



Recycling, Parks and Transit Survey

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Summary

- Dakota County contracted with National Research Center, Inc. to develop and administer a short topical survey to residents in the Fall of 2014.
- The 2014 Recycling, Parks and Transit Survey was administered to a random sample of 4,000 households in the county.
- A total of 1,325 surveys were returned, providing a response rate of 34%
- The margin of error is plus or minus three percentage points around any given percentage point for the entire sample.

Dakota County residents enjoy a high quality of life.

- More than 9 in 10 respondents rated the County as a place to live, a place to raise children and the overall quality of life as excellent or good; about 7 in 10 gave positive ratings to the County as a place to retire (Table 1).

Recycling services meet most residents' needs; making recycling easier through more frequent pick-up and by providing more information would encourage better recycling habits.

- Almost all respondents reported having their garbage picked up weekly and their recyclables at least every other week (Table 2).
- Most respondents' recycling containers were adequate for their needs; about two in five sometimes or frequently had more recycling than will fit in their containers (Table 3). When they do run out of room, about three-quarters of respondents said they hold onto their recyclables until the next collection compared to about one-third who opted to place the recyclables in the trash (Table 4).
- When asked what would make respondents more likely to recycle more materials, weekly pickup along with more specific information regarding what can be recycled were the most frequently cited options (Table 5). A larger cart, displaying a list of recyclable materials on the cart as well as holding haulers accountable for the recycling they collect were also ways to encourage better recycling habits.
- Respondents cited money savings as the most important factor to consider when evaluating the benefits of using a single hauler for garbage/recycling services; about 7 in 10 felt this was essential or very important (Table 6). However, half of respondents felt it was at least very important to allow open competition among haulers.

Diverting food waste from the landfill may require at-home solutions.

- To meet the State's requirements to increase recycling rates and divert food waste from landfills, respondents were most supportive of requiring schools, hospitals and restaurants to separate food waste for collection and most opposed to drop-off sites (similar to yard waste sites) for food waste (Table 7). Respondents were generally receptive to the ideas of curbside food waste collection and backyard composting for single family homes.
- The vast majority of respondents were unlikely to drive (any distance) to drop off food waste (Table 8).

Dakota County residents drive alone for almost all trips and feel they do not need transit services.

- Residents in the County generally reported driving alone when they need to travel; over 9 in 10 traveled this way most (74%) or some (19%) of the time (Table 9). Respondents said they occasionally walk, bike or get a ride from a friend relative or neighbor to get where they need to go, and almost never used transit service (e.g., senior center or community center van, volunteer driver from a community-based agency, Metro Mobility or a similar para-transit service).
- When asked why they may not use transit service, about half of respondents cited not needing the service. Other common reason for not using transit services included the service not being available at the needed origin or destination or the trip taking too long (Table 10).

Residents have a slight preference for visiting parks in Minneapolis over County Parks.

- About half of respondents had visited Lebanon Hills Regional Park at least once in 12 months prior to the survey (Table 11). This was the most popular of the County's parks. About one in five respondents had visited Spring Lake Park Reserve, Big Rivers Regional Trail or Mississippi River Regional Trail at least once. Other parks in the County (e.g., Whitetail Woods Regional Park, Miesville Ravine Park Reserve and Dakota Woods Off-Leash Dog Park) had not been visited by the majority of respondents.
- Outside of Dakota County, Como Park in St. Paul and Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis were among the more popular regional or state parks; about half of respondents had visited these parks (Table 11) at least once. About one-third had visited other parks in Minneapolis (e.g., Nokomis-Hiawatha Park, Chain of Lakes Park and Fort Snelling State Park), while parks in St. Paul, Scott County, Washington County and elsewhere tended not to be frequented by Dakota County residents.

Access to nature and scenic views is a key activity for respondents.

- About 7 in 10 respondents felt it was essential or very important to be able to enjoy nature or scenic views in regional parks (Table 12). Other important activities (rated essential or very important by about 4 in 10 respondents) included hiking or running on paved trails, picnicking, bicycling on paved trails and playground use.
- Community gardening, camping (in camper cabins and RV/trailer), cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking, archery and horseback riding were activities viewed as not important at all to a majority of respondents.

Tables of Results

The following pages contain a complete set of responses to each question on the survey, excluding the “don’t know” responses.

Table 1: Question 1

Please rate each of the following characteristics of Dakota County:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
Dakota County as a place to live	51%	43%	5%	1%	100%
Dakota County as a place to retire	28%	43%	23%	7%	100%
Dakota County as a place to raise children	52%	41%	5%	1%	100%
Overall quality of life in Dakota County	42%	51%	6%	0%	100%

Table 2: Question 2

Please indicate how often, if ever, each of the following types of waste are picked up by a hauler at your home.	Weekly	Every other week	About once a month	Never	Total
Garbage	98%	2%	0%	0%	100%
Recyclables	37%	61%	1%	1%	100%

Table 3: Question 3

How often, if ever, do you have more recycling than will fit in the recycling container provided by your hauler?	Percent
Very frequently	19%
Sometimes	19%
Every now and then	29%
Never	33%
Total	100%

Table 4: Question 4

When you have more recycling than will fit in the recycling container provided by your hauler, how often, if ever, do you do each of the following with the recycling materials that don't fit?	Very frequently	Sometimes	Every now and then	Never	Total
Put them in the trash	17%	18%	24%	41%	100%
Hold on to them until the next collection	50%	23%	15%	11%	100%
Take them to a recycling center	3%	6%	17%	74%	100%

Table 5: Question 5

To what extent would each of the following make you more likely, if at all, to recycle more materials?	Much more likely	Somewhat more likely	No more likely	Total
Having my recyclables picked up weekly	48%	14%	38%	100%
Being provided with a larger recycling cart than I currently have	31%	22%	47%	100%
Being provided with an additional recycling cart	19%	17%	65%	100%
Displaying a list of recyclable materials on my recycling cart	32%	23%	45%	100%
Being given specific information about what can be recycled	34%	30%	36%	100%
Assuring haulers are accountable for recycling the collected materials	34%	23%	42%	100%

Table 6: Question 6

Dakota County or your community could consider using a single waste hauler, or fewer haulers, to provide your garbage/recycling services. How important, if at all, should each of the following factors be in making that decision?	Essential	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important at all	Total
Less congestion and noise from trucks on streets	12%	21%	32%	36%	100%
Fewer garbage/recycling trucks to reduce air and noise pollution	13%	23%	35%	29%	100%
Fewer trash and recycling containers on streets	8%	12%	28%	52%	100%
Restrictions on days of the week when waste is collected	10%	14%	26%	51%	100%
Save money on garbage bill	37%	35%	18%	10%	100%
Allow multiple haulers, each limited to set zones within the city	8%	17%	29%	46%	100%
Allow open or unlimited competition among haulers	25%	25%	26%	24%	100%

