

# Minnesota Milestones 2011



## Milestones 2011

- **Home**
- **Executive Summary**
- **Background**
- **Contact**

## More indicators

- **Minnesota Compass**
- **Milestones 2002**
- **Children's Services Report Card**
- **State Agency Accountability**

Welcome to Minnesota Milestones 2011! Minnesota Milestones began in 1991 in the belief that a shared vision, clear goals and measurement of results would lead to a better future for Minnesota. The report uses 60 progress indicators to determine whether the state is achieving 19 publicly determined goals. The goals are grouped in four broad areas: People, Community and Democracy, Economy and Environment.

As a starting point, readers are encouraged to read the [summary](#) of Minnesota Milestones 2011. The summary provides a brief overview on how Minnesota is progressing toward each goal. [Read more about Minnesota Milestones...](#)

## How is Minnesota doing?

Keep an eye out for these images to quickly tell which way the trend is going:



Undesirable or negative



No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.

Our children will not live in poverty.

- 1 [Child Poverty](#)
- 2 [Low-income School Children](#)

Families will provide a stable, supportive environment for their children.

- 3 [Teen Pregnancy](#)
- 4 [Kids Count Rank](#)

All children will be healthy and start school ready to learn.

- 5 [Low Birth Weight](#)
- 6 [On-time Immunization](#)
- 7 [School Readiness](#)

Minnesotans will excel in basic and challenging academic skills and knowledge.

- 8 [Third-grade Reading](#)
- 9 [11th Grade Math](#)
- 10 [High School Graduation](#)
- 11 [College Readiness](#)

Minnesotans will be healthy.

- 12 [Health Insurance](#)
- 13 [Infant Mortality](#)
- 14 [Life Expectancy](#)
- 15 [Diabetes](#)
- 16 [Obesity](#)
- 17 [Tobacco Use](#)
- 18 [Suicide](#)
- 19 [Index of Well-Being](#)
- 20 [Traffic Injuries and Fatalities](#)

---

Our communities will be safe, friendly and caring.

- 21 [Volunteering](#)
- 22 [Violent and Property Crime](#)
- 23 [Homicide Rate](#)
- 24 [Juvenile Apprehensions](#)

All people will be welcomed, respected and able to participate fully in Minnesota's communities and economy.

- 25 [Food Shelf Use](#)
- 26 [Homelessness](#)
- 27 [Employment of People with Disabilities](#)
- 28 [Bias Crimes](#)
- 29 [Voter Turnout](#)

Government in Minnesota will be cost-efficient, and services will be designed to meet the needs of the people who use them.

- 30 [Price of Government](#)
  - 31 [Bridges in Good Condition](#)
  - 32 [Commute Times](#)
- 

Minnesota will have sustainable, strong economic growth.

- 33 [Growth in Gross State Product](#)
- 34 [Employment of Working-age Population](#)
- 35 [Employment/population ratio](#)
- 36 [Change in Number of Jobs](#)
- 37 [Change in Number of Establishments](#)
- 38 [Unemployment Rate](#)

Minnesota's workforce will have the education and training to make the state a leader in the global economy.

- 39 [High School Education](#)
- 40 [Some College Education](#)
- 41 [College Graduation](#)

All Minnesotans will have the economic means to maintain a reasonable standard of living.

- 42 [Median Household Income Compared to U.S. Median](#)
- 43 [Poverty Rate](#)
- 44 [Average Wage](#)

All Minnesotans will have decent, safe and affordable housing.

- 45 [Home Ownership](#)
- 46 [Housing Costs](#)
- 47 [Foreclosures](#)

Rural areas, small cities and urban neighborhoods throughout the state will be economically viable places for people to live and work.

- 48 [Counties with In-Migration](#)
  - 49 [Regional Disparity in Unemployment](#)
  - 50 [Income by Congressional District](#)
- 

Minnesotans will improve the quality of the air, water and earth.

- 51 [Energy use per person](#)
- 52 [Air quality](#)
- 53 [Greenhouse gas emissions](#)
- 54 [Lake water quality](#)
- 55 [Water use](#)

56 [Drinking water quality](#)

Minnesotans will restore and maintain healthy ecosystems that support diverse plants and wildlife.

