



Appendix B

Visitation Estimate Methodology

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Research & Evaluation Section

Visitation Estimate Methodology

September 11, 2014

Projected Visits to the Baker/Carver Regional Trail = 183,000

According to the Met Council, Lake Independence Regional Trail attracted 57,400 visits during 2013. The proposed regional trail should generate at least this many visits due to the following similarities:

- Both trails connect to the Luce Line State Trail.
- Both trails connect to Baker Park Reserve, which contains a 200 site campground and many miles of paved multi-use trails.
- Both trails travel through rural areas of western Hennepin County.

The proposed regional trail should attract an additional 40,000 visits at minimum due to the following unique features:

- Proposed regional trail will provide connection to a wide variety of recreation opportunities by offering direct access to Carver Park Reserve, Lake Minnetonka Regional Park, Gale Woods Farm, and Camp Kingswood.
- Portions of proposed regional trail will not be immediately adjacent to roadways and be within a larger green corridor making it more aesthetically pleasing than the Lake Independence Regional Trail.
- Proposed regional trail will pass through the city of Maple Plain, which has a population 1,800 people.

An additional 85,909 visits are projected for the proposed regional trail due to its connection with the Dakota Rail Regional Trail and Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail:

- The Dakota Rail Regional Trail attracted 464,800 visits during 2013 and based on a 2009 visitor study conducted by Three Rivers Park District, 62 percent of Dakota Rail Regional Trail visits passed through the area where the proposed regional trail intersects the Dakota Rail Regional Trail. This calculates to 288,176 visits ($0.62 \times 464,800$). If the proposed regional trail is accessed by a conservative estimate of 20 percent of these visits, 57,635 visits will be added.
- The Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail attracted 415,800 visits during 2013 and based on a 2009 visitor study conducted by Three Rivers Park District, 34 percent of Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail visits passed through the area where the proposed regional trail intersects the Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail. This calculates to 141,372 visits ($0.34 \times 415,800$). If the proposed regional trail is again accessed by a conservative estimate of 20 percent of these visits, 28,274 visits will be added.

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