

M-NCPPC



MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760

AGENDA ITEM # 3
MCPB 12/13/01

December 5, 2001

MEMORANDUM

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

VIA: Jeffrey Zyontz, Chief, Countywide Planning
John Hench, Natural Resources Supervisor *JHench*

FROM: Tanya Schmieler, Planning Supervisor *TKS*
Mark Wallis, Senior Planner

SUBJECT: Year 2000 Park User Survey Report Highlights

Purpose of Item

The purpose of this item is to brief the Montgomery County Planning Board on the highlights of the Year 2000 Park User Survey. The Survey Report is attached for your information. No Planning Board action is required.

Background Information

During the Spring and Summer of 2000, a park user survey was conducted to provide information on recreation activity use patterns by observing the extent and type of active use recreation in Montgomery County parks. The survey information will be used to help estimate park attendance and to derive participation rates for the next Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan update, currently scheduled for staff draft completion in December 2002.

The survey was conducted to identify facilities exhibiting the least and greatest use, and provide guidance to park planners determining those facilities to be included or possibly excluded for future parks. Another of the survey's purposes was to collect more detailed data on ballfield use and to estimate the percentage of spring ballfield permit holders who use their permit on the assigned date and field.

Park surveys were first conducted in 1975 and have been repeated every five years. The year 2000 park survey was conducted earlier in the year to capture the peak spring use season. The 1995 survey was conducted during June through October. The 2000 survey commenced on April 1 and terminated on September 1. The April 1 start date coincided with the start of the spring ballfield-permitting season. Spring is one of the heaviest use times for parks driven by better weather and organized spring sports. Because of the slight but significant methodological changes between the 1995 and 2000 surveys, the survey results are not interpreted as park attendance trends, but rather a more accurate picture of the peak use time period.

The survey sample included 40 local, 15 neighborhood, 9 urban, 4 recreational and 4 regional parks. Parks were selected that were generally representative of their park type with respect to number and size of recreation facilities and were geographically distributed throughout Montgomery County. Each park was visited 20 times including 3 weekday mornings/3 weekday afternoons, 7 weekday evenings, and 7 weekends. The total number of visits was 1440. Parks were not visited when the temperature was above 95 degrees or during inclement weather. Parks selected mirrored as closely as possible those surveyed in 1995 in order to determine what, if any, trends in park usage might be identified. Park use was recorded on a standardized form for Urban, Neighborhood and Local parks. Recreational and Regional Park use was recorded on forms specifically designed for those parks as the facilities vary greatly from park to park. Park surveyors observed and tabulated the recreation facility that park patrons were using, their gender and estimated the age range that person belonged. Since age ranges recorded through observation only, they are estimated but still useful planning purposes. Park type summaries and detailed data on each individual park are located in a separately published Technical Appendix.

The park user survey focuses on "active" use recreation and captures only the small segment of "passive" use recreation such as sunbathing or reading that occurs in the developed sections of the surveyed parks. The survey is not designed to measure or observe the many other types of passive recreation activities that occur in the undeveloped portion of the parks. Passive activities could include bird watching, wildlife observation, plant identification, horseback riding, camping, and wildflower viewing. Because these activities are difficult to observe, data is collected by written surveys. The 1997 Park User Survey indicated that 76% of residents visited parks for walking, hiking and enjoying nature.

Survey Highlights

General Highlights

For the Year 2000 Park User Survey, a total of 102,863 persons were observed compared to 56,889 in 1995 and 55,273 in 1990. Much of the difference is explained by the April 1 survey start date. Many of the local parks are heavily scheduled with spring

sports whose use may not have been fully captured by the earlier survey. Also, the onset of non-humid spring weather attracts large numbers of users to the parks.

- Ballfields were the largest use (42.7%); playgrounds were second largest use (15.5%); and picnicking was the third largest use (14.7%).
- Ballfields and playgrounds have experienced the greatest increases in observed users since the 1995 survey.
- Males counted for 54.4% of all users compared to 60% in 1995
- Use by the 0 -19 age group - 46.4%; use by the 20-44 age group - 46.1%; and use by 45+ age group - 7.4%. Use by persons over 65 was extremely minimal.
- Weekend use was the most popular 48.8%; weekday evening (5-9PM) was the second most popular - 34.3%; and WeekdayMorning/Afternoon (9-5) was the least popular – 16.3%.
- The average number of users per visit was 71.4.
- Average number of cars (with the exception of Urban Parks)- 28.4; Percent of cars from Maryland - 87%
- For every 100 ballplayers counted, 18.6 % were unpermitted (community use).
- At local park games, for every 100 ballplayers there are 99 spectators; for regional park games, for every 100 ballplayers there are 159 spectators.
- Approximately 81% of the time, permit holders were using their permit at the scheduled time and place.

Park Type Highlights:

- **Local Parks**, averaged 62 users observed per visit. and have the distinction of containing ballfields that can be reserved for team play. The largest user group was 0-14 year olds, with 43.1% of total use. Sixty-six percent of Local Park use is on the ballfields (either softball, baseball and/or soccer), and the survey reveals that there are as many spectators as there are players.
- **Neighborhood Parks**, which are smaller and closer to communities averaged 11.5 users per visit. They do not have programmed ballfields and are most

popular for their playground facilities (40.2% of park users). Not surprisingly, 0-9 year-olds are the largest age group at almost 30%. The second largest user group at Neighborhood Parks is 15-19 year-olds at 19.2%, and within that category males outnumber females 5:1. As basketball courts are the second most popular use in Neighborhood Parks, it appears that court use by teenage boys is a popular activity.

- In **Urban Parks**, with an average 14.1 users per visit, playgrounds account for 54% of park use, and 0-9 year-olds are the largest group, the second most noted age group is 25-34, and unlike most other park categories, use by females in that group outnumbers male visitors by around 60%.
- **Recreational Parks** averaged 123 users observed per visit. Like Local Parks, they also contain ballfields that can be reserved for team play, and field use accounts for 51% of activity in this park type. However in contrast to Local Parks, in Recreational Parks it is the 25-44 year olds that make up 40.4% of users.
- **Regional Parks** are the County's largest and most popular parks with an average of 467.9 users observed per visit. These parks appear to serve users from a wide spectrum of age groups. 25-44 year-olds are the most common user group, followed by 0-14 year-olds. Given the age range of the users, the wide range of activities available at Regional Parks, and picnicking as the most popular activity at 33.7%, it appears that family activities and other gatherings are popular in this park type.

Staff Observations

The following observations are suggested from the results of the 2000 Park User Survey counts in Urban, Neighborhood, Local, Recreational and Regional Parks and the County Fair Survey.

- Based on the large percentage of ballfield users at parks, the ballfield initiatives program to create new game fields is essential and should be continued.
- The significant increase in playground usage emphasizes the need for playground renovation and supports the new initiative to obtain grant funding for this purpose.
- It is important to focus public private initiatives on obtaining ballfields and playground construction by developers as part of the subdivision process.
- To encourage park use by persons over 65, easily accessible paved walking paths, sitting areas, etc should be provided.
- Construction of new tennis courts should be discouraged except in areas with PROS Plan estimated needs. It is important to keep existing courts in better repair.
- When planning for central business district parks, consideration should be given to providing parks on the periphery of urban areas with facilities to serve adjacent

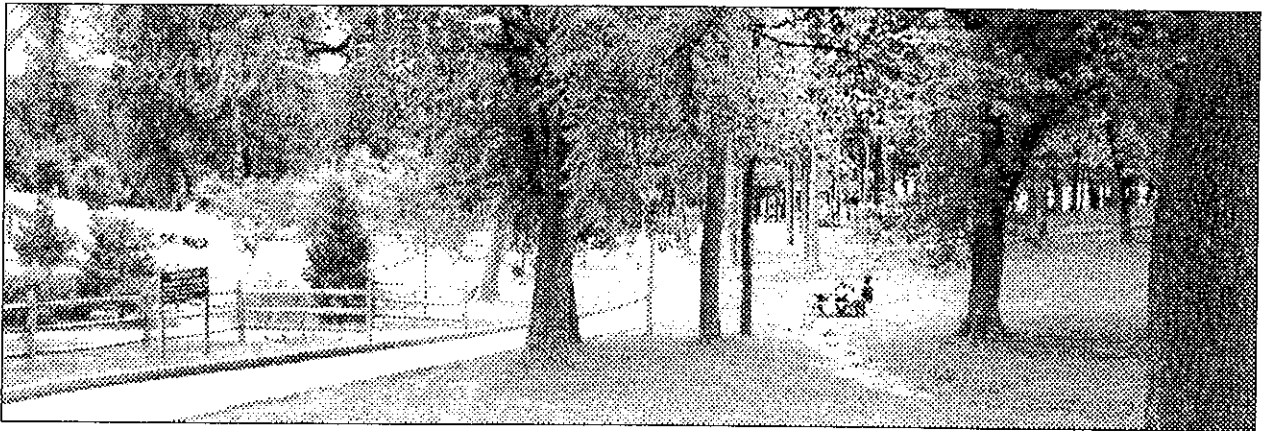
neighborhoods as well as the business community as these receive greater use. Mini "vest-pocket" urban parks with limited facilities receive almost no use.

- It is important to continue to balance needs for active recreation facilities with preservation of natural areas and the provision of passive recreation facilities.
- This survey did not collect data on trail use, thus to assist with trail planning, future surveys of hard surface and natural surface trails should be conducted to assess the number and characteristics of park trail users.
- In the year 2005, we should update user survey counts beginning in April to develop trend information for the peak use period. In future surveys, there should be efforts to document other types of uses at parks such as skateboarding, roller hockey, passive recreation and trails.
- The public opinion telephone survey conducted by the University of Maryland, published in the "1997 Park, Recreation and Open Space Survey Report", should also be repeated in the year 2005 to provide statistically reliable information on park and recreation preferences of Montgomery County residents. The County Fair survey should not be conducted again because it only obtains opinions from people that visit the Park and Planning Booth, and is not a statistically representative sample of County residents.

cc: C. Loehr
D. Cochran

Year 2000 Park User Survey

The Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission
Montgomery County



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Purpose

During the Spring and Summer of 2000, a park user survey was conducted to provide information on recreation activity use patterns by observing the extent and type of active use recreation in Montgomery County parks. The survey's goals were to identify facilities exhibiting the least and greatest use, determine participation rates for basketball, tennis and playgrounds, provide guidance to park planners determining those facilities to be included or possibly excluded for future parks. Another of the survey's goals was to collect more detailed data on ballfield use and to estimate the percentage of spring ballfield permit holders who use their permit on the assigned date and field.

Methodology and Scope

Park surveys were first conducted in 1975 and have been repeated every five years. The year 2000 park survey was conducted earlier to capture the peak Spring use season. The 1995 survey was conducted during June through October. The 2000 survey commenced on April 1 and terminated on September 1. The April 1 start date coincided with the start of the spring ballfield-permitting season. Spring is the heaviest use times for parks driven by better weather and organized spring sports. Because of the slight but significant methodological changes between the 1995 and 2000 surveys, the survey results are not interpreted as park attendance trends, but rather a more accurate picture of the peak use time period.

The survey sample included 40 local, 15 neighborhood, 9 urban, 4 recreational and 4 regional parks. Parks were selected that were generally representative of their park type with respect to number and size of recreation facilities and were geographically distributed throughout Montgomery County. Each park was visited 20 times including 3 weekday mornings/3 weekday afternoons, 7 weekday evenings, and 7 weekends. The total number of visits was 1440. Parks were not visited when the temperature was above 95 degrees or during inclement weather. Parks selected mirrored as closely as possible those surveyed in 1995 in order to determine what, if any, trends in park usage might be identified.

Park use was recorded on a standardized form (appendix A) for Urban, Neighborhood and Local parks. Recreational and Regional Park use was recorded on forms specifically designed for those parks as the facilities vary greatly from park to park. Park surveyors observed and tabulated what activity park patrons were engaged their gender and estimated the age range that person belonged. Since age ranges recorded through observation only, they are estimated but still useful planning purposes.

Local and Recreational Parks were generally surveyed first, Urban and Neighborhood Parks next, and Regional Parks last. The rationale was to survey parks with a predominance of ballfields first to capture the peak ballfield season. When individual parks are compared between 1995 and 2000 the results can be very diverse. Much of the data variation can be explained by the earlier start date and better information on ballfield scheduling.

The park user survey focuses on "active" use recreation and captures only the small segment of "passive" use recreation such as sunbathing or reading that occurs in the developed sections of the surveyed parks. The survey is not designed to measure or observe the many other

types of passive recreation activities that occur in the undeveloped portion of the parks. Passive activities could include bird watching, wildlife observation, plant identification, horseback riding, camping, and wildflower viewing. Because these activities are difficult to observe, data is collected by written surveys. The 1997 Park User Survey indicated that 76% of residents visited a park at least once in the past year for walking, hiking and enjoying nature.

