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Needs Assessment

Research Summary

Introduction

Hitchcock Design Group conducted a comprehensive review of both quantitative and qualitative data including existing MCCD research and statistics, and facilitated workshops with the MCCD Board of Trustees, staff, and community stakeholders as well as designing and implementing an on-line survey.

Hitchcock Design Group collaborated with the Board of Trustees and staff to perform an analysis of MCCD's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges as it relates to recreational development and public access to assess where the District is today and where it could be in the future. Stakeholder perceptions were also obtained through the community workshops and an on-line survey. The workshops are noted within each of the respective summaries.

To supplement these findings, MCCD contracted with American Viewpoint to design and conduct a stratified random telephone survey to test public perception and identify the needs of residents.

The methods used and results of these individual data gathering exercises are summarized in the following paragraphs.

Needs Assessment Summary

As noted in the Recommendations and implementation section of this report, a wide range of needs and issues were identified as a result of methodologies employed in the assessment process. A number of themes emerged as the planning process advanced. Collectively, these themes served as an organizing framework for conducting additional analysis and, ultimately, creating the final recreational site development and public access recommendations. The themes were as follows:

- Camping
- Canoeing / kayaking
- Education centers
- Educational programming and signage
- Fishing
- General site improvements and planning
- Hiking and multi-use trails
- Off leash dog areas

Community Input Telephone Survey

Another method used to gather input from residents was a community input survey conducted with American Viewpoint, Inc. in October, 2007. A total of 500 respondents were interviewed in this stratified random telephone survey. (see Appendix A for the complete report). Key findings include:

- Most residents claim to have limited knowledge about the McHenry County Conservation District, but much of this can be attributed to the frequency of visits, age, and length of residence. Knowledge of the MCCD rises significantly among residents who visit the sites, who are over the age of 44, and have lived in the county more than 10 years.
- Satisfaction with the overall performance of MCCD and satisfaction with the number and quality of recreational facilities and programs provided by MCCD is very high and the more respondents know about the MCCD and more they visit the conservation sites, the more likely they are to be Very Satisfied with their overall performance.

- Most residents take advantage of what the conservation sites offer on a fairly regular basis. 27% visit frequently, 46% visit seasonally or annually, and only 24% never visit. And, almost half (49%) of those who never visit are either age 65 and over or a fairly new resident.
- Those who visit the conservation sites engage in a variety of activities – especially walking and hiking.
- Respondents agree overwhelmingly (84%) that MCCD should have the right to restrict access if there is a good reason. On the other hand, they also appear to agree that the public should have access as long as sensitive habitats are not adversely affected.
- Most respondents feel that MCCD should stick to doing the things that it has traditionally done, such as acquiring lands, restoring habitat, providing nature education, and building and maintaining trails, and picnic areas, but a minority feel strongly that they should provide more facilities and diverse recreational opportunities.
- A plurality of residents feel that acquiring, maintaining, and restoring lands should be the top priority of the MCCD, but providing recreational and educational opportunities follow *very* closely behind.
- Trails are at the top of almost everyone's list, but residents also show a great deal of interest in other types of recreational opportunities. The extent to which this is true is underscored by the fact that among those who gave Trails, 81% also mentioned some non-trail recreational opportunity that they are interested in. And among the those who gave one or more of the recreational opportunities, 90% also gave Trails as something that they feel the MCCD should spend money adding to or improving.

The top recreational activities were identified as:

- Walking (67%)
- Hiking (56%)
- Picnicking (38%)
- Biking (33%)
- Fishing (24%)
- Boating / camping (12%)
- Horseback riding, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, hunting (all under 10%)

The top recreational priorities were identified as:

- Hiking trails (73%)
- Biking trails (74%)
- Rustic hiking trails (60%)
- Paved multi use trails (52%)
- Boat and kayak rentals (49%)
- Off leash dog areas (41%)
- Horseback riding stables (37%)
- RV camping (30%)
- Snowshoe rentals (25%)
- Hunting and skeet shooting (19%)
- Hunting dog training areas (18%)
- Archery (12%)

Based on the data gathered, common priorities were identified as follows:

- Hiking / walking trails
- Biking trails
- Education and programming
- Canoe and kayak facilities
- Fishing
- Camping
- Equestrian trails
- Multi use trails
- Picnicking

Online Survey

Another technique used to provide the public with information about the planning process and a venue for providing input was a project website linked from the home page on MCCD's website. In order to better understand the public's recreational needs and preferences, an online survey was conducted from September 17, 2007 to October 25, 2007 (a full copy of the survey is included in Appendix B). While the results included non-recreational related priorities such as buying land and preserving water quality, the focus of analysis for this project was on recreational activities and priorities. Key findings include:

- 88% said that MCCD sites are convenient
- 93% said they were "somewhat to very" satisfied with MCCD facilities

The top five activities were identified as follows:

- Hiking trails
- Biking trails
- Special events
- Picnic facilities
- Fishing

The top five priorities were:

- Hiking trails
- Biking trails
- Camping
- Paved multi use trails
- Fishing

Community Workshops

Four community workshops were held at four different sites throughout McHenry County to gather input directly from residents. The workshop dates and sites were:

- October 2, 2007 Brookdale Administration Building, Woodstock
- October 3, 2007 Algonquin Township Offices, Crystal Lake
- October 9, 2007 Glacial Park Conference Center, Ringwood
- October 10, 2007 Prairieview Education Center, Crystal Lake

While the face-to-face interaction with the public and feedback received were invaluable, it should be noted that the overall turnout was relatively light, a factor that was taken into consideration when all the background data collected was reviewed and analyzed.

A summary of the recreational priorities identified is as follows:

- Education programs
- Hiking trails
- Biking trails
- Canoe and kayak access
- Increase site access
- Camping

MCCD Board of Trustees Workshop

Hitchcock Design Group facilitated a four-hour workshop with the Board of Trustees on Saturday, August 25, 2007. Potential recreational needs and other key issues were identified, as follows:

- Bike trails
- Equestrian trails
- Fishing access
- Hunting
- Canoe access
- Picnic facilities
- Improved camping facilities
- More site access
- Dog parks / training areas
- Balance with resources, conservation, water quality
- Improve education and outreach

MCCD Staff Workshop

Hitchcock Design Group facilitated a morning workshop with MCCD staff on Tuesday, August 29, 2007. Staff members were divided into small teams and asked to identify the organization's most important recreational issues and needs. While there was a notable diversity of opinions and no clear consensus about priorities, a number of common themes emerged, as follows:

- Hiking and biking trails
- Education programming
- Equestrian trails
- Canoeing and kayaking
- Camping / RV facilities
- Hunting and fishing
- ADA access
- Picnic facilities

6 Appendix

Appendix A

Community Input Telephone Survey

AMERICAN VIEWPOINT

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McHenry County Community Input Survey

Key Points Summary

October 2007

Prepared for
McHenry County Conservation District



By:
American Viewpoint, Inc.
John Wilson

Key Points Summary

- - Most residents claim to have limited knowledge about the McHenry County Conservation District, but much of this can be attributed to the frequency of visits, age and length of residence. Knowledge of the MCCD rises significantly among residents who visit the sites, who are over the age of 44 and have lived in the county for more than 10 years.
- - Satisfaction with the overall performance of the McHenry County Conservation District and satisfaction with the number and quality of recreational facilities and programs provided by the MCCD is very high and the more respondents know about the MCCD and the more they visit the conservation sites, the more likely they are to be Very Satisfied with their overall performance.
- - Most residents take advantage of what the conservation sites offer on a fairly regular basis. 27% visit frequently, 46% visit seasonally or annually and only 24% never visit. And almost half (49%) of those who never visit are either age 65 and over or a fairly new resident.
- - Those who visit the conservation sites engage in a wide variety of activities – especially walking and hiking.
- - Respondents agree overwhelmingly (84%) that the McHenry County Conservation District should have the right to restrict access if there is a good reason. On the other hand, they also appear to agree that the public should have access as long as sensitive habitats are not adversely affected. Restricting access due to lack of amenities is not acceptable to almost three out of every four residents.
- - Most respondents feel that the MCCD should stick to doing the things that it has traditionally done such as acquiring lands, restoring habitat, providing nature education and building and maintaining trails and picnic areas, but a minority feel strongly that they should provide more facilities and diverse recreational opportunities.
- - A plurality of residents feel that acquiring, maintaining and restoring land should be the top priority of the MCCD, but providing recreational and educational opportunities follow very closely behind.
- - Trails are at the top of almost everyone's list, but residents also show a great deal of interest in other types of recreational opportunities. The extent to which this is true is underscored by the fact that among those who gave Trails, 81% also mentioned some non-trails recreational opportunity that they are interested in. And among those who gave one or more of the recreational opportunities, 90% also gave trails as something that they feel the MCCD should spend money adding to or improving.