Table 7: Question 7

The State will soon require all counties to increase the recycling rate and divert food waste from landfills. To meet this requirement, please indicate how much you support or oppose each of the following options.	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Total
Collecting food waste curbside in a separate cart	23%	32%	18%	27%	100%
Backyard composting for single-family homes	29%	32%	16%	23%	100%
Drop-off sites (similar to yard waste sites) for food waste	11%	26%	26%	36%	100%
Requiring schools, hospitals, restaurants, etc. to separate food waste for collection	45%	37%	8%	10%	100%

Table 8: Question 8

Thinking about the State's requirement to increase the diversion of recyclables and food waste from landfills, how likely or unlikely would your household be to do each of the following?	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Somewhat unlikely	Very unlikely	Total
Drive up to 2 miles from your home to drop off food waste for recycling	7%	17%	16%	60%	100%
Drive more than 2 miles to drop off food waste for recycling	2%	5%	14%	79%	100%

Table 9: Question 9

In the last 12 months, how often have you used each of the following methods of getting around when leaving home for any purpose?	Most of the time	Some of the time	Every now and then	Never	Total
Bicycle	1%	14%	28%	57%	100%
Walk	5%	38%	40%	16%	100%
Driving alone	74%	19%	4%	3%	100%
Ride from a friend, relative or neighbor	6%	24%	35%	35%	100%
Carpool or other ride-share arrangement for work	4%	7%	11%	79%	100%
Bus service	4%	5%	10%	82%	100%
Senior center or community center van	1%	1%	1%	97%	100%
Volunteer driver from a community-based agency	0%	1%	2%	98%	100%
Metro Mobility or a similar para-transit service	1%	1%	3%	95%	100%
Other transit provider	16%	46%	39%	0%	100%

Table 10: Question 10

What are the barriers to you using transit services regularly (e.g., bus or Metro Mobility)? Please check all that apply.	Percent
No service close enough to where I live	30%
No service where I want to go	38%
Not familiar with the services available	28%
Limited hours of operation (need service on weekends, evenings)	24%
Existing service isn't frequent enough (i.e. buses don't stop often enough)	16%
Poor connections or transfers	16%
I need personal, point-to-point service	25%
Trip takes too long	35%
Fare pricing is unclear	6%
I don't know how to ride the bus	9%
I don't feel safe on the bus	13%
I can't afford it	3%
I don't need it	48%
Other	6%

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option.

Table 11: Question 11

Please indicate how often, if ever, in the last 12 months you or another household member have visited each of the following parks.	Never	1-3 times	4-8 times	9+ times	Total
Lebanon Hills Regional Park (Apple Valley, Eagan)	51%	29%	12%	8%	100%
Thompson County Park (West St. Paul)	85%	11%	2%	2%	100%
Spring Lake Park Reserve (along Mississippi River near Hastings)	80%	16%	2%	2%	100%
Lake Byllesby Regional Park Reserve (Randolph/Cannon Falls)	87%	12%	1%	1%	100%
Whitetail Woods Regional Park (Empire Township near Farmington)	89%	10%	1%	0%	100%
Miesville Ravine Park Reserve (on Cannon River near Welch and Miesville)	92%	6%	1%	1%	100%
Big Rivers Regional Trail (along Mississippi/Minnesota rivers, Eagan to Lilydale)	80%	14%	4%	2%	100%
Mississippi River Regional Trail (along Mississippi River, South St. Paul to Inver Grove Heights and Hastings area)	75%	16%	5%	3%	100%
Dakota Woods Off-Leash Dog Park (off County Road 46, near Coates)	89%	7%	2%	1%	100%
Samuel Morgan Trail, St. Paul	98%	1%	0%	0%	100%
Lilydale Park, St. Paul	88%	9%	2%	1%	100%
Hidden Falls-Crosby Farm Park, St. Paul	90%	8%	1%	1%	100%
Mississippi Gorge Park, St. Paul	94%	5%	1%	0%	100%
Como Park, St. Paul	52%	39%	7%	2%	100%
Minnehaha Park, Minneapolis	52%	36%	9%	4%	100%
Nokomis-Hiawatha Park, Minneapolis	68%	24%	5%	3%	100%
Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Park	73%	17%	6%	4%	100%
Fort Snelling State Park, Minneapolis	71%	23%	4%	2%	100%
Cleary Lake Park, Scott County	86%	10%	2%	1%	100%
Murphy-Hanrehan Park, Scott County	89%	8%	1%	2%	100%
Hyland Lake Park, Three Rivers Park District	89%	8%	2%	1%	100%
Elm Creek Park, Three Rivers Park District	96%	3%	0%	1%	100%
Lake Elmo Park, Washington County	92%	6%	1%	1%	100%
Other	4%	32%	30%	33%	100%

Table 12: Question 12

Please indicate how important, if at all, each type of activity is for you or your household members to do in regional parks.	Essential	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important at all	Total
Hiking or running on non-paved trails	18%	21%	28%	32%	100%
Hiking or running on paved trails	18%	26%	33%	24%	100%
Bicycling on paved trails	19%	24%	29%	28%	100%
Mountain biking	6%	11%	22%	61%	100%
Beach activities (e.g., swimming, sun bathing)	13%	27%	30%	30%	100%
Fishing	12%	18%	30%	41%	100%
Boating or paddling	11%	20%	31%	38%	100%
Dog walking	17%	21%	19%	43%	100%
Picnicking	15%	29%	33%	23%	100%
Playground use	19%	22%	23%	36%	100%
Splash and water-play area	14%	18%	23%	45%	100%
Horseback riding	4%	4%	19%	74%	100%
Cross-country skiing	8%	11%	27%	54%	100%
Snowshoeing	7%	10%	28%	55%	100%
Ice skating	10%	15%	31%	44%	100%
Sledding or tubing	10%	23%	34%	33%	100%
Camping - in a tent	12%	15%	24%	49%	100%
Camping - in RV/trailer	6%	10%	20%	63%	100%
Camping - in camper cabins	6%	14%	26%	54%	100%
Archery	6%	8%	19%	68%	100%
Community gardening (growing food)	8%	14%	22%	57%	100%
Enjoying nature or scenic views	36%	33%	19%	12%	100%
Viewing public art	8%	16%	31%	44%	100%
Attending outdoor performances (e.g., music, plays, films)	11%	27%	38%	25%	100%
Taking lessons (e.g., cross-country skiing, kayaking, fishing)	6%	17%	34%	43%	100%
Taking classes on nature/environment (e.g., stargazing)	8%	15%	33%	44%	100%
Attending public events (e.g., candle-light skiing)	9%	14%	37%	40%	100%
Opportunity to buy food at a café or food truck	11%	22%	36%	31%	100%
Service volunteering in parks (helping people)	6%	17%	37%	41%	100%
Stewardship volunteering (helping care for land)	7%	17%	35%	41%	100%
Renting equipment (e.g., canoes, bikes, snowshoes)	11%	24%	31%	34%	100%
Renting facilities (e.g., for weddings, family reunions)	8%	23%	34%	35%	100%

