of satisfaction with regional parks and trails throughout the system (Table 1). For parks and trails systemwide, 88% of visitors reported that the facilities on the day of their visit were “excellent” or “very good.” Satisfaction was slightly lower in historic systems with older facilities.

Park agency	% of visitors rating facilities ‘Excellent’ or ‘Very Good’
Three Rivers, Dakota and Washington counties	>95%
Anoka, Carver, Ramsey, and Scott counties, City of Bloomington	90-95%
Minneapolis and Saint Paul	80-85%

Table 1: Percent of visitors rating park or trail facilities on the day of visit as “excellent” or “very good,” by park agency

Visitors desire better general maintenance, improved facilities

Visitors were asked, “What is one thing that could be better at this park today?” Open-ended questions were coded first by Wilder Research, then into general (“collapsed”) categories by Met Council staff based on park agency staff feedback. 73% of visitors responded. Systemwide answers disaggregated by parks (Table 2) and trails (Table 3) show that 10-15% of visitors felt no need for improvement, while others would like changes such as better general and trail maintenance, more and better bathroom access, additional amenities, and water access.

Across park agencies, one of the most popular answers to this question was “everything is already good.” Top five answers in individual park agencies (Table 4) also included trash and litter cleanup, need for dog owners to follow rules, desire to extend trails to specific destinations, ending construction hassles, make existing bathrooms/water fountains accessible, and better water quality.

Suggestions made by 10% or greater of visitors include better trail conditions, maintenance, nothing/general satisfaction, additional amenities, bathrooms, and water access.

Recommended park improvements	Percent
Maintenance (litter, repair, etc.)	20%
Nothing or general satisfaction	16%
Additional amenities	15%
Improved bathrooms and bathroom access	9%
Water access (more fountains, access to water for people and dogs)	5%
Signage and information	5%
Safety, etiquette, rule following/enforcement	5%
Care of natural resources	4%
Better trail conditions	4%
More trails	3%
Outdoor conditions (heat, bugs, smoke, etc.)	3%
Food/concessions	2%
Additional desired activities	1%
Keep different use types separate	1%
Other	8%
Grand Total, Parks	100%

Table 2: Top recommendations for improvement to the day’s visit, parks

Categories with similar factors were combined for this analysis.

Recommended trail improvements	Percent
Better trail conditions (repair, paving, cleared, rough, branch hazards)	23%
Nothing or general satisfaction	11%
Bathrooms	10%
Maintenance (litter, repair, etc.)	9%
Amenities	8%
Water access (more fountains, access to water for people and dogs)	8%
Safety, etiquette, rule following/enforcement	7%
More trails	6%
Signage and information	5%
Care of natural resources	4%
Outdoor conditions (heat, bugs, smoke, etc.)	2%
More or different activities	1%
Parking	1%
Other	7%
Grand Total, Trails	100%

Table 3: Top recommendations for improvement to the day’s visit, trails

Categories with similar factors were combined for this analysis.

Visitors suggest trail condition improvement, basic amenities, relief from heat. Many reported no changes needed.

Park Agency	Most mentioned	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Anoka County	Better trail conditions	Nothing/all good	More bathroom facilities	More water/drinking fountain access	More trashcans/litter issues
Bloomington	Nothing/all good	Less garbage/litter, better trash service	Better water quality	Water/drinking fountain access	More trails; longer/extended trails
Carver County	Nothing/all good	More shade/more trees	Better trail conditions	More trashcans	Enforce rules for pets in parks (leash, pick up)
Dakota County	Nothing/all good	More/better signage	Water/drinking fountain access	More trails; longer/extended trails	Construction
Minneapolis	Better trail conditions	Bathroom access	Water/drinking fountain access	Water fountains turned off	Nothing/all good
Ramsey County	Better trail conditions	Nothing/all good	Litter/trash/animal waste	More trails; longer/extended trails	More/better signage
Saint Paul	Nothing/all good	Better trail conditions	Litter/trash	More shade/more trees	Bathrooms cleaner
Scott County	Nothing/all good	More trash cans	Better trail conditions	Better water quality	Separate paths for bikes and pedestrians
Three Rivers	Nothing/all good	Better trail conditions	Water/drinking fountain access	More/better signage	More shade/more trees
Washington County	Nothing/all good	More bathrooms	More/better signage	Better trail conditions	Water/drinking fountain access

Table 4: Top five visitor suggestions to improve the park/trail on their day of visit, by park agency (categories disaggregated)

Park agencies reflect on visitor satisfaction data

“Resources are [the] biggest thing. Having more funding opportunities, including long-term funding opportunities for the maintenance piece on facilities. Operations funding is chronically underfunded. Statute says the state should provide 40%, and in actuality the legislature only provides 8-9%. Last session, there was no bonding bill. This lack of investment compounds operational needs. Knowing about maintenance problems informs the conversation about sustainable funding.”

-Park agency workshop participant, summer 2022

Park agency staff are the experts on their systems. Their ideas about the findings add important context to understand the visitor study data (Figure 1). They observed that bathrooms and water access are an important equity issue. They have learned through their own engagement that new and underserved users value reliable, clean access to these necessities. Agency staff identified the need for adequate funding for maintenance of trails, as well as policy efforts to support trail maintenance. Finally, they noted that there are areas for agency improvement, and they also acknowledged that the public is very satisfied with the regional park and trail system.

“Are there gender-neutral bathrooms? Is there space [in bathrooms] for needed amenities? Some factors are out of our control – finance and budget. Is there enough money to create the bathrooms and facilities that everyone needs?”

“One of the things we are dealing with is sustainable trails. We know what to do, we’ve taken the sustainable trail courses. But we don’t have the staff or the funding.”

“People are happy with facilities they are visiting. We zoom into what we need to do better, but it’s also notable that people generally seem very happy. There’s a high level of positivity.”

“The public values well-maintained and high-quality facilities. To get people out to the parks, we need everything to be safe and in good repair, such as walking paths, bathrooms and drinking fountains. When we talk to parents, women, and people who haven’t visited very often, they tell us that these basic amenities are important. Bathrooms and shade are not glamorous, but they are an equity issue.”

“Maintenance in general is not a finding surprising to me. We have some pretty bad spots on some of our trails...Our asset management staff are working to enhance level of service and life-cycle trends. Our ability to improve bad spots will improve. Climate change is something we don’t have total control over. This factors into our quality of trails along rivers and creeks. Increased funding from the Council to do innovative solutions in this area would be really helpful.”

Figure 1: Park agency analysis of improvement suggestions

Travel

Visitors mostly drive to parks, walk or bike to trails

Visitors were asked how they traveled to the park or trail on the day of survey (Figure 2, 3, 4). Park visitors mostly traveled via car (59.4%), but almost 40% traveled to parks by bike or on foot. Trail visitors arrived via bike (44.7%), on foot (37.2%) and less often by car (17.3%). However, the proportions varied among locations. The difference in car use suggests that the distance traveled to trails was much shorter than the distance to parks. Mass transit was used for less than 1% of visits to the regional system.

Visitors traveled to parks mostly in cars but went to trails via mostly people-powered methods.

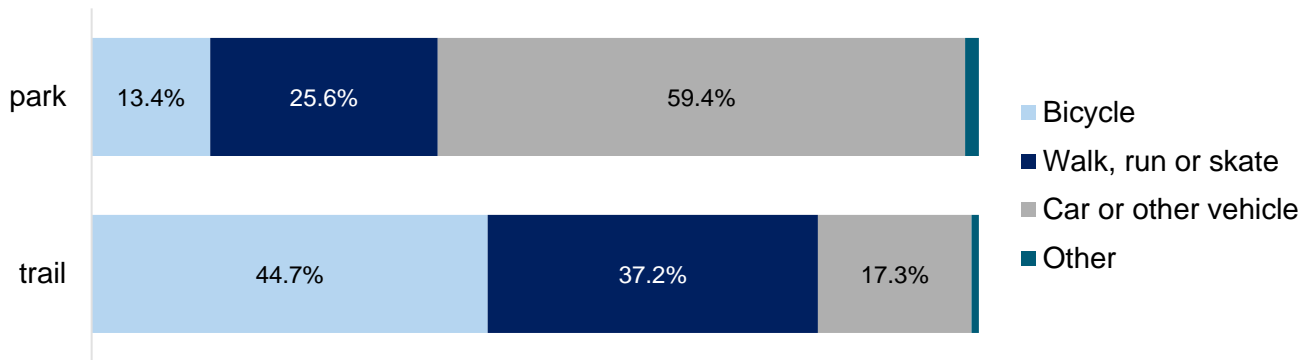


Figure 2: Modes of travel to visit parks and trails (percent)

Across the region, travel to parks mostly by car, with more people-powered transportation in urban core parks.

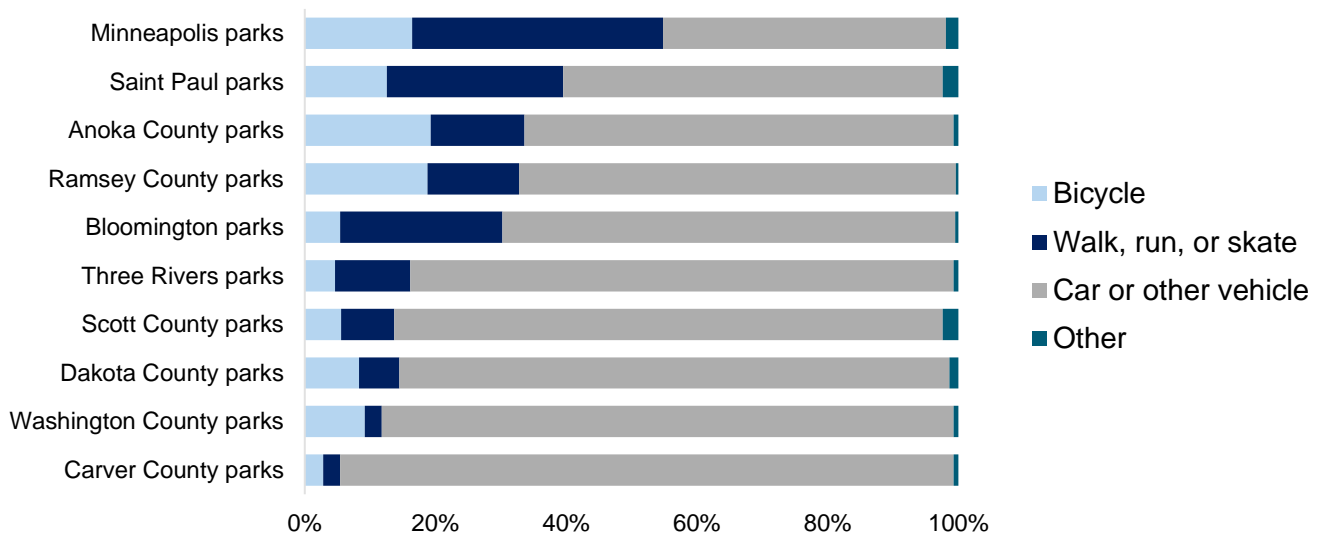


Figure 3: Modes of travel to visit parks across park agencies (percent)

Trail visitors across the system arrive most often by bike, on foot.

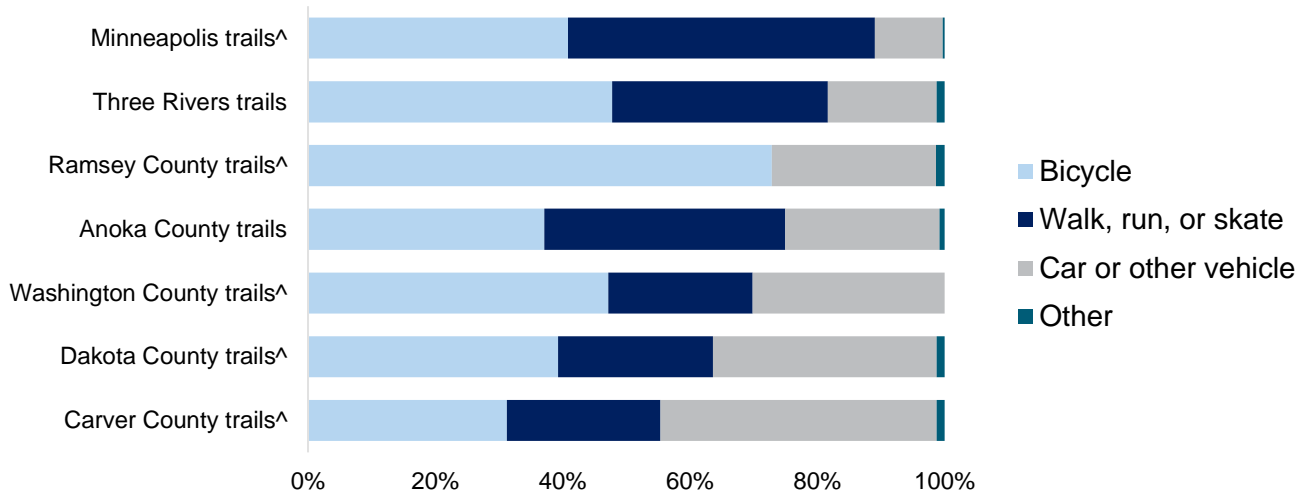


Figure 4: Modes of travel to trails across park agencies (percent)

Units with ^ (caret) symbol: Interpret with caution because margins of error are larger than 10% of estimate totals. Sample sizes were too small to report results for trail systems within Bloomington, Saint Paul, and Scott County.

Visitor demographics: Equitable use and social characteristics of visitors

The Twin Cities regional park and trail system continues to rank high nationally for an impressive commitment to preserving open space and offering recreational amenities. The 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan commits the Met Council to work to “strengthen equitable usage of regional parks and trails by all our region’s residents.” To this end, Met Council research must identify to what extent visitation patterns reflect the region’s population. Additionally, understanding how underserved populations enjoy the regional system can help inform future investment decisions.

Exploring visitation patterns reveals that not all population groups equally experience the benefits of public investment in parks and trails. In this section, demographic characteristics are compared between the survey sample regionwide and the 2020 Census regional population.

Young people and BIPOC visitors visited in lower proportion than would be expected given their proportion in the regional population. Men and women visited parks in expected proportion for the population, but a gender gap existed for trail use. The survey asked additional demographic questions including nonbinary and transgender identities, disability status, household income, and languages spoken at home. These questions cannot be compared to the census, but the survey findings show linguistic, ability, and gender identity diversity in all 10 park agencies. Disparities in park and trail visitation by age, race, ethnicity, income, and gender persist in the Twin Cities.

Age

Younger people underrepresented in park, trail visitation

Young people ages 12-24 are underrepresented in both park and trail visitation systemwide, as are age 25-44 in trail visitation (Figure 5). In contrast, age groups 45-64 and over 65 are overrepresented in park and trail visitation relative to their proportion in the population.

