

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

Part 2: Management Concerns of Local Government Providers



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Contents

Topic	Page
Summary	4
Introduction	14
Methodology	15
Results	16
Problems facing outdoor recreation facility providers by type of provider	16
Problems facing cities	18
Analysis by region	19
Analysis by standard demographic breakdowns	21
Problems facing counties	25
Analysis by region	26
Analysis by standard demographic breakdowns	28
Problems facing school districts	32
Analysis by region	33
Analysis by standard demographic breakdowns	35
References	39

SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The most recent State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan identified the need to better understand the changing nature of outdoor recreation in Minnesota. 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. 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). The third effort—which is the topic of this document—is to determine the recreation facility needs and management concerns 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.

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 survey covered all cities with populations over 350, some larger townships, and a sampling of cities with populations under 350; all 87 counties; and all school districts with enrollments over 500 and a sampling of school districts with enrollments under 500. The return rates varied from 83 percent for counties to 85 percent for cities. The return rates far exceeded expectations for an effort such as this.

This report on the findings of the 2004 Outdoor Recreation Facility Adequacy Survey focuses on problems facing outdoor recreation facility providers. A separate report—based on additional information collected in the same survey—focuses on facility needs, now and within the next five years.

A separate survey was developed for cities, for counties, and for school districts. While the majority of each survey contained the same materials, the number and ordering of problems varied. The city and county surveys included 29 problems listed under four problem categories—Meeting Public Needs, Land Protection, Management, and Funding (Table S1). The school district survey only included 22 problems. It did not include the three Land Protection problems or four of the Meeting Public Needs problems: “Providing undeveloped public lands for youth to explore and enjoy,” “Meeting demand for off-leash dog areas,” “Meeting demand for public water access for swimming, boating, and fishing,” “Including off-street walking or biking paths (including sidewalks) during development or redevelopment.”

Table S1
List of Potential Problems by Problem Category

MEETING PUBLIC NEEDS

Meeting the needs of older people
 Meeting the needs of families
 Meeting the needs of youth through programming
 Meeting the needs of youth through the provision of facilities
 Meeting the needs of diverse cultures in your area
 Meeting accessibility standards
 Providing a safe environment
 Providing undeveloped public lands for youth to explore and enjoy
 Providing full size athletic fields
 Meeting demand for off-leash dog areas
 Meeting demand for public water access for swimming, boating, and fishing
 Including off-street walking or biking paths (including sidewalks) during development or redevelopment

LAND PROTECTION

Reserving open-space lands from development or redevelopment
 Reserving significant natural resource areas from development or redevelopment
 Reserving historical or cultural resources from development or redevelopment

MANAGEMENT

Alleviating user conflicts
 Informing visitors of rules and regulations
 Enforcing rules and regulations
 Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources
 Working with other outdoor recreation providers
 Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation

FUNDING

Obtaining daily maintenance funds
 Obtaining scheduled preventative maintenance funds
 Obtaining outdoor recreation and education programming funds
 Obtaining overall recreation administration funds
 Obtaining major renovation funds
 Obtaining facility replacement funds
 Obtaining new facility development funds
 Obtaining land acquisition funds

SURVEY RESULTS

Survey respondents were asked to indicate how much of a problem (if any) each of the potential problems was for their local population: city respondents were asked about “the outdoor recreation system **within a half-hour drive of community residents’ homes**” for Meeting Public Needs and Land Protection problems, and about “the outdoor recreation system **operated by the city**” for Management and Funding problems; county respondents were asked about “the outdoor recreation system **operated by the county**” for all problem categories, and school district respondents were asked about “the outdoor recreation system **operated by the school district**” for all problem categories.

The surveys asked the respondents to indicate if a potential problem was “Not a problem,” “Slight problem,” “Moderate problem,” “Serious problem,” or “Very serious problem.”

Problems Facing Outdoor Recreation Providers by Type of Provider

There was a fairly strong correlation in the rating of problems among cities, counties and school districts. These providers face similar problems even though they traditionally supply different types of facilities and differ in their ratings of facility needs.

All three providers rated Funding problems as their most serious problems (Table S2). Funding problems were rated moderate to serious problems by all three providers. Obtaining funding for capital expenditures (new facilities, major renovations, facility replacement, land acquisition) was a greater problem than obtaining funding for operating expenditures (programming, administration, maintenance). School districts indicated more of a problem in obtaining funding than counties or cities.

Cities rated Meeting Public Needs higher than Land Protection while counties rated Land Protection higher. This is consistent with their traditional roles in providing outdoor recreation facilities. While both provide picnic areas, cities provide more intensely used facilities that require less land such as playgrounds and ball fields. Counties provide facilities that require more land such as natural park areas/open spaces and unpaved trails. Counties are less likely to provide intensely used outdoor sport courts and fields. All of the problems in these two categories were rated slight to moderate problems.

Counties located in the faster growing areas of the state (Metro and Central regions) rated Land Protection problems as of much greater severity than counties in the rest of the state.

All three providers rated Management problems as their least serious problems. All of these problems were rated not a problem to slight problems, except for enforcing rules and regulations which was rated a moderate problem by counties.

Management Problems were rated as much more severe in the larger cities around the state.

Overall, cities rated problems as less serious than counties or school districts.

Table S2
Problems Facing Outdoor Recreation Facility Providers by Type of Provider

(mean values—problem scale: 1=Not a problem, 2=Slight problem, 3=Moderate problem, 4=Serious problem, 5=Very serious problem; excludes Don't know responses)

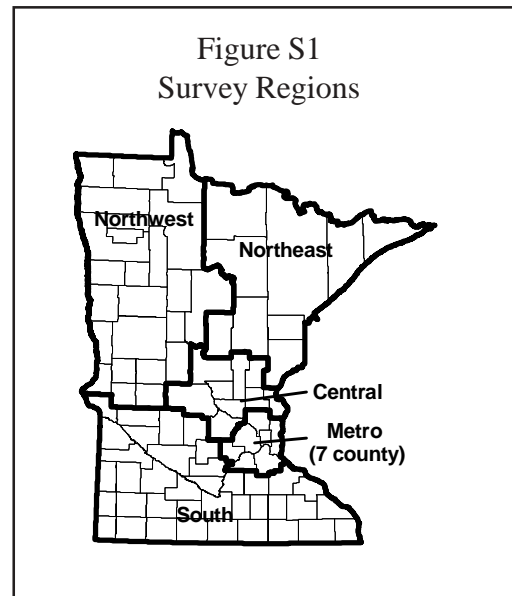
Potential problem	Total	City	County	School
Funding				
Obtaining new facility development funds	3.9	3.8	3.8	4.1
Obtaining major renovation funds	3.8	3.7	3.6	4.0
Obtaining facility replacement funds	3.7	3.7	3.4	4.0
Obtaining land acquisition funds	3.5	3.3	3.8	3.6
Obtaining outdoor recreation and education programming funds	3.1	2.9	3.3	3.4
Obtaining overall recreation administration funds	3.0	2.8	3.0	3.4
Obtaining scheduled preventative maintenance funds	3.0	2.7	3.0	3.5
Obtaining daily maintenance funds	2.8	2.5	2.9	3.4
Meeting Public Needs				
Meeting demand for off-leash dog areas	2.8	2.8	2.8	Not asked
Meeting the needs of youth through the provision of facilities	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.7
Including off-street walking or biking paths (including sidewalks) during development or redevelopment	2.7	2.7	2.7	Not asked
Meeting the needs of youth through programming	2.6	2.6	3.0	2.5
Meeting the needs of older people	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.6
Providing undeveloped public lands for youth to explore and enjoy	2.4	2.5	2.3	Not asked
Providing full size athletic fields	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2
Meeting accessibility standards	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.2
Meeting the needs of diverse cultures in your area	2.2	2.2	2.6	2.2
Meeting the needs of families	2.2	2.1	2.5	2.4
Meeting demand for public water access for swimming, boating, and fishing	2.1	2.1	2.3	Not asked
Providing a safe environment	1.8	1.8	2.2	1.8
Land Protection				
Reserving significant natural resource areas from development or redevelopment	2.4	2.3	2.9	Not asked
Reserving open-space lands from development or redevelopment	2.3	2.3	2.9	Not asked
Reserving historical or cultural resources from development or redevelopment	2.1	2.0	2.5	Not asked
Management				
Enforcing rules and regulations	2.3	2.2	2.8	2.2
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	2.0	1.9	2.4	2.1
Alleviating user conflicts	2.0	1.8	2.4	2.3
Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation	1.9	1.8	2.0	2.2
Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources	1.9	1.8	2.4	1.9
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	1.5	1.4	1.8	1.8

Analysis of Problems

To examine how problems 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.

The balance of this summary focuses on problems by region. The summary only includes the highlights of findings from additional analyses by demographic breakdowns. For a full discussion of the findings from the demographic analyses, refer to the body of the report.

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 S1). The Metro region contains half of the Minnesota population and is covered by the regional governmental agency (Metropolitan Council) that has outdoor recreation functions.



Problems Facing Cities

When looked at by region there was fairly strong correlation among the regions. All of the regions rated Funding problems highest followed by Meeting Public Needs and Land Protection with Management problems lowest (Table S3). All of the regions rated capital funding problems higher than operational funding problems. Funding problems were rated as moderate to serious problems by all regions except the Central region which rated some Funding problems as slight problems. Meeting Public Needs problems were rated as slight to moderate problems. Land Protection problems were rated as slight problems. Management problems were rated as not a problem to slight problems. In general, the Central region rated problems as less serious than the other regions.

When these problems are examined by population density change 1990 to 2000, 2000 population, and 2000 median household income, results are similar to those shown for the regions: Funding problems were rated the most serious and Management problems were rated the least serious. There are exceptions and notable differences.

