

Social Science Program National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

Visitor Services Project



# Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site Visitor Study

Spring 2008



Park Studies Unit Visitor Services Project Report 201



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December 2008

Yen Le Nancy Holmes Eleonora Papadogiannaki Douglas Eury Steven J. Hollenhorst

Dr. Yen Le is the VSP Assistant Director, Nancy Holmes and Eleonora Papadogiannaki are Research Assistants with the Visitor Services Project and Dr. Steven Hollenhorst is the Director of the Park Studies Unit, Department of Conservation Social Sciences, University of Idaho. Dr. Douglas Eury is a Park Planning and Management Consultant who oversaw the survey fieldwork. We thank Jessica Helsley and the staff of Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site for assisting with the survey, and David Vollmer and Yanyin Xu for their technical assistance.

#### Visitor Services Project Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site Report Summary

- This report describes the results of a visitor study at Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site (NHS) during April 19-27, 2008. A total of 338 questionnaires were distributed to visitor groups. Of those, 259 questionnaires were returned, resulting in a 76.6% response rate.
- This report profiles a systematic random sample of Carl Sandburg Home NHS. Most results are presented in graphs and frequency tables. Summaries of visitor comments are included in the report and complete comments are included in the Visitor Comments Appendix.
- Fifty percent of visitor groups were in groups of two and 29% were in groups of three or more. Fiftythree percent of visitor groups were in family groups and 22% were alone.
- United States visitors comprised 99% of total visitors, with 63% from North Carolina, 10% from South Carolina, and smaller proportions from 27 other states. International visitors represented less than 1% of total visitation, but this data should be viewed with CAUTION! due to the low number of respondents.
- Forty-one percent of visitors were ages 56-70 years, 11% were 71 years or older, and 15% were
  ages 15 years or younger. Thirty-five percent of visitor groups reported physical conditions that made
  it difficult to access or participate in park activities or services. Seventy-six percent of visitor groups
  had members who had difficulty walking from the parking lot to the Sandburg Home.
- Regarding respondents' level of education, 34% had a graduate degree, 30% had a bachelor's degree, and 29% had some college education.
- Forty-two percent of visitor groups visited the park for the first time, while 30% had visited occasionally during the year, but not every month.
- Prior to this visit, 89% of visitor groups were aware of who Carl Sandburg was. Fifty-six percent of
  visitor groups learned about him in a school class/program and 38% knew about him because they live
  near his home.
- Eighty-nine percent of visitors obtained information about the park prior to their visit. Prior to this visit, visitor groups most often obtained information about Carl Sandburg Home NHS through previous visits (53%) and friends/relatives/word of mouth (47%). Forty-six percent indicated that for a future visit, they would prefer to obtain information from the park website.
- Forty-eight percent of visitor groups spent two hours visiting the park. The average time spent in the park was 1.7 hours. Nine percent of visitor groups visited the park on more than one day.
- The most common reasons for visiting the area within 30 miles of the park were to visit friends/relatives in the area (26%) and visit other attractions in the area (24%). The most common reasons for visiting the park were to participate in recreation (48%) and to learn about Carl Sandburg (21%). Fifty-seven percent of visitor groups were residents of the area.
- The most visited sites were the barn (68%), and the trail around Front Lake (49%). The most common visitor activities included walking/hiking (81%) and visiting goats at the barn (67%).
- On a future visit, 66% of visitor groups would prefer self-guided tours to learn about the park, and 63% would prefer using exhibits.

#### Visitor Services Project Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site Report Summary (continued)

- Regarding use, importance, and quality of visitor services and facilities, it is important to note the number of visitor groups that responded to each question. The most used visitor services/facilities included parking lot (85%), restrooms (71%), and trails (70%). The visitor services/facilities that received the highest combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings included Carl Sandburg Home tour (91%, N=84) and trails (88%, N=156). The visitor services/facilities that received the highest combined proportions of "very good" and "good" quality ratings were assistance from park staff (95%, N=72) and Carl Sandburg Home tour (94%, N=77).
- Regarding the importance of protecting the park's cultural and natural attributes/experiences, it is
  important to note the number of visitor groups that responded to each question. The
  attributes/experiences that received the highest combined proportions of "extremely important" and
  "very important" ratings included clean air (91%, N=243), clean water (89%, N=235), and scenic
  views (89%, N=240).
- Most visitor groups (97%) rated the overall quality of visitor facilities, services and recreational
  opportunities at Carl Sandburg Home NHS as "very good" or "good." No visitor groups rated the
  overall quality as "very poor" or "poor."

For more information about the Visitor Services Project, please contact the Park Studies Unit at the University of Idaho at (208) 885-7863 or the following website http://www.psu.uidaho.edu.

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# INTRODUCTION

"The home of America's poet, Carl Sandburg, is quite a baronial estate for an old socialist. It was designated as a National Historic Site in 1968 to honor Carl Sandburg's compelling collection of stories about the American people; their plights, struggles, joys and hopes as told through Sandburg's poetry, prose, journalism and biography." (Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, National Park Service, Department of the Interior website: www.nps.gov/carl October, 2008)

This report describes the results of a visitor study at Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, conducted April 19-27, 2008 by the National Park Service (NPS) Visitor Services Project (VSP), part of the Park Studies Unit (PSU) at the University of Idaho.

# Organization of the report

The report is organized into three sections.

- <u>Section 1</u>: **Methods**. This section discusses the procedures, limitations, and special conditions that may affect the results of the study.
- <u>Section 2</u>: **Results**. This section provides summary information for each question in the questionnaire and includes a summary of visitor comments. The presentation of the results of this study does not follow the same order of questions in the questionnaire.

### Section 3: Appendices

Appendix 1: The Questionnaire. A copy of the questionnaire distributed to groups.

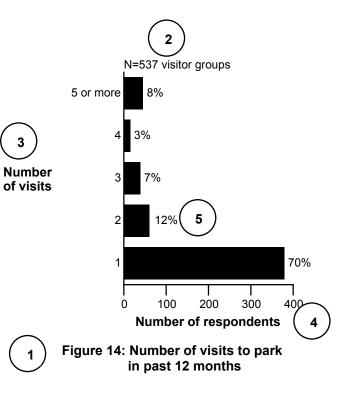
- Appendix 2: *Additional Analysis*. A list of options for cross-references and cross comparisons. These comparisons can be analyzed within park or between parks. Results of additional analyses are not included in this report as they may only be requested after the results of this study have been published.
- Appendix 3: *Decision rules for checking non-response bias.* An explanation of how the non-response bias was determined.
- Appendix 4: *Visitor Services Project Publications.* A complete list of publications by the PSU. Copies of these reports can be obtained by contacting the PSU office at (208) 885-7863 visiting the website: http://www.psu.uidaho.edu/vsp/reports.htm.
- Visitor Comments Appendix: A separate appendix provides visitor responses to open-ended questions. It is bound separately from this report due to its size.

# Presentation of the results

Results are represented in the form of graphs (see example below), scatter plots, pie charts, tables, or text.

### SAMPLE ONLY

- 1: The figure title describes the graph's information.
- Listed above the graph, the "N" shows the number of individuals or visitor groups responding to the question. If "N" is less than 30, "CAUTION!" is shown on the graph to indicate the results may be unreliable.
  - \* appears when total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding.
  - \*\* appears when total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer choice.
- 3: Vertical information describes the response categories.
- Horizontal information shows the number or proportion of responses in each category.
- 5: In most graphs, percentages provide additional information.



# METHODS

# Survey Design

## Sample size and sampling plan

All VSP questionnaires follow design principles outlined in Don A. Dillman's book *Mail and Internet Surveys: The Tailored Design Method* (2007). Using this methodology, the sample size was calculated based on the park visitation statistics of previous years.

Brief interviews were conducted with a systematic, random sample of visitor groups that arrived at Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site during April 19-27, 2008. During this survey, 344 visitor groups were contacted and 338 of these groups (98.3%) accepted questionnaires (average acceptance rate for 183 VSP visitor studies is 90.9%). All questionnaires were distributed at the parking lot. Visitors were surveyed between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Questionnaires were completed and returned by 259 visitor groups resulting in a 76.6% response rate for this study. The average response rate for the 183 VSP visitor studies conducted from 1988 through 2007 was 74.9%.

# **Questionnaire design**

The Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site questionnaire was developed at a workshop held with park staff to design and prioritize the questions. Some of the questions were comparable with VSP studies conducted at other parks while others were customized for Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site. Many questions asked visitors to choose answers from a list of responses, often with an open-ended option, while others were completely open-ended.

No pilot study was conducted to test the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site questionnaire. However, all questions followed OMB guidelines and/or were used in previous surveys. Thus, the clarity and consistency of the survey instrument have been tested and supported.

# Survey procedure

Visitor groups were greeted, briefly introduced to the purpose of the study, and asked to participate. If visitors agreed, they were asked which member (at least 16 years of age) had the next birthday. The individual with the next birthday was selected to complete the questionnaire for the group. An interview, lasting approximately two minutes, was conducted with that person to determine group size, group type, and the age of the member completing the questionnaire. The individual was asked for their name, address, and telephone number in order to mail them a reminder/thank you postcard and follow-ups. Visitors were asked to complete the survey after their visit, and return the questionnaire by mail. The questionnaires were pre-addressed and affixed with a U.S. first class postage stamp.

Two weeks following the survey, a reminder/thank you postcard was mailed to all participants. Replacement questionnaires were mailed to participants who had not returned their questionnaires four weeks after the survey. Seven weeks after the survey, a second round of replacement questionnaires was mailed to visitors who had not returned their questionnaires.

# **Data Analysis**

Returned questionnaires were coded and the information was entered into a computer using custom and standard statistical software applications—Statistical Analysis Software (SAS), and a custom designed FileMaker Pro application. Descriptive statistics and cross-tabulations were calculated for the coded data and responses to open-ended questions were categorized and summarized. The data were entered twice—by two independent data entry staff—and validated by a third staff member.

# Limitations

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

- 1. This was a self-administered survey. Respondents completed the questionnaire after the visit, which may have resulted in poor recall. Thus, it is not possible to know whether visitor responses reflected actual behavior.
- The data reflect visitor use patterns to the selected sites during the study period of April 19 27, 2008. The results present a 'snapshot-in-time' and do not necessarily apply to visitors during other times of the year.
- 3. Caution is advised when interpreting any data with a sample size of less than 30, as the results may be unreliable. Whenever the sample size is less than 30, the word "CAUTION!" is included in the graph, figure, table, or text.
- 4. Occasionally, there may be inconsistencies in the results. Inconsistencies arise from missing data or incorrect answers (due to misunderstood directions, carelessness, or poor recall of information). Therefore, refer to both the percentage and N (number of individuals or visitor groups) when interpreting the results.

# **Special Conditions**

The weather during the survey period was variable, generally partly cloudy with cool temperatures and occasional showers.

# **Checking Non-response Bias**

The three variables used to check non-response bias were group type, age of the group member who actually completed the questionnaire, and group size.

Table 1 shows insignificant differences between group types. As shown in Table 2, there are significant differences between respondent and non-respondent ages and insignificant differences between respondent and non-respondent group sizes. See Appendix 3 for more details of the non-response bias checking procedure.

Table 1: Comparison of respondents and non-respondents group type				
Group type	Respondents	Non- respondents	Total	
Alone	56	20	76	
Family	134	42	176	
Friends	40	9	49	
Family and friends	22	9	31	
Other	1	1	2	
Total	253	81	334	

Chi-square = 2.22 df = 4 p-value = 0.695

# Table 2: Comparison of respondents and non-respondentsage and group size

	Respo	Respondent		spondent	p-value
Variable	N	Average	Ν	Average	(t-test)
Group size	254	2.8	80	2.4	0.419
Age	257	57.1	79	46.7	<0.001

There are insignificant differences in group size and group type between respondents and non-respondents. A five-year difference is detected in average age of respondents compared to non-respondents. However, the differences may due to the fact that an older person in the group completed the survey while an younger person accepted the survey at the park. Occasionally, survey respondents may answer the age question incorrectly with the oldest person in the first slot which was designated for the respondents (see Appendix 3). Moreover, the survey was designed to collect group information, not individual information. Since the two group parameters were the same for both respondents and non-respondents the response bias is judged to be insignificant. The data is a good representation of a larger Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site visitor population for the duration of the survey period.

