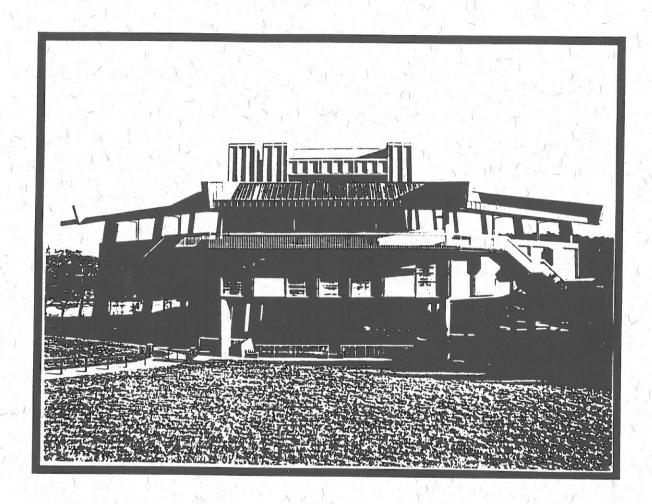
### **Visitor Services Project**

# Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts



Visitor Services Project Report 67 Cooperative Park Studies Unit





# Visitor Services Project Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts

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Report 67

March 1995

Margaret Littlejohn is VSP Western Coordinator, National Park Service based at the Cooperative Park Studies Unit, University of Idaho. I thank Dwight Madison who conducted this study, and the staff of Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts for their assistance. The VSP acknowledges the Public Opinion Lab of the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center, Washington State University, for its technical assistance.

# Visitor Services Project Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts Report Summary

- This report describes the results of a visitor study at Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts during July 16-25, 1994. A total of 775 questionnaires were distributed at the Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods and Filene Center and 551 were returned, a 71% response rate.
- This report profiles Wolf Trap Farm Park visitors. A separate appendix has visitors' comments about their visit; this report and the appendix contain a comment summary.

#### Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods Visitors

- Forty-eight percent of the Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors were in family groups. Fifty-seven percent of all Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors were ten years old or younger. Approximately three-quarters of all visitors (78%) were repeat visitors to Wolf Trap Farm Park. One-fourth of adults (25%) were accompanying organized groups of children. Forty-eight percent of organized children's groups were in groups of ten to twenty people.
- Only one international visitor (from Italy) attended the Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods performances. Ninety-six percent of the visitors came from Virginia, Maryland and Washington D.C., with smaller proportions from several other states.
- Eighty percent of the visitors stayed two to three hours at the Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods. Most learned about Wolf Trap Farm Park from friends or relatives or previous visits.
- Ninety-four percent of the Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors arrived at Wolf Trap by private vehicle. Most (68%) brought one vehicle to the park.
- The most used services were parking and Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods benches (94% each). The best quality services according to visitors were paths/trails and picnic areas.

#### Filene Center Visitors

- Forty-two percent of Filene Center visitors were in family groups. Sixty-one percent of all Filene Center visitors were ages 31-50. Approximately three-quarters (73%) of the visitors were repeat visitors to Wolf Trap.
- International visitors comprised 3% of those attending Filene Center performances. Ninety-two
  percent of the visitors came from Virginia, Maryland and Washington D.C., with smaller
  proportions from many other states.
- Most visitors (73%) stayed four to five hours at Filene Center. Most learned about Wolf Trap from newspapers/magazines, previous visits or the Wolf Trap Foundation calendar.
- Most Filene Center visitors (98%) arrived at Wolf Trap by private vehicle. Most (67%) brought one vehicle to the park. Most visitors (58%) parked on paved/gravel parking lots in the park.
- Visitors evaluated seating locations; lawn and front orchestra received the best sound quality ratings. The best sound volume was in lawn and rear orchestra seating. The best stage view was from front and rear orchestra seating.
- · Visitors made many additional comments.

For more information about the Visitor Services Project, please contact:
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Moscow, Idaho 83844-1133 or call (208) 885-7129.

#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|           | ı   | Page |
|-----------|---|------|
| INTRODUC  | CTION   | 1    |
| METHODS   |   | 2    |
| CHILDREN  | I'S THEATRE-IN-THE-WOODS VISITOR RESULTS                        |      |
|           | Visitors contacted  | 4    |
|           | Demographics  | 4    |
|           | Length of stay  | 10   |
|           | Forms of transportation used; number of vehicles used           | 11   |
|           | Sources of park information                                     | 12   |
|           | Visitor services and facilities: use and quality                | 13   |
|           | Children's opinions about programs and performances             | 20   |
|           | Opinions about shows and performances                           | 20   |
|           | Proposals for future planning                                   | 21   |
|           | What visitors liked most  | 22   |
|           | What visitors liked least                                       | 23   |
|           | Comment summary   | 24   |
| FILENE CE | ENTER VISITOR RESULTS   | 25   |
|           | Visitors contacted  | 25   |
|           | Demographics  | 25   |
|           | Length of stay  | 31   |
|           | Forms of transportation used; number of vehicles used           | 32   |
|           | Parking used; future willingness to pay                         | 34   |
|           | Sources of park information                                     | 36   |
|           | Seating evaluations: sound quality, sound volume and stage view | 37   |
|           | Visitor services: use and quality                               | 47   |

| FIL | ENE | CENTER | VISITOR | RESUL | .TS | (continued) |
|-----|-----|--------|---------|-------|-----|-------------|
|-----|-----|--------|---------|-------|-----|-------------|

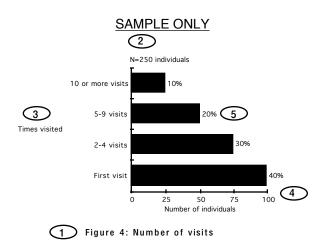
| Visitor facilities: use and quality | 53 |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Importance of park features         | 59 |
| Future shuttle system use           | 61 |
| Proposals for future planning       | 62 |
| What visitors liked most            | 63 |
| What visitors liked least           | 64 |
| Comment summary                     | 65 |
| MENUS FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS          |    |
| QUESTIONNAIRES                      | 67 |

#### INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of a study of visitors at Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts (referred to as "Wolf Trap Farm"). This visitor study was conducted July 16-25, 1994 by the National Park Service (NPS) Visitor Services Project (VSP), part of the Cooperative Park Studies Unit at the University of Idaho. Two groups of Wolf Trap visitors are described in this report: first, the Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors, followed by Filene Center visitors. Visitors to Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods attended performances for children on Monday through Friday mornings. Filene Center visitors attended various adult musical performances in the evenings.

A <u>Methods</u> section discusses the procedures and limitations of the study. Two <u>Results</u> sections follow, each including a summary of visitor comments. Next, a <u>Menu for Further Analysis</u> helps managers request additional analyses. The final section has copies of the <u>Questionnaires</u>. The separate appendix includes comment summaries and visitors' unedited comments.

Many of this report's graphs resemble the example below. The large numbers refer to explanations following the graph.



- 1: The figure title describes the graph's information.
- 2: Listed above the graph, the 'N' shows the number of visitors responding and a description of the chart's information. Interpret data with an 'N' of less than 30 with CAUTION! as the results may be unreliable.
- 3: Vertical information describes categories.
- 4: Horizontal information shows the number or proportions in each category.
- 5: In most graphs, percentages provide additional information.

#### **METHODS**

## Questionnaire design and administration

Interviews were conducted and questionnaires distributed to a sample of selected visitors visiting Wolf Trap Farm Park during July 16-25, 1994. Visitors completed the questionnaire after their visit and then returned it by mail.

The questionnaire design used the standard format of previous Visitor Services Project studies. See the end of this report for copies of the questionnaires.

Visitors were sampled as they entered Wolf Trap Farm Park.

Visitor groups were greeted, briefly introduced to the purpose of the study and asked to participate. If visitors agreed, the interview took approximately two minutes. These interviews included determining group size, group type and the age of the adult who would complete the questionnaire. This individual was asked his or her name, address and telephone number for the later mailing of a reminder-thank you postcard.

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. Eight weeks after the survey, second replacement questionnaires were mailed to a random sample of the visitors who had not returned their questionnaires.

#### Data analysis

Returned questionnaires were coded and the information entered into a computer. Frequency distributions and cross-tabulations were calculated using a standard statistical software package. Respondents' comments were summarized.

This study collected information on both visitor groups and individual Sample size, group members. Thus, the sample size ("N"), varies from figure to figure. For example, while Figure 1 shows information for 123 groups, Figure 7 presents data for 422 individuals. A note above each figure's graph specifies the information illustrated.

missing data and reporting errors

Occasionally, a respondent may not have answered all of the questions, or may have answered some incorrectly. Unanswered questions create missing data and cause the number in the sample to vary from figure to figure. For example, although 124 questionnaires were returned by Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors, Figure 1 shows data for only 123 respondents.

Questions answered incorrectly due to carelessness, misunderstanding directions and so forth, turn up in the data as reporting errors. These create small data inconsistencies.

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

#### Limitations

- 1. It is not possible to know whether visitor responses reflect actual behavior. This disadvantage applies to all such studies and is reduced by having visitors fill out the questionnaire soon after they visit the park.
- 2. The data reflect visitor use patterns of visitors to the selected sites during the study period of July 16-25, 1994. The results 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 or table.

#### CHILDREN'S THEATRE-IN-THE-WOODS RESULTS

#### Visitors contacted

At Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods, 151 visitor groups were contacted; 99% accepted questionnaires. A total of 124 visitor groups completed and returned their questionnaires, an 83% response rate.

Table 1 compares information collected from the total sample of visitors contacted and the actual respondents who returned questionnaires. The non-response bias for age was insignificant. Non-response bias for group size was slightly significant: visitors who accepted questionnaires reported slightly larger group sizes than visitors who returned their questionnaires.

Table 1: Comparison of total sample and actual respondents

| Variable                  | Total sample |      |     | ctual<br>ondents |
|---------------------------|--------------|------|-----|------------------|
|                           | N            | Avg. | N . | Avg.             |
| Age of respondent (years) | 150          | 36.6 | 93  | 36.9             |
| Group size                | 150          | 12.8 | 123 | 10.9             |

#### **Demographics**

Figure 1 shows group sizes, which varied from one person to 80 people. Twenty-three percent of Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods Wolf visitors came in groups of eleven people or more. Over one-third (34%) came in groups of three or four people. Almost half of the groups (48%) were in families, 27% were in groups of family and friends and 20% in "other" groups such as day care, school, or camp, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 3 shows that most respondents (75%) were not accompanying an organized group of children. Among organized groups of children, the children's group size was most often 10-20 (48%) or 21-30 (26%), as shown in Figure 4. In organized groups, children's ages were 5-8 years (55%) or 4 or younger (48%), as shown in Figure 5.

The most common ages of adults accompanying an organized group of children were 26-45 (59%), as shown in Figure 6. The most common ages of all visitors were 10 or younger (57%), followed by 31-40 years old (24%), as shown in Figure 7. Most visitors (78%) were repeat visitors (see Figure 8).

Only one international visitor (from Italy) attended Children's Theatre-inthe-Woods performances. Map 1 and Table 2 show that the many of the United States visitors came from Maryland, Virginia and Washington D.C.