As population increased, overall problem ratings increased. For cities greater than 100,000, Management problems were rated as serious as Funding problems were rated by smaller cities.

For cities with median household incomes less than \$30,000, Meeting Public Needs was a more serious problem than for cities with higher median household incomes. Overall, cities with median household incomes less than \$30,000 had higher problem ratings than cities with higher median household incomes.

Table S3
Problems Facing Cities by Region

(mean values—problem scale: 1=Not a problem, 2=Slight problem, 3=Moderate problem, 4=Serious problem, 5=Very serious problem; excludes Don't know responses)

Potential problem	Total	Northwest	Northeast	South	Central	Metro
Funding						
Obtaining new facility development funds	3.8	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.3	3.6
Obtaining major renovation funds	3.7	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.4	3.4
Obtaining facility replacement funds	3.7	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.3	3.4
Obtaining land acquisition funds	3.3	3.8	3.4	3.3	2.9	3.3
Obtaining outdoor recreation and education programming funds	2.9	3.2	3.2	3.0	2.6	2.7
Obtaining overall recreation administration funds	2.8	3.2	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.5
Obtaining scheduled preventative maintenance funds	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.6	2.2	2.9
Obtaining daily maintenance funds	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.4	2.2	2.6
Meeting Public Needs						
Meeting demand for off-leash dog areas	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.9	2.9	2.8
Meeting the needs of youth through the provision of facilities	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6
Including off-street walking or biking paths (including sidewalks) during development or redevelopment	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.9	2.3	2.5
Meeting the needs of youth through programming	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.4
Providing undeveloped public lands for youth to explore and enjoy	2.5	2.6	2.1	2.6	2.4	2.3
Meeting the needs of older people	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.4
Providing full size athletic fields	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.7
Meeting accessibility standards	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.2
Meeting the needs of diverse cultures in your area	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.0	2.3
Meeting demand for public water access for swimming, boating, and fishing	2.1	2.2	1.8	2.2	1.9	2.2
Meeting the needs of families	2.1	2.3	1.9	2.1	1.9	2.1
Providing a safe environment	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.9
Land Protection						
Reserving significant natural resource areas from development or redevelopment	2.3	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.4
Reserving open-space lands from development or redevelopment	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.3
Reserving historical or cultural resources from development or redevelopment	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.2
Management						
Enforcing rules and regulations	2.2	2.0	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.5
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	1.9	1.7	2.1	1.8	1.9	2.3
Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources	1.8	1.6	1.9	1.7	2.0	2.1
Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.7	2.0
Alleviating user conflicts	1.8	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.7	2.2
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.5

Problems Facing Counties

When looked at by region, there was little correlation in problem ratings among the regions. This differs from the cities which showed fairly strong correlations among the regions. The Northeast region differed most from the other regions. All of the regions rated Funding problems highest, except for the Metro region which rated Land Protection problems highest with Funding problems second (Table S4). However, Funding problems were still rated as moderate to serious problems by Metro region counties. All of the regions rated Management problems lowest except for the Northeast which rated Management problem second behind Funding problems. The Northeast rated Meeting Public Needs problems lowest.

Overall, the Central region and the Metro region rated problems as more serious than the other regions. The high overall rating of Central region counties differs from the results for cities where Central region cities rated problems as less serious than other regions.

When these problems are examined by population density change 1990 to 2000, 2000 population, and 2000 median household income, results are similar to those shown for the regions: Funding problems were rated the most serious and Management problems were rated the least serious. There are a few exceptions, however.

The higher population density change classes rated Land Protection problems highest. However, they still rated capital funding problems as more serious problems than Land Protection problems. Meeting Public Needs was the second most serious problem for counties with no or negative growth. These ratings are not surprising. Growing counties see a need for land for new facilities while counties with no or negative growth would not be adding new facilities. While all of the density change classes rated Management problems lowest, Management problems were still rated a moderate problem by the faster growing counties. As counties grow they encounter more problems in managing their visitors. Enforcing rules and regulations was a moderate problem for all counties except for counties with no or negative growth. Overall, problem ratings were higher for the faster growing counties.

All of the population classes except medium sized counties (50,000 - 149,999) rated Funding problems highest. Medium sized counties rated Land Protection problems highest. Management problems were rated lowest by all population classes except the largest class (600,000+) which rated Management problems second behind Funding problems. All population classes rate enforcing rules and regulations as a moderate problem. Overall, problem ratings were lowest for the largest counties.

All of the income classes rated Funding problems highest. Counties with the highest income rated Funding problems more serious than the other counties. Land Protection problems were rated number two by all income classes except the lowest income class which rated Land Protection problems as the lowest problem. All other income classes rated Management problems lowest. Overall, problem ratings were highest for the counties with the highest incomes.

Table S4
Problems Facing Counties by Region

(mean values—problem scale: 1=Not a problem, 2=Slight problem, 3=Moderate problem, 4=Serious problem, 5=Very serious problem; excludes Don't know responses)

Potential problem	Total	Northwest	Northeast	South	Central	Metro
Funding						
Obtaining new facility development funds	3.8	4.3	3.5	3.3	4.4	4.1
Obtaining land acquisition funds	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.5	4.1	4.3
Obtaining major renovation funds	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.2	4.3	3.6
Obtaining facility replacement funds	3.4	3.8	3.5	3.1	4.0	3.0
Obtaining outdoor recreation and education programming funds	3.3	3.6	2.8	3.0	4.3	3.3
Obtaining overall recreation administration funds	3.0	3.2	3.2	2.7	3.9	2.8
Obtaining scheduled preventative maintenance funds	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.7	3.8	3.7
Obtaining daily maintenance funds	2.9	3.0	2.7	2.7	3.6	2.8
Land Protection						
Reserving open-space lands from development or redevelopment	2.9	2.6	2.3	2.8	3.7	3.7
Reserving significant natural resource areas from development or redevelopment	2.9	2.5	2.2	2.8	3.9	3.9
Reserving historical or cultural resources from development or redevelopment	2.5	2.2	2.2	2.4	3.6	3.0
Meeting Public Needs						
Meeting the needs of youth through programming	3.0	2.7	2.0	3.2	3.2	3.3
Meeting the needs of youth through the provision of facilities	2.8	2.8	1.8	2.9	3.3	3.0
Meeting demand for off-leash dog areas	2.8	2.0	1.4	2.9	3.2	3.7
Including off-street walking or biking paths (including sidewalks) during development or redevelopment	2.7	2.4	2.8	2.7	3.5	2.7
Meeting the needs of diverse cultures in your area	2.6	2.6	1.8	2.7	2.8	3.0
Meeting the needs of older people	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.2	3.2	2.9
Meeting accessibility standards	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.4	2.7	2.3
Meeting the needs of families	2.5	2.3	2.8	2.2	3.5	2.4
Meeting demand for public water access for swimming, boating, and fishing	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.1	3.3	2.9
Providing undeveloped public lands for youth to explore and enjoy	2.3	2.1	1.5	2.1	3.1	2.7
Providing full size athletic fields	2.2	2.4	1.3	2.6	2.0	1.4
Providing a safe environment	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.5	2.1
Management						
Enforcing rules and regulations	2.8	2.6	3.3	2.5	3.1	3.1
Alleviating user conflicts	2.4	2.2	3.0	2.2	3.0	2.7
Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources	2.4	2.1	2.8	2.3	2.5	2.6
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	2.4	2.2	2.7	2.2	2.8	2.6
Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation	2.0	1.5	2.2	1.9	2.4	2.4
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	1.8	2.0	1.6	1.8	1.8	2.0

Problems Facing School Districts

When looked at by region there was fairly strong correlation among the regions. This was similar to the results for cities which also showed fairly strong correlations among the regions.

All of the regions rated Funding problems highest (Table S5). The Northwest and Metro regions rated Funding problems lower than the other regions. However, all regions rated Funding problems as moderate to serious problems. The Northwest, Northeast, and South regions rated Meeting Public Needs problems second and Management problems last. The Central and Metro regions rated Meeting Public Needs problems and Management problems about the same. All regions rated Meeting Public Needs problems as slight to moderate problems and Management problems as slight problems.

When these problems are examined by enrollment change 1993-94 to 2003-04, 2003-04 enrollment, and percent enrollment eligible for subsidized lunches results are similar to those shown for the regions: Funding problems were rated the most serious and Management problems were rated the least serious. There are some notable differences.

School districts exhibiting moderate growth (0.1 to 15.0 percent) rated Funding problems as less of a problem than other school districts. On average, Funding problems had a serious problem rating. The other problems had, on average, slight to moderate ratings.

Funding was rated as more of a problem by the largest school districts (20,001+) and less of a problem by the smallest school districts (<651) with the other districts in between. The largest school districts rated obtaining funding for land acquisition a very serious problem. They rated obtaining funding for operating expenditures a serious problem. Overall, the smallest school districts rated problems as less serious while the largest school districts rated problems as more serious with the other school districts in between.

All of the percent of enrollment eligible for subsidized lunches classes rated Funding problems highest followed by Meeting Public Needs problems and Management problems. Surprisingly, the school districts with the highest percent of enrollment eligible for subsidized lunches rated Funding problems as a less serious problem than school districts with lower eligibility. Overall, school districts with the highest percent of enrollment eligible for subsidized lunches rated problems as less serious than the other districts.

