# GREAT PLACES SNAPSHOT

**forever wild PARKS** — Dakota County

## KEY FINDINGS

- Dakota County is lacking in its share of the Metro area's regional park visitation.
- Dakota County Parks and Greenways are under-represented by youth, people of color, lower-income individuals, and women.

**Dakota County Parks would need 3,288,977 more visitors to meet its regional suburban share of visitation in 2022.**

## 2021 Visitor Snap Shot

| | Under-Represented | | On-Target | | Over-Represented | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | PARKS | GREENWAYS | PARKS | GREENWAYS | PARKS | GREENWAYS |
| **AGE** | | | | | | |
| 12 - 17 | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| 18 - 24 | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| 25 - 34 | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 35 - 54 | | | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 55 - 74 | | | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 75 + | ✓ | | | | | |
| **HOUSEHOLD INCOME** | | | | | | |
| Less than $40,000 | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| $40,000 - $79,999 | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| $80,000 + | | | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| **GENDER** | | | | | | |
| Male | | | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Female | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| **RACE** | | | | | | |
| People of Color | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| White | | | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| **ETHNICITY** | | | | | | |
| Hispanic/Latino | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |

Data from 2021 Met Council Regional Parks and Trails System Visitor Study and 2022 US Census ACS Estimates, Table DP05.
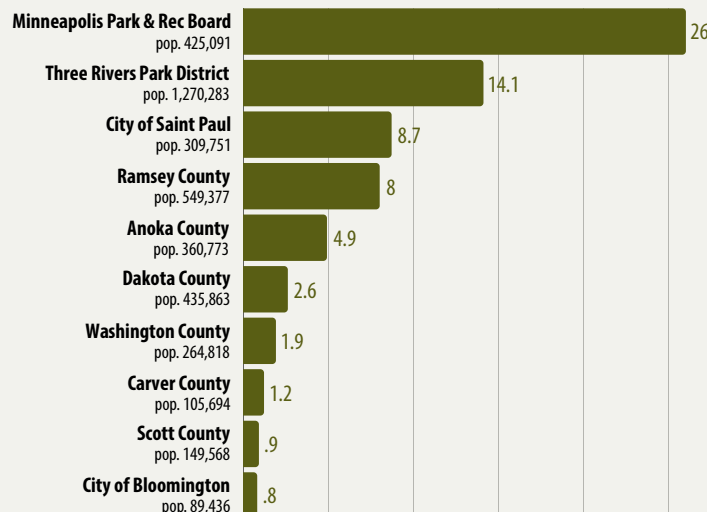
## AGENCY COMPARISON

*Figure 1.1 2022 Visits by Park Agency, in Millions*

| Agency | Visits (Millions) |
|---|---|
| **Minneapolis Park & Rec Board** pop. 425,091 | 26 |
| **Three Rivers Park District** pop. 1,270,283 | 14.1 |
| **City of Saint Paul** pop. 309,751 | 8.7 |
| **Ramsey County** pop. 549,377 | 8 |
| **Anoka County** pop. 360,773 | 4.9 |
| **Dakota County** pop. 435,863 | 2.6 |
| **Washington County** pop. 264,818 | 1.9 |
| **Carver County** pop. 105,694 | 1.2 |
| **Scott County** pop. 149,568 | .9 |
| **City of Bloomington** pop. 89,436 | .8 |

**Despite being the third most populous area of the ten implementing agencies, Dakota County is 6th in visitation.**
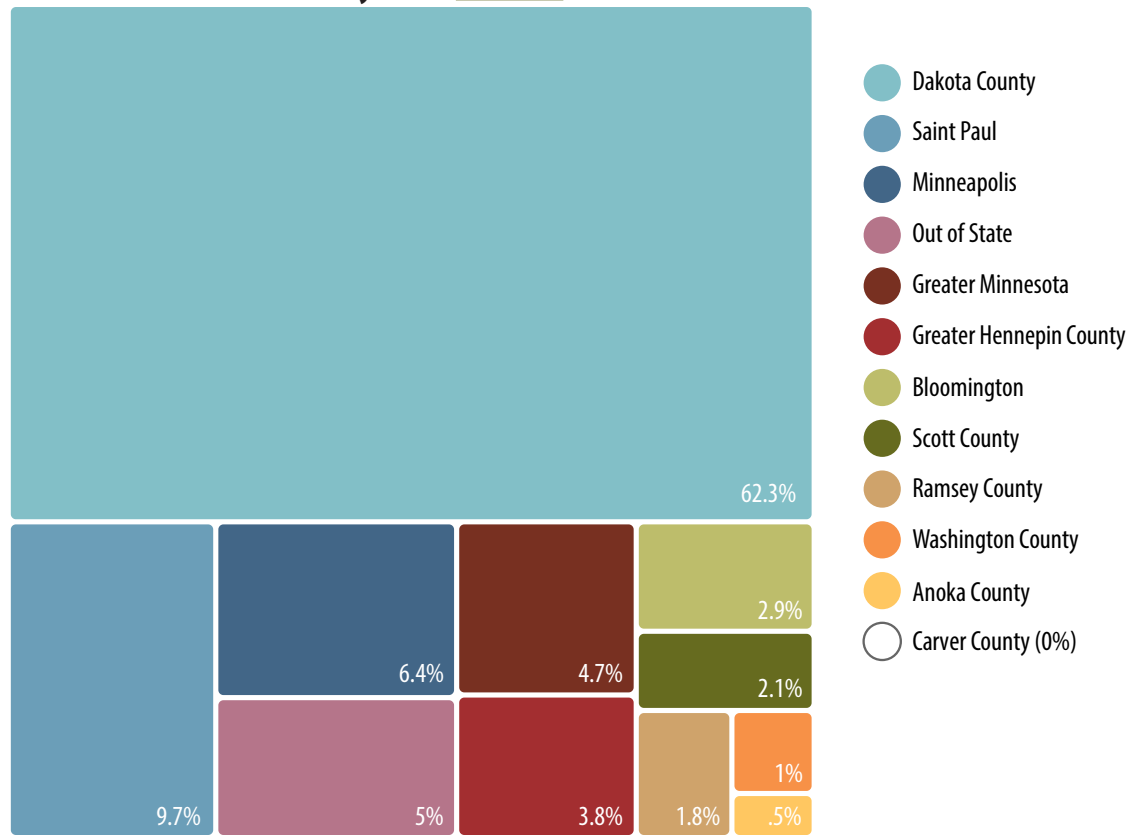
*Does not include Thompson County Park*

*Data Source: 2021 Met Council Annual Use Estimates, July 2023.*

# Visitation

## Where do Dakota County Park visitors live?



Legend:
- Dakota County
- Saint Paul
- Minneapolis
- Out of State
- Greater Minnesota
- Greater Hennepin County
- Bloomington
- Scott County
- Ramsey County
- Washington County
- Anoka County
- Carver County (0%)

Chart values:
- Dakota County 62.3%
- Saint Paul 9.7%
- Minneapolis 6.4%
- Greater Minnesota 4.7%
- Bloomington 2.9%
- Scott County 2.1%
- Out of State 5%
- Greater Hennepin County 3.8%
- Ramsey County 1.8%
- Washington County 1%
- Anoka County .5%

### KEY FINDINGS

- The majority of visitors to Dakota County parks live in Dakota County.
- Of the agencies that Dakota County residents visit besides Dakota County Parks, Scott County, Saint Paul, and Washington County Parks are visited most by residents.
- Park export rate is no longer the issue it was, at 37.7% in 2021 versus 68% in 2008.
- Favorite activities to do in Dakota County Parks: 1st: Hike/walk, 2nd: Biking, 3rd: Mountain Biking, 4th: Dog walk/dog park, and 5th: Running.