- Respondents appear to be saying that they are generally satisfied with the way the McHenry County Conservation District allocates its resources, and while they think that the resource allocation formula could be tinkered with, there isn't a call for any drastic changes in how the MCCC spends its time and resources.

General Attitudes & Perceptions

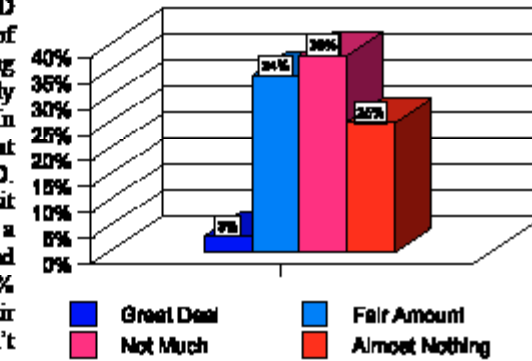
Knowledge Of The MCCC

Overall, knowledge of the McHenry County Conservation District is fairly low. Only 37% of those surveyed said that they know a Great Deal (3%) or a Fair Amount (34%) about the organization, while 63% say that they don't know much about the MCCC.

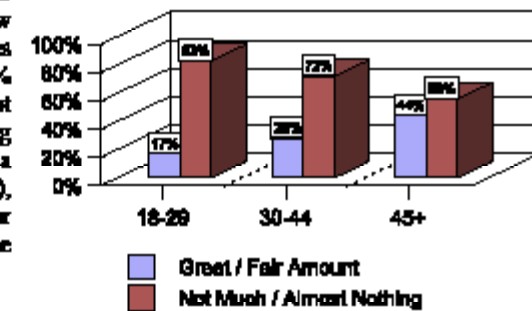
Naturally, knowledge about the MCCC correlates highly with the number of times respondents visit the sites. Among those who visit frequently (daily, weekly or monthly) knowledge is quite high. In fact, 65% say that they know a Great Deal or a Fair Amount the MCCC. However, among those who visit seasonally or annually, just 33% know a Great Deal or a Fair Amount. And among those who never visit, only 11% say that they know a Great Deal or a Fair Amount, while 89% say that they don't know much or know almost nothing about the organization.

Age also correlates highly with knowledge of the MCCC. Among those 18 to 29 only 17% know a Great Deal or a Fair Amount, while 83% don't know much or anything. Knowledge rises somewhat among those 30 to 44 (28% Great Deal or Fair Amount / 72% Not Much or Almost Nothing). But among those age 44 and over about half know a Great Deal or a Fair Amount (44%), while about half don't know much or know almost nothing about the Conservation District.

Knowledge Of The MCCC



Knowledge Of MCCC By Age



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Community Input Survey Analysis
American Viewpoint, Inc.
November, 2007

Another factor that correlates highly with knowledge of the MCCD is length of residence and in a county that is growing as fast as McHenry County this is, of course, an important factor. Among those who have lived in McHenry County for five years or less, 90% know little if anything about the Conservation District. Among those who have lived in the county for six to ten years, 24% know a Great Deal of a Fair Amount, but 76% know little if anything about the organization. Finally, among those who have lived in McHenry County for more than ten years, almost half (49%) know a Great Deal or a Fair Amount about the McHenry County Conservation District.

Knowledge Of The MCCD
By Length Of Residence



In short, many residents claim to have limited knowledge about the MCCD, but much of this can be attributed to the frequency of visits, age and length of residence.

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Overall Satisfaction

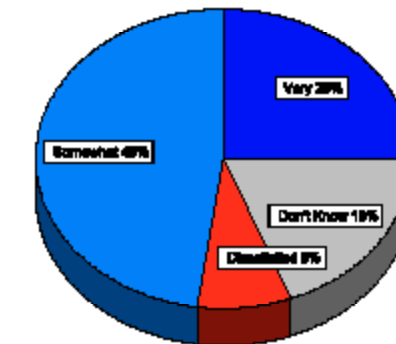
Overall, 73% of the respondents said that they were Very Satisfied (25%) or Somewhat Satisfied (48%) with the overall performance of the McHenry County Conservation District. Only 8% said that they were Dissatisfied and 19% said that they didn't know how the MCCD has performed.

It is interesting that 63% know very little about the MCCD, but only 19% didn't know if they were satisfied with its performance. It appears, therefore, that many respondents differentiate between the organization and the conservation sites that it provides.

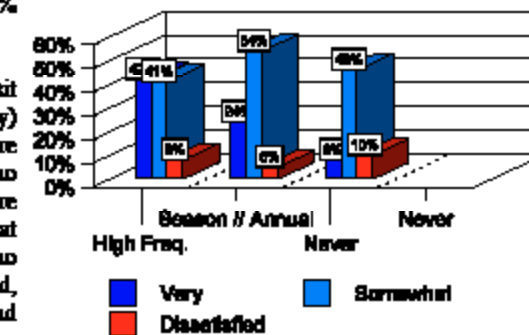
The difference between whether respondents were Very Satisfied or just Somewhat Satisfied correlates highly with knowledge of the MCCD and frequency of visits. Among those who know a Great Deal about the MCCD, 68% are Very Satisfied, while 13% are Somewhat Satisfied. Among those who know a Fair Amount, 41% are Very Satisfied and 42% are Somewhat Satisfied. And among those who know little or nothing about the organization, only 14% are Very Satisfied, while 52% are Somewhat Satisfied (28% D. K.).

Similarly, among those who visit frequently (daily, weekly or monthly) 42% are Very Satisfied and 41% are Somewhat Satisfied. Among those who visit annually or seasonally, 24% are Very Satisfied and 54% are Somewhat Satisfied. Finally, among those who never visit, only 8% are Very Satisfied, while 46% are Somewhat Satisfied and 35% said they didn't know.

Overall Satisfaction



Overall Satisfaction With MCCD
By Frequency Of Visits



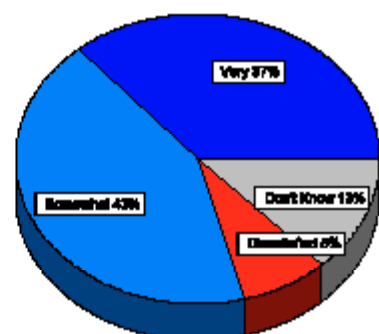
Satisfaction With Number And Quality Of Sites

Resident satisfaction with the number and quality of recreational facilities and programs provided by the McHenry County Conservation District is also very high. Overall, 80% are either Very (37%) or Somewhat (43%) Satisfied and only 7% are Dissatisfied (13% Don't Know).

Once again, satisfaction correlates with knowledge of the MCCD and the frequency of visits to the conservation sites. Among those who visit the sites frequently, 47% are Very Satisfied and 41% are Somewhat Satisfied. But among those who never visit the conservation sites, only 14% are Very Satisfied, 42% are Somewhat Satisfied and 35% don't know.

Similarly, among those who know a Great Deal or a Fair Amount about the organization 48% are Very Satisfied and 40% are Somewhat Satisfied (9% Dissatisfied). And among those who know little about the organization 30% are Very Satisfied and 44% are Somewhat Satisfied (6% Dissatisfied and 19% Don't Know).

Satisfaction With Number And Quality Of Facilities & Programs



It is interesting, once again, to see how respondents differentiate between the organization and the sites. That is, almost two out of every three respondents claim to know little if anything about the MCCD and yet only 13% were unable to evaluate the number and quality of recreational facilities and programs provided by the MCCD.

In short, satisfaction with the overall performance of the McHenry County Conservation District and satisfaction with the number and quality of recreational facilities and programs provided by the MCCD is very high and the more respondents know about the MCCD and the more they visit the conservation sites, the more likely they are to be Very Satisfied with their overall performance.

Frequency of Visits

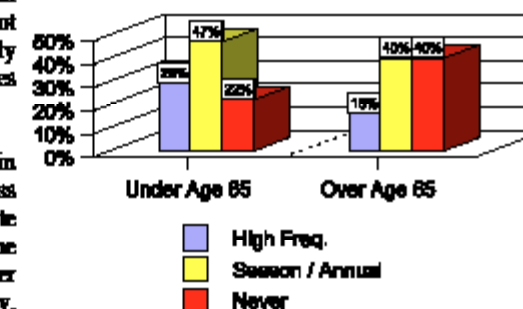
The high satisfaction levels registered by most respondents are reflected in the fact that most visit the conservation sites at least once a year. In fact, 27% visit at least once a month and 46% visit annually or seasonally. Only 24% say that they never visit the conservation sites.

