**OBSERVATIONS**

*SUMMER ESTIMATES*

* St. Paul (agency) experienced a loss of 1.94 percentage points from 2017 to 2018 – no other agency at any point in the last four years has lost (or gained) this many percentage points in a single year
  + Already-declining visitorship of Como responsible for about 50% of the decline (estimated -160K)
  + Ramsey County experienced a nearly 300K drop as well, from 2014 to 2015, but has a smaller piece of the total pie, so took less of a hit percentage-wise
* In diving into St Paul data you shared and the raw count spreadsheet-
  + There is a replicated record with an extremely low count for Como. (July 3, site 1) There are some sites in the original counting plan that were omitted. I wonder if something was input incorrectly?
    - Which sites are referred to? One of the scheduling tabs changes every time you click on the sheet, so the sites on that tab no longer represent the scheduled sites. I know also that Raintry found one of the counter’s was not showing up and inputting numbers, so some scheduled counts may have been deleted.
  + The site 9 for Como Park measured hundreds of visitors in the raw count for 2017. For 2018 the total was 9. The site description mentions bikes and pedestrians, and these counts were high in 2017. This supports Joel’s advocacy for adjusting the zero counts at least for this day.
    - There weren’t any zero counts at Como this year; as for the counts in 2017 – were they taken at the exact same time? Time as well as site is very important for usage classification. The 9-vehicle count at entrance 9 was taken rather late (6 to 8 PM), after the zoo itself had closed. Remember too that for vehicles, there’s a multiplier.
  + A couple of other St. Paul items – is Indian Mounds present in table 6 (Annual Usage of Regional Parks)? Battle Creek/Indian Mounds divides between Ramsey and St Paul?
    - Yes.  Only Saint Paul takes counts for Indian Mounds.
  + The two zero counts for Hidden Falls, and Hidden Falls generally, eyeball as strange compared with 2017. In 2017, there were lots of vehicles.
    - Note: Entrance description from St. Paul’s doc (bolding added)
      * Location – locate yourself along the river just north of the boat launch.  Limits will be the entire bank of the river within your view.
      * Count  - all people arriving in boats.  If it is obvious that they are people who launched their boat at this site, do not count them,  You are only counting people who actually enter the park by the river.  **This will be a slow spot.**

*ANNUAL ESTIMATES*

* High count at a low usage entrance-timeslot on a weekday caused a large increase in Minneapolis’ estimated annual visits
* High counts on some weekdays at Carver and Anoka parks caused large increase in these agencies’ estimated annual visits
* Outliers appear to be real data – more noise is to be expected in smaller samples
* Special events/camping increased by 1.2M -

*DUPLICATIONS IN RAW DATA*

Duplications were handled in two ways: first, it was noticed that in retaining the respondent’s initials during the use estimate creation, different counter initials for the same exact count were keeping duplicate rows. Second, it was noted that, when agencies make ‘corrections’ within Qualtrics, these actually came as added lines within Qualtrics. Therefore, two lines were showing up with often wildly different counts for the same park/trail, day, time, and entrance. The most recently entered line was kept, and the older line was considered an obsolete, incorrect entry. This was done manually because it was not originally realized that this was how Qualtrics changes would show up. However, this could easily be hard-coded into the process as well.

* Anoka RRP 7/8/2018
* Ramsey Battle Creek 6/27/2018
* Washington county Big Marine PR 6/9/2018
  + It looks like case of the counter initials was different for the two rows, e.g., ‘lm’ and ‘LM’ for Battle Creek.