Table S5
Problems Facing School District by Region

(mean values—problem scale: 1=Not a problem, 2=Slight problem, 3=Moderate problem, 4=Serious problem, 5=Very serious problem; excludes Don't know responses)

Potential problem	Total	Northwest	Northeast	South	Central	Metro
Funding						
Obtaining new facility development funds	4.1	3.8	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.1
Obtaining major renovation funds	4.0	3.8	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.8
Obtaining facility replacement funds	4.0	3.7	4.2	4.1	4.1	3.8
Obtaining land acquisition funds	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.9	3.9
Obtaining scheduled preventative maintenance funds	3.5	3.2	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.3
Obtaining outdoor recreation and education programming funds	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.1
Obtaining overall recreation administration funds	3.4	3.2	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.3
Obtaining daily maintenance funds	3.4	3.1	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.2
Meeting Public Needs						
Meeting the needs of youth through the provision of facilities	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.8
Meeting the needs of older people	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.3	2.2
Meeting the needs of youth through programming	2.5	2.3	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.5
Meeting the needs of families	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.3
Providing full size athletic fields	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.6
Meeting the needs of diverse cultures in your area	2.2	2.1	1.7	2.4	2.1	2.2
Meeting accessibility standards	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.0	1.7
Providing a safe environment	1.8	1.8	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.5
Management						
Alleviating user conflicts	2.3	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.5	2.5
Enforcing rules and regulations	2.2	1.9	2.5	2.1	2.4	2.5
Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.4
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	2.1	1.9	2.4	1.9	2.5	2.3
Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources	1.9	1.7	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.1
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	1.8	1.7	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.6

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). The third effort—which is the topic of this document—is to determine the recreation facility needs and management concerns 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.

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

This report on the findings of the 2004 Outdoor Recreation Facility Adequacy Survey focuses on problems facing outdoor recreation providers. A separate report—based on additional information collected in the same survey—focuses on facility needs—now and within the next five years (Reference 4).

After a brief discussion of methodology, the findings on problems facing outdoor recreation facility providers will be organized as follows:

- Problems facing outdoor recreation facility providers by type of provider
- Problems facing cities
- Problems facing counties
- Problems facing school districts

To examine how problems facing outdoor recreation providers 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.

METHODOLOGY

A detailed methodological report is available for this survey (Reference 5). A brief summary is provided below.

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. All 87 of Minnesota's counties were surveyed. The school districts were selected from a list of 344 school districts obtained from the Minnesota Department of Education. 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.

The mail survey achieved over 80 percent return rate after three mailings. 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.

A separate survey was developed for cities, for counties, and for school districts. While the majority of each survey contained the same materials, the number and ordering of problems varied. The city and county surveys included 29 problems listed under four problem categories—Meeting Public Needs (12 problems), Land Protection (3 problems), Management (6 problems), and Funding (8 problems). The school district survey only included 22 problems. It did not include the three Land Protection problems or four of the Meeting Public Needs problems (“Providing undeveloped public lands for youth to explore and enjoy,” “Meeting demand for off-leash dog areas,” “Meeting demand for public water access for swimming, boating, and fishing,” “Including off-street walking or biking paths (including sidewalks) during development or redevelopment.”)

RESULTS

Survey respondents were asked to indicate how much of a problem (if any) each of the potential problems was for their local population: city respondents were asked about “the outdoor recreation system **within a half-hour drive of community residents’ homes**” for Meeting Public Needs and Land Protection problems, and about “the outdoor recreation system **operated by the city**” for Management and Funding problems; county respondents were asked about “the outdoor recreation system **operated by the county**” for all problem categories, and school district respondents were asked about “the outdoor recreation system **operated by the school district**” for all problem categories.

The surveys asked the respondents to indicate if a potential problem was “Not a problem,” “Slight problem,” “Moderate problem,” “Serious problem,” or “Very serious problem.” For analysis purposes these responses were assigned values of one to five, respectively.

When comparing results among the three facility providers, one should note that school districts were asked about seven fewer problems than cities and counties. Correlations between cities and counties use all 29 problems. Correlations between cities and school districts and between counties and school districts only use the 22 problems listed in the school district survey.

Problems Facing Outdoor Recreation Facility Providers by Type of Provider

There was a fairly strong correlation in the rating of problems among cities, counties and school districts (Table 1). These providers face similar problems even though they traditionally supply different types of facilities and differ in their ratings of facility needs (Reference 4).

Table 1
Correlation Coefficients of Problems by Type of Provider

Provider	County	School
City	0.839	0.911
County		0.905

All three providers rated Funding problems as their most serious problems (Table 2). Obtaining funding for capital expenditures (new facilities, major renovations, facility replacement, land acquisition) was a greater problem than obtaining funding for operating expenditures (programming, administration, maintenance). School districts indicated more of a problem in obtaining funding than counties or cities (mean problem rating 3.7, 3.4, 3.2, respectively).

Cities rated Meeting Public Needs higher than Land Protection while counties rated Land Protection higher. This is consistent with their traditional roles in providing outdoor recreation facilities. While both provide picnic areas, cities provide more intensely used facilities that require less land such as playgrounds and ball fields. Counties provide facilities that require more land such as natural park areas/open spaces and unpaved trails. Counties are less likely to provide intensely used outdoor sport courts and fields. All of the problems in these two categories were rated slight to moderate problems.

Counties located in the faster growing areas of the state (Metro and Central regions) rated Land Protection problems as of much greater severity than counties in the rest of the state.

All three providers rated Management problems as their least serious problems. All of these problems were rated not a problem to slight problems, except for enforcing rules and regulations which was rated a moderate problem by counties.

Management Problems were rated as much more severe in the larger cities around the state.

Table 2
Problems Facing Outdoor Recreation Facility Providers by Type of Provider

(mean values—problem scale: 1=Not a problem, 2=Slight problem, 3=Moderate problem, 4=Serious problem, 5=Very serious problem; excludes Don't know responses)

Potential problem	Total	City	County	School
Funding				
Obtaining new facility development funds	3.9	3.8	3.8	4.1
Obtaining major renovation funds	3.8	3.7	3.6	4.0
Obtaining facility replacement funds	3.7	3.7	3.4	4.0
Obtaining land acquisition funds	3.5	3.3	3.8	3.6
Obtaining outdoor recreation and education programming funds	3.1	2.9	3.3	3.4
Obtaining overall recreation administration funds	3.0	2.8	3.0	3.4
Obtaining scheduled preventative maintenance funds	3.0	2.7	3.0	3.5
Obtaining daily maintenance funds	2.8	2.5	2.9	3.4
Meeting Public Needs				
Meeting demand for off-leash dog areas	2.8	2.8	2.8	Not asked
Meeting the needs of youth through the provision of facilities	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.7
Including off-street walking or biking paths (including sidewalks) during development or redevelopment	2.7	2.7	2.7	Not asked
Meeting the needs of youth through programming	2.6	2.6	3.0	2.5
Meeting the needs of older people	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.6
Providing undeveloped public lands for youth to explore and enjoy	2.4	2.5	2.3	Not asked
Providing full size athletic fields	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2
Meeting accessibility standards	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.2
Meeting the needs of diverse cultures in your area	2.2	2.2	2.6	2.2
Meeting the needs of families	2.2	2.1	2.5	2.4
Meeting demand for public water access for swimming, boating, and fishing	2.1	2.1	2.3	Not asked
Providing a safe environment	1.8	1.8	2.2	1.8
Land Protection				
Reserving significant natural resource areas from development or redevelopment	2.4	2.3	2.9	Not asked
Reserving open-space lands from development or redevelopment	2.3	2.3	2.9	Not asked
Reserving historical or cultural resources from development or redevelopment	2.1	2.0	2.5	Not asked
Management				
Enforcing rules and regulations	2.3	2.2	2.8	2.2
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	2.0	1.9	2.4	2.1
Alleviating user conflicts	2.0	1.8	2.4	2.3
Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation	1.9	1.8	2.0	2.2
Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources	1.9	1.8	2.4	1.9
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	1.5	1.4	1.8	1.8

Problems Facing Cities

The most appropriate and knowledgeable city officials were asked to indicate how much of a problem (if any) each of the potential problems listed in the Meeting Public Needs category and the Land Protection category were in “the outdoor recreation system **within a half-hour drive of community residents’ homes.**” They were asked to indicate how much of a problem (if any) each of the potential problems listed in the Management category and the Funding category were in “the outdoor recreation system **operated by the city.**”

As mentioned earlier, cities rated Funding problems highest, followed by Meeting Public Needs and Land Protection (Table 3). Management problems were rated lowest. Obtaining funding for

