

is even clearer in responses by activity group—boaters, too, almost never mentioned scenic qualities or nature-related attributes in open-ended questions, but again were second in rating lack of natural areas a problem when specifically asked about them (Table 3.18).

Natural features (wildlife, trees, nature areas, and other nature) were mentioned most often as a liked attribute in the Palos area. However, these respondents also cited nature-related *dislikes* the most. Palos respondent's comments include: "The river seemed stagnant in places," "I like the look of the area and the natural habitat," and "[This is] like being in the country."

In the North Branch/NSC area, natural features were an appreciated, if not the most important, attribute to these respondents. In their words: "[I like that there are] a lot of birds to listen to," "[I like] the fact that [the river] is here—one of the few natural things—place for birds and small animals," and "I like the turtle!" Visitors in this area also liked the trees and expressed some interest in riverside nature trails.

Many fewer Skokie Lagoons respondents rated lack of natural areas a problem. They also mentioned scenic qualities as a liked attribute most often. Comments such as "Seems like you are in wilderness" and "It's pretty—I saw two deer" were common at the Skokie Lagoons.

DISCUSSION

Urbanites often indicate that trees and water features are important attributes in their recreation settings, that they are more likely to choose sites with these attributes, and that they are very willing to pay for these features (Dwyer, et al., 1989). The on-site survey responses seem to support these earlier findings.

Interacting with nature and appreciating the scenic qualities of the river corridor were important to most respondents. For some, it seems these opportunities allowed for recuperation and rest: "[I like the] scenery, peaceful..." "[The] river makes you feel good—makes you cool," "[The river is] really relaxing. You can forget about your problems."

Other research on human/environment interactions underscores the importance of nature and its role in rejuvenation that these respondents report. Nearby nature has been shown to have many important effects on people's lives, including reducing stress, increasing job satisfaction, increasing a sense of community, and speeding recovery from surgery (Kaplan, 1993; Lewis, 1992; Ulrich, 1984; Ulrich and Parsons, 1992). The comments made by many respondents show that the river may be playing an important restorative role in their lives.

In the Loop, respondents indicated specifically that they were interested in enhanced nature, not just in enhanced open space. Recent riverside developments like the park with Centennial Fountain and the golf course south of Wacker Drive both help meet the needs expressed by these respondents.

Recreation visitors to the river may be specifically seeking out a less urbanized place to recreate, and the river corridor

offers this to them. Given the evidence of the importance to urbanites of trees and other vegetation in recreation areas, as well as the benefits of nearby nature to beleaguered urban dwellers, the public expenditure required to enhance the natural features of the Chicago River corridor may be warranted.

PART IV CONCLUSIONS

The various branches of the Chicago River range in settings from the pastoral to the industrial, with recreational opportunities throughout. The recreationists we interviewed were taking advantage of many of these opportunities. They were engaged in a wide array of activities, many of them not traditional river recreation activities like boating and fishing. Chicago area residents made use of the open space and facilities along the river to play softball, to spend time with their children as they learned about turtles and other aquatic life, to read and write, and to relax and let go of the cares of the day. The river corridor accommodated all of these activities and more.

Some respondents lived or worked near the site where we interviewed them, but others regularly traveled miles from their homes to the bike trails, fishing holes, great birding spots, and boat ramps they prefer. And, most of the visitors we interviewed came often, making use of the recreation opportunities offered by the river and its corridor on a daily and weekly basis.

Current uses of the river corridor can guide future improvements. Trails are well used and liked, but respondents report that maintenance is crucial and facilities like rest rooms are necessary. But not all development needs to be trails—smaller areas along the river can be an end in themselves. These types of spaces are also well used and enjoyed by current recreationists. Increasing the number of, and access to, these types of areas is worth exploring and may facilitate the recuperative benefits some recreationists reported. And while areas like the North Pier development are popular, current users did not call for significantly more development along these lines.

Although recreation enhancement opportunities abound, continued attention to water quality is important. The trends in improved water quality do not seem to be widely understood, and there is an opportunity here for outreach. Still, there is a clear interest among respondents in achieving even better water quality. This issue came out in most every question we asked, whether it was about what people like about the area or what they don't like, what they want changed, and what they consider a problem. Water quality matters.

The Chicago River Corridor is an important recreational resource enjoyed by the Chicago area residents we interviewed. Scenic beauty and the current facilities are important to and appreciated by current recreational visitors. Water quality concerns are prevalent and urgent to these visitors as well. Managers have opportunities to enhance the enjoyment of the river for current recreationists, and perhaps to open new possibilities for future recreationists. Given the chance, people seem to come to love the river.

**APPENDIX 3.1
SURVEY INSTRUMENT**



Summer 1993 River User Survey

Location:
Date:
Day:
Time:

Hi, I'm *(your name)* from Northeastern Illinois University and we are working with the not-for-profit group Friends of the Chicago River on a study of how people use rivers and adjacent areas for recreation and leisure. This information will be used to help plan for future river improvements in the metropolitan area. May I ask you a few questions about your use of the river and areas around it? Your answers will be strictly confidential. *(If they hesitate, tell them it will only take a few minutes and that their input is important. Record reason for refusal, if any _____.)*

First I'd like to ask you some questions about your recreation and leisure at this place today...

- How did you get to this place today? ___ auto ___ bike ___ on foot ___ public transportation
___ other: _____
- About how long did it take you to get to here today? _____ minutes
- About how far is that in miles? _____ miles
- How often do you visit this place? *(probe for first time, once a year or less, 2-3 times/year, 4-10 times/year, 11-25 times/year, nearly every week, nearly everyday).*
- About how long do you plan on being at this place today? _____ hours
- What kinds of things are you doing here today? *(Probe for activities—"anything else?")*
- How important do you feel the river here is to the enjoyment of your recreation activities today?
___ **very important;** *(I would not be here if the river wasn't here)*
___ **somewhat important;** *(river plays some part in the enjoyment of my recreation here)*
___ **not important;** *(river just happens to be here and plays no part in the enjoyment of my recreation)*
___ **detrimental;** *(river detracts from the enjoyment of my recreation)*
- What things do you **LIKE BEST** about this stretch of the river and the areas around it? *(Probe for other positive attributes, and if appropriate, why?)*
- What things do you **NOT LIKE** about this stretch of the river and the areas around it? *(Probe for other negative attributes, and, if appropriate, why?)*
- To what extent do you feel each of the following items are problems that interfere with your use and enjoyment for this stretch of the river? For each potential problem I mention, please indicate if it is "not a problem," "somewhat of a problem," "a major problem," "don't know," or "doesn't apply."

Item	Not a Problem	Somewhat of a Problem	A Major Problem	Don't Know/ NA
a. Water quality				
b. Water odors				
c. Noise from boats, industry, or traffic <i>(circle which)</i>				
d. Garbage dumping on bank or in river				
e. Lack of public open space on the river				
f. Fencing blocking access to the river <i>(✓ if not enough _____)</i>				
g. Lack of shore recreation facilities like paths & benches				
h. Lack of canoe or boat landings				
i. Poor Fishing				
j. Mosquitos and other insects				
k. Public safety—water accidents, etc.				
l. Personal safety from crime				
m. Graffiti and vandalism				
n. Crowding and conflicts among boaters				
o. Crowding and conflicts among recreationists on shore				
p. Not enough natural areas for vegetation and wildlife				

The next few questions refer in general to rivers in the metropolitan area...

11. Are there places **on rivers** in the Chicago area that are especially important to you for recreation or other reasons?
___ No ___ Yes—> 11a. Where? (*probe for special places, views, history, etc.*)

11b. Why are these areas important to you?

