



Park Visitor Survey

Report of Results
December 2015



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Executive Summary

About the Survey

Dakota County contracted with National Research Center, Inc. to develop and administer a single-topic survey to residents titled the “Dakota County 2015 Park Visitor Survey”. Dakota County wished to capture community input on priorities for County parks and regional trails through a community-wide scientific survey. The survey gauged resident current use, and likelihood of future use, of park and recreation opportunities and satisfaction with facilities and programs.

The survey was mailed to 5,000 randomly selected households in Dakota County in October 2015. Recipients completed a total of 896 surveys, providing an 18% response rate and a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points. The survey results reported here were weighted to reflect the demographic profile of all Dakota County residents.

KEY FINDINGS

Dakota County residents are aware of Dakota County parks that are close to them and think highly of Dakota County Parks and Regional Trails.

- When asked to indicate how Dakota County parks and regional trails compare to other parks they visit, about 9 in 10 gave excellent or good ratings and no one gave a poor rating.
- Three-quarters of survey respondents indicated they were able to name the Dakota County Park closest to them prior to reading the survey materials.

Most residents prioritize outdoor recreation and value benefits of parks and trails.

- When thinking about other ways they spend free time, more than 8 in 10 residents indicated that outdoor recreation was at least a medium-level priority to them; of those, half indicated that outdoor recreation was a high priority.
- Nearly all survey respondents strongly or somewhat agreed that benefits of parks and trails include that they improve physical or mental health and fitness; protect natural resources and water quality; improve quality of life in the county; create places for scenic landscape views, and preserve large areas of open space. About 9 in 10 agreed that parks and trails increase property values while 8 in 10 agreed they provide opportunities for people to be with other people and cultures. Only eight percent of survey respondents said they don't see any benefit from parks/trails to themselves or their household.

Survey participants said they visit Dakota County parks or trails because they enjoy out-of-doors natural settings while about half agree they do not visit because they are too busy.

- At least 9 in 10 residents somewhat or strongly agreed that the reasons they visit parks or trails are because they enjoy out-of-doors natural settings and that they feel safe in the parks or on the trails; slightly fewer (87%) agreed they like exploring places that are new to them and they enjoy the activities at the parks and trails. About two-thirds agreed that the parks are places they go for solitude and privacy and only one-third indicated agreement that they rarely visit Dakota County parks or trails.
- About half of survey respondents somewhat or strongly agreed that they do not visit parks or trails because they're too busy and do other things with their leisure time. About one-third indicated they are not familiar with Dakota County parks/trails and one-fifth or fewer strongly or somewhat agreed with the remaining nine potential reasons (don't have a way to get there, no interest, etc.).

Residents were most likely to use benches and scenic overlooks along trails, rent several types of recreational equipment, and attend events related to music, concerts and performances.

Residents were least likely to rent adaptive recreation equipment and purchase souvenirs.

- Survey respondents were given an extensive list of services, programs, park amenities and rental options, and were asked to indicate how likely they would be to use each in the next two years.
 - Recreation equipment for rental: When asked about recreational equipment rentals, over half of residents indicated they would be somewhat or very likely to rent canoes or kayaks in the next two years. Just under half indicated they would be somewhat or very likely to rent paddleboats (47%), paddleboards (47%), snowshoes (46%) and bicycles (46%). At the bottom of the list (with 20% or fewer indicating they would be somewhat or very likely to rent these items) were headlamps, kicksleds and adaptive recreation equipment.
 - Food services: Between 46% and 53% of survey respondents indicated they would be somewhat or very likely to use each of the four listed food services within the next two years.
 - Amenities: About three-quarters of residents would be somewhat or very likely to use benches and scenic overlooks along trails while two-thirds would be likely to use improved park trail signs for way-finding. Only one-quarter would be likely to purchase souvenirs.
 - Programs: Just over half of residents would be very or somewhat likely to use or participate in fitness/wellness programs for adults or a system of self-guided technology to learn about the park or the natural world. About 3 in 10 would be likely to use or participate in travel programs and programs with pets.
 - Attending events: About 7 in 10 residents would be somewhat or very likely to attend events related to music, concerts or performances and 6 in 10 would be likely to attend evening showings of movies in parks. Between 43% and 49% would be likely to attend the other listed events.
 - Renting park facilities: About 4 in 10 residents would be somewhat or very likely to rent a picnic shelter for a gathering of 100 people or fewer while 3 in 10 would be likely to rent a smaller retreat center or lodge for a family, corporate or organization event of fewer than 50 people. About 2 in 10 would be likely to rent a visitor center for a family, corporate or organization event for 50 to 200 people or rent a picnic shelter for a gathering of more than 100 people.

Residents feel it is important to add recreational opportunities and provide nature-based/environmental programs.

- Survey respondents were asked to indicate how important they believe a variety of actions are to improve services for Dakota County Parks' visitors. About half of residents indicated that adding recreational opportunities at more of the existing regional parks was an essential or very important action to improve services. Slightly fewer believed adding more environmental education programs and adding more recreational skill-based programs were essential or very important.
- Residents were asked to rate how important it was to provide three types of programs to specific audiences (nature-based/environmental programs, skill-based outdoor recreation programs and arts, culture and history programs). Ratings for nature-based/environmental programs tended to be highest across the specific listed audiences ranging from preschool-aged children to older adults and people with disabilities. The exception to this is the importance rating for skill-based outdoor recreation programs, which was highest for teenagers and young adults. Importance ratings were

the same for adults (25-49) for nature-based/environmental programs and skill-based outdoor recreation programs.

Less than a majority of residents supported each method of funding listed for improving existing visitor services or programs, but few indicated they would not support increased spending to improve parks.

- The funding methods with the most support were raising fees on existing uses with permits and making parks a higher priority in the overall County budget with about one-third of residents indicating that they would support each.
- The lowest degree of support for any method of raising revenue for County parks was charging admission fees (7%); more than twice as many residents supported increasing property taxes to provide more services in parks (17%).
- About one-fifth or fewer residents would support charging fees for more park activities that are currently free, charging admission fees at all parks, and increasing property taxes.
- Twelve percent of residents indicated they would not support increased spending to improve services in the parks and 18% indicated they didn't know.

Previous research (not conducted by NRC), identified population subgroups that are under-represented among park visitors: those who are low-income, seniors, and members of communities of color or immigrants. Using demographic information provided by those who responded to the survey, data analysis tested for differences in responses among those demographic groups (see *Appendix C: Responses to Selected Questions by Respondent Characteristics*). Where statistically valid differences exist among demographic groups, they are noted in the *Report of Results* section starting on page 5.

Survey Background

Survey Purpose

Dakota County contracted with National Research Center, Inc. to develop and administer a single-topic survey to residents titled the “Dakota County 2015 Park Visitor Survey”. Dakota County wished to capture community input on priorities for County parks and regional trails through a community-wide scientific survey. The survey gauged resident current use, and likelihood of future use, of park and recreation opportunities and satisfaction with facilities and programs.

The survey was mailed to 5,000 randomly selected residential addresses within Dakota County. Of these, 4,879 were delivered to occupied households. Approximately 121 postcards were undeliverable because the housing unit was vacant or the postal service was unable to deliver it as addressed. A total of 896 completed surveys were received, for a response rate of 18%. Surveys were color coded in order to track responses from 12 municipal locations within the County (please see *Appendix F: Survey Methodology* for more information on the 12 municipal locations).

Survey results were weighted so that respondent age, gender, race, ethnicity, housing unit type, housing tenure and geographic location were represented in the proportions reflective of the Dakota County adult population. (For more information on the survey methodology and weighting, see *Appendix F: Survey Methodology*.) It is customary to describe the precision of estimates made from surveys by a “level of confidence” (or margin of error). The 95% confidence level for this survey is generally no greater than plus or minus three percentage points around any given percent reported for all survey respondents (896 completed surveys).

How the Results are Reported

The body of the report includes graphs and tables of summarized results, while full results for each question appear in *Appendix B: Complete Survey Responses*. Often, in the body of the report, the responses to only one or two of the response categories are shown; for example, the proportion rating an item as “excellent” or “good.” For the most part, “don’t know” responses are excluded from the executive summary, report body and cross-tabulations but appear in the full results in the appendix. In other words, the results in most of the report are based on respondents with an opinion about an item.

When a table for a question that only permitted a single response does not total to exactly 100%, it is due to percentages being rounded to the nearest whole number.

Comparing Survey Results by Respondent Characteristics

Selected survey results were compared by respondent characteristics and are presented in *Appendix C: Responses to Selected Questions by Respondent Characteristics*. When commentary surrounding the comparisons is presented in the report body, only those differences that were statistically significant are included in the commentary.

Report of Results

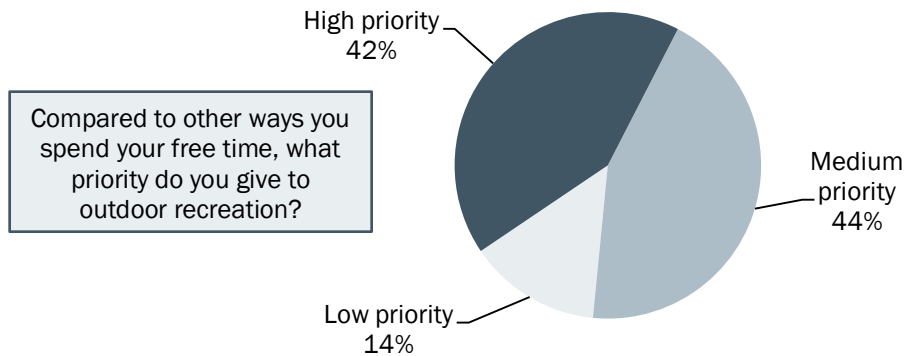
The Dakota County 2015 Park Visitor Survey included questions about setting priorities for outdoor recreation, residents' use and likelihood of future use of park recreation opportunities and satisfaction with facilities and programs, along with their preferences for funding existing or new visitor services or programs at County parks.

Overall Prioritization of Outdoor Recreation

More than 8 in 10 residents indicated that outdoor recreation was at least a medium priority to them; of those, half indicated that outdoor recreation was a high priority.

The survey results were compared by respondent demographic subgroups and various statistically significant differences across the subgroups emerged. Residents who were female, who had a household income less than \$50,000 or were 55 years or older tended to give lower prioritization ratings to outdoor recreation compared to other survey respondents. Residents with a lower level of education also tended to give lower prioritization ratings to outdoor recreation compared to residents who had earned a Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree. (Please see *Appendix C: Responses to Selected Questions by Respondent Characteristics* for more comparisons and information regarding statistically significant differences across subgroups.)

Figure 1: Overall Prioritization of Outdoor Recreation

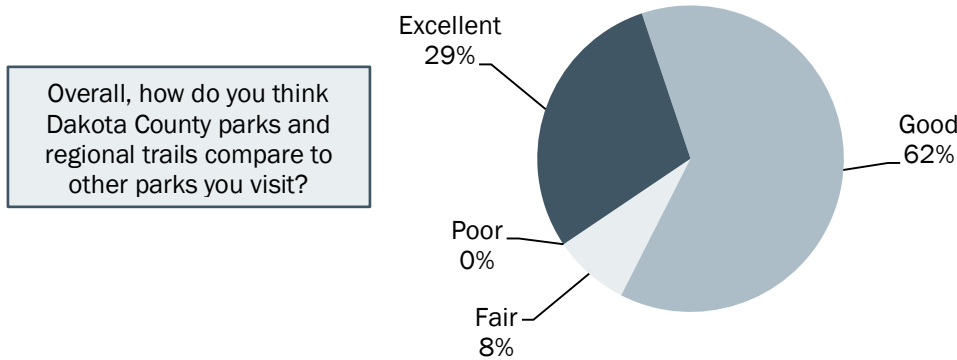


Comparative Quality of Dakota County Parks and Regional Trails

When asked to indicate how Dakota County parks and regional trails compare to other parks they visit, about 9 in 10 gave excellent or good ratings and no one gave a poor rating.

When ratings were compared by respondent demographic subgroups, residents who identified as Hispanic and/or Persons of Color¹ tended to rate the comparative quality of Dakota County parks lower than other survey respondents. Statistically significant differences did not emerge across subgroups of length of residency, household income, education, age or gender. (Please see *Appendix C: Responses to Selected Questions by Respondent Characteristics* for more information.)

Figure 2: Comparative Quality of Dakota County Parks and Regional Trails



Residents had the option to select “I do not visit parks.” Only 6% selected this option. These responses have been excluded from the analysis in order to base the result on respondents who had an opinion about the quality. Please see *Appendix B: Complete Survey Responses* for the full frequencies of each survey question.

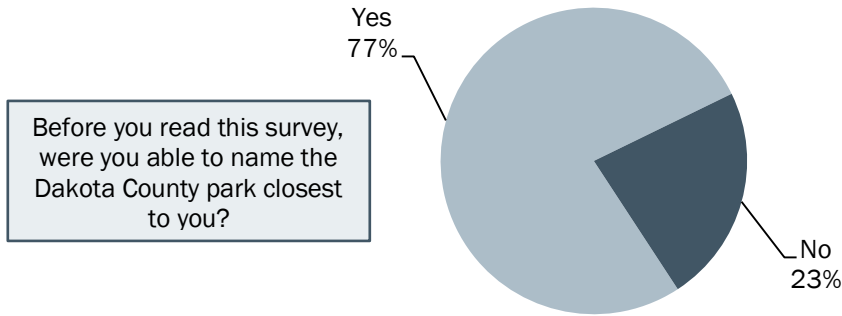
¹ Survey respondents were asked two demographic questions related to their race and ethnicity. First they were asked to indicate if they were Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino and then they were asked to indicate which race(s) they identified with from the following list: American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander; Black or African American; White; or Other. The references throughout the report to “Hispanic and/or Persons of Color” represents those who indicated they were Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino and/or did not identify as White.

Familiarity with Dakota County Parks

Three-quarters of survey respondents indicated they were able to name the Dakota County park closest to them prior to reading the survey.

Residents who had lived in Dakota County for less than five years, who had a household income of less than \$50,000 and whose education level was some high school or a high school graduate tended to be less familiar with the Dakota County park closest to them compared to other survey respondents. Residents aged 18 to 34 and 55 years or older tended to be less familiar with the park closest to them compared to residents aged 35 to 54. (Please see *Appendix C: Responses to Selected Questions by Respondent Characteristics* for more information.)

Figure 3: Familiarity with Dakota County Park Locations

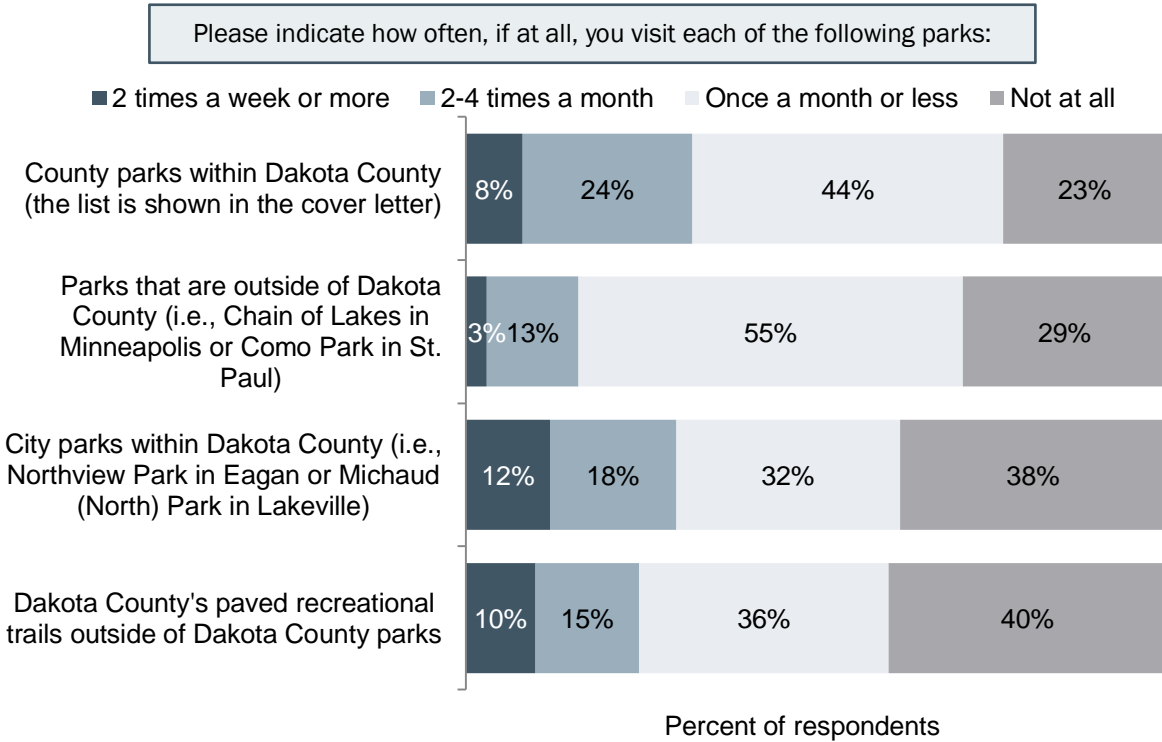


Park Visitation

About three-quarters of survey respondents visit County parks within Dakota County at least once a month or less and about 3 in 10 visit Dakota County parks two to four times a month or more frequently. About 7 in 10 residents visit parks that are outside of Dakota County at least once a month or less but only 16% indicated they visit these parks two or more times a month. About 6 in 10 residents visit City parks within Dakota County and Dakota County’s paved recreational trails and between 25% and 30% visit these parks or recreational trails two to four times a month or more frequently.

When ratings were compared by respondent demographic subgroups, various statistically significant differences emerged. Residents aged 55 years or older with a household income of less than \$50,000 and those with a lower level of education (some high school or high school graduate) were less likely to visit each of the parks or regional trails listed in this question compared to other survey respondents. Residents who identified as White alone, not Hispanic were less likely than other survey respondents to visit Dakota County’s paved recreational trails outside County parks. (Please see *Appendix C: Responses to Selected Questions by Respondent Characteristics* for more information and additional comparisons.)

Figure 4: Frequency of Park Visitation



Individual Park Visitation

In a separate survey in 2014, Dakota County residents were given the opportunity to indicate how often, if ever, in the last 12 months they visited a list of specific parks. Slightly less than half of respondents had visited Lebanon Hills Regional Park at least once in the 12 months prior to the survey. 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.

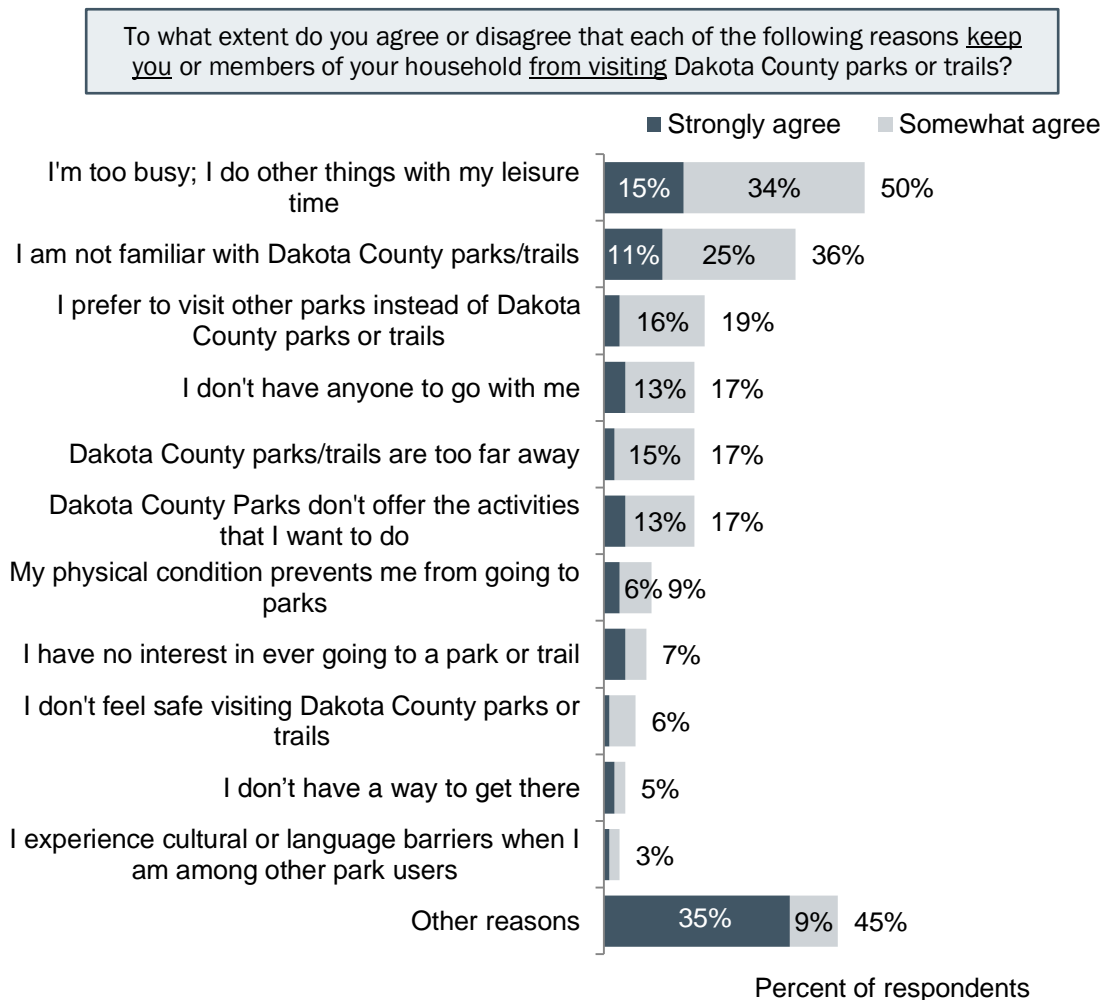
Outside of Dakota County, Como Park in St. Paul and Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis were among the more popular regional or state parks; about half of respondents had visited these parks at least once. About one-third had visited other parks in Minneapolis (e.g., Nokomis-Hiawatha Park, Chain of Lakes Park 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. (Please see *Appendix E: Related Data from the Recycling, Parks and Transit Survey* for the full frequencies of each listed park.)

Reasons for Not Visiting

Residents were asked to review a list of potential reasons for not visiting County parks or trails and then indicate if they agreed or disagreed that these reasons were keeping them from visiting County parks or trails. Half of survey respondents somewhat or strongly agreed that they're too busy and do other things with their leisure time. About one-third indicated they are not familiar with Dakota County parks/trails and one-fifth or fewer strongly or somewhat agreed with the remaining nine potential reasons.

Generally, residents with a household income of \$50,000 to \$100,000 or higher and those with a higher education level (Associate or technical school degree) were less likely to agree with the listed reasons for not visiting County parks compared to other survey respondents. Residents who identified as Hispanic and/or Persons of Color were more likely to agree that they prefer to visit other parks instead of Dakota County parks or trails and that Dakota County parks don't offer the activities they want to do while residents who identified as White alone, not Hispanic were more likely to agree that they're too busy and do other things with their leisure time, are not familiar with the County parks/trails and don't have anyone to go with them. (Please see *Appendix C: Responses to Selected Questions by Respondent Characteristics* for more information and additional comparisons.)

Figure 5: Reasons for Not Visiting Dakota County Parks or Trails



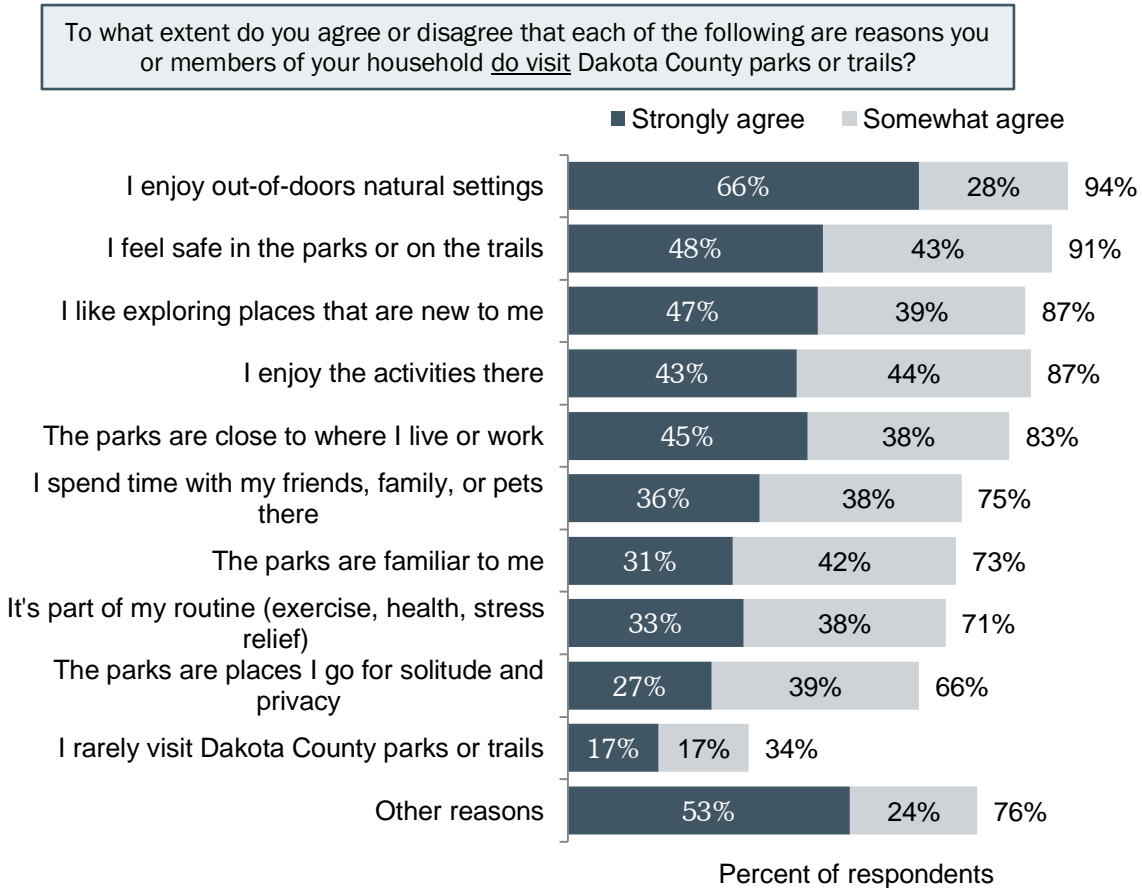
Survey respondents had the opportunity to write-in "other reasons." Please see *Appendix D: Responses to Open-ended Questions to review the verbatim responses.*

Reasons for Visiting

After indicating reasons for not visiting County parks or trails, residents were asked to review a list of potential reasons to visit County parks or trails. Then they were asked to indicate if they agree or disagree that these are reasons they visit County parks or trails. At least 9 in 10 residents somewhat or strongly agreed that the reasons they visit parks or trails are because they enjoy out-of-doors natural settings and they feel safe in the parks or on the trails, while slightly fewer (87%) agreed they like exploring places that are new to them and they enjoy the activities at the parks and trails. About two-thirds agreed that the parks are places they go for solitude and privacy and only one-third indicated agreement that they rarely visit Dakota County parks or trails.

Generally, residents with a household income of \$50,000 to \$100,000 or higher were more likely to agree with the listed reasons for visiting County parks compared to other survey respondents, although residents with a household income of \$100,000 or more were less likely to agree that the parks are places they go for solitude and privacy. Residents who identified as Hispanic and/or Persons of Color were more likely to agree that the parks are familiar to them but less likely to agree that they feel safe in the parks or on trails and that they enjoy out-of-doors natural settings compared to other survey respondents. Residents 55 years or older were less likely to agree that they spend time with their friends, family or pets in parks or on trails and were more likely to agree that they rarely visit Dakota County parks or trails. (Please see *Appendix C: Responses to Selected Questions by Respondent Characteristics* for more information and additional comparisons.)

Figure 6: Reasons for Visiting Dakota County Parks or Trails



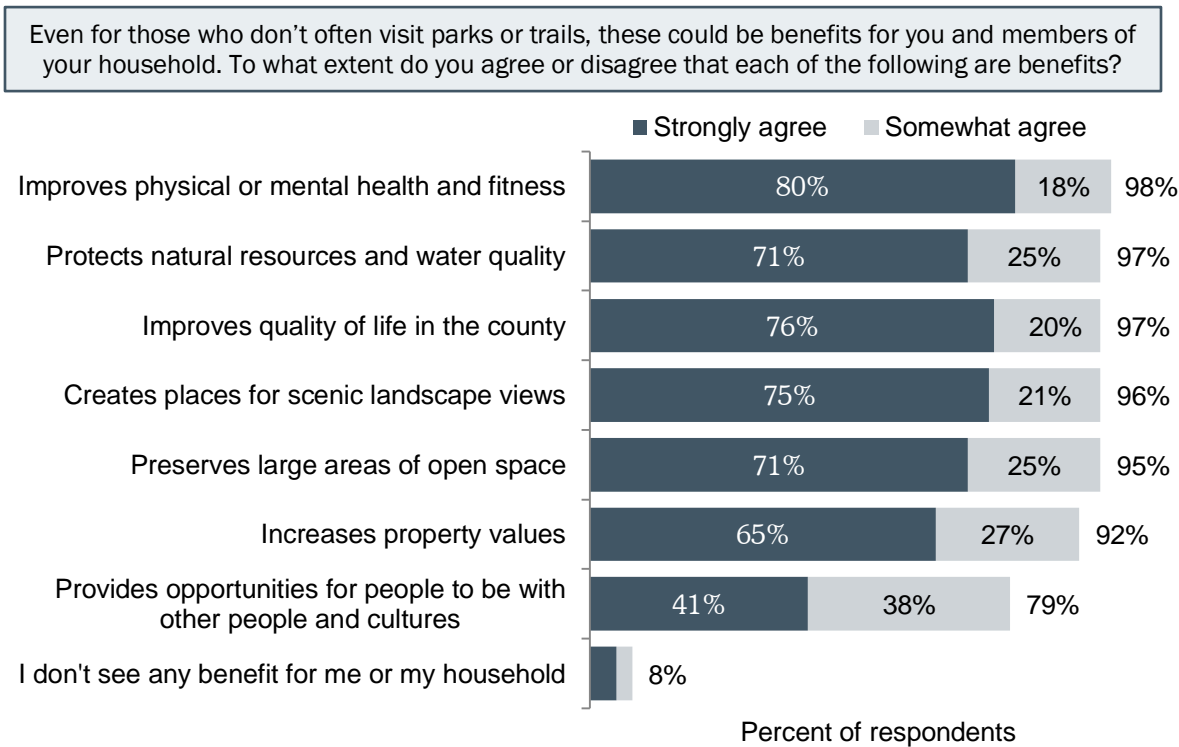
Survey respondents had the opportunity to write-in "other reasons." Please see *Appendix D: Responses to Open-ended Questions to review the verbatim responses.*

Benefits of Parks

Residents were asked a question about the benefits of parks ~~visitation~~ in an effort to learn whether or not people who do not go to parks or trails still found value in them, and if so, what kind of value. Almost all survey respondents strongly or somewhat agreed that benefits of parks and trails include that they improve physical or mental health and fitness; protect natural resources and water quality; improve quality of life in the county; create places for scenic landscape views and preserve large areas of open space. About 9 in 10 agreed that parks and trails increase property values while 8 in 10 agreed they provide opportunities for people to be with other people and cultures. Only eight percent agreed that they don't see any benefit to them or their household.

