

Visitor Use and Associated Benefits of the UMD Bagley Nature Area

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Introduction

The purpose of this study was

- Analyze data from users at the Bagley Nature Area (BNA)
- Determine Visitor Use
- Determine Visitor Use type (classes, hikers, skiers, etc.)

Data was collected using:

- Electronic eye sensors (3 locations)
- Trail Camera (discreetly placed)

Data will be used to

- Guide site management
- Assess extent of use
- Manage unique campus/community resource sustainability

Background Information

Benefits of Nature-Based Experience

- Health
 - Physical (diminished health risks such as weigh and cardio)
- Social (sense of identity)
- Emotional (stress reduction)

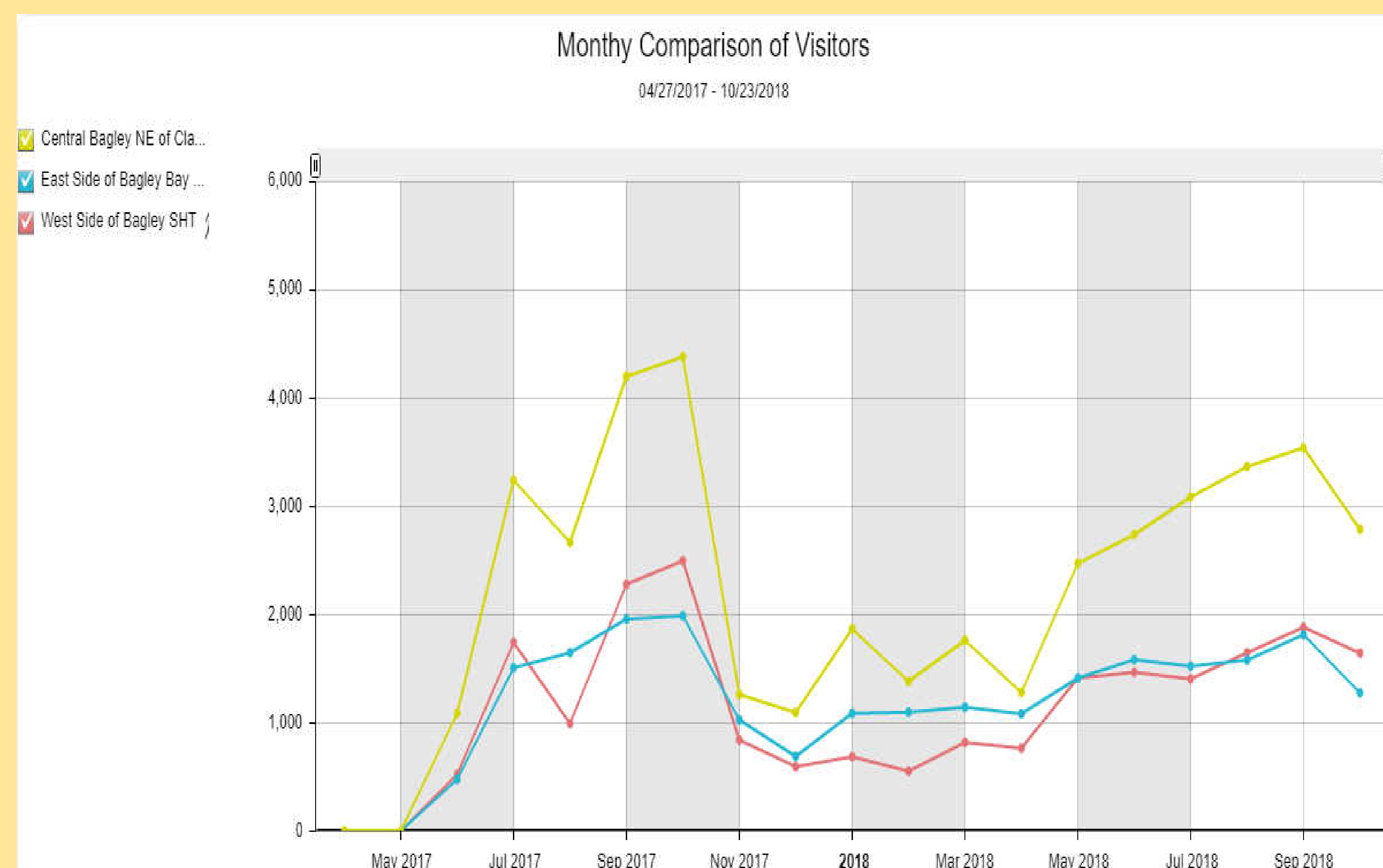
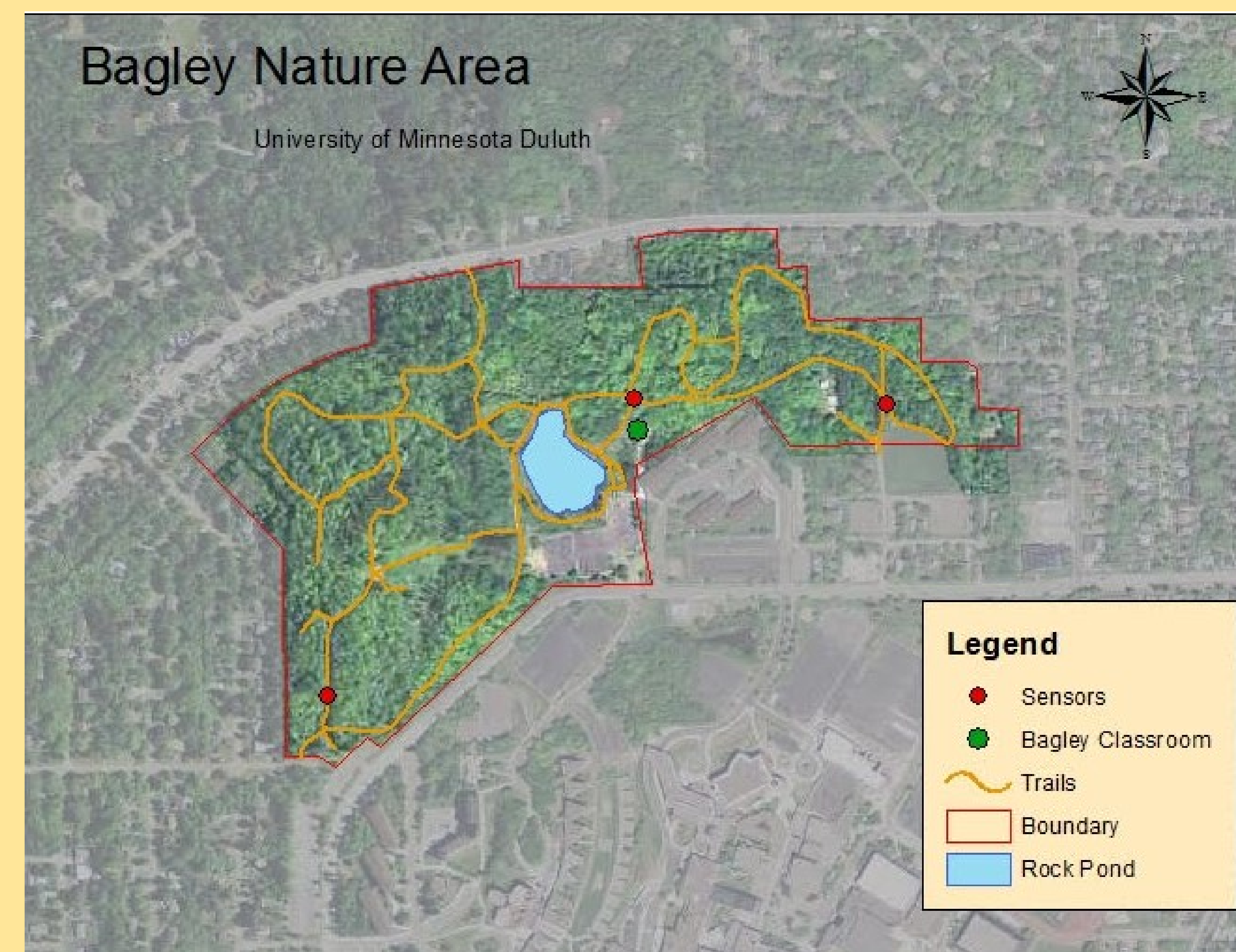
Benefits of Visitor Use Surveys

- assess what the use of a specific site is in volume and activity
- determine if the use is sustainable for the environment.
- Evaluate if the use is sustainable to maintain visitor experience