Table 3
Problems Facing Cities

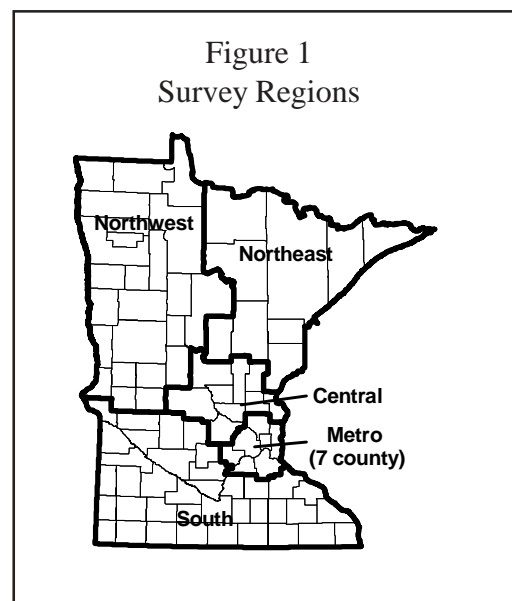
Potential problem	Mean value (excludes Don't know)	Percent					Very serious problem (=5)	Don't know
		Not a problem (=1)	Slight problem (=2)	Moderate problem (=3)	Serious problem (=4)			
Funding								
Obtaining new facility development funds	3.8	6.4	7.7	17.1	27.1	33.3	8.5	
Obtaining major renovation funds	3.7	6.4	9.0	19.8	28.6	28.8	7.5	
Obtaining facility replacement funds	3.7	6.0	11.3	21.2	25.0	29.9	6.6	
Obtaining land acquisition funds	3.3	13.2	12.3	17.5	16.8	25.5	14.7	
Obtaining outdoor recreation and education programming funds	2.9	12.9	18.3	26.5	15.9	11.6	14.7	
Obtaining overall recreation administration funds	2.8	15.6	22.3	26.0	16.7	9.3	10.0	
Obtaining scheduled preventative maintenance funds	2.7	18.1	24.3	25.1	17.9	7.9	6.8	
Obtaining daily maintenance funds	2.5	23.2	23.6	27.4	13.4	6.2	6.2	
Meeting Public Need								
Meeting demand for off-leash dog areas	2.8	16.4	15.1	30.7	11.8	9.0	17.0	
Meeting the needs of youth through the provision of facilities	2.7	16.9	24.0	29.8	15.0	6.0	8.3	
Including off-street walking or biking paths (including sidewalks) during development or redevelopment	2.7	19.6	22.5	26.3	13.1	8.5	10.0	
Meeting the needs of youth through programming	2.6	20.6	22.9	29.8	14.8	4.4	7.5	
Providing undeveloped public lands for youth to explore and enjoy	2.5	25.5	19.4	22.1	11.7	6.5	14.8	
Meeting the needs of older people	2.4	19.9	27.7	30.0	8.3	2.7	11.4	
Providing full size athletic fields	2.3	33.3	22.7	21.0	10.6	5.6	6.9	
Meeting accessibility standards	2.3	23.5	32.8	22.9	8.2	2.7	9.9	
Meeting the needs of diverse cultures in your area	2.2	26.6	23.4	23.8	7.1	2.3	16.7	
Meeting demand for public water access for swimming, boating, and fishing	2.1	36.5	24.0	19.2	6.9	4.0	9.4	
Meeting the needs of families	2.1	31.4	32.0	23.9	5.4	1.5	5.8	
Providing a safe environment	1.8	41.0	34.1	14.4	2.5	0.8	7.1	
Land Protection								
Reserving significant natural resource areas from development or redevelopment	2.3	28.6	21.7	18.6	9.5	4.6	17.0	
Reserving open-space lands from development or redevelopment	2.3	29.8	20.2	19.4	9.9	4.1	16.5	
Reserving historical or cultural resources from development or redevelopment	2.0	31.9	26.3	15.1	5.6	2.5	18.6	
Management								
Enforcing rules and regulations	2.2	24.5	36.8	25.6	7.2	2.3	3.6	
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	1.9	34.1	38.7	19.9	2.9	1.0	3.3	
Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources	1.8	40.0	31.7	14.9	3.1	1.3	9.0	
Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation	1.8	47.5	23.9	14.0	4.2	1.7	8.7	
Alleviating user conflicts	1.8	42.3	33.7	15.2	1.5	0.8	6.5	
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	1.4	62.0	18.9	5.3	1.5	0.0	12.4	

capital expenditures (new facilities, major renovations, facility replacement, land acquisition) was rated a moderate to serious problem. Between one-quarter (25.5 percent) and one-third (33.3 percent) of the cities rated obtaining funding for capital expenditures a very serious problem. Obtaining funding for operating expenditures (programming, administration, maintenance) was rated a slight to moderate problem. Problems in the Meeting Public Needs category were rated slight to moderate problems while problems in the Land Protection category were rated slight problems. Management problems were rated lowest as not a problem to slight problem. Almost two-thirds (62.0 percent) of the cities rated working with other outdoor recreation providers as not a problem. Almost one-half of the cities (47.5 percent) rated setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation as not a problem.

To examine how problems varied across the state and by standard demographic breakdowns, city data were analyzed by region, population density change 1990 to 2000, 2000 population, and 2000 median household income.

Analysis by Region

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.



When looked at by region there was fairly strong correlation among the regions (Table 4). All of the regions rated Funding problems highest followed by Meeting Public Needs and Land Protection with Management problems lowest (Table 5). All of the regions rated capital funding problems higher than operational funding problems. In general, the Central region rated problems as less serious than the other regions (mean problem rating 2.3 vs 2.5).

Table 4
Correlation Coefficients of Problems Facing Cities by Region

Region	Northeast	South	Central	Metro
Northwest	0.917	0.957	0.865	0.826
Northeast		0.912	0.907	0.910
South			0.925	0.861
Central				0.878

Table 5
Problems Facing Cities by Region

(mean values—problem scale: 1=Not a problem, 2=Slight problem, 3=Moderate problem, 4=Serious problem, 5=Very serious problem; excludes Don't know responses)

Potential problem	Total	Northwest	Northeast	South	Central	Metro
Funding						
Obtaining new facility development funds	3.8	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.3	3.6
Obtaining major renovation funds	3.7	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.4	3.4
Obtaining facility replacement funds	3.7	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.3	3.4
Obtaining land acquisition funds	3.3	3.8	3.4	3.3	2.9	3.3
Obtaining outdoor recreation and education programming funds	2.9	3.2	3.2	3.0	2.6	2.7
Obtaining overall recreation administration funds	2.8	3.2	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.5
Obtaining scheduled preventative maintenance funds	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.6	2.2	2.9
Obtaining daily maintenance funds	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.4	2.2	2.6
Meeting Public Needs						
Meeting demand for off-leash dog areas	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.9	2.9	2.8
Meeting the needs of youth through the provision of facilities	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6
Including off-street walking or biking paths (including sidewalks) during development or redevelopment	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.9	2.3	2.5
Meeting the needs of youth through programming	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.4
Providing undeveloped public lands for youth to explore and enjoy	2.5	2.6	2.1	2.6	2.4	2.3
Meeting the needs of older people	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.4
Providing full size athletic fields	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.7
Meeting accessibility standards	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.2
Meeting the needs of diverse cultures in your area	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.0	2.3
Meeting demand for public water access for swimming, boating, and fishing	2.1	2.2	1.8	2.2	1.9	2.2
Meeting the needs of families	2.1	2.3	1.9	2.1	1.9	2.1
Providing a safe environment	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.9
Land Protection						
Reserving significant natural resource areas from development or redevelopment	2.3	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.4
Reserving open-space lands from development or redevelopment	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.3
Reserving historical or cultural resources from development or redevelopment	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.2
Management						
Enforcing rules and regulations	2.2	2.0	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.5
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	1.9	1.7	2.1	1.8	1.9	2.3
Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources	1.8	1.6	1.9	1.7	2.0	2.1
Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.7	2.0
Alleviating user conflicts	1.8	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.7	2.2
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.5

Analysis by Standard Demographic Breakdowns

Problems facing cities were looked at by population density change 1990 to 2000, 2000 population, and 2000 median household income.

Density change is the population change from 1990 to 2000 per square mile. Negative numbers indicate a reduction in population. The higher the number the larger the population increase per square mile. The trend in Minnesota (as elsewhere in the nation) is to an increasing urban population. Over the last 100 years, almost all new additions to the Minnesota population have been urban additions.

There was a strong correlation among cities when the data were looked at by population density change (Table 6). All of the population density change classes rated Funding problems highest followed by Meeting Public Needs, Land Protection, and Management (Table 7). On average, the Funding problems had a moderate problem rating (mean problem rating 3.1 to 3.4). The other problems, on average, had a slight problem rating (mean problem rating 1.7 to 2.4). There were some individual non-funding problems that were rated moderate problems.

Population figures used for this analysis are from the 2000 U.S. Census.

There was limited correlation among the cities when the data were looked at by population (Table 8). Correlations decreased as the difference in population increased. All of the population classes rated Funding problems highest (Table 9). Funding problems were more of a problem for cities with populations greater than 100,000 and cities with populations of 50,000 to 99,999 than for smaller cities (mean problem rating 3.9, 3.4, 3.2, respectively). Cities with populations less than 50,000 rated Management problems lowest, while cities with population over 50,000 rated Management problems right behind Funding. For cities with populations over 100,000, Management problems were rated as serious as Funding problems were by the smaller cities. Overall, mean problem ratings increased with population from 2.4 to 3.2.

Income figures used for this analysis are median household income from the 2000 U.S. Census.

There was a strong correlation among cities when the data were looked at by median household income (Table 10). All of the income classes rated Funding problems highest followed by Meeting Public Needs, Land Protection, and Management (Table 11). Cities with household incomes less than \$30,000 rated Funding problems highest (mean problem rating 3.5 vs 3.2 or less). Other than the Funding problems category, all of the other problem categories were rated as slight problems by all income classes, except for Meeting Public Needs which was rated a slight to moderate problem by cities with incomes less than \$30,000. Individual problems in the Meeting Public Needs category were rated slight to moderate problems by all income classes. Problems in the Land Protection category and the Management category were rated not a problem to slight problem by all income classes. Overall mean problem rating was highest for cities with incomes less than \$30,000 followed by cities with incomes greater than \$50,000 and then the other cities (mean problem rating 2.6, 2.5, 2.4, respectively).

