

2004 Outdoor Recreation Facility Survey of Minnesota Cities, Counties, and School Districts

Methodology



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The 2004 Outdoor Recreation Facility Survey of Minnesota Cities, Counties, and School Districts was funded by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources with an allocation of Land and Water Conservation Funds

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INTRODUCTION

The most recent State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identified the need to better understand the changing nature of outdoor recreation in Minnesota (Reference 1). To meet this need, three efforts are underway, and one is planned for future funding. The first effort is the collection of primary information on the outdoor recreation patterns of adult Minnesotans (Reference 2). The second effort is an analysis of existing information sources to delineate recent trends in recreation participation (e.g., trends in fishing licenses, watercraft registration, and park attendance). One report—on wildlife-related recreation (fishing, hunting, wildlife observation) and recreational boating—has been completed (Reference 3) and others are planned. The third effort—which is the topic of this document—is to determine the recreation facility needs of cities, counties, and school districts in the state from providers of those facilities. The fourth effort—which is planned for future funding—is to determine the recreation facility and program needs of the general Minnesota population directly from that population.

Results from the data for the third effort are in two reports: 2004 Outdoor Recreation Facility Survey of Minnesota Cities, Counties, and School Districts, Part 1: Facility Adequacy; and 2004 Outdoor Recreation Facility Survey of Minnesota Cities, Counties, and School Districts, Part 2: Management Concerns of Local Government Providers.

Funding for all these efforts is from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, as allocated by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources.

The scoping and planning of these four efforts was done by a work team, which continues to meet on an ad hoc basis as the efforts progress:

Current members:

Dorian Grilley, Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota
Tim Kelly, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Emmett Mullin, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Jon Nauman, Three Rivers Park District
Wayne Sames, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Ron Sushak, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Jonathan Vlaming, Metropolitan Council

Past members:

John Schneider, Metropolitan State University
Colleen Tollefson, Office of Tourism

METHODOLOGY

To collect data on Minnesota public and private outdoor recreation facilities open to the general public, a mail survey was conducted beginning in July 2004. The mail survey targeted the most appropriate and knowledgeable respondent in each city, county and school district. The mail-survey sample of 1000 was allocated to three public outdoor recreation facility providers—cities/townships (cities), counties, school districts—with surveys sent to 603 cities, 87 counties, and 310 school districts.

The cities were selected from a list of 820 cities obtained from the League of Minnesota Cities. The cities in the list account for 88 percent of Minnesota’s population. All 549 cities with populations of 350 or more were selected. A random sample of 54 cities was taken from the 304 smaller cities. The 603 cities sampled represent 79 percent of Minnesota’s population. Names and titles of city officials were obtained from the League in the following order: Parks and Recreation Director, Public Works Director, City Clerk, chief appointed or elected official.

All 87 of Minnesota’s counties were surveyed. Names and titles of county officials were obtained from county web sites in the following order: Parks and Recreation Director, County Land Commissioner, Planning and Zoning Commissioner, County Administrator.

The school districts were selected from a list of 344 school districts obtained from the Minnesota Department of Education web site. Charter schools and nonpublic schools were excluded. The 344 districts represent 98 percent of Minnesota’s K12 population. All 260 school districts with student populations of 500 or more were selected. A random sample of 50 school districts was taken from the 84 smaller districts. The 310 school districts sampled represent 96 percent of Minnesota’s K12 population. School district surveys were sent to the superintendent who was asked to pass on the survey to the most appropriate individual.

The mail survey achieved over 80 percent return rate after three mailings (Table 1). The return rate varied from 83 percent for counties and school districts to 85 percent for cities. The return rate far exceeded expectations for an effort such as this.