Table 13: Question D1

Which best describes the building you live in?	Percent
A one-family house detached from any other houses	63%
A house attached to one or more houses (e.g., a duplex or townhome)	17%
A building with two or more apartments or condos	18%
Other	2%
Total	100%

Table 14: Question D2

Which category contains your age?	Percent
18 -24	2%
25 - 34	25%
35 - 44	16%
45 - 54	26%
55 - 64	13%
54 - 74	10%
75+	7%
Total	100%

Table 15: Question D3

Do any children 17 or under live in your household?	Percent
No	65%
Yes	35%
Total	100%

Table 16: Question D4

What is your gender?	Percent
Female	53%
Male	47%
Total	100%

Table 17: Question D5

Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?	Percent
No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	97%
Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	3%
Total	100%

Table 18: Question D6

What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be.)	Percent
American Indian or Alaskan Native	2%
Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander	3%
Black or African American	3%
White	91%
Other	3%

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option.

Complete Survey Responses

The following pages contain a complete set of responses to each question on the survey, including the “don’t know” responses. The percent of respondents giving a particular response is shown followed by the number of respondents.

Table 19: Question 1

	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Please rate each of the following characteristics of Dakota County:												
Dakota County as a place to live	51%	657	43%	554	5%	60	0%	6	0%	6	100%	1,282
Dakota County as a place to retire	20%	257	32%	398	17%	208	5%	61	26%	333	100%	1,257
Dakota County as a place to raise children	47%	588	37%	469	5%	62	1%	16	10%	121	100%	1,256
Overall quality of life in Dakota County	42%	530	51%	637	6%	79	0%	5	1%	9	100%	1,260

Table 20: Question 2

	Weekly		Every other week		About once a month		Never		Don't know		Not applicable		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Please indicate how often, if ever, each of the following types of waste are picked up by a hauler at your home.														
Garbage	92%	1,183	2%	20	0%	4	0%	5	3%	43	2%	29	100%	1,285
Recyclables	34%	439	57%	723	1%	9	1%	9	4%	50	4%	46	100%	1,275

Table 21: Question 3

How often, if ever, do you have more recycling than will fit in the recycling container provided by your hauler?	Percent	Number
Very frequently	19%	243
Sometimes	19%	240
Every now and then	29%	369
Never	33%	415
Total	100%	1,267

Table 22: Question 4

When you have more recycling than will fit in the recycling container provided by your hauler, how often, if ever, do you do each of the following with the recycling materials that don't fit?	Very frequently		Sometimes		Every now and then		Never		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Put them in the trash	17%	138	18%	145	24%	191	41%	324	100%	798
Hold on to them until the next collection	50%	422	23%	197	15%	127	11%	97	100%	844
Take them to a recycling center	3%	26	6%	50	17%	130	74%	577	100%	783

Table 23: Question 5

To what extent would each of the following make you more likely, if at all, to recycle more materials?	Much more likely		Somewhat more likely		No more likely		Don't know		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Having my recyclables picked up weekly	44%	523	13%	152	35%	418	9%	107	100%	1,201
Being provided with a larger recycling cart than I currently have	28%	335	20%	234	43%	510	9%	112	100%	1,191
Being provided with an additional recycling cart	16%	191	15%	171	57%	667	12%	139	100%	1,169
Displaying a list of recyclable materials on my recycling cart	29%	346	21%	250	41%	493	9%	104	100%	1,193
Being given specific information about what can be recycled	31%	377	28%	334	34%	406	7%	80	100%	1,197
Assuring haulers are accountable for recycling the collected materials	30%	358	21%	246	37%	446	12%	140	100%	1,191

Table 24: Question 6

Dakota County or your community could consider using a single waste hauler, or fewer haulers, to provide your garbage/recycling services. How important, if at all, should each of the following factors be in making that decision?	Essential		Very important		Somewhat important		Not important at all		Don't know		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Less congestion and noise from trucks on streets	11%	141	20%	249	31%	385	34%	427	4%	57	100%	1,258
Fewer garbage/recycling trucks to reduce air and noise pollution	12%	154	22%	278	34%	420	28%	352	4%	50	100%	1,255
Fewer trash and recycling containers on streets	7%	90	12%	147	27%	337	49%	611	5%	61	100%	1,244
Restrictions on days of the week when waste is collected	9%	109	12%	155	24%	292	47%	578	9%	106	100%	1,240
Save money on garbage bill	35%	445	34%	422	17%	211	9%	119	5%	62	100%	1,257
Allow multiple haulers, each limited to set zones within the city	7%	88	14%	171	24%	298	38%	477	17%	211	100%	1,245
Allow open or unlimited competition among haulers	22%	272	21%	270	22%	277	21%	265	14%	174	100%	1,258

Table 25: Question 7

The State will soon require all counties to increase the recycling rate and divert food waste from landfills. To meet this requirement, please indicate how much you support or oppose each of the following options.	Strongly support		Somewhat support		Somewhat oppose		Strongly oppose		Don't know		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Collecting food waste curbside in a separate cart	21%	273	29%	370	16%	210	25%	318	8%	103	100%	1,274
Backyard composting for single-family homes	25%	321	28%	363	14%	179	21%	261	12%	151	100%	1,274
Drop-off sites (similar to yard waste sites) for food waste	10%	126	23%	292	22%	284	32%	403	13%	158	100%	1,264
Requiring schools, hospitals, restaurants, etc. to separate food waste for collection	41%	521	33%	426	7%	91	9%	115	10%	126	100%	1,279

Table 26: Question 8

Thinking about the State’s requirement to increase the diversion of recyclables and food waste from landfills, how likely or unlikely would your household be to do each of the following?	Very likely		Somewhat likely		Somewhat unlikely		Very unlikely		Don't know		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Drive up to 2 miles from your home to drop off food waste for recycling	7%	89	16%	208	16%	201	58%	733	3%	39	100%	1,271
Drive more than 2 miles to drop off food waste for recycling	2%	28	5%	58	13%	166	77%	978	3%	33	100%	1,263