12. Besides what you're doing today, are there other things you do on rivers in the metropolitan area, including different seasons or special events? (*Probe for activities, in other locations, or with other people, or special events*)

13. Over the last several years, do you think the quality of rivers in the Chicago area has gotten better for recreation, gotten worse, remained about the same, or are you not sure?
___ gotten better ___ gotten worse ___ remained about the same ___ not sure

14. What changes do you think most need to be done to make rivers in the Chicago area better for recreation? (*Probe for add'l suggestions—development & facilities, land policies, programs, etc.*)
___ not sure

~~~~~To be filled out by respondent~~~~~

***The last few questions are for statistical purposes only. We need to be sure that we have talked with a broad spectrum of people, so that we can be more confident about the results of the survey. All answers will be strictly confidential.***

15. How many people are you here with today in addition to yourself? \_\_\_ others

16. How many of these are 12 years of age or younger? \_\_\_ 12 or younger

17. Are you here as part of an organized group? \_\_\_ no \_\_\_ yes

18. What is the zip code where you live? \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

19. How many years have you lived in the Chicago area? \_\_\_ years in total

20. What is your occupation? (include student, homemaker, retired, unemployed, self-employed):

21. What is your age? \_\_\_ years

22. Are you \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_ Male

23. How do you identify your race? (check all that apply) \_\_\_ Black/African Amer. \_\_\_ Hispanic/Latin  
\_\_\_ Asian \_\_\_ White \_\_\_ Native American/N. Amer. Indian \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

24. What was your total family income last year, before taxes? (Check one)

\_\_\_ less than \$15,000      \_\_\_ \$15 - \$25,000      \_\_\_ \$25 - \$50,000  
\_\_\_ \$50 - \$75,000      \_\_\_ \$75 - \$100,000      \_\_\_ more than \$100,000

***Thank you very much! We really appreciate your help.***

## APPENDIX 3.2 AREA TABLES

**TABLE 3.2.1**  
**Demographics by area**

|                                        | Total<br>(n=582) | Skokie<br>Lagoons<br>(n=148) | N. Branch<br>& NSC<br>(n=135) | The<br>Loop<br>(n=165) | Palos<br>Area<br>(n=55) | Cal-Sag<br>Area<br>(n=79) |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Percent reporting by area <sup>1</sup> |                  |                              |                               |                        |                         |                           |
| <b>RACE/ETHNICITY<sup>2,3</sup></b>    |                  |                              |                               |                        |                         |                           |
| White/European-American                | 78               | 78                           | 70                            | 81                     | 89                      | 80                        |
| Black/African-American                 | 10               | 13                           | 6                             | 11                     | 0                       | 15                        |
| Hispanic/Latin                         | 6                | 3                            | 14                            | 3                      | 7                       | 1                         |
| Asian-American                         | 3                | 3                            | 5                             | 1                      | 2                       | 0                         |
| N.A. Indian/Native American            | 2                | 2                            | 4                             | 2                      | 0                       | 3                         |
| Other/mixed                            | 1                | 1                            | 1                             | 1                      | 2                       | 1                         |
| <b>AGE<sup>2</sup></b>                 |                  |                              |                               |                        |                         |                           |
| Teens & 20s                            | 24               | 24                           | 26                            | 31                     | 16                      | 11                        |
| 30s                                    | 30               | 26                           | 28                            | 33                     | 38                      | 29                        |
| 40s                                    | 19               | 18                           | 17                            | 19                     | 16                      | 25                        |
| 50+                                    | 22               | 30                           | 27                            | 12                     | 22                      | 23                        |
| <b>FAMILY INCOME<sup>2,3</sup></b>     |                  |                              |                               |                        |                         |                           |
| <15,000                                | 8                | 7                            | 13                            | 7                      | 2                       | 5                         |
| 15,000-25,000                          | 15               | 16                           | 22                            | 10                     | 18                      | 9                         |
| 25,000-50,000                          | 29               | 28                           | 27                            | 26                     | 47                      | 28                        |
| 50,000-75,000                          | 14               | 11                           | 10                            | 18                     | 7                       | 22                        |
| 75,000-100,000                         | 8                | 5                            | 6                             | 13                     | 7                       | 6                         |
| 100,000+                               | 6                | 10                           | 3                             | 7                      | 6                       | 4                         |
| Not given                              | 20               | 23                           | 20                            | 18                     | 13                      | 27                        |
| <b>RESIDENCE<sup>2</sup></b>           |                  |                              |                               |                        |                         |                           |
| Chicago                                | 50               | 37                           | 91                            | 46                     | 18                      | 37                        |
| Other                                  | 45               | 60                           | 7                             | 50                     | 75                      | 51                        |
| <b>GENDER<sup>2</sup></b>              |                  |                              |                               |                        |                         |                           |
| Male                                   | 62               | 68                           | 63                            | 50                     | 64                      | 76                        |
| Female                                 | 38               | 32                           | 37                            | 49                     | 36                      | 24                        |
| <b>ACTIVITY GROUP</b>                  |                  |                              |                               |                        |                         |                           |
| Walk/hike                              | 9                | 10                           | 11                            | 13                     | 2                       | 0                         |
| Bike                                   | 14               | 26                           | 6                             | 1                      | 64                      | 0                         |
| Motor Boat                             | 8                | 0                            | 0                             | 1                      | 0                       | 57                        |
| Fish                                   | 11               | 29                           | 10                            | 1                      | 2                       | 5                         |
| Sit/Relax                              | 13               | 4                            | 13                            | 29                     | 0                       | 4                         |
| Eat Lunch                              | 7                | 4                            | 0                             | 21                     | 0                       | 1                         |
| Other Active                           | 10               | 10                           | 13                            | 2                      | 33                      | 1                         |
| Other Passive                          | 28               | 16                           | 47                            | 31                     | 0                       | 32                        |

<sup>1</sup>Percents may not total 100 due to rounding and responses not given. "Not given" is included in income due to large number of non-responses. <sup>2</sup>Significant at the .01 level.  
<sup>3</sup>Sparse cells may affect stability of the results.

**TABLE 3.2.2**  
**River use characteristics by area**

|                                             | <b>Total<br/>(n=582)</b> | <b>Skokie<br/>Lagoons<br/>(n=148)</b> | <b>N. Branch<br/>&amp; NSC<br/>(n=135)</b> | <b>The<br/>Loop<br/>(n=165)</b> | <b>Palos<br/>Area<br/>(n=55)</b> | <b>Cal-Sag<br/>Area<br/>(n=79)</b> |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Percent reporting by area <sup>1</sup>      |                          |                                       |                                            |                                 |                                  |                                    |
| <b>TRANSPORTATION TO SITE<sup>2,3</sup></b> |                          |                                       |                                            |                                 |                                  |                                    |
| Car                                         | 58                       | 78                                    | 57                                         | 18                              | 91                               | 94                                 |
| Bike                                        | 7                        | 17                                    | 7                                          | 3                               | 7                                | 0                                  |
| On foot                                     | 30                       | 4                                     | 39                                         | 66                              | 2                                | 4                                  |
| Public transportation                       | 4                        | 0                                     | 2                                          | 12                              | 0                                | 0                                  |
| Other                                       | 1                        | 1                                     | 0                                          | 0                               | 0                                | 3                                  |
| <b>DISTANCE TRAVELED<sup>2,3</sup></b>      |                          |                                       |                                            |                                 |                                  |                                    |
| Less than 1 mile                            | 36                       | 7                                     | 59                                         | 67                              | 6                                | 11                                 |
| 1 - 3 miles                                 | 6                        | 7                                     | 10                                         | 4                               | 2                                | 6                                  |
| 3 - 4½ miles                                | 9                        | 10                                    | 10                                         | 4                               | 7                                | 14                                 |
| 4½ - 10 miles                               | 28                       | 43                                    | 19                                         | 8                               | 55                               | 42                                 |
| 11 miles or more                            | 19                       | 32                                    | 2                                          | 15                              | 27                               | 24                                 |
| <b>HOW LONG TO GET TO SITE<sup>1</sup></b>  |                          |                                       |                                            |                                 |                                  |                                    |
| Less than 5 minutes                         | 32                       | 9                                     | 44                                         | 56                              | 11                               | 18                                 |
| 6 - 10 minutes                              | 18                       | 17                                    | 24                                         | 13                              | 22                               | 18                                 |
| 11 - 15 minutes                             | 12                       | 16                                    | 10                                         | 3                               | 26                               | 17                                 |
