

Coon Creek Watershed District

Pleasure Creek Watershed Community Survey

Author: Madeleine Hansen-Connell



M A Y 2 0 2 0

451 Lexington Parkway North | Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104
651-280-2700 | www.wilderresearch.org

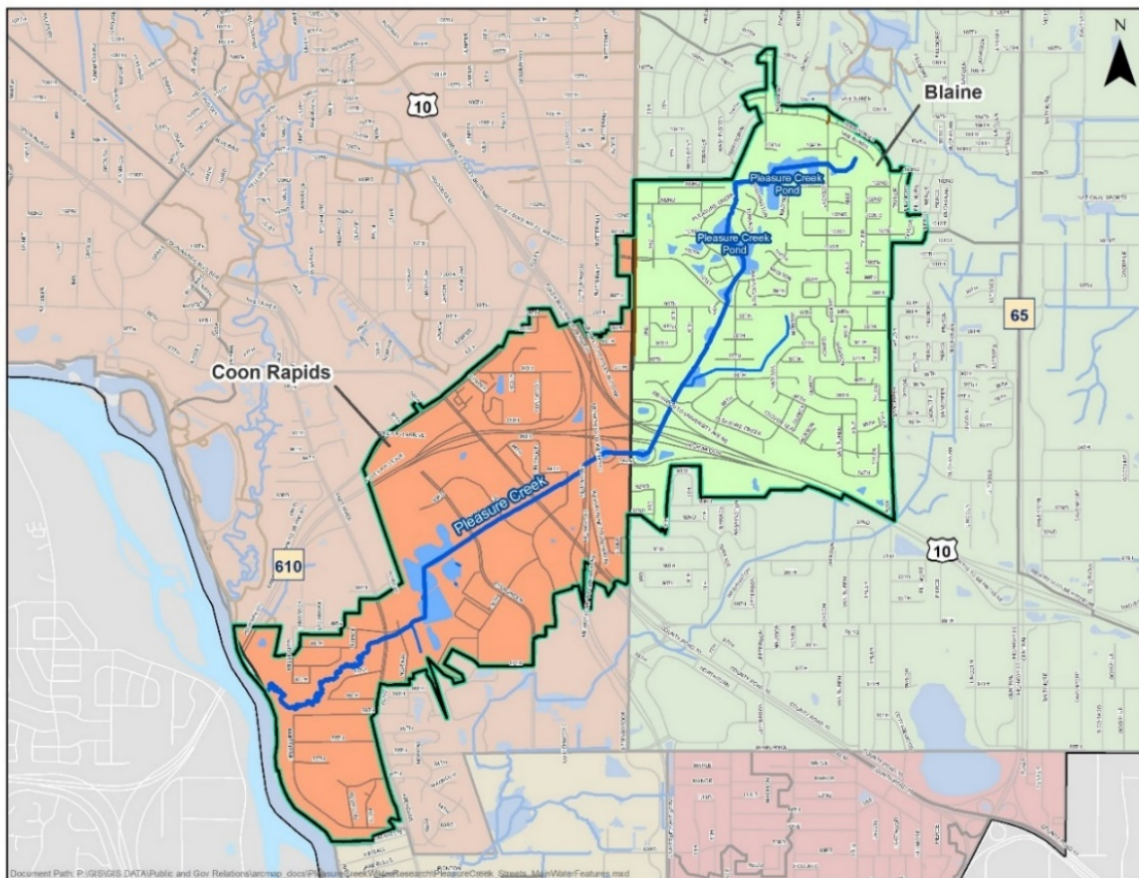
**Wilder
Research®**
Information. Insight. Impact.

Introduction

In 2019 the Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD), in partnership with the cities of Blaine and Coon Rapids, contracted with Wilder Research (Wilder) to do a web survey of residents who live in the Pleasure Creek watershed (Figure 1). Pleasure Creek is on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Impaired Waters List for excessive *E. coli* bacteria and phosphorus pollutants. CCWD and the City of Blaine are addressing these impairments with several new projects including an in-ground biochar/iron-enhanced sand filter near the outlet of the Pleasure Creek ponds into Pleasure Creek. CCWD also has secured funding to install dog waste bag stations in the area and wants to do a larger outreach campaign about water quality and how people impact it.

The goal of this survey was to inform these outreach and education strategies by learning more about residents' current knowledge of and experience with Pleasure Creek, the Pleasure Creek Ponds and surrounding trails, and water pollutants and issues.