Table 27: Question 9

In the last 12 months, how often have you used each of the following methods of getting around when leaving home for any purpose?	Most of the time		Some of the time		Every now and then		Never		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Bicycle	1%	12	14%	170	28%	353	57%	706	100%	1,242
Walk	5%	69	38%	478	40%	506	16%	206	100%	1,258
Driving alone	74%	941	19%	247	4%	50	3%	41	100%	1,279
Ride from a friend, relative or neighbor	6%	82	24%	305	35%	443	35%	439	100%	1,269
Carpool or other ride-share arrangement for work	4%	46	7%	85	11%	132	79%	988	100%	1,252
Bus service	4%	46	5%	61	10%	124	82%	1,030	100%	1,261
Senior center or community center van	1%	9	1%	12	1%	17	97%	1,227	100%	1,265
Volunteer driver from a community-based agency	0%	3	1%	8	2%	20	98%	1,230	100%	1,261
Metro Mobility or a similar para-transit service	1%	15	1%	8	3%	36	95%	1,204	100%	1,264
Other transit provider	16%	5	46%	15	39%	12	0%	0	100%	32

Table 28: Question 10

What are the barriers to you using transit services regularly (e.g., bus or Metro Mobility)? Please check all that apply.	Percent	Number
No service close enough to where I live	30%	381
No service where I want to go	38%	482
Not familiar with the services available	28%	357
Limited hours of operation (need service on weekends, evenings)	24%	301
Existing service isn't frequent enough (i.e. buses don't stop often enough)	16%	202
Poor connections or transfers	16%	200
I need personal, point-to-point service	25%	308
Trip takes too long	35%	437
Fare pricing is unclear	6%	78
I don't know how to ride the bus	9%	119
I don't feel safe on the bus	13%	157
I can't afford it	3%	37
I don't need it	48%	606
Other	6%	81

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option.

Table 29: Question 11

Please indicate how often, if ever, in the last 12 months you or another household member have visited each of the following parks.	Never		1-3 times		4-8 times		9+ times		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Lebanon Hills Regional Park (Apple Valley, Eagan)	51%	640	29%	365	12%	151	8%	101	100%	1,257
Thompson County Park (West St. Paul)	85%	1,056	11%	132	2%	27	2%	22	100%	1,237
Spring Lake Park Reserve (along Mississippi River near Hastings)	80%	991	16%	194	2%	29	2%	22	100%	1,235
Lake Byllesby Regional Park Reserve (Randolph/Cannon Falls)	87%	1,070	12%	148	1%	8	1%	6	100%	1,231
Whitetail Woods Regional Park (Empire Township near Farmington)	89%	1,098	10%	121	1%	6	0%	4	100%	1,230
Miesville Ravine Park Reserve (on Cannon River near Welch and Miesville)	92%	1,137	6%	78	1%	10	1%	6	100%	1,231
Big Rivers Regional Trail (along Mississippi/Minnesota rivers, Eagan to Lilydale)	80%	980	14%	173	4%	53	2%	25	100%	1,231
Mississippi River Regional Trail (along Mississippi River, South St. Paul to Inver Grove Heights and Hastings area)	75%	925	16%	198	5%	65	3%	41	100%	1,229
Dakota Woods Off-Leash Dog Park (off County Road 46, near Coates)	89%	1,069	7%	90	2%	29	1%	17	100%	1,206

Please indicate how often, if ever, in the last 12 months you or another household member have visited each of the following parks.	Never		1-3 times		4-8 times		9+ times		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Samuel Morgan Trail, St. Paul	98%	1,185	1%	17	0%	3	0%	2	100%	1,208
Lilydale Park, St. Paul	88%	1,080	9%	106	2%	23	1%	12	100%	1,221
Hidden Falls-Crosby Farm Park, St. Paul	90%	1,098	8%	95	1%	11	1%	10	100%	1,213
Mississippi Gorge Park, St. Paul	94%	1,134	5%	55	1%	13	0%	5	100%	1,207
Como Park, St. Paul	52%	643	39%	483	7%	91	2%	23	100%	1,240
Minnehaha Park, Minneapolis	52%	650	36%	445	9%	110	4%	44	100%	1,249
Nokomis-Hiawatha Park, Minneapolis	68%	840	24%	294	5%	66	3%	38	100%	1,238
Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Park	73%	902	17%	209	6%	76	4%	45	100%	1,232
Fort Snelling State Park, Minneapolis	71%	881	23%	284	4%	47	2%	25	100%	1,237
Cleary Lake Park, Scott County	86%	1,050	10%	129	2%	31	1%	16	100%	1,226
Murphy-Hanrehan Park, Scott County	89%	1,083	8%	97	1%	18	2%	18	100%	1,217
Hyland Lake Park, Three Rivers Park District	89%	1,080	8%	98	2%	25	1%	14	100%	1,217
Elm Creek Park, Three Rivers Park District	96%	1,171	3%	34	0%	6	1%	6	100%	1,216
Lake Elmo Park, Washington County	92%	1,121	6%	79	1%	8	1%	11	100%	1,218
Other	4%	3	32%	24	30%	22	33%	25	100%	74

Table 30: Question 12

Please indicate how important, if at all, each type of activity is for you or your household members to do in regional parks.	Essential		Very important		Somewhat important		Not important at all		Don't know		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Hiking or running on non-paved trails	17%	215	20%	249	26%	325	31%	378	6%	69	100%	1,235
Hiking or running on paved trails	17%	208	25%	307	31%	391	23%	284	4%	52	100%	1,242
Bicycling on paved trails	18%	229	23%	286	27%	340	27%	331	5%	59	100%	1,245
Mountain biking	6%	71	10%	119	20%	246	56%	683	9%	108	100%	1,227
Beach activities (e.g., swimming, sun bathing)	13%	155	26%	319	29%	358	28%	350	4%	55	100%	1,237
Fishing	11%	136	17%	207	28%	351	39%	485	5%	58	100%	1,237

