COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

DETROIT LAKES, MINNESOTA

2017
A Community Assessment of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

Prepared by students in Community Assessment (SOC 404/604)
North Dakota State University
Fargo, North Dakota

Students:
Antonio Ayala               Kobe Kvasager
Mitchell Bengtson           Quynh Le
Brady Bergeron              Trevon Money
Vincent Burkhardt           Erika Olson
Mitchell Carlson            Amanda Palos
Tyler Davis                 Kaitlyn Ryan
Calum Evoniuk               Kyle Sample
Kathy Jorgenson             Ashleigh Vogel
Julianna Howells            Parvina Yakubova
Jacob Jennen

Instructor:
Dr. Gary A. Goreham

Prepared for the community of
Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

December 2017
Acknowledgments

Our class would like to thank the community of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota for the time and leadership they have gave us during the length of this project. The advice, knowledge, and participation in interviews providing input and guidance are all what made this study possible. We would like to give special thanks to the Detroit Lakes Advisory Committee for the friendliness and encouragement to complete this project.

• Rob Baden
• Karen Crabtree
• Greg Henderson
• Carrie Johnston
• Kelcey Klemm
• John Melgaard
• Mark Malingen
• Becky Mitchell
• Wendy Spry
• Amy Stearns
• Madalyn Sukke
## Acknowledgments

### Chapter 1:

**Defining Community**
- Community
- Detroit Lakes, Minnesota
- References

### Chapter 2:

**Methods**
- Direct Observation
- Interviews
- Secondary Data
- Documentary Data
- Photographic Data
- Data Analysis
- Methodological Issues
- Ethical Issues
- Community Assessment Code of Ethics
- References

### Chapter 3:

**Cultural Capital**
- Detroit Lakes History
- Definition
- Demographics
- Festivities and Events
- Religious/Spirituality
- Historic and Significant Locations
- Cultural Capital Challenges
- Cultural Capital Assets
- References

### Chapter 4:

**Natural Capital**
- Natural Capital
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake Detroiters Association (LDA)</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit Lakes Development Authority</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter 12:</strong></td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ripple Effects Mapping</strong></td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix Chapter 3: Cultural Capital</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Table of Tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Table 2.1</td>
<td>Primary and Secondary Research Data</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 4.1</td>
<td>Climate Information for Detroit Lakes</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table 10.1</td>
<td>Financial Statements</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Table of Figures

| Figure 1.1 | Map of Detroit Lakes and surrounding area | 19 |
| Figure 2.1 | Detroit Lakes in relation to Fargo and Twin Cities | 24 |
| Figure 3.1 | Culture Image | 30 |
| Figure 3.2 | Racial Composition, Devils Lake, MN, 2010 | 31 |
| Figure 4.1 | Asses Map of Detroit Lakes | 46 |
| Figure 5.1 | Population of Detroit Lakes, MN | 50 |
| Figure 5.2 | Detroit Lakes 2000 population pyramid | 57 |
| Figure 5.3 | Detroit Lakes stable population | 52 |
| Figure 5.4 | Stable population | 53 |
| Figure 5.5 | Stable population | 54 |
| Figure 5.6 | Detroit Lakes, MN Occupations 2015 | 55 |
| Figure 5.7 | Detroit Lakes Assets | 56 |
| Figure 6.1 | Types of Organizations | 61 |
| Figure 6.2 | Event Categories in Detroit Lakes | 62 |
| Figure 6.3 | Number of volunteers per year | 62 |
| Figure 6.4 | Asset map of Detroit Lakes social capital | 65 |
| Figure 7.1 | Pyramid of social control | 68 |
Figure 8.1  Jobs types in Detroit Lakes, 2011  79
Figure 8.2  Detroit Lakes commuting patterns, 2011  80
Figure 8.3  Detroit Lakes per household income, 2011  81
Figure 9.1  Graph of heating system in Detroit Lakes, MN, 2017  87
Figure 9.2  Graph of property values of Detroit Lakes, MN 2015  88
Figure 9.3  Graph of rent vs own in Detroit Lakes, MN, 2005  89
Figure 9.4  Graph of property taxes in Detroit Lakes, MN, 2015  90
Figure 9.5  Graph of Becker County school funding, 2014  93
Figure 9.6  Electricity production for Detroit Lakes, 2017  95
Figure 9.7  Built Capital asset map  96
Figure 10.1  Becker County Map, 1895  99
Figure 10.2  Council form (Weak Mayor)  101
Figure 10.3  Becker County Revenue  103
Figure 10.4  Becker County expenses  103
Figure 10.5  Government asset map  106
Figure 11.1  Detroit Lakes, MN illustration  108
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure 11.2</th>
<th>Lake Detroiter's Association, 2017</th>
<th>111</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Figure 11.3</td>
<td>Local development organization asset map of DL</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 12.1</td>
<td>Community capitals asset map</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure 12.2</td>
<td>Tourism from natural resources</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table of Appendix Tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appendix Table</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appendix Table 3.1</td>
<td>Racial Composition Detroit Lakes, MN 2010</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix Table 5.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix Table 5.2</td>
<td>Population 2010</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix Table 5.3</td>
<td>Population 2000</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix Table 8.1</td>
<td>Job Types in Detroit Lakes, 2011</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix Table 8.2</td>
<td>Detroit Lakes Commuting Patterns, 2011</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix Table 8.3</td>
<td>Detroit Lakes Per Household Income, 2011</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix Table 10.1</td>
<td>Becker County Revenue</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix Table 10.2</td>
<td>Becker County Expenses</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table of Photographs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photograph</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Photograph 1.1</td>
<td>Detroit Lakes, 2017</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph 1.2</td>
<td>Aerial View of WeFest Country Music Festival</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph 2.1</td>
<td>Second Floor Stairs of the Historic Holmes Theater, 2017</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph 3.1</td>
<td>Historic Holmes Theater, Detroit Lakes, MN 2017</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph 3.2</td>
<td>Washington Ave, Detroit Lakes, MN 1930’s</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph 3.3</td>
<td>Hotel Minnesota, Detroit Lakes, MN, 1907</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph 3.4</td>
<td>Historic Holmes Theater, Detroit Lakes, MN</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph 3.5</td>
<td>Holmes Block, Detroit Lakes, MN</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph 4.1</td>
<td>Detroit Lake Sunset in Detroit Lakes, MN</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph 4.2</td>
<td>Detroit Lakes City Park in 2017, Detroit Lakes, MN</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph 4.3</td>
<td>Veterans Memorial, Detroit Lakes, MN, 2017</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph 4.4</td>
<td>Detroit Lake, MN, 2017</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Photograph 4.5  City Picnic Shelter, Detroit Lakes, MN 2017  

Photograph 4.6  Detroit Mountain Lodge, Detroit Lakes, MN 2017  

Photograph 5.1  Swimmers Taking a Plunge, Detroit Lakes, MN 2017  

Photograph 6.1  Chamber of Commerce, Detroit Lakes, MN, 2017  

Photograph 6.2  Welcome to Detroit Lakes, Detroit Lakes, MN, 2017  

Photograph 6.3  Assemblies of God Church, Detroit Lakes, MN, 2017  

Photograph 7.1  Becker County Courthouse, Detroit Lakes, MN  

Photograph 8.1  Office Building in Detroit Lakes, MN, 2017  

Photograph 9.1  Detroit Lakes Downtown Buildings, MN, 2017  

Photograph 9.2  Becker County Courthouse in Detroit Lakes, MN, 2017  

Photograph 9.3  Detroit Lakes Public Library, Detroit Lakes, MN, 2017  

Photograph 10.1  Becker County Courthouse, Detroit Lakes, MN 2017  

Photograph 10.2  Becker County Board of Commissioners  

15
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photograph 10.3</th>
<th>Detroit Lakes’ City Council</th>
<th>102</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Photograph 10.4</td>
<td>Detroit Lake Police Department, Detroit Lakes, MN 2017</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph 10.5</td>
<td>Mile Long Beach, Detroit Lakes, MN 2017</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph 11.1</td>
<td>Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce, 2017</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photograph 11.2</td>
<td>Detroit Lakes MMCDC Office, 2017</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Executive Summary

- This document was created as the result of our Community Assessment course (SOC 404/604) at North Dakota State University under the direction of Dr. Gary Goreham. During the course of our Fall semester (FY 2017) our class conducted an in-depth assets assessment for the community of Detroit Lakes.
- This assessment was conducted using a mixed method approach and drew heavily from an advisory group of leaders from Detroit Lakes.
- Using the Community Capitals Framework, our class was able to identify key assets in the community that may be leveraged by community members. Each of the seven chapters on community capitals will provide an asset inventory.
  - Chapter One will address a key issue in this report and define Detroit Lakes and explore how it constitutes a community.
  - Chapter Two will explore the methods employed to construct this report.
  - Chapter Three will explore the Cultural Capital in Detroit Lakes. This chapter will explore the meaning of this capital and how it is uniquely manifest in the community.
  - Chapter Four will inventory Natural Capitals in the community. Because natural resources are the bases of many industries in the area, this chapter will explore a wide variety of natural capitals and how they interact with the rest of the community.
  - Chapter Five will explore Human Capital in the community. Detroit Lakes has unique characteristics here, all of which are explained in detail.
  - Chapter Six outlines the unique Social Capital of Detroit Lakes and how it drives activities in the City.
  - Chapter Seven introduces Political Capital and will explore how Detroit Lakes engages and constructs its political process.
  - Chapter Eight will explore the Financial Capital in Detroit Lakes through an examination of assets and income.
  - Chapter Nine inventories Built Capital in Detroit Lakes. Housing, infrastructure, public facilities and private structures will be explored.
  - Chapter Ten will outline the Governmental Capital in the City. This chapter will explore how governmental systems operate in Detroit Lakes.
  - Chapter Eleven introduces several community development organizations and efforts ongoing in Detroit Lakes.
  - Chapter Twelve presents a ripple map that will help community members conceptualize how various capital interact.
- It is the hope of our class that this inventory of assets in Detroit Lakes can assist community leaders in leveraging and recognize key elements in their community. Throughout our research, we were often impressed with the resources both tangible and intangible, present in this community.
Chapter 1:

Defining Community

Photograph 1.1 Detroit Lakes, 2017

Tyler Davis, Tony Ayala, Mitchell Bengston, and Brady Bergeron
Community

Before diving into the community assessment and capital structure of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota the term community must be defined. The term community is interpreted and utilized in several ways depending on who is asking and who’s asked. For this analysis, a community will be defined as a “Geographical region with shared commonalities.” This Geographical region includes individuals with a shared sense of space, in which relationships are built and valued with the people within the community. The cultures and environments, both natural to the landscape as well as man-made are shared within this community. While visiting with a couple of Detroit Lakes natives, we asked how and why they would define the community and boundaries of Detroit Lakes. A consensus was reached to use the school district boundaries for establishing the area of the city. This does not mean that anyone who commutes from the exterior boundaries of the school district is not a valid part of the community. Utilizing school district boundaries gives an area to assess without excluding too many people and without stepping beyond the boundaries of other cities/communities.

Figure 1.1: A map of Detroit Lakes and the surrounding area (http://pics4.city-data.com/mapszip/zma18486.png)

Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

Located in northwest Minnesota, the city of Detroit Lakes serves as the seat of Becker County. The city’s geopolitical boundary encompasses an area of 15.2 square miles with nearly a third of the space occupied by the popular recreation destination, Detroit Lake. Boasting a population of 8,569 and a population density of 838.5 residents per square mile, Detroit Lakes sits at the intersection of United States Highways 10 and 59 and Minnesota State Highway 34, making it important to not only those who live within its limits, but also residents of nearby communities including Lake View Township and Detroit Township.
The city’s website highlights its schools, churches, and outdoor recreation while providing visitors with a list of local businesses, dining establishments, and area entertainment. Headlining the city’s entertainment is the annual WeFest Country Music Festival which brings tourists by the carload. WeFest was first established in 1983 by Minnesota native John Roley. The festival starts the first week of August and typically lasts 3-4 days. It is now one of the most popular and largest country festivals in the nation and numerous country bands play there each year. It is important to Detroit Lakes because it brings a lot of tourists, gives popularity to this small town, and provides revenue which contributes to the local economy.

Photograph 1.2: Aerial view of the WeFest Country Music Festival
https://www.visidetroitlakes.com/site_components/images/user/enlarged/eventswe-fest0.png
References

Online:

*Becker County History*, www.co.becker.mn.us/our_county/history.aspx.


Chapter 2:

Methods

Photograph 2.1 Second Floor Stairs of the Historic Holmes Theater, 2017
Source: Calum Evoniuk, 2017

Authors: Mitchell Carlson and Calum Evoniuk
This chapter is designed to describe the methods used to explore and assess the community of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. In it, readers will find a breakdown of the methods used in our research. Methods used include direct observation, interviews, secondary data, documentary data, and photographic data to analyze a community using the community capitals framework. In this chapter, readers will find a discussion of the challenges faced while undertaking this task along with the Community Assessment Class Code of Ethics.

**Direct Observation**

Direct observation includes going to the city of Detroit Lakes and walking or driving through the city, observing, and taking in what is to offer. Another method, known as an observational study, is a method of collecting evaluative information in which the evaluator watches the subject in his or her usual environment without altering that environment.

**Interviews**

Members of the team conduct interviews to gather information on what life is like in the community. These interviews include planned, formal ventures with city officials or opportunity interviews with members of the community. Types of interviews can range from structured planned interviews, unstructured spur of the moment interviews, and phone interviews.

**Secondary Data**

Secondary data are used as supplementary information and is usually collected from sources that have already compiled the data. An example is the use of the U.S. Census Bureau to acquire data for statistics regarding population, income, and housing amongst other things. This is different from primary data, which is gathered directly by the research team straight from the source.

**Documentary Data**

This type of data comes in the form of official city documents, pamphlets, newspapers, etc. Documentary data gives a more formalized record of what happens in the city of Detroit Lakes. This could include tourism information, city council meeting minutes, or articles from the *Tribune*.

**Photographic Data**

Photographic data catalogs a visual aspect that is key to the project. These data give a view of Detroit Lakes to anyone, whether they be in the city itself or halfway across the globe. Photographic data for this project came mainly from the researchers who took time to explore the Detroit Lakes area and take pictures that captured the city.
### Table 2.1 Primary and Secondary Research Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Sources</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Built Capital</td>
<td>● Photographs ● Observation ● Interviews</td>
<td>● Building Plans ● Documents from Utilities ● Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Capital</td>
<td>● Interviews</td>
<td>● Census ● Bank Records ● Real Estate Listings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Capital</td>
<td>● Photographs ● Observation ● Interviews</td>
<td>● Photographs from City ● Website ● Dept. Nat. Resources ● State Maps ● Environmental Science ● Articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Capital</td>
<td>● Interviews ● Observation ● Notes from Attending ● Group Meetings</td>
<td>● Organization Documents ● Bulletin Board Flyers ● City Hall Meeting Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Capital</td>
<td>● Interviews ● Observation ● Photographs</td>
<td>● Census ● Dept. of Health ● Dept. of Education ● Vaccine Records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Capital</td>
<td>● Interviews</td>
<td>● City Website ● Surveys ● Voter Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Capital</td>
<td>● Interviews ● Photographs</td>
<td>● Census ● City Historical Society ● Family Trees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Data Analysis**

The Community Capitals Framework as developed by Flora, Flora, and Gasteyer is used to assess the data collected from the city of Detroit Lakes. The CCF is used to evaluate the assets a community has to offer by taking the various methods of data collection and triangulating them. This brings together the various, disjointed data pieces and starts to create a full picture of the above-mentioned capitals.
Methodological Issues

Methodological issues can stem from each individual data collection method, but the mixed methods approach used by the those involved in this project helps to minimize some of these issues. Some of these issues can be issues in scheduling interviews with community leaders which were remedied by utilizing phone or email interviews, potential bias from direct observations by researchers, which was solved by giving a careful evaluation of the collected data by multiple members of the research group.

Ethical Issues

To avoid unethical collection and analysis of data, the researchers involved in the project went through measures to ensure ethical procedure was followed. Guidelines set forth by the 1979 Belmont Report were followed to follow the outline of respect for persons, beneficence, and justice. All researchers were also required to undergo IRB (Institutional Review Board) Training, to establish a comprehensive understanding of ethical standards in research.

Community Assessment Code of Ethics

- We will create an inclusive environment in which all community members are able to actively participate, with a focus on accurate representation without bias - along with the ability for members to remain anonymous.
- City officials' boundaries will be respected; upon request, research and observation will be paused and/or terminated.
- Information regarding the purpose of the research and the results will be made accessible to all community members.
- The well-rounded research will be used to create ideas and solutions best fit for the community.
References

Printed:
Chapter 3:

Cultural Capital


Authors: Kathy Jorgenson, Kobe Kvasager, Ashleigh Vogel
Detroit Lakes History

Development of Detroit Lakes Area began in 1871 due to the presence of the Northern Pacific Railroad moving through Becker County. Detroit Lakes was founded by Colonel George Johnston, who came to Minnesota in search of lands for the New England Colony in 1871. The city of Detroit Lakes, originally called Detroit began north of the railroad and slowly extended south to Detroit Lake. The name Detroit came from a French Catholic Priest who was camped near the lake and saw a “beautiful strait.” The word strait in French is Detroit (Becker County Historical Society, 2017).

Old Red River Road was the first road that went through the village of Detroit. Throughout the 1800’s the road was used by fur trappers, travelers, and the Red River Ox Cart. During this time wolves and bears were a common sighting in the streets at night. 1881 is when Becker County incorporated Detroit as a county seat. May 1884 the telephone company began operating and had phones located in Hotel Minnesota, Lakes Hotel, the North Pacific Depot, the bank, the county building and the Record newspaper office (Becker County Historical Society, 2017).

Photograph 3.2: Washington Ave, Detroit Lakes, MN, 1930’s
In 1885 the city of Detroit, MN established a fire department. The fire department fought many fires. In 1888 the Homes Opera House and in 1914 the Hotel Minnesota caught ablaze. Sadly in 1914, Detroit Lakes lost the Hotel Minnesota (Becker County Historical Society, 2017). Below in Photo 3.3 shows the Hotel Minnesota.