Survey Highlights

General Highlights

For the Year 2000 Park User Survey, a total of 102,863 persons were observed compared to 56,889 in 1995 and 55,273 in 1990. Much of the difference is explained by the April 1 survey start date. Many of the local parks are heavily scheduled with spring sports whose use may not have been previously captured. Also, the onset of non-humid spring weather attracts large numbers of users to the parks.

- *Ballfields were the largest use observed in the 2000 Survey - 42.67%*
- *Playgrounds were second largest use - 15.52%*
- *Picnicking was the third largest use -14.77%*
- *Ballfields and playgrounds have experienced the greatest usage increases since 1995*
- *Males counted for 54.4% of all users compared to 60% in 1995*
- *Use by the 0 -19 age group - 46.4%*
- *Use by the 20-44 age group - 46.1%*
- *Use by 45+ age group - 7.4%*
- *Weekend use was the most popular - 48.88%*
- *Weekday Evening (5-9PM) was the second most popular - 34.83%*
- *Weekday Morning/Afternoon (9-5) was the least popular - 16.30%*
- *Average users per visit - 71.43*
- *Average number of cars (with the exception of Urban Parks)- 28.41*
- *Percent of cars from Maryland - 87%*
- *For every 100 ballplayers counted, 18.6 % were unpermitted (community use)*
- *At local park games, for every 100 ballplayers there are 99 spectators*
- *For Regional Park games, for every 100 ballplayers there are 159 spectators*
- *Approximately 81% of the time, permit holders were using their permit at the scheduled time and place.*

Park Type Highlights:

Local Parks, which contain ballfields that can be reserved for team play, averaged 62 users observed per visit. At local parks, 0-14 year olds are the largest user group at 43.1%.

Sixty-six% of Local Park use is on the ballfields (either softball, baseball and/or soccer), and the survey reveals that there are as many spectators as there are players.

Neighborhood Parks, which are smaller and closer to communities, averaged 11.5 users per visit and are most popular for their playground facilities (40.2% of park users). Not surprisingly, 0-9 year-olds are the largest age group at almost 30%. The second largest user group at Neighborhood Parks is 15-19 year-olds at 19.2%, and within that category males outnumber females 5:1. As basketball courts are the second most popular use in Neighborhood Parks, it appears that court use by teenage boys is a popular activity.

In *Urban Parks*, with an average 14.1 users per visit, playgrounds account for 54% of park use, and 0-9 year-olds are the largest group. 25-34 is the second most noted age group, and unlike most other park categories, use by females in that group outnumbers male visitors by around 60%.

Recreational Parks, averaged 123 users per visit. Like local parks, they also contain ballfields that can be reserved for team play, and field use accounts for 51% of activity in this park type. However, in contrast to Local Parks, in Recreational Parks it is the 25-44 year olds that make up 40.4% of users.

Regional Parks are the largest and by far the heaviest used parks with 467.9 users per visit, and appear to enjoy users from a wide spectrum of age groups. 25-44 year-olds are the most common user group, followed by 0-14 year-olds. Given the age range of the users, the wide range of activities available at Regional Parks, and picnicking as the most popular activity at 33.7%, it appears that family activities and other gatherings are popular in this park type.

Park type summaries and detailed data on each individual park are located in the Technical Appendix which is a separate document.



Comparisons with Previous Surveys

Community Use Parks

	1975 Users/Visit	1980 Users/Visit	1985 Users/Visit	1990 Users/Visit	1995 Users/Visit	2000 Users/ Observed	2000 Users/Visit	%Change 95-2000
Local Parks	22.8	23.2	25.4	28.4	34.8	49586	62.0	78.10%
Neighborhood Parks	-	-	9.10	9.00	8.98	3472	11.57	28.83%
Urban Parks	-	14.60	15.10	14.10	15.00	2546	14.14	-5.60%
Avg. users/visit	-	-	-	-	25.5	-	43.3	69.80%

County-Wide Parks

Recreational Parks	1985 Users/Visit	1990 Users/ Visit	1995 Users/ Visit	2000 Total Users	2000 Users/ Visit	% Change 95-2000
Martin Luther King	25	58	47	1745	87.3	85.7%
Olney Manor	178	159	138	4269	213	54.3%
Fairland	-	-	-	959	48	N/A
Damascus	-	-	-	2918	53.1	N/A
Avg. users/visit	-	-	92.5	-	124	33.7%

County-Wide Parks

Regional Parks	1975 Users/Visit	1980 Users/ Visit	1985 Users/ Visit	1990 Users/ Visit	1995 Users/ Visit	2000 Total Users	2000 Users/ Visit	% Change 95-2000
Black Hills	-	92*	260**	260	221	10019	501	126.7%
Cabin John	-	351***	328	369	312	11913	596	91.0%
Rock Creek	-	-	226	220	234	6975	349	49.1%
Wheaton	-	-	552	558	542	8367	418	-22.9%
Avg. users/visit	-	-	-	-	327.1	-	465.9	42.4%

*1987 survey

**1988 survey

***1981 survey

Urban Parks:

- Are small parks ranging from less than a tenth of an acre to slightly more than three acres.
- Provide opportunities for passive recreation and sometimes active recreation, including sitting areas, pathways, play equipment, basketball courts, or tennis courts.
- Are typically located in central business districts, highly urbanized areas, or large commercial centers.
- Serve to provide open space in developed areas, and often buffer adjacent residential areas from commercial or central business district areas.

Survey Highlights

Most popular activity: Playground use (56%)
Average # users/visit observed: 14.2
Most frequent user group: 0-9 year olds (30.9%)
Average # cars/visit observed: n/a
Most popular time of the week: Almost evenly divided between all three times - weekdays (35.4%), weekends (32.4%), and weekday evenings (32.1%)

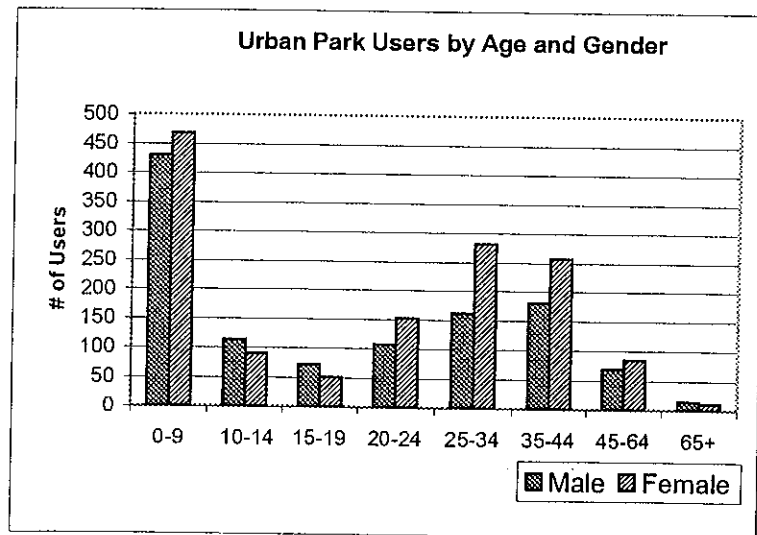
The Park Users/Demographics

Over the course of 20 survey visits, 2,546 people were observed using urban park facilities.

On average there were 14.2 users per visit, A 5.6% decrease since the 1995 Survey

The most frequently observed age group was 0-9 year olds at 30.9%; the second most frequent user group was 25 to 34 year olds at 22.1%.

Unlike the other park categories, where male users outnumber female, urban parks serve more women than men.



Like the Recreation Parks, the largest user group is young children using playground facilities. However, given the age, activity, and time of week distribution, a 'typical user' is not apparent. Urban parks can serve workers taking lunch breaks as readily as families with young children, and it would appear that those two general categories of users avail themselves of urban park facilities at various times throughout a typical week.

Comparisons with Previous Surveys

Urban Park Name	1981 Users/ Visit	1985 Users/ Visit	1990 Users/ Visit	1995 Users Surveyed	1995 Users/ Visit	Total Users 2000	2000 Users/ Visit	Percent Change 95-2000
Armory Place	-	12.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Battery Lane	-	12.0	14.1	422	21.1	225.0	11.3	-46.4%
Caroline Freeland	-	21.7	9.6	282	14.1	406.0	20.3	44.0%
Chase Avenue	2.5	4.7	0.9	51	2.6	-	-	-
Cheltenham	-	-	-	58	2.8	-	-	-
Ellsworth	-	-	22.5	323	16.2	186.0	9.3	-42.6%
Elm Street	49.2	49.1	16.5	422	21.1	575.0	28.8	36.5%
Flower Avenue	3	9.3	8.5	265	13.3	142.0	7.1	-46.6%
Germantown Square	-	-	1.0	70	3.5	12.0	0.6	-82.9%
Kemp Mill	6.8	15.8	16.6	522	26.1	382.0	19.1	-26.8%
Metro	5.6	18.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Royce Hanson	6.5	10.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Takoma	0.9	1.8	-	167	8.4	261.0	13.1	56.0%
Woodside	42.7	10.6	9.2	715	35.8	357.0	17.9	-50.0%
AVERAGE USERS PER VISIT	14.6	15.1	14.1	3,297	15.0	2,546	14.14	-5.6%

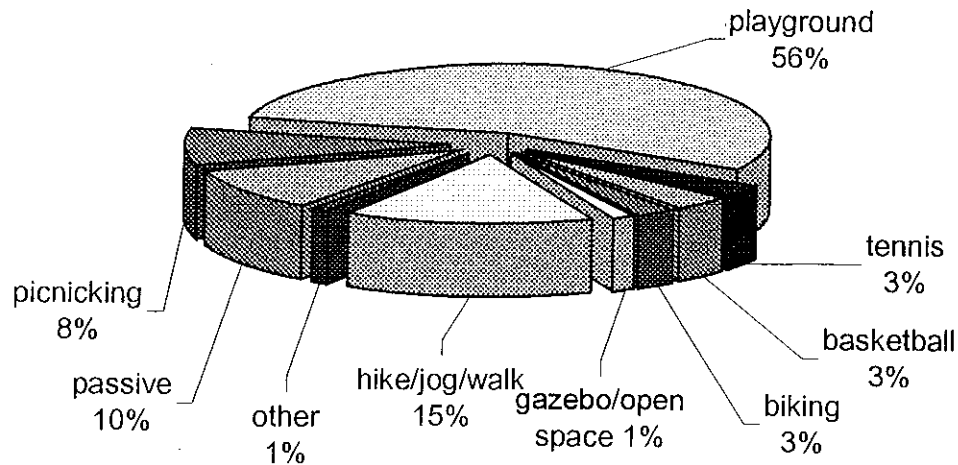
Activity Distribution and Analysis

This is the only park category in the 2000 survey to post an overall drop in activity since 1995, albeit a small one at 5.6%. As a comparison with previous surveys shows, the number of park users per survey visit for urban parks has a history of averaging between 14 and 15. In that regard, the 14.14 users per visit observed for 2000 is consistent with the last 20 years of observations and does not represent a change from the norm, however, use for individual parks has fluctuated widely. It should also be noted that very small "vest pocket" urban parks without active recreation facilities such as Germantown Square receive very minimal use.

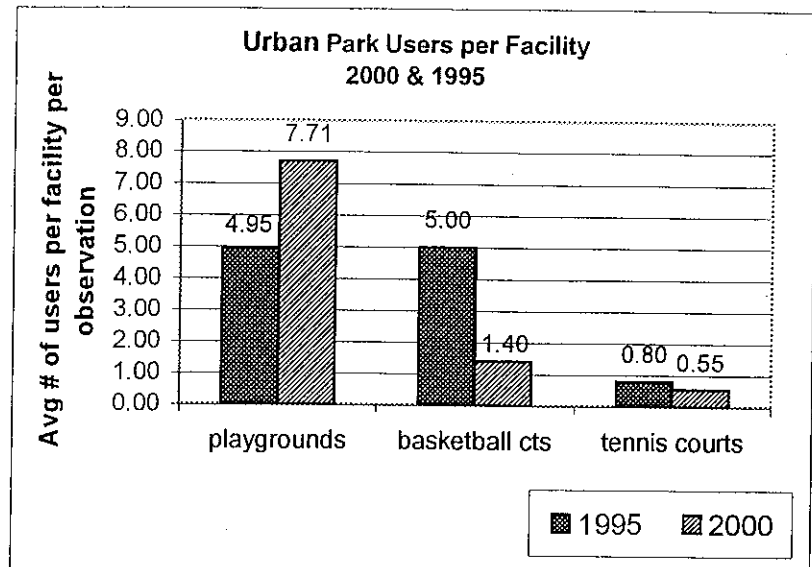
Playground use is most frequently observed in urban parks, and accounts for 56% of visitor activity. Hiking, walking, and jogging are the second most observed pastimes, with passive uses and picnicking following not far behind. This information would appear to indicate that the role of urban parks, as a way of meeting open space needs for the general population, is being fulfilled.