Table 1
Return Rates

Type of provider	Sample size	Undeliverable	Adjusted sample size	Number of returns	Return rate
City	603	1	602	513	85.2%
County	87	1	86	71	82.6%
School district	310	0	310	256	82.6%

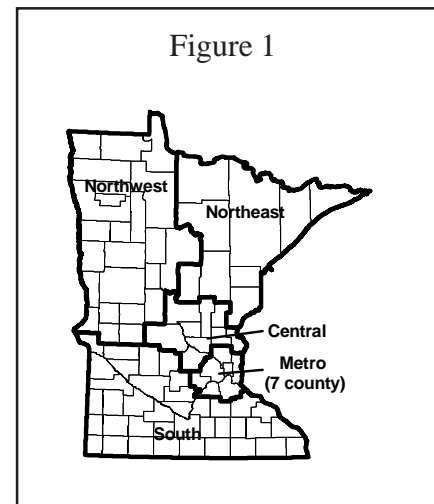
A separate survey and cover letters were developed for cities (Appendix A, page 9), for counties (Appendix B, page 18), and for school districts (Appendix C, page 26). While the majority of each survey contained the same materials, the number and ordering of facilities varied. The city and county surveys included 46 facilities listed under six facility categories—Outdoor Sport Courts & Fields (16 facilities), Water-based Facilities (6 facilities), Day Use Facilities (7 facilities), Trails (8 facilities), Overnight Facilities (4 facilities), Hunting Facilities (5 facilities). The school district survey only included 30 facilities. It did not include the six Water-based Facilities, the four Overnight Facilities, the five Hunting Facilities, or the ‘rifle-pistol ranges’ facility from the Outdoor Sport Courts & Fields category.

DATA USED TO ANALYZE SURVEY RESULTS

To examine how facility needs varied across the state and by standard demographic breakdowns, city and county data were analyzed by region, population density change 1990 to 2000, 2000 population, and 2000 median household income. School district data were looked at by region, enrollment change 1993-94 to 2003-04, 2003-04 enrollment, and percent enrollment eligible for subsidized lunches.

Regions used for this analysis are the four DNR regions with the Central DNR region broken into the seven county Twin Cities metropolitan region (Metro) and the balance as the Central region (Figure 1). The Metro region contains half of the Minnesota population and is covered by the regional governmental agency (Metropolitan Council) that has outdoor recreation functions.

Population and income data for city and county analyses were from the U.S. Census (Reference 4). School district data were from the Minnesota Department of Education web site (Reference 5).



Tables 2 through 4 show the distribution of cities, counties, and school districts respectively by region and demographic breakdowns.

Table 2
Distribution of Cities by Region and Demographic Breakdowns

Category	Number respondents	Percent respondents
Region		
Northwest	90	17.5
Northeast	58	11.3
South	188	36.6
Central	60	11.7
Metro	117	22.8
Population Density Change 1990 to 2000		
< 0.1	152	29.6
0.1 - 20.0	56	10.9
20.1 - 50.0	76	14.8
50.1+	229	44.6
2000 Population		
< 5,000	401	78.2
5,000 - 19,999	69	13.5
20,000 - 49,999	29	5.7
50,000 - 99,999	12	2.3
100,000 +	2	0.4
2000 Median Household Income		
<\$30,000	112	21.8
\$30,000 - \$34,999	104	20.3
\$35,000 - \$39,999	98	19.1
\$40,000 - \$49,999	92	17.9
\$50,000 +	107	20.9

Table 3
Distribution of Counties by Region and Demographic Breakdowns

Category	Number respondents	Percent respondents
Region		
Northwest	19	26.8
Northeast	6	8.5
South	31	43.7
Central	8	11.3
Metro	7	9.9
Population Density Change 1990 to 2000		
< 0.1	23	32.4
0.1 - 5.0	30	42.3
5.1 - 50.0	11	15.5
50.1+	7	9.9
2000 Population		
< 20,000	31	43.7
20,000 - 49,999	26	36.6
50,000 - 149,999	9	12.7
150,000 - 599,999	4	5.6
600,000 +	1	1.4
2000 Median Household Income		
\$30,000 - \$34,999	21	29.6
\$35,000 - \$39,999	26	36.6
\$40,000 - \$49,999	14	19.7
\$50,000 +	10	14.1

