

# Schmeeckle Reserve

## 2006 Student Survey

November 2, 2006



Total number of respondents: **939**      Survey population: **8,823** (entire student body)

1. Have you ever been to Schmeeckle Reserve? (The natural area and lake just north of the academic campus)
  - **Yes: 94.36%** (886)
  - **No: 5.64%** (53)
  
2. If you have not been to the Reserve, what keeps you from visiting? (Percentages listed are of respondents who have not been to Schmeeckle. This question was short answer and responses were coded.)
  - **Not enough time/too busy: 48.15%** (26)
  - **Lack of knowledge/don't know about it or activities: 31.48%** (17)
  - **Location/too far away: 22.22%** (12)
  - **Other interests: 12.96%** (7)
  - **Weather/too cold, rainy: 9.26%** (5)
  - **Other: 3.70%** (2)
  
3. On average, how many times per month do you visit Schmeeckle Reserve during the school year? (Percentages listed are of respondents who have been to Schmeeckle)
  - **Less than 1: 15.24%** (135)
  - **1-3: 34.65%** (307)
  - **4-6: 19.30%** (171)
  - **7-10: 10.05%** (89)
  - **More than 10: 20.77%** (184)
  
4. What activities have you participated in at Schmeeckle? Check all that apply. (Percentages listed are of respondents who have been to Schmeeckle)
  - **Walk for exercise: 61.96%** (549)
  - **Walk to relax: 80.25%** (711)
  - **Jog/run: 49.89%** (442)
  - **Bike: 33.30%** (295)
  - **Ski/snow shoe: 5.19%** (46)
  - **Wildlife/nature observation: 55.19%** (489)
  - **Photography/art: 26.52%** (235)
  - **Study: 25.51%** (226)
  - **Canoe/kayak: 8.13%** (72)
  - **Fish/ice fish: 6.21%** (55)
  - **Attend classes: 35.33%** (313)
  - **Attend programs: 9.26%** (82)
  - **Volunteer: 2.48%** (22)
  - **Work/job: 3.16%** (28)
  - **Visit the Visitor Center: 25.40%** (225)
    - (Percentages below are of respondents who have been to the Visitor Center):
    - **Use restroom/water: 54.67%** (123)
    - **Shop at gift store: 45.33%** (102)
    - **View exhibits: 67.56%** (152)
    - **Visit Hall of Fame: 10.86%** (102)
  - **Other: 6.66%** (59)

5. Please rate the following statements based on whether you agree or disagree:  
(Percentages listed are of respondents who have been to Schmeeckle)

A. *The trails and boardwalks are well maintained.*

- **Strongly agree: 38.26%** (339)
- **Agree: 55.19%** (489)
- **Neutral: 4.51%** (40)
- **Disagree: 1.13%** (10)
- **Strongly disagree: 0.11%** (1)
- **Don't know: 0.79%** (7)

B. *Schmeeckle Reserve staff are friendly and knowledgeable.*

- **Strongly agree: 12.98%** (115)
- **Agree: 19.75%** (175)
- **Neutral: 12.19%** (108)
- **Disagree: 0.56%** (5)
- **Strongly disagree: 0.11%** (1)
- **Don't know: 54.40%** (482)

C. *I feel safe being alone in the Reserve.*

- **Strongly agree: 27.77%** (246)
- **Agree: 38.71%** (343)
- **Neutral: 21.33%** (189)
- **Disagree: 8.80%** (78)
- **Strongly disagree: 1.24%** (11)
- **Don't know: 2.14%** (19)

D. *I would like to see more safety patrols in the Reserve.*

- **Strongly agree: 6.09%** (54)
- **Agree: 23.48%** (208)
- **Neutral: 33.30%** (295)
- **Disagree: 20.99%** (186)
- **Strongly disagree: 11.06%** (98)
- **Don't know: 5.08%** (45)