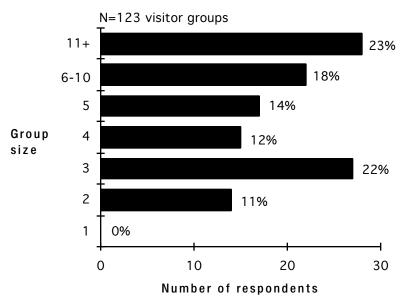


Figure 1: Visitor group sizes (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

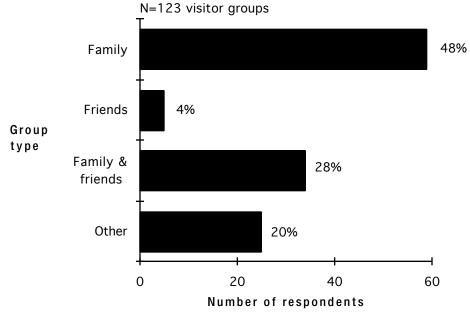


Figure 2: Visitor group types (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

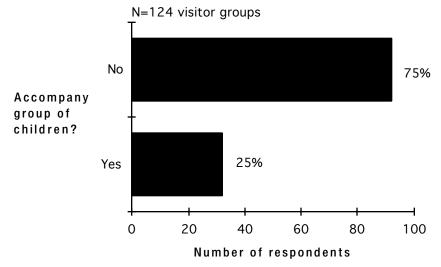


Figure 3: Adults accompanying organized groups of children (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

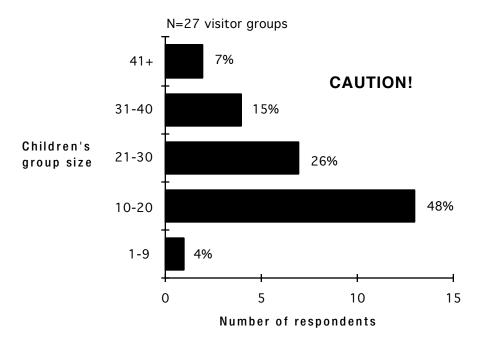


Figure 4: Children's group size for children in organized groups (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

N=29 visitor groups; percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could be with children in more than one age group. 13 or older 7% **CAUTION!** 9-12 17% Children's ages (years) 5-8 55% 4 or younger 48% 5 10 15 0 20 Number of respondents

Figure 5: Ages of children in organized groups (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

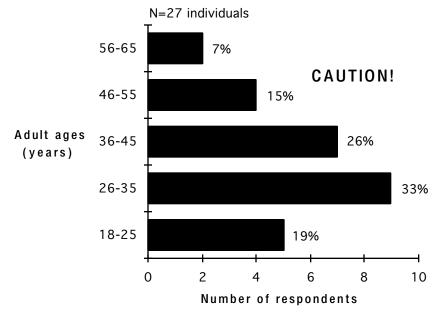


Figure 6: Ages of adults accompanying organized children's groups (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

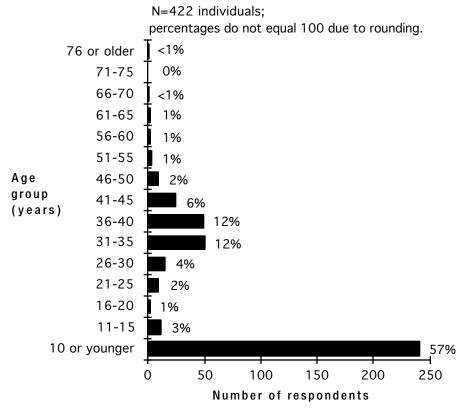


Figure 7: Ages of all visitors (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

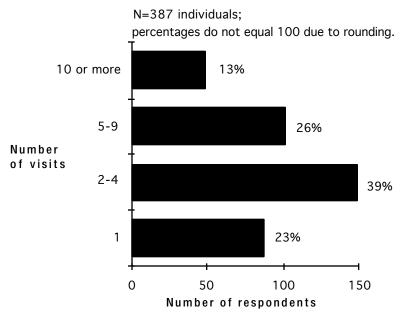
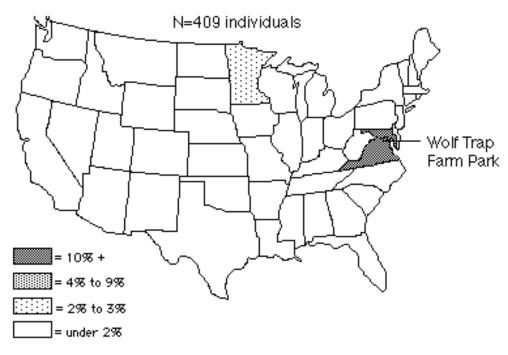


Figure 8: Number of visits (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)



Map 1: Proportion of visitors from each state (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

Table 2: Proportion of visitors from each state (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

N=409 individuals; percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding.

| State             | Number of individuals | % of visitors |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Virginia          | 311                   | 76            |
| Washington, D.C.  | 41                    | 10            |
| Maryland          | 40                    | 10            |
| Minnesota         | 7                     | 2             |
| Michigan          | 3                     | 1             |
| California        | 2                     | 1             |
| New York          | 2                     | 1             |
| North Carolina    | 1                     | <1            |
| Oregon            | 1                     | <1            |
| Unspecified state | 1                     | <1            |

### Length of stay

Eighty percent of the Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors to Wolf Trap stayed two to three hours (see Figure 9). Two percent of the Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors spent five hours or more.

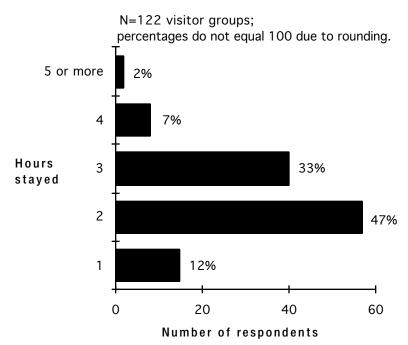


Figure 9: Length of stay (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

Visitors were asked what form of transportation they used to arrive at Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods. Most visitors arrived by private vehicle trans (94%), as shown in Figure 10. "Other" forms of transportation included school buses. Visitors were also asked how many vehicles their group brought to the park. Most (68%) brought one vehicle, although 24% brought two or three vehicles and 8% brought four or more vehicles (see Figure 11).

Forms of transportation used; number of vehicles used

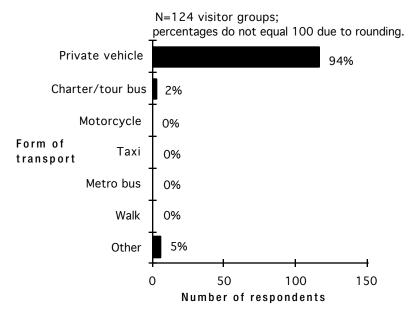


Figure 10: Proportion of visitor groups using each transport type (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

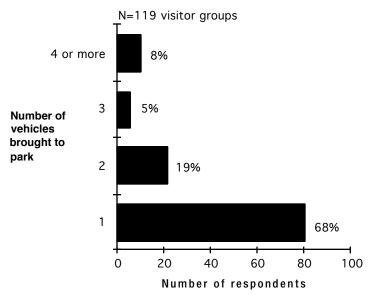


Figure 11: Number of vehicles brought to park (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

# Sources of park information

Prior to visiting, the most often used sources of information about Wolf Trap were friends and relatives (58%), previous visits (58%), newspapers and magazines (38%) and the Wolf Trap Foundation calendar (37%), as shown in Figure 12. The least-used source of information was the Wolf Trap Foundation Associates (4%). "Other" sources of information included: telephoned the park, friends, neighbors, and other people.

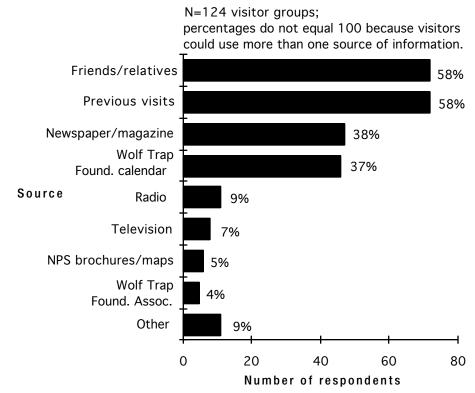


Figure 12: Sources of information (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

The most commonly used visitor services and facilities by Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors were parking (94%), Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods benches (94%), picnic areas (65%), restrooms (65%) and paths/trails (63%), as shown in Figure 13. The least used service was the electric cart (2%). "Other" services and facilities included: wading in creeks or streams, rangers and reservations.

Visitor services and facilities: use and quality

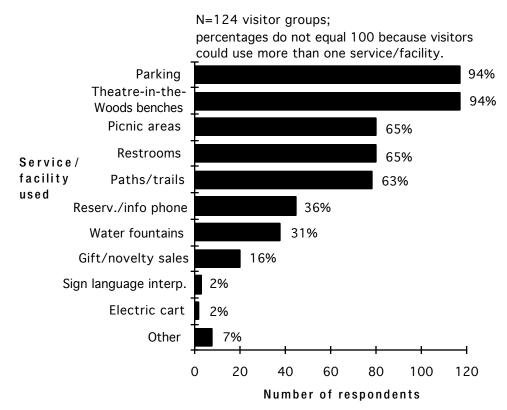


Figure 13: Use of visitor services/facilities (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors rated the quality of visitor services they used. They used a five point scale (see the box below).

QUALITY
1=very good
2=good
3=average
4=poor
5=very poor

Figures 14-24 show that several services and facilities were given high "good" to "very good" ratings: paths/trails (90%), picnic areas (85%), water fountains (78%) and parking (77%). The service receiving the highest proportion of "very poor" ratings was reservations (10%).

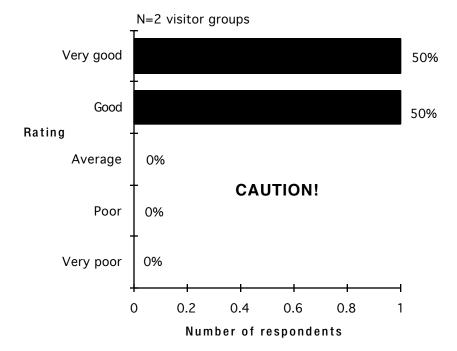


Figure 14: Quality of electric passenger cart (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

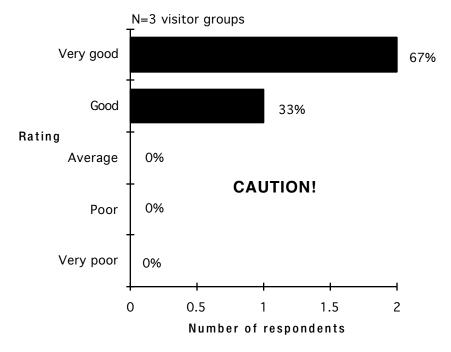


Figure 15: Quality of sign language interpreters (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

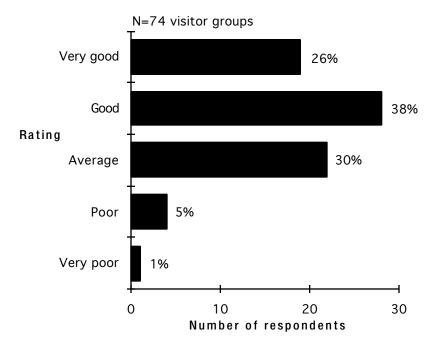


Figure 16: Quality of restrooms (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

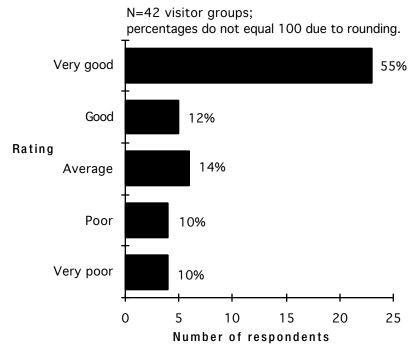


Figure 17: Quality of reservation/information phone line (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

