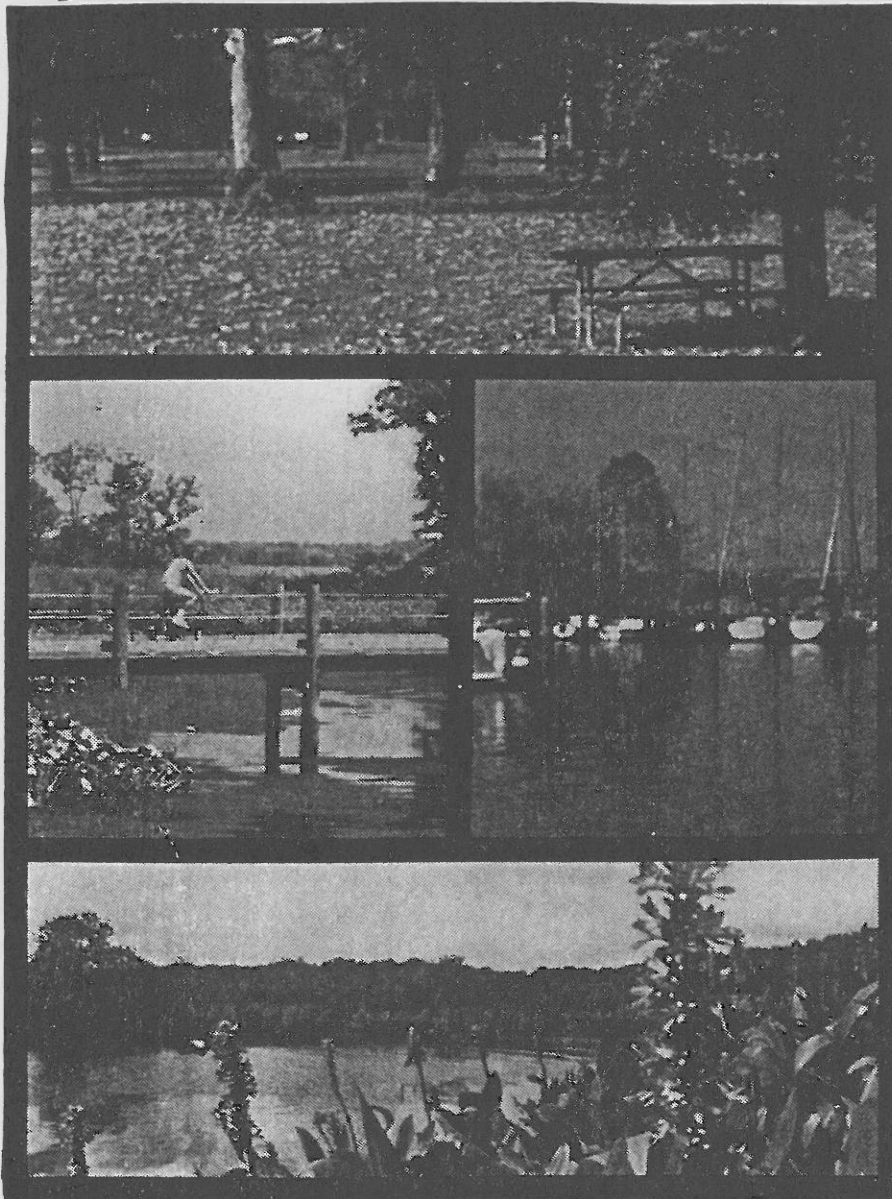

Visitor Services Project
Belle Haven Park/
Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve



Visitor Services Project Report 54
Cooperative Park Studies Unit

 University of Idaho



Visitor Services Project Belle Haven Park/ Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve

Dwight L. Madison

Report 54

January 1994

Dwight Madison is VSP Eastern Coordinator, National Park Service, based at the Cooperative Park Studies Unit, University of Idaho. I thank the staff of George Washington Memorial Parkway for their assistance with this study. The VSP acknowledges the Public Opinion Lab of the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center, Washington State University, for its technical assistance.

Visitor Services Project
**Belle Haven Park/
Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve**

Report Summary

- This report describes the results of a visitor study at Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve during May 2-8, 1993. A total of 500 questionnaires were distributed and 380 returned, a 76% response rate.
- This report profiles Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve visitors. A separate appendix has visitors' comments about their visit; this report and the appendix contain a comment summary.
- Visitors were often alone (45%). Fifty-four percent of visitors were 26-45 years old. Most (79%) had visited the park before.
- Visitors from foreign countries comprised 2% of the visitation. Ninety-two percent of the U.S. visitors came from Virginia, Maryland and Washington D.C., with smaller numbers from many other states.
- Fifty percent of the visitors identified private vehicles as the form of transportation they used to reach Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. Seventy percent of visitors spent one to two hours at the park. 91% of the visitors spent three hours or less.
- During this visit, visitors indicated that they visited several sites during their stay at Belle Haven/Dyke Marsh, Mount Vernon Trail (55%), Belle Haven Picnic Area (44%), and Belle Haven Marina (31%).
- The most-used facilities by visitors this visit were the Mount Vernon Trail (72%), the parking lot (46%) and the restrooms (40%).
- The most-used facilities by visitors during past visits were the Mount Vernon Trail (81%), the restrooms (69%), the parking lot (66%), the picnic area (61%), and the water fountain (60%).
- The most commonly used services were the park staff (42%), and the bulletin board (34%). The park staff received the highest quality ratings.
- The most-common activities were enjoying the waterfront (55%) and enjoying nature (54%).
- The most common activity during past visits were enjoying the waterfront (75%), enjoying nature (74%) walking (74%) and biking (66%).
- Eighty-four percent of the visitors said other visitors and their activities did not interfere with their visit to Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve.
- Visitors made many additional comments.

<p>For more information about the Visitor Services Project, please contact Dr. Gary E. Machlis, Sociology Project Leader, University of Idaho Cooperative Park Studies Unit, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences, Moscow, Idaho 83844 or call (208) 885-7129.</p>
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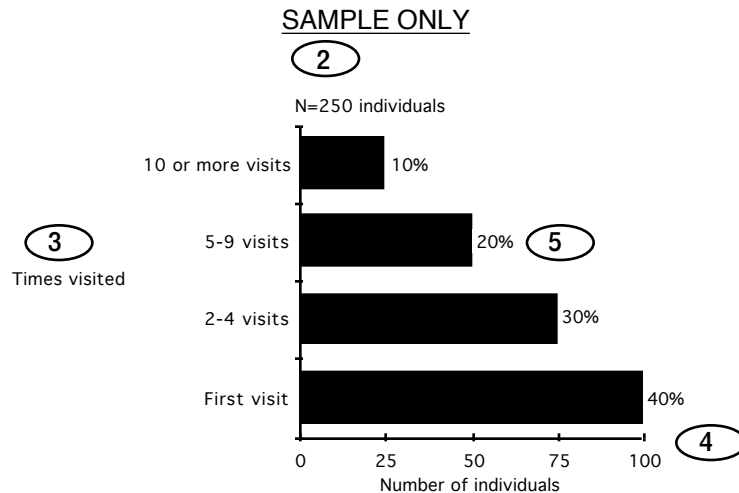
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INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of a study of visitors at Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve (referred to as "Belle Haven/Dyke Marsh"). This visitor study was conducted May 2-8, 1993 by the National Park Service (NPS) Visitor Services Project (VSP), part of the Cooperative Park Studies Unit at the University of Idaho.

A Methods section discusses the procedures and limitations of the study. The Results section follows, including a summary of visitor comments. Next, a Menu for Further Analysis helps managers request additional analyses. The final section has a copy of the Questionnaire. The separate appendix includes a comment summary and the visitors' unedited comments.

Many of this report's graphs resemble the example below. The large numbers refer to explanations following the graph.



(1) Figure 4: Number of visits

- 1: The figure title describes the graph's information.
 - 2: Listed above the graph, the 'N' shows the number of visitors responding and a description of the chart's information. Interpret data with an 'N' of less than 30 with **CAUTION!** as the results may be unreliable.
 - 3: Vertical information describes categories.
 - 4: Horizontal information shows the number or proportions in each category.
 - 5: In most graphs, percentages provide additional information.
-

METHODS

General strategy

Interviews were conducted and questionnaires distributed to a sample of selected visitors visiting Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve during May 2-8, 1993. Visitors completed the questionnaire during or after their trip and then returned it by mail.

Questionnaire design and administration

The questionnaire design used the standard format of previous Visitor Services Project studies. See the end of this report for a copy of the questionnaire.

Visitors were sampled at the Belle Haven picnic area, along the Mount Vernon Trail and at the Belle Haven Marina, as they visited Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. Visitor groups were greeted, briefly introduced to the purpose of the study and asked to participate. If visitors agreed, the interview took approximately two minutes. These interviews included determining group size, group type and the age of the adult who would complete the questionnaire. This individual was asked his or her name, address and telephone number for the later mailing of a reminder-thank you postcard.

Two weeks following the survey, a reminder-thank you postcard was mailed to all participants. Replacement questionnaires were mailed to participants who had not returned their questionnaires four weeks after the survey.

Data analysis

Returned questionnaires were coded and the information entered into a computer. Frequency distributions and cross-tabulations were calculated using a standard statistical software package. Respondents' comments were summarized.

This study collected information on both visitor groups and individual group members. Thus, the sample size ("N"), varies from figure to figure. For example, while Figure 1 shows information for 375 groups, Figure 3 presents data for 700 individuals. A note above each figure's graph specifies the information illustrated.