![Hotel Minnesota, Detroit, Minn.](Photo: 3.3: Hotel Minnesota, Detroit Lakes, MN, 1907

“The Fargo-Detroit Ice Company was the first large-scale firm to operate out of the area, advertised their ice as practically pure from organic matter. They provided ice for the Northern Pacific Railroad and bottled Pokegama Spring Water, which the railroad used exclusively in its dining cars for many years” (Becker County Historical Society).

On September 26, 1926, a special election was held to change the name of Detroit, MN to Detroit Lakes, MN. This election was held due to the postal mix-ups with Detroit, MI (Becker County Historical Society).
Definition

Cultural Capital is...

- “The values and symbols reflected in clothing, books, machines, art, language, and customs... the filter through which people live their lives, the daily or seasonal rituals they observe, and the way they regard the world around them” (Flora, Flora, Gasteyer, 2016).
- “Symbols and language, festivals, celebrations, and events... our shared identity that makes us feel like a community” (Flora et al., 2016).

Figure 3.1 gives a visual showing some concepts that makeup Cultural Capital.

Figure 3.1: Culture Image
Source: Cultural Mapping, https://thelabstrategy.com/culture
**Demographics**

According to the 2010 census the population of Detroit Lakes, MN was 8,569 individuals. The individuals are broken up below by race and gender.

The racial makeup of Detroit Lakes, MN was 97.1% White, 0.7% Black or African American, 4.4% American Indian and Alaskan Native, 0.8% Asian, 0.1% Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, 0.6% other race, and 2.9% two or more races (census, 2010). Figure 3.2 illustrates the race composition. The gender makeup for Detroit Lakes, MN is 47.2% male and 52.8% female (census, 2010).

![Racial Composition - 2010 Census](image)

**Figure 3.2: Racial Composition, Devils Lakes, MN, 2010**
Source: Census Bureau, 2010 Census, www.census.gov

**Festivitities and Events**

The Historic Holmes Theater (Photo 3.4) has many events and activities for the community. Events are year round on a weekly basis at the theater. Support for the theater comes from Minnesota State Arts board, funding from Minnesota Legacy Amendment and the Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage Amendment. Another support comes from Lake Region Arts Council, Minnesota State Arts Board Operating support grant and Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. The theatre also brings in revenue by for weddings and cultural events, as well as conferences and more.
The Holmes Theater was originally a school that was restored to a thriving community theater and outreach center. The theater is run by a non-profit board with CEO manager who oversees day to day operations, promotions and outreach programs.

WE Fest is an outdoor country music and camping festival that is held at the Soo Pass Ranch, Detroit Lakes. WE Fest is now one of the largest country music festivals in the nation. WE Fest uses a natural amphitheater that accommodates 50,000 people and has a camping space of 35,000 people(Detroit Lakes). When WE Fest first started it was called a “glorified barn” and it only held 9,000 people during its first show(Jon Bream).

Detroit hosts many other events and festivities throughout the year. In the winter they have Polar Fest, which is almost a two-week celebration that has a polar plunge, fireworks, and many other activities throughout its two weeks. Along with WE Fest in the summer is another event that Detroit Lakes hosts, the Water Carnival. The Water Carnival is a week long and this year(2018) will be its 83rd annual. Activities that occur during the week is the crowning of Miss Northwest, water fights, and other outdoor activities(Detroit Lakes).

**Religious/Spirituality**

Detroit Lakes has over 220 organizations that are available to help out the community. Among these many types of organizations, there are many different church services. Among these many types of organizations, there are many different church services. Assemblies of God, Baptist, Catholic, Christian & Missionary Alliance, Episcopal, Evangelical, Interdenominational, Lutheran, Methodist, Seventh Day Adventist, and Vineyard. Like a majority of the churches nationwide they are Christian based and are more influenced by the Catholic and Lutheran faith(Detroit Lakes).

First Lutheran Church is one of the Lutheran churches in the Detroit Lakes area. They provide a place of worship as well as “Helping Hands.” Helping Hands is a program provided
by the church and is used to assist the frail, elderly, and disabled in the community. The volunteers that in this program provide assistance by helping with minor home maintenance and repairs that are too difficult for the ones in need (First Lutheran Church).

Lakes Area Vineyard Church provides many different types of community outreach opportunities to its members and the community. They look for donations and volunteers for many different types of tasks. Tasks may be for the care of the elderly, assistance for cleaning, and many other community assistance tasks. The Vineyard church looks to expand its member’s growth spiritually and socially with its connection with the community (Lakes Area Vineyard Church).

**Historic and Significant Locations**

“In 1882, the citizens of Becker County recognized the need to preserve the history of the community. The result was the Pioneer Settlers Union, a group comprised of many founding residents, who actively worked to preserve the history of their community as it was happening. In 1924, this organization was renamed the Becker County Historical Society” (Becker County Museum).

In 1943 the Becker County Museum was founded and located in the Becker County Courthouse. Its “collection” was stored in a closet in the Detroit Lakes Public Library. Over time the collection grew and there were plans of renovating the Holmes School building as the museum. A fire in 1980 delayed the plans for a new museum building, but in 1989 the Becker County Historical Society purchased the current building from the Assemblies of God congregation and turned it into the present museum. There are roughly 14,000 photographs and 20,000 artifacts in the museum currently (Becker County Museum).

According to the Minnesota Historical Society, there are eight historical properties in Detroit Lakes. There is the Bandshell, Bathhouse, Detroit Lakes Carnegie Library, Detroit Lakes City Park, Edgewater Beach Cottages, Graystone Hotel, Holmes Block (Photo 3.5), and the Northern Pacific Passenger Depot.

![Photograph 3.5: Holmes Block, Detroit Lakes, MN](http://www.mnhs.org/preserve/nrhp/)

Cultural Capital Challenges

Challenges that many Midwestern communities are their racial diversity. Detroit Lakes is mainly a white community with very little other racial backgrounds. A lack of diversity may cause Detroit lakes to have limited expansion and ties with possible businesses and investors. Many of the events that are held in the community are very reliant on outside involvement. Many of the events that they hold are also important to their traditions and heritage. Population doesn’t seem to be a problem to the area, but when the older generations are gone many traditions and history go with them as well. Finding ways to keep their history and traditions may prove to be a challenge.

Cultural Capital Assets

Detroit Lakes has many assets, which are shown in Figure 3.3 below. Continuing their traditions and passing on their history is the best way to ensure that its culture remains strong.

Figure 3.3. Asset Map of Detroit Lakes’ Cultural Capital
References

Written:

Online:
Chapter 4:

Natural Capital

Photograph 4.1 Detroit Lake Sunset in Detroit Lakes, MN, 2017

(Kathy Jorgenson, 2017)

Authors: Jules Howells, Jacob Jennen, and Parvina Yakubova
Natural Capital

Natural capital refers to the natural resources that a community invests, such as land, water, soil, parks, and biodiversity (Flora & Flora, Gasteyer, 2016). A communities' natural capital is important to study because the cultural, financial, political, and built capitals are all dependent on the productiveness of its natural resources.

The purpose of studying Detroit Lakes' natural capital is to determine what natural resources are available for the community to invest, consume, or conserve. Detroit Lakes has several water resources, parks, fish and another biodiversity, and land which the community is dependent on. This chapter will create an inventory of Detroit Lake's natural capital in order to examine how Detroit Lakes uses its resources to its advantage.

Parks

Parks are important for a community because they bring people together, restore habitat for wildlife, and offer education and serenity. Detroit Lakes features a variety of parks which include natural conservatories, and areas for picnics, recreation, and sporting activities. Most Detroit Lakes' parks feature the standard benches, grills, picnic tables, playground sets, and public bathrooms; however, they also have unique features such as refrigerator access, electricity, and boat launches. Recently, the city opened an unsupervised, but gated, dog park in June 2017 (the City of Detroit Lakes, n.d.). Recreational activities are also possible for visitors and encouraged through the provided tennis, Frisbee-golf, baseball, volleyball and basketball courts. Other notable park elements are biking trails, skateboarding parks, geocaching, conservatories, memorials, and beaches. The parks in Detroit Lake are important because it helps bring the community together and it restores the habitat for wildlife.

Sucker Creek Preserve

The Sucker Creek Preserve protects 64.24 acres of post-glacial maple-basswood forest consisting of a topography of swamps, streams, woods, and prairies (the City of Detroit Lakes, n.d.). The City of Detroit Lakes' website explains the goal of this park by stating that the "Sucker Creek Preserve is to restore, preserve and maintain the native biodiversity of Sucker Creek Preserve for the education and enjoyment of all visitors" (City of Detroit Lakes, n.d., para. 1). The Sucker Creek Preserve is a great asset to have in the community because it “lends itself well as a model for students, educators, adults, and organizations alike to learn about mineral springs as a water source” (LDA, 2017).

City Park

The City Park has 25.2 acres furnished with benches, tables, shelters, grills, and recreational activities (City of Detroit Lakes, n.d.). Detroit Lakes’ community members and guests can enjoy the playground, tennis courts, and Frisbee-golf course within the City Park. Within the park, there is a bandshell gazebo which hosts music events, plays, and even weddings. Adjacent to the City Park is the City Beach. This large park and the recreational areas is an important asset to have because it brings the community together. Photograph 4.2 displays the natural and built capitals in the City Park.
City Beach

The City Beach has 4.8 acres of public summing activities, including two boat and watercraft launches (the City of Detroit Lakes, n.d.). The beach also attracts residences and guests, allowing them to enjoy Detroit Lakes' natural resources. The City Beach also features a handicapped accessible fishing pier, which invites a diverse crowd to the area.

