

ANNUAL REPORT 2009



STEARNS COUNTY PARKS

2009

STEARNS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DeWayne Mareck – District 1
Mark Sakry – District 2
Vince Schaefer – District 3
Leigh Lenzmeier – District 4
Donald Otte – District 5

STEARNS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Robert Piano – District 1
Jim Graeve – District 2
John Peck – District 3
Dave Bechtold – District 4
John Olmscheid – District 5
John Greer – Planning Commission Member
Mark Sakry – County Commissioner Member

STEARNS COUNTY PARKS STAFF

LeRoy Gapinski, Park Maintenance II
Joe Kulzer, Park Maintenance I
Brent McMullen, Park Maintenance I
Paul Wirth, Park Maintenance Coordinator (retired in August)
Wendy Hute, Office Specialist IV
Peter Theismann, Park Operations Coordinator
Charles Wocken, Park Director

Report submitted by: Charles B. Wocken

Cover: TWO RIVERS LAKE PARK OPENED

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PLANNING

MISSION STATEMENT OF STEARNS COUNTY:

The mission of the County of Stearns is to provide quality public services as determined by law and citizen needs, through innovative leadership and the teamwork of its people, officials, and employees. Services shall be provided in a fair, respectful, and professional manner consistent with available human, natural, and economic resources.

MISSION STATEMENT OF PARK DEPARTMENT:

“TO PROVIDE NATURAL RESOURCE-ORIENTED PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES, THAT ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF STEARNS COUNTY RESIDENTS THROUGH PHYSICAL FITNESS, COMMUNITY BUILDING AND ECONOMIC VITALITY.”

Stearns County Park Commission 11/06

2009 BUDGET OBJECTIVES:

1. Rockville County Park & Nature Preserve: construct facilities and open to public use.
2. Kraemer Lake/Wildwood Park - Conduct Master Plan.
3. Regional Rail Authority Corridor: survey & mark boundaries, and apply for development grant
4. Lake Wobegon Trail Extension: negotiate shared corridor use agreement with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Company (BNSF).
5. Comprehensive Plan – Recreation Section: continue to implement PARKS, OPENSOURCE & RECREATION PLAN/ acquire Mick site at Quarry Park.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: John Peck was elected Chair and Robert Piano was elected vice chair at the January meeting.

PARKLAND DEDICATION FEE: The County Board awarded a \$25,000 grant from the 25% portion of the Dedication Fee to the City of Paynesville for its Veterans Park shelter replacement. The Park Commission recommended to the County Board that requests for Parkland Dedication funding be referred to the Park Commission.

The County Board, at its May 13th meeting agreed to a Park Commission recommendation to use portions of the fund as follow:

1) Use any township’s account (75% portion) for any current county park project within those townships:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Township</u>	<u>Amount Available</u>
Wobegon Trail Phase 4	Holding	\$1,613 *
Two Rivers Lake road blacktopping	Krain	1,313 *

Dairyland Phase 1	North Fork	4,500
	Lake George	375
	Grove	938
Beaver Island Trail	Lynden**	4,125

2) Recommended dedication of the use of current balance in 25% portion (\$18,825) and the three special townships' (Melrose, Lynden** & St. Joseph) 75% portion (\$11,438) totaling \$30,263:

A. Installation of Stiff Legged Derrick at Quarry Park

Costs:	Engineering	\$1,200
	Concrete Pad	1,300
	Crane work	<u>3,000</u>
	Total	\$5,500
	Less donated engineering	<u>-1,200</u>
	Balance from Parkland	\$4,300

B. Evaluation and design work for Beaver Island Trail bridge over Plum Creek. This will leverage the \$33,000 grant balance for the Beaver Island Trail.

The County Board asked the Township Officers Executive Board for help crafting an acceptable resolution that all townships would endorse creating “districts” within the county where dedication fees would be pooled for projects. After review of the township executive officers’ proposal, the Park Commission, at its November meeting recommended to the County Board that *the 25% portion of the parkland dedication revenue designated for countywide use be used for county park & trail purposes only; and that the 75% of the revenue be allocated to townships for park and trail projects within townships from which the revenue was raised.*

LAKE KORONIS REGIONAL PARK: The Park Commission supported Meeker County’s DNR grant application to provide three camper cabins, play structure, storm shelter & warning system contingent on a master plan for the park being completed before any construction of a storm shelter. Members from both Meeker & Stearns County Park Commissions met with county administrators and a county commissioner to discuss development and planning needs. It was agreed that each committee would recommend master planning be done for the park with Stearns County coordinating the process. The cost was projected at \$10,000 with each county paying for one-half. Meeker County offered an extra \$1000 if needed.

Both County Boards approved the master planning process and appointed members to a task force to work with Brauer & Associates landscape architectural firm from Hopkins. Mr. Bechtold and Mr. Piano both volunteered to be on the task force which would meet three times. Each Park Commission recommended a “recreation

program” to be considered by the consultant. The task force had its first meeting on November 5, 2009 including a joint organizational meeting and a public input session.

Part of the public input session suggested a “speed zone” study be requested for the segment of County Road 20 at the park. The Stearns County Park Commission at its December meeting recommended the County Board request such a study of the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

As part of the research on the park it was found that all property parcels within each county are owned jointly by the counties except the original parcel which contains the shelter, auditorium, beach and parking area. That portion is owned solely by Meeker County though it is in Stearns County.

ROCORI TRAIL: The Cities of Richmond, Cold Spring and Rockville formed a joint powers board for the purposes of coordinating construction of Phase One of the trail between Richmond and Cold Spring. Stearns County was asked to be the “fiscal agent” for the processing of grants to the project.

GREATER MINNESOTA REGIONAL PARK & TRAIL PROVIDERS: Stearns County joined together with 26 other counties and 6 cities to form a coalition that attempted to get the State Legislature to allocate a significant portion of the Legacy Park & Trails Sales Tax Fund to Greater Minnesota for regional parks and trails. The Legislature set up a “Statewide” grant program that the Metro Council could also compete in, while both State Parks/Trails and Metro Regional Parks received \$12 million each for their individual systems. The group decided to organize in 2010 as the GREATER MINNESOTA REGIONAL PARK & TRAIL ASSOCIATION so as to provide an entity to follow, support and negotiate legislative funding for Greater Minnesota from the Legacy Park & Trail Fund. Chuck Wocken, the Stearns County Park Director was appointed by the State to be on the steering committee that directed needed inventories and planning for the Legislature for use of the sales tax funds. He was also designated by the St. Cloud Area Joint Planning District as the representative for the Central Minnesota Regional Park and Trail Coordination Board to the statewide Legacy committee.