Table 6
Correlation Coefficients of Problems Facing Cities by Density Change

Density change	0.1 - 20.0	20.1 - 50.0	50.1 +
Negative - 0.0	0.933	0.973	0.936
0.1 - 20.0		0.932	0.915
20.1 - 50.0			0.967

Table 7
Problems Facing Cities by Density Change

Potential problem	Total	neg - 0.0	0.1 - 20.0	20.1 - 50.0	50.1 - high
Funding					
Obtaining new facility development funds	3.8	4.0	3.7	3.8	3.7
Obtaining major renovation funds	3.7	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.6
Obtaining facility replacement funds	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.6
Obtaining land acquisition funds	3.3	3.3	3.6	3.4	3.3
Obtaining outdoor recreation and education programming funds	2.9	3.0	3.4	2.9	2.8
Obtaining overall recreation administration funds	2.8	2.8	3.3	2.6	2.7
Obtaining scheduled preventative maintenance funds	2.7	2.6	3.0	2.7	2.7
Obtaining daily maintenance funds	2.5	2.5	3.0	2.5	2.5
Meeting Public Needs					
Meeting demand for off-leash dog areas	2.8	2.8	2.3	2.9	2.9
Providing undeveloped public lands for youth to explore and enjoy	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.8
Including off-street walking or biking paths (including sidewalks) during development or redevelopment	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.5
Meeting the needs of youth through the provision of facilities	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.5
Meeting the needs of diverse cultures in your area	2.5	2.4	2.0	2.5	2.6
Meeting the needs of youth through programming	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.3
Meeting the needs of older people	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.4
Meeting accessibility standards	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.3
Providing full size athletic fields	2.2	2.2	1.9	2.2	2.3
Meeting demand for public water access for swimming, boating, and fishing	2.1	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.2
Meeting the needs of families	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.1
Providing a safe environment	1.8	1.9	1.6	1.8	1.8
Land Protection					
Reserving significant natural resource areas from development or redevelopment	2.3	2.4	2.0	2.1	2.3
Reserving open-space lands from development or redevelopment	2.3	2.3	2.0	2.2	2.3
Reserving historical or cultural resources from development or redevelopment	2.0	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.1
Management					
Enforcing rules and regulations	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.4
Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.1
Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6	2.0
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.9
Alleviating user conflicts	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.9
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4

Table 8
Correlation Coefficients of Problems Facing Cities by Population

Population	5,000-19,999	20,000-49,999	50,000-99,999	100,000+
<5000	0.893	0.783	0.510	0.252
5,000-19,999		0.834	0.730	0.489
20,000-49,999			0.704	0.513
50,000-99,999				0.738

Table 9
Problems Facing Cities by Population

Potential problem	Total	<5,000	5,000-19,999	20,000-49,999	50,000-99,999	100,000+
Funding						
Obtaining new facility development funds	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7	4.1	4.0
Obtaining major renovation funds	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.8	4.0
Obtaining facility replacement funds	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.7	4.5
Obtaining land acquisition funds	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.7	2.9	4.0
Obtaining outdoor recreation and education programming funds	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.7	2.8	2.5
Obtaining overall recreation administration funds	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.6	3.0	4.0
Obtaining scheduled preventative maintenance funds	2.7	2.6	2.9	3.1	3.3	4.5
Obtaining daily maintenance funds	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.8	3.2	3.5
Meeting Public Needs						
Meeting demand for off-leash dog areas	2.8	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.8	3.0
Providing undeveloped public lands for youth to explore and enjoy	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.4	3.5
Including off-street walking or biking paths (including sidewalks) during development or redevelopment	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.2	2.5
Meeting the needs of youth through the provision of facilities	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.2	3.0
Meeting the needs of diverse cultures in your area	2.5	2.5	2.1	2.6	1.9	2.0
Meeting the needs of youth through programming	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.0
Meeting the needs of older people	2.3	2.1	2.7	2.8	2.6	3.5
Meeting accessibility standards	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.5	2.0
Providing full size athletic fields	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.8	3.1	3.5
Meeting demand for public water access for swimming, boating, and fishing	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.5
Meeting the needs of families	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.5
Providing a safe environment	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.8	2.0	3.0
Land Protection						
Reserving significant natural resource areas from development or redevelopment	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.4	3.0
Reserving open-space lands from development or redevelopment	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.7	2.4	2.5
Reserving historical or cultural resources from development or redevelopment	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.0	3.0
Management						
Enforcing rules and regulations	2.2	2.1	2.6	2.6	2.8	3.5
Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.4	2.3	3.5
Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation	1.8	1.7	2.1	2.2	2.6	4.0
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	1.8	1.6	2.1	2.3	2.8	4.5
Alleviating user conflicts	1.8	1.6	2.1	2.1	2.7	3.0
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.5

Table 10
Correlation Coefficients of Problems Facing Cities By Income

Income	\$30,000-\$34,000	\$35,000-\$39,999	\$40,000-\$49,999	\$50,000+
<\$30,000	0.978	0.954	0.921	0.838
\$30,000-\$34,000		0.975	0.931	0.853
\$35,000-\$39,999			0.952	0.897
\$40,000-\$49,999				0.935

Table 11
Problems Facing Cities By Income

Potential problem	Total	<\$30,000	\$30,000 - \$34,999	\$35,000 - \$39,999	\$40,000 - \$49,999	\$50,000 +
Funding						
Obtaining new facility development funds	3.8	4.2	3.9	3.6	3.8	3.5
Obtaining major renovation funds	3.7	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.4
Obtaining facility replacement funds	3.7	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.3
Obtaining land acquisition funds	3.3	3.9	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.2
Obtaining outdoor recreation and education programming funds	2.9	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.7
Obtaining overall recreation administration funds	2.8	3.2	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.6
Obtaining scheduled preventative maintenance funds	2.7	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.8
Obtaining daily maintenance funds	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.5
Meeting Public Needs						
Meeting demand for off-leash dog areas	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.9	2.8	2.7
Providing undeveloped public lands for youth to explore and enjoy	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.6
Including off-street walking or biking paths (including sidewalks) during development or redevelopment	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.4
Meeting the needs of youth through the provision of facilities	2.6	2.9	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.4
Meeting the needs of diverse cultures in your area	2.5	2.8	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4
Meeting the needs of youth through programming	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.5
Meeting the needs of older people	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.4	2.7
Meeting accessibility standards	2.3	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.2
Providing full size athletic fields	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.1	2.1	2.2
Meeting demand for public water access for swimming, boating, and fishing	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.3
Meeting the needs of families	2.1	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1
Providing a safe environment	1.8	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.8
Land Protection						
Reserving significant natural resource areas from development or redevelopment	2.3	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.5
Reserving open-space lands from development or redevelopment	2.3	2.4	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.4
Reserving historical or cultural resources from development or redevelopment	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.1
Management						
Enforcing rules and regulations	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.5
Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources	1.9	1.8	1.8	2.0	1.9	2.2
Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.2
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	1.8	1.7	1.6	2.0	1.9	1.8
Alleviating user conflicts	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.8	2.2
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.5

Problems Facing Counties

The most appropriate and knowledgeable county officials were asked to indicate how much of a problem (if any) each of the potential problems were in “the outdoor recreation system **operated by the county.**”

As mentioned earlier, counties rated Funding problems highest, followed by Land Protection and Meeting Public Needs (Table 12). Management problems were rated lowest. Obtaining funding

Table 12
Problems Facing Counties

Potential problem	Mean value (excludes Don't know)	Percent					Very serious problem (=5)	Don't know
		Not a problem (=1)	Slight problem (=2)	Moderate problem (=3)	Serious problem (=4)			
Funding								
Obtaining new facility development funds	3.8	6.5	6.5	16.1	35.5	29.0	6.5	
Obtaining land acquisition funds	3.8	9.5	7.9	11.1	22.2	34.9	14.3	
Obtaining major renovation funds	3.6	9.7	6.5	19.4	33.9	22.6	8.1	
Obtaining facility replacement funds	3.4	12.7	7.9	23.8	27.0	20.6	7.9	
Obtaining outdoor recreation and education programming funds	3.3	9.7	9.7	30.6	14.5	19.4	16.1	
Obtaining overall recreation administration funds	3.0	12.9	12.9	35.5	19.4	11.3	8.1	
Obtaining scheduled preventative maintenance funds	3.0	16.4	9.8	37.7	16.4	13.1	6.6	
Obtaining daily maintenance funds	2.9	16.1	14.5	40.3	9.7	12.9	6.5	
Land Protection								
Reserving open-space lands from development or redevelopment	2.9	15.9	17.5	23.8	15.9	14.3	12.7	
Reserving significant natural resource areas from development or redevelopment	2.9	16.1	17.7	14.5	29.0	8.1	14.5	
Reserving historical or cultural resources from development or redevelopment	2.5	17.5	23.8	23.8	9.5	4.8	20.6	
Meeting Public Needs								
Meeting the needs of youth through programming	3.0	8.1	14.5	24.2	14.5	6.5	32.3	
Meeting the needs of youth through the provision of facilities	2.8	11.5	16.4	34.4	14.8	4.9	18.0	
Meeting demand for off-leash dog areas	2.8	13.6	13.6	18.6	8.5	8.5	37.3	
Including off-street walking or biking paths (including sidewalks) during development or redevelopment	2.7	14.3	15.9	27.0	11.1	6.3	25.4	
Meeting the needs of diverse cultures in your area	2.6	12.7	23.8	25.4	12.7	3.2	22.2	
Meeting the needs of older people	2.5	15.9	15.9	36.5	6.3	1.6	23.8	
Meeting accessibility standards	2.5	14.3	30.2	27.0	6.3	4.8	17.5	
Meeting the needs of families	2.5	22.2	17.5	28.6	11.1	3.2	17.5	
Meeting demand for public water access for swimming, boating, and fishing	2.3	26.2	23.0	21.3	11.5	3.3	14.8	
Providing undeveloped public lands for youth to explore and enjoy	2.3	27.0	23.8	20.6	9.5	3.2	15.9	
Providing full size athletic fields	2.2	29.5	11.5	9.8	6.6	6.6	36.1	
Providing a safe environment	2.2	23.8	30.2	23.8	4.8	1.6	15.9	
Management								
Enforcing rules and regulations	2.8	17.5	22.2	25.4	25.4	4.8	4.8	
Alleviating user conflicts	2.4	20.6	27.0	27.0	15.9	0.0	9.5	
Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources	2.4	12.9	38.7	29.0	8.1	0.0	11.3	
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	2.4	20.6	30.2	28.6	9.5	1.6	9.5	
Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation	2.0	39.7	17.5	17.5	9.5	0.0	15.9	
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	1.8	36.5	30.2	12.7	3.2	1.6	15.9	

for capital expenditures (new facilities, major renovations, facility replacement, land acquisition) was rated a moderate to serious problem. Between one-fifth (20.6 percent) and one-third (34.9 percent) of the counties rated obtaining funding for capital expenditures a very serious problem. Obtaining funding for operating expenditures (programming, administration, maintenance) was rated a moderate problem. Problems in the Land Protection category were rated moderate problems while problems in the Meeting Public Needs category were rated slight to moderate problems. Management problems were rated lowest as slight problems, except for enforcing rules and regulations which was rated a moderate problem. Over one-third of the counties rated working with other outdoor recreation providers and setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation as not a problem (36.5 percent and 39.7 percent, respectively).