E. *Schmeeckle Reserve was a reason why I chose to attend UWSP.*

- **Strongly agree: 3.95%** (35)
- **Agree: 15.91%** (141)
- **Neutral: 30.14%** (267)
- **Disagree: 31.83%** (282)
- **Strongly disagree: 14.11%** (125)
- **Don't know: 4.06%** (36)

F. *Schmeeckle helps me to escape the stress of college life.*

- **Strongly agree: 35.33%** (313)
- **Agree: 46.05%** (408)
- **Neutral: 13.54%** (120)
- **Disagree: 2.03%** (18)
- **Strongly disagree: 1.02%** (9)
- **Don't know: 2.03%** (18)

G. *Schmeeckle is an important part of my exercise/health routine.*

- **Strongly agree: 23.36%** (207)
- **Agree: 27.88%** (247)
- **Neutral: 29.35%** (260)
- **Disagree: 13.43%** (119)
- **Strongly disagree: 4.29%** (38)
- **Don't know: 1.69%** (15)

H. *It is important that Schmeeckle continues to acquire more green space.*

- **Strongly agree: 46.28%** (410)
- **Agree: 36.68%** (325)
- **Neutral: 13.09%** (116)
- **Disagree: 1.35%** (12)
- **Strongly disagree: 0.45%** (4)
- **Don't know: 2.14%** (19)

I. *If a new Schmeeckle Education and Visitor Center was built nearer to the main campus, I would likely visit it.*

- **Strongly agree: 17.95%** (159)
- **Agree: 36.34%** (322)
- **Neutral: 24.15%** (214)
- **Disagree: 12.08%** (107)
- **Strongly disagree: 4.18%** (37)
- **Don't know: 5.30%** (47)

J. *Schmeeckle Reserve is a valuable part of my experience at UWSP.*

- **Strongly agree: 38.71%** (343)
- **Agree: 40.18%** (356)
- **Neutral: 18.06%** (160)
- **Disagree: 1.69%** (15)
- **Strongly disagree: 0.68%** (6)
- **Don't know: 0.68%** (6)

6. Schmeeckle Reserve needs to actively generate most of its budget each year. This budget is used to maintain trails and facilities, staff the visitor center, manage habitats, present educational programs and special events, patrol trails, and acquire new land.

Currently, \$4 of your \$164 student activity fee helps to fund the Reserve annually—this makes up about 11% of Schmeeckle's total budget.

Do you support \$4 of your student activity fee being used to fund Schmeeckle?  
(Percentages listed are of all respondents):

- **Yes: 97.98%** (920) (98.19% of respondents who have been to Schmeeckle)  
(94.34% of respondents who have not been to Schmeeckle)
- **No: 2.02%** (19) (1.81% of respondents who have been to Schmeeckle)  
(5.66% of respondents who have not been to Schmeeckle)

7. Would you support an increase of your student activity fee to help offset costs of maintaining and operating Schmeeckle Reserve? (Percentages listed are of all respondents):
- **Yes: 79.55%** (747) (81.04% of respondents who have been to Schmeeckle)  
(54.72% of respondents who have not been to Schmeeckle)
  - **No: 20.45%** (192) (18.96% of respondents who have been to Schmeeckle)  
(45.28% of respondents who have not been to Schmeeckle)
8. If yes, how much more would you be willing to add to your student activity fee? (Percentages listed are of respondents who support an increase in fees):
- **\$0-\$2: 25.30%** (189) (25.35% who have been to Schmeeckle)  
(24.14% who have not been to Schmeeckle)
  - **\$2.01-\$4: 24.90%** (186) (24.23% who have been to Schmeeckle)  
(41.38% who have not been to Schmeeckle)
  - **\$4.01-\$6: 23.29%** (174) (23.40% who have been to Schmeeckle)  
(20.69% who have not been to Schmeeckle)
  - **\$6.01-\$8: 4.42%** (33) (4.60% who have been to Schmeeckle)  
(0% who have not been to Schmeeckle)
  - **\$8.01-\$10: 11.38%** (85) (11.56% who have been to Schmeeckle)  
(6.90% who have not been to Schmeeckle)
  - **More than \$10: 10.71%** (80) (10.86% who have been to Schmeeckle)  
(6.90% who have not been to Schmeeckle)