# RESULTS

# **Visitor and Group Characteristics**

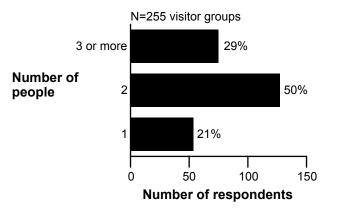
# Visitor group size

#### Question 23

On this visit, how many people were in your personal group, including yourself?

#### Results

- 50% of visitors were in groups of two (see Figure 1).
- 29% were in groups of three or more.





# Visitor group type

#### Question 22

On this visit, what kind of personal group (not guided tour/school/other organized group) were you with?

#### Results

- 53% of visitor groups were made up of family members (see Figure 2).
- 22% were alone.
- 16% were with friends.
- "Other" group type (<1%) was:

Church group

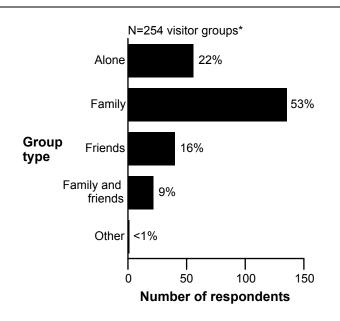


Figure 2: Group type

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

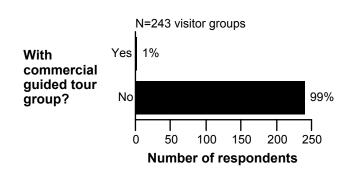
# Visitors with organized groups

#### Question 21a

On this visit, were you and your personal group part of a commercial guided tour group?

#### Results

 1% of visitor groups were part of a commercial guided tour group (see Figure 3).



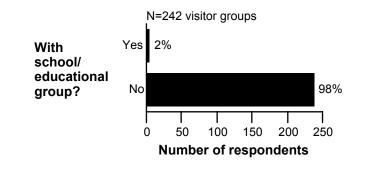
# Figure 3: Visitors with a commercial guided tour group

Question 21b

On this visit, were you and your personal group part of a school/educational group?

#### Results

 2% of visitor groups were part of a school/educational group (see Figure 4).



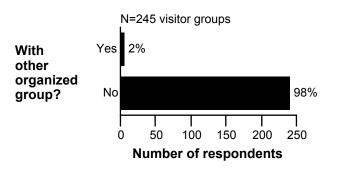
# Figure 4: Visitors with a school/educational group

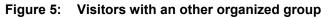
Question 21c

On this visit, were you and your personal group part of an other organized group (such as business group, scout group, etc.)?

Results

2% of visitor groups were part of an other organized group (see Figure 5).

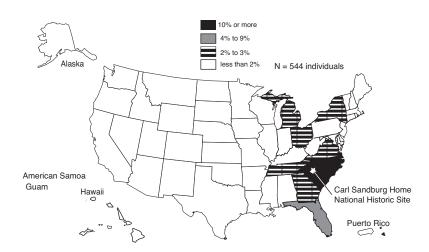




\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

# United States visitors by state of residence

Question 26b Table 3: United States visitors by state of residen			esidence*	
For you and your personal group on this visit what is your state of residence? Note: Response was limited to seven	State	Number of visitors	Percent of U.S. visitors N=544 individuals	Percent of total visitors N=549 individuals
members from each visitor group.	North Carolina	340	63	62
Results	South Carolina	54	10	10
U.S. visitors were from 29	Florida	21	4	4
states and comprised 99% of	Tennessee	12	2	2
total visitation to the park during	Georgia	11	2	2
the survey period.	Michigan	11	2	2
	Ohio	11	2	2
63% of U.S. visitors came from     North Carolina (app Table 2)	New York	9	2	2
North Carolina (see Table 3 and Map 1).	Virginia	9	2	2
	Illinois	7	1	1
• 10% came from South Carolina.	New Hampshire	6	1	1
	California	5	1	1
Smaller proportions of U.S.	Indiana	5	1	1
visitors came from 27 other	Massachusetts	4	1	1
states.	Pennsylvania	4	1	1
	Texas	4	1	1
	Washington	4	1	1
	New Jersey	3	1	1
	Vermont	3	1	1
	Wisconsin	3	1	1
	9 other states	13	2	2



# Map 1: Proportions of United States visitors by state of residence

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

# International visitors by country of residence

Question 26b For you and your personal group on this visit, what is your country of residence?	Table 4: Internati	onal visitors CAUTI Number	• •	residence * Percent of total visitors
Note: Response was limited to seven members from each visitor group.	Country	of visitors	N=5 individuals	N=549 individuals
Results – Interpret data with CAUTION! • International visitors were from	Australia United Kingdom Canada	2 2 1	40 40 20	<1 <1 <1
3 countries and comprised less than 1% of total visitation to the			_*	·

# Frequency of visits to the park

park during the survey period

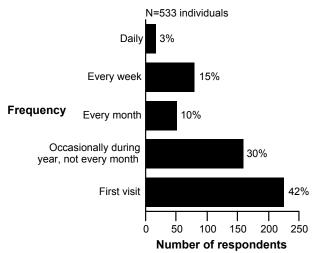
(see Table 4).

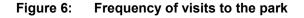
Question 26c For you and your personal group on this visit, how often do you visit Carl Sandburg Home NHS?

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each visitor group.

#### Results

- 42% of visitors visited the site for the first time in their lifetime (see Figure 6).
- 30% visited the site occasionally during the year, but not every month.





\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

### Visitor age

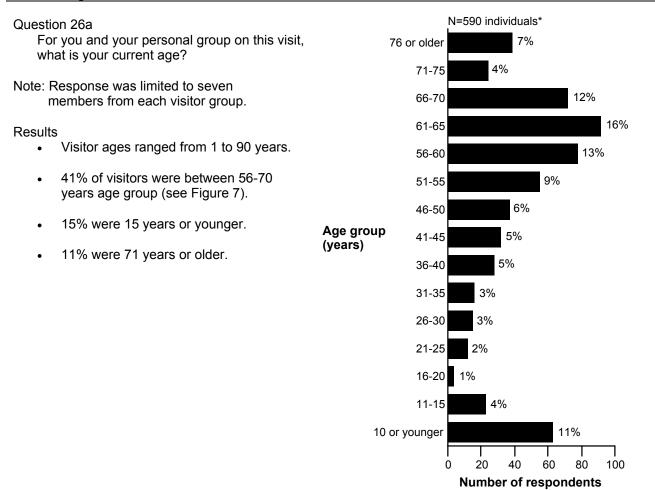


Figure 7: Visitor age

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

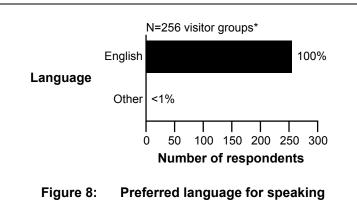
# Language used for speaking

#### Question 24a

When visiting an area such as Carl Sandburg Home NHS, what one language do you and most members of your personal group prefer to use for speaking?

#### Results

- Almost 100% of visitor groups preferred to use English for speaking (see Figure 8).
- Less than 1% preferred to use German.

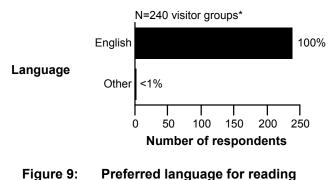


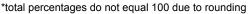
# Language used for speaking

Question 24b When visiting an area such as Carl Sandburg Home NHS, what one language do you and most members of your personal group prefer to use for reading?

#### Results

- Almost 100% of visitors groups preferred to use English for reading (see Figure 9).
- Less than 1% preferred to use German.





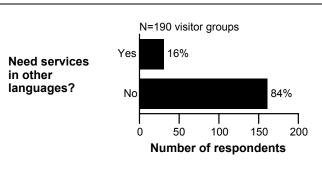
## Services in other languages

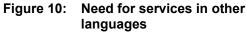
#### Question 24c

In your opinion, what services in the park need to be provided in languages other than English?

Results

- 84% of visitor groups needed services in languages other than English (see Figure 10).
- Table 5 shows the services visitor groups preferred in other languages.





# Table 5: Services preferred in languages other thanEnglishN=46 comments;some visitor groups made more than one comment.

Service	Number of times mentioned
Restroom information	8
Signage	8
Brochures	4
Audio tours	3
House tour	3
Printed material	3
Directions	2
General information	2
Tours	2
Video	2
Emergency information	1
Information guides	1
Maps	1
Rules and regulations	1
Trail directions	1
Trail information	1
Trail markers	1
Unigrid	1
Warning signs	1

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding \*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

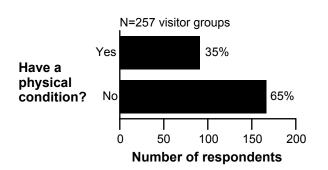
# Visitors with physical conditions/impairments

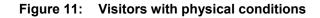
#### Question 27a

Does anyone in your personal group have a physical condition that made it difficult to access or participate in park activities or services?

#### Results

35% of visitor groups had members with physical conditions that made it difficult to access or participate in park activities or services (see Figure 11).





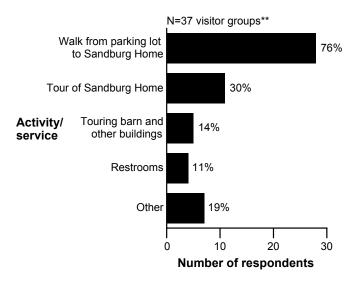
#### Question 27c

What activities or services were difficult to participate in/access?

#### Results

- 76% of visitor groups had members who had difficulty walking from the parking lot to the Sandburg Home (see Figure 12).
- 30% had difficulty touring the Sandburg Home.
- "Other" activities or services (19%) included:

Activities restricted for wheelchairs Walking up hills Hiking Glassy Mountain Hiking trails



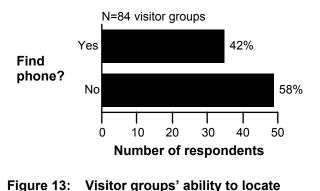
# Figure 12: Activities or services visitors had difficulty participating in/accessing

Question 27b

A phone for visitors needing assistance to reach Sandburg Home is located in the parking lot. If you and your personal group needed assistance, did you find this phone to request a van ride to the Sandburg Home?

#### Results

 42% of visitor groups that had members with physical conditions were able to locate the phone to request a van ride (see Figure 13).



courtesy phone for van ride

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

# **Respondents' level of education**

#### Question 25

For you only, please indicate the highest level of education completed.

Results

- 34% of respondents had a graduate degree (see Figure 14).
- 30% had a bachelor's degree.
- 29% had some college education.

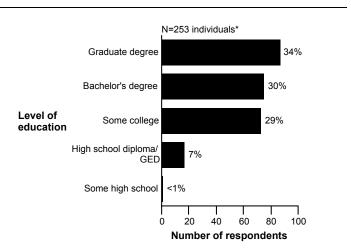


Figure 14: Respondents' level of education

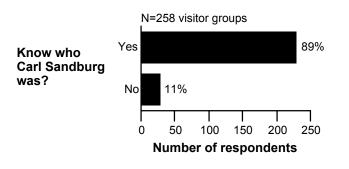
# Awareness of Carl Sandburg

#### Question 2a

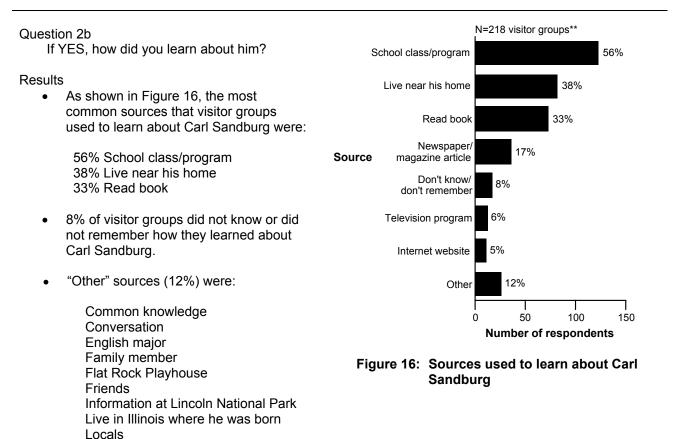
Prior to this visit, did you know who Carl Sandburg was?