BEAVER ISLAND TRAIL: The Park Department coordinated various volunteer groups to brush out county-owned trail corridor. The County hired an engineering firm to evaluate the potential use of the existing bridge over Plum Creek near Warner Lake. The bridge was deemed usable with certain repairs and modifications.

DAIRYLAND TRAIL: This trail project in western Stearns County is located on the former Soo Line Rail Corridor which was purchased by the Stearns County Regional Rail Authority in 1999. Phase One of the project would try to establish 12 miles of aggregate surfaced trail in the Elrosa, Greenwald and New Munich area for snowmobiling, horseback riding, biking, hiking and hunting.

Surveying of the corridor has occurred in Greenwald and New Munich. This has not been completed yet in Elrosa. There are buildings that are within the 100 ft. wide corridor.

Phase One bridge analysis was conducted by SRF CONSULTING on all six bridges. The bridge over the North Fork of the Crow River had experienced fire and was found unusable. The three smaller bridges were deemed to be usable if modified and repaired. Phase Two analysis was deemed necessary for the bridge over the Sauk River and the bridge over the Interstate. The County hired SRF to continue the bridge study with the Phase Two examination of the Sauk River bridge only, which showed it unfeasible to restore the bridge due to lack of reinforcement rods in the pillars

Meetings with some adjoining landowners occurred to listen to their concerns about the project and discuss possible solutions as noted in the November 11th meeting.

BIKEWAY PLAN: The Commission reviewed an update of the Plan proposed by staff which included addition of some new road corridors and the deletion of others. **The Park Commission moved approval of the proposal and recommendation of the proposal to the County Board.**

At the August 8th meeting the Park Commission passed a motion *recommending that the County Highway Department utilize the Minnesota Bikeway Facility Design Manual to determine appropriate shoulders for roads when they are being rebuilt.*

EVENT POLICY: The Park Commission reviewed changes and recommended the following for consideration by the County Board. The County Board adopted the changes on March 17th. Underlined words were additions to the policy and “struck-through” words were deletions to the policy.

EVENTS POLICY

PURPOSE: To promote enjoyment of Stearns County Parks & Trails through the establishment of an orderly way in which groups can organize and conduct public events within county park & trail system.

DEFINITIONS:

- Event - Advertised organized activities, which are open to the public.

Stearns County Parks are available for events under the following conditions:

1. The event organizer complies with any related local, state and federal ordinances.
2. The event organizer shall be responsible for any additional costs beyond the regular operational cost of the park and for damage to facilities or extraordinary cleanup.
- ~~3. The event organizer shall provide a damage deposit of 50 cents per person registering for or attending the event prior to the event. This deposit will be refunded within thirty days of the event after any cleanup or damage costs are deducted.~~
4. The event sponsor (when the County is not a co-sponsor) shall provide the following:
 - A liability policy for \$400,000 per person and ~~\$1,200,000~~ \$1,000,000 per event.

- Stearns County must be named as an ADDITIONAL INSURED on the policy.
 - A CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE must be provided thirty days prior to the event verifying the level of coverage and naming Stearns County as the "ADDITIONAL INSURED" within the policy.
 - Individual participants must sign a LIABILITY WAIVER.
 - Groups of less than 30 participants are exempt from the "Additional Insured" requirement above.
 - The organization must sign an Acceptance of Liability form.
5. The event sponsor (when the County is a co-sponsor) shall provide the following ~~insurance coverage~~:
- For events, which require participant registration - A LIABILITY WAIVER signed by the participant holding the County and its agents harmless.
 - The organization must sign an ACCEPTANCE OF LIABILITY form.
 - The first use by an organization the County will co-sponsor the event.
6. During the setup, operation and close down of the event the park shall remain open to the public.
7. To use a County Park for an event the standard rental fees will apply. Events at Quarry Park & Nature Preserve will require that each vehicle entering the park has a vehicle-parking permit. A shelter or building rental fee will apply at other County Parks.
8. Events ~~that raise funds or~~ which require a registration fee shall require the following revenue sharing with the Stearns County Park Department. Regular facility rental fees will also apply.
- For-profit organizations - 25 % of the ~~profit~~ registration proceeds would be paid to the Stearns County Park Department
 - Non-profit organizations - 5 % of the ~~profit~~ registration proceeds, not to exceed \$150 would be paid to the Stearns County Park Department.
- ~~9. Events that do not raise funds or require a registration fee shall require that the organization pay the regular rental and damage deposit fees.~~
10. Events that include booths set up by for profit vendors shall require a \$50 fee per booth.

10TH AVENUE SOUTH "SCOPING STUDY:" The City of Waite Park initiated a study looking at the possibility of building a 10th Av. South extension along the east side of Quarry Park. Before the parkland was purchased from Cold Spring Granite Company a separate deed for a road corridor had been deeded to the county for this planned road extension if it were ever to develop. Any plan is likely not to be implemented for many years.

ROCKVILLE COUNTY PARK & NATURE PRESERVE MASTER PLAN: The Park Commission accepted the final master plan and recommended its acceptance by the County Board

BUDGET: The 2010 proposal kept additions to a minimum. The Commission moved to include \$10,000 in the Lake Koronis Regional Park for master planning activities. Administration deleted the request for master planning money for the Kraemer Lake park site unless the Park Department could come up with grant funds to help with the activity.

BUDGET REVENUE SHORTFALL: Due to cuts of Local Government Aid to Counties by the State of Minnesota, each employee was required to take a day off without pay (furlough day). Park staff all took July 6th off. Another cost cutting measure which impacted the park program was that no advertising of openings for a position could occur before 15 weeks had lapsed following a position being opened. This effected replacement of the park Maintenance Coordinator at the end of August.

WILDWOOD/KRAEMER LAKE PARK LIFE ESTATE: With the unexpected death on April 10th of Dorothy Honer, seller of the 265 acres to Stearns County for this park, the life estate agreement came to an end. That placed control of the home site in the County's hands. The home was viewed by the County Board following one of its regular meetings.

WILDWOOD/KRAEMER LAKE PARK SITE QUONSET HUT: The Park Commission supported a staff recommendation to move the trailhead parking lot to the location of the Quonset hut along County Road 51. The building was not usable for public purposes. It was used by the St. Joseph Fire Department as a training exercise in fire fighting. The new parking lot was opened for use in December for skiers, but will be completed in 2010.

GRANT APPLICATIONS: The Park Commission held public hearings for grant applications to the DNR for development funding of Rockville County Park & Nature Preserve and for the expansion of Quarry Park & Nature Preserve. The Commission recommended support of both projects to the County Board.