1. Map of the Pleasure Creek watershed area



Methods

To conduct the web survey, Wilder received a list of all household addresses in the Pleasure Creek watershed from CCWD, determined using the “Address Points” data set from [Anoka County GIS data](#). In total 3,377 households, including apartment dwellers, are located within the watershed. Wilder randomly selected 2,800 households to receive an invitation to participate in the survey. In February 2020, an initial postcard was mailed to selected households with a unique PIN and web address to complete the survey online. Follow-up postcards were mailed one week later to remind people to complete the survey. Participants who completed the survey were given the opportunity to enter to win one of five Target gift cards to encourage participation and thank respondents for their time.

Overall, 197 people responded to the web survey. This is a response rate of 7%, which is an expected rate for a web survey using this methodology.

Limitations

The self-administered push-to-web survey methodology was selected to optimize the available budget and time resources, while still gathering information critical to answering the research questions. However, the push-to-web survey methodology and this survey tool have limitations, including:

- *Limited in-depth data.* For self-administered web surveys without large participant incentives, it is important that most questions are easy-to-read, closed-ended, and the survey is kept as short as possible. This limits the amount of in-depth qualitative data that can be collected. A higher cost and more time intensive mixed method study would likely yield a higher response rate, more extensive quantitative data, and greater in-depth qualitative data.
- *Respondents likely only included English speakers and those with access to the internet.* To keep costs lower, the survey was administered in English and required web access. Although there are few non-English speakers in these communities, it is likely that community-members with limited English language proficiency and those without internet access did not participate.
- *We cannot determine whether the sample of participants is representative of the Pleasure Creek area community.* The survey asked very few demographic questions, so we are unable to compare the sample of participants to the broader community in terms of age, education, family status, and other demographic characteristics. A robust response rate or the ability to statistically test the demographics of respondents against the larger population are necessary to understand the degree to which results are generalizable.

Every study has limitations. Given the cost and time constraints, this methodology was an effective way of exploring community members’ perceptions at this point in time.

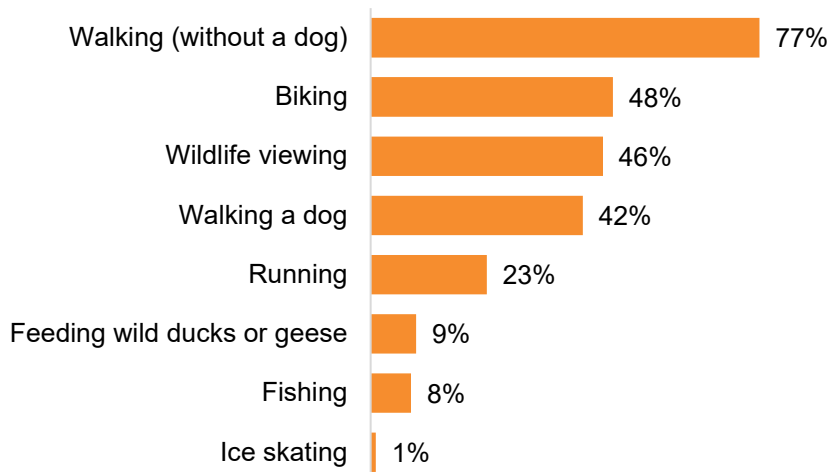
Findings

Below are the findings from the web survey. Data were analyzed in aggregate and also by city. Responses were often very similar whether the respondent was from Blaine (125 respondents) or Coon Rapids (72 respondents). Therefore, findings are generally presented in aggregate; however, differences of 15 percentage points or more between Blaine and Coon Rapids respondents are noted in this section. Full breakdowns of the data by Blaine and Coon Rapids respondents are included in the Appendix.

Use of the pond area or surrounding trails

Overall, 70% of survey respondents used the Pleasure Creek pond area and surrounding trails. A lower percentage of Coon Rapids residents said they use the ponds and surrounding trails (59% compared to 76% of Blaine residents). Of those who used the ponds, the majority of respondents from either city said that they use the pond area for walking without a dog (77%; Figure 2). Over 40% also said they used the pond area for biking, wildlife viewing, or walking a dog. Additionally, less than 10% of respondents indicated that they used the ponds for fishing or feeding wildlife. These two activities are generally discouraged by and are of particular interest to CCWD and the City of Blaine as feeding wildlife can increase bacteria levels, and high bacteria levels along with stormwater pollutants can be harmful for human consumption of fish.

2. Pond or surrounding trail use activities (N=137)



Note: Respondents could select multiple responses, so percentages do not sum to 100.

Dogs and dog waste

Dog waste, along with waste from wild animals, can increase bacteria levels in surface water systems. Survey respondents who used the trails or pond area were asked how often they saw dog waste when using the trails. Twelve percent indicated they saw dog waste “most of the time,” while a third said they saw it “sometimes,” and another third saw it “rarely” (Figure 3). Twenty-two percent said they have not noticed dog waste.