**Sample size,
missing data
and reporting
errors**

Occasionally, a respondent may not have answered all of the questions, or may have answered some incorrectly. Unanswered questions create missing data and cause the number in the sample to vary from figure to figure. For example, although 380 questionnaires were returned, Figure 1 shows data for only 375 respondents.

Questions answered incorrectly due to carelessness, misunderstanding directions and so forth, turn up in the data as reporting errors. These create small data inconsistencies.

Like all surveys, this study has limitations which should be considered when interpreting the results.

Limitations

1. It is not possible to know whether visitor responses reflect actual behavior. This disadvantage applies to all such studies and is reduced by having visitors fill out the questionnaire soon after they visit the park.

2. The data reflect visitor use patterns of visitors to the selected sites during the study period of May 2-8, 1993. The results do not necessarily apply to visitors during other times of the year.

3. Caution is advised when interpreting any data with a sample size of less than 30, as the results may be unreliable. Whenever the sample size is less than 30, the word "**CAUTION!**" is included in the graph, figure or table.

RESULTS

Visitors contacted

Five hundred twenty-seven visitor groups were contacted; 95% accepted questionnaires. Three hundred eighty visitor groups completed and returned their questionnaires, a 76% response rate.

Table 1 compares information collected from the total sample of visitors contacted and the actual respondents who returned questionnaires. The non-response bias was not significant, although respondents were slightly older than the total sample.

Table 1: Comparison of total sample and actual respondents

Variable	Total sample		Actual respondents	
	N	Avg.	N	Avg.
Age of respondent (years)	500	39.8	375	42.0
Group size	500	2.94	375	2.65

Demographics

Figure 1 shows group sizes, which varied from one person to 70 people. Eighty-three percent of Belle Haven/Dyke Marsh visitors came in groups of one or two people. Forty-five percent of visitors came alone, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 3 shows varied age groups; the most common were visitors aged 26-45 years old (54%). Most visitors (79%) had visited the park two or more times (see Figure 4).

Visitors from foreign countries comprised 2% of all visitation. Map 2 and Table 3 show that the many of the U.S. visitors came from Virginia, Maryland and Washington D.C.