#### Results

 89% of visitor groups knew who Carl Sandburg was prior to this visit (see Figure 15).







\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

National Park signs Previous visits

Recall as a poet laureate Volunteer at the site

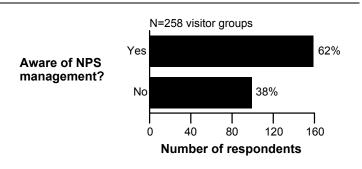
### Awareness of NPS management

#### Question 3

Prior to your visit, were you and your personal group aware that Carl Sandburg Home NHS is managed by the National Park Service?

#### Results

 62% of visitor groups were aware that Carl Sandburg Home NHS is managed by the National Park Service (see Figure 17).





# **Awareness of Friends Group**

#### Question 4

Prior to your visit, were you and your personal group aware of the "Friends of Carl Sandburg at Connemara" organization, a volunteer group providing support for activities at Carl Sandburg Home NHS?

#### Results

• 32% of visitor groups were aware of the Friends of Carl Sandburg at Connemara group (see Figure 18).

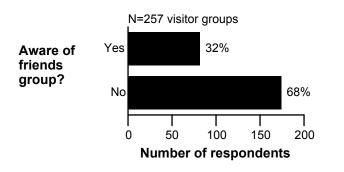


Figure 18: Visitor group awareness of friends group

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

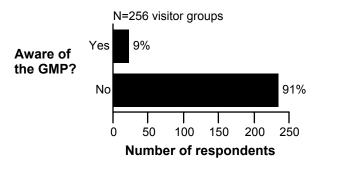
# Awareness of General Management Plan

#### Question 29a

Carl Sandburg Home NHS recently developed and is beginning to implement a new General Management Plan. Are you aware of this plan?

#### Results

 9% of visitor groups were aware of the General Management Plan (see Figure 19).



#### Figure 19: Awareness of the General Management Plan

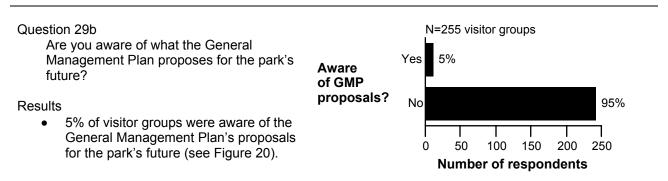


Figure 20: Awareness of the General Management Plan proposals

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

# **Trip/Visit Characteristics and Preferences**

#### Information sources prior to visit

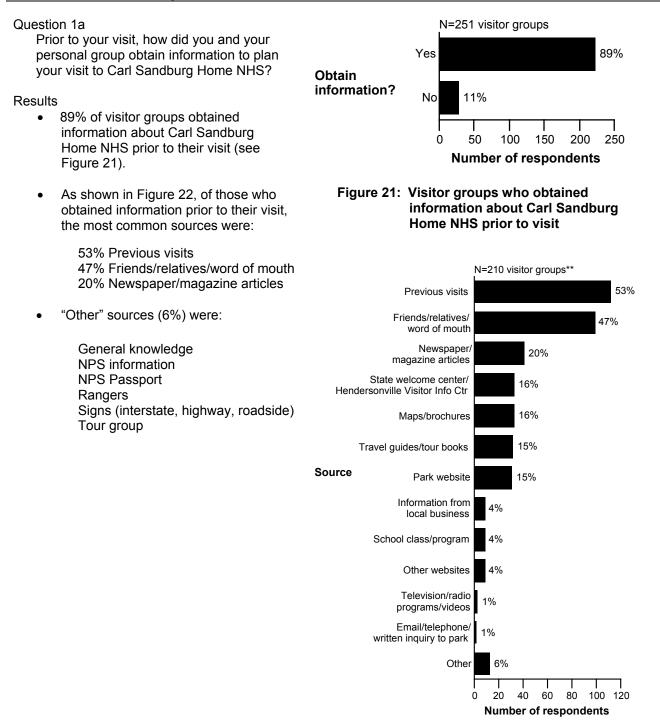


Figure 22: Sources of information used prior to visit

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

#### Question 1c

From the sources you used prior to this visit, did you and your personal group receive the type of information about the park that you needed?

Results

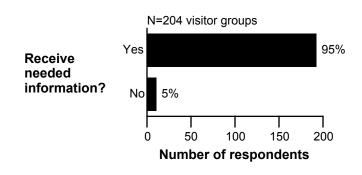
Question 1d

was not available?

• 95% of visitor groups received the information they needed prior to their visit (see Figure 23).

If NO, what type of park information did

you and your personal group need that



# Figure 23: Visitor groups who received needed information prior to their visit

#### Results

Additional information that visitor groups needed were:

Better maps Descriptions of hiking trails How beautiful the park and the house are Map of the trails That it is mandatory to go on a tour of the house Van operation When the baby goats were expected to be born

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

#### Information sources for future visit

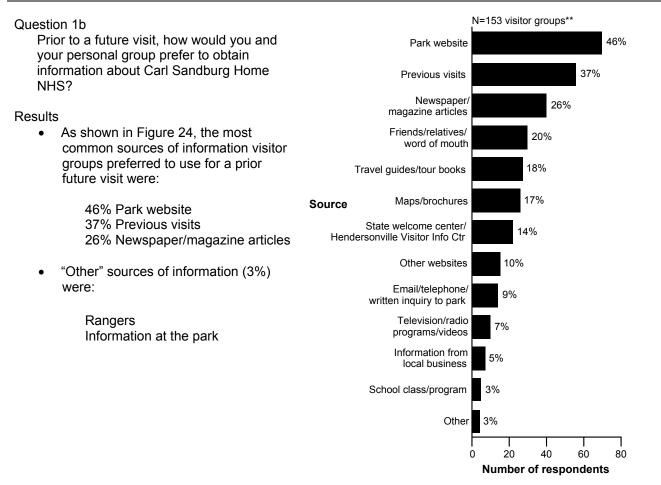


Figure 24: Sources of information preferred for a future visit

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

## Primary reason for visiting the area

#### Question 5

For this visit, what was the primary reason that you and your personal group visited the area within 30 miles of Carl Sandburg Home NHS?

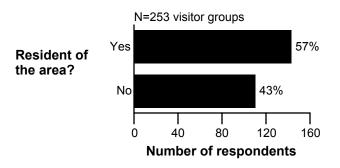
#### Results

- 57% of visitor groups were residents of the area (see Figure 25).
- As shown in Figure 26, non-residents' primary reasons for visiting the area included:

26% Visit friends/relatives in the area24% Visit other attractions in the area

• "Other" reasons (11%) were:

Activity for wives of college board meeting Attend a wedding in the area Bring family for a visit Church retreat Daily walks Hiking Looking at future retirement areas Remember past visits See the goats Visit with Boy Scouts for badge





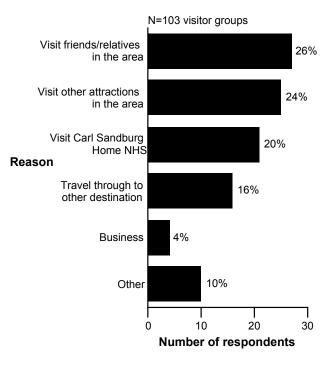
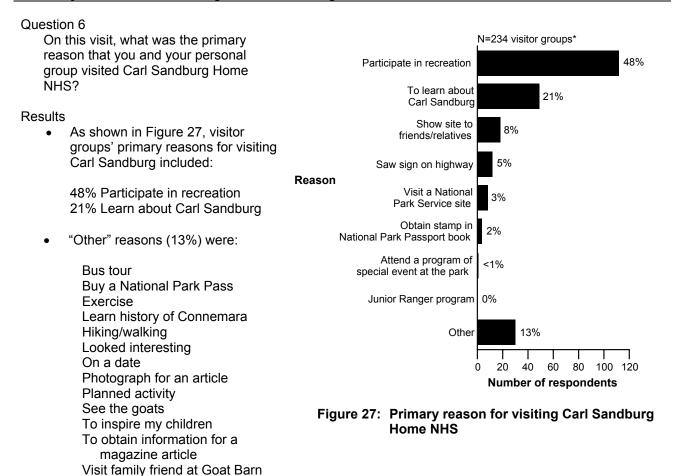


Figure 26: Primary reason for visiting Carl Sandburg Home NHS area

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

# Primary reason for visiting Carl Sandburg Home NHS



\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

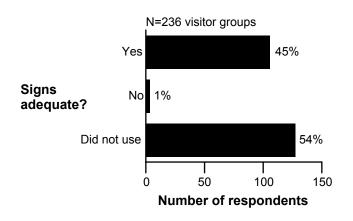
# Adequacy of directional signs

#### Question 7a

On this visit, were the interstate signs directing you and your personal group to Carl Sandburg Home NHS adequate?

#### Results

- 54% of visitor groups did not use interstate signs to direct them to the site (see Figure 28).
- 45% of visitor groups indicated that interstate signs were adequate to direct them to the site





Question 7b

On this visit, were the state highway signs directing you and your personal group to Carl Sandburg Home NHS adequate?

#### Results

- 40% of visitor groups did not use state highway signs to direct them to the site (see Figure 29).
- 58% of visitor groups indicated that state highway signs were adequate to direct them to the site.

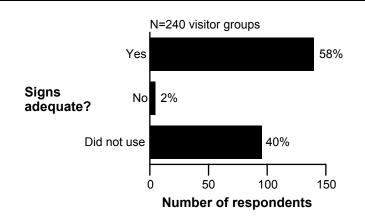


Figure 29: Adequacy of state highway signs

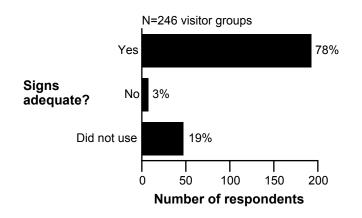
\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

#### Question 7c

On this visit, were the signs in the park directing you and your personal group around Carl Sandburg Home NHS adequate?

Results

 78% of visitor groups indicated that signs in the park were adequate to direct them around the park (see Figure 30).





N=235 visitor groups Yes 53% Signs adequate? No Did not use 46% 0 50 100 150 Number of respondents

Figure 31: Adequacy of parking lot signs

Question 7d

On this visit, were the parking lot signs to help visitors in need of assistance to obtain van ride adequate?

Results

- 46% of visitor groups did not use parking lot signs to help visitors in need of assistance to obtain a van (see Figure 31).
- 53% of visitor groups indicated that parking lot signs to help obtain a van ride were adequate.

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

Question 7

If you answered NO for any of the above, please explain.

Results - Interpret with CAUTION!

• Fourteen visitor groups provided comments on directional signs (see Table 6).

# Table 6: Comments on directional signsN=16 comments;some visitor groups made more than one comment.

Sign location	Comment
Interstate signs	Did not notice any signs Need more signs
	Signs are not clear
State highway signs	Confusing because they are not placed appropriately Need more signs
	Need sign before park on Little River Road coming from Kanuga Road
	Signs were not clear
	There was only one sign from Henderson
Signs in the park	Need better signs on trails
	Did not know where the house was
	Had to ask a visitor for directions to visitor center
	Had trouble finding road from house to parking lot
	Need more trail signs
	Was not sure where to park
Parking lot signs	Did not notice any signs
	Wondered how elderly could access site; finally saw signs

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

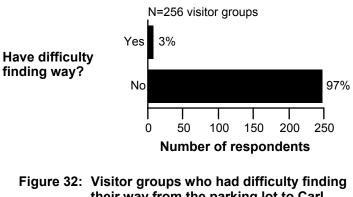
# Finding way to site from parking lot

#### Question 8a

On this visit, did you and your personal group have any difficulty finding your way from the parking lot to the Carl Sandburg Home?

#### Results

 3% of visitor groups reported that they had difficulty finding their way from the parking lot to Carl Sandburg Home (see Figure 32).



their way from the parking lot to Carl Sandburg Home

Question 8b If YES, what was the problem?

#### Results - Interpret with CAUTION!

- Five visitor groups provided comments.
- The problems visitors had finding their way from the parking lot to Carl Sandburg Home were:

Had to ask a visitor for directions to visitor center No van available in parking lot Trouble getting uphill by foot Wasn't sure where it was Way to drive up for handicapped not marked We couldn't see the house and thought there was another entrance

#### Number of vehicles

Question 23b

On this visit, how many vehicles did you and your personal group use to arrive at the park?