| 16 - 30 minutes                             | 23                       | 37                                    | 19                                         | 10                              | 27                               | 32                                 |
| 31 - 90 minutes                             | 11                       | 17                                    | 2                                          | 13                              | 11                               | 14                                 |
| <b>VISIT LENGTH<sup>1</sup></b>             |                          |                                       |                                            |                                 |                                  |                                    |
| Less than half an hour                      | 20                       | 10                                    | 16                                         | 41                              | 2                                | 10                                 |
| 30 - 60 minutes                             | 24                       | 19                                    | 22                                         | 36                              | 29                               | 8                                  |
| 1 - 3 hours                                 | 34                       | 51                                    | 40                                         | 11                              | 62                               | 23                                 |
| 4 hours - full day                          | 19                       | 20                                    | 18                                         | 10                              | 7                                | 44                                 |
| Overnight                                   | 3                        | 0                                     | 1                                          | 2                               | 0                                | 15                                 |
| <b>VISIT FREQUENCY<sup>1</sup></b>          |                          |                                       |                                            |                                 |                                  |                                    |
| First time                                  | 14                       | 12                                    | 9                                          | 23                              | 15                               | 10                                 |
| 2 times/year or less                        | 5                        | 6                                     | 7                                          | 6                               | 0                                | 4                                  |
| 2 - 3 times/year                            | 7                        | 10                                    | 7                                          | 6                               | 4                                | 8                                  |
| 4 - 10 times/year                           | 9                        | 14                                    | 4                                          | 6                               | 15                               | 9                                  |
| 11 - 25 times/year                          | 15                       | 21                                    | 16                                         | 6                               | 13                               | 22                                 |
| Weekly                                      | 19                       | 14                                    | 20                                         | 14                              | 38                               | 22                                 |
| Daily                                       | 31                       | 24                                    | 36                                         | 41                              | 16                               | 27                                 |
| <b>GROUP SIZE<sup>2,3</sup></b>             |                          |                                       |                                            |                                 |                                  |                                    |
| Self                                        | 32                       | 34                                    | 28                                         | 41                              | 27                               | 18                                 |
| One other person                            | 31                       | 27                                    | 25                                         | 38                              | 49                               | 22                                 |
| 3 - 5 people                                | 28                       | 35                                    | 28                                         | 18                              | 16                               | 48                                 |
| 6 - 11 people                               | 5                        | 2                                     | 7                                          | 2                               | 4                                | 11                                 |
| 12-200 people <sup>4</sup>                  | 3                        | 1                                     | 12                                         | 1                               | 0                                | 0                                  |
| <b>CHILDREN IN GROUP<sup>2,3</sup></b>      |                          |                                       |                                            |                                 |                                  |                                    |
| Yes                                         | 23                       | 23                                    | 42                                         | 9                               | 9                                | 32                                 |
| No                                          | 76                       | 76                                    | 59                                         | 91                              | 87                               | 66                                 |
| <b>ACTIVITY GROUP</b>                       |                          |                                       |                                            |                                 |                                  |                                    |
| Walk/hike                                   | 9                        | 10                                    | 11                                         | 13                              | 2                                | 0                                  |
| Bike                                        | 14                       | 26                                    | 6                                          | 1                               | 64                               | 0                                  |
| Motor boat                                  | 8                        | 0                                     | 0                                          | 1                               | 0                                | 57                                 |
| Fish                                        | 11                       | 29                                    | 10                                         | 1                               | 2                                | 5                                  |
| Sit/relax                                   | 13                       | 4                                     | 13                                         | 29                              | 0                                | 4                                  |
| Eat Lunch                                   | 7                        | 4                                     | 0                                          | 21                              | 0                                | 1                                  |
| Other Active                                | 10                       | 10                                    | 13                                         | 2                               | 33                               | 1                                  |
| Other Passive                               | 28                       | 16                                    | 47                                         | 31                              | 0                                | 32                                 |

<sup>1</sup>Percents may not total 100 due to rounding and responses not given. <sup>2</sup>Significant at the .01 level. <sup>3</sup>Sparse cells may affect stability of results.

<sup>4</sup>One respondent reported a group of 200; the next largest was 81.

**TABLE 3.2.3**  
**Perceptions of the river by area**

|                                                       | <b>Total<br/>(n=582)</b> | <b>Skokie<br/>Lagoons<br/>(n=148)</b> | <b>N. Branch<br/>&amp; NSC<br/>(n=135)</b> | <b>The<br/>Loop<br/>(n=165)</b> | <b>Palos<br/>Area<br/>(n=55)</b> | <b>Cal-Sag<br/>Area<br/>(n=79)</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Percent reporting by area <sup>1</sup>                |                          |                                       |                                            |                                 |                                  |                                    |
| <b>IMPORTANCE OF RIVER FOR ENJOYMENT<sup>3</sup></b>  |                          |                                       |                                            |                                 |                                  |                                    |
| Very important                                        | <b>65</b>                | 80                                    | 40                                         | 75                              | 31                               | 82                                 |
| Somewhat important                                    | <b>22</b>                | 15                                    | 23                                         | 19                              | 58                               | 14                                 |
| Not important or detrimental                          | <b>13</b>                | 5                                     | 37                                         | 6                               | 11                               | 4                                  |
| <b>IMPRESSIONS OF QUALITY IMPROVEMENT<sup>3</sup></b> |                          |                                       |                                            |                                 |                                  |                                    |
| Better                                                | <b>34</b>                | 34                                    | 22                                         | 36                              | 31                               | 56                                 |
| Worse                                                 | <b>15</b>                | 14                                    | 20                                         | 13                              | 15                               | 14                                 |
| Same                                                  | <b>21</b>                | 18                                    | 33                                         | 17                              | 18                               | 19                                 |
| Not sure                                              | <b>29</b>                | 35                                    | 24                                         | 34                              | 36                               | 11                                 |
| <b>MOST LIKED ATTRIBUTES<sup>5</sup></b>              |                          |                                       |                                            |                                 |                                  |                                    |
| Scenic qualities <sup>2</sup>                         | <b>22</b>                | 28                                    | 13                                         | 27                              | 22                               | 13                                 |
| Facility related <sup>2,4</sup>                       | <b>20</b>                | 10                                    | 20                                         | 39                              | 7                                | 33                                 |
| Solitude <sup>3</sup>                                 | <b>15</b>                | 19                                    | 22                                         | 10                              | 15                               | 10                                 |
| Peaceful <sup>2</sup>                                 | <b>10</b>                | 14                                    | 4                                          | 15                              | 7                                | 4                                  |
| Other nature-related <sup>2</sup>                     | <b>9</b>                 | 3                                     | 8                                          | 17                              | 9                                | 6                                  |
| <b>MOST DISLIKED ATTRIBUTES<sup>5</sup></b>           |                          |                                       |                                            |                                 |                                  |                                    |
| Water pollution <sup>2</sup>                          | <b>20</b>                | 22                                    | 13                                         | 19                              | 16                               | 33                                 |
| Poor facilities                                       | <b>17</b>                | 25                                    | 20                                         | 10                              | 22                               | 19                                 |
