

Manaquayak Preserve Summer 2024

Overall Summary

In the 2024 season, Manaquayak Preserve was staffed for 126 days. Comparatively, the Preserve was attended for 122 days in 2023. Summer rangers were primarily stationed at two data collection locations: the Wintergreen Lane trailhead and the swimming perch. Based on the data collected at both locations, there were a total of 9,401 visitors to Manaquayak Preserve during the 2024 summer season. Data on visitors arriving at Manaquayak Preserve through the Lambert's Cove trailhead were collected by summer rangers at the swimming perch.

Manaquayak Preserve had slightly decreased overall property usage between 2024 and 2023. Like last season, the majority of visitors accessed the swimming perch from the Wintergreen Lane trailhead in the 2024 season. Consistent with the monthly data trends from 2023, July and August showed the greatest property usage at Manaquayak Preserve in 2024, while September and October showed the least.

The first day of attending in the 2024 season was May 24th and the last day of attending was October 3rd. In 2023, Manaquayak Preserve was attended between June 5th and October 5th. Despite a greater number of days attended this season (126 days) than last season (122 days), higher visitor counts were recorded in 2023 compared to 2024. This season the Preserve was attended for a total of 1,008 hours. It was attended for 1,169 hours in 2023.

Data Summary

Property usage at the Wintergreen Lane trailhead did not significantly differ between 2024 and 2023. The number of vehicles, visitors in vehicles, walk-on visitors, and total visitors decreased in 2024. The number of visitors on bikes/mopeds, dogs, vehicles turned away, and amount of time the Wintergreen lot was full all increased in 2024. Interestingly, the amount of time the Wintergreen lot was full increased by 33% in 2024 with 1,416 minutes the lot was full compared to 938 minutes the lot was full in 2023. Overall, there were slightly fewer visitors recorded at the Wintergreen trailhead (Figure 1A). In 2024, the Wintergreen trailhead had a total of 3,952 visitors. In 2023 there were 4,016 visitors. Similar to last season, Wintergreen trailhead monthly property usage data, July and August had the greatest property usage throughout the 2024 season (Figure 1B).