2000 Urban Park Usage (by type)



The most obvious change in urban park use is the increase in the number of playground users, up from 4.95 observed per visit to 7.71. There is a drop in basketball court users, falling from 5.00 users per visit in 1995 to 1.4 in 2000., but as this statistic is only based on 2.5 courts, it's significance is questionable.



License Plates Analysis

Urban parks generally do not have dedicated parking facilities, so this information is not collected as part of the survey.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood Parks:

- ... Are usually designed as walk-to parks for adjacent neighborhood residents to enjoy unprogrammed activities.
- ... Are generally under 10 acres in size.
- ... Generally contain playground equipment, basketball courts, tennis courts, a playfield (often multi-purpose), walkways, and sometimes parking and an open shelter.

Survey Highlights

Most popular activity: Playground use (40.2%)
Average # users/visit observed: 11.5
Most frequent user group: 0-9 year olds (29.8%)
Average # cars/visit observed: 1.97
Most popular time of the week: Weekday Evenings (44.2% of users observed)

The Park Users/Demographics

Almost 3,500 people were observed using neighborhood park facilities over the course of 20 survey visits.

On average there were 11.5 users per visit.

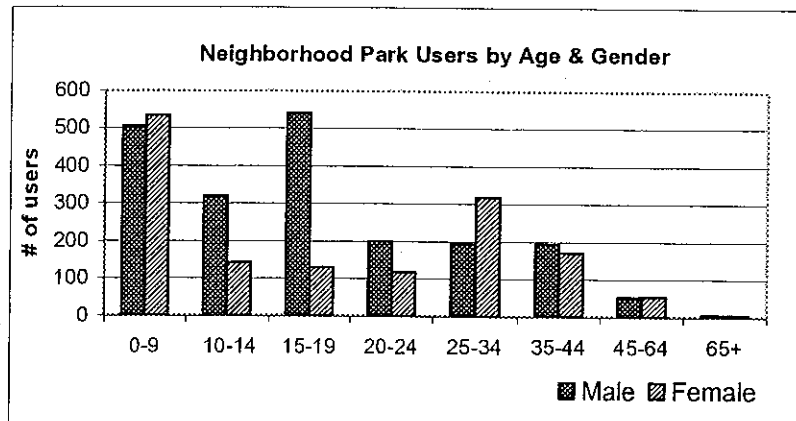
The most frequently observed age group was 0-9 year olds at 29.8%; the second most frequent user group was 15 to 19 year olds at 19.2%.

Among 15 to 19 year olds, males outnumber females at a 4:1 ratio, and in the 10-14 age group, males outnumber females over 2:1.

Use by persons over age 65 is very minimal and down considerably from the 1995 survey. In 1995 a total of 85 users in this category were observed, but in 2000 only 9 users were observed over the course of the entire survey period.

With their proximity to neighborhoods as a primary attraction, it isn't surprising to find that this park type appears to most strongly support the needs of a community's youngest users groups. Survey information reveals a profile that indicates the typical users are one or more 0-9 year old children accompanied to the park by a 25-34 year old female on weekday evenings. The second most common user is a young man in his mid- to late teens playing basketball.

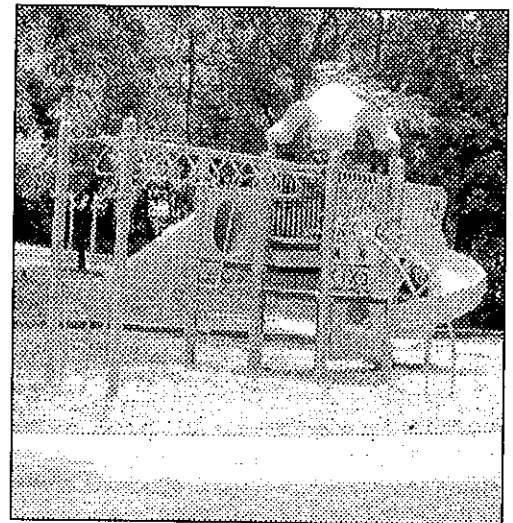
There appear to be major fluctuations of individual park usership since the last survey – use has either dropped by double digits or increased dramatically. As might be expected, parks that serve areas where population increases are occurring (the Germantown and Olney areas for example) have experienced the greatest increase in visitors.



Comparisons with Previous Surveys

Neighborhood Park Name	1985 Users/ Visit	1990 Users/ Visit	1995 Users Surveyed	1995 Users/ Visit	Total Users 2000	2000 Users/ Visit	Percent change 95-2000
Brookdale	3.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bucks Branch	7.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clarksburg*	-	-	-	-	86.0	4.3	N/A
Dale Drive	3.5	15.1	240	12.0	266.0	13.3	10.8%
Evans Parkway	7.9	-	-	-	262.0	13.1	N/A
Fox Chapel	-	3.7	183	9.2	-	-	N/A
Flower Valley	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
General Getty*	-	-	-	-	337.0	16.9	N/A
Greenwich	12.4	23.3	206	10.3	163.0	8.2	-20.4%
John Haines	-	0.8	-	-	-	-	N/A
McKenney Hills	2.9	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
Merrimac	4.9	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
New Hampshire Estates*	-	-	-	-	169.0	8.5	N/A
Norbeck-Muncaster Mill	-	1.0	-	-	-	-	-
Olney Mill	-	5.7	67	3.4	149.0	7.5	120.6%
Olney Square	4.2	3.0	68	3.4	111.0	5.6	64.7%
Peachwood	6.2	10.1	102	5.1	54.0	2.7	-47.1%
Potomac	-	12.4	199	10.0	198.0	9.9	-1.0%
Quince Orchard Valley	9.7	11.8	135	6.8	395.0	19.8	191.2%
Silver Spring Intermediate	27.2	25.1	437	21.9	266.0	13.3	-39.3%
Washington Square	5.0	4.7	295	14.8	713.0	35.7	141.2%
White Flint	4.4	8.0	78	3.9	117.0	5.9	51.3%
Williard	-	13.1	146	7.3	186.0	9.3	27.4%
Total Average Users Per Visit	9.1	9	2,156	9.0	3,472	11.57	28.8%

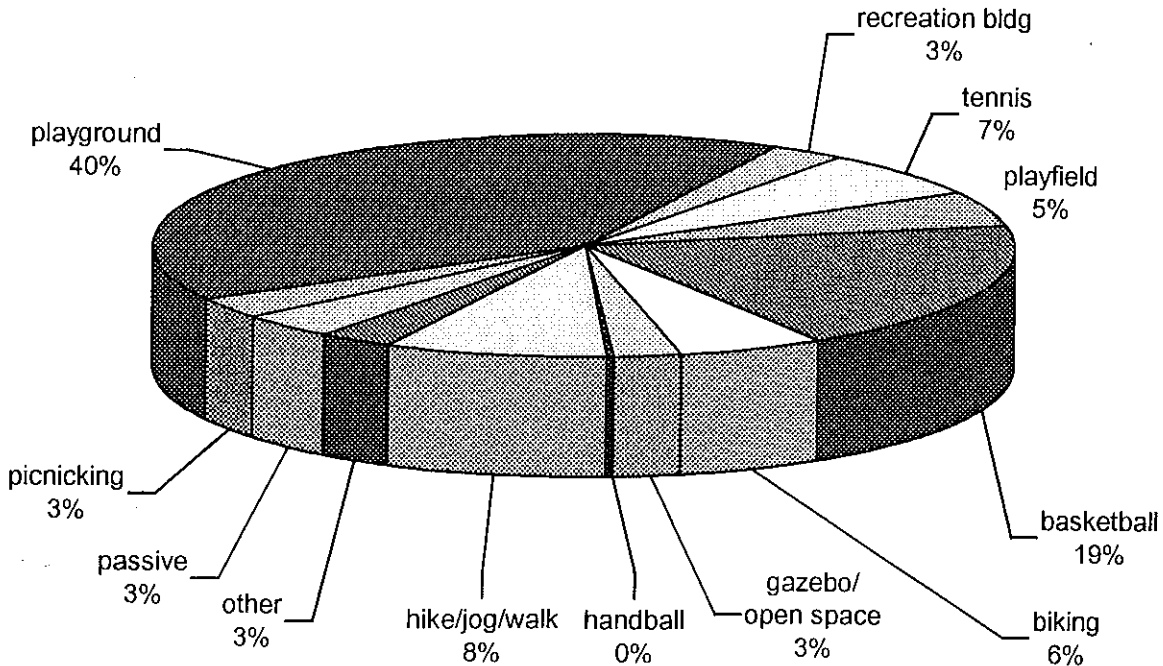
Note: No survey work in this category for 1975 and 1980. * New Park for the Survey in 2000.



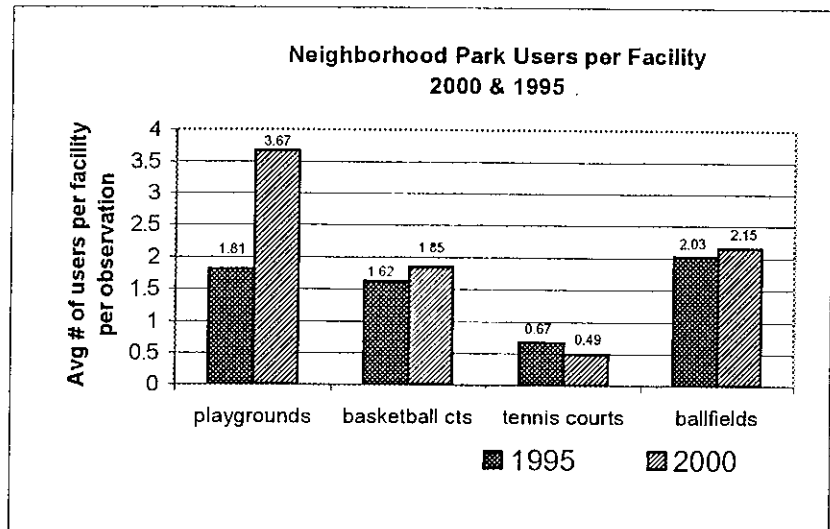
Activity Distribution and Analysis

The 2000 survey shows a 28.8% increase in overall use above the 1995 survey totals.

2000 Neighborhood Park Usage (by Type)



The active recreation facilities have seen varying degrees of increase and decrease. Playground use is the most common activity, and it has doubled: up from 1.81 users per visit in 1995 to 3.67 in 2000. Playgrounds alone account for 40% of the users at Neighborhood Parks. Basketball is the second most frequently observed activity, though it and playfield uses are up only slightly from 1995. Tennis court use has dropped somewhat since the last survey.



License Plates Analysis

The distribution of user origins, as indicated by the license tags on parked cars, is similar to the distribution for Local Parks.

93% of vehicles have Maryland license plates.

Virginia plates were noted on 2% of cars, barely edging out the District of Columbia at 3%.

Local Parks:

- ... Are designed to meet both the passive and active recreation needs of local residents.
- ... Are generally 10+ acres in size.
- ... Contain programmable recreation facilities such as ballfields and/or small recreation/community centers that can be used by residents outside the immediate local community.
- ... Parks that share recreation facilities with schools are called Park Schools.

Survey Highlights

Most popular activity: Ballfield use (65.5%)
Average # users/visit observed: 62
Most frequent user group: 0-14 year olds (43.1%)
Average # cars/visit observed: 19.9
Most popular time of the week: Weekends (49.8% of users observed)

The Park Users/Demographics

Over the course of 20 survey visits, nearly 50,000 people were observed using local park facilities.

On average there were 62 users per visit.