Dakota County, Minnesota • Recycling, Parks and Transit Survey • 2015

Please indicate how important, if at all, each type of activity is for you or your household members to do in regional parks.	Essential		Very important		Somewhat important		Not important at all		Don't know		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Boating or paddling	10%	129	19%	237	29%	362	36%	448	5%	60	100%	1,235
Dog walking	16%	195	20%	248	18%	222	41%	504	6%	74	100%	1,244
Picnicking	14%	176	28%	352	32%	401	22%	270	4%	54	100%	1,253
Playground use	18%	228	21%	260	22%	271	34%	423	4%	53	100%	1,236
Splash and water-play area	13%	161	17%	212	22%	270	42%	525	6%	69	100%	1,237
Horseback riding	3%	41	4%	46	17%	212	67%	830	8%	101	100%	1,231
Cross-country skiing	8%	93	11%	131	25%	303	50%	612	8%	92	100%	1,231
Snowshoeing	7%	84	9%	114	26%	318	50%	619	8%	98	100%	1,234
Ice skating	9%	117	15%	180	29%	356	41%	510	6%	71	100%	1,235
Sledding or tubing	9%	117	22%	269	32%	393	32%	392	5%	62	100%	1,232
Camping - in a tent	12%	143	14%	172	22%	277	46%	567	6%	79	100%	1,238
Camping - in RV/trailer	6%	70	10%	119	19%	230	59%	722	7%	90	100%	1,231
Camping - in camper cabins	5%	67	13%	155	24%	292	50%	616	8%	102	100%	1,233
Archery	5%	62	7%	85	18%	216	62%	760	9%	105	100%	1,229
Community gardening (growing food)	7%	88	13%	153	20%	250	52%	641	8%	93	100%	1,226
Enjoying nature or scenic views	35%	439	32%	401	18%	232	11%	141	4%	46	100%	1,260
Viewing public art	8%	93	15%	190	30%	368	42%	518	5%	64	100%	1,232
Attending outdoor performances (e.g., music, plays, films)	10%	125	26%	318	36%	449	24%	296	4%	51	100%	1,239
Taking lessons (e.g., cross-country skiing, kayaking, fishing)	6%	73	15%	190	31%	386	41%	499	7%	83	100%	1,231
Taking classes on nature/environment (e.g., stargazing)	7%	89	14%	175	31%	383	41%	502	6%	74	100%	1,224
Attending public events (e.g., candle-light skiing)	9%	107	13%	156	34%	423	38%	465	6%	76	100%	1,228
Opportunity to buy food at a café or food truck	10%	125	21%	260	34%	426	29%	366	6%	70	100%	1,248
Service volunteering in parks (helping people)	5%	63	15%	190	34%	421	37%	459	8%	99	100%	1,232
Stewardship volunteering (helping care for land)	7%	84	15%	190	32%	396	38%	467	8%	96	100%	1,233
Renting equipment (e.g., canoes, bikes, snowshoes)	11%	131	23%	281	29%	360	33%	404	5%	63	100%	1,238
Renting facilities (e.g., for weddings, family reunions)	8%	97	22%	267	32%	398	33%	404	5%	66	100%	1,233

Table 31: Question D1

Which best describes the building you live in?	Percent	Number
A one-family house detached from any other houses	63%	810
A house attached to one or more houses (e.g., a duplex or townhome)	17%	223
A building with two or more apartments or condos	18%	236
Other	2%	20
Total	100%	1,289

Table 32: Question D2

Which category contains your age?	Percent	Number
18 - 24	2%	28
25 - 34	25%	322
35 - 44	16%	213
45 - 54	26%	337
55 - 64	13%	166
54 - 74	10%	131
75+	7%	93
Total	100%	1,289

Table 33: Question D3

Do any children 17 or under live in your household?	Percent	Number
No	65%	828
Yes	35%	455
Total	100%	1,283

Table 34: Question D4

What is your gender?	Percent	Number
Female	53%	674
Male	47%	608
Total	100%	1,282

Table 35: Question D5

Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?	Percent	Number
No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	97%	1,217
Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	3%	42
Total	100%	1,259

Table 36: Question D6

What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be.)	Percent	Number
American Indian or Alaskan Native	2%	21
Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander	3%	43
Black or African American	3%	37
White	91%	1,166
Other	3%	42

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option.

Responses to Open-ended Questions

Following are verbatim responses to the open-ended question on the survey along with the rating, if given, by the respondent. The verbatim responses were not edited for spelling, grammar or punctuation.

Table 37: Question 9

In the last 12 months, how often have you used each of the following methods of getting around when leaving home for any purpose?	
Other transit provider	Frequency of use
Light Rail	Most of the time
Metrotransit blue line	Most of the time
Light Rail to work	Most of the time
Lite rail drive to it	Most of the time
Metro Transit train to work	Most of the time
Motorcycle	Some of the time
Light Rail	Some of the time
Light Rail	Some of the time
Light Rail	Some of the time
Taxi	Some of the time
Transit Link	Some of the time
Lite Rail	Some of the time
Light Rail	Some of the time
Light Rail	Some of the time
Light Rail	Some of the time
Motorcycle	Some of the time
Train	Some of the time
Taxi	Some of the time
Light Rail Service	Some of the time
Telework	Some of the time
Motorcycle, Moped	Some of the time
hiawatha line	Some of the time
Train	Every now and then
Taxi	Every now and then
Light Rail	Every now and then
Light Rail	Every now and then
Light Rail	Every now and then
Transit Link (DARTS)	Every now and then
Light Rail	Every now and then
Cab	Every now and then
L R T	Every now and then
Light rail	Every now and then
Train	Every now and then
Light Rail	Every now and then
Train	Every now and then
Taxi	Every now and then
Train	Every now and then
Transit links	Every now and then

In the last 12 months, how often have you used each of the following methods of getting around when leaving home for any purpose?	
Other transit provider	Frequency of use
Train	Every now and then
Handicap life in Assisted Livings	
I Drive my Car.	
Light rail	
Light rail	
Trail	

Table 38: Question 11

Please indicate how often, if ever, in the last 12 months you or another household member have visited each of the following parks.	
Other Regional or state parks outside of Dakota County	Frequency of use
Bike hauls	9+ times
Spring Lake Park Prior Lake	9+ times
Lac Lavon	9+ times
NE MN State Parks	9+ times
Eagan Dog Park	9+ times
Cabin	9+ times
Hastings Trails	9+ times
Ritter farm	9+ times
Farquhar Ave	9+ times
St. Croix Bluffs regional park point douglas & other parks around. Present MN valley wildlife Refuge ; Noir Park on gmb creek in Sauvignon.	9+ times
Need more Horse Trails, Hay Creek State Forest.	9+ times
Eagan Blackhawk Park	9+ times
Little Parks by house with play equipment.	9+ times
Kaposia Landing Park/ Dog Park	9+ times
Cannon Valley Trail.	9+ times
Jensen Lake	9+ times
MPLS green way, Hopkins/ E.P./ Mtka Bike Trails	9+ times
Northern MN Sandstone	9+ times
Paha Sapa	9+ times
Three Rivers Dog Park	9+ times
Lake Martin Early Lake	9+ times
Multiple State Parks	4-8 times
Lake Calhoun	4-8 times
Different State Parks in MN	4-8 times
Harriet Island	4-8 times
Kelly Park, Apple Valley. I love it with my kids summer time.	4-8 times
Crosstown West Burnsville, Burnsville Dog Park, Co Rd 11, Burnsville.	4-8 times
Highland Snelling St Paul	4-8 times
Lake Marion, Ritter Park	4-8 times
Cherokee Park	4-8 times
NineMile Creek Bloomington	4-8 times
Afton State Park	4-8 times
Ritter farm Park	4-8 times
River	4-8 times