Results

• 93% of visitors used one vehicle to arrive at the park (see Figure 33).

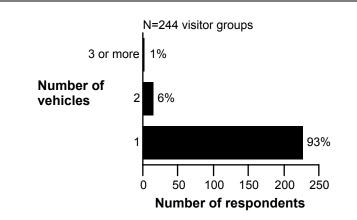


Figure 33: Number of vehicles used to arrive at the park

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

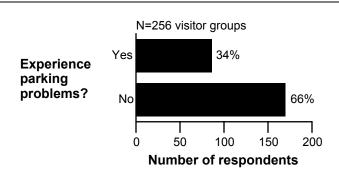
### Parking

#### Question 20a

On this or past visits, have you and your personal group experienced parking problems at Carl Sandburg Home NHS?

#### Results

• 34% of visitor groups reported that they had experienced parking problems (see Figure 34).



# Figure 34: Visitor groups who experienced parking problems at the site

Question 20b

If YES, what problems did you experience?

- Results
  - As shown in Table 7, eighty-five visitor groups provided comments on parking problems experienced at Carl Sandburg Home NHS.

#### Table 7: Parking problems N=88 comments;

some visitors made more than one comment.

Some visitors made more than one con	
	Number of times
Comment	mentioned
The parking lot was full	27
Not enough available parking spaces	20
At peak times there is not enough parking	11
The parking lot was crowded	8
Had to park at the Park Rock Playhouse	6
Had to park on the side of the road	6
People come to walk and parking is difficult	2
There was a theater event and people attending	2
parked at the site parking lot	
Dog was not kept on leash	1
Inadequate parking for handicap	1
Keep making circles to find a parking spot	1
Overflow from Flat Rock Playhouse	1
The van was not running	1
Tour bus was blocking the parking	1

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding \*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

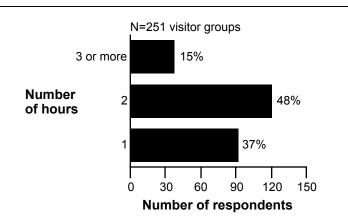
# Length of visit

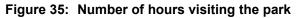
#### Question 14a

On this visit, how long did you and your personal group spend visiting Carl Sandburg Home NHS?

#### Results

- The average length of visit was 1.7 hours.
- 48% of visitor groups spent two hours (see Figure 35).
- 37% spent one hour.



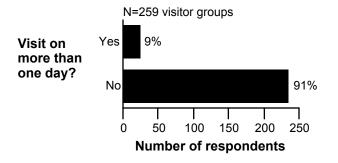


#### Question 14b

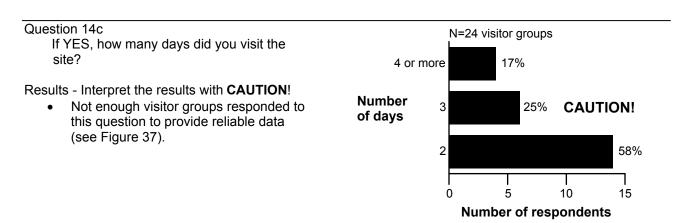
On this visit, did you and your personal group visit the park on more than one day?

#### Results

 9% of visitor groups reported visiting the site on more than one day (see Figure 36).



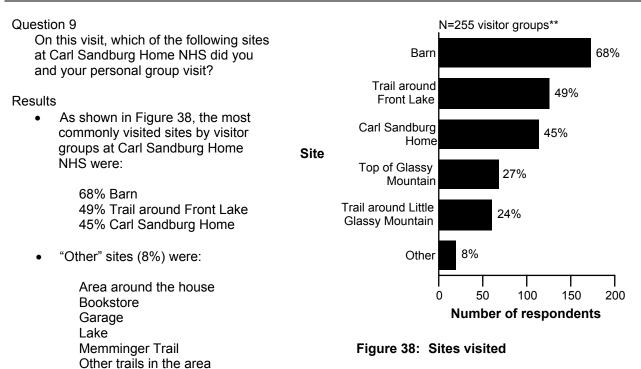
# Figure 36: Visitor groups that visited the park on more than one day



#### Figure 37: Number of days visiting the park

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

### Sites visited



\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

Pasture Picnic area Restrooms

Shady Glade Trail

# Opinions of the historic barn

#### Question 12a

On this visit, did you and your personal group visit the barn?

#### Results

 68% of visitor groups visited the barn (see Figure 39).

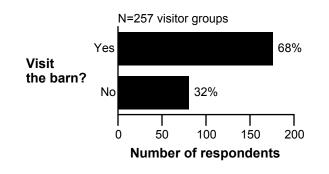


Figure 39: Visits to the barn

#### Question 12b

If YES, what were your reasons for visiting the barn?

#### Results

- Sixty-two percent (N=159) of visitor groups responded this question.
- Reasons for visiting the barn were:

Because we could do it without going on the tour Check the gardens Curiosity Enjoyed it before Find out when to get manure For fun Further classroom discussion on genetics Get an idea of the property Had goats when growing up Interested in how they became attracted It was there Just visiting Learn about Mrs. Sandburg's work Learn about that part of the Sandburgs' life Looked interesting Love animals Love goats Nature lovers Nice barn/field On a hike Part of the whole tour Reflect on the goat business they had See baby goats See the cats

Reasons, continued

See the goats Show the goats to family members Take photographs Saw a sign See the barn See the goat program Serenity Show it to friends To see everything offered To see the equipment To watch kids with kids Visit the old dairy facilities

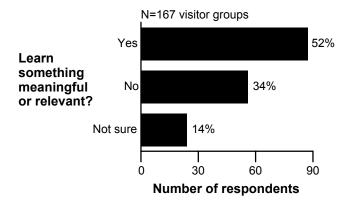
\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

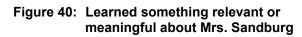
#### Question 12c

Through your visit to the barn, did you learn something about Mrs. Sandburg that is relevant or meaningful to your life today?

#### Results

 52% of visitor groups indicated that they learned something about Mrs. Sandburg that was meaningful or relevant to their lives (see Figure 40).





\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding \*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

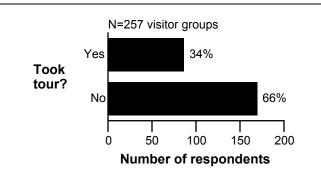
# **Tour of Carl Sandburg Home**

#### Question 10a

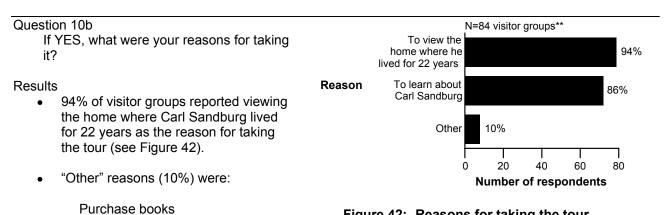
On this visit, did you and your personal group take a tour of the Carl Sandburg Home?

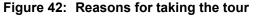
#### Results

• 34% of visitor groups took the tour of the Carl Sandburg Home (see Figure 41).



# Figure 41: Visitor groups who took the tour of Carl Sandburg Home





Exercise Inspire children to read Interested in historic homes Learn about Connemara More understanding of great mind and man To get information for magazine article To learn the history of the house (precivil war) Walk the ground

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

Question 10c

If NO, why not?

#### Results

- 65% of visitor groups reported having taken it in the past as the reason for not taking the tour on this visit (see Figure 43).
- "Other" reasons (19%) were:
  - Came here to hike Cost Did not know it was free Had dogs with the group Had children in the group Lack of time Not on personal schedule Plan to come back The tour was full Too nice outside to be inside the house Worked in the house in the past

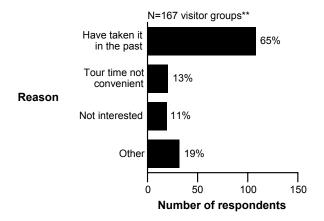


Figure 43: Reasons for not taking the tour

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

90%

80

60

40

Number of respondents

# **Opinions of Carl Sandburg Home tour**

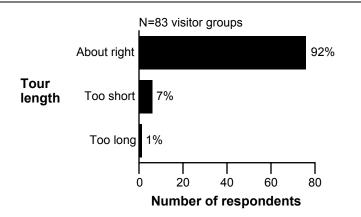
#### Question 11a

If you and your personal group took a tour of the Carl Sandburg Home on this visit, what is your opinion of the tour length?

#### Results

 92% of visitor groups thought the tour length was "about right" (see Figure 44).

Note: the tour length in 2008 was 30 minutes.

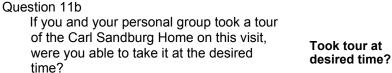




Yes

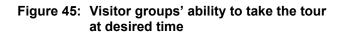
No

0



#### Results

 90% of visitor groups were able to take the tour at desired time (see Figure 45).



20

N=84 visitor groups

10%

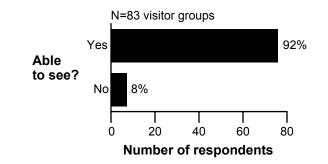
\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

#### Question 11c

On this visit, if you and your personal group took a tour of the Carl Sandburg Home, were you able to view interior of rooms because of tour size?

#### Results

 92% of visitor groups were able to view the interior of rooms (see Figure 46).





#### Question 11d

If you and your personal group took a tour of the Carl Sandburg Home on this visit, were the topics discussed on the tour of interest?

#### Results

• 99% of visitor groups indicated that topics discussed on the tour were of interest (see Figure 47).

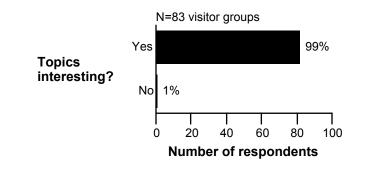


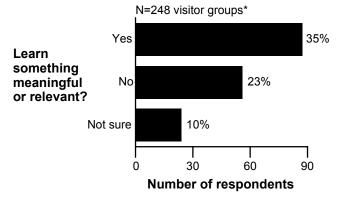
Figure 47: Interest in topics discussed on the tour

#### Question 11e

On the tour, did you learn something about Carl Sandburg that is relevant or meaningful to your life today?

#### Results

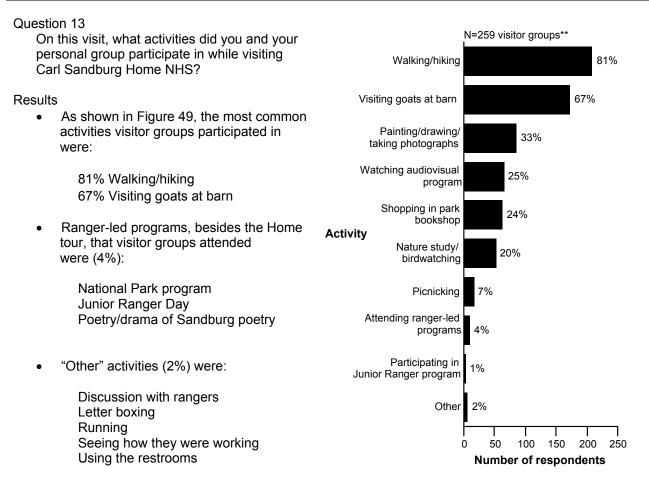
 35% of visitor groups indicated that they learned something about Carl Sandburg during the tour that was meaningful or relevant to their lives (see Figure 48).

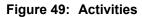


# Figure 48: Learned something meaningful or relevant on the tour

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

## Activities on this visit





\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

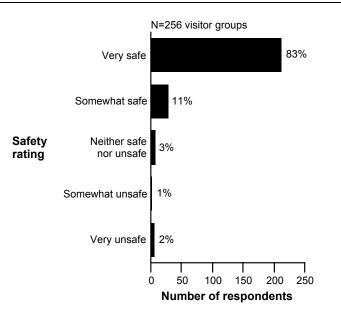
## Safety

#### Question 19a

During this visit to Cark Sandburg Home NHS, how safe did you and your personal group feel?

#### Results

- 83% of visitor groups felt "very safe" (see Figure 50).
- 11% of visitor groups felt "somewhat safe."