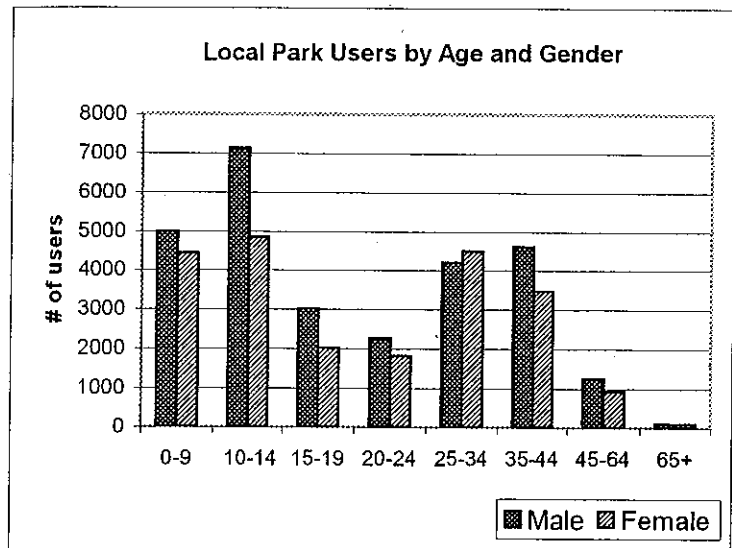
The most frequently observed age group was 0-14 year olds at 43.1%; The second and third highest users groups for both males and females are the 25-34 and the 35-44 age groups.

Male users outnumber female users by a few hundred in the totals for all age brackets except 25-34 year olds, where women slightly outnumber men.

Among 10-14 year olds, boys outnumber girls by 47%.

Of all the surveyed activities, ballfield use among children ages 10-14 had the highest number of users for both males and females. Even so, the figure for boys (4738) is almost 72% higher than that for girls (2770).

Two notable features of local parks are their proximity to neighborhoods and the ability to reserve ballfields for team play. The popularity of organized sports among elementary and middle school students, combined with convenience for parents wishing to take their kids to a nearby playground, may explain in part why the youngest demographic group reports the highest number of users and 25-44 year olds are the second most frequently observed users.



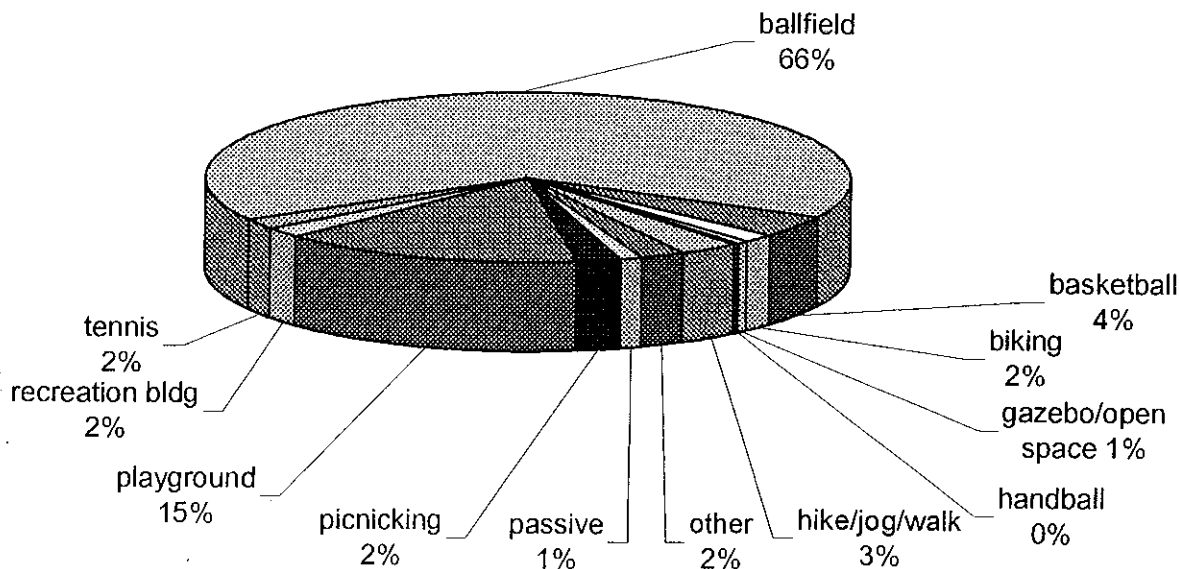
Comparisons with Previous Surveys

Local Park Name	1975 Users/ Visit	1980 Users/ Visit	1985 Users/ Visit	1990 Users/ Visit	1995 Users/ Visit	2000 Users Observed	2000 Users/ Visit	Percent change 95-2000
Argyle			15	-	-	-	-	-
Ayrlawn	35	26	-	-	-	-	-	-
Avenel	-	-	-	-	-	1578	78.9	N/A
Blueberry Hill	-	6	5	29	28	1547	72.9	160.4%
Bowie Mill	-	-	-	-	-	1688	84.4	N/A
Burming Tree	-	-	-	-	-	781	39.1	N/A
Calverton Fairland	-	-	25	33	30	-	-	N/A
Cannon Road	50	14	14	12	18	249	12.5	-30.6%
Capital View Homewood	-	34	50	40	51	854	42.7	-16.3%
Clarksburg	16	6	12	19	-	-	-	N/A
Clearspring	-	-	-	21	37	1780	89.0	140.5%
Columbia	-	20	30	31	52	1751	87.6	68.5%
Darnestown	-	-	-	-	-	1370	68.5	N/A
Dufief	-	6	18	34	25	1176	58.8	135.2%
Emory Grove	-	-	-	27	29	-	-	N/A
East Norbeck	-	-	-	-	-	1450	72.5	N/A
Falls Road	-	-	-	-	-	3819	191.0	N/A
Glen Hills	17	10	14	11	11	410	20.5	86.4%
Glenmont	-	26	24	21	23	-	-	N/A
Good Hope	-	19	53	43	44	1484	74.2	68.6%
Greenwood	-	3	8	16	30	1709	85.5	185.0%
Gunner's Branch	-	6	9	15	14	1349	67.5	382.1%
Hillandale	-	-	26	37	26	911	45.6	75.4%
Jesup Blair	-	-	-	-	115	635	31.8	-72.3%
Kings	-	-	-	-	18	1041	52.1	189.4%
Layhill Village	-	10	26	18	23	931	46.6	102.6%
Leamon	-	-	-	-	-	1596	79.8	N/A
Long Branch	-	38	11	24	-	878	43.9	N/A
Longwood	-	14	11	23	26	1996	99.8	283.8%
Maplewood-Alta Vista	34	38	33	65	29	891	44.6	53.8%
Mill Creek Town	-	-	-	-	-	788	39.4	N/A
Moyer Road	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	N/A
Nolte	-	-	-	-	52	1093	54.7	5.2%
Norwood	-	36	45	74	52	2391	120.0	130.8%
Pilgrim Hill	27	24	29	21	31	516	25.8	-16.8%
Rosemary Hills	25	68	55	77	39	-	-	N/A
Sligo-Dennis Avenue	-	52	65	49	80	1084	54.2	-32.3%
SE Olney	-	-	-	-	-	1773	88.7	N/A
Stewartown	-	-	14	17	26	884	44.2	70.0%
Strawberry Knolls	-	-	-	8	29	1073	53.7	85.2%
Sundown Road	-	11	2	19	28	1653	82.7	195.4%
Takoma-Piney Branch	18	34	20	22	41	1082	54.1	32.0%
Tilden Woods	22	34	27	17	22	517	25.9	17.7%
Viers Mill	-	-	-	-	-	1014	50.7	N/A
Waters Landing	-	-	-	-	35	1141	57.1	63.1%
West Fairland	-	-	-	-	-	669	33.5	N/A
Wheaton Woods	-	-	29	-	-	935	46.8	N/A
Woodacres	29	41	23	24	29	1099	55.0	89.7%
Average Users Per Visit	22.8	23.2	25.4	28.4	34.8	49586	62.0	78.1%

Activity Distribution and Analysis

As it has for most of the last 25 years, the Local Park category continues to experience an increase in usership. Ballfields and playgrounds show great increases over the 1995 Park User Survey figures, while basketball and tennis court use have decreased. Ballfield use, including players and spectators, accounts for 65.5% of users at local parks. Playgrounds are the next highest use at 15%.

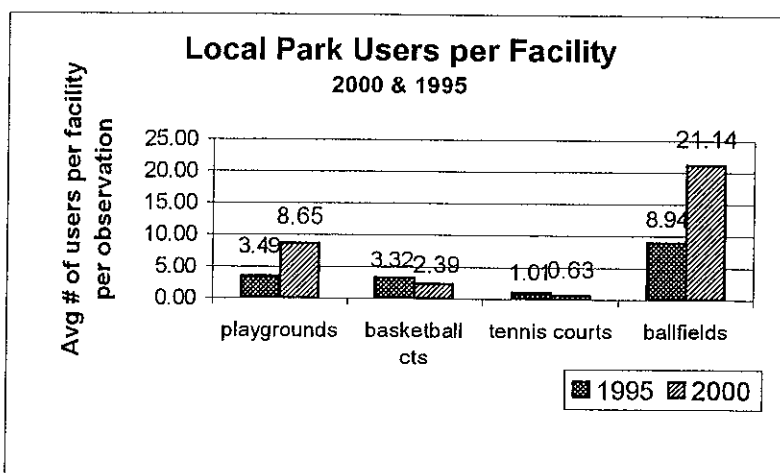
2000 Local Park Usage (by type)



The survey was conducted during the spring when fields experience a high degree of use, and because local parks have ballfields that can be reserved for team play, they show a great rise in usership over the 1995 information. The dramatic increase in ballfield use (as well as overall use in the Local Park category) reported in the 2000 survey can be attributed in part to the timing of the survey, which

improved documentation of field use by teams. In previous years the park survey took place too late in the season to capture team use of reserved fields. Having remedied that situation for the 2000 survey, when comparing the number of users per facility ballfield use alone shows an increase of over 230% between 1995 and 2000.

Playgrounds in Local Parks have more than doubled in popularity since the 1995 survey. The decrease in popularity among basketball and tennis courts can sometimes be attributed to the condition of the facilities, such as basketball courts that might have missing or damaged hoops, or tennis courts with cracking surface or lacking nets.



Special Ballfield Analysis

A special analysis of ballfield use at local parks was conducted to determine the amount of use, type of sport, user group, peak use times, and percent of observed use when a field has been reserved.

The most significant findings were as follows:

- *Field use efficiency has greatly increased. There were persons playing on a field over 80% of the reserved time.*
- *Baseball accounted for 33.9% of use, softball 16.8% and soccer 27.5%.*
- *Saturday was the peak use day with 1/3 of total usage. Wednesday and Thursday evenings had 15% and 14.7% respectively, and Sunday 14% of total use. Weekdays before 5pm received only 7.3% of use.*
- *Sports Associations accounted for over half of the field use and Recreation Department teams approximately one fourth of use.*
- *Fields reserved for recreation building users and the community on weekend afternoons were used approximately 40% of the time.*

There has been a very large decrease in "no shows" (no one playing on the field when it has been reserved). In the 2000 survey it was less than 20% whereas in previous surveys it has been 50% or greater. This may be partially due to the fact that the earlier survey dates in 2000 more accurately captured "peak use", however new park permit procedures have done a great deal to increase field use efficiency. These include: 1) limiting leagues to fields actually used the previous year; 2) keeping dates held for rain re-plays to a minimum, and 3) requiring team rosters and last years schedules to be submitted with permit requests.

License Plates Analysis

The distribution of user origins, as indicated by the license tags on parked cars, is roughly the same as it was in 1995.

90% of vehicles have Maryland license plates.

Virginia plates were noted on 3.9% of cars, barely edging out the District of Columbia at 3.8%.

The average number of cars observed per visit was 19.9.

Recreational Parks:

- ... Are over 50 acres in size
- ... Are more intensively developed than Regional Parks
- ... May have natural areas in addition to the customary active recreation facilities
- ... Have ballfields that can be reserved for team play
- ... Often include multi-use fields and courts, playground and picnic facilities, tennis courts, trails, natural areas.
- ... Each experience unique use and demographic characteristics.

Note: Prior to the 2000 Park User Survey only two parks in this category were surveyed, and limited information is available from the previous surveys.

Survey Highlights

Most popular activity: Ballfield use (51%)
Average # users/visit observed: 123
Most frequent user group: 35-44 year olds (23.9%)
Average # cars/visit observed: 53.5
Most popular time of the week: Weekends (43.9% of users observed)

The Park Users/Demographics

Over the course of 20 survey visits, 9891 people were observed using Recreational Park facilities.

On average there were 123 users per visit.

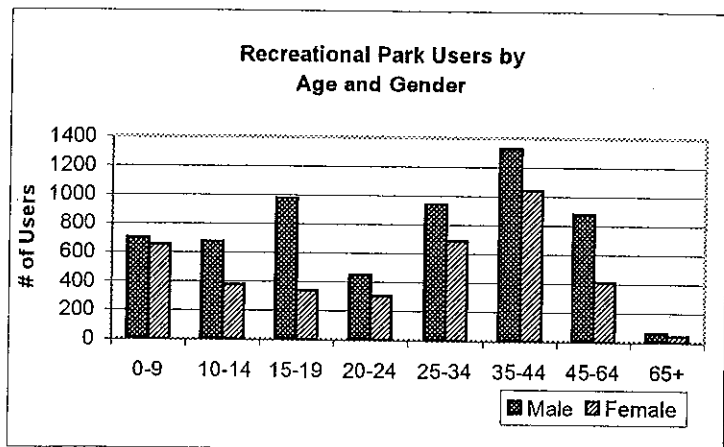
The most popular time of the week is weekends (43.9%), followed closely by weekday evenings (39.7%).