ACQUISITION:

WARNER LAKE COUNTY PARK EXPANSION: The 23-acre Nemeth site was purchased on the southeast corner of park near the swimming beach. Acquisition was funded by a 100% grant from the State of Minnesota through the bonding program. Site cost was about \$492,000.

**STEARNS COUNTY PARK ACREAGE DISTRIBUTION
DECEMBER 31, 2009
COMMISSIONER DISTRICT**

PARK NAME	1	2	3	4	5
Mississippi River County Park			230		
Warner Lake County Park				264	
Upper Spunk Lake County Park			7		
St. Martin Canoe Access					1
Oak Township Park Site					32
Two Rivers Lake Park Site					56
Lake Sylvia Wayside and Access					3
Spring Hill County Park					82
Richmond River Wayside			8		
Lake Koronis Regional Park (partial)					42
Quarry Park & Nature Preserve (1992)		643			
Heims Mill Canoe Access		1			
Fairhaven Mill (not owned by Stearns)				5	
Miller Landing		6			
Lake Wobegon Trail (Leased) size adjusted; 30' width managed		15	29		90
Soo Line Rail Corridor (1999)			84		401
Beaver Island Trail (2003)				3 37	
Trail wayside west of Melrose (tax forfeit 2006)					1
Rockville County Park (2006)			294		
Wildwood/Kraemer Lake County Park (2007)		265			
Acreage	0	930	644	306	708
TOTAL ACREAGE			2588		

Figure 1

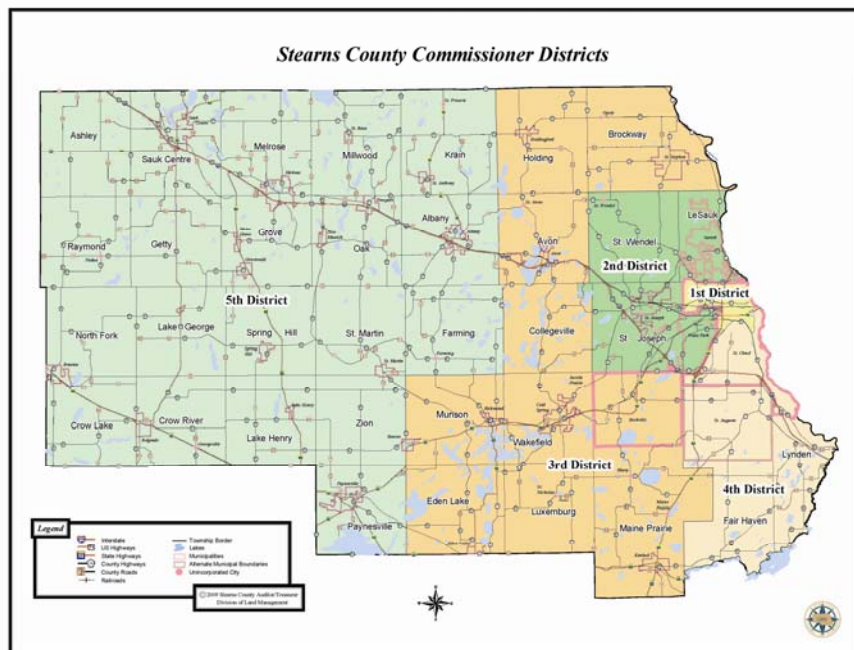


Figure 2

DEVELOPMENT

ROCKVILLE COUNTY PARK & NATURE PRESERVE: Park staff pulled all agricultural activity out of the park in preparation of native prairie planting. A volunteer developed a canoe campsite as per the master plan. Staff also marked some of the proposed horse/hike trails. Maintenance staff could spend only a small amount of time on trail brushing.

TWO RIVERS LAKE PARK: This 56-acre site was opened with a special dedication on July 14th. The entrance road and pathway to the shelter were paved in the spring concluding the development process for the park. It is hoped to link the park to the Lake Wobegon Trail (0.5 miles) with a separated pathway in the future.



MAINTENANCE

Summer maintenance activities included shelter & picnic grounds care, mowing, rodent control, noxious weed control, forest management, prairie management, building maintenance and repair, sanitation, grounds maintenance and improvements, trail maintenance, public safety inspections, and a host of other activities related to the hospitality mission of county parks.

WEATHER: October was the 3rd wettest on record.

LAKE WOBEGON TRAIL BRIDGES: An annual inspection is performed by the Highway Department of all public bridges. Some minor repairs were needed to some bridges, but one needed a couple piling splices.

STIFF-LEGGED DERRICK INSTALLATION AT QUARRY PARK: Park staff planned out and installed the unit salvaged from Cook, Minnesota in 2006. Concrete slabs were engineered for the boom arm to be elevated but not weight-carrying. The derrick will be for display and interpretation only. Cabling is the only aspect remaining on this project. The drum hoist and motor for the derrick weighs 10,000 pounds, according to the unloading crane's scale.



FUELING STATION INSTALLED AT QUARRY PARK: A two-fuel unit that was purchased three years ago was finally installed. The tank will carry 500 gallons each of unleaded and diesel fuel.

KRAEMER LAKE/WILDWOOD COUNTY PARK QUONSET HUT REMOVAL: Park staff coordinated the burning of the rental unit to make way for a new trailhead

parking lot. Highway Department staff was needed to haul contaminated materials to a dump site and level the building site.

DONATED FISHING DOCK ON SCHWINGHAMMER LAKE ON TRAIL RENOVATED: This dock was originally donated and installed by volunteers. Due to high water decking was separating from the frame. Park staff modified the framing and anchoring to stabilize the decking.



ST. MARTIN CANOE ACCESS RIPRAPPING: Flooding washed away some of the former roadway which makes up this river access. With appropriate permits in hand the Park staff coordinated with Highway Maintenance staff to line and riprap this major washout.

MILLER LANDING TEMPORARILY CLOSED: Stearns County began construction of a Westside Service Center which used much of the 6-acres site. Park furnishings were salvaged. Parking and river access will be restored at the completion of the project.

LAKE KORONIS REGIONAL PARK: This park is owned and operated through a Joint Powers Agreement. Meeker County provides the supervision and shares costs 50/50 with Stearns County.

FAIRHAVEN MILL: The Park Department continued its cooperation with Wright County in the maintenance of this site. Supervision is provided by Wright County. Though the property is owned by Wright County it resides mostly in Stearns County. Costs are shared 50/50 with Wright County.

