Trends
AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR Park + Rec
Time Constricted

101 Minutes

170 Minutes

Average Daily Time Spent
Time Constricted

IMPORTANCE FOR Park + Rec

☑ Convenient locations
☑ Flexible hours
☑ More hours
☑ After school programs
Health Conscious

The percentage of obese youth in the United States has **TRIPLED** in the past two decades

- Institute of Medicine

Our children are predicted to have a **shorter life expectancy** than that of their parents.
Health Conscious

Obesity in the United States

Percentage of Population that is Obese

- 1990: Orange
- 1991: Orange
- 1992: Orange
- 1993: Orange
- 1994: Orange
- 1995: Orange
- 1996: Orange
- 1997: Orange
- 1998: Orange
- 1999: Orange
- 2000: Orange
- 2001: Orange
- 2002: Orange
- 2003: Orange
- 2004: Orange
- 2005: Orange

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Health Conscious

There is increased awareness of the relationship between physical activity and long-term health.

An estimated $495 million were spent in Minnesota during 2000 treating diseases & conditions avoidable by physical activity.

Health Conscious

**IMPORTANCE FOR Park + Rec**

- New fitness opportunities
- Integration of body & mind
- Part of lifestyle
- Fitness and facilities
- Walking, running, and biking trails
Children’s Nature Deficit Disorder

- Children’s play has changed from being outdoors to indoors since the 1950s
- Adolescent’s environmental concerns have generally declined since the early 1990s

Environmentally Aware
Interest in **Sustainability**

- Pro-active policies for local sustainability
- Use of ‘green’ building materials
- Sustainable maintenance practices (reduced use of fertilizers, less mowing, hybrid vehicles, etc.)
- Native platings
- On-site stormwater treatment/rain gardens

**Environmentally Aware**
Interest in Transportation Alternatives

Biking
Walking
Transit

Environmentally Aware
Environmetricsally Aware

**IMPORTANCE FOR Park + Rec**

- More natural areas
- More educational/interpretive programs
- Balance of environment & recreation
- Desire for passive open space
- Interest in aesthetics and gardens
Modest Population Growth

Duluth Population 1970-2030

- City of Duluth Comprehensive Plan
Modest Population Growth

- Limited future system expansion
- Focus on improvements to and fine-tuning existing facilities and services
Increasingly Diverse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race or Origin</th>
<th>Percent Increase, 2000 to 2025</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian or Pacific Islander</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic Origin*</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Projected Percent Increase in MN population by race and Hispanic origin 2000-2025
Increasingly Diverse

IMPORTANCE FOR Park + Rec

☑ More space for special events
☑ More unprogrammed areas
☑ Changing recreation demands
More Transient

Projection:

Today’s young people will live in twice as many homes as their grandparents.
More Transient

IMPORTANCE FOR Park + Rec

✓ Adapt to changing residents
✓ Flexible and multifaceted
Financially Pinched

✅ Deteriorating park and recreation infrastructure and facilities
✅ Delayed improvement and rehabilitation of facilities
Financially Pinched

- Prioritization and reduction of services
- Reduction of city programs
- Increase in non-profit recreation programs
Financially Pinched

Importance for Park + Rec

- Need for partnerships
- Focus on quality
- Need for stable funding
- Balance between new and existing
- Life-cycle cost considerations
IMPORTANCE FOR Park + Rec

- More senior recreation
- More mid-day recreation programs
- Less active outdoor recreation - more walking, gardening, culture, etc.

Aging Population
According to the 2000 Census, Duluth has 12,627 individuals living below the poverty line.

This is 15.5% of Duluth's population and nearly 2 times the Minnesota average poverty rate of 8.1%.

In St. Louis County 55% of households who rent pay over 30% of their income on rent. This is the highest in Minnesota.

38% of Duluth's school-age children qualify for free or reduced price lunches.

Increased Poverty and Disparity
Increased Poverty and Disparity

Importance for Park + Rec

- Access challenges
- Affordability factor
- Increased social service needs
Increasingly Anxious-Safety

SAFETY ISSUES

2005 Ramsey County Active Communities Study

- Safe Children Walk to School
  - City Agree: 50
  - City Disagree: 34
  - Suburbs Agree: 25
  - Suburbs Disagree: 28

- Trash/Graffiti Not Problem
  - City Agree: 61
  - City Disagree: 65
  - Suburbs Agree: 28
  - Suburbs Disagree: 20

- Streets Well Lit
  - City Agree: 90
  - City Disagree: 8
  - Suburbs Agree: 71
  - Suburbs Disagree: 54

- High Crime/Unsafe to Walk
  - City Agree: 37
  - City Disagree: 26
  - Suburbs Agree: 89
  - Suburbs Disagree: 5
Increasingly Anxious-Safety

34% of city residents and 25% of suburbanites think it is unsafe for children to walk to school in their neighborhood

- From the Ramsey County Healthy Communities Study

** Parents driving their children to school are estimated to contribute 20% - 25% of morning rush hour traffic.

- From the Minnesota Sustainable Communities Network
Increasingly Anxious-Safety

IMPORTANCE FOR Park + Rec

- Safer trails and parks
- Better lighting
- Closer facilities
SON, NO ONE PLAYED ZOOTER BALL BACK IN 1987 BECAUSE THEY HADN’T EVEN INVENTED THE SIMDIKGAFLEMMER YET.
Rise in Informal Recreation

Recent years have seen declining participation in both youth and adult organized sports.

Changing Recreation Demands
More Use of the **St. Louis River**

- Boating
- Fishing
- Picnicking

Changing **Recreation Demands**
Increased Trail Use

-changing Recreation Demands

- Walking
- Hiking
- Mountain biking
- Road biking
- Cross country skiing
Interest in **Off-Leash Dog Parks**

39% of US Households own at least one dog

- The United States Humane Society

Changing **Recreation Demands**
Popularity of Non-traditional Sports

- Rock climbing
- Skateboarding
- Rugby
- Ultimate frisbee
- Disk golf

Changing Recreation Demands
Winter Skating

More people are using indoor skating facilities and less are using outdoor rinks

Changing Recreation Demands
Importance of Tourism

2007 trip spending on trail related tourism in Northeast Minnesota
- $400 million - walking/hiking trail activities
- $80 million for biking trail activities

Changing Recreation Demands