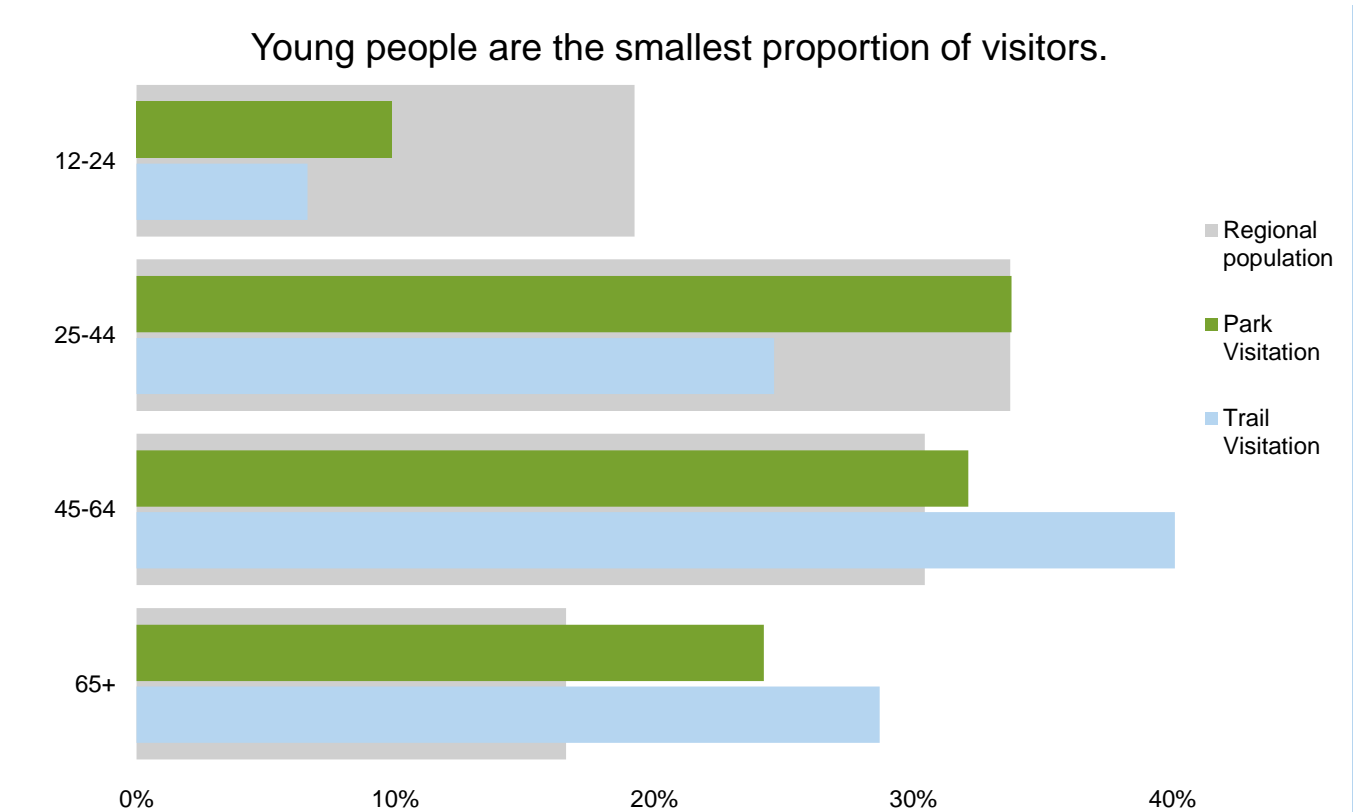


Figure 5: Age of surveyed visitors 12 and older for parks and trails across the system compared with the seven-county regional population (percent)

Age disparities see across park agencies

The situation of “missing” youth visitors exists across the regional park and trail system. All park agencies had statistically significant age differences between youth visitors compared with the population within agency boundaries (Figure 6). Dakota, Ramsey, and Scott counties had the greatest disparities, with youth visitor proportion less than 1/3 of the youth population. Agencies with smaller youth populations had smaller disparities. The margin of error of the percentage of visitors age 12-24 at the agency level is, on average, plus or minus 2%. Due to small numbers of youth responses, results disaggregated by parks vs trails cannot be reported. Despite these caveats, all park agencies have age disparities in youth visitation.

Age gap for youth exists across the regional system.

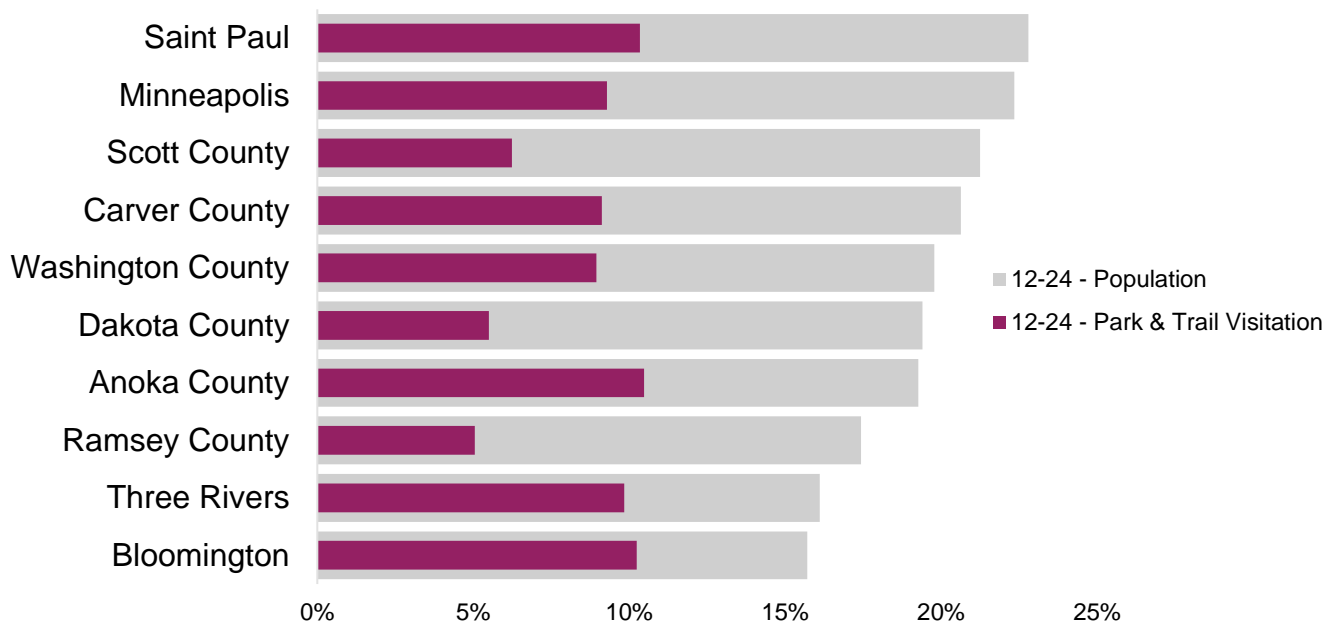


Figure 6: Comparison of youth visitation by park agency compared with population (percent)

Groups including youth more likely to visit parks than trails

The visitor study asked respondents, “Including yourself, are there any youth (under age 18) in your group today?” Groups including visitors younger than 18 were more than twice as likely to be visiting parks than trails (Figure 7). Similar patterns were observed comparing parks and trails for individual park agencies (Figures 8, 9). Of the oversampled park and trail units, Como Zoo and Observatory, Lake Minnewashta Regional Park, and Lake Elmo Regional Park were most popular among groups with youth and children (Figure 10).

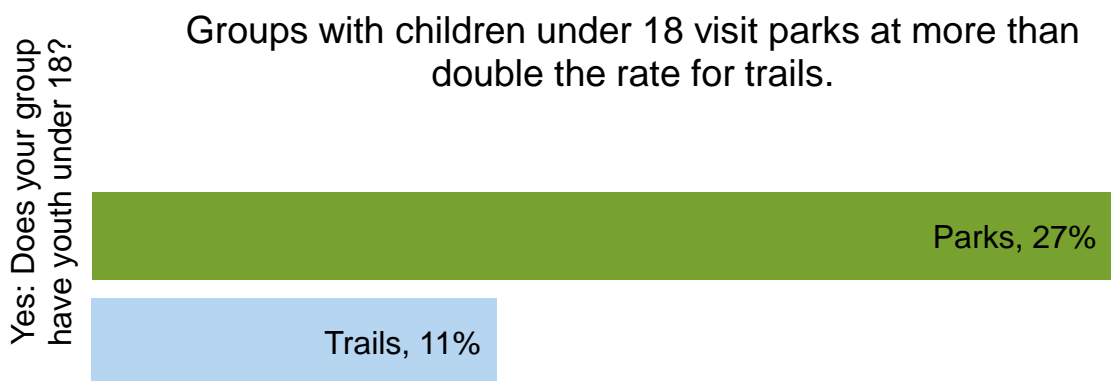
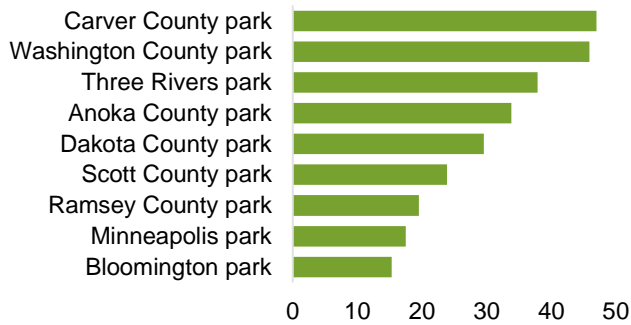


Figure 7: Percent of groups with youth visiting parks, trails across the system

Percent of visits from groups with youth under 18, parks



Percent of visits from groups with youth under 18, trails

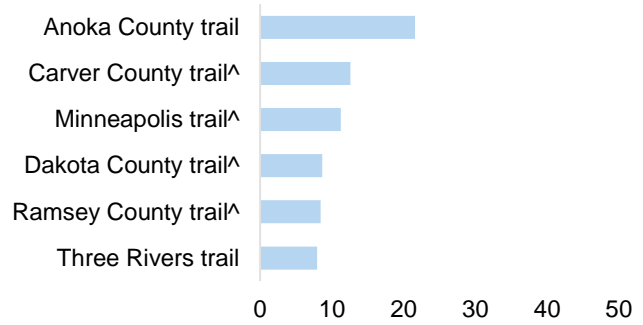


Figure 8: Percent of park visitor groups with youth, by park agency

Figure 9: Percent of trail visitor groups with youth, by park agency

Units with ^ (caret) symbol: Interpret with caution because margin of error is eater than ten percent of total. Park system proportions of groups with youth range from 15-47%. Trail systems range from 8-22%. Oversampled units range from 9-61%. Sample sizes are too small to reliably report trail systems within Bloomington, Saint Paul, Scott County and Washington County.

Como Zoo and Conservatory most visited by groups with children, followed by Lake Minnewashta and Lake Elmo

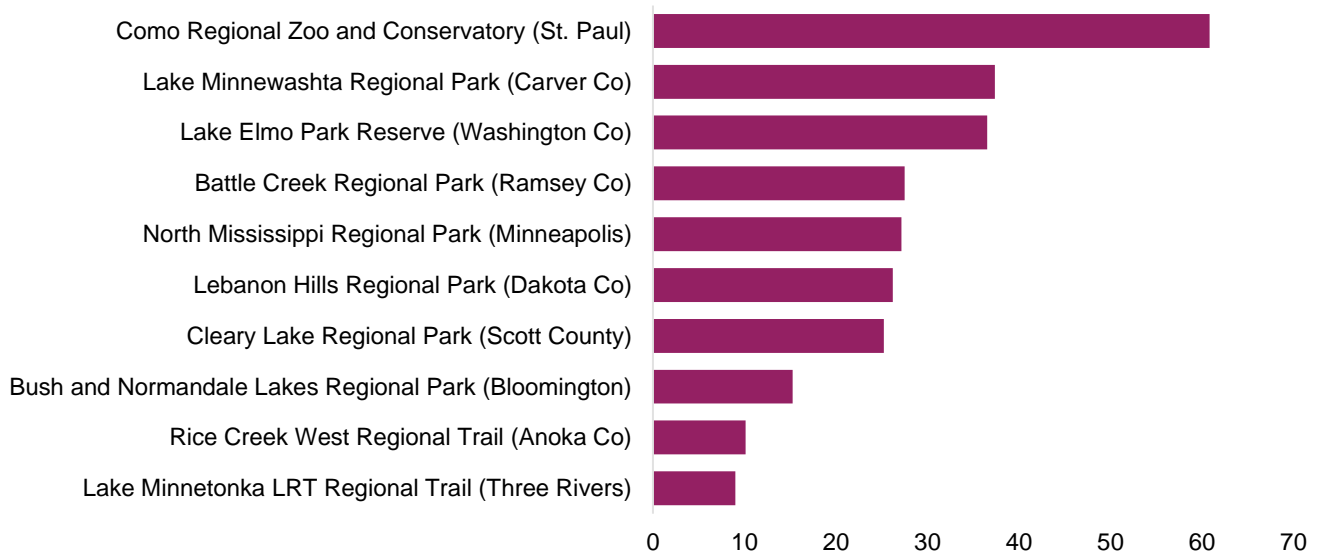


Figure 10: Visitor groups with youth at oversampled parks and trails (percent).

Race/ethnicity

BIPOC visitors continue to be underrepresented in regional park system visitation¹

Together, American Indian, Asian, Black, Latino, Middle Eastern/North African (ME/NA), multiple races, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander were less than 15% of total visitor study respondents (Figures 11, 12). Asian, Black, and Latino visitors represented almost identical proportions, slightly over 3%. White visitors were over 85% of the total. Multiracial/ethnic, American Indian, ME/NA and Native Hawaiian were the remainder of visitors. Racial/ethnic disparities exist regardless of geographic comparison, including comparing visitation to the regional population (systemwide), county, city, or suburban county (park agency), or 1.5 miles from the park or trail (oversampled unit).

Disaggregated survey data (broken down by detailed categories) by race and ethnicity can be reported at the system level because of the larger sample size. Data at the system level overall are reported with more detailed racial/ethnic demographics than for park agencies and oversampled parks. Communities of color are underrepresented among park and trail visitors relative to the population (Figure 13).

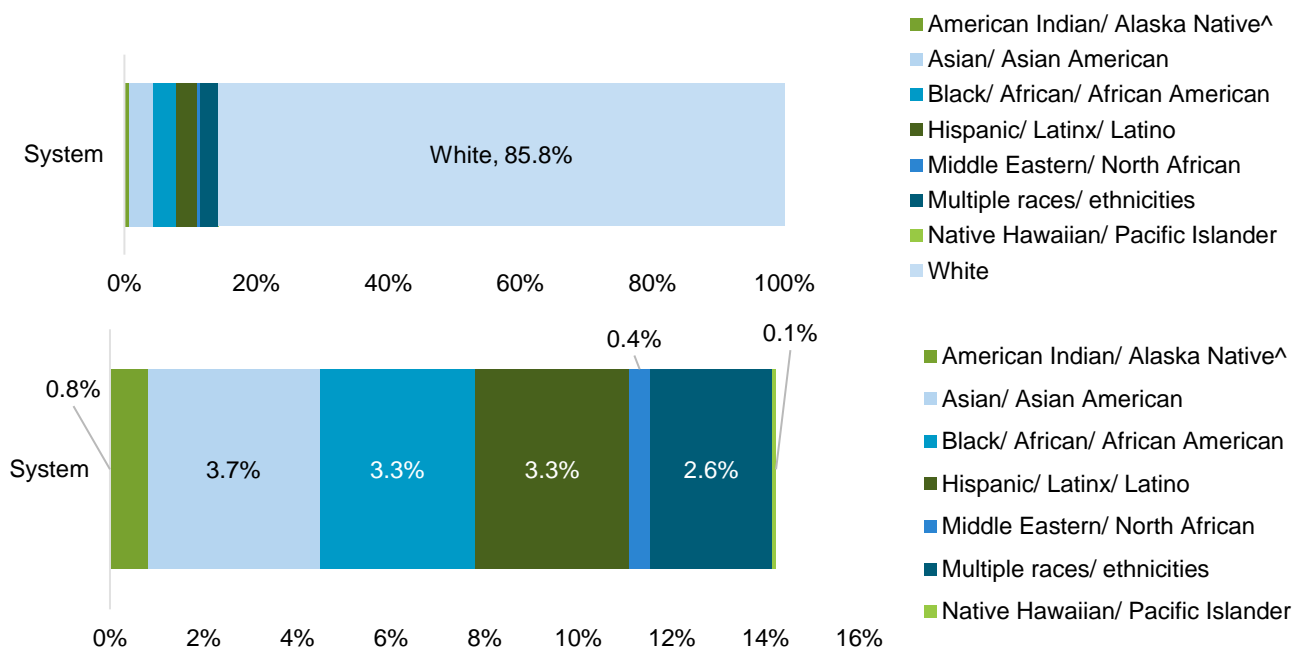


Figure 11: Visitation by race/ethnicity across the entire regional park and trail system.