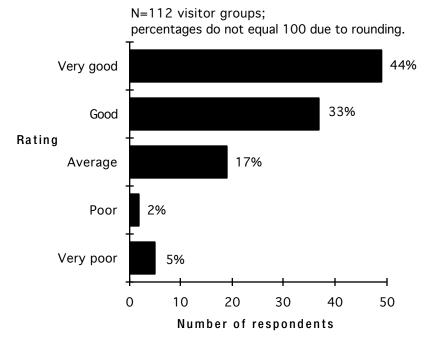


Figure 18: Quality of parking (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

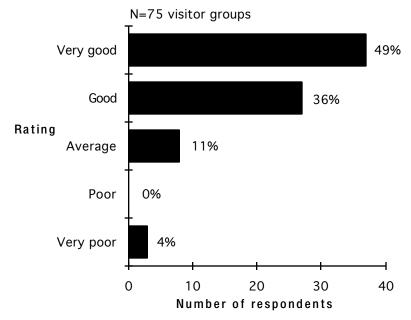


Figure 19: Quality of picnic areas (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

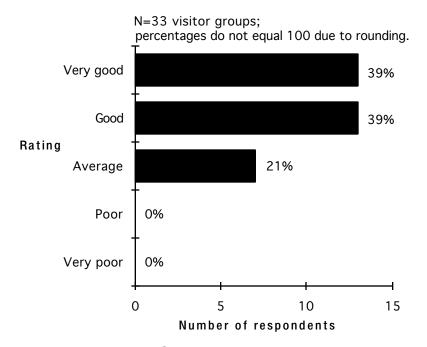


Figure 20: Quality of water fountains (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

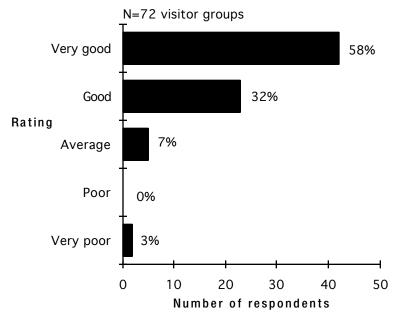


Figure 21: Quality of paths/trails (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

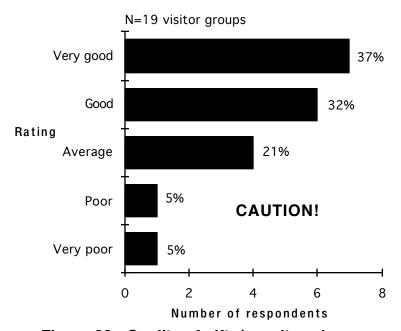


Figure 22: Quality of gifts/novelty sales (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

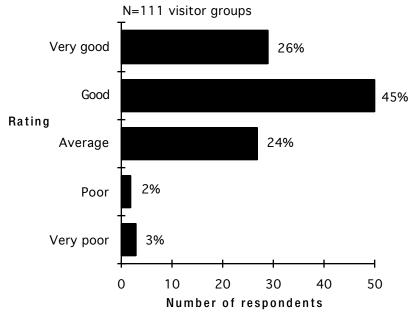


Figure 23: Quality of Theatre-in-the-Woods benches (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

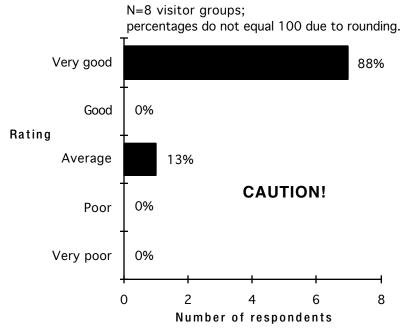


Figure 24: Quality of "other" services/facilities (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

Children's opinions about programs and performances

Respondents were asked, "In your opinion, what was the general reaction of the children you accompanied to Wolf Trap Farm Park, to the program/performance they attended?" Their comments are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3: Children's reactions to programs/performances (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

N=39 comments

| Comment  | times mentioned |
|--|-----------------|
| Children liked program                         | 21              |
| Program too sophisticated for younger children | 7               |
| Program too long for younger children          | 3               |
| Children liked natural setting                 | 3               |
| Children sat quietly for about 15 minutes      | 2               |
| Other comments                                 | 3               |

Opinions about shows and

Visitors were asked "What was your general opinion of the

show/performance you watched today?" Their comments are

summarized in Table 4.

performances

### Table 4: Opinions about shows and performances (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

N=157 comments

| Comment  | Number of times mentioned |
|--|---------------------------|
| Enjoyed show(s)  | 66                        |
| Enjoyed Young Colombians                                     | 16                        |
| Enjoyed Mark Seigel (story teller)                           | 14                        |
| Show better for older kids                                   | 12                        |
| Liked Flamingo dancers                                       | 6                         |
| Storytellers' performance was too long                       | 5                         |
| Show too long for younger children                           | 4                         |
| Mark Seigel better for older kids than younger               | 4                         |
| Enjoyed Mark Jaster (mime)                                   | 4                         |
| Wolf actor in opera was entertaining                         | 3                         |
| Children enjoyed Little Red Riding Hood opera                | 3                         |
| Show was appropriate length for children                     | 3                         |
| Show needs improvement/more variety                          | 3                         |
| Marc Spiegel was boring                                      | 2                         |
| Liked Piccolo's Pets   | 2                         |
| Did not like Flamingo dancers                                | 2                         |
| Enjoyed audience participation                               | 2                         |
| Wolf scary for children - glad wolf dressed in front of audi | ence 2                    |
| Other comments   | 4                         |

Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors were asked, "If you were planning for the future of Wolf Trap Farm Park what would you propose? Please be specific." A summary of their comments appears below and in the appendix.

### Proposals for future planning

### Proposals for future planning (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

N=100 comments; many visitors made more than one comment.

| Comment   | Number of times<br>mentioned   |
|---|--|
| SHOWS/PERFORMANCES  |  |
| Continue as it is More children's programs throughout the year Quicker/better reservation system needed Offer more variety in shows, times and lengths List age levels for each performance Puppet shows Would like to have schedule of programs mailed to home Keep audiences small More programs for toddlers Multi-cultural performances Include programs that reach all ages Offer more opportunities for children to participate in work Provide shuttles to & from metro/parking lot Provide entertainment festivals Other comments | 17<br>11<br>9<br>6<br>4<br>3<br>3<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>sshops 2<br>2<br>6 |
| FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE  |  |
| Provide parking closer to Children's Theatre-in-the-Wood<br>Build restrooms closer to Children's Theatre-in-the-Wood<br>Playground area for children<br>Need more shade at picnic areas and along walks<br>Other comments   |  |
| POLICY  |  |
| Preserve natural setting Offer more low-cost events for families Other comments   | 3<br>2<br>2  |

### What visitors liked most

Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors were asked, "What did you like most about your visit to Wolf Trap Park"? A summary of their comments appears below and in the appendix.

### Visitors' likes (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

N=155 comments; many visitors made more than one comment.

| Comment  | Number of times<br>mentioned                  |
|--|---|
| PERSONNEL  |   |
| Friendly rangers<br>Friendly staff   | 8 3   |
| SHOWS/PERFORMANCES   |   |
| The performance/show The way the shows are run Volunteers with hand puppets The mime   | 44<br>5<br>2<br>2                             |
| FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE   |   |
| Picnic area provided Clean park Paved walkway Good seats Other comments  | 7<br>4<br>2<br>2<br>2                         |
| POLICY   |   |
| Free shows Park allows children to run freely Other comments   | 12<br>2<br>2                                  |
| GENERAL IMPRESSIONS  |   |
| The natural setting The creek Everything Spending quality time with my children/family atmo The weather Comfortable setting Relaxed atmosphere Other comment | 37<br>6<br>4<br>9sphere 4<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>1 |

Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors were asked, "What did you like least about your visit to Wolf Trap Park"? A summary of their comments liked least appears below and in the appendix.

### Visitor dislikes (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

N=109 comments; many visitors made more than one comment.

| Comment   | Number of times<br>mentioned       |
|---|------------------------------------|
| SHOWS/PERFORMANCES  |                                    |
| Wait to make a reservation<br>Improve sound/stage view<br>Other comments 5  | 2 2                                |
| FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE  |                                    |
| Long walk to the bathroom Lack of shaded picnic tables Trail wet Benches wet Bathrooms need to be cleaner Lack of signs/access from airport area Other comments | 5<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>5    |
| GENERAL IMPRESSIONS   |                                    |
| Long walk to/from the parking lot Heat & humidity The insects The hill Nothing, enjoyed everything Lack of available drinks for children Other comments         | 30<br>15<br>13<br>9<br>8<br>2<br>3 |

### **Comment** summary

Many Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors wrote additional comments, which are included in the separate appendix of this report. Their comments are summarized below and in the appendix. Some comments offer specific suggestions on how to improve the park; others describe what Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors enjoyed or did not enjoy.

### Visitor comment summary (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

N=100 comments; many visitors made more than one comment.

| Comment  | Number of times mentioned                           |
|--|---|
| PERSONNEL  |   |
| Park rangers friendly/helpful<br>Park staff friendly/helpful   | 9<br>5  |
| SHOWS/PERFORMANCES   |   |
| Enjoyed show Continue programs in the future Come to Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods often Better reservation system needed Offer more information about shows Did not like aspect of show Shows top quality More children's programs throughout the year Show too long Provide more ethnic/female characters Other comments | 8<br>5<br>4<br>3<br>3<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>3 |
| FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE   |   |
| Comments   | 6   |
| POLICY   |   |
| Like performance free<br>Other comments  | 10<br>3   |
| GENERAL IMPRESSIONS  |   |
| Thank you Keep up the good work Enjoyed the visit Plan to return Like the natural setting Other comment  | 9<br>8<br>7<br>3<br>2<br>1                          |

#### FILENE CENTER VISITORS RESULTS

Six hundred sixty-one visitor groups were contacted; 95% accepted questionnaires. Four hundred and twenty-seven visitor groups completed and returned their questionnaires, a 68% response rate.

Visitors contacted

Table 5 compares information collected from the total sample of visitors contacted and the actual respondents who returned questionnaires. The non-response bias for age was slightly significant: age was slightly higher among respondents returning their questionnaires than those who accepted questionnaires. The non-response bias for group size was insignificant.

Table 5: Comparison of total sample and actual respondents

| Variable                  | Total sample |      | Actual respondents |      |
|---------------------------|--------------|------|--------------------|------|
|                           | N            | Avg. | N .                | Avg. |
| Age of respondent (years) | 625          | 40.2 | 421                | 41.6 |
| Group size                | 625          | 4.1  | 425                | 4.1  |

Figure 25 shows group sizes, which varied from one person

to

48 people. Almost half of Wolf Trap Filene Center visitors (49%) came in groups of two people. Thirty-one percent came in groups of three or four. Families (42%) made up the largest proportion of group types, followed by friends (36%), as shown in Figure 26. Most visitors (99%) were not in bus or tour groups (see Figure 27).

Figure 28 shows varied age groups; the most common were visitors aged 31-50 (61%). Most Filene Center visitors (82%) had visited the park before (see Figure 29).

Filene Center visitors from foreign countries comprised 3% of all visitation (Map 2 and Table 6). Map 3 and Table 7 show that the majority of the Unites States visitors came from Maryland, Virginia and Washington D.C.