GRANT-IN-AID SNOWMOBILE & SKI TRAILS: There are about 600 miles of groomed snowmobile trails in Stearns County which are maintained for public usage by the Stearns County Snowmobile Association. The trails are established by a permit from the private landowner to Stearns County with the Club or Association providing the day-to-day care. Dedicated trail funds are provided by the State to the Association and County for the maintenance of the trails. The 2009 grant to the Snowmobile Association was \$205,751. The Wildwood Ski Trail grant was about \$2,000.

STAFFING:

- 4 permanent park maintenance staff,
- 3 park maintenance aides
- 4 seasonal caretakers (Miss.River, & Quarry)
- 3 gatekeepers,
- 4 Green View, Inc. contract caretakers/attendants at Warner Lake

STAFF AWARDS: Park maintenance staff member Joe Kulzer received the county TEAM PLAYER award, and Pete Theismann received the county CIVIC AWARD. Pete

has received the most awards (3) of any one county staff in the history of the program, including Customer Service Award and Team Player Award.

PARK MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR RETIRES: Stearns County Parks saw its first retirement in history. Paul Wirth, with 32 years of service in to the county retired at the end of August. Advertisement for filling this position must wait 15 weeks. In the meantime, the County Board approved LeRoy Gapinski as acting Maintenance Coordinator. LeRoy has worked in the Park Department since 1994.

LIBERTY DERRICK OPERATED FOR PUBLIC VIEWING: When the derrick was finally powered up and operated last year it was just for the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce. This year the operation from 1 p.m to 3 p.m. every half-hour was scheduled and advertised as part of the City of Waite Park Spas Tag festival. Parking was free. About 300 people came to the demonstration.



FINANCES

2009 FINANCIAL FIGURES

OVERALL COUNTY ADOPTED BUDGET:

STEARNS COUNTY'S TOTAL BUDGET	\$137,182,396
STEARNS COUNTY'S PROPERTY TAX LEVY	\$ 64,778,477

PARK DEPARTMENT ADOPTED BUDGET:

PARK DEPARTMENT BUDGET with State Aids (Fund 18)	\$ 968,020
DEBT SERVICE FOR PARK BOND (Fund 35)	
(includes 1999 bond, Maint. Bldg. & 2002 * 2005-2007 projects)	\$ 760,805

PROPERTY TAX FOR PARK PROGRAM:

PARK FUND LEVY	\$ 908,020
DEBT SERVICE ALLOCATION (estimate)	\$ 760,805
Total Property Tax levy for Parks	\$ 1,668,825

Operational Cost per capita:

Estimated 2009 county population is 148,459
The per person operational levy is \$6.11

DONATIONS: \$100 was donated by Mimi & Dick Bitzen to Quarry Park.

GRANTS:

1. Dairyland Trail: \$150,000 was awarded by DNR Federal Recreation Trail Program with final agreement pending.
2. Wildwood Ski Trail: \$2,000 was awarded by DNR for improvements to the trail and parking area.
3. Stearns County Snowmobile Association: \$205,751 through DNR.

FEE SCHEDULE:

Warner Lake Open-Air Shelter has these fees:

\$60.00 per group on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (May through September).
\$55.00 per group on Monday through Thursday (in season, when caretaker is working)
\$50.00 per group in the off-season (October through April and non-weekends in May and September; no caretaker on duty)
Group of 50 or more requires a permit.
Damage deposit is \$0.50 per person
50% surcharge on weddings

Our **other open-air shelters** have the same fees:

\$50.00 per group on Friday, Saturday and Sunday (May through September).
\$45.00 per group on Monday through Thursday (in season, when caretaker is working)
\$40.00 per group in the off-season (October through April and non-weekends in May and September; no caretaker on duty)
Group of 50 or more requires a permit.
Damage deposit is \$0.50 per person
50% surcharge on weddings

Fees for Nature Center:

Rental is \$100.00 for the first 4 hours; \$20.00 per hour beyond 4 hours.
A refundable damage deposit will be added to your fee.
There is a 50% surcharge for weddings.

Stearns County Parks
Annual Report 2009

2009 Budget Performance Report

Account Number	Account Classifications	<u>YTD</u> <u>Expenses</u>	Account Number	Account Classifications	<u>YTD</u> <u>Expenses</u>
18-541-485 <u>Fairhaven Mill</u> <u>Park</u>	35 - Services & Charges	<u>\$3,591.19</u>		35 - Services & Charges	
	<u>Program Totals</u>	\$3,591.19	Unallocated	Telephone Admin Costs	\$5,343.68
18-541-486 <u>Lake Koronis</u>	35 - Services & Charges	\$31,252.98	<u>as to Parks</u>	Postage	\$840.27
	Advertising	\$110.52		Printing & Publishing	\$1,480.80
	<u>Program Totals</u>	\$31,363.50		Advertising	\$0.00
18-541-495 <u>Quarry Park &</u> <u>Nature Preserve</u>	35 - Services & Charges			Dues	\$568.00
	Professional, Contractual	\$5,377.79		Subscriptions	\$643.37
	Repairs & Maintenance	\$1,033.19		Utilities	\$14,495.83
	45 - Supplies			Professional, Contractual	\$49,904.54
	Supplies/Operating Expenses	\$31.64		IS Charges	\$21,192.66
	55 - Capital Outlay			Repairs & Maintenance	\$31,055.18
(Land Acquisition is through Park Bond)	Land, Site Acquisition &	<u>\$1,921.65</u>		Mileage	\$3,423.45
	Total	\$1,953.29		Training & Conference Expense	\$1,121.08
	<u>Program Totals</u>	\$8,364.27		Professional, Meeting Expense	\$721.33
18-541-497 <u>Lake Wobegon</u>	35 - Services & Charges			Rental Expenses	\$2,406.47
	Repair & Maintenance	20075.34		Service Agreements	\$246.00
	Professional Contractual	\$9,395.00		Permits & Licenses	\$56.00
	Services & Charges			Insurances	\$18,815.00
	45 - Supplies			RE Taxes	\$2,378.34
	Supplies/Oper. Expenses	\$2,832.08		<u>Program Totals</u>	\$154,692.00
	Signs & Posts			45 - Supplies	
	<u>Program Totals</u>	\$32,302.42		Supplies/Operating Expenses	\$49,901.90
18-541-499 <u>Unallocated as</u> <u>to Parks</u>	25 - Personal Services			Durable Supplies	
	Salaries, Permanent	\$339,049.58		Fuel & Lubricants	\$14,439.31
	Salaries, Part Time	\$378.00		<u>Program Totals</u>	\$64,341.21
	Contracted Personnel	\$33,674.86		55 - Capital Outlay	
	Salaries Over Time	\$1,650.11		Machine AU-EQ.	\$31,235.03
	Longevity	\$3,700.38		<u>Program Totals</u>	\$72,099.87
	Flex Plan Contributions	\$62,880.00	18-541-597	25 - Personal Service	
	PERA	\$23,235.86	<u>Park Board</u>	Per Diems	\$1,650.00
	Medicare	\$5,605.96		Medicare	
	FICA	\$24,144.42		FICA	
	Unemployment	\$396.90		35 - Services & Charges	
	Life Insurance	18029.96		Professional Meeting Expense	\$1,183.60
	Holiday	\$416.00		<u>Program Totals</u>	\$2,833.60
	Disability	\$1,909.83		GRAND TOTAL	\$940,998.80
	EE/ALL/REI	\$900.00			
	Severance	<u>\$25,540.46</u>			
	<u>Program Totals</u>	\$571,410.74			