Other Parks

Other parks include the Kent Freeman Arena which, after the 1999 expansion, includes two ice rinks and hosts several events such as auctions, fairs, festivals, and other community functions (the City of Detroit Lakes, n.d.). These events increase the culture, education, and the social capital within the community. The Peoples Park includes three outdoor ice-skating rinks, skateboarding sections, and basketball, pickleball, and volleyball courts and more. The 39-acre Long Lake Park has playgrounds, horseshoe pits, picnic shelter, DNR boat launches and other equipment. The vast amount of parks and recreational facilities Detroit Lakes offers attracts a healthy lifestyle while bringing nature into the urbanized setting.
Memorials

Veterans Memorial Park and G.A.R. Park give tribute to all veterans and Civil War veterans retrospectively. Veterans Memorial Park features a memorial monument while the G.A.R Park has a flower garden and picnic shelters. Photograph 4.3 displays the beautiful monument at Veterans Memorial Park.

![Veterans Memorial, Detroit Lakes, 2017](Kathy Jorgenson, 2017)

Geocaching

One unique characteristic of Detroit Lakes' parks is the geocaching program. This is a modern-day treasure hunt brings technology into nature. By using GPS, this program was designed to motivate more people to enjoy the many parks and recreational facilities Detroit Lakes has to offer.

Water

Another important asset to examine in the community is water. Water is important because it can be used for public supply, irrigation, aquaculture, mining, domestic use, livestock, industrial, or thermoelectric power. Detroit Lakes has several surface water sources such as Detroit Lake, Lake Melissa, and the Ottertail River. The community also has a groundwater asset, the Becker County Aquifer. The quality of these assets is protected by a state program called the Wellhead Protection Program.

Detroit Lake

Detroit Lakes is well known for its popular summer vacation reputation. Detroit Lake is the major lake bordering the southern edge of the city and provides the city with water activities year around. Detroit Lake is 3,083 acres with 12.4 miles of shoreline to enjoy year
round. With a maximum depth of 91 feet, Detroit Lake is a great location for anglers to fish for Walleye, Northern Pike, Bluegills, Muskie, Crappie and Large and Smallmouth Bass. Photograph 4.4 displays Detroit Lake and its shoreline.

Photograph 4.4: Detroit Lake, MN, 2017
(Kathy Jorgenson, 2017)

Other Lakes

Other Lakes, such as Lake Melissa, Lake Floyd, Little Lake Floyd, Long Lake, Pearl Lake, Pickerel, Rock Lake, and Lake Sallie, provide the community with water activities and make Detroit Lakes a unique area (MinnestotaLakes.NET n.d.). "Lakes offer residents an open, boating-oriented transportation network with recreational space for interaction... and a nexus of common concern (a lake commons)" (Winkler, Scheve, & Matarrita-Cascante, 2013, p. 160). The lakes within Detroit Lakes are important because the lakes bring community members together and encourage the growth of the city's social capital.

Rivers

The Ottertail River is a 192-mile-long river that flows near the east end of Detroit Lakes with popular tubing spots along the shoreline for vacationers and locals to enjoy during the summer months. The Pelican River flows right through Detroit Lakes with Sucker Creek stemming off and leading into near-by small bodies of water.

Becker County Aquifers

Becker Country has abundant groundwater in its aquifers located throughout the county. An aquifer is an underground body of permeable rock which transmits groundwater. All of Becker County's citizens rely on the aquifer for their drinking water. The aquifers are easily and quickly refilled by precipitation year-round since they relatively close to ground level. There is a large concern for the water quality of the aquifers due to the close proximity to ground level. Improper dumping of hazardous materials, chemical spills, old good shafts,
agricultural contamination pose risks to the very valuable aquifer that many people rely on (Becker County Soil and Water, n.d.).

Water Quality

Overall the quality of the underground water is good; however, Little Detroit’s clarity had even clearer conditions (LDA, 2017). “Phosphorus and Chlorophyll levels were sampled by PRWD from Little Detroit Lake in 2016, with results which were consistent with the generally satisfactory clarity results” (LDA, 2017, p. 17). The Wellhead Protection Program, created by the Minnesota Department of Health, protects public water supply by preventing contaminants from entering the aquifers over time (Becker County Soil and Water, n.d.). It is important to have clean water because it allows the biodiversity to thrive in the community, increases amount water sources, and encourages tourism. The Wellhead Protection Program is a valuable community asset because it helps keep the Becker County Aquifer and other water sources clean and available for use. Another asset in the community is the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment. The Constitutional Legacy Funding program approved over 179 million dollars of Clean Water funds to monitor, study, and protect water in Minnesota (Becker County, n.d.).

Another protection program, the Lake Detroiter Association (LDA) promotes and protects Detroit Lakes’ interest at a more local level. For example, “In 2016 Becker County received $317,878 and Detroit Lake inspections accounted for $45,306.00 of those monies or 12.9%. 4,137 watercraft inspections were conducted in 2016 and 100 watercraft were non-compliant because the plug was not out” (LDA, 2017, p. 5). This program advocates for watercraft inspections in order to decrease the use of non-compliant watercrafts. The LDA also helps prevent erosion and slumping on shorelines by advocating for rain gardens which turns the drainage problems into a garden, instead of polluting the lake. This is a very important asset to have, as the LDA is active in promoting and protecting the whole community.

Topography

Topography is the arrangement of the natural and artificial features of a given area including location and elevation (Dictionary.com “Topography” n.d.). Detroit Lakes is located in south-west corner Becker County Minnesota at N46.81718° - W95.84533° (TopoQuest Detroit Lakes, n.d.). Detroit Lakes is elevated 1371 feet above sea level. The dominant land features in the Detroit Lakes area is primarily agricultural fields and woodlands with major industrial infrastructure being built near the outskirts of residential zones of the city.

Man-Made Topography

Man-made hills, lakes, beaches, reservoirs, and landfills all represent man-made topography. The city of Detroit Lakes has a mile-long beach for the public to enjoy along the shore of Little Detroit Lake. Spanning an area of 4.8 acres, the city beach has two public accesses to enjoy water sports activities. Adjacent to the City Beach is the City Park, located at the intersection of Washington Ave and North Shore Drive. The Detroit Lakes city park has 25.2 acres of woodland with a variety of amenities for the public to use. These amenities
include picnic tables, park benches and picnic shelters with grills provided for use like city picnic shelter displayed in Photograph 4.5.

![Photograph 4.5 City Picnic Shelter, Detroit Lakes, MN 2017 (Jorgenson, 2017)](image)

**Natural Topography**

Natural topography represents surface features of the land which would include lakes, rivers/creeks, mountains, and hills. Aside from the major attraction of the countless lakes that the Detroit Lakes area provides, is Detroit Mountain Recreation Area. Besides the many ski slopes that Detroit Mountain provides, there are biking trails and special scenic outlooks throughout the property (Detroit Mountain, n.d.). Photograph 4.6 displays the gorgeous Detroit Mountain lodge which welcomes visitors when they arrive.

![Photograph 4.6 Detroit Mountain Lodge](image)
Soil

Soils are formed through a very complex process involving the nature of the parent bedrock, climate, animals, vegetation, the slope of the landform, and length of time the soil has been in existence (NRCS Home). Soils lay in a complex mosaic across Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. This mosaic is not random but is the result of the blending of the effects of five major environmental elements. According to the USDA NRCS, "managing for soil health is one of the most effective ways for farmers to increase crop productivity and profitability while improving the environment" (NRCS home, USDA, n.d.).

Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is the agency that works on the preservation of soil and water in Minnesota state. The agency works on soil erosion and betterment of soil in the region. NRCS’s natural resources conservation programs help people reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damages caused by floods and other natural disasters. Public benefits include enhanced natural resources that help sustain agricultural productivity and environmental quality while supporting continued economic development, recreation, and scenic beauty.
Climate

Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, gets 26 inches of rain and 45 inches of snow per year. Compared to the national level, Detroit Lakes gets 13 inches less rain, but 19 more inches of snow (U.S. Climate Change, 2017). The number of days with any measurable precipitation is 58. On average, there are 194 sunny days per year in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. The July high temperature is around 80 degrees, while the low temperature is –1 in January. Sperling’s comfort index for Detroit Lakes is a 36 out of 100, where a higher score indicates a more comfortable year-around climate (U.S. Climate Change, 2017). The US average for the comfort index is 54. Our index is based on the total number of days annually within the comfort range of 70-80 degrees, and we also applied a penalty for days of excessive humidity (Sperling’s Best Places, 2017). Table 4.1 displays the climate information in Detroit Lakes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>high in °F:</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>low in °F:</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Av.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>precipitation</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>0.51</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>1.85</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>4.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Days with</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>precipitation:</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hours of</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sunshine:</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>snowfall in</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inch:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>high in °F:</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>low in °F:</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Biodiversity

One major asset to Detroit Lake’s biodiversity is the abundant fish available. There are “walleye, northern, trophy size Muskie, brass, crappies, sunfish, trout, bluegill, perch, and rough fish” (Detroit Lakes, MN, 2017). For hunting, Detroit Lakes’ public lands are full of deer, bear, grouse, wild turkey and more. “There are nearly 75,000 acres of county-managed tax-forfeited land and over 56,000 acres of lands administered by the Minnesota DNR, nearly all of which are open to public hunting” (Becker County, 2017). Not only is Detroit Lakes full of wildlife, the community also works hard to protect their biodiversity assets. For examples, the Waterfowl Protection Areas (WPA) protects species that are currently in danger. The WPA hopes to sustain the populations of the currently declining mallard, blue-winged teal, canvasback, trumpeter swan, and more common waterfowl and grassland birds.