Figure 12: Visitation by race/ethnicity, excluding white, across the entire regional park and trail system.

¹ The terms *race* and *ethnicity* are used together in this report to reflect that respondents were asked to self-identify into social groups using census classifications including ethnicity (Latino, Middle Eastern/North African) and race (all other categories here). Over 97% of respondents who did not select “multiple race/ethnicity” chose only one race/ethnicity in their responses.

Communities of color are underrepresented among park, trail visitors relative to the population.

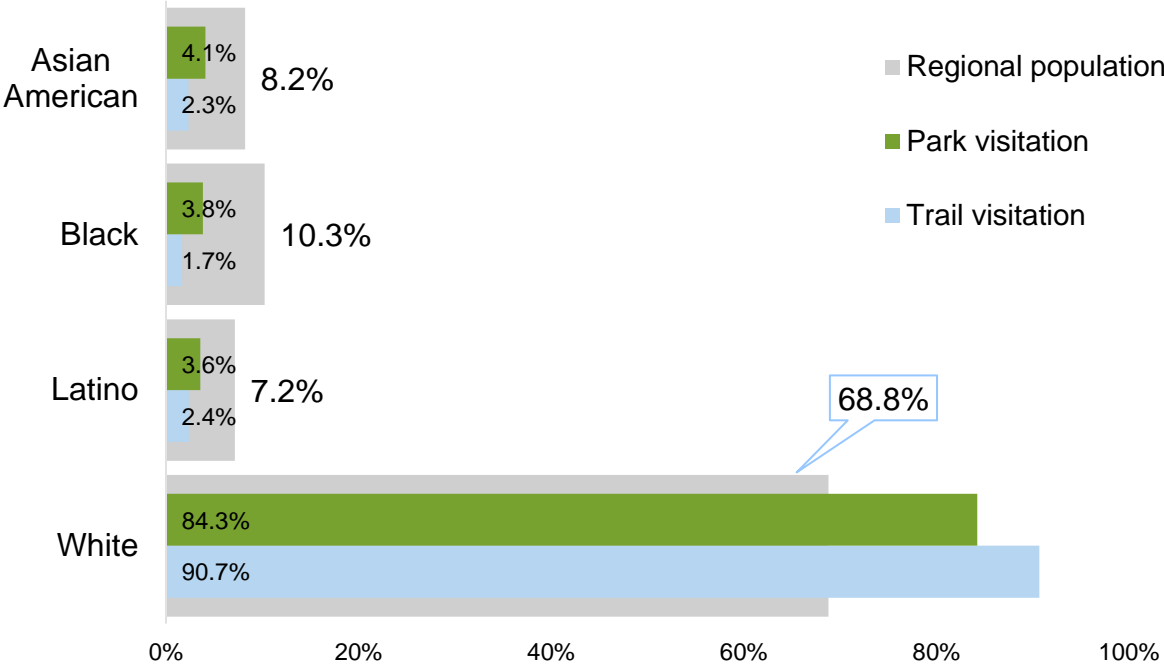


Figure 13: Surveyed visitors by race/ethnicity for parks, trails compared with the seven-county regional population (percent)

BIPOC visitation gap biggest in for park agencies with more racially diverse populations

The share of visitors who were people of color was compared with 2020 regional population within the boundaries of each park agency. Parks agencies with larger populations of color had greater gaps between the visitors and population of color (Figure 14). Parks had an average 17-point gap between park agency BIPOC population and visitation. This is slightly smaller than for trails, which had a 21-point gap. However, these differences are not statistically different.

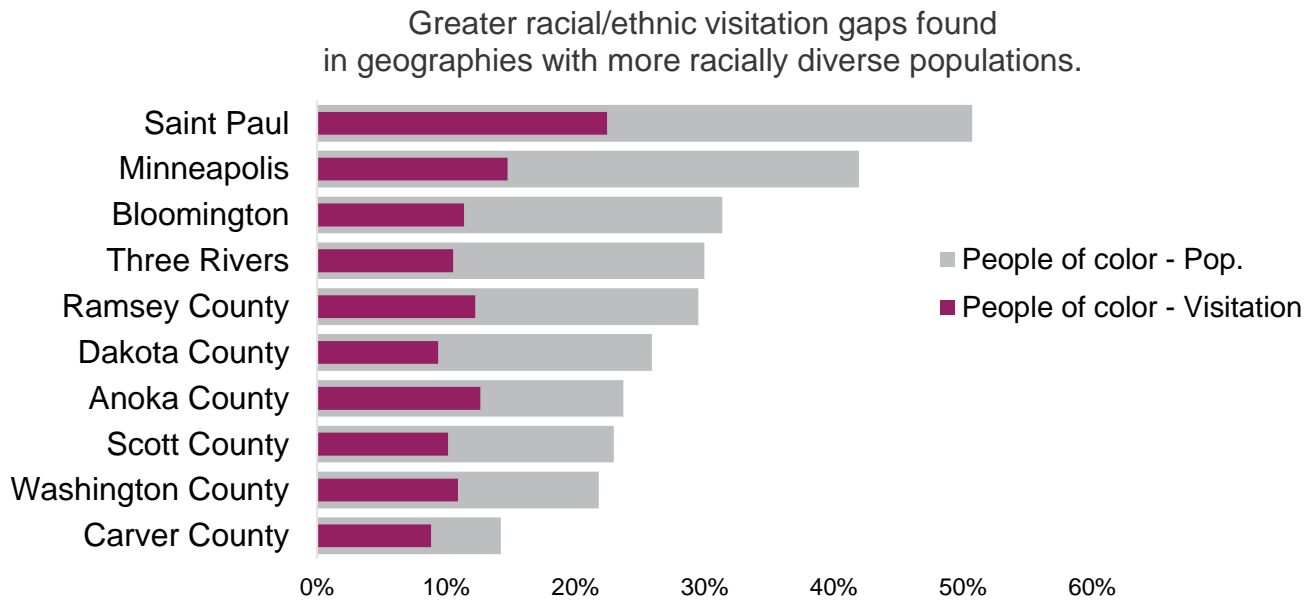


Figure 14: Comparison of system visitation by visitors of color to park agency population (percent)

Age and race/ethnicity demographics combined

Age and race/ethnicity demographics are connected

Yes. Ages 12-24 is the most underrepresented of age groups. Visitors under 24 were 35.8% people of color, compared with less than 15% in the sample overall (Figure 15). Efforts to make the regional system more welcoming to communities of color would almost certainly result in increases in younger visitors. Programs that prioritize BIPOC youth would reach an important segment of underserved users.

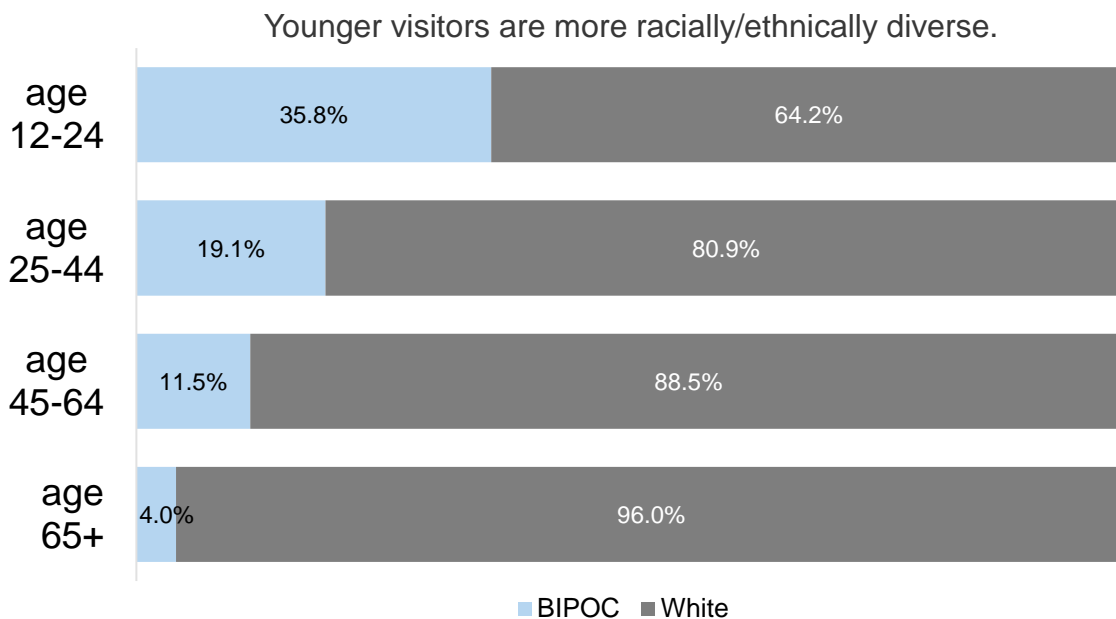


Figure 15: Percent of BIPOC and white visitors, by age

Disability

About 1 in 10 groups to the regional park system include someone with a disability

11% of visitor groups reported that someone in their group had a physical, mental, or sensory disability or condition, ranging from 7% to 14% across park agencies (Figure 16). The census does not report disability by household or group, so the visitor study findings on disability cannot be compared to the regional population. The rates were not statistically significant between parks and trails. However, analysis of oversampled units shows that parks had a higher percent of visitors with a disability compared with trail units (Figure 17).

The youngest and oldest visitors more often visit in groups including someone with a disability (Figure 18).

Groups including someone with a disability were 7-15% of visitation.

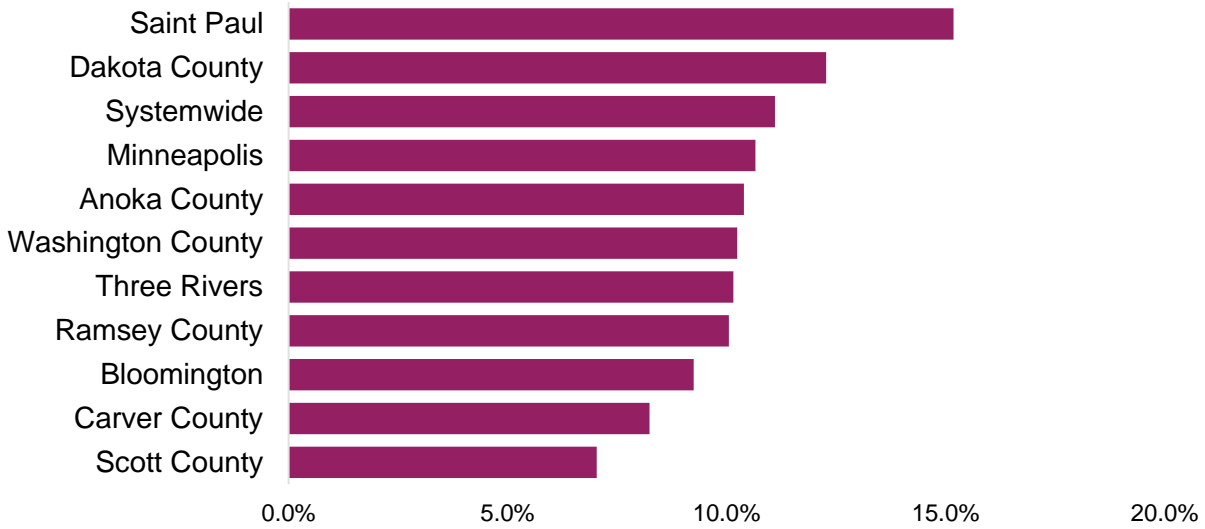


Figure 16: Percent of groups including someone with a disability, by park agency

Analyzing at the unit level, trails generally have fewer visitors with a disability compared to parks.

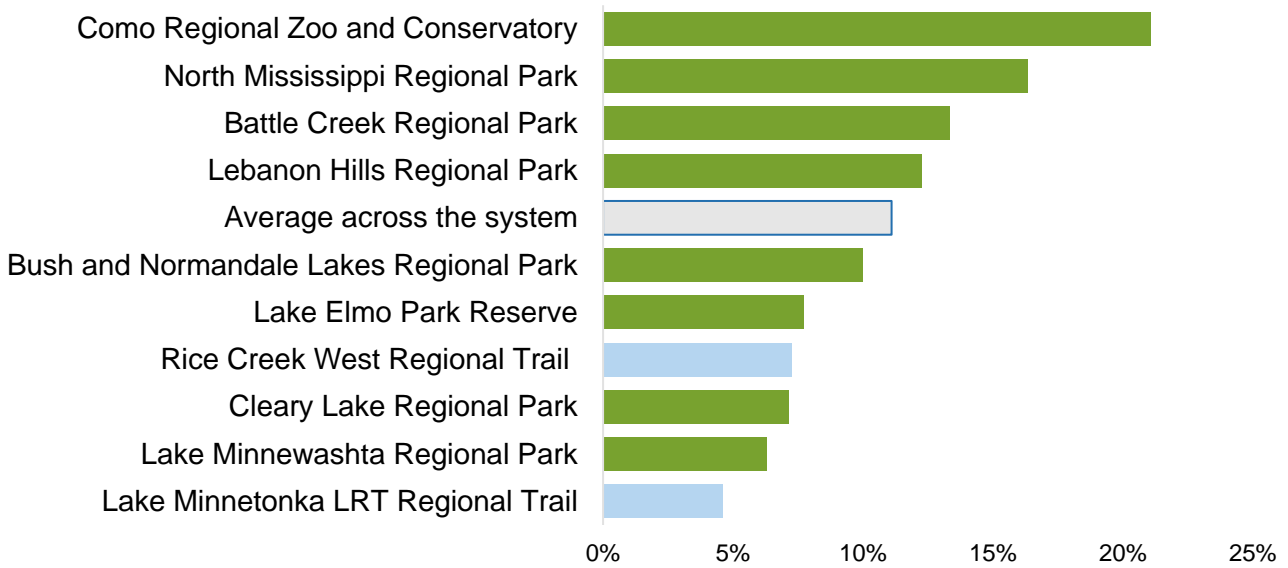


Figure 17: Percent of groups with a disability, by units oversampled in the visitor study

Oldest, youngest visitors more often have a person with a disability in the group.