The most frequently observed age group was 35-44 year olds at 23.9%; the second most frequent user group was 25-34 year olds at 16.4%.

Use by females decreases steadily from age 0-9 until age 25, when it suddenly increases and peaks through age 44.

Use by males was greater in every age group.

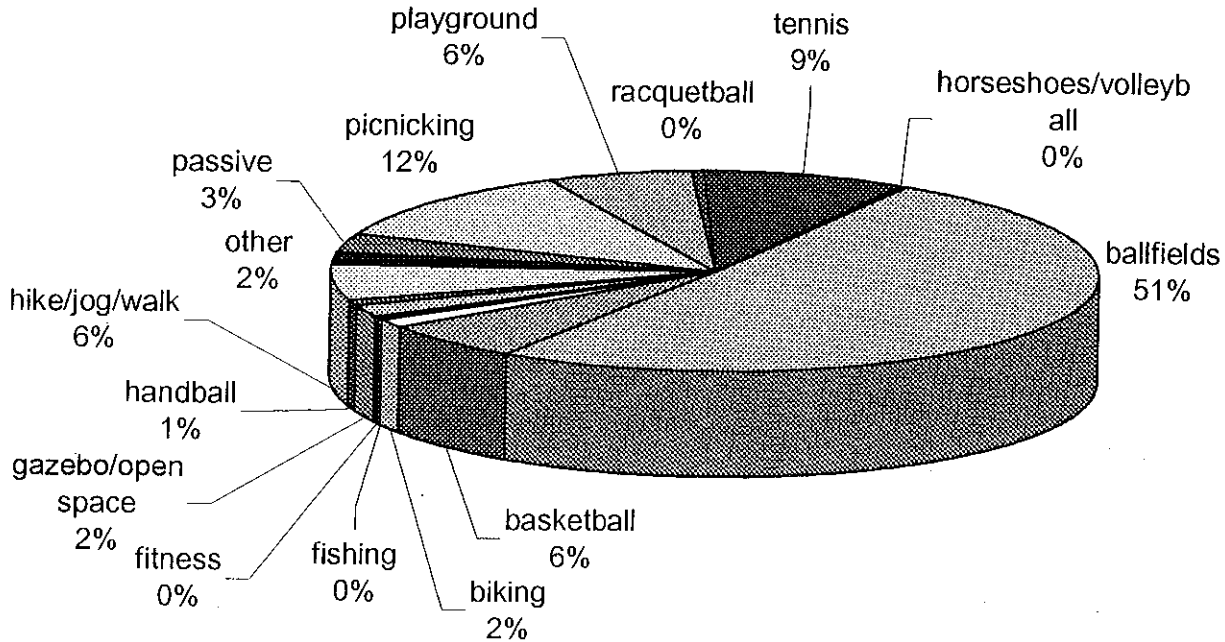
An important aspect of Recreational Parks to keep in mind when reviewing this information is that facilities and user demographics vary widely from park to park. While the compiled



statistics for Recreational Parks shows interesting trends, better information is obtained by looking at the information collected on the individual park facilities.

Activity Distribution and Analysis

2000 Recreational Parks Usage (by type)

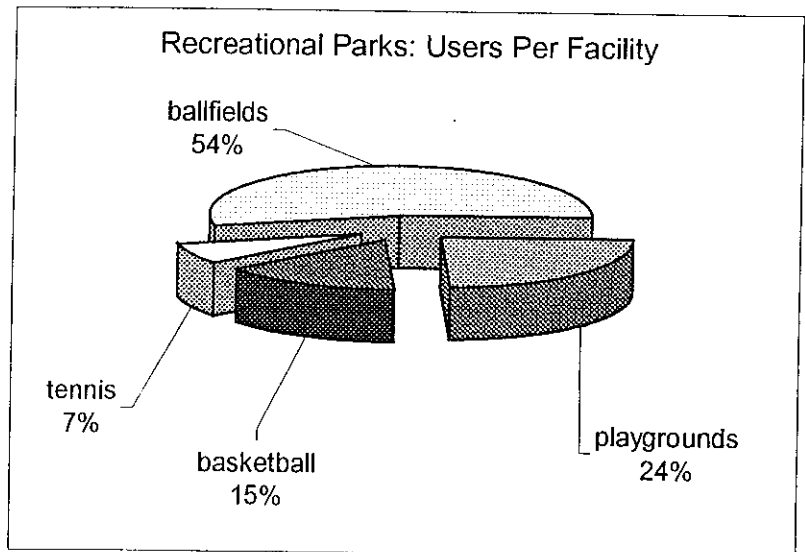


Like Local Parks, ballfield use accounts for the majority of users. But unlike Local Parks, for Recreational Parks those users are in the 25-44 age group.

In the 0-9 age group most users are engaged in playground, picnic, or watching ballfield activities. However, ballfield use by males increases at age 10, and remains high until age 44.

Among females the highest user rates occur most frequently as ballfield spectators. In fact, the activity with the highest number of male and female participants is as ballfield spectators - a total of 836 users over the survey period.

Depending on the age group, females are anywhere from two to almost 10 times more likely to be ballfield spectators rather than players.



Comparisons with Previous Surveys

Recreational Park Name	1985 Users/ Visit	1990 Users/ Visit	1995 Users Surveyed	1995 Users/ Visit	Total Users 2000	2000 Users/ Visit	Percent Change 95-2000
Martin Luther King	25	58	940	47	1745	87.3	85.7%
Olney Manor	178	159	2760	138	4269	213	54.3%
Fairland					959	48	N/A
Damascus					2918	53.1	N/A
AVERAGE USERS PER VISIT			3700	92.5	9891	123.6	33.7%

Note: No survey work in this category for 1975 and 1980 at Damascus and Fairland.

Because of the distinct differences between uses at the four parks surveyed, this section will discuss each park individually. The appendix includes more detailed information on type of use at each park.

Use at *Martin Luther King Recreational Park* increased significantly in 2000. Activity at Martin Luther King Park tends to be more evenly distributed between facilities than at the other parks in this category. It is interesting that ballfield use itself accounts for 10.4% of park users, while ballfield spectators are the largest single user group at 18.2%, resulting in almost twice as many spectators as users. Basketball court use is the second most popular activity at 17%, of which males account for eleven times more of the participants than do females. Playground, hiking/jogging/walking, and open space/gazebo activities each account for 11-12% of the Park's users.

At *Olney Manor Recreational Park*, use has increased by over 50% since the 1995 survey. Some of this increase may be due in part to timing the 2000 survey to better capture ballfield use, which accounts for 55% of the park's activity. Olney Manor has 18 tennis courts, the largest tennis complex in Montgomery County Parks, and tennis is the second most popular pastime at 14.8% of the overall users. All other park activities each account for less than 5% of the total activity for the park.

At *Damascus Recreational Park*, where ballfields are the primary recreation facility, an overwhelming number (73.9%) of users are engaged in some form of ballfield use. Like Olney Manor Park, ballfield spectators also outnumber users, though not by as wide of a margin (43.8% and 30.1% respectively). Picnicking, at 10.6%, is the next most popular pastime. All other activities combined make up 15.4% of the park's usage. The 2000 Park Survey marks the first time this park has been surveyed.

Fairland Recreational Park has recently been completed and two of the fields were not open during the survey period. It experiences distinctly different use rates than the other recreational parks in that 51.9% of users are picnickers. The second most popular activity is tennis, which accounts for 11% of park activity. Playground use, hiking/jogging/walking and basketball each account for 9.5% - 8.5% of users surveyed. Like Damascus Park, this park had not been surveyed prior to 2000.

License Plates Analysis

Of the 4,282 vehicles observed, 91.7% had Maryland license plates.

Virginia plates were noted on 4.4% of the cars.

The District of Columbia accounted for 1.3% of the tags observed.

Other license plates comprised 2.4% of the total. The average number of cars observed per visit was 53.5.



Regional Parks:

- ... Serve county-wide needs for active recreation and conservation.
- ... Are generally 200+ acres in size.
- ... Are required to have a minimum 2/3 ratio of conservation to active recreation area
- ... Place more emphasis on conservation than Recreational Parks and generally include a nature center
- ... Provide a large range of active and passive recreational opportunities, such as picnicking, playground, fishing, hiking, and camping. Two of the parks include athletic complexes with lighted fields.
- ... Each have a unique combination of features and facilities.
- ... In the more developed lower county area contain significant active recreation areas

Survey Highlights

Most popular activity: picnicking (33.7%)
Average # users/visit observed: 467.9
Most frequent user group: 35-44 year olds (20.6%)
Average # cars/visit observed: 187.4
Most popular time of the week: weekends (52.2% of users observed)

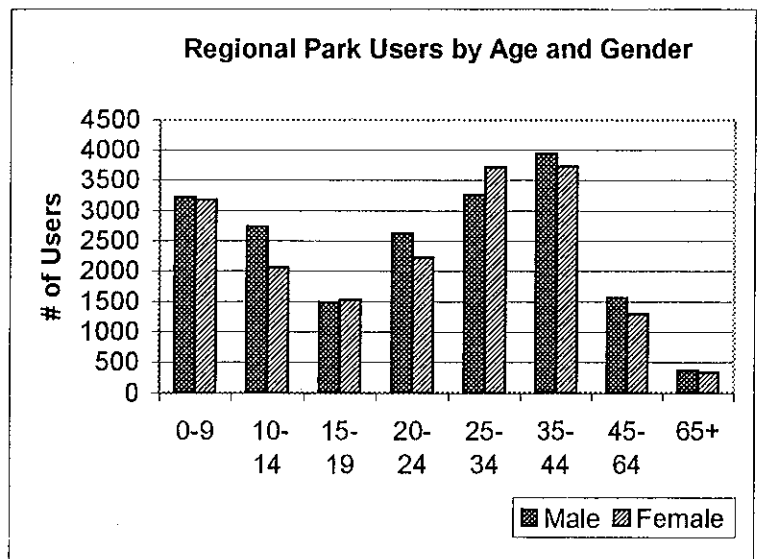
The Park Users/Demographics

Over the course of 20 survey visits at each of the four parks, nearly 14,992 people were observed using the surveyed park facilities.

On average there were 467.9 users per visit.

The most frequently observed age group was 35-44 year olds at 20.6%; the second most frequent user group was 25-34 year olds at 18.8%.

Unlike some park categories, Regional Parks overall tend to more evenly attract both male and female users.

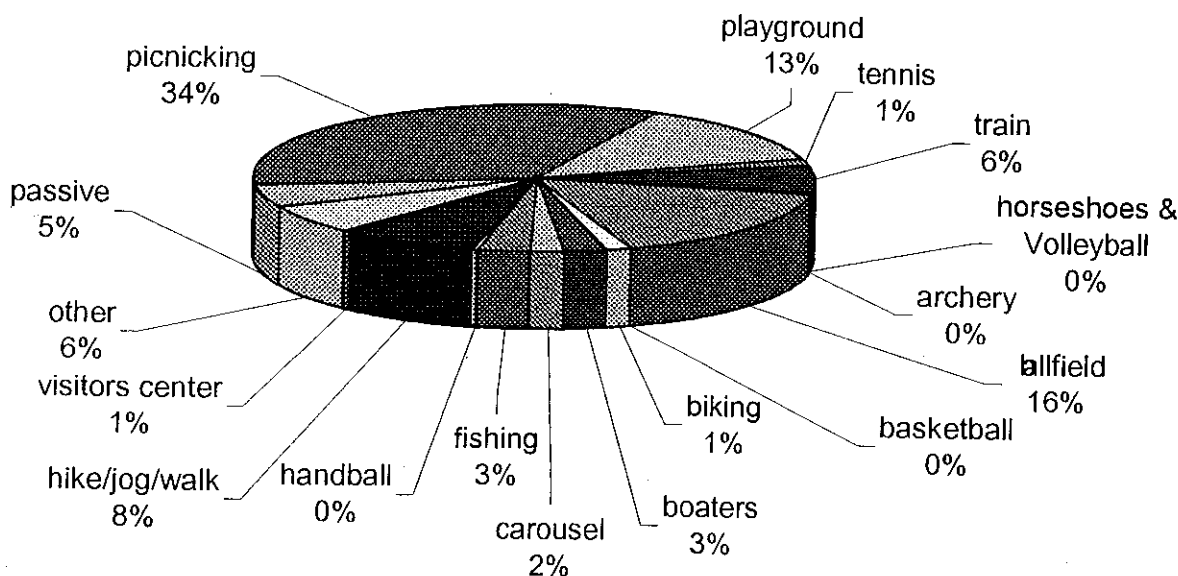


Considering playground use (33.7%) and picnicking (13.7%) are the most frequently observed uses at Regional Parks, the information on park users appears to indicate that family groups, and perhaps private parties, are the most frequent users of this park type.

