

Introduction

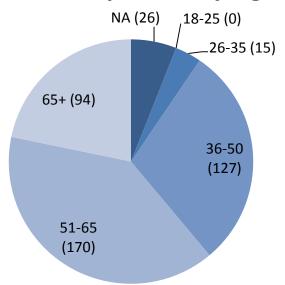
A park survey was mailed to 3,203 homes in Lake Elmo on June 14, 2013.

432 surveys were completed and returned.

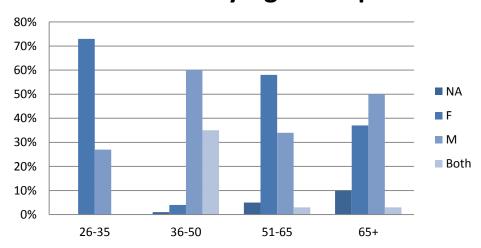
Demographics

- The most common (39%, 170 responses) age group was 51-65.
 - 60 % of those responses were female.

No. of Responses by Age

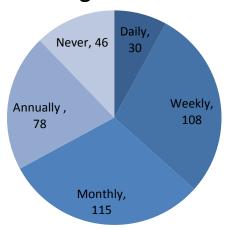


Gender by Age Group

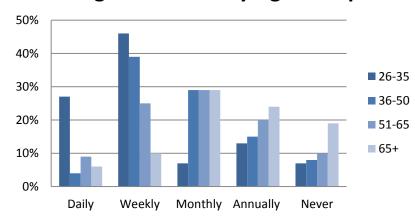


Fifty-nine percent (59%) of overall park users visit city parks on a weekly or monthly basis. Park users between the ages of 26 to 50 use parks more frequently than users aged 51+. The primary reason that taxpayers do not use city parks lack of interest or time. Other reasons are cited below.



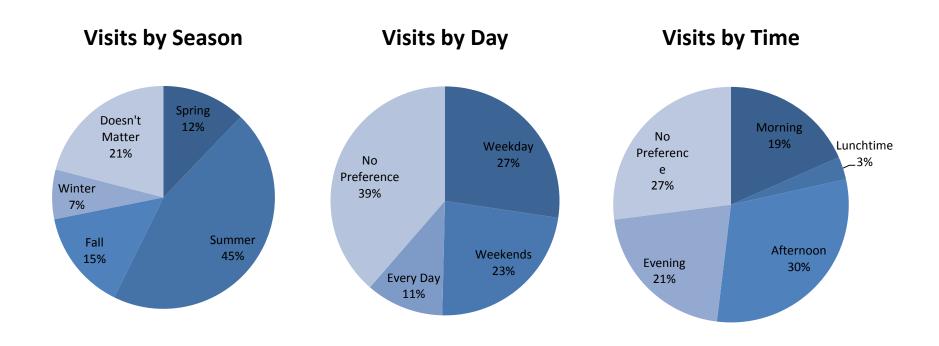


Avg. Park Visits by Age Group



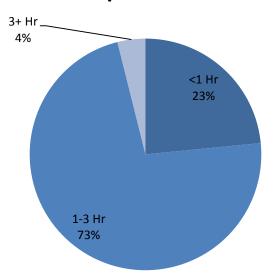
| Reasons for Not Using City Parks | No. of Responses | Reasons for Not Using City Parks | No. of Responses |
|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| No Interest/Time | 10 | Don't know where they are | 5 |
| Only use Park Reserve | 8 | Other | 5 |
| Kids Outgrew | 6 | | |

Summer is the most popular season to visit parks. The majority of park users have no preference when they visit the parks, and users frequent the parks most in the afternoon.

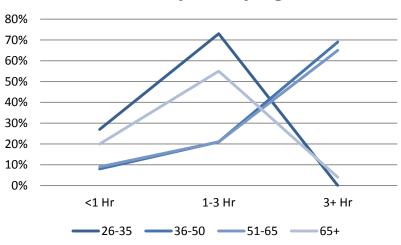


Overall, 73% of park users spend between one to three hours per park visit. Visitors between age 36 to 65 typically spend 3 or more hours per visit, where users between the ages of 26 to 35 and age 65+ typically spend 1 to 3 hours per park visit.