When ratings were compared by respondent demographic subgroups, various statistically significant differences emerged. Generally, residents who identified as White alone, not Hispanic and were ages 18 to 34 tended to agree that the statements listed in this question were benefits compared to other survey respondents. Residents with a household income of less than \$50,000 were more likely to agree that parks and trails provide opportunities for people to be with other people and cultures compared to residents with higher household incomes. Residents 55 years or older were more likely to agree that they don't see any benefits for them or their household. (Please see *Appendix C: Responses to Selected Questions by Respondent Characteristics* for more information and additional comparisons.)

Figure 7: Benefits of Parks



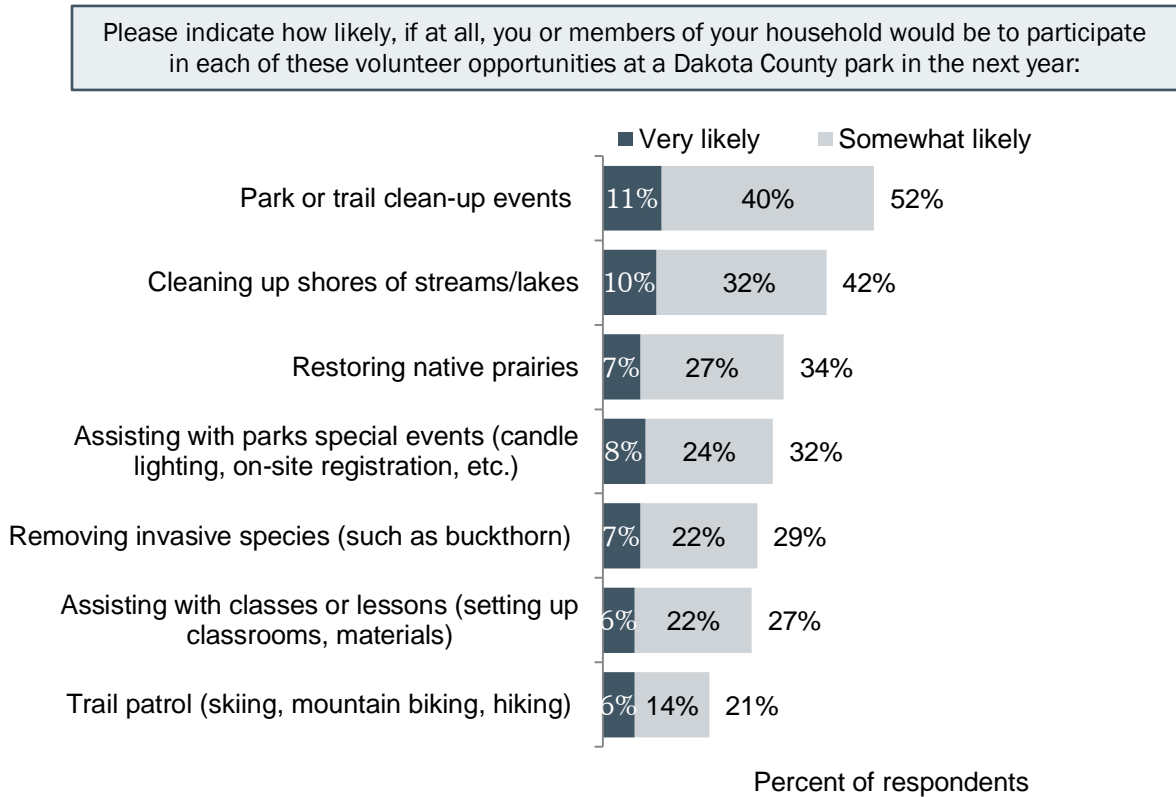
Residents who indicated they do not see any benefit for them or their household were also more likely than other survey respondents to indicate that outdoor recreation was a low priority for them compared to other ways they spend their free time (please see Figure 1 on page 5).

Likelihood of Volunteerism

Survey respondents were given a list of seven volunteer opportunities and were asked to indicate how likely they would be, if at all, to participate in those activities within the next year. About half of respondents would be somewhat or very likely to participate in park or trail clean-up events and about 4 in 10 would be likely to participate in cleaning up shores of streams/lakes. About one-third would be likely to participate in restoring native prairies, assisting with special events in the parks and removing invasive species. Between 21% and 27% would be somewhat or very likely to assist with classes or lessons and participate in trail patrol.

For each of the volunteer opportunities listed, residents who were 55 years or older were less likely to participate compared to younger residents. Residents with a lower education level (some high school or high school graduate) were less likely to participate in park or trail clean-up events compared to residents with a higher education level. Residents who were newer to the community (less than five years), and those who identified as Hispanic and/or Persons of Color, were generally more likely to volunteer for the listed opportunities compared to residents who had lived in the community longer and who identified as White alone (not Hispanic). (Please see *Appendix C: Responses to Selected Questions by Respondent Characteristics* for more information and additional comparisons.)

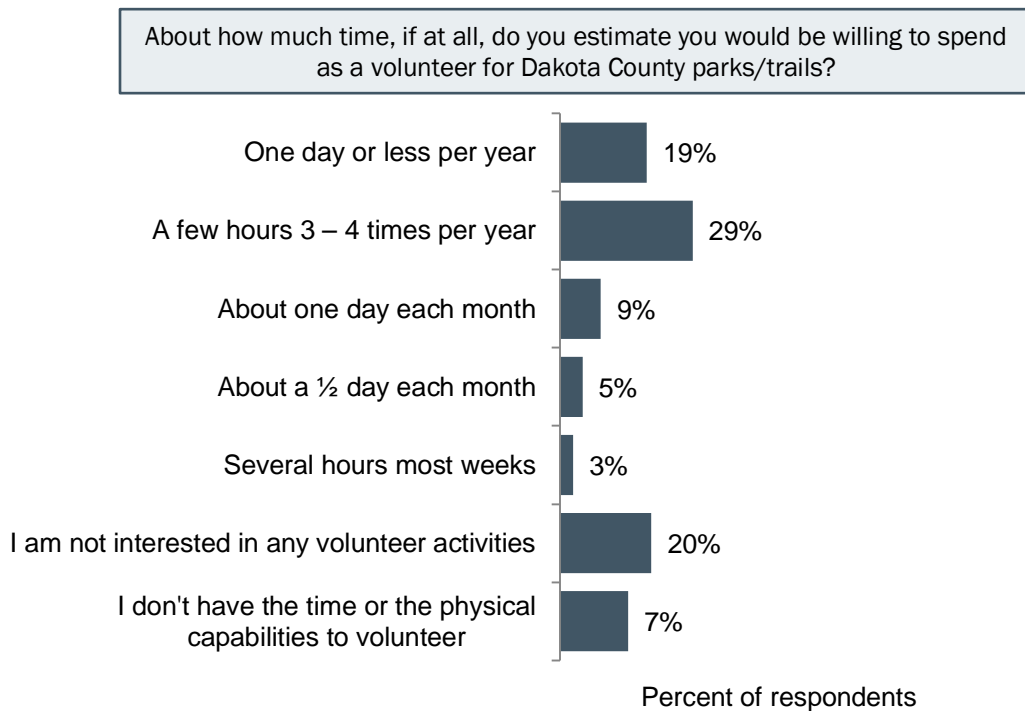
Figure 8: Likelihood of Volunteerism



When asked to indicate how much time, if at all, they'd be willing to spend as a volunteer, about half of residents indicated a few hours three to four times a year or less, while one-fifth indicated they were not interested in any volunteer activities. About one-fifth would be willing to volunteer at least one day each month.

Residents who had lived in the community for more than 20 years and who were 55 years or older were more likely to indicate that they were not interested in any volunteer opportunities compared to other survey respondents. Residents with a lower education level (some high school or high school graduate) were more likely to indicate that they were not interested in any volunteer opportunities compared to residents with a higher education level. Residents with a household income of \$100,000 or more were more likely to volunteer one day or less per year while residents with a household income of \$50,000 or less were more likely to volunteer about one half-day each month. (Please see *Appendix C: Responses to Selected Questions by Respondent Characteristics* for more information and additional comparisons.)

Figure 9: Estimated Time Volunteering



Likelihood of Future Program or Service Use

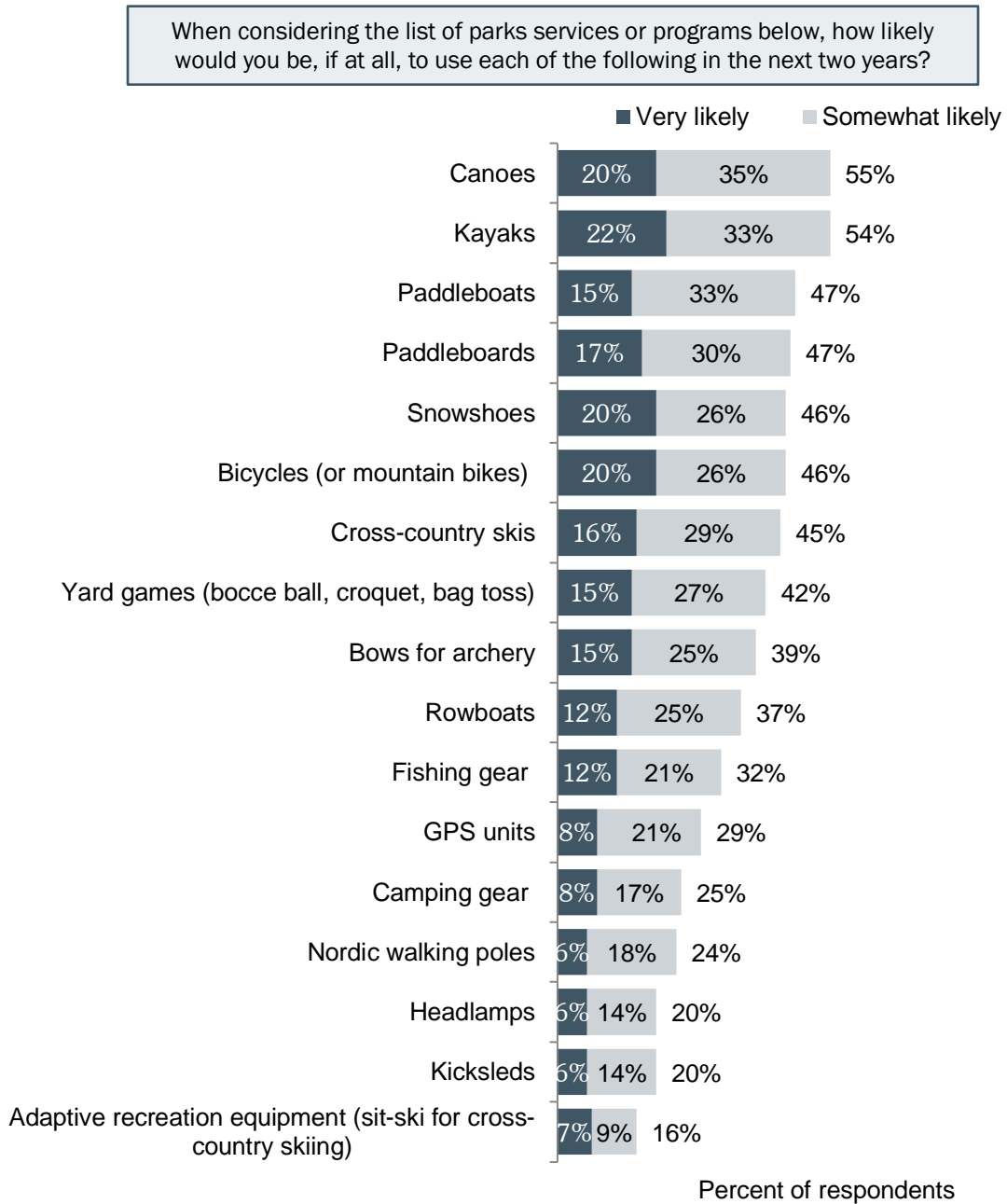
Survey respondents were given an extensive list of services, programs, park amenities and potential rentals, and asked to indicate how likely, if at all, they would be to use each in the next two years. The items listed were grouped into categories on the survey, and are reported in those same categories in this report.

Availability of Recreation Equipment for Rental

When asked about recreational equipment rentals, over half of residents indicated they would be somewhat or very likely to rent canoes or kayaks in the next two years (please see Figure 10 on the following page). Just under half indicated they would be somewhat or very likely to rent paddleboats (47%), paddleboards (47%), snowshoes (46%) and bicycles (46%). At the bottom of the list with 20% or fewer indicating they would be somewhat or very likely to rent these items were headlamps, kicksleds and adaptive recreation equipment.

When ratings were compared by respondent demographic subgroups, various statistically significant differences emerged. Generally, residents who had lived in the community for more than 20 years and were 55 years or older tended to be less likely to rent recreation equipment compared to those who had lived in the community for less than five years and were aged 18 to 54. Among the statistically significant differences across the subgroup of race and ethnicity, residents who identified as Hispanic and/or Persons of Color tended to be more likely to rent rowboats, bicycles, fishing gear, kicksleds, camping gear and adaptive recreation equipment compared to other survey respondents. (Please see *Appendix C: Responses to Selected Questions by Respondent Characteristics* for more information and additional comparisons.)

Figure 10: Availability of Recreation Equipment for Rental

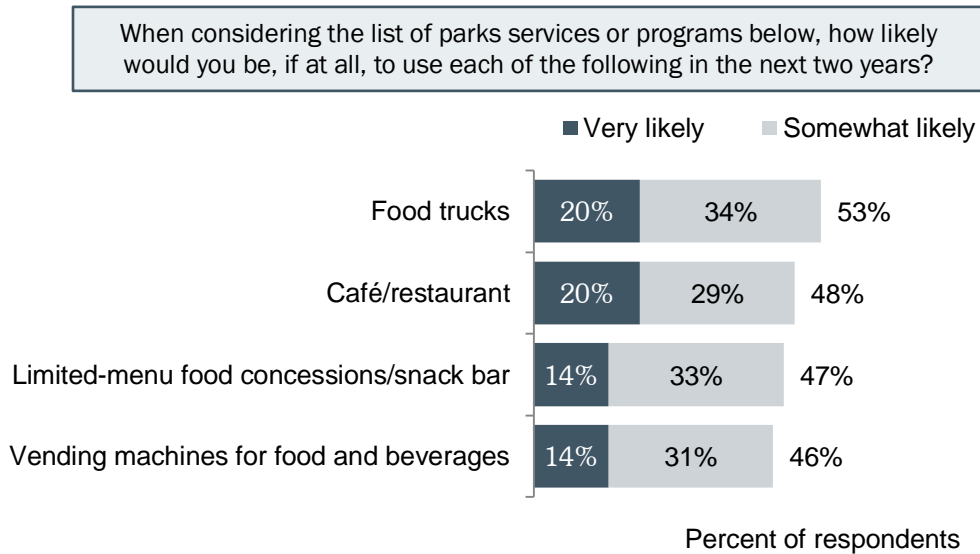


Availability of Food Services

Between 46% and 53% of survey respondents indicated they would be somewhat or very likely to use each of the four listed food services within the next two years. No more than 20% indicated that they would be very likely to use any of the food service options.

Residents who had lived in the community for 6 to 20 years tended to be more likely to use food services compared to residents who had lived in the community for a shorter or longer period of time. Residents with a household income of less than \$50,000 tended to be more likely to use a Café/restaurant compared to residents with a higher household income. Residents with an Associate or technical school degree or higher level of education tended to be more likely to use food trucks compared to other survey respondents. For each of the four food services choices, residents who were aged 18 to 54 were more likely to use the services compared to older residents. (Please see *Appendix C: Responses to Selected Questions by Respondent Characteristics* for more information and additional comparisons.)

Figure 11: Availability of Food Services

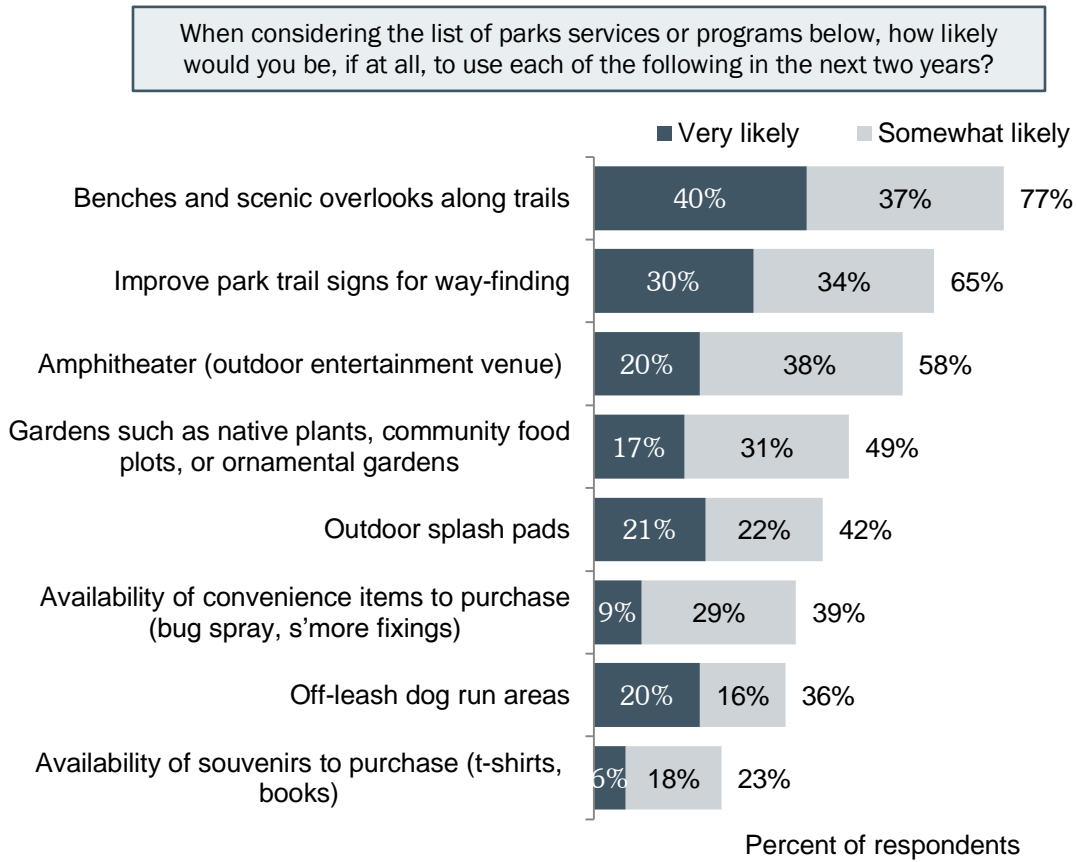


Adding Amenities

About three-quarters of residents would be somewhat or very likely to use benches and scenic overlooks along trails while two-thirds would be likely to use improved park trail signs for way-finding. About 6 in 10 would be likely to use an amphitheater and half would be likely to use gardens such as native plants, community food plots, or ornamental gardens. Only one-quarter would be likely to purchase souvenirs.

Where differences emerged, residents aged 18 to 54 and those who were women tended to be more likely to use the listed amenities compared to older residents and men. Residents with a higher education level (Bachelor’s, graduate or professional degree) were more likely to use improved park trail signs for way-finding and benches and scenic overlooks along trails but less likely to purchase convenience items and souvenirs compared to other survey respondents. (Please see *Appendix C: Responses to Selected Questions by Respondent Characteristics* for more information and additional comparisons.)

Figure 12: Adding Amenities

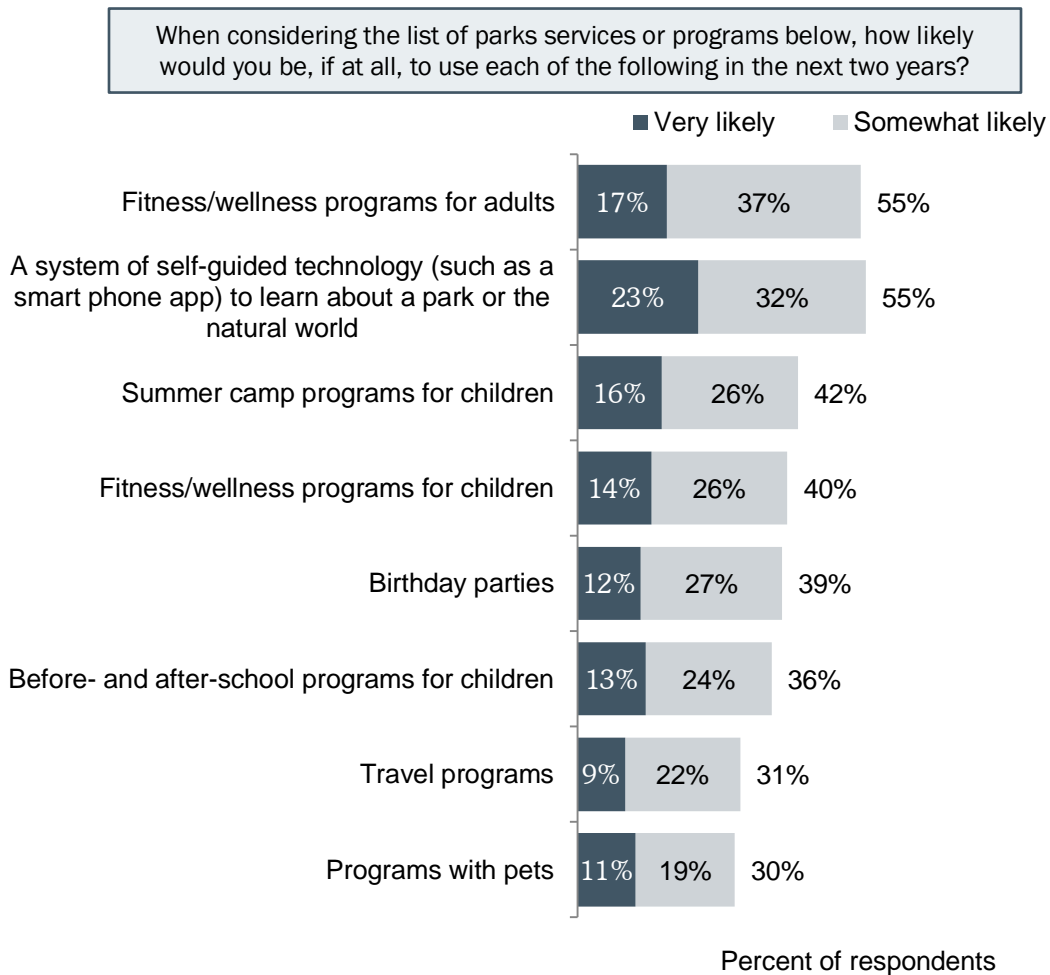


Adding Programs

Just over half of residents would be very or somewhat likely to use or participate in fitness/wellness programs for adults and a system of self-guided technology to learn about the park or the natural world. About 4 in 10 would be likely to use or participate in summer camp programs for children, fitness/wellness programs for children and birthday parties. About 3 in 10 would be likely to use or participate in travel programs and programs with pets.

Where differences emerged, residents who identified as Hispanic and/or Persons of Color were more likely to use the listed programs compared to residents who identified as White alone, not Hispanic. Residents aged 18 to 54 tended to be more likely to use the listed programs compared to older residents but younger residents (18 to 34) and older residents (55 or older) were less likely than residents age 35 to 54 to use or participate in travel programs. (Please see *Appendix C: Responses to Selected Questions by Respondent Characteristics* for more information and additional comparisons.)

Figure 13: Adding Programs

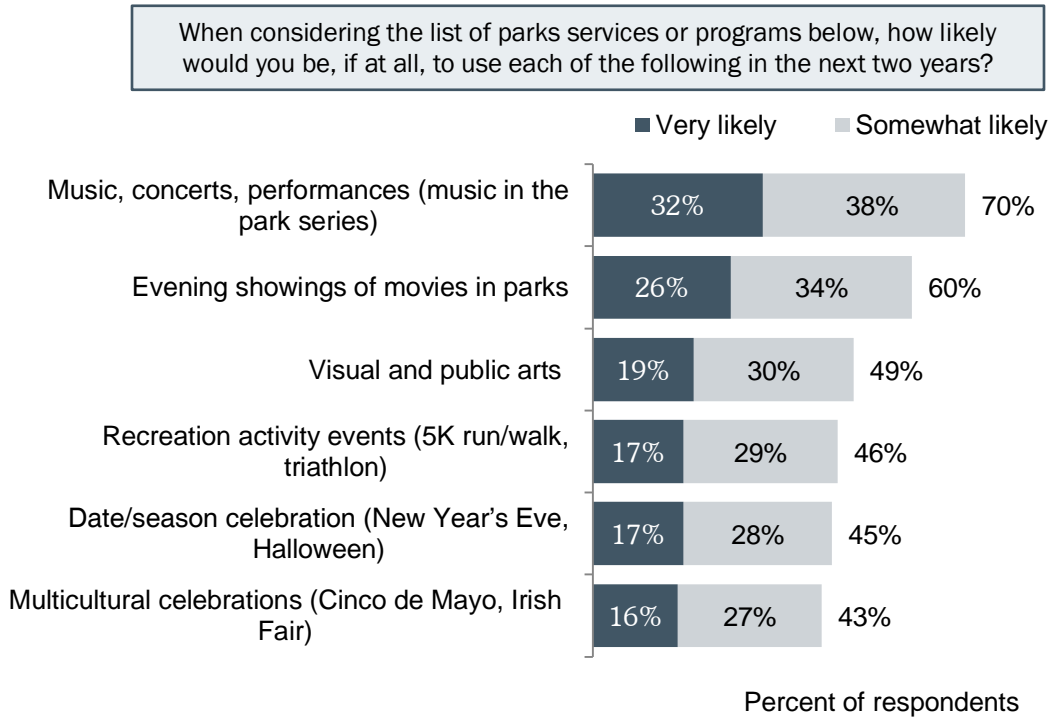


Attending an Event

About 7 in 10 residents would be somewhat or very likely to attend events related to music, concerts or performances and 6 in 10 would be likely to attend evening showings of movies in parks. Between 43% and 49% would be likely to attend the other listed events.

Residents who had lived in the community for less than five years and were aged 18 to 54 were more likely to indicate they'd attend each of the events listed compared to other survey respondents. Residents with a higher education level (Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree) were more likely than other survey respondents to attend recreation activity events. Residents who identified as Hispanic and/or Persons of Color were more likely to attend visual and public arts events and multicultural celebrations compared to residents who identified as White alone, not Hispanic. (Please see *Appendix C: Responses to Selected Questions by Respondent Characteristics* for more information and additional comparisons.)

Figure 14: Attending an Event

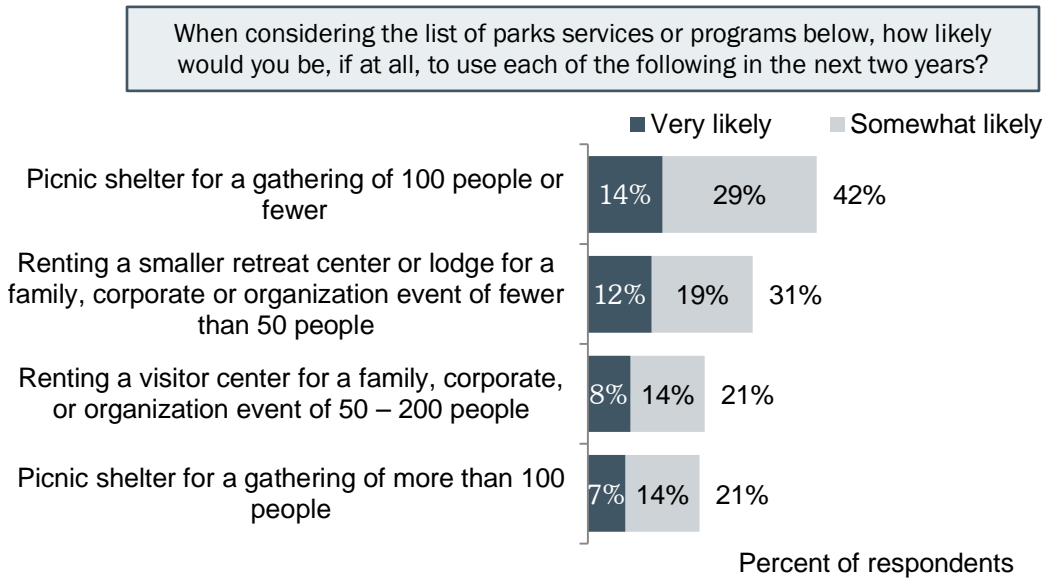


Renting Park Facilities for a Private Event

About 4 in 10 residents would be somewhat or very likely to rent a picnic shelter for a gathering of 100 people or fewer while 3 in 10 would be likely to rent a smaller retreat center or lodge for a family, corporate or organization event of fewer than 50 people. About 2 in 10 would be likely to rent a visitor center for a family, corporate or organization event for 50 to 200 people or rent a picnic shelter for a gathering of more than 100 people.