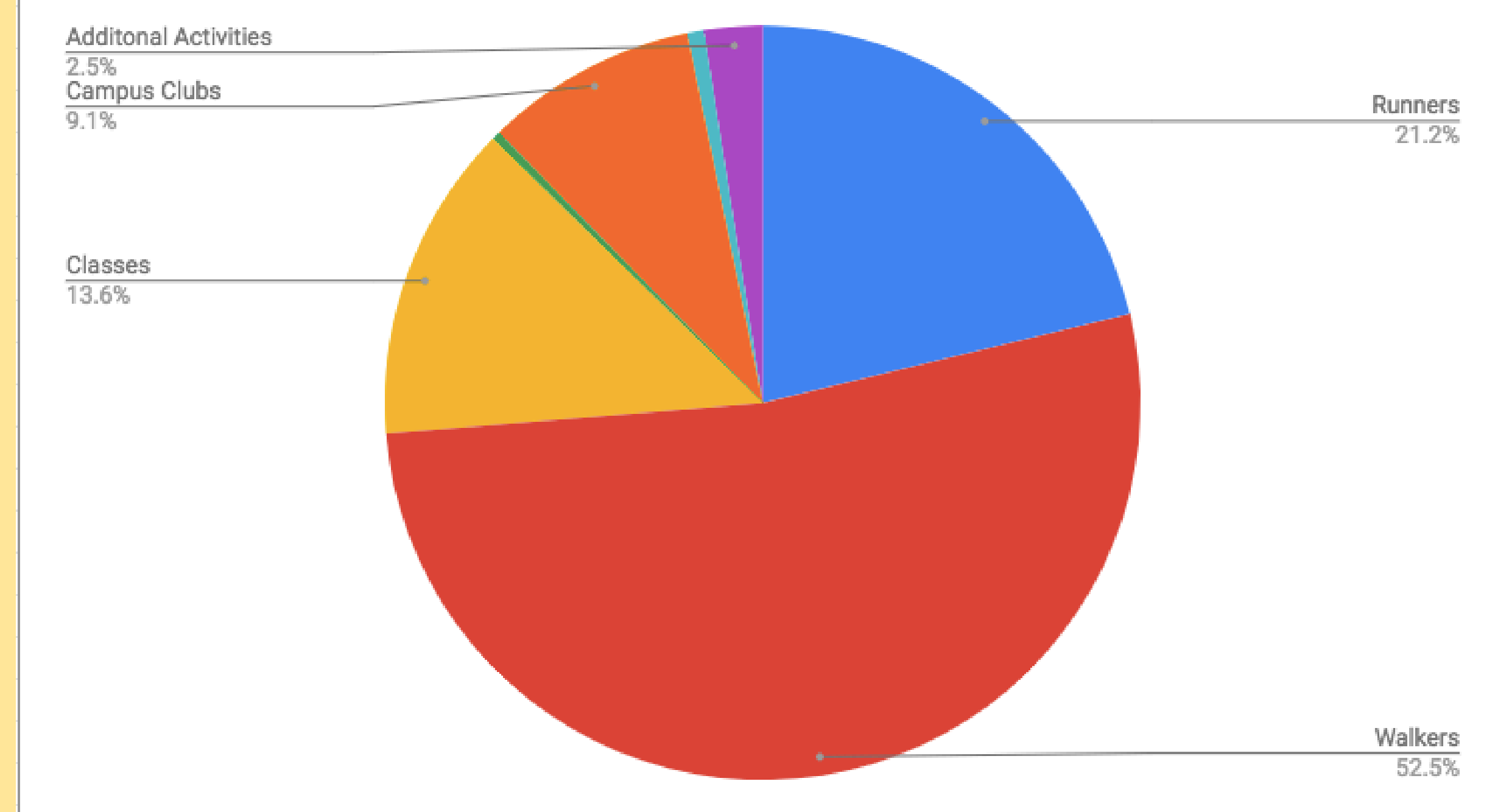
Methods

Three phases

1. Background analysis of previous visitor use surveys
2. Collection and analysis of data from trail cameras and electronic sensors
3. Discussion and recommendations for the future of Bagley Nature Area



Use of Bagley Nature Area Distributed by Activity



Discussion and Recommendations

Results

- 42,204 visitors for the 18 month period
- Wide variety of activities (classes, hiking, photography, campus clubs ... etc.)

Recommendations

- site continue to be studied with increased use of trail cameras.
- Monitor for signs of reaching maximum capacity (in special relation to the installation of the Duluth Traverse).

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