Table 4
Distribution of School Districts by Region and Demographic Breakdowns

Category	Number respondents	Percent respondents
Region		
Northwest	46	18.0
Northeast	31	12.1
South	103	40.2
Central	30	11.7
Metro	46	18.0
Percent Enrollment Change 1993-94 to 2003-04		
-14.0% or less	81	31.6
-13.9% to 0.0%	87	34.0
0.1% to 15.0%	47	18.4
15.1% or more	41	16.0
2003-04 Enrollment		
<650	62	24.2
651 - 1,200	69	27.0
1,201 - 2,700	60	23.4
2,701 - 20,000	60	23.4
20,001+	5	2.0
Percent Enrollment Eligible for Subsidized Lunches		
20.0% or less	61	23.8
20.1% to 30.0%	69	27.0
30.1% - 40.0%	70	27.3
40.1% or more	56	21.9

REFERENCES

1. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. 2002. Minnesota's 2003-2008 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Office of Management and Budget Services.
2. Kelly, Tim. 2005. 2004 Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey of Minnesotans. Report of Findings. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Office of Management and Budget Services.
3. Kelly, Tim. 2004. Outdoor recreation participation trends in wildlife-related activities (fishing, hunting, wildlife observation) and recreational boating. A background report for Minnesota State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Office of Management and Budget Services.
4. U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau. Minnesota decennial census population counts for various years.
5. Minnesota Department of Education. 2004. Data & Reporting. School & District Data. http://education.state.mn.us/html/intro_sch_data.htm.

Outdoor Recreation Facility Adequacy Survey

SECTION I—This section asks your opinions about the outdoor recreation facilities available to residents of your community within a half-hour drive of their home.

Note: This section of the survey asks about public and private outdoor recreation facilities that are open to the general public. The survey excludes facilities that are private, membership-only facilities, such as golfing country clubs.

1. For each type of outdoor recreation facility that is open to the general public, please do the following:

- First:** Indicate if residents of your community have near-home access to the facility (“near home” is within a half-hour drive of their home).
- Second:** Rate the adequacy of near-home supply of the facility to residents of your community. Please rate adequacy even if your answer to the first part is “No”.

	Community residents have near-home access to facility? (circle one)		Adequacy of near-home facility supply to community residents? (circle one)				
	Yes	No	SN Facility shortage exists now	ES Facility shortage expected to emerge in next 5 years; no shortage now	NS No facility shortage expected over next 5 years	DK Don't know	
OUTDOOR SPORT COURTS & FIELDS							
Tennis courts	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Basketball courts	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Volleyball courts	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Baseball fields	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Softball fields	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Football fields	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Soccer fields	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Golf courses	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Archery ranges	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Rifle-pistol ranges	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Running tracks	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Ice rinks	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Downhill ski areas	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Snow boarding areas	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Sledding hills	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Skateboard parks	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
WATER-BASED FACILITIES							
Fishing piers	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Shore fishing/ice fishing areas	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Boat launching ramps	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Marinas	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Outdoor swimming pools	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Swimming beaches	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	

(continuation of Question 1)

Adequacy of near-home facility supply
to community residents? (circle one)

	Community residents have near-home access to facility? (circle one)		Facility shortage exists now	Facility shortage expected to emerge in next 5 years; no shortage now	No facility shortage expected over next 5 years	Don't know
DAY USE FACILITIES						
Picnic shelters	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Picnic grounds	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Playgrounds	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Nature/Interpretive centers	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Natural park areas/open spaces	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Wildlife/nature observation areas	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Dog parks	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
TRAILS						
Paved trails for walking, hiking, skating, biking	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Unpaved trails for walking, hiking, biking	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Mountain bike trails	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Horseback trails	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Nature/interpretive trails	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Motorized, off-highway vehicle trails (ATV, 4X4, motorcycle)	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Cross-country ski trails	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Snowmobile trails	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
OVERNIGHT FACILITIES						
Modern campgrounds with electric hookups	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Primitive campgrounds	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Dispersed camping sites	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Camper cabins	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
HUNTING FACILITIES						
Big game hunting areas	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Small game hunting areas	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Waterfowl hunting areas	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Hunter walking trails	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Accessible hunting blinds, stands, areas for people with disabilities	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK

2. Are there facilities missing from the preceding list that (i) are within a half-hour drive of community residents homes, and (ii) are in short supply now or will be in short supply within 5 years? If so, please describe these facilities.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

3. Of the facilities in the preceding list within a half-hour drive of community residents homes, which are the top three in need of expansion?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

4. Of the facilities in the preceding list within a half-hour drive of community residents homes, which are the top three in need of renovation?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

5. Outdoor recreation systems can face a wide variety of problems. For each of the following potential problems, please indicate how much of a problem (if any) it is in the outdoor recreation system **within a half-hour drive of community residents homes**. (circle one response for each)

Potential problem	Not a problem	Slight problem	Moderate problem	Serious problem	Very serious problem	Don't know
MEETING PUBLIC NEEDS						
Meeting the needs of older people	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Meeting the needs of families	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Meeting the needs of youth through programming	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Meeting the needs of youth through the provision of facilities	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Meeting the needs of diverse cultures in your area	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Meeting accessibility standards	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Providing a safe environment	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Providing undeveloped public lands for youth to explore and enjoy	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Providing full size athletic fields	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Meeting demand for off-leash dog areas	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Meeting demand for public water access for swimming, boating, and fishing	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Including off-street walking or biking paths (including sidewalks) during development or redevelopment	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
LAND PROTECTION						
Reserving open-space lands from development or redevelopment	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Reserving significant natural resource areas from development or redevelopment	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Reserving historical or cultural resources from development or redevelopment	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK

SECTION II—This section asks about the outdoor recreation facilities provided by your city.

6. Which of the following outdoor recreation facilities does your city provide for its residents? (check all that apply)

OUTDOOR SPORT COURTS & FIELDS

- Tennis courts
- Basketball courts
- Volleyball courts
- Baseball fields
- Softball fields
- Football fields
- Soccer fields
- Golf courses
- Archery ranges
- Rifle-pistol ranges
- Running tracks
- Ice rinks
- Downhill ski areas
- Snow boarding areas
- Sledding hills
- Skateboard parks

TRAILS

- Paved trails for walking, hiking, skating, biking
- Unpaved trails for walking, hiking, biking
- Mountain bike trails
- Horseback trails
- Nature/interpretive trails
- Motorized, off-highway vehicle trails (ATV, 4X4, motorcycle)
- Cross-country ski trails
- Snowmobile trails

WATER-BASED FACILITIES

- Fishing piers
- Shore fishing/ice fishing areas
- Boat launching ramps
- Marinas
- Outdoor swimming pools
- Swimming beaches

DAY USE FACILITIES

- Picnic shelters
- Picnic grounds
- Playgrounds
- Nature/Interpretive centers
- Natural park areas/open spaces
- Wildlife/nature observation areas
- Dog parks

OVERNIGHT FACILITIES

- Modern campgrounds with electric hookups
- Primitive campgrounds
- Dispersed camping sites
- Camper cabins

HUNTING FACILITIES

- Big game hunting areas
- Small game hunting areas
- Waterfowl hunting areas
- Hunter walking trails
- Accessible hunting blinds, stands, areas for people with disabilities

7. What is your 2004 **operating budget** for parks and outdoor recreation services? Include your outdoor recreation enterprise services in your answer.

\$ _____ amount

7a. Approximately how is your 2004 **operating budget** distributed across the following four categories? Please respond in percents.

Maintenance funds	_____ %
Outdoor recreation and education programming funds	_____ %
Overall administration funds	_____ %
Total	100 %

8. What is your 2004 **capital improvement budget** for parks and outdoor recreation services? Include all sources of funding. We recognize that this amount may fluctuate significantly from year to year.
 \$ _____ amount

8a. Approximately how is your 2004 **capital improvement budget** distributed across the following four categories? Please respond in percents.