## What park districts are Dakota County residents visiting?



Legend:
- Dakota County Parks
- Saint Paul Parks and Recreation
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
- Three Rivers Park District
- Bloomington Parks and Recreation
- Scott County Parks
- Ramsey County Parks and Recreation
- Washington County Parks
- Anoka County Parks
- Carver County Parks and Recreation

Chart values:
- Dakota County Parks 62.3%
- Scott County Parks 18.2%
- Saint Paul Parks and Recreation 6.1%
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board 3%
- Washington County Parks 4.9%
- Bloomington Parks and Recreation 1.6%
- Carver County Parks and Recreation 1.1%
- Ramsey County Parks and Recreation 0.8%
- Three Rivers Park District 0.4%
- Anoka County Parks 0.2%

*Data Source: 2021 Met Council Regional Parks and Trails System Visitor Study.*

*Figure 1.2 Percentage of visitation local to agencies.*

| Agency | Percentage of local visitors |
|---|---|
| Anoka County | 70.4% |
| Three Rivers Park District | 66.5% |
| Scott County | 64.9% |
| Minneapolis Park & Rec. Board | 63% |
| Ramsey County | 63% |
| Bloomington | 62.4% |
| Dakota County | 62.3% |
| Washington County | 62.1% |
| Saint Paul | 54.7% |
| Carver County | 47.9% |

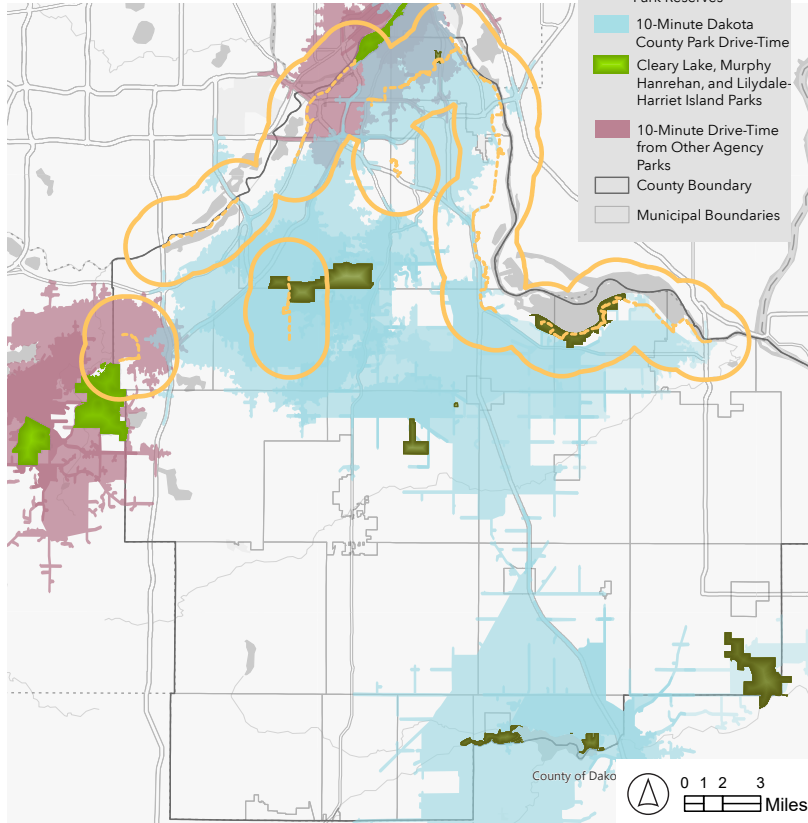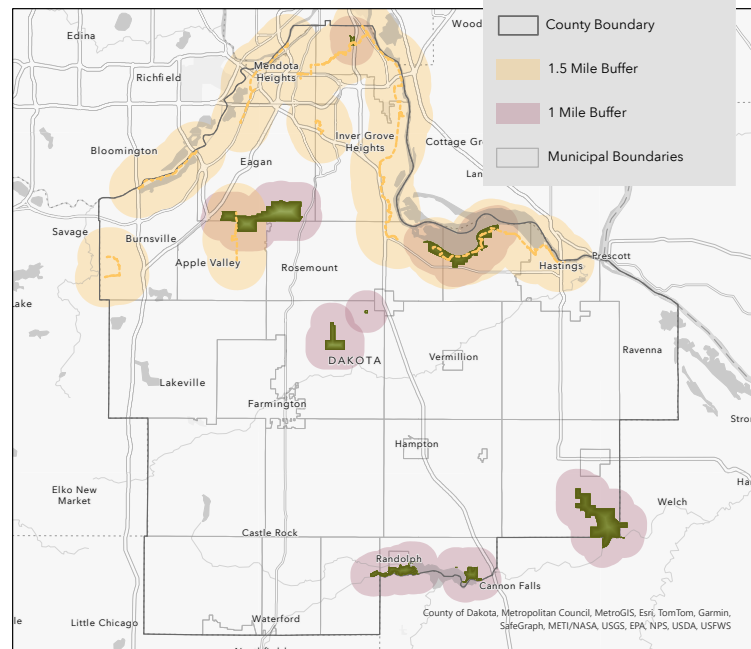*Figure 1.3 10-Minute Drive-Time to Dakota County Parks Map*

*Figure 1.4 Walkable Distance to Existing Dakota County Parks and Greenways Map*

Parks accessible by transit: Thompson County Park
Transit serves Mississippi River Greenway, River to River Greenway, Minnesota River Greenway, and North Creek Greenway

*Figure 1.5 Parkland per 1,000 Residents in Dakota County Municipalities, 2023, Map*