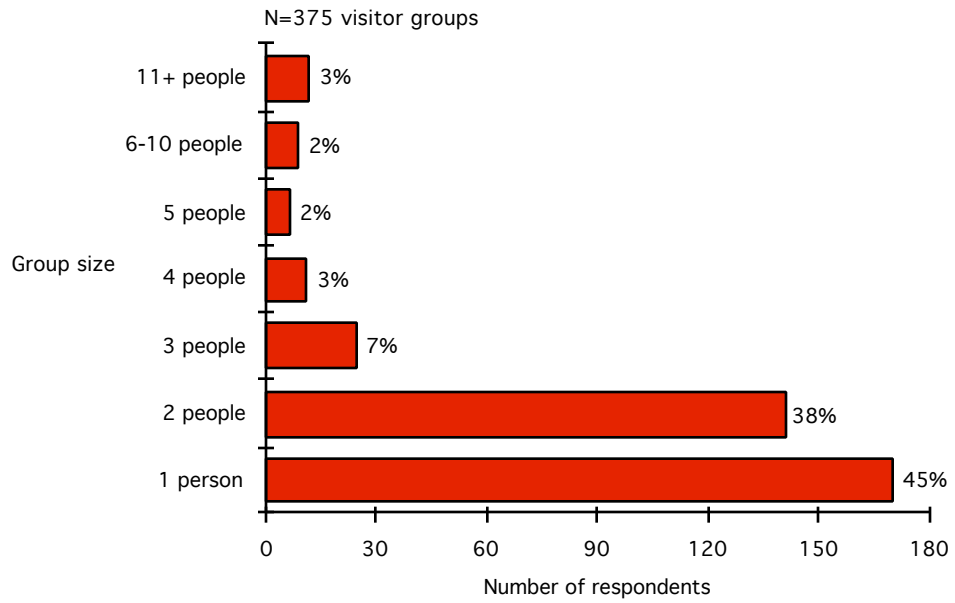


Figure 1: Visitor group sizes

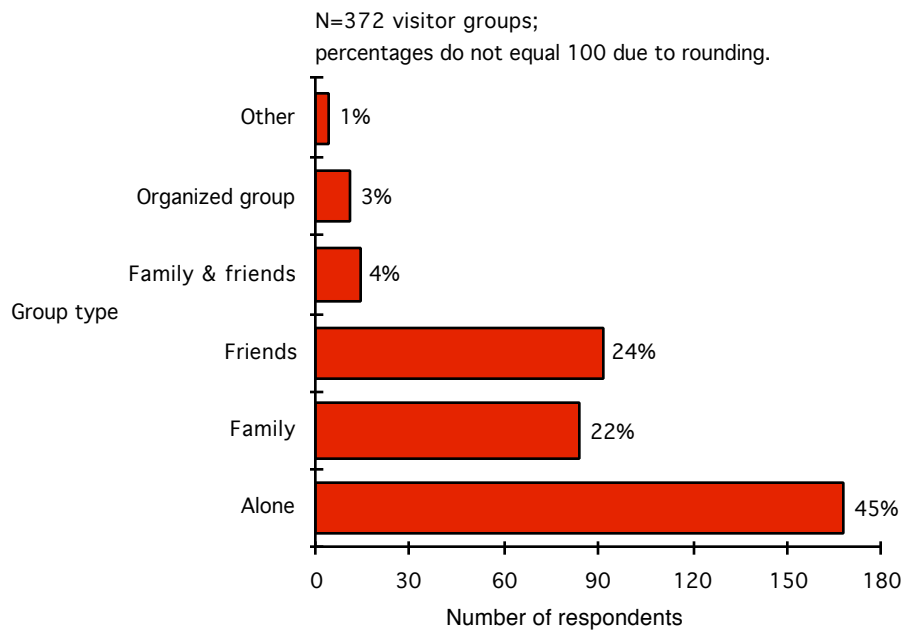


Figure 2: Visitor group types

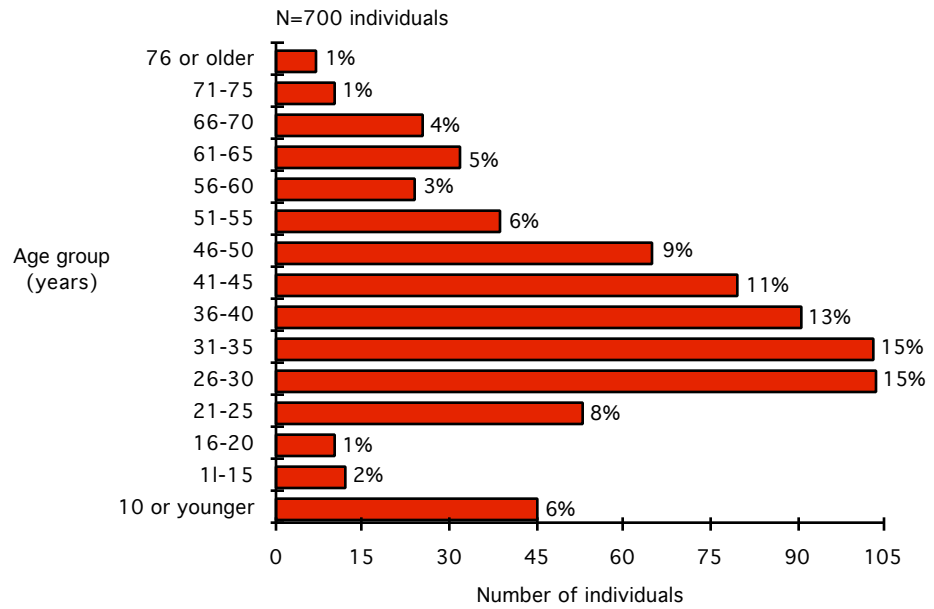


Figure 3: Visitor ages

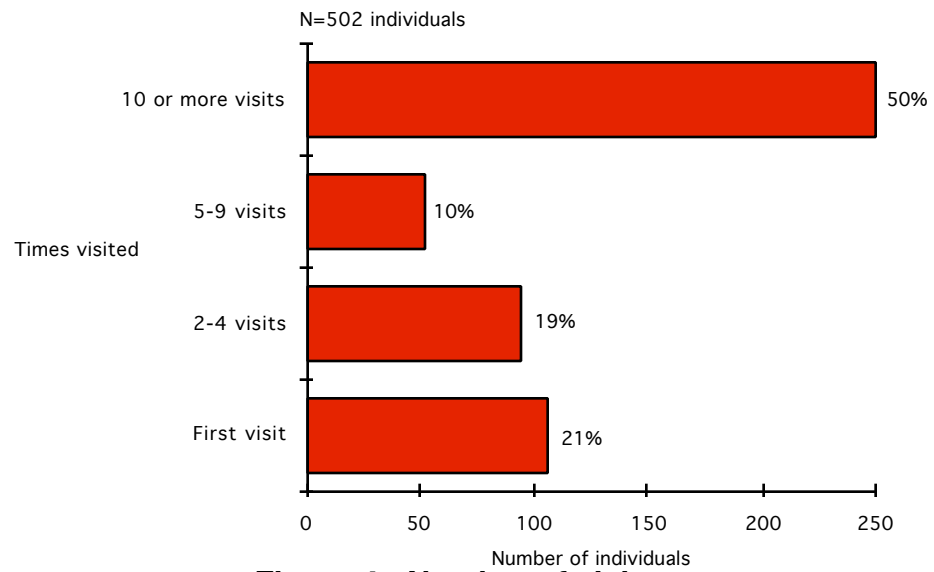


Figure 4: Number of visits



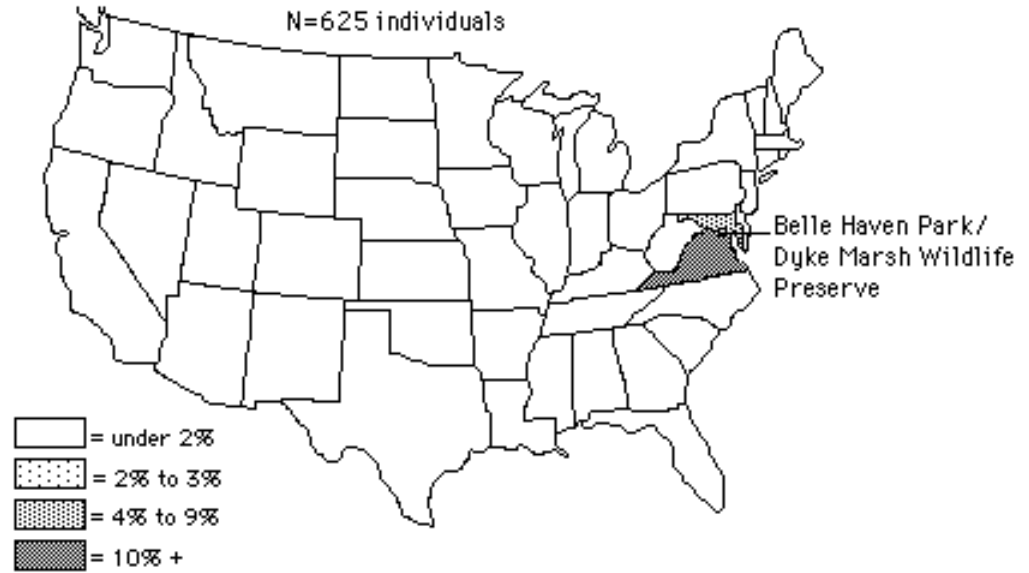
Map 1: Proportion of international visitors by country

Table 2: Foreign visitors by country of residence

N=13 individuals

CAUTION!

Country	Number of individuals	% of international visitors
United Kingdom	4	31
France	2	15
Morocco	2	15
Sweden	2	15
Bolivia	1	8
El Salvador	1	8
Peru	1	8



Map 2: Proportion of visitors from each state

Table 3: Proportion of visitors from each state

N=625 individuals;
percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding.

State	Number of individuals	% of visitors
Virginia	486	78
Maryland	54	9
Washington DC	31	5
Other states (19).	54	9

Most visitors to Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve arrived by private vehicle (50%) and bicycle (35%). Figure 5 shows the proportion of visitor groups that used each type of available transport. "Other" types included jogging/running, rollerblading and motorcycle.

Transportation type

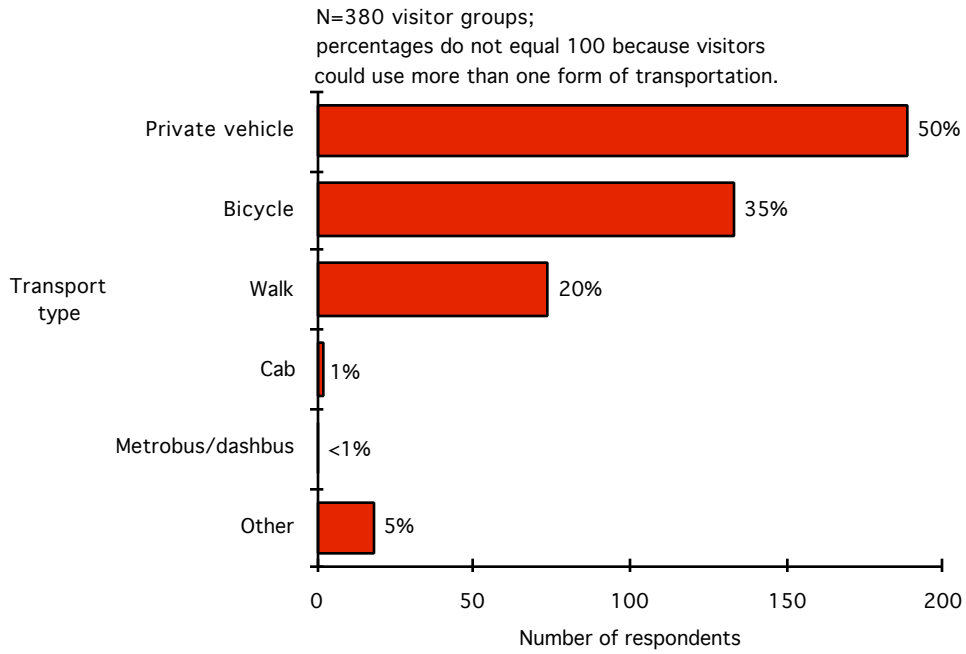


Figure 5: Proportion of visitor groups using each transport type

Length of stay

Seventy percent of visitors reported staying between one to two hours at Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve (see Figure 6).

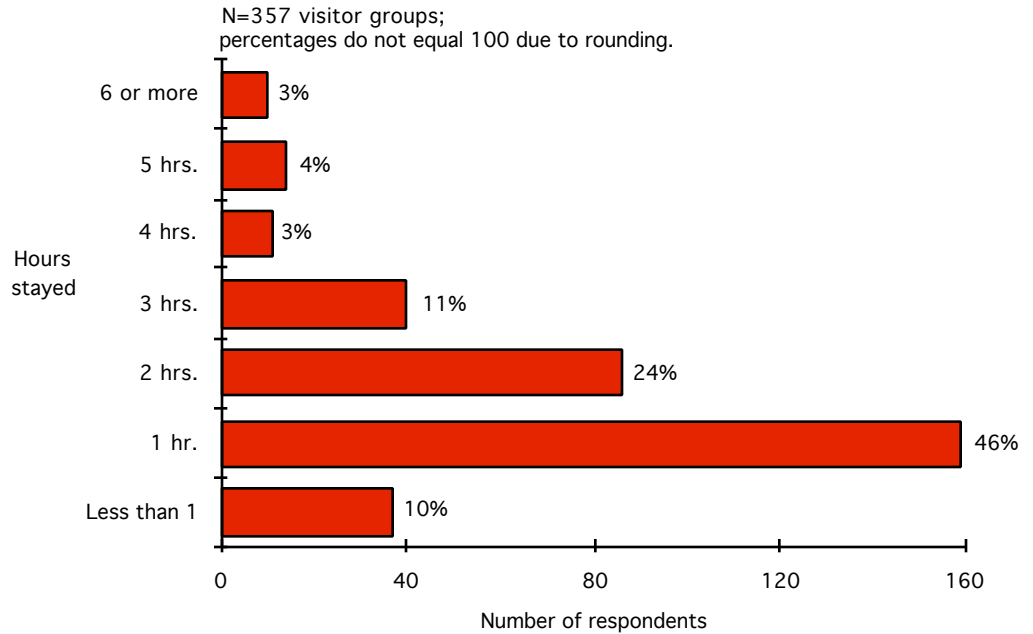


Figure 6: Length of stay

Visitors indicated the sites they visited at Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. Map 3 shows the proportion of visitors visiting each site. The Mount Vernon Trail and the Belle Haven Picnic Area were mentioned most often.

**Sites
visited**

N=380 visitor groups;
percentages do not equal 100 because
respondents could visit more than one site.

44% Belle Haven Picnic Area

31% Belle Haven Marina

21% Dyke Marsh Trail

55% Mount Vernon Trail

12% Fishing and Rest Area

Map 3: Sites visited

Facilities used (this visit)

The most commonly used facilities by visitors this visit at Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve were the Mount Vernon Trail (72%), the parking lot (46%), and the restrooms (40%), as shown in Figure 7. The least visited facility was the boat slips (4%). "Other" was identified by visitors as the picnic and the marina areas.

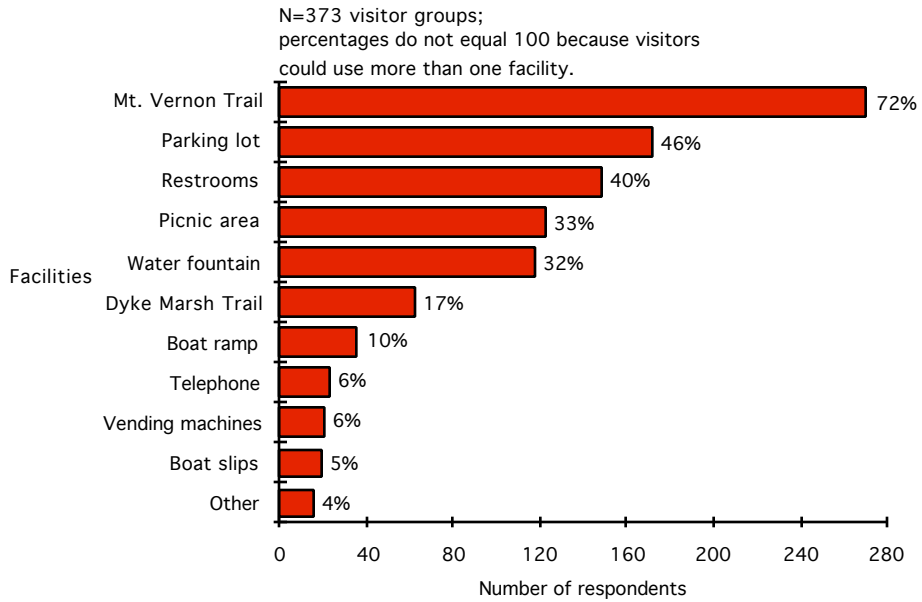


Figure 7: Facilities used (this visit)

The most commonly used facilities at Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve during past visits were the Mount Vernon Trail (81%), the restrooms (69%), and the parking lot (66%), as shown in Figure 8. The least used facility was the boat slips (14%). "Other" was identified by visitors as the boat ramp and the picnic area.