Please indicate how often, if ever, in the last 12 months you or another household member have visited each of the following parks.	
Other Regional or state parks outside of Dakota County	Frequency of use
Afton carpenters	4-8 times
Lake Marie St Cloud	1-3 times
Mears St Paul	1-3 times
Rice Creek Anoka County.	1-3 times
Cleary Lake Dog Park	1-3 times
Stone Arch Bridge	1-3 times
Dog Park, Sunset Park	1-3 times
Blackhawk Park, 1629 Murphy Park Eagan	1-3 times
Duluth	1-3 times
St Paul Downtown	1-3 times
MN Zoo	1-3 times
Linn Park, I.G.H.	1-3 times
North Shore State Parks	1-3 times
Ritter farms, Lake Marion Beach/ Juno Trail.	1-3 times
Near Duluth	1-3 times
Parks & Refugees, Becker County MN	1-3 times
St Croix Bluffs, Washington County	1-3 times
Sculpture Garden @ Walker Art Ctr.	1-3 times
Wood Park	1-3 times
Boundary waters tettegouche / Gooseberry falls	1-3 times
St. Croix Bluffs, Washington County.	1-3 times
Banning	1-3 times
Afton State Park	1-3 times
Fairbault Sukafa Cannon River valley	1-3 times
Blackhawk	1-3 times
White Water State Park & North Shore Parks	1-3 times
Sacajawea	1-3 times
Carver county. The other 3 river district parks lake auburn & Lake Independence.	1-3 times
Me do to Lake Marion Casper park.	Never
Ritter Park	Never
Don't Pay ridiculous fees to outer a park.	Never
Cannon falls campground	
Dog Park in Burnsville Lac Lavon	
Eagan Park	
I visit the city Parks Lakeville & Ritter farm park.	
Patrick Eagan	
love whitetail woods Would love a circle path that.	

Appendix A: Survey Methodology

Survey Instrument Development

Dakota County has conducted a general residential survey every two or three years for more than 20 years. The general residential surveys ask recipients about their perspectives on the quality of life in the county, use of County amenities, opinion on policy issues facing the County and assessment of County service delivery. This short, topical survey was developed to explore key issues in the areas of recycling, parks and transit. The survey instrument development process began with a review of the topics to be explored. In an iterative process between County staff and NRC staff, a final three-page questionnaire was developed.

Selecting Survey Recipients

“Sampling” refers to the method by which survey recipients are chosen. The “sample” refers to all those who were given a chance to participate in the survey. All households located in the county boundaries were eligible for the survey. Because County governments generally do not have inclusive lists of all the residences in the jurisdiction (tax assessor and utility billing databases often omit rental units), lists from the United States Postal Service (USPS), updated every three months, usually provide the best representation of all households in a specific geographic location. NRC used USPS data to randomly select the sample of households.

A larger list than needed was sampled so that a process referred to as “geocoding” could be used to eliminate addresses from the list that were outside the study boundaries. Geocoding is a computerized process in which addresses are compared to electronically mapped boundaries and coded as inside or outside desired boundaries. All addresses determined to be outside the study boundaries were eliminated from the sample. A random selection was made of the remaining addresses to create a final list of 4,000 addresses. Addresses were also identified by city or township within the County to permit analyses by municipality. Addresses in multiple-housing buildings (townhouses, condominiums, apartments) were over-sampled because residents of this type of housing typically respond at lower rates to surveys than do those in detached (single-family) housing units.

An individual within each household was randomly selected to complete the survey using the birthday method.¹ This instruction was contained in the cover letter accompanying the questionnaire. A copy of the cover letter is included in the appendices at the end of this report.

Survey Administration and Response

Each selected household was contacted three times. First, a prenotification announcement was sent, informing the household members that they had been selected to participate in the Dakota County survey. Approximately one week after mailing the prenotification, each household was mailed a survey and a cover letter signed by the Chair of the County Board of Commissioners enlisting participation. The packet also contained a postage-paid return envelope in which the survey recipients could return the completed questionnaire to NRC. A reminder letter and survey, scheduled to arrive one week after the first survey, was the final contact. The second cover letter asked those who had not completed the survey to do so and those who had already done so to refrain from turning in another survey.

¹ The birthday method selects a person within the household by asking the “person whose birthday has most recently passed” to complete the questionnaire. The underlying assumption in this method is that day of birth has no relationship to the way people respond to surveys.

The mailings were sent in November 2014 and completed surveys were collected over the following six weeks. About 3% of the 4,000 surveys mailed were returned because the housing unit was vacant or the postal service was unable to deliver the survey as addressed. Of the remaining 3,861 households, 1,325 completed the survey, providing a response rate of 34%; average response rates for a mailed resident survey range from 25% to 40%. Response rates by location ranged between 28% in Burnsville and 47% in Rosemont (see Table 39).

Table 39: Survey Response Rates by Location

Area name	Number mailed	Undeliverable	Eligible	Returned	Response rate
Apple Valley	476	10	466	158	34%
Burnsville	705	41	664	184	28%
Townships and rural cities	113	3	110	51	46%
Eagan	690	16	674	206	31%
Farmington	191	10	181	64	35%
Hastings	250	10	240	81	34%
Inver Grove Heights	344	9	335	125	37%
Lakeville	449	9	440	172	39%
Mendota Heights, Mendota, Sunfish Lake, Lilydale	120	6	114	48	42%
Rosemont	198	9	189	88	47%
South St. Paul	180	1	179	55	31%
West St. Paul	284	15	269	93	35%
TOTAL	4,000	139	3,861	1,325	34%

95% Confidence Intervals

The 95% confidence interval (or “margin of error”) quantifies the “sampling error” or precision of the estimates made from the survey results. A 95% confidence interval can be calculated for any sample size, and indicates that in 95 of 100 surveys conducted like this one, for a particular item, a result would be found that is within plus or minus four percentage points of the result that would be found if everyone in the population of interest was surveyed. The practical difficulties of conducting any resident survey may introduce other sources of error in addition to sampling error. Despite best efforts to boost participation and ensure potential inclusion of all households, it is to be expected that some residents in selected households will choose not to participate in the survey (potentially introducing non-response error) and some eligible households may be unintentionally excluded from the listed sources for the sample (referred to as coverage error).

While the 95 percent confidence interval for the survey is generally no greater than plus or minus three percentage points around any given percent reported for the entire sample, results for subgroups will have wider confidence intervals. Where estimates are given for subgroups, they are less precise. For each subgroup from the survey, the margin of error rises to as much as plus or minus 10% for a sample size of 100 to plus or minus 5% for 400 completed surveys.

Survey Processing (Data Entry)

Mailed surveys were submitted via postage-paid business reply envelopes. NRC did not track addresses, or ask respondents to provide their names, on returned surveys. Geographic location was determined using different colors for each of 12 municipal locations within the County (as shown in Table 39). Once received, staff assigned a unique identification number to each questionnaire. Additionally, each survey was reviewed and “cleaned” as necessary. For example, a question may have asked a respondent to pick

two items out of a list of five, but the respondent checked three; staff would choose randomly two of the three selected items to be coded in the survey responses dataset.