Those who never visit fall largely into two groups. First, senior citizens visit far less often than younger residents. In fact, 40% of those over age 65 never visit the conservation sites and only 16% visit frequently. The reasons for this are not tested in the survey, but they are probably associated with physical disabilities and/or concerns about personal safety.

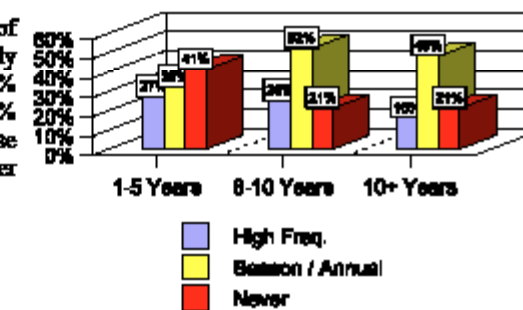
Second, 41% of those who have lived in McHenry County for five years or less never visit the conservation sites. Note that new residents who do visit the conservation sites, visit as often as older residents. That is, 27% visit daily, weekly or monthly. From this it appears likely that the reason that new residents do not visit the conservation sites, is that they don't know enough about them yet.

In short, most residents take advantage of what the conservation sites offer on a fairly regular basis. 27% visit frequently, 46% visit seasonally or annually and only 24% never visit. And almost half (49%) of those who never visit are either age 65 and over or a fairly new resident.

Frequency Of Visits By Age



Frequency Of Visits By Length Of Residence



Appendix A

Community Input Telephone Survey, *continued*

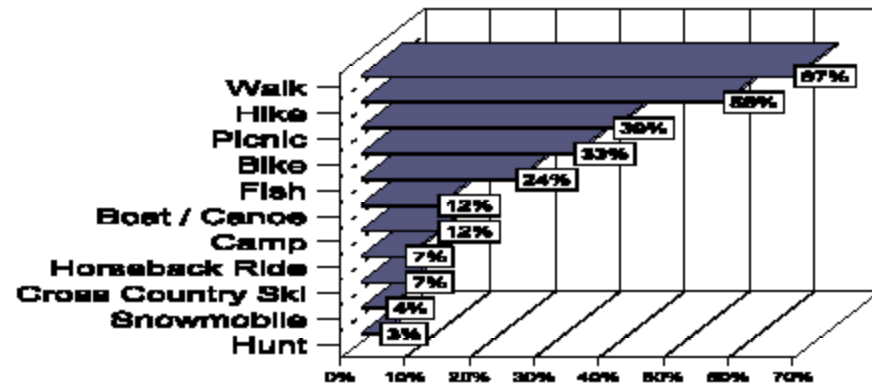
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Activities

It is clear from the data that McHenry County residents engage in a wide variety of activities when they visit the conservation sites, but walking (67%) and hiking (56%) are by far the most popular. In fact, 84% of those who visit the conservation sites engage in one or both of these two activities.

Picnics (38%), Biking (33%), Fishing (24%), Boating/Canoeing (12%) and Camping (12%) are also fairly popular, while Horseback Riding (7%), Cross Country Skiing (7%), Snowmobiling (4%) and Hunting (3%) are all enjoyed by less than 10% of those who visit the conservation sites.

Activities At MCCD Sites



In short, most residents don't know much about the MCCD – i.e. the organization – but most visit the conservation sites on a fairly regular basis and engage in a wide variety of activities – especially walking and hiking. And because of their familiarity with the conservation sites most are able to express their overall satisfaction with the sites and with the number and quality of recreational facilities and programs offered there.

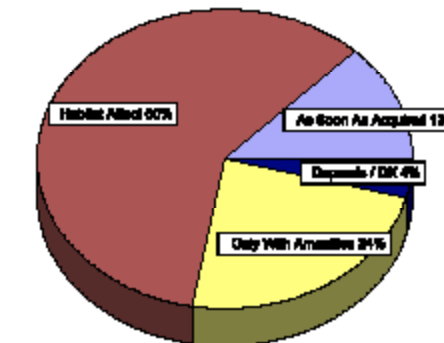
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Access

When asked if and when access to conservation sites should be restricted, only 13% felt that the public should have access to properties immediately upon acquisition regardless of the impact on sensitive habitats or the availability of amenities such as trails, parking lots or restrooms. A fairly large majority (60%) felt that access should be restricted if sensitive habitats are adversely affected and 24% felt that the public should only have access to properties where amenities have been added.

Viewed from one perspective, respondents appear to agree overwhelmingly (84%) that the McHenry County Conservation District should have the right to restrict access if there is a good reason, and conversely the public should not have the right to unrestricted access to conservation sites as soon as they are acquired.

Public Access Restriction



On the other hand, they also appear to agree that the public should have access as long as sensitive habitats are not adversely affected.

Restricting access due to lack of amenities is not acceptable to almost three out of every four residents.

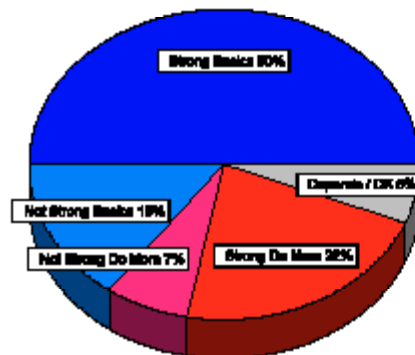
These findings are also consistent throughout the demographic groups. That is, a broad spectrum of McHenry County residents feel this way regardless of what part of the county they live in, sex, age, length of residence or the frequency with which they visit the conservation sites.

MCCD Priorities And Future Planning

Sticking To The Basics v. Doing More

Given the high satisfaction ratings received by the MCCD, it is not surprising to find that most residents feel that they should keep on doing what they have been doing. That is, two out of every three respondents feel that the MCCD should pretty much stick to acquiring lands, restoring wildlife habitat, providing nature education and building and maintaining trails and picnic areas. In fact, a majority of residents (50%) feel *strongly* about that.

Stick To Basics V. Do More



It is somewhat interesting to note that the response to this question did not vary by frequency of visits. That is, 67% of those who visit frequently, 65% of those who visit seasonally or annually and even 61% of those who never visit the conservation sites feel that the MCCD should stick to the basics.

Similarly, 64% of those who know a Great Deal or a Fair Amount about the MCCD and 65% of those who know little if anything about the MCCD agree that the Conservation District should stick to the basics.

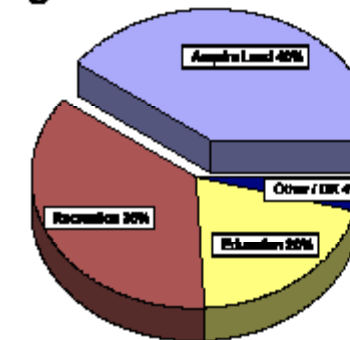
Even though a large majority feel that the MCCD should stick to the basics, there is a relatively small but vocal minority that feels that they should provide more facilities and diverse recreational opportunities such as off-leash dog exercise areas, horseback riding stables, ATV trails and boat, canoe and snowshoe rentals. Overall, 29% feel that the MCCD should do more and most (22%) feel *strongly* about this.

In short, most respondents feel that the MCCD should stick to doing the things that it has traditionally done such as acquiring lands, restoring habitat, providing nature education and building and maintaining trails and picnic areas, but a minority feel strongly that they should provide more facilities and diverse recreational opportunities.

Highest MCCD Priority

When asked what basic function should be the McHenry County Conservation District's highest priority 40% chose Acquiring Maintaining and Restoring Land. But this was followed closely by Providing Recreational Opportunities (36%) followed by Educational Opportunities (20%). Interesting, when asked what should be the *second* highest priority, Education topped the list with 38%. And so, even though acquiring, maintaining and restoring land is considered to be the top priority, providing recreational and educational opportunities follow very closely behind.

Highest MCCD Priority



Among those who feel that the MCCD should stick to the basics, 44% feel that acquiring, restoring and maintaining land should be it's highest priority. But among those who feel that the MCCD should provide more diverse recreational opportunities, a plurality (43%) feel that the MCCD should place Recreational Opportunities at the top of its priority list. Given that this group feels strongly about more diverse recreational opportunities, it is somewhat surprising to see that the gap isn't wider.