Renovation and replacement funds	_____ %
New facility development funds	_____ %
Land acquisition funds	_____ %
Total	100 %

9. Outdoor recreation systems can face a wide variety of problems. For each of the following potential problems, please indicate how much of a problem (if any) it is with regard to the outdoor recreation system **operated by your city**. (circle one response for each)

Potential problem	Not a problem	Slight problem	Moderate problem	Serious problem	Very serious problem	Don't know
MANAGEMENT						
Alleviating user conflicts	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Enforcing rules and regulations	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
FUNDING						
Obtaining daily maintenance funds	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Obtaining scheduled preventative maintenance funds	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Obtaining outdoor recreation and education programming funds	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Obtaining overall recreation administration funds	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Obtaining major renovation funds	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Obtaining facility replacement funds	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Obtaining new facility development funds	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Obtaining land acquisition funds	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK

10. What is your job title? _____

Thank you for your input. Please place the survey in its envelope and drop it in the mail.

Survey # _____
 This survey number is only used to keep track of who has completed the survey and who has not. We will send replacement surveys to those who don't respond in three weeks. Your answers are strictly confidential and will never be associated with your name.

Dear «Fname» «Lname»,

We—the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources—would like to hear from you about the availability of outdoor recreation facilities to residents of your community. We are very interested in the types of facilities available and if they are meeting the needs of the residents of your community. We make many decisions that affect outdoor recreation in Minnesota. Survey results will be used to help us allocate outdoor recreation grants.

In addition to surveying communities such as yours, we are also surveying school districts and counties on their outdoor recreation facilities. Individual residents have also been surveyed on their uses of the outdoors for recreation.

Please take 15 minutes to fill out the enclosed survey and return it to us. You are one of only a small number of Minnesotan community officials who is being asked to complete this survey. If you have another individual who might better respond to this survey, please pass it on to that person. Survey answers are strictly confidential and will never be associated with your community.

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Ron Sushak at 651-296-0567, or send him an email at ron.sushak@dnr.state.mn.us.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,



Wayne Sames
Outdoor Recreation Grants Manager

Survey #: «id»

Dear «Fname» «Lname»,

About three weeks ago, we sent you a survey that asked about outdoor recreation facilities available to residents of your community. We have received many valuable responses to our survey, but we have missed hearing from you.

Even if you provide few outdoor recreation facilities (or none at all), we want to hear from you. We are very interested in the types of facilities available and if they are meeting the needs of the residents of your community. We make many decisions that affect outdoor recreation in Minnesota. Survey results will be used to help us allocate outdoor recreation grants.

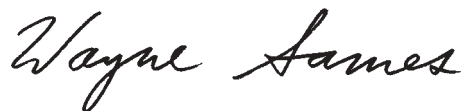
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If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Ron Sushak at 651-296-0567, or send him an email at ron.sushak@dnr.state.mn.us.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,



Wayne Sames
Outdoor Recreation Grants Manager

Survey #: «id»

Dear «Fname» «Lname»,

Over the last six weeks, we sent you two surveys that asked about outdoor recreation facilities available to residents of your community. We have received many valuable responses to our survey, but we have missed hearing from you.

Even if you provide few outdoor recreation facilities (or none at all), we want to hear from you. We are very interested in the types of facilities available and if they are meeting the needs of the residents of your community. We make many decisions that affect outdoor recreation in Minnesota. Survey results will be used to help us allocate outdoor recreation grants.

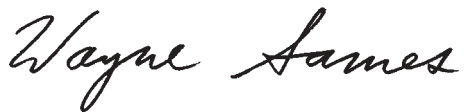
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Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,



Wayne Sames
Outdoor Recreation Grants Manager

Survey #: «id»

Outdoor Recreation Facility Adequacy Survey

SECTION I—This section asks your opinions about the availability of outdoor recreation facilities to residents of your county.

Note: This section of the survey asks about public and private outdoor recreation facilities that are open to the general public. The survey excludes facilities that are private, membership-only facilities, such as golfing country clubs.