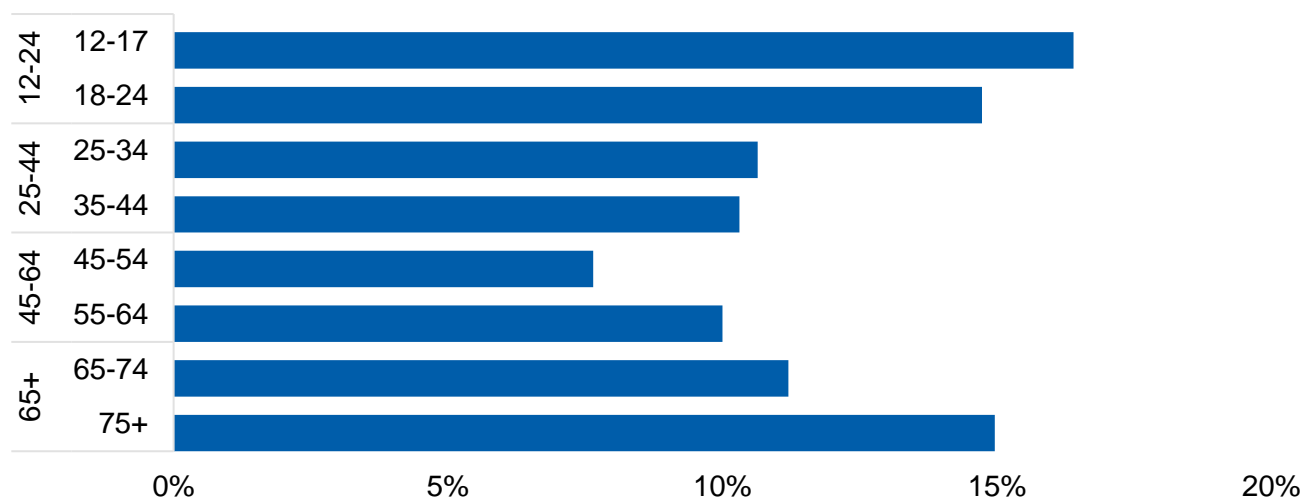


Figure 18: Percent of groups including person with a disability, by age of visitor responding to the survey

Gender

First time data on transgender, nonbinary visitors offer early learnings

For the first time, the visitor survey provided the opportunity to identify as nonbinary or transgender (Figure 19). Slightly more than 1% of the sample identified in this way. In addition to gender-nonbinary responses, other response choices for gender were “male” and “female,” which are described as “men” and “women” in this report. Some respondents who answered “male” or “female” were transgender. Others were cisgender (people whose gender identity corresponds with the sex they were assigned at birth). Due to the large margin of error and lack of comparable data in the census, transgender representation in visitation cannot be further explored in this report except for activity patterns data (Figure 27, below).

All 10 park agencies serve gender-nonbinary visitors.

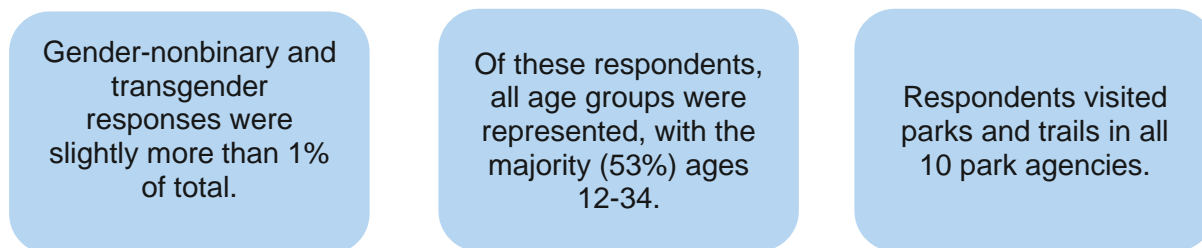


Figure 19: Summary of gender nonbinary and transgender visitation findings in the 2021 Visitor Survey

Men and women visit parks equally, but women are underrepresented on trails

For parks, the answer is yes (Figure 19). Park visitors were 49% men and 50% women, about the same as the population. For trails, the answer is no (Figure 20, 21). Women are 43% of trail visitors; men are 57%. Statistically significant underrepresentation of women was found for trails within park agencies

and in one of two oversampled trails (Figure 21). Gender trail parity was observed in two park agencies (Minneapolis and Anoka County) and one oversampled trail (Rice Creek West Regional Trail).

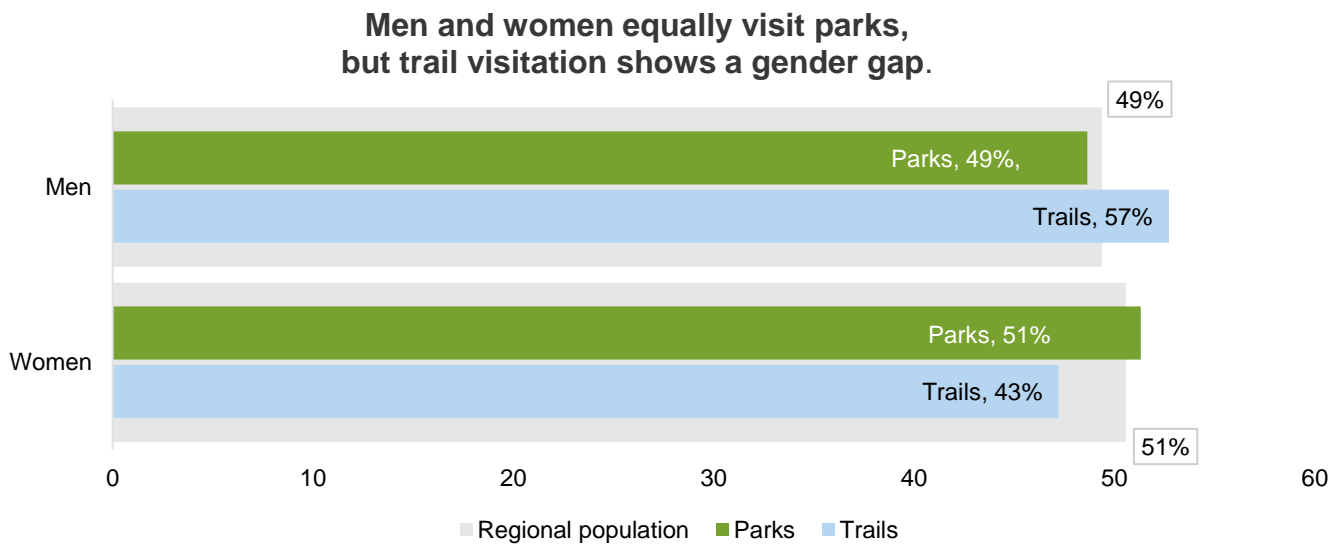


Figure 20: Gender of surveyed visitors for parks and trails compared with the seven-county regional population (percent)

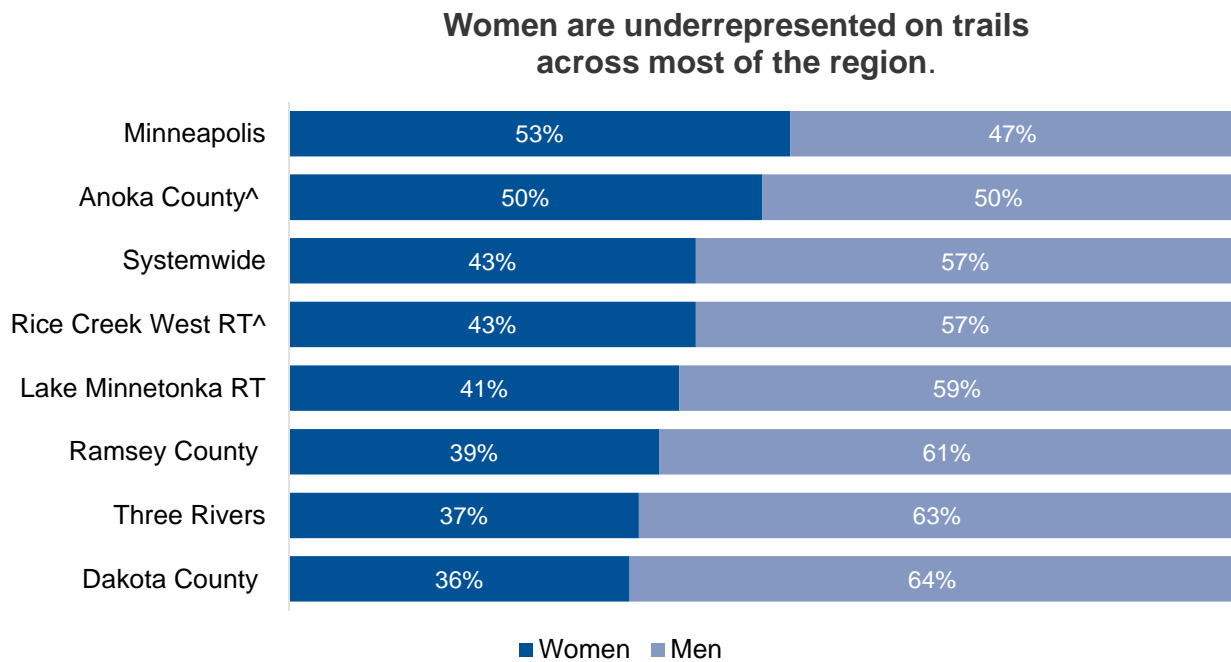


Figure 21: Gender proportion in trail visitation, by oversampled trail or park agency (percent, statistically valid only)

^Minneapolis and Anoka County visitation indicates gender parity. Rice Creek West Regional Trail disparities not conclusive due to margin of error.

Income

Almost half of park visitors report annual income over 100K

48% of park and trail visitors reported household incomes over \$100,000 per year, and 25% reported incomes under \$60,000 (Table 5). Trail visitors had higher income than parks visitors. Most agencies had similar findings, with Dakota County having the greatest proportion earning over \$100,000 (55%) and Saint Paul having the highest of under \$60,000 (34%). By comparison, 41% of the metro area earns over \$100,000, while 27% earn under \$50,000 ([2020 American Community Survey estimates](#)). The data cannot be perfectly compared to regional income due to differences in how the survey and the American Community Survey analyze household income.

Geography analyzed	More than \$100K (%)	Between \$60-100K (%)	Under \$60K (%)	Total visitation (%)
Systemwide	48.2	26.9	24.9	100
Parks systemwide	46.3	27.4	26.3	100
Trails systemwide	54.5	25.2	20.3	100
Anoka County	46.9	31.8	21.3	100
Bloomington	45.4	32.3	22.3	100
Carver County	48.6	28.2	23.2	100
Dakota County	54.6	27.2	18.2	100
Minneapolis	48.8	25.8	25.4	100
Ramsey County	49.3	25.5	25.1	100
Saint Paul	41.8	24.1	34.1	100
Scott County	58.1	23.4	18.6	100
Three Rivers	50.7	29.3	20.0	100
Washington County	49.5	29.3	21.2	100

Table 5: Visitation by income level across park agencies and for parks and trails systemwide.

Other visitor characteristics

Park and trail visitors speak a total of 47 languages at home

Visitors reported a total number of 47 different languages spoken at home (Table 6). All park agencies had some surveys completed in a language other than English, with Spanish the most frequently requested.

47 Languages spoken			
Afrikaans	Ethiopian	Lisu	Spanish
American Sign Language	Finnish	Loma	"Spanglish"
Amharic	French	Nepali	Swahili
Arabic	Gallic	Norwegian	Swedish
Bosnian	Greek	Odia	Telugu
Burmese	Hebrew	Ojibwe	Tibetan
Cambodian	Hindi	Oromo	Tigrigna
Cantonese	Hmong	Persian	Ukrainian
Chinese	"Hmonglish"	Polish	Urdu
Czech	Japanese	Portuguese	Vietnamese
Dutch	Karen	Romanian	
English	Khmer	Russian	

Table 6: Complete list of answers to the question "What language do you speak most at home?"

Listed alphabetically, respondents could choose more than one language.

Park agencies reflect on visitor demographics.

Park agency staff analyzed demographic data about race/ethnicity, age, gender, and disability. They named the deepening and expanding of efforts to build an equitable park and trail system as one of their highest priorities. They saw opportunities to tailor programming, awareness efforts, and partnership investments. Their efforts included both creating access to existing activities and reimagining park activities to meet the needs of all visitors. Gender, race, and age equity on trails requires attention to safety, trail “culture”, bathroom access, and amenities to support family use. Key examples of comments are presented in Figure 22.

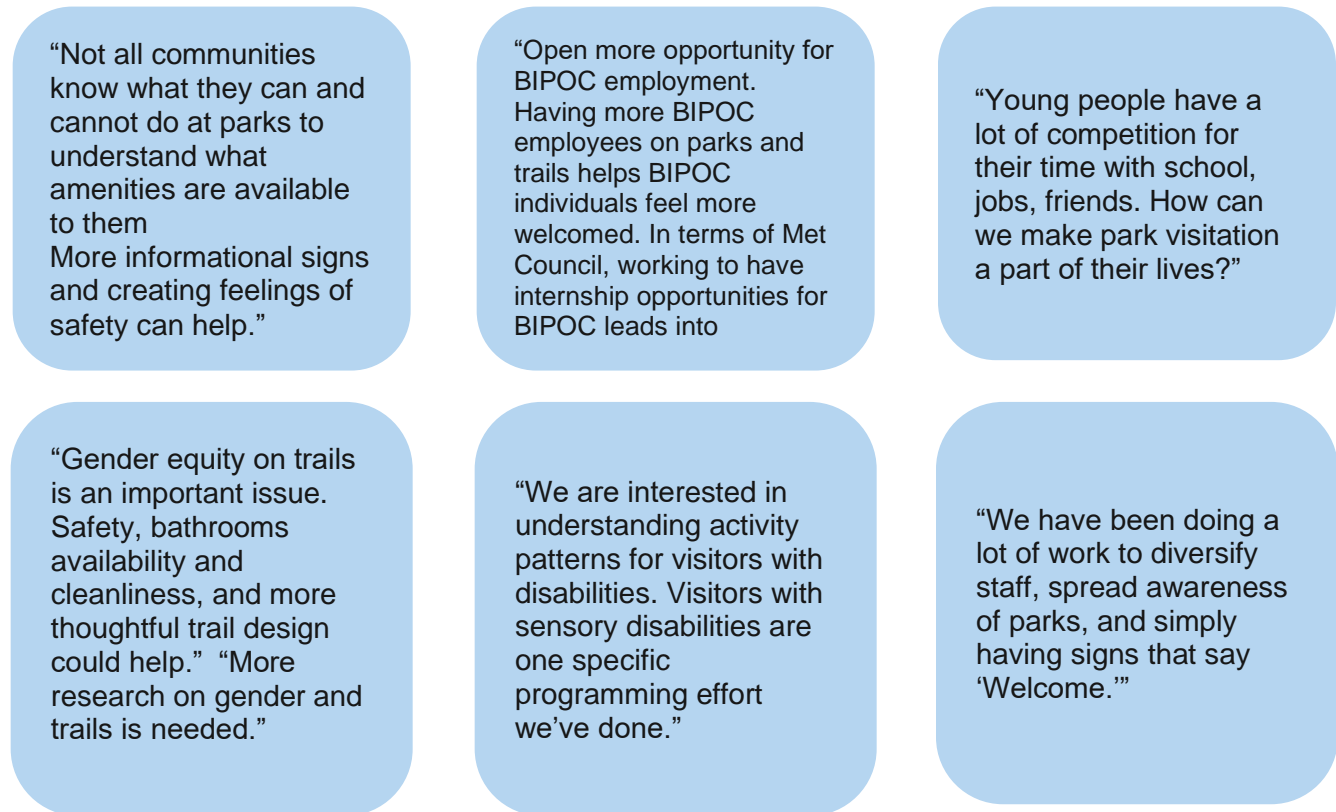


Figure 22: Analysis of visitor demographic data by park agencies in summer workshops.

Popular Activities

Most popular activities: Hiking/walking, biking, and relaxing/doing nothing

The regional system of parks and trails provides abundant recreational opportunities, as evidenced in the diversity of responses when visitors were asked to name all the activities they did during one day’s visit (Table 7). Visitors were asked to choose from 29 possible activities, or they could name an activity not on the list. 46% of trail users and 59% of park users combined two or more activities within their visit. Diverse activities were shown to be part of a trail or park visit. Many visitors named “relaxing” (#2, parks) and “observing nature” (#5, trails) as an important part of their visit, even if not the main purpose for visiting.