3. How often do you see dog waste (dog poop) when you are using the trails around the ponds?

(N=138)	N	%
Most of the time	17	12%
Sometimes	46	33%
Rarely	45	33%
I have not noticed dog waste	30	22%

Respondents were also asked about their own dogs and dog habits. Forty-two percent of respondents had a dog in the past year. Of those, 43% said they picked up dog waste in their yards every day, 40% said they picked up dog waste once a week, and the remainder picked up dog waste less frequently (Figure 4.)

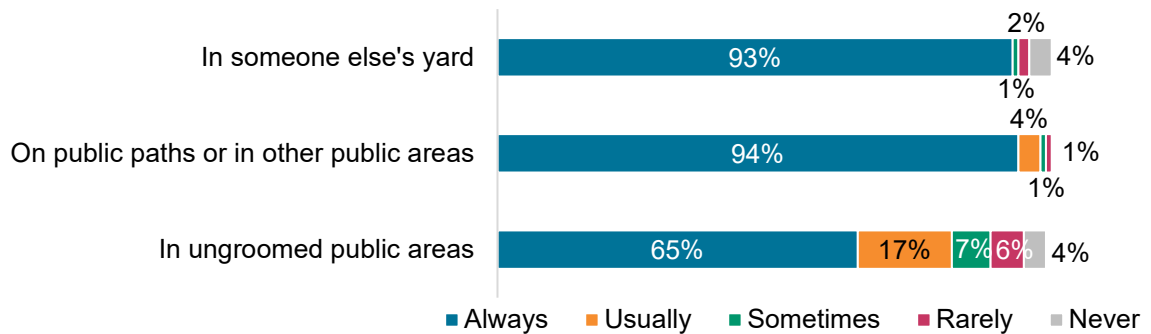
4. How often do you pick up dog waste in your own yard?

(N=82)	N	%
Every day	35	43%
Once a week	33	40%
Once a month	6	7%
Less than once a month	4	5%
Never	4	5%

Note: One person indicated that they own a dog but do not have a yard.

Respondents were then asked about their habits with walking dogs. Forty-eight percent of respondents had walked a dog in the past year (some respondents may not own a dog, but may have walked a dog in the area). These respondents were asked how often they picked up after their dog when the dog poops in someone else’s yard, on public paths or in other public areas, and in ungroomed public areas. The vast majority of people indicated that they always pick up their dog waste in someone else’s yard or on public paths or in other public areas; fewer indicated they always pick up their dog waste in ungroomed public areas (Figure 5).

5. How often do you pick up the dog's waste in the following places (N=94)



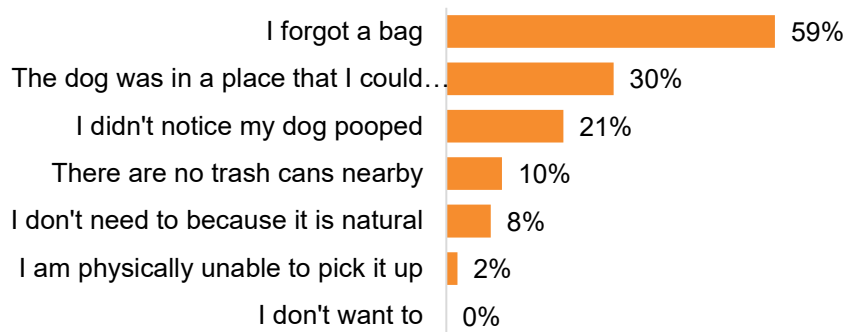
Although CCWD expected that people would be less likely to pick up dog waste in the winter, very few respondents indicated they would be less likely (3%; Figure 6). Most said they would be neither more or less likely (73%), and 20% said they would be much more likely to pick up their dog's waste on walks in the winter.

6. In the winter season, are you more or less likely to pick up your dog's waste on walks?

(N=94)	N	%
Much more likely	19	20%
Somewhat more likely	3	3%
Neither more or less likely	69	73%
Less likely	2	2%
Much less likely	1	1%

Respondents who had walked a dog were also asked about reasons they might not pick up waste on walks. The top reason was “I forgot a bag,” chosen by 59% of respondents (Figure 7).

7. If you do not pick up dog waste, what are some of the reasons that you do not pick up waste on walks? (N=63)



Note: Respondents could select multiple responses, so percentages do not sum to 100.

A higher percentage of Coon Rapids residents (20%) felt they did not need to pick up their dog waste because it is natural (compared to 2% of Blaine residents). However the number of people who answered this question was smaller than other questions (20 for Coon Rapids and 43 for Blaine), so while the difference was greater than 15 percentage points between the cities, Coon Rapids only had 3 more people choose this as an option (4 respondents vs 1 respondent).