Facilities used (past visits)

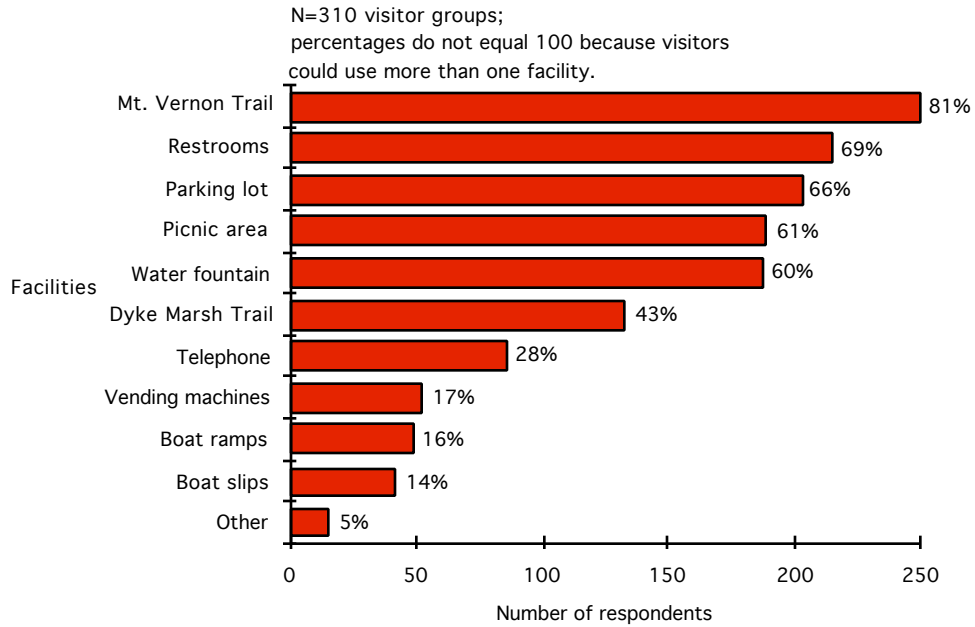


Figure 8: Facilities used (past visits)

Services used and quality

The most commonly used services at Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve were the park staff (42%) and the bulletin board (34%), as shown in Figure 9. The least used service was the bait sales (3%). "Other" was identified as the Mount Vernon Trail and the restrooms.

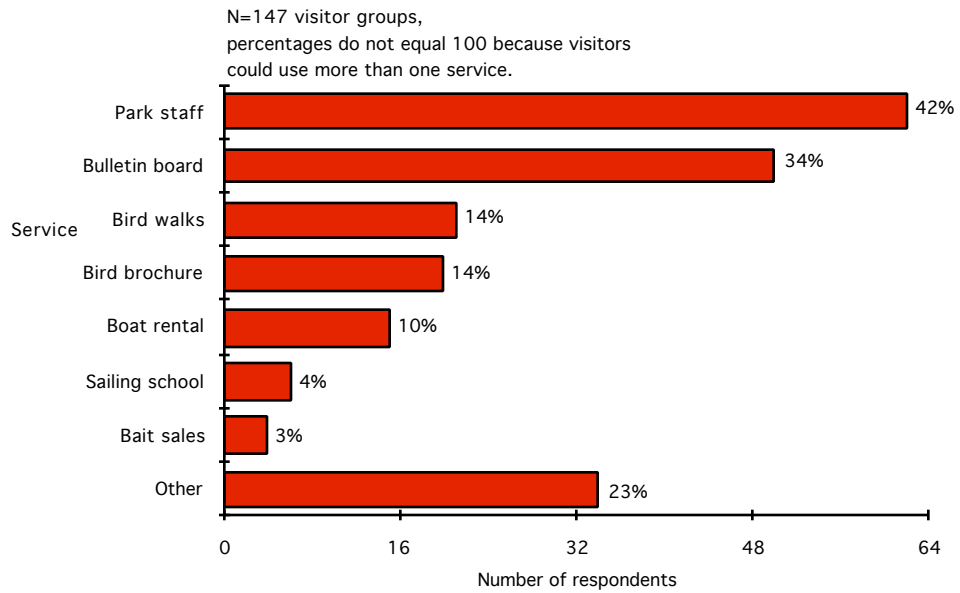


Figure 9: Use of services

Visitors rated the quality of services they used. They used a five point scale (see the box below).

QUALITY
1=very good
2=good
3=average
4=poor
5=very poor

Figures 10-17 show that one service was given high "good" to "very good" ratings: the park staff (93%). The service receiving the highest "poor" to "very poor" ratings was the bulletin board (7%).

