

PARKS FOR AN ACTIVE SHOREVIEW

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Vision Statement:

To gain a better understanding of the demographics of who is using the city's parks and what recreational activities they prefer.

Methods:

Initially unobtrusive surveys were completed which involved visiting parks and taking note of the number of people using the park, types of use, without any interaction with them.

An onsite survey was used to determine park user trends within the parks of Shoreview.

A five question user survey was used to address which parks users visit, recreational activities they participate in, and where they reside.

A four question survey was used to address which parks users visit, and which recreational activities they participate in. This survey given to park users at events for the 55+ age group.

Secondary data from surrounding communities were researched to determine what they have done to provide outstanding opportunities for recreation within their cities.

Findings:

- Trends show that parks are used most frequently by adults during all three observed periods.
- User survey trends show that walking is the most popular form of recreation within parks, while playground use comes in second.
- 92% of respondents felt their needs were being met. While 8% wanted more off-leash dog areas and more swing sets.
- 40% of respondents were non-Shoreview citizens
- 55+ survey showed only 50% of respondents use the parks with walking as the primary activity.

Visitor Survey

City of Shoreview Parks Visitor Survey

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this survey. Your feedback is appreciated!

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You are Shoreview park users who are being asked to complete this survey. We are interested in how people use the park system in Shoreview.

Location: _____

1. What parks in Shoreview do you go to? Circle up to three of the parks you visit most.

Bobby Theisen Park	Shoal Lake County Park
Buckler Park	Lake Orono County Park
Lake Park Park	Pepke Lake County Park
McCullough Park	Highway 96 Regional Trail Center
Mossak Park	Blue Creek North Regional Trail
Prank Park	Combs
Reyer Park	Head Lake Regional Park
Wilson Park	Head Lake
Trails Lake County Park	Trails Lake Park

2. What recreational activities do you, or your family members, participate in while at parks?

Baseball	Tennis	Preriding
Soccer	Biking	Playground Use
Swimming	Hockey	Shed Working
Sw Country Sking	Volleyball	Shooting/Rang
Fishing	Golf	Swimming
Zipling	Walking	Other _____
None	Jogging	

3. Do you feel that this park is Crowded?

Crowded Not Crowded

1 2 3 4 5

4. Are any of your recreational needs not being met?

YES NO

5. What recreational activities/opportunities do you feel the parks in Shoreview are lacking?

6. When are you visiting most?

7. Do you use the athletic fields or other facilities?

8. Are you interested in learning how to change your personal or community behaviors in order to preserve outdoor and nature quality in Shoreview?

YES NO MAYBE

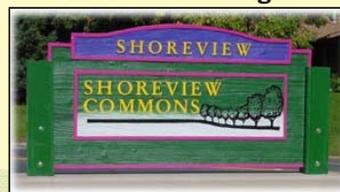
Additional off-leash dog areas



More loop trails



Increase road signs



Recommendations:

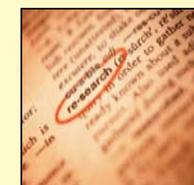
Through interactions with park users, it became evident that many users were dog walkers and craved more off-leash dog areas. The only off-leash dog park is located in the northeast corner of Shoreview, making access an inconvenience. A location that has a potential for this additional off-leash dog park is Vadnais-Snail Lake Regional Park due to large undeveloped areas.

Within the written surveys, 73% of respondents indicated that walking was one of their primary recreational activities. Based on this response, more loop trails could be added to parks experiencing lower use or those that have more available space for additional trails which increases park use. Three recreational areas are candidates for the proposed loop trails: McCullough Park, Wilson Park and Bobby Theisen Park.

Since many people drive or bicycle to the parks, it would be beneficial to the city to increase the amount of signage along roadways to increase visitor use and awareness. Extending signage for each park to the closest major roadway would be a way to efficiently ensure drivers are aware that the park or trail head is near.

Citations:
Godbey, Geoffrey. "Outdoor Recreation, Health, and Wellness." *Outdoor Resources Review Group*. May 2009.

Continued research



Similar to survey results from Shoreview, a survey of Chicago's Lincoln Park found that 45 percent of the park's users participated in active-individual activities, such as walking and jogging (Godbey 2009).

More in depth surveys through electronic kiosks placed in parks, or on-line surveys like Survey Monkey would provide more timely information for decision-makers.