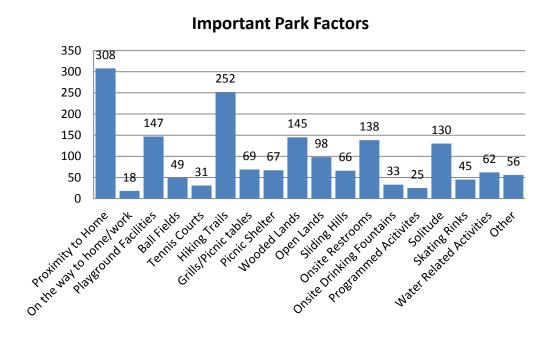
Time per Park Visit



Time Spent by Age

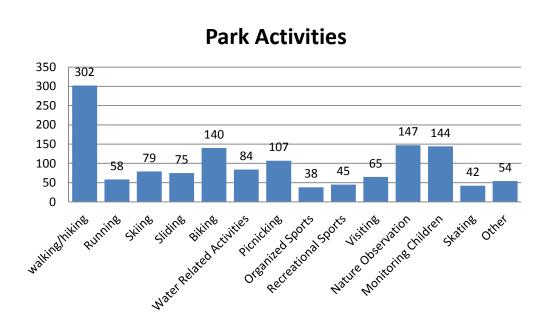


Proximity to home is the most important factor for taxpayers choosing which park to visit. Trails, playground facilities, trails, and wooded lands are also important factors. The ranking of importance varies by age group, as noted in the chart to the lower right.



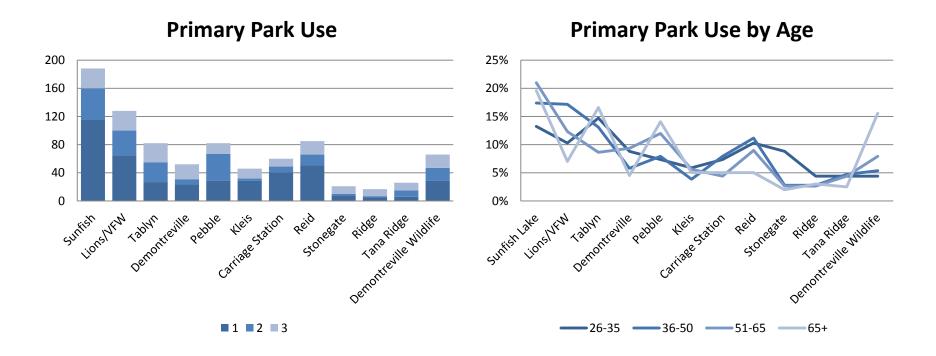
| 26-35 | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Proximity to home | 16% |
| Playground Facilities | 15% |
| Hiking Trails/Restroom | 8% |
| 36-50 | |
| Proximity to Home | 18% |
| Hiking Trails | 12% |
| Playground Facilities | 10% |
| 51-65 | |
| | |
| Proximity to Home | 18% |
| Proximity to Home Hiking Trails | 18% 16% |
| , | |
| Hiking Trails | 16% |
| Hiking Trails Wooded Lands | 16% |
| Hiking Trails Wooded Lands 65+ | 16% 10% |

Overall, walking and hiking is the most popular park activity engaged in by taxpayers. Biking, nature observation, and monitoring children are also frequent activities, which vary in priority slightly among age groups.