#### Figure 50: Visitor opinions about safety

#### Question 19b

If you rated safety "very unsafe" or "somewhat unsafe," please explain.

#### Results - Interpret with CAUTION!

- Two visitor groups responded to this question.
- Reasons for feeling "very unsafe" or "somewhat unsafe" were:

Scared to walk the woods alone. The Carl Sandburg Home was much safer. The trail around the lake was uneven.

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

# Ratings of Visitor Services, Facilities, Elements, Attributes and Resources

### Visitor services and facilities used

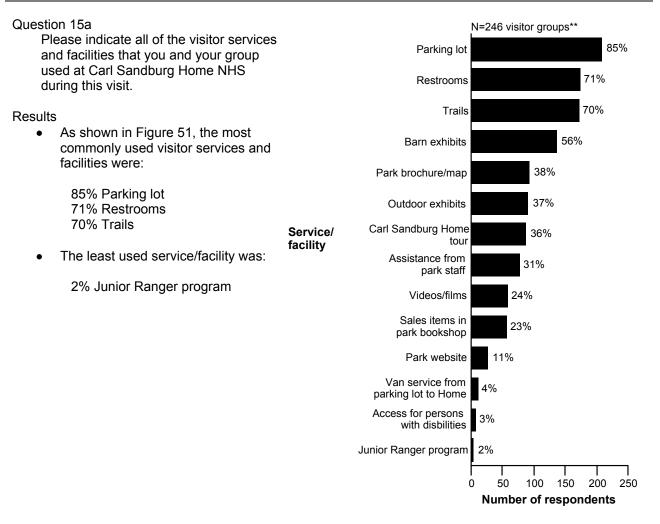


Figure 51: Visitor services and facilities used

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

## Importance ratings of visitor services and facilities

#### Question 15b

Next, for only those services and facilities that you or your group used, please rate their importance to your visit from 1 to 5.

1=Not important 2=Somewhat important 3=Moderately important 4=Very important 5=Extremely important

Results

- Figure 52 shows the combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings for visitor services and facilities that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- The services/facilities receiving the highest combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings were:

91% Carl Sandburg Home tour88% Trails87% Parking lot86% Restrooms

- Figures 53 to 66 show the importance ratings for each service/facility.
- The service/facility receiving the highest "not important" rating that was rated by 30 or more visitor groups was:
  - 5% Sales items in park bookshop

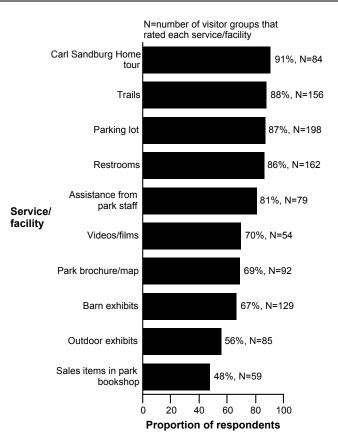
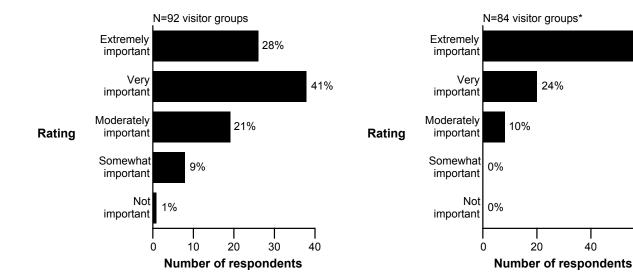


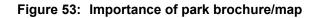
Figure 52: Combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings of visitor services and facilities

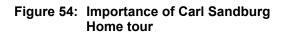
\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

67%

60







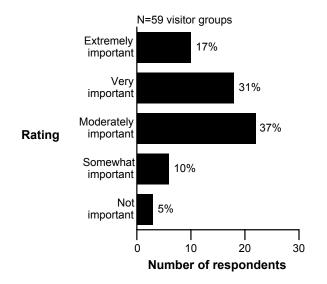
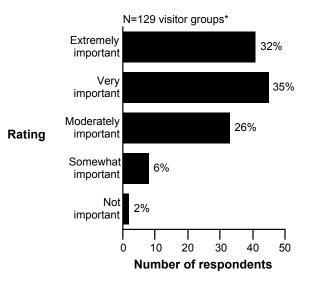
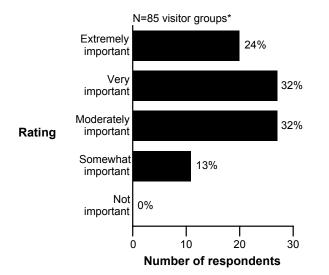


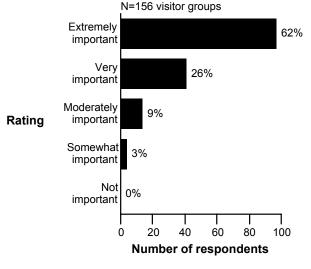
Figure 55: Importance of sales items in park bookshop (selection, price, etc.)

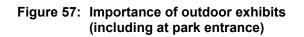




\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding







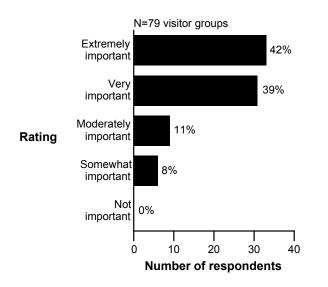
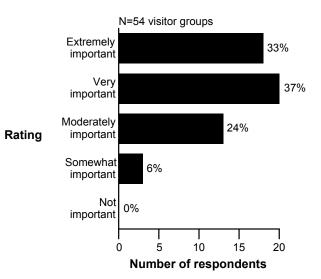


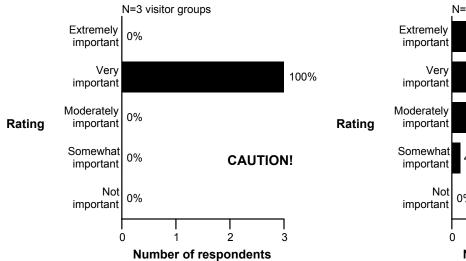
Figure 59: Importance of assistance from park staff







\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding



# Figure 61: Importance of Junior Ranger program

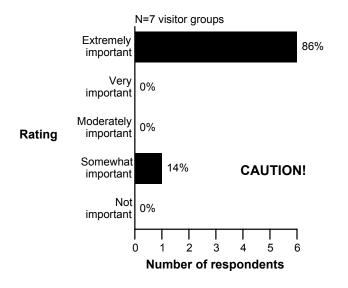
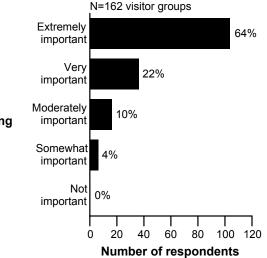


Figure 63: Importance of access for persons with disabilities





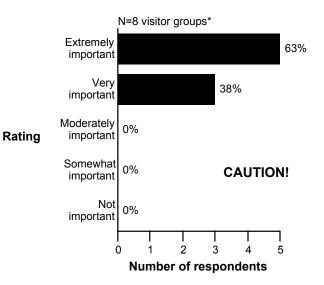
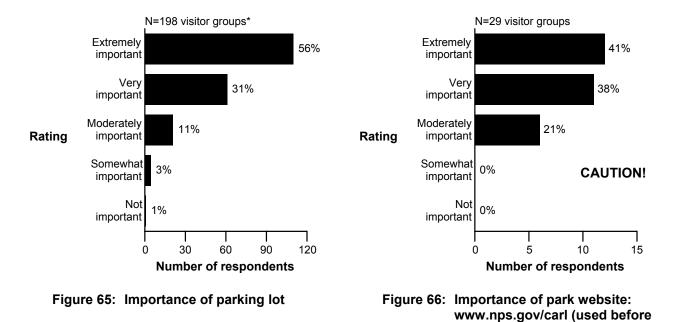


Figure 64: Importance of van service from parking lot to Home

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding



visit)

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding \*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# Quality ratings of visitor services and facilities

#### Question 15c

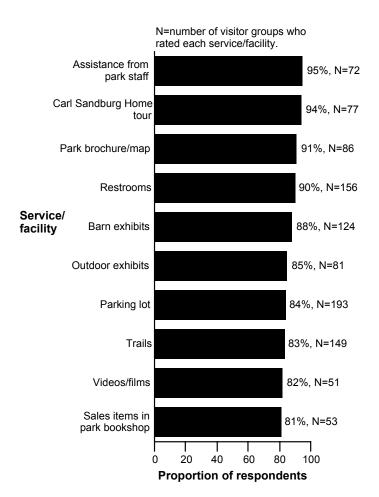
Finally, for only those services and facilities that you or your group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

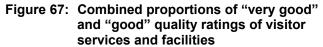
1=Very poor 2=Poor 3=Average 4=Good 5=Very good

#### Results

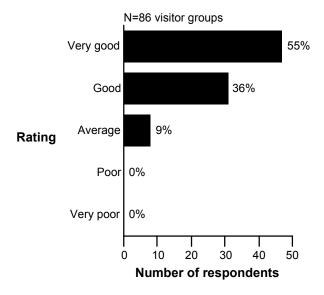
- Figure 67 shows the combined proportions of "very good" and "good" quality ratings for visitor services/facilities that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- The services/facilities that received the highest combined proportions of "very good" and "good" quality ratings were:
  - 95% Assistance from park staff 94% Carl Sandburg Home tour 91% Park brochure/map 90% Restrooms
- Figures 68 to 81 show the quality ratings for each service/facility.
- The service/facility receiving the highest "very poor" quality rating that was rated by 30 or more visitor groups was:

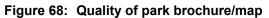
1% Barn exhibits

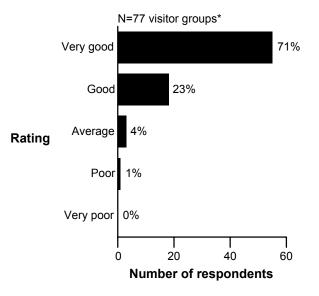


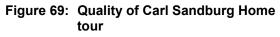


\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding









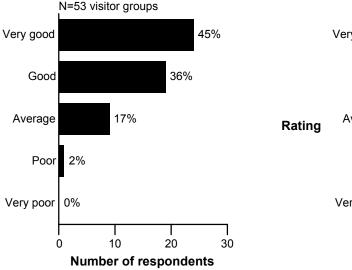
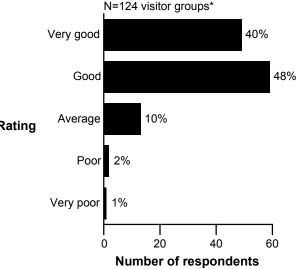
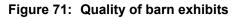


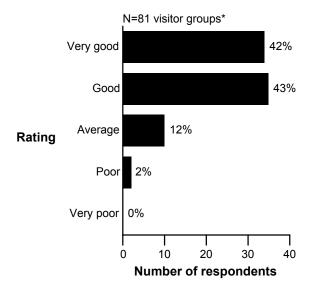
Figure 70: Quality of sales items in park bookshop (selection, price, etc.)