Facility and Recreational Opportunity Wish List

Given the foregoing it comes as no surprise to see that, when given a list of facilities and recreational opportunities and asked which ones the MCCD should spend more money adding to or improving, Trails topped the list. 87% mentioned some sort of trail – Hiking Trails (77%), Biking Trails (74%), Rustic Foot Trails (60%) or Paved Multi-Use Trails (52%).

At the same time, diverse recreational opportunities such as Boat, Kayak and Canoe Rentals (49%), Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas (41%), Horseback Riding Stables (37%) Snowshoe Rentals (25%), Hunting And Skest Shooting (19%), Hunting Dog Training Areas (18%) and Archery (12%) received a significant amount of support.

Appendix A

Community Input Telephone Survey, *continued*

**McHenry County Conservation District
Community Input Survey Analysis
American Viewpoint, Inc.
November, 2007**

It is also interesting to see that the responses of those who think the MCCC should stick to basics don't vary significantly from those who feel the MCCC should offer more diverse recreational opportunities.

	Stick To Basics	More Diverse Recreational Opportunities	Net Difference
Hiking Trails	82%	71%	+11
Biking Trails	76%	74%	+2
Rustic Foot Trails	66%	50%	+16
Paved Multi-Use Trails	55%	48%	+7
Boat, Kayak And Canoe Rentals	50%	49%	+1
Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas	37%	48%	-11
Horseback Riding Stables	35%	43%	-8
RV Camping Facilities	26%	36%	-10
Snowshoe Rentals	27%	23%	+4
Hunting And Skest Shooting	16%	24%	-8
Hunting Dog Training Areas	9%	15%	-6
Archery	5%	12%	-7
Dog Sledding	2%	8%	-6

In short, Trails are at the top of almost everyone's list, but residents also show a great deal of interest in other types of recreational opportunities. The extent to which this is true is underscored by the fact that among those who gave Trails, 81% also mentioned some non-trails recreational opportunity that they are interested in. And among those who gave one or more of the recreational opportunities, 90% also gave trails as something that they feel the MCCC should spend money adding to or improving.

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Spending Priorities

Respondents were also given a list of activities that the McHenry County Conservation District engages in and were asked whether they felt that the MCCC spends too much, too little or about the right amount of time and resources on each.

Given the aforementioned lack of knowledge about the MCCC and the fact that 24% of the residents never visit the sites, it comes as no surprise that many respondents said that they Didn't Know if the MCCC is spending too much, too little or about the right amount of time and resources on these activities. For that reason, it makes sense to evaluate these questions based on those who actually had an opinion.

For the most part, the results reflect the satisfaction with the MCCC expressed earlier in the survey. That is, most respondents who had an opinion were generally satisfied with the current spending and resource allocation decisions of the McHenry County Conservation District.

Total "About The Right Amount"

Providing And Maintaining Picnic Areas, Shelters And Parking	80%
Providing And Maintaining Trails For Biking	72%
Providing Lake And River Access	71%
Providing And Maintaining Trails For Hiking	70%
Providing Education Programs, Etc.	69%
Historical And Cultural Site Preservation	66%
Providing Kayak, Canoe and Snowshoe Rentals	60%
Providing And Maintaining Trails For Horseback Riding	56%
Providing And Maintaining Trails For Dog Sledding	56%
Acquiring And Restoring Open Space	55%
Providing And Maintaining Hunting Dog Training Areas	50%
Protecting Watersheds	49%
Providing And Maintaining Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas	45%

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Even among those who felt that the MCCC was spending too much or too little time and resources on any given activity, the intensity of the feeling was fairly low. That is, the Far Too Little and Far Too Much responses were low. For instance, Protecting Watersheds was the activity most often cited as receiving too little time and resources (42%). But only 13% felt that the MCCC was spending *Far Too Little* time and resources on this activity.

Similarly, Providing And Maintaining Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas was the second most frequently cited activity as receiving too little time and resources (39%). But once again, only a small number of respondents (9%) felt that this activity was receiving *Far Too Little*.

In short, respondents appear to be saying that they are generally satisfied with the way the McHenry County Conservation District allocates its resources, and while they think that the resource allocation formula could be tinkered with, there isn't a call for any drastic changes in how the MCCC spends its time and resources. The extent to which this is true is highlighted in the table below which combines Too Little, About Right and Too Much (and eliminates FAR Too Much and FAR Too Little).

Total Without "FAR To Much" and "FAR Too Little"	
Providing And Maintaining Picnic Areas, Shelters And Parking	96%
Providing And Maintaining Trails For Biking	94%
Providing Lake And River Access	94%
Providing And Maintaining Trails For Hiking	94%
Providing Education Programs, Etc.	93%
Historical And Cultural Site Preservation	92%
Providing Kayak, Canoe and Snowshoe Rentals	91%
Providing And Maintaining Trails For Horseback Riding	91%
Providing And Maintaining Trails For Dog Sledding	88%
Acquiring And Restoring Open Space	87%
Providing And Maintaining Hunting Dog Training Areas	87%
Protecting Watersheds	86%
Providing And Maintaining Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas	84%

Appendix B Online Survey

McHenry County Conservation District Community Input Survey

1. What recreational facilities/programs do you or members of your family most frequently use?

	Response Percent	Response Count
City parks department/ park district facilities	52.6%	61
Local school facilities	7.8%	9
State park(s)	43.1%	50
McHenry County Conservation District facilities	71.6%	83
Privately owned facilities (golf course, church camps, etc.)	15.5%	18
Other	15.5%	18
(please name the facilities)		34
answered question		116
skipped question		0

2. How often do you or members of your family use the recreational facilities/programs you identified? (choose the answer that best applies to you)

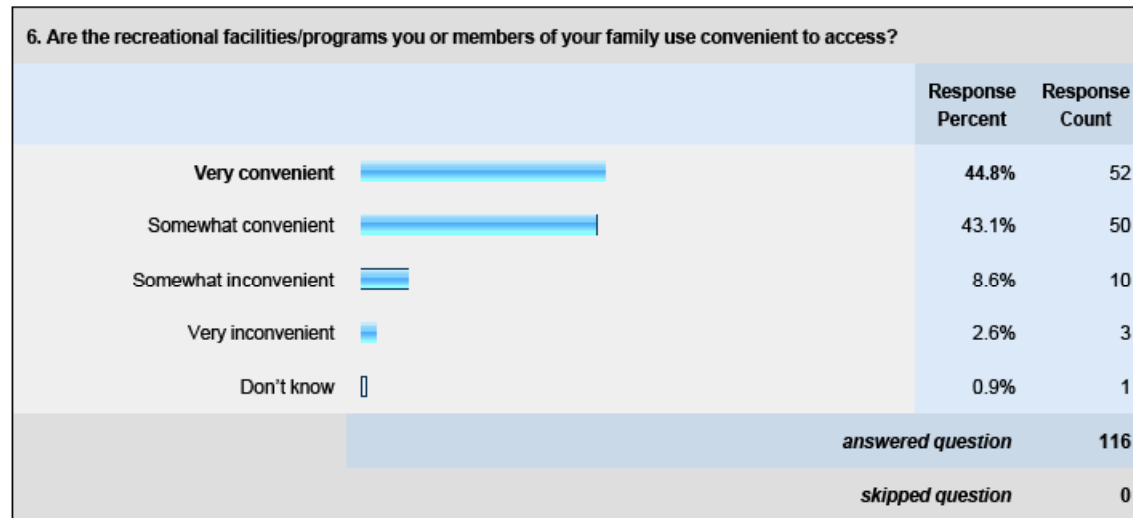
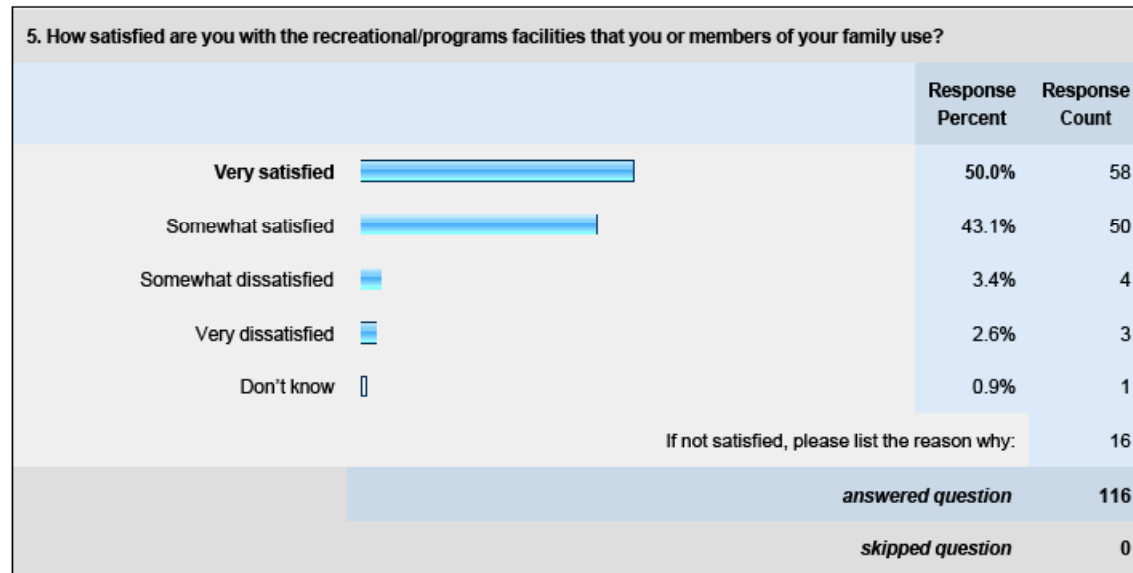
	Response Percent	Response Count
Daily	9.5%	11
Weekly	53.4%	62
Monthly	21.6%	25
Seasonally	13.8%	16
Annually	0.9%	1
Never	0.9%	1
answered question		116
skipped question		0