Once all surveys were assigned a unique identification number, the question responses were entered into an electronic dataset. This dataset was subject to a data entry protocol of “key and verify,” in which survey data were entered twice into an electronic dataset and then compared. Discrepancies were evaluated against the original survey form and corrected. Range checks as well as other forms of quality control were also performed.

Weighting the Data

The primary objective of weighting survey data is to make the survey sample reflective of the larger population of the County. This is done by: 1) reviewing the sample demographics and comparing them to the population norms from the most recent Census or other sources and 2) comparing the responses to different questions for demographic subgroups. The demographic characteristics that are least similar to the Census and yield the most different results are the best candidates for data weighting. Several different weighting tests are conducted to ensure the best fit for the data. The data were weighted by housing type (attached or detached), race, age, gender and geographic location. The results of the weighting are presented in Table 40.

Table 40: Weighting Table for the Dakota County Recycling, Parks and Transit Survey

	2010 Census*	Unweighted	Weighted
Detached†	62%	65%	63%
Attached†	38%	35%	37%
White	88%	93%	89%
not White	12%	7%	11%
not Hispanic	95%	97%	97%
Hispanic	5%	3%	3%
Female	52%	58%	53%
Male	48%	42%	47%
Age 18-34	29%	9%	27%
Age 35-54	42%	33%	43%
Age 55 and over	29%	58%	30%
Female 18-34	15%	7%	15%
Female 35-54	22%	20%	22%
Female 55 and over	15%	32%	16%
Male 18-34	14%	3%	13%
Male 35-54	21%	13%	21%
Male 55 and over	13%	26%	14%
Apple Valley	12%	12%	12%
Burnsville	15%	14%	15%
Townships and rural cities	4%	4%	5%
Eagan	16%	16%	16%
Farmington	5%	5%	5%
Hastings	5%	6%	5%
Inver Grove Heights	9%	9%	8%
Lakeville	14%	13%	14%
Mendota Heights, Mendota, Sunfish Lake, Lilydale	3%	4%	3%
Rosemount	6%	7%	6%
South St. Paul	5%	4%	5%

	2010 Census*	Unweighted	Weighted
West St. Paul	5%	7%	5%

* Population in households

† ACS 2011 5-year estimates

Data Analysis

The surveys were analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software. Frequency distributions and averages are presented in the body of the report.

Appendix B: Survey Materials

Dear Dakota County Resident,

Your household has been randomly selected to participate in an anonymous survey of residents about some specific services provided by Dakota County government.

You will receive a copy of the survey next week in the mail with instructions for completing and returning it. Thank you in advance for providing us with your valued opinions!

Sincerely,



Liz Workman
Chair, Dakota County Board of Commissioners

Dear Dakota County Resident,

Your household has been randomly selected to participate in an anonymous survey of residents about some specific services provided by Dakota County government.

You will receive a copy of the survey next week in the mail with instructions for completing and returning it. Thank you in advance for providing us with your valued opinions!

Sincerely,



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You will receive a copy of the survey next week in the mail with instructions for completing and returning it. Thank you in advance for providing us with your valued opinions!

Sincerely,



Liz Workman
Chair, Dakota County Board of Commissioners



Dakota County Administration Center
 Office of Planning and Analysis
 1590 Highway 55
 Hastings, MN 55033

Presorted
 First Class Mail
 US Postage
 PAID
 Boulder, CO
 Permit NO. 94



Dakota County Administration Center
 Office of Planning and Analysis
 1590 Highway 55
 Hastings, MN 55033

Presorted
 First Class Mail
 US Postage
 PAID
 Boulder, CO
 Permit NO. 94



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Dakota County Administration Center
 Office of Planning and Analysis
 1590 Highway 55
 Hastings, MN 55033

Presorted
 First Class Mail
 US Postage
 PAID
 Boulder, CO
 Permit NO. 94



Dear Dakota County Resident:

Dakota County Commissioners want to know what you think about your community and local government. You have been randomly selected to participate in the short survey that was mailed with this letter.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed Resident Survey. Your answers will help Dakota County Commissioners and staff make decisions that affect these specific services: recycling, parks, and transit options. We hope you find the questions interesting, and we will definitely find your answers useful. Please participate!

To get a scientifically reliable sample of Dakota County residents, please have the adult (age 18 or older) in your household who most recently had a birthday complete this survey. The adult's year of birth does not matter.

After the appropriate member of the household spends a few minutes answering all the questions, please return the survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. **Your household has been selected at random to participate in the survey. Your responses will remain completely anonymous.**

If you have questions about this survey, please call Dakota County's survey manager, Jane Vanderpoel, at 651-438-4423.

Please help us make Dakota County a great place to live! Thank you for your help and participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Workman". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Liz Workman
Chair, Dakota County Board of Commissioners



Dear Dakota County Resident:

About one week ago we sent you the enclosed survey that asks for your opinions about some specific services in Dakota County. If you have already completed the survey and returned it, we thank you and ask you to disregard this letter. **Do not complete the survey a second time – please recycle this letter and survey form.**

But – if you haven't had a chance to get to the survey, please complete it now. Your opinions are very important to us! Dakota County Commissioners sincerely want to know what you think about your community and local government. You have been randomly selected to participate in the short survey that was mailed with this letter.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed Resident Survey. Your answers will help Dakota County Commissioners and staff make decisions that affect these specific services: recycling, parks, and transit options. We hope you find the questions interesting, and we will definitely find your answers useful. Please participate!

To get a scientifically reliable sample of Dakota County residents, please have the adult (age 18 or older) in your household who most recently had a birthday complete this survey. The adult's year of birth does not matter.

After the appropriate member of the household spends a few minutes answering all the questions, please return the survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. **Your household has been selected at random to participate in the survey. Your responses will remain completely anonymous.**

If you have questions about this survey, please call Dakota County's survey manager, Jane Vanderpoel, at 651-438-4423.

Please help us make Dakota County a great place to live! Thank you for your help and participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Liz Workman".

Liz Workman
Chair, Dakota County Board of Commissioners

Dakota County, Minnesota 2014 Community Survey

Please complete this questionnaire if you are the adult (age 18 or older) in the household who most recently had a birthday. The adult's year of birth does not matter. Your responses are anonymous and will be reported in group form only. Thank you.