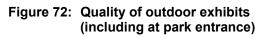




\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

Rating





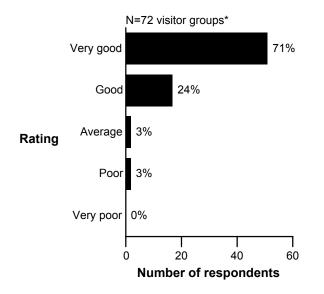
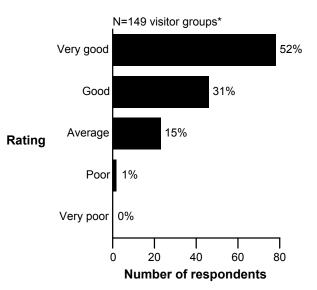
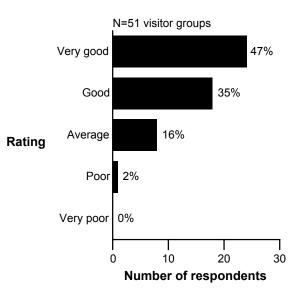


Figure 74: Quality of assistance from park staff

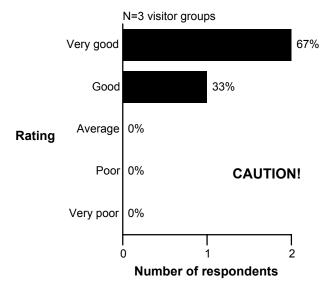


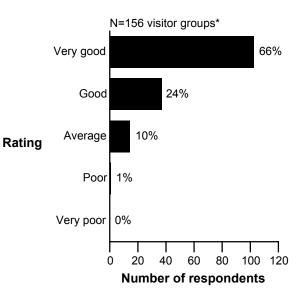






\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding







N=6 visitor groups\*

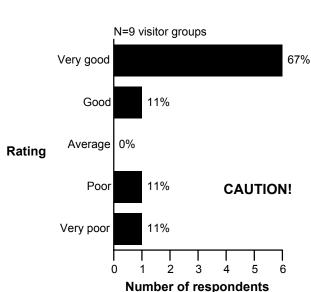


Figure 77: Quality of restrooms

Figure 79: Quality of van service from parking lot to Home

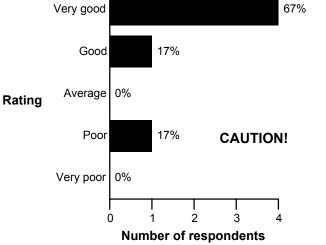
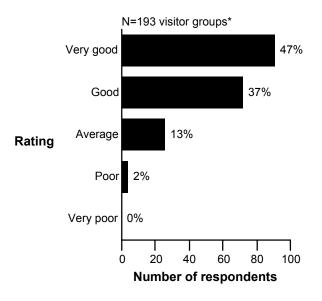
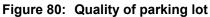


Figure 78: Quality of access for persons with disabilities

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding





N=27 visitor groups\* 41% Very good 56% Good Average 4% Rating Poor 0% **CAUTION!** Very poor 0% 10 0 5 15 Number of respondents

Figure 81: Quality of park website: www.nps.gov/carl (used before visit)

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding \*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Mean scores of importance and quality ratings for visitor services and facilities

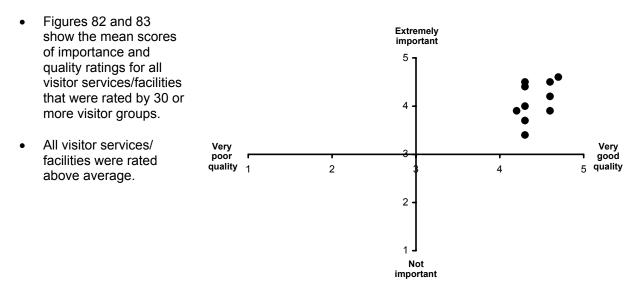
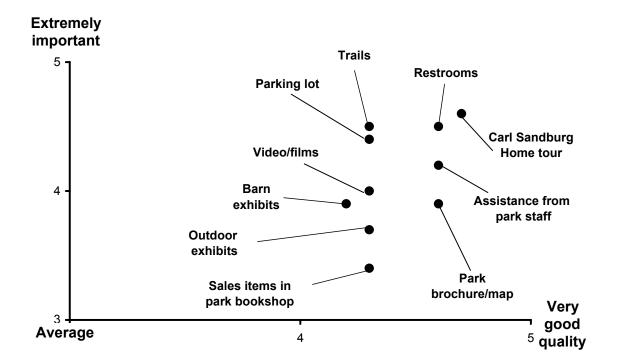


Figure 82: Mean scores of importance and quality ratings for visitor services/facilities



#### Figure 83: Detail of Figure 82

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

Question 15d

them below.

Results

If you and your personal group have comments on • Twenty-seven percent (N=67) visitor groups any of the above services and facilities, please list provided comments about visitor services/ facilities (see Table 8).

Tab	ble 8: Comments on visitor services/facilities N=100 comments;	
som	ne visitor groups made more than one comment.	
Service/facility	Comment	Number of times mentioned
Park brochure/map	The map on the brochure was confusing in relation to the actual trails	1
Carl Sandburg Home tour	The tour was great	3
-	Had need of repairs	1
	Not enough time	1
	Nothing mentioned about Mr. Sandburg's religion	1
	Provide more information on the history of Connemara	1
	The guide gave a good presentation	1
	The guide was humorous	1
	The guide was interesting	1
	The guide was knowledgeable	1
	The guide was rushing and gave little time to look	1
	The house needs painting	1
	The house was clean	1
	The house was great	1
	Tour schedule is not posted	1
	Very informative	1
Sales items in park bookshop	Not a big selection	1
Barn exhibits	Enjoyed seeing the goats	1
	Need more information on Mrs. Sandburg's goat raising	1
	The goats are very well cared for	1
Outdoor exhibits	Excellent exhibits at railroad	1
	Learned a lot from the pictures and the text	1
Trails	Great trails	2
	Mileage would be great	2
	Well maintained	2
	Big Glassy Trail needs smaller gravel	1
	Do not put coarse gravel on trail	1
	Enjoy the trails	1
	Excellent exercise	1
	Forgive dog owners that don't pick up, 99% of us do	1

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

	(continued)	Number or time
Service/facility	Comment	mentioned
Frails (continued)	Glad they were improved	1
	Lack of maintenance	1
	Need a sign before you go up the hill	1
	Need repairing	1
	Need to be better marked	1
	Bridge needs painting	1
	No trash on it	1
Assistance from park staff	The staff was friendly	4
	The staff was excellent	3
	Barn attendants were helpful	2
	Barn attendants were friendly	1
	Did not provide information about the	1
	existence of the barn	·
	Park staff was friendly	1
	The personnel were knowledgeable	1
	The staff should inform about	1
	construction in the house	I
		1
	Volunteer youth at the barn did a great job	I
/ideo/films	Did not know video was available until after tour	1
Restrooms	Restrooms were clean	3
	Restrooms were nice	2
	Grateful they exist	1
	Great location	1
	Need something besides porta-johns	1
	around house or barn	I I
	Need to be upgraded	1
	Remove privies	1
	Restrooms are important	1
	The disinfectant used has a strange odor	1
	The restrooms were new	1
		1
	They were smelly	1
	Wish they were open earlier	1
	Wonderful facility	1
Access for persons with	Had to beg for permission to drive up	1
lisabilities	No van service was available	1
	Very difficult	1
Parking lot	More parking space is needed	9
	Too small	3
	Add more parking space without destroying the ambience	1
	Did not see signs for van service from lot to house	1
	Expand it	1
	Inadequate for large crowds	1
	It was full	1

# Table 8: Comments on visitor services/facilities

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding \*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

	(continued)	
Service/facility	Comment	Number or times mentioned
Carl Sandburg Home NHS website	Could not access hours information Could not access some pages	1 1
	Need to be specific on mandatory tour and hours	1
Spring House	There is nothing that states what it was used for	1

#### Table 8: Comments on visitor services/facilities (continued)

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding \*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# Quality of personal interaction with a park ranger

#### Question 17a

During this visit to Carl Sandburg Home NHS, did you and your personal group have any personal interaction with a park ranger other than on the Home tour?

#### Results

• 59% of visitor groups had personal interactions with park rangers other than on the Home tour (see Figure 84).

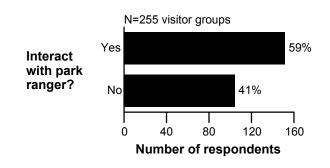


Figure 84: Interaction with park rangers

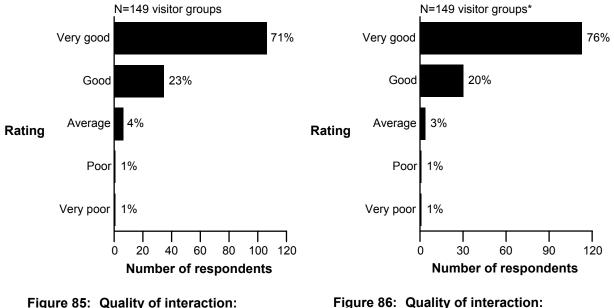
#### Question 17b

If YES, on a scale from 1 to 5, please rate the quality of your interaction with the park ranger.

1=Very poor 2=Poor 3=Average 4=Good 5=Very good

#### Results

- Figures 85 to 87 show visitor groups' ratings of different aspects of their interactions with park rangers.
- 76% of visitor groups rated the courteousness of park staff as "very good."
- 72% rated staff helpfulness as "very good."
- 71% rated staff information as "very good."
- 1% of each aspect received a 1% "very poor" rating.



Courteousness

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

Helpfulness

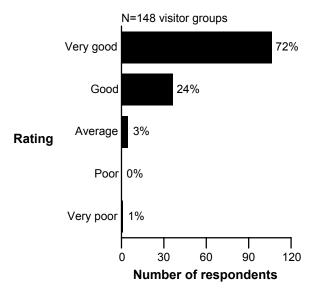
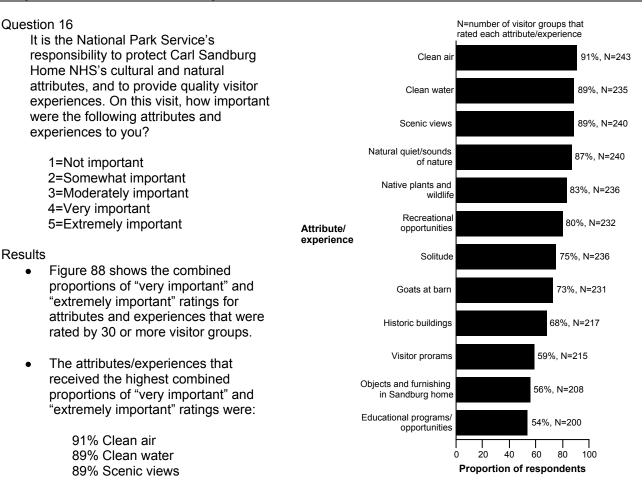


Figure 87: Quality of interaction: Information

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding \*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Importance of attributes/experiences



#### Figure 88: Combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings of attributes and experiences

 The attributes/experiences that received the highest "not important" ratings, and were rated by 30 or more groups, were:

Table 9 shows the importance ratings

of each attribute/experience that was

rated by 30 or more visitor groups.

23% Educational programs/opportunities23% Objects and furnishings in Sandburg Home

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

				Rating	(%)	
Attribute/experience	Ν	Extremely important	Very important	Moderately important	Somewhat important	Not important
Visitor programs such as house tour and special events	215	36	23	13	8	19
Educational programs/ opportunities	200	22	32	15	9	23
Objects and furnishings in Sandburg Home	208	30	26	14	7	23
Goats at barn	231	40	33	13	6	8
Historic buildings	217	39	29	18	4	10
Recreational opportunities (hiking, birdwatching, etc.)	232	55	25	10	5	4
Natural quiet/sounds of nature	240	60	27	9	3	<1
Solitude	236	49	26	16	5	4
Scenic views	240	60	29	9	1	2
Native plants and wildlife	236	53	30	11	4	1
Clean water	235	62	27	8	1	2
Clean air	243	65	26	5	2	1

# Table 9: Importance of protecting of Carl Sandburg Home NHS attributes/experiences\* N=number of visitor groups who rated each attribute/experience

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

# Preferences for future visit

#### Willingness to pay entrance fee

#### Question 18

Carl Sandburg Home NHS does not currently charge an entrance fee. In the future, an entrance fee may be considered, with the funds used to maintain park facilities and services, such as brochures, exhibits, and audio-visual programs.

If you were to visit in the future, would you and your personal group be willing to pay an entrance fee of \$5/adult (children 15 and under are free, NPS passes would be honored) which includes the home tour?

#### Results

- 39% of visitor groups were willing to pay an entrance fee on a future visit (see Figure 89).
- 38% were unlikely to be willing to pay a fee.

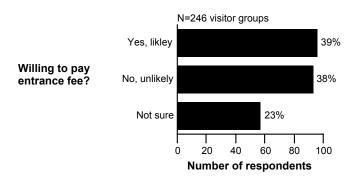


Figure 89: Willingness to pay entrance fee

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

# Preferred methods to learn about park

#### Question 28

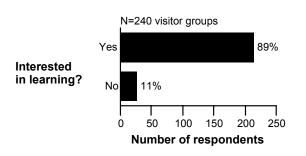
If you visit in the future, how would you and your personal group prefer to learn about the cultural and natural history at Carl Sandburg Home NHS?