To examine how problems varied across the state and by standard demographic breakdowns, county data were analyzed by region, population density change 1990 to 2000, 2000 population, and 2000 median household income. Care must be taken when looking at the county data by demographic breakdowns. Some of the breakdowns have only a few counties.

Analysis by Region

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, page 19). The Metro region contains half of the Minnesota population and is covered by the regional governmental agency (Metropolitan Council) that has outdoor recreation functions.

When looked at by region, there was little correlation in problem ratings among the regions (Table 13). This differs from the cities which showed fairly strong correlations among the regions. The Northeast region differed most from the other regions.

Table 13
Correlation Coefficients of Problems Facing Counties by Region

Region	Northeast	South	Central	Metro
Northwest	0.597	0.816	0.725	0.576
Northeast		0.371	0.561	0.287
South			0.732	0.780
Central				0.754

All of the counties rated Funding problems highest, except for the Metro region which rated Land Protection problems highest with Funding problems second (Table 14). However, Funding problems were still rated as moderate to serious problems by Metro region counties. All of the counties rated Management problems lowest except for the Northeast which rated Management problem second behind Funding problems. The Northeast rated Meeting Public Needs problems lowest.

Overall, the Central region and the Metro region rated problems as more serious than the other regions (mean problem rating 3.3, 3.0, 2.7 or lower, respectively). The high overall rating of Central region counties differs from the results for cities where Central region cities rated problems as less serious than other regions.

Table 14
Problems Facing Counties by Region

(mean values—problem scale: 1=Not a problem, 2=Slight problem, 3=Moderate problem, 4=Serious problem, 5=Very serious problem; excludes Don't know responses)

Potential problem	Total	Northwest	Northeast	South	Central	Metro
Funding						
Obtaining new facility development funds	3.8	4.3	3.5	3.3	4.4	4.1
Obtaining land acquisition funds	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.5	4.1	4.3
Obtaining major renovation funds	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.2	4.3	3.6
Obtaining facility replacement funds	3.4	3.8	3.5	3.1	4.0	3.0
Obtaining outdoor recreation and education programming funds	3.3	3.6	2.8	3.0	4.3	3.3
Obtaining overall recreation administration funds	3.0	3.2	3.2	2.7	3.9	2.8
Obtaining scheduled preventative maintenance funds	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.7	3.8	3.7
Obtaining daily maintenance funds	2.9	3.0	2.7	2.7	3.6	2.8
Land Protection						
Reserving open-space lands from development or redevelopment	2.9	2.6	2.3	2.8	3.7	3.7
Reserving significant natural resource areas from development or redevelopment	2.9	2.5	2.2	2.8	3.9	3.9
Reserving historical or cultural resources from development or redevelopment	2.5	2.2	2.2	2.4	3.6	3.0
Meeting Public Needs						
Meeting the needs of youth through programming	3.0	2.7	2.0	3.2	3.2	3.3
Meeting the needs of youth through the provision of facilities	2.8	2.8	1.8	2.9	3.3	3.0
Meeting demand for off-leash dog areas	2.8	2.0	1.4	2.9	3.2	3.7
Including off-street walking or biking paths (including sidewalks) during development or redevelopment	2.7	2.4	2.8	2.7	3.5	2.7
Meeting the needs of diverse cultures in your area	2.6	2.6	1.8	2.7	2.8	3.0
Meeting the needs of older people	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.2	3.2	2.9
Meeting accessibility standards	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.4	2.7	2.3
Meeting the needs of families	2.5	2.3	2.8	2.2	3.5	2.4
Meeting demand for public water access for swimming, boating, and fishing	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.1	3.3	2.9
Providing undeveloped public lands for youth to explore and enjoy	2.3	2.1	1.5	2.1	3.1	2.7
Providing full size athletic fields	2.2	2.4	1.3	2.6	2.0	1.4
Providing a safe environment	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.5	2.1
Management						
Enforcing rules and regulations	2.8	2.6	3.3	2.5	3.1	3.1
Alleviating user conflicts	2.4	2.2	3.0	2.2	3.0	2.7
Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources	2.4	2.1	2.8	2.3	2.5	2.6
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	2.4	2.2	2.7	2.2	2.8	2.6
Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation	2.0	1.5	2.2	1.9	2.4	2.4
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	1.8	2.0	1.6	1.8	1.8	2.0

Analysis by Standard Demographic Breakdowns

Problems facing counties were looked at by population density change 1990 to 2000, 2000 population, and 2000 median household income.

Density change is the population change from 1990 to 2000 per square mile. Negative numbers indicate a reduction in population. The higher the number the larger the population increase per square mile. The trend in Minnesota (as elsewhere in the nation) is to an increasing urban population. Over the last 100 years, almost all new additions to the Minnesota population have been urban additions.

There was a fair correlation among counties when the data were looked at by population density change (Table 15). The lower population density change classes (neg - 0.0, 0.1 - 5.0) rated Funding problems highest (Table 16). The higher population density change classes (5.1 - 50.0, 50.1 - high) rated Land Protection highest. However, capital funding problems (new facilities, major renovations, facility replacement, land acquisition) were still rated as more serious problems than Land Protection problems by the higher density change classes. Meeting Public Needs was the second most serious problem for counties with no or negative growth. All of the density change classes rated Management problems lowest. However, Management problems were still rated a moderate problem by the two faster growing classes. Enforcing rules and regulations was a moderate problem for all classes except for counties with no or negative growth. Overall, mean problem ratings were higher for the two faster growing classes (mean problem rating 3.0 vs 2.6 or less).

Population figures used for this analysis are from the 2000 U.S. Census.

There was limited correlation among the counties when the data were looked at by population (Table 17). All of the population classes except medium sized counties (50,000 - 149,999) rated Funding problems highest (Table 18). Medium sized counties rated Land Protection problems highest. Management problems were rated lowest by all population classes except the largest class (600,000+) which rated Management problems second behind Funding. All population classes rate enforcing rules and regulations as a moderate problem. Overall, mean problem ratings were lowest for the largest counties (mean problem rating 2.2 vs 2.8 or higher).

Income figures used for this analysis are median household income from the 2000 U.S. Census.

There was only a fair correlation among counties when the data were looked at by median household income (Table 19). All of the income classes rated Funding problems highest (Table 20). The highest income class rated Funding problems more serious than the other classes (mean problem rating 3.5 vs 3.3 or less). Land Protection problems were rated number two by all income classes except the lowest income class which rated them as the lowest problem (mean problem rating 2.1 vs 2.8 or higher). All other income classes rated Management problems lowest. Overall, the mean problem rating was highest for the highest income class (mean problem rating 3.0 vs 2.7 or less).

Table 15
Correlation Coefficients of Problems Facing Counties by Density Change

Density change	0.1 - 5.0	5.1 - 50.0	50.1 +
Negative - 0.0	0.622	0.658	0.597
0.1 - 5.0		0.718	0.594
5.1 - 50.0			0.879

Table 16
Problems Facing Counties by Density Change

Potential problem	Total	neg - 0.0	0.1 - 5.0	5.1 - 50.0	50.1 - high
Funding					
Obtaining new facility development funds	3.8	3.9	3.6	4.0	4.1
Obtaining land acquisition funds	3.8	3.9	3.4	4.1	4.3
Obtaining major renovation funds	3.6	3.7	3.4	3.9	3.6
Obtaining facility replacement funds	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.9	3.0
Obtaining outdoor recreation and education programming funds	3.3	3.4	3.0	3.9	3.3
Obtaining overall recreation administration funds	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.6	2.8
Obtaining scheduled preventative maintenance funds	3.0	2.6	2.8	3.8	3.7
Obtaining daily maintenance funds	2.9	2.6	2.8	3.6	2.8
Land Preservation					
Reserving open-space lands from development or redevelopment	2.9	2.4	2.7	4.0	3.7
Reserving significant natural resource areas from development or redevelopment	2.9	2.2	2.6	4.2	3.9
Reserving historical or cultural resources from development or redevelopment	2.5	2.1	2.3	3.5	3.0
Meeting Public Needs					
Meeting the needs of youth through programming	3.0	3.0	2.6	3.4	3.3
Meeting the needs of youth through the provision of facilities	2.8	2.8	2.6	3.2	3.0
Meeting demand for off-leash dog areas	2.8	2.9	2.1	3.3	3.7
Including off-street walking or biking paths (including sidewalks) during development or redevelopment	2.7	2.8	2.6	3.0	2.7
Meeting the needs of diverse cultures in your area	2.6	2.6	2.3	3.3	3.0
Meeting the needs of older people	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.9	2.9
Meeting accessibility standards	2.5	2.3	2.6	2.6	2.3
Meeting the needs of families	2.5	2.6	2.2	2.9	2.4
Meeting demand for public water access for swimming, boating, and fishing	2.3	2.2	2.0	3.0	2.9
Providing undeveloped public lands for youth to explore and enjoy	2.3	2.4	1.9	2.8	2.7
Providing full size athletic fields	2.2	1.9	2.4	2.7	1.4
Providing a safe environment	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.1
Management					
Enforcing rules and regulations	2.8	2.4	2.9	2.9	3.1
Alleviating user conflicts	2.4	2.1	2.4	2.7	2.7
Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources	2.4	2.6	2.1	2.6	2.6
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	2.4	1.9	2.4	2.8	2.6
Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation	2.0	2.1	1.6	2.5	2.4
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	1.8	2.0	1.7	1.9	2.0