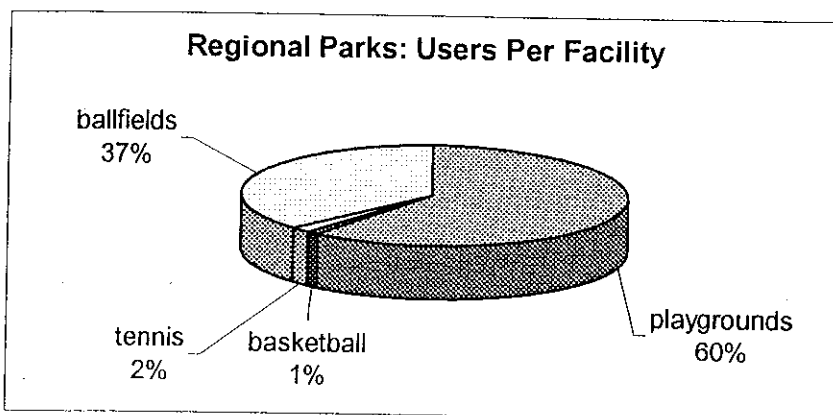
Activity Distribution and Analysis

Along with the distinctive amenities of each regional park, the abundant open space they provide carries significant benefits for park users, wildlife, and air quality in general. The opportunity to be outside and enjoy the natural beauty of the county, be it at a picnic or hiking through the woods, is one that should not be overlooked. This trend is evident in the charts below, which shows picnicking to be the most frequently observed activity at regional parks. Some uses, such as passive recreation and hiking/jogging/walking activities, are significant aspects of regional parks, but are difficult to accurately quantify in a survey. As a result, they may be somewhat underrepresented in survey results.

Regional Parks by Activity



It is important to bear in mind that each regional park is a unique entity that reflects and complements both its natural and man-made surroundings. For example, Wheaton Regional Park, in the more urban down-county area, contains a large carousel that attracts many young visitors. Though not reported in this survey, Cabin John Regional Park hosts an ice rink. Rock Creek Regional Park provides large multi-use tracts of land and serves as the major access point to a significant, linear hiker/biker link through a large portion of Montgomery County, which connects to similarly significant parkland in the District of Columbia. Black Hill Regional Park contains, a large lake with water oriented recreation activities and very few active recreation facilities, but saw the second largest overall user increase of all the parks surveyed.



Comparisons with Previous Surveys

Regional Park Name	1981 Users/ Visit	1985 Users/ Visit	1990 Users/ Visit	1995 Users/ Visit	2000 Total Users	2000 Users/ Visit	Percent Change 95-2000
Black Hill		92*	260	221	10019	501.0	127%
Cabin John	351	328	369	312	11913	595.7	91%
Rock Creek		226	220	234	6975	348.8	49%
Wheaton	471	552	558	542	8367	418.4	-22%
AVERAGE USERS PER VISIT			351	327		466	42%

* Black Hill was surveyed in 1987

At *Black Hill Regional Park* the 2000 survey shows that visitors to the park have increased by a remarkable 127%. Some of this increase may be attributable to the timing of the surveys; the 1995 count took place during the mid and late summer when visits to this park are not at their highest. One of the major attractions at this park is the lake, and uses directly related to the lake originally accounted for almost half of the park's activity. Though the raw counts for fishing and boating at Black Hill have been decreasing somewhat over the years, they have been eclipsed by other activities such as picnicking, the most popular activity at 38.4% of users, as facilities have become available. Uses classified as 'other' are the second most frequently observed at 15.6%. Hiking/jogging/walking is the second most popular activity (14.3%). Unlike the other regional parks, playground use makes up only about 10% of users, because the playground is smaller.

Facilities at *Cabin John Regional Park* cover a wide range of activities. Along with many ballfields and other active recreation opportunities, the park has significant natural areas and serves as a major feature of the adjoining Cabin John trail. Overall use at this park shows a 91% increase since the 1995 survey. Ballfields are the activity reporting the highest use at 38.9%. This is up dramatically from the 1995 figure of 17.5% of users being engaged in some form of ballfield related activity. However, some of this increase is due to the addition of the Bethesda "Big Train" College League games. Reports of decreasing picnic use in previous surveys stand in contrast to the 2000 survey, which shows picnicking up from 10.4% to 21.4%, making it the second most popular activity at the park. Playground use is the third most popular activity, garnering 17.1% of users.

Activities at *Rock Creek Regional Park* tend to focus on the natural amenities of the park, which include large open and treed areas conducive to picnicking and other activities. Primary features of this park include the Rock Creek Hiker/Biker Trail, for which the park serves as the trailhead, and its lakes, which provide a strong attraction for residents. Overall, activity at this park is up 49% since the 1995 survey. This appears to be attributable to the increase in picnic activities, which has risen from 36.4% to 50.7% between 1995 and 2000. In comparison, other popular activities have remained fairly stable in terms of the number of visitors, but because of the increase in picnicking the percentage of overall use they encounter has declined statistically. Passive uses are the second most popular activity, followed by hiking/jogging/walking; in the 1995 survey those two activities were in opposite position as the third most popular and second most popular respectively. Weekends continue to be the most popular time of the week.

Of all the parks, *Wheaton Regional Park* is located in the most densely populated area. It includes the broadest range of activities of any park in the county, from ballfields and train rides to hiking trails and a carousel. Though not counted as part of this survey, the park is also home to Brookside Gardens, a nature center, and horse stables. Of regional parks surveyed, this is the only one to have encountered an overall decrease in use since the 1995 survey, down 22%

overall. This may be a result of the opening of Fairland Regional Park and the fact that some of the surveys were conducted when the miniature train and carousel were not in operation. Picnicking remains the most popular activity at this park, up somewhat from 26.1% to 31.5% of users. Playground use is still the second most observed activity, up somewhat from 17.6% to 19.4%. Ballfield use now is the third most popular activity, 16.7% up from 11.8%, and the train is now fourth, comprising 14.8% of user activities. This park differs from the other regional parks in that the age distribution among most user groups is not as even: 34.7% of users are age 9 and under, while 24.9% of users are age 35-44. Interestingly, there has been a drop in vehicles from non-residents, down by more than a third of what they were in the 1995 survey (from 1,001 to 659). Maryland vehicles, on the other hand, have increased from a count of 3,141 to 4,148.

License Plates Analysis

Of the vehicles noted in the park category 82% had Maryland license plates.

8% of the cars had Virginia plates

District of Columbia tags accounted for 5.3% of those observed.

Other cars made up 4.6% of the total.

The average number of cars observed per visit was 467.9.



County Fair Survey

A written park survey was conducted in August 2000 at the Montgomery County Fair Park and Planning Booth. It supplemented the year 2000 park user survey which focused on active recreation use, by providing some information on passive recreation and trails. While compared to the 1997 telephone survey conducted by the University of Maryland, this survey is not statistically reliable, however, it provided useful information on parks and recreational preferences from County residents that attended the Fair. Highlights of the County Fair Survey are as follows:

- *Persons visiting the Commission's County Fair Booth used parks more often than those surveyed by phone in 1997.*
- *Primary reasons to visit parks were to enjoy and observe nature (40.7%), picnic (21.4%), and walk or jog on trails or nature paths (17.2%)*
- *Most needed additional facilities requested were natural conservation areas (33.9%), use of natural surface and paved trails (23.1%) Nature centers (8.3%), Historic areas (5.7%) and playgrounds (5.3%).*
- *Opinions were similar to previous surveys that the parks generally met the needs of the respondents' household, are safe to use during the day, and are well maintained. However, an increasing number (15%) felt that they were overcrowded.*

HELP US PLAN YOUR PARK SYSTEM

YEAR 2000 - PARK USER SURVEY

Please take a minute to answer the questions below. We will use this information to plan and improve The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's parks in Montgomery County.

1. In the last year how many times did you visit a Montgomery County Parks?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a. 3.6% not at all | d. 14.6% once a week |
| b. 38.0% once a month or less | e. 11.7% several times a week |
| c. 26.3% 2 or 3 times a month | f. 5.7% daily |

2. Approximately how far do you usually travel to visit a County Park?

- a. 24.9% less than a mile b. 39.8% 1 to 4 miles c. 25.1% 5 to 10 miles d. 9.6% over 10 miles

3. What is the **primary** reason you most often visit Montgomery County Parks?

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. 21.1 % picnic | 9. - play tennis |
| 2. 41.1 % enjoy/observe nature | 10. 0.2% rollerblade /skateboard |
| 3. 5.4 % play or watch softball, soccer, baseball, etc. | 11. 2.4% use playground |
| 4. 17.3 % walk or jog on trails or nature paths | 12. 0.4% ice skating |
| 5. 3.93% bicycle on trails | 13. -- golf |
| 6. 0.4 % play basketball | 14. 0.4% fishing / boating |
| 7. 3.4 % visit nature center | 15. 1.5% other <u>(list)</u> |
| 8. 1.9 % walk dog | |

4. What do you think Montgomery County needs more of?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <u>36.7%</u> more natural conservation areas | <u>4.5%</u> more picnic areas |
| <u>3.3%</u> more softball/baseball fields | <u>9.2%</u> more nature centers |
| 1.4% more soccer/football fields | <u>0.3%</u> more basketball courts |
| <u>5.9%</u> more playgrounds | <u>17.9%</u> more natural surface trails |
| <u>6.1%</u> more historic areas | <u>7.3%</u> more hard surface trails |
| <u>2.8%</u> more tennis courts | <u>4.6%</u> other |

5. Please check the box below that most closely describes how you fee about the statements.

STATEMENTS	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	UNCERTAIN
Public Park facilities in Montgomery County fulfill the recreation needs of my household.	31.9%	60.0%	3.0%	0.2%	4.9%
Montgomery County Parks are safe during the day.	38.6%	54.2%	0.9%	—	6.4%
Public parks are well maintained.	37.9%	54.0%	3.0%	—	5.1%
Montgomery County parks are not overcrowded.	20.0%	54.99%	13.09%	2.1%	10.4%

6. What is your zip code? _____ Please check your age group: **under 15** 4.3% **15-24** 1.9% **25-34** 10.8%

35-44 34.1% **45-64** 38.0% **over 65** 10.8%

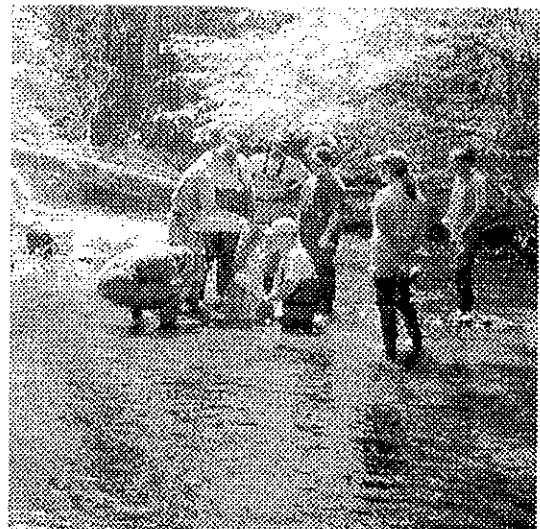
7. Name of park most frequently visited: Black Hill 13.8%, Cabin John Reg. 7.8%, Brookside Gardens 7.4%, Rock Creek Reg. 8.5%, Wheaton Reg. 11.4%, None 13.6%

Recommendations

The following recommendations are suggested from the results of the 2000 Park User Survey counts in Urban, Neighborhood, Local, Recreational and Regional Parks.