3. How far away are the recreational facilities/programs that you or members of your family most frequently use?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 1 mile	12.1%	14
1-5 miles	44.8%	52
More than 5 miles	43.1%	50
answered question		116
skipped question		0

4. What form of transportation do you or members of your family most frequently use to access recreational facilities/programs?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Walk	8.6%	10
Bicycle	1.7%	2
Drive/vehicle	80.2%	93
Other	9.5%	11
(please name)		11
answered question		116
skipped question		0



7. What other recreation facilities/programs would you or members of your family use if they were more convenient (please list all)?

	Response Count
	66
answered question	66
skipped question	50



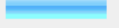




8. Of the following activities, how do you believe the McHenry County Conservation District should allocate resources in future goal setting (a "0" ranking means not important at all and a "5" ranking means extremely important)?

	0	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
A. Acquire/protect natural areas	0.9% (1)	3.4% (4)	5.2% (6)	11.2% (13)	18.1% (21)	61.2% (71)	116
B. Restore/manage habitats for native wildlife and plants	0.0% (0)	3.4% (4)	6.0% (7)	19.8% (23)	25.9% (30)	44.8% (52)	116
C. Maintain existing sites, trails and facilities	0.0% (0)	0.9% (1)	3.4% (4)	11.2% (13)	34.5% (40)	50.0% (58)	116
D. Provide environmental educational/ facilities/ programs/ exhibits	2.6% (3)	11.2% (13)	11.2% (13)	19.8% (23)	28.4% (33)	26.7% (31)	116
E. Provide additional trails	5.2% (6)	7.8% (9)	3.4% (4)	23.3% (27)	22.4% (26)	37.9% (44)	116
F. Open new sites	2.6% (3)	5.2% (6)	12.1% (14)	26.7% (31)	25.9% (30)	27.6% (32)	116
G. Provide additional recreational opportunities	7.8% (9)	7.8% (9)	10.3% (12)	23.3% (27)	19.8% (23)	31.0% (36)	116
answered question							116
skipped question							0




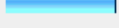


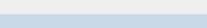
Appendix B

Online Survey, *continued*

9. Which one of the seven priorities listed above is the most important to you or members of your family?

	Response Percent	Response Count
A 	37.1%	43
B 	8.6%	10
C 	18.1%	21
D 	6.0%	7
E 	11.2%	13
F 	4.3%	5
G 	14.7%	17
answered question		116
skipped question		0

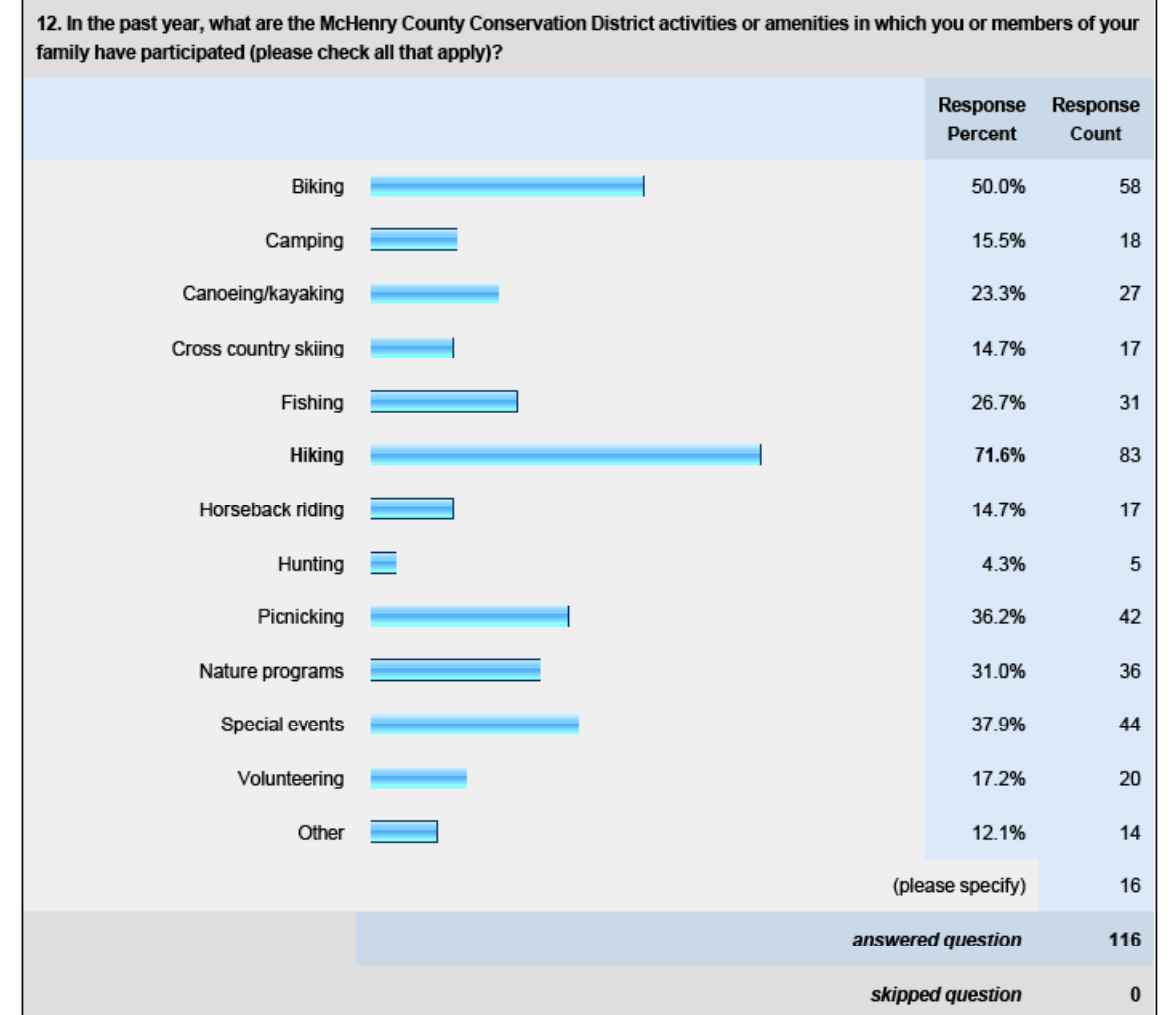
10. Which one of the seven priorities listed above is the least important to you or members of your family?