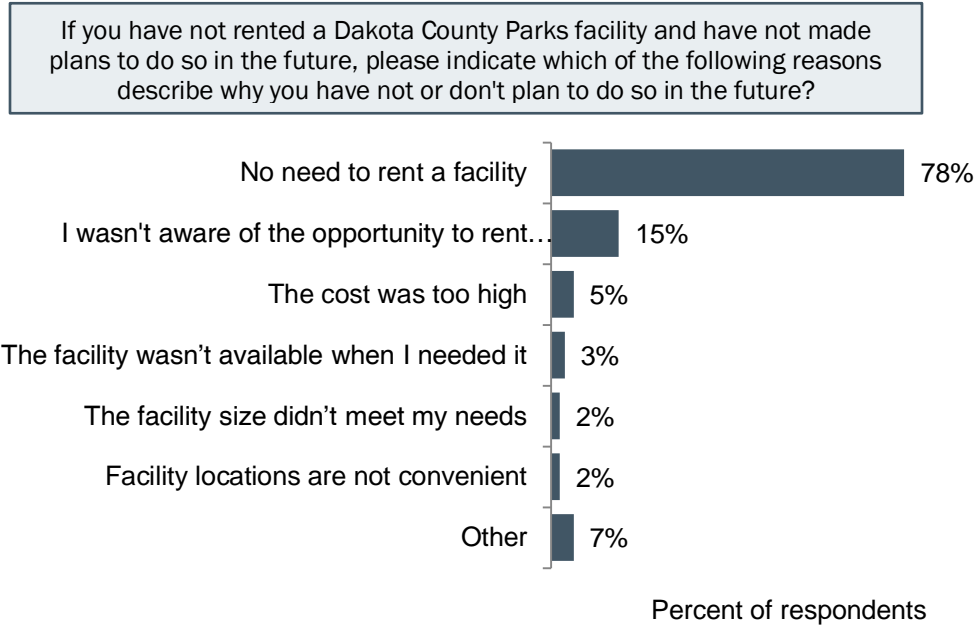
Residents who identified as Hispanic and/or Persons of Color were more likely to rent each of the listed park facilities compared to residents who identified as White alone, not Hispanic. Residents with a lower education level (some high school or high school graduate) were more likely than other survey respondents to rent a picnic shelter for a gathering of more than 100 people or rent a smaller retreat center or lodge for a family, corporate or organization event of fewer than 50 people. (Please see *Appendix C: Responses to Selected Questions by Respondent Characteristics* for more information and additional comparisons.)

Figure 15: Renting Park Facilities for a Private Event



When asked to indicate reasons why they have not rented a Dakota County Parks facility and have not made plans to do so in the future, a vast majority indicated they had no need to rent a facility. About 15% indicated they were not aware of the opportunity to rent a facility and 5% or fewer indicated the remaining reasons.

Figure 16: Reasons for Not Renting Dakota County Parks Facility

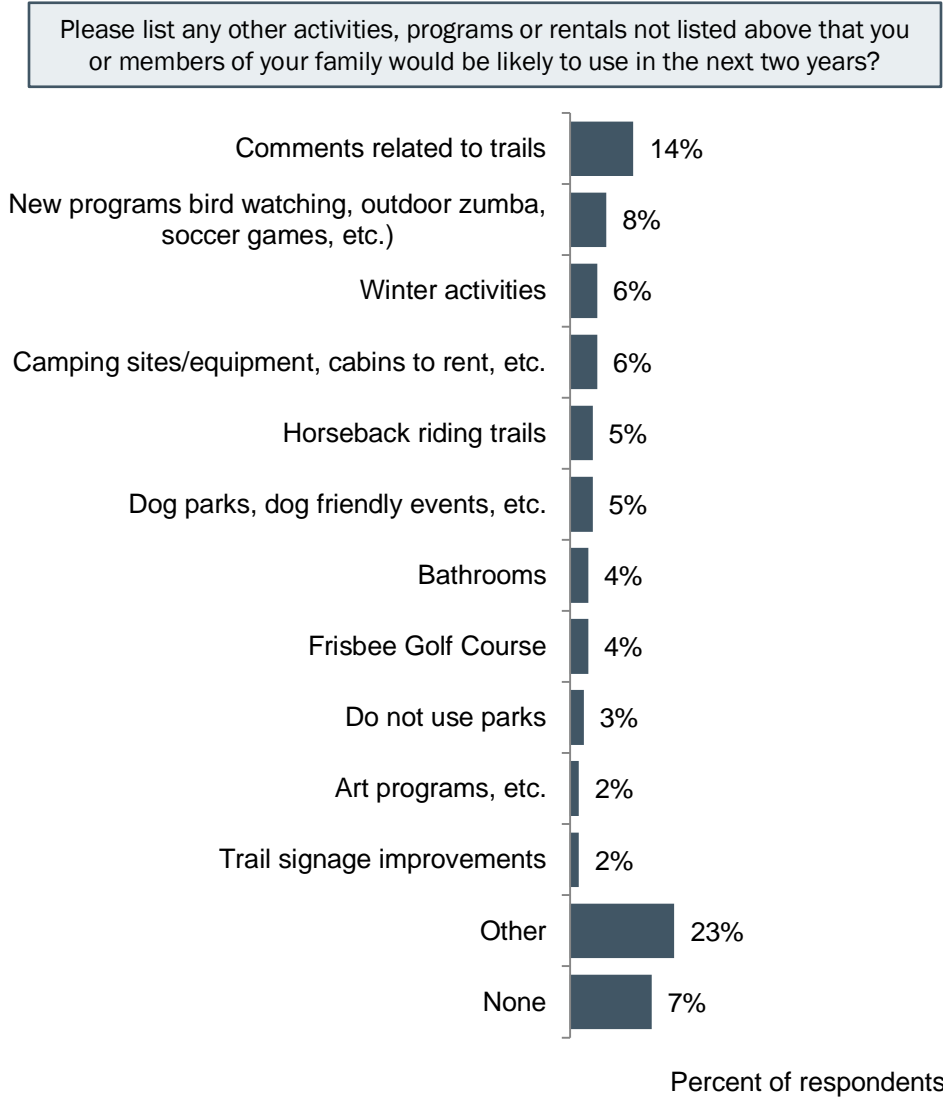


Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one answer. Survey respondents had the opportunity to write-in an "other" response. Please see Appendix D: Responses to Open-ended Questions to review the verbatim responses.

Other Activities, Programs and Rentals

Survey respondents were given an opportunity to write-in an “other” item after reviewing the extensive list of services, programs, park amenities and potential rentals. Of the 896 survey respondents, 146 opted to write-in a response (slightly more than 16%). The written-in responses were reviewed and grouped into thematic categories. About 14% of those who wrote in a response had comments related to trails. Fewer than 1 in 10 wrote-in comments related to each of the remaining listed categories. Many responses were too varied to create a meaningful theme or category, and these responses were grouped into “other.”

Figure 17: Other Activities, Programs and Rentals



Respondents were given an opportunity to write-in a response. The responses were reviewed and grouped into the above categories. Please see Appendix D: Responses to Open-ended Questions for the verbatim responses.

Importance of Activities

In a separate survey in 2014, Dakota County residents were given the opportunity to review a less complete list of activities and were asked to indicate how important, if at all, each type of activity was for them to do in regional parks. About 7 in 10 respondents felt it was essential or very important to be able to enjoy nature or scenic views in regional parks. 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.

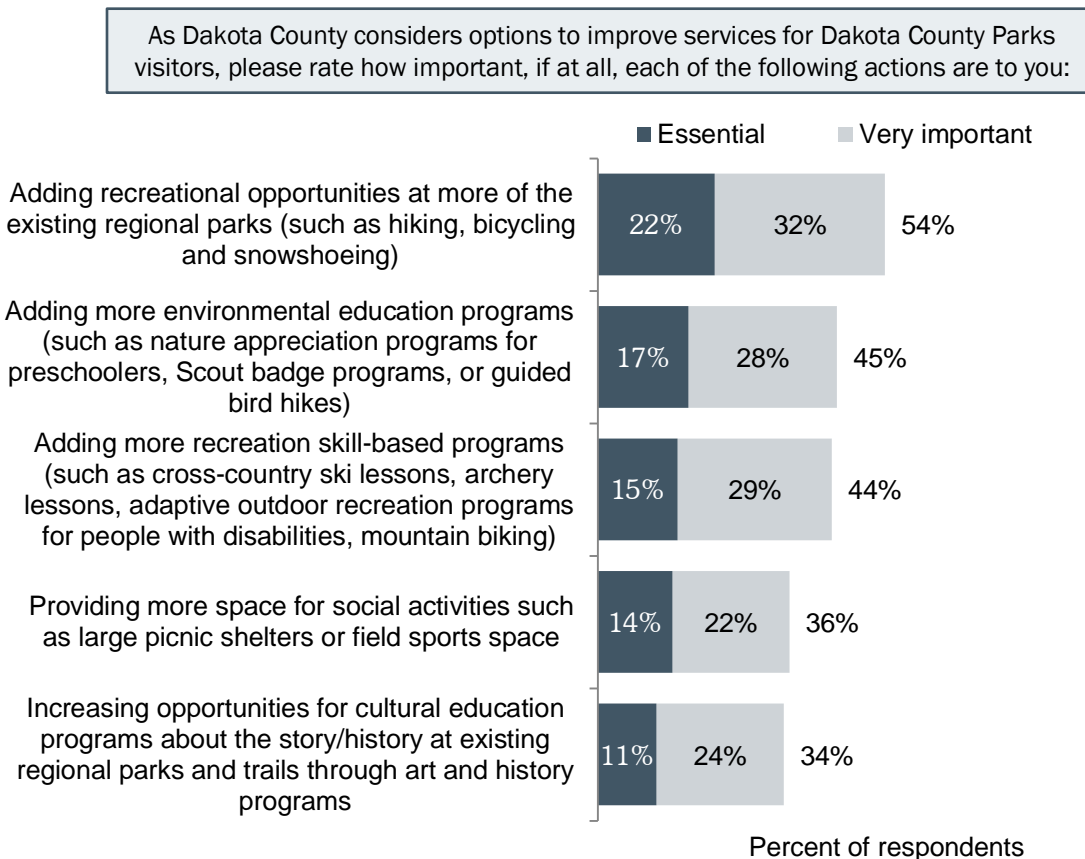
Community gardening, camping (in camper cabins and RV/trailer), cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking, archery and horseback riding were activities viewed as not important at all to a majority of respondents in the 2014 survey. (Please see *Appendix E: Related Data from the Recycling, Parks and Transit Survey* for the full frequencies of each listed activity.)

Importance of Service or Program Improvements

Survey respondents were asked to indicate how important they believe a variety of actions are to improve services for Dakota County Parks visitors. About half of residents indicated that additional recreational opportunities at more of the existing regional parks were an essential or very important action to improve services. Slightly fewer believed adding more environmental education programs and adding more recreational skill-based programs were essential or very important. About one-third believed providing more space for social activities and increasing opportunities for cultural education programs were essential or very important actions to improve services.

Residents with higher education levels (Associate or technical school degree or higher) were more likely to place importance on adding recreational opportunities at more of the existing regional parks and adding more recreation skill-based programs but were less likely to place importance on adding more environmental education programs, increasing opportunities for cultural education programs and providing more space for social activities. Residents who identified as Hispanic and/or Persons of Color were more likely to place importance on adding more recreation skill-based programs compared to residents who identified as White alone, not Hispanic. (Please see *Appendix C: Responses to Selected Questions by Respondent Characteristics* for more information and additional comparisons.)

Figure 18: Importance of Park Improvements

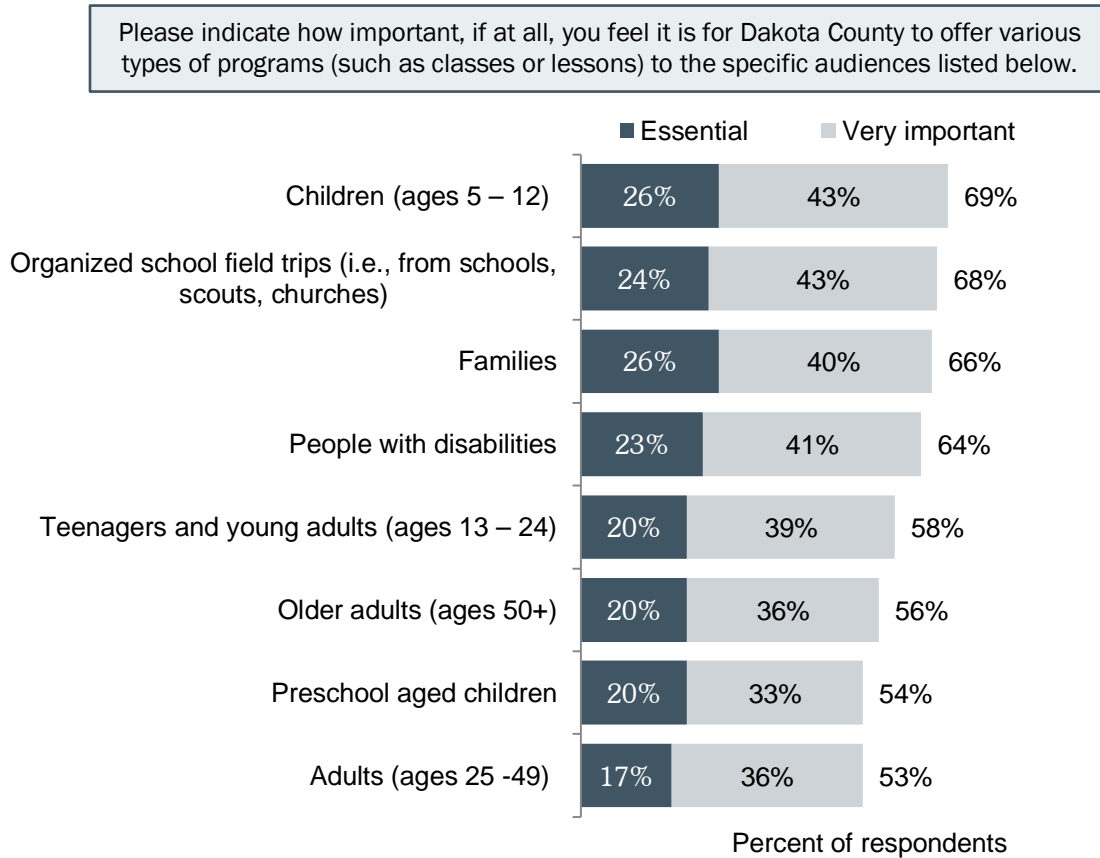


Programs for Specific Audiences

When asked about the importance of offering nature-based/environmental programs for specific audiences, essential or very important ratings ranged from 53% to 69%. At the top of the list with 69% of residents giving essential or very important ratings was children (ages 5-12) followed closely by organized school field trips (68%) and families (66%). At the bottom of the list were preschool aged children with 54% essential or very important followed by adults (53%).

When ratings were compared by respondent demographic subgroups, various statistically significant differences emerged. Generally, residents who had lived in the community for more than 20 years, were aged 55 or older and who were male tended to be less likely to place importance on providing these programs to all listed audiences compared to other survey respondents. As income levels increased, ratings of importance for programs across the various audiences decreased. (Please see *Appendix C: Responses to Selected Questions by Respondent Characteristics* for more information and additional comparisons.)

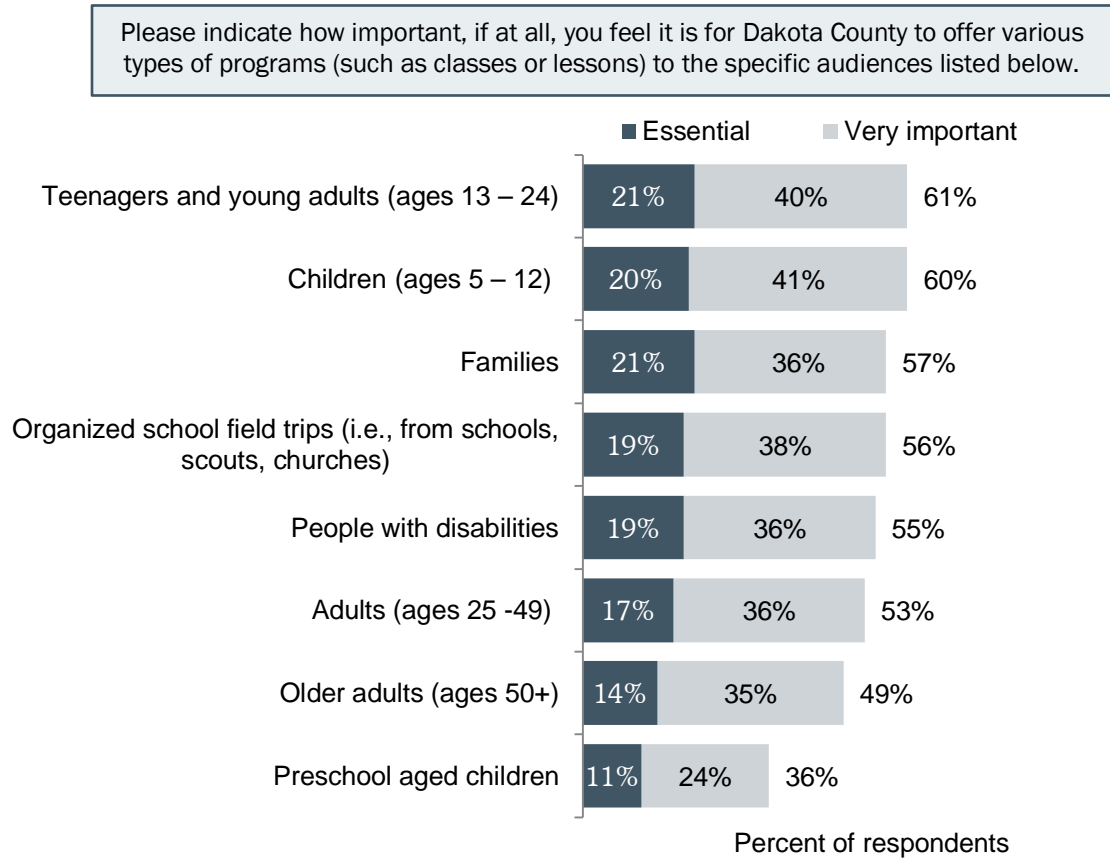
Figure 19: Nature-based/Environmental Programs



When asked about the importance of offering skill-based outdoor recreation programs for the same listed audiences, essential or very important ratings ranged from 36% to 61%. At the top of the list with 61% of residents giving essential or very important ratings were teenagers and young adults followed closely by children ages 5-12 (60%) and families (57%). At the bottom of the list were pre-school aged children with 36% of residents giving an essential or very important rating.

When ratings were compared by respondent demographic subgroups, various statistically significant differences emerged. Generally, residents who had lived in the community for more than 20 years, were aged 55 or older and who were male tended to be less likely to place importance on providing these programs to all listed audiences compared to other survey respondents. Residents who identified as Hispanic and/or Persons of Color tended to place a higher level of importance on offering these programs for preschool aged children and for organized school field trips compared to other survey respondents. (Please see *Appendix C: Responses to Selected Questions by Respondent Characteristics* for more information and additional comparisons.)

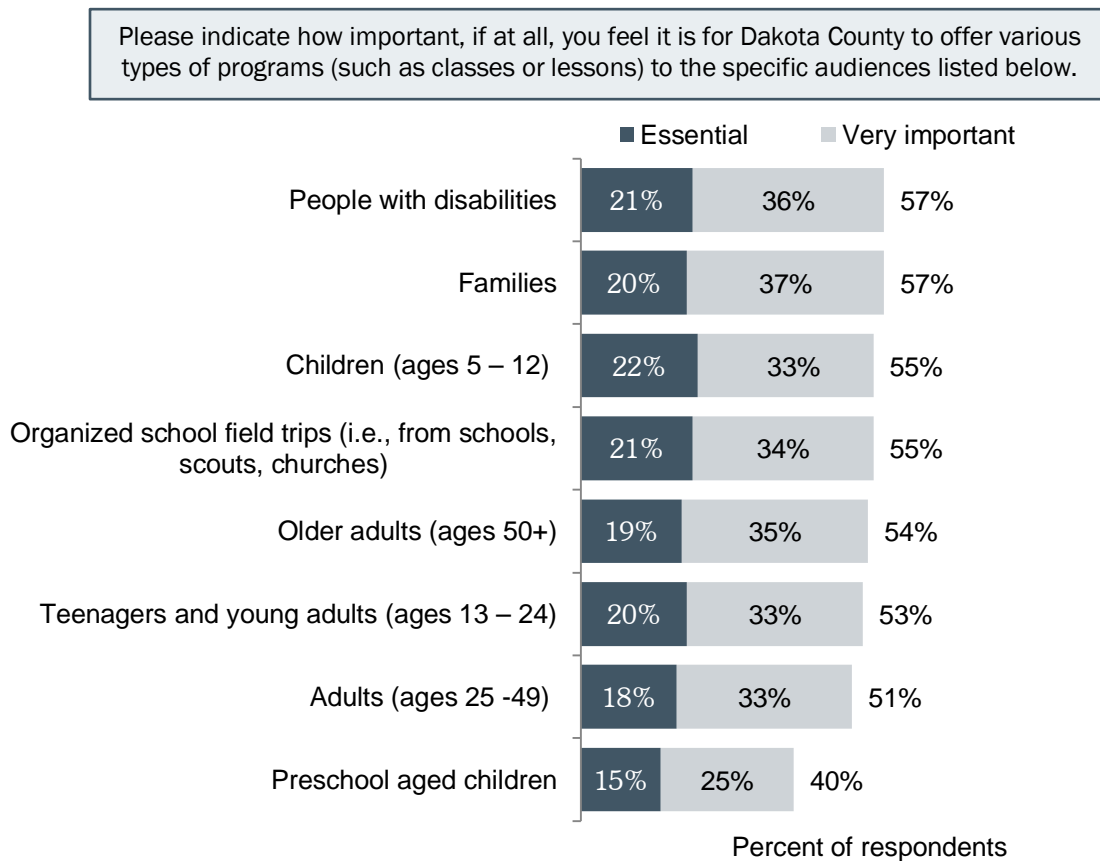
Figure 20: Skill-based Outdoor Recreation Programs



When asked about the importance of offering arts, culture and history programs for the same listed audiences, essential or very important ratings ranged from 40% to 57%. At the top of the list with 57% of residents giving essential or very important ratings were people with disabilities and families followed closely by children (ages 5-12) (55%) and organized school field trips (55%). At the bottom of the list were preschool aged children with 40% of residents giving an essential or very important rating.

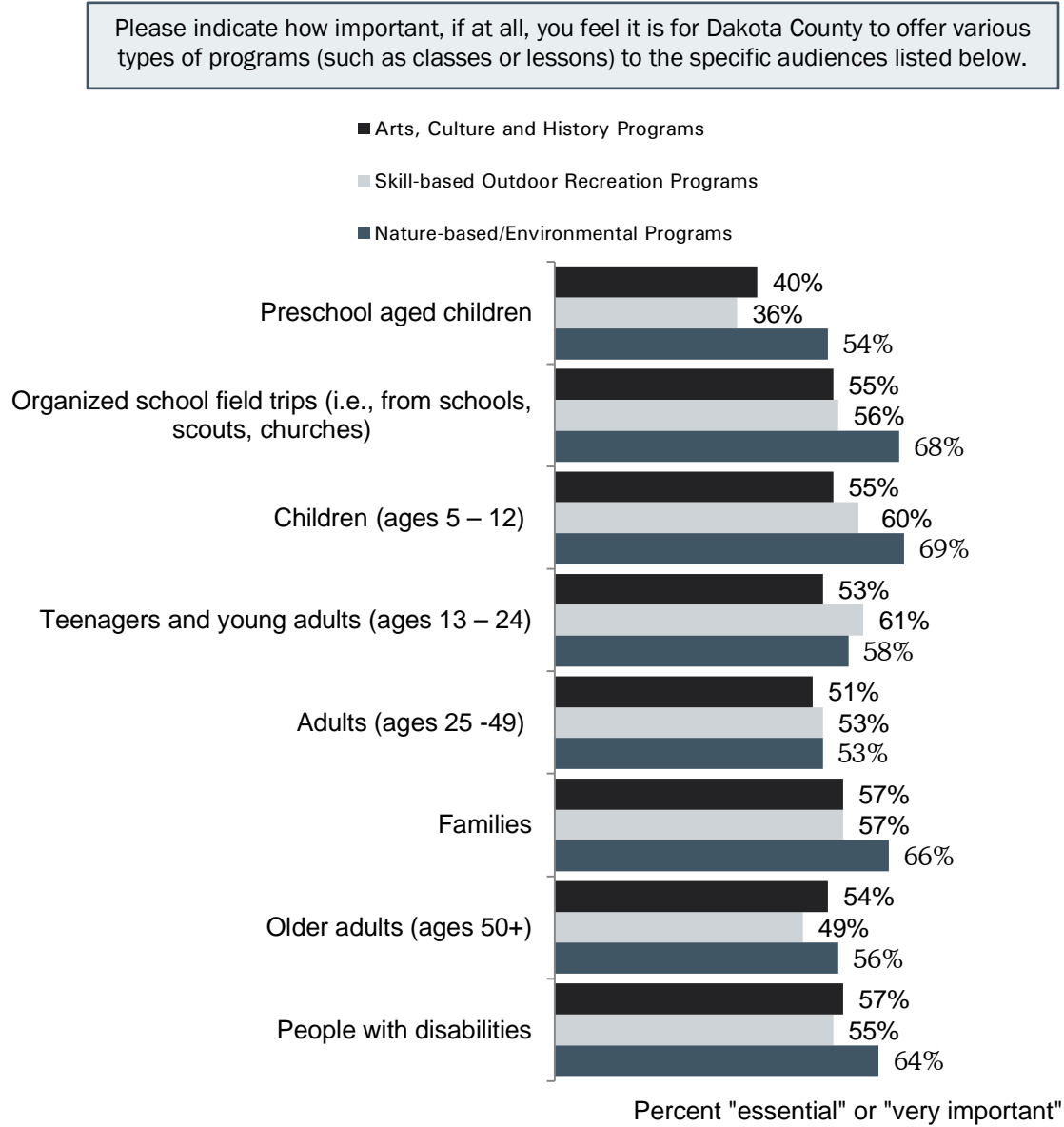
When ratings were compared by respondent demographic subgroups, various statistically significant differences emerged. Generally, as length of residency, age and household income increased, ratings of importance for programs across the various audiences decreased. Residents who identified as Hispanic and/or Persons of Color tended to place a higher level of importance on offering these programs for almost all audiences compared to other survey respondents (the difference in ratings for teenagers and young adults was not statistically significant). (Please see *Appendix C: Responses to Selected Questions by Respondent Characteristics* for more information and additional comparisons.)

Figure 21: Arts, Culture and History Programs



When reviewing importance ratings for each type of program across each specific audience, ratings for nature-based/environmental programs tended to be highest. The exception to this is the importance rating for skill-based outdoor recreation programs, which was highest for teenagers and young adults, and importance ratings were the same for adults (25-49) for nature-based/environmental programs and skill-based outdoor recreation programs.

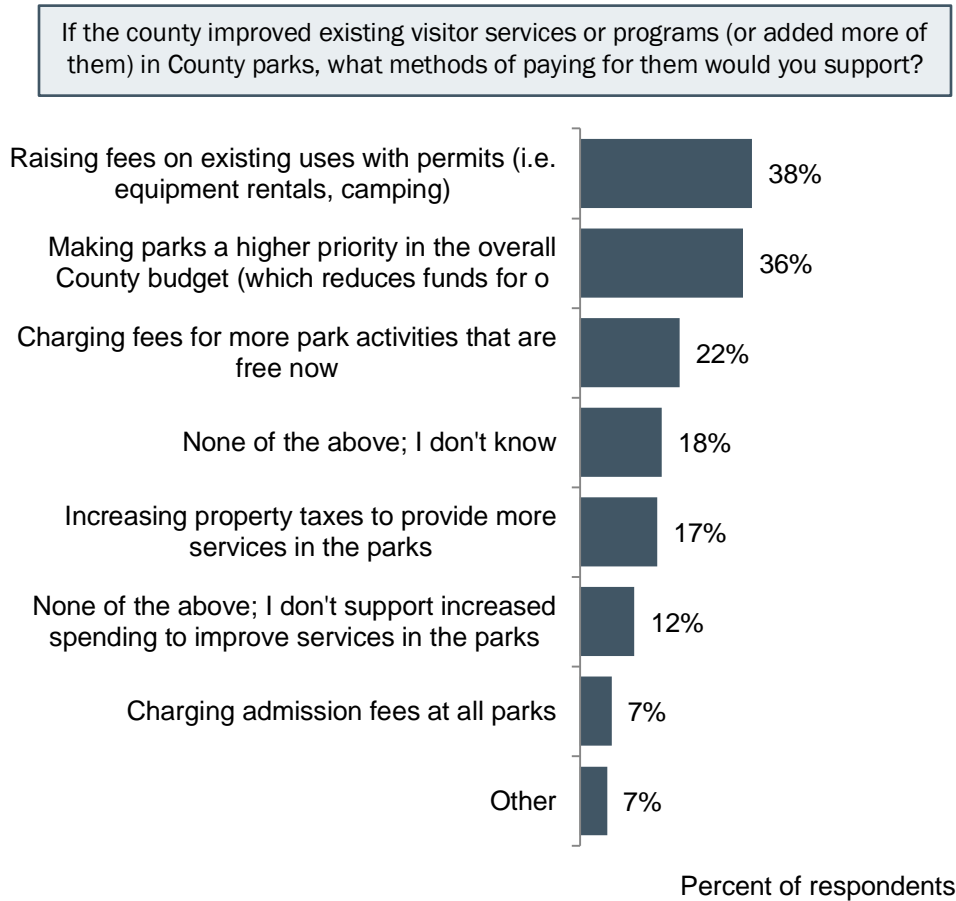
Figure 22: Importance of Program Types by Specific Audiences



Funding Preferences for Service or Program Improvements

Survey respondents were asked to indicate what methods they would support to pay for improved existing visitor services or programs. Less than a majority of residents indicated support for each of the methods listed on the survey. About one-third of survey respondents indicated that they would be willing to support raising fees on existing uses with permits and making parks a higher priority in the overall County budget. About one-fifth would support charging fees for more park activities that are currently free. Fewer than 2 in 10 indicated support for the remaining methods of paying for improved existing visitor services or programs. Twelve percent indicated they do not support increased spending to improve services in the parks and 18% indicated they don't know.