- *Based on the large percentage of ballfield users at parks, the ballfield initiatives program to create new game fields is essential and should be continued.*
- *The significant increase in playground usage emphasizes the need for playground renovation and supports the new initiative to obtain grant funding for this purpose.*
- *It is important to focus public private initiatives on obtaining ballfields and playground construction by developers as part of the subdivision process.*
- *Easily accessible paved walking paths, sitting areas, etc should be provided to encourage park use by persons over 65*
- *Construction of new tennis courts should be discouraged except in areas with PROS Plan estimated needs. It is important to keep existing courts in better repair.*
- *When planning for central business district parks, consideration should be given to providing parks on the periphery of urban areas with facilities to serve adjacent neighborhoods as well as the business community as these receive greater use. Mini "vest-pocket" urban parks with limited facilities receive almost no use.*
- *It is important to continue to balance needs for active recreation facilities with preservation of natural areas and the provision of passive recreation facilities.*
- *The number of both hard and natural surface trails should be increased to provide access to natural areas and passive recreation opportunities..*
- *Surveys of hard surface and natural surface trails should be conducted to assess park trail use.*
- *In the year 2005, when this user survey is updated, user counts should begin again in April to develop trend information for the peak use period. In future surveys, there should be efforts to document other types of uses at parks such as skateboarding, roller hockey, passive recreation and trails.*
- *The public opinion telephone survey should also be repeated in the year 2005 to provide statistically reliable information on park and recreation preferences of Montgomery County residents.*

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APPENDIX A - YEAR 2000 SURVEY COMPARISONS WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS

9/14/01

CHARTS FOR YEAR 2000 PARK USER SURVEY

APPENDIX A

Year 2000 Local Park Survey - Comparisons with Previous Surveys

Local Park Name	1975 Users/ Visit	1980 Users/ Visit	1985 Users/ Visit	1990 Users/ Visit	1995 Users/ Visit	2000 Users Surveyed	2000 Users/ Visit	Percent change 95-2000
Argyle			15					
Ayrlawn	35	26						
Avenel						1578	78.9	N/A
Blueberry Hill		6	5	29	28	1547	72.9	160.4%
Bowie Mill						1688	84.4	N/A
Burning Tree						781	39.1	N/A
Calverton Fairland			25	33	30			N/A
Cannon Road	50	14	14	12	18	249	12.5	-30.6%
Capital View Homewood		34	50	40	51	854	42.7	-16.3%
Clarksburg	16	6	12	19				N/A
Clearspring				21	37	1780	89	140.5%
Columbia		20	30	31	52	1751	87.6	68.5%
Darnestown						1370	68.5	N/A
Dufief		6	18	34	25	1176	58.8	135.2%
Emory Grove				27	29			N/A
East Norbeck						1450	72.5	N/A
Falls Road						3819	191	N/A
Glen Hills	17	10	14	11	11	410	20.5	86.4%
Glenmont		26	24	21	23			N/A
Good Hope		19	53	43	44	1484	74.2	68.6%
Greenwood		3	8	16	30	1709	85.5	185.0%
Gunner's Branch		6	9	15	14	1349	67.5	382.1%
Hillandale			26	37	26	911	45.6	75.4%
Jesup Blair					115	635	31.8	-72.3%
Kings					18	1041	52.1	189.4%
Layhill Village		10	26	18	23	931	46.6	102.6%
Leamon						1596	79.8	N/A
Long Branch		38	11	24		878	43.9	N/A
Longwood		14	11	23	26	1996	99.8	283.8%
Maplewood-Alta Vista	34	38	33	65	29	891	44.6	53.8%
Mill Creek Town						788	39.4	N/A
Moyer Road				8				N/A
Nolte					52	1093	54.7	5.2%
Norwood		36	45	74	52	2391	120	130.8%
Pilgrim Hill	27	24	29	21	31	516	25.8	-16.8%
Rosemary Hills	25	68	55	77	39			N/A
Sligo-Dennis Avenue		52	65	49	80	1084	54.2	-32.3%
SE Olney						1773	88.7	N/A
Stewartown			14	17	26	884	44.2	70.0%
Strawberry Knolls				8	29	1073	53.7	85.2%
Sundown Road		11	2	19	28	1653	82.7	195.4%
Takoma-Piney Branch	18	34	20	22	41	1082	54.1	32.0%
Tilden Woods	22	34	27	17	22	517	25.9	17.7%
Viers Mill						1014	50.7	N/A
Waters Landing					35	1141	57.1	63.1%
West Fairland						669	33.5	N/A
Wheaton Woods			29			935	46.8	N/A
Woodacres	29	41	23	24	29	1099	55	89.7%
AVERAGE USERS/ VISIT	22.8	23.2	25.4	28.4	34.85	49586	62.0	77.9%

Year 2000 Neighborhood Park Survey - Comparisons with Previous Surveys

Neighborhood Park Name	1975 Users/ Visit	1980 Users/ Visit	1985 Users/ Visit	1990 Users/ Visit	1995 Users Surveyed	1995 Users/ Visit	Total Users 2000	2000 Users/ Visit	Percent change 95-2000
Brookdale			3.7						
Bucks Branch			7.4						
Clarksburg							86.0	4.3	N/A
Dale Drive			3.5	15.1	240	12.0	266.0	13.3	10.8%
Evans Parkway			7.9				262.0	13.1	N/A
Fox Chapel				3.7	183	9.2			N/A
Flower Valley			2.5						N/A
General Getty							337.0	16.9	N/A
Greenwich			12.4	23.3	206	10.3	163.0	8.2	-20.4%
John Haines				0.8					N/A
McKenney Hills			2.9						N/A
Merrimac			4.9						N/A
New Hampshire Estates							169.0	8.5	N/A
Norbeck-Muncaster Mill				1.0					N/A
Olney Mill				5.7	67	3.4	149.0	7.5	120.6%
Olney Square			4.2	3.0	68	3.4	111.0	5.6	64.7%
Peachwood			6.2	10.1	102	5.1	54.0	2.7	-47.1%
Potomac				12.4	199	10.0	198.0	9.9	-1.0%
Quince Orchard Valley			9.7	11.8	135	6.8	395.0	19.8	191.2%
Silver Spring Intermediate			27.2	25.1	437	21.9	266.0	13.3	-39.3%
Washington Square			5.0	4.7	295	14.8	713.0	35.7	141.2%
White Flint			4.4	8.0	78	3.9	117.0	5.9	51.3%
Williard				13.1	146	7.3	186.0	9.3	27.4%
AVERAGE USERS PER VISIT			9.1	9	2,156	9.0	3,472	11.57	28.8%

BOLD = new in survey for 2000

Year 2000 Urban Park Survey - Comparisons with Previous Surveys

Urban Park Name	1975 Users/ Visit	1981 Users/ Visit	1985 Users/ Visit	1990 Users/ Visit	1995 Users Surveyed	1995 Users/ Visit	Total Users 2000	2000 Users/ Visit	Percent Change 95-2000
Armory Place			12.1						
Battery Lane			12.0	14.1	422	21.1	225.0	11.3	-46.4%
Caroline Freeland			21.7	9.6	282	14.1	406.0	20.3	44.0%
Chase Avenue		2.5	4.7	0.9	51	2.6			
Cheltenham					58	2.8			
Ellsworth				22.5	323	16.2	186.0	9.3	-42.6%
Elm Street		49.2	49.1	16.5	422	21.1	575.0	28.8	36.5%
Flower Avenue		3	9.3	8.5	265	13.3	142.0	7.1	-46.6%
Germantown Square				1.0	70	3.5	12.0	0.6	-82.9%
Kemp Mill		6.8	15.8	16.6	522	26.1	382.0	19.1	-26.8%
Metro		5.6	18.7						
Royce Hanson		6.5	10.3						
Takoma		0.9	1.8		167	8.4	261.0	13.1	56.0%
Woodside		42.7	10.6	9.2	715	35.8	357.0	17.9	-50.0%
AVERAGE USERS PER VISIT		14.6	15.1	14.1	3,297	15.0	2,546	14.14	-5.6%

Year 2000 Recreational Park Survey - Comparisons with Previous Surveys

Recreational Park Name	1975 Users/ Visit	1980 Users/ Visit	1985 Users/ Visit	1990 Users/ Visit	1995 Users Surveyed	1995 Users/ Visit	Total Users 2000	2000 Users/ Visit	Percent Change 95-2000
Martin Luther King			25	58	940	47	1745	87.3	85.7%
Olney Manor			178	159	2760	138	4269	213	54.3%
Fairland							959	48	N/A
Damascus							2918	53.1	N/A
AVERAGE USERS PER VISIT					3700	92.5	9891	123.6	33.7%

Year 2000 Regional Park Survey - Comparisons with Previous Surveys

Regional Park Name		1985 Users/ Visit	1990 Users/ Visit	1995 Users Surveyed	1995 Users/ Visit	Total Users 2000	2000 Users/ Visit	Percent Change 95-2000	
Black Hills	92*	260**	260	4417	221	10019	501	126.7%	
Cabin John		351***	328	6233	312	11913	596	91.0%	
Rock Creek			226	4686	234	6975	349	49.1%	
Wheaton			552	10833	542	8367	418	-22.9%	
AVERAGE USERS PER VISIT					26169	327.1	37274	465.9	42.4%

* 1987 survey
 ** 1988 survey
 *** 1981 Survey

Year 2000 Park Survey - Martin Luther King Activity Distribution Comparisons

Activity	Total Users 1990	Percent 1990	Totals Users 1995	Percent of 1995 Users	Total Users 2000	Percent of 2000 Users	Percent Change t. Users 95-2000
Ballfields		39.5%	476	50.6%	500	28.7%	5.0%
Playground		21.0%	101	10.7%	204	11.7%	102.0%
Basketball		10.5%	96	10.2%	325	18.6%	238.5%
Hike/Bike/Jog		6.3%	62	6.6%	198	11.3%	219.4%

Year 2000 Park Survey - Olney Manor Activity Distribution Comparisons

Activity	Total Users 1990	Percent 1990	Totals Users 1995	Percent 1995	Total Users 2000	Percent 2000	Percent Change t. Users 95-2000
Ballfields	1514	47.7%	1553	56.3%	2343	54.5%	50.9%
Tennis Courts	834	26.3%	479	17.4%	631	14.7%	31.7%
Raquetteball Courts	181	5.7%	102	3.7%	49	1.1%	-52.0%
Passive	176	5.6%	239	8.7%	179	4.2%	-25.1%

Year 2000 Park Survey - Damascus Activity Distribution Comparisons

Activity	Total Users 2000	Percent 2000
Ballfields	2157	73.9%
Tennis Courts	54	1.9%
Picnicking	309	10.6%
Hike/Bike/Jog/Walk	131	4.5%

Year 2000 Park Survey - Fairland Activity Distribution Comparisons

Activity	Total Users 2000	Percent 2000
Ballfields	40	4.2%
Tennis Courts	106	11.1%
Basketball	97	10.1%
Picnicking	498	52.0%
Hike/Bike/Jog/Walk	110	11.5%

Year 2000 Park Survey - Black Hills Activity Distribution Comparisons

Activity	Percent 1990	Totals Users 1995	Percent 1995	Total Users 2000	Percent 2000	Percent Change t. Users 95-2000
Passive Recreation	18.2%	343	7.8%	531	5.3%	54.8%
Fishing (Shore & Boats)	16.7%	688	15.6%	561	5.6%	-18.5%
Playground	13.4%	431	9.8%	945	9.4%	119.3%
Recreational Boating	11.3%	397	9.0%	787	7.9%	98.2%
Picnicking	25.2%	1612	36.5%	3852	38.4%	139.0%
Hike/Bike/Jog/Walk	11.5%	554	12.5%	1428	14.3%	157.8%
Open Shelters		54	1.2%			N/A
Volleyball Courts		69	1.6%	54	0.5%	-21.7%
Visitor's Center		72	1.6%	252	2.5%	250.0%
Horsehoe Pits		2	0.0%	7	0.1%	250.0%
Other	3.7%	205	4.6%	1566	15.6%	663.9%

Year 2000 Park Survey - Cabin John Activity Distribution Comparisons

Activity	Total Users 1990	Percent 1990	Totals Users 1995	Percent 1995	Total Users 2000	Percent 2000	Percent Change t. Users 95-2000
Playgrounds	2,816	38.1%	1,395	22.4%	2,036	17.1%	45.9%
Ballfields	1,008	13.6%	1,089	17.5%	4,642	39.0%	326.3%
Picnicking	808	10.9%	889	14.3%	2,548	21.4%	186.6%
Hike/Bike/Jog/Walk	685	9.3%			513	4.3%	
Ice Rink			647	10.4%			

Year 2000 Park Survey - Rock Creek Activity Distribution Comparisons

Activity	Total Users 1990	Percent 1990	Totals Users 1995	Percent 1995	Total Users 2000	Percent 2000	Percent Change t. Users 95-2000
Picnicking	1,020	23.2%	1,707	36.4%	3,537	50.7%	107.2%
Hike/Bike/Jog/Walk	844	19.2%	999	21.3%	704	10.1%	-29.5%
Passive	627	14.3%	751	16.0%	887	12.7%	18.1%
Recreational Boating	543	12.3%			215	3.1%	
Other			350	7.5%			