57 [Frogs](#)

58 [Loon populations](#)

59 [Breeding bird populations](#)

Minnesotans will have opportunities to enjoy the state's natural resources.

60 [Outdoor Recreation](#)



Milestones is a product of the Minnesota State Demographic Center, a division of the Department of Administration

# Minnesota Milestones 2011

## Milestones 2011

- Home
- Executive Summary
- Background
- Contact

## More indicators

- Minnesota Compass
- Milestones 2002
- Children's Services Report Card
- State Agency Accountability

## How is Minnesota doing?

Keep an eye out for these images to quickly tell which way the trend is going:



Undesirable or negative



No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.

## Indicator 51: Energy use per person

[login](#)



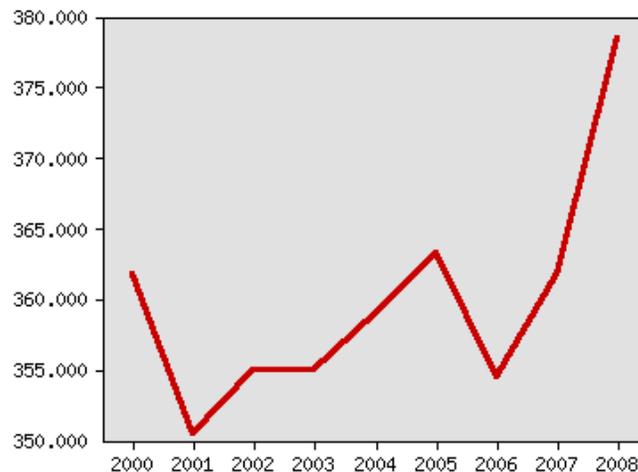
**Goal:** *Minnesotans will improve the quality of the air, water and earth.*



**Rationale:** Continued prosperity and community well-being depend on conserving and maintaining the natural systems that are the base for economic activity. Energy use is a good measure of both economic and environmental health because virtually all economic activities require energy, and all forms of energy production and use have environmental impacts.

**About this indicator:** Energy use per person, measured in millions of BTUs, was higher in 2008 than in any other year since 2000. The level remains substantially higher than in the early 1990s.

## Energy use per person in millions of BTU's



YEAR	DATA
2000	361.7
2001	350.4
2002	355.0

Energy use per person in millions of BTU's, U.S. Department of Energy

YEAR	DATA
2003	355.0
2004	359.0
2005	363.2
2006	354.5
2007	361.7
2008	378.4

Energy use per person in millions of BTU's, U.S. Department of Energy

**For comparison:** In 2008, Minnesota ranked 18th highest among states in per capital energy consumption. Minnesota's per capita consumption level, 378.8 million BTUs per person, was above the national average of 326.5.

**Sources:**

- U.S. Energy Information Agency, [http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/states/state.html?q\\_state\\_a=mn&q\\_state=MINNESOTA](http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/states/state.html?q_state_a=mn&q_state=MINNESOTA)
- U.S. Census Bureau Population estimates, <http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.html>

**Related 2002 Milestones indicator:**

- [Energy use per person](#)

Previous Indicator

Next Indicator



Milestones is a product of the Minnesota State Demographic Center, a division of the Department of Administration

## Milestones 2011

- Home
- Executive Summary
- Background
- Contact

## More indicators

- Minnesota Compass
- Milestones 2002
- Children's Services Report Card
- State Agency Accountability

## How is Minnesota doing?

Keep an eye out for these images to quickly tell which way the trend is going:



Undesirable or negative



No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.

## Indicator 52: Air quality

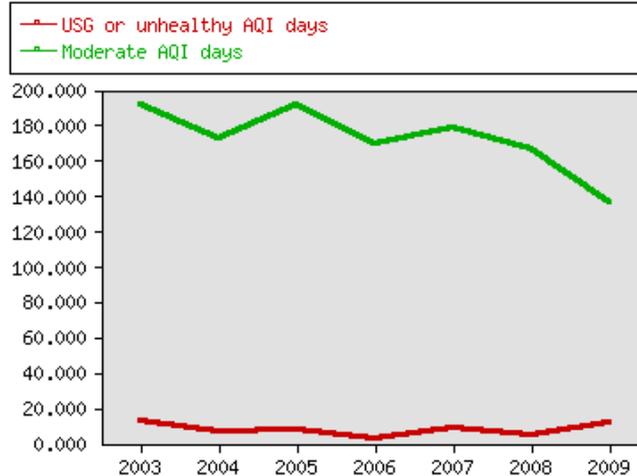
[login](#)



**Goal:** *Minnesotans will improve the quality of the air, water and earth.*

**Rationale:** Air quality in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, Minnesota's most urbanized region, is one indicator of the state's air quality.