### Summary of Natural Capital Assets

Detroit Lakes has several natural capital assets that the community members continue to use to their advantage. For example, the Geocaching park and wildlife feature encourage a variety of people to be engaged with Detroit Lakes’ many natural resources. Detroit Lakes attracts tourists to its many lakes, woodlands, and animals. This has greatly affected the economy of Detroit Lakes as economic consumers frequently visit. If the community continues to invest in its natural resources then Detroit Lakes could expect more economic growth. As seen Detroit Lakes' asset map, (Figure 4.1) the community's assets are divided into six main categories: biodiversity, water, topography, soil, climate, and parks.

- Sucker Creek Preserve
- G.A.R. Park
- Agricultural fields
- Snow
- City Park
- Geocaching
- Woodlands
- Rainfall
- City Beach
- 29 Waterfall Species
- Detroit Mountain
- Detroit Lake
- Kent Freeman Arena
- Ottertail River
- Mosaic soil
- 65 fish species

### Table 4.1: Climate in Detroit Lakes, MN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Av. precipitation in inch:</th>
<th>3.82</th>
<th>2.95</th>
<th>3.58</th>
<th>3.03</th>
<th>1.18</th>
<th>0.71</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Days with precipitation:</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours of sunshine:</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average snowfall in inch:</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Climate Data, 2017
Community Development Implications

Natural capital is connected to all other aspects of the community, but in Detroit Lakes, the natural capital has an especially strong relationship with the built, social, and financial capitals. For example, within Detroit Lakes' many parks, the built capital (physical structures) are new, maintained, and encourage community involvement. Detroit Lake, as well as other bodies of water, which attract tourist and results in an increased financial capital. The lake itself not only helps better the community, but the variety of wildlife within the lake also attract visitors.

For community developers, natural capital is important because if a community has weak natural assets, many environmental problems can occur. According to Hillman (2002) "extreme climate events, the disappearance of animal and plant species, pollution, degradation of land and water are all experienced at the local level" (Hillman, 2002, p. 350). Because a community's natural capital is closely knitted into the other capitals, environmental problems
will affect the other assets within that community. In conclusion, the natural capital assets within Detroit Lakes are especially important, as the assets are the main layer of foundation on which the whole community lies upon.

References

Print:

Web:
Chapter 5:

Human Capital

Photograph 5.1 Swimmers Taking a Plunge, 2017
Source: David Samson, The Forum, 2017
For the purpose of this assessment for Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, human capital will be defined as “the assets each person possesses: health, formal education, skills, knowledge, leadership, and potential” (Flora, Flora, & Gasteyer, 2016, p. 110). Another way we will define human capital is as, “that attributes of an individual that contribute to earn a living, strengthen the community, and to otherwise contribute to community organizations, to their families, and to self-improvement” (p. 110). What these two definitions for human capital have in common are the contributions that community members have on the community based on the skills, education, and training. Human capital has been noted as a community’s greatest resource, and we also know that education and training are considered to be the most important forms of human capital, because of the tools and strengths they provide to the individual. It is important for all readers to know that human capital is meant to help current and future generations within any community, in this case, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota which is part of Becker County.

To begin the chapter by analyzing historical and current population trends in Detroit Lakes as well as the different dimensions of human capital to address the current and future implications of the trends. We will have information on birth rates, death rates, immigration and emigration, racial and religious demographics, employment trends, healthcare systems, as well as education levels. We will be measuring education in terms of graduation rates, participation in higher education as well as the basic education program for adults. We will also be determining the skills that can be found in Detroit Lakes-based on the variety of occupations and services available in the community. The health of the community will be represented through data surrounding health insurance affordability, access to adequate healthcare, birth and death rates. Examining and interpreting this information in order to provide readers with a greater understanding of the human capitals that can be found in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. This will be the chapter that focuses primarily on the people.

Population

Detroit Lakes is a steadily growing city and continues to thrive financially due to this. Figure 5.1 shows that the population since 1900 has steadily been growing with a few hills signifying when the population had dipped. After each of those dips, the graph shows that the population then continues to rise. There are three main factors when you are looking at the population change in an area. The first being the birth rate, meaning how many infants are born each year in the area. The second would be the death rate, so how fast is a population shrinking. The last on is migrations whether it be migration into the area or emigration out of the area. We can calculate this number using a demographic formula shown below.

\[
P_2 = P_1 + (B - D) + (I - O)
\]

- \(P_1\) = STARTING POPULATION
- \(P_2\) = ENDING POPULATION
- \(B\) = BIRTHS
- \(D\) = DEATHS
- \(I\) = IN-MIGRATION
- \(O\) = OUT-MIGRATION
Figure 5.1 (Appendix Table 5.1) shown below illustrates the past and most recent census information on the population for the town of Detroit Lakes. The population pyramids provide an easy to understand look at the age ranges depending on the individual’s sex. It is also important to note with the population pyramids that it can help an individual understand the Age Dependency of the community. This meaning how large the ratio of older dependents (those over the age of 64) to the working-age population (those ages 15-64). This will help you understand more about how the population is spread out and what kind of services are required for this community to care for the young and the elderly.

![Population of Detroit Lakes, MN](source: Census Bureau, 2016)

Figure 5.2 and Figure 5.3 show that Detroit Lakes has a stable population. The population does have a large percentage of elderly individuals, but the pyramids are more rectangular shaped meaning there is a steady population. If the population pyramid were to change and look more like a pyramid that would signify that the population is growing quicker. The stable population pyramids show that the birth rate in Detroit Lakes is doing well.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Live Births</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Deaths</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fetal Deaths</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant Deaths</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neonatal Deaths</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 5.1 Birth and Death Rates in Detroit Lakes, 2010

Source: US Census Bureau 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>Males (%)</th>
<th>Females (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4 yrs.</td>
<td>-3.242</td>
<td>2.815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9 yrs.</td>
<td>-2.690</td>
<td>3.146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14 yrs.</td>
<td>-3.284</td>
<td>3.573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19 yrs.</td>
<td>-3.615</td>
<td>3.366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24 yrs.</td>
<td>-2.828</td>
<td>2.249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29 yrs.</td>
<td>-2.539</td>
<td>2.704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-34 yrs.</td>
<td>-2.994</td>
<td>2.884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-44 yrs.</td>
<td>-3.491</td>
<td>3.435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-49 yrs.</td>
<td>-3.615</td>
<td>2.194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-54 yrs.</td>
<td>-2.608</td>
<td>3.022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-59 yrs.</td>
<td>-2.083</td>
<td>2.414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-64 yrs.</td>
<td>-1.863</td>
<td>2.718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-69 yrs.</td>
<td>-2.014</td>
<td>2.828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-74 yrs.</td>
<td>-2.387</td>
<td>3.104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-79 yrs.</td>
<td>-1.807</td>
<td>2.953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80+ yrs.</td>
<td>-2.126</td>
<td>6.760</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 5.2 Detroit Lakes 2000 Population Pyramid, Detroit Lakes, MN, 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010
Detroit Lakes, MN has a population that is made up of a variety of ethnicities. The most common being White with American Indian and Alaska Native coming in as the second most common. With this diverse population, there are different languages that are spoken as well. English is the most common in this area but Spanish is the population most popular non-English language. Shown below in Figure 5.4 are the races and their distribution as of the 2010 census.
Religions

Based on the 2010 census it shows that a large portion of the Detroit Lakes population practices no religion. Looking at the population who do practice a religion it is mainly Catholic and Lutheran. The area has about 22 Lutheran churches and eight Catholic churches. This town also has a wide variety of church for those who do not practice Lutheran or Catholic religion. The Detroit Lakes area had about 48 different churches/organizations for the locals and surrounding towns to visit. Figure 5.5 shows the variety of religions you will be able to find in the Detroit Lakes area.
Detroit Lakes, MN is located within the Minnesota school district number 22. This district has three elementary schools, one middle school, and two high schools. The US Census reports that 92.2% of the population has a high school diploma or higher and 25.9% of their population has their bachelor’s degree or higher. Detroit Lakes is also home to Minnesota State Community & Technical College where students can obtain either a diploma, AAS or AA degrees in one or two years. This campus currently has an enrollment of just over 9,000 students which include both full and part-time as well as online students. A large population of registered nursing graduates, general business administration/management graduates, as well as elementary education graduates, reside in Detroit Lakes. Figure 5.6 displays the variety of different degrees individuals from have obtained.
Primary Occupations