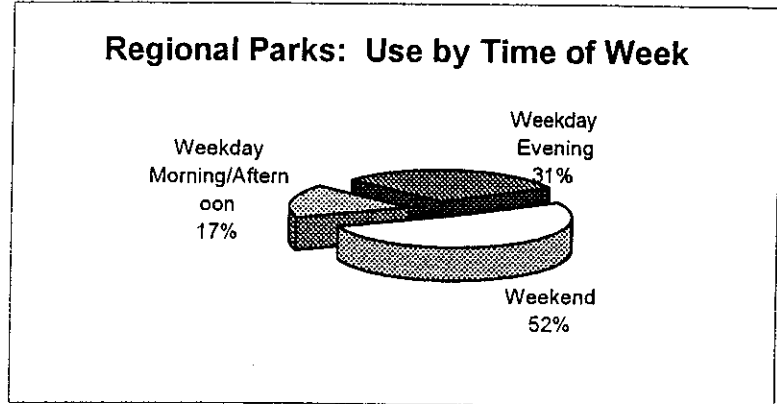
Year 2000 Park Survey - Wheaton Activity Distribution Comparisons

Activity	Total Users 1990	Percent 1990	Totals Users 1995	Percent 1995	Total Users 2000	Percent 2000	Percent Change t. Users 95-2000
Picnicking	3,291	29.5%	2,830	26.1%	2,636	31.4%	-6.9%
Ballfields	1,842	16.5%	1,275	17.6%	1,401	16.7%	9.9%
Playground	1,409	12.6%	1,910	14.6%	1,620	19.4%	-15.2%
Hike/Bike/Jog/Walk	1,267	11.3%	1,586	11.8%	321	3.8%	-79.8%

APPENDIX B - GRAPHS FOR YEAR 2000 PARK USER SURVEY

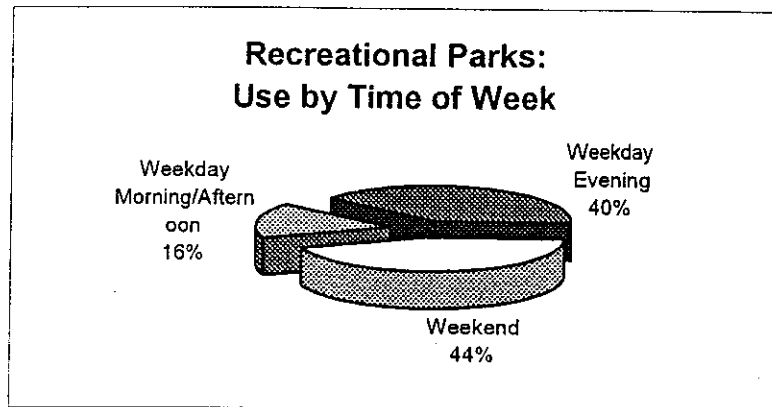
Regional Parks percentage of use by survey period

Weekday Morn/Afternoon	6287
Weekday Evening	11532
Weekend	19455



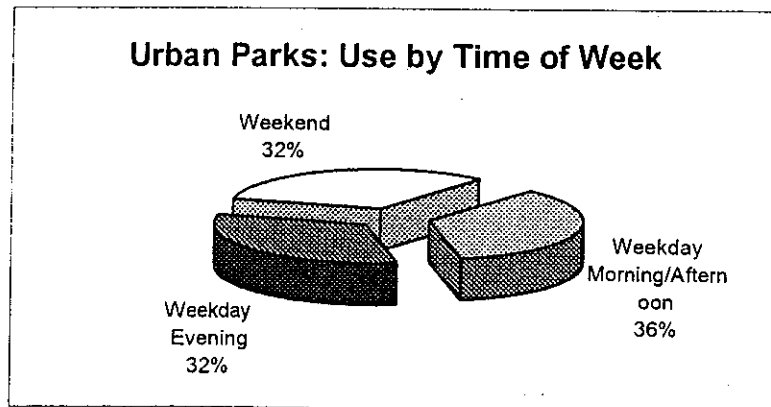
Recreational Parks percentage of use by survey period

Weekday Morn/Afternoon	1621
Weekday Evening	3930
Weekend	4340



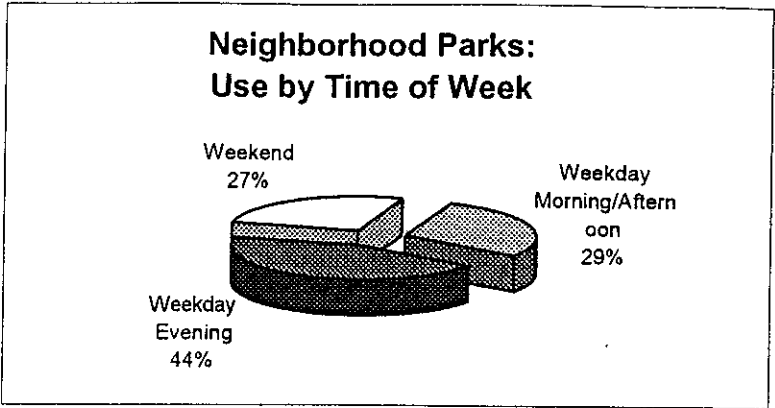
Urban Parks percentage of use by survey period

Weekday Morn/Afternoon	902
Weekday Evening	818
Weekend	826



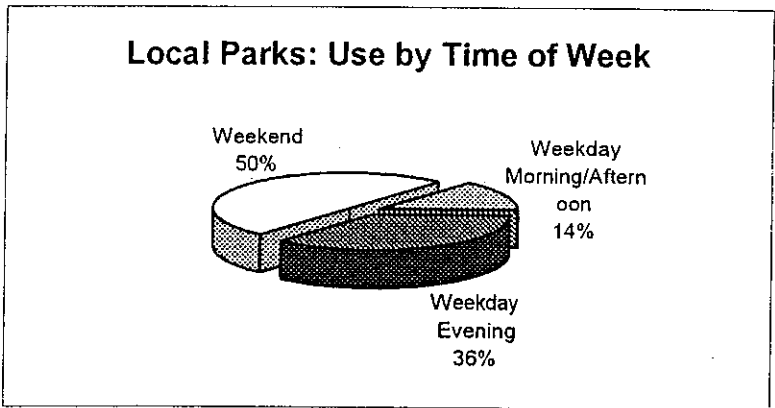
Neighborhood Parks
percentage of use by survey period

Weekday Morn/Afternoon	999
Weekday Evening	1535
Weekend	940



Local Parks
percentage of use by survey period

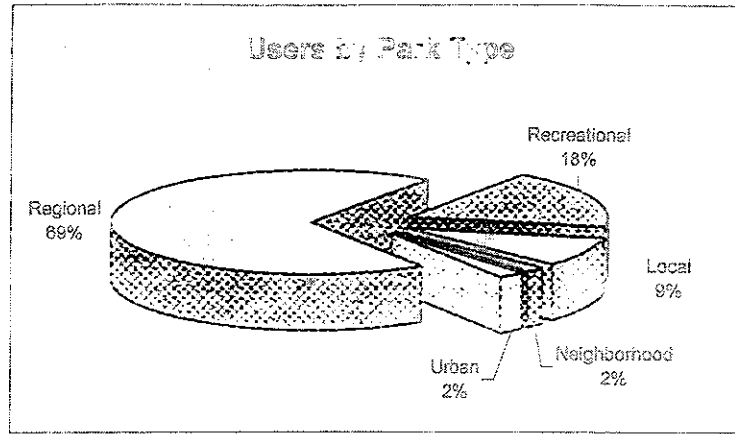
Weekday Morning/Afternoon	6951
Weekday Evening	18004
Weekend	24713



overall park graphs

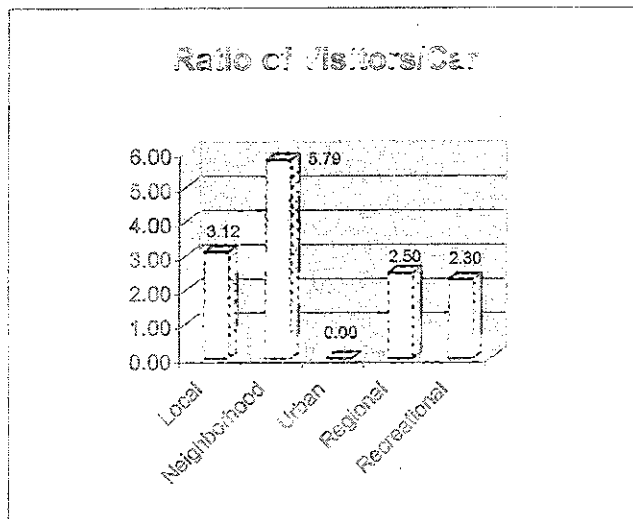
users by park type

Local	62
Neighborhood	11.4
Urban	14.2
Regional	467
Recreational	123



Average Number of Cars by Park Type

	avg # cars	avg # visitors	ratio visitors/car
Local	19.9	52	3.12
Neighborhood	1.97	11.4	5.79
Urban	0	14.2	n/a
Regional	137.4	467.9	2.50
Recreational	53.5	123	2.30



APPENDIX C - EXAMPLES OF YEAR 2000 PARK USER SURVEY FORMS

2000 PARK SURVEY DATA FORM - (Urban, Neighborhood & Local Parks)

Rev. 4/17/2000

Park Name _____

Surveyor Name _____

Weekday _____

Weekend _____

Park Number _____

Visit Number _____

Total Attendance _____

MD Cars _____

VA Cars _____

DC Cars _____

Other Cars _____

Date _____

Time _____

	P	Use	0 - 9		10 - 14		15 - 19		20 - 24		25 - 34		35 - 44		45 - 64		65+	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
Ballfield #1																		
Spectators/Waiters #1																		
Ballfield #2																		
Spectators/Waiters #2																		
Ballfield #3																		
Spectators/Waiters #3																		
Basketball Courts																		
Bball Waiters/Spectators																		
Recreation Building																		

Weather or other factors affecting attendance

2000 PARK SURVEY DATA FORM - (Urban, Neighborhood & Local Parks)

Park Name _____

Park Number _____

Visit Number _____

	0 - 9		10 - 14		15 - 19		20 - 24		25 - 34		35 - 44		45 - 64		65+		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Tennis Courts - Singles - Doubles																	
Ten. - Wallers/Spectators																	
Playgrounds																	
Picnicking																	
Open Shelter/Gazebo																	
Passive																	
Hiking/Jogging/Walking																	
Biking																	
Handball/Tennis Practice Wall																	
Other - Specify																	
Other - Specify																	

2000 PARK SURVEY DATA FORM - (Wheaton Regional Park)

5/19/2000

Surveyor Name _____ Weekday _____

Weekend _____

Evening _____

Park Number _____

Visit Number _____

Total Attendance _____ MD Cars _____

VA Cars _____

DC Cars _____

Other Cars _____ Date _____

Time _____

Athletic Area	P	Use	0 - 9		10 - 14		15 - 19		20 - 24		25 - 34		35 - 44		45 - 64		65+	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
Ballfield #1																		
Spectators/Walters #1																		
Ballfield #2																		
Spectators/Walters #2																		
Ballfield #3																		
Spectators/Walters #3																		
Ballfield #4																		
Spectators/Walters #4																		
Ballfield #5																		
Spectators/Walters #5																		

2000 PARK SURVEY DATA FORM - (Wheaton Regional Park)

Athletic Area

Park Number _____

Visit Number _____

Page 2

	P Use	0 - 9		10 - 14		15 - 19		20 - 24		25 - 34		35 - 44		45 - 64		65+	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
Ballfield #6																	
Spectators/Walters																	
Tennis																	
Spectators/Walters																	
Handball - 1 wall (tennis practice)																	
Basketball Courts																	
Basketball walters																	
Hiking/Logging/Walking																	
Biking																	
Passive																	
Picnicking																	
Other																	

2000 PARK SURVEY DATA FORM - (Wheaton Regional Park)

Park Number _____

Visit Number _____

Picnic Area	P Use	0 - 9		10 - 14		15 - 19		20 - 24		25 - 34		35 - 44		45 - 64		65+	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
Picnickers																	
Playground																	
Hiking/Jogging/Walking																	
Passive																	
Train																	
Carousel																	
Other																	

2000 PARK SURVEY DATA FORM - (Wheaton Regional Park)

Park Number _____

Visit Number _____

Lake Area	P Use	0 - 9		10 - 14		15 - 19		20 - 24		25 - 34		35 - 44		45 - 64		65+	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
Picnicking																	
Fishing from shore																	
Hiking/Jogging/Walking																	
Biking																	
Passive																	
Other- specify																	

Weather conditions

Acknowledgements

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