Figure 1A: Wintergreen Trailhead Total Property Usage

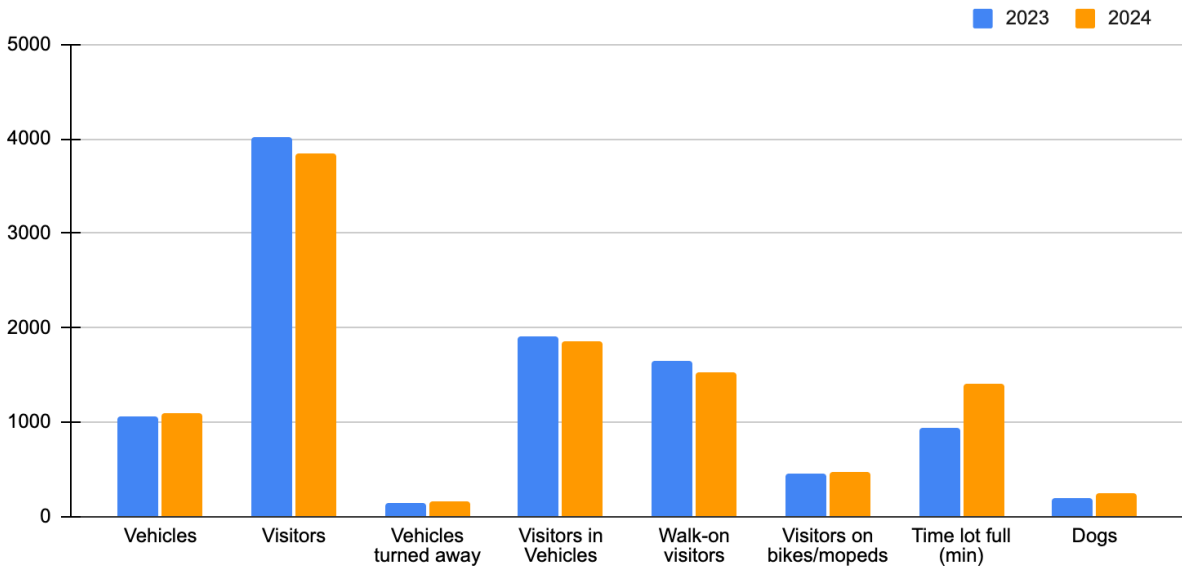
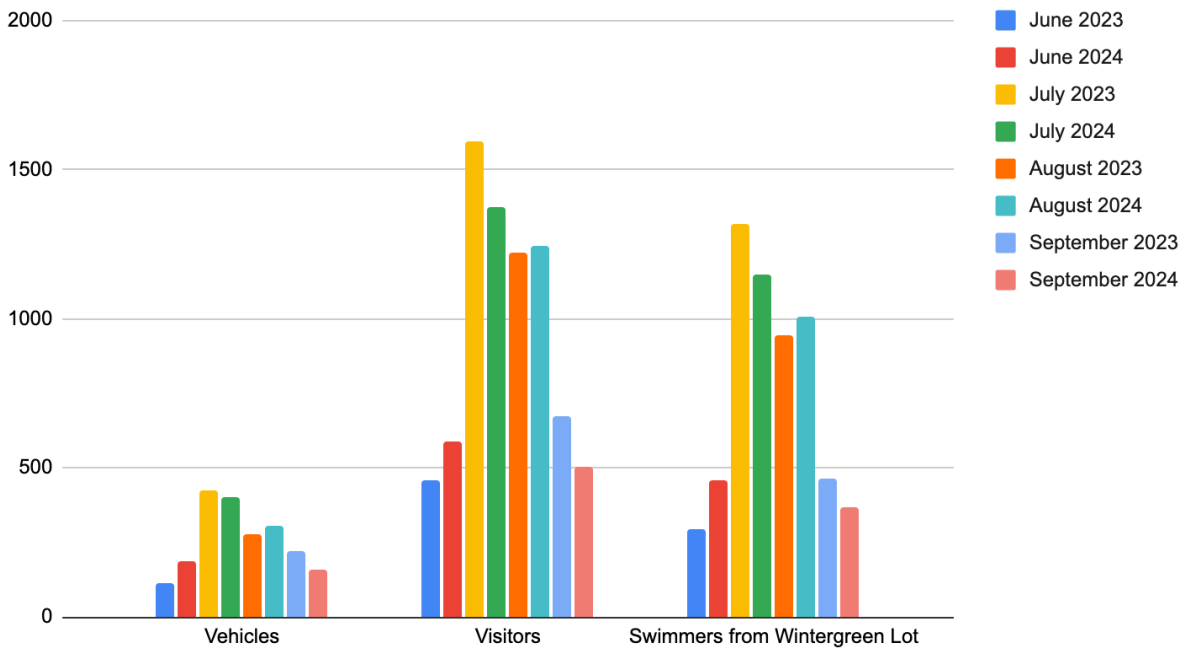
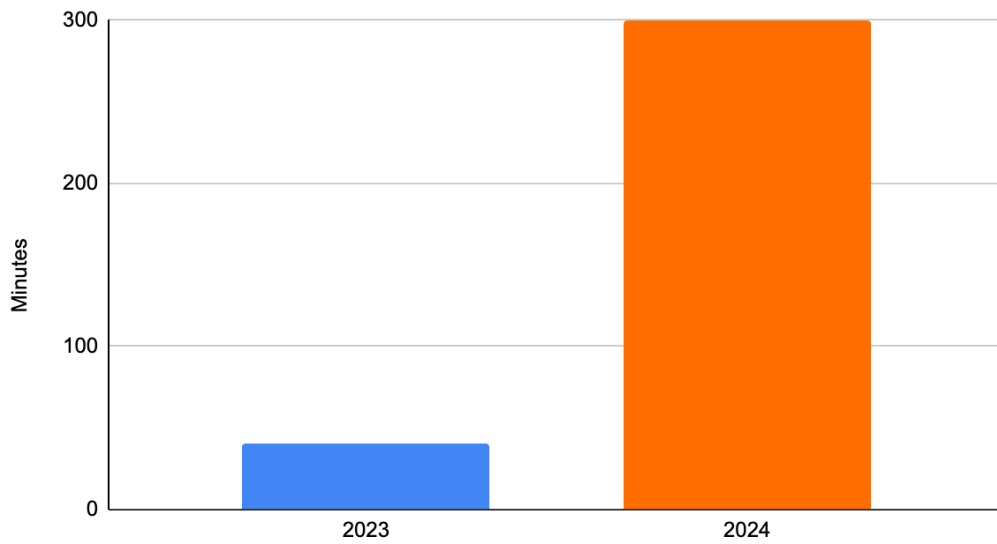