**About this indicator:** Air quality in the Twin Cities is often not as good as it should be. Since 2003, the number of days classified as "moderate" air quality has fluctuated between 136 and 191. The number of days classified as "unhealthy" or "unhealthy for sensitive groups" (for example, people with asthma) has varied between 3 and 13. No clear trend is evident.



YEAR DATA

Moderate AQI days

USG or unhealthy AQI days

Moderate Air Quality Index days, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

[Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

Unhealthy for selective groups Air Quality Index days, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

	YEAR	DATA	
	2003	191	13
	2004	172	7
	2005	191	8
	2006	169	3
	2007	178	9
	2008	166	5
	2009	136	12

Moderate Air Quality Index days, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

[Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

Unhealthy for selective groups Air Quality Index days, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

**For comparison:** Air quality standards have changed over time and become more rigorous. Data collected before 2003 was evaluated using older criteria and cannot be directly compared to the more recent values. The newer numbers use more stringent ozone standards and continuous monitoring of fine particles.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, “Air Quality in Minnesota: Emerging Trends – 2009 Report to the Legislature,” January 2009.  
<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/lraq-1sy09.pdf>

**Related 2002 Milestones indicator:**

- [Urban air pollution](#)

Previous Indicator

Next Indicator



Milestones is a product of the Minnesota State Demographic Center, a division of the Department of Administration

## Milestones 2011

- Home
- Executive Summary
- Background
- Contact

## More indicators

- Minnesota Compass
- Milestones 2002
- Children's Services Report Card
- State Agency Accountability

## Indicator 53: Greenhouse gas emissions

[login](#)



**Goal:** *Minnesotans will improve the quality of the air, water and earth.*

**Rationale:** Greenhouse gases are implicated in climate change. Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is a major priority both nationally and internationally. In Minnesota, climate change will affect natural ecosystems, forestry, outdoor recreation, infrastructure like flood control and wastewater treatment, agriculture, and human comfort.

**About this indicator:** The Next Generation Energy Act of 2007 sets a goal of reducing Minnesota greenhouse gas emissions by at least 15 percent by 2015 over 2005 levels. The 2008 data show a slight decrease consistent with this goal.



### How is Minnesota doing?

Keep an eye out for these images to quickly tell which way the trend is going:



Undesirable or negative



No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.

YEAR	DATA								
	Total	Agricultural	Commercial	Electric utility	Residential	Transportation	Industrial	Waste	
1990	131.4	24.2	5.7	42.4	7.8	31.1	14.7	5.4	
2000	158.2	25.5	6.2	53.9	9.8	40.6	19.2	3.0	
2001	157.1	25.1	6.4	55.1	9.7	41.0	16.8	2.9	
2002	159.3	26.1	6.6	56.2	9.1	41.8	16.9	2.5	
2003	160.9	26.2	6.6	57.1	9.6	42.1	16.9	2.3	
2004	161.2	26.1	6.4	56.8	9.6	42.3	18.0	2.1	
2005	161.3	26.4	6.6	57.5	8.5	42.3	18.1	2.0	
2006	160.0	26.2	5.6	57.8	8.4	41.7	18.4	2.0	
2007	161.8	27.0	5.7	56.9	9.7	42.0	18.5	1.9	
2008	159.4	26.5	6.0	55.9	10.0	39.7	19.5	1.9	

Greenhouse gas emissions, total,

[Edit trend](#) |

[Edit data](#)

Greenhouse gas emissions, agricultural sector,

[Edit trend](#) |

[Edit data](#)

Greenhouse gas emissions, commercial,

[Edit trend](#) |

[Edit data](#)

Greenhouse gas emissions, electric utility,

[Edit trend](#) |

[Edit data](#)