Visitors also selected the activity that was the “main reason” for visiting the park or trail. The top 10 park activities are 86% of the total “main activities” reported by respondents. Five activities (biking, hiking/walking, dog walking/dog park, jogging/running, and observing nature) were 90% of the main reason visitors went to trails.

Hiking or walking was the most frequent primary activity in 9 of 10 park agencies (Table 8).

Visitors enjoyed multiple, diverse activities.

Rank	Parks	Trails
1	Hiking/walking (55%)	Biking (54%)
2	Relaxing/doing nothing^	Hiking/walking (40%)
3	Observing nature^	Dog walking/dog park*
4	Biking	Jogging/running*
5	Family/friends meetup*	Observing nature*
6	Dog walking/dog park*	Relaxing/Doing nothing*
7	Taking photographs	Commuting^
8	Using the playground	Family/friends meetup^
9	Picnicking	Using the playground
10	Jogging/running	Taking photographs
11	Swimming	Picnicking
12	Commuting	Sports (soccer, volley/basketball, tennis)
13	Visiting the farm or gardens	Swimming*
14	Canoeing/kayaking/SUP	Mountain biking*
15	Fishing	Festival, concert, or community event*
16	Family event	Rollerblading/skating/scootering*
17	Festival, concert, or community event^	Fishing*
18	Camping^	Canoeing/kayaking/SUP*
19	Hammocking*	Visiting the farm or gardens^
20	Mountain biking*	Hammocking^
21	Boating or sailing^	Stargazing/astronomy*
22	Sports (soccer, volley/basketball, tennis)^	Attended a program or class*
23	Rollerblading/skating/scootering*	Family/friends meetup^
24	Disc golf*	Camping^
25	Attended a program or class*	Boating or sailing^
26	Stargazing/astronomy^	Disc golf*
27	Geocaching^	Geocaching*
28	Archery^	Horseback riding*
29	Horseback riding^	

Table 7: List of activities that visitors did on parks and trails on day of visit. Visitors could choose more than one activity

Sequential column items with ^ or * indicate that activities that are statistically tied in popularity.

>40% of visitors did this
20-30% of visitors did this
10-19% of visitors did this
3-9% of visitors did this

Visitors name hikes, walks, and biking as main activities.
Other activities were visitor favorites in just a few park agencies.

Park agency	Top	2nd	3rd	4th	5 th , other answers >5%
Anoka County	Hike/walk & biking (TIE)		Dog walk/dog park and camping (TIE)		Running, swimming, fishing
Bloomington	Hike/walk	Dog walk/dog park	Biking	Running	Swimming
Carver County	Biking	Dog walk/dog park	Hike/walk and swimming (TIE)		Family/friend meetup, relax, camping
Dakota County	Hike/walk	Biking	Mountain biking	Dog walk/dog park	Running
Minneapolis	Hike/walk	Biking	Dog walk/dog park and running (TIE)		Family/friend meetup, observe nature
Ramsey County	Hike/walk & biking (TIE)		Dog walk/dog park	Playground	Running
Saint Paul	Hike/walk	Biking	Running	Dog walk/dog park	Family/friend meetup, swimming
Scott County	Hike/walk	Dog walk/dog park	Biking	Running	Paddling
Three Rivers	Hike/walk	Biking	Dog walk/dog park	Playground	Running, family/friend meetup
Washington County	Hike/walk	Biking	Swimming	Running	Camping, playground, family/friend meetup, dog walk/dog park

Table 8: Top primary activities by park agency

Activity patterns by social characteristics

Different groups have different activity patterns. At the same time, many activities are very popular with all groups or across many groups (Table 9). Across social groups, some activities were universally popular. This includes hiking/walking, relaxing/doing nothing, biking, observing nature, and meeting up with family and friends.

Analysis of differences in activity patterns (Figures 23-29) can help identify how underserved users enjoy parks and trails compared to others. Activity likelihood tables show activities that are more popular with a featured group relative to the comparison group. These are not the *most* popular activities of the featured group. For example, hammocking is 11 times more popular with visitors age 12-24 than with 45-64 year olds, but hiking/walking, relaxing, and biking are the top three most popular activities among visitors age 12-24.

Why do activity patterns matter?

- Activities currently more popular with an underserved group can inform investments and programming to expand equitable use.
- Activities currently unpopular with an underserved group can help identify systemic, historical, economic, and cultural barriers to access.
- Activities popular with dominant/adequately served demographic groups can be understood, and the implications can be considered.

Hiking/walking is the most popular activity for people across groups; Other popular activities include relaxing, biking, meeting family or friends, observing nature, and dog walking.

Most popular activity	Hiking/walking is the most popular activity for all groups				
2nd most popular activity	Relax/do nothing: Age 12-44; Black, Latino, Asian American, multiple race visitors; gender nonbinary	Biking: Ages 45+, American Indian, white visitors; men		Dog walk/dog park: Women	Observe nature: Group inc. member with a disability
3rd most popular activity	Biking: Women, gender nonbinary; ages 12-44; Black, Latino, multiple races visitors	Dog walk/dog park: Ages 44-64; white visitors	Family/friend meetup: American Indian, Asian American	Observe nature: Ages 65+, men	Relax/do nothing: Group inc. member with a disability

Table 9: Top three most popular activities, disaggregated by social characteristics

BIPOC visitors more likely to meet up with family and friends, go running, and other activities compared to White visitors

The figures in this section compare the featured group to all other responses in the survey. For example, Figure 22 compares activities of Asian American visitors to visitors not identifying as Asian. Family events, family/friend meetups, playing sports, and fishing were some of the activities that were more popular among visitors of color compared with white visitors (Figures 22-25). Latino visitors had higher participation in a wider range of activities compared with all others (Figure 24).

How to interpret Figures 22-28: The thick bold vertical line in each figure is the rate of activity by baseline comparison group. A dot on the right side of the thick comparison line means that the group featured is more likely than the comparison group to do the activity. For clarity, the confidence interval, the statistic that shows degree of uncertainty of calculated likelihood, is not shown in the figure but is available on request. All activities featured in these figures demonstrate statistically significant differences in activity between the comparison group and the featured group, at a 90% confidence level.

Likelihood of greater participation by Asian American visitors

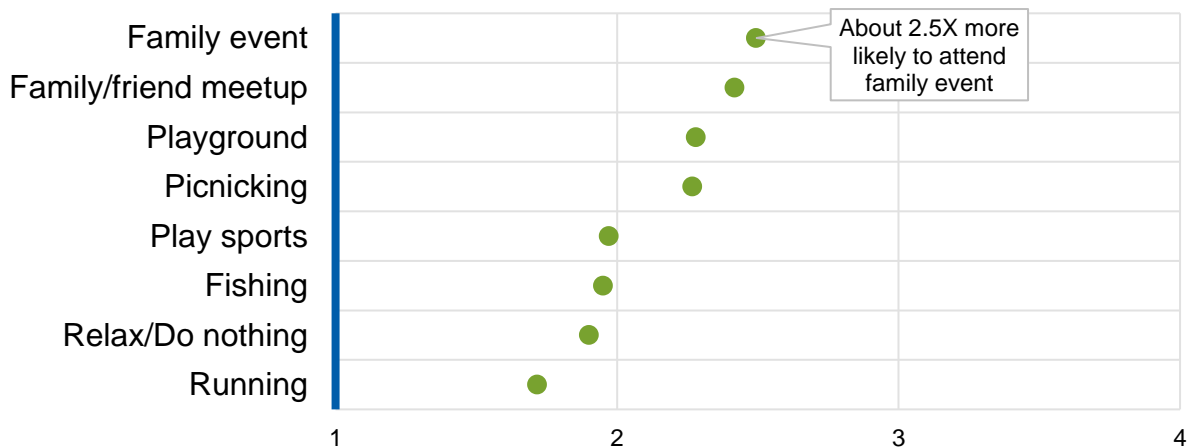


Figure 22: Likelihood of activity participation by Asian American visitors compared with all other visitors in survey

Likelihood of greater participation by Black visitors

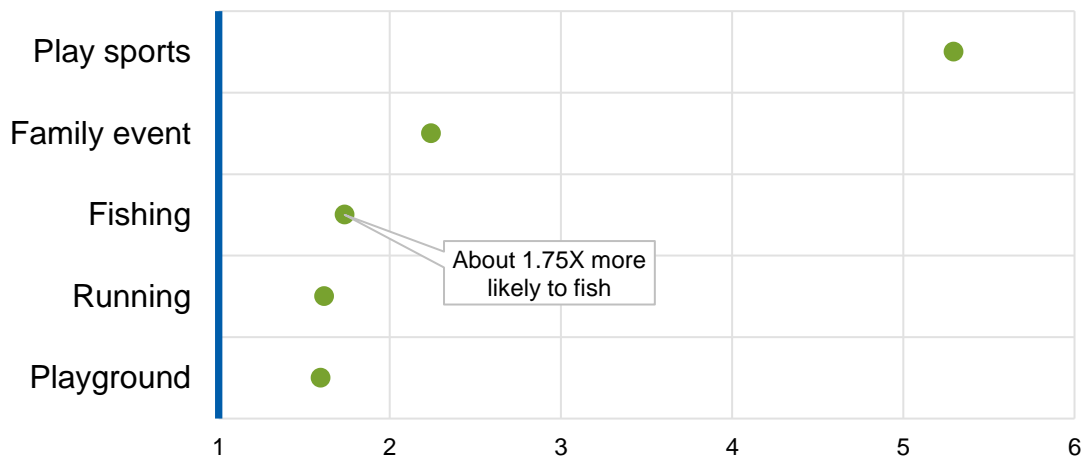


Figure 23: Likelihood of activity participation by African American visitors compared with all other visitors in survey

Likelihood of greater participation by Latino/a visitors

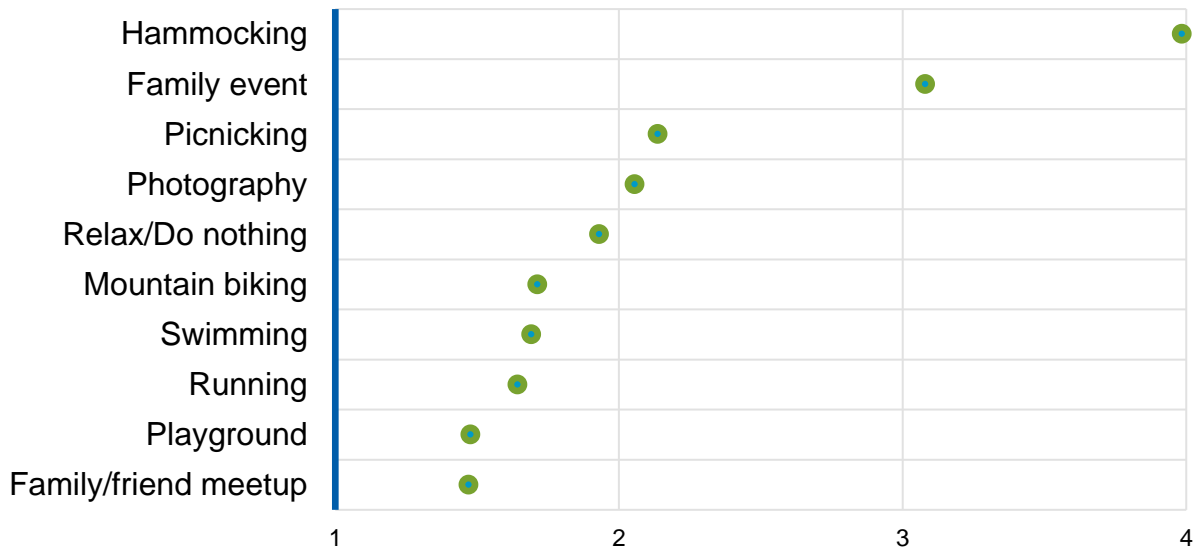


Figure 24: Likelihood of activity participation by Latino/Latina visitors compared with all other visitors in survey

Likelihood of greater participation by white visitors

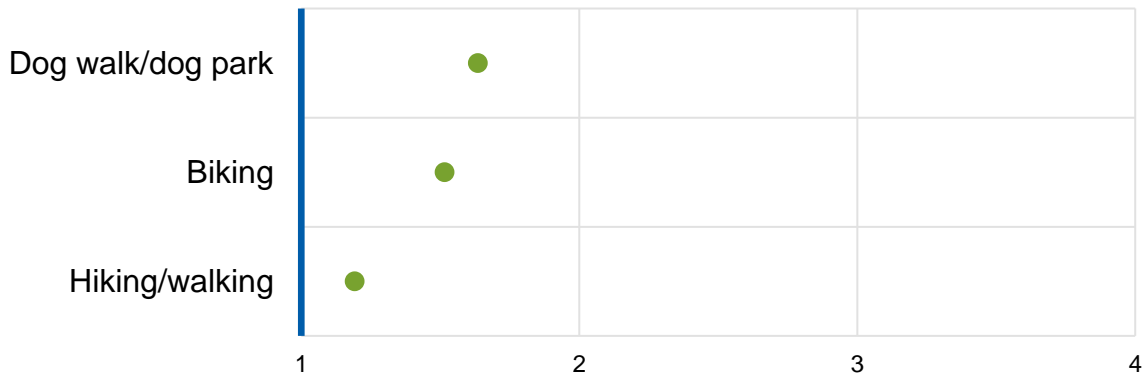


Figure 25: Likelihood of activity participation by White visitors compared with all other visitors in survey

Younger visitors more likely to do a wide variety of activities, including hammocking, sports, rollerblading and more.

Visitors ages 12-24 participated in 12 activities at a higher rate than visitors ages 45-64. This indicates that variety of activities was important for this age group compared with older visitors. Hammocking, sports, rollerblading, relaxing, and fishing were some of the activities that were more than three times more likely to be done by visitors ages 12-24 compared with visitors ages 45-64 (Figure 26).

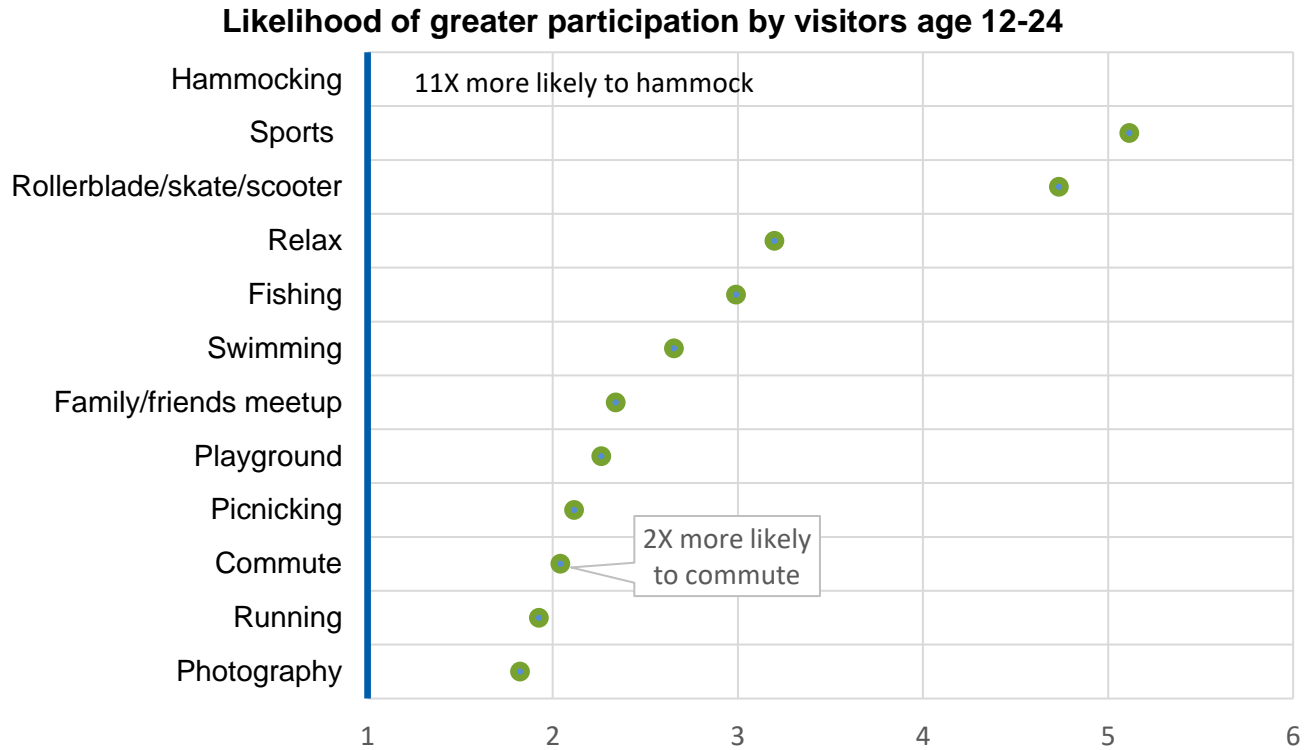


Figure 26: Likelihood of activity participation by visitors ages 12-24 compared with visitors ages 45-64

Swimming, observing nature are more likely among groups including people with disabilities

Groups that included a person with a disability participated in six activities at somewhat higher rates than groups with no one with a disability. These patterns may be related to age, since the youngest and oldest respondents reported that someone in their group had a disability. Swimming, observing nature, and relaxing were some of the activities that were more popular with such groups (Figure 27).