Figure 1B: Total Vehicles, Visitors and Swimmers from Wintergreen Lot



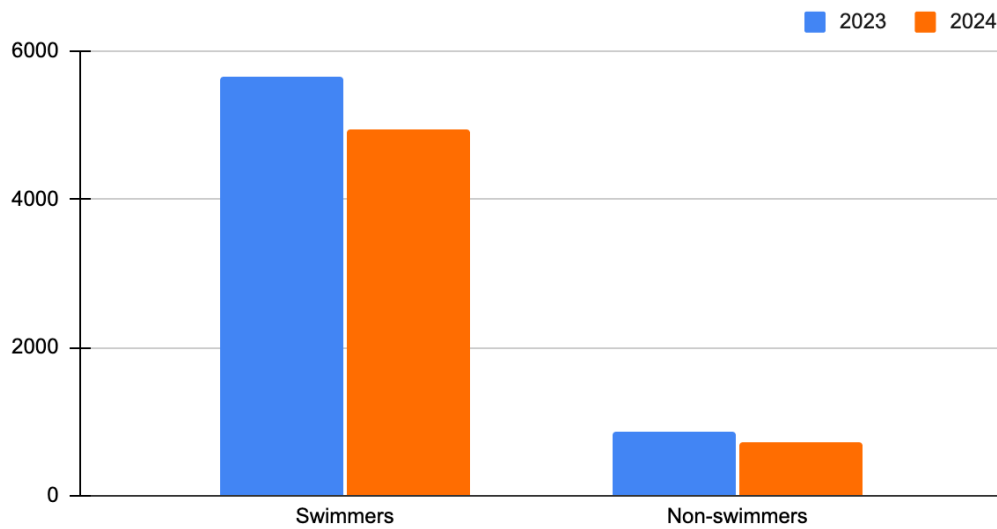
This season, summer rangers began attending 12 days earlier (May 24th) than last year (June 5th). The earlier start of attending did not coincide with high visitor counts, vehicle counts, or increase the time the lot was full. The most substantial increase in time the Wintergreen lot was full occurred in August, with 300 minutes of the lot being full in 2024 compared to 40 minutes in 2023 (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Time Wintergreen Lot Was Full in August