9. If a new Schmeeckle Education and Visitor Center was built nearer to the main campus, what services, activities, or equipment would you like to see available there? (Percentages listed are of all respondents. This question was short answer and responses were coded):

- **Outdoor equipment available to rent: 13.10%** (123)
  - Partnering with Outdoor Edventures, canoes, kayaks, bikes, camping gear, skis, snow shoes, ice skates, field guides, binoculars
- **Public educational programs: 8.41%** (79)
  - Children's programs, nature programs, special community events, group hikes, guided tours, programs offered by students
- **Information about Schmeeckle Reserve: 6.60%** (62)
  - Maps, wildlife and plant identification and information, brochures, history of the area, research projects
- **Don't build a new visitor center: 6.18%** (58)
  - Current location and building is fine, don't want to see development in the Reserve, destroys green space, waste of money, renovate old building, advocates consumption, additional building
- **Museum and exhibits: 4.90%** (46)
  - Artifacts, identification of plants and animals, live animal aquariums, disappearing green space, Wisconsin history, changing displays, current research, promote conservation, interactive exhibits, 3-D model
- **Store: 3.51%** (33)
  - Educational nature books, sporting goods, outdoor gear, gifts, Schmeeckle-related art, nature home furnishings, walking sticks, backpacks, fishing equipment, rain gear
- **Outdoor recreational activities: 2.02%** (19)
  - Activities like Outdoor Edventures offers, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing programs and groomed trails, photography programs, canoeing and kayaking programs
- **Study Areas: 1.49%** (14)
  - Study lounge indoors, peaceful outdoor study area with views of Reserve
- **Clean restrooms and drinking fountains: 1.17%** (11)
- **Any/Same as current center: 3.73%** (35)
- **Other: 9.58%** (90)
  - Benches/paved trail/boardwalks (7), Ropes course/climbing wall/disc golf (7), Larger meeting space (7), Classroom/lab space (5), Green design/compost/gardens (5), Swimming area (5), Theater (4), Food/coffee/vending (4), Students would benefit from a new visitor center (4), Volunteer opportunities (3), Gazebo/shelter (3), Picnic Area (3), Computer lab (3)
- **Don't Know/No Response: 52.29%** (491)

10. What do you value most about Schmeeckle Reserve? (Percentages listed are of respondents who have been to Schmeeckle. This question was short answer and responses were coded):

- **Quiet and Relaxing Experience: 39.39%** (349)
  - Peace, calm, serene, tranquility, privacy, clear my mind, escape from campus/city/people/stress, pureness, untouched
- **Wildlife, Plants, Habitats: 12.42%** (110)
  - Seeing wildlife, variety of habitats, nature observation, trees, tame wildlife, enjoy watching deer (14)
- **Beauty: 11.51%** (102)
  - Beautiful, pretty, scenery
- **Trails and Boardwalks: 11.51%** (102)
  - Well-maintained, wood-chipped, soft, great for jogging/running, abundance of trails, neat bridges, quotes
- **Natural Setting: 11.40%** (101)
  - Enjoyment, value, and love of nature, being outside/outdoors, walk through the woods
- **Proximity: 9.71%** (86)
  - Close to campus and Stevens Point, easy access
- **Green Space and Conservation Efforts: 9.26%** (82)
  - Island of Green, preservation, protection from development/urban sprawl, few manmade structures, natural area, environmental awareness
- **Lake Joanis: 7.22%** (64)
  - Beautiful view, loop trail, benches, beach, clear and clean water
- **Recreational Opportunities: 5.76%** (51)
  - Running, jogging, biking, exercise, photography, fishing, hiking
- **Educational Opportunities: 3.72%** (33)
  - Classes, learning, public programs, hands-on labs
- **Well-Maintained: 2.03%** (18)
  - Well kept natural area, nearly free of litter
- **Other: 6.66%** (59)
  - Safe/comfortable environment (10), Reflection Pond with swing bench (10), Tasteful signs and maps (6), Treehouse (6), Open to both University and community (6), Social aspects (5), Link to Green Circle Trail (5), Visitor Center (4), Berard Oaks (1), Mission of the Reserve (1),
- **Everything: 1.02%** (9)