| User Conflicts <sup>2</sup>                           | <b>17</b>                | 14                                    | 41                                         | 4                               | 6                                | 34                                 |
| Trash <sup>2</sup>                                    | <b>12</b>                | 23                                    | 16                                         | 4                               | 7                                | 4                                  |
| Nothing <sup>2</sup>                                  | <b>32</b>                | 28                                    | 24                                         | 48                              | 20                               | 30                                 |
| <b>PERCEIVED PROBLEM AREAS<sup>6</sup></b>            |                          |                                       |                                            |                                 |                                  |                                    |
| Garbage dumping <sup>3</sup>                          | <b>60</b>                | 61                                    | 61                                         | 51                              | 76                               | 67                                 |
| Water quality                                         | <b>56</b>                | 56                                    | 46                                         | 55                              | 66                               | 67                                 |
| Lack of shore recreation facilities                   | <b>46</b>                | 37                                    | 39                                         | 48                              | 56                               | 62                                 |
| Mosquitos and other insects <sup>2</sup>              | <b>36</b>                | 35                                    | 45                                         | 10                              | 67                               | 54                                 |
| Lack of natural areas <sup>2</sup>                    | <b>34</b>                | 16                                    | 29                                         | 55                              | 26                               | 37                                 |
| <b>DESIRED CHANGES<sup>5</sup></b>                    |                          |                                       |                                            |                                 |                                  |                                    |
| Clean the water <sup>3</sup>                          | <b>38</b>                | 39                                    | 42                                         | 32                              | 31                               | 52                                 |
| Activity Improvements <sup>2,4</sup>                  | <b>22</b>                | 33                                    | 19                                         | 12                              | 13                               | 33                                 |
| Facility Improvements <sup>2,4</sup>                  | <b>15</b>                | 10                                    | 27                                         | 15                              | 7                                | 14                                 |
| Clean the corridor <sup>2,4</sup>                     | <b>13</b>                | 22                                    | 17                                         | 9                               | 4                                | 9                                  |
| <b>ACTIVITY GROUP</b>                                 |                          |                                       |                                            |                                 |                                  |                                    |
| Walk/hike                                             | <b>9</b>                 | 10                                    | 11                                         | 13                              | 2                                | 0                                  |
| Bike                                                  | <b>14</b>                | 26                                    | 6                                          | 1                               | 64                               | 0                                  |
| Motor boat                                            | <b>8</b>                 | 0                                     | 0                                          | 1                               | 0                                | 57                                 |
| Fish                                                  | <b>11</b>                | 29                                    | 10                                         | 1                               | 2                                | 5                                  |
| Sit/relax                                             | <b>13</b>                | 4                                     | 13                                         | 29                              | 0                                | 4                                  |
| Eat Lunch                                             | <b>7</b>                 | 4                                     | 0                                          | 21                              | 0                                | 1                                  |
| Other Active                                          | <b>10</b>                | 10                                    | 13                                         | 2                               | 22                               | 1                                  |
| Other Passive                                         | <b>28</b>                | 16                                    | 47                                         | 31                              | 0                                | 32                                 |

<sup>1</sup>Percents may not total 100 due to rounding and responses not given. <sup>2</sup>Significant at the .01 level. <sup>3</sup>Significant at the .05 level. <sup>4</sup>Sparse cells may affect stability of results. <sup>5</sup>Based on open-ended survey items (questions 8, 9, and 14). <sup>6</sup>Percentages of responses indicating issue as "somewhat" or a "major" problem (question 10).

**TABLE 3.2.4**  
**“To what extent do you feel each of the following items are problems that interfere with your use and enjoyment for this stretch of the river?” by area**

| Area:                                                             | Total (n=582)                  |      |     | Skokie Lagoons (n=148) |      |     | N. Branch/NSC (n=135) |      |     | The Loop (n=165) |      |     | Palos Area (n=55) |      |     | Cal-Sag Area (n=79) |      |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------|-----|------------------------|------|-----|-----------------------|------|-----|------------------|------|-----|-------------------|------|-----|---------------------|------|-----|
|                                                                   | Major                          | Some | Not | Major                  | Some | Not | Major                 | Some | Not | Major            | Some | Not | Major             | Some | Not | Major               | Some | Not |
| ITEM                                                              | Percent reporting <sup>2</sup> |      |     |                        |      |     |                       |      |     |                  |      |     |                   |      |     |                     |      |     |
| Garbage dumping on bank or in river <sup>4</sup>                  | 33                             | 27   | 40  | 31                     | 30   | 37  | 32                    | 29   | 39  | 29               | 22   | 50  | 38                | 38   | 24  | 43                  | 24   | 33  |
| Water quality                                                     | 28                             | 28   | 44  | 21                     | 35   | 42  | 24                    | 22   | 55  | 33               | 22   | 45  | 29                | 36   | 35  | 39                  | 28   | 33  |
| Lack of shore recreation facilities like paths & benches          | 15                             | 31   | 54  | 11                     | 26   | 62  | 13                    | 26   | 61  | 16               | 32   | 53  | 18                | 38   | 44  | 19                  | 43   | 38  |
| Mosquitos and other insects <sup>3</sup>                          | 15                             | 21   | 63  | 13                     | 22   | 64  | 13                    | 32   | 55  | 1                | 9    | 91  | 29                | 38   | 32  | 39                  | 15   | 46  |
| Not enough natural areas for vegetation and wildlife <sup>3</sup> | 13                             | 21   | 65  | 7                      | 10   | 82  | 11                    | 18   | 72  | 18               | 37   | 45  | 6                 | 20   | 75  | 19                  | 18   | 61  |
| Poor fishing <sup>4</sup>                                         | 12                             | 9    | 79  | 16                     | 10   | 74  | 14                    | 10   | 76  | 2                | 2    | 95  | 9                 | 16   | 75  | 20                  | 13   | 67  |
| Lack of public open space on river <sup>3</sup>                   | 11                             | 21   | 67  | 5                      | 11   | 83  | 12                    | 20   | 68  | 12               | 22   | 66  | 13                | 29   | 59  | 20                  | 35   | 45  |
| Water odors <sup>3</sup>                                          | 10                             | 21   | 69  | 3                      | 15   | 80  | 13                    | 22   | 66  | 7                | 18   | 75  | 16                | 40   | 44  | 18                  | 25   | 57  |
| Graffiti and vandalism <sup>3</sup>                               | 9                              | 17   | 73  | 2                      | 12   | 85  | 27                    | 34   | 38  | 1                | 13   | 86  | 9                 | 15   | 76  | 5                   | 10   | 85  |
| Lack of canoe or boat landings <sup>3</sup>                       | 8                              | 14   | 77  | 5                      | 12   | 82  | 6                     | 13   | 81  | 6                | 7    | 88  | 13                | 29   | 58  | 20                  | 24   | 56  |
| Noise from boats, industry, traffic <sup>3</sup>                  | 5                              | 21   | 74  | 11                     | 34   | 54  | 2                     | 16   | 82  | 6                | 24   | 71  | 7                 | 9    | 84  | 0                   | 6    | 93  |
| Personal safety from crime <sup>3</sup>                           | 5                              | 14   | 81  | 2                      | 12   | 84  | 10                    | 22   | 69  | 1                | 11   | 88  | 11                | 16   | 73  | 3                   | 6    | 92  |
| Fencing blocking access to river <sup>3,5</sup>                   | 4                              | 8    | 88  | 0                      | 1    | 98  | 8                     | 16   | 77  | 2                | 10   | 88  | 4                 | 13   | 84  | 5                   | 1    | 94  |
| Conflicts and crowding among recreationists on shore              | 2                              | 13   | 85  | 1                      | 19   | 79  | 3                     | 11   | 86  | 1                | 12   | 87  | 4                 | 7    | 89  | 0                   | 8    | 90  |
| Public safety—water accidents, etc.                               | 2                              | 8    | 89  | 1                      | 7    | 90  | 3                     | 4    | 93  | 0                | 7    | 93  | 9                 | 16   | 75  | 4                   | 17   | 80  |
| Crowding, conflicts among boaters <sup>4,5</sup>                  | 1                              | 5    | 93  | 0                      | 3    | 96  | 0                     | 1    | 99  | 2                | 4    | 94  | 2                 | 4    | 95  | 1                   | 20   | 79  |

<sup>1</sup>Major = “a major problem;” “some” = “somewhat of a problem;” “not” includes “not a problem” and “don’t know/does not apply” response categories. <sup>2</sup>Percent may not total 100 due to rounding and missing answers. <sup>3</sup>Differences between areas significant at the .01 level. <sup>4</sup>Differences between areas significant at the .05 level. <sup>5</sup>Sparse cells may affect stability of results.

**TABLE 3.2.5**  
**“What things do you like best about this stretch of the river and the areas around it?” by area**

| Attribute                                      | Total<br>(n=582) | Skokie<br>Lagoons<br>(n=148)   | N. Branch<br>& NSC<br>(n=135) | The<br>Loop<br>(n=165) | Palos<br>Area<br>(n=55) | Cal-Sag<br>Area<br>(n=79) |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
|                                                |                  | Percent reporting <sup>1</sup> |                               |                        |                         |                           |
| Scenic <sup>2</sup>                            | 22               | 28                             | 13                            | 27                     | 22                      | 13                        |
| Other facility related attributes <sup>2</sup> | 20               | 10                             | 20                            | 39                     | 7                       | 33                        |
| Solitude <sup>3</sup>                          | 15               | 19                             | 22                            | 10                     | 15                      | 10                        |
| Peaceful <sup>2</sup>                          | 10               | 14                             | 4                             | 15                     | 7                       | 4                         |
| It's clean/getting cleaner                     | 9                | 5                              | 10                            | 11                     | 4                       | 11                        |