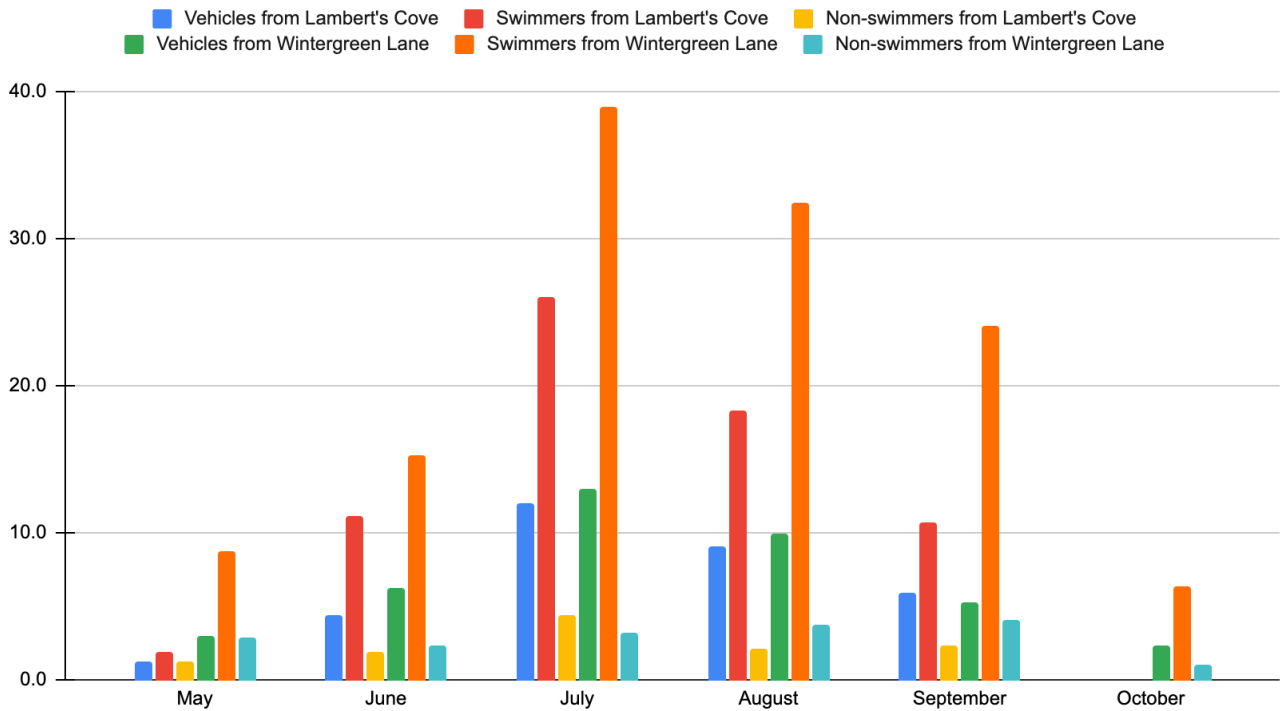
The swimming perch usage was not significantly different between 2024 and 2023. There were slightly fewer swimmers (4948) in 2024 than in 2023 (5,641). Similarly, there were fewer non-swimming visitors (721) in 2024 than in 2023 (864).

Figure 3: Total Swimming Perch Usage



The busiest month was July followed by August (Figure 4). Most visitors, 3,071, came to the swimming perch from the Wintergreen Lane trailhead, while the other 1,799 swimming perch visitors entered through the Lambert's Cove trailhead.

Figure 4: Average Daily Swimming Perch Usage



Actions to be Taken in Coming Season

1. Rangers should be prioritized at the Wintergreen Lane trailhead and at the swimming perch due to the low number of parking spaces and to enforce swimming perch rules. When staffing allows, station a summer ranger at the Lambert's Cove trailhead.
2. Provide rangers with detailed property rules and a property map. Explaining why certain rules are in place (such as no diving), will help them enforce and inform the public. Encourage rangers to communicate any violations of property rules or boundaries to Land Bank staff.
3. Adjust the angle of the swimming perch as needed when pond water levels are low.
4. Increase monitoring of fishing activity — post more “No Fishing” where appropriate.

Anecdotes

Due to limited staff, the 7 - 10 a.m. morning shift was only used throughout the summer as help was available. Notably, last season's records showed summer rangers working the shift between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. recorded few visitors.

The swimming perch ladder and dock were adjusted to meet the needs of visitors entering and exiting the pond. The pond water level did not fluctuate as much as last season. Similar to last season, summer rangers received comments from visitors about the property rules posted at the swimming perch. Updating the signage to display the property rules in larger font size and slightly raising the height of the signpost so it can be closer to eye level may be helpful. Several visitors came to the property with fishing rods, intending to fish. Posting more "No Fishing" signs along the paths to the pond may help prevent fishing.