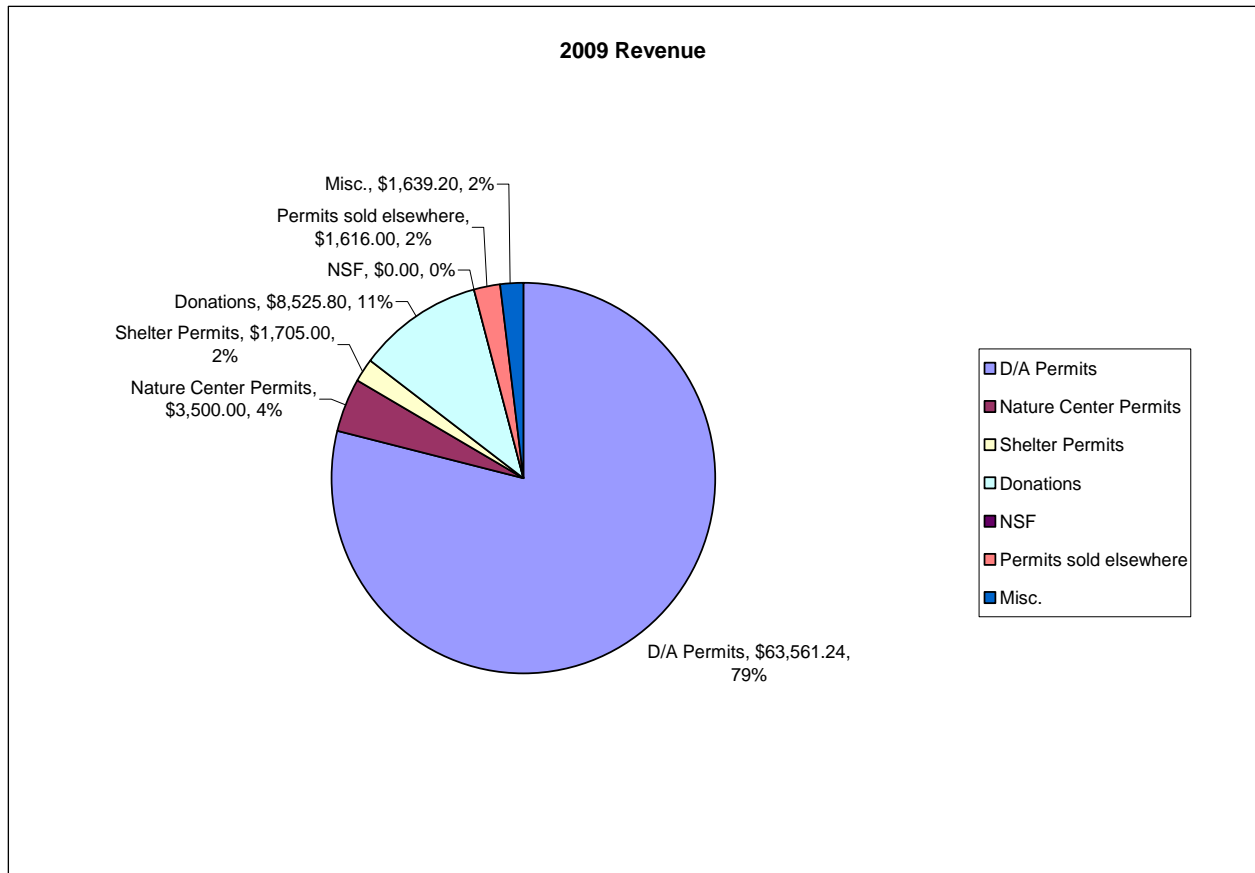


Figure 3

TOTAL REVENUE: 2009: \$81,138.99 (\$78,419.76 in 2008, \$69,873.14 in 2007)

Daily Parking Permit Revenue:

2007: \$36,215.66/9,054 daily permits
 2008: \$38,492.90/9,623 daily permits
 2009: \$41,411.99/10,353 daily permits

Annual Parking Revenue:

2007: \$27,208.00/1,943 annual permits
 2008: \$24,624.00/1,758 annual permits
 2009: \$22,741.00/1,624 annual permits

Total Parking Revenue:

2007: \$63,423.66/10,997 total permits
 2008: \$63,116.90/11,381 total permits
 2009: \$64,152.99/11,977 total permits

USERSHIP

EVENTS: Use of the county parks and trails for events by groups has increased over the years as unique activities within the system. This year's included:

1. St. Cloud River Runners on Lake Wobegon Trail (5/9)
2. Walk On Minnesota ½ Marathon on Lake Wobegon Trail (5/16)
3. Royalton SADD on Lake Wobegon Trail (5/16)
4. Westwood Bike-a-thon on Lake Wobegon Trail (6/11)
5. Waite Park Spas Tag 5 Km. Run at Quarry Park (6/13)
6. Caramel Roll Ride sponsored by Lake Wobegon Trail (6/13)
7. Waite Park Spas Tag Open House and Derrick Operation demonstration at Quarry Park (6/14)
8. Avon Fireworks adjacent to Lake Wobegon Trail (6/20)
9. Star of the North Games at Quarry Park (6/27)
10. Albany Community Education on Lake Wobegon Trail (8/1)
11. St. Stephen Lions Club Smallmouth Bass Fishing Tournament at Miss. Pk (8/2)
12. Minnesota DNR: "Take a Day Off" outdoor recreation outreach at Miss. River Pk (8/8)
13. Catholic Charities fundraiser Wobegon (9/6)
14. Hind Site at Quarry Park (9/12)
15. Williams Wobegon Ride (9/19)
16. Central MN Volkssports hike at Warner Lake (9/26-27)
17. Walk for a Cure on Lake Wobegon Trail (10/24)
18. Dryland Sled Dog Race at Warner Lake (11/13).