**Legend**

Parkland Acres per 1,000 Residents*

- 0 - 1
- 1.01 - 5
- 5.01 - 10
- 10.01 - 50
- 50.01 - 600
- 600.01 - 2015.3
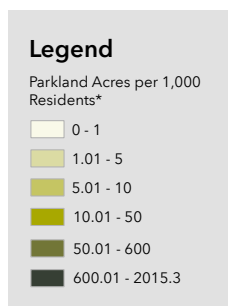
*Includes Dakota County Parks, Dakota County Park Reserves, and Dakota County Park Conservation Areas.
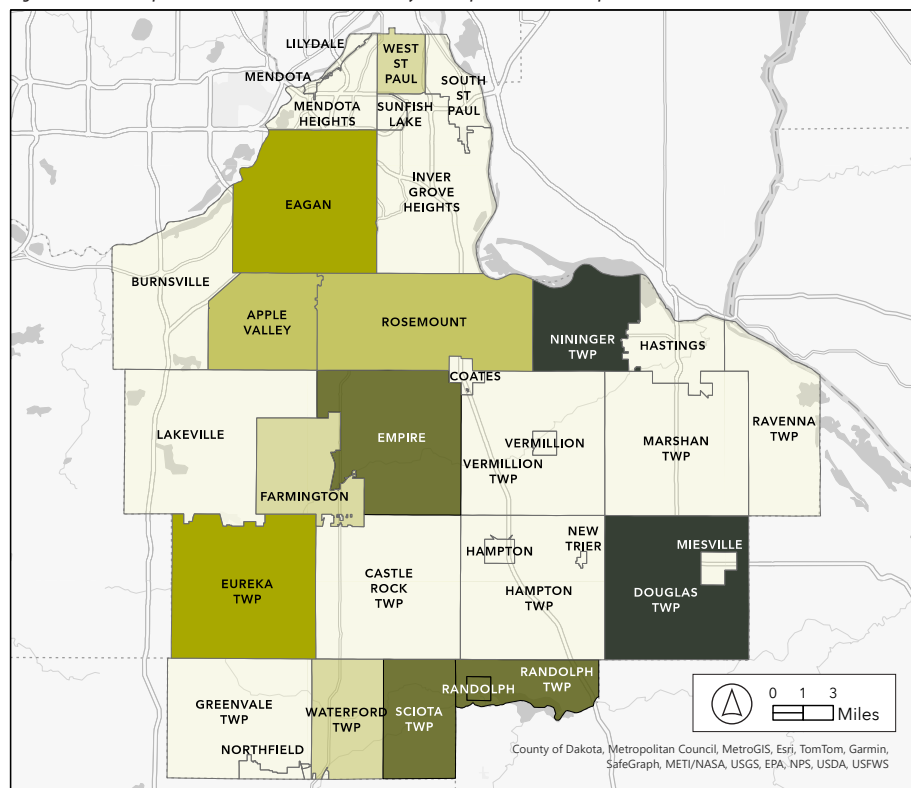
**Some of the most populous municipalities in the county are lacking in regional park acreage.**

**Equity**

## ⭐ KEY FINDINGS

- The county is committed to promoting inclusivity and diversity with its staff, programming, and planning processes.
- Dakota County Parks has made focused outreach efforts to reach target populations, including Spanish-speakers, partnership with community leaders who represent Latinx, Black, Indigenous and Communities of Color, and hiring multilingual staff.
- Dakota County Parks utilized a Met Council Equity Grant to fund equitable community engagement for Creating Equitable Spaces Along the Mississippi River Greenway, including a bilingual survey in Spanish.
- The County hired an Indigenous Liaison in 2023.
- Parks compensates people for their time when working with community members on programming/partnerships.



**Pt. 1
Dakota County Parks
Current Equity Work**

Specific outreach programs that have been created to address equity in the outdoors include: partnership with Caminatas Domingueras, District 196 Diversity in Skiing Program, Nature Walks with Latino Families series, Fiesta en la Nieve, Somali Girls Leadership Group Day in the Park, and the Community Liaison Program.



**People of Color** in Dakota County visited County Parks at a rate of **33 %** of their expected representation and visited County Greenways at a rate of **28.4%** of their expected representation.

*Figure 3.1 Percentage of Residents Who Speak English Less Than "Very Well," 2021, Map*



Legend
- 0.0% - 4.0%
- 4.0% - 9.2%
- 9.3% - 20.3%

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2021, Table DP02.*

**30% of Dakota County adults whose income is below 200% of the poverty line have been in a situation where they have felt they are not accepted because of their race, ethnicity, religion, or immigration status.**

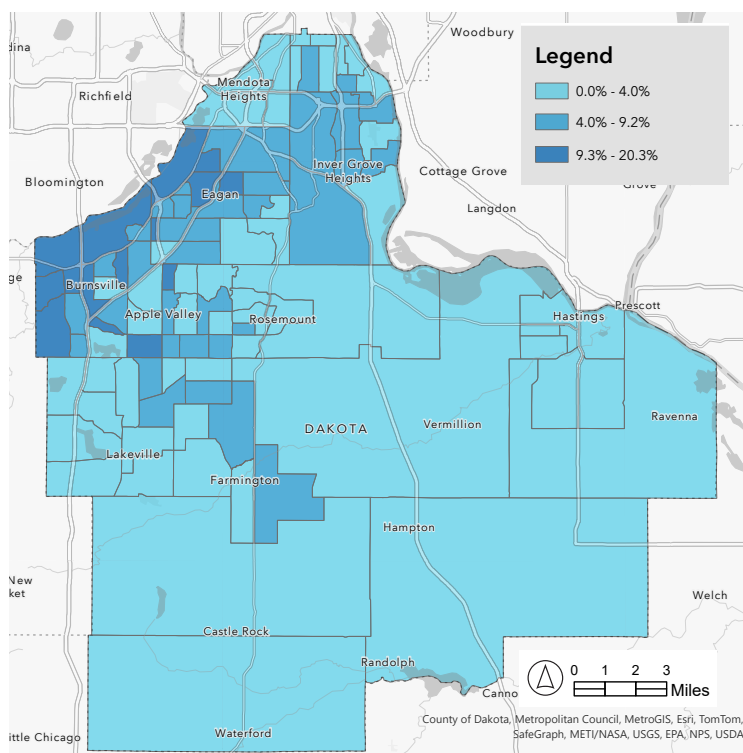*Data Source: Dakota County Adult Health Survey, 2023.*



**Pt. 2
Race & Cultural Equity**

**Findings from the Met Council Report (2014):**
*"Regional Park Use among Select Communities of Color"*

Preferred Outdoor Activities (from Focus Groups):
- Asian Immigrant/Asian American focus groups identified their top three preferred activities as walking, fishing, and rest or relaxation.
- African Immigrant focus groups most frequently noted playground use, walking, and being with family.
- Hispanic participants most frequently noted celebrations and parties, followed by picnicking and/or barbequing, and spending time with family.
- African American participants identified picnicking and/or barbequing as the most frequent preferred activity, followed by biking and basketball.
- Walking, playground use and swimming or going to the lake were the top three most frequently noted preferred activities among diverse composition focus groups.

# Health

## PHYSICAL ACTIVITY + OBESITY

**Pt. 2
Health Equity**

**28%** of Dakota County adults whose income is below 200% of the poverty line do not engage in any leisure-time physical activity.

- Only 31% of adults below 200% of the poverty line met "Healthy People Physical Activity Guidelines," i.e. moderate exercise 30 or more minutes, 5 or more days per week; vigorous exercise 20 or more minutes, 5 or more days per week; or both; during an average week.
- Only 46% of all Dakota County adults surveyed met these standards.

**32%** of all Dakota County adults surveyed walked or biked to get to and from places in 2023.

- Walking and biking was low for those with lower and higher incomes (33% with incomes below 200% of the poverty line walked or biked and 31% at or above 200% of the poverty line walked or biked).