Detroit Lakes has a large variety of different occupations to offer its residents, however, the most populated occupation, as noted in Figure 5.6, is the Admin, Business, Management and Sales category. This group of jobs employees a quarter of the employed population. Right after the Admin, Business, and Management, Sales category is the EMT, Law Enforcement, and Healthcare that populates 17% of the employed residents. Of all of the different occupations in Detroit Lakes, it has been presented in the data in Figure 5.6 pie chart that there is an unusually high number of residents working in Farm, Fishing, and Forestry, this is considered one of the more specialized occupations. Based off of the information on the previous figure, we can confidently say that Detroit Lakes has a wide variety of skilled and trained community residents.
The asset map for Detroit Lakes is quite large and has a great variety of assets. For Human Capital, we included professionals, social systems, individuals, organizations, and institutions. Each category is connected to human capital differently. Organizations include church groups, agricultural groups, or volunteer organizations. These are also related to individuals who include the youth, adults, and seniors in the area that contribute to the different human capital categories. Institutions have a huge influence on the Human Capital, they are educational facilities, healthcare facilities, churches, and community centers. There are also professional and social systems that influence human capital. Educators, city officials, labor forces, entrepreneurs, and county officials all contribute to the professionals in the town. The social systems can consist of welfare systems, job outreach programs, and agricultural communities. Detroit Lakes has done a great job making this community grow with its strong human capital assets.
References


Chapter 6:

Social Capital

Photograph 6.1, Chamber of Commerce, Detroit Lakes, MN.

Authors: Vincent Burkhardt, Kyle Sample, and Kaitlyn Ryan
Introduction

Social capital is an ever-present unifier in communities around the world. This capital is manifested and demonstrated in the way individuals work together, trust each other, form and leverage networks and relationships. Social capital is the “glue” that holds a community together. Several definitions of social capital have been proposed by researchers. In this chapter, we will subscribe to the definition provided by Robert Putnam, a modern revivalist, and writer on the importance of social capital in American communities. As he defines, social capital is “features of social organization, such as networks, norms, and trust, that facilitate coordination and cooperation for mutual benefit” (Flora & Flora, 2016, p.160). This definition both fits what we have seen in Detroit Lakes and allows us to better quantify this capital within the context of this report.

Detroit Lakes represents an active hub of community involvement, volunteerism, and philanthropy as well as a complex social structure with distinct features. Social capital is not only a vital asset to the people of Detroit Lakes also is a source of pride and community. “insert quote”. Detroit Lakes has many sources of social capital, from churches and events to nonprofits and volunteerism. Social capital is present in nearly every aspect of life in Detroit Lakes, even spanning and influencing the other capitals in this report. This chapter will explore how social capital is manifest in Detroit Lakes and how this capital influences the lives of its citizens and the city as a whole.

Measures of Social Capital

To better understand the social capital of any community, it is vital to clarify how exactly this capital will be quantified. Measuring something like social capital can be difficult as things like trust and kinship cannot easily be measured directly. In order to quantify this capital, we will use a number of proxy measures to explore social capital in Detroit Lakes. These measures do not directly attempt to quantify the unquantifiable but rather measure the consequences of social capital. These proxy measures include:

- Attitudes
- Number of Voluntary Organizations and membership
- Volunteerism in the community; hours contributed and volunteer rates
- Community activities, efforts, and events to include participation rates
- Cooperative ventures (Donations)

The next sections will explore some of these measures and how they impact day to day life in Detroit Lakes.

Community Attitudes

The town of Detroit Lakes harbors unique attitudes towards philanthropic and volunteer activities. More than that, the people of Detroit Lakes are invested in making the city better. Throughout this research project, many examples of this “improvement” mindset illustrated its pervasiveness in the community. Recreation Mountain is not the first but perhaps the greatest example of this attitude and how it manifested in tangible and positive change within the community. This facility was constructed using donations and community resources provided by citizens, what's more, much of the leadership was grassroots. More recently, donation efforts are ongoing to support a Boys and Girls club in the City. This effort has raised (insert from notes!!). These attitudes are so vitally important because they seem to drive all other activities in the community, from young volunteerism through the local high school to generous donations from individuals and business alike, it is the attitudes that drive social capital. In the words of a prominent community leader “If you think we need it, go build it, through volunteerism”.

Organizations of Detroit Lakes

According to the Detroit Lakes website, there 228 organizations within the community of Detroit Lakes. These organizations range from businesses to nonprofits, and individuals. These organizations are focused on making the bond in Detroit Lakes even stronger to keep people engaged and feel included with Detroit Lakes. In figure 6.3 there is a breakdown of six different types of organizations. Developmental, community-focused, kids, fine arts, support groups, and sports/outdoors.
Participation demographics

There are a total of 1077 scheduled events for Detroit Lakes for 2017, which calculates out to be around 3 events per day according to www.visitdetroitlakes.com. In figure 6.4 there is a breakdown of what kind of category the event fit into and how much of a percent each event is categorized as. Most of the events fit into at least two categories. Community service made up a majority of the events with 53.3% of the events with community service as either their only or one of their focuses. While categories marked as school totaled 8 or less than 1% of the total events.
In figure 6.5 is a graph showing the trend of events since 2013. This data was collected by business.visit.detroitlakes.com. In 2013 there was a total of 1032 events, in 2014 there was 1400, 2015 1326, 2016 1280, and 2017 1077.
Roles in the Community

Chamber of Commerce plays a large role in the social capital of Detroit Lakes. The Chamber of Commerce is the hub of connections within the town. There are numerous pamphlets, flyers, and magazines about what the community of Detroit Lakes has to offer, such as opportunities in tourism, volunteerism, and overall community involvement. This is also a great resource for people to use in order to get involved. The Chamber of Commerce has a list of over 220 organizations that call Detroit Lakes their home. The Chamber of Commerce staff is more than capable of connecting members of the community with whatever organization they are seeking to join.

The schools within Detroit Lakes provide numerous opportunities for the youth of the community to get involved through volunteering and building bonds between community members. They participate in “A Day of Caring” each year, where students go out into the community in groups and help elderly community members with yard work, cleaning, or whatever they need assistance with. When asking community members about volunteerism within the community, the schools and specifically the high school are consistently mentioned.

Like any organization, churches play a large role in the level of social capital within a community. Due to there being many churches within Detroit Lakes, they have collectively increased the level of social capital. Photograph 6.6 below is a picture of one of the various churches housed in Detroit Lakes. They all have provided a place for members of the community to form networks with one another as well as provide opportunities for members to participate in philanthropic efforts. The churches are a source of social capital through their existence as a community gathering place, the events they host locally, and through providing local volunteer opportunities.

Photograph 6.3, Assemblies of God Church, Detroit Lakes, MN.
Bridging and Bonding

There are two types of social capital, bridging, and bonding. These terms are used to describe the connections between members of a community as well as how members of a community connect with outsiders or new members to the community. Bridging social capital is the links and connections made between diverse groups of people. These links are made between groups within the community as well as with groups outside of the community. Whereas, bonding social capitals are the links and connections between people who share similar backgrounds. Bonding social capital may cause divides within the community separating members into groups based on similarities, resulting in a division between groups of differing backgrounds. (Flora & Flora, 165-167)

The bridging and bonding social capitals are measured as high or low within a community. The ultimate goal for a community is to have both high bridging and high bonding because this is when a community is able A community with high social capital in both of these areas will possess progressive participation within the community. Based on the data collected in Detroit Lakes, the level of social capital would be described as having strong internal boundaries and internal factionalism as well as potentially experiencing conflict with outsiders. A community with strong internal boundaries may be apprehensive towards change or have groups within the community who have differing ideas towards what changes they welcome. This is because the community tends to have high bonding and low bridging. This conclusion stems from our data collected from members of the community who shared their experiences and perspectives of the levels of these capitals they see in their own community (Flora & Flora, 2016, p.167-168).

Detroit Lakes has plenty of bonding social capital stemming from the numerous organizations and groups who tend to share similar backgrounds. Many groups within the community are unofficially recognized, while others are official. One of these unofficial groups is referred to as “Little Fargo,” these are some of the snowbird community members who spend most of the year living in Fargo, ND but spend their summers in Detroit Lakes, MN. This group is one of many examples of bonding social capital in Detroit Lakes, these group members all share the similarity of being from Fargo. Some more examples of Detroit Lakes’ bonding social capital would include the Lakes Associations and the Sons of Norway.

For new members of the community, it appears that it is often difficult to bridge into the existing community networks. However, it was shared that having school-aged kids and being proactive about getting involved, are ways to work around these difficulties. It takes time and effort for newcomers to feel apart of the community. This signifies that Detroit Lakes’ bridging social capital is low. This both confirms and deviates from the typical characteristics we would expect from a community with high bonding and low bridging.
Asset Map

This asset map represents an inventory of the social capital within the city of Detroit Lakes. These assets can be leveraged by the community to accomplish improvement projects and larger community efforts.

Figure 6.4, Asset Map of Detroit Lakes Social Capital
References

https://www.visitdetroitlakes.com/about/churches-organizations

http://business.visitdetroitlakes.com/events/search?from=1%2F1%2F2017&to=12%2F31%2F2017&isNonStdDateFormat=false&c=&q=&m=&st=1

Chapter 7:

Political Capital

Photograph 7.1, Becker County Courthouse, Detroit Lakes, MN.