#### Results

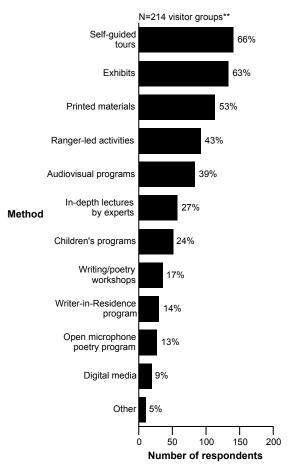
- 89% of visitor groups were interested in learning about the cultural and natural history at the park on a future visit (see Figure 90).
- As shown in Figure 91, of those interested in learning about the park's cultural and natural history the most preferred methods were:

66% Self-guided tours 63% Exhibits 53% Printed materials

- Other methods (5%) included:
  - Art workshops Emails Home school group educational programs Internet Live music Living history programs Music/theater programs Natural resources program Ranger presentation on Mrs. Sandburg's goat raising



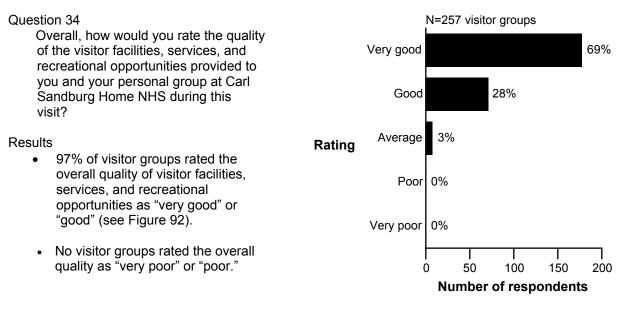
# Figure 90: Interest in learning on future visit

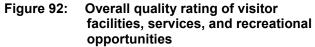


## Figure 91: Preferred methods for learning

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

# **Overall Quality**





\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

# **Visitor Comments**

## **Centennial celebration suggestions**

Question 30

Results

- The National Park Service will be celebrating its Centennial in 2016. How would you and your personal group like to see Carl Sandburg Home NHS celebrate this event? (openended)
- 46% of visitor groups (N=119) • responded to this question.
- Table 10 shows the suggestions visitor • groups made.

N=202 comments;			
some visitor groups made more than one c			
	Number of times		
Comment	mentioned		
Poetry readings/workshops/contests	24		
Musical events/festivals	24		
Barbeque/cookout/food stands	13		
Theatrical plays	7		
Advertise more	6		
Free visits/tours	6		
Historical reenactments	6		
Ranger-led walks/talks/tours	6		
Events for children	5		
Expand the parking lot	5		
Fireworks	4		
Guided hikes	4		
Have a party/open house	4		
Improve the trails	3		
Picnic on the grounds	3		
Serve goat products (e.g. cheese, milk)	3		
Special programs on NPS history and contributions	3		
Amateur photography contest	2		
Art fair	2		
Barbeque/cookout	2		
Events with goats	2 2		
Fund raising to raise money for the park	2		
Guides dressed as Mr. and Mrs. Sandburg	2		
Keep it the way it is	2		
Open house	2		
Play about Lincoln's work	2		
Programs about the history of the property	2		
Readings by high profile persons (e.g. actors)	2		
School programs/outreach	2		
Video on Carl Sandburg	2		
Video on the history of National Park Service	2		
Writer-in-residence program	2		

# Table 10: Suggestions for celebrating Centennial

(continued)	
	Number of times
Comment	mentioned
Activities for all ages	1
Audiovisual presentations of the poet reading his works	1
Building for large groups to educate	1
Celebrate writers Sandburg knew	1
Charity hike	1
Child oriented poems	1
Children's writing	1
Demonstrations	1
Display and sell inspiration items	1
Dramatic interpretation of Sandburg poetry	1
Education center	1
Elaboration of other NPS sites for to American writers	1
Event related to Carl Sandburg's life	1
Events celebrating the natural beauty of the area	1
Exhibition concerning the time Sandburg lived	1
Exhibits for or throughout the year 2016	1
Expand park land	1
Flat Rock Playhouse Rootabegga stories	1
Ice cream social	1
Impersonator who sings Carl's songs	1
Keep it pristine	1
Keep the fine guides	1
Lectures	1
Light the house at night	1
Maintain historic building	1
Mass media events	1
Poem exhibits	1
Printed material	1
Programs reflecting the NHS locally	1
Promote his poems through videos	1
Protect the views	1
Provide a shuttle to the house	1
Provide electronic coupons for admission on day of	1
holder's choice	4
Remain open and available to everyone	1
Sandburg events at Lincoln cottage	1
Sell books at the bottom of the hill and not in the visitor	1
center Serve special teas with goat products	1
Show merits and capabilities of his two oldest daughters -	1
although handicapped, were productive	I
Socializing	1
Something weaving what he wrote with working people	1
today of all races and nationalities	I
	1
Special events highlighting Sandhurg & Mutung	
Special events highlighting Sandburg's writings Special reception with Sandburg family members	1
Special events highlighting Sandburg's whitngs Special reception with Sandburg family members Square dancing	1

#### Table 10: Suggestions for celebrating Centennial (continued)

# What visitors liked most

#### Question 32a

What did you and your personal group like most about your visit to Carl Sandburg Home NHS? (open-ended)

#### Results

- 83% of visitor groups (N=216) responded to this question.
- Table 11 shows a summary of visitor comments. A complete copy of hand-written comments is included in the Visitor Comments Appendix.

# Table 11: What visitors liked mostN=440 comments;some visitor groups made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
PERSONNEL	
Staff was friendly	4
Seeing the staff working with the goats	2
Staff and volunteers were helpful	2
The staff was knowledgeable	2
Other comments	6
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES	
The home tour	25
Learning about the Sandburgs' life	13
The video	5
Story of Mrs. Sandburg's goats	2
The books in the house	2
Other comments	10
FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE	
Trails	43
The barn/farm	19
The house	6
Cleanliness	3
The new restrooms	2
Other comments	10
POLICIES/MANAGEMENT	
Access to the goats	4
The safety of the area	=
Trail safety	3 3
Other comments	2

CommentNumber of time mentionedRESOURCE MANAGEMENTThe goats7The goats9	es
The goats34Plants/trees/flowers11The newborn goats10	
The goats34Plants/trees/flowers11The newborn goats10	
Plants/trees/flowers11The newborn goats10	
The authenticity of the house and the items 9	
The animals of the site 6	
Wildlife 4	
The house furnishings 3	
The lake 3	
Clean air 2	
Other comments 7	
GENERAL COMMENTS	
Hiking/walking 29	
Nature/natural beauty 18	
Beautiful site 14	
Peace/tranquility 14	
Quiet place 10	
The scenery 7	
The solitude 7	
The natural setting 6	
Visiting the house 6	
Being outdoors in nature 5	
Good place to exercise 5	
The history 5	
The setting 5	
Walk the trail around the lake 4	
Walking around the property 4	
Hiking up Big Glassy Mountain 3	
The views 3	
Having a peaceful walk 2	
Location of the park 2	
Love everything 2	
Picnicking 2	
Playing with the goats 2	
Other comments 32	

# Table 11: What visitors liked most (continued)

# What visitors liked least

#### Question 32b

What did you and your personal group like least about your visit to Carl Sandburg Home NHS? (open-ended)

#### Results

- 44% of visitor groups (N=114) responded to this question.
- Table 12 shows a summary of visitor comments. A complete copy of hand-written comments is included in the Visitor Comments Appendix.

#### Table 12: What visitors liked least

N=127 comments;

some visitor groups made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE	
Limited parking space	11
Coarse gravel on trails	4
Buildings need repair	2
Grounds need maintenance	2
Home was in disrepair	2
Poor condition of the trails	2 2 2 2
The gift shop	
The house needs to be painted	2
Other comments	17
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES	
The audiovisual room	2
Too many people on the house tour	2
Tours are not frequent enough	2 2 2
Unable to take the tour	2
Other comments	8
POLICIES/MANAGEMENT	
Not being able to tour the house independently	2
Other comments	2
GENERAL COMMENTS	
Nothing to dislike	29
Steep climb to the house	29
It was raining	7
People not cleaning up after their dogs on trails	5
Goat feces	2
Irresponsible dog owners	2
Other comments	10

# Planning for the future

#### Question 31

If you were a manager planning for the future of Carl Sandburg Home NHS, what would you and your personal group propose? (open-ended)

#### Results

- 52% of visitor groups (N=134) responded to this question.
- Table 13 shows a summary of visitor comments. A complete copy of hand-written comments is included in the Visitor Comments Appendix.

# Table 13: Planning for the futureN=197 comments;

some visitor groups made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
CONCESSION SERVICES Cafe/restaurant	2
PERSONNEL Comments	3
Comments	3
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES	
More frequent tours	3
More information about Sandburg	3
More special events	3
Recording of Sandburg reading	3
Better information on tour schedule	2
Create working/living farm	2 2
Maintain/enhance current programs	2
More hands-on displays	2
More programs/activities for kids	2
Place Sandburg's book on display	2
Post informational signs on buildings/rooms	2
Ranger-led programs	2
Sponsor poetry readings	2
Video/information about Mrs. Sandburg and her goats	2
Other comments	19
FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE	
Increase parking	16
Maintain trails	10
More trails	9
Maintain the house/buildings	7
Improve handicap accessibility	4
Paint the house	3
House/landscaping needs maintenance	2
More picnic areas	2
Nice picnic areas	2
Parking closer to house	2
Provide dog waste bags	2
Other comments	18

(continued)	
Comment	Number of times mentioned
POLICIES/MANAGEMENT	
Do not charge entrance fees to locals	5
No entrance fees	4
Advertise the park	3
Plan events in the community	3
Charge minimal entrance fee	2
Need adequate/additional funding	2
Recognition of local residents	2
Other comments	7
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	
Preserve original property/artifacts	4
Maintain working goat herd	2
Protect flora/fauna	2
Other comments	2
GENERAL COMMENTS	
Keep it as it is	9
Keep up the good work	4
Expand gift shop/bookstore	3
No suggestions	3
Other comments	10

#### Table 13: Planning for the future (continued)

#### **Additional comments**

#### Question 33

Is there anything else you and your personal group would like to tell us about your visit to Carl Sandburg Home NHS? (open-ended)

#### Results

- 40% of visitor groups (N=103) responded to this question.
- Table 14 shows a summary of visitor comments. A complete copy of hand-written comments is included in the Visitor Comments Appendix.

#### Table 14: Additional comments

N=216 comments;

some visitor groups made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
PERSONNEL	
The staff was great	6
Tour guide was informative	4
Staff is willing to answer questions	2
The guides were friendly and personable	2
Other comments	6
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES	
The visit was informative/educational	3
Other comments	9
FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE	
Cut the branches along the trails	2
The house is wonderful	2
Trails are well maintained	2
Other comments	17
POLICIES/MANAGEMENT	
Admission fees will discourage visitation	7
Encourage people to pick up after their dogs	4
\$5 is too high for admission	2
Other comments	14
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	
Comments	2

(continued)	
Comment	Number of times mentioned
GENERAL COMMENTS	
Enjoyed the visit	17
It is beautiful	13
Enjoy hiking in the park	7
The park is a natural treasure	5
Grateful to have the park nearby	4
Will return	4
Did not have enough time to see everything	3
Enjoy seeing the goats	3
Keep up the good work	3
Regular visitors	3 3 3 2
Did not realize there is so much to see	
Enjoy being in nature	2
Enjoy the landscape	2
Enjoy the natural beauty	2
It is a great resource for the area	2
Like to bring our children to the park	2
Look forward to visiting the house in the future	2
Love the serenity of the place	2
Resident of the area	2
Teach about Sandburg as an educator	2
Walking was strenuous	2
We bring our friends to the park	2
Other comments	46

# Table 14: Additional comments (continued)

## APPENDICES

# Appendix 1: The Questionnaire

## **Appendix 2: Additional Analysis**

The Visitor Services Project (VSP) offers the opportunity to learn more from VSP visitor study data. Additional analysis can be done using the park's VSP visitor study data that was collected and entered into the computer. Two-way and three-way cross tabulations can be made of any of the characteristics listed below. Be as specific as possible—you may select a single program/service/facility instead of all that were listed in the questionnaire. Include your name, address and phone number in the request.