	Response Percent	Response Count
A 	8.6%	10
B 	6.0%	7
C 	0.0%	0
D 	19.8%	23
E 	12.9%	15
F 	18.1%	21
G 	34.5%	40
answered question		116
skipped question		0

11. In the past year, what McHenry County Conservation District site(s) have you or members of your family visited?

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Seasonally	Annually	Never	Response Count
Beck's Woods/Piscasaw North	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	2.6% (3)	6.0% (7)	11.2% (13)	80.2% (93)	116
Brookdale	3.4% (4)	1.7% (2)	2.6% (3)	12.1% (14)	10.3% (12)	69.8% (81)	116
Camp Algonquin	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	1.7% (2)	6.0% (7)	11.2% (13)	81.0% (94)	116
Coral Woods	0.0% (0)	4.3% (5)	4.3% (5)	15.5% (18)	18.1% (21)	57.8% (67)	116
County Line Road Access	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	3.4% (4)	0.9% (1)	7.8% (9)	87.9% (102)	116
Dufield Pond	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	2.6% (3)	6.9% (8)	2.6% (3)	87.9% (102)	116
Elizabeth Lake	0.0% (0)	0.9% (1)	1.7% (2)	5.2% (6)	6.0% (7)	86.2% (100)	116
Exner Marsh	0.9% (1)	2.6% (3)	1.7% (2)	9.5% (11)	11.2% (13)	74.1% (86)	116
Fel-Pro RRR	0.0% (0)	1.7% (2)	5.2% (6)	13.8% (16)	10.3% (12)	69.0% (80)	116
Fox Bluff	0.0% (0)	0.9% (1)	3.4% (4)	11.2% (13)	4.3% (5)	80.2% (93)	116
Glacial Park/Wiedrich Education Center	0.9% (1)	10.3% (12)	22.4% (26)	25.9% (30)	17.2% (20)	23.3% (27)	116
Harrison Benwell	0.0% (0)	0.9% (1)	4.3% (5)	6.0% (7)	12.1% (14)	76.7% (89)	116
Hebron Trail	0.0% (0)	3.4% (4)	6.0% (7)	6.9% (8)	8.6% (10)	75.0% (87)	116
Hickory Grove/Lyon's Prairie and Marsh	0.0% (0)	2.6% (3)	4.3% (5)	17.2% (20)	6.9% (8)	69.0% (80)	116
The Hollows	0.0% (0)	5.2% (6)	12.9% (15)	21.6% (25)	16.4% (19)	44.0% (51)	116
HUM Trail	0.9% (1)	0.9% (1)	1.7% (2)	3.4% (4)	6.9% (8)	86.2% (100)	116
Lyle C. Thomas Memorial Park	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.9% (1)	5.2% (6)	3.4% (4)	90.5%	116

	0.0% (0)	1.7% (2)	13.8% (16)	19.0% (22)	12.9% (15)	52.6% (61)	116
Marengo Ridge	0.0% (0)	1.7% (2)	13.8% (16)	19.0% (22)	12.9% (15)	52.6% (61)	116
Nippersink Canoe Base	0.0% (0)	0.9% (1)	2.6% (3)	12.1% (14)	15.5% (18)	69.0% (80)	116
Pleasant Valley	0.0% (0)	3.4% (4)	6.9% (8)	19.8% (23)	6.0% (7)	63.8% (74)	116
Prairie Trail	0.0% (0)	10.3% (12)	9.5% (11)	14.7% (17)	10.3% (12)	55.2% (64)	116
Prairieview Education Center	0.0% (0)	2.6% (3)	10.3% (12)	21.6% (25)	9.5% (11)	56.0% (65)	116
Rush Creek	0.9% (1)	3.4% (4)	5.2% (6)	13.8% (16)	12.9% (15)	63.8% (74)	116
Silver Creek	0.0% (0)	0.9% (1)	1.7% (2)	5.2% (6)	7.8% (9)	84.5% (98)	116
Stickney Run	0.0% (0)	0.9% (1)	3.4% (4)	6.0% (7)	8.6% (10)	81.0% (94)	116
(other - please name)							15
answered question							116
skipped question							0



Appendix B

Online Survey, *continued*

13. In reference to specific trail improvements, how much of a priority should the following be for the McHenry County Conservation District (a "0" ranking means not important at all and a "5" ranking means extremely important)?							
	0	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
13A. Biking trails	6.0% (7)	5.2% (6)	9.5% (11)	19.0% (22)	23.3% (27)	37.1% (43)	116
13B. Cross country ski trails	12.9% (15)	12.9% (15)	17.2% (20)	34.5% (40)	16.4% (19)	6.0% (7)	116
13C. Horseback trails	14.7% (17)	15.5% (18)	19.8% (23)	24.1% (28)	6.9% (8)	19.0% (22)	116
13D. Fitness trails	12.1% (14)	11.2% (13)	18.1% (21)	35.3% (41)	12.1% (14)	11.2% (13)	116
13E. In-line skating trails	29.3% (34)	24.1% (28)	20.7% (24)	21.6% (25)	2.6% (3)	1.7% (2)	116
13F. Compass/ orienteering trails	12.9% (15)	12.9% (15)	31.0% (36)	25.0% (29)	13.8% (16)	4.3% (5)	116
13G. Paved multi-use trails	14.7% (17)	7.8% (9)	13.8% (16)	25.0% (29)	21.6% (25)	17.2% (20)	116
13H. Walking trails	2.6% (3)	2.6% (3)	5.2% (6)	17.2% (20)	25.0% (29)	47.4% (55)	116
13I. ADA accessible trails	9.5% (11)	13.8% (16)	11.2% (13)	34.5% (40)	15.5% (18)	15.5% (18)	116
<i>answered question</i>							116
<i>skipped question</i>							0

14. In reference to specific camping improvements, how much of a priority should the following be for the McHenry County Conservation District (a "0" ranking means not important at all and a "5" ranking means extremely important)?							
	0	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
14A. Camping facilities for individuals/ families	8.6% (10)	10.3% (12)	11.2% (13)	16.4% (19)	23.3% (27)	30.2% (35)	116
14B. Camping facilities for groups	11.2% (13)	15.5% (18)	20.7% (24)	19.8% (23)	26.7% (31)	6.0% (7)	116
14C. Camping facilities for RV's	29.3% (34)	19.0% (22)	25.9% (30)	12.1% (14)	7.8% (9)	6.0% (7)	116
14D. Rental cabins for camping	20.7% (24)	17.2% (20)	22.4% (26)	19.0% (22)	12.1% (14)	8.6% (10)	116
14E. Shower facilities for camping	13.8% (16)	17.2% (20)	21.6% (25)	14.7% (17)	11.2% (13)	21.6% (25)	116
<i>answered question</i>							116
<i>skipped question</i>							0

15. In reference to specific water activities improvements, how much of a priority should the following be for the McHenry County Conservation District (a "0" ranking means not important at all and a "5" ranking means extremely important)?							
	0	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
15A. Fishing opportunities	6.9% (8)	9.5% (11)	11.2% (13)	27.6% (32)	20.7% (24)	24.1% (28)	116
15B. Fly fishing opportunities	13.8% (16)	13.8% (16)	24.1% (28)	27.6% (32)	9.5% (11)	11.2% (13)	116
15C. Boat/ kayak/ canoe rentals	12.1% (14)	6.0% (7)	17.2% (20)	24.1% (28)	19.0% (22)	21.6% (25)	116
15D. Boat/ kayak/ canoe launches	4.3% (5)	7.8% (9)	13.8% (16)	25.0% (29)	23.3% (27)	25.9% (30)	116
15E. Ice skating	12.1% (14)	17.2% (20)	23.3% (27)	22.4% (26)	14.7% (17)	10.3% (12)	116
<i>answered question</i>							116
<i>skipped question</i>							0

McHenry County Conservation District Community Input Survey

1. What recreational facilities/programs do you or members of your family most frequently use?

	Response Percent	Response Count
City parks department/ park district facilities	52.6%	61
Local school facilities	7.8%	9
State park(s)	43.1%	50
McHenry County Conservation District facilities	71.6%	83
Privately owned facilities (golf course, church camps, etc.)	15.5%	18
Other	15.5%	18
(please name the facilities)		34
answered question		116
skipped question		0

2. How often do you or members of your family use the recreational facilities/programs you identified? (choose the answer that best applies to you)

	Response Percent	Response Count
Daily	9.5%	11
Weekly	53.4%	62
Monthly	21.6%	25
Seasonally	13.8%	16
Annually	0.9%	1
Never	0.9%	1
answered question		116
skipped question		0

17. In reference to specific outdoor adventure improvements, how much of a priority should the following be for the McHenry County Conservation District (a "0" ranking means not important at all and a "5" ranking means extremely important)?

	0	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
17A. Archery	17.2% (20)	20.7% (24)	19.8% (23)	21.6% (25)	10.3% (12)	10.3% (12)	116
17B. Dog sledding	23.3% (27)	25.0% (29)	21.6% (25)	12.9% (15)	2.6% (3)	14.7% (17)	116
17C. Geocaching	23.3% (27)	15.5% (18)	16.4% (19)	25.9% (30)	11.2% (13)	7.8% (9)	116
17D. High ropes/team building course	23.3% (27)	25.9% (30)	15.5% (18)	19.0% (22)	11.2% (13)	5.2% (6)	116
17E. Horseback riding/stable rentals	20.7% (24)	15.5% (18)	18.1% (21)	19.0% (22)	6.9% (8)	19.8% (23)	116
17F. Hunting	39.7% (46)	16.4% (19)	19.0% (22)	9.5% (11)	6.0% (7)	9.5% (11)	116
17G. Rock climbing	23.3% (27)	15.5% (18)	17.2% (20)	25.0% (29)	12.9% (15)	6.0% (7)	116
17H. Target/skeet shooting	41.4% (48)	19.0% (22)	14.7% (17)	10.3% (12)	4.3% (5)	10.3% (12)	116
17I. Snow sledding/tubing	5.2% (6)	11.2% (13)	14.7% (17)	30.2% (35)	23.3% (27)	15.5% (18)	116
17J. Snowmobiling	42.2% (49)	18.1% (21)	15.5% (18)	13.8% (16)	5.2% (6)	5.2% (6)	116
17K. Snowshoe rentals	22.4% (26)	10.3% (12)	17.2% (20)	31.9% (37)	9.5% (11)	8.6% (10)	116
answered question							116
skipped question							0






Appendix B



Online Survey, *continued*

18. In reference to specific general visitation improvements, how much of a priority should the following be for the McHenry County Conservation District (a "0" ranking means not important at all and a "5" ranking means extremely important)?							
	0	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
18A. Dog off-leash exercise area	18.1% (21)	12.1% (14)	16.4% (19)	21.6% (25)	15.5% (18)	16.4% (19)	116
18B. Environmental exploration play area	10.3% (12)	10.3% (12)	16.4% (19)	25.0% (29)	24.1% (28)	13.8% (16)	116
18C. Picnic shelters for group rentals	8.6% (10)	11.2% (13)	19.0% (22)	31.0% (36)	18.1% (21)	12.1% (14)	116
18D. Outdoor concerts	19.0% (22)	14.7% (17)	19.0% (22)	21.6% (25)	13.8% (16)	12.1% (14)	116
18E. Seasonal special events	6.0% (7)	6.0% (7)	11.2% (13)	23.3% (27)	26.7% (31)	26.7% (31)	116
18F. Meeting and conference rooms	27.6% (32)	18.1% (21)	28.4% (33)	16.4% (19)	5.2% (6)	4.3% (5)	116
<i>answered question</i>							116
<i>skipped question</i>							0

19. Of the activities listed, rank your preference for the top five activities:						
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	Response Count
13A. Biking trails	25.0% (14)	28.6% (16)	10.7% (6)	14.3% (8)	21.4% (12)	56
13B. Cross country ski trails	9.5% (2)	14.3% (3)	38.1% (8)	19.0% (4)	19.0% (4)	21
13C. Horseback trails	55.0% (11)	30.0% (6)	0.0% (0)	10.0% (2)	5.0% (1)	20
13D. Fitness trails	14.3% (2)	28.6% (4)	14.3% (2)	7.1% (1)	35.7% (5)	14
13E. In-line skating trails	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	20.0% (1)	60.0% (3)	20.0% (1)	5
13F. Compass/ orienteering trails	11.1% (1)	22.2% (2)	22.2% (2)	33.3% (3)	11.1% (1)	9
13G. Paved multi-use trails	19.2% (5)	15.4% (4)	23.1% (6)	30.8% (8)	11.5% (3)	26
13H. Walking trails	34.7% (25)	23.6% (17)	16.7% (12)	11.1% (8)	13.9% (10)	72
13I. ADA accessible trails	40.0% (2)	20.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	20.0% (1)	20.0% (1)	5
14A. Camping facilities for individuals/ families	6.5% (2)	25.8% (8)	25.8% (8)	25.8% (8)	16.1% (5)	31
14B. Camping facilities for groups	0.0% (0)	33.3% (1)	33.3% (1)	0.0% (0)	33.3% (1)	3
14C. Camping facilities for RV's	0.0% (0)	40.0% (2)	20.0% (1)	20.0% (1)	20.0% (1)	5
14D. Rental cabins for camping	0.0% (0)	14.3% (1)	28.6% (2)	28.6% (2)	28.6% (2)	7
14E. Shower facilities for camping	10.0% (1)	30.0% (3)	0.0% (0)	30.0% (3)	30.0% (3)	10
15A. Fishing opportunities	17.4% (4)	17.4% (4)	17.4% (4)	26.1% (6)	21.7% (5)	23
15B. Fly fishing opportunities	20.0% (1)	40.0% (2)	0.0% (0)	20.0% (1)	20.0% (1)	5
15C. Boat/ kayak/ canoe rentals	17.4% (4)	4.3% (1)	43.5% (10)	26.1% (6)	8.7% (2)	23
15D. Boat/ kayak/ canoe launches	0.0% (0)	37.5% (6)	25.0% (4)	18.8% (3)	18.8% (3)	16
15E. Ice skating	12.5% (1)	0.0% (0)	50.0% (4)	0.0% (0)	37.5% (3)	8
16A. Interpretive/ educational signage	6.7% (1)	13.3% (2)	40.0% (6)	26.7% (4)	13.3% (2)	15
16B. Additional environmental education centers	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	33.3% (1)	33.3% (1)	33.3% (1)	3
16C. Historical/ cultural site preservation	33.3% (5)	0.0% (0)	26.7% (4)	26.7% (4)	13.3% (2)	15
16D. Interpretive weather station	25.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	25.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	50.0% (2)	4