| Other nature-related attributes <sup>2</sup>   | 9                | 3                              | 8                             | 17                     | 9                       | 6                         |
| Natural areas/features <sup>2</sup>            | 9                | 16                             | 12                            | 1                      | 11                      | 4                         |
| Wildlife <sup>2</sup>                          | 8                | 14                             | 7                             | 2                      | 16                      | 3                         |
| Trees <sup>3</sup>                             | 8                | 8                              | 12                            | 7                      | 16                      | 1                         |
| Other activity-related attributes              | 8                | 3                              | 11                            | 11                     | 6                       | 9                         |
| River <sup>3</sup>                             | 7                | 9                              | 3                             | 10                     | 2                       | 4                         |
| Access <sup>2</sup>                            | 7                | 3                              | 3                             | 7                      | 2                       | 23                        |
| Location <sup>2</sup>                          | 6                | 6                              | 7                             | 0                      | 4                       | 15                        |
| Trails <sup>2</sup>                            | 6                | 10                             | 1                             | 0                      | 40                      | 0                         |
| Boats (watching) <sup>2</sup>                  | 5                | 5                              | 1                             | 10                     | 2                       | 4                         |
| Fishing <sup>2</sup>                           | 5                | 11                             | 4                             | 3                      | 2                       | 1                         |
| Open space <sup>3</sup>                        | 5                | 3                              | 9                             | 7                      | 0                       | 1                         |
| Being outdoors                                 | 3                | 3                              | 3                             | 4                      | 0                       | 1                         |

<sup>1</sup>Percent will total more than 100 as multiple responses were recorded. <sup>2</sup>Differences significant at the .01 level. <sup>3</sup>Differences significant at the .05 level.

**TABLE 3.2.6**  
**“What things do you like least about this stretch of the river and the areas around it?” by area**

| Attribute                                              | Total<br>(n=582) | Skokie<br>Lagoons<br>(n=148)   | N. Branch<br>& NSC<br>(n=135) | The<br>Loop<br>(n=165) | Palos<br>Area<br>(n=55) | Cal-Sag<br>Area<br>(n=79) |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
|                                                        |                  | Percent reporting <sup>1</sup> |                               |                        |                         |                           |
| Nothing <sup>2</sup>                                   | 33               | 28                             | 24                            | 48                     | 20                      | 30                        |
| Water pollution <sup>2</sup>                           | 20               | 22                             | 13                            | 19                     | 16                      | 33                        |
| Poor facilities                                        | 17               | 25                             | 20                            | 10                     | 22                      | 19                        |
| Other users <sup>2</sup>                               | 17               | 14                             | 41                            | 4                      | 6                       | 34                        |
| Trash <sup>2</sup>                                     | 12               | 23                             | 16                            | 4                      | 7                       | 4                         |
| Other problems with the built environment <sup>3</sup> | 8                | 5                              | 4                             | 14                     | 6                       | 10                        |
| Other problems with the natural environment            | 5                | 3                              | 7                             | 5                      | 11                      | 5                         |
| Toilets (lack of, dirty) <sup>2</sup>                  | 5                | 3                              | 9                             | 1                      | 13                      | 1                         |
| Noise (traffic) <sup>2</sup>                           | 4                | 10                             | 2                             | 3                      | 2                       | 0                         |
| Water fountains (lack of) <sup>2,4</sup>               | 3                | 2                              | 3                             | 1                      | 13                      | 0                         |
| Smells <sup>2,4</sup>                                  | 3                | 1                              | 3                             | 3                      | 11                      | 0                         |

<sup>1</sup>Percent will total more than 100 due to multiple responses. <sup>2</sup>Difference significant at the .01 level. <sup>3</sup>Differences significant at the .05 level.

<sup>4</sup>Sparse cells may effect stability of results.

**TABLE 3.2.7**  
**“What changes do you think need to be done to make rivers in the Chicago area better for recreation?,” by area**

| <b>Change</b>                         | <b>Total<br/>(n=582)</b> | <b>Skokie<br/>Lagoons<br/>(n=148)</b> | <b>N. Branch<br/>&amp; NSC<br/>(n=135)</b> | <b>The<br/>Loop<br/>(n=165)</b> | <b>Palos<br/>Area<br/>(n=55)</b> | <b>Cal-Sag<br/>Area<br/>(n=79)</b> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Percent reporting <sup>1</sup>        |                          |                                       |                                            |                                 |                                  |                                    |
| Clean the water <sup>3</sup>          | <b>38</b>                | 39                                    | 42                                         | 32                              | 31                               | 52                                 |
| Activity Improvements <sup>2,4</sup>  | <b>22</b>                | 33                                    | 19                                         | 12                              | 13                               | 33                                 |
| Not sure <sup>2</sup>                 | <b>17</b>                | 15                                    | 11                                         | 22                              | 36                               | 8                                  |
| Facility Improvements <sup>2,4</sup>  | <b>15</b>                | 10                                    | 27                                         | 15                              | 7                                | 14                                 |
| Clean the corridor <sup>2,4</sup>     | <b>13</b>                | 22                                    | 17                                         | 9                               | 4                                | 9                                  |
| Mediate user conflicts <sup>3,4</sup> | <b>10</b>                | 7                                     | 15                                         | 4                               | 9                                | 15                                 |
| Increase river access                 | <b>7</b>                 | 7                                     | 9                                          | 10                              | 4                                | 3                                  |
| Nature Improvements <sup>2,4</sup>    | <b>6</b>                 | 5                                     | 5                                          | 13                              | 4                                | 0                                  |

<sup>1</sup>Percent will total more than 100 due to multiple responses. <sup>2</sup>Difference significant at the .01 level. <sup>3</sup>Differences significant at the .05 level.  
<sup>4</sup>Sparse cells may effect stability of results.

## APPENDIX 3.3 ACTIVITY TABLES

**TABLE 3.3.1  
Demographics by activity**

|                                            | Total<br>(n=582) | Other<br>Passive<br>(n=163) | Bike<br>(n=84) | Sit/<br>Relax<br>(n=75) | Fish<br>(n=64) | Other<br>Active<br>(n=55) | Walk/<br>Hike<br>(n=52) | Boat<br>(n=47) | Lunch<br>(n=42) |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Percent reporting by activity <sup>1</sup> |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                |                 |
| <b>RACE/ETHNICITY<sup>2,3</sup></b>        |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                |                 |
| White/European-American                    | 78               | 78                          | 88             | 81                      | 50             | 84                        | 89                      | 85             | 71              |
| Black/African-American                     | 10               | 8                           | 2              | 8                       | 31             | 6                         | 0                       | 11             | 19              |
| Hispanic/Latin                             | 6                | 9                           | 2              | 3                       | 8              | 9                         | 6                       | 0              | 7               |
| Asian-American                             | 3                | 4                           | 4              | 1                       | 6              | 0                         | 2                       | 0              | 0               |
| N.A. Indian/Native American                | 2                | 2                           | 2              | 5                       | 3              | 0                         | 2                       | 0              | 2               |
| Other/mixed                                | 1                | 0                           | 1              | 1                       | 2              | 2                         | 2                       | 2              | 0               |
| <b>AGE<sup>2</sup></b>                     |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                |                 |
| Teens & 20s                                | 24               | 27                          | 17             | 24                      | 25             | 31                        | 12                      | 15             | 41              |
| 30s                                        | 30               | 31                          | 37             | 33                      | 25             | 29                        | 15                      | 32             | 33              |
| 40s                                        | 19               | 16                          | 17             | 21                      | 20             | 24                        | 25                      | 19             | 12              |
| 50+                                        | 22               | 24                          | 23             | 15                      | 30             | 11                        | 48                      | 15             | 10              |
| <b>FAMILY INCOME<sup>2,3</sup></b>         |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                |                 |
| <15,000                                    | 8                | 11                          | 1              | 9                       | 16             | 6                         | 6                       | 0              | 7               |
| 15,000-25,000                              | 15               | 15                          | 16             | 8                       | 39             | 15                        | 6                       | 6              | 12              |
| 25,000-50,000                              | 29               | 29                          | 39             | 35                      | 17             | 31                        | 25                      | 23             | 26              |
| 50,000-75,000                              | 14               | 15                          | 7              | 15                      | 5              | 16                        | 15                      | 21             | 19              |
| 75,000-100,000                             | 8                | 9                           | 7              | 9                       | 0              | 9                         | 14                      | 6              | 12              |
| 100,000+                                   | 6                | 5                           | 10             | 1                       | 2              | 7                         | 8                       | 4              | 19              |
| Not given                                  | 20               | 17                          | 20             | 23                      | 22             | 16                        | 27                      | 38             | 5               |
| <b>RESIDENCE<sup>2</sup></b>               |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                |                 |
| Chicago                                    | 50               | 63                          | 31             | 51                      | 73             | 47                        | 35                      | 28             | 50              |
| Other                                      | 45               | 34                          | 63             | 43                      | 25             | 47                        | 65                      | 55             | 45              |