Figure 23: Funding Preferences for Service or Program Improvements

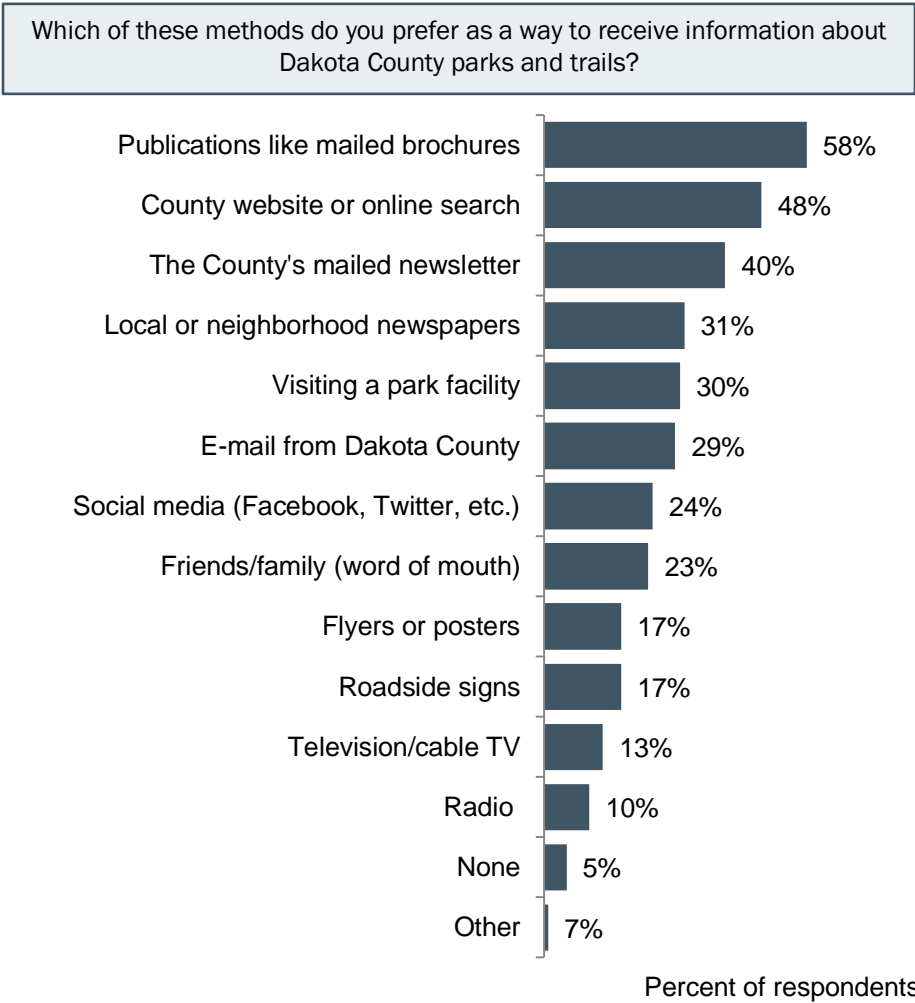


Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one answer. Survey respondents had the opportunity to write-in "other reasons." Please see Appendix D: Responses to Open-ended Questions to review the verbatim responses.

Preferred Information Sources

When asked what methods they prefer as a way to receive information about Dakota County parks and trails, about 6 in 10 residents indicated they preferred to get information from publications like mailed brochures. Just under half would prefer getting information from the County website or online search and 4 in 10 preferred the County’s mailed newsletter. Between 1 in 10 and 2 in 10 preferred flyers or posters, roadside signs, television/cable TV and the radio.

Figure 24: Preferred Information Sources



Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one answer. Survey respondents had the opportunity to write-in “other reasons.” Please see Appendix D: Responses to Open-ended Questions to review the verbatim responses.

Appendix A: Respondent Characteristics

Characteristics of the survey respondents are displayed in the tables in this appendix. The percent and number of respondents is shown in each table.

Table 1: Length of Residency

| How many years have you lived in Dakota County? | Percent | Number |
|---|---------|--------|
| Less than 2 years | 7% | N=65 |
| 2-5 years | 15% | N=131 |
| 6-10 years | 11% | N=100 |
| 11-15 years | 12% | N=104 |
| 16-20 years | 9% | N=82 |
| More than 20 years | 46% | N=405 |
| Total | 100% | N=887 |

Table 2: Housing Unit Type

| Which best describes the building you live in? | Percent | Number |
|--|---------|--------|
| A one-family house detached from any other houses | 63% | N=556 |
| A building with two or more homes (duplex, townhome, apartment or condominium) | 35% | N=313 |
| A mobile home | 1% | N=5 |
| Other | 1% | N=8 |
| Total | 100% | N=881 |

Table 3: Housing Tenure

| Is this house, apartment or mobile home... | Percent | Number |
|--|---------|--------|
| Rented | 22% | N=194 |
| Owned | 78% | N=687 |
| Total | 100% | N=882 |

Table 4: Children age 17 years and under

| Children age 17 years and under | Percent | Number |
|---------------------------------|---------|--------|
| None | 43% | N=241 |
| One | 24% | N=135 |
| Two | 23% | N=130 |
| Three | 8% | N=46 |
| More than three | 1% | N=7 |
| Total | 100% | N=560 |

Table 5: Adults under age 65 years

| Adults under age 65 years | Percent | Number |
|---------------------------|---------|--------|
| None | 5% | N=35 |
| One | 23% | N=172 |
| Two | 61% | N=458 |
| Three | 6% | N=46 |
| More than three | 5% | N=40 |
| Total | 100% | N=752 |

Table 6: Adults age 65 years and over

| Adults age 65 years and over | Percent | Number |
|------------------------------|---------|--------|
| None | 63% | N=288 |
| One | 21% | N=95 |
| Two | 17% | N=76 |
| Total | 100% | N=460 |

Table 7: Household Income

| How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.) | Percent | Number |
|--|---------|--------|
| Less than \$25,000 | 9% | N=69 |
| \$25,000 to \$49,999 | 18% | N=147 |
| \$50,000 to \$99,999 | 38% | N=306 |
| \$100,000 to \$149,999 | 22% | N=178 |
| \$150,000 or more | 14% | N=111 |
| Total | 100% | N=811 |

Table 8: Respondent Education

| Which of the following categories best describes the amount of formal education you have completed? | Percent | Number |
|---|---------|--------|
| Did not receive a high school diploma | 1% | N=11 |
| High school graduate | 12% | N=104 |
| Associate degree | 7% | N=62 |
| Technical school degree | 8% | N=73 |
| Some college, did not complete bachelor's degree | 11% | N=92 |
| Bachelor's degree | 41% | N=359 |
| Graduate or professional degree | 20% | N=176 |
| Total | 100% | N=877 |

Table 9: Respondent Ethnicity

| Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino? | Percent | Number |
|--|---------|--------|
| No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino | 96% | N=829 |
| Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino | 4% | N=37 |
| Total | 100% | N=865 |

Table 10: Respondent Race

| What is your race? | Percent | Number |
|---|---------|--------|
| White | 91% | N=788 |
| Other | 4% | N=34 |
| Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander | 4% | N=32 |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | 3% | N=22 |
| Black or African American | 2% | N=21 |

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

Table 11: Respondent Age

| In which category is your age? | Percent | Number |
|--------------------------------|---------|--------|
| 18 to 24 years | 2% | N=20 |
| 25-34 years | 25% | N=214 |
| 35-44 years | 17% | N=147 |
| 45-54 years | 26% | N=223 |
| 55-64 years | 13% | N=114 |
| 65-74 years | 10% | N=91 |
| 75 years or older | 7% | N=64 |
| Total | 100% | N=873 |

Table 12: Respondent Gender

| What is your gender? | Percent | Number |
|----------------------|---------|--------|
| Female | 53% | N=454 |
| Male | 47% | N=407 |
| Total | 100% | N=861 |

Appendix B: Complete Survey Responses

Complete Set of Survey Frequencies Excluding “Don’t Know”

The following pages contain responses to each question on the survey, excluding the “don’t know” responses. Each table contains both the percent and number of respondents giving a particular response.

Table 13: Question 1

| Compared to other ways you spend your free time, what priority do you give to outdoor recreation? | Percent | Number |
|---|---------|--------|
| High priority | 42% | N=369 |
| Medium priority | 44% | N=385 |
| Low priority | 14% | N=123 |
| Total | 100% | N=877 |

Table 14: Question 2

| Overall, how do you think Dakota County parks and regional trails compare to other parks you visit? | Percent | Number |
|---|---------|--------|
| Excellent | 29% | N=222 |
| Good | 62% | N=470 |
| Fair | 8% | N=60 |
| Poor | 0% | N=1 |
| Total | 100% | N=753 |

Table 15: Question 3

| Please indicate how often, if at all, you visit each of the following parks: | 2 times a week or more | | 2-4 times a month | | Once a month or less | | Not at all | | Total | |
|--|------------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|------------|--------|---------|--------|
| | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number |
| City parks within Dakota County (i.e., Northview Park in Eagan or Michaud (North) Park in Lakeville) | 12% | N=103 | 18% | N=159 | 32% | N=276 | 38% | N=329 | 100% | N=867 |
| County parks within Dakota County (the list is shown in the cover letter) | 8% | N=70 | 24% | N=213 | 44% | N=386 | 23% | N=200 | 100% | N=868 |
| Dakota County's paved recreational trails outside of Dakota County parks | 10% | N=82 | 15% | N=126 | 36% | N=304 | 40% | N=343 | 100% | N=855 |
| Parks that are outside of Dakota County (i.e., Chain of Lakes in Minneapolis or Como Park in St. Paul) | 3% | N=25 | 13% | N=116 | 55% | N=481 | 29% | N=254 | 100% | N=875 |

Table 16: Question 4

| To what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following reasons keep you or members of your household from visiting Dakota County parks or trails? | Strongly agree | | Somewhat agree | | Somewhat disagree | | Strongly disagree | | Total | |
|---|----------------|-------|----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| I prefer to visit other parks instead of Dakota County parks or trails | 3% | N=20 | 16% | N=118 | 30% | N=216 | 52% | N=377 | 100% | N=731 |
| I'm too busy; I do other things with my leisure time | 15% | N=129 | 34% | N=286 | 21% | N=178 | 29% | N=239 | 100% | N=831 |
| I am not familiar with Dakota County parks/trails | 11% | N=88 | 25% | N=212 | 25% | N=206 | 39% | N=327 | 100% | N=833 |
| Dakota County Parks don't offer the activities that I want to do | 4% | N=26 | 13% | N=94 | 28% | N=196 | 55% | N=388 | 100% | N=704 |
| I have no interest in ever going to a park or trail | 4% | N=29 | 4% | N=29 | 11% | N=93 | 82% | N=671 | 100% | N=822 |
| Dakota County parks/trails are too far away | 2% | N=13 | 15% | N=119 | 21% | N=160 | 62% | N=478 | 100% | N=770 |
| I don't have a way to get there | 2% | N=18 | 2% | N=19 | 6% | N=47 | 90% | N=733 | 100% | N=818 |
| I experience cultural or language barriers when I am among other park users | 1% | N=7 | 2% | N=14 | 4% | N=28 | 94% | N=727 | 100% | N=777 |
| I don't have anyone to go with me | 4% | N=30 | 13% | N=109 | 13% | N=105 | 70% | N=569 | 100% | N=813 |
| My physical condition prevents me from going to parks | 3% | N=25 | 6% | N=47 | 6% | N=49 | 85% | N=704 | 100% | N=826 |
| I don't feel safe visiting Dakota County parks or trails | 1% | N=9 | 5% | N=39 | 12% | N=91 | 82% | N=642 | 100% | N=780 |
| Other reasons | 35% | N=37 | 9% | N=10 | 7% | N=7 | 48% | N=51 | 100% | N=105 |

Table 17: Question 5

| To what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following are reasons you or members of your household do visit Dakota County parks or trails? | Strongly agree | | Somewhat agree | | Somewhat disagree | | Strongly disagree | | Total | |
|---|----------------|-------|----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| The parks are close to where I live or work | 45% | N=356 | 38% | N=297 | 12% | N=93 | 5% | N=36 | 100% | N=783 |
| The parks are familiar to me | 31% | N=244 | 42% | N=337 | 18% | N=143 | 9% | N=70 | 100% | N=793 |
| I feel safe in the parks or on the trails | 48% | N=361 | 43% | N=327 | 7% | N=56 | 1% | N=11 | 100% | N=754 |
| I enjoy the activities there | 43% | N=304 | 44% | N=306 | 10% | N=72 | 3% | N=19 | 100% | N=700 |
| I like exploring places that are new to me | 47% | N=371 | 39% | N=306 | 10% | N=80 | 3% | N=25 | 100% | N=783 |
| The parks are places I go for solitude and privacy | 27% | N=208 | 39% | N=295 | 23% | N=176 | 11% | N=84 | 100% | N=763 |
| I enjoy out-of-doors natural settings | 66% | N=533 | 28% | N=228 | 4% | N=29 | 2% | N=19 | 100% | N=809 |
| It's part of my routine (exercise, health, stress relief) | 33% | N=260 | 38% | N=302 | 15% | N=120 | 14% | N=109 | 100% | N=792 |
| I spend time with my friends, family, or pets there | 36% | N=289 | 38% | N=305 | 14% | N=110 | 12% | N=92 | 100% | N=796 |
| I rarely visit Dakota County parks or trails | 17% | N=134 | 17% | N=136 | 23% | N=184 | 44% | N=351 | 100% | N=805 |
| Other reasons | 53% | N=33 | 24% | N=15 | 3% | N=2 | 21% | N=13 | 100% | N=62 |

Table 18: Question 6

| Even for those who don't often visit parks or trails, these could be benefits for you and members of your household. To what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following are benefits? | Strongly agree | | Somewhat agree | | Somewhat disagree | | Strongly disagree | | Total | |
|---|--|-------|----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Improves physical or mental health and fitness | 80% | N=678 | 18% | N=152 | 1% | N=6 | 1% | N=11 | 100% |
| Improves quality of life in the county | 76% | N=643 | 20% | N=172 | 2% | N=13 | 2% | N=13 | 100% | N=841 |
| Protects natural resources and water quality | 71% | N=587 | 25% | N=209 | 2% | N=15 | 1% | N=11 | 100% | N=822 |
| Creates places for scenic landscape views | 75% | N=634 | 21% | N=177 | 2% | N=19 | 2% | N=13 | 100% | N=843 |
| Increases property values | 65% | N=498 | 27% | N=208 | 7% | N=52 | 2% | N=13 | 100% | N=771 |
| Provides opportunities for people to be with other people and cultures | 41% | N=331 | 38% | N=305 | 15% | N=124 | 6% | N=46 | 100% | N=807 |
| Preserves large areas of open space | 71% | N=598 | 25% | N=208 | 4% | N=30 | 1% | N=9 | 100% | N=846 |
| I don't see any benefit for me or my household | 5% | N=36 | 3% | N=28 | 6% | N=45 | 86% | N=685 | 100% | N=793 |

Table 19: Question 7

| As Dakota County considers options to improve services for Dakota County Parks visitors, please rate how important, if at all, each of the following actions are to you: | Essential | | Very important | | Somewhat important | | Not at all important | | Total | |
|--|--|-------|----------------|-------|--------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Adding recreational opportunities at more of the existing regional parks (such as hiking, bicycling and snowshoeing) | 22% | N=181 | 32% | N=266 | 34% | N=282 | 12% | N=96 | 100% |
| Adding more recreation skill-based programs (such as cross-country ski lessons, archery lessons, adaptive outdoor recreation programs for people with disabilities, mountain biking) | 15% | N=118 | 29% | N=237 | 38% | N=312 | 18% | N=145 | 100% | N=813 |
| Adding more environmental education programs (such as nature appreciation programs for preschoolers, Scout badge programs, or guided bird hikes) | 17% | N=142 | 28% | N=234 | 38% | N=316 | 16% | N=135 | 100% | N=827 |
| Increasing opportunities for cultural education programs about the story/history at existing regional parks and trails through art and history programs | 11% | N=86 | 24% | N=194 | 42% | N=346 | 23% | N=191 | 100% | N=818 |
| Providing more space for social activities such as large picnic shelters or field sports space | 14% | N=113 | 22% | N=184 | 43% | N=353 | 22% | N=179 | 100% | N=828 |

Table 20: Question 8 - Nature-based/environmental programs (such as birding, etc.)

| Please indicate how important, if at all, you feel it is for Dakota County to offer various types of programs (such as classes or lessons) to the specific audiences listed below. | Essential | | Very important | | Somewhat important | | Not at all important | | Total | |
|--|-----------|-------|----------------|-------|--------------------|-------|----------------------|------|-------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Preschool aged children | 20% | N=164 | 33% | N=269 | 35% | N=285 | 11% | N=86 | 100% | N=805 |
| Organized school field trips (i.e., from schools, scouts, churches) | 24% | N=198 | 43% | N=353 | 23% | N=191 | 9% | N=72 | 100% | N=814 |
| Children (ages 5 - 12) | 26% | N=208 | 43% | N=351 | 24% | N=197 | 7% | N=56 | 100% | N=812 |
| Teenagers and young adults (ages 13 - 24) | 20% | N=161 | 39% | N=314 | 31% | N=254 | 11% | N=87 | 100% | N=815 |
| Adults (ages 25 -49) | 17% | N=139 | 36% | N=289 | 35% | N=286 | 12% | N=97 | 100% | N=811 |
| Families | 26% | N=212 | 40% | N=329 | 26% | N=217 | 7% | N=61 | 100% | N=819 |
| Older adults (ages 50+) | 20% | N=163 | 36% | N=296 | 33% | N=266 | 11% | N=92 | 100% | N=817 |
| People with disabilities | 23% | N=190 | 41% | N=330 | 27% | N=218 | 9% | N=71 | 100% | N=809 |

Table 21: Question 8 - Skill-based outdoor recreation programs (such as lessons for skiing, kayaking)

| Please indicate how important, if at all, you feel it is for Dakota County to offer various types of programs (such as classes or lessons) to the specific audiences listed below. | Essential | | Very important | | Somewhat important | | Not at all important | | Total | |
|--|-----------|-------|----------------|-------|--------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Preschool aged children | 11% | N=89 | 24% | N=194 | 37% | N=291 | 28% | N=222 | 100% | N=797 |
| Organized school field trips (i.e., from schools, scouts, churches) | 19% | N=150 | 38% | N=304 | 32% | N=257 | 12% | N=98 | 100% | N=809 |
| Children (ages 5 - 12) | 20% | N=160 | 41% | N=326 | 29% | N=235 | 10% | N=83 | 100% | N=805 |
| Teenagers and young adults (ages 13 - 24) | 21% | N=174 | 40% | N=322 | 30% | N=243 | 9% | N=71 | 100% | N=810 |
| Adults (ages 25 -49) | 17% | N=140 | 36% | N=287 | 34% | N=277 | 13% | N=102 | 100% | N=805 |
| Families | 21% | N=173 | 36% | N=292 | 31% | N=256 | 12% | N=95 | 100% | N=815 |
| Older adults (ages 50+) | 14% | N=115 | 35% | N=284 | 36% | N=291 | 15% | N=119 | 100% | N=810 |
| People with disabilities | 19% | N=154 | 36% | N=285 | 31% | N=244 | 14% | N=114 | 100% | N=797 |

Table 22: Question 8 - Arts, culture and history programs (such as nature photography, music or movie showings, or living history performances)

| Please indicate how important, if at all, you feel it is for Dakota County to offer various types of programs (such as classes or lessons) to the specific audiences listed below. | Essential | | Very important | | Somewhat important | | Not at all important | | Total | |
|--|-----------|-------|----------------|-------|--------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| Preschool aged children | 15% | N=122 | 25% | N=202 | 35% | N=284 | 25% | N=199 | 100% | N=808 |
| Organized school field trips (i.e., from schools, scouts, churches) | 21% | N=168 | 34% | N=281 | 30% | N=243 | 15% | N=123 | 100% | N=815 |
| Children (ages 5 - 12) | 22% | N=177 | 33% | N=267 | 31% | N=251 | 14% | N=117 | 100% | N=813 |
| Teenagers and young adults (ages 13 - 24) | 20% | N=165 | 33% | N=270 | 32% | N=260 | 15% | N=120 | 100% | N=815 |
| Adults (ages 25 -49) | 18% | N=149 | 33% | N=269 | 33% | N=271 | 16% | N=131 | 100% | N=820 |
| Families | 20% | N=167 | 37% | N=302 | 29% | N=238 | 14% | N=112 | 100% | N=819 |
| Older adults (ages 50+) | 19% | N=152 | 35% | N=288 | 30% | N=242 | 17% | N=136 | 100% | N=818 |
| People with disabilities | 21% | N=171 | 36% | N=290 | 28% | N=221 | 15% | N=123 | 100% | N=805 |

Table 23: Question 9 - Availability of recreation equipment for rental

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? | Very likely | | Somewhat likely | | Somewhat unlikely | | Very unlikely | | Total | |
|--|-------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| Canoes | 20% | N=173 | 35% | N=297 | 16% | N=137 | 29% | N=244 | 100% | N=851 |
| Kayaks | 22% | N=186 | 33% | N=278 | 15% | N=129 | 30% | N=259 | 100% | N=852 |
| Paddleboards | 17% | N=144 | 30% | N=258 | 20% | N=173 | 33% | N=278 | 100% | N=852 |
| Paddleboats | 15% | N=123 | 33% | N=279 | 22% | N=187 | 31% | N=261 | 100% | N=851 |
| Rowboats | 12% | N=101 | 25% | N=213 | 28% | N=238 | 35% | N=294 | 100% | N=847 |
| Bicycles (or mountain bikes) | 20% | N=169 | 26% | N=223 | 21% | N=180 | 33% | N=276 | 100% | N=849 |
| Bows for archery | 15% | N=124 | 25% | N=210 | 24% | N=206 | 37% | N=313 | 100% | N=853 |
| Fishing gear | 12% | N=99 | 21% | N=175 | 25% | N=215 | 43% | N=362 | 100% | N=850 |
| Cross-country skis | 16% | N=136 | 29% | N=244 | 22% | N=187 | 34% | N=286 | 100% | N=852 |
| Snowshoes | 20% | N=171 | 26% | N=220 | 21% | N=180 | 33% | N=283 | 100% | N=854 |
| Kicksleds | 6% | N=49 | 14% | N=117 | 30% | N=250 | 51% | N=427 | 100% | N=843 |
| Camping gear | 8% | N=66 | 17% | N=147 | 25% | N=214 | 50% | N=423 | 100% | N=850 |
| Adaptive recreation equipment (sit-ski for cross-country skiing) | 7% | N=59 | 9% | N=74 | 23% | N=195 | 61% | N=521 | 100% | N=849 |
| Yard games (bocce ball, croquet, bag toss) | 15% | N=131 | 27% | N=230 | 22% | N=191 | 35% | N=298 | 100% | N=850 |
| GPS units | 8% | N=66 | 21% | N=177 | 26% | N=222 | 45% | N=381 | 100% | N=846 |
| Headlamps | 6% | N=54 | 14% | N=115 | 28% | N=233 | 53% | N=445 | 100% | N=846 |
| Nordic walking poles | 6% | N=54 | 18% | N=149 | 24% | N=204 | 52% | N=436 | 100% | N=843 |

Table 24: Question 9 - Availability of food services

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? | Very likely | | Somewhat likely | | Somewhat unlikely | | Very unlikely | | Total | |
|--|-------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vending machines for food and beverages | 14% | N=123 | 31% | N=269 | 24% | N=204 | 30% | N=259 | 100% | N=855 |
| Limited-menu food concessions/snack bar | 14% | N=117 | 33% | N=283 | 23% | N=194 | 30% | N=259 | 100% | N=853 |
| Food trucks | 20% | N=168 | 34% | N=285 | 19% | N=160 | 28% | N=236 | 100% | N=850 |
| Café/restaurant | 20% | N=170 | 29% | N=244 | 24% | N=203 | 28% | N=238 | 100% | N=855 |

Table 25: Question 9 - Adding amenities

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? | Very likely | | Somewhat likely | | Somewhat unlikely | | Very unlikely | | Total | |
|--|-------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Availability of souvenirs to purchase (t-shirts, books) | 6% | N=47 | 18% | N=150 | 28% | N=235 | 49% | N=421 | 100% | N=854 |
| Availability of convenience items to purchase (bug spray, s'more fixings) | 9% | N=81 | 29% | N=251 | 24% | N=206 | 37% | N=317 | 100% | N=855 |
| Gardens such as native plants, community food plots, or ornamental gardens | 17% | N=148 | 31% | N=268 | 21% | N=182 | 30% | N=259 | 100% | N=857 |
| Amphitheater (outdoor entertainment venue) | 20% | N=174 | 38% | N=319 | 20% | N=166 | 22% | N=191 | 100% | N=851 |
| Outdoor splash pads | 21% | N=175 | 22% | N=185 | 21% | N=178 | 37% | N=313 | 100% | N=851 |
| Off-leash dog run areas | 20% | N=171 | 16% | N=137 | 18% | N=152 | 46% | N=393 | 100% | N=854 |
| Improve park trail signs for way-finding | 30% | N=259 | 34% | N=292 | 16% | N=139 | 19% | N=164 | 100% | N=855 |
| Benches and scenic overlooks along trails | 40% | N=346 | 37% | N=317 | 10% | N=90 | 12% | N=107 | 100% | N=860 |

Table 26: Question 9 - Adding programs

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? | Very likely | | Somewhat likely | | Somewhat unlikely | | Very unlikely | | Total | |
|--|-------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| A system of self-guided technology (such as a smart phone app) to learn about a park or the natural world | 23% | N=198 | 32% | N=270 | 17% | N=142 | 28% | N=239 | 100% | N=849 |
| Before- and after-school programs for children | 13% | N=110 | 24% | N=200 | 19% | N=161 | 45% | N=380 | 100% | N=851 |
| Fitness/wellness programs for children | 14% | N=119 | 26% | N=220 | 20% | N=173 | 40% | N=343 | 100% | N=855 |
| Fitness/wellness programs for adults | 17% | N=150 | 37% | N=321 | 21% | N=183 | 24% | N=204 | 100% | N=857 |
| Summer camp programs for children | 16% | N=140 | 26% | N=220 | 17% | N=144 | 41% | N=351 | 100% | N=855 |
| Birthday parties | 12% | N=100 | 27% | N=231 | 21% | N=181 | 40% | N=343 | 100% | N=855 |
| Travel programs | 9% | N=73 | 22% | N=191 | 27% | N=231 | 42% | N=356 | 100% | N=850 |
| Programs with pets | 11% | N=96 | 19% | N=158 | 19% | N=165 | 51% | N=433 | 100% | N=852 |

Table 27: Question 9 - Attending an event

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? | Very likely | | Somewhat likely | | Somewhat unlikely | | Very unlikely | | Total | |
|--|-------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Recreation activity events (5K run/walk, triathlon) | 17% | N=146 | 29% | N=248 | 22% | N=189 | 32% | N=272 | 100% | N=854 |
| Music, concerts, performances (music in the park series) | 32% | N=278 | 38% | N=324 | 15% | N=126 | 15% | N=130 | 100% | N=857 |
| Evening showings of movies in parks | 26% | N=223 | 34% | N=287 | 19% | N=159 | 22% | N=186 | 100% | N=855 |
| Visual and public arts | 19% | N=160 | 30% | N=256 | 28% | N=236 | 24% | N=204 | 100% | N=857 |
| Date/season celebration (New Year's Eve, Halloween) | 17% | N=144 | 28% | N=239 | 25% | N=211 | 31% | N=261 | 100% | N=855 |
| Multicultural celebrations (Cinco de Mayo, Irish Fair) | 16% | N=137 | 27% | N=229 | 26% | N=220 | 31% | N=266 | 100% | N=851 |

Table 28: Question 9 - Renting park facilities for a private event

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? | Very likely | | Somewhat likely | | Somewhat unlikely | | Very unlikely | | Total | |
|--|-------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Picnic shelter for a gathering of 100 people or fewer | 14% | N=120 | 29% | N=245 | 25% | N=218 | 32% | N=276 | 100% | N=858 |
| Picnic shelter for a gathering of more than 100 people | 7% | N=58 | 14% | N=117 | 28% | N=243 | 51% | N=436 | 100% | N=854 |
| Renting a visitor center for a family, corporate, or organization event of 50 - 200 people | 8% | N=67 | 14% | N=116 | 29% | N=250 | 49% | N=420 | 100% | N=854 |
| Renting a smaller retreat center or lodge for a family, corporate or organization event of fewer than 50 people | 12% | N=102 | 19% | N=166 | 27% | N=234 | 41% | N=351 | 100% | N=852 |

Table 29: Question 10

| Please list any other activities, programs or rentals not listed above that you or members of your family would be likely to use in the next two years? | Percent | Number |
|---|---------|--------|
| Dog parks, dog friendly events, etc. | 5% | N=7 |
| Horseback riding trails | 5% | N=7 |
| Camping sites/equipment, cabins to rent, etc. | 6% | N=9 |
| Frisbee Golf Course | 4% | N=6 |
| Bathrooms | 4% | N=6 |
| Do not use parks | 3% | N=4 |
| Trail signage improvements | 2% | N=2 |
| New programs bird watching, outdoor zumba, soccer games, etc.) | 8% | N=12 |
| Comments related to trails | 14% | N=21 |
| Winter activities | 6% | N=9 |
| Art programs, etc. | 2% | N=3 |
| Other | 23% | N=34 |
| None | 18% | N=26 |
| Total | 100% | N=146 |

Table 30: Question 11

| If you have not rented a Dakota County Parks facility and have not made plans to do so in the future, please indicate which of the following reasons describe why you have not or don't plan to do so in the future? | Percent | Number |
|--|---------|--------|
| No need to rent a facility | 78% | N=632 |
| I wasn't aware of the opportunity to rent Parks facilities | 15% | N=123 |
| Other | 5% | N=41 |
| The cost was too high | 5% | N=39 |
| The facility wasn't available when I needed it | 3% | N=22 |
| Facility locations are not convenient | 2% | N=20 |
| The facility size didn't meet my needs | 2% | N=13 |

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

Table 31: Question 12

| If the county improved existing visitor services or programs (or added more of them) in County parks, what methods of paying for them would you support? | Percent | Number |
|--|---------|--------|
| Raising fees on existing uses with permits (i.e. equipment rentals, camping) | 38% | N=335 |
| Making parks a higher priority in the overall County budget (which reduces funds for o | 36% | N=315 |
| Charging fees for more park activities that are free now | 22% | N=189 |
| None of the above; I don't know | 18% | N=159 |
| Increasing property taxes to provide more services in the parks | 17% | N=151 |
| None of the above; I don't support increased spending to improve services in the parks | 12% | N=102 |
| Charging admission fees at all parks | 7% | N=64 |
| Other | 6% | N=53 |

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

Table 32: Question 13

| Please indicate how likely, if at all, you or members of your household would be to participate in each of these volunteer opportunities at a Dakota County park in the next year: | Very likely | | Somewhat likely | | Somewhat unlikely | | Very unlikely | | Total | |
|--|-------------|------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| Removing invasive species (such as buckthorn) | 7% | N=63 | 22% | N=191 | 25% | N=217 | 45% | N=392 | 100% | N=863 |
| Cleaning up shores of streams/lakes | 10% | N=87 | 32% | N=273 | 23% | N=199 | 35% | N=307 | 100% | N=866 |
| Restoring native prairies | 7% | N=63 | 27% | N=231 | 26% | N=222 | 40% | N=350 | 100% | N=865 |
| Assisting with parks special events (candle lighting, on-site registration, etc.) | 8% | N=66 | 24% | N=207 | 26% | N=228 | 42% | N=364 | 100% | N=866 |
| Trail patrol (skiing, mountain biking, hiking) | 6% | N=54 | 14% | N=124 | 27% | N=235 | 52% | N=449 | 100% | N=862 |
| Assisting with classes or lessons (setting up classrooms, materials) | 6% | N=50 | 22% | N=186 | 24% | N=208 | 48% | N=415 | 100% | N=858 |
| Park or trail clean-up events | 11% | N=99 | 40% | N=351 | 17% | N=150 | 31% | N=268 | 100% | N=867 |

Table 33: Question 14

| About how much time, if at all, do you estimate you would be willing to spend as a volunteer for Dakota County parks/trails? | Percent | Number |
|--|---------|--------|
| One day or less per year | 19% | N=163 |
| A few hours 3 – 4 times per year | 29% | N=249 |
| About one day each month | 9% | N=81 |
| About a ½ day each month | 5% | N=43 |
| Several hours most weeks | 3% | N=24 |
| I am not interested in any volunteer activities | 20% | N=175 |
| I don't have the time or the physical capabilities to volunteer | 15% | N=130 |
| Total | 100% | N=866 |

Table 34: Question 15

| Before you read this survey, were you able to name the Dakota County park closest to you? | Percent | Number |
|---|---------|--------|
| No | 23% | N=199 |
| Yes | 77% | N=679 |
| Total | 100% | N=878 |

Table 35: Question 16

| Which of these methods do you prefer as a way to receive information about Dakota County parks and trails? | Percent | Number |
|--|---------|--------|
| Publications like mailed brochures | 58% | N=504 |
| County website or online search | 48% | N=416 |
| The County's mailed newsletter | 40% | N=352 |
| Local or neighborhood newspapers | 31% | N=274 |
| Visiting a park facility | 30% | N=266 |
| E-mail from Dakota County | 29% | N=253 |
| Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) | 24% | N=211 |
| Friends/family (word of mouth) | 23% | N=198 |
| Roadside signs | 17% | N=152 |
| Flyers or posters | 17% | N=149 |
| Television/cable TV | 13% | N=111 |
| Radio | 10% | N=84 |
| None | 5% | N=42 |
| Other | 1% | N=7 |

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

Complete Set of Survey Frequencies Including “Don’t Know”

The following pages contain a complete set of responses to each question on the survey, including the “don’t know” responses. The percent and number of respondents is shown in each table.