*Data Source: Dakota County Public Health, Dakota County Adult Health Survey, 2023.*
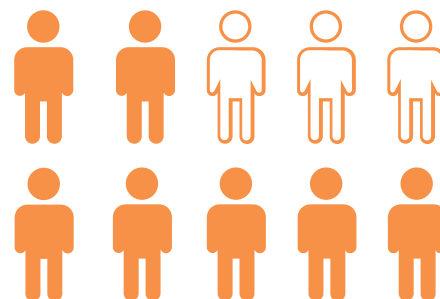
**71%** of Dakota County students were physically active for at least 60 minutes, three or more days a week in 2022.
On average, **18%** of students were physically active for at least 60 minutes every day. However, this is a decrease from 2016, when about 20% of students engaged in 60 minutes of physical activity daily.
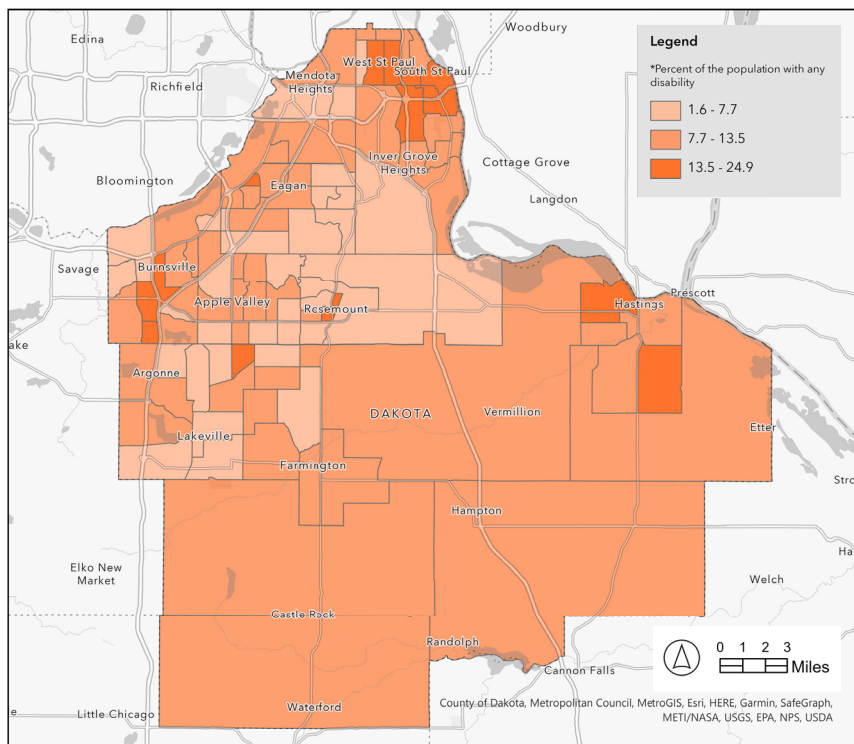
**Pt. 4
ADA Accessibility**

## ⭐ KEY FINDINGS

- 10.9% of Dakota County residents have a disability.
- Most prevalent disabilities: Cognitive difficulty (5%), independent living difficulty (4.9%), and ambulatory difficulty (4.5%).
- 18.2% of those 65-74 years of age have a disability; 38.2% of those 75+ have a disability.
- About 12% of groups visiting a Dakota County Park surveyed by Met Council had a resident with a disability.
- Dakota County meets state standards for accessibility for new facilities.
- Dakota County has added accessible trails in the last 10 years.

*Figure 4.1 Percentage of Residents with a Disability visiting Dakota County Parks and Greenways, Metro Regional Parks and Greenways, in Dakota County, and in the Metro Area, 2021 & 2022*
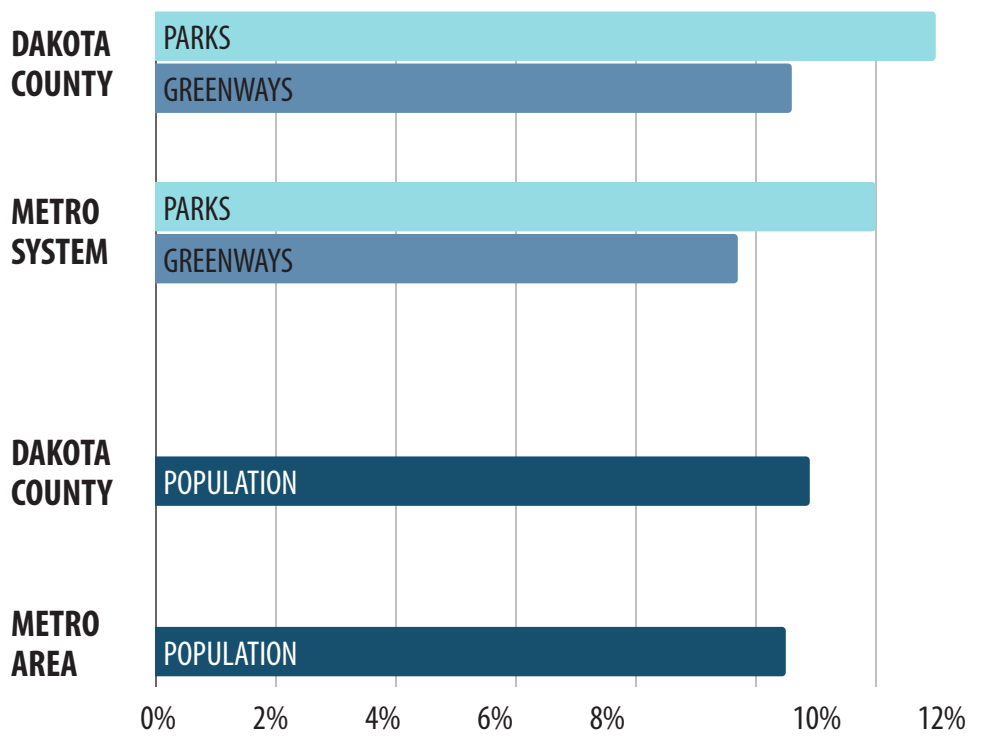


*Data Sources: 2021 Met Council Regional Park and Trail System Visitor Study and US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2022, Table DP02.*

> **The number of visitors with disabilities in Dakota County is similar to the number in the Regional System, and both are similar to the region's proportion. Dakota County Parks have a slightly higher visitation of residents with disabilities.**

*Figure 4.2 Percentage of the Population with Any Disability in Dakota County, 2021, Map*



**Legend**

*Percent of the population with any disability

- 1.6 - 7.7
- 7.7 - 13.5
- 13.5 - 24.9

*County of Dakota, Metropolitan Council, MetroGIS, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA*

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2022, Table DP02.*

*Figure 4.3 Percentage of Dakota County Residents age 75+ in 2020, 2035, 2050, & 2075.*
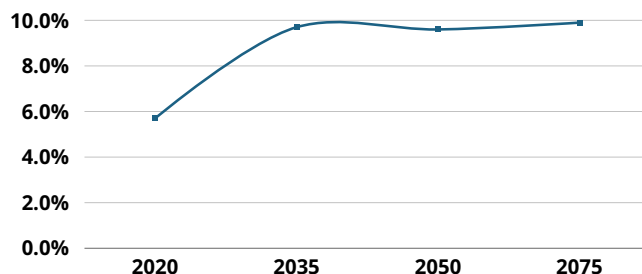


*Data Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center, Long-Term Population Projections for Minnesota, 2020.*

# Seniors & Youth

Thompson County Park is currently the Dakota County Park in proximity to the most senior housing units in the county.