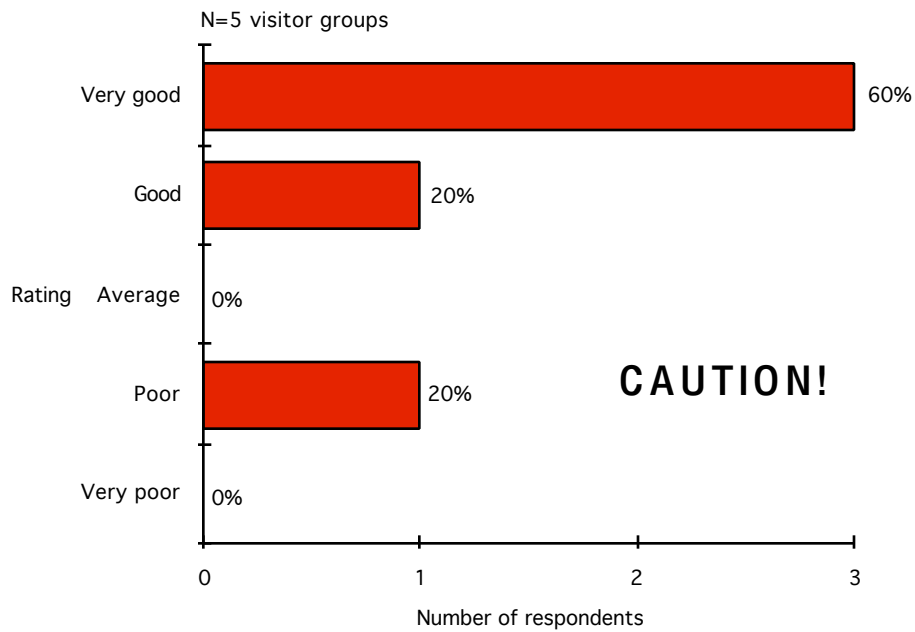


Figure 10: Quality of sailing school

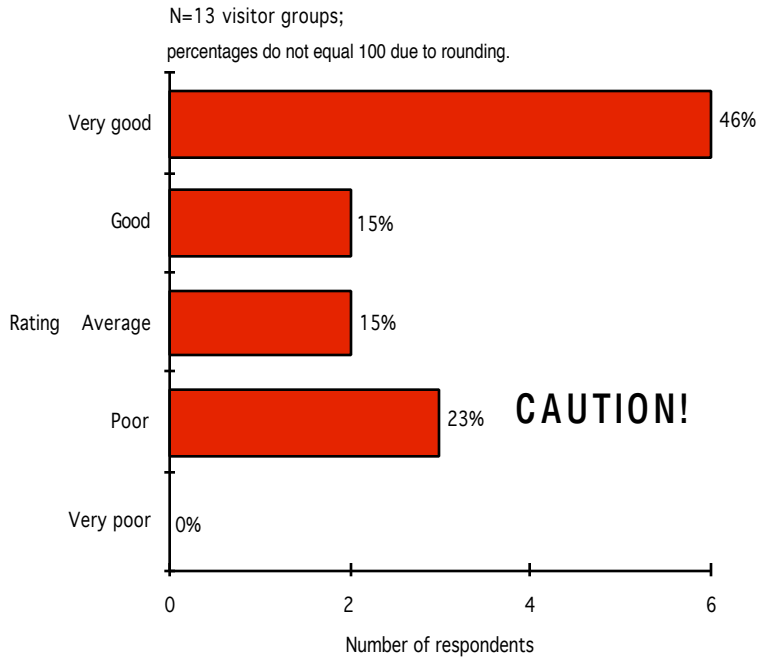


Figure 11: Boat rental

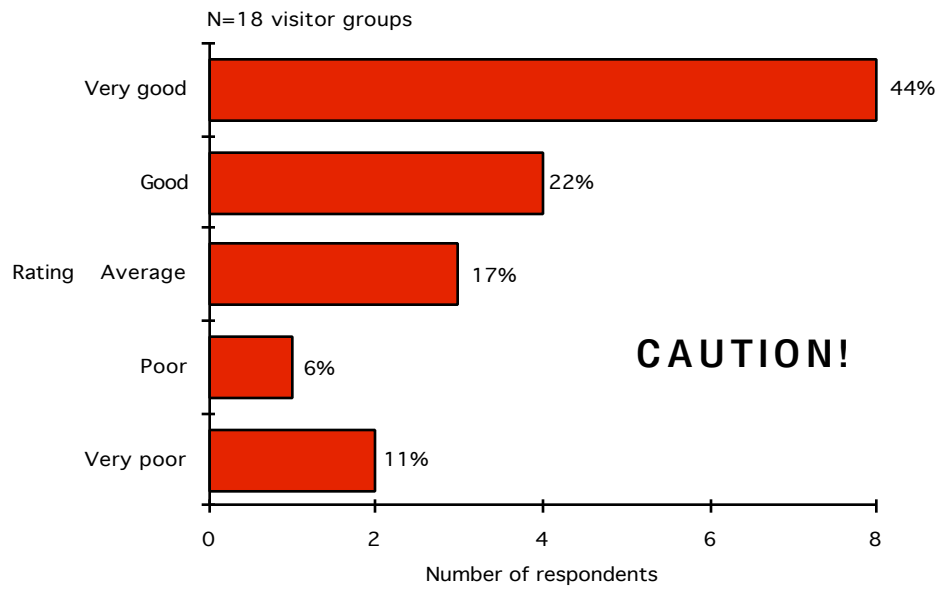


Figure 12 Quality of bird walks

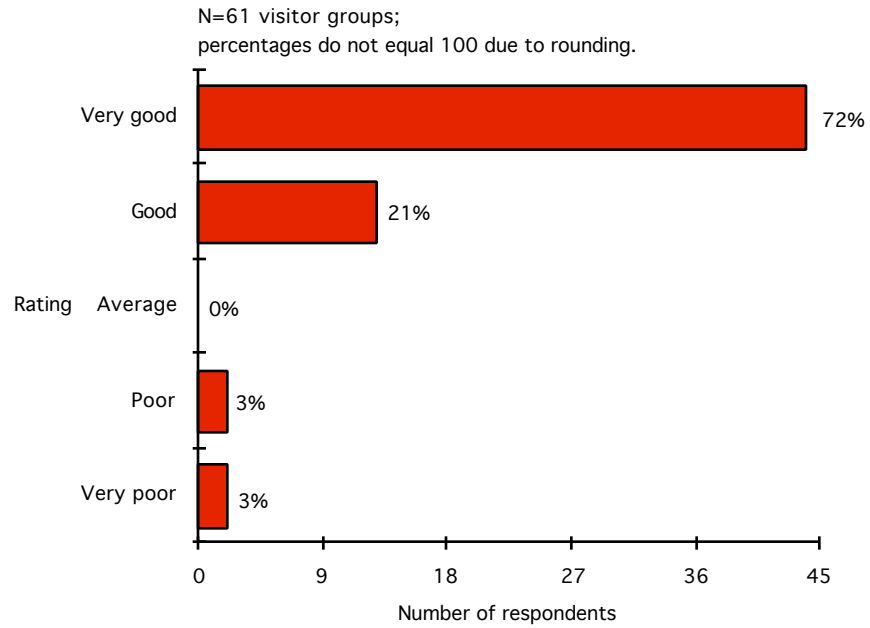


Figure 13: Quality of park staff

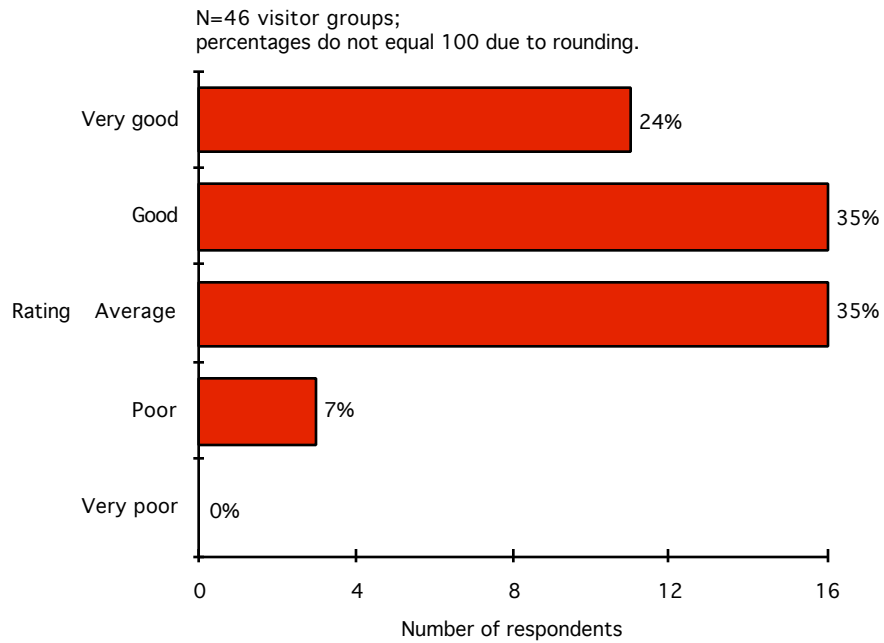


Figure 14: Quality of bulletin board

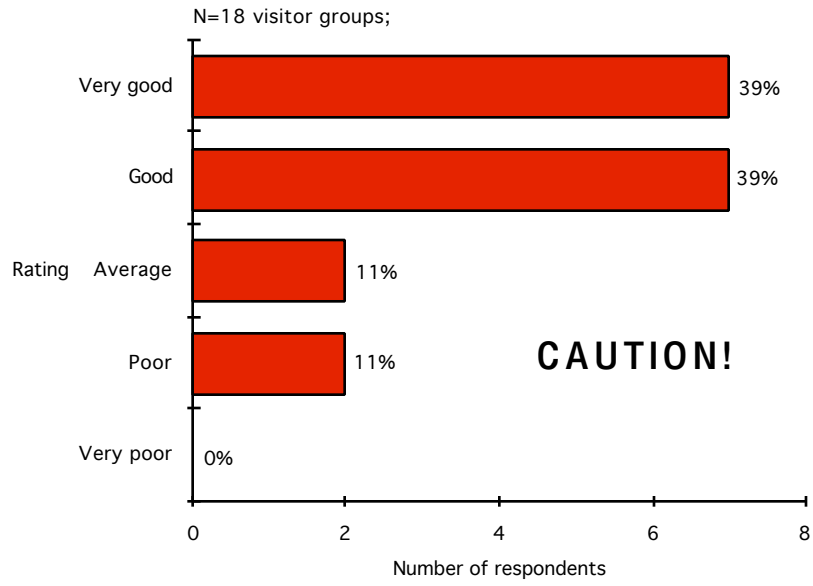


Figure 15: Quality of Dyke Marsh bird brochure

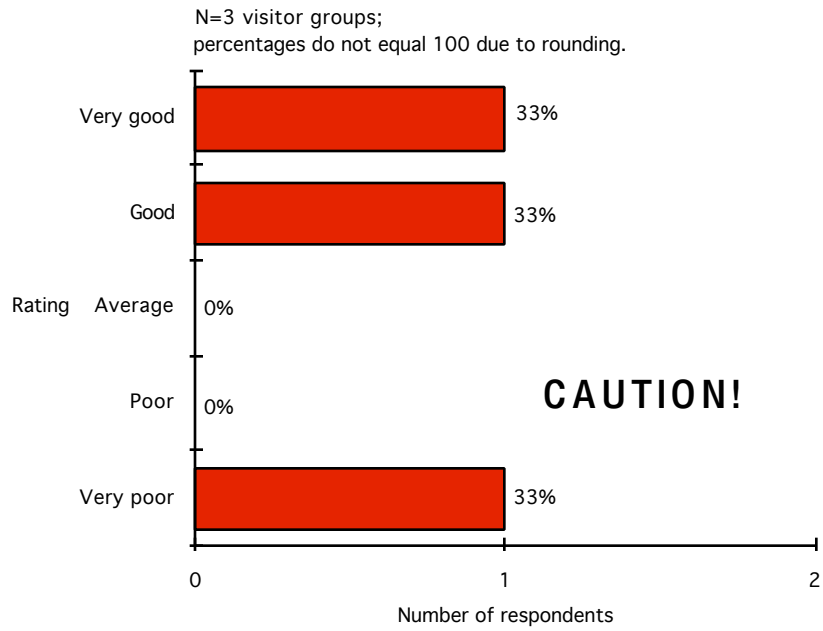


Figure 16: Quality of bait sales

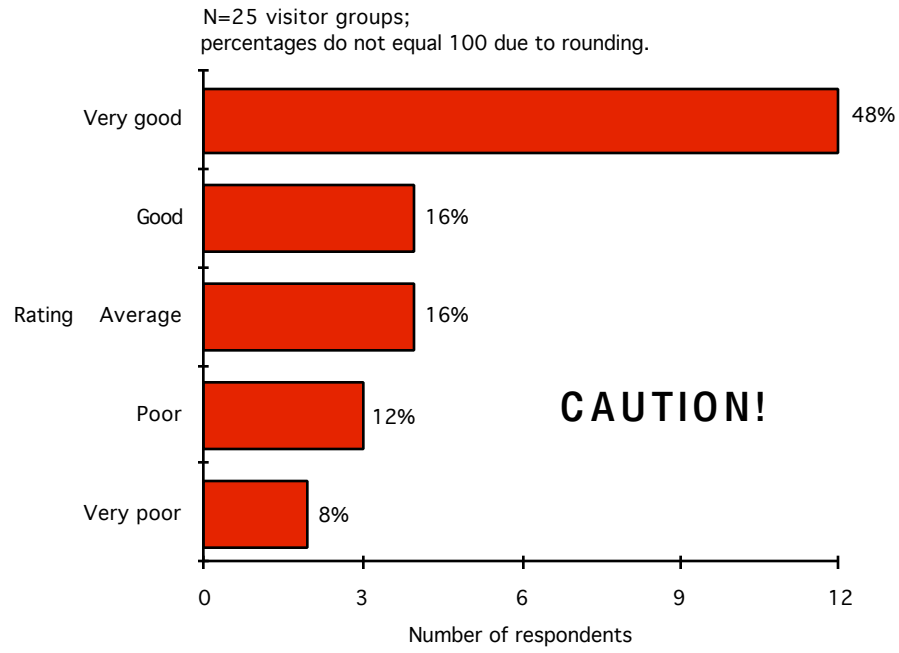


Figure 17: Quality of "other" services

Visitor activities (this visit)

Figure 18 shows the proportion of visitor groups who participated in each activity during their visit to Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. Common activities were enjoying the waterfront (55%), enjoying nature (54%) walking (46%) and biking (42%). "Other" activities mentioned included photography, painting landscapes and exercising.