Table 36: Question 1

| Compared to other ways you spend your free time, what priority do you give to outdoor recreation? | Percent | Number |
|---|---------|--------|
| High priority | 42% | N=369 |
| Medium priority | 44% | N=385 |
| Low priority | 14% | N=123 |
| Total | 100% | N=877 |

Table 37: Question 2

| Overall, how do you think Dakota County parks and regional trails compare to other parks you visit? | Percent | Number |
|---|---------|--------|
| Excellent | 25% | N=222 |
| Good | 53% | N=470 |
| Fair | 7% | N=60 |
| Poor | 0% | N=1 |
| Don't know | 9% | N=76 |
| I don't visit parks | 6% | N=54 |
| Total | 100% | N=882 |

Table 38: Question 3

| Please indicate how often, if at all, you visit each of the following parks: | 2 times a week or more | | 2-4 times a month | | Once a month or less | | Not at all | | Total | |
|--|------------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|------------|--------|---------|--------|
| | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number |
| City parks within Dakota County (i.e., Northview Park in Eagan or Michaud (North) Park in Lakeville) | 12% | N=103 | 18% | N=159 | 32% | N=276 | 38% | N=329 | 100% | N=867 |
| County parks within Dakota County (the list is shown in the cover letter) | 8% | N=70 | 24% | N=213 | 44% | N=386 | 23% | N=200 | 100% | N=868 |
| Dakota County's paved recreational trails outside of Dakota County parks | 10% | N=82 | 15% | N=126 | 36% | N=304 | 40% | N=343 | 100% | N=855 |
| Parks that are outside of Dakota County (i.e., Chain of Lakes in Minneapolis or Como Park in St. Paul) | 3% | N=25 | 13% | N=116 | 55% | N=481 | 29% | N=254 | 100% | N=875 |

Table 39: Question 4

| To what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following reasons keep you or members of your household from visiting Dakota County parks or trails? | Strongly agree | | Somewhat agree | | Somewhat disagree | | Strongly disagree | | Don't know | | Total | |
|---|----------------|-------|----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| I prefer to visit other parks instead of Dakota County parks or trails | 2% | N=20 | 14% | N=118 | 25% | N=216 | 44% | N=377 | 15% | N=127 | 100% | N=858 |
| I'm too busy; I do other things with my leisure time | 15% | N=129 | 33% | N=286 | 21% | N=178 | 28% | N=239 | 4% | N=33 | 100% | N=864 |
| I am not familiar with Dakota County parks/trails | 10% | N=88 | 25% | N=212 | 24% | N=206 | 38% | N=327 | 4% | N=31 | 100% | N=864 |
| Dakota County Parks don't offer the activities that I want to do | 3% | N=26 | 11% | N=94 | 23% | N=196 | 45% | N=388 | 18% | N=155 | 100% | N=859 |
| I have no interest in ever going to a park or trail | 3% | N=29 | 3% | N=29 | 11% | N=93 | 78% | N=671 | 4% | N=36 | 100% | N=859 |
| Dakota County parks/trails are too far away | 2% | N=13 | 14% | N=119 | 19% | N=160 | 56% | N=478 | 10% | N=89 | 100% | N=860 |
| I don't have a way to get there | 2% | N=18 | 2% | N=19 | 6% | N=47 | 86% | N=733 | 5% | N=39 | 100% | N=857 |
| I experience cultural or language barriers when I am among other park users | 1% | N=7 | 2% | N=14 | 3% | N=28 | 85% | N=727 | 10% | N=83 | 100% | N=860 |
| I don't have anyone to go with me | 3% | N=30 | 13% | N=109 | 12% | N=105 | 66% | N=569 | 6% | N=47 | 100% | N=861 |
| My physical condition prevents me from going to parks | 3% | N=25 | 5% | N=47 | 6% | N=49 | 81% | N=704 | 5% | N=41 | 100% | N=867 |
| I don't feel safe visiting Dakota County parks or trails | 1% | N=9 | 5% | N=39 | 11% | N=91 | 75% | N=642 | 9% | N=79 | 100% | N=859 |
| Other reasons | 16% | N=37 | 4% | N=10 | 3% | N=7 | 22% | N=51 | 55% | N=127 | 100% | N=232 |

Table 40: Question 5

| To what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following are reasons you or members of your household do visit Dakota County parks or trails? | Strongly agree | | Somewhat agree | | Somewhat disagree | | Strongly disagree | | Don't know | | Total | |
|---|----------------|-------|----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| The parks are close to where I live or work | 42% | N=356 | 35% | N=297 | 11% | N=93 | 4% | N=36 | 8% | N=69 | 100% | N=852 |
| The parks are familiar to me | 29% | N=244 | 40% | N=337 | 17% | N=143 | 8% | N=70 | 6% | N=52 | 100% | N=846 |
| I feel safe in the parks or on the trails | 43% | N=361 | 39% | N=327 | 7% | N=56 | 1% | N=11 | 11% | N=93 | 100% | N=847 |
| I enjoy the activities there | 36% | N=304 | 36% | N=306 | 8% | N=72 | 2% | N=19 | 17% | N=142 | 100% | N=842 |
| I like exploring places that are new to me | 44% | N=371 | 36% | N=306 | 9% | N=80 | 3% | N=25 | 8% | N=64 | 100% | N=847 |
| The parks are places I go for solitude and privacy | 25% | N=208 | 35% | N=295 | 21% | N=176 | 10% | N=84 | 9% | N=78 | 100% | N=841 |
| I enjoy out-of-doors natural settings | 63% | N=533 | 27% | N=228 | 3% | N=29 | 2% | N=19 | 4% | N=38 | 100% | N=847 |
| It's part of my routine (exercise, health, stress relief) | 31% | N=260 | 36% | N=302 | 14% | N=120 | 13% | N=109 | 6% | N=53 | 100% | N=844 |
| I spend time with my friends, family, or pets there | 34% | N=289 | 36% | N=305 | 13% | N=110 | 11% | N=92 | 6% | N=52 | 100% | N=848 |
| I rarely visit Dakota County parks or trails | 16% | N=134 | 16% | N=136 | 22% | N=184 | 41% | N=351 | 5% | N=40 | 100% | N=845 |
| Other reasons | 18% | N=33 | 8% | N=15 | 1% | N=2 | 7% | N=13 | 66% | N=122 | 100% | N=184 |

Table 41: Question 6

| Even for those who don't often visit parks or trails, these could be benefits for you and members of your household. To what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following are benefits? | Strongly agree | | Somewhat agree | | Somewhat disagree | | Strongly disagree | | Don't know | | Total | |
|---|----------------|-------|----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|------------|------|-------|-------|
| | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| Improves physical or mental health and fitness | 78% | N=678 | 17% | N=152 | 1% | N=6 | 1% | N=11 | 3% | N=25 | 100% | N=872 |
| Improves quality of life in the county | 74% | N=643 | 20% | N=172 | 2% | N=13 | 1% | N=13 | 3% | N=29 | 100% | N=870 |
| Protects natural resources and water quality | 68% | N=587 | 24% | N=209 | 2% | N=15 | 1% | N=11 | 5% | N=43 | 100% | N=865 |
| Creates places for scenic landscape views | 73% | N=634 | 20% | N=177 | 2% | N=19 | 2% | N=13 | 3% | N=25 | 100% | N=868 |
| Increases property values | 57% | N=498 | 24% | N=208 | 6% | N=52 | 2% | N=13 | 11% | N=98 | 100% | N=869 |
| Provides opportunities for people to be with other people and cultures | 38% | N=331 | 35% | N=305 | 14% | N=124 | 5% | N=46 | 7% | N=59 | 100% | N=866 |
| Preserves large areas of open space | 69% | N=598 | 24% | N=208 | 4% | N=30 | 1% | N=9 | 3% | N=23 | 100% | N=869 |
| I don't see any benefit for me or my household | 4% | N=36 | 3% | N=28 | 5% | N=45 | 81% | N=685 | 6% | N=55 | 100% | N=848 |

Table 42: Question 7

| As Dakota County considers options to improve services for Dakota County Parks visitors, please rate how important, if at all, each of the following actions are to you: | Essential | | Very important | | Somewhat important | | Not at all important | | Don't know | | Total | |
|--|-----------|-------|----------------|-------|--------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|------------|------|-------|-------|
| | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| Adding recreational opportunities at more of the existing regional parks (such as hiking, bicycling and snowshoeing) | 21% | N=181 | 31% | N=266 | 32% | N=282 | 11% | N=96 | 5% | N=43 | 100% | N=869 |
| Adding more recreation skill-based programs (such as cross-country ski lessons, archery lessons, adaptive outdoor recreation programs for people with disabilities, mountain biking) | 14% | N=118 | 27% | N=237 | 36% | N=312 | 17% | N=145 | 7% | N=57 | 100% | N=869 |
| Adding more environmental education programs (such as nature appreciation programs for preschoolers, Scout badge programs, or guided bird hikes) | 16% | N=142 | 27% | N=234 | 36% | N=316 | 16% | N=135 | 5% | N=41 | 100% | N=868 |
| Increasing opportunities for cultural education programs about the story/history at existing regional parks and trails through art and history programs | 10% | N=86 | 22% | N=194 | 40% | N=346 | 22% | N=191 | 6% | N=50 | 100% | N=867 |
| Providing more space for social activities such as large picnic shelters or field sports space | 13% | N=113 | 21% | N=184 | 41% | N=353 | 21% | N=179 | 5% | N=42 | 100% | N=871 |

Table 43: Question 8 - Nature-based/environmental programs (such as birding, etc.)

| Please indicate how important, if at all, you feel it is for Dakota County to offer various types of programs (such as classes or lessons) to the specific audiences listed below. | Essential | | Very important | | Somewhat important | | Not at all important | | Don't know | | Total | |
|--|-----------|-------|----------------|-------|--------------------|-------|----------------------|------|------------|------|-------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Preschool aged children | 19% | N=164 | 31% | N=269 | 33% | N=285 | 10% | N=86 | 7% | N=65 | 100% | N=869 |
| Organized school field trips (i.e., from schools, scouts, churches) | 23% | N=198 | 41% | N=353 | 22% | N=191 | 8% | N=72 | 6% | N=49 | 100% | N=863 |
| Children (ages 5 - 12) | 24% | N=208 | 41% | N=351 | 23% | N=197 | 6% | N=56 | 6% | N=49 | 100% | N=862 |
| Teenagers and young adults (ages 13 - 24) | 19% | N=161 | 36% | N=314 | 29% | N=254 | 10% | N=87 | 6% | N=51 | 100% | N=866 |
| Adults (ages 25 -49) | 16% | N=139 | 34% | N=289 | 33% | N=286 | 11% | N=97 | 5% | N=47 | 100% | N=858 |
| Families | 25% | N=212 | 38% | N=329 | 25% | N=217 | 7% | N=61 | 5% | N=45 | 100% | N=864 |
| Older adults (ages 50+) | 19% | N=163 | 34% | N=296 | 31% | N=266 | 11% | N=92 | 5% | N=46 | 100% | N=863 |
| People with disabilities | 22% | N=190 | 38% | N=330 | 25% | N=218 | 8% | N=71 | 6% | N=55 | 100% | N=864 |

Table 44: Question 8 - Skill-based outdoor recreation programs (such as lessons for skiing, kayaking)

| Please indicate how important, if at all, you feel it is for Dakota County to offer various types of programs (such as classes or lessons) to the specific audiences listed below. | Essential | | Very important | | Somewhat important | | Not at all important | | Don't know | | Total | |
|--|-----------|-------|----------------|-------|--------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|------------|------|-------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Preschool aged children | 10% | N=89 | 22% | N=194 | 34% | N=291 | 26% | N=222 | 8% | N=69 | 100% | N=866 |
| Organized school field trips (i.e., from schools, scouts, churches) | 17% | N=150 | 35% | N=304 | 30% | N=257 | 11% | N=98 | 7% | N=58 | 100% | N=867 |
| Children (ages 5 - 12) | 19% | N=160 | 38% | N=326 | 27% | N=235 | 10% | N=83 | 7% | N=57 | 100% | N=862 |
| Teenagers and young adults (ages 13 - 24) | 20% | N=174 | 37% | N=322 | 28% | N=243 | 8% | N=71 | 6% | N=56 | 100% | N=866 |
| Adults (ages 25 -49) | 16% | N=140 | 33% | N=287 | 32% | N=277 | 12% | N=102 | 6% | N=54 | 100% | N=859 |
| Families | 20% | N=173 | 34% | N=292 | 29% | N=256 | 11% | N=95 | 6% | N=53 | 100% | N=868 |
| Older adults (ages 50+) | 13% | N=115 | 33% | N=284 | 34% | N=291 | 14% | N=119 | 7% | N=56 | 100% | N=866 |
| People with disabilities | 18% | N=154 | 33% | N=285 | 28% | N=244 | 13% | N=114 | 8% | N=65 | 100% | N=862 |

Table 45: Question 8 - Arts, culture and history programs (such as nature photography, music or movie showings, or living history performances)

| Please indicate how important, if at all, you feel it is for Dakota County to offer various types of programs (such as classes or lessons) to the specific audiences listed below. | Essential | | Very important | | Somewhat important | | Not at all important | | Don't know | | Total | |
|--|-----------|-------|----------------|-------|--------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|------------|------|-------|-------|
| | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| Preschool aged children | 14% | N=122 | 23% | N=202 | 33% | N=284 | 23% | N=199 | 7% | N=59 | 100% | N=867 |
| Organized school field trips (i.e., from schools, scouts, churches) | 19% | N=168 | 32% | N=281 | 28% | N=243 | 14% | N=123 | 6% | N=52 | 100% | N=868 |
| Children (ages 5 - 12) | 20% | N=177 | 31% | N=267 | 29% | N=251 | 14% | N=117 | 6% | N=53 | 100% | N=866 |
| Teenagers and young adults (ages 13 - 24) | 19% | N=165 | 31% | N=270 | 30% | N=260 | 14% | N=120 | 6% | N=53 | 100% | N=868 |
| Adults (ages 25 -49) | 17% | N=149 | 31% | N=269 | 31% | N=271 | 15% | N=131 | 6% | N=48 | 100% | N=868 |
| Families | 19% | N=167 | 35% | N=302 | 27% | N=238 | 13% | N=112 | 6% | N=49 | 100% | N=867 |
| Older adults (ages 50+) | 18% | N=152 | 33% | N=288 | 28% | N=242 | 16% | N=136 | 6% | N=50 | 100% | N=867 |
| People with disabilities | 20% | N=171 | 33% | N=290 | 26% | N=221 | 14% | N=123 | 7% | N=62 | 100% | N=867 |

Table 46: Question 9 - Availability of recreation equipment for rental

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? | Very likely | | Somewhat likely | | Somewhat unlikely | | Very unlikely | | Total | |
|--|-------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| Canoes | 20% | N=173 | 35% | N=297 | 16% | N=137 | 29% | N=244 | 100% | N=851 |
| Kayaks | 22% | N=186 | 33% | N=278 | 15% | N=129 | 30% | N=259 | 100% | N=852 |
| Paddleboards | 17% | N=144 | 30% | N=258 | 20% | N=173 | 33% | N=278 | 100% | N=852 |
| Paddleboats | 15% | N=123 | 33% | N=279 | 22% | N=187 | 31% | N=261 | 100% | N=851 |
| Rowboats | 12% | N=101 | 25% | N=213 | 28% | N=238 | 35% | N=294 | 100% | N=847 |
| Bicycles (or mountain bikes) | 20% | N=169 | 26% | N=223 | 21% | N=180 | 33% | N=276 | 100% | N=849 |
| Bows for archery | 15% | N=124 | 25% | N=210 | 24% | N=206 | 37% | N=313 | 100% | N=853 |
| Fishing gear | 12% | N=99 | 21% | N=175 | 25% | N=215 | 43% | N=362 | 100% | N=850 |
| Cross-country skis | 16% | N=136 | 29% | N=244 | 22% | N=187 | 34% | N=286 | 100% | N=852 |
| Snowshoes | 20% | N=171 | 26% | N=220 | 21% | N=180 | 33% | N=283 | 100% | N=854 |
| Kicksleds | 6% | N=49 | 14% | N=117 | 30% | N=250 | 51% | N=427 | 100% | N=843 |
| Camping gear | 8% | N=66 | 17% | N=147 | 25% | N=214 | 50% | N=423 | 100% | N=850 |
| Adaptive recreation equipment (sit-ski for cross-country skiing) | 7% | N=59 | 9% | N=74 | 23% | N=195 | 61% | N=521 | 100% | N=849 |
| Yard games (bocce ball, croquet, bag toss) | 15% | N=131 | 27% | N=230 | 22% | N=191 | 35% | N=298 | 100% | N=850 |
| GPS units | 8% | N=66 | 21% | N=177 | 26% | N=222 | 45% | N=381 | 100% | N=846 |
| Headlamps | 6% | N=54 | 14% | N=115 | 28% | N=233 | 53% | N=445 | 100% | N=846 |
| Nordic walking poles | 6% | N=54 | 18% | N=149 | 24% | N=204 | 52% | N=436 | 100% | N=843 |

Table 47: Question 9 - Availability of food services

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? | Very likely | | Somewhat likely | | Somewhat unlikely | | Very unlikely | | Total | |
|--|-------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vending machines for food and beverages | 14% | N=123 | 31% | N=269 | 24% | N=204 | 30% | N=259 | 100% | N=855 |
| Limited-menu food concessions/snack bar | 14% | N=117 | 33% | N=283 | 23% | N=194 | 30% | N=259 | 100% | N=853 |
| Food trucks | 20% | N=168 | 34% | N=285 | 19% | N=160 | 28% | N=236 | 100% | N=850 |
| Café/restaurant | 20% | N=170 | 29% | N=244 | 24% | N=203 | 28% | N=238 | 100% | N=855 |

Table 48: Question 9 - Adding amenities

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? | Very likely | | Somewhat likely | | Somewhat unlikely | | Very unlikely | | Total | |
|--|-------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Availability of souvenirs to purchase (t-shirts, books) | 6% | N=47 | 18% | N=150 | 28% | N=235 | 49% | N=421 | 100% | N=854 |
| Availability of convenience items to purchase (bug spray, s'more fixings) | 9% | N=81 | 29% | N=251 | 24% | N=206 | 37% | N=317 | 100% | N=855 |
| Gardens such as native plants, community food plots, or ornamental gardens | 17% | N=148 | 31% | N=268 | 21% | N=182 | 30% | N=259 | 100% | N=857 |
| Amphitheater (outdoor entertainment venue) | 20% | N=174 | 38% | N=319 | 20% | N=166 | 22% | N=191 | 100% | N=851 |
| Outdoor splash pads | 21% | N=175 | 22% | N=185 | 21% | N=178 | 37% | N=313 | 100% | N=851 |
| Off-leash dog run areas | 20% | N=171 | 16% | N=137 | 18% | N=152 | 46% | N=393 | 100% | N=854 |
| Improve park trail signs for way-finding | 30% | N=259 | 34% | N=292 | 16% | N=139 | 19% | N=164 | 100% | N=855 |
| Benches and scenic overlooks along trails | 40% | N=346 | 37% | N=317 | 10% | N=90 | 12% | N=107 | 100% | N=860 |

Table 49: Question 9 - Adding programs

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? | Very likely | | Somewhat likely | | Somewhat unlikely | | Very unlikely | | Total | |
|--|-------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| A system of self-guided technology (such as a smart phone app) to learn about a park or the natural world | 23% | N=198 | 32% | N=270 | 17% | N=142 | 28% | N=239 | 100% | N=849 |
| Before- and after-school programs for children | 13% | N=110 | 24% | N=200 | 19% | N=161 | 45% | N=380 | 100% | N=851 |
| Fitness/wellness programs for children | 14% | N=119 | 26% | N=220 | 20% | N=173 | 40% | N=343 | 100% | N=855 |
| Fitness/wellness programs for adults | 17% | N=150 | 37% | N=321 | 21% | N=183 | 24% | N=204 | 100% | N=857 |
| Summer camp programs for children | 16% | N=140 | 26% | N=220 | 17% | N=144 | 41% | N=351 | 100% | N=855 |
| Birthday parties | 12% | N=100 | 27% | N=231 | 21% | N=181 | 40% | N=343 | 100% | N=855 |
| Travel programs | 9% | N=73 | 22% | N=191 | 27% | N=231 | 42% | N=356 | 100% | N=850 |
| Programs with pets | 11% | N=96 | 19% | N=158 | 19% | N=165 | 51% | N=433 | 100% | N=852 |

Table 50: Question 9 - Attending an event

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? | Very likely | | Somewhat likely | | Somewhat unlikely | | Very unlikely | | Total | |
|--|-------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Recreation activity events (5K run/walk, triathlon) | 17% | N=146 | 29% | N=248 | 22% | N=189 | 32% | N=272 | 100% | N=854 |
| Music, concerts, performances (music in the park series) | 32% | N=278 | 38% | N=324 | 15% | N=126 | 15% | N=130 | 100% | N=857 |
| Evening showings of movies in parks | 26% | N=223 | 34% | N=287 | 19% | N=159 | 22% | N=186 | 100% | N=855 |
| Visual and public arts | 19% | N=160 | 30% | N=256 | 28% | N=236 | 24% | N=204 | 100% | N=857 |
| Date/season celebration (New Year's Eve, Halloween) | 17% | N=144 | 28% | N=239 | 25% | N=211 | 31% | N=261 | 100% | N=855 |
| Multicultural celebrations (Cinco de Mayo, Irish Fair) | 16% | N=137 | 27% | N=229 | 26% | N=220 | 31% | N=266 | 100% | N=851 |

Table 51: Question 9 - Renting park facilities for a private event

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? | Very likely | | Somewhat likely | | Somewhat unlikely | | Very unlikely | | Total | |
|--|-------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Picnic shelter for a gathering of 100 people or fewer | 14% | N=120 | 29% | N=245 | 25% | N=218 | 32% | N=276 | 100% | N=858 |
| Picnic shelter for a gathering of more than 100 people | 7% | N=58 | 14% | N=117 | 28% | N=243 | 51% | N=436 | 100% | N=854 |
| Renting a visitor center for a family, corporate, or organization event of 50 - 200 people | 8% | N=67 | 14% | N=116 | 29% | N=250 | 49% | N=420 | 100% | N=854 |
| Renting a smaller retreat center or lodge for a family, corporate or organization event of fewer than 50 people | 12% | N=102 | 19% | N=166 | 27% | N=234 | 41% | N=351 | 100% | N=852 |

Table 52: Question 10

| Please list any other activities, programs or rentals not listed above that you or members of your family would be likely to use in the next two years? | Percent | Number |
|---|---------|--------|
| Dog parks, dog friendly events, etc. | 5% | N=7 |
| Horseback riding trails | 5% | N=7 |
| Camping sites/equipment, cabins to rent, etc. | 6% | N=9 |
| Frisbee Golf Course | 4% | N=6 |
| Bathrooms | 4% | N=6 |
| Do not use parks | 3% | N=4 |
| Trail signage improvements | 2% | N=2 |
| New programs bird watching, outdoor zumba, soccer games, etc.) | 8% | N=12 |
| Comments related to trails | 14% | N=21 |
| Winter activities | 6% | N=9 |
| Art programs, etc. | 2% | N=3 |
| Other | 23% | N=34 |
| None | 18% | N=26 |
| Total | 100% | N=146 |

Table 53: Question 11

| If you have not rented a Dakota County Parks facility and have not made plans to do so in the future, please indicate which of the following reasons describe why you have not or don't plan to do so in the future? | Percent | Number |
|--|---------|--------|
| No need to rent a facility | 78% | N=632 |
| I wasn't aware of the opportunity to rent Parks facilities | 15% | N=123 |
| Other | 5% | N=41 |
| The cost was too high | 5% | N=39 |
| The facility wasn't available when I needed it | 3% | N=22 |
| Facility locations are not convenient | 2% | N=20 |
| The facility size didn't meet my needs | 2% | N=13 |

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

Table 54: Question 12

| If the county improved existing visitor services or programs (or added more of them) in County parks, what methods of paying for them would you support? | Percent | Number |
|--|---------|--------|
| Raising fees on existing uses with permits (i.e. equipment rentals, camping) | 38% | N=335 |
| Making parks a higher priority in the overall County budget (which reduces funds for o | 36% | N=315 |
| Charging fees for more park activities that are free now | 22% | N=189 |
| None of the above; I don't know | 18% | N=159 |
| Increasing property taxes to provide more services in the parks | 17% | N=151 |
| None of the above; I don't support increased spending to improve services in the parks | 12% | N=102 |
| Charging admission fees at all parks | 7% | N=64 |
| Other | 6% | N=53 |

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

Table 55: Question 13

| Please indicate how likely, if at all, you or members of your household would be to participate in each of these volunteer opportunities at a Dakota County park in the next year: | Very likely | | Somewhat likely | | Somewhat unlikely | | Very unlikely | | Total | |
|--|-------------|------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N |
| Removing invasive species (such as buckthorn) | 7% | N=63 | 22% | N=191 | 25% | N=217 | 45% | N=392 | 100% | N=863 |
| Cleaning up shores of streams/lakes | 10% | N=87 | 32% | N=273 | 23% | N=199 | 35% | N=307 | 100% | N=866 |
| Restoring native prairies | 7% | N=63 | 27% | N=231 | 26% | N=222 | 40% | N=350 | 100% | N=865 |
| Assisting with parks special events (candle lighting, on-site registration, etc.) | 8% | N=66 | 24% | N=207 | 26% | N=228 | 42% | N=364 | 100% | N=866 |
| Trail patrol (skiing, mountain biking, hiking) | 6% | N=54 | 14% | N=124 | 27% | N=235 | 52% | N=449 | 100% | N=862 |
| Assisting with classes or lessons (setting up classrooms, materials) | 6% | N=50 | 22% | N=186 | 24% | N=208 | 48% | N=415 | 100% | N=858 |
| Park or trail clean-up events | 11% | N=99 | 40% | N=351 | 17% | N=150 | 31% | N=268 | 100% | N=867 |

Table 56: Question 14

| About how much time, if at all, do you estimate you would be willing to spend as a volunteer for Dakota County parks/trails? | Percent | Number |
|--|---------|--------|
| One day or less per year | 19% | N=163 |
| A few hours 3 - 4 times per year | 29% | N=249 |
| About one day each month | 9% | N=81 |
| About a ½ day each month | 5% | N=43 |
| Several hours most weeks | 3% | N=24 |
| I am not interested in any volunteer activities | 20% | N=175 |
| I don't have the time or the physical capabilities to volunteer | 15% | N=130 |
| Total | 100% | N=866 |

Table 57: Question 15

| Before you read this survey, were you able to name the Dakota County park closest to you? | Percent | Number |
|---|---------|--------|
| No | 23% | N=199 |
| Yes | 77% | N=679 |
| Total | 100% | N=878 |

Table 58: Question 16

| Which of these methods do you prefer as a way to receive information about Dakota County parks and trails? | Percent | Number |
|--|---------|--------|
| Publications like mailed brochures | 58% | N=504 |
| County website or online search | 48% | N=416 |
| The County's mailed newsletter | 40% | N=352 |
| Local or neighborhood newspapers | 31% | N=274 |
| Visiting a park facility | 30% | N=266 |
| E-mail from Dakota County | 29% | N=253 |
| Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) | 24% | N=211 |
| Friends/family (word of mouth) | 23% | N=198 |
| Roadside signs | 17% | N=152 |
| Flyers or posters | 17% | N=149 |
| Television/cable TV | 13% | N=111 |
| Radio | 10% | N=84 |
| None | 5% | N=42 |
| Other | 1% | N=7 |

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

Appendix C: Responses to Selected Questions by Respondent Characteristics

Responses in the following tables show only the proportion of respondents giving a certain answer; for example, the percent of respondents who rated the quality of parks as excellent or good. ANOVA and chi-square tests of significance were applied to these comparisons of survey questions. A “p-value” of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% probability that differences observed between subgroups are due to chance; or in other words, a greater than 95% probability that the differences observed are “real.” Where differences were statistically significant, they have been shaded grey.