CCWD is also considering implementing bag stations with trash cans along the trails or sidewalks in the area to help people pick up after their dog. Sixty-one percent of respondents said they would be much more likely to pick up after their dog if trash cans and bags were provided along the trails or sidewalks (Figure 8).

8. If there were trash cans and bags along the trails or sidewalks, would you be more likely to pick up your dog's waste?

(N=82)	N	%
Much more likely	50	61%
Somewhat more likely	9	11%
Not more likely	23	28%

Yard care and home impacts

Yard waste, in particular leaves and grass that flow into stormwater systems, can also have a negative impact on water quality. Respondents were therefore asked how they deal with leaves, grass, and other yard waste in their yards and driveways. Twenty-seven percent of respondents said they did not have a yard or have responsibility for their yard. Of those who did have a yard and responsibility for it, an equal number of people (38%) said they place them into bags for yard waste collection by their garbage hauler or the city or they mow over leaves and grass and leave them in their yard (Figure 9).

9. How do you generally deal with leaves, grass, or other yard waste/organic matter in your yard or driveway? (N=144)



Note: Due to rounding, percentages do not sum to 100.

Respondents were also asked how flooding effects their home. They vast majority (81%) said that their home or property is not affected by flooding (Figure 10). An additional 8% said their yard has standing water, and 4% said their house or another building gets wet.

10. How does flooding impact your home?

(N=196)	N	%
My home or property is not affected by flooding	159	81%
My yard will have standing water	15	8%
My house or other building on my property gets wet	8	4%
I don't know	19	10%

Note: Respondents could select all that apply, so percentages do not sum to 100. If respondents selected don't know, they could not select other options.

Stormwater and algae knowledge

CCWD was also interested in what residents know about stormwater and algae to gauge their understanding of surface water systems and potential pollutants. The majority of respondents had heard of the term “stormwater” and felt they had a good idea about its definition (Figure 11).

11. Have you heard of the term "stormwater"?

(N=196)	N	%
Yes, and I have a good idea about what it means	145	74%
Yes, but I'm not sure what it means	42	21%
No	9	5%

When asked a contextual question about stormwater in their area, 55%-60% of respondents understood that stormwater drains into nearby creeks, nearby ponds, the Mississippi River, and the ground, which are all accurate understandings of the flow of stormwater (Figure 12). Only 16% thought the stormwater goes to a treatment plant (which it does not). Blaine residents were much more likely to recognize that stormwater drains into nearby ponds (69% compared to only 39% of Coon Rapids residents). However, technically, the Pleasure Creek ponds are in Blaine and are farther upstream, so stormwater from Coon Rapids homes would not likely drain into those ponds. Since we asked specifically about stormwater from their home and neighborhood that may be a correct response. Blaine residents were also slightly more likely to indicate that water drains into the ground and into nearby creeks, but less likely to say it drains into the Mississippi, so residents may be thinking more about their immediate area. Education about the full stormwater system may benefit residents from both cities.

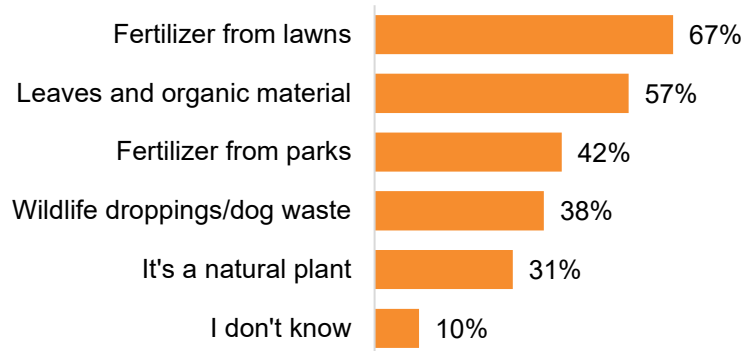
12. Where do you think stormwater goes from your home and neighborhood?

	Overall (N=197)		Blaine (N=125)		Coon Rapids (N=72)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Drains into nearby creeks	118	60%	78	62%	40	56%
Drains into nearby ponds	114	58%	86	69%	28	39%
Drains into the Mississippi River	110	56%	66	53%	44	61%
Drains into the ground	108	55%	75	60%	33	46%
To a water treatment plant	31	16%	18	14%	13	18%
I don't know	18	9%	8	6%	10	14%

Note: Respondents could select all that apply, so percentages do not sum to 100. If respondents selected don't know, they could not select other options.

Respondents were also asked to identify causes of algae in the ponds. The majority of respondents correctly identified fertilizer from lawns (67%) and leaves and organic material (57%) as sources contributing to algae growth (Figure 13). Fewer indicated fertilizer from parks (42%) and wildlife droppings or dog waste (38%) as contributors to algae. About one-third of respondents (31%) indicated that algae was a natural plant.