Appendix

Table 1A: Totals and Daily Averages for 2023 and 2024

Overall	23 Total	23 Daily Average	24 Total	24 Daily Average
Visitors	10517	37.3	9401	30.3
Vehicles	2201	8.1	1918	6.1

Visitors >6	182	2.3	109	0.8
Swimmers >10	272	3.3	142	1

Table 1B: Swimming Perch Total and Daily Average Usage

Swimming perch	Total	Daily Average
Hours Staffed	1007	7.9
# of vehicles from Lambert's Cove Lot	825	5.5
Swimmers from Lambert's Cove Lot	1799	11.3
# non-swimming from Lambert's Cove Lot	257	2.0
Swimmers from Wintergreen Lot	3071	21.0
# non-swimming from Wintergreen Lot	425	2.9
Maximum number of swimmers (highest number of swimmers in the pond at one time for each hour)	1913	13.5
Total number of visitors	5549	37.1
Total swimmers	4948	39.6
Total non-swimmers	721	3.2

Table 1C: Wintergreen Lane Total and Daily Average Trailhead Usage

Wintergreen Lane	Total	Daily Average
Hours Staffed	1008	7.689
Total vehicles at Wintergreen	1093	6.634
Vehicles turned away	163	0.951

Visitors in vehicles	1865	11.304
Walk-on visitors	1527	9.570
Visitors on bikes/mopeds	477	2.887
Total number of visitors	3852	23.575
Maximum # of vehicles in lot	356	2.276
Time lot full (minutes)	1416	7.666
Dogs	255	1.562
Horses	2	0.011

Table 2A: May Swimming Perch Usage

May Swimming Perch	Total	Daily Average
Hours staffed	64	8.0
# of vehicles from Lambert's Cove Lot	10	1.3
Swimmers from Lambert's Cove Lot	15	1.9
# non-swimming from Lambert's Cove Lot	10	1.3
Swimmers from Wintergreen	70	8.8
# non-swimming from Wintergreen	23	2.9
Maximum number of swimmers (highest number of swimmers in the pond at one time for each hour)	34	4.3
Total number of visitors	114	14.3
Visitors >10	0	0.0
Swimmers >10	1	0.1
Swimmers	85	10.6
Non-swimmers	33	2.1

Table 2B: May Wintergreen Lane Trailhead Usage

May Wintergreen Lane Trailhead	Total	Average
Hours staffed	64	8.0
Total vehicles	24	3.0
Vehicles turned away	0	0.0

Visitors in vehicles	46	5.8
Walk-on visitors	57	7.1
Visitors on bikes/mopeds	11	1.4
Total number of visitors	108	13.5
Maximum # of vehicles in lot	13	1.6
Time lot full (minutes)	0	0.0
Dogs	6	0.8
Horses	0	0.0

Table 3A: June Swimming Perch Usage

June Swimming Perch	Total	Daily Average
Hours staffed	208	7.2
# of vehicles from Lambert's Cove Lot	134	4.5
Swimmers from Lambert's Cove Lot	333	11.1
# non-swimming from Lambert's Cove Lot	57	1.9
Swimmers from Wintergreen	457	15.2
# non-swimming from Wintergreen	71	2.4
Maximum number of swimmers (highest number of swimmers in the pond at one time for each hour)	321	10.7
Total number of visitors	918	30.6
Visitors >10	14	0.5
Swimmers >10	19	0.6
Swimmers	790	27.2
Non-swimmers	128	2.1

Table 3B: June Wintergreen Lane Trailhead Usage

June Wintergreen Lane Trailhead	Total	Average
Hours staffed	216	7.2
Total vehicles	187	6.2

Vehicles turned away	20	0.7
Visitors in vehicles	295	9.8
Walk-on visitors	223	7.4
Visitors on bikes/mopeds	84	2.8
Total number of visitors	591	19.7
Maximum # of vehicles in lot	69	2.3
Time lot full (minutes)	163	5.4
Dogs	47	1.6
Horses	1	0.0

Table 4A: July Swimming Perch Usage

July Swimming Perch	Total	Daily Average
Hours staffed	254	8.2
# of vehicles from Lambert's Cove Lot	335	12.0
Swimmers from Lambert's Cove Lot	789	26.0
# non-swimming from Lambert's Cove Lot	83	4.4
Swimmers from Wintergreen	1148	39
# non-swimming from Wintergreen	114	3.2
Maximum number of swimmers (highest number of swimmers in the pond at one time for each hour)	718	25.1
Total number of visitors	2135	72.5
Visitors >10	51	1.9
Swimmers >10	67	2.2
Swimmers	2015	65
Non-swimmers	236	3.8