11. What would you like to see changed or what concerns do you have about Schmeeckle Reserve? (Percentages listed are of respondents who have been to Schmeeckle. This question was short answer and responses were coded):

- **Safety concerns: 9.71% (86)**
  - Illicit/illegal activities, unsafe toward evening, increase emergency call phones, creepy individuals, wildlife
- **Trail and boardwalk maintenance concerns : 4.18% (37)**
  - More woodchips—less gravel, exposed roots and rocks, boardwalk and bridge repairs, trails need to be wider, trails are too wide
- **Increase the size of the Reserve: 3.61% (32)**
- **More patrols are needed for safety: 3.16% (28)**
- **Litter concerns: 2.93% (26)**
  - Clean-up needed, install trash receptacles
- **Keep the Reserve in-tact and natural: 3.05% (27)**
  - Avoid excessive development, remove roads, keep for future generations
- **Allow swimming in Lake Joanis: 2.82% (25)**
- **Remove invasive exotic species: 2.48% (22)**
- **Manage and restore native habitats: 1.69% (15)**
  - Attract more wildlife, plant trees, install wildlife houses, follow sustainable forestry and prescribed fire practices
- **Allow evening access to the Reserve: 1.35% (12)**
- **More trails and benches: 1.24% (11)**
- **Allow pets in the Reserve: 1.13% (10)**
- **Other: 11.29% (100)**
  - Concern about building a new visitor center (8), Too many people/overuse (8), More events/programs/volunteer opportunities (7), Deer issues—high population, tame (7), Install lights for evening use (7), Too many patrols (6), Increase funding for Reserve (5), Add picnic/study area with tables (5), More and enhanced bike trails (5), Allow bow-hunting (5), User conflicts—runners, bikers (3), Vandalism concerns (3), Groom cross-country ski trails (2), Increase use of Reserve (2), Sound pollution from cars concern (2), Rent outdoor equipment (2), Increase exhibit area (2), Pollution (2), Development of subdivision to southeast (2), Trail accessibility concerns (1), Allow camping (1), Enhance sustainability practices (1)
- **No concerns: 14.67% (130)**

### Demographic Information

(Percentages listed are of all respondents):

12. Do you live...

- **On campus (dorms): 46.65%** (438)
- **Off campus: 53.35%** (501)

13. What is your program/major?

14. What is your current class status?

- **Freshman: 24.81%** (233)
- **Sophomore: 18.53%** (174)
- **Junior: 20.02%** (188)
- **Senior: 31.52%** (296)
- **Graduate: 2.98%** (28)
- **Other: 2.13%** (20)