1. For each type of outdoor recreation facility that is open to the general public, please do the following:
 - First:** Indicate if your county is responsible for providing each type of facility.
 - Second:** Rate the adequacy of supply of the facility to county residents. Please rate adequacy even if your answer to the first part is “No”.

			Adequacy of facility supply to county residents? (circle one)			
			County responsible for providing facility? (circle one)	Facility shortage exists now	Facility shortage expected to emerge in next 5 years; no shortage now	No facility shortage expected over next 5 years
	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
WATER-BASED FACILITIES						
Fishing piers	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Shore fishing/ice fishing areas	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Boat launching ramps	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Marinas	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Outdoor swimming pools	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Swimming beaches	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
DAY USE FACILITIES						
Picnic shelters	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Picnic grounds	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Playgrounds	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Nature/Interpretive centers	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Natural park areas/open spaces	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Wildlife/nature observation areas	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Dog parks	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
TRAILS						
Paved trails for walking, hiking, skating, biking	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Unpaved trails for walking, hiking, biking	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Mountain bike trails	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Horseback trails	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Nature/interpretive trails	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK

(continuation of Question 1)

Adequacy of facility supply to county residents? (circle one)

		County responsible for providing facility? (circle one)		Adequacy of facility supply to county residents? (circle one)			
		Yes	No	Facility shortage exists now	Facility shortage expected to emerge in next 5 years; no shortage now	No facility shortage expected over next 5 years	Don't know
(TRAILS continued)							
Motorized, off-highway vehicle trails (ATV, 4X4, motorcycle)	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Cross-country ski trails	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Snowmobile trails	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
OVERNIGHT FACILITIES							
Modern campgrounds with electric hookups	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Primitive campgrounds	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Dispersed camping sites	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Camper cabins	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
OUTDOOR SPORT COURTS & FIELDS							
Tennis courts	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Basketball courts	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Volleyball courts	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Baseball fields	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Softball fields	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Football fields	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Soccer fields	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Golf courses	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Archery ranges	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Rifle-pistol ranges	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Running tracks	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Ice rinks	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Downhill ski areas	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Snow boarding areas	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Sledding hills	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Skateboard parks	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
HUNTING FACILITIES							
Big game hunting areas	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Small game hunting areas	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Waterfowl hunting areas	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Hunter walking trails	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	
Accessible hunting blinds, stands, areas for people with disabilities	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK	

2. Are there facilities missing from the preceding list that (i) your county is responsible for, and (ii) are in short supply now or will be in short supply within 5 years? If so, please describe these facilities.

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

3. Of the facilities in the preceding list that your county is responsible for, which are the top three in need of expansion?

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

4. Of the facilities in the preceding list that your county is responsible for, which are the top three in need of renovation?

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

5. What is your 2004 **operating budget** for parks and outdoor recreation services? Include your outdoor recreation enterprise services in your answer.

\$ _____ amount

5a. Approximately how is your 2004 **operating budget** distributed across the following four categories? Please respond in percents.

Maintenance funds	_____ %
Outdoor recreation and education programming funds	_____ %
Overall administration funds	_____ %
Total	100 %

6. What is your 2004 **capital improvement budget** for parks and outdoor recreation services? Include all sources of funding. We recognize that this amount may fluctuate significantly from year to year.

\$ _____ amount

6a. Approximately how is your 2004 **capital improvement budget** distributed across the following four categories? Please respond in percents.

Renovation and replacement funds	_____ %
New facility development funds	_____ %
Land acquisition funds	_____ %
Total	100 %

SECTION II—This section asks your opinions about problems facing the outdoor recreation system in your county.