Table 4B: July Wintergreen Lane Trailhead Usage

July Wintergreen Lane Trailhead	Total	Daily Average
Hours staffed	248	8.0

Total vehicles	404	13.0
Vehicles turned away	69	2.2
Visitors in vehicles	725	23.4
Walk-on visitors	481	15.5
Visitors on bikes/mopeds	166	5.4
Total number of visitors	1372	44.3
Maximum # of vehicles in lot	117	3.8
Time lot full (minutes)	818	26.4
Dogs	115	3.7
Horses	1	0.0

Table 5A: August Swimming Perch Usage

August Swimming Perch	Total	Daily Average
Hours staffed	249	8.0
# of vehicles from Lambert's Cove Lot	282	9.1
Swimmers from Lambert's Cove Lot	568	18.3
# non-swimming from Lambert's Cove Lot	65	2.1
Swimmers from Wintergreen	1007	32.5
# non-swimming from Wintergreen	115	3.7
Maximum number of swimmers (highest number of swimmers in the pond at one time for each hour)	589	19.0
Total number of visitors	1755	56.6
Visitors >10	37	1.2
Swimmers >10	52	1.7
Swimmers	1575	50.8
Non-swimmers	180	2.9

Table 5B: August Wintergreen Lane Trailhead Usage

August Wintergreen Lane Trailhead	Total	Daily Average
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Hours staffed	248	8.0
Total vehicles	307	9.9
Vehicles turned away	50	1.6
Visitors in vehicles	539	17.4
Walk-on visitors	544	17.5
Visitors on bikes/mopeds	162	5.2
Total number of visitors	1245	40.2
Maximum # of vehicles in lot	100	3.2
Time lot full (minutes)	300	9.7
Dogs	53	1.7
Horses	0	0.0

Table 6A: September Swimming Perch Usage

September Swimming Perch	Total	Daily Average
Hours staffed	208	7.7
# of vehicles from Lambert's Cove Lot	64	6.0
Swimmers from Lambert's Cove Lot	94	10.7
# non-swimming from Lambert's Cove Lot	42	2.3
Swimmers from Wintergreen	370	24.0
# non-swimming from Wintergreen	99	4.1
Maximum number of swimmers (highest number of swimmers in the pond at one time for each hour)	228	14.6
Total number of visitors	605	41.2
Visitors >10	7	0.6
Swimmers >10	3	0.6
Swimmers	464	34.8
Non-swimmers	141	3.2

Table 6B: September Wintergreen Lane Trailhead Usage

September Wintergreen Lane Trailhead	Total	Daily Average
Hours staffed	208	6.9
Total vehicles	157	5.2
Vehicles turned away	24	0.8
Visitors in vehicles	242	8.1
Walk-on visitors	210	7.0
Visitors on bikes/mopeds	53	1.8
Total number of visitors	505	16.8
Maximum # of vehicles in lot	52	1.7
Time lot full (minutes)	135	4.5
Dogs	31	1.0
Horses	0	0.0

Table 7A: October Swimming Perch Usage

October Swimming Perch	Total	Daily Average
Hours staffed	24	8.0
# of vehicles from Lambert's Cove Lot	0	0.0
Swimmers from Lambert's Cove Lot	0	0.0
# non-swimming from Lambert's Cove Lot	0	0.0
Swimmers from Wintergreen	19	6.3
# non-swimming from Wintergreen	3	1.0
Maximum number of swimmers (highest number of swimmers in the pond at one time for each hour)	23	7.7
Total number of visitors	22	7.3
Visitors >10	0	0.0
Swimmers >10	0	0.0
Swimmers	19	6.3
Non-swimmers	3	0.5

Table 7B: October Wintergreen Lane Trailhead Usage

October Wintergreen Lane Trailhead	Total	Daily Average
Hours staffed	24	8
Total vehicles	14	2.4
Vehicles turned away	0	0.4
Visitors in vehicles	18	3.4
Walk-on visitors	12	2.8
Visitors on bikes/mopeds	1	0.8
Total number of visitors	31	7
Maximum # of vehicles in lot	5	1
Time lot full (minutes)	0	0
Dogs	3	0.6
Horses	0	0