Greenhouse gas emissions, residential,

[Edit trend](#) |

YEAR DATA

Edit data

Greenhouse gas  
emissions,  
transportation,

Edit trend |

Edit data

Greenhouse gas  
emissions, industrial,

Edit trend |

Edit data

Greenhouse gas  
emissions, waste,

Edit trend |

Edit data

**Things to think about:** The economic sectors making the largest contribution to greenhouse gas emissions are electric utilities, transportation and agriculture. Despite the decrease in 2008, emissions are substantially above the 1990 level.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Peter Ciborowski and Anne Clafin, "Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Minnesota: 1970-2006," June 2009. <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/p-gen4-05.pdf>

Previous Indicator

Next Indicator



Milestones is a product of the Minnesota State Demographic Center, a division of the Department of Administration

## Milestones 2011

- Home
- Executive Summary
- Background
- Contact

## More indicators

- Minnesota Compass
- Milestones 2002
- Children's Services Report Card
- State Agency Accountability

### How is Minnesota doing?

Keep an eye out for these images to quickly tell which way the trend is going:



Undesirable or negative



No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.

## Indicator 54: Lake water quality

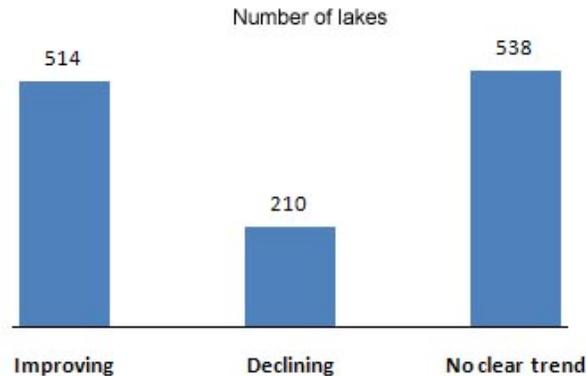
[login](#)



**Goal:** *Minnesotans will improve the quality of the air, water and earth.*

**Rationale:** Water quality affects the desirability of a lake for fishing, swimming and other recreation. Extreme cases of poor water quality can produce toxic algae blooms.

**About this indicator:** Volunteers in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Citizen Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP) measure the transparency (clarity) of lakes statewide using a Secchi Disk. Transparency is one simple measure of water quality. The results of a 2009 trend analysis performed on lakes with sufficient data for analysis show substantially more lakes with an improving water clarity trend, 514, than with a decreasing water clarity trend, 210. The remaining 538 lakes showed no clear trend. A Seasonal Kendall statistical test was used to determine trends for each lake. Only lakes with 8 or more years of data are included in the trend analysis.



Changes in Minnesota Lake water quality, Citizen Lake Monitoring Program, 2009 Survey

Changes in Minnesota lake water quality measured by Citizen Lake Monitoring Program

	2008	2009
Total improving	455	514

Changes in Minnesota lake water quality measured by Citizen Lake Monitoring Program

	2008	2009
Possibly improving	67	78
Likely improving	47	49
Very likely improving	113	122
Almost certainly improving	228	265
Total declining	231	210
Possibly declining	50	40
Likely declining	38	29
Very likely declining	53	65
Almost certainly declining	90	76
No clear trend	515	538

**For comparison:** Typical Secchi disk measures vary by ecoregion. They are highest in the Northern Lakes and Forests ecoregion in northeastern Minnesota. The Northern Glaciated Plains and Western Cornbelt Plains ecoregions in southern Minnesota have the lowest Secchi measures.

**Technical notes:** In 2009, 1263 Minnesota CLMP volunteers monitored the quality of 1237 lakes in the state. Participants take weekly transparency measurements on their lakes using a Secchi disk. A Secchi disk is a circular disk with a distinct pattern. The disc is lowered into the water, and the depth at which the pattern is no longer visible is used as a measure of transparency. At least eight to ten readings per season are needed to give reliable results.

Secchi transparency (clarity) is a measure of the depth of light penetration in the water column. Factors affecting water clarity in lakes include algae, dissolved organic compounds, and suspended sediments.