| <b>GENDER<sup>2</sup></b>                  |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                |                 |
| Male                                       | 62               | 58                          | 69             | 53                      | 86             | 56                        | 60                      | 72             | 48              |
| Female                                     | 38               | 42                          | 31             | 45                      | 14             | 44                        | 40                      | 28             | 52              |
| <b>AREA</b>                                |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                |                 |
| Skokie Lagoons                             | 25               | 15                          | 46             | 8                       | 67             | 27                        | 29                      | 0              | 14              |
| North Branch/NSC                           | 23               | 39                          | 10             | 24                      | 22             | 31                        | 29                      | 0              | 0               |
| The Loop                                   | 28               | 31                          | 2              | 64                      | 3              | 7                         | 40                      | 4              | 83              |
| Palos Area                                 | 10               | 0                           | 42             | 0                       | 2              | 33                        | 2                       | 0              | 0               |
| Cal-Sag Area                               | 14               | 15                          | 0              | 4                       | 6              | 2                         | 0                       | 96             | 2               |

<sup>1</sup>Percents may not total 100 due to rounding and responses not given. "Not given" is included in income due to large number of non-response. <sup>2</sup>Significant at the .01 level.

<sup>3</sup>Sparse cells may affect stability of the results.

**TABLE 3.3.2**  
**River use characteristics by activity**

|                                             | Total<br>(n=582) | Other<br>Passive<br>(n=163) | Bike<br>(n=84) | Sit/<br>Relax<br>(n=75) | Fish<br>(n=64) | Other<br>Active<br>(n=55) | Walk/<br>Hike<br>(n=52) | Motor<br>Boat<br>(n=47) | Lunch<br>(n=42) |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Percent reporting by activity <sup>1</sup>  |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                         |                 |
| <b>TRANSPORTATION TO SITE<sup>2,3</sup></b> |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                         |                 |
| Car                                         | 58               | 59                          | 64             | 29                      | 84             | 78                        | 31                      | 98                      | 21              |
| Bike                                        | 7                | 4                           | 36             | 3                       | 0              | 2                         | 0                       | 0                       | 10              |
| On foot                                     | 30               | 33                          | 0              | 60                      | 14             | 15                        | 58                      | 2                       | 62              |
| Public transportation                       | 4                | 4                           | 0              | 8                       | 2              | 2                         | 10                      | 0                       | 7               |
| Other                                       | 1                | 1                           | 0              | 0                       | 0              | 4                         | 2                       | 0                       | 0               |
| <b>DISTANCE TRAVELED<sup>2,3</sup></b>      |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                         |                 |
| Less than 1 mile                            | 36               | 41                          | 6              | 67                      | 22             | 26                        | 54                      | 6                       | 71              |
| 1 - 3 miles                                 | 6                | 6                           | 5              | 7                       | 3              | 11                        | 10                      | 9                       | 2               |
| 3 - 4½ miles                                | 9                | 6                           | 8              | 5                       | 9              | 9                         | 10                      | 21                      | 7               |
| 4½ - 10 miles                               | 28               | 31                          | 50             | 7                       | 25             | 42                        | 12                      | 40                      | 7               |
| 11 miles or more                            | 19               | 12                          | 27             | 13                      | 39             | 11                        | 15                      | 23                      | 12              |
| <b>HOW LONG TO GET TO SITE<sup>2</sup></b>  |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                         |                 |
| Less than 5 minutes                         | 32               | 35                          | 7              | 53                      | 16             | 33                        | 35                      | 17                      | 67              |
| 6 - 10 minutes                              | 18               | 18                          | 20             | 21                      | 9              | 20                        | 21                      | 26                      | 5               |
| 11- 15 minutes                              | 12               | 10                          | 16             | 5                       | 22             | 16                        | 15                      | 11                      | 2               |
| 16 - 30 minutes                             | 23               | 24                          | 33             | 8                       | 39             | 20                        | 10                      | 34                      | 14              |
| 31 - 90 minutes                             | 11               | 9                           | 18             | 11                      | 14             | 6                         | 15                      | 13                      | 5               |
| <b>VISIT LENGTH<sup>2</sup></b>             |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                         |                 |
| Less than half an hour                      | 20               | 26                          | 7              | 40                      | 2              | 9                         | 27                      | 4                       | 31              |
| 30 - 60 minutes                             | 24               | 20                          | 24             | 32                      | 5              | 16                        | 42                      | 11                      | 55              |
| 1 - 3 hours                                 | 34               | 27                          | 57             | 20                      | 50             | 60                        | 27                      | 21                      | 7               |
| 4 hours - full day                          | 19               | 18                          | 11             | 7                       | 42             | 13                        | 4                       | 57                      | 7               |
| Overnight                                   | 3                | 7                           | 0              | 1                       | 2              | 0                         | 0                       | 6                       | 0               |
| <b>VISIT FREQUENCY<sup>2,3</sup></b>        |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                         |                 |
| First time                                  | 14               | 9                           | 14             | 25                      | 13             | 16                        | 25                      | 13                      | 2               |
| 2 times/year or less                        | 5                | 10                          | 4              | 7                       | 3              | 0                         | 4                       | 6                       | 0               |
| 2 - 3 times/year                            | 7                | 8                           | 5              | 1                       | 16             | 6                         | 10                      | 9                       | 5               |
| 4 - 10 times/year                           | 9                | 6                           | 14             | 7                       | 13             | 13                        | 8                       | 9                       | 5               |
| 11 - 25 times/year                          | 15               | 14                          | 19             | 8                       | 16             | 16                        | 10                      | 23                      | 14              |
| Weekly                                      | 19               | 16                          | 18             | 13                      | 17             | 29                        | 19                      | 26                      | 19              |
| Daily                                       | 31               | 37                          | 26             | 39                      | 23             | 20                        | 25                      | 15                      | 55              |
| <b>GROUP SIZE<sup>2,3</sup></b>             |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                         |                 |
| Self                                        | 32               | 36                          | 36             | 39                      | 19             | 26                        | 35                      | 9                       | 45              |
| One other person                            | 31               | 23                          | 38             | 32                      | 41             | 31                        | 40                      | 15                      | 38              |
| 3 - 5 people                                | 28               | 28                          | 23             | 25                      | 38             | 27                        | 21                      | 57                      | 17              |
| 6 - 11 people                               | 5                | 6                           | 0              | 3                       | 3              | 9                         | 2                       | 17                      | 0               |
| 12-200 people <sup>4</sup>                  | 3                | 9                           | 0              | 0                       | 0              | 6                         | 2                       | 0                       | 0               |
| <b>CHILDREN IN GROUP<sup>2,3</sup></b>      |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                         |                 |
| Yes                                         | 23               | 19                          | 12             | 16                      | 30             | 29                        | 17                      | 38                      | 7               |
| No                                          | 76               | 72                          | 85             | 83                      | 70             | 69                        | 83                      | 57                      | 93              |
| <b>AREA</b>                                 |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                         |                 |
| Skokie Lagoons                              | 25               | 15                          | 46             | 8                       | 67             | 27                        | 29                      | 0                       | 14              |
| North Branch/NSC                            | 23               | 39                          | 10             | 24                      | 22             | 31                        | 29                      | 0                       | 0               |
| The Loop                                    | 28               | 31                          | 2              | 64                      | 3              | 7                         | 40                      | 4                       | 83              |
| Palos Area                                  | 10               | 0                           | 42             | 0                       | 2              | 33                        | 2                       | 0                       | 0               |
| Cal-Sag Area                                | 14               | 15                          | 0              | 4                       | 6              | 2                         | 0                       | 96                      | 2               |

<sup>1</sup>Percents may not total 100 due to rounding and responses not given. <sup>2</sup>Significant at the .01 level. <sup>3</sup>Sparse cells may affect stability of results.

<sup>4</sup>One respondent reported a group of 200; the next largest was 81.

**TABLE 3.3.3**  
**Perceptions of river by activity**

|                                                       | Total<br>(n=582) | Other<br>Passive<br>(n=163) | Bike<br>(n=84) | Sit/<br>Relax<br>(n=75) | Fish<br>(n=64) | Other<br>Active<br>(n=55) | Walk/<br>Hike<br>(n=52) | Motor<br>Boat<br>(n=47) | Lunch<br>(n=42) |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Percent reporting by activity <sup>1</sup>            |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                         |                 |
| <b>IMPORTANCE OF RIVER FOR ENJOYMENT<sup>2</sup></b>  |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                         |                 |