13. What do you think causes the algae? (N=197)



Note: Respondents could select all that apply, so percentages do not sum to 100. If respondents selected don't know, they could not select other options.

Connection with Coon Creek Watershed and water issues

Sixty-three percent of survey respondents had heard of the Coon Creek Watershed District. Of those, the majority of people had heard about CCWD through a city or community newsletter (81%; Figure 14). A higher percentage of Blaine residents said they have heard of CCWD through a community event (29% of Blaine residents, 11% of Coon Rapids residents) or through the biochar filtration construction project (27% of Blaine residents, 2% of Coon Rapids residents), which is in Blaine.

14. How did you hear about the Coon Creek Watershed District?

	Overall (N=124)		Blaine (N=79)		Coon Rapids (N=45)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
City or community newsletter	100	81%	64	81%	36	80%
Community event (ex. the Blaine Festival, Coon Rapids Summer in the City, Blaine Open House, Blaine WorldFest, etc.)	28	23%	23	29%	5	11%
New filter construction project on Pleasure Creek Parkway	22	18%	21	27%	1	2%
Website search	14	11%	8	10%	6	13%
Social media	11	9%	5	6%	6	13%
I needed a Coon Creek Watershed District development permit	3	2%	1	1%	2	4%
Farmers market	2	2%	1	1%	1	2%
Other	20	16%	8	10%	12	27%

Note: Responses that differed by more than 15 percentage points between city residents are highlighted in blue. Respondents could select all that apply, so percentages do not sum to 100.

We asked respondents how they would like to hear about water issues in their community, and overwhelmingly, they said they would prefer city newsletters as a mode of communication (88%; Figure 15).

15. How would you like to hear about water issues?

N=196	N	%
City newsletters	172	88%
Email	49	25%
Social media	41	21%
NextDoor	35	18%
Neighborhood meetings	23	12%
Door hangers	20	10%
I do not want any information	7	4%

Note: Respondents could select all that apply, so percentages do not sum to 100.

Twenty-one percent said they would like to hear about water issues through social media. In a follow-up question, the vast majority of respondents said Facebook would be a preferred type of social media (85%; Figure 16). Blaine residents were more likely to indicate that they would follow Instagram (33% Blaine residents to 14% Coon Rapids residents), and

Twitter (26% Blaine residents to 7% Coon Rapids residents), however very few people answered this question (14 Coon Rapids residents, and 27 Blaine residents) so differences should be interpreted cautiously.

16. Type of social media

N=41	N	%
Facebook	35	85%
Instagram	11	27%
YouTube	11	27%
Twitter	8	20%
LinkedIn	4	10%
Other	2	5%

Note: Respondents could select all that apply, so percentages do not sum to 100.

Of the people who said they would be interested in getting information (N=190), none of the respondents said they would like information in a language other than English. Though respondents did not need information in another language, the survey was conducted in English, so it likely did not capture those who primarily speak other languages. In looking at data from MN Compass, compiled from the US Census Bureau 2017 American Community Survey Estimates, 14% of Blaine residents and 11% of Coon Rapids residents speak a language other than English. Only 5% of Blaine residents and 4% of Coon Rapids residents report that they speak English less than “very well.” While these data represent the cities of Blaine and Coon Rapids, rather than the specific Pleasure Creek area, some materials in other languages may still be helpful in designing education and outreach campaigns.

Demographics

The vast majority of respondents indicated they were white or Caucasian. Of those who provided an answer (N=186), 96% selected only white or Caucasian as their race or ethnicity, and only 4% identified as Native American or a person of color. According to data from MN Compass, people of color comprise 20% of the population in Blaine and 17% of the population in Coon Rapids. While this does not necessarily represent the demographics of the specific Pleasure Creek subwatershed within Blaine and Coon Rapids, it does indicate that the voices of people of color in these areas were largely missed with this survey. Additional outreach to these communities would be beneficial.

Most survey respondents have lived in the area long time, with 68% indicating they have lived there for longer than 10 years (Figure 17).

17. How long have you lived in the area?

N=196	N	%
Less than 6 months	2	1%
6 months to a year	4	2%
More than a year to 5 years	36	18%
More than 5 years to 10 years	21	11%
More than 10 years	133	68%

Note: One person indicated that they preferred not to answer

Over half of respondents said that having ponds and streams nearby was not at all a factor in their decision to move into the neighborhood, while only 12% said it was a main factor (Figure 18).

18. How much was having ponds and streams nearby a factor in your decision to move into the neighborhood?

N=196	N	%
Not at all a factor	106	54%
Somewhat of a factor	67	34%
A main factor	23	12%

Recommendations

In reviewing the data, the following recommendations could be considered when designing education and outreach materials and strategies.