7. Outdoor recreation systems can face a wide variety of problems. For each of the following potential problems, please indicate how much of a problem (if any) it is in the outdoor recreation system **operated by your county**. (Circle one response for each)

<u>Potential problem</u>	Not a problem Slight problem Moderate problem Serious problem Very serious problem					Don't know
MEETING PUBLIC NEEDS						
Meeting the needs of older people	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Meeting the needs of families	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Meeting the needs of youth through programming	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Meeting the needs of youth through the provision of facilities	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Meeting the needs of diverse cultures in your area	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Meeting accessibility standards	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Providing a safe environment	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Providing undeveloped public lands for youth to explore and enjoy	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Providing full size athletic fields	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Meeting demand for off-leash dog areas	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Meeting demand for public water access for swimming, boating, and fishing	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Including off-street walking or biking paths (including sidewalks) during development or redevelopment	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
LAND PROTECTION						
Reserving open-space lands from development or redevelopment	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Reserving significant natural resource areas from development or redevelopment	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Reserving historical or cultural resources from development or redevelopment	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
MANAGEMENT						
Alleviating user conflicts	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Enforcing rules and regulations	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK

(continuation of Question 7)

<u>Potential problem</u>	Not a problem Slight problem Moderate problem Serious problem Very serious problem					Don't know
FUNDING						
Obtaining daily maintenance funds	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Obtaining scheduled preventative maintenance funds	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Obtaining outdoor recreation and education programming funds	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Obtaining overall recreation administration funds	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Obtaining major renovation funds	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Obtaining facility replacement funds	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Obtaining new facility development funds	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Obtaining land acquisition funds	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK

8. What is your job title? _____

Thank you for your input. Please place the survey in its envelope and drop it in the mail.

Survey # _____

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Dear «Fname» «Lname»,

We—the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources—would like to hear from you about the availability of outdoor recreation facilities to residents of your county. We are very interested in the types of facilities available and if they are meeting the needs of the residents of your county. We make many decisions that affect outdoor recreation in Minnesota. Survey results will be used to help us allocate outdoor recreation grants.

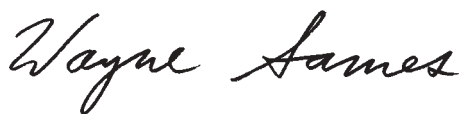
In addition to surveying counties such as yours, we are also surveying cities and school districts on their outdoor recreation facilities. Individual residents have also been surveyed on their uses of the outdoors for recreation.

Please take 15 minutes to fill out the enclosed survey and return it to us. You are one of only a small number of Minnesotan county officials who is being asked to complete this survey. If you have another individual who might better respond to this survey, please pass it on to them. Survey answers are strictly confidential and will never be associated with your county.

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Ron Sushak at 651-296-0567, or send him an email at ron.sushak@dnr.state.mn.us.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,



Wayne Sames
Outdoor Recreation Grants Manager

Survey #: «ID»

Dear «Fname» «Lname»,

About three weeks ago, we sent you a survey that asked about outdoor recreation facilities available to residents of your county. We have received many valuable responses to our survey, but we have missed hearing from you.

Even if you provide few outdoor recreation facilities (or none at all), we want to hear from you. We are very interested in the types of facilities available and if they are meeting the needs of the residents of your county. We make many decisions that affect outdoor recreation in Minnesota. Survey results will be used to help us allocate outdoor recreation grants.

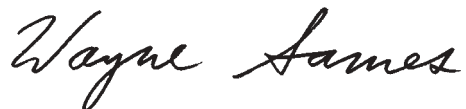
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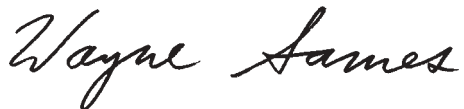
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Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,



Wayne Sames
Outdoor Recreation Grants Manager

Survey #: «ID»

Outdoor Recreation Facility Adequacy Survey

SECTION I—This section asks your opinions about the availability of outdoor recreation facilities to residents of your school district.

Note: This section of the survey asks about public and private outdoor recreation facilities that are open to the general public. The survey excludes facilities that are private, membership-only facilities, such as golfing country clubs.

1. For each type of outdoor recreation facility that is open to the general public, please do the following:
 - First:** Indicate if your school district is responsible for providing each type of facility.
 - Second:** Rate the adequacy of supply of the facility to school district residents. Please rate adequacy even if your answer to the first part is “No”.