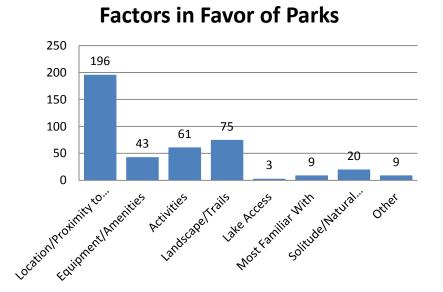


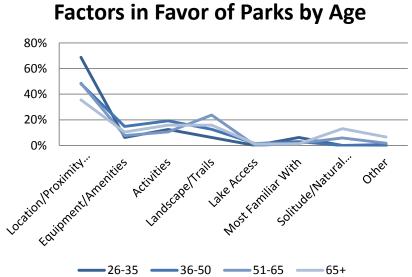
| 26-35 | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Monitoring Children | 16% |
| Walking/Hiking | 15% |
| Biking | 13% |
| 36-50 | |
| Walking/Hiking | 18% |
| Biking | 10% |
| Monitoring Children | 9% |
| 51-65 | |
| Walking/Hiking | 25% |
| Nature Observation | 12% |
| Biking | 10% |
| 65+ | |
| Walking/Hiking | 24% |
| Nature Observation | 17% |
| | |

Residents were asked to rank their preferred/most commonly used city parks from 1 to 3, with 1 being the most frequently visited. Sunfish Lake Park is the most popular park overall, followed by Lions Park. When broken down by age, Tablyn Park ranks in popularity for 26 to 36 year olds.



The leading factor for park choice is location and proximity to home. The importance of location decreases slightly as the age of park user increases.

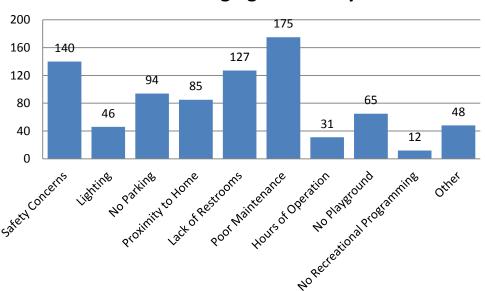




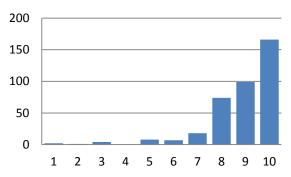
Poor maintenance ranked as the primary reason discouraging taxpayers from using city parks. Safety concerns and lack of restrooms were also leading factors. Other factors include unleashed dogs, and lack of time.

Overall, taxpayers consider the safety of city parks to be high, and signage and maintenance mediocre.

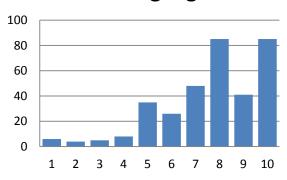
Factors Discouraging Use of City Parks



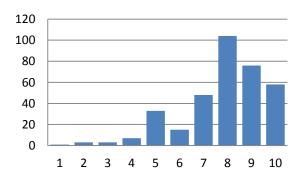
Park Safety



Park Signage



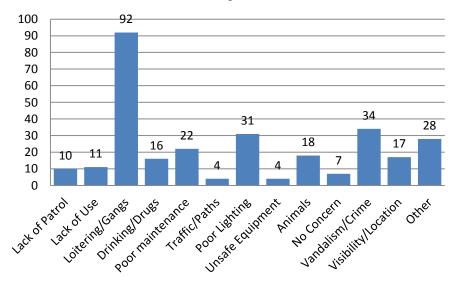
Park Maintenance



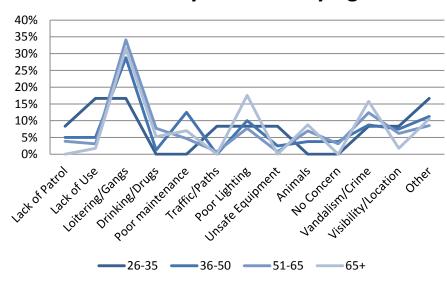
Park Conditions

Loitering or gang activity is the primary factor that would make taxpayers feel unsafe using city parks. Factors in the other category include after hours activities, high-speed vehicles, and use of parks by non-residents.