- Of note, a smaller percentage of Coon Rapids residents use the Pleasure Creek ponds and trail system. This could be because they are farther away from the ponds, but they also may not be aware of the ponds and trail system. It may be helpful to conduct outreach to Coon Rapids residents with information about the ponds and trail system.
- Walking was a primary use of the pond and trail area. CCWD could highlight walking to promote the trails, or select other approved activities to highlight.
- The majority of people said they were prompt in picking up dog waste in their own yards (within one week), and always picked up waste in other people's yards or in public areas. Fewer people picked up waste in ungroomed areas. It may be helpful to make the case about the importance of picking up after your dog in ungroomed areas in educational materials.
- Forgetting bags was a main reason that people did not pick up dog waste, and the majority of people indicated they would be much more likely to pick up dog waste if bags and trash cans were provided along the trails. The data therefore suggest the installation of dog waste stations could make an impact on the amount of waste picked up by owners.
- The majority of households maintained their yards in ways that minimize water pollution. Therefore, yard care may not need to be emphasized as heavily in outreach materials.
- While most respondents had some level of understanding of stormwater drainage and causes of algae, more education could bolster a more comprehensive understanding of water flows and pollution.
- The majority of respondents who had heard about CCWD were familiar with them because of a city or community newsletter. The majority of respondents also indicated they would like to find out about water issues through city newsletters. While there may be some connection between these responses and respondent bias, this still indicates that city newsletters would be preferred and effective ways of communicating messages to residents. Additionally, while less than a quarter of respondents indicated that they would like to get information through social media, if CCWD does choose that medium, Facebook was the most popular platform.
- The vast majority of survey respondents were white, and more consideration of and outreach to communities of color would be important in future outreach efforts.

Appendix

A1. Pond or surrounding trail use activities

	Overall (N=196)		Blaine (N=125)		Coon Rapids (N=71)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
I do not use the pond area or surrounding trails	59	30%	30	24%	29	41%
	Overall (N=137)		Blaine (N=95)		Coon Rapids (N=42)	
Of those who use the pond area or trails	N	%	N	%	N	%
Walking (without a dog)	106	77%	74	78%	32	76%
Biking	66	48%	45	47%	21	50%
Wildlife viewing	63	46%	41	43%	22	52%
Walking a dog	58	42%	41	43%	17	40%
Running	31	23%	24	25%	7	17%
Feeding wild ducks or geese	12	9%	8	8%	4	10%
Fishing	11	8%	9	9%	2	5%
Ice skating	2	1%	2	2%	0	0%

Note: Responses that differed by more than 15 percentage points between city residents are highlighted in blue. Respondents could select multiple responses, so percentages do not sum to 100.

A2. How often do you see dog waste (dog poop) when you are using the trails around the ponds?

	Overall(N=138)		Blaine(N=95)		Coon Rapids(N=43)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Most of the time	17	12%	14	15%	3	7%
Sometimes	46	33%	33	35%	13	30%
Rarely	45	33%	30	32%	15	35%
I have not noticed dog waste	30	22%	18	19%	12	28%

A3. Do you have a dog(s) or have you had a dog(s) in the past year?

	Overall (N=196)		Blaine (N=125)		Coon Rapids (N=71)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	83	42%	55	44%	28	39%
No	113	57%	70	56%	43	61%

A4. How often do you pick up dog waste in your own yard?

	Overall (N=82)		Blaine (N=55)		Coon Rapids (N=27)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Every day	35	43%	26	47%	9	33%
Once a week	33	40%	23	42%	10	37%
Once a month	6	7%	1	2%	5	19%
Less than once a month	4	5%	2	4%	2	7%
Never	4	5%	3	5%	1	4%

Note: Responses that differed by more than 15 percentage points between city residents are highlighted in blue.

A5. Have you walked a dog(s) in the past year?

	Overall (N=196)		Blaine (N=125)		Coon Rapids (N=71)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes	94	48%	63	50%	31	43%
No	103	52%	62	50%	41	57%

A6. How often do you pick up the dog's waste in the following places?

	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Overall (N=94)					
In someone else's yard	93%	0%	1%	2%	4%
On public paths or in other public areas	94%	4%	1%	1%	0%
In ungroomed public areas	65%	17%	7%	6%	4%
Blaine (N=63)					
In someone else's yard	90%	0%	0%	3%	6%
On public paths or in other public areas	92%	6%	2%	0%	0%
In ungroomed public areas	68%	11%	10%	6%	5%
Coon Rapids (N=31)					
In someone else's yard	97%	0%	3%	0%	0%
On public paths or in other public areas	97%	0%	0%	3%	0%
In ungroomed public areas	58%	29%	3%	6%	3%

A7. In the winter season, are you more or less likely to pick up your dog's waste on walks?