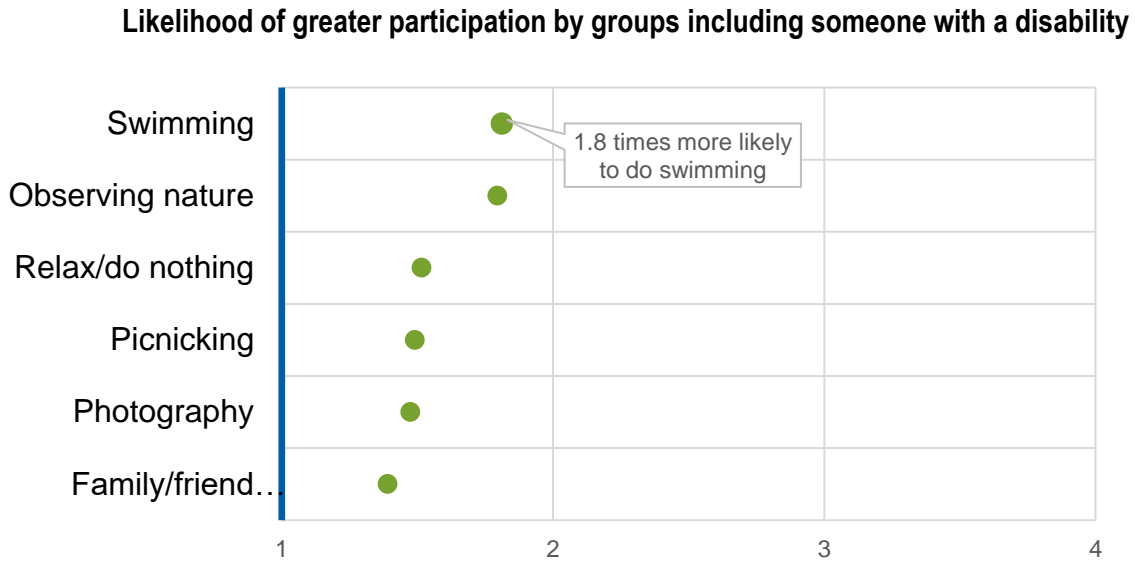


Figure 27: Likelihood of activity participation by groups including someone with a disability compared to groups without a person with a disability

Activity patterns vary by gender

Women and gender nonbinary visitors participated in several activities at higher rates than men. Nonbinary and women visitors were more likely to relax/do nothing, swim, dog walk, and hike/walk compared with men. Nonbinary visitors were more likely to be commuting during their visit. Additionally, women were more likely to participate in observing nature, picnicking, visiting the playground, photography, meeting a family member, or attending a community event. Due to small sample size, the magnitude of difference for nonbinary visitors should be interpreted with caution (Figure 28).

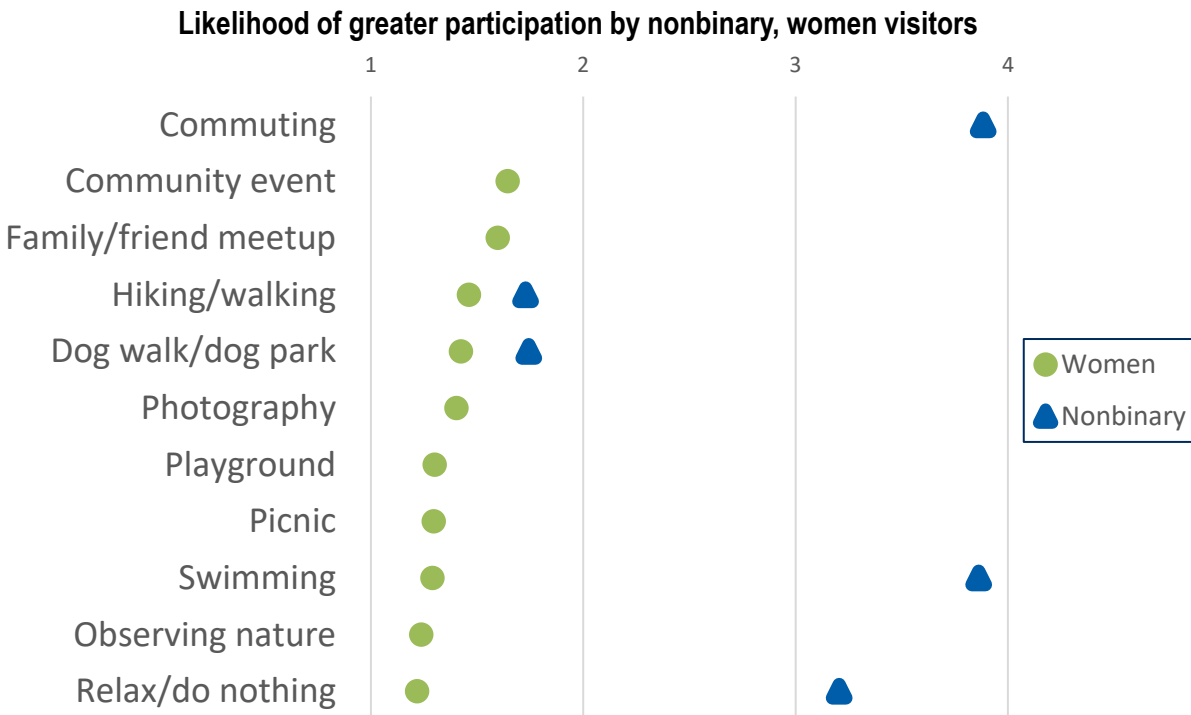


Figure 28: Likelihood of activity participation by gender nonbinary and women visitors compared with men

Group vs solo visit varies by gender, race/ethnicity, and type of facility

Whether visitors go solo or in a group depends on the type of unit (parks vs trails) and social characteristics (Table 10). Just under 2/3 of visits to parks happen in groups. For trails, the opposite is true, with just under 2/3 of visitors going solo. Compared to men, women and nonbinary visitors are more likely to visit in a group whether on parks or trails. Visitors who identify as Black, Indigenous, or a person of color are more likely to visit in groups compared to white visitors. However, almost all visitors across characteristics were more likely to visit in groups when going to parks than to trails.

Parks			Trails			
Gender	Visit with others	Visit solo	Total %, parks	Visit with others	Visit solo	Total %, trails
Female	67%	33%	100%	47%	53%	100%
Male	56%	44%	100%	28%	72%	100%
Nonbinary/third gender	64%	36%	100%	68%	32%	100%
Race/ethnicity						
Black, Indigenous, and people of color	72%	28%	100%	49%	51%	100%
White	60%	40%	100%	36%	64%	100%
All visitors	62%	38%	100%	37%	63%	100%

Table 10: Percent of visitors in groups vs solo on parks and trails by gender and race/ethnicity

Park agencies reflect on activity patterns and popular activities

“Doing nothing’ was a popular activity. How can we support people coming to the park just to relax or hang out? People don’t need a reason or activity to do at parks. It boils down to just simple activity: to just be.”

- Workshop participant, summer 2022

Park agency staff analyzed activity patterns. They reflected that programming and amenities need to invite users to learn new activities with low entrance barriers while also supporting current activities that are more popular among underserved users. They considered it important to listen to what diverse users want and need. The findings demonstrate that open, flexible spaces are important in park and trail design. More research is needed on several topics, including needs of BIPOC, women, and nonbinary visitors; visitors ages 75+; future recreation and population trends; more data on why people enjoy activities; and innovations in trail equity. A sample of comments are presented in Figure 29.

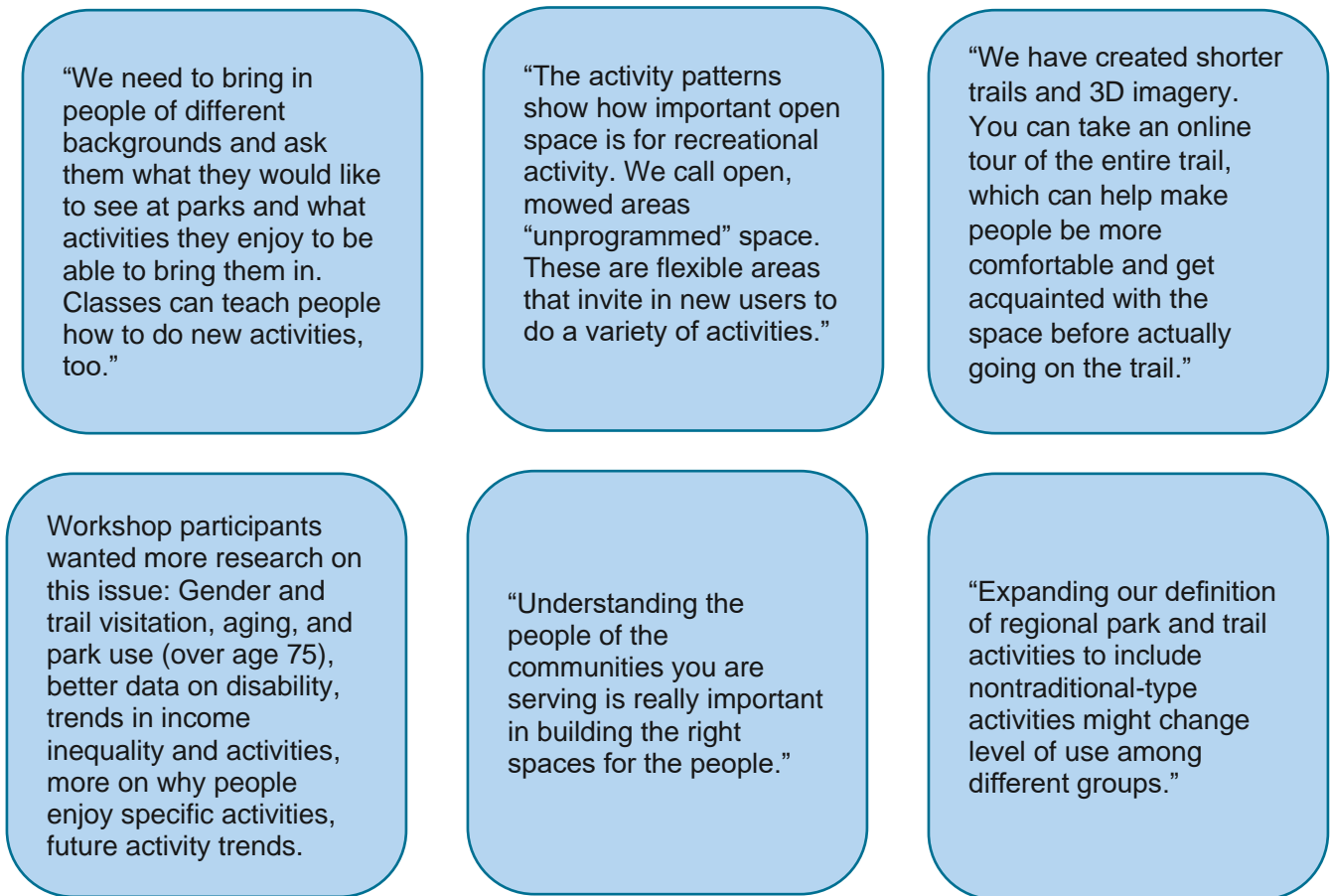


Figure 29: Analysis of activity data by park agencies in summer workshops

Barriers to visitation

Better access to parks, equipment rental would increase visitation

Visitors were asked, “In general, what changes would help you to visit regional parks and trails more often?” They could choose more than one answer. For both parks (Table 11) and trails (Table 12), 29% of the respondents felt that none of the changes would help them to visit more often. White visitors were more likely to answer that none of the items are barriers. For both parks and trails, better walking/biking access, a closer park, and better access to equipment rental were most noted changes to help visitors go more often.

Young people ages 12-24 were more likely than other ages to choose barriers, such as better walking/biking access, closer parks, access to equipment rental, and other items. Visitors ages 25-44 were more likely to list “more activities for kids,” as were BIPOC visitors to parks. Lower costs and park access by public transit were more often named by the 12-24 age group, BIPOC visitors, and those earning less than \$60,000/year than by other groups.

Parks	
Would this change help you visit parks more often?	Percent saying yes
None of the items are barriers	29%
Better walking or biking access	15%
A park closer to me	14%
Better access to equipment rental	14%
More activities for kids #*	14%
Lower cost (entrance fees, rental fees)	13%
Park programming and features that are more interesting to me	10%
Better parking lot facilities	10%
More activities for people my age	9%
Features for a range of health and physical conditions	8%
Better public transportation to the park	6%

Table 11: Changes selected by visitors that would allow them more frequent visits to parks

Trails	
Would this change help you visit trails more often?	Percent saying yes
None of the items are barriers	29%
Better walking or biking access	25%
A trail closer to me	14%
Better access to equipment rental	13%
Park programming and features that are more interesting to me	11%
Lower cost (entrance fees, rental fees)	10%
More activities for kids	10%
More activities for people my age	9%
Better parking lot facilities	8%
Features for a range of health and physical conditions	6%
Better public transportation to the trail	5%

Table 12: Changes selected by visitors that would allow them more frequent visits to trails

Welcoming new visitors

New visitors 3 times more likely to visit parks than trails

New visitors are defined as respondents who said they had not visited the park or trail in the past 12 months (Figure 30). In parks, new visitors were 18% of all responses, compared with 6% for trail visitors. Other seasons may have different patterns.

New visitors 3x more likely at parks than at trails.