Table 17
Correlation Coefficients of Problems Facing Counties by Population

Population	20,000-49,999	50,000-149,999	150,000-599,999	600,000+
< 20,000	0.661	0.470	0.484	0.634
20,000-49,999		0.547	0.714	0.563
50,000-149,999			0.598	0.473
150,000-599,999				0.645

Table 18
Problems Facing Counties by Population

Potential problem	Total	< 20,000	20,000 - 49,999	50,000 - 149,999	150,000 - 599,999	600,000 +
Funding						
Obtaining new facility development funds	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.0
Obtaining land acquisition funds	3.8	3.5	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0
Obtaining major renovation funds	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.3	3.8	4.0
Obtaining facility replacement funds	3.4	3.2	3.6	2.9	3.8	No responses
Obtaining outdoor recreation and education programming funds	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.0	3.8	3.0
Obtaining overall recreation administration funds	3.0	3.1	3.2	2.4	3.0	3.0
Obtaining scheduled preventative maintenance funds	3.0	2.6	3.2	3.1	3.8	3.0
Obtaining daily maintenance funds	2.9	2.7	3.1	2.9	3.3	2.0
Land Preservation						
Reserving open-space lands from development or redevelopment	2.9	2.4	2.9	4.3	3.8	2.0
Reserving significant natural resource areas from development or redevelopment	2.9	2.2	2.9	4.3	4.0	2.0
Reserving historical or cultural resources from development or redevelopment	2.5	2.1	2.5	3.8	2.8	2.0
Meeting Public Needs						
Meeting the needs of youth through programming	3.0	2.9	2.6	3.8	3.7	3.0
Meeting the needs of youth through the provision of facilities	2.8	2.9	2.4	3.3	3.0	3.0
Meeting demand for off-leash dog areas	2.8	2.4	2.5	3.8	3.8	3.0
Including off-street walking or biking paths (including sidewalks) during development or redevelopment	2.7	2.7	2.6	3.3	2.3	No responses
Meeting the needs of diverse cultures in your area	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.7	3.3	3.0
Meeting the needs of older people	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.8	3.0
Meeting accessibility standards	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.3	1.0
Meeting the needs of families	2.5	2.3	2.6	2.6	2.8	1.0
Meeting demand for public water access for swimming, boating, and fishing	2.3	1.8	2.6	2.8	3.0	2.0
Providing undeveloped public lands for youth to explore and enjoy	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.4	3.5	1.0
Providing full size athletic fields	2.2	2.6	1.8	3.0	1.0	1.0
Providing a safe environment	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.0	2.3	1.0
Management						
Enforcing rules and regulations	2.8	2.6	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0
Alleviating user conflicts	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.8	2.8	2.0
Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.6	2.8	2.0
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	2.4	2.0	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.0
Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation	2.0	1.5	2.1	2.4	2.8	3.0
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.4	2.3	1.0

Table 19
Correlation Coefficients of Problems Facing Counties By Income

Income	\$35,000-\$39,999	\$40,000-\$49,999	\$50,000+
\$30,000-\$34,000	0.468	0.633	0.457
\$35,000-\$39,999		0.705	0.756
\$40,000-\$49,999			0.731

Table 20
Problems Facing Counties By Income

Potential problem	Total	\$30,000 - \$34,999	\$35,000 - \$39,999	\$40,000 - \$49,999	\$50,000 +
Funding					
Obtaining new facility development funds	3.8	4.1	3.7	3.3	4.2
Obtaining land acquisition funds	3.8	3.9	3.6	3.5	4.2
Obtaining major renovation funds	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.2	3.8
Obtaining facility replacement funds	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.2
Obtaining outdoor recreation and education programming funds	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.4
Obtaining overall recreation administration funds	3.0	3.0	3.2	2.7	3.2
Obtaining scheduled preventative maintenance funds	3.0	2.7	2.9	3.2	3.4
Obtaining daily maintenance funds	2.9	2.6	3.0	3.1	2.8
Land Preservation					
Reserving open-space lands from development or redevelopment	2.9	2.3	2.9	3.1	3.8
Reserving significant natural resource areas from development or redevelopment	2.9	2.1	3.0	3.1	4.0
Reserving historical or cultural resources from development or redevelopment	2.5	1.9	2.6	2.5	3.2
Meeting Public Needs					
Meeting the needs of youth through programming	3.0	2.8	2.8	3.2	3.1
Meeting the needs of youth through the provision of facilities	2.8	2.7	2.5	3.6	2.7
Meeting demand for off-leash dog areas	2.8	3.1	2.0	2.8	3.7
Including off-street walking or biking paths (including sidewalks) during development or redevelopment	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.4	3.0
Meeting the needs of diverse cultures in your area	2.6	2.9	2.1	2.8	2.8
Meeting the needs of older people	2.5	2.6	2.3	2.5	2.7
Meeting accessibility standards	2.5	2.8	2.2	2.6	2.2
Meeting the needs of families	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.5
Meeting demand for public water access for swimming, boating, and fishing	2.3	1.9	2.4	2.2	3.0
Providing undeveloped public lands for youth to explore and enjoy	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.6
Providing full size athletic fields	2.2	2.9	1.8	2.4	1.9
Providing a safe environment	2.2	2.0	2.4	2.1	2.2
Management					
Enforcing rules and regulations	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.0
Alleviating user conflicts	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.6
Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.7	2.6
Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation	2.0	1.6	2.1	1.8	2.4
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	1.8	2.3	1.6	1.6	1.9

Problems Facing School Districts

The most appropriate and knowledgeable school district officials were asked to indicate how much of a problem (if any) each of the potential problems were in “the outdoor recreation system operated by the school district.”

As mentioned earlier, school districts rated Funding problems highest, followed by Meeting Public Needs (Table 21). Management problems were rated lowest. Obtaining funding for capital expenditures (new facilities, major renovations, facility replacement, land acquisition) was rated a serious problem. Between one-third (34.5 percent) and almost one-half (45.5 percent) of the school districts rated obtaining funding for capital expenditures a very serious problem. Obtaining funding for operating expenditures (programming, administration, maintenance) was rated a moderate problem. Problems in the Meeting Public Needs category were rated slight to moderate problems. Management problems were rated as slight problems.

Table 21
Problems Facing School Districts

Potential problem	Mean value (excludes Don't know)	Percent					Don't know
		Not a problem (=1)	Slight problem (=2)	Moderate problem (=3)	Serious problem (=4)	Very serious problem (=5)	
Funding							
Obtaining new facility development funds	4.1	6.0	1.7	12.8	26.8	45.5	7.2
Obtaining major renovation funds	4.0	5.1	2.6	15.8	36.3	35.0	5.1
Obtaining facility replacement funds	4.0	6.0	3.4	15.5	33.2	36.6	5.2
Obtaining land acquisition funds	3.6	13.6	6.4	13.6	19.6	34.5	12.3
Obtaining scheduled preventative maintenance funds	3.5	6.0	10.6	30.2	29.8	18.3	5.1
Obtaining outdoor recreation and education programming funds	3.4	6.8	10.6	28.9	29.8	17.4	6.4
Obtaining overall recreation administration funds	3.4	6.0	9.4	33.3	28.6	15.8	6.8
Obtaining daily maintenance funds	3.4	10.3	9.8	27.4	29.9	17.5	5.1
Meeting Public Needs							
Meeting the needs of youth through the provision of facilities	2.7	17.9	23.3	34.2	16.7	5.8	2.1
Meeting the needs of older people	2.6	19.7	23.4	27.6	16.7	5.4	7.1
Meeting the needs of youth through programming	2.5	26.2	24.5	26.6	16.0	5.1	1.7
Meeting the needs of families	2.4	21.8	29.0	32.8	10.1	2.1	4.2
Providing full size athletic fields	2.2	36.7	22.9	23.3	12.9	3.8	0.4
Meeting the needs of diverse cultures in your area	2.2	34.7	23.0	21.8	9.2	3.8	7.5
Meeting accessibility standards	2.2	31.3	33.3	21.3	9.6	2.5	2.1
Providing a safe environment	1.8	47.9	30.0	15.0	4.2	2.1	0.8
Management							
Alleviating user conflicts	2.3	25.1	38.5	23.4	7.9	3.8	1.3
Enforcing rules and regulations	2.2	24.7	38.1	25.1	8.8	1.7	1.7
Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation	2.2	32.6	25.1	25.1	10.5	2.5	4.2
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	2.1	28.3	39.6	22.1	7.1	0.4	2.5
Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources	1.9	32.4	32.8	20.2	1.3	1.7	11.8
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	1.8	43.1	32.6	12.6	3.3	0.4	7.9

To examine how problems varied across the state and by standard demographic breakdowns, 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.

Analysis by Region

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, page 19). The Metro region contains half of the Minnesota population and is covered by the regional governmental agency (Metropolitan Council) that has outdoor recreation functions.

When looked at by region there was fairly strong correlation among the regions (Table 22). This was similar to the results for cities which also showed fairly strong correlation among the regions.

Table 22
Correlation Coefficients of Problems Facing School Districts by Region

Region	Northeast	South	Central	Metro
Northwest	0.905	0.975	0.826	0.827
Northeast		0.897	0.838	0.824
South			0.820	0.841
Central				0.968

All of the regions rated Funding problems highest (Table 23). The Northwest and Metro regions rated Funding problems lower than the other regions (mean problem rating 3.4, 3.6, 3.8 or more, respectively). However, all regions rated Funding problems as moderate to serious problems. The Northwest, Northeast, and South regions rated Meeting Public Needs problems second and Management problems last. The Central and Metro regions rated Meeting Public Needs problems and Management problems about the same. All regions rated Meeting Public Needs problems as slight to moderate problems and Management problems as slight problems.