- Obtained information about park prior to visit?
- Sources of information used prior to visit
- Sources of information preferred for future visits
- Obtained needed
   information?
- Awareness of Carl Sandburg
- Methods of learning about Carl Sandburg
- Awareness of NPS management
- Awareness of "Friends of Carl Sandburg at Connemara"
- Primary reason for visit to park area
- Primary reason for visiting park
- Adequacy of directional signs
- Difficulty finding the way from parking lot to Home
- Sites visited
- Take the Home tour?
- Reasons for taking the home tour
- Reasons for not taking the home tour
- Aspects of the home tour

- Learn something meaningful about Carl Sandburg?
- Visit the barn?
- Learn something meaningful about Mrs. Sandburg
- Activities during this visit
- Length of visit (hours)
- Visit for more than one day?
- Number of days visited
- Visitor services/facilities used
- Importance of visitor services/ facilities
- Quality of visitor services/ facilities
- Importance of attributes/
   experiences
- Interaction with park rangers
- Quality of interaction
- Willingness to pay entrance fee
- Opinions on safety
- Experienced parking problems?
- With commercial guided tour group
- With educational group
- With other organized group
- Group type
- Group size
- Number of vehicles

- Language used for speaking
- Language used for reading
- Respondent level of education
- Visitor age
- State of residence
- Country of residence
- Frequency of visits
- Group member with physical condition making access/ participation difficult?
- Find phone for van ride?
- Services/activities that were difficult to participate in/access
- Preferred interpretive programs/services on future visit
- Awareness of new General Management Plan
- Awareness of proposals of General Management Plan
- Overall quality

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#### Appendix 3: Decision Rules for Checking Non-response Bias

There are several methods for checking non-response bias. However, the most common way is to use some demographic indicators to compare between respondents and non-respondents (Dey 1997; Salant and Dillman 1994; Dillman 2000; Dillman, 2007; Stoop 2004). In this study, group type, group size and age of the group member (at least 16 years old) completing the survey were three variables that were used to check for non-response bias.

A Chi-square test was used to detect the difference in the response rates among different group types. The hypothesis was that group types are equally represented. If p-value is greater than 0.05, the difference in group type is judged to be insignificant.

Two independent-sample T-tests were used to test the differences between respondents and nonrespondents. The p-values represent the significance levels of these tests. If p-value is greater than 0.05, the two groups are judged to be insignificantly different.

Therefore, the hypotheses for checking non-response bias are:

- 1. Respondents from different group types are equally represented
- 2. Average age of respondents average age of non-respondents = 0
- 3. Average group size of respondents average group size of non-respondents = 0

Table 1 shows no significant difference in group type.

As shown in Table 2, the p-value for respondent/non-respondent group size test is greater than 0.05, indicating insignificant differences between respondents and non-respondents. Thus, non-response bias for group size is judged to be insignificant. However, the p-value for respondent/non-respondent age test is less than 0.05 indicating significant age differences between respondents and non-respondents. In regard to age difference, various reviews of survey methodology (Dillman and Carley-Baxter 2000; Goudy 1976, Filion 1976, Mayer and Pratt Jr. 1967) have consistently found that in public opinion surveys, average respondent ages tend to be higher than average non-respondent ages. This difference is often caused by other reasons such as availability of free time rather than problems with survey methodology. In addition, because unit of analysis for this study is a visitor group, the group member who received the questionnaire may be different than the one who actually completed it after the visit. Sometimes the age of the actual respondent is higher than the age of the group member who accepted the questionnaire at the park. In the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site survey, 28 respondents reported to be the older person in the group rather than the person who accepted the survey at the park to be the person who completed the survey. Therefore, non-response bias is judged to be insignificant.

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## **Appendix 4: Visitor Services Project Publications**

All VSP reports are available on the Park Studies Unit website at www.psu.uidaho.edu.vsp.reports.htm. All studies were conducted in summer unless otherwise noted.

#### 1982

1. Mapping interpretive services: A pilot study at Grand Teton National Park.

#### 1983

- 2. Mapping interpretive services: Identifying barriers to adoption and diffusion of the method.
- 3. Mapping interpretive services: A follow-up study at Yellowstone National Park and Mt Rushmore National Memorial.
- 4. Mapping visitor populations: A pilot study at Yellowstone National Park.

#### 1985

- 5. North Cascades National Park Service Complex
- 6. Crater Lake National Park

#### 1986

- 7. Gettysburg National Military Park
- 8. Independence National Historical Park
- 9. Valley Forge National Historical Park

#### 1987

- 10. Colonial National Historical Park (summer & fall)
- 11. Grand Teton National Park
- 12. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
- 13. Mesa Verde National Park
- 14. Shenandoah National Park (summer & fall)
- 15. Yellowstone National Park
- 16. Independence National Historical Park: Four Seasons Study

#### 1988

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

#### 1989

- 21. Everglades National Park (winter)
- 22. Statue of Liberty National Monument
- 23. The White House Tours, President's Park

#### 1989 (continued)

- 24. Lincoln Home National Historic Site
- 25. Yellowstone National Park
- 26. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
- 27. Muir Woods National Monument

#### 1990

- 28. Canyonlands National Park (spring)
- 29. White Sands National Monument
- 30. National Monuments & Memorials, Washington, D.C.
- 31. Kenai Fjords National Park
- 32. Gateway National Recreation Area
- 33. Petersburg National Battlefield
- 34. Death Valley National Monument
- 35. Glacier National Park
- 36. Scott's Bluff National Monument
- 37. John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

#### 1991

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

#### 1992

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

## **Visitor Services Project Publications (continued)**

#### 1993

- 54. Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Park (spring)
- 55. Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (spring)
- 56. Whitman Mission National Historic Site
- 57. Sitka National Historical Park
- 58. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
- 59. Redwood National Park
- 60. Channel Islands National Park
- 61. Pecos National Historical Park
- 62. Canyon de Chelly National Monument
- 63. Bryce Canyon National Park (fall)

#### 1994

- 64. Death Valley National Monument Backcountry (winter)
- 65. San Antonio Missions National Historical Park (spring)
- 66. Anchorage Alaska Public Lands Information Center
- 67. Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts
- 68. Nez Perce National Historical Park
- 69. Edison National Historic Site
- 70. San Juan Island National Historical Park
- 71. Canaveral National Seashore
- 72. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (fall)
- 73. Gettysburg National Military Park (fall)

#### 1995

- 74. Grand Teton National Park (winter)
- 75. Yellowstone National Park (winter)
- 76. Bandelier National Monument
- 77. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve
- 78. Adams National Historic Site
- 79. Devils Tower National Monument
- 80. Manassas National Battlefield Park
- 81. Booker T. Washington National Monument
- 82. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
- 83. Dry Tortugas National Park

#### 1996

- 84. Everglades National Park (spring)
- 85. Chiricahua National Monument (spring)

#### 1996 (continued)

- 86. Fort Bowie National Historic Site (spring)
- 87. Great Falls Park, Virginia (spring)
- 88. Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- 89. Chamizal National Memorial
- 90. Death Valley National Park (fall)
- 91. Prince William Forest Park (fall)
- 92. Great Smoky Mountains National Park (fall)

#### 1997

- 93. Virgin Islands National Park (winter)
- 94. Mojave National Preserve (spring)
- 95. Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site (spring)
- 96. Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial
- 97. Grand Teton National Park
- 98. Bryce Canyon National Park
- 99. Voyageurs National Park
- 100. Lowell National Historical Park

#### 1998

- 101. Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Park (spring)
- 102. Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (spring)
- 103. Cumberland Island National Seashore (spring)
- 104. Iwo Jima/Netherlands Carillon Memorials
- 105. National Monuments & Memorials, Washington, D.C.
- 106. Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, AK
- 107. Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
- 108. Acadia National Park

#### 1999

- 109. Big Cypress National Preserve (winter)
- 110. San Juan National Historic Site, Puerto Rico (winter)
- 111. St. Croix National Scenic Riverway
- 112. Rock Creek Park
- 113. New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park
- 114. Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve
- 115. Kenai Fjords National Park
- 116. Lassen Volcanic National Park
- 117. Cumberland Gap National Historical Park (fall)

## **Visitor Services Project Publications (continued)**

#### 2000

- 118. Haleakala National Park (spring)
- 119. White House Tour and White House Visitor Center (spring)
- 120. USS Arizona Memorial
- 121. Olympic National Park
- 122. Eisenhower National Historic Site
- 123. Badlands National Park
- 124. Mount Rainier National Park

#### 2001

- 125. Biscayne National Park (spring)
- 126. Colonial National Historical Park (Jamestown)
- 127. Shenandoah National Park
- 128. Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
- 129. Crater Lake National Park
- 130. Valley Forge National Historical Park

#### 2002

- 131. Everglades National Park (spring)
- 132. Dry Tortugas National Park (spring)
- 133. Pinnacles National Monument (spring)
- 134. Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve
- 135. Pipestone National Monument
- 136. Outer Banks Group (Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Ft. Raleigh National Historic Site, and Wright Brothers National Memorial)
- 137. Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks and Sequoia National Forest
- 138. Catoctin Mountain Park
- 139. Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site
- 140. Stones River National Battlefield (fall)

#### 2003

- 141. Gateway National Recreation Area: Floyd Bennett Field (spring)
- 142. Cowpens National Battlefield (spring)
- 143. Grand Canyon National Park North Rim
- 144. Grand Canyon National Park South Rim
- 145. C&O Canal National Historical Park
- 146. Capulin Volcano National Monument
- 147. Oregon Caves National Monument
- 148. Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site
- 149. Fort Stanwix National Monument
- 150. Arches National Park

#### 2003 continued

151. Mojave National Preserve (fall)

#### 2004

- 152. Joshua Tree National Park (spring)
- 153. New River Gorge National River
- 154. George Washington Birthplace National Monument
- 155. Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve
- 156. Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park
- 157. Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
- 158. Keweenaw National Historical Park
- 159. Effigy Mounds National Monument
- 160. Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site
- 161. Manzanar National Historic Site
- 162. John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

#### 2005

- 163. Congaree National Park (spring)
- 164. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (spring)
- 165. Lincoln Home National Historic Site
- 166. Chickasaw National Recreation Area
- 167. Timpanogos Cave National Monument
- 168. Yosemite National Park
- 169. Fort Sumter National Monument
- 170. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
- 171. Cuyahoga Valley National Park
- 172. Johnstown Flood National Memorial
- 173. Nicodemus National Historic Site

#### 2006

- 174. Kings Mountain National Military Park (spring)
- 175. John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site
- 176. Devils Postpile National Monument
- 177. Mammoth Cave National Park
- 178. Yellowstone National Park
- 179. Monocacy National Battlefield
- 180. Denali National Park & Preserve
- 181. Golden Spike National Historic Site
- 182. Katmai National Park and Preserve
- 183. Zion National Park (spring and fall)

#### Visitor Services Project Publications (continued)

#### 2007

- 184.1. Big Cypress National Preserve (spring)
- 184.2. Big Cypress National Preserve (ORV Permit Holder/Camp Owner)
- 185. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (spring)
- 186. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (Spring, Summer)
- 187. Lava Beds National Monument
- 188. John Muir National Historic Site
- 189. Fort Union Trading Post National Historical Site
- 190. Fort Donelson National Battlefield
- 191. Agate Fossil Beds National Monument
- 192. Mount Rushmore National Memorial
- 193. Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve
- 194. Rainbow Bridge National Monument
- 195. Independence National Historical Park
- 196. Minute Man National Historical Park

#### 2008

- 197. Blue Ridge Parkway (fall 07, spring 08)
- 198. Yosemite National Park (winter)
- 199. Everglades National Park (winter, spring)
- 200. Horseshoe Bend National Military Park (spring)
- 201. Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site (spring)

For more information about the Visitor Services Project, please contact the University of Idaho Park Studies Unit, website: www.psu.uidaho.edu or phone (208) 885-7863.

## Visitor Comments Appendix

This section contains complete visitor comments of all open-ended questions and is bound separately from this report due to its size.

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