**Sources:** <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/clmp>

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/clmpfactsheets.html>

Previous Indicator

Next Indicator



Milestones is a product of the Minnesota State Demographic Center, a division of the Department of Administration

# Minnesota Milestones 2011

## Milestones 2011

- Home
- Executive Summary
- Background
- Contact

## More indicators

- Minnesota Compass
- Milestones 2002
- Children's Services Report Card
- State Agency Accountability

## Indicator 55: Water use

[login](#)



**Goal:** *Minnesotans will improve the quality of the air, water and earth.*

**Rationale:** A clean and abundant water supply is essential to economic and human health. The use, quality and availability of water are important indicators of future economic and environmental conditions.



**About this indicator:** Total and per capita water use declined in 2009. This may be a result of the recession.

### How is Minnesota doing?

Keep an eye out for these images to quickly tell which way the trend is going:



Undesirable or negative



No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.

### YEAR

### DATA

	Per capital daily water use	Total gallons used (billions)
1995	716.6	1,210.041
1996	692.7	1,184.042
1997	674.8	1,166.383
1998	733.7	1,280.709
1999	736.6	1,300.838
2000	746.8	1,340.901
2001	700.4	1,272.541
2002	706.7	1,298.470
2003	740.2	1,374.720
2004	733.4	1,377.253

Per capita daily water use (gallons), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

Total water used (billions of gallons), Minnesota Department of Natural Resource [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

	YEAR	DATA	
	2005	751.5	1,427.713
	2006	756.5	1,421.523
	2007	755.0	1,430.583
	2008	738.7	1,410.313
	2009	709.8	1,364.363

Per capita daily water use (gallons), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

Total water used (billions of gallons), Minnesota Department of Natural Resource [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

**For comparison:** Power generation accounts for the largest share of water use, followed by public water supply, industrial production and irrigation. Power generation draws mostly from surface water and returns the majority of the water to the original source. Some water users rely on a combination of surface and ground waters, called conjunctive use.

**Technical notes:** Water use for hydropower was not included in the figures for total water use or per capita use.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt\\_section/appropriations/wateruse.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/appropriations/wateruse.html)

**Related 2002 Milestones indicator:**

- [Water use](#)

Previous Indicator

Next Indicator



Milestones is a product of the Minnesota State Demographic Center, a division of the Department of Administration

# Minnesota Milestones 2011

## Milestones 2011

- Home
- Executive Summary
- Background
- Contact

## More indicators

- Minnesota Compass
- Milestones 2002
- Children's Services Report Card
- State Agency Accountability

## Indicator 56: Drinking water quality

[login](#)



**Goal:** *Minnesotans will improve the quality of the air, water and earth.*

**Rationale:** Harmful chemicals, nutrients and bacteria in the drinking supply can adversely affect public health in both the short term and long term.

**About this indicator:** Data collected by the Minnesota Department of Health show high quality for almost all of the state's community water systems. Only a very small number violate maximum contaminant level standards for arsenic, nitrate, disinfection byproducts or lead.



### How is Minnesota doing?

Keep an eye out for these images to quickly tell which way the trend is going:



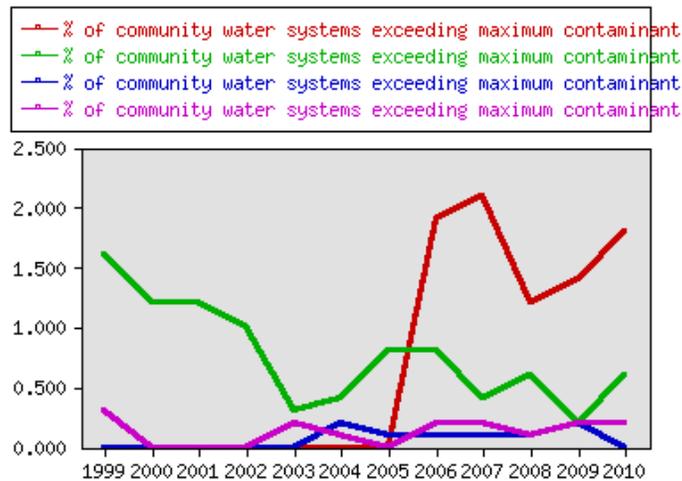
Undesirable or negative



No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.