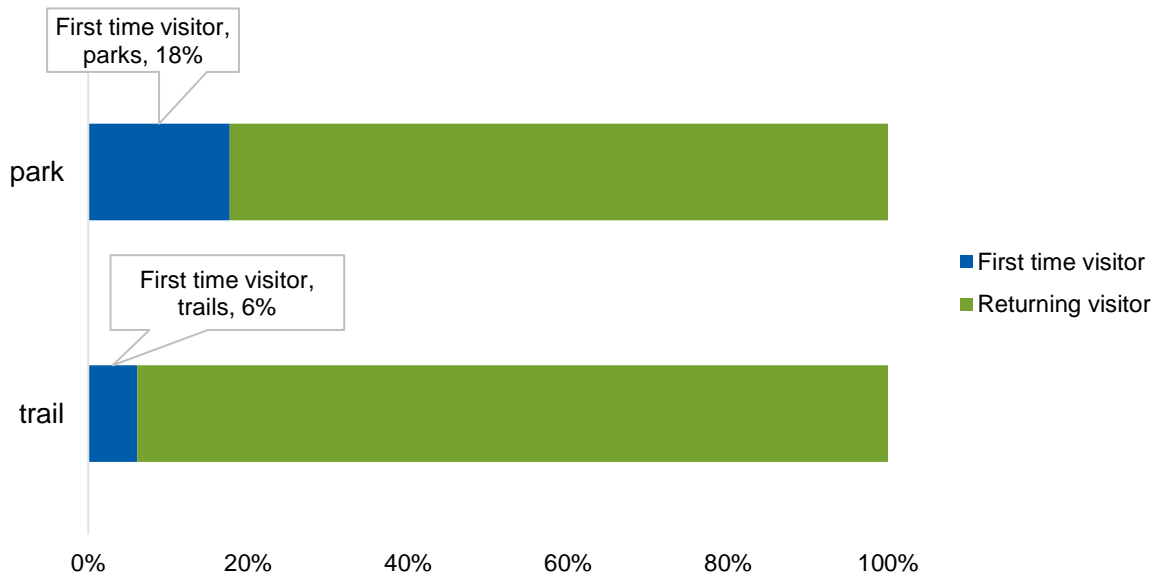


Figure 30: New visitors as total proportion of visitors, parks vs trails

All park agencies had a higher proportion of first-time visitors in parks compared with trails (Figure 31). Carver and Washington counties, Saint Paul, and Three Rivers Park District had more visitors reporting it was their first time in the park compared to the average. For trails, Carver, Dakota, and Washington counties along with Saint Paul and Three Rivers had more first-time visitors reported than the average.

First time visitors more likely at parks than at trails across the system.

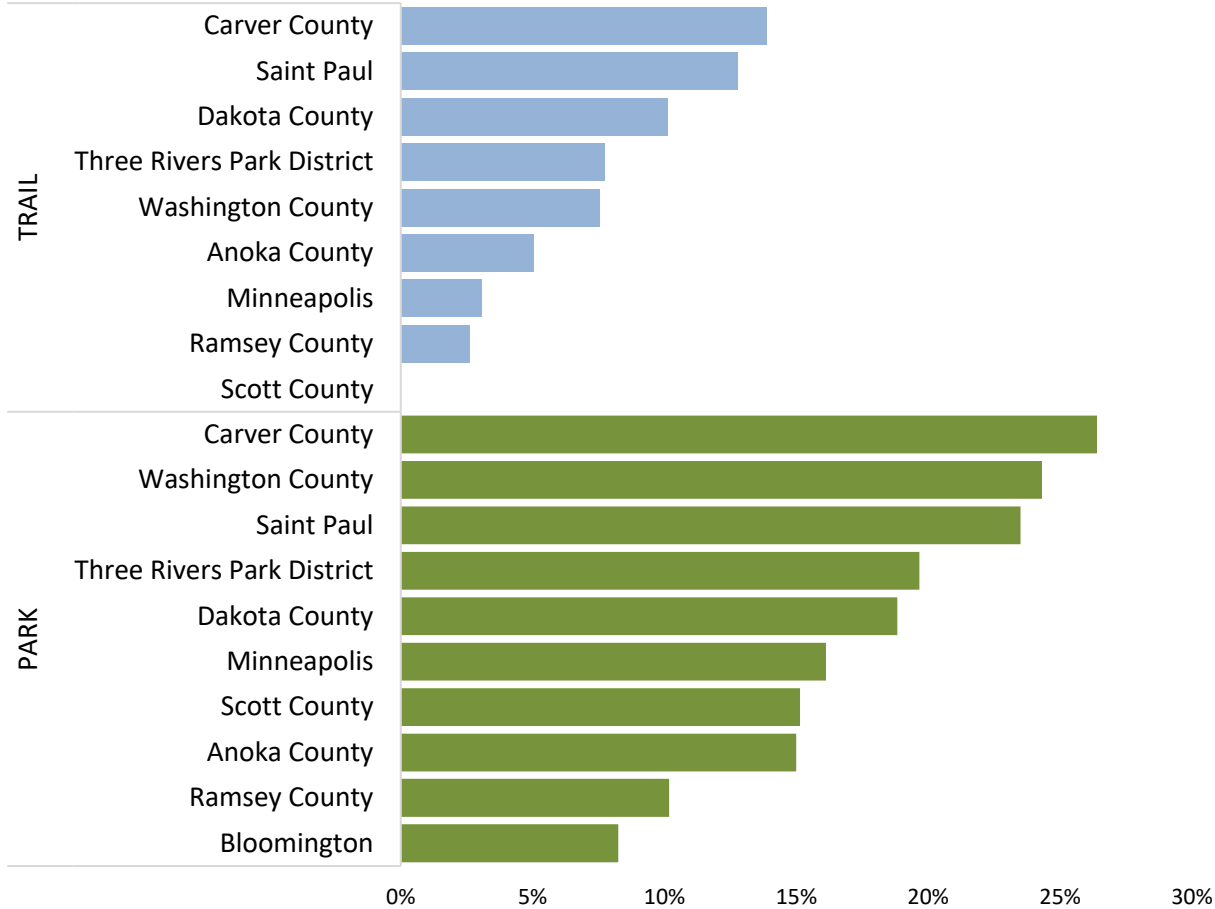


Figure 31: Proportion of first-time visitors as percent of total, agency parks and trails

Meeting family, friends more popular for new park visitors

New and returning visitors enjoy the same primary activities but have variations in reported activity patterns in parks (Table 13). Meeting family and friends, relaxing, camping, and observing nature were more often cited as primary reasons for a park visit compared with returning visitors. They were less than half as likely as returning visitors to jog, dog walk, or bike in parks. Trail activities were quite similar (Table 14), with new/infrequent visitors more likely to bike and less likely to plan a visit primarily for dog walking.

Reported main activities (over 5%) Parks

New visitor, main activity in parks	% of new visitors	Return visitor, main activity in parks	% of returning visitors
Hike/walk	22%	Hike/walk	33%
Family/friend meetup	11%	Dog walk/dog park	16%
Swim	9%	Biking	11%
Relax/do nothing	8%	Jog/run	7%
Camping	7%	Swim	6%
Observing nature	6%		

Table 13: Comparison of most popular activities for new vs returning visitors in parks.

Reported main activities (over 5%) Trails

New visitor, main activity On trails	% of new visitors	Return visitor, main activity on trails	% of returning visitors
Biking	56%	Biking	44%
Hike/walk	18%	Hike/walk	27%
Dog walk/dog park	5%	Jog/run	10%
Jog/run	5%	Dog walk/dog park	9%

Table 1413: Comparison of most popular activities for new vs returning visitors on trails.

New visitors to park, trails more ethnically diverse than returning visitors

New visitors were more racially/ethnically diverse than returning visitors. The difference was observed across all 10 park agencies (Figure 32). Among return visitors, between 7% and 21% of park agency visitors were Black, Indigenous, or people of color. Among new and infrequent visitors, this proportion ranged between 12% and 35% across park agencies.

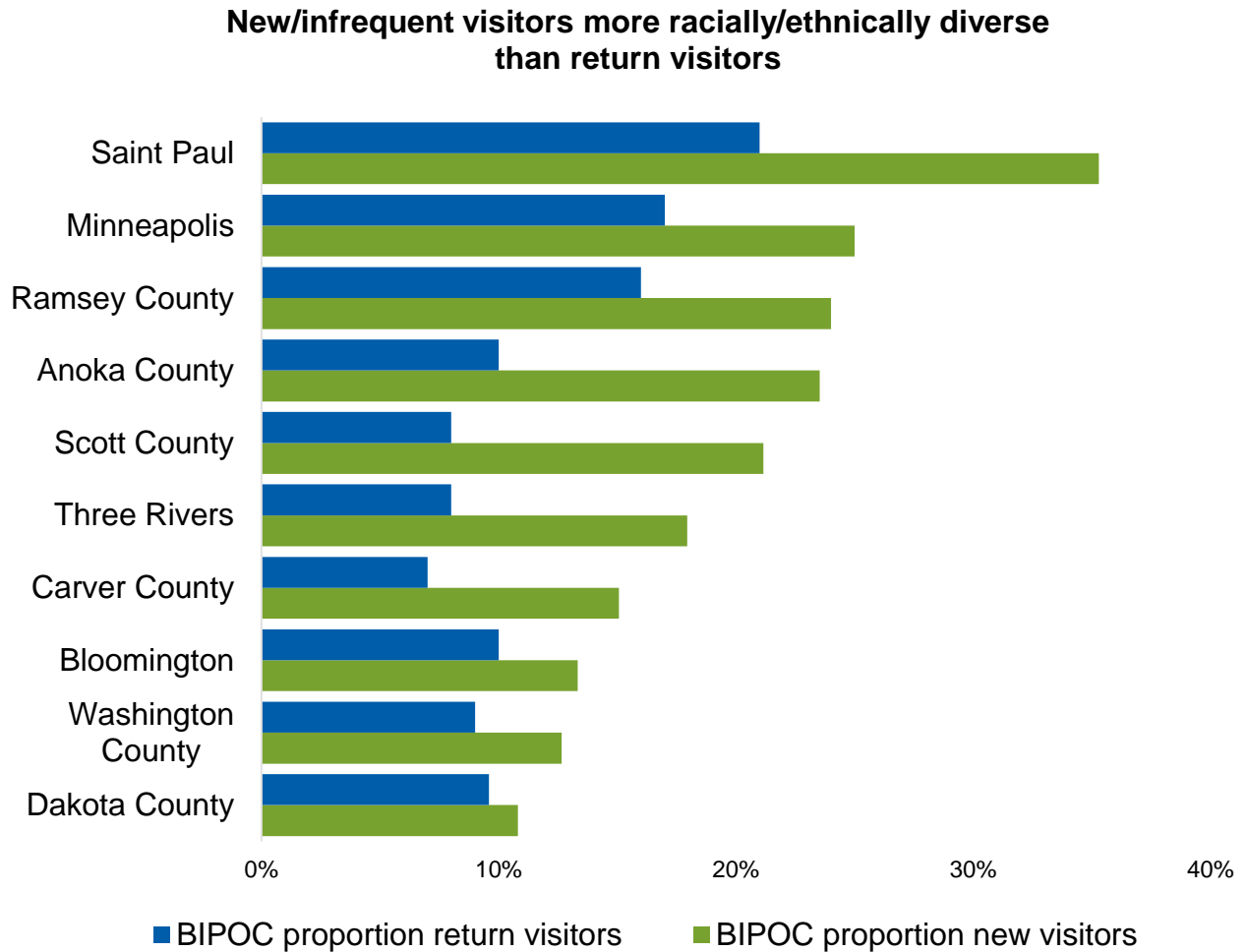


Figure 32: Comparison by park agency of proportion of BIPOC visitors, new vs. return visitors

How visitors seek information ahead of visit

First-time/infrequent visitors far more likely to seek information prior to visits

New visitors are a primary audience for information about parks and trails (Figure 33). First time/infrequent visitors are 86% of those seeking information. They are more likely to seek information on park hours, parking, and rules (Table 15). They are less likely to seek information on trail conditions. BIPOC visitors more frequently used social media and friends/family as information sources compared with White visitors (Table 16).

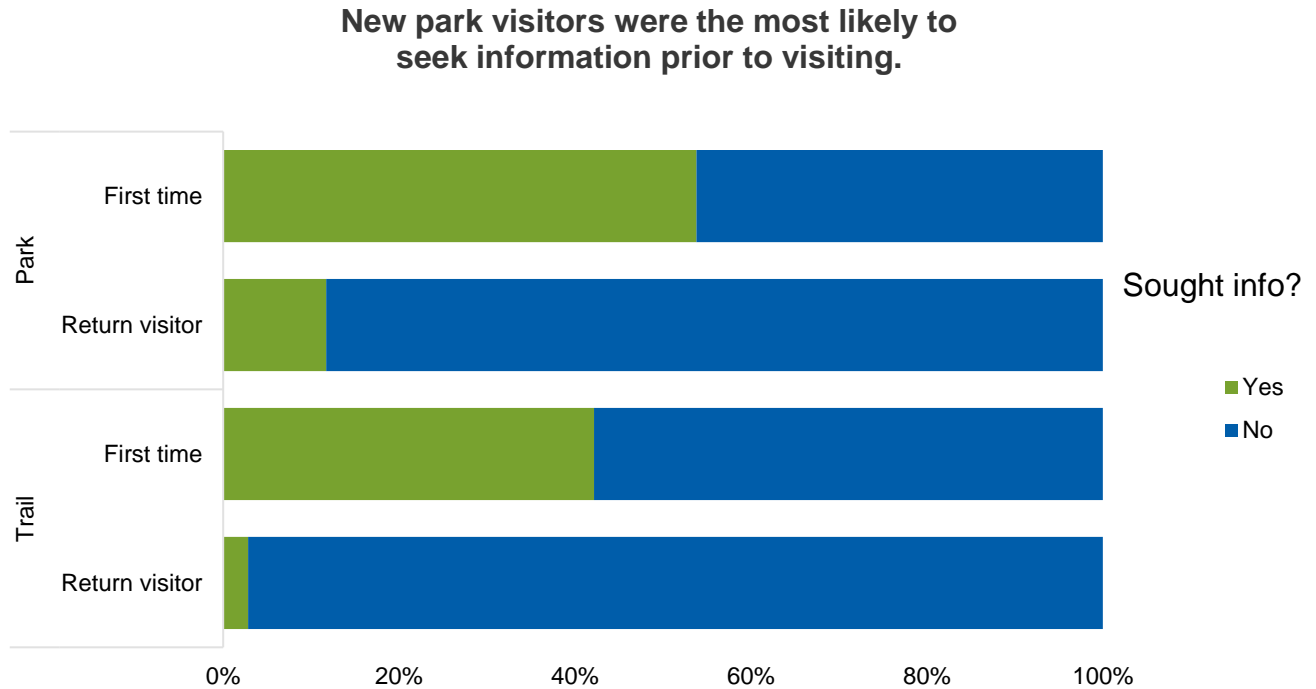


Figure 33: Information seeking by new and returning visitors compared by park and trail (unweighted data, percent)

Maps, activity guides, and information about nature features most sought

Visitors most desired maps, activities guides, and nature features (lakes, woods and such) (Table 15). The survey asked, “In general, what kind of information would be helpful for you to plan a visit to parks and trails in this region?” Most frequently used information sources include smartphone map, word of mouth (Table 16). BIPOC visitors more often drew from family/friends and social media compared to White visitors.

Patterns of information seeking were similar across park agencies (Tables 15, 16). New visitors desired park hours, parking information, and park rules more often, while returning visitors were more likely to seek trail conditions.

Most mentioned helpful information systemwide includes maps, activity guide, and available nature features.