Source: SmarterTravel

Authors: Tyler Davis, Tony Ayala, Mitchell Bengston, and Brady Bergeron
Defining Political Capital

Put simply, political capital deals with a community’s power structure and the ability of individuals to exert change. Flora and Flora go on to include, “a group’s ability to influence the distribution of resources within a social unit, including helping set the agenda of what resources are available” (Flora and Flora, 184). Organizations, connections, voice, and the power of individual citizens take the shared values of a community and turn them into codified, enforceable rules and regulations.

To understand political capital, it is important we first understand the power and the role it plays within a community. Those who wield power wield influence and the ability to effect change. To Flora and Flora power is, “the ability to create a situation that otherwise would not happen or to prevent something from occurring that others wish to make happen” (Flora and Flora, 185). Communities with greater political capital are more likely to have an equal distribution of power among citizens.

Researchers attempting to gauge a community’s political capital will often analyze the community’s power structure. A community’s power structure, the patterns identified in the exercise of community power, determines how decisions are made and agendas are set. What isn’t discussed is often as important as what is. Key individuals and groups, as well as their interests, are included within the community power structure. Local government officials, business leaders, outside stakeholders, or community organizers are all possible influencers.

Figure 7.1: Pyramid of social control (Community Dynamics and Social Capital. Available from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/299701649_Community_Dynamics_and_Social_Capital [accessed Oct 25, 2017])
The Four Theories of Community Power

Pluralism

Pluralism operates based on fundamental assumptions about democracy. To a pluralist, there is no single dominant source of power. Rather, power (and the capacity to gain power) is distributed widely throughout the community’s population. A pluralist views citizens operating within the democratic political process the same way an individual operates within the free-market economy. Individuals make decisions attempting to maximize personal benefit based on free access to information. Under this view community power comes from the bottom up through free and fair elections founded upon “one person, one vote.” (Flora and Flora, 192)

Elitism

Elitism scoffs at the perceived naivety of pluralism. An individual subscribing to the elitism point of view assumes that power conforms to the stratification system. In sharp contrast to pluralism, elitism advances the notion that power is distributed hierarchically and can, in fact, be accumulated. This accumulation may take the form of a formal government position or informally such as control over means of coercion, an authoritative position, command of wealth, control of information, or a level of prestige. In his 1953 study of Atlanta, Georgia, Floyd Hunter found that instead of government officials, it was individuals from the business class that exerted the most influence. While split on various minor topics, this group of business leaders acted in almost unanimous fashion when it came to major issues (Flora and Flora, 194-195).

Class-Based

The class-based theories of community power look at the economic roots of power, specifically corporations and their control of wider society. Class-based theories conclude that it doesn’t matter to economic elites which person or group actually makes the decisions so long as their decisions enable profit making. Helen and Robert Lynd’s famous study of Muncie, Indiana in 1937 identified the influential power of the Ball family, owners of the Ball Jar Company. While not holding formal positions of power within the government, there was no denying the leadership and influence they held within the community.

Working-class people, under this perspective, hold far different concerns and interests than the capital-holding class. They tend to focus on improving wages, benefits, and working conditions. Rarely do working-class people hold formal positions of power, and when they do find themselves elected, experience difficulty pushing back against entrenched interests. Flora and Flora point out, “the more widely dispersed economic, political, and civic roles are within the community, the more likely it is that various citizen voices will be heard” (Flora and Flora, 196-198).

The Growth-Machine

The growth-machine perspective is a variation of the class-based theories mentioned above and is particularly applicable to urban areas although also pertains to some rural communities. “The growth machine”, according to Flora and Flora, “is a coalition of groups that perceive economic gain in community economic growth” (Flora and Flora, 198).
combination of interests make up the coalition, including: developers, construction companies, home insurance providers, real estate agents, real estate owners, rental agencies, banks, and many more.

In many communities neighborhoods and the growth-machine are in direct competition as a result of use value versus exchange value. Those living within neighborhoods tend to focus on use value, opting for an increase in natural and built capital. The growth-machine, on the other hand, focuses on the exchange value of buildings and land, seeking greater financial capital (Flora and Flora 198-200).

Voting History

As shown in the figures below, Becker County has voted Republican for the past 5 elections, and in most cases winning by a large percentage with the exception of 2008, the year Barack Obama was first voted into the office. That year the gap narrowed with 45% of the votes going to the Democratic Party making it a close race. In the 2016 election, Trump amassed 63% of the votes giving him the largest winning margin in the span of the last 5 elections. Becker County had strong voter participation amassing a 92.3% voter turnout to the polls in the 2016 election (Becker). By examining the data from these poll results, Republican vote trend reflects a political ideology that favors conservative and traditional values and the support for the Republican Party has increased since 2008.

Graphic 7.2: Becker County 2016 General Election Results

--

Graphic 7.3: Becker County 2016 General Election Registered Voter Turnout
Gender/wages

As of 2014, the total population of Detroit lakes is 8,569. 4,045 are males and 4,524 are female. The population has slowly but surely increased every year since 2000. Wage by gender in Detroit Lakes is in favor of males who are yearly wages on average come out to be $49,218 and the yearly average of female wages comes out to be $39,677. These wages were taken from the five most occupied jobs by both genders. Those jobs are registered nurse, secretaries and administrative assistants, driver/sales workers and truck drivers, cashiers, and psychiatric and home health aides. Men on average make $9,541 more than women. This highlights the fact that our nation is still in favor of males when it comes to average wages/salary and is still a work in progress in our nation for a woman to receive equal pay.

Race/Ethnicity

Detroit Lakes is primarily a white/Caucasian community with 90% of the community being made up of white ethnicity. Next in line is American Indian/Native American with populations that make up 4% of the total population in Detroit Lakes followed by Latina/Hispanic who makes up roughly 2% of the total population. The last bit of the population is made up of people who claim at least two different races and that number comes out to be roughly 4%. Poverty by race also has a clear distinction and being that Whites make up the majority of the population; they also make up a majority of the people in poverty with roughly 1,400 people being in a poverty state. Next, we have Native Americans with roughly 120 people in poverty and lastly, we have people who are of two ethnicities or more with roughly 100 people. Out of the total population of Detroit lakes, 19% of the population lives in a poverty state.
Local Organizations

One organization within the community working to advance a specific issue is the Lake Detroiters Association. Founded in 1944, the group represents members who are both lakeshore and community area property owners with the mission, “to promote the protection and enhancement of Detroit Lake.” One of the association’s chief concerns surrounds the
threat of invasive species such as zebra mussels and flowering rush. To accomplish their goals and increase their voice, the Lake Detroiters Association has aligned itself with the Becker County Coalition of Lake Associations, the Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations, the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, and the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, they seek to inform the public, gain members, and lobby local government officials. The Lake Detroiters Association Board of Directors meet at 4 pm on the second Thursday of each month at the local Essentia Health and practice inclusion by allowing anyone from the public to attend and participate. Twelve individuals sit on the board with terms lasting three years.

Graphic 7.4: Lake Detroiters Association logo

Another organization focused on the equitable distribution of power is the local chapter of the League of Women Voters, Minnesota. The Detroit Lakes Area chapter was founded in the 1970’s. Today, the group focuses on improving the democratic process at all levels of government, from national elections to the election of city and county officials. The group achieves their goal by hosting nonpartisan political forums focused on a variety of issues and potential candidates for office. The group partners with other local organizations, educate voters and aims to increase the political involvement of area communities. Meetings are held in the evenings every month on the third Tuesday.
Graphic 7.5: League of Women Voters Minnesota logo
References


Chapter 8:

Financial Capital

Photograph 8.1 Office Building in Detroit Lakes, 2017
Source: Calum Evoniuk, 2017

Authors: Mitchell Carlson and Cal Evoniuk
When one hears the term “financial capital,” the first thing that comes to mind is most likely money. While money is an important component of financial capital, it is not the only aspect that will be discussed in this chapter. Financial capital is any resources that can easily be converted into other assets (Flora, Flora, and Gasteyer, 2016). Two important aspects to consider about financial capital are those of income and wealth. Income is the money that a person makes in a set period of time, whole wealth is capital assets that can be held in the form bank accounts, stocks, real estate, etc. Another thing to note about financial capital is that it can build off other forms of capital such as political, built, and human to name a few.

In this chapter, information will be included on key financial and economic factors regarding Detroit Lakes. These factors include the breakdowns of the economic base and types of industry within the city. Income figures and commuting patterns for those living in Detroit Lakes can also be found within the chapter. The final piece of information covered will be the reinvestment efforts made within the community.

**Economic Base**

The economic base includes the business and industries within a city. This is how a community earns its living and determines the overall production of the community. Detroit Lakes, according to the 2012 Survey of Business Owners, is home to 1,151 businesses. Detroit Lakes economic base has a mix of manufacturing, tourism, agriculture, and retail. In addition, they are a regional hub for many service type businesses. Detroit Lakes has achieved the status of "Minnesota Star City" due to their many economic development programs.

The Star City program was established in 1981 to help those Minnesota communities with a population between 1,500 and 20,000 develop their organizational, marketing and problem-solving abilities through a rigorous course in economic development. A professional staff work one-on-one with a local official to provide training to business owners, and other community leaders to help them provide the means of retaining their existing businesses and recruiting new businesses (Minnesota Historical Society, 1981-1998 American Community Survey).