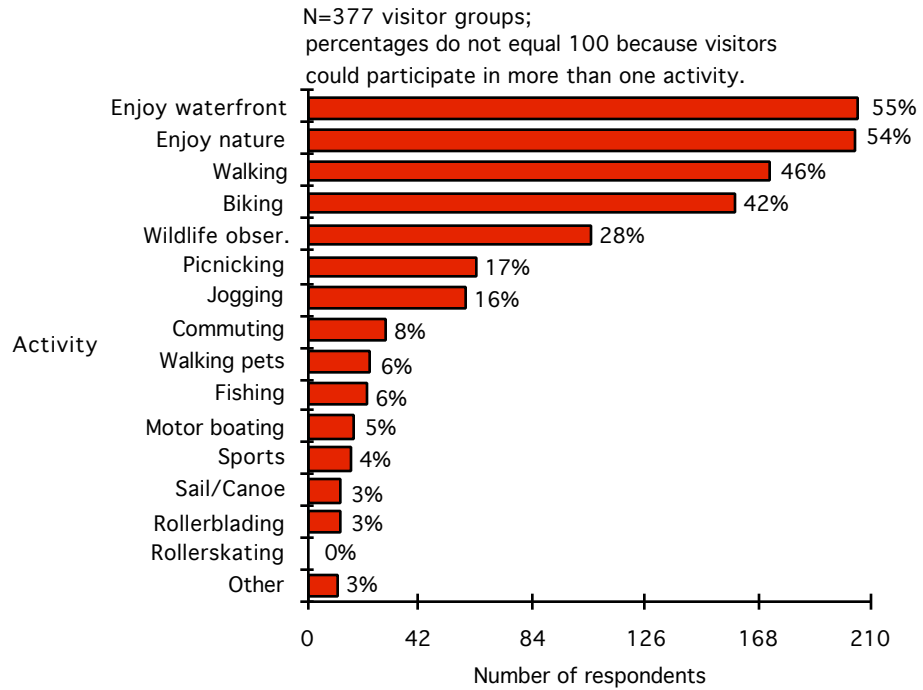


Figure 18: Visitor activities (this visit)

Figure 19 shows the proportion of visitor groups who participated in each activity during past visits to Belle Haven Park Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. Common activities were enjoying the waterfront (75%), enjoying nature (74%), walking (74%), biking (66%) and picnicking (55%).

Visitor activities (past visits)

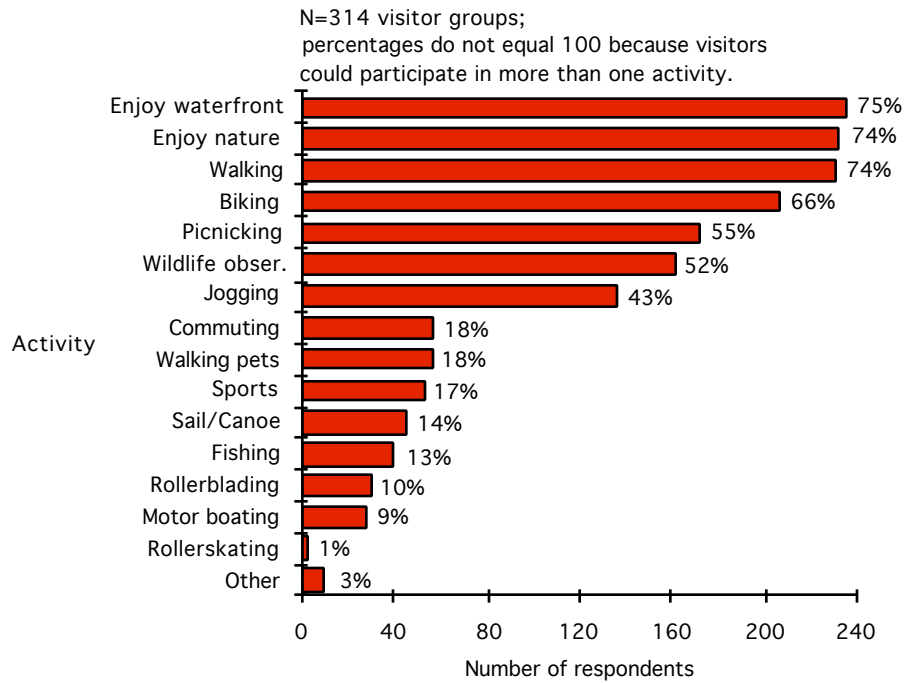


Figure 19: Visitor activities (past visits)

Interference among visitor activities

Visitors were asked, "During this visit did other visitors and their activities interfere with your visit to Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve?" Figure 20 shows that 84% replied no. Those visitors who said yes were asked how and a summary of their comments appears below.

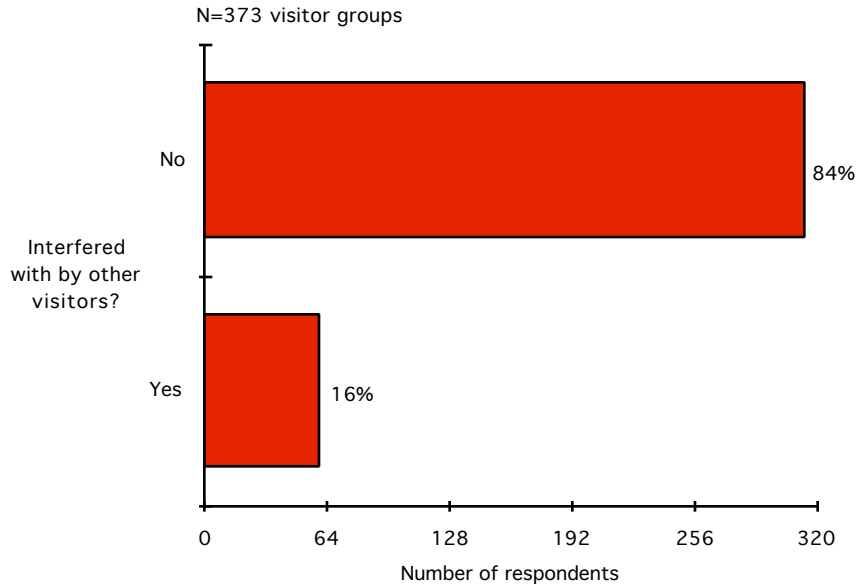


Figure 20: Interference among visitor activities

HOW?

Table 4: Interference among visitor activities

N=81 comments;
many visitors made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
Bicyclists ride too fast on Mount Vernon Trail	17
Mount Vernon trail too congested	11
Bicyclists not watching where they are going	8
People with headphones on Mount Vernon Trail a safety hazard	6
People who walk to center of Mount Vernon Trail are a safety hazard	6
Boat ramp area too congested	4
Walkers two or three abreast is a safety hazard on Mount Vernon Trail	4
Gay people cruising the park	3
Parents with small children blocking Mount Vernon Trail	3
Pets not on a leash	3
Parking limited to people with boat trailers	3
Roller bladers on Mount Vernon Trail	2
Pets on too long a leash	2
Other comments	9

Visitors were asked, "What did you like most about your visit to Belle Haven Park and Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve"? A summary of their comments appears below and in the appendix.

**What
visitors
liked most**

N=666 comments;
many visitors made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
PERSONNEL	
Park staff friendly/helpful	6
Presence of park personnel	4
Other comments	1
FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE	
Mount Vernon Trail	74
Clean/well maintained	71
Mount Vernon Trail is well maintained	20
Trails/paths in good shape	12
The picnic area	10
Enjoy Dyke Marsh area	9
Available restrooms	8
Available water fountains	7
Clean restrooms	7
Planked bridge	3
Easy access to Mount Vernon Trail	2
Other comments	5
CONCESSIONS	
Marina	7
Convenient boat launch	3
Sailboat rentals	2
Cooperative marina staff	2
Other comments	3
GENERAL IMPRESSIONS	
Scenery	80
The quiet/serenity	50
View of the river	48
Access to nature	41
Beauty	21
Park close to home	21
The birds	20
Park area seems like safe area for activity	19
Wildlife	17

The trees		15
Beautiful weather		12
Wild flowers/plants		8
Park area not too crowded		7
Friendly people	6	
A place to exercise		5
Convenience of park		5
Good fishing		4
Open space		3
The waterfront		3
Accessibility to park		3
Being with family		3
A place to park		2
Freedom to bring the dog		2
Fresh air		2
Park is a nice rest area		2
The shade		2
Other comments		9

Visitors were asked, "What did you like least about your visit to Belle Haven Park and Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve"? A summary of their comments appears below and in the appendix.