#### **Demographics**

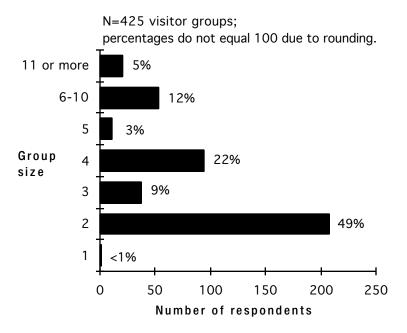


Figure 25: Visitor group sizes (Filene Center visitors)

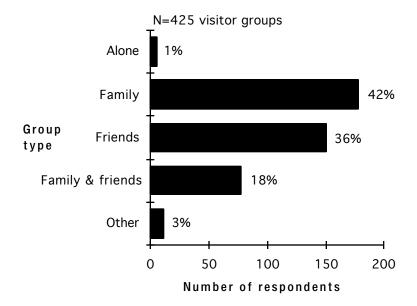


Figure 26: Visitor group types (Filene Center visitors)

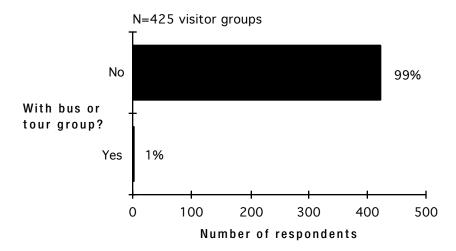


Figure 27: Visitors in bus or tour groups (Filene Center visitors)

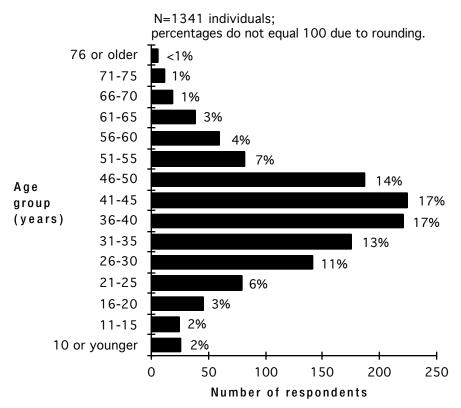


Figure 28: Visitor ages (Filene Center visitors)

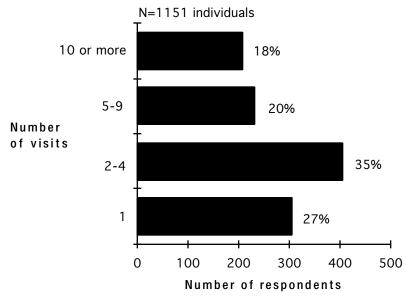


Figure 29: Number of visits (Filene Center visitors)

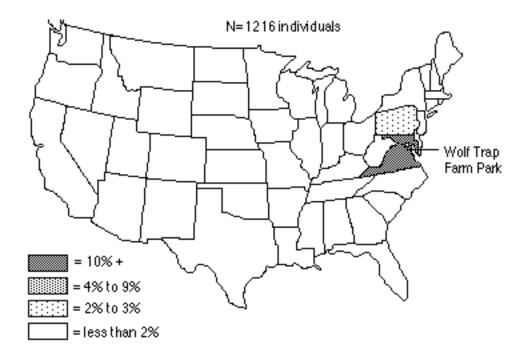


Map 2: Proportion of international visitors by country (Filene Center visitors)

### Table 6: Foreign visitors by country of residence (Filene Center visitors)

N=12 individuals percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding. **CAUTION!** 

| Country     | Number of   | % of     |
|-------------|-------------|----------|
|             | individuals | visitors |
| France      | 4           | 33       |
| Germany     | 2           | 17       |
| Russia      | 2           | 17       |
| Belgium     | 1           | 8        |
| Egypt       | 1           | 8        |
| New Zealand | 1           | 8        |
| Sudan       | 1           | 8        |



Map 3: Proportion of visitors from each state (Filene Center visitors)

Table 7: Proportion of visitors from each state (Filene Center visitors)

N=1216 individuals

| State                           | Number of individuals | % of<br>visitors |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Virginia                        | 740                   | 61               |
| Maryland                        | 297                   | 24               |
| Washington D.C.                 | 87                    | 7                |
| Pennsylvania                    | 27                    | 2                |
| New Jersey                      | 9                     | 1                |
| California                      | 6                     | 1                |
| Other states (19) + Puerto Rico | 50                    | 4                |

Seventy-three percent of Filene Center visitors to Wolf Trap Farm Park
stayed four to five hours (see Figure 30). Three percent of the visitors stayed 7
hours or more.

Length of
stay

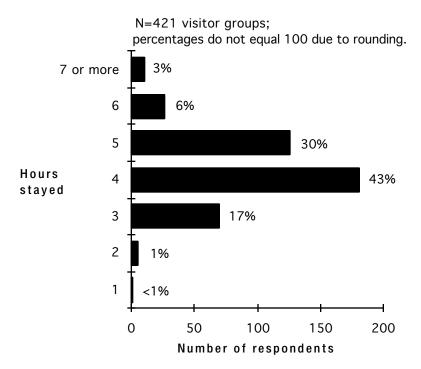


Figure 30: Length of stay (Filene Center visitors)

Forms of used; number of vehicles used

Most (98%) Filene Center visitors arrived by private vehicle (see **transportation** Figure 31). "Other" forms of transportation included the metro. Visitors were asked how many vehicles their group took to the Filene Center. More than two-thirds (67%) took one vehicle and 22% took two vehicles (see Figure 32).

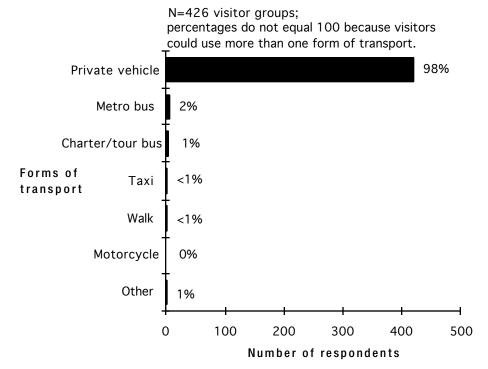


Figure 31: Proportion of visitor groups using each transport type (Filene Center visitors)

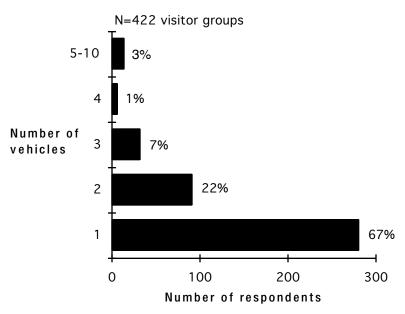


Figure 32: Number of vehicles brought to park (Filene Center visitors)

Parking used; future willingness to pay

Visitors were asked if they arrived at Wolf Trap by private vehicle. Most visitors (98%) said yes (see Figure 33). Those who said yes were then asked where they had parked their vehicle(s). Fifty-eight percent said they had parked in a paved/graveled parking lot in the park (see Figure 34). Some (44%) parked on the grass in the park.

Visitors were also asked, "If more parking was available on site at Wolf Trap Farm Park, would you be willing to pay for it?" Slightly more than half (51%) said it was unlikely they would be willing to pay for parking (see Figure 35). Equal proportions of visitors said it was likely they would be willing to pay or said that they didn't know.

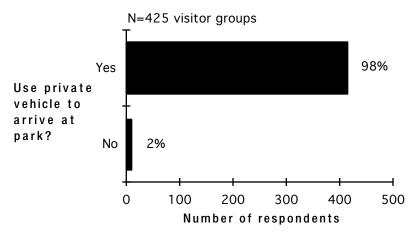


Figure 33: Use of private vehicle to arrive at Wolf Trap (Filene Center visitors)

N=416 visitor groups; percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could use more than one type of lot. Paved/gravel 58% lot in park Type of parking 44% used On grass in park Outside park 1% 0 50 100 150 200 250 Number of respondents

Figure 34: Type of parking used (Filene Center visitors)

N=424 visitor groups; percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding. No, unlikely 51% Willing to pay Yes, likely 24% for parking? Don't know 24% 0 100 200 300 Number of respondents

Figure 35: Willingness to pay for parking (Filene Center visitors)

# Sources of park information

Prior to visiting, the most often used sources of information about Filene Center were newspaper/magazines (56%), previous visits (53%), and the Wolf Trap Foundation calendar (51%), as shown in Figure 36. The least used source of information was National Park Service brochures/maps (1%). "Other" sources included mailed information, through winning a radio contest, and an oil corporation flyer.

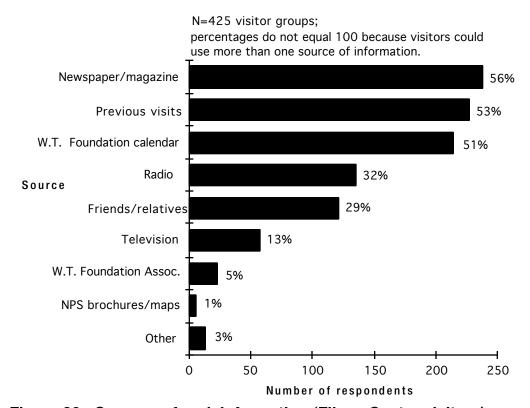


Figure 36: Sources of park information (Filene Center visitors)

Visitors were asked to rate the sound quality, stage view and sound volume from their seats at the Filene Center.

Visitors rated the quality of the sound and the stage view, using the five point scale below.

Seating evaluations: sound quality, sound volume and stage view

QUALITY
1=very good
2=good
3=average
4=poor
5=very poor

Visitors also rated the sound volume using the five point scale below.

SOUND VOLUME
1=too loud
2=loud
3=just right
4=weak
5=too weak

Figures 37-42 show visitors' evaluations of the sound quality from the various seating areas at Filene Center. The seating locations included: lawn, front orchestra, rear orchestra, box, loge, and pit seating. The seating areas with the best sound quality (highest "good" to "very good" ratings) were lawn seating (80%) and front orchestra (80%).

Figures 43-48 show visitors' evaluations of the sound volume from the various seating areas. The seating areas with the best sound volume (highest proportions of "just right" comments) were lawn seating (76%) and rear orchestra (75%). The seating area with the highest proportion of negative comments was front orchestra with 27% "too loud" comments.

Figures 49-54 show visitors' evaluations of the view of the stage from the various seating areas. The seating areas with the best stage view (highest proportion of "good" to "very good" comments) were front orchestra (92%) and rear orchestra (88%). The rear orchestra seating had the highest proportion of "poor" ratings (6%).