			Adequacy of facility supply to school district residents? (circle one)			
			School district responsible for providing facility? (circle one)	Facility shortage exists now	Facility shortage expected to emerge in next 5 years; no shortage now	No facility shortage expected over next 5 years
<i>OUTDOOR SPORT COURTS & FIELDS</i>						
Tennis courts	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Basketball courts	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Volleyball courts	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Baseball fields	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Softball fields	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Football fields	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Soccer fields	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Golf courses	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Archery ranges	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Running tracks	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Ice rinks	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Downhill ski areas	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Snow boarding areas	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Sledding hills	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Skateboard parks	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
<i>DAY USE FACILITIES</i>						
Picnic shelters	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Picnic grounds	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Playgrounds	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Nature/Interpretive centers	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Natural park areas/open spaces	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Wildlife/nature observation areas	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Dog parks	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK

(continuation of Question 1)

			School district responsible for providing facility? (circle one)			
			Facility shortage exists now	Facility shortage expected to emerge in next 5 years; no shortage now	No facility shortage expected over next 5 years	Don't know
TRAILS						
Paved trails for walking, hiking, skating, biking	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Unpaved trails for walking, hiking, biking	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Mountain bike trails	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Horseback trails	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Nature/interpretive trails	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Motorized, off-highway vehicle trails (ATV, 4X4, motorcycle)	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Cross-country ski trails	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK
Snowmobile trails	Yes	No	SN	ES	NS	DK

2. Are there facilities missing from the preceding list that (i) your school district is responsible for, and (ii) are in short supply now or will be in short supply within 5 years? If so, please describe these facilities.

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

3. Of the facilities in the preceding list that your school district is responsible for, which are the top three in need of expansion?

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

4. Of the facilities in the preceding list that your school district is responsible for, which are the top three in need of renovation?

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

5. What is your 2004 **operating budget** for parks and outdoor recreation services? Include your outdoor recreation enterprise services in your answer.

\$_____ amount

5a. Approximately how is your 2004 **operating budget** distributed across the following four categories? Please respond in percents.

Maintenance funds	_____%
Outdoor recreation and education programming funds	_____%
Overall administration funds	_____%
Total	100 %

6. What is your 2004 **capital improvement budget** for parks and outdoor recreation services? Include all sources of funding. We recognize that this amount may fluctuate significantly from year to year.

\$_____ amount

6a. Approximately how is your 2004 **capital improvement budget** distributed across the following four categories? Please respond in percents.

Renovation and replacement funds	_____%
New facility development funds	_____%
Land acquisition funds	_____%
Total	100 %

SECTION II—This section asks your opinions about problems facing the outdoor recreation system in your school district.

7. Outdoor recreation systems can face a wide variety of problems. For each of the following potential problems, please indicate how much of a problem (if any) it is in the outdoor recreation system operated by your school district. (Circle one response for each)

<u>Potential problem</u>	Not a problem Slight problem Moderate problem Serious problem Very serious problem					Don't know
MEETING PUBLIC NEEDS						
Meeting the needs of older people	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Meeting the needs of families	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Meeting the needs of youth through programming	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
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Meeting accessibility standards	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Providing a safe environment	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Providing full size athletic fields	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
MANAGEMENT						
Alleviating user conflicts	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Enforcing rules and regulations	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
FUNDING						
Obtaining daily maintenance funds	N	SL	M	SE	V	DK
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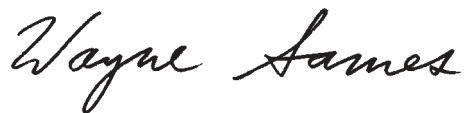
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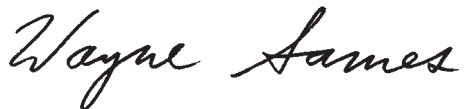
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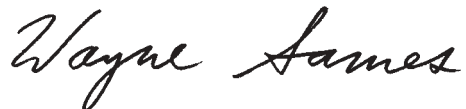
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