Changing Demographics and Impact on Outdoor Recreation

- History of parks in United States and Minneapolis
- Past, present and future demographics in United States and Minneapolis
- Impact of demographic changes on outdoor recreation
Changing demographics and Impact on Outdoor Recreation

**History of Parks**

Minneapolis population
- 1870 - 13,100
- 1880 - 46,900
- 1890 - 164,700

Explosive urban growth

Minneapolis park system created in 1883 and aggressively built out in early 1900s

National awareness of need for parks in cities: places of rest and refuge
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History of Parks

Through 1950s

Expansion of Minneapolis park system parallels national, state and local park movement providing green spaces for outdoor recreation

United States and Minneapolis demographics similar – very homogenous, predominately white citizens with a strong Eastern European and Scandinavian background
Demographics and Trends

Urban vs. Rural Living
1910  28% of Americans lived in urban areas
2000  79% of Americans lived in urban areas
2015  83% - highest % in US history

Race/Ethnicity
Percent White  Minneapolis  U.S.
1950  98.4%  89.5%
2000  62.5%  69.1%
2010  60.3%  65.1%
In 2020  52.8%  61.3%
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Demographics and Trends

Households with children headed by a female
- U.S. 2000 - 20.9% of households
- Minneapolis 2000 – 34.9% households
- Many of these female headed households are likely to be low income households

Labor Force Participation (16 years and older)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>78.7%</td>
<td>40.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>76.3%</td>
<td>67.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>78.7%</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>70.7%</td>
<td>57.5%</td>
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Demographics and Trends

Major changes in educational attainment

High school graduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Minneapolis</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>45.9%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>85.0%</td>
<td>80.4%</td>
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</tbody>
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College graduates (bachelors’ degree or higher)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Minneapolis</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>37.4%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Demographics and Trends

Next 20 years will see dramatic changes

Age in the United States
- The population will be significantly older as the Baby Boom reaches age 65

Race/ethnicity in the United States
- The proportion of Hispanics and Asians will continue to increase
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Demographics and Trends

Next 20 years will see dramatic changes

Population under 18 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Minneapolis</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population 65 years or more

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Minneapolis</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Demographics and Trends

Age and race/ethnicity
- White non-Hispanic population older than other race/ethnic groups
- Median age of white non-Hispanic population will increase rapidly in next 25 years

Median age by race/ethnicity
- Dramatic differences in U.S. age groups
- More than 60% of the population under age 19 years are minorities
- 67% of younger adult population (19-54 years) are white non-Hispanic
- 84% of population 55+ are white non-Hispanic

In summary, youth population is diverse and middle-aged and senior populations are white non-Hispanic
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Demographics and Trends

Income by household type and race/ethnicity

- White non-Hispanic median household, median family and per capita income is much higher than for any other group

What will the age of U.S. residents look like from 2000 to 2020? While the nation grows older…

- Median age increases
- Percent of persons under 18 years decreases
- Percent of persons 65+ years increases
- All minority groups are younger than white non-Hispanics however, the proportion of youth (under 18 years) is not likely to increase
Demographics and Trends

U.S. and Minneapolis’ populations are more diverse and more complex than there were in the past

Age, race/ethnicity and income are interrelated

Challenge is one of balancing the needs and desires of
- Different age groups
- Different race/ethnic groups
- Different income groups (the haves and the have nots)
Demographics and Trends

While there are some differences - much of what is happening in the U.S. is happening in Minneapolis.

Minneapolis is a good example of what park systems need to do to be relevant today and into the future.

Each federal, state and local park and recreation agency needs to understand the demographics of its state and local community to adjust how and what it provides to meet the changing demographics of its constituents.
Responding to Changing Demographics and Trends

Park and Recreation Agencies need to reinvent themselves

- Diversification of staff
- Train staff to understand and work with all communities
- Active and different community outreach and engagement
- Use racial equity toolkits to evaluate work and change decision making processes
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Responding to Changing Demographics and Trends

*Park and Recreation Agencies need to reinvent themselves*

- Engage activist organizations to help agencies change
- Evaluate services, facilities, and policies to ensure they meet current and future needs
- Invest in diverse and economically challenged neighborhoods
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Unique challenges facing State and Federal Agencies

Many State and Federal Parks are outside urban core communities

According to the 2012 Minnesota State Park Visitor Survey

- 97% of state park visitation is from non-Hispanic white population
- Visitation from non-Hispanic white population showed little growth over last 10 years in Minnesota and nationwide and this trend is expected to continue
- With the demographic changes occurring there will be greater difficulty in maintaining and expanding visitation at state parks
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What is the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board doing to be responsive to changing demographics?

Created Community Outreach Department

Providing cultural competency awareness training for all Park Board employees

Improving diversity of workforce

Working through and with more diverse Partnerships

Providing Spanish and Somali phone lines and email addresses staffed by bilingual customer service staff to better serve members of these communities
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What is the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board doing to be responsive to changing demographics?

Translating brochures, information pieces, and forms into Spanish and Somali to better serve our immigrant communities

Incorporating Racial Equity Impact Assessment tools in the projects

Expanding employment and career opportunities for at-risk and minority youth and young adults

Offering Teen Recreation Programs through Night Owlz on weekend evenings
What is the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board doing to be responsive to changing demographics?

Providing Gang Prevention, StreetReach and YouthAreHere Bus Programs

Creating Pop-Up Parks in hot spot areas for youth throughout the summer

Providing Youth Outreach Mentorship Program with leadership opportunities, skill-building, life skills learning for Minneapolis urban youth ages 12 to 16

Providing swim lessons and free water safety clinics for at-risk youth
Jayne Miller
Superintendent

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
jmiller@minneapolisparks.org
www.minneapolisparks.org