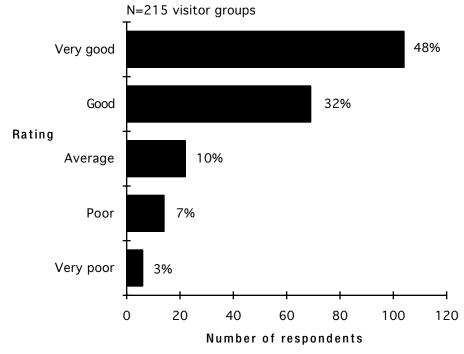


Figure 37: Evaluation of sound quality from lawn seating (Filene Center visitors)

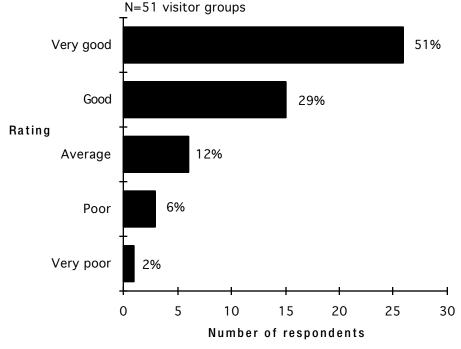


Figure 38: Evaluation of sound quality from front orchestra seating (Filene Center visitors)

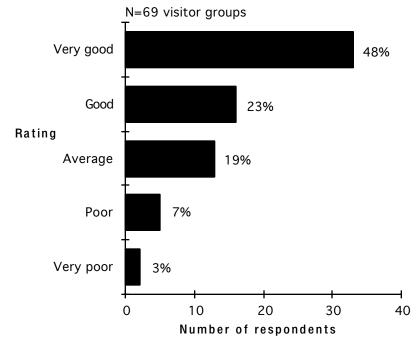


Figure 39: Evaluation of sound quality from rear orchestra seating (Filene Center visitors)

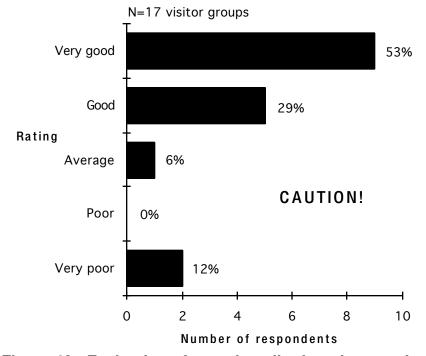


Figure 40: Evaluation of sound quality from box seating (Filene Center visitors)

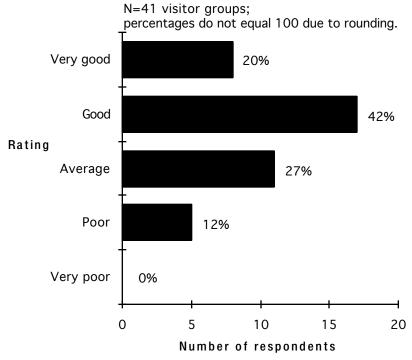


Figure 41: Evaluation of sound quality from loge seating (Filene Center visitors)

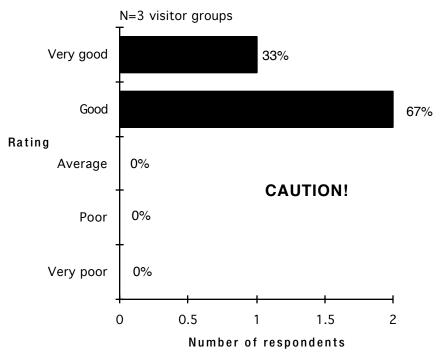


Figure 42: Evaluation of sound quality from pit seating (Filene Center visitors)

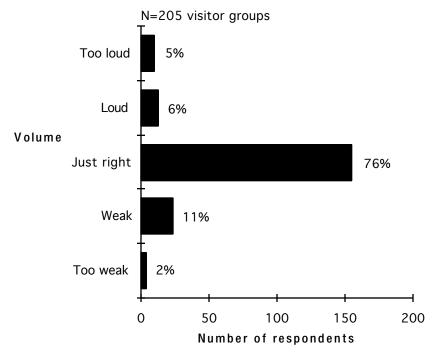


Figure 43: Evaluation of sound volume from lawn seating (Filene Center visitors)

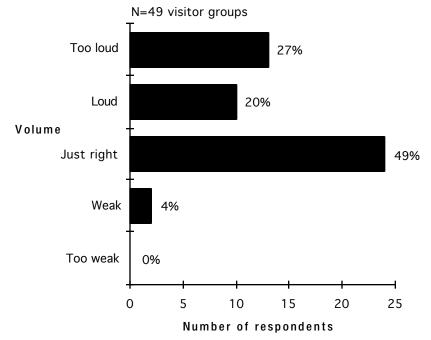


Figure 44: Evaluation of sound volume from front orchestra seating (Filene Center visitors)

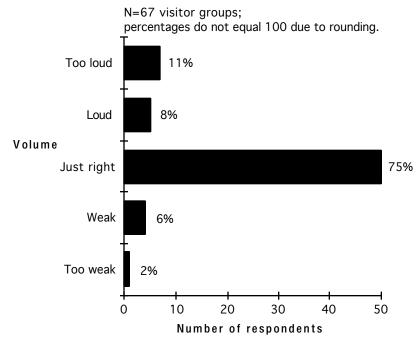


Figure 45: Evaluation of sound volume from rear orchestra seating (Filene Center visitors)

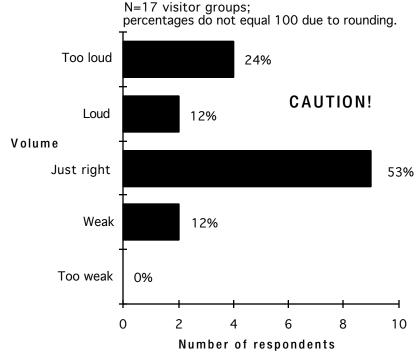


Figure 46: Evaluation of sound volume from box seating (Filene Center visitors)

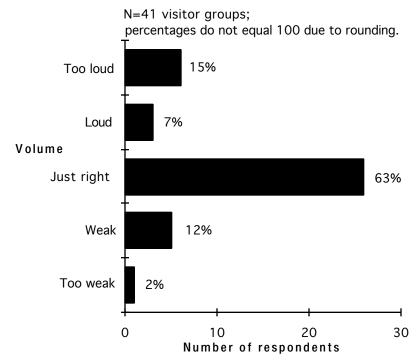


Figure 47: Evaluation of sound volume from loge seating (Filene Center visitors)

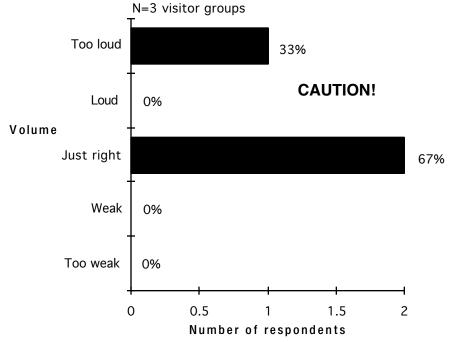


Figure 48: Evaluation of sound volume from pit seating (Filene Center visitors)

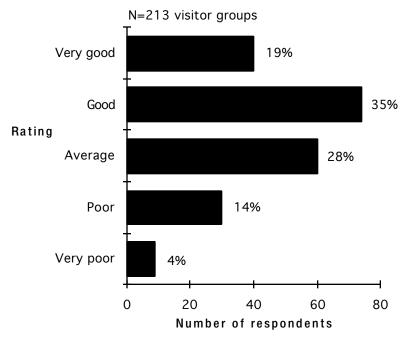


Figure 49: Evaluation of stage view from lawn seating (Filene Center visitors)

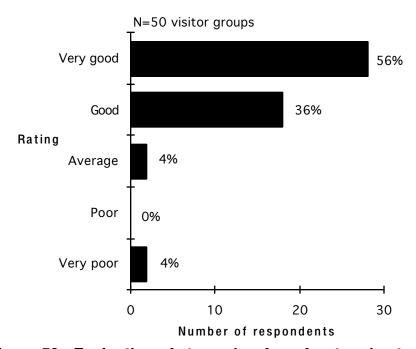


Figure 50: Evaluation of stage view from front orchestra seating (Filene Center visitors)

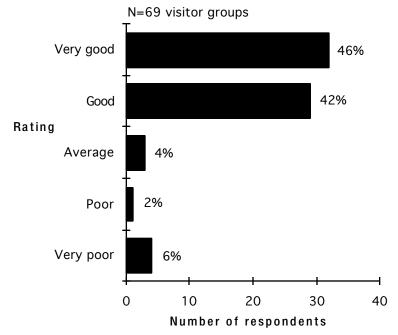


Figure 51: Evaluation of stage view from rear orchestra seating (Filene Center visitors)

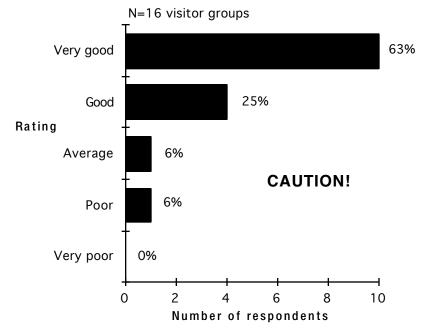


Figure 52: Evaluation of stage view from box seating (Filene Center visitors)

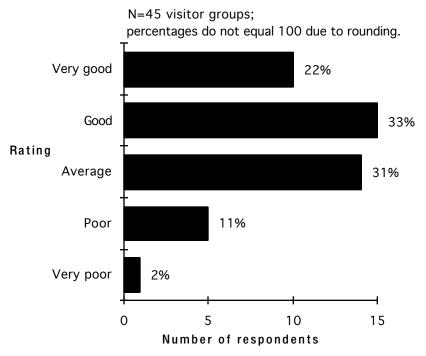


Figure 53: Evaluation of stage view from loge seating (Filene Center visitors)

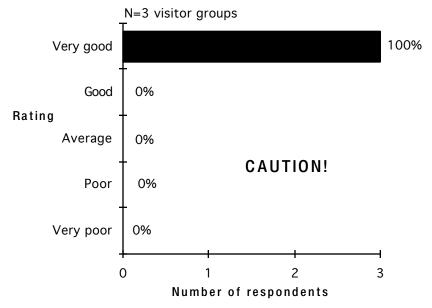


Figure 54: Evaluation of stage view from pit seating (Filene Center visitors)

The most commonly used services were the Filene Center lawn seating (49%), Filene Center seats (32%) and the box office (27%), as shown in Figure 55. The least used service was the listening device/ service for hearing impaired (1%). "Other" services included: food services, picnic area, handicapped parking, restrooms, and lawn seating.

Visitor services: use and quality

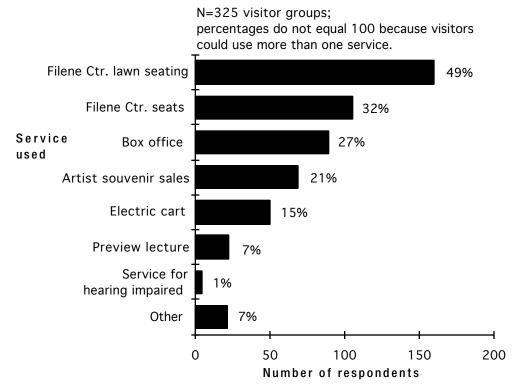


Figure 55: Use of services (Filene Center visitors)

Filene Center visitors rated the quality of visitor services they used at Wolf Trap, using the five point scale below.

QUALITY
1=very good
2=good
3=average
4=poor
5=very poor

Figures 56-63 show that several services were given high "good" to "very good" quality ratings: the information kiosk (92%), picnic areas (83%) and pay telephones (78%). The services receiving the highest "poor" to "very poor" ratings were pay telephones (5%) and the gift shop (4%).