| Very important                                        | 65               | 59                          | 43             | 56                      | 99             | 55                        | 73                      | 87                      | 76              |
| Somewhat important                                    | 22               | 15                          | 44             | 35                      | 3              | 31                        | 15                      | 9                       | 21              |
| Not important or detrimental                          | 13               | 26                          | 13             | 9                       | 0              | 15                        | 12                      | 4                       | 2               |
| <b>IMPRESSIONS OF QUALITY IMPROVEMENT<sup>2</sup></b> |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                         |                 |
| Better                                                | 34               | 33                          | 42             | 24                      | 27             | 27                        | 39                      | 55                      | 38              |
| Worse                                                 | 15               | 10                          | 4              | 21                      | 30             | 22                        | 17                      | 9                       | 17              |
| Same                                                  | 21               | 28                          | 17             | 23                      | 23             | 26                        | 12                      | 19                      | 10              |
| Not sure                                              | 29               | 29                          | 38             | 32                      | 20             | 26                        | 33                      | 17                      | 36              |
| <b>MOST LIKED ATTRIBUTES<sup>5</sup></b>              |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                         |                 |
| Scenic qualities <sup>3</sup>                         | 22               | 21                          | 32             | 20                      | 13             | 33                        | 23                      | 11                      | 19              |
| Facility related <sup>2</sup>                         | 20               | 31                          | 12             | 28                      | 6              | 7                         | 29                      | 32                      | 40              |
| Solitude <sup>3</sup>                                 | 15               | 17                          | 16             | 16                      | 25             | 11                        | 21                      | 2                       | 5               |
| Peaceful <sup>2</sup>                                 | 10               | 5                           | 11             | 20                      | 13             | 6                         | 14                      | 2                       | 14              |
| Other nature related <sup>3</sup>                     | 9                | 9                           | 6              | 15                      | 3              | 9                         | 15                      | 2                       | 17              |
| <b>MOST DISLIKED ATTRIBUTES<sup>5</sup></b>           |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                         |                 |
| Water pollution <sup>3</sup>                          | 20               | 18                          | 14             | 15                      | 27             | 26                        | 11                      | 34                      | 24              |
| Poor facilities                                       | 17               | 17                          | 24             | 15                      | 14             | 25                        | 23                      | 19                      | 12              |
| User Conflicts                                        | 17               | 27                          | 8              | 13                      | 30             | 18                        | 19                      | 23                      | 7               |
| Trash                                                 | 12               | 14                          | 11             | 8                       | 19             | 20                        | 4                       | 6                       | 7               |
| Nothing <sup>3</sup>                                  | 32               | 28                          | 30             | 44                      | 34             | 15                        | 44                      | 34                      | 38              |
| <b>PERCEIVED PROBLEM AREAS<sup>6</sup></b>            |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                         |                 |
| Garbage dumping                                       | 60               | 56                          | 64             | 53                      | 66             | 62                        | 46                      | 68                      | 60              |
| Water quality <sup>3</sup>                            | 56               | 53                          | 54             | 59                      | 53             | 68                        | 37                      | 66                      | 67              |
| Lack of shore recreation facilities                   | 46               | 43                          | 49             | 51                      | 39             | 47                        | 33                      | 55                      | 57              |
| Mosquitos and other insects <sup>2</sup>              | 36               | 35                          | 43             | 19                      | 39             | 53                        | 35                      | 45                      | 21              |
| Lack of natural areas <sup>2</sup>                    | 34               | 38                          | 18             | 41                      | 17             | 35                        | 33                      | 43                      | 52              |
| <b>DESIRED CHANGES<sup>5</sup></b>                    |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                         |                 |
| Clean the water                                       | 38               | 41                          | 36             | 39                      | 36             | 33                        | 27                      | 51                      | 43              |
| Activity Improvements <sup>2,4</sup>                  | 22               | 21                          | 20             | 12                      | 55             | 11                        | 19                      | 26                      | 5               |
| Facility Improvements                                 | 15               | 19                          | 8              | 13                      | 17             | 15                        | 19                      | 11                      | 19              |
| Clean the corridor                                    | 13               | 10                          | 11             | 11                      | 25             | 18                        | 6                       | 13                      | 22              |
| <b>AREA</b>                                           |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                         |                 |
| Skokie Lagoons                                        | 25               | 15                          | 46             | 8                       | 67             | 27                        | 29                      | 0                       | 14              |
| North Branch/NSC                                      | 23               | 39                          | 10             | 24                      | 22             | 31                        | 29                      | 0                       | 0               |
| The Loop                                              | 28               | 31                          | 2              | 64                      | 3              | 7                         | 40                      | 4                       | 83              |
| Palos Area                                            | 10               | 0                           | 42             | 0                       | 2              | 33                        | 2                       | 0                       | 0               |
| Cal-Sag Area                                          | 14               | 15                          | 0              | 4                       | 6              | 2                         | 0                       | 96                      | 2               |

<sup>1</sup>Percents may not total 100 due to rounding and responses not given. <sup>2</sup>Significant at the .01 level. <sup>3</sup>Significant at the .05 level. <sup>4</sup>Sparse cells may affect stability of results.

<sup>5</sup>Based on open-ended survey items (questions 8, 9 and 14). <sup>6</sup>Percentages of responses indicating issue as "somewhat" or a "major" problem (question 10).

**TABLE 3.3.4**

**“To what extent do you feel each of the following items are problems that interfere with your use and enjoyment for this stretch of the river?” by activity**

| Activity:                                                         | Total (n=582)                  |      |     | Other Passive (n=163) |      |     | Bike (n=84) |      |     | Sit/Relax (n=75) |      |     | Fish (n=64) |      |     | Other Active (n=55) |      |     | Walk/hike (n=52) |      |     | Motor Boat (n=47) |      |     | Lunch (n=42) |      |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------|-----|-----------------------|------|-----|-------------|------|-----|------------------|------|-----|-------------|------|-----|---------------------|------|-----|------------------|------|-----|-------------------|------|-----|--------------|------|-----|
|                                                                   | Major                          | Some | Not | Major                 | Some | Not | Major       | Some | Not | Major            | Some | Not | Major       | Some | Not | Major               | Some | Not | Major            | Some | Not | Major             | Some | Not | Major        | Some | Not |
| Item                                                              | Percent reporting <sup>2</sup> |      |     |                       |      |     |             |      |     |                  |      |     |             |      |     |                     |      |     |                  |      |     |                   |      |     |              |      |     |
| Garbage dumping on bank or in river                               | 33                             | 27   | 40  | 28                    | 28   | 44  | 27          | 37   | 36  | 36               | 27   | 37  | 44          | 22   | 34  | 38                  | 24   | 36  | 17               | 29   | 52  | 43                | 26   | 32  | 41           | 19   | 41  |
| Water quality <sup>3</sup>                                        | 28                             | 28   | 44  | 25                    | 28   | 47  | 20          | 33   | 46  | 35               | 24   | 41  | 30          | 23   | 36  | 24                  | 44   | 31  | 21               | 15   | 62  | 43                | 23   | 34  | 41           | 26   | 33  |
| Lack of shore recreation facilities like paths & benches          | 15                             | 31   | 54  | 17                    | 26   | 58  | 11          | 38   | 51  | 15               | 36   | 49  | 17          | 22   | 61  | 20                  | 27   | 51  | 6                | 6    | 87  | 15                | 40   | 45  | 14           | 43   | 43  |
| Mosquitos and other insects <sup>4</sup>                          | 15                             | 21   | 63  | 15                    | 20   | 65  | 14          | 29   | 56  | 4                | 15   | 81  | 22          | 17   | 61  | 16                  | 36   | 44  | 12               | 23   | 65  | 28                | 17   | 53  | 10           | 12   | 79  |
| Not enough natural areas for vegetation and wildlife <sup>4</sup> | 13                             | 21   | 65  | 11                    | 27   | 62  | 4           | 14   | 80  | 16               | 25   | 59  | 11          | 6    | 83  | 11                  | 24   | 60  | 17               | 15   | 67  | 21                | 21   | 55  | 19           | 33   | 48  |
| Poor fishing                                                      | 12                             | 9    | 79  | 9                     | 7    | 83  | 8           | 10   | 80  | 9                | 3    | 88  | 31          | 20   | 48  | 13                  | 18   | 65  | 4                | 2    | 94  | 19                | 9    | 70  | 2            | 2    | 95  |
| Lack of public open space on river <sup>3</sup>                   | 11                             | 21   | 67  | 15                    | 15   | 70  | 7           | 20   | 73  | 11               | 27   | 63  | 6           | 19   | 75  | 7                   | 24   | 67  | 10               | 15   | 73  | 21                | 38   | 41  | 12           | 24   | 64  |
| Water odors <sup>3</sup>                                          | 10                             | 21   | 69  | 7                     | 20   | 73  | 11          | 30   | 60  | 9                | 19   | 72  | 5           | 11   | 84  | 16                  | 33   | 49  | 8                | 14   | 77  | 19                | 23   | 57  | 10           | 21   | 69  |
| Graffiti and vandalism <sup>4</sup>                               | 9                              | 17   | 73  | 9                     | 25   | 67  | 11          | 8    | 79  | 11               | 16   | 73  | 8           | 13   | 80  | 16                  | 27   | 53  | 8                | 17   | 75  | 2                 | 9    | 87  | 2            | 14   | 83  |
| Lack of canoe or boat landings <sup>4</sup>                       | 8                              | 14   | 77  | 8                     | 11   | 81  | 7           | 20   | 77  | 7                | 4    | 89  | 2           | 6    | 92  | 15                  | 31   | 53  | 6                | 6    | 87  | 23                | 28   | 49  | 2            | 14   | 83  |