	Overall (N=94)		Blaine (N=63)		Coon Rapids (N=31)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Much more likely	19	20%	14	22%	5	16%
Somewhat more likely	3	3%	3	5%	0	0%
Neither more or less likely	69	73%	44	70%	25	81%
Less likely	2	2%	2	3%	0	0%
Much less likely	1	1%	0	0%	1	3%

A8. If you do not pick up dog waste, what are some of the reasons that you do not pick up waste on walks?

	Overall (N=63)		Blaine (N=43)		Coon Rapids (N=20)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
I forgot a bag	37	59%	24	56%	13	65%
The dog was in a place that I could not get to	19	30%	13	30%	6	30%
I didn't notice my dog pooped	13	21%	9	21%	4	20%
There are no trash cans nearby	6	10%	4	9%	2	10%
I don't need to because it is natural	5	8%	1	2%	4	20%
I am physically unable to pick it up	1	2%	1	2%	0	0%
I don't want to	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Another reason (specify):	13	21%	11	26%	2	10%

Note: Responses that differed by more than 15 percentage points between city residents are highlighted in blue. Respondents could select multiple responses, so percentages do not sum to 100.

A9. If there were trash cans and bags along the trails or sidewalks, would you be more likely to pick up your dog's waste?

	Overall (N=82)		Blaine (N=57)		Coon Rapids (N=25)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Much more likely	50	61%	35	61%	15	60%
Somewhat more likely	9	11%	4	7%	5	20%
Not more likely	23	28%	18	32%	5	20%

A10. How do you generally deal with leaves, grass, or other yard waste/organic matter in your yard or driveway?

	Overall (N=197)		Blaine (N=125)		Coon Rapids (N=72)	
N=197	N	%	N	%	N	%
I do not have a yard or responsibility for my yard	53	27%	28	22%	25	35%
Of those with a yard	Overall (N=144)		Blaine (N=97)		Coon Rapids (N=47)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Mow over leaves and grass and leave them in the yard (mulching)	54	38%	33	34%	21	45%
Place them into bags for yard waste collection by garbage hauler or city	54	38%	38	39%	16	34%
Take them to the county compost site	20	14%	17	18%	3	6%
Compost them in a bin in my yard	13	9%	8	8%	5	11%
Place them in with regular garbage	1	1%	0	0%	1	2%
Rake/blow/place them into the street	1	1%	0	0%	1	2%
I do not do anything with them	1	1%	1	1%	0	0%

Note: Due to rounding percentages may not sum to 100.

A11. How does flooding impact your home?

	Overall (N=196)		Blaine (N=125)		Coon Rapids (N=71)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
My home or property is not affected by flooding	159	81%	104	83%	55	77%
My yard will have standing water	15	8%	8	6%	7	10%
My house or other building on my property gets wet	8	4%	5	4%	3	4%
I don't know	19	10%	12	10%	7	10%

Note: Respondents could select all that apply, so percentages do not sum to 100. If respondents selected don't know, they could not select other options.

A12. Have you heard of the term "stormwater"?

	Overall (N=196)		Blaine (N=125)		Coon Rapids (N=71)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Yes, and I have a good idea about what it means	145	74%	99	79%	46	65%
Yes, but I'm not sure what it means	42	21%	19	15%	23	32%
No	9	5%	7	6%	2	3%

A13. Where do you think stormwater goes from your home and neighborhood?

	Overall (N=197)		Blaine (N=125)		Coon Rapids (N=72)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Drains into nearby creeks	118	60%	78	62%	40	56%
Drains into nearby ponds	114	58%	86	69%	28	39%
Drains into the Mississippi River	110	56%	66	53%	44	61%
Drains into the ground	108	55%	75	60%	33	46%
To a water treatment plant	31	16%	18	14%	13	18%
I don't know	18	9%	8	6%	10	14%

Note: Responses that differed by more than 15 percentage points between city residents are highlighted in blue. Respondents could select all that apply, so percentages do not sum to 100. If respondents selected don't know, they could not select other options.

A14. What do you think causes the algae?

	Overall (N=197)		Blaine (N=125)		Coon Rapids (N=72)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Fertilizer from lawns	132	67%	89	71%	43	60%
Leaves and organic material	112	57%	72	58%	40	56%
Fertilizer from parks	82	42%	50	40%	32	44%
Wildlife droppings/dog waste	74	38%	49	39%	25	35%
It's a natural plant	61	31%	41	33%	20	28%
I don't know	19	10%	10	8%	9	13%

Note: Respondents could select all that apply, so percentages do not sum to 100. If respondents selected don't know, they could not select other options.