<b>College of Natural Resources</b>	<b>27.80%</b> (261)
Wildlife and Fisheries	<b>10.12%</b> (95)
General Resource Mgmt/Land Use Planning	<b>5.96%</b> (56)
Forestry	<b>5.11%</b> (48)
Env. Ed./Interp.-Youth Program/Camp Mgmt	<b>2.77%</b> (26)
Waters, Waste Mgmt, Watershed	<b>2.66%</b> (25)
Soils	<b>0.85%</b> (8)
Paper Sciences	<b>0.32%</b> (3)
<b>College of Letters and Sciences</b>	<b>40.58%</b> (381)
Biology	<b>11.50%</b> (108)
Business Administration/Economics/Accounting	<b>4.58%</b> (43)
Psychology	<b>3.94%</b> (37)
English	<b>3.19%</b> (30)
International Studies/Foreign Languages	<b>2.98%</b> (28)
Sociology/Social Sciences	<b>2.88%</b> (27)
Pre-Professional Studies	<b>2.34%</b> (22)
Mathematics and Computing (CIS, WDMD)	<b>2.13%</b> (20)
History	<b>1.92%</b> (18)
Chemistry and Physics	<b>1.49%</b> (14)
Geography	<b>1.28%</b> (12)
Philosophy/Environmental Ethics	<b>1.17%</b> (11)
Political Science	<b>1.17%</b> (11)
<b>College of Professional Studies</b>	<b>22.04%</b> (207)
Education (elementary, secondary, music, physical, early childhood, math, exceptional)	<b>11.93%</b> (112)
Health Promotion/Human Development and Health, Exercise Science/Athletics (Dietetics, Athletic Training, Family and Consumer Sciences, Human & Community Res.)	<b>6.39%</b> (60)
Interior Architecture	<b>1.60%</b> (15)
Communicative Disorders	<b>1.38%</b> (13)
Clinical Lab Sciences	<b>0.75%</b> (7)
<b>College of Fine Arts and Communication</b>	<b>10.65%</b> (100)
Communication/Public Relations	<b>5.43%</b> (51)
Art and Design, Graphic Design, Arts Management	<b>2.88%</b> (27)
Music, Vocal Performance	<b>1.17%</b> (11)
Theater, Acting, Drama, Dance	<b>1.17%</b> (11)
<b>Undecided or Other</b>	<b>8.09%</b> (76)



**Selected Quotes from Survey Question 10:  
What do you value most about Schmeeckle Reserve?**

*It's peaceful and tranquil, and helps relieve the stress of daily life. I have brought friends from different schools there to run through when visiting, and they all wished they would have something like Schmeeckle at their campus.*

*A little slice of heaven in Stevens Point*

*The ability to feel like you're "getting away" from the craziness of a busy schedule when you're there. Whether I go there for a walk, jog, or simply go there just to think it feels like a mini-vacation.*

*Just the fact that it is a natural area. I come from the Milwaukee area so it's refreshing to know that every single piece of nature isn't going to hell.*

*After spending most of the week in classrooms, and studying in the basements of the dorms, the Reserve is a perfect place to go to relax and just spend some time enjoying nature in peace; being outside and in a place where the only signs you're not in the wilderness, are the paths beneath you, and the occasional bench/sign along the way.*

*The peace and quiet. It's so close to campus that I can just go there and get away from it all. I have many fond memories of walking trails when I lived here as a child.*

*The thing that I value the most of the Schmeeckle Reserve is not only does the Schmeeckle Reserve serve the general public, but also the university students. I like to get away once and while from all the hustle and bustle of school life and connect with the land around me, whether it's sitting on the rocks by Lake Joanis or spending time at the "wildlife viewing window". Schmeeckle Reserve takes you on a journey of discovery. It might be encountering one of those "Schmeeckle deer" or an early morning hike looking for birds. Whether you're a child, university student, or an adult; The Schmeeckle Reserve holds a special place in the hearts of those who enjoy the true beauty of Stevens Point, Wisconsin.*

*It's an example of how a community can preserve some green space in the city that benefits many people.*

*I can go there to get away from the stress of classes. It's a calm place and it's beautiful! It's one of the best things about our campus.*

*The Nature. As a music major studying piano and composition, it is valuable to my work to use nature as a part of my music.*

*Its presence. The Reserve is invaluable. It's a unique asset to UWSP that which great care should be taken to ensure its longevity*

*I value the land. The land provides a great recreational place, protection from surrounding development, and ecological benefits.*

*I value the "escape" quality that Schmeeckle holds... as I see it as a place to be alone and have some solitude, study, reflect, and be one with the wilderness that is too quickly being taken from this earth... I value its ability to teach students through observations of its natural beauty as well.*