Park Safety Concerns



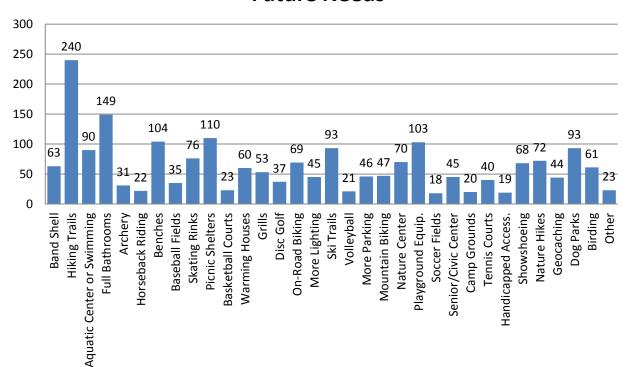
Park Safety Concerns by Age



Future Park Needs

Hiking trails are high priority for all age groups, when considering future addition of park amenities. The top three amenity needs per age group are listed at right.

Future Needs



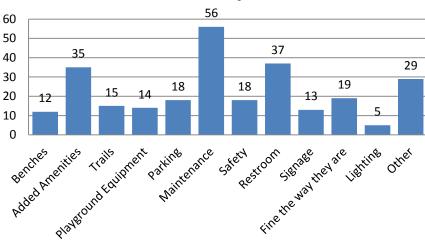
| 26-35 | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Playground Equipment | 11% |
| Hiking Trails | 10% |
| Aquatic Center/Swimming | 9% |
| 36-50 | |
| Hiking Trails | 9% |
| Aquatic Center/Swimming | 8% |
| Full Bathrooms | 8% |
| 51-65 | |
| | |
| Hiking Trails | 13% |
| Hiking Trails Full Bathrooms | 13% 6% |
| | |
| Full Bathrooms | 6% |
| Full Bathrooms Benches/Shelters | 6% |
| Full Bathrooms Benches/Shelters 65+ | 6% 6% |

Future Park Needs

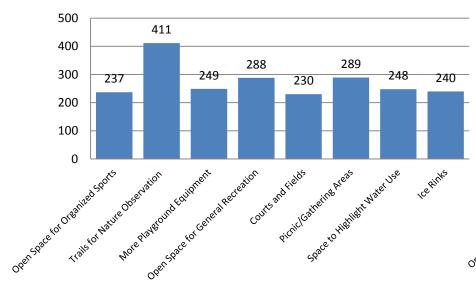
When asked about desired park improvements, maintenance was the number one request. This was followed by restrooms and additional amenities (ie. Picnic tables, and shelters).

When discussing the future development of parks, there is a strong taxpayer desire to develop trails for nature observation. Picnic areas and open space also rank high as desired park land use.

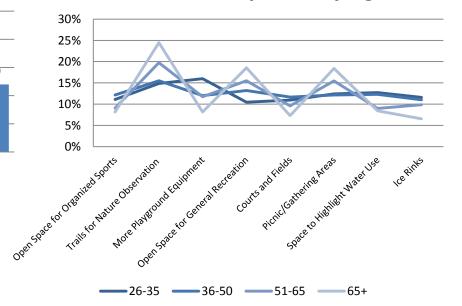
Desired Park Improvements



Future Park Land Development



Park Land Development by Age

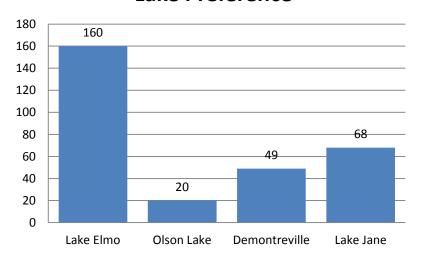


City Lake Use

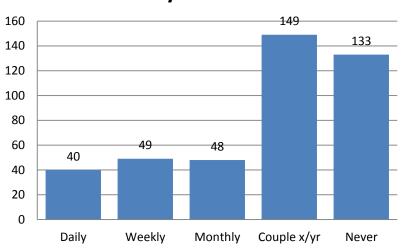
Out of the taxpayers who responded to the lake use question, most use city lakes a couple times per year, if at all. Taxpayers between the ages 26 to 35 are more likely to use the lakes more frequently.

Lake Elmo is the most heavily used lakes, as indicated by a 54% response rate.