Figure 4.4 Senior Housing in Dakota County, 2022
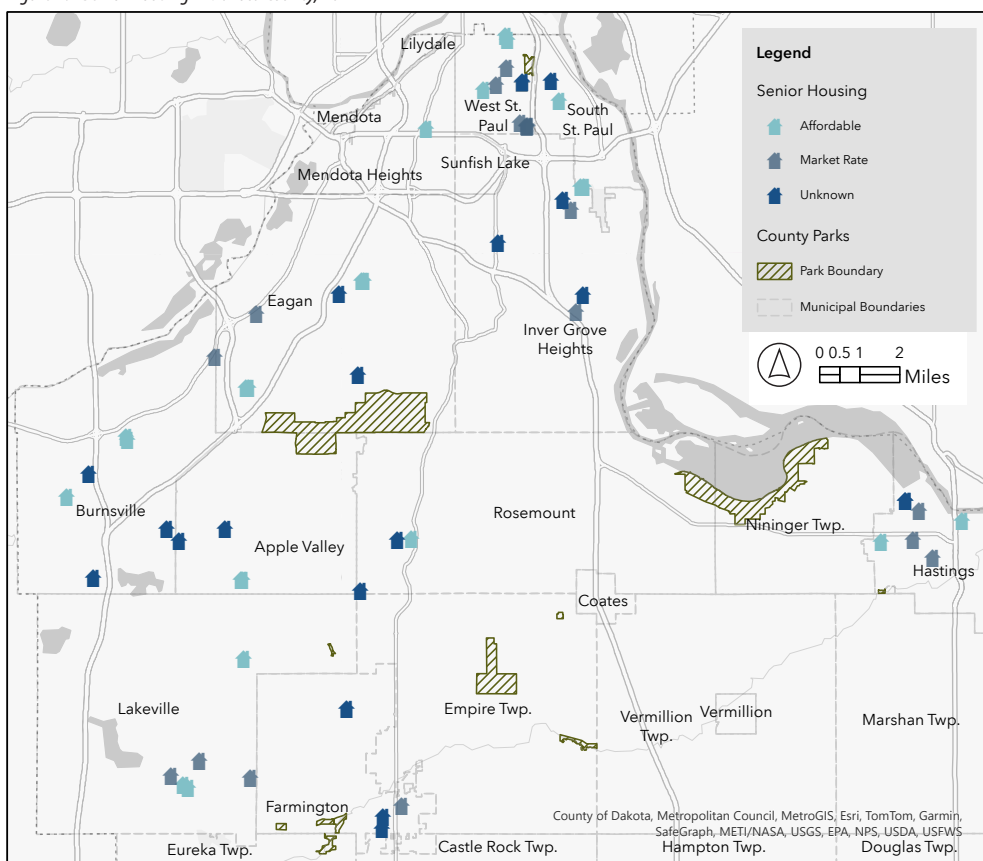


Data Source: Dakota County GIS, 2022.

| Dakota County Parks and Greenways In Proximity to Elderly & Disabled Populations | |
| --- | --- |
| Residents with an ambulatory difficulty | River to River Greenway (7.2% of people within 1 mi.) |
| | Spring Lake Park Reserve (4.7% of people within 3 mi.) |
| Residents with any other disability | River to River Greenway (6.3% of people within 1 mi.) |
| | Whitetail Woods Regional Park (5.3% of people within 3 mi.) |
| Residents Age 65+ | Big Rivers Regional Trail (27.5% of people within 1 mi.) |
| | Spring Lake Park Reserve (17.4% of people within 3 mi.) |

Data Source: Met Council Regional Parks and Trails Equity Tool, ACS 2019.

## Pt. 5 Youth

Dakota County Parks with Play Areas:
- Thompson County Park*
- Lebanon Hills Regional Park
- Spring Lake Park Reserve
- Whitetail Woods Regional Park
- Lake Byllesby Regional Park*

*Play areas with inclusive elements

City-Owned Nature Play Areas in Dakota County:
- Patrick Eagan Park (Eagan)
- Terrace Oaks East (Burnsville)
- Schwarz Pond Park (Rosemount)

## KEY FINDINGS

Feedback from *Dakota County Parks Awareness and Promotion Plan* on youth and parks:
- Every community engagement group (except the American Indian group) discussed visiting the parks for spending time with their families and children.
- Participants with children expressed concern for safety of children with dogs and litter in parks.
- Several family representatives noted that more families would be able to participate in programming if childcare were to be provided.

| Dakota County Parks and Greenways In Proximity to Children and Youth | |
| --- | --- |
| Residents under age 15 | North Creek Greenway (26% of people within 1 mi.) |
| | Whitetail Woods Regional Park (22% of people within 3 mi.) |
| Residents age 15-24 | Vermillion Highlands Greenway (15.8% of people within 1 mi.) |
| | Miesville Ravine Park Reserve (13% of people within 3 mi.) |

Data Source: Met Council Regional Parks and Trails Equity Tool, ACS 2019.

*Excludes Thompson County Park

**Income**

*Figure 6.1 Key Equity Areas in Dakota County*



**Pt. 6
Income Inequality**

**Key Equity Areas** are Census tracts that are high in two or more of the following categories:
- Proportion of the population with no vehicle
- Proportion of residents who speak English less than "very well"
- Number of people of color
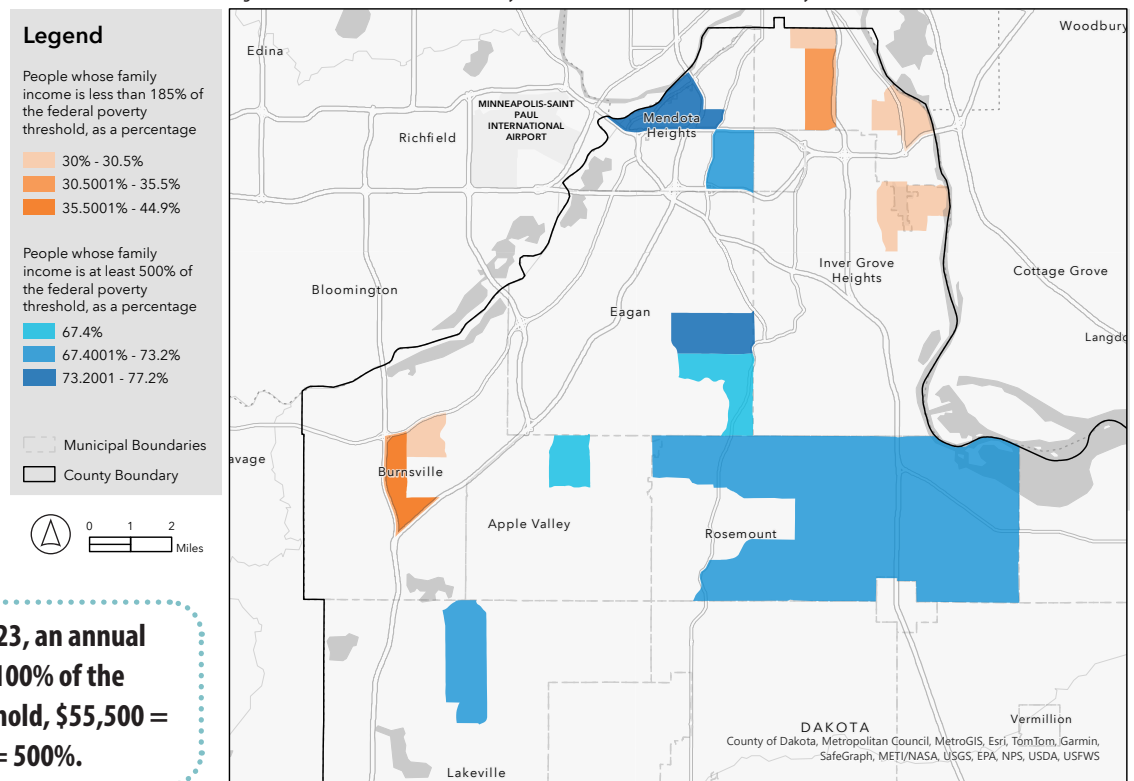- Proportion of residents with any disability
- People whose family income is less than 185% of the federal poverty threshold

These Key Equity Area tracts are in West St. Paul, South St. Paul, Hastings, and Burnsville.