**What
visitors
liked least**

N=416 comments;
many visitors made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
---------	------------------------------

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE

Mount Vernon Trail needs to be repaired in spots	30
Too much litter/trash	29
Too much trash along/in the river	29
Lack of parking spaces	23
Mount Vernon trail too narrow	17
Restrooms need to be cleaned	17
Lack of trailer parking	10
Mount Vernon trail too close to highway in sections	7
Area needed mowing	7
More boat ramps	6
Boat ramp needs to be repaired	5
Bushes along Mount Vernon Trail not trimmed	5
Not enough water fountains on Mount Vernon Trail	5
Lack of toilet paper	5
Lack of a second path to separate cyclists from other users on MVT	4
Reflecting paint needed on Mount Vernon Trail	3
Lack of water fountains	3
Picnic tables need to be repaired	3
Standing water in picnic area	3
Water smells	2
Dog excrement	2
Lack of grills	2
Not enough trash cans	2
Not enough trails	2
Other comments	16

POLICIES

Not enough park personnel patrolling Mount Vernon Trail	2
More regulation signs needed on Mount Vernon Trail	2
Mount Vernon Trail directional signs confusing	2
Dogs not on leash	2
Other comments	10

GENERAL IMPRESSIONS

No complaints	34
Bicyclists on Mount Vernon Trail	28
Too crowded	24
Gay people cruising the park	13
Roller bladers a problem	7

Too many people on Mount Vernon Trail	7	
Boat ramp area too congested		6
Noise from traffic		4
Waiting to use boat ramp		4
Park difficult to get to from other side of GWMP		3
Being alone in Dyke Marsh makes me feel uncomfortable		3
Mixing cyclists and walkers		3
Slow walkers are a hazard to joggers/cyclists		3
Too many bikes on Mount Vernon Trail		2
Rude people		2
Rain		2
Careless people on Mount Vernon Trail		2
Other comments		14

Many visitors wrote additional comments, which are included in the separate appendix of this report. Their comments are summarized below and in the appendix. Some comments offer specific suggestions on how to improve the park; others describe what visitors enjoyed or did not enjoy.

Comment summary

N=297 comments;
many visitors made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
PERSONNEL	
Park Rangers friendly/helpful	3
Other comments	2
FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE	
Park well maintained/clean	11
Mount Vernon Trail wonderful	8
Maintain Mount Vernon Trail	7
Need to widen Mount Vernon Trail	7
Repave Mount Vernon Trail	5
Keep area in a natural state	5
Too much litter along water line	5
Park needs more picnic benches	4
Start a day so volunteers can pick up trash	3
Clean up trash in marina area	3
Park needs cooking grills	3
Parts of the Mount Vernon Trail should be lighted	2
Trees/bushes need to be pruned	2
Water fountain needed at stone bridge	2
More water fountains needed	2
Get rid of urinal in ladies room	2
Other comments	27
POLICIES	
Gay people cruising the park	10
More signs with rules needs to be posted on Mount Vernon Trail	3
Mount Vernon Trail should have park personnel patrolling it	3
Separate bicyclists from others on Mount Vernon Trail	2
Flat bike tires from tacks on Mount Vernon Trail	2
Increase park police patrols	2
Other comments	18

CONCESSIONS

Maintain sailing marina	4
Food service needed	4
Upgrade the marina	3
Marina staff is friendly/helpful	2
Other comments	4

VISITOR SERVICES PROJECT

VSP Ranger friendly /informative	5
Other comments	1

GENERAL IMPRESSIONS

Enjoyed visit	26
Keep up the good work	22
I come here often	17
I like having the park near my home	9
Thank you	8
Will return	8
Speeding bicyclists are a problem	7
Park is beautiful	7
Park is quiet/peaceful	7
Thank you for the facility	5
Mount Vernon trail too crowded	5
Park is a friendly place	3
This is the nicest site on the GWMP	2
Scenery wonderful	2
Like Dyke Marsh	2
Other comments	1

MENU FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

Park personnel who wish to see other tables, graphs, and maps to learn more about their visitors may request such information from the VSP. Two kinds of analyses are available:

- 1) Two-way comparisons compare two characteristics. For example, to learn about which activities this visit a particular age group participated in, request a comparison of visitor activities this visit by age group, to learn how visitor activities this visit varied among group types, request a comparison of visitor activities this visit by group type.
- 2) Three-way comparisons compare a two-way comparison to a third characteristic. For example, to learn about what services were used by different visitor group types and sizes, request a comparison of services used by group type by group size; to learn about what services were used by different age groups by group type, request a comparison of services by age groups by group type.

Consult the list of characteristics for Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve visitors; then complete the appropriate blanks on the order form. Make a copy of the order form which follows the example below.

SAMPLE

**Visitor Services Project
Analysis Order Form
Belle Haven Park/
Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve
Report 54**

Date of request: _____/_____/_____

Person requesting analysis: _____

Phone number (commercial): _____

The following list has the variables available for comparison from the visitor survey conducted in your park. Use this list to find the characteristics for which you want to request additional two-way and three-way comparisons. Be as specific as possible--you may select a single program/service/facility instead of all that were listed in the questionnaire.

- Group size
- Length of stay
- Number times visited
- Group type
- Sites visited
- Activities this visit
- Age
- Facilities used this visit
- Activities past visits
- State residence
- Services used
- Transportation type
- Country residence
- Quality of services
- Interferences among visitors
- Facilities used past visits

Two-way comparisons (write in the appropriate variables from the above list)

_____ by _____

_____ by _____

_____ by _____

Three-way comparisons (write in the appropriate variables from the above list)

_____ by _____ by _____

_____ by _____ by _____

_____ by _____ by _____

Special instructions _____

Mail to:
Visitor Services Project, CPSU
College of Forestry, Wildlife, and Range Sciences
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho 83843-4199

QUESTIONNAIRE

Visitor Services Project Publications

Reports 1-4 (pilot studies) are available from the University of Idaho Cooperative Park Studies Unit. All VSP reports listed below are available from the parks where the studies were conducted.

Moscow, Idaho 83843-4199 or call (208) 885-4199

1985

5. North Cascades National Park Service Complex

1986

6. Crater Lake National Park

1987

7. Gettysburg National Military Park
8. Independence National Historical Park
9. Valley Forge National Historical Park
10. Colonial National Historical Park
11. Grand Teton National Park
12. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
13. Mesa Verde National Park
14. Shenandoah National Park
15. Yellowstone National Park
16. Independence National Historical Park: Four Seasons Study

1988

17. Glen Canyon National Recreational Area
18. Denali National Park and Preserve
19. Bryce Canyon National Park
20. Craters of the Moon National Monument

1989

21. Everglades National Park
22. Statue of Liberty National Monument
23. The White House Tours, President's Park
24. Lincoln Home National Historical Site
25. Yellowstone National Park
26. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
27. Muir Woods National Monument

<p>For more information about the Visitor Services Project, please contact Dr. Gary E. Machlis, Sociology Project Leader, University of Idaho Cooperative Park Studies Unit, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences,</p>
--

1990

28. Canyonlands National Park
29. White Sands National Monument
30. National Monuments
31. Kenai Fjords National Park
32. Gateway National Recreation Area
33. Petersburg National Battlefield
34. Death Valley National Monument
35. Glacier National Park
36. Scott's Bluff National Monument
37. John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

1991

38. Jean Lafitte National Historical Park
39. Joshua Tree National Monument
40. The White House Tours, President's Park
41. Natchez Trace Parkway
42. Stehekin-North Cascades National Park/Lake Chelan National Rec. Area
43. City of Rocks National Reserve
44. The White House Tours, President's Park