Table 23
Problems Facing School District by Region

(mean values—problem scale: 1=Not a problem, 2=Slight problem, 3=Moderate problem, 4=Serious problem, 5=Very serious problem; excludes Don't know responses)

Potential problem	Total	Northwest	Northeast	South	Central	Metro
Funding						
Obtaining new facility development funds	4.1	3.8	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.1
Obtaining major renovation funds	4.0	3.8	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.8
Obtaining facility replacement funds	4.0	3.7	4.2	4.1	4.1	3.8
Obtaining land acquisition funds	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.9	3.9
Obtaining scheduled preventative maintenance funds	3.5	3.2	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.3
Obtaining outdoor recreation and education programming funds	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.1
Obtaining overall recreation administration funds	3.4	3.2	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.3
Obtaining daily maintenance funds	3.4	3.1	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.2
Meeting Public Needs						
Meeting the needs of youth through the provision of facilities	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.8
Meeting the needs of older people	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.3	2.2
Meeting the needs of youth through programming	2.5	2.3	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.5
Meeting the needs of families	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.3
Providing full size athletic fields	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.6
Meeting the needs of diverse cultures in your area	2.2	2.1	1.7	2.4	2.1	2.2
Meeting accessibility standards	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.0	1.7
Providing a safe environment	1.8	1.8	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.5
Management						
Alleviating user conflicts	2.3	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.5	2.5
Enforcing rules and regulations	2.2	1.9	2.5	2.1	2.4	2.5
Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.4
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	2.1	1.9	2.4	1.9	2.5	2.3
Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources	1.9	1.7	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.1
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	1.8	1.7	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.6

Analysis by Standard Demographic Breakdowns

Problems facing school districts were looked at by enrollment change 1993-94 to 2003-04, 2003-04 enrollment, and percent enrollment eligible for subsidized lunches.

Enrollment change is the percent change in enrollment from the 1993-94 school year to the 2003-04 school year. Enrollment change ranged from -73 percent to +110 percent. Negative numbers indicate a reduction in enrollment. Almost two-thirds (63 percent) of the responding school districts showed a reduction in enrollment. Most of these school districts were in the Northwest, Northeast and South regions.

There was a strong correlation among school districts when the data were looked at by enrollment change (Table 24). All of the enrollment change classes rated Funding problems highest followed by Meeting Public Needs problems and Management problems (Table 25). On average, Funding problems had a serious problem rating (mean problem rating 3.5 to 3.8). School districts exhibiting moderate growth (0.1 to 15.0 percent) rated Funding problems as less of a problem (mean problem rating 3.5 vs 3.7 or higher). The other problems had, on average, slight to moderate ratings (mean problem rating 2.0 to 2.5).

Enrollment figures used for this analysis are from the 2003-04 school year.

There was a fairly strong correlation among school districts when the data were looked at by enrollment (Table 26). All of the enrollment classes rated Funding problems highest followed by Meeting Public Needs problems and Management problems (Table 27). Funding was rated as more of a problem by the largest school districts (20,001+) and less of a problem by the smallest school districts (<651) with the other districts in between (mean problem rating 4.1, 3.5, 3.7, respectively). The largest school districts rated obtaining funding for land acquisition a very serious problem. They rated obtaining funding for operating expenditures a serious problem. Overall, the smallest school districts rated problems as less serious while the largest school districts rated problems as more serious with the other school districts in between (mean problem rating 2.7, 2.9, 2.8, respectively).

The percent of students eligible for free or reduced cost lunches during the 2003-04 school year was used as a surrogate for median household income.

There was a strong correlation among school districts when the data were looked at by percent enrollment eligible for subsidized lunches (Table 28). All of the percent enrollment eligible for subsidized lunches classes rated Funding problems highest followed by Meeting Public Needs problems and Management problems (Table 29). Surprisingly, the school districts with the highest percent of enrollment eligible for subsidized lunches (30.1% to 40.0%, 40.1+%) rated Funding problems as a less serious problem than school districts with lower eligibility (<20.1%, 20.1% - 30.0%) (mean problem rating 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 4.0, respectively). Overall, school districts with the highest percent of enrollment eligible for subsidized lunches (30.1% to 40.0%, 40.1+%) rated problems as less serious than the other districts (<20.1%, 20.1% - 30.0%) (mean problem rating 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, respectively).

Table 24
Correlation Coefficients of Problems Facing School Districts by Enrollment Change

Enrollment change	-13.9% to 0.0%	0.1% to 15.0%	15.1% or more
-14.0% or less	0.965	0.898	0.899
-13.9% to 0.0%		0.909	0.907
0.1% to 15.0%			0.979

Table 25
Problems Facing School Districts by Enrollment Change

Potential problem	Total	-14.0% or less	-13.9% to 0%	0.1 to 15.0%	15.1 or more
Funding					
Obtaining new facility development funds	4.1	4.1	4.2	3.9	4.2
Obtaining major renovation funds	4.0	3.9	4.1	3.9	4.0
Obtaining facility replacement funds	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.8	4.1
Obtaining land acquisition funds	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.8
Obtaining scheduled preventative maintenance funds	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.4
Obtaining outdoor recreation and education programming funds	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.1	3.4
Obtaining overall recreation administration funds	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.1	3.5
Obtaining daily maintenance funds	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.2	3.3
Meeting Public Needs					
Meeting the needs of youth through the provision of facilities	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.9	2.6
Meeting the needs of older people	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.5
Meeting the needs of youth through programming	2.5	2.7	2.3	2.5	2.5
Meeting the needs of families	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.3
Providing full size athletic fields	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.3
Meeting the needs of diverse cultures in your area	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.0	1.9
Meeting accessibility standards	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.0	2.0
Providing a safe environment	1.8	2.1	1.7	1.6	1.6
Management					
Alleviating user conflicts	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.3
Enforcing rules and regulations	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.4
Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.1
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.3
Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.7	2.1
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.6

Table 26
Correlation Coefficients of Problems Facing School Districts by Enrollment

Enrollment	651 - 1,200	1,201 - 2,700	2,701 - 20,000	20,001+
650 or less	0.931	0.922	0.793	0.767
651 - 1,200		0.942	0.879	0.815
1,201 - 2,700			0.902	0.809
2,701 - 20,000				0.876

Table 27
Problems Facing School Districts by Enrollment

Potential problem	Total	650 or less	651 - 1,200	1,201 - 2,700	2,701 - 20,000	20,001 or more
Funding						
Obtaining new facility development funds	4.1	3.9	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.3
Obtaining major renovation funds	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Obtaining facility replacement funds	4.0	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.3
Obtaining land acquisition funds	3.6	3.3	3.7	3.7	3.9	5.0
Obtaining scheduled preventative maintenance funds	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.7
Obtaining outdoor recreation and education programming funds	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.5	3.2	3.7
Obtaining overall recreation administration funds	3.4	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5
Obtaining daily maintenance funds	3.4	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.5	4.3
Meeting Public Needs						
Meeting the needs of youth through the provision of facilities	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.7	3.0
Meeting the needs of older people	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.3	1.5
Meeting the needs of youth through programming	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.3	3.0
Meeting the needs of families	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.5
Providing full size athletic fields	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	3.0
Meeting the needs of diverse cultures in your area	2.2	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.5
Meeting accessibility standards	2.2	2.4	2.1	2.3	1.9	1.3
Providing a safe environment	1.8	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7
Management						
Alleviating user conflicts	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.3
Enforcing rules and regulations	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.0	2.4	2.3
Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation	2.2	1.8	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.0
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.0	2.2	2.0
Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.0
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.8	2.0

Table 28
Correlation Coefficients of Problems Facing School Districts by Subsidized Lunch

Subsidized lunches	20.1% - 30.0%	30.1% - 40.0%	40.1% or more
20% or less	0.938	0.944	0.942
20.1% - 30.0%		0.976	0.892
30.1% - 40.0%			0.912

Table 29
Problems Facing School Districts by Subsidized Lunch

Potential problem	Total	20.0% or less	20.1% - 30.0%	30.1% - 40.0%	40.1% or more
Funding					
Obtaining new facility development funds	4.1	4.2	4.4	3.8	4.1
Obtaining major renovation funds	4.0	4.0	4.2	3.8	4.0
Obtaining facility replacement funds	4.0	4.0	4.3	3.7	3.9
Obtaining land acquisition funds	3.6	3.9	3.8	3.3	3.5
Obtaining scheduled preventative maintenance funds	3.5	3.4	3.8	3.2	3.4
Obtaining outdoor recreation and education programming funds	3.4	3.3	3.7	3.2	3.5
Obtaining overall recreation administration funds	3.4	3.4	3.7	3.2	3.3
Obtaining daily maintenance funds	3.4	3.4	3.7	3.2	3.2
Meeting Public Needs					
Meeting the needs of youth through the provision of facilities	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.5
Meeting the needs of older people	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.5	2.4
Meeting the needs of youth through programming	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.4	2.2
Meeting the needs of families	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.1
Providing full size athletic fields	2.2	2.3	2.6	2.1	1.9
Meeting the needs of diverse cultures in your area	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.0	2.2
Meeting accessibility standards	2.2	2.0	2.3	2.2	2.2
Providing a safe environment	1.8	1.6	1.9	1.9	1.8
Management					
Alleviating user conflicts	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	1.9
Enforcing rules and regulations	2.2	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.3
Setting user fees so that costs do not hinder participation	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.0
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	2.1	2.3	2.1	1.9	2.1
Alleviating visitor caused impacts on natural resources	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.8	2.0
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.8

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