1. Please rate each of the following characteristics of Dakota County:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Dakota County as a place to live.....	1	2	3	4	5
Dakota County as a place to retire	1	2	3	4	5
Dakota County as a place to raise children.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of life in Dakota County	1	2	3	4	5

2. Please indicate how often, if ever, each of the following types of waste are picked up by a hauler at your home.

	<i>Weekly</i>	<i>Every other week</i>	<i>About once a month</i>	<i>Never</i>	<i>Don't know</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
Garbage	1	2	3	4	5	6
Recyclables	1	2	3	4	5	6

3. How often, if ever, do you have more recycling than will fit in the recycling container provided by your hauler?

Very frequently Sometimes Every now and then Never → skip to question 5

4. When you have more recycling than will fit in the recycling container provided by your hauler, how often, if ever, do you do each of the following with the recycling materials that don't fit?

	<i>Very frequently</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Every now and then</i>	<i>Never</i>
Put them in the trash.....	1	2	3	4
Hold on to them until the next collection.....	1	2	3	4
Take them to a recycling center	1	2	3	4

5. To what extent would each of the following make you more likely, if at all, to recycle more materials?

	<i>Much more likely</i>	<i>Somewhat more likely</i>	<i>No more likely</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Having my recyclables picked up weekly.....	1	2	3	4
Being provided with a larger recycling cart than I currently have.....	1	2	3	4
Being provided with an additional recycling cart	1	2	3	4
Displaying a list of recyclable materials on my recycling cart.....	1	2	3	4
Being given specific information about what can be recycled	1	2	3	4
Assuring haulers are accountable for recycling the collected materials	1	2	3	4

6. Dakota County or your community could consider using a single waste hauler, or fewer haulers, to provide your garbage/recycling services. How important, if at all, should each of the following factors be in making that decision?

	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Very important</i>	<i>Somewhat important</i>	<i>Not important at all</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Less congestion and noise from trucks on streets.....	1	2	3	4	5
Fewer garbage/recycling trucks to reduce air and noise pollution	1	2	3	4	5
Fewer trash and recycling containers on streets	1	2	3	4	5
Restrictions on days of the week when waste is collected.....	1	2	3	4	5
Save money on garbage bill.....	1	2	3	4	5
Allow multiple haulers, each limited to set zones within the city....	1	2	3	4	5
Allow open or unlimited competition among haulers.....	1	2	3	4	5

7. The State will soon require all counties to increase the recycling rate and divert food waste from landfills. To meet this requirement, please indicate how much you support or oppose each of the following options.

	<i>Strongly support</i>	<i>Somewhat support</i>	<i>Somewhat oppose</i>	<i>Strongly oppose</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Collecting food waste curbside in a separate cart.....	1	2	3	4	5
Backyard composting for single-family homes	1	2	3	4	5
Drop-off sites (similar to yard waste sites) for food waste	1	2	3	4	5
Requiring schools, hospitals, restaurants, etc. to separate food waste for collection.....	1	2	3	4	5

8. Thinking about the State’s requirement to increase the diversion of recyclables and food waste from landfills, how likely or unlikely would your household be to do each of the following?

	<i>Very likely</i>	<i>Somewhat likely</i>	<i>Somewhat unlikely</i>	<i>Very unlikely</i>	<i>Don’t know</i>
Drive up to 2 miles from your home to drop off food waste for recycling....	1	2	3	4	5
Drive more than 2 miles to drop off food waste for recycling.....	1	2	3	4	5

9. In the last 12 months, how often have you used each of the following methods of getting around when leaving home for any purpose?

	<i>Most of the time</i>	<i>Some of the time</i>	<i>Every now and then</i>	<i>Never</i>
Bicycle	1	2	3	4
Walk	1	2	3	4
Driving alone	1	2	3	4
Ride from a friend, relative or neighbor	1	2	3	4
Carpool or other ride-share arrangement for work	1	2	3	4
Bus service	1	2	3	4
Senior center or community center van	1	2	3	4
Volunteer driver from a community-based agency	1	2	3	4
Metro Mobility or a similar para-transit service	1	2	3	4
Other transit provider	1	2	3	4

10. What are the barriers to you using transit services regularly (e.g., bus or Metro Mobility)? Please check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No service close enough to where I live | <input type="checkbox"/> Trip takes too long |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No service where I want to go | <input type="checkbox"/> Fare pricing is unclear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not familiar with the services available | <input type="checkbox"/> I don’t know how to ride the bus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Limited hours of operation (need service on weekends, evenings) | <input type="checkbox"/> I don’t feel safe on the bus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Existing service isn’t frequent enough (i.e. buses don’t stop often enough) | <input type="checkbox"/> I can’t afford it |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poor connections or transfers | <input type="checkbox"/> I don’t need it |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I need personal, point-to-point service | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

11. Please indicate how often, if ever, in the last 12 months you or another household member have visited each of the following parks.

<i>Dakota County Parks and Trails</i>	<i>Never</i>	<i>1-3 times</i>	<i>4-8 times</i>	<i>9+times</i>
Lebanon Hills Regional Park (Apple Valley, Eagan)	1	2	3	4
Thompson County Park (West St. Paul)	1	2	3	4
Spring Lake Park Reserve (along Mississippi River near Hastings).....	1	2	3	4
Lake Byllesby Regional Park Reserve (Randolph/Cannon Falls).....	1	2	3	4
Whitetail Woods Regional Park (Empire Township near Farmington)	1	2	3	4
Miesville Ravine Park Reserve (on Cannon River near Welch and Miesville)	1	2	3	4
Big Rivers Regional Trail (along Mississippi/Minnesota rivers, Eagan to Lilydale)....	1	2	3	4
Mississippi River Regional Trail (along Mississippi River, South St. Paul to Inver Grove Heights and Hastings area)	1	2	3	4
Dakota Woods Off-Leash Dog Park (off County Road 46, near Coates)	1	2	3	4
<i>Regional or state parks outside of Dakota County</i>	<i>Never</i>	<i>1-3 times</i>	<i>4-8 times</i>	<i>9+times</i>
Samuel Morgan Trail, St. Paul	1	2	3	4
Lilydale Park, St. Paul	1	2	3	4
Hidden Falls-Crosby Farm Park, St. Paul	1	2	3	4
Mississippi Gorge Park, St. Paul	1	2	3	4
Como Park, St. Paul.....	1	2	3	4
Minnehaha Park, Minneapolis	1	2	3	4
Nokomis-Hiawatha Park, Minneapolis.....	1	2	3	4
Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Park	1	2	3	4
Fort Snelling State Park, Minneapolis	1	2	3	4
Cleary Lake Park, Scott County	1	2	3	4
Murphy-Hanrehan Park, Scott County.....	1	2	3	4
Hyland Lake Park, Three Rivers Park District	1	2	3	4
Elm Creek Park, Three Rivers Park District.....	1	2	3	4
Lake Elmo Park, Washington County	1	2	3	4
Other	1	2	3	4