### YEAR DATA

YEAR	DATA	YEAR	DATA
	% of community water systems exceeding maximum contaminant level for Arsenic		% of community water systems exceeding maximum contaminant level for Nitrate
			% of community water systems exceeding maximum contaminant level for disinfection byproducts
			% of community water systems exceeding maximum contaminant level for lead

YEAR	DATA			
1999	0.0	0.3	0.0	1.6
2000	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2
2001	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2
2002	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
2003	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3
2004	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.4
2005	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.8
2006	1.9	0.2	0.1	0.8
2007	2.1	0.2	0.1	0.4
2008	1.2	0.1	0.1	0.6
2009	1.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
2010	1.8	0.2	0	0.6

Percent of community water systems exceeding maximum contaminant level, Arsenic, [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

Percent of community water systems exceeding maximum contaminant level, Nitrate, [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

Percent of community water systems exceeding maximum contaminant level, Disinfection byproducts, [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

Percent of community water systems exceeding maximum contaminant level, Lead, [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

**Things to think about:** The contamination measures in the MDH report do not cover water from private wells. Some people are concerned about the presence in water supplies of contaminants for which we are not yet testing. These include pharmaceuticals and industrial chemicals such as PCBs. Ongoing research projects will provide better information about the presence of these chemical in Minnesota’s water supply.

**Technical notes:** Standards for arsenic contamination became stricter in 2006. This explains the increase in community water systems violating the standard.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota Department of Health <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/tracking/dwreport.pdf>

Previous Indicator

Next Indicator



Milestones is a product of the Minnesota State Demographic Center, a division of the Department of Administration

## Milestones 2011

- Home
- Executive Summary
- Background
- Contact

## More indicators

- Minnesota Compass
- Milestones 2002
- Children's Services Report Card
- State Agency Accountability

## How is Minnesota doing?

Keep an eye out for these images to quickly tell which way the trend is going:



Undesirable or negative



No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.

## Indicator 57: Frogs

[login](#)

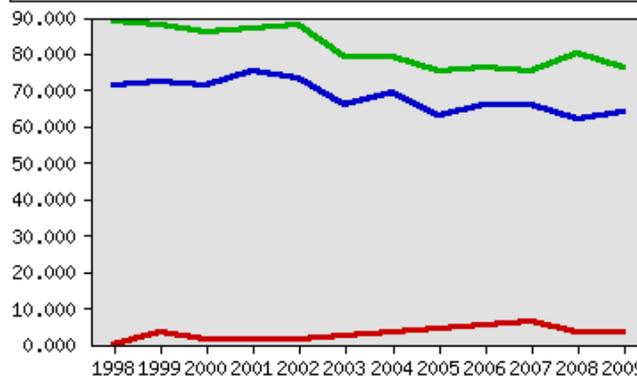
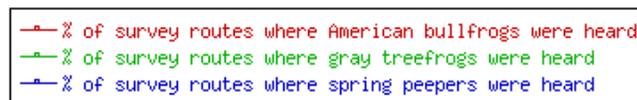


**Goal:** *Minnesotans will restore and maintain healthy ecosystems that support diverse plants and wildlife.*

**Rationale:** Frogs, like other amphibians, are believed to be highly sensitive to changes in the environment. With a life cycle that exposes them to aquatic habitats as tadpoles and terrestrial habitats as adults and a semi-permeable skin that makes them sensitive to environmental contaminants, frogs and toads are good indicators of ecosystem health.

**About this indicator:** No trend was detected for 11 of Minnesota's 14 species of frogs and toads, and therefore populations of these species appear stable. Though data must be interpreted with caution, they hint at gradual declines in two major Minnesota frog species: gray treefrogs and spring peepers.

Bullfrog populations appear to be moving beyond their traditional range in southeastern Minnesota.



YEAR	DATA	DATA	DATA
	% of survey routes where gray treefrogs were heard	% of survey routes where spring peepers were heard	% of survey routes where American bullfrogs were heard
1998	89%	71%	0%
1999	88%	72%	3%
2000	86%	71%	1%
2001	87%	75%	1%
2002	88%	73%	1%
2003	79%	66%	2%
2004	79%	69%	3%
2005	75%	63%	4%
2006	76%	66%	5%
2007	75%	66%	6%
2008	80%	62%	3%
2009	76%	64%	3%

Percent of all the survey routes ran statewide each year where gray treefrogs were heard by volunteers, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

Percent of all the survey routes ran statewide each year where spring peepers were heard by volunteers, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

Percent of all the survey routes ran statewide each year where american bullfrogs were heard by volunteers, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

**Things to think about:** The DNR does not consider the data a conclusive indicator of population changes. For example, weather affects the results of the survey. Fewer frogs will be heard if spring weather is unusually chilly or snowy.

**Technical notes:** Data is collected in the Minnesota Frog and Toad Calling Survey. The survey is conducted by volunteers who are trained to recognize frog calls. The volunteers then drive a prescribed route and stop at fixed locations to listen for the calls.

Because the survey is done by volunteers, the number of routes surveyed varies from year to year. Although the volunteers are trained, some may be more accurate than others in their identification of frog calls. The survey is conducted at the side of the road and does not attempt to find frogs in more remote habitats.

**Sources:**

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Frog and Toad Calling Survey, [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/volunteering/frogtoad\\_survey/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/volunteering/frogtoad_survey/index.html)

Previous Indicator

Next Indicator



Milestones is a product of the Minnesota State Demographic Center, a division of the Department of Administration

## Milestones 2011

- Home
- Executive Summary
- Background
- Contact

## More indicators

- Minnesota Compass
- Milestones 2002
- Children's Services Report Card
- State Agency Accountability

## How is Minnesota doing?

Keep an eye out for these images to quickly tell which way the trend is going:



Undesirable or negative



No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.

## Indicator 58: Loon populations

[login](#)



**Goal:** *Minnesotans will restore and maintain healthy ecosystems that support diverse plants and wildlife.*

**Rationale:** Many citizens are concerned about the well-being of Minnesota's state bird. Loons are sensitive to acid rain, density of human population, and other factors. This makes loon populations a good indicator of the health of lake ecosystems.

**About this indicator:** Minnesota's loon population appears to be stable over the last 15 years.

The DNR, with the assistance of hundreds of volunteers, gathers information about loon numbers on more than 600 lakes in six index regions of the state. These six regions represent different types of lakes and habitats. Volunteers visit each lake in early July and count the number of adult and juvenile loons.



## LOONS PER 100 ACRES

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Aitkin/Crow Wing	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.3	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.9	2.9	2.9
Becker	2.4	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.1	1.6	2.5	2.3	2.2	1.9	1.7	2.1	1.6	2.1	1.5
Cook/Lake	2.4	1.9	1.5	2	1.8	1.9	0.9	1.7	2.2	1.9	2	1.7	2.6	1.3	1.1	1.0
Itasca	4.2	3.8	4.2	3.7	3.6	3.1	4.1	3.5	4.2	3.7	4.9	4	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.6
Kandiyohi	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.6	1	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7
Otter Tail	1.5	1.5	1.9	1.6	1.3	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.9	1.2	1.6	2.3

**For comparison:** Loon population density varies among parts of the state. Within each region, the numbers appear to be stable or increasing.

## Sources:

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/projects/mlmp\\_state.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/projects/mlmp_state.html)

Previous Indicator

Next Indicator



Milestones is a product of the Minnesota State Demographic Center, a division of the Department of Administration

## Milestones 2011

- Home
- Executive Summary
- Background
- Contact

## More indicators

- Minnesota Compass
- Milestones 2002
- Children's Services Report Card
- State Agency Accountability

### How is Minnesota doing?

Keep an eye out for these images to quickly tell which way the trend is going:



Undesirable or negative



No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.

## Indicator 59: Breeding bird populations

[login](#)



**Goal:** *Minnesotans will restore and maintain healthy ecosystems that support diverse plants and wildlife.*



**Rationale:** Birds inhabit a wide range of settings ranging from wetlands to forests to urban areas. Changing populations of breeding birds can indicate changes in the health of these diverse ecosystems.

**About this indicator:** Between 1980 and 2007, there were significant declines in 43 of the 143 species that breed in Minnesota and were counted in the survey. The populations of 13 species increased significantly. Changes for the remaining species were not significant.

## TRENDS IN MINNESOTA BREEDING BIRD POPULATIONS 1980-2007

	Total species	Significant Decline	Significant Increase	Nonsignificant change
<b>All breeding birds</b>	143	43	13	87
<b>Breeding area:</b>				
Grassland	13	4	0	9
Wetland	25	9	4	12
Successional or scrub	20	6	1	13
Woodland	49	6	4	39
Urban	11	6	1	4

Migration type:	Total species	Significant Decline	Significant Increase	Nonsignificant change
Permanent resident	18	4	4	10
Neotropical migrant	56	17	1	38

**Things to think about:** Since many bird species migrate, they are affected by the ecosystems of the places where they winter or the places they migrate through to reach their destinations. Species who reside year-round in Minnesota appear to be faring better than those which migrate to neotropical areas.

**Technical notes:** The Breeding Bird Survey, or BBS, is a large-scale roadside survey of North American birds. Experienced birders survey more than 3,500 routes, usually in June. The survey has been conducted since 1966. The data are processed by the United States Geological Survey. Variation in counts can reflect sampling error and technique as well as true changes in bird populations.

**Sources:**

- USGS, Breeding Bird Survey, <http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/>

Previous Indicator

Next Indicator



Milestones is a product of the Minnesota State Demographic Center, a division of the Department of Administration

## Milestones 2011

- Home
- Executive Summary
- Background
- Contact

## More indicators

- Minnesota Compass
- Milestones 2002
- Children's Services Report Card
- State Agency Accountability

## How is Minnesota doing?

Keep an eye out for these images to quickly tell which way the trend is going:



Undesirable or negative



No change, or not enough data to draw conclusions



Desirable or positive.

## Indicator 60: Outdoor Recreation

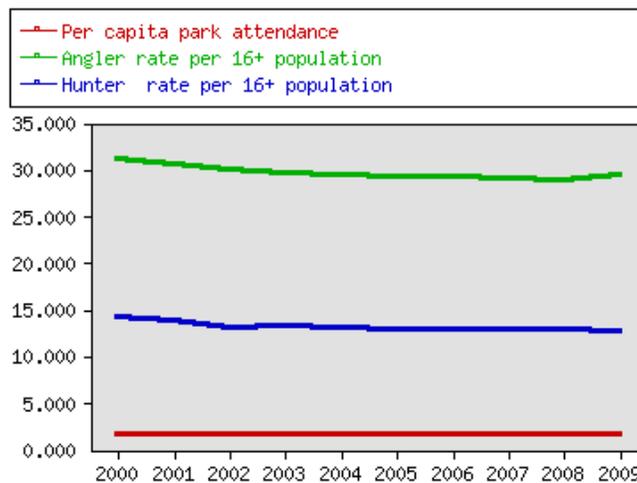
[login](#)



**Goal:** *Minnesotans will have opportunities to enjoy the state's natural resources.*

**Rationale:** Preserving the state's natural heritage is important not only for preserving plant and animal life and sustaining the state's economy, but also for recreation and enjoyment.

**About this indicator:** Per capita participation in outdoor recreation has declined. Minnesotans are less likely to obtain hunting and fishing licenses than in the past. They are also less likely to go boating. After a long period of gradual decline, attendance rates at state parks increased in 2009, possibly because state parks offer an affordable recreation opportunity for people affected by the economic downturn.



YEAR DATA

Angler rate per 16+

Hunter rate

Per capita

YEAR	DATA		
	population	per 16+ population	park attendance
2000	31.1%	14.1%	1.7%
2001	30.6%	13.8%	1.6%
2002	29.9%	13.1%	1.6%
2003	29.6%	13.2%	1.6%
2004	29.4%	13%	1.6%
2005	29.2%	12.9%	1.6%
2006	29.2%	12.9%	1.6%
2007	29.1%	12.9%	1.6%
2008	28.8%	12.8%	1.6%
2009	29.3%	12.6%	1.7%

Angler rate per 16+ population, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

Hunter rate per 16+ population, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

Per capita park attendance, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources [Edit trend](#) | [Edit data](#)

**Things to think about:** Population shifts and generational changes appear to be responsible for much of the decline in outdoor recreation. Minnesota's population is aging and becoming more urban, and older people and city dwellers participate less in traditional outdoor activities. The rapidly growing nonwhite and Latino populations also have lower participation rates.

In addition, younger generations appear to be participating less in outdoor activities than previous generations did at the same age.

#### Sources:

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, <http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/reports/strategic-documents/trends.pdf>
- Annual values provided by Tim Kelly, DNR

Previous Indicator



Milestones is a product of the Minnesota State Demographic Center, a division of the Department of Administration