Park Agency	Maps	Activity guide	Nature features	Trail conditions	Entry locations & trail access	Park hours	Entrance fees	Onsite signs & information	Parking information	Rental equipment fees	Park rules	Space rental fees	Public transit information	Disability accommodations & access	Other
Anoka County	53%	49%	43%	38%	43%	33%	36%	31%	21%	18%	18%	12%	8%	9%	9%
Bloomington	54%	44%	43%	37%	42%	36%	33%	34%	28%	22%	21%	10%	10%	7%	7%
Carver County	50%	50%	41%	38%	37%	42%	36%	25%	24%	18%	24%	10%	3%	5%	7%
Dakota County	61%	47%	45%	50%	46%	33%	32%	34%	28%	24%	18%	12%	7%	7%	9%
Minneapolis	51%	51%	52%	43%	39%	38%	33%	36%	33%	19%	19%	13%	13%	10%	8%
Ramsey County	57%	43%	45%	46%	43%	36%	33%	38%	34%	17%	22%	12%	9%	11%	5%
Saint Paul	49%	48%	46%	38%	38%	42%	34%	32%	28%	18%	20%	11%	12%	10%	4%
Scott County	55%	43%	39%	46%	37%	38%	33%	30%	23%	28%	20%	12%	4%	8%	7%
Three Rivers	57%	49%	44%	42%	37%	37%	35%	30%	27%	24%	20%	14%	7%	9%	8%
Washington County	55%	45%	42%	39%	38%	34%	34%	29%	25%	21%	19%	12%	5%	5%	7%
Mean	54%	47%	44%	42%	40%	37%	34%	32%	27%	21%	20%	12%	8%	8%	7%

Table 14: All categories of information that visitors say would be helpful to plan a visit to parks and trails in the region

New visitors desired more information on this compared with returning visitors
New visitors desired less information on this compared with returning visitors
No rate of difference between new and returning visitors

Most frequently used information sources include smartphone map and word of mouth. BIPOC visitors more often drew from family/friends and social media compared to White visitors.

Park agency	Smartphone map	Family & friends	A specific park or trail website	Onsite map or rec guide	Other internet sources/apps	Facebook	Printed map or atlas	Help desk at park	Another park, trail, or nature center	Local newsletter	Email from the park or county	Instagram	Other social media	Twitter
Anoka County	58%	41%	38%	25%	14%	12%	11%	10%	7%	7%	6%	3%	4%	1%
Bloomington	55%	40%	41%	28%	13%	10%	11%	6%	7%	11%	5%	5%	1%	2%
Carver County	55%	44%	36%	21%	15%	11%	7%	6%	6%	4%	7%	2%	5%	1%
Dakota County	58%	38%	47%	30%	20%	14%	10%	6%	6%	6%	7%	2%	4%	2%
Minneapolis	64%	50%	38%	31%	14%	11%	8%	8%	6%	8%	8%	5%	4%	2%
Ramsey County	62%	41%	43%	31%	18%	11%	12%	9%	8%	8%	11%	3%	5%	1%
Saint Paul	61%	49%	38%	26%	12%	13%	10%	8%	6%	7%	6%	5%	5%	3%
Scott County	54%	40%	41%	22%	14%	12%	7%	6%	5%	5%	6%	2%	1%	2%
Three Rivers	58%	39%	43%	29%	12%	10%	11%	8%	7%	7%	6%	5%	3%	2%
Washington County	56%	43%	46%	28%	12%	10%	8%	12%	9%	6%	6%	2%	2%	1%
Mean	58%	42%	41%	27%	14%	11%	10%	8%	7%	7%	7%	3%	3%	2%

Table 15: Information sources used, compared by park agency

BIPOC visitors use source more often than white visitors
White visitors use source more often than BIPOC visitors
No significant difference between visitor use

Park agencies reflect on new visitors and information seeking

“These results show that the priority of communication is rising in importance. Communications is foundational to the success of our system. We need to prioritize information seeking across all park agencies. There is a misconception that we only need to build the system and invest in growing the system. But good communication is what attracts people. We need to push this priority, and the Met Council can support this through grant opportunities. Directors can support it through reviewing this data.”

- Communication workshop participant, fall 2022

Park agency staff participated in a workshop on information seeking, and an additional conversation with communications staff provided insights. The higher percentage of people of color among new visitors provides an opportunity to support underserved communities. This means focusing on providing the right information and activities and understanding how new visitors experience their first visit. New audiences are a high priority in communication strategies (Figure 34).



Figure 34: Analysis of new visitor and information seeking by park agencies in summer workshops

Appendix 1: Survey Instrument

Regional Parks and Trails Survey - SAQ

Screeners

- A.** Are you 18 years old or older?
- Yes (SKIP TO D)
 - No (CONTINUE)
- B.** Are you 12 years old or older?
- Yes (CONTINUE)
 - No (DISCONTINUE INTERVIEW)
- C.** If you are here with a parent or guardian, we'd like to get their permission for you to do the survey with us, but it's ok if they are not here. Either way, we would like you to participate in the survey. Is a parent or guardian here with you today?
- Yes (CONTINUE TO C1)
 - No (CONTINUE INTERVIEW)
- C1. FOR PARENTS: Is it ok for your child to participate in this survey?
- Yes, I **agree** that my child can participate in this survey (Continue to D)
 - No, I **do not agree** for my child to participate in this survey (IF NO, DISCONTINUE INTERVIEW)
- D.** Have you already taken this survey at this park or another park this summer, or were you with someone when they completed the survey at a park this summer?
- Yes (DISCONTINUE INTERVIEW)
 - No (CONTINUE)

Activities and Park Visits

The first few questions ask about park activities and how often you come to this park.

1. Which activities have you and your group planned to do or already done on your visit today?
(SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Festival, concert, or community event
(please specify): _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Observing nature (including birdwatching and self-guided nature walks) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attended a program or class (including fitness classes like yoga in the park) | <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting the farm or gardens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birthday party, family reunion, wedding, or other family event | <input type="checkbox"/> Taking photographs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting up with family or friends (not for an event) | <input type="checkbox"/> Stargazing/astronomy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking | <input type="checkbox"/> Camping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Using the playground | <input type="checkbox"/> Geocaching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hammocking | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relaxing/Doing nothing | <input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing/kayaking/paddle boarding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commuting (riding your bike or walking through the park to get to or from another location outside the park) | <input type="checkbox"/> Boating or sailing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biking | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain biking | <input type="checkbox"/> Archery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rollerblading/inline skating/scootering | <input type="checkbox"/> Disc golf |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jogging/running | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports (soccer, volleyball, basketball, tennis, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking/walking | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog walking/dog park/off-leash dog area | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback riding | |

IF MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE IN Q1:

2. Which one of these activities was your main reason for visiting this park?
(SELECT ONE RESPONSE THAT WAS ALREADY CHECKED IN Q1.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Festival, concert, or community event
(please specify): _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Observing nature (including birdwatching and self-guided nature walks) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attended a program or class (including fitness classes like yoga in the park) | <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting the farm or gardens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birthday party, family reunion, wedding, or other family event | <input type="checkbox"/> Taking photographs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting up with family or friends (not for an event) | <input type="checkbox"/> Stargazing/astronomy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking | <input type="checkbox"/> Camping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Using the playground | <input type="checkbox"/> Geocaching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hammocking | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relaxing/Doing nothing | <input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing/kayaking/paddle boarding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commuting (riding your bike or walking through the park to get to or from another location outside the park) | <input type="checkbox"/> Boating or sailing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biking | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain biking | <input type="checkbox"/> Archery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rollerblading/inline skating/scootering | <input type="checkbox"/> Disc golf |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jogging/running | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports (soccer, volleyball, basketball, tennis, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking/walking | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog walking/dog park/off-leash dog area | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback riding | |

3. **Other than today, have you visited this park in the last 12 months?** (PROBE IF COMMUTING WAS SELECTED AS AN ACTIVITY: This includes any times you walk or ride your bike through the park to commute to another location outside the park.)

Yes

No (SKIP TO Q3B, ITEM 5.)

A. Please estimate the number of times you have been to this park in the last 12 months, including today. (PLEASE SELECT ONE.)

2-7

8-14

15-30

31-60

More than 60

B. Including this visit, how many times did you visit this park: (PLEASE USE AN EXACT NUMBER, NOT A RANGE.)

	Number of times	Per week, month, or entire season
This summer, - May 28/Memorial Day weekend to today?		
Last spring, March – May 27/Memorial Day weekend?		
Last winter, December – February?		
Last fall, September – November?		
How many times do you think you will visit this park during the rest of this summer, through September 6/ Labor Day?		

Visitor Experience & Learning about the Park

The next few questions ask about your visit at this park today.

4. **Overall, how would you rate the quality of facilities during this park visit? Examples of facilities include picnic shelters, playgrounds, beaches, and visitor centers. This does NOT include bathrooms. Would you say....**

- Excellent
- Very good
- Fair
- Poor, or
- Very poor

5. **What is one thing that could be better at this park today? (PLEASE PROVIDE AS MUCH DETAIL AS POSSIBLE.)**

6. **To prepare for your visit today, did you or your group look for information about this park before you came? (PLEASE SELECT ONE.)**

- Yes
- No

The next set of questions ask you about your experiences with parks and trails in the Twin Cities 7-county region -not just this park. The 7-county region includes parks and trails in Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties.

7. **In general, what kind of information would be helpful for you to plan a visit to parks and trails in this region? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.)**

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Activities guide/what you can do there | <input type="checkbox"/> Onsite signs and information (information boards, parking lot signs, trail head signs) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature features (lake, woods, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Park hours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entrance fees | <input type="checkbox"/> Park rules |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rental equipment fees | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Space rental fees (pavilion, picnic areas, rooms in visitor center) | <input type="checkbox"/> Public transit information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disability accommodations and access | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail conditions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entry locations/trail access | <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maps | |

8. **What sources do you use to get information about parks and trails in this area? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.)**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family and friends | <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Printed road map or atlas | <input type="checkbox"/> Twitter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Google map/smartphone map | <input type="checkbox"/> Instagram |
| <input type="checkbox"/> On-site recreation maps or directories | <input type="checkbox"/> Other social media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help desk at the park | <input type="checkbox"/> A specific park or trail website (like Dakota County, Three Rivers, or St. Paul Parks) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Another park, trail, or nature center | <input type="checkbox"/> Other internet sources or smartphone app (please specify): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local newsletter or publication | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email from the park or county | |

None of the above

**9. In general, what changes would help you to visit regional parks and trails more often?
(SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.)**

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lower cost (entrance fees, rental fees) | <input type="checkbox"/> Park features or activities for that are accessible for a range of health or physical conditions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better access to equipment rental (bikes, canoes, kayaks, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Park programs or activities that are more interesting to me |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better public transportation to the park | <input type="checkbox"/> More activities for kids |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better parking lot facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> More activities for people my age |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better walking or biking access to the park | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A park located closer to where I live | <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above |

Park travel and groups

The next few questions ask about how you got to the park, how many people you were with, and where you traveled from.

10A. How did you travel to [PARK/TRAIL] on your visit today?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walked, ran, or used inline skates | <input type="checkbox"/> Car, truck, recreational vehicle (RV), or van |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle | <input type="checkbox"/> Lyft, Uber, or other ridesharing service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric bicycle | <input type="checkbox"/> Metro Transit bus or light rail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric scooter | <input type="checkbox"/> Charter or school bus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycle | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |

**10B. [IF Q10A IS CAR/TRUCK/RV OR VAN, RIDESHARING, MOTORCYCLE, OR CHARTER/SCHOOL BUS]
Including yourself, how many people traveled with you to [PARK/TRAIL] in the same vehicle? _____**

The next two questions talk about you and the group that you came with or met up with at the park today, including friends, family, or others you know who you are spending time with.

11. Including yourself, how many people are in your group today?

_____ people are in my group.

12. Including yourself, are there any youth under age 18 in your group today?

- Yes
 No

The next questions ask about where you live.

13. Do you live in Minnesota, another state, or another country?

- Minnesota
 Another state
 Outside of the United States (SKIP TO Q15)

14A. What is your home zip code? _____

14B. What city or town do you live in? _____

15A. Where did you travel from to get to the park today? Would you say...

- Home,
 Work, or
 Any place else?

15B. Did you make any short stops - less than 30 minutes - on your way to the park?

- Yes
- No

Demographics

This final set of questions are about you. It's important for us to know that we are hearing from all different types of people.

16. What is your age group? Is it...

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65-74, or |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 75 +? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 35-44 | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 45-54 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 55-64 | |

17. What is your gender identity?

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary/third gender
- Prefer to self-describe: _____
- Prefer not to answer
- Don't know

18. Do you identify as transgender? (People whose gender identity, expression, or behavior is different from those typically associated with their assigned gender at birth.)

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer
- Don't know

19A. What is your race/ethnicity? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.) [IF RESPONSE IS UNCLEAR OR OTHER THAN RESPONSE CATEGORIES GIVEN, READ RESPONSE OPTIONS]

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaskan Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian American | <input type="checkbox"/> White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African/African American | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latinx/Latino | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern/North African | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

19B. Is there a particular race/ethnicity that you most identify with? (IF YES, PLEASE SELECT ONE.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaskan Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian American | <input type="checkbox"/> White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African/African American | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latinx/Latino | <input type="checkbox"/> No I do not identify with one particular race/ethnicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern/North African | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

20A. [IF Q19A IS ASIAN/ASIAN AMERICAN]: **Do you identify as any of the following...**(SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Lao |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cambodian | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hmong | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Karen or Karenni | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

20B. [IF Q19A IS BLACK/AFRICAN/AFRICAN AMERICAN] **Do you identify as any of the following...**((SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> African American | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ethiopian | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oromo | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Somali | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liberian | |

20C. [IF Q19A IS AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVE] **Are you affiliated with a specific tribe?**

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer
- Don't know

[ASK IF Q20C IS YES; ALL OTHERS SKIP TO Q21.]

20D. Which tribe do you affiliate with:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bois Forte Band of Chippewa | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Lake Nation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa | <input type="checkbox"/> Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa | <input type="checkbox"/> Upper Sioux Community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe | <input type="checkbox"/> White Earth Nation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lower Sioux Indian Community | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Island Indian Community | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

21A. What language do you speak most at home?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> English | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hmong | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Somali | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish | |

21B. [ONLY FOR SURVEYS CONDUCTED IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH] How well do you speak English? Would you say....

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very well, | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Well, | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not well, or | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not at all? | |

22. What is the highest grade or year of school you have completed? (PLEASE SELECT ONE.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8th grade or less | <input type="checkbox"/> 2-year degree (Associate, vocational, or technical degree) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Some high school | <input type="checkbox"/> 4-year degree (Bachelor's degree) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High school graduate or GED | <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate or professional degree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Some college, vocational, technical, or trade school | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |

23. Do you, or does someone in your group, have a physical, mental, or sensory disability or condition?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer
- Don't know

24. Including yourself, how many adults, and how many youth live in your household? How about....

Adults age 18 or older:

Youth age 17 or younger:

25A. What was your household's income before taxes from all family members and all sources in 2020? Is the correct range...

- Less than \$16,000,
- \$16,000 to under \$25,000,
- \$25,000 to under \$40,000,
- \$40,000 to under \$60,000,
- \$60,000 to under \$80,000,
- \$80,000 to under \$100,000,
- \$100,000 to under \$150,000, or
- \$150,000 or higher?
- Don't know
- Prefer not to answer

[ASK Q25B IF RESPONENT IS 12-17 YEARS OF AGE AND ANSWERED "DON'T KNOW" TO Q25A.]

25B. Does your family qualify for free or reduced price school lunch?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer
- Don't know

26A. That is the last question. Do you have any additional comments about your experience at **[PARK/TRAIL]** today?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer
- Don't know

26B. Additional comments:

Thank you for your help in completing the survey!



390 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55101-1805

651-602-1000
TTY 651-291-0904
public.info@metc.state.mn.us
metro council.org

Follow us:
twitter.com/MetCouncilNews
facebook.com/MetropolitanCouncil