| Noise from boats, industry, traffic <sup>4,5</sup>                | 5                              | 21   | 74  | 2                     | 23   | 76  | 12          | 23   | 66  | 4                | 23   | 73  | 3           | 13   | 83  | 7                   | 20   | 71  | 10               | 27   | 62  | 2                 | 4    | 94  | 10           | 31   | 60  |
| Personal safety from crime                                        | 5                              | 14   | 81  | 4                     | 12   | 84  | 5           | 10   | 83  | 4                | 13   | 83  | 6           | 11   | 83  | 7                   | 26   | 64  | 6                | 23   | 71  | 2                 | 6    | 89  | 2            | 12   | 86  |
| Fencing blocking access to river <sup>3,5</sup>                   | 4                              | 8    | 88  | 7                     | 5    | 88  | 0           | 6    | 94  | 0                | 13   | 87  | 5           | 3    | 92  | 7                   | 15   | 76  | 6                | 10   | 83  | 6                 | 2    | 92  | 0            | 10   | 90  |
| Conflicts and crowding among recreationists on shore              | 2                              | 13   | 85  | 2                     | 10   | 88  | 2           | 18   | 77  | 1                | 16   | 83  | 0           | 14   | 86  | 2                   | 13   | 80  | 6                | 4    | 90  | 0                 | 13   | 85  | 0            | 12   | 88  |
| Public safety—water accidents, etc.                               | 2                              | 8    | 89  | 1                     | 8    | 91  | 5           | 10   | 85  | 0                | 9    | 91  | 2           | 3    | 95  | 7                   | 11   | 78  | 2                | 8    | 90  | 6                 | 15   | 77  | 0            | 2    | 98  |
| Crowding, conflict among boaters <sup>3,5</sup>                   | 1                              | 5    | 93  | 2                     | 4    | 94  | 1           | 0    | 96  | 1                | 1    | 91  | 0           | 3    | 97  | 0                   | 6    | 89  | 0                | 6    | 94  | 2                 | 28   | 68  | 0            | 2    | 98  |

<sup>1</sup>Major = “a major problem;” “some” = “somewhat of a problem;” “not” includes “not a problem” and “don’t know/does not apply” response categories. <sup>2</sup>Percent may not total 100 due to rounding and missing answers. <sup>3</sup>Differences between areas significant at the .05 level. <sup>4</sup>Differences between areas significant at the .01 level. <sup>5</sup>Sparse cells may affect stability of results.

**TABLE 3.3.5**  
**“What things do you like best about this stretch of the river and the areas around it?,” by activity**

| Attribute                                        | Total<br>(n=582) | Other<br>Passive<br>(n=163) | Bike<br>(n=84) | Sit/<br>Relax<br>(n=75) | Fish<br>(n=64) | Other<br>Active<br>(n=55) | Walk/<br>Hike<br>(n=52) | Motor<br>Boat<br>(n=47) | Lunch<br>(n=42) |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Percent reporting <sup>1</sup>                   |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                         |                 |
| Scenic <sup>3</sup>                              | 22               | 21                          | 32             | 20                      | 13             | 38                        | 23                      | 11                      | 19              |
| Other facility related attributes <sup>2,4</sup> | 20               | 31                          | 12             | 28                      | 6              | 7                         | 29                      | 32                      | 40              |
| Solitude <sup>3</sup>                            | 15               | 17                          | 16             | 16                      | 25             | 11                        | 21                      | 2                       | 5               |
| Peaceful <sup>2</sup>                            | 10               | 5                           | 11             | 20                      | 13             | 6                         | 14                      | 2                       | 14              |
| It's clean/getting cleaner                       | 9                | 10                          | 2              | 13                      | 8              | 7                         | 14                      | 9                       | 7               |
| Other nature-related attributes <sup>3</sup>     | 9                | 9                           | 6              | 15                      | 3              | 9                         | 15                      | 2                       | 17              |
| Natural areas/features                           | 9                | 9                           | 12             | 3                       | 9              | 13                        | 12                      | 0                       | 10              |
| Wildlife <sup>3,4</sup>                          | 8                | 7                           | 16             | 1                       | 6              | 11                        | 12                      | 2                       | 5               |
| Trees                                            | 8                | 9                           | 11             | 9                       | 5              | 15                        | 4                       | 0                       | 14              |
| Other activity-related attributes                | 8                | 11                          | 7              | 8                       | 3              | 4                         | 14                      | 6                       | 10              |
| River                                            | 7                | 9                           | 5              | 9                       | 5              | 2                         | 8                       | 2                       | 7               |
| Access <sup>2,4</sup>                            | 7                | 6                           | 1              | 3                       | 5              | 4                         | 2                       | 38                      | 10              |
| Location <sup>2,4</sup>                          | 6                | 4                           | 1              | 3                       | 9              | 6                         | 6                       | 21                      | 2               |
| Trails <sup>2,4</sup>                            | 6                | 0                           | 30             | 0                       | 3              | 13                        | 6                       | 0                       | 0               |
| Boats (watching) <sup>2,4</sup>                  | 5                | 4                           | 2              | 11                      | 0              | 0                         | 10                      | 0                       | 14              |
| Fishing <sup>2,4</sup>                           | 5                | 2                           | 2              | 3                       | 28             | 0                         | 6                       | 2                       | 0               |
| Open space <sup>2,4</sup>                        | 5                | 11                          | 1              | 4                       | 2              | 4                         | 4                       | 0                       | 5               |
| Being outdoors <sup>2,4</sup>                    | 3                | 2                           | 4              | 3                       | 0              | 2                         | 2                       | 0                       | 12              |

<sup>1</sup>Percents may not total 100 due to rounding and responses not given. <sup>2</sup>Significant at the .01 level. <sup>3</sup>Significant at the .05 level.  
<sup>4</sup>Sparse cells may affect stability of results.

**TABLE 3.3.6**  
**“What things do you like least about this stretch of the river and the areas around it?,” by activity**

| Attribute                                                   | Total<br>(n=582) | Other<br>Passive<br>(n=163) | Bike<br>(n=84) | Sit/<br>Relax<br>(n=75) | Fish<br>(n=64) | Other<br>Active<br>(n=55) | Walk/<br>Hike<br>(n=52) | Motor<br>Boat<br>(n=47) | Lunch<br>(n=42) |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Percent reporting <sup>1</sup>                              |                  |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                         |                 |
| Nothing <sup>3</sup>                                        | 33               | 28                          | 30             | 44                      | 34             | 15                        | 44                      | 34                      | 38              |
| Water pollution <sup>3</sup>                                | 20               | 18                          | 14             | 15                      | 27             | 26                        | 12                      | 34                      | 24              |
| Poor facilities <sup>4</sup>                                | 17               | 17                          | 24             | 15                      | 14             | 25                        | 23                      | 19                      | 12              |
| Other users <sup>4</sup>                                    | 17               | 27                          | 8              | 13                      | 3              | 18                        | 19                      | 23                      | 5               |
| Trash                                                       | 12               | 14                          | 11             | 8                       | 19             | 20                        | 4                       | 6                       | 7               |
| Other problems with the<br>built environment <sup>2,4</sup> | 8                | 12                          | 6              | 5                       | 3              | 7                         | 10                      | 13                      | 7               |
| Other problems with the<br>natural environment <sup>3</sup> | 5                | 6                           | 4              | 3                       | 6              | 9                         | 8                       | 0                       | 10              |
| Toilets (lack of, dirty) <sup>3,4</sup>                     | 5                | 7                           | 10             | 3                       | 0              | 6                         | 2                       | 0                       | 0               |
| Noise (traffic)                                             | 4                | 3                           | 8              | 5                       | 2              | 4                         | 2                       | 0                       | 10              |
| Water fountains (lack of) <sup>2,4</sup>                    | 3                | 3                           | 5              | 3                       | 0              | 11                        | 0                       | 0                       | 0               |
| Smells <sup>3,4</sup>                                       | 3                | 1                           | 6              | 5                       | 0              | 7                         | 2                       | 0                       | 2               |

<sup>1</sup>Percents may not total 100 due to rounding and responses not given. <sup>2</sup>Significant at the .01 level. <sup>3</sup>Significant at the .05 level.  
<sup>4</sup>Sparse cells may affect stability of results.

**TABLE 3.3.7**  
**“What changes do you think need to be done to make rivers in the Chicago area better for recreation?,” by activity**

| Change                               | Total<br>(n=582)               | Other<br>Passive<br>(n=163) | Bike<br>(n=84) | Sit/<br>Relax<br>(n=75) | Fish<br>(n=64) | Other<br>Active<br>(n=55) | Walk/<br>Hike<br>(n=52) | Boat<br>(n=47) | Lunch<br>(n=42) |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
|                                      | Percent reporting <sup>1</sup> |                             |                |                         |                |                           |                         |                |                 |
| Clean the water <sup>3</sup>         | <b>38</b>                      | 41                          | 36             | 39                      | 36             | 33                        | 27                      | 51             | 43              |
| Activity Improvements <sup>2,4</sup> | <b>22</b>                      | 22                          | 20             | 12                      | 55             | 11                        | 19                      | 26             | 5               |
| Not sure <sup>2,4</sup>              | <b>17</b>                      | 14                          | 21             | 24                      | 3              | 26                        | 27                      | 9              | 14              |
| Facility Improvements                | <b>15</b>                      | 19                          | 8              | 13                      | 17             | 15                        | 19                      | 11             | 19              |
| Clean the corridor                   | <b>13</b>                      | 10                          | 11             | 11                      | 25             | 18                        | 6                       | 13             | 22              |
| Mediate user conflicts               | <b>10</b>                      | 10                          | 11             | 9                       | 9              | 13                        | 6                       | 9              | 7               |
| Increase river access <sup>2,4</sup> | <b>7</b>                       | 12                          | 4              | 7                       | 0              | 11                        | 4                       | 2              | 14              |
| Nature Improvements                  | <b>6</b>                       | 9                           | 2              | 4                       | 5              | 6                         | 10                      | 0              | 14              |

<sup>1</sup>Percents may not total 100 due to rounding and responses not given. <sup>2</sup>Significant at the .01 level. <sup>3</sup>Significant at the .05 level.  
<sup>4</sup>Sparse cells may affect stability of results.

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## NOTES

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