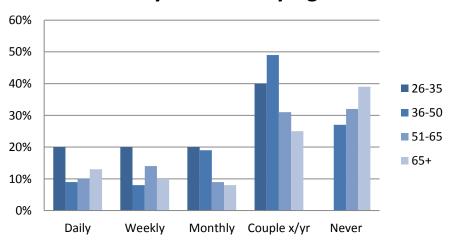
Lake Preference



City Lake Use

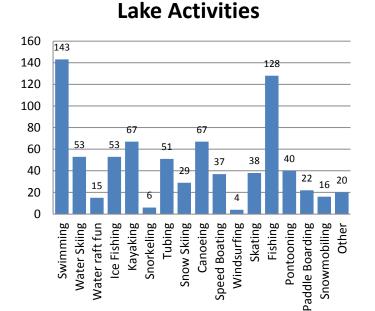


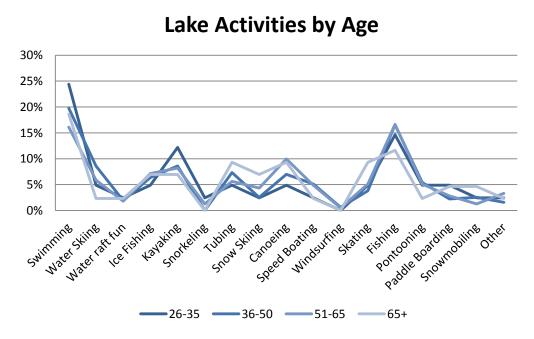
City Lake Use by Age



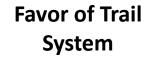
City Lake Use

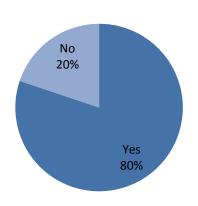
The primary activities enjoyed by taxpayers on city lakes are swimming and fishing. Kayaking and canoeing follow as other popular lake activities.



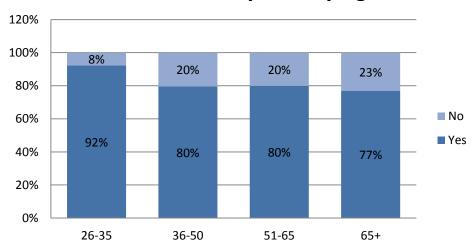


Eighty percent (80%) of taxpayers are in favor of the city developing a trail system that connects neighborhoods, parks, downtown and schools. This desire is shared evenly among age groups, with slightly more interest among 26 to 35 year olds.

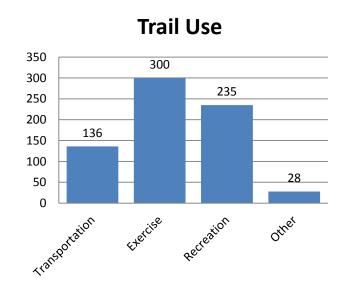


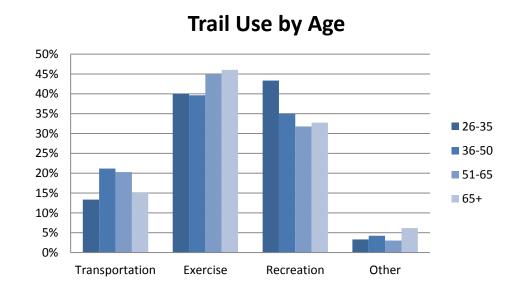


Favor of Trail System by Age



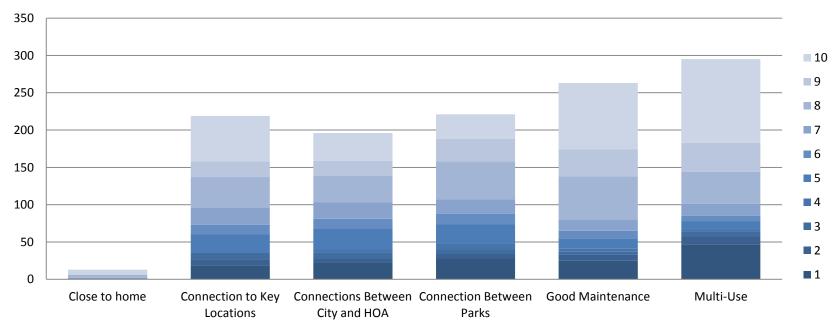
The majority of respondents are interested in a trail system for exercise and recreation purposes. Taxpayers between ages 26 to 35 are more likely to use trails for recreation, while residents age 65+ are more likely to use trails to get exercise.