Table 59: Prioritization of Outdoor Recreation by Respondent Demographics

| (Percent "high" or "medium" priority) | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|---|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| Compared to other ways you spend your free time, what priority do you give to outdoor recreation? | 87% | 90% | 84% | 76% | 90% | 92% | 79% | 83% | 89% | 87% | 85% | 90% | 90% | 78% | 84% | 89% | 86% |

Table 60: Comparative Quality of Dakota County Parks and Regional Trails by Respondent Demographics

| (Percent "excellent" or "good") | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|---|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| Overall, how do you think Dakota County parks and regional trails compare to other parks you visit? | 88% | 92% | 94% | 92% | 93% | 92% | 96% | 90% | 93% | 93% | 87% | 90% | 92% | 95% | 94% | 91% | 92% |

Table 61: Frequency of Park Visitation by Respondent Demographics

| Please indicate how often, if at all, you visit each of the following parks: (Percent at least once) | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|--|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| City parks within Dakota County (i.e., Northview Park in Eagan or Michaud (North) Park in Lakeville) | 66% | 71% | 55% | 53% | 62% | 73% | 49% | 55% | 68% | 63% | 66% | 67% | 71% | 46% | 60% | 66% | 62% |
| County parks within Dakota County (the list is shown in the cover letter) | 79% | 84% | 72% | 73% | 78% | 83% | 63% | 75% | 81% | 78% | 78% | 81% | 84% | 64% | 75% | 80% | 77% |
| Dakota County's paved recreational trails outside of Dakota County parks | 72% | 63% | 53% | 51% | 65% | 65% | 44% | 56% | 66% | 60% | 69% | 69% | 66% | 45% | 58% | 63% | 60% |
| Parks that are outside of Dakota County (i.e., Chain of Lakes in Minneapolis or Como Park in St. Paul) | 74% | 76% | 67% | 62% | 77% | 74% | 54% | 65% | 78% | 72% | 75% | 77% | 79% | 56% | 72% | 72% | 71% |

Table 62: Reasons for Not Visiting Dakota County Parks or Trails by Respondent Demographics

| To what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following reasons keep you or members of your household from visiting Dakota County parks or trails? (Percent "somewhat" or "strongly" agree) | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|--|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| I prefer to visit other parks instead of Dakota County parks or trails | 29% | 14% | 17% | 15% | 21% | 18% | 24% | 9% | 21% | 16% | 31% | 26% | 15% | 16% | 20% | 17% | 19% |
| I'm too busy; I do other things with my leisure time | 38% | 48% | 56% | 52% | 43% | 55% | 53% | 45% | 52% | 52% | 37% | 42% | 53% | 53% | 51% | 49% | 50% |
| I am not familiar with Dakota County parks/trails | 42% | 37% | 32% | 47% | 33% | 31% | 37% | 37% | 36% | 37% | 27% | 39% | 33% | 39% | 39% | 33% | 36% |
| Dakota County Parks don't offer the activities that I want to do | 19% | 12% | 20% | 25% | 10% | 19% | 23% | 19% | 15% | 15% | 26% | 19% | 15% | 18% | 16% | 18% | 17% |
| I have no interest in ever going to a park or trail | 4% | 3% | 11% | 13% | 5% | 3% | 16% | 8% | 4% | 6% | 9% | 3% | 6% | 13% | 7% | 6% | 7% |
| Dakota County parks/trails are too far away | 15% | 20% | 16% | 19% | 14% | 19% | 16% | 11% | 19% | 17% | 20% | 20% | 17% | 14% | 17% | 17% | 17% |
| I don't have a way to get there | 5% | 4% | 4% | 16% | 1% | 1% | 16% | 4% | 2% | 4% | 3% | 0% | 5% | 7% | 5% | 4% | 5% |
| I experience cultural or language barriers when I am among other park users | 3% | 0% | 4% | 6% | 1% | 2% | 6% | 4% | 1% | 2% | 3% | 2% | 3% | 2% | 3% | 1% | 3% |
| I don't have anyone to go with me | 23% | 15% | 16% | 29% | 17% | 9% | 32% | 19% | 14% | 19% | 9% | 17% | 16% | 19% | 20% | 14% | 17% |
| My physical condition prevents me from going to parks | 5% | 9% | 10% | 20% | 6% | 2% | 20% | 9% | 6% | 8% | 9% | 2% | 5% | 20% | 10% | 6% | 9% |

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| To what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following reasons keep you or members of your household from visiting Dakota County parks or trails? (Percent "somewhat" or "strongly" agree) | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|--|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| I don't feel safe visiting Dakota County parks/trails | 6% | 6% | 6% | 11% | 4% | 4% | 14% | 6% | 4% | 5% | 9% | 2% | 7% | 8% | 7% | 4% | 6% |
| Other reasons | 44% | 36% | 50% | 42% | 54% | 39% | 35% | 44% | 46% | 46% | 34% | 57% | 33% | 46% | 34% | 56% | 45% |

Table 63: Reasons for Visiting Dakota County Parks or Trails by Respondent Demographics

| To what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following are reasons you or members of your household do visit Dakota County parks or trails? (Percent "somewhat" or "strongly" agree) | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|--|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| The parks are close to where I live or work | 81% | 84% | 84% | 75% | 87% | 85% | 86% | 83% | 84% | 84% | 80% | 83% | 84% | 82% | 84% | 82% | 83% |
| The parks are familiar to me | 63% | 75% | 77% | 65% | 76% | 76% | 70% | 75% | 73% | 72% | 83% | 71% | 75% | 71% | 73% | 73% | 73% |
| I feel safe in the parks or on the trails | 90% | 90% | 92% | 82% | 95% | 93% | 80% | 88% | 95% | 93% | 85% | 95% | 92% | 88% | 89% | 94% | 91% |
| I enjoy the activities there | 89% | 90% | 84% | 80% | 89% | 90% | 77% | 86% | 89% | 88% | 84% | 87% | 89% | 85% | 89% | 86% | 87% |
| I like exploring places that are new to me | 92% | 91% | 80% | 85% | 85% | 91% | 81% | 90% | 86% | 86% | 87% | 93% | 85% | 83% | 85% | 88% | 87% |
| The parks are places I go for solitude/privacy | 65% | 69% | 64% | 70% | 68% | 59% | 71% | 64% | 66% | 66% | 66% | 55% | 71% | 68% | 65% | 67% | 66% |
| I enjoy out-of-doors natural settings | 94% | 96% | 93% | 88% | 94% | 98% | 96% | 91% | 95% | 95% | 89% | 93% | 95% | 93% | 92% | 96% | 94% |

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| To what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following are reasons you or members of your household do visit Dakota County parks or trails? (Percent "somewhat" or "strongly" agree) | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|---|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| It's part of my routine (exercise, health, stress relief) | 75% | 73% | 67% | 68% | 73% | 72% | 70% | 66% | 74% | 72% | 70% | 68% | 74% | 69% | 71% | 71% | 71% |
| I spend time with my friends, family, or pets there | 80% | 74% | 72% | 65% | 78% | 79% | 66% | 71% | 78% | 74% | 81% | 86% | 75% | 62% | 77% | 72% | 75% |
| I rarely visit Dakota County parks or trails | 29% | 28% | 40% | 45% | 30% | 30% | 46% | 31% | 33% | 34% | 28% | 23% | 34% | 44% | 37% | 31% | 34% |
| Other reasons | 59% | 82% | 84% | 88% | 59% | 70% | 88% | 83% | 68% | 76% | 70% | 61% | 92% | 73% | 67% | 84% | 76% |

Table 64: Benefits of Park Visitation by Respondent Demographics

| Even for those who don't often visit parks or trails, these could be benefits for you and members of your household. To what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following are benefits? (Percent "somewhat" or "strongly" agree) | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|--|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| Improves physical or mental health and fitness | 99% | 99% | 96% | 98% | 98% | 98% | 97% | 98% | 98% | 99% | 95% | 100% | 97% | 97% | 98% | 98% | 98% |
| Improves quality of life in the county | 97% | 98% | 96% | 97% | 97% | 97% | 94% | 97% | 97% | 98% | 93% | 99% | 96% | 96% | 97% | 97% | 97% |
| Protects natural resources and water quality | 98% | 98% | 95% | 95% | 98% | 99% | 93% | 98% | 97% | 98% | 92% | 99% | 97% | 95% | 97% | 97% | 97% |
| Creates places for scenic landscape views | 97% | 100% | 94% | 97% | 93% | 99% | 96% | 97% | 96% | 97% | 94% | 97% | 96% | 97% | 98% | 95% | 96% |
| Increases property values | 91% | 96% | 88% | 89% | 92% | 95% | 86% | 91% | 93% | 93% | 84% | 91% | 93% | 90% | 93% | 89% | 92% |
| Provides opportunities for people to be with other people and cultures | 79% | 81% | 77% | 88% | 77% | 77% | 90% | 87% | 74% | 79% | 79% | 74% | 81% | 80% | 81% | 76% | 79% |
| Preserves large areas of open space | 97% | 97% | 93% | 96% | 96% | 96% | 95% | 97% | 95% | 96% | 94% | 96% | 95% | 95% | 95% | 96% | 95% |
| I don't see any benefit for me or my household | 4% | 6% | 11% | 13% | 6% | 4% | 26% | 6% | 5% | 7% | 12% | 1% | 7% | 16% | 9% | 7% | 8% |

Table 65: Importance of Park Improvements by Respondent Demographics

| As Dakota County considers options to improve services for Dakota County Parks visitors, please rate how important, if at all, each of the following actions are to you: (Percent "essential" or "very important") | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|--|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| Adding recreational opportunities at more of the existing regional parks (such as hiking, bicycling and snowshoeing) | 69% | 51% | 49% | 52% | 54% | 58% | 43% | 56% | 56% | 55% | 52% | 60% | 57% | 44% | 54% | 54% | 54% |
| Adding more recreation skill-based programs (such as cross-country ski lessons, archery lessons, adaptive outdoor recreation programs for people with disabilities, mountain biking) | 56% | 43% | 38% | 46% | 45% | 43% | 35% | 51% | 43% | 41% | 57% | 51% | 45% | 35% | 42% | 45% | 44% |
| Adding more environmental education programs (such as nature appreciation programs for preschoolers, Scout badge programs, or guided bird hikes) | 47% | 45% | 46% | 53% | 44% | 42% | 54% | 52% | 42% | 44% | 51% | 50% | 44% | 44% | 49% | 42% | 45% |
| Increasing opportunities for cultural education programs about the story/history at existing regional parks and trails through art and history programs | 35% | 36% | 32% | 47% | 31% | 29% | 46% | 37% | 31% | 33% | 40% | 35% | 32% | 35% | 37% | 31% | 34% |

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| As Dakota County considers options to improve services for Dakota County Parks visitors, please rate how important, if at all, each of the following actions are to you: (Percent "essential" or "very important") | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|---|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| Providing more space for social activities such as large picnic shelters or field sports space | 40% | 33% | 36% | 42% | 38% | 33% | 41% | 42% | 33% | 36% | 41% | 35% | 37% | 35% | 37% | 34% | 36% |

Table 66: Nature-based/Environmental Programs by Respondent Demographics

| Please indicate how important, if at all, you feel it is for Dakota County to offer various types of programs (such as classes or lessons) to the specific audiences listed below. Nature-based/environmental programs (such as birding, etc.) (Percent "essential" or "very important") | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|---|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| Preschool aged children | 63% | 58% | 47% | 59% | 57% | 48% | 51% | 58% | 53% | 53% | 61% | 66% | 51% | 48% | 59% | 49% | 54% |
| Organized school field trips (i.e., from schools, scouts, churches) | 76% | 73% | 61% | 76% | 69% | 64% | 61% | 72% | 68% | 69% | 67% | 80% | 64% | 64% | 72% | 65% | 68% |
| Children (ages 5 - 12) | 75% | 74% | 62% | 73% | 70% | 67% | 61% | 73% | 69% | 68% | 72% | 76% | 67% | 66% | 72% | 65% | 69% |
| Teenagers and young adults (ages 13 - 24) | 63% | 64% | 52% | 63% | 60% | 54% | 54% | 64% | 57% | 58% | 62% | 58% | 60% | 56% | 62% | 54% | 58% |
| Adults (ages 25 -49) | 65% | 55% | 45% | 59% | 55% | 48% | 46% | 61% | 51% | 52% | 59% | 64% | 51% | 46% | 56% | 49% | 53% |
| Families | 78% | 67% | 60% | 74% | 69% | 62% | 56% | 72% | 67% | 66% | 71% | 74% | 67% | 60% | 72% | 60% | 66% |
| Older adults (ages 50+) | 63% | 59% | 51% | 68% | 56% | 54% | 52% | 60% | 56% | 56% | 62% | 61% | 57% | 52% | 60% | 53% | 56% |
| People with disabilities | 72% | 66% | 60% | 76% | 65% | 60% | 62% | 67% | 64% | 65% | 63% | 68% | 64% | 62% | 69% | 60% | 64% |

Table 67: Skill-based Outdoor Recreation Programs by Respondent Demographics

| Please indicate how important, if at all, you feel it is for Dakota County to offer various types of programs (such as classes or lessons) to the specific audiences listed below. Skill-based outdoor recreation programs (such as lessons for skiing, kayaking) (Percent "essential" or "very important") | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|---|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| Preschool aged children | 47% | 37% | 29% | 41% | 40% | 30% | 29% | 42% | 34% | 34% | 45% | 41% | 38% | 28% | 40% | 31% | 36% |
| Organized school field trips (i.e., from schools, scouts, churches) | 67% | 59% | 49% | 64% | 62% | 51% | 50% | 63% | 55% | 55% | 65% | 69% | 55% | 49% | 62% | 51% | 56% |
| Children (ages 5 - 12) | 75% | 64% | 51% | 65% | 68% | 57% | 48% | 63% | 63% | 61% | 62% | 77% | 59% | 49% | 65% | 57% | 60% |
| Teenagers and young adults (ages 13 - 24) | 68% | 67% | 54% | 68% | 68% | 57% | 52% | 64% | 62% | 62% | 62% | 73% | 62% | 52% | 68% | 55% | 61% |
| Adults (ages 25 -49) | 64% | 53% | 48% | 62% | 55% | 51% | 48% | 57% | 53% | 54% | 54% | 66% | 53% | 43% | 62% | 45% | 53% |
| Families | 63% | 60% | 53% | 62% | 64% | 52% | 52% | 60% | 57% | 57% | 62% | 67% | 58% | 49% | 65% | 49% | 57% |
| Older adults (ages 50+) | 53% | 55% | 44% | 58% | 54% | 44% | 40% | 54% | 50% | 49% | 56% | 56% | 52% | 41% | 57% | 43% | 49% |
| People with disabilities | 61% | 57% | 52% | 64% | 60% | 49% | 52% | 61% | 54% | 54% | 63% | 63% | 56% | 49% | 63% | 48% | 55% |

Table 68: Arts, Culture and History Programs by Respondent Demographics

| Please indicate how important, if at all, you feel it is for Dakota County to offer various types of programs (such as classes or lessons) to the specific audiences listed below. Arts, culture and history programs (such as nature photography, music or movie showings, or living history performances) (Percent "essential" or "very important") | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|---|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| Preschool aged children | 47% | 40% | 37% | 53% | 43% | 32% | 43% | 44% | 38% | 38% | 52% | 45% | 41% | 36% | 46% | 35% | 40% |
| Organized school field trips (i.e., from schools, scouts, churches) | 68% | 56% | 48% | 68% | 55% | 51% | 49% | 58% | 55% | 53% | 68% | 68% | 51% | 50% | 63% | 49% | 55% |
| Children (ages 5 - 12) | 67% | 55% | 49% | 70% | 55% | 50% | 50% | 59% | 54% | 53% | 68% | 71% | 50% | 48% | 62% | 48% | 55% |
| Teenagers and young adults (ages 13 - 24) | 66% | 54% | 47% | 67% | 53% | 48% | 49% | 59% | 52% | 53% | 57% | 66% | 51% | 47% | 61% | 47% | 53% |
| Adults (ages 25 -49) | 57% | 51% | 48% | 64% | 50% | 48% | 46% | 57% | 50% | 50% | 61% | 63% | 49% | 44% | 60% | 43% | 51% |
| Families | 70% | 57% | 51% | 72% | 58% | 51% | 53% | 65% | 55% | 55% | 70% | 70% | 53% | 52% | 66% | 49% | 57% |
| Older adults (ages 50+) | 56% | 55% | 52% | 67% | 54% | 51% | 50% | 58% | 53% | 51% | 68% | 64% | 52% | 48% | 64% | 44% | 54% |
| People with disabilities | 67% | 56% | 54% | 76% | 56% | 52% | 57% | 61% | 56% | 54% | 74% | 66% | 55% | 55% | 65% | 50% | 57% |

Table 69: Availability of Recreation Equipment for Rental by Respondent Demographics

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? (Percent "very" or "somewhat" likely) | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|--|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| Canoes | 65% | 59% | 47% | 48% | 57% | 63% | 36% | 56% | 59% | 56% | 53% | 71% | 60% | 35% | 57% | 55% | 55% |
| Kayaks | 65% | 61% | 44% | 39% | 60% | 65% | 30% | 51% | 61% | 54% | 58% | 74% | 59% | 31% | 57% | 53% | 54% |
| Paddleboards | 65% | 45% | 40% | 39% | 49% | 54% | 31% | 48% | 50% | 47% | 52% | 68% | 53% | 21% | 50% | 45% | 47% |
| Paddleboats | 57% | 49% | 41% | 44% | 47% | 55% | 33% | 51% | 49% | 46% | 55% | 65% | 50% | 28% | 54% | 41% | 47% |
| Rowboats | 41% | 39% | 34% | 38% | 41% | 34% | 28% | 41% | 38% | 35% | 48% | 46% | 40% | 25% | 44% | 31% | 37% |
| Bicycles (or mountain bikes) | 55% | 50% | 39% | 43% | 50% | 47% | 36% | 52% | 46% | 45% | 55% | 56% | 51% | 31% | 42% | 51% | 46% |
| Bows for archery | 51% | 41% | 32% | 33% | 43% | 42% | 29% | 43% | 40% | 38% | 44% | 56% | 44% | 18% | 34% | 46% | 39% |
| Fishing gear | 43% | 29% | 29% | 36% | 34% | 31% | 34% | 42% | 28% | 29% | 49% | 45% | 32% | 20% | 34% | 31% | 32% |
| Cross-country skis | 58% | 46% | 37% | 37% | 45% | 51% | 26% | 50% | 46% | 45% | 41% | 55% | 48% | 31% | 48% | 42% | 45% |
| Snowshoes | 61% | 44% | 39% | 36% | 49% | 50% | 27% | 50% | 48% | 47% | 40% | 62% | 46% | 32% | 50% | 41% | 46% |
| Kicksleds | 26% | 18% | 17% | 20% | 20% | 22% | 17% | 23% | 19% | 19% | 27% | 29% | 21% | 9% | 22% | 17% | 20% |
| Camping gear | 32% | 23% | 23% | 25% | 30% | 23% | 29% | 29% | 23% | 23% | 39% | 39% | 26% | 12% | 26% | 25% | 25% |
| Adaptive recreation equipment (sit-ski for cross-country skiing) | 17% | 14% | 15% | 19% | 16% | 14% | 21% | 20% | 13% | 14% | 21% | 23% | 13% | 12% | 18% | 13% | 16% |
| Yard games (bocce ball, croquet, bag toss) | 53% | 42% | 38% | 46% | 41% | 45% | 43% | 43% | 42% | 43% | 43% | 61% | 41% | 28% | 45% | 41% | 42% |
| GPS units | 34% | 32% | 23% | 27% | 32% | 29% | 26% | 28% | 30% | 28% | 36% | 36% | 32% | 17% | 33% | 24% | 29% |
| Headlamps | 28% | 17% | 18% | 22% | 23% | 16% | 19% | 21% | 19% | 19% | 25% | 28% | 20% | 12% | 21% | 19% | 20% |
| Nordic walking poles | 21% | 23% | 26% | 20% | 28% | 24% | 23% | 24% | 24% | 23% | 30% | 28% | 25% | 18% | 26% | 21% | 24% |

Table 70: Availability of Food Services by Respondent Demographics

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? (Percent "very" or "somewhat" likely) | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|--|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| Vending machines for food and beverages | 45% | 52% | 42% | 47% | 46% | 48% | 47% | 51% | 44% | 45% | 53% | 50% | 50% | 37% | 47% | 45% | 46% |
| Limited-menu food concessions/snack bar | 44% | 54% | 44% | 52% | 45% | 48% | 49% | 53% | 44% | 47% | 47% | 47% | 54% | 38% | 51% | 44% | 47% |
| Food trucks | 56% | 62% | 47% | 53% | 52% | 58% | 45% | 60% | 53% | 52% | 62% | 67% | 56% | 39% | 56% | 52% | 53% |
| Café/restaurant | 50% | 56% | 43% | 57% | 41% | 53% | 56% | 53% | 45% | 47% | 56% | 53% | 52% | 40% | 55% | 42% | 48% |

Table 71: Adding Amenities by Respondent Demographics

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? (Percent "very" or "somewhat" likely) | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|--|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| Availability of souvenirs to purchase (t-shirts, books) | 22% | 25% | 23% | 29% | 24% | 21% | 35% | 31% | 18% | 20% | 42% | 21% | 28% | 18% | 24% | 23% | 23% |
| Availability of convenience items to purchase (bug spray, s'more fixings) | 42% | 42% | 35% | 47% | 36% | 39% | 46% | 45% | 35% | 37% | 53% | 45% | 44% | 27% | 43% | 35% | 39% |
| Gardens such as native plants, community food plots, or ornamental gardens | 52% | 47% | 47% | 48% | 53% | 46% | 42% | 54% | 47% | 47% | 57% | 58% | 46% | 43% | 54% | 43% | 49% |
| Amphitheater (outdoor entertainment venue) | 62% | 62% | 53% | 60% | 58% | 58% | 58% | 66% | 55% | 60% | 52% | 65% | 61% | 48% | 63% | 54% | 58% |
| Outdoor splash pads | 57% | 47% | 32% | 36% | 46% | 44% | 37% | 45% | 43% | 39% | 62% | 63% | 43% | 22% | 50% | 35% | 42% |
| Off-leash dog run areas | 45% | 37% | 31% | 34% | 36% | 37% | 30% | 41% | 35% | 38% | 27% | 46% | 39% | 22% | 35% | 36% | 36% |
| Improve park trail signs for way-finding | 66% | 70% | 60% | 58% | 65% | 70% | 56% | 61% | 68% | 66% | 58% | 71% | 68% | 54% | 68% | 61% | 65% |
| Benches and scenic overlooks along trails | 81% | 79% | 74% | 75% | 76% | 81% | 68% | 80% | 78% | 77% | 79% | 82% | 80% | 69% | 79% | 75% | 77% |

Table 72: Adding Programs by Respondent Demographics

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? (Percent "very" or "somewhat" likely) | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|--|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| A system of self-guided technology (such as a smart phone app) to learn about a park or the natural world | 57% | 64% | 49% | 48% | 60% | 56% | 49% | 59% | 55% | 54% | 62% | 62% | 60% | 42% | 55% | 55% | 55% |
| Before- and after-school programs for children | 41% | 39% | 33% | 44% | 38% | 30% | 44% | 40% | 33% | 34% | 52% | 46% | 37% | 27% | 37% | 35% | 36% |
| Fitness/wellness programs for children | 50% | 42% | 33% | 45% | 43% | 34% | 45% | 45% | 36% | 37% | 56% | 47% | 43% | 28% | 43% | 36% | 40% |
| Fitness/wellness programs for adults | 65% | 59% | 47% | 57% | 58% | 53% | 55% | 61% | 52% | 53% | 68% | 64% | 57% | 44% | 62% | 48% | 55% |
| Summer camp programs for children | 56% | 46% | 32% | 45% | 41% | 42% | 46% | 45% | 40% | 40% | 55% | 49% | 46% | 30% | 45% | 40% | 42% |
| Birthday parties | 44% | 44% | 32% | 45% | 39% | 36% | 42% | 47% | 34% | 34% | 64% | 46% | 43% | 25% | 44% | 33% | 39% |
| Travel programs | 36% | 27% | 32% | 40% | 32% | 24% | 43% | 35% | 27% | 29% | 41% | 28% | 37% | 26% | 35% | 27% | 31% |
| Programs with pets | 33% | 31% | 27% | 39% | 26% | 27% | 36% | 39% | 24% | 30% | 27% | 40% | 30% | 19% | 29% | 30% | 30% |

Table 73: Attending an Event by Respondent Demographics

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? (Percent "very" or "somewhat" likely) | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|--|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| Recreation activity events (5K run/walk, triathlon) | 60% | 52% | 35% | 42% | 45% | 52% | 32% | 43% | 50% | 47% | 46% | 64% | 48% | 27% | 48% | 45% | 46% |
| Music, concerts, performances (music in the park series) | 79% | 70% | 67% | 72% | 69% | 73% | 66% | 70% | 71% | 72% | 64% | 75% | 75% | 61% | 78% | 63% | 70% |
| Evening showings of movies in parks | 72% | 63% | 52% | 65% | 59% | 61% | 57% | 62% | 60% | 61% | 61% | 76% | 63% | 42% | 70% | 51% | 60% |
| Visual and public arts | 62% | 48% | 43% | 58% | 49% | 45% | 45% | 54% | 47% | 47% | 58% | 51% | 53% | 41% | 58% | 40% | 49% |
| Date/season celebration (New Year's Eve, Halloween) | 56% | 47% | 39% | 52% | 41% | 46% | 43% | 48% | 44% | 45% | 48% | 60% | 47% | 29% | 54% | 36% | 45% |
| Multicultural celebrations (Cinco de Mayo, Irish Fair) | 57% | 40% | 38% | 52% | 42% | 39% | 41% | 47% | 42% | 41% | 57% | 49% | 48% | 32% | 51% | 36% | 43% |

Table 74: Renting Park Facilities for a Private Event by Respondent Demographics

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? (Percent "very" or "somewhat" likely) | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|--|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| Picnic shelter for a gathering of 100 people or fewer | 55% | 37% | 40% | 42% | 45% | 41% | 50% | 43% | 40% | 39% | 60% | 54% | 41% | 33% | 46% | 38% | 42% |
| Picnic shelter for a gathering of more than 100 people | 24% | 19% | 20% | 23% | 21% | 19% | 27% | 23% | 18% | 18% | 35% | 22% | 23% | 15% | 23% | 17% | 21% |
| Renting a visitor center for a family, corporate, or organization event of 50 - 200 people | 24% | 19% | 22% | 26% | 22% | 19% | 26% | 24% | 18% | 18% | 34% | 25% | 21% | 18% | 24% | 18% | 21% |
| Renting a smaller retreat center or lodge for a family, corporate or organization event of fewer than 50 people | 38% | 30% | 29% | 33% | 31% | 31% | 40% | 34% | 28% | 29% | 45% | 35% | 30% | 28% | 34% | 28% | 31% |

Table 75: Reasons for Not Renting Dakota County Parks Facility by Respondent Demographics

| If you have not rented a Dakota County Parks facility and have not made plans to do so in the future, please indicate which of the following reasons describe why you have not or don't plan to do so in the future? | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|--|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| No need to rent a facility | 64% | 80% | 84% | 78% | 77% | 79% | 83% | 71% | 80% | 80% | 60% | 70% | 76% | 88% | 77% | 78% | 78% |
| The facility wasn't available when I needed it | 5% | 3% | 1% | 4% | 3% | 2% | 4% | 5% | 2% | 2% | 8% | 4% | 3% | 2% | 2% | 4% | 3% |
| The facility size didn't meet my needs | 1% | 1% | 2% | 0% | 3% | 2% | 0% | 2% | 2% | 2% | 0% | 3% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 2% | 2% |
| I wasn't aware of the opportunity to rent Parks facilities | 28% | 13% | 11% | 22% | 13% | 15% | 10% | 16% | 16% | 15% | 18% | 24% | 15% | 9% | 16% | 15% | 15% |
| The cost was too high | 4% | 7% | 4% | 8% | 4% | 4% | 9% | 3% | 4% | 5% | 5% | 6% | 5% | 4% | 7% | 3% | 5% |
| Facility locations are not convenient | 2% | 3% | 3% | 2% | 2% | 3% | 4% | 1% | 3% | 2% | 5% | 0% | 4% | 3% | 2% | 2% | 2% |
| Other | 10% | 3% | 4% | 4% | 4% | 6% | 2% | 10% | 4% | 4% | 12% | 6% | 5% | 4% | 6% | 5% | 5% |

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could choose more than one answer.
 Statistical significance not tested.

