

NWT Park Use Survey

- Yellowknife, Hay River & Inuvik Households - Summer 1994

Background

During October 1994, the Bureau of Statistics undertook a telephone survey on behalf of the GNWT Department of Economic Development & Tourism regarding the use of territorial parks in the western NWT by households in Yellowknife, Hay River and Inuvik.

The survey was completed for a total of 626 households—328 in Yellowknife, 150 in Hay River and 148 in Inuvik. Households to be interviewed were selected using random digit dialing. Results of the survey were weighted to represent the total households in each centre.

In addition to asking which parks were used, the survey obtained information on the frequency of park use, months when the parks were used, activities while using the parks, campground fees paid, and willingness to pay to support parks.

Parks included in the survey were as follows:

Yellowknife Area

Fred Henne, Yellowknife River, Prosperous Lake, Madeline Lake, Pontoon Lake, Prelude Lake, Powder Point, Cameron River Falls, Hidden Lake, Cameron River Bridge, Reid Lake.

Hay River & South Slave Area

Hay River Campground, Hay River Beach, Twin Falls, Little Buffalo, Lady Evelyn Falls, Queen Elizabeth Park, McNallie Creek, Kakisa River Bridge.

Inuvik Area

Chuk Park, Happy Valley, Nitainlai, Campbell Lake Park, Tuk Interpretive Trails.

Overall Use of Parks

During summer 1994, almost two-thirds (66%) of households in Yellowknife, Hay River and Inuvik (5,350 households overall) used territorial parks in the western NWT.

In the case of Yellowknife, an estimated 3,792 households (68%) used territorial parks. Park use by Yellowknife households ranged from 66% usage for the Yellowknife Area (3,673 households) to 11% for the Hay River & South Slave Area (632 households) and 2% for the Inuvik Area (102 households).

Among Yellowknife households using parks, 81% (3,058 households) used Yellowknife Area parks only, while 16% (615 households) also visited parks outside the Yellowknife Area. Three percent (119 households) used parks outside the Yellowknife Area only.

For Hay River, 781 households (64%) used territorial parks. Of these, 99% (773 households) used Hay River & South Slave Area parks and 7% (57 households) used Yellowknife Area parks. No utilization of Inuvik Area parks was reported by Hay River respondents.

For Inuvik, a total of 776 households (62%) used territorial parks during summer 1994. Almost all of this use (96%) was for parks in the Inuvik Area only. Just 33 Inuvik households used parks outside the Inuvik Area.

Months Parks Were Used

Peak use of territorial parks occurred in July when 4,605 households from Yellowknife, Hay River and Inuvik (57%) used territorial parks. Utilization was also high for the months of June and August when parks were used by 48% and 52% of households respectively. Further, 86% of households who used territorial parks at any point during summer 1994 used parks during July. Corresponding figures for June and August were 73% and 78%.

This overall pattern of park use held for Yellowknife and Hay River. However, in the case of Inuvik, peak use of territorial parks occurred in June and July rather than July and August. Further, Yellowknife use of parks in the Hay River & South Slave Area was particularly concentrated in July and August.

Frequency of Park Use

The 5,350 households from Yellowknife, Hay River and Inuvik who used territorial parks during summer 1994 used those parks an average of 22.0 days. The median number of days parks were used was 14. Five percent of households used parks five days or less, while 20% used parks for 30 or more days.

Use of parks was highest for Hay River households with an average of 25.3 days. The average for Yellowknife households was 23.4 days of park use. For both centres, the median number of days of park use for households using parks was 16 days. By comparison, Inuvik households using territorial parks made less frequent use averaging 12.2 days of use and having a median use of 8 days.

Activities While Using Parks

Households who reported using parks in the Western NWT were also asked which activities they participated in while using parks. Specifically households were asked whether they used the parks for fishing, sight-seeing, hiking, hunting, swimming, boating, canoeing, picnics or camping.

Picnics were the most frequently reported activity by households in all three centres. This activity was mentioned by 85% of households overall— 81% in Yellowknife, 91% in Hay River and 95% in Inuvik.

The second most frequently cited activity was sight-seeing which was reported by 72% of households using parks. This activity was reported particularly often for Hay River (83%). The corresponding figures were 72% for Yellowknife and 64% for Inuvik.

Hiking and swimming were frequently activities for Yellowknife (64% and 68%) and Hay River (68% and 59%), as was camping (50% for both centres). Fishing was more common among Yellowknife households at 56% compared to

39% for Hay River and 45% for Inuvik. Boating (52%) and canoeing (27%) were also reported more frequently by Yellowknife households.

Campground Fees

A question about campground fees paid was also asked of households who used territorial parks in their home area.

Based on answers to this questions, some 2,993 households from Yellowknife, Hay River and Inuvik (57%) used parks in their home area but paid no campground fees. Hay River households were least likely to have paid campground fees (66%).

A total of 443 households (8%) paid \$100 or more in campground fees. Most of these households were from Yellowknife where 10% of park users paid \$100 or more in campground fees. Corresponding figures for Hay River and Inuvik were 7% and 2%.

Financial Support for Parks

Households using parks in their home area were also asked how much they would be willing to pay each year, in addition to any campground fees, to maintain picnic areas, boat launches and trails. Options provided were \$100, \$75, \$50, \$25 or nothing.

Twenty percent reported that they would be willing to pay \$100 a year, 7% would pay \$75, 31% would pay \$50 and 24% would be willing to contribute \$25. A total of 14% would not be willing to contribute. Four percent did not answer this question.