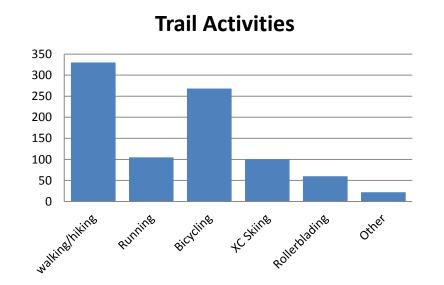


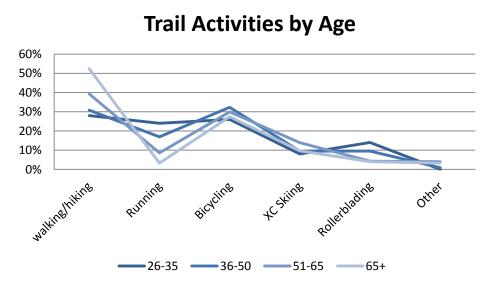
Respondents were asked to rate important trail factors from 1-10 (10 being most important). The results indicate that multi-use trails and good maintenance are the most commonly indicated concerns and most frequently ranked most important as well.

Important Trail Factors

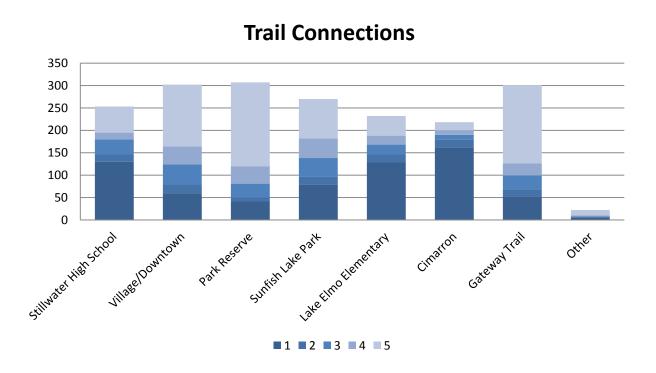


The most popular uses for city trails are walking/hiking, and biking. Trail users between the ages of 26 to 35 are more likely to engage in more vigorous activity like running and rollerblading, whereas the primary activity choice for users age 65+ is walking and hiking.



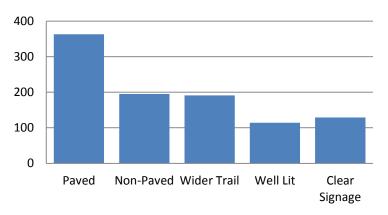


Respondents were asked to rate destinations for trail connections from 1 to 5, with 5 being the most important. As indicated by the results below, the Lake Elmo Park Reserve, Gateway Trail, and the Old Village/Downtown area were most frequently indicated. The Park Reserve and Gateway Trail received the highest rankings in terms of importance.



Survey respondents indicated that they would like to see more paved trails. The most common factors discouraging the use of trails include safety and poor maintenance.

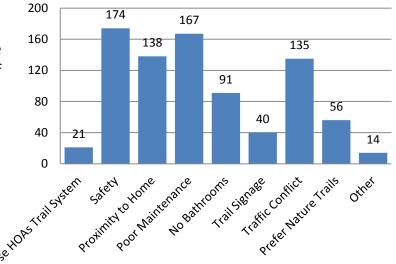
Trail Feature Preference



Trail Feature Preference by Age



Factors Discouraging Trail Use



Factors Discouraging Trail Use by Age