SCHOOL DISTRICTS: Use of the Lake Wobegon Trail for School District activities has also grown. The following are activities for which the Albany, Melrose and Sauk Centre School Districts use the trail: junior and senior high science classes including nature walks, bird watching, studies of natural habitat and other activities dealing with ecology; physical education curriculum including rollerblading and biking units. Cross-country running and track teams use the trail to run on several times a week. After the school day, there are teachers who are using the trail for walking and jogging. A few teachers use the trail to commute to work on a daily basis; students commuting to school, "team building" bike rides for the swimming team and tennis teams.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR LOCK-UP PARTIES: The Park Department advertised Quarry Park & Nature Preserve by donating three annual parking permits to each of the senior graduating classes for raffle purposes: **Foley High School, Sartell High School, Apollo High School, Tech High School, Cathedral High School, Albany High School, Sauk Rapids High School, St. John's Preparatory.**

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY – 2009

Volunteer Activity – 2009

- Ski patrol at Quarry Park (59 Volunteers).....142 hours
- Ski patrol at Warner Lake (17 Volunteers).....56 hours
- Ski patrol at Mississippi (21 Volunteers).....80 hours
- Ski patrol at Kraemer (14 volunteers).....48 hours
- Nature Hike Leadership (2 Volunteers).....10 hours
- Hosting Educational Event (2 Volunteers).....9 hours
- Counting park visitors (1 Volunteer)..... 23 hours
- Kraemer Lake/Wildwood clearing (3 Volunteers).....24 hours
- Rockville Buckthorn removal (35 Volunteers).....143 hours
- Mississippi Buckthorn removal (3 Volunteers).....112 hours
- Beaver Islands Trail (52 Volunteers).....262 hours
- Quarry Park basic maintenance (6 Volunteers).....73 hours
- Quarry Park fence line clearing (39 Volunteers).....237 hours
- Snowmobile patrol – Wobegon (2 Volunteers).....6 hours
- Controlled burn assistance (1 Volunteer).....7 hours
- Wobegon Trail cleanup (10 Volunteers).....97 hours
- Wobegon Trail garden weeding (2 Volunteers).....8 hours
- Wobegon Trail traffic counter check (1 Volunteer).....7 hours
- Wobegon Trail tree planting & watering (29 Volunteers)
.....224 hours
- Kraemer Lake/Wildwood deer stand removal (11
Volunteers).....113 hours
- Wobegon Trail bench construction (16 Volunteers)..109 hours

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS 326

TOTAL HOURS 1790

ROCK CLIMBING PERMITS ISSUED: 191 - Cities of origin of rock climbers were: Pittsburgh, PA, Norwich, Norfolk, UK, Baldwin, MO, Beaverton, OR, Weyerhaeuser, WI, Rockford, IL, Rhinelander, WI, New Auburn, WI. From Minnesota: Bejou, Oakdale, Woodbury, Foley, Eden Valley, St. Joseph, Clear Lake, Brooklyn Park, Apple Valley, Rochester, Golden Valley, Plymouth, Farmington, Hugo, Mahtomedi, Lake Elmo, White Bear Lake, Avon, Bloomington, Melrose, Hamel, Mounds View, New Hope, Blue Earth, Clearwater, Belle Plain, Eden Prairie, Fargo, Montrose, Rice, Albany, Springfield, Maple Lake, Becker, Shoreview, Eagan, Minnetonka, Monticello, Kimball, Minneapolis, Buffalo, Big Lake, New Ulm, Cold Spring, Sartell, Rogers, St. Paul, Waite Park (13) Sauk Rapids (17), St. Cloud, (59).

SCUBA DIVING PERMITS ISSUED: 43 - Cities of origin of SCUBA divers were: Omaha, NE, Las Vegas, NV, in Minnesota: Fridley, Annandale, Zimmerman, St. Paul, Shakopee, Waite Park, Minneapolis, Sauk Rapids, New Brighton, Crystal, Eagle Bend, Clarissa, Rogers, Otsego, Big Lake, Ramsey, Brainerd, Thief River Falls, Brooklyn Park, Bloomington, Lakeville, Paynesville, Hibbing, Albertville, and St. Cloud, MN. (4).

TRAFFIC COUNTS:

Wobegon Trail: infrared beam traffic counters have been stationed at three locations along the trail. The estimated usage for one year is about 117,000 visitors. That does not include winter use.

Quarry Park & Nature Preserve: A pneumatic counter was placed at Quarry Park for a year's time. The estimated annual usage is about 110,000. That does not include winter use.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON PARKS & TRAILS:

- "I was fun and we go some exercise. I will come again." Quarry Park .youngster
- "We love this place." Quarry Park (Sauk Rapids visitors).
- "Spectacular groomed trails! Spectacular scenery!" Quarry Park (Buffalo visitors).
- "Back for 3rd in row just for the beauty & pleasure – keep it up" Wobegon Trail (Billings, Montana visitor).
- "We enjoyed the Melrose Experience! Great friends. A fun time. Love the trail. Wobegon Trail (Elk River visitor).
- "Please repair cracks before they get more costly." Wobegon Trail (Mpls. Visitor).
- "You need to spray the willow looking brush. Its roots are coming through the trail. Becoming very bumpy. Really damaging the trail. Otherwise, nice trail." Wobegon Trail (Albany visitor)
- "Bike trail was wonderful. Heaven on earth." Wobegon Trail (Sauk Rapids visitor).
- "Awesome! We really like command and like it by the river." Mississippi River Park (Sartell visitors).
- "Great area with wonderful trails. Awesome Frisbee (disc golf) course." Mississippi River Park (Sartell visitor)

FACILITY RESERVATIONS:

Parks allows reservations of three shelters, one nature center, three group camping areas, and general open space within parks for special uses. The following charts show the number of groups, days of reservations and facilities used. In 2009 there were 176 official reservations representing about 7,500 visitors brought to county parks & trails. This estimate is likely to be understated because damage deposits are levied on a per/participant basis which tends to generate lower participant estimates by groups.