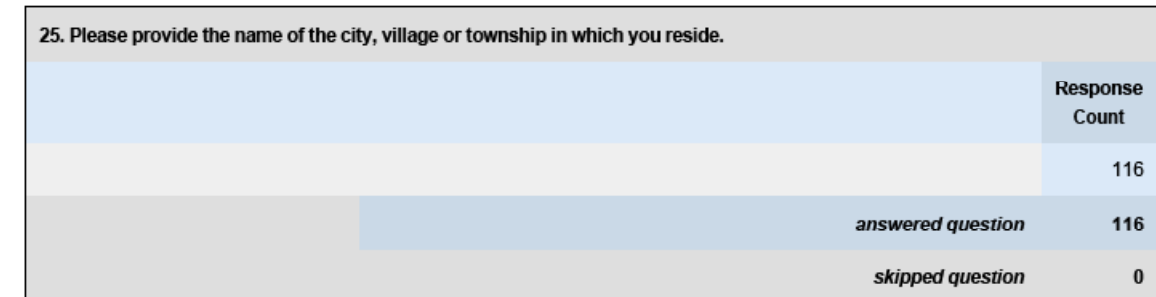
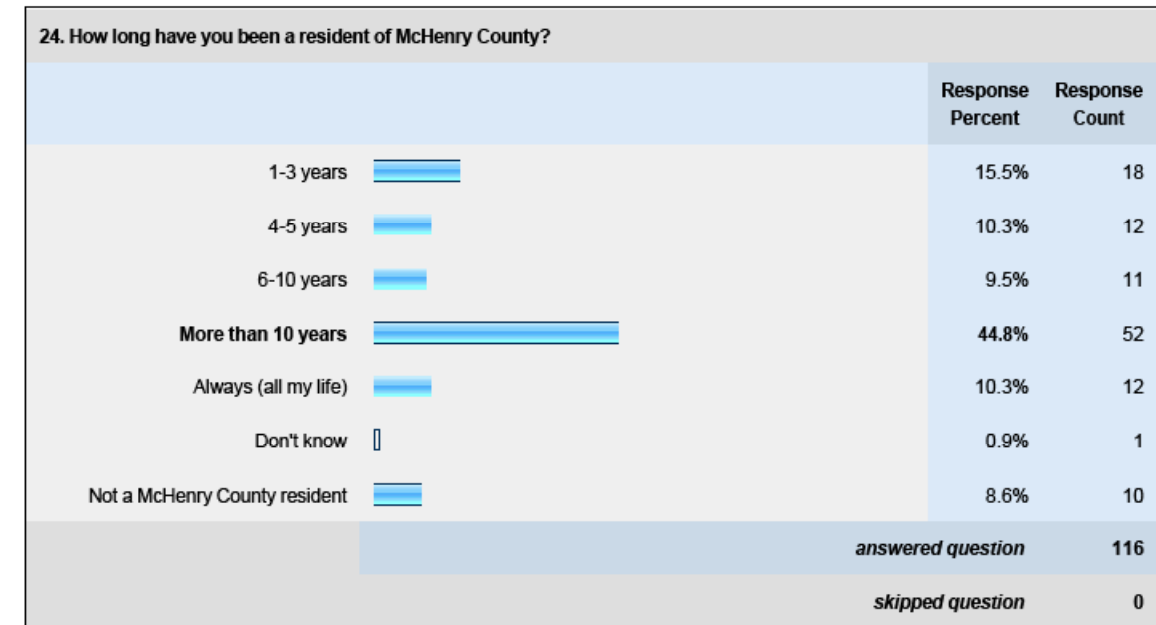
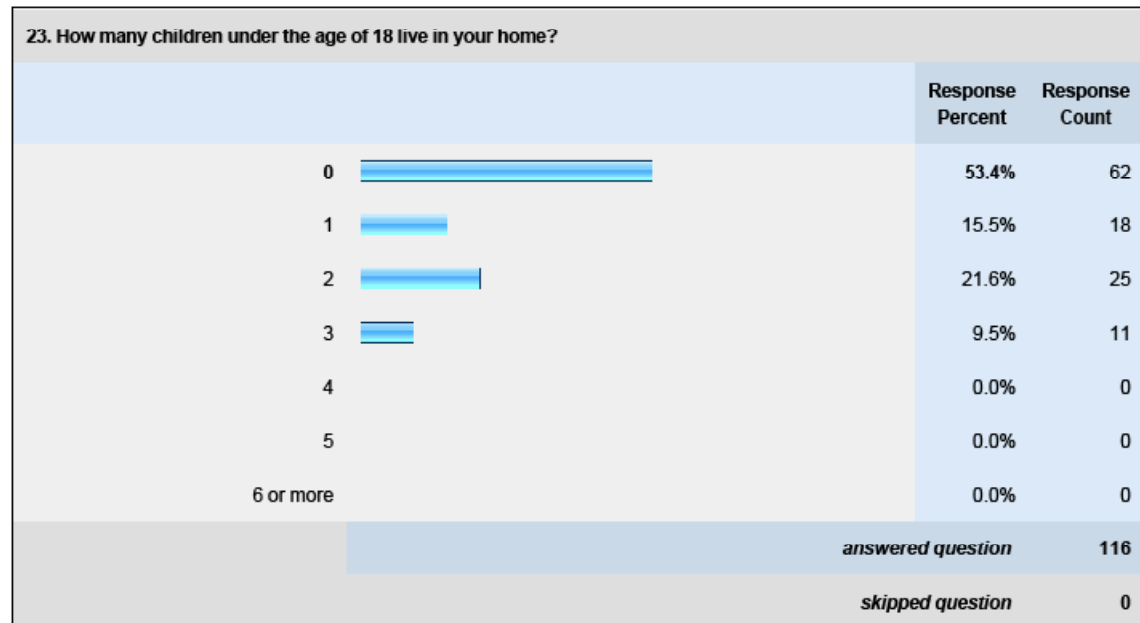
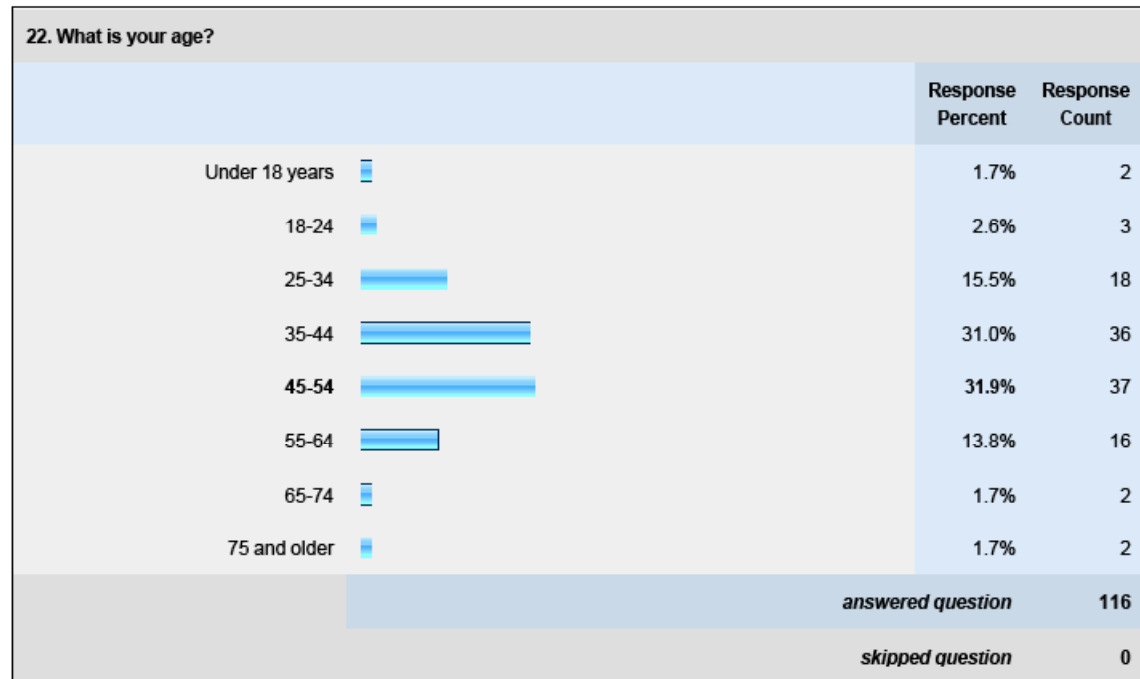
16E. Interpretive/ exploratory garden	16.7% (1)	16.7% (1)	33.3% (2)	0.0% (0)	33.3% (2)	6
16F. Interpretive visitor's center	20.0% (2)	20.0% (2)	0.0% (0)	20.0% (2)	40.0% (4)	10
17A. Archery	50.0% (4)	12.5% (1)	25.0% (2)	12.5% (1)	0.0% (0)	8
17B. Dog sledding	66.7% (10)	6.7% (1)	13.3% (2)	0.0% (0)	13.3% (2)	15
17C. Geocaching	18.2% (2)	18.2% (2)	27.3% (3)	9.1% (1)	27.3% (3)	11
17D. High ropes/team building course	0.0% (0)	25.0% (1)	50.0% (2)	25.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	4
17E. Horseback riding/stable rentals	21.1% (4)	15.8% (3)	15.8% (3)	21.1% (4)	26.3% (5)	19
17F. Hunting	41.7% (5)	8.3% (1)	16.7% (2)	8.3% (1)	25.0% (3)	12
17G. Rock climbing	0.0% (0)	20.0% (2)	30.0% (3)	30.0% (3)	20.0% (2)	10
17H. Target/skeet shooting	0.0% (0)	37.5% (3)	50.0% (4)	12.5% (1)	0.0% (0)	8
17I. Snow sledding/tubing	0.0% (0)	25.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	75.0% (3)	0.0% (0)	4
17J. Snowmobiling	0.0% (0)	75.0% (3)	25.0% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	4
17K. Snowshoe rentals	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	33.3% (1)	33.3% (1)	33.3% (1)	3
18A. Dog off-leash exercise area	5.0% (1)	25.0% (5)	15.0% (3)	20.0% (4)	35.0% (7)	20
18B. Environmental exploration play area	15.4% (2)	7.7% (1)	15.4% (2)	38.5% (5)	23.1% (3)	13
18C. Picnic shelters for group rentals	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	33.3% (1)	0.0% (0)	66.7% (2)	3
18D. Outdoor concerts	18.2% (2)	18.2% (2)	9.1% (1)	18.2% (2)	36.4% (4)	11
18E. Seasonal special events	0.0% (0)	20.0% (4)	5.0% (1)	50.0% (10)	25.0% (5)	20
18F. Meeting and conference rooms	33.3% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	66.7% (2)	3
Other (please list)						12
answered question						116
skipped question						0


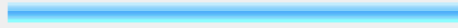


20. Of the recreational programs/facilities used by you or members of your family, which should be provided by the McHenry County Conservation District (please list):			Response Percent	Response Count
1.		100.0%	116	
2.		64.7%	75	
3.		53.4%	62	
4.		42.2%	49	
5.		32.8%	38	
answered question			116	
skipped question			0	

21. What is your gender?			Response Percent	Response Count
Male		37.1%	43	
Female		62.9%	73	
answered question			116	
skipped question			0	

Appendix B

Online Survey, *continued*



26. Survey Respondent Information (optional):			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Name (optional)		91.7%	44
Address (optional)		83.3%	40
Address (optional)		0.0%	0
City/ State/ Zip (optional)		91.7%	44
Email (optional)		68.8%	33
<i>answered question</i>			48
<i>skipped question</i>			68