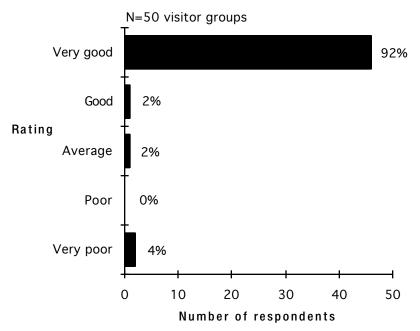


Figure 56: Quality of electric passenger cart (Filene Center visitors)

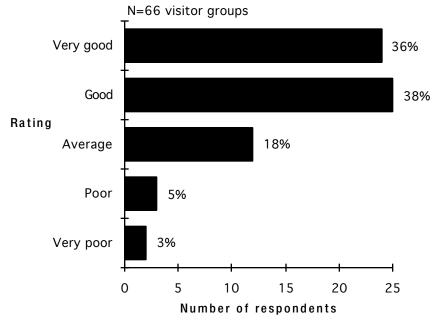


Figure 57: Quality of artist souvenir sales (Filene Center visitors)

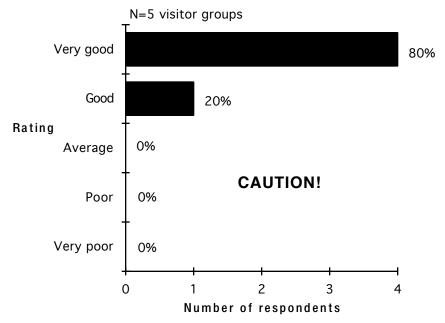


Figure 58: Quality of listening device/service for hearing impaired (Filene Center visitors)

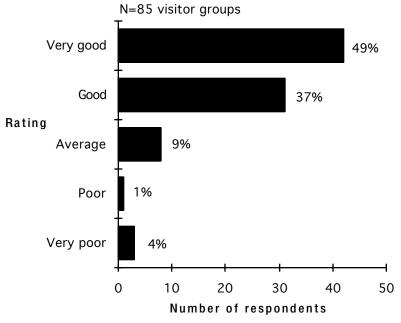


Figure 59: Quality of box office (Filene Center visitors)

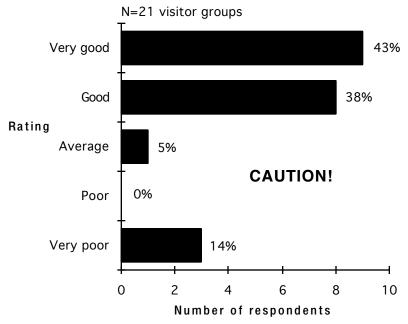


Figure 60: Quality of pre-performance preview/lecture (Filene Center visitors)

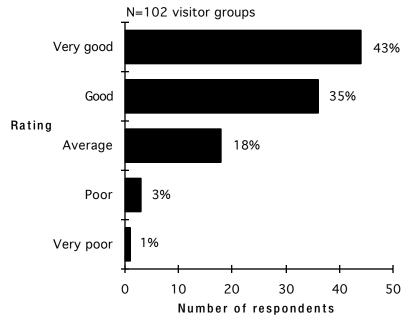


Figure 61: Quality of Filene Center seats (Filene Center visitors)

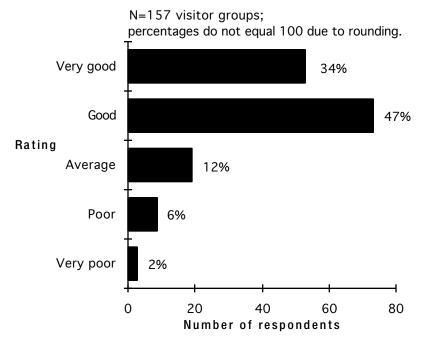


Figure 62: Quality of Filene Center lawn seating (Filene Center visitors)

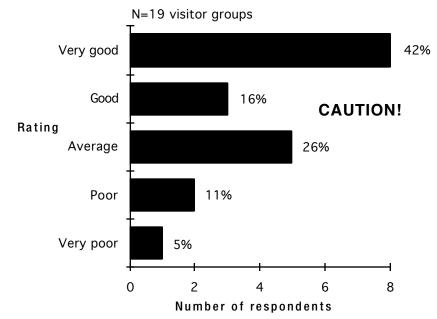


Figure 63: Quality of other services (Filene Center visitors)

The most commonly used facilities at Filene Center were the restrooms (88%), parking (82%) and refreshment stands (45%), as shown in Figure 64. The least used facility was the Meadows Restaurant and Lounge (5%).

Visitor facilities: use and quality

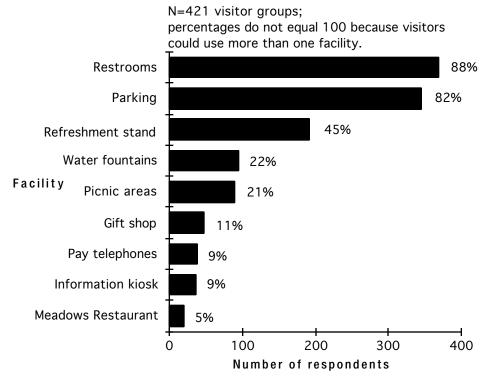


Figure 64: Use of facilities (Filene Center visitors)

Visitors rated the quality of visitor facilities they used at Filene Center. They used a five point scale (see the box below).

QUALITY
1=very good
2=good
3=average
4=poor
5=very poor

Figures 65-73 show that several facilities were given high "good" to "very good" ratings: information kiosk (92%), picnic areas (82%), and pay telephones (78%). The facilities receiving the highest "very poor" ratings were the pay telephones (5%) and the gift shop (4%).

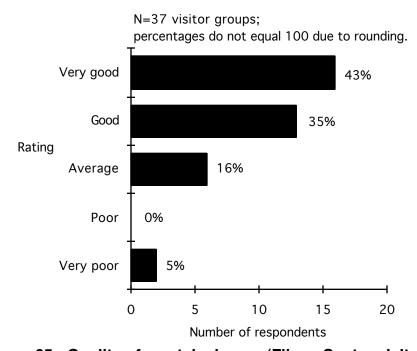


Figure 65: Quality of pay telephones (Filene Center visitors)

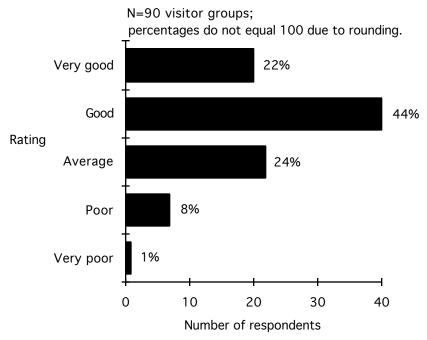


Figure 66: Quality of water fountains (Filene Center visitors)

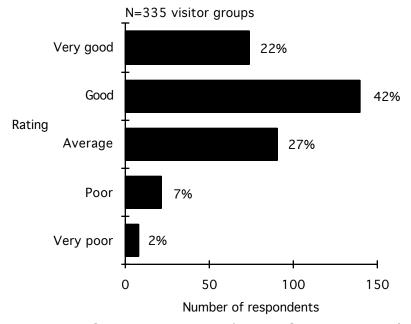


Figure 67: Quality of parking (Filene Center visitors)

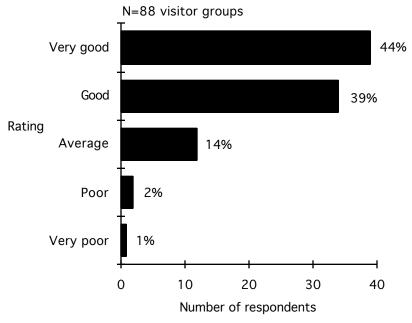


Figure 68: Quality of picnic areas (Filene Center visitors)

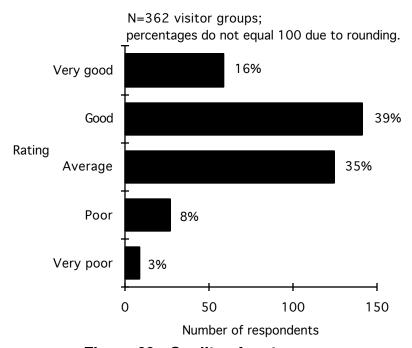


Figure 69: Quality of restrooms (Filene Center visitors)

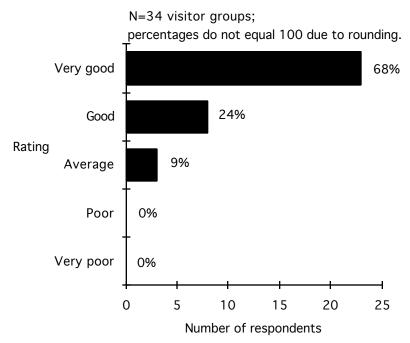


Figure 70: Quality of information kiosk (Filene Center visitors)

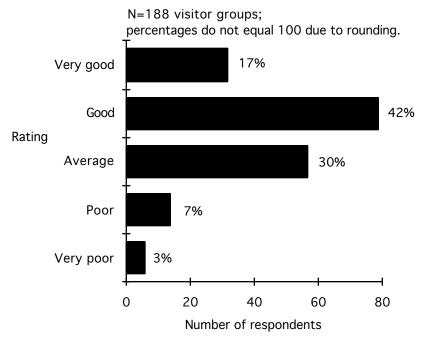


Figure 71: Quality of refreshment stands (Filene Center visitors)

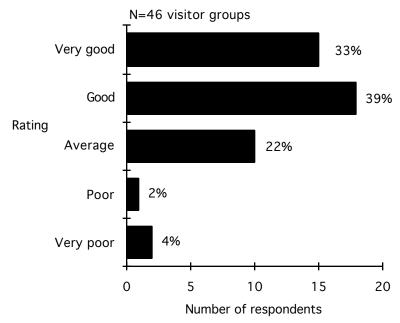


Figure 72: Quality of gift shop (Filene Center visitors)

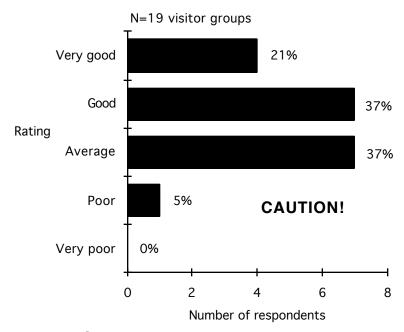


Figure 73: Quality of Meadows restaurant and lounge (Filene Center visitors)

Visitors were asked to rate the importance of the following park features: the natural setting, variety of performances and picnicking. They used a five point scale (see box below).

Importance of park features

The features receiving the highest "very important" to "extremely important" ratings were: the variety of performances (89%), the natural setting (79%) and picnicking (54%), as shown in Figures 74-76. The feature which received the highest "not important" rating was picnicking (8%).

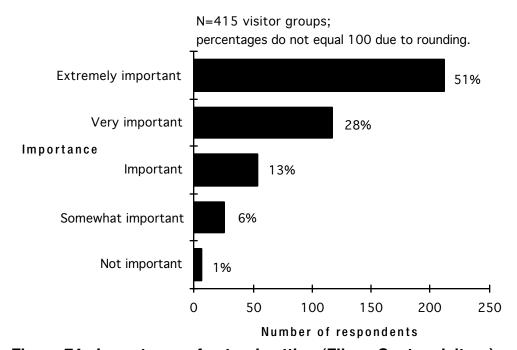


Figure 74: Importance of natural setting (Filene Center visitors)

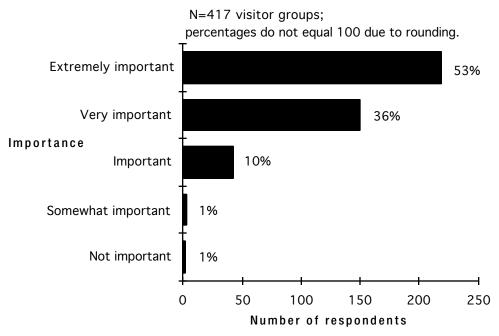


Figure 75: Importance of variety of performances (Filene Center visitors)

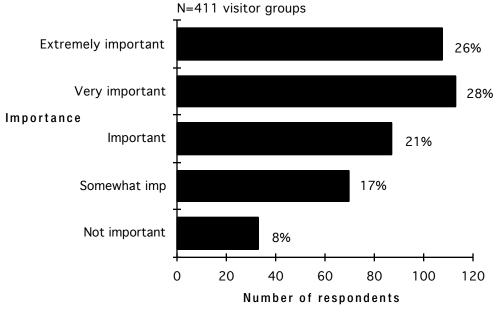


Figure 76: Importance of picnicking (Filene Center visitors)

The National Park Service is considering development of a future shuttle system from off-site parking areas to the park entrance and back. Visitors were asked if they would use the shuttle during a future visit. Over half of the Filene Center visitors (53%) said it is likely that they would use a shuttle (see Figure 77). Twenty-four percent said it was unlikely they would use a future shuttle, and 23% said they didn't know.