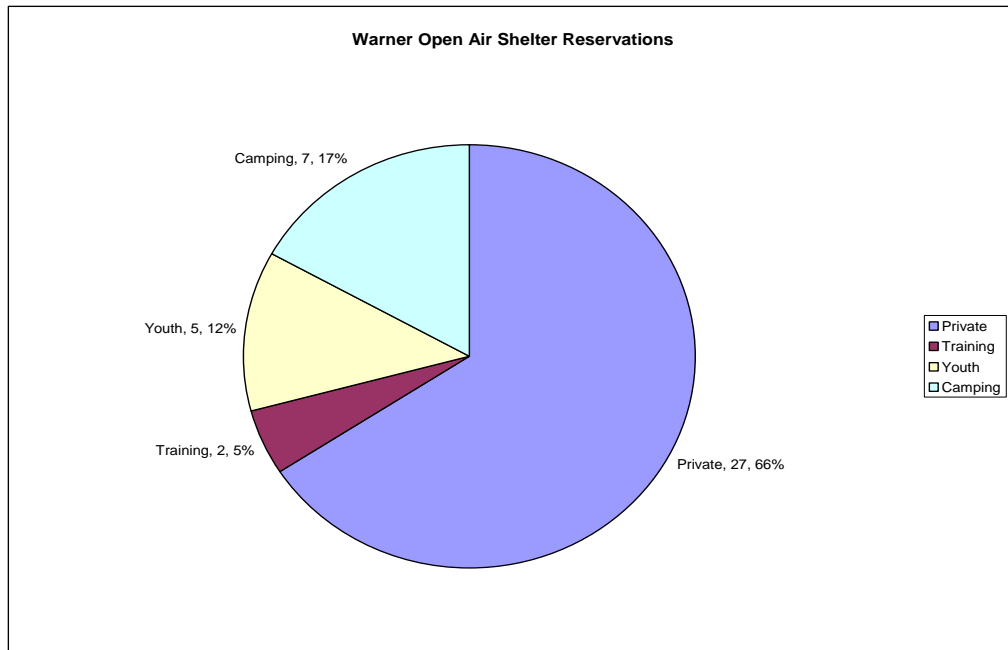


Figure 4

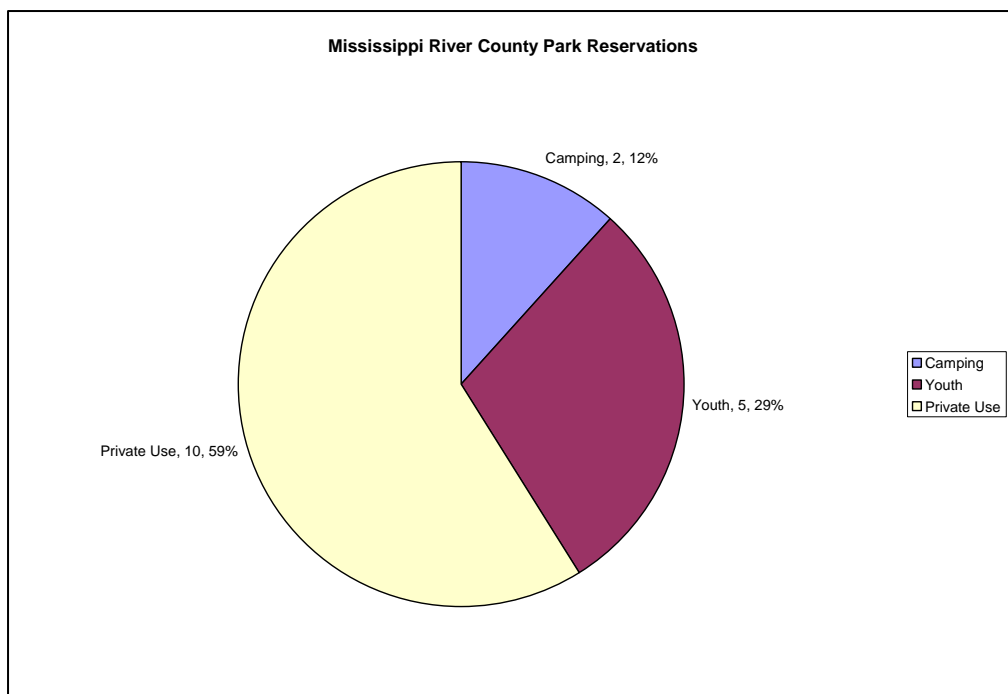


Figure 5

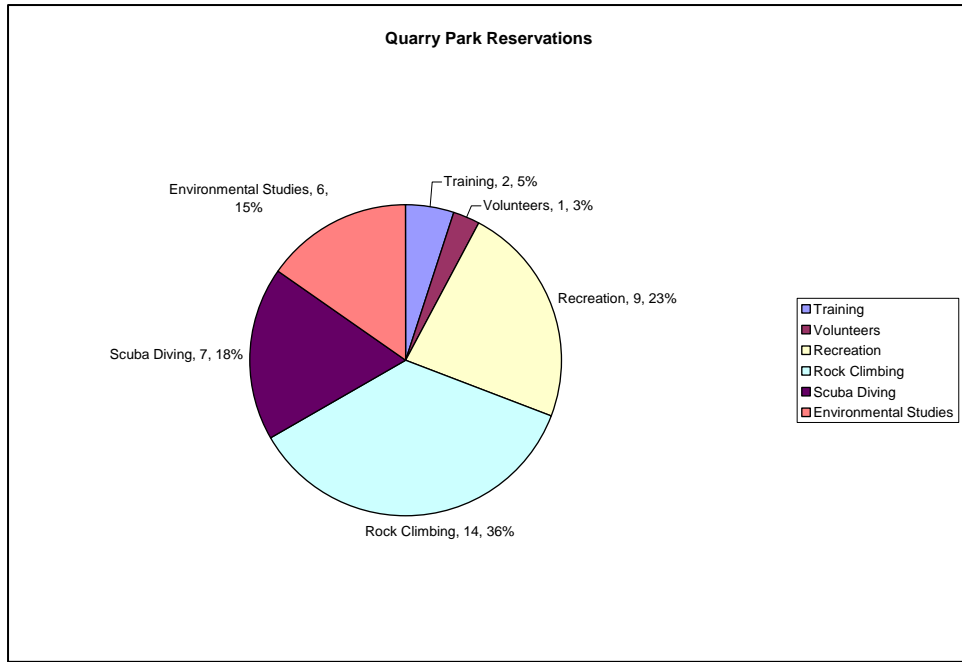


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