A15. Have you heard of the Coon Creek Watershed District?

	Overall (N=197)		Blaine (N=125)		Coon Rapids (N=72)	
	N	%	N	N	%	N
Yes	124	63%	79	63%	45	63%
No	73	37%	46	37%	27	38%

A16. How did you hear about the Coon Creek Watershed District?

	Overall (N=124)		Blaine (N=79)		Coon Rapids (N=45)	
	N	%	N	N	%	N
City or community newsletter	100	81%	64	81%	36	80%
Community event (ex. the Blaine Festival, Coon Rapids Summer in the City, Blaine Open House, Blaine WorldFest, etc.)	28	23%	23	29%	5	11%
New filter construction project on Pleasure Creek Parkway	22	18%	21	27%	1	2%
Website search	14	11%	8	10%	6	13%
Social media	11	9%	5	6%	6	13%
I needed a Coon Creek Watershed District development permit	3	2%	1	1%	2	4%
Farmers market	2	2%	1	1%	1	2%
Other	20	16%	8	10%	12	27%

Note: Responses that differed by more than 15 percentage points between city residents are highlighted in blue. Respondents could select all that apply, so percentages do not sum to 100.

A17. How would you like to hear about water issues?

	Overall (N=196)		Blaine (N=124)		Coon Rapids (N=72)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
City newsletters	172	88%	111	90%	61	85%
Email	49	25%	31	25%	18	25%
Social media	41	21%	27	22%	14	19%
NextDoor	35	18%	24	19%	11	15%
Neighborhood meetings	23	12%	13	10%	10	14%
Door hangers	20	10%	14	11%	6	8%
I do not want any information	7	4%	5	4%	2	3%

Note: Respondents could select all that apply, so percentages do not sum to 100.

A18. Type of social media

	Overall (N=41)		Blaine (N=27)		Coon Rapids (N=14)	
	N	%	N	N	%	N
Facebook	35	85%	24	89%	11	79%
Instagram	11	27%	9	33%	2	14%
YouTube	11	27%	7	26%	4	29%
Twitter	8	20%	7	26%	1	7%
LinkedIn	4	10%	2	7%	2	14%
Other	2	5%	1	4%	1	7%

Note: Responses that differed by more than 15 percentage points between city residents are highlighted in blue. Respondents could select all that apply, so percentages do not sum to 100.

A19. Race or ethnicity

	Overall (N=186)		Blaine (N=121)		Coon Rapids (N=65)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Black or African American	1	1%	0	0%	1	2%
African native, including Oromo, Somali, Ethiopian	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Asian, including Southeast Asian	1	1%	0	0%	1	2%
Hispanic or Latino/a/e	2	1%	2	2%	0	0%
Native American	2	1%	1	1%	1	2%
White or Caucasian	179	96%	118	98%	61	94%
Another race or ethnic group (specify):	2	1%	1	1%	1	2%

Note: Respondents could select all that apply, so percentages do not sum to 100. Eleven people overall said they preferred not to answer, including 4 Blaine residents and 7 Coon Rapids residents.

A20. How long have you lived in the area?

	Overall (N=196)		Blaine (N=124)		Coon Rapids (N=72)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Less than 6 months	2	1%	1	1%	1	1%
6 months to a year	4	2%	3	2%	1	1%
More than a year to 5 years	36	18%	22	18%	14	19%
More than 5 years to 10 years	21	11%	13	10%	8	11%
More than 10 years	133	68%	85	69%	48	67%

Note: One person indicated that they preferred not to answer

A21. How much was having ponds and streams nearby a factor in your decision to move into the neighborhood?

	Overall (N=196)		Blaine (N=124)		Coon Rapids (N=72)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Not at all a factor	106	54%	69	56%	37	51%
Somewhat of a factor	67	34%	41	33%	26	36%
A main factor	23	12%	14	11%	9	13%

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank CCWD staff for their efforts in assisting with data collection and writing this report, especially Dawn Doering and Britta Dornfeld. We would also like to thank the cities of Coon Rapids and Blaine for helping promote the survey.

Wilder Research would also like to acknowledge the following staff who played key roles in data collection, analysis, and the creation of this report:

Jenny Bohlke
Alice Lubeck
Maria Robinson
Mandi Spradling
Dan Swanson

Wilder Research, a division of Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, is a nationally respected nonprofit research and evaluation group. For more than 100 years, Wilder Research has gathered and interpreted facts and trends to help families and communities thrive, get at the core of community concerns, and uncover issues that are overlooked or poorly understood.

451 Lexington Parkway North
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104
651-280-2700 | www.wilderresearch.org

Wilder Research®
Information. Insight. Impact.