Table 76: Funding Preferences for Service or Program Improvements by Respondent Demographics

| If the county improved existing visitor services or programs (or added more of them) in County parks, what methods of paying for them would you support? | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|--|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| Making parks a higher priority in the overall County budget (which reduces funds for other county services) | 44% | 40% | 30% | 26% | 38% | 43% | 20% | 24% | 45% | 38% | 32% | 46% | 38% | 25% | 36% | 36% | 36% |
| Raising fees on existing uses with permits (i.e. equipment rentals, camping) | 23% | 45% | 42% | 30% | 38% | 45% | 29% | 37% | 42% | 41% | 29% | 32% | 42% | 40% | 35% | 42% | 38% |
| Charging fees for more park activities that are free now | 16% | 21% | 25% | 20% | 25% | 20% | 26% | 15% | 24% | 22% | 21% | 20% | 22% | 23% | 22% | 23% | 22% |
| Charging admission fees at all parks | 6% | 6% | 9% | 5% | 9% | 8% | 12% | 6% | 7% | 8% | 6% | 5% | 7% | 10% | 5% | 10% | 7% |
| Increasing property taxes to provide more services in the parks | 16% | 22% | 15% | 14% | 18% | 20% | 4% | 14% | 22% | 18% | 13% | 18% | 18% | 16% | 17% | 18% | 17% |
| None of the above; I don't support increased spending to improve services in the parks | 6% | 10% | 16% | 16% | 12% | 8% | 25% | 11% | 9% | 11% | 14% | 5% | 11% | 18% | 9% | 14% | 12% |
| None of the above; I don't know | 20% | 18% | 17% | 30% | 17% | 11% | 30% | 22% | 13% | 16% | 25% | 22% | 16% | 16% | 23% | 12% | 18% |
| Other | 11% | 5% | 5% | 3% | 9% | 5% | 4% | 13% | 4% | 5% | 12% | 8% | 7% | 4% | 4% | 9% | 6% |

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could choose more than one answer.
 Statistical significance not tested.

Table 77: Likelihood of Volunteering by Respondent Demographics

| Please indicate how likely, if at all, you or members of your household would be to participate in each of these volunteer opportunities at a Dakota County park in the next year: (Percent "somewhat" or "very" likely) | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|--|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| Removing invasive species (such as buckthorn) | 35% | 29% | 27% | 27% | 33% | 29% | 22% | 33% | 29% | 28% | 38% | 33% | 32% | 23% | 24% | 35% | 29% |
| Cleaning up shores of streams/lakes | 49% | 42% | 38% | 43% | 45% | 40% | 38% | 46% | 40% | 41% | 48% | 49% | 46% | 29% | 38% | 46% | 42% |
| Restoring native prairies | 39% | 32% | 32% | 41% | 34% | 30% | 30% | 36% | 33% | 34% | 35% | 39% | 35% | 26% | 34% | 34% | 34% |
| Assisting with parks special events (candle lighting, on-site registration, etc.) | 38% | 32% | 28% | 36% | 37% | 27% | 29% | 34% | 30% | 29% | 45% | 36% | 34% | 23% | 41% | 21% | 32% |
| Trail patrol (skiing, mountain biking, hiking) | 35% | 16% | 17% | 25% | 24% | 17% | 21% | 25% | 19% | 20% | 25% | 30% | 22% | 11% | 20% | 22% | 21% |
| Assisting with classes or lessons (setting up classrooms, materials) | 40% | 28% | 20% | 35% | 29% | 23% | 26% | 27% | 27% | 26% | 36% | 36% | 29% | 18% | 33% | 21% | 27% |
| Park or trail clean-up events | 70% | 54% | 42% | 52% | 59% | 50% | 40% | 56% | 52% | 51% | 63% | 68% | 57% | 32% | 53% | 52% | 52% |

Table 78: Estimated Time Volunteering by Respondent Demographics

| About how much time, if at all, do you estimate you would be willing to spend as a volunteer for Dakota County parks/trails? | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|--|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|------|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| One day or less per year | 19% | 18% | 20% | 11% | 17% | 25% | 12% | 19% | 20% | 19% | 20% | 17% | 24% | 13% | 18% | 20% | 19% |
| A few hours 3 - 4 times per year | 36% | 35% | 20% | 18% | 34% | 33% | 11% | 24% | 35% | 28% | 37% | 38% | 31% | 18% | 30% | 28% | 29% |
| About one day each month | 11% | 8% | 9% | 14% | 11% | 7% | 7% | 13% | 9% | 10% | 5% | 12% | 9% | 8% | 10% | 9% | 9% |
| About a ½ day each month | 7% | 4% | 5% | 10% | 4% | 3% | 4% | 9% | 3% | 6% | 1% | 7% | 3% | 6% | 5% | 4% | 5% |
| Several hours most weeks | 3% | 2% | 3% | 4% | 3% | 2% | 6% | 3% | 2% | 2% | 7% | 4% | 2% | 3% | 3% | 2% | 3% |
| I am not interested in any volunteer activities | 17% | 16% | 25% | 19% | 21% | 18% | 28% | 19% | 19% | 20% | 17% | 11% | 22% | 26% | 19% | 22% | 20% |
| I don't have the time or the physical capabilities to volunteer | 7% | 16% | 18% | 23% | 10% | 12% | 32% | 13% | 12% | 15% | 12% | 10% | 9% | 27% | 15% | 14% | 15% |
| Total | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Table 79: Familiarity with Dakota County Park Locations by Respondent Demographics

| (Percent "yes") | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|---|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| Before you read this survey, were you able to name the Dakota County park closest to you? | 63% | 80% | 83% | 65% | 80% | 83% | 62% | 75% | 82% | 77% | 80% | 72% | 82% | 75% | 75% | 81% | 77% |

Table 80: Preferred Information Sources by Respondent Demographics

| Which of these methods do you prefer as a way to receive information about Dakota County parks and trails? | Length of residency | | | Household Income | | | Education | | | Race/ethnicity | | Age | | | Gender | | Overall |
|--|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----|--------|------|---------|
| | Less than 5 years | 6 to 20 years | More than 20 years | Less than \$50,000 | \$50,000 - \$100,000 | \$100,000 or more | Some high school or high school graduate | Associate or technical school degree | Bachelor's, graduate or professional degree | White alone, not Hispanic | Hispanic and/or Persons of Color | 18 - 34 | 35 - 54 | 55+ | Female | Male | |
| Publications like mailed brochures | 64% | 62% | 51% | 54% | 61% | 59% | 44% | 63% | 59% | 58% | 57% | 62% | 61% | 50% | 61% | 54% | 58% |
| County website or online search | 48% | 53% | 44% | 43% | 49% | 53% | 23% | 46% | 54% | 45% | 65% | 59% | 47% | 38% | 47% | 49% | 48% |
| The County's mailed newsletter | 40% | 40% | 40% | 45% | 34% | 42% | 38% | 40% | 41% | 40% | 40% | 40% | 35% | 48% | 38% | 42% | 40% |
| Local or neighborhood newspapers | 27% | 29% | 35% | 35% | 26% | 33% | 40% | 39% | 26% | 30% | 38% | 26% | 32% | 35% | 29% | 34% | 31% |
| Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) | 39% | 24% | 17% | 21% | 28% | 25% | 13% | 22% | 27% | 22% | 41% | 49% | 21% | 8% | 28% | 21% | 24% |
| Friends/family (word of mouth) | 32% | 20% | 20% | 27% | 22% | 22% | 17% | 24% | 23% | 22% | 29% | 37% | 17% | 19% | 24% | 22% | 23% |
| Radio | 20% | 10% | 5% | 18% | 9% | 5% | 8% | 15% | 8% | 9% | 15% | 17% | 8% | 6% | 9% | 11% | 10% |
| Television/cable TV | 19% | 12% | 10% | 15% | 15% | 11% | 16% | 16% | 10% | 11% | 23% | 16% | 12% | 11% | 13% | 14% | 13% |
| Visiting a park facility | 38% | 27% | 29% | 33% | 31% | 28% | 21% | 34% | 31% | 31% | 30% | 45% | 26% | 23% | 31% | 30% | 30% |
| Roadside signs | 20% | 17% | 16% | 23% | 16% | 14% | 14% | 22% | 16% | 18% | 16% | 19% | 16% | 16% | 19% | 15% | 17% |
| E-mail from Dakota County | 38% | 27% | 26% | 23% | 30% | 34% | 14% | 23% | 35% | 29% | 32% | 36% | 32% | 18% | 29% | 30% | 29% |
| Flyers or posters | 24% | 16% | 14% | 23% | 18% | 13% | 12% | 20% | 17% | 15% | 31% | 28% | 12% | 13% | 20% | 14% | 17% |
| None | 3% | 3% | 7% | 11% | 3% | 1% | 18% | 5% | 2% | 5% | 2% | 3% | 3% | 9% | 5% | 5% | 5% |
| Other | 0% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 0% | 2% | 0% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 0% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% |

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could choose more than one answer.
 Statistical significance not tested.

Table 81: Availability of Recreation Equipment for Rental by Frequency of Park Visitation

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? (Percent "very" or "somewhat" likely) | City Parks in Dakota County | | | County Parks in Dakota County | | | Paved Rec Trails outside of Dakota County parks | | | Parks outside Dakota County | | | Overall |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------|---|----------------------|------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------|---------|
| | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | |
| Canoes | 71% | 58% | 40% | 67% | 59% | 30% | 69% | 65% | 37% | 70% | 61% | 34% | 55% |
| Kayaks | 72% | 58% | 37% | 67% | 58% | 28% | 71% | 61% | 38% | 70% | 62% | 32% | 54% |
| Paddleboards | 63% | 49% | 32% | 63% | 49% | 21% | 61% | 58% | 30% | 63% | 53% | 28% | 47% |
| Paddleboats | 61% | 48% | 35% | 61% | 48% | 27% | 57% | 52% | 36% | 52% | 55% | 30% | 47% |
| Rowboats | 49% | 37% | 27% | 49% | 38% | 19% | 44% | 45% | 25% | 45% | 44% | 21% | 37% |
| Bicycles (or mountain bikes) | 52% | 46% | 41% | 63% | 45% | 26% | 54% | 57% | 31% | 65% | 50% | 29% | 46% |
| Bows for archery | 52% | 40% | 27% | 49% | 40% | 25% | 47% | 45% | 29% | 52% | 44% | 24% | 39% |
| Fishing gear | 37% | 34% | 25% | 40% | 34% | 18% | 31% | 40% | 25% | 40% | 34% | 24% | 32% |
| Cross-country skis | 57% | 47% | 32% | 59% | 45% | 22% | 59% | 50% | 31% | 59% | 49% | 27% | 45% |
| Snowshoes | 56% | 48% | 36% | 61% | 46% | 25% | 59% | 51% | 32% | 63% | 51% | 27% | 46% |
| Kicksleds | 30% | 19% | 12% | 28% | 20% | 8% | 30% | 22% | 12% | 28% | 21% | 14% | 20% |
| Camping gear | 29% | 29% | 18% | 35% | 23% | 15% | 32% | 32% | 15% | 35% | 26% | 18% | 25% |
| Adaptive recreation equipment (sit-ski for cross-country skiing) | 23% | 14% | 10% | 22% | 14% | 9% | 23% | 18% | 9% | 24% | 16% | 10% | 16% |
| Yard games (bocce ball, croquet, bag toss) | 47% | 49% | 34% | 54% | 43% | 26% | 52% | 48% | 31% | 50% | 46% | 32% | 42% |
| GPS units | 34% | 32% | 22% | 39% | 29% | 13% | 39% | 33% | 19% | 40% | 33% | 16% | 29% |
| Headlamps | 22% | 20% | 18% | 30% | 17% | 11% | 23% | 26% | 12% | 33% | 21% | 11% | 20% |
| Nordic walking poles | 30% | 23% | 20% | 34% | 21% | 15% | 26% | 31% | 16% | 32% | 28% | 14% | 24% |

Table 82: Availability of Food Services by Frequency of Park Visitation

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? (Percent "very" or "somewhat" likely) | City Parks in Dakota County | | | County Parks in Dakota County | | | Paved Rec Trails outside of Dakota County parks | | | Parks outside Dakota County | | | Overall |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------|---|----------------------|------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------|---------|
| | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | |
| Vending machines for food and beverages | 53% | 44% | 41% | 44% | 53% | 34% | 46% | 53% | 39% | 42% | 50% | 40% | 46% |
| Limited-menu food concessions/snack bar | 54% | 50% | 39% | 46% | 54% | 36% | 47% | 55% | 41% | 44% | 53% | 36% | 47% |
| Food trucks | 63% | 58% | 41% | 55% | 60% | 41% | 59% | 62% | 41% | 63% | 57% | 41% | 53% |
| Café/restaurant | 56% | 49% | 41% | 48% | 55% | 39% | 46% | 51% | 46% | 53% | 52% | 40% | 48% |

Table 83: Adding Amenities by Frequency of Park Visitation

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? (Percent "very" or "somewhat" likely) | City Parks in Dakota County | | | County Parks in Dakota County | | | Paved Rec Trails outside of Dakota County parks | | | Parks outside Dakota County | | | Overall |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------|---|----------------------|------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------|---------|
| | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | |
| Availability of souvenirs to purchase (t-shirts, books) | 22% | 26% | 20% | 26% | 27% | 13% | 28% | 24% | 18% | 24% | 26% | 16% | 23% |
| Availability of convenience items to purchase (bug spray, s'more fixings) | 44% | 42% | 30% | 38% | 46% | 28% | 47% | 42% | 29% | 47% | 40% | 32% | 39% |
| Gardens such as native plants, community food plots, or ornamental gardens | 50% | 54% | 41% | 56% | 52% | 31% | 55% | 58% | 35% | 54% | 54% | 34% | 49% |
| Amphitheater (outdoor entertainment venue) | 69% | 64% | 43% | 63% | 65% | 39% | 60% | 68% | 46% | 69% | 62% | 45% | 58% |
| Outdoor splash pads | 60% | 36% | 33% | 52% | 44% | 28% | 53% | 47% | 30% | 50% | 45% | 33% | 42% |
| Off-leash dog run areas | 41% | 41% | 27% | 45% | 37% | 21% | 48% | 41% | 23% | 51% | 39% | 22% | 36% |
| Improve park trail signs for way-finding | 68% | 72% | 55% | 70% | 72% | 43% | 78% | 68% | 52% | 72% | 72% | 46% | 65% |
| Benches and scenic overlooks along trails | 81% | 86% | 66% | 87% | 84% | 50% | 90% | 83% | 63% | 82% | 84% | 61% | 77% |

Table 84: Adding Programs by Frequency of Park Visitation

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? (Percent "very" or "somewhat" likely) | City Parks in Dakota County | | | County Parks in Dakota County | | | Paved Rec Trails outside of Dakota County parks | | | Parks outside Dakota County | | | Overall |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------|---|----------------------|------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------|---------|
| | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | |
| A system of self-guided technology (such as a smart phone app) to learn about a park or the natural world | 65% | 55% | 46% | 61% | 61% | 35% | 63% | 64% | 41% | 69% | 60% | 38% | 55% |
| Before- and after-school programs for children | 42% | 36% | 31% | 42% | 35% | 29% | 39% | 40% | 30% | 42% | 37% | 32% | 36% |
| Fitness/wellness programs for children | 45% | 42% | 32% | 47% | 39% | 27% | 43% | 45% | 31% | 49% | 41% | 30% | 40% |
| Fitness/wellness programs for adults | 64% | 56% | 46% | 66% | 56% | 36% | 69% | 56% | 44% | 64% | 59% | 41% | 55% |
| Summer camp programs for children | 52% | 43% | 33% | 52% | 41% | 29% | 48% | 47% | 32% | 53% | 43% | 33% | 42% |
| Birthday parties | 50% | 34% | 31% | 45% | 37% | 31% | 44% | 42% | 31% | 49% | 38% | 33% | 39% |
| Travel programs | 32% | 32% | 29% | 36% | 33% | 18% | 31% | 39% | 23% | 36% | 34% | 20% | 31% |
| Programs with pets | 34% | 30% | 24% | 38% | 29% | 18% | 35% | 33% | 22% | 40% | 32% | 20% | 30% |

Table 85: Attending an Event by Frequency of Park Visitation

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? (Percent "very" or "somewhat" likely) | City Parks in Dakota County | | | County Parks in Dakota County | | | Paved Rec Trails outside of Dakota County parks | | | Parks outside Dakota County | | | Overall |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------|---|----------------------|------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------|---------|
| | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | |
| Recreation activity events (5K run/walk, triathlon) | 59% | 52% | 29% | 61% | 45% | 24% | 63% | 50% | 31% | 62% | 51% | 26% | 46% |
| Music, concerts, performances (music in the park series) | 75% | 77% | 59% | 77% | 78% | 45% | 75% | 80% | 57% | 79% | 78% | 49% | 70% |
| Evening showings of movies in parks | 71% | 62% | 47% | 66% | 65% | 39% | 69% | 65% | 48% | 67% | 65% | 45% | 60% |
| Visual and public arts | 59% | 50% | 37% | 60% | 50% | 27% | 56% | 55% | 37% | 62% | 53% | 31% | 49% |
| Date/season celebration (New Year's Eve, Halloween) | 54% | 44% | 36% | 53% | 47% | 28% | 52% | 52% | 31% | 52% | 46% | 37% | 45% |
| Multicultural celebrations (Cinco de Mayo, Irish Fair) | 51% | 43% | 35% | 53% | 44% | 25% | 54% | 46% | 31% | 58% | 44% | 31% | 43% |

Table 86: Renting Park Facilities for a Private Event by Frequency of Park Visitation

| When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? (Percent "very" or "somewhat" likely) | City Parks in Dakota County | | | County Parks in Dakota County | | | Paved Rec Trails outside of Dakota County parks | | | Parks outside Dakota County | | | Overall |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------|---|----------------------|------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------|---------|
| | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | At least 2-4 times a month | Once a month or less | Not at all | |
| Picnic shelter for a gathering of 100 people or fewer | 52% | 44% | 32% | 48% | 45% | 28% | 52% | 46% | 32% | 45% | 46% | 34% | 42% |
| Picnic shelter for a gathering of more than 100 people | 26% | 16% | 17% | 25% | 20% | 15% | 31% | 20% | 14% | 29% | 19% | 19% | 21% |
| Renting a visitor center for a family, corporate, or organization event of 50 – 200 people | 29% | 19% | 15% | 25% | 21% | 16% | 29% | 21% | 16% | 34% | 19% | 18% | 21% |
| Renting a smaller retreat center or lodge for a family, corporate or organization event of fewer than 50 people | 42% | 30% | 21% | 40% | 30% | 22% | 39% | 33% | 24% | 36% | 33% | 25% | 31% |

Table 87: Funding Preferences for Service or Program Improvements by Importance of Park Improvements

| If the county improved existing visitor services or programs (or added more of them) in County parks, what methods of paying for them would you support? | Adding opportunities at existing regional parks | | Adding skill-based programs | | Adding environmental education programs | | Increasing cultural education programs | | Providing more space for social activities | | Overall |
|--|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---------|
| | Essential or very important | Somewhat or not at all important | Essential or very important | Somewhat or not at all important | Essential or very important | Somewhat or not at all important | Essential or very important | Somewhat or not at all important | Essential or very important | Somewhat or not at all important | |
| Making parks a higher priority in the overall County budget (which reduces funds for o | 43% | 31% | 41% | 35% | 35% | 39% | 37% | 37% | 36% | 38% | 36% |
| Raising fees on existing uses with permits (i.e. equipment rentals, camping) | 35% | 46% | 34% | 43% | 39% | 40% | 41% | 39% | 38% | 41% | 38% |
| Charging fees for more park activities that are free now | 18% | 27% | 23% | 22% | 21% | 23% | 21% | 23% | 22% | 23% | 22% |
| Charging admission fees at all parks | 7% | 8% | 8% | 7% | 7% | 7% | 8% | 7% | 7% | 7% | 7% |
| Increasing property taxes to provide more services in the parks | 24% | 11% | 23% | 14% | 20% | 16% | 20% | 17% | 21% | 17% | 17% |
| None of the above; I don't support increased spending to improve services in the parks | 7% | 17% | 8% | 15% | 8% | 14% | 9% | 12% | 9% | 13% | 12% |
| None of the above; I don't know | 17% | 16% | 17% | 15% | 19% | 15% | 17% | 16% | 18% | 16% | 18% |
| Other | 8% | 4% | 9% | 4% | 8% | 5% | 8% | 6% | 6% | 7% | 6% |

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could choose more than one answer.
 Statistical significance not tested.

Table 88: Funding Preferences for Service or Program Improvements by Prioritization of Outdoor Recreation

| If the county improved existing visitor services or programs (or added more of them) in County parks, what methods of paying for them would you support? | Compared to other ways you spend your free time, what priority do you give to outdoor recreation? | | | Overall |
|--|---|-----------------|--------------|---------|
| | High priority | Medium priority | Low priority | |
| Making parks a higher priority in the overall County budget (which reduces funds for o | 46% | 35% | 12% | 36% |
| Raising fees on existing uses with permits (i.e. equipment rentals, camping) | 44% | 37% | 31% | 38% |
| Charging fees for more park activities that are free now | 23% | 22% | 16% | 22% |
| Charging admission fees at all parks | 7% | 7% | 11% | 7% |
| Increasing property taxes to provide more services in the parks | 22% | 16% | 9% | 17% |
| None of the above; I don't support increased spending to improve services in the parks | 9% | 12% | 19% | 12% |
| None of the above; I don't know | 11% | 18% | 38% | 18% |
| Other | 9% | 4% | 4% | 6% |

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could choose more than one answer.
 Statistical significance not tested.

Table 89: Reasons for Visiting Dakota County Parks or Trails by Prioritization of Outdoor Recreation

| To what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following are reasons you or members of your household do visit Dakota County parks or trails? (Percent "somewhat" or "strongly" agree) | Compared to other ways you spend your free time, what priority do you give to outdoor recreation? | | | Overall |
|---|---|-----------------|--------------|---------|
| | High priority | Medium priority | Low priority | |
| The parks are close to where I live or work | 88% | 82% | 74% | 83% |
| The parks are familiar to me | 81% | 71% | 44% | 73% |
| I feel safe in the parks or on the trails | 93% | 91% | 93% | 91% |
| I enjoy the activities there | 92% | 87% | 61% | 87% |
| I like exploring places that are new to me | 93% | 82% | 70% | 87% |
| The parks are places I go for solitude and privacy | 71% | 66% | 44% | 66% |
| I enjoy out-of-doors natural settings | 98% | 98% | 67% | 94% |
| It's part of my routine (exercise, health, stress relief) | 86% | 67% | 26% | 71% |
| I spend time with my friends, family, or pets there | 86% | 72% | 38% | 75% |
| I rarely visit Dakota County parks or trails | 19% | 36% | 83% | 34% |
| Other reasons | 69% | 80% | 100% | 76% |

Appendix D: 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.

Question 4: To what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following reasons keep you or members of your household from visiting Dakota County parks or trails?

Table 90: Question 4 – Other Reasons

| Other reasons: | Rating |
|--|-------------------|
| 2 very young kids. | Strongly agree |
| At my cabin. | Strongly agree |
| Big Rivers mud slide. | Strongly agree |
| Busy working to pay taxes for the parks. | Strongly agree |
| Child w/medical issues. | Strongly agree |
| Have no interest. | Strongly agree |
| I don't visit parks. | Strongly agree |
| I have a handicap. | Strongly agree |
| I use Burnsville city parks. | Strongly agree |
| If you pave trails I will be deeply saddened. | Strongly agree |
| In the past I often took my children and want children- now my interests have changed. | Strongly agree |
| Just moved here. | Strongly agree |
| Lack of leisure time. | Strongly agree |
| Lake home in-WI. | Strongly agree |
| Medical. | Strongly agree |
| Meet up with family in other counties. | Strongly agree |
| More and more pavement and buildings. | Strongly agree |
| Need paved trails- wheelchair. | Strongly agree |
| Not enough running trails. | Strongly agree |
| None of the parks are on a bus route. | Strongly agree |
| Not conveniently located. | Strongly agree |
| Not enough archery hunting. | Strongly agree |
| Not enough paved bike trails. | Strongly agree |
| Time-I work a lot. | Strongly agree |
| Trails need repair (bike paths). | Strongly agree |
| Waste of time. | Strongly agree |
| Afton state park. | Somewhat agree |
| Amenities. | Somewhat agree |
| Care giver to elderly relative. | Somewhat agree |
| City parks more convenient. | Somewhat agree |
| Don't like to be alone on trails. | Somewhat agree |
| Driving restrictions prohibit getting there. | Somewhat agree |
| Portable toilets. | Somewhat agree |
| Trees falling on paths. | Somewhat agree |
| Distance to some. | Strongly disagree |
| Mostly use out of state property & parks. | Strongly disagree |
| None. | Don't know |
| 2 kids under 3 most parks are geared to older kids. | |
| Age. | |

| Other reasons: | Rating |
|--|--------|
| Better trail maps. | |
| Crowded-cleanliness. | |
| Currently caring for someone with physical limitations that make park use difficult more often. | |
| Dogs not leashed. | |
| Don't care to go. | |
| I am 86 years old and can't do what I would like. | |
| I am 89 yrs old. | |
| I am temporarily handicapped. | |
| I am too old & do not walk well. | |
| I don't think of traveling a distance but when my grandchildren are a little older I may explore the parks more. | |
| I have a great city park across the street from where to live. I also visit many parks in the metro area. | |
| I trail side didn't bike (nothing in Dakota)! | |
| I'm going through divorce so I haven't walked as much. | |
| Kids are grown up & go when I can went all the time with kids. | |
| Like zumba classes & walking lakes. | |
| Love all parks take grand kids at least 2 or more weekly. | |
| Mendota Heights you don't have much. | |
| More activities would get me there! Sponsored. | |
| N/A. | |
| N/A. | |
| Nice spring lake park. | |
| No reason to go - I walk in my neighborhood. | |
| Physical limitations. | |
| Sometimes cannot walk. | |
| They don't seen "inviting". | |
| Too busy. | |
| Too cold (winters). | |
| Too old is unable. | |
| We boat on Lake Minnetonka all weekend overnight all summer. | |
| We have a cabin. | |
| With two young children, we stay closer to home. | |

Question 5: To what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following are reasons you or members of your household do visit Dakota County parks or trails?

Table 91: Question 5 – Other Reasons

| Other reasons: | Rating |
|--|----------------|
| Do not like to hike alone. | Strongly agree |
| I don't visit parks. | Strongly agree |
| I like birds-eagles, pileated woodpecker, etc. | Strongly agree |
| I like to trail ride dirt bike/motorcycle. Dakota County has nothing for me!! | Strongly agree |
| I only bike at Lebanon Hills. | Strongly agree |
| Just moved here. | Strongly agree |
| Lebanon parks natural setting. | Strongly agree |
| Mountain bike trails. | Strongly agree |
| Sports-soccer, biking. | Strongly agree |
| Walk non-paved trails with dog. | Strongly agree |
| Wild, natural scenes, rustic. | Strongly agree |
| Wish they were on a bus route. | Strongly agree |
| With grandchildren & family. | Strongly agree |
| Handicap. | Somewhat agree |
| See above. | Somewhat agree |
| We are in our 70's. If we go to a park, we go w/our kids who live elsewhere. | Don't know |
| Age no one to enjoy it with. | |
| All children are gone from home. | |
| As stated above at 86 I cannot participate as I would like. | |
| Do not pave trails!!! | |
| Don't care to go. | |
| Don't go. | |
| For walking exercise. | |
| Frisbee golf. | |
| How to get to one trail system to another. | |
| I am new to come to Eagan. | |
| I don't know where all the parks are or what they are. I would not go alone because of who I might run into. | |
| I go to city parks in my city. | |
| I like looking for wild animals on trails. | |
| I like to see the animals and trees. | |
| I often go to Cleary Lake. | |
| I simply don't go to these places. Sometimes I read about them would support enhancing them and I'm proud they are there for everyone on hill I have a circle of friends we don't think to seek a parks... | |
| I'm 84 years old with leg problems. | |
| Just travel too much totally support parks & trails. | |
| N/A. | |
| Natural setting vs. paved trails. | |
| Need more bow hunting available. | |
| Need more park info about what is there. | |
| Retired. | |
| To many parks. | |
| To old 91. | |
| We go on trail to [?]. | |

Question 10: Please list any other activities, programs or rentals not listed above that you or members of your family would be likely to use in the next two years.

Dog parks, dog friendly events, etc.

- Dog friendly events. Poop bag dispensers & trash cans. And a number to call to report people who litter & don't pick up dog poop.
- Dog park.
- Dog park.
- Dog parks!!!
- Dog parks-with less expensive fees.
- More dog friendly!
- More dog parks!!!

Horseback riding trails

- Horse back- riding trails.
- Horse back riding!
- Horse riding.
- Horse/Equestrian trails.
- More horse trails and horse trailer parking.

Camping sites/equipment, cabins to rent, etc.

- If we could rent camping equipment to camp. We are new campers & want to try it out before buying. Also don't want to store it all.
- Love the new Whitetail Regional park. Own a motor home so would love to see RV sites there with electric and water hook-ups like Lebanon Hills and Lake Byllesby! (Same for Miesville Ravine).
- More cabins to rent.
- More campsites.
- More platform cabins like Whitetail Woods. They're awesome!
- Offer cabins to sleep for with basic services water, etc, heat.
- Places to camp & have picnics.
- Primitive walk-in campsites. Hiking and walking trails- not paved. It is absurd you didn't ask about 10 paved trail at Lebanon Hills-A service I don't want!
- Winter camping-Whitetail Woods.
- Yes! Renting retreat for families is the best idea yet! I attended one, the N Dak! Love it! Cabins- with a lodge for meals- fishing, shooting etc. Some was handicapped accessibility!

Frisbee Golf Course

- Disc golf courses.
- Disc golf.
- Disc golfing courses I love fishing.
- Frisbee area, Basketball courts.
- Frisbee golf.

Bathrooms

- Bathrooms.
- I need every park has restrooms.
- More bathroom facilities open sometimes they are locked.

Do not use parks

- At present I can hardly walk.
- I am sorry this came to me since I am 88 years old and physically unable to participate.
- Our walking ability for both of us is very limited.
- Retired & will not use any parks due to health reasons. Our children are grown & gone.
- We are in between with adult kids & no grand kids.
- We are too old (90) to go to a park.

Trail signage improvements

- Better maps or trail signs showing connections from county & city trails.
- Better trail signs. Disc golf courses!

New programs bird watching, outdoor Zumba, soccer games, etc.)

- Bird programs-hikes, tours, especially for raptors like eagles, owls, peregrines, etc.
- Day camps for kids Pre-k activities, off-leash dog areas, make Lorraine Splash Pad have longer hours & be open later in the season.
- Gathering for singles.
- I would be interested in participating in neighborhood/group activities. There is nothing to do in this county.
- I would like to see some neighborhood/group activities in my area. Everything seems to be far away and I don't drive.
- More activities for kids.
- Outdoor zumba or exercise classes.
- Star gazing-learn constellations.
- T-ball, soccer games, sliding hills.