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates 2021, Tables DP02, DP05; Met Council's Equity Considerations Dataset.*

*Figure 6.2 Areas of Concentrated Poverty & Concentrated Affluence, Dakota County, 2021*



**Legend**

People whose family income is less than 185% of the federal poverty threshold, as a percentage

- 30% - 30.5%
- 30.5001% - 35.5%
- 35.5001% - 44.9%

People whose family income is at least 500% of the federal poverty threshold, as a percentage

- 67.4%
- 67.4001% - 73.2%
- 73.2001 - 77.2%

Municipal Boundaries
County Boundary

0    1    2
Miles

**For a family of 4 in 2023, an annual income of $30,000 = 100% of the federal poverty threshold, $55,500 = 185%, and $150,000 = 500%.**

*Data Source: Metropolitan Council, Equity Considerations for Place-Based Advocacy and Decisions in the Twin Cities Region, 2021.*

*Figure 6.3 Proportion of Households with No Vehicle, Dakota County, 2021*
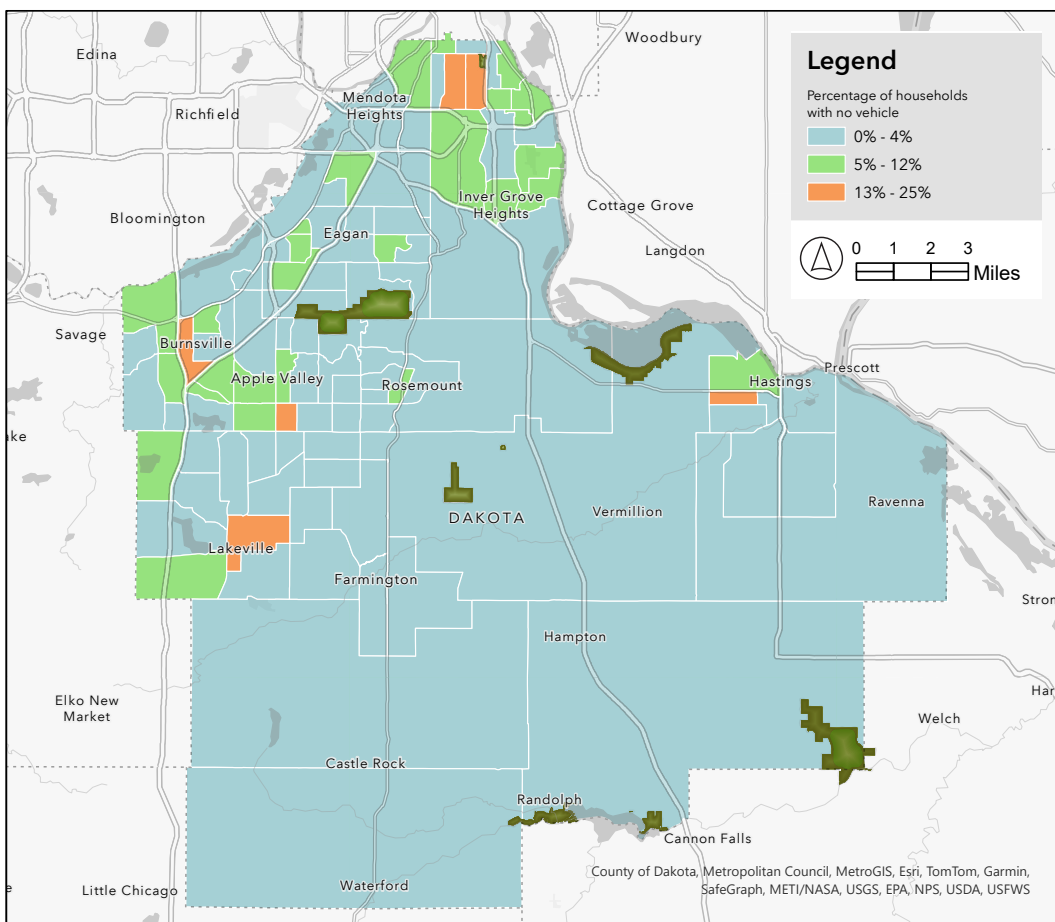


**Residents without vehicle access would have a difficult time reaching some of Dakota County's parks.**

*Data Source: US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates 2021, Table DP04.*

## TRAVEL MODE

*Figure 6.4 Travel Mode to Dakota County Parks & Greenways*

● Bicycle ● Car or other vehicle
● Walked, ran, or used inline skates ● Other



**PARKS**

1.4%
6.2%
8.3%
84.1%

**GREENWAYS**

24.3%
39.3%
1.3%
35.2%

**Most Dakota County Park visitors arrive by car or other vehicle and most Dakota County Greenway visitors walk or bike to the trails.**
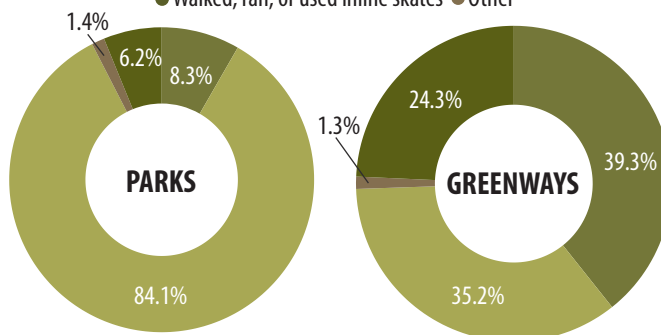
*Data Source: 2021 Met Council Regional Parks and Trails System Visitor Study.*

## Dakota County Parks Facilities

**Parks** and County Park Conservation Areas
• 7 parks, 6,280 acres
• 7 County Park Conservation Areas, 204 acres

### Buildings
• 34 operated buildings
• Square footage of operated buildings: 79,586 sf

### Campgrounds
• Lebanon Hills (93 sites)
• Lake Byllesby (83 sites)
• Whitetail Woods (5 cabins)

### Youth Camp
• YMCA Day Camp Spring Lake at Spring Lake Park Reserve
  – Held at Camp Spring Lake Retreat Center
  – Archery games, outdoor education, arts, canoeing, swimming

### Bathrooms
• 17 permanent and semi-permanent restrooms
• 2 facilities with restrooms available free of use to public, not included above

### Play Areas
• 6 play areas
  – 5 for ages 5-12
  – 1 for ages 2-5
  – 1 inclusive play structure
  – 2 nature play areas