There were some differences among respondents for the three centres. For example, Hay River households were most likely to report being willing to pay \$100 (24%), most likely to say they were unwilling to contribute at all (19%), and least likely not to have an opinion on this matter (1%).

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Households Using Territorial Parks, by Community
Yellowknife, Hay River and Inuvik — Summer 1994

	Total		Yellowknife		Hay River		Inuvik	
	Hslds	(%)	Hslds	(%)	Hslds	(%)	Hslds	(%)
Total Households	8,073	100	5,603	100	1,221	100	1,249	100
Used Parks	5,350	66	3,792	68	781	64	776	62
Yellowknife Area	3,747	46	3,673	66	57	5	17	1
Hay River & S. Slave Area	1,422	18	632	11	773	63	17	1
Inuvik Area	870	11	102	2	-	-	768	61

Use of Territorial Parks, by Area and Month
Yellowknife, Hay River and Inuvik — Summer 1994

	Total		Yellowknife		Hay River		Inuvik	
	Hslds	(%)	Hslds	(%)	Hslds	(%)	Hslds	(%)
Households Using Parks	5,350	100	3,792	100	781	100	776	100
May	2,140	40	1,503	40	342	44	295	38
June	3,886	73	2,750	73	553	71	582	75
July	4,605	86	3,331	88	684	88	591	76
August	4,191	78	3,109	82	643	82	439	57
September	2,515	47	1,896	50	374	48	245	32
Yellowknife Area	3,747	100	3,673	100	57	100	17	100
May	1,485	40	1,469	40	8	14	8	47
June	2,714	72	2,682	73	24	42	8	47
July	3,312	88	3,280	89	24	42	8	47
August	3,030	81	3,006	82	16	28	8	47
September	1,844	49	1,828	50	8	14	8	47
Hay River & S. Slave Area	1,422	100	632	100	773	100	17	100
May	488	34	154	24	334	43	-	-
June	682	48	137	22	537	69	8	47
July	965	68	273	43	675	87	17	100
August	924	65	273	43	643	83	8	47
September	459	32	85	13	374	48	-	-
Inuvik Area	870	100	102	100	-	..	768	100
May	304	35	17	17	-	..	287	37
June	582	67	17	17	-	..	565	74
July	616	71	51	50	-	..	565	74
August	439	50	17	17	-	..	422	55
September	236	27	-	-	-	..	236	31

Households Using Territorial Parks, by Days Used
Yellowknife, Hay River and Inuvik — Summer 1994

	Total		Yellowknife		Hay River		Inuvik	
	Hslds	(%)	Hslds	(%)	Hslds	(%)	Hslds	(%)
Households Using Parks	5,350	100	3,792	100	781	100	776	100
Less than 5 days	881	16	530	14	90	12	262	34
5 to 9 days	931	17	632	17	130	17	169	22
10 to 14 days	888	17	581	15	146	19	160	21
15 to 19 days	644	12	512	14	81	10	51	7
20 to 29 days	915	17	700	18	130	17	84	11
30 days or More	1,091	20	837	22	203	26	51	7
Total Days	117,846	..	88,587	..	19,764	..	9,493	..
Median Number of Days	14	..	16	..	16	..	8	..
Mean Number of Days	22.0	..	23.4	..	25.3	..	12.2	..

Households Using Territorial Parks, by Activities at Parks
Yellowknife, Hay River and Inuvik — Summer 1994

	Total		Yellowknife		Hay River		Inuvik	
	Hslds	(%)	Hslds	(%)	Hslds	(%)	Hslds	(%)
Households Using Parks	5,350	100	3,792	100	781	100	776	100
Picnics	4,534	85	3,075	81	708	91	751	97
Sight-Seeing	3,865	72	2,716	72	651	83	498	64
Hiking	3,267	61	2,426	64	529	68	312	40
Swimming	3,246	61	2,562	68	464	59	219	28
Fishing	2,765	52	2,118	56	301	39	346	45
Camping	2,565	48	1,896	50	391	50	278	36
Boating	2,362	44	1,982	52	203	26	177	23
Canoeing	1,206	23	1,008	27	114	15	84	11
Hunting	423	8	325	9	65	8	34	4

Households Using Territorial Parks in Home Area, by Amount Paid in Fees
Yellowknife, Hay River and Inuvik — Summer 1994

	Total		Yellowknife		Hay River		Inuvik	
	Hslds	(%)	Hslds	(%)	Hslds	(%)	Hslds	(%)
Households Using Parks in Home Area	5,214	100	3,673	100	773	100	768	100
No Fees Paid	2,993	57	2,050	56	513	66	430	56
Less than \$25	721	14	495	13	65	8	160	21
\$25 to 49	627	12	444	12	65	8	118	15
\$50 to \$99	440	8	325	9	73	9	42	5
\$100 or More	433	8	359	10	57	7	17	2

Households Using Territorial Parks in Home Area, by Amount Willing to Pay in Fees
Yellowknife, Hay River and Inuvik — Summer 1994

	Total		Yellowknife		Hay River		Inuvik	
	Hslds	(%)	Hslds	(%)	Hslds	(%)	Hslds	(%)
Households Using Parks and from Community	5,214	100	3,673	100	773	100	768	100
\$100	1,066	20	769	21	187	24	110	14
\$75	340	7	273	7	33	4	34	4
\$50	1,610	31	1,144	31	179	23	287	37
\$25	1,276	24	803	22	220	28	253	33
\$0	709	14	495	13	146	19	68	9
Not Answered	213	4	188	5	8	1	17	2

Symbols:

- zero
- .. not appropriate
- % percent