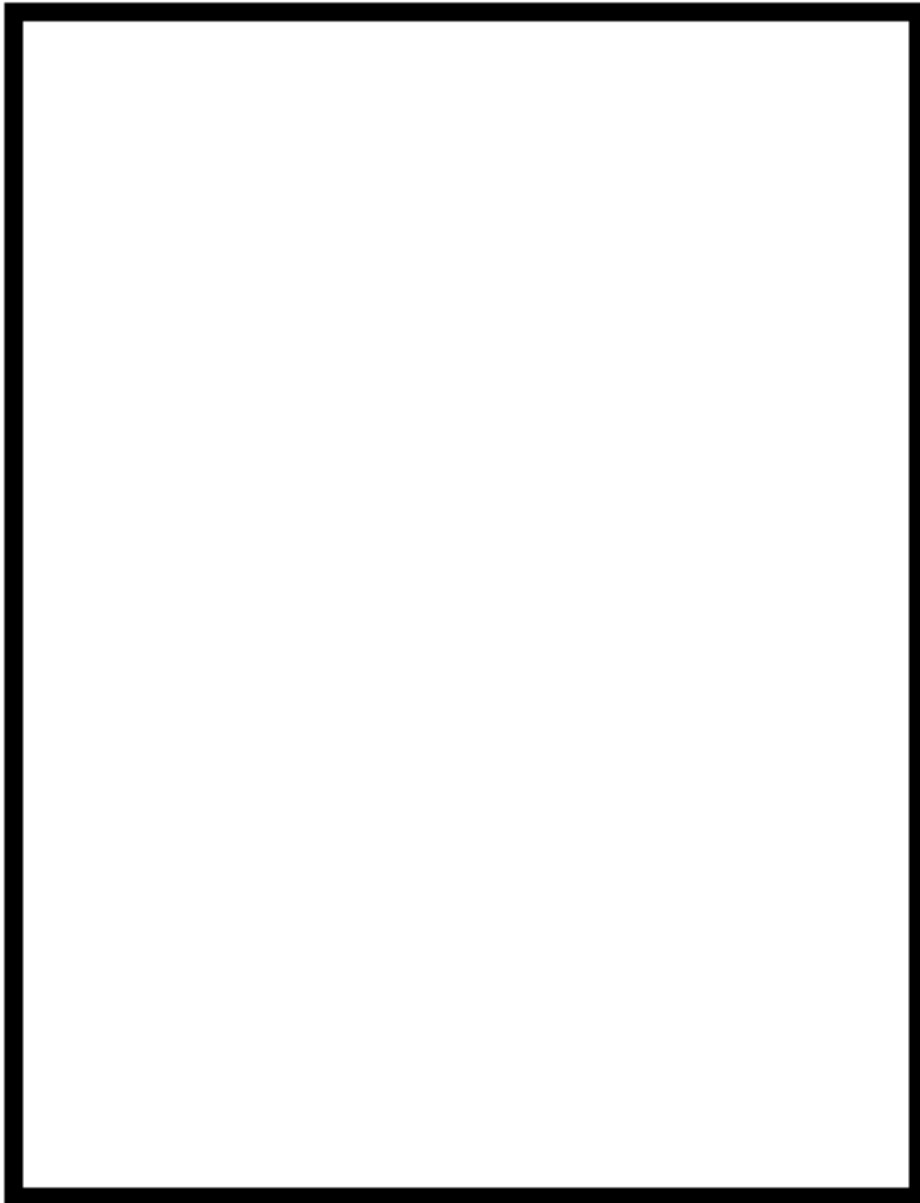
1992

45. Big Bend National Park
46. Frederick Douglass National Historic Site
47. Glen Echo Park
48. Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site
49. Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
50. Zion National park
51. New River Gorge National River
52. Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park
53. Arlington House The Robert E. Lee Memorial

1993

54. Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve
-

Visitor Services Project
**Belle Haven Park/
Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve**
Appendix



Visitor Services Project
**Belle Haven Park/
Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve**
Appendix

Dwight L. Madison

Report 54

January 1994

Dwight Madison is VSP Eastern Coordinator, National Park Service based at the Cooperative Park Studies Unit, University of Idaho. I thank the staff of the George Washington Memorial Parkway for their assistance with this study. The VSP acknowledges the Public Opinion Lab of the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center, Washington State University, for its technical assistance.

What visitors liked most

N=666 comments;
many visitors made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
PERSONNEL	
Park staff friendly/helpful	6
Presence of park personnel	4
Other comments	1
FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE	
Mount Vernon Trail	74
Clean/well maintained	71
Mount Vernon Trail is well maintained	20
Trails/paths in good shape	12
The picnic area	10
Enjoy Dyke Marsh area	9
Available restrooms	8
Available water fountains	7
Clean restrooms	7
Planked bridge	3
Easy access to Mount Vernon Trail	2
Other comments	5
CONCESSIONS	
Marina	7
Convenient boat launch	3
Sailboat rentals	2
Cooperative marina staff	2
Other comments	3
GENERAL IMPRESSIONS	
Scenery	80
The quiet/serenity	50
View of the river	48
Access to nature	41
Beauty	21
Park close to home	21
The birds	20
Park area seems like safe area for activity	19
Wildlife	17
The trees	15
Beautiful weather	12
Wild flowers/plants	8
Park area not too crowded	7
Friendly people	6
A place to exercise	5
Convenience of park	5
Good fishing	4
Open space	3
The waterfront	3
Accessibility to park	3
Being with family	3
A place to park	2

Freedom to bring the dog	2
Fresh air	2
Park is a nice rest area	2
The shade	2
Other comments	9

What visitors liked least

N=416 comments;
many visitors made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE	
Mount Vernon Trail needs to be repaired in spots	30
Too much litter/trash	29
Too much trash along/in the river	29
Lack of parking spaces	23
Mount Vernon trail too narrow	17
Restrooms need to be cleaned	17
Lack of trailer parking	10
Mount Vernon trail too close to highway in sections	7
Area needed mowing	7
More boat ramps	6
Boat ramp needs to be repaired	5
Bushes along Mount Vernon Trail not trimmed	5
Not enough water fountains on Mount Vernon Trail	5
Lack of toilet paper	5
Lack of a second path to separate cyclists from other users on MVT	4
Reflecting paint needed on Mount Vernon Trail	3
Lack of water fountains	3
Picnic tables need to be repaired	3
Standing water in picnic area	3
Water smells	2
Dog excrement	2
Lack of grills	2
Not enough trash cans	2
Not enough trails	2
Other comments	16
POLICIES	
Not enough park personnel patrolling Mount Vernon Trail	2
More regulation signs needed on Mount Vernon Trail	2
Mount Vernon Trail directional signs confusing	2
Dogs not on leash	2
Other comments	10
GENERAL IMPRESSIONS	
No complaints	34
Bicyclists on Mount Vernon Trail	28
Too crowded	24
Gay people cruising the park	13
Roller bladers a problem	7
Too many people on Mount Vernon Trail	7
Boat ramp area too congested	6
Noise from traffic	4
Waiting to use boat ramp	4
Park difficult to get to from other side of GWMP	3
Being alone in Dyke Marsh makes me feel uncomfortable	3
Mixing cyclists and walkers	3
Slow walkers are a hazard to joggers/cyclists	3
Too many bikes on Mount Vernon Trail	2

Rude people	2
Rain	2
Careless people on Mount Vernon Trail	2
Other comments	14

Comment summary

N=297 comments;
many visitors made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
PERSONNEL	
Park Rangers friendly/helpful	3
Other comments	2
FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE	
Park well maintained/clean	11
Mount Vernon Trail wonderful	8
Maintain Mount Vernon Trail	7
Need to widen Mount Vernon Trail	7
Repave Mount Vernon Trail	5
Keep area in a natural state	5
Too much litter along water line	5
Park needs more picnic benches	4
Start a day so volunteers can pick up trash	3
Clean up trash in marina area	3
Park needs cooking grills	3
Parts of the Mount Vernon Trail should be lighted	2
Trees/bushes need to be pruned	2
Water fountain needed at stone bridge	2
More water fountains needed	2
Get rid of urinal in ladies room	2
Other comments	27
POLICIES	
Gay people cruising the park	10
More signs with rules needs to be posted on Mount Vernon Trail	3
Mount Vernon Trail should have park personnel patrolling it	3
Separate bicyclists from others on Mount Vernon Trail	2
Flat bike tires from tacks on Mount Vernon Trail	2
Increase park police patrols	2
Other comments	18
CONCESSIONS	
Maintain sailing marina	4
Food service needed	4
Upgrade the marina	3
Marina staff is friendly/helpful	2
Other comments	4
VISITOR SERVICES PROJECT	
VSP Ranger friendly /informative	5
Other comments	1
GENERAL IMPRESSIONS	
Enjoyed visit	26
Keep up the good work	22
I come here often	17

I like having the park near my home		9
Thank you		8
Will return		8
Speeding bicyclists are a problem		7
Park is beautiful	7	
Park is quiet/peaceful		7
Thank you for the facility		5
Mount Vernon trail too crowded		5
Park is a friendly place		3
This is the nicest site on the GWMP		2
Scenery wonderful		2
Like Dyke Marsh		2
Other comments		1

**Printing Instructions for
Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve
Draft Report**

Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve Draft Report

I need 2 bound copies

Both copies should have a **gray front & back cover**

Inside Title page should be Xeroxed on white paper (single page).

Report Summary page should be Xeroxed on blue paper (single page).

Table of contents page should be Xeroxed on white paper (single page).

Pages 1-28 should be duplexed on white paper.

Analysis order forms should be Xeroxed on white paper (single page each)

Page 30 (Questionnaire title page) should be Xeroxed on white paper (single page).

Questionnaire section duplex on white paper

Publications page on inside back cover page.

**Printing Instructions for
Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve
Report & Appendix**

Belle Haven/Dyke Marsh Report

I need 27 copies : 26 bound copies and 1 copy unbound.

All copies should have a **gray front & back cover on recycled paper**

Inside Title page should be on white paper (single page).

Report Summary page should be Xeroxed on blue paper (single page).

Table of contents page should be Xeroxed on white paper (single page).

Pages 1-28 should be duplexed on white paper.

Analysis order forms should be on white paper (single page)

Page 30 (Questionnaire title page) should be Xeroxed on white paper (single page).

Questionnaire section duplex on white paper

**** NPS D 98 January 1994 page** should be facing back cover page
(the one that has the publications listed)

**Please make sure attached photograph is used
on the report cover and the Appendix.**

Belle Haven/Dyke Marsh Appendix Section

I need 9 copies : 8 bound copies and 1 copy unbound.

All copies should have a **gray front & back cover .**

Inside Title page should be Xeroxed on white paper (single page).

Pages 1-6 (comment summary) duplex on blue paper.

Visitor comment pages duplex on white paper.

**Please make sure attached photograph is used
on the report cover and the Appendix.**

Sheet number	Group size	Respondent Age
1	26	635
2	35	558
3	33	601
4	30	763
5	22	657
6	23	629
7	22	710
8	18	544
9	18	514
10	26	688
11	19	650
12	12	423
13	21	814
14	25	725
15	112	797
16	22	728
17	25	633
18	23	712
19	27	494
20	28	681
21	36	427
22	73	698
23	6	75
24	107	635
25	39	695
26	36	676
27	78	691
28	28	640
29	38	675
30	49	556
31	299	660
32	113	538
33	3	26
TOTAL (500)	1472 (2.94)	19948 (39.8)