Comments related to trails

- (1) More scenic paved paths (rollerblading/biking/strollers) like the 3 rivers park district.(2) Ice skating "path/trail" like Maple Groves Central Park.
- Do not pave the trails.
- Expand the Lebanon Hills mountain bike trails.
- Good walking trails.
- Hiking & running events.
- I am a retired single male. I use trails/paths for jogging/walking/bicycling 2/3 times a week. I don't really use the park system for anything else.
- I do not want a paved bike trail!! I love Lebanon Hills park!
- I use the trails to bike and walk. It is good to have portable restrooms even in winter. This determines which parks I use.
- More connected bike trail off busy streets.
- More senior citizen paved walkways and events.
- Paved bike trails.
- Paved biking trails for family. Mountain biking trails.
- Paved walking trails.
- Some of the trails have overhanging tree branches that hit your head when riding a bike.
- Trail runs.
- Would be very interested in mountain bike trails, similar to Lebanon Hills, in Farmington area.

Winter activities

- More candle light ski events!
- Sledding/skating areas.
- Snow (fat) bikes.
- Winter- ice rinks, with skate rentals, warming house with hot coffee or coco or pit fires toboggan and long hilly toboggan run in ice tracks-check out Echo Valley in Kalamazoo, Michigan went there as a kid- great family run.
- Winter time activities, i.e., sledding, skating.

Art programs, etc.

- "Arts in the park" type programs.
- Art and crafts.
- Art in the park activities, painting on canvas lessons.
- Photography equipment, outdoor art, campfire.

Other

- Anything closer to Mendota Heights.
- Anything that benefits the handicapped.
- Area for kites, gliders and drones.
- Boat launch!
- Can't take care of what we do/have now- stop trying to buy votes, parks waste a lot of \$ for the benefit of few.
- Don't spend money on outsourcing surveys such as this!
- Flea markets.
- Geo-caching orienteering.
- I don't use the parks because I have a really great wooded backyard that functions as a park for me.
- I have a 2 year old daughter I think some of this stuff would be so fun and good to get our kids in to it. I think its way better then video games and stuff.
- I have my own cross country ski equipment and my own mountain bike and camping equip. otherwise I think it would be great to be able to rent!
- If it means using green space to build something then no.
- I'm not sure I really know what is available currently at some parks. I use Lebanon Hills it's closest.
- Improved/enhanced fishing opportunity, access.
- Keep drones guns and mechanized-road related activities and rentals out.
- Keep the park- Lebanon Hills natural don't spoil the beauty of that park. It's amazing!
- Many answers will change in 3-5 years. Have a toddler now who will use many activities later as he gets older.
- More Outdoor Hockey
- Need more public land for bow hunting opportunities for responsible hunters.
- Nice to have different parks with different purposes, i.e.: solitude seclusion & wildlife appreciation vs social gathering community.
- Nowhere in here is it even mentioned about ATV/HPV off road/motorcycle trails. I go up by Duluth for my recreation.
- Note: No baby swing on Connemara trail graffiti on slide and biff. Biff and area smelled of urine.
- Please add more parking.
- Please get rid of the dog parks the tax papers don't need to pay for these.
- Prefer to golf and garden outdoors.
- Probably already have them but I would be interested in tours of historical places or events in relation to parks also astronomy lectures and sky watching, also geological lectures/tours.
- Several remarks-any changes should be planned with regard to what city & state/ national parks offer in the area.
- Splash pads would be a great addition.
- This summer, we took our 4yr old grand children to most Eagan Parks/we(adults) enjoy the community center market fest.
- Too many programs now cost a lot yet very little use not good.
- Volleyball area, basketball.
- What you are doing to Lebanon Hills park makes me sick, parks are for future generations. You are fools.
- Wildflower ID "pamphlet" printable from website. (Applicable for Miesville Ravine & others if indicated.)

None

- Covered everything.
- N/A.
- N/A.
- N/A.

- N/A.
- N/A.
- N/A.
- N/A.
- N/A.
- None at this time.
- None.
- None.
- None.
- None.
- None.
- None.
- None.
- None.
- None.
- None.
- None.
- None.
- None.
- None.
- You covered it all!!
- You have covered them well.
- You've covered them all.

Question 11: If you have not rented a Dakota County Parks facility and have not made plans to do so in the future, please indicate which of the following reasons describe why you have not or don't plan to do so in the future?

Other

- Already have.
- Camper cabins are placed too close together. Iowa county parks cabins are far better and cheaper.
- Did not live here.
- Do not usually have that large of a group.
- Don't have a lot of friends here; from Chicago.
- Don't know location or price.
- Don't really know much about Dak parks. Not advertised or marketed other than name of park.
- Don't visit.
- Glad the options are there for those who want/need them.
- Had celebration at home. We have used the parks though and they are awesome.
- Have only lived in Dakota County for a couple of years.
- Health.
- I have.
- I never been there so I don't know.
- I want the least amount of intrusion in the parks. I want to walk and see nature, not people doing activities.
- It just worked easier to do it at home.
- I've rented city park spaces b/c they were closer to my home.
- Just didn't think about it.
- Just don't think about it when need arises.
- Lack of parking.
- Most of my family resides elsewhere.
- N/A.

- Nature is to be preserved not exploited, party in your backyard or the YMCA, let me enjoy the forest the way it is.
- Need greater awareness.
- No need
- No need at this time.
- No need now, but that may change.
- No need.
- None.
- Not fancy enough.
- not in Mendota heights.
- Not interested.
- Not interested.
- Not interested.
- Not sure if they are wheelchair accessible, including restrooms.
- Rambling river shelter wasn't big enough in fear for the weather conditions.
- Rented city park facilities.
- Schedule conflict.
- Soon at Whitetail.
- Still learning about various opportunities and when they are located.
- Times blocked off.
- Too many rules.
- Too old.
- Unaware of the facility wanted!
- We did not reside in the county.
- We have rented facilities and enjoyed the availability!
- We use the city parks.

Question 12: If the county improved existing visitor services or programs (or added more of them) in County parks, what methods of paying for them would you support?

Other

- Allowing for donations & fundraising-no required increases!
- Appropriate existing budgets to prioritize.
- Charge fee on activities that need help with.
- Charge for some of the new services/programs.
- Charge small fee for special events, concerts; parks w/special amenities programs.
- Charging fee for activities that would require charging for them making them affordable for single people as well as for families and groups.
- Charging more or increasing taxes would make less people able to afford the parks.
- Do not raise taxes.
- Donation boxes or donation mailings. I would also make donations via website if applicable.
- Donation boxes, fund raiser events.
- Donation to use free items-those that have it will donate collections around county-loose change thrown in lie at [?].
- Donations with honorary memberships.
- Donations/fundraising.
- Fee based when appropriate-keep access open & free.
- Fees for new services like concerts, SK runs, camps programs.

- Fees should not be too high so everyone could use the parks small children, school age and especially families and older people, retirees & handicapped.
- Fund raisers-event registration (SK, mountain bike races) or food revenue.
- Grants/donations.
- Great good things to attract people.
- High \$ galas or other fun raisers.
- I don't know.
- I support improving but not an alternative method of increasing the property taxes.
- I will stop going, & tell everyone I know not to support this. Preserve the park don't turn it into a shopping mall.
- If you don't pave it.
- Lot spending in other areas.
- Mix of free smaller things then charge for expanded programs. Sample free-big event-fee. Family picnic free family reunion- charge get it?
- More volunteer programs?
- More volunteers.
- My taxes are too high!
- No new taxes, that includes fees.
- Not sure.
- Option of a yearly pass- on a voluntary basis like PBS.
- Park pass like state parks.
- Park permits similar to state parks.
- Pay for parking permit, vending machines & other ways for spending to help parks.
- Putting in donation boxes at the parks.
- Recruit donors/sponsors.
- Reevaluate plan funds are now used.
- Rent for facility which is what group does next door(county).
- Sell park passes good for all parks in the county.
- Sliding scale annual permit discount or free for property owners who pay property taxes.
- Small fees to enter parks \$5.00 or less.
- Stay within current budget & support parks- they have existing funding.
- Stop spending other people's money.
- Taxes too high already.
- To be honest do not really know but I do know you need to keep free admission to all can visit them.
- To be used to get rid of Buckthorn & grapevines!!
- Voluntary contributions.
- We pay enough in taxes, that should be good enough to support our parks. Spend the money smarter.
- Why does everything have to get commercialized.
- Yearly pass to all county parks.

Question 16: Which of these methods do you prefer as a way to receive information about Dakota County parks and trails?

Other

- All of above.
- App!
- Chamber of commerce.
- Don't use them.

- Electronically is more economical.
- I need good restroom.
- I will look.
- No interest.
- Send info home with school children.
- Sun times (Apple valley).
- You need to commit to reaching residents overall media.

Appendix E: Related Data from the Recycling, Parks and Transit Survey

The below tables contain data collected in Dakota County's 2014 Recycling, Parks and Transit Survey. These data are included here as supplemental information. For more information regarding this survey, please see the *Recycling, Parks and Transit Survey* report provided under separate cover.

Table 92: 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 93: 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% |

Appendix F: 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, single-topic survey was developed to explore key issues in the areas of County parks and regional trails. 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 five-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's geographic boundaries were eligible for the survey. Because County governments generally do not have inclusive lists of all the residences in the jurisdiction (and tax assessor records databases omit specific addresses for rental units), address 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 (i.e., residential addresses).

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 5,000 addresses. Addresses were also identified by city or township within the County. 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.² 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 with survey mailings. First, a pre-notification 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 pre-notification, 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.

² 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 October 2015; completed surveys were collected over the following eight weeks. About 2% of the 5,000 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 4,879 households, 896 completed the survey, providing a response rate of 18%. Response rates by location ranged between 13% in South St. Paul and 27% in the geographic sub-area of the County that included the cities of Mendota Heights, Mendota, Sunfish Lake, Lilydale. The overall response rate of 18% is lower than the average response rate typically seen for general resident surveys (typically 20% to 40%) that include a broad range of topics. While the reasons for this lower response rate cannot be confirmed, a potential reason is that this survey was a topic-specific survey that some residents may have felt did not apply to them.

The precision of the estimates made from the survey results is based on the number of surveys received (896) and not based on the response rate. The 896 surveys responses yield a strong level of statistical validity with a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points around any given percent reported for the entire sample (please see the section titled *95% Confidence Intervals* below for more information).

Table 94: Survey Response Rates by Location

| Area name | Number mailed | Undeliverable | Eligible | Returned | Response rate |
|--|---------------|---------------|----------|----------|---------------|
| Apple Valley | 609 | 5 | 604 | 119 | 20% |
| Burnsville | 899 | 23 | 876 | 125 | 14% |
| Townships and rural cities | 134 | 5 | 129 | 31 | 24% |
| Eagan | 881 | 19 | 862 | 173 | 20% |
| Farmington | 222 | 6 | 216 | 33 | 15% |
| Hastings | 293 | 8 | 285 | 57 | 20% |
| Inver Grove Heights | 445 | 20 | 425 | 78 | 18% |
| Lakeville | 572 | 7 | 565 | 100 | 18% |
| Mendota Heights, Mendota, Sunfish Lake, Lilydale | 167 | 2 | 165 | 44 | 27% |
| Rosemount | 231 | 8 | 223 | 50 | 22% |
| South St. Paul | 244 | 9 | 235 | 31 | 13% |
| West St. Paul | 303 | 9 | 294 | 55 | 19% |
| TOTAL | 5,000 | 121 | 4,879 | 896 | 18% |

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 three 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). Each of these types of errors are generally low.

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 population 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. The margin of error for each population subgroup identified as under-represented among park visitors are as follows: those who are low-income (7%), seniors (10%), and members of Communities of Color or immigrants (12%).

Survey Processing (Data Entry)

Mailed surveys were submitted via postage-paid business reply envelopes. Completed survey questionnaires were anonymous because NRC did not track addresses, or ask respondents to provide their names, on returned surveys. Geographic location was determined using different colors of paper for each of 12 municipal locations within the County (as shown in above table). Once received, staff assigned a unique identification number to each questionnaire. Additionally, each survey was reviewed and “cleaned” as necessary. For example, a respondent may have selected two options when they were only instructed to select one; staff would choose randomly one of the two selected options 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. For example, a question may only have four response options so the values given to the question range from one to four. A range check confirms that a value outside of that range was not entered into the dataset.

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 respondent age, gender, race, ethnicity, housing unit type, housing tenure and geographic location. The results of the weighting are presented on the following page.

Table 95: Weighting Table for the Dakota County Park Visitor Survey

| Characteristic | 2010 Census* | Unweighted Data | Weighted Data |
|--|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Housing | | | |
| Rent home | 24% | 15% | 22% |
| Own home | 76% | 85% | 78% |
| Detached unit | 62% | 68% | 64% |
| Attached unit | 38% | 32% | 36% |
| Race and Ethnicity | | | |
| White | 88% | 93% | 88% |
| Not white | 12% | 7% | 12% |
| Not Hispanic | 95% | 99% | 96% |
| Hispanic | 5% | 1% | 4% |
| Sex and Age | | | |
| Female | 52% | 59% | 53% |
| Male | 48% | 41% | 47% |
| 18-34 years of age | 29% | 11% | 27% |
| 35-54 years of age | 42% | 34% | 42% |
| 55+ years of age | 29% | 55% | 31% |
| Females 18-34 | 15% | 7% | 14% |
| Females 35-54 | 22% | 22% | 22% |
| Females 55+ | 15% | 30% | 16% |
| Males 18-34 | 14% | 4% | 13% |
| Males 35-54 | 21% | 12% | 21% |
| Males 55+ | 13% | 25% | 14% |
| Area | | | |
| Apple Valley | 13% | 13% | 12% |
| Burnsville | 16% | 14% | 16% |
| Townships and rural cities | 3% | 3% | 3% |
| Eagan | 17% | 19% | 17% |
| Farmington | 5% | 4% | 5% |
| Hastings | 6% | 6% | 6% |
| Inver Grove Heights | 9% | 9% | 9% |
| Lakeville | 13% | 11% | 13% |
| Mendota Heights, Mendota, Sunfish Lake, Lilydale | 3% | 5% | 3% |
| Rosemount | 5% | 6% | 5% |
| South St. Paul | 4% | 3% | 4% |
| West St. Paul | 6% | 6% | 6% |

* 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 are presented in the body of the report.

Appendix G: Survey Materials

Dear Dakota County Resident,

Your household has been randomly selected to participate in an anonymous survey of residents about County parks and regional trails.

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,



Thomas A. Egan
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 County parks and regional trails.

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Thomas A. Egan
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



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 Office of Planning and Analysis
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 Hastings, MN 55033

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Presorted
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 PAID
 Boulder, CO
 Permit NO. 94

Dear Dakota County Resident:

Dakota County Commissioners want to know what you think about your County parks and regional trails. 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 survey. Your answers will help Dakota County Commissioners and staff make decisions that affect services and programs for people who visit our County Parks and regional recreational trails for years to come.


Your participation is very important – especially since your household is one of only a small number receiving this survey. We do not track addresses or names; your responses are completely anonymous.

So that we will 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.

If you have questions about this survey, please contact Dakota County's survey manager, Jane Vanderpoel, at 651-438-4423, or by email at jane.vanderpoel@co.dakota.mn.us.

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

Sincerely,



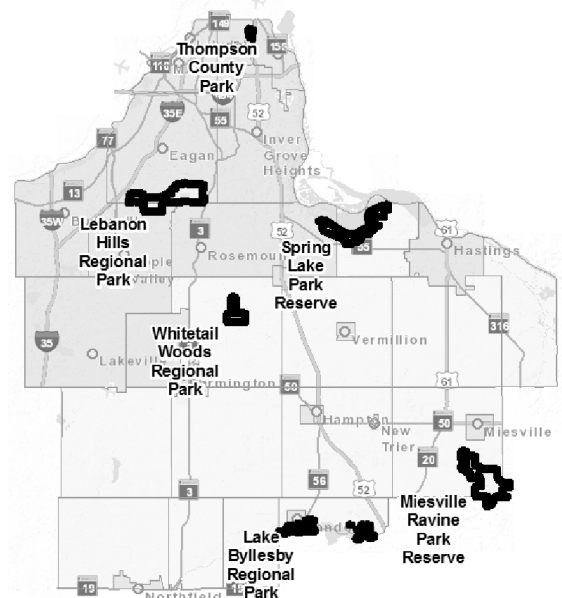
Thomas A. Egan
Chair, Dakota County Board of Commissioners

Dakota County's Parks system is relatively young, starting in 1967. Unlike many city parks, Dakota County's parks have been designed to emphasize natural landscapes without building recreational centers, athletic fields or other sports-focused facilities. As the County's population has grown over the last 50 years to the current 412,000 residents, the park system has grown too, with more than 5,000 acres in six parks and three regional recreational trails:

- Lebanon Hills Regional Park (Apple Valley, Eagan)
- Whitetail Woods Regional Park (Empire Township near Farmington)
- Thompson County Park (West St. Paul)
- Spring Lake Park Reserve (along Mississippi River near Hastings)
- Lake Byllesby Regional Park Reserve (Randolph, Cannon Falls)
- Miesville Ravine Park Reserve (on Cannon River near Welch and Miesville)

Regional Trails and Greenways:

- Big Rivers Regional Trail (along Mississippi/MN rivers, Eagan to Lilydale)
- Mississippi River Regional Trail (along Mississippi River, South St. Paul to Inver Grove Heights and Hastings)
- River to River Greenway (Lilydale to South St. Paul)





Dear Dakota County Resident:

About one week ago we sent you the enclosed survey that asks for your opinions about visitor services at Dakota County Parks and on regional trails. 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 take a few minutes to complete it now. Your opinions are very important to us! Dakota County Commissioners sincerely want to know what you think, especially since your household is one of only a small number receiving this survey. You have been randomly selected to participate in this short survey; **your responses will remain completely anonymous.**

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.

If you have questions about this survey, please contact Dakota County's survey manager, Jane Vanderpoel, at 651-438-4423, or by email at jane.vanderpoel@co.dakota.mn.us.

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

Sincerely,

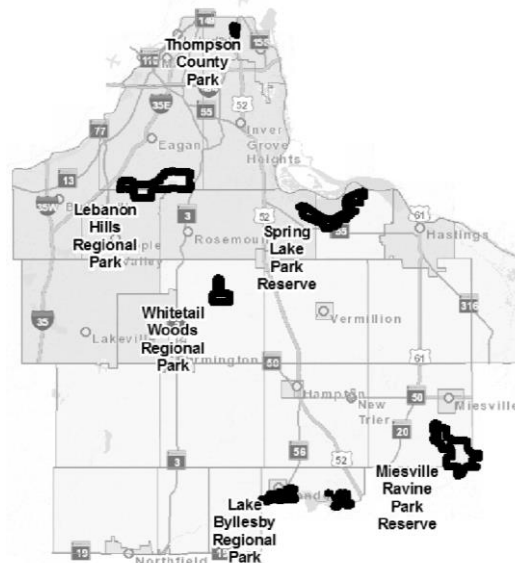
Thomas A. Egan
Chair, Dakota County Board of Commissioners

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Regional Trails and Greenways:

- Big Rivers Regional Trail (along Mississippi/MN rivers, Eagan to Lilydale)
- Mississippi River Regional Trail (along Mississippi River, South St. Paul to Inver Grove Heights and Hastings)
- River to River Greenway (Lilydale to South St. Paul)



Dakota County 2015 Park Visitor 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. Please select the response (by circling the number or checking the box) that most closely represents your opinion for each question. Your responses are anonymous and will be reported in group form only.

1. Compared to other ways you spend your free time, what priority do you give to outdoor recreation?

- High priority
 Medium priority
 Low priority

2. Overall, how do you think Dakota County parks and regional trails compare to other parks you visit?

- Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Poor
 Don't know
 I don't visit parks

3. Please indicate how often, if at all, you visit each of the following parks:

| | <i>2 times a week or more</i> | <i>2-4 times a month</i> | <i>Once a month or less</i> | <i>Not at all</i> |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| City parks within Dakota County (i.e., Northview Park in Eagan or Michaud (North) Park in Lakeville) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| County parks within Dakota County (the list is shown in the cover letter)..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Dakota County's paved recreational trails outside of Dakota County parks..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Parks that are outside of Dakota County (i.e., Chain of Lakes in Minneapolis or Como Park in St. Paul) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

4. To what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following reasons keep you or members of your household from visiting Dakota County parks or trails?

| | <i>Strongly agree</i> | <i>Somewhat agree</i> | <i>Somewhat disagree</i> | <i>Strongly disagree</i> | <i>Don't know</i> |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| I prefer to visit other parks instead of Dakota County parks or trails | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I'm too busy; I do other things with my leisure time | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I am not familiar with Dakota County parks/trails..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Dakota County Parks don't offer the activities that I want to do | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I have no interest in ever going to a park or trail | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Dakota County parks/trails are too far away..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I don't have a way to get there | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I experience cultural or language barriers when I am among other park users | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I don't have anyone to go with me | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| My physical condition prevents me from going to parks | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I don't feel safe visiting Dakota County parks or trails | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Other reasons: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

5. To what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following are reasons you or members of your household do visit Dakota County parks or trails?

| | <i>Strongly agree</i> | <i>Somewhat agree</i> | <i>Somewhat disagree</i> | <i>Strongly disagree</i> | <i>Don't know</i> |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| The parks are close to where I live or work | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| The parks are familiar to me..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I feel safe in the parks or on the trails | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I enjoy the activities there | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I like exploring places that are new to me..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| The parks are places I go for solitude and privacy | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I enjoy out-of-doors natural settings | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| It's part of my routine (exercise, health, stress relief) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I spend time with my friends, family, or pets there..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I rarely visit Dakota County parks or trails | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Other reasons: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

6. Even for those who don't often visit parks or trails, these could be benefits for you and members of your household. To what extent do you agree or disagree that each of the following are benefits?

| | <i>Strongly agree</i> | <i>Somewhat agree</i> | <i>Somewhat disagree</i> | <i>Strongly disagree</i> | <i>Don't know</i> |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Improves physical or mental health and fitness..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Improves quality of life in the county | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Protects natural resources and water quality..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Creates places for scenic landscape views | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Increases property values..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Provides opportunities for people to be with other people and cultures | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Preserves large areas of open space | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I don't see any benefit for me or my household | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

7. As Dakota County considers options to improve services for Dakota County Parks visitors, please rate how important, if at all, each of the following actions are to you:

| | <i>Essential</i> | <i>Very important</i> | <i>Somewhat important</i> | <i>Not at all important</i> | <i>Don't know</i> |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Adding recreational opportunities at more of the existing regional parks (such as hiking, bicycling and snowshoeing) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Adding more recreation skill-based programs (such as cross-country ski lessons, archery lessons, adaptive outdoor recreation programs for people with disabilities, mountain biking) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Adding more environmental education programs (such as nature appreciation programs for preschoolers, Scout badge programs, or guided bird hikes)..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Increasing opportunities for cultural education programs about the story/history at existing regional parks and trails through art and history programs..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Providing more space for social activities such as large picnic shelters or field sports space..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

8. Please indicate how important, if at all, you feel it is for Dakota County to offer various types of programs (such as classes or lessons) to the specific audiences listed below.

| | <i>Essential</i> | <i>Very important</i> | <i>Somewhat important</i> | <i>Not at all important</i> | <i>Don't know</i> |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Nature-based/environmental programs (such as birding, etc.): | | | | | |
| Preschool aged children | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Organized school field trips (i.e., from schools, scouts, churches) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Children (ages 5 – 12) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Teenagers and young adults (ages 13 – 24) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Adults (ages 25 -49) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Families | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Older adults (ages 50+) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| People with disabilities | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Skill-based outdoor recreation programs (such as lessons for skiing, kayaking): | | | | | |
| Preschool aged children | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Organized school field trips (i.e., from schools, scouts, churches) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Children (ages 5 – 12) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Teenagers and young adults (ages 13 – 24) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Adults (ages 25 -49) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Families | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Older adults (ages 50+) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| People with disabilities | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Arts, culture and history programs (such as nature photography, music or movie showings, or living history performances): | | | | | |
| Preschool aged children | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Organized school field trips (i.e., from schools, scouts, churches) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Children (ages 5 – 12) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Teenagers and young adults (ages 13 – 24) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Adults (ages 25 -49) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Families | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Older adults (ages 50+) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| People with disabilities | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Dakota County 2015 Park Visitor Survey

9. When considering the list of parks services or programs below, how likely would you be, if at all, to use each of the following in the next two years? (If you have other programs or services in mind that are not listed here, please use question 10 below to describe your response.)

Very *Somewhat* *Somewhat* *Very*
likely *likely* *unlikely* *unlikely*

Availability of recreation equipment for rental:

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Canoes | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Kayaks | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Paddleboards | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Paddleboats | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Rowboats | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Bicycles (or mountain bikes) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Bows for archery | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Fishing gear | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Cross-country skis | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Snowshoes | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Kicksleds | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Camping gear | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Adaptive recreation equipment (sit-ski for cross-country skiing) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Yard games (bocce ball, croquet, bag toss) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| GPS units | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Headlamps | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Nordic walking poles..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

Availability of food services:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vending machines for food and beverages..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Limited-menu food concessions/snack bar | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Food trucks..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Café/restaurant | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

Adding amenities:

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Availability of souvenirs to purchase (t-shirts, books) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Availability of convenience items to purchase (bug spray, s'more fixings) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Gardens such as native plants, community food plots, or ornamental gardens | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Amphitheater (outdoor entertainment venue) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Outdoor splash pads | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Off-leash dog run areas | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Improve park trail signs for way-finding | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Benches and scenic overlooks along trails | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

Adding programs:

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| A system of self-guided technology (such as a smart phone app) to learn about a park or the natural world..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Before- and after-school programs for children..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Fitness/wellness programs for children..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Fitness/wellness programs for adults..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Summer camp programs for children..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Birthday parties | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Travel programs..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Programs with pets | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

Attending an event:

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Recreation activity events (5K run/walk, triathlon) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Music, concerts, performances (music in the park series) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Evening showings of movies in parks | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Visual and public arts | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Date/season celebration (New Year's Eve, Halloween) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Multicultural celebrations (Cinco de Mayo, Irish Fair) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

Renting park facilities for a private event:

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Picnic shelter for a gathering of 100 people or fewer | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Picnic shelter for a gathering of more than 100 people | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Renting a visitor center for a family, corporate, or organization event of 50 – 200 people.... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Renting a smaller retreat center or lodge for a family, corporate or organization event of fewer than 50 people..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

10. Please list any other activities, programs or rentals not listed above that you or members of your family would be likely to use in the next two years?

11. If you have not rented a Dakota County Parks facility and have not made plans to do so in the future, please indicate which of the following reasons describe why you have not or don't plan to do so in the future? (Please select all that apply.)

- No need to rent a facility
- The facility wasn't available when I needed it
- The facility size didn't meet my needs
- I wasn't aware of the opportunity to rent Parks facilities
- The cost was too high
- Facility locations are not convenient
- Other: _____

12. If the county improved existing visitor services or programs (or added more of them) in County parks, what methods of paying for them would you support? (Please select all that apply.)

- Making parks a higher priority in the overall County budget (which reduces funds for other County services)
- Raising fees on existing uses with permits (i.e. equipment rentals, camping)
- Charging fees for more park activities that are free now
- Charging admission fees at all parks
- Increasing property taxes to provide more services in the parks
- None of the above; I don't support increased spending to improve services in the parks
- None of the above; I don't know
- Other: _____

13. Please indicate how likely, if at all, you or members of your household would be to participate in each of these volunteer opportunities at a Dakota County park in the next year:

| | <i>Very likely</i> | <i>Somewhat likely</i> | <i>Somewhat unlikely</i> | <i>Very unlikely</i> |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Removing invasive species (such as buckthorn) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Cleaning up shores of streams/lakes | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Restoring native prairies..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Assisting with parks special events (candle lighting, on-site registration, etc.) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Trail patrol (skiing, mountain biking, hiking) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Assisting with classes or lessons (setting up classrooms, materials)..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Park or trail clean-up events | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

14. About how much time, if at all, do you estimate you would be willing to spend as a volunteer for Dakota County parks/trails?

- One day or less per year
- A few hours 3 – 4 times per year
- About one day each month
- About a 1/2 day each month
- Several hours most weeks
- I am not interested in any volunteer activities
- I don't have the time or the physical capabilities to volunteer

15. Before you read this survey, were you able to name the Dakota County park closest to you?

- No
- Yes

Dakota County 2015 Park Visitor Survey

16. Which of these methods do you prefer as a way to receive information about Dakota County parks and trails? (Please select all that apply.)

- Publications like mailed brochures
- County website or online search
- The County's mailed newsletter
- Local or neighborhood newspapers
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- Friends/family (word of mouth)
- Radio
- Television/cable TV
- Visiting a park facility
- Roadside signs
- E-mail from Dakota County
- Flyers or posters
- None
- Other: _____

Our last questions are about you and your household. Again, all of your responses to this survey are completely anonymous and will be reported in group form only.

D1. How many years have you lived in Dakota County?

- Less than 2 years
- 2-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 16-20 years
- More than 20 years

D2. Which best describes the building you live in?

- A one-family house detached from any other houses
- A building with two or more homes (duplex, townhome, apartment or condominium)
- A mobile home
- Other

D3. Is this house, apartment or mobile home...

- Rented
- Owned

D4. How many of each of the following, including yourself, live in your household?

Children age 17 years and under _____

Adults under age 65 years _____

Adults age 65 years and over _____

D5. How much do you anticipate your household's total income will be (before taxes) for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)

- Less than \$25,000
- \$25,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000 to \$149,999
- \$150,000 or more

D6. Which of the following categories best describes the amount of formal education you have completed?

- Did not receive a high school diploma
- High school graduate
- Associate degree
- Technical school degree
- Some college, did not complete bachelor's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Graduate or professional degree

Please respond to both questions D7 and D8:

D7. Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?

- No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino
- Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino

D8. What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be.)

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- White
- Other

D9. In which category is your age?

- 18-24 years
- 25-34 years
- 35-44 years
- 45-54 years
- 55-64 years
- 65-74 years
- 75 years or older

D10. What is your gender?

- Female
- Male

**Thank you for completing this survey.
Please return the completed survey in the postage-paid envelope to:
National Research Center, Inc.,
PO Box 549, Belle Mead, NJ 08502**



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

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