### Other Facilities
• 1 community garden
• 1 dog park

*Figure 7.2 Drivers for Growth: Accessible Lake Loops/Lakeside Trails*

| Parks | 2008 | 2023 | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lebanon Hills | 0 | 1 | McDonough Lake |
| Spring Lake | 0 | 1 | Spring Lake |
| Lake Byllesby | 0 | 1 | Lake Byllesby |
| Miesville Ravine | 0 | 0 | |
| Thompson | 0 | 1 | Thompson Lake |
| *Whitetail Woods* | NA | 1 | *Empire Lake* |
| Greenways | 2008 | 2023 | |
| Mississippi River Greenway | 0 | 2** | Lake Rebecca and Spring Lake |
| Minnesota River Greenway | 0 | 1 | Black Dog Lake |
| River to River Greenway | 0 | 2 | Marthaler Lake, Thompson Oaks Lake |
| *Vermillion River Greenway* | NA | 0 | |
| *Rosemount Greenway* | NA | 1 | *Horseshoe Lake* |
| *Vermillion Highlands Greenway* | NA | 0 | |
| *Lake Marion Greenway* | NA | 2 | *Lake Marion, Sunset Lake* |
| *North Creek Greenway* | 0 | 2 | *Cobblestone Lake, East Lake* |
| Total | 0 | 14 | |

Units in italics are new since 2008
** Spring Lake is along both the Mississippi River Greenway and
   is in Spring Lake Park Reserve

*Figure 7.3 Signature Facilities at Dakota County Parks*

| Dakota County Parks | Signature Facilities |
|---|---|
| Lebanon Hills Regional Park | Staffed Visitor Center<br>Swimming Beach<br>Trail recreation<br>• Mountain bike trails<br>• Equestrian trails<br>• Hiking trails<br>• Cross-country skiing trails |
| Spring Lake Park Reserve | Mississippi River views and access<br>Bison<br>Indoor event space rental |
| Lake Byllesby Regional Park | Lake recreation<br>Camping |
| Whitetail Woods Regional Park | Camper cabins<br>Events<br>Largest lake loop<br>Sledding hill<br>Nature play area |
| Miesville Ravine Park Reserve | Trout fishing<br>Cannon River access |
| Thompson County Park | Accessible Playground<br>Community gathering<br>Indoor event space rental |

## CURRENT PARK OFFERINGS
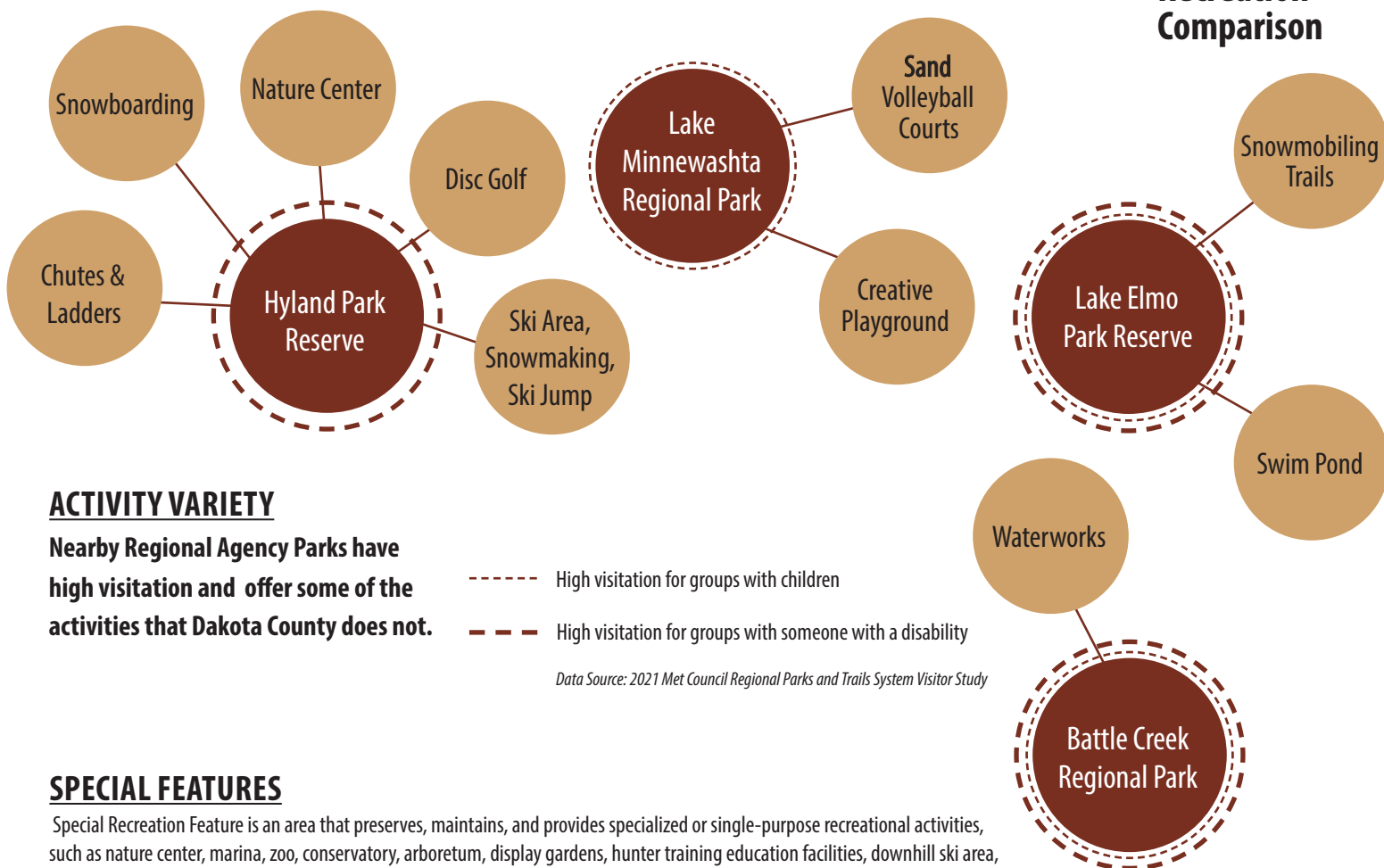
*Figure 7.1 Current Dakota County Park Offerings*

| Parks | Picnicking | Fire Ring | Ice Fishing | Visitor Center | Hiking | Snow-shoeing | Dog On-Leash | Biking | Fishing | Geocaching | Dog Sled Trails | Play Areas | Sledding Hill | Cross-Country Skiing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dakota Woods Dog Park | | | | | X | | X | | | | | | | |
| Lake Byllesby Regional Park | X | X | X | | X | | X | | X | X | X | X | | |
| Lebanon Hills Regional Park | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X |
| Miesville Ravine Park Reserve | | | | | X | | | | | | | | | |
| Spring Lake Park Reserve | X | X | | | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | | X |
| Thompson County Park | X | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | |
| Whitetail Woods Regional Park | X | X | | | X | X | X | | X | X | | X | X | X |

| Parks | Ice Skating | Kicksledding | Skate skiing | Mountain Biking | Equestrian Trails | Camp-grounds | Nature Education | Archery | Gardening | Swimming | Paddling | Camper Cabins | ADA-Accessible Trail |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dakota Woods Dog Park | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lake Byllesby Regional Park | | | X | | | X | | | | X | X | | X |
| Lebanon Hills Regional Park | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | X | X | | X |
| Miesville Ravine Park Reserve | | | | | | | | | | | X | | |
| Spring Lake Park Reserve | | | X | | | | X | X | X | | | | X |
| Thompson County Park | | | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| Whitetail Woods Regional Park | | | | | ✱ | | | | | | | X | X |

*Equestrian trails in Whitetail Woods available through a partnership with MnDNR at Vermillion Highlands