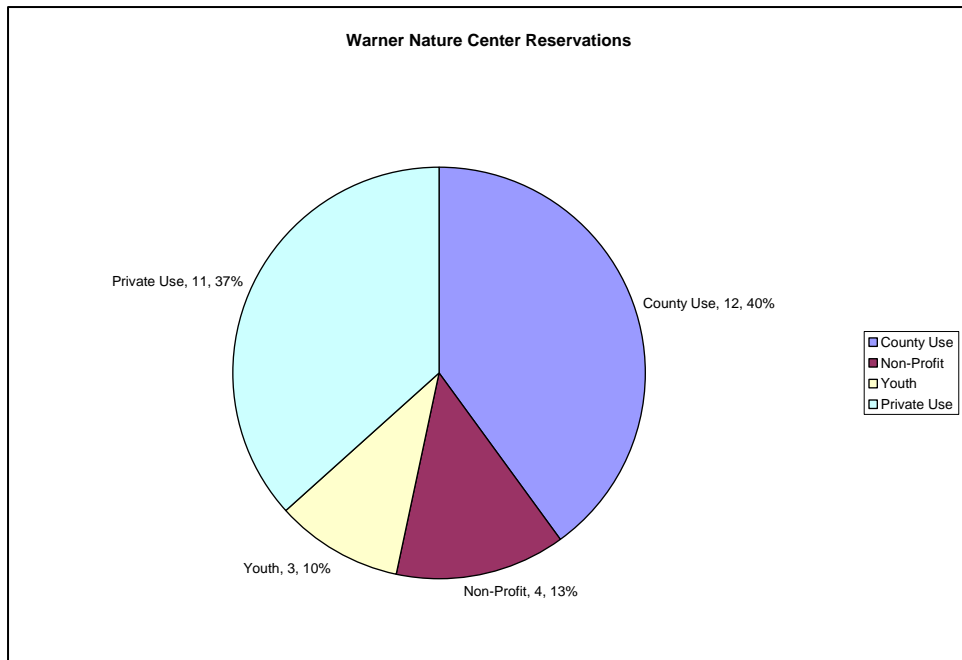


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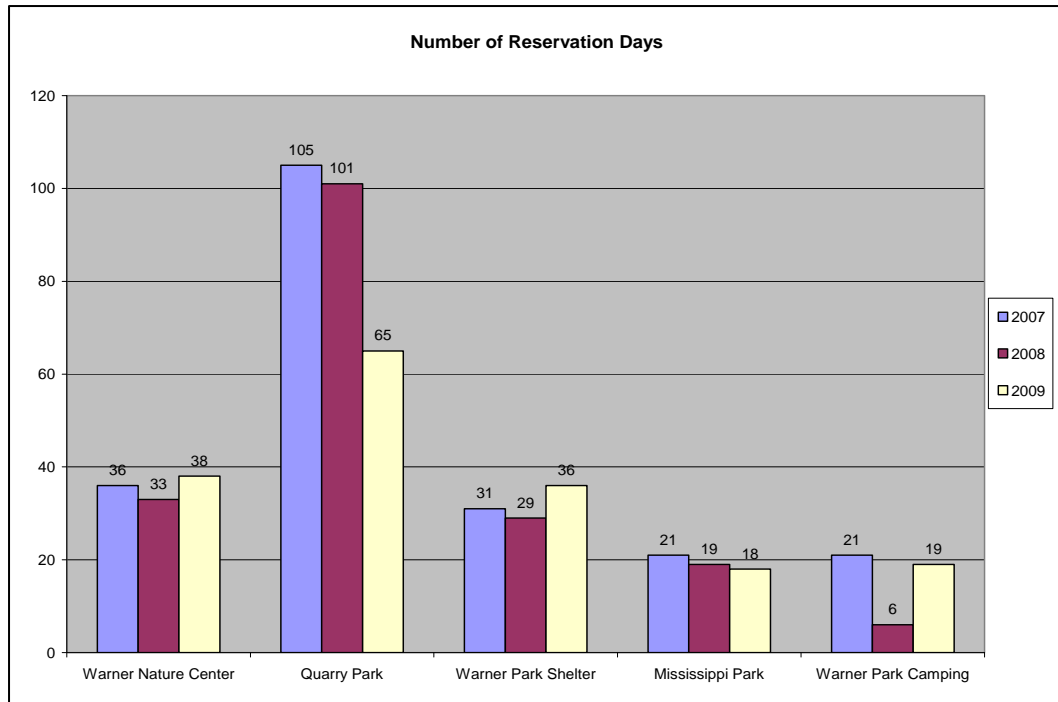


Figure 8

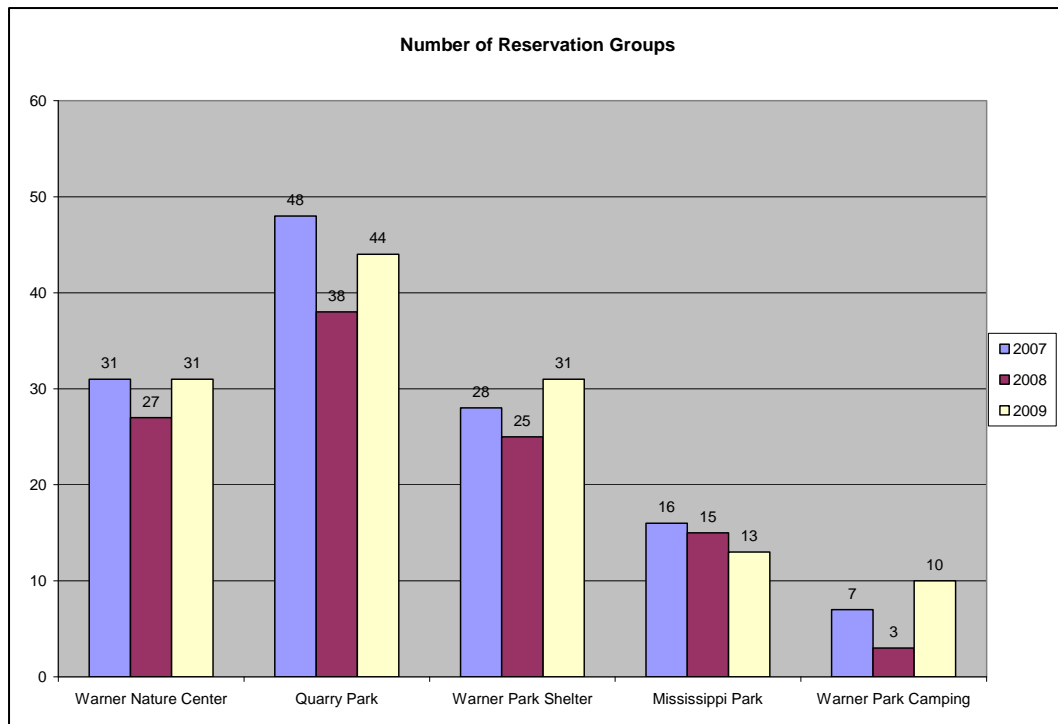


Figure 9