Future shuttle system use

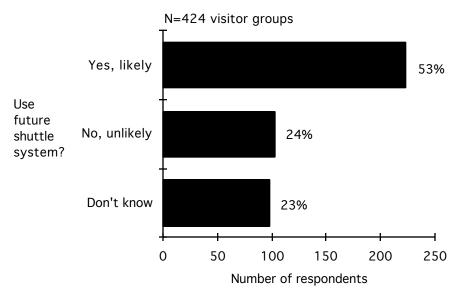


Figure 77: Likely use of future shuttle system (Filene Center visitors)

Proposals for future planning

Filene Center visitors were asked, "If you were planning for the future of Wolf Trap Farm Park what would you propose? Please be specific." A summary of their comments appears below.

# Proposals for future planning (Filene Center visitors)

N=59 comments; many visitors made more than one comment.

| INTERPRETIVE SERVICES  More performances 7 More opera 2 More classical music 2 Other comments 3  FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE  Control traffic when exiting 7 Better parking 6 Do not expand facility 3 Do not commercialize 2 Modernize sound system 2 Offer shuttle to parking lots 2 Improve restrooms 2 Add ventilation fans 2 More picnic tables 2 Have rain cover on lawn areas 2 Other comments 4  POLICY  Better enforcement 3 Expand season 2 Other comments 3  CONCESSIONS  More variety at food stands 7 Provide cheaper food concessions 2   | Comment   | Number of times<br>mentioned |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| More opera More classical music Other comments  3  FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE  Control traffic when exiting Better parking Do not expand facility Do not commercialize Modernize sound system Offer shuttle to parking lots Improve restrooms Add ventilation fans More picnic tables Have rain cover on lawn areas Other comments  POLICY  Better enforcement Expand season Other comments  3  CONCESSIONS  More variety at food stands  3  | INTERPRETIVE SERVICES   |                              |
| Control traffic when exiting Better parking Do not expand facility 3 Do not commercialize Modernize sound system 2 Offer shuttle to parking lots Improve restrooms Add ventilation fans More picnic tables Have rain cover on lawn areas Other comments  POLICY  Better enforcement Expand season Other comments  CONCESSIONS  More variety at food stands  7 Better parking 6 Better parking 5 2 Concessions 3 Concessions  | More opera<br>More classical music  |                              |
| Better parking Do not expand facility Do not commercialize Modernize sound system 2 Offer shuttle to parking lots Improve restrooms Add ventilation fans More picnic tables Have rain cover on lawn areas Other comments  POLICY  Better enforcement Expand season Other comments  CONCESSIONS  More variety at food stands  6 Better enforcement Better enforcemen | FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE  |                              |
| Better enforcement 3 Expand season 2 Other comments 3  CONCESSIONS  More variety at food stands 3  | Better parking Do not expand facility Do not commercialize Modernize sound system Offer shuttle to parking lots Improve restrooms Add ventilation fans More picnic tables Have rain cover on lawn areas |                              |
| Expand season 2 Other comments 3  CONCESSIONS  More variety at food stands 3   | POLICY  |                              |
| More variety at food stands 3  | Expand season   | 3<br>2<br>3                  |
|  | CONCESSIONS   |                              |
|  |   | 3<br>2                       |

Filene Center visitors were asked, "What did you like most about your visit to Wolf Trap Farm Park?" A summary of their comments appears below and in the appendix.

What visitors liked most

## Visitors' likes (Filene Center visitors)

N=135 comments; many visitors made more than one comment.

| Comment  | Number of times<br>mentioned           |
|--|--|
| PERSONNEL  |  |
| Park staff friendly/helpful  | 6                                      |
| INTERPRETIVE SERVICES  |  |
| Performances National Symphony The Four Tops/Temptations Diversity of performances   | 27<br>2<br>2<br>2                      |
| FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE   |  |
| Good seats Grounds well-maintained Sound system Lawn seats Other comments  | 4<br>4<br>2<br>2<br>3                  |
| POLICY   |  |
| Traffic/crowd control Reasonable ticket prices Other comment   | 4<br>2<br>1                            |
| GENERAL IMPRESSIONS  |  |
| Natural setting Picnicking Atmosphere Friendly audience Being with family/friends Easy access Close to home Other comments | 33<br>10<br>9<br>6<br>5<br>4<br>3<br>4 |

# What visitors liked least

Filene Center visitors were asked, "What did you like least about your visit to Wolf Trap Farm Park"? A summary of their comments appears below and in the appendix.

### Visitor dislikes (Filene Center visitors)

N=77 comments; many visitors made more than one comment.

| Comment  | Number of times<br>mentioned |
|--|------------------------------|
| PERSONNEL  |                              |
| Comment  | 1                            |
| INTERPRETIVE SERVICES  |                              |
| Comments   | 2                            |
| FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE   |                              |
| Sound quality Parking Restrooms Lawn seating Other comments                | 4<br>3<br>3<br>3<br>5        |
| POLICY   |                              |
| Poor enforcement of rules<br>Smoking on lawn not enforced<br>Other comment | 6<br>3<br>1                  |
| GENERAL IMPRESSIONS  |                              |
| Crowds Weather Prices too expensive Nothing Rude visitors Other comments   | 19<br>16<br>3<br>3<br>2<br>3 |

Many Filene Center visitors wrote additional comments, which are included in the separate appendix of this report. Their comments are summarized below and in the appendix. Some comments offer specific suggestions on how to improve the park; others describe what visitors enjoyed or did not enjoy.

# Comment summary

# Comment summary (Filene Center visitors)

N=62 comments; many visitors made more than one comment.

| Comment   | Number of times<br>mentioned     |
|---|----------------------------------|
| PERSONNEL   |                                  |
| Friendly/helpful park staff<br>Park staff was rude  | 4<br>2                           |
| INTERPRETIVE SERVICES   |                                  |
| Enjoyed performance<br>Other comment  | 5<br>1                           |
| FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE  |                                  |
| Grounds well-maintained Other comments  | 2 4                              |
| POLICIES  |                                  |
| Need better traffic/crowd control<br>Rules not enforced<br>Other comments                                 | 7<br>3<br>3                      |
| GENERAL IMPRESSIONS   |                                  |
| Enjoyed visit Have visited many times Will return Well managed Beautiful setting Thank you Other comments | 10<br>5<br>3<br>3<br>2<br>2<br>6 |

#### MENU FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

Park personnel who wish to see other tables, graphs, and maps to learn more about their visitors may request such information from the VSP. Two kinds of analyses are available:

- 1) Two-way comparisons compare two characteristics. For example, to learn about which information sources a particular age group consulted, request a comparison of <u>information sources</u> by <u>age group</u>, to learn about how the use of information sources varied among group types, request a comparison of <u>information sources</u> by group type.
- 2) Three-way comparisons compare a two-way comparison to a third characteristic. For example, to learn about what interpretive/information services were used by different visitor group types and sizes, request a comparison of interpretation/information services used by group type by group size; to learn about what interpretive/information services were used by different age groups by group type, request a comparison of interpretive/information services by age groups by group type.

Consult the list of characteristics for Wolf Trap visitors; then complete the appropriate blanks on the order form. Make a copy of the order form which follows the example below.

#### SAMPLE

|  | Design Anglysis Or   | der Form   |
|--|--|--|
| Visitor Services Project Analysis Order Form<br>Wolf Trap Farm Park - Filene Center<br>Report 67 |  |  |
| Phone number (commercial).   |  | conducted  |
| The following list has the van   | ables available for companson from<br>and the characteristics for which you<br>parisons. Be as specific as possible-<br>ad of all that were listed in the questi | want to request additional -you may select a single onnaire.  Seating sound volume |
| <ul> <li>Source of information</li> </ul>  | <ul> <li>Parking location</li> </ul>   | Seating sound volume   |
|  | • Age  | Service used   |
| Length of stay   | State residence  | Service quality  |
| Group size   | Country residence  | Future shuttle use   |
| Group type   | <ul> <li>Number of visits</li> </ul>   | Facilities used  |
| Bus/tour group   | <ul> <li>Willingness to pay for parking</li> </ul>   | Facilities quality   |
| Forms of transportation  | · Seating sound quality  | <ul> <li>Importance of park features</li> </ul>                                    |
| <ul> <li>Number of vehicles</li> </ul>   | · Seating stage view   |  |
| <ul> <li>Private vehicle use</li> </ul>  |  | the above list). Be sure to  |
| Two-way compansons (wr<br>designate Theater in the Y   | the in the appropriate variables from the voods of Fliene Center visitors of Schille by Older by Older by Older by   | group  |
|  |  | He Sure to   |
| special instructions I   | by   | by group my pro-<br>by   |

### Visitor Services Project Analysis Order Form Wolf Trap Farm Park - Filene Center Report 67

| Date of request:/   | /   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Person requesting analysis:                                 | ·   |  |
| Phone number (commercial                                    | ):  | <del>-</del>   |
| in your park. Use this list to<br>two-way and three-way con | riables available for comparison fro<br>find the characteristics for which y<br>nparisons. Be as specific as possib<br>ead of all that were listed in the que | ou want to request additional<br>leyou may select a single |
| Source of information                                       | Parking location  | <ul> <li>Seating sound volume</li> </ul>                   |
| • Length of stay  | • Age   | Service used   |
| Group size  | State residence   | <ul> <li>Service quality</li> </ul>                        |
| Group type  | <ul> <li>Country residence</li> </ul>   | <ul> <li>Future shuttle use</li> </ul>                     |
| Bus/tour group  | <ul> <li>Number of visits</li> </ul>  | <ul> <li>Facilities used</li> </ul>                        |
| Forms of transportation                                     | <ul> <li>Willingness to pay for parking</li> </ul>  | <ul> <li>Facilities quality</li> </ul>                     |
| Number of vehicles used                                     | <ul> <li>Seating sound quality</li> </ul>   | • Importance of park features                              |
| Private vehicle use   | <ul> <li>Seating stage view</li> </ul>  |  |
|   | -   | sitors.  |
|   |   |  |
|   | rite in the appropriate variables fron<br>e-in-the-Woods or Filene Center vis   |  |
|   | by  | _by  |
|   | by  |  |
|   | by  | by   |
|   | -   |  |
| Special instructions  |   |  |
|   |   |  |
|   |   |  |

Mail to:

Visitor Services Project, CPSU
College of Forestry, Wildlife, and Range Sciences
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho 83844-1133

#### Visitor Services Project Analysis Order Form Wolf Trap Farm Park - Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods Report 67

| Date of request:/_   |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Person requesting analysi  | s:  |   |
| Phone number (commerci   | al):  |   |
| in your park. Use this list two-way and three-way co   | to find the characteristics for                                       | rison from the visitor survey conducted which you want to request additional s possibleyou may select a single the questionnaire. |
| Source of information  | <ul> <li>Ages of children in<br/>organized group</li> </ul>           | <ul> <li>Number of visits</li> </ul>  |
| <ul> <li>Length of stay</li> </ul>   | <ul> <li>Ages of adults with<br/>organized children's grou</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Forms of transportation</li> </ul>   |
| Group size   | • Age   | <ul> <li>Number of vehicles used</li> </ul>   |
| <ul> <li>Group type</li> </ul>   | <ul> <li>State residence</li> </ul>                                   | <ul> <li>Service/facility used</li> </ul>   |
| <ul> <li>With organized group</li> </ul>   | <ul> <li>Country residence</li> </ul>                                 | <ul> <li>Service/facility quality</li> </ul>  |
| <ul> <li>Number of children in<br/>organized group</li> <li>Two-way comparisons (wr</li> </ul> | ite in the appropriate variable                                       | es from the above list). Be sure to designat  |
| Filene Center or Children's  | s Theatre-in-the-Woods visito   | ors.  |
|  | by  |   |
|  | by  |   |
|  | by  |   |
| Three-way comparisons (v   | write in the appropriate variat<br>r Children's Theatre-in-the-W      | oles from the above list). Be sure to loods visitors.   |
|  | by  | by  |
|  | by  | by  |
|  | by  | by  |
| Special instructions   |   |   |
|  |   |   |
|  |   |   |
|  |   |   |

Mail to:

Visitor Services Project, CPSU
College of Forestry, Wildlife, and Range Sciences
University of Idaho
Moscow, Idaho 83844-1133

#### **QUESTIONNAIRES**

Of the 775 questionnaires distributed at Wolf Trap Farm Park, 150 were distributed at Theatre-in-the-Woods performances and 625 at Filene Center performances (see Tables A and B). Each table shows the number of questionnaires distributed, the number and proportion of questionnaires returned and the overall proportion of questionnaires returned for each performance.