**Primary versus Secondary Industry**

Industry can generally be split into two types, primary and secondary. The first, primary, includes jobs that deal with obtaining and providing natural resources for further production. Jobs within this field include agriculture, mining, and fishing among other things. Secondary industry, on the other hand, involves the converting of the raw natural resources into products that can be consumed by customers. As seen from Figure 8.1 (Appendix 8.1), many jobs in Detroit Lakes fall outside the definition of primary industry. The largest job market, as seen in the figure, is that of educational services.

78
Commuting Patterns

The commuting patterns of a community look at the methods people use to travel to work and how long they spend traveling. Along with the Detroit Lakes commuting patterns (Figure 8.2: Appendix 8.2), it can also be noted that many commutes from Detroit Lakes to surrounding areas for work as well. Many, as the figure shows, commute to work by motor vehicle. The largest group, at 76.9%, commutes alone, with the second largest group, at 10.9% commuting via carpool (U.S. Census Bureau, 2011).
Income

Income is the amount of money made by a person in a specified time period. In Detroit Lakes, the average household income is $56,363. A household consists of any persons living in a residence, be it one person or several. When more than one person makes up a household, it is considered a family. Per family income for Detroit Lakes comes to $73,556 while nonfamily household income is at $33,119 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2011). This can be compared to the Minnesota per household income, which is $63,488 (Department of Numbers, 2015). The largest number of incomes range between $50,000-$74,000 (Figure 8.3; Appendix 8.3). Also worth noting is per capita income. This factors in the income made the entire community, divided by all persons living in the community, including non-working populations, which can cause the statistic to be somewhat misleading. The per capita income for Detroit Lakes is $26,263.
Reinvestment in the Community

The Community Reinvestment Act or CRA was developed in 1977 to encourage commercial banks and financial businesses to identify needs within their communities and serve them with excess financial resources (FFIEC, 2014). This being one of many acts to serve as reinvestment into the community.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) is an economic stimulus package enacted by the 111th United States Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama on February 17, 2009. The Act of Congress was based largely on proposals made by President Obama and is intended to provide a stimulus to the US economy in the wake of the economic downturn. The measures are nominally worth $787 billion. ARRA includes federal tax relief, expansion of unemployment benefits and other social welfare provisions and domestic spending in education, healthcare, and infrastructure, including the energy sector. ARRA also includes numerous non-economic recovery related items that were either part of longer-term plans or desired by Congress (Congress.gov 2010).

About half of the $37,900 lighting retrofit project was funded by an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant from the Minnesota Department of Commerce, via funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The lighting upgrades to the pool area were not covered by the grant, due to ARRA restrictions. A rebate from Missouri
River Energy Services also helped pay for the project. Detroit Lakes Public Utilities gets its electricity from Missouri River Energy Services, which provided the rebate through a program called Bright Energy Solutions.

The town of Detroit Lakes has seven banks and eight financial agencies which serve as a wonderful asset for further reinvestment into the community. They are social enterprise whose mission is to empower the communities we serve through effective banking, financial inclusion, and community development.

**Challenges**

Even with these strong assets, Detroit Lakes faces challenges. Luckily, Detroit lakes do have a solid economy. Some of the challenges Detroit Lakes faces are their reliance on tourism. Although tourism is not the only component of the Detroit Lakes economy, it is a large anchor. It is supplemented by several manufacturing operations and the types of business and personal services that serve a wide region. Because so, people do comes into Detroit Lakes to access the services that are not available elsewhere within easy reach. If the economy does take a hit either because of lack of tourism or manufacturing. It is important to note that because Detroit Lakes is located in northern Minnesota, that the rising heating cost due to the results of colder temperatures can be a financial challenge for low-income households. These higher energy prices, especially for heating oil, propane, and natural gas, even the modest of increases would affect them. As it moves forward, Detroit Lakes and its citizens are optimistic about the future. Its past is rich and its future is limitless.

**Financial Capital Assets**

The asset map in Figure 8.4 shows the assets that contribute to financial capital in Detroit Lake. The map can be broken down into four main areas that are seen to directly add financial capital to the city. The four areas include organizations, financial programs, main street, and the economic sector. Organizations such a non-profit contribute a lot of circulation of financial capital. Financial programs such as banks allow people to procure loans and invest the capital they hold. The town’s main street and downtown sector also showcase many small locally owned business.

The economic sector as a whole in Detroit Lakes consists of several parts that make up a large portion of the financial capital. Healthcare employs a large number in the city, specifically Essentia. Tourism in the area brings in the capital with the lakes and Detroit Mountain. Retail can look at the what has mentioned above with the downtown sector. Finally, manufacturing via businesses such as Lake Shirts bring in financial capital to the city.
Figure 8.4 Financial Capital Asset Map for Detroit Lakes, MN, 2017
Source: Calum Evoniuk
References

Printed:


Electronic:


Chapter 9:

Built Capital

Photograph 9.1 Detroit Lakes Downtown Buildings, MN
Source: Jorgenson, 2017

Authors: Jacob Jensen, Jules Howells, Parvina Yakubova
Built Capital

Built capital includes all buildings and infrastructure which are the "supporting foundations that facilitates human activity" (Flora, Flora & Gasteyer, 2016, p. 260). Built capital is everything that community members interact with everyday, such as buildings, roads, houses, bridges, and telecommunications. Economic infrastructure includes roads, bridges, and schools, which are the physical permanent services, buildings, and facilities needed to support all aspects of the community.

Detroit Lakes has several built assets which the city uses to increase to increase the social, financial, political, and cultural capitals. Studying the housing, public facilities, and infrastructure within Detroit Lakes is critical to understand because it explains how the city can better leverage their resources to increase all aspects of the community. Detroit Lakes has a variety of housing, including many assisted living housings for the community's retired members.

Housing

Housing is an important asset to a community because they provide shelter, encourage the population to grow, and create jobs. In Detroit Lakes, there is a mixture of single-family, townhomes, apartments, and assisted living (Moving Ideas, 2017). The housing units are classified into the following categories: 1-unit detached, single-family, 1-unit attached, and apartment housing. In Detroit Lakes, there are 11,844 occupied and 4,768 vacant housing units. (Moving Ideas, 2017). The high vacancy allows for those who are interested in seasonal housing a place to live.

Housing for Elderly and Assisted Living

Another type of housing that can be found in Detroit Lakes is housing for the elderly and assisted living home. Housing for the elderly and assisted living facilities are important for a community to have because they provide service and allow citizens to retire in the community. According to Senior Guidance (2017), there are two large-scale senior housing providers in Detroit Lakes, Ecumen Detroit Lakes, and Essential Health/St. Mary's that offer senior campuses, providing a continuum of care option for residents." In Detroit Lakes, the nursing home at Ecumen provides short and long-term care to its members. The other large senior living assistance is the campus at the Essentia St. Mary's hospital. There are also several

Heating System

Heating systems for homes are an important part of the built capital in Detroit Lakes because of the inclement weather that is experienced in this part of the country. As displayed in Figure 9.1, both apartments and houses are heated by a combination of utility gas, electricity, and other fuel. According to the City of Detroit Lakes data center “most commonly used house heating fuel in houses and condos are utility gas 76.1%, electricity 12.5%, bottled,
tank or LP gas 1.3%, wood 0.7%, fuel oil and kerosene 9.2%.” Heating in apartments is also a necessity in the area and creates a better-built environment for the residents. According to the same report on heating, “the apartments in Detroit Lakes mostly used house heating such as utility gas 63% and Electricity 32%” (City-data, 2017).

Figure 9.1: Graph of Heating System in Detroit Lakes, MN, 2017
Source: City-data, 2017

Running Water Supply

Another important resource in the built capital is the supply of running water. Running water in the city of Detroit Lakes provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source. The City of Detroit Lakes provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source called the Quaternary Buried Artesian Aquifer. There are four wells (ranging from 230 feet- 232 feet deep) that draw water from the aquifer (City of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, 2016). The water enters the Wastewater Treatment Facility in Detroit Lakes to be processed for safe consumption (City of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, 2016).

Median Property Value

Figure 9.2 displays, first, the property values in Detroit Lakes, MN compared to other geographies and, second, owner-occupied housing units distributed between a series of property value buckets compared to the national averages for each bucket. "In Detroit Lakes, MN the largest share of households has a property value in the $150k-$175k range" (Data USA: Detroit Lakes, MN, 2015).
Rent House vs Own in Detroit Lakes, MN

Rented units and owned housing units are important to the built capital because the ratios between these options represent the long-term residence status that community members have. In 2015, 61.6% of the housing units in Detroit Lakes, MN were occupied by their owner (Data USA: Detroit Lakes, MN, 2015). This percentage grew from the previous year's rate of 61.4%, which is slightly lower than the national average of 63.9% (Data USA: Detroit Lakes, MN, 2015). Figure 9.3 displays the ownership percentage of homes in Detroit Lakes, MN compared to its parent geographies (Data USA: Detroit Lakes, MN, 2015).
Property Taxes in Detroit Lakes, MN

Property taxes are valuable to a community because of the community's school systems, police, and fