

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE EDUCATIONAL USE OF HARTMAN RESERVE
BLACK HAWK COUNTY, IOWA

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PAST AND PRESENT EDUCATIONAL USE

Field experience at Hartman Reserve has become an integral part of the curriculum for many elementary schools and for the University of Northern Iowa. Although not supported by statistical data, use of Hartman Reserve has been highly important in the non-formal education of thousands of children and their parents. General observations over the years and the specific data cited below show that Hartman Reserve has been and is currently a major community resource for public use. The schools have no other place where an upland forest community of high quality can be studied. The variety of plants, animals and micro-communities makes the Reserve an ideal educational area.

An attempt was made to keep records of use by organized groups for the first seven months of 1974. Not all groups reported their use and no attempt was made to determine individual and family use. The use level shown by the data was maintained through fall. Winter use of the area is less but still significant.

Organized Group Use January 1, 1974 - August 1, 1974

Cedar Falls Community School District

Five elementary schools took classes to Hartman's Reserve for periods ranging from one hour to all day. Total use was 1,934 user hours.

Denver Community School District

Fifth grade studied at the Reserve for half a day. Total use was 267 user hours.

Blessed Sacrament School of Waterloo

The Reserve was used for an eighth grade weekend school camping experience. Grades 4 and 6 took field trips to the Reserve.

Waterloo Community School District

A number of elementary classes made field trips to the area. The summer enrichment program used the Reserve for natural history and environmental studies.

Youth Conservation Corps

The educational phase of this summer program was centered at the Reserve.

Boy Scouts

One troop held a weekend campout. Over 30 individual scouts did service projects and completed various merit badge requirements during the period.

Indian Guides

Twelve overnight campouts were held for twelve people each.

Brownies and Cub Scouts

Numerous small groups of children were taken on walks through the reserve by adult leaders.

River Hills School

The mentally and physically handicapped children attending the school adjacent to the Reserve have various outdoor experiences which are dependent upon maintaining the forest community intact.

University of Northern Iowa

Five different courses, some of multiple sections, make use of Hartman Reserve each semester for class field studies. Much information has been collected by these classes over the years, thus giving the area significant status as an ecological research area. No other such area in this part of Iowa has been studied to produce information which will serve as a reference point from which to measure change.

Future Educational Use of Hartman Reserve

A strong trend throughout Iowa has developed toward curriculum modifications which involve greater use of the out of doors as a teaching facility. It is logical to expect the educational use of Hartman Reserve to continue to increase. If the Reserve transfers to public ownership as proposed with a management plan for educational use, many more organized groups including schools would use it.

A survey was conducted during the Spring of 1974 to determine the kinds of programs holding interest for the community as well as the types of services and facilities felt necessary for effective operation of an outdoor education center. A questionnaire was mailed to schools, agencies and organizations in the metropolitan area with a response of 78%.

Although a poor response to the questionnaire was obtained from leaders of adult organizations, follow-up contacts exposed a high degree of interest in having the Reserve become an outdoor education center even though the groups did not anticipate using the area for their organized programs.

Greatest use of the area is projected for schools and college classes, with individual and family use also being high. Picnicing and camping are not projected as major uses since city, county, and state facilities already exist nearby.

A high percentage of the survey respondents desired services which could be furnished by a naturalist. Some of these services are currently available through volunteer groups such as the Cedar Falls Audubon Society and the University of Northern Iowa Student Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America. Both of these organizations provide field trip guides to school and youth groups as time permits.

The following tables and charts detail the facilities and services requested as well as the types of activities which would be carried out. There is no doubt that a strong demand exists for an outdoor education center at Hartman Reserve.

Table 1

FACILITIES AND SERVICES DESIRED BY ORGANIZED GROUPS

Hartman's Reserve Outdoor Education Center

<u>Item</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Schools</u>	<u>Agencies</u>	<u>Organizations</u>
Easy trails	16	9	2	5
Labeled Nature Trails	15	8	2	5
Rest Rooms	15	8	1	6
Important to have a building	13	8	1	4
Indoor Meeting Place	11	5	1	5
Steep Trails	11	7	0	4
Program Help	9	5	1	3
Nice to have Staff	9	4	2	3
Outdoor Theater	8	5	1	2
Trip Leaders	8	5	1	2
Published Maps and guides	8	4	1	3
Important to have a Staff	8	5	1	3
Outdoor Meeting Facility	8	3	0	5
Vistor Center	6	4	1	1
Nice to have a building	6	2	2	2
Unnecessary to have a Staff	2	2	0	0
Unnecessary to have a building	1	1	0	0

Table 2

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES REQUESTED BY ORGANIZED GROUPS

Hartman's Reserve Outdoor Education Center

<u>Item</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Schools</u>	<u>Agencies</u>	<u>Organizations</u>
Nature Study	17	9	3	5
Hiking	14	7	3	4
Flower Study	13	7	2	4
Bird Watching	12	7	2	3
Group Nature Hikes	11	5	2	4
Talks	10	5	2	3
Photography	9	5	1	3
School Trips	9	7	1	1
Demonstrations	9	5	2	2
Mapping & Orienteering	7	5	0	2
Inservice Training	7	6	0	1
Films	7	2	2	3
Archery	6	2	3	1
Painting and Drawing	6	5	0	1
Campfire Programs	6	3	1	2
Astronomy and Star Gazing	5	3	0	2
Nature Crafts	5	3	1	1
Day Camp	5	3	1	1
Pistol and Riflery	4	1	2	1
Hunter Safety	4	0	3	1
Displays and Exhibits	4	3	1	0
Youth Group Advancement Programs	3	0	1	2

Number of Positive Responses

15
10
5
0

Building
Various Staff Services
Trails
Restrooms
Labelled Nature Trails
Program Help
Published Materials
Outdoor Theater

Item Surveyed

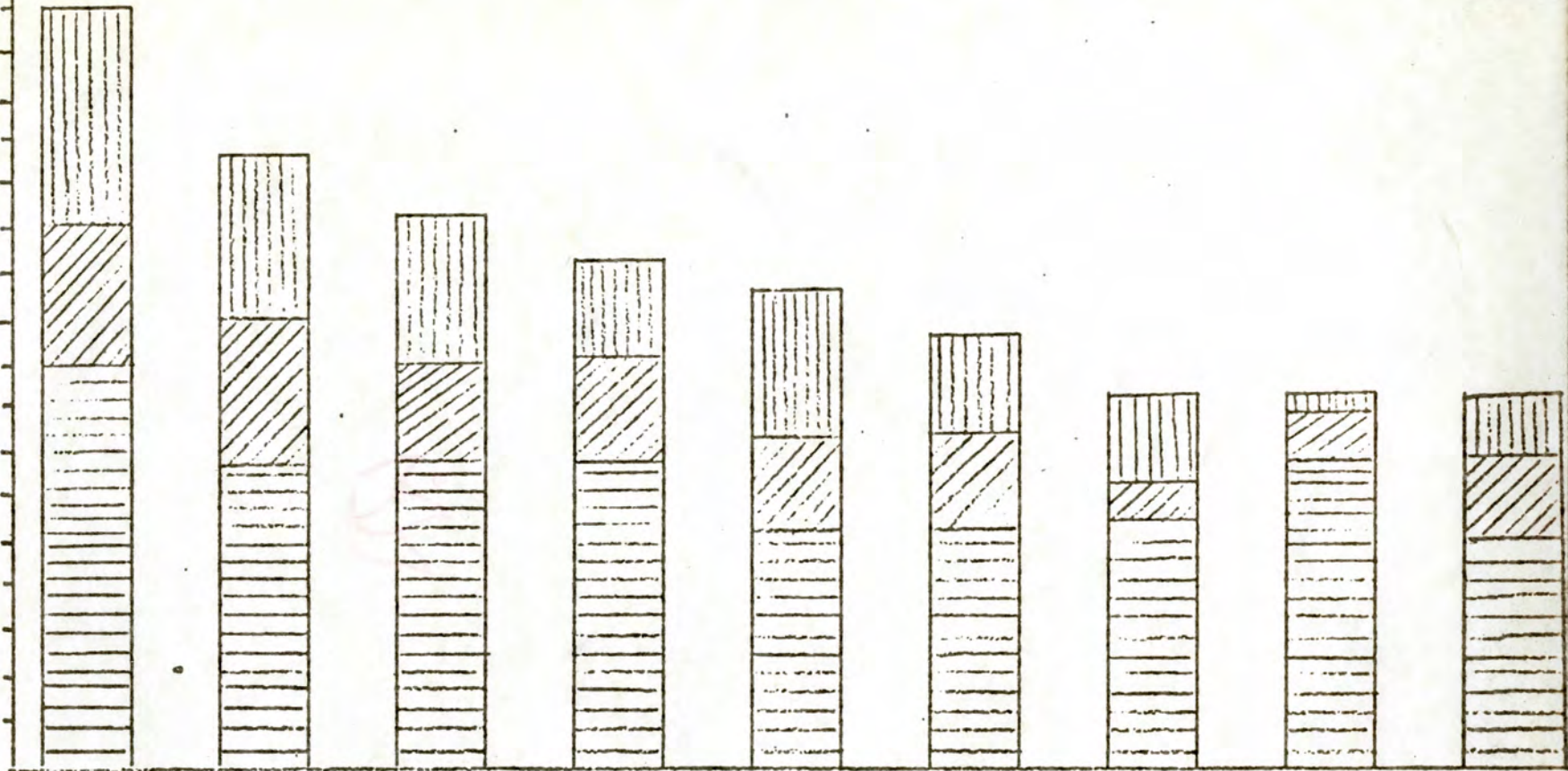
School Agencies Organizations



Chart 1 Summary of Requested Facilities and Services

Number of Positive Responses

15
10
5
0



Nature Study

Hiking

Flower Study

Bird Watching

Group Nature Hikes

Talks

Photography

School Trips

Demonstrations

Items

School

Agencies

Organizations



Legend for Breakdown by Target Group Category

Chart 2

Nine Most Requested Activities