Questionnaire distribution

Table A: Number and proportion of questionnaires distributed and returned at each Theatre-in-the-Woods performance

| Date/perfo | rmance q  | Number of<br>uestionnaires<br>distributed | Question<br>return<br>Number | ed   | Overall response rate % |
|------------|---|---|------------------------------|------|-------------------------|
| July 16    | Creative Opera Ensemble:<br>Little Red Riding Hood  | 25  | 22                           | 18   | 88                      |
| July 18    | The Young Columbians 10 a.r<br>Marc Spiegal 11 a.m. | n.<br>20                                  | 18                           | 14   | 90                      |
| July 19    | The Young Columbians 10 a.r<br>Marc Spiegal 11 a.m. | n.<br>20                                  | 16                           | 13   | 80                      |
| July 20    | The Young Columbians 10 a.r<br>Marc Spiegal 11 a.m. | n.<br>20                                  | 16                           | 13   | 80                      |
| July 21    | The Young Columbians 10 a.r<br>Marc Spiegal 11 a.m. | n.<br>21                                  | 18                           | 14   | 86                      |
| July 22    | The Young Columbians 10 a.r Marc Spiegal 11 a.m.    | n.<br>22                                  | 16                           | 13   | 73                      |
| July 25    | Mark Jaster 10 a.m.<br>Ana Martinez Flemenco Danc   | e Co. 22                                  | 19                           | 15   | 86                      |
| TOTAL      |   | 150                                       | 125                          | 100% | 83%                     |

Table B. Number and proportion of questionnaires distributed and returned at each Filene Center performance

| Date/perfo | ormance               | Number of<br>questionnaires<br>distributed | Questior<br>return<br>Number | ed   | Overall response rate % |
|------------|-----------------------|--|------------------------------|------|-------------------------|
| July 16    | National Symphony     | 105  | 75                           | 18   | 71                      |
| July 17    | Temptations/Four Tops | 105  | 67                           | 16   | 64                      |
| July 19    | Santana               | 105  | 67                           | 16   | 64                      |
| July 21    | Kenny Loggins         | 105  | 70                           | 16   | 67                      |
| July 22    | Peter, Paul and Mary  | 109  | 85                           | 20   | 78                      |
| July 25    | Vince Gill            | 96   | 62                           | 15   | 65                      |
| TOTAL      |                       | 625  | 426                          | 101% | 68%                     |
| GRAND T    | OTAL                  | 775  | 551                          |      | 71%                     |

NPS D-10 March 1995



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## **Visitor Services Project**

# Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts

**Appendix** 

Visitor Services Project Report 67 Cooperative Park Studies Unit





### **Visitor Services Project**

# Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts

### **Appendix**

Margaret Littlejohn

Report 67

March 1995

Margaret Littlejohn is VSP Western Coordinator, National Park Service based at the Cooperative Park Studies Unit, University of Idaho. I thank Dwight Madison who conducted this study, and the staff of Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts for their assistance. The VSP acknowledges the Public Opinion Lab of the Social and Economic Sciences Research Center, Washington State University, for its technical assistance.

# Proposals for future planning (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

N=100 comments; many visitors made more than one comment.

| Comment No.   | umber of times<br>mentioned  |
|---|------------------------------|
| SHOWS/PERFORMANCES  |                              |
| Continue as it is   | 17                           |
| More children's programs throughout the year  | 11                           |
| Quicker/better reservation system needed Offer more variety in shows, times and lengths     | 9<br>6                       |
| List age levels for each performance  | 4                            |
| Puppet shows  | 3                            |
| Would like to have schedule of programs mailed to   | home 3                       |
| Keep audiences small  | home 3 2 2 2 2 shops 2 2 2 2 |
| More programs for toddlers  | 2                            |
| Multi-cultural performances   | 2                            |
| Include programs that reach all ages Offer more opportunities for children to join in works | chone 2                      |
| Provide shuttles to & from metro/parking lot  | 2 2                          |
| Provide entertainment festivals   | 2                            |
| Other comments  | 6                            |
| FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE  |                              |
| Provide parking closer to Children's Theatre-in-the-  | Woods 6                      |
| Build restrooms closer to Children's Theatre-in-the-  |                              |
| Playground area for children  |                              |
| Need more shade at picnic areas and along walks   | 2<br>2<br>6                  |
| Other comments  | 6                            |
| POLICY  |                              |
| Preserve natural setting  | 3                            |
| Offer more low-cost events for families   | 3<br>2<br>2                  |
| Other comments  | 2                            |

### Visitors' likes (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

N=155 comments; many visitors made more than one comment.

|  | ber of times<br>mentioned        |  |
|--|----------------------------------|--|
| PERSONNEL  |                                  |  |
| Friendly rangers<br>Friendly staff   | 8<br>3                           |  |
| SHOWS/PERFORMANCES   |                                  |  |
| The performance/show The way the shows are run Volunteers with hand puppets The mime   | 44<br>5<br>2<br>2                |  |
| FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE   |                                  |  |
| Picnic area provided<br>Clean park<br>Paved walkway<br>Good seats<br>Other comments  | 7<br>4<br>2<br>2<br>2            |  |
| POLICY   |                                  |  |
| Free shows Park allows children to run freely Other comments   | 12<br>2<br>2                     |  |
| GENERAL IMPRESSIONS  |                                  |  |
| The natural setting The creek Everything Spending quality time with my children/family atmosphere The weather Comfortable setting Relaxed atmosphere Other comment | 37<br>6<br>4<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>2 |  |

# Visitor dislikes (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors)

N=109 comments; many visitors made more than one comment.

| Comment   | Number of times<br>mentioned       |
|---|------------------------------------|
| SHOWS/PERFORMANCES  |                                    |
| Wait to make a reservation<br>Improve sound/stage view<br>Other comments  | 2<br>2<br>5                        |
| FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE  |                                    |
| Long walk to the bathroom Lack of shaded picnic tables Trail wet Benches wet Bathrooms need to be cleaner Lack of signs/access from airport area Other comments | 5<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>5    |
| GENERAL IMPRESSIONS   |                                    |
| Long walk to/from the parking lot Heat & humidity The insects The hill Nothing, enjoyed everything Lack of available drinks for children Other comments         | 30<br>15<br>13<br>9<br>8<br>2<br>3 |

# Visitor comment summary (Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods visitors) N=100 comments;

many visitors made more than one comment.

| Comment  | Number of times<br>mentioned                   |
|--|--|
| PERSONNEL  |  |
| Park rangers friendly/helpful<br>Park staff friendly/helpful   | 9<br>5   |
| SHOWS/PERFORMANCES   |  |
| Enjoyed show Continue programs in the future Come to Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods often Better reservation system needed Offer more information about shows Did not like aspect of show Shows top quality More children's programs throughout the year Show too long Provide more ethnic/female characters Other comments | 8<br>5<br>4<br>3<br>3<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>3 |
| FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE   |  |
| Comments   | 6  |
| POLICY   |  |
| Like performance free<br>Other comments  | 10<br>3  |
| GENERAL IMPRESSIONS  |  |
| Thank you Keep up the good work Enjoyed the visit Plan to return Like the natural setting  | 9<br>8<br>7<br>3<br>2                          |

## Proposals for future planning (Filene Center visitors)

N=59 comments; many visitors made more than one comment.

| Comment   | Number of times<br>mentioned                        |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| INTERPRETIVE SERVICES   |   |  |  |
| More performances<br>More opera<br>More classical music<br>Other comments   | 7<br>2<br>2<br>3                                    |  |  |
| FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE  |   |  |  |
| Control traffic when exiting Better parking Do not expand facility Do not commercialize Modernize sound system Offer shuttle to parking lots Improve restrooms Add ventilation fans More picnic tables Have rain cover on lawn areas Other comments | 7<br>6<br>3<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>4 |  |  |
| POLICY  |   |  |  |
| Better enforcement<br>Expand season<br>Other comments   | 3<br>2<br>3   |  |  |
| CONCESSIONS   |   |  |  |
| More variety at food stands Provide cheaper food concessions  | 3<br>2  |  |  |

Visitors' likes (Filene Center visitors) N=135 comments; many visitors made more than one comment.

| Comment  | Number of times<br>mentioned           |
|--|--|
| PERSONNEL  |  |
| Park staff friendly/helpful  | 6                                      |
| INTERPRETIVE SERVICES  |  |
| Performances National Symphony The Four Tops/Temptations Diversity of performances   | 27<br>2<br>2<br>2                      |
| FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE   |  |
| Good seats Grounds well-maintained Sound system Lawn seats Other comments  | 4<br>4<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>3             |
| POLICY   |  |
| Traffic/crowd control<br>Reasonable ticket prices<br>Other comment   | 4<br>2<br>1                            |
| GENERAL IMPRESSIONS  |  |
| Natural setting Picnicking Atmosphere Friendly audience Being with family/friends Easy access Close to home Other comments | 33<br>10<br>9<br>6<br>5<br>4<br>3<br>4 |

Visitor dislikes (Filene Center visitors) N=77 comments; many visitors made more than one comment.

| Comment  | Number of time<br>mentione   |
|--|------------------------------|
| PERSONNEL  |                              |
| Comment  | 1                            |
| INTERPRETIVE SERVICES  |                              |
| Comments   | 2                            |
| FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE   |                              |
| Sound quality Parking Restrooms Lawn seating Other comments                | 4<br>3<br>3<br>3<br>5        |
| POLICY   |                              |
| Poor enforcement of rules<br>Smoking on lawn not enforced<br>Other comment | 6<br>3<br>1                  |
| GENERAL IMPRESSIONS  |                              |
| Crowds Weather Prices too expensive Nothing Rude visitors Other comments   | 19<br>16<br>3<br>3<br>2<br>3 |

Comment summary (Filene Center visitors) N=62 comments; many visitors made more than one comment.

| Comment   | Number of times<br>mentioned |
|---|------------------------------|
| PERSONNEL   |                              |
| Friendly/helpful park staff<br>Park staff was rude  | 4<br>2                       |
| INTERPRETIVE SERVICES   |                              |
| Enjoyed performance<br>Other comment  | 5<br>1                       |
| FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE  |                              |
| Grounds well-maintained<br>Other comments   | 2<br>4                       |
| POLICIES  |                              |
| Need better traffic/crowd control<br>Rules not enforced<br>Other comments                                 | 7<br>3<br>3                  |
| GENERAL IMPRESSIONS   |                              |
| Enjoyed visit Have visited many times Will return Well managed Beautiful setting Thank you Other comments | 10<br>5<br>3<br>2<br>2<br>6  |