## Dakota County Parks provides lower-cost, nature-based activities.

## Recreation Comparison

Snowboarding

Nature Center

Disc Golf

Chutes & Ladders

**Hyland Park Reserve**

Ski Area, Snowmaking, Ski Jump

**Lake Minnewashta Regional Park**

Sand Volleyball Courts

Creative Playground

Snowmobiling Trails

**Lake Elmo Park Reserve**

Swim Pond

Waterworks

**Battle Creek Regional Park**

## ACTIVITY VARIETY

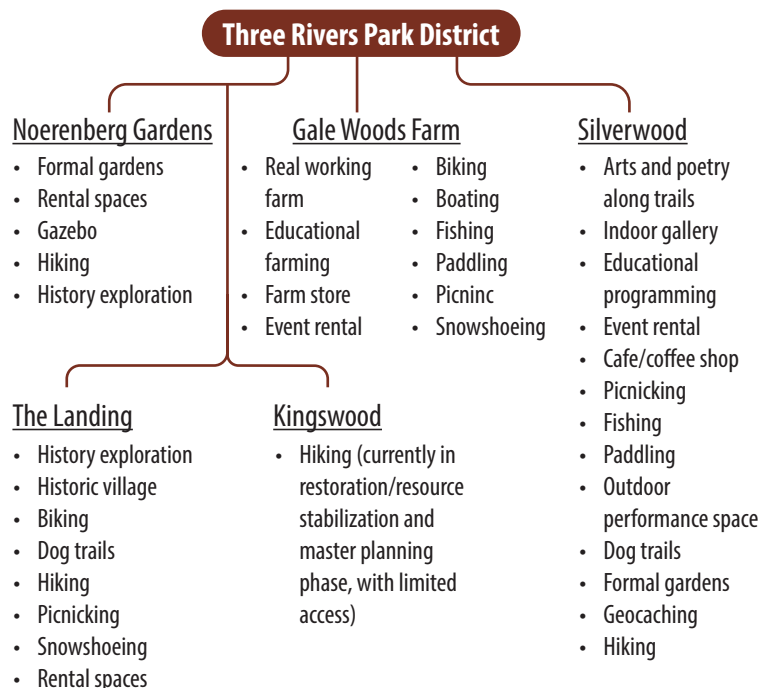**Nearby Regional Agency Parks have high visitation and offer some of the activities that Dakota County does not.**

- - - - - High visitation for groups with children

– – – High visitation for groups with someone with a disability

*Data Source: 2021 Met Council Regional Parks and Trails System Visitor Study*

## SPECIAL FEATURES

Special Recreation Feature is an area that preserves, maintains, and provides specialized or single-purpose recreational activities, such as nature center, marina, zoo, conservatory, arboretum, display gardens, hunter training education facilities, downhill ski area, sites of historic or archaeological significance, and bridging facilities.
*- Metropolitan Council 2040 Parks Policy Plan*

**What parks have special features in the Regional Park System?**

### Three Rivers Park District

#### Noerenberg Gardens
- Formal gardens
- Rental spaces
- Gazebo
- Hiking
- History exploration

#### Gale Woods Farm
- Real working farm
- Educational farming
- Farm store
- Event rental
- Biking
- Boating
- Fishing
- Paddling
- Picninc
- Snowshoeing

#### Silverwood
- Arts and poetry along trails
- Indoor gallery
- Educational programming
- Event rental
- Cafe/coffee shop
- Picnicking
- Fishing
- Paddling
- Outdoor performance space
- Dog trails
- Formal gardens
- Geocaching
- Hiking

#### The Landing
- History exploration
- Historic village
- Biking
- Dog trails
- Hiking
- Picnicking
- Snowshoeing
- Rental spaces

#### Kingswood
- Hiking (currently in restoration/resource stabilization and master planning phase, with limited access)

### St. Paul Parks & Rec.

#### Como Zoo & Conservatory
- Zoo
- Como Town rides
- Conservatory gardens
- Special events

### Washington County Parks

#### Square Lake
- Canoeing/kayaking
- Fishing
- Grills
- Hiking
- Boat launch
- Swimming beach
- Designated as a "Special Recreation Feature" because of outstanding water quality
- Used by scuba divers

| Park | 2021 Visitation |
|---|---|
| Como Zoo | 1,377,672 |
| Silverwood | 394,121 |
| Square Lake | 138,317 |
| Gale Woods Farm | 130,495 |
| Noerenberg Gardens | 98,061 |
| The Landing | 33,028 |
| Kingswood | 21,879 |

**Dakota County would have 1 Special Feature to match its share of the Regional Park System.**

## Agency Comparison

## NRPA PARK METRICS - AGENCY COMPARISON

**Operating Expenditures**
- In 2023 we spent about half as much as Minneapolis Park and Rec. Board and about $20,000 less than Three Rivers Park District.

**Personnel**
- We have less full-time employees than all of the agencies shown
- Non-full-time employees: we have 27, MPRB has 1,323, and Three Rivers has 75
- MPRB has about twice as many people in programming

**Volunteers**
- Three Rivers has less volunteers but more volunteer hours
- Minneapolis has more volunteers and ten times as many volunteer hours

**Activities / Programming**
- Of 18 popular activities, MRPB offers all activities listed, Dakota County offers 5/18 activities, and Three Rivers offers 13/18.
- Most other agencies offer After School Programs, Dakota County does not.
- Most other agencies offer Teen Specific Programs, Senior Specific Programs, and Programs for People with Disabilities.

| Activities | Dakota County | MPRB | Three Rivers |
|---|---|---|---|
| Health and wellness education | X | X | X |
| Safety training | | X | X |
| Fitness enhancement classes | X | X | X |
| Team sports | | X | |
| Individual sports | | X | X |
| Running/cycling races | | X | X |
| Racquet sports | | X | |
| Martial arts | | X | |
| Aquatics | | X | |
| Golf | | X | X |
| Social recreation events | X | X | X |
| Cultural crafts | | X | X |
| Performing arts | | X | X |
| Visual arts | | X | X |
| Natural and cultural history activities | X | X | X |
| Themed special events | X | X | X |
| Trips and tours | | X | X |
| eSports/eGaming | | X | |

**What we're not doing
that other Metro agencies are:**
- Concessions (food and alcohol)
- Social spaces
- Event stage/performance space
- Nature center
- Waterpark
- Athletic facilities
- Lighted areas to use at night
- Bridging Facilities
- Special Feature
- Indoor gathering area or picnic shelter for 200+ people
- Snowmaking
- Ski area
- Art center

## NATURE CENTERS

### Which Metro agencies offer Nature Centers?

| 0 Nature Centers | 1 Nature Center | 3 Nature Centers |
|---|---|---|
| Dakota County Parks | Minneapolis Park and Rec. Board | Three Rivers Park District |
| Carver County Parks | Anoka County Parks | |
| Scott County Parks | Ramsey County Parks | |
| St. Paul Parks & Rec. | | |
| Washington County Parks | | |

**Other Nature Center Organizations in the Metro Area:**

**Dodge Nature Center** (non-profit located in West St. Paul, with additonal properties in Mendota Heights, West St. Paul, and Cottage Grove)

**Carpenter Nature Center** (non-profit located in Hastings, MN, and Hudson, WI)

**Wood Lake Nature Center** (City of Richfield)

**Harriet Alexander Nature Center** (City of Fridley)

**Springbrook Nature Center** (City of Fridley)

**Westwood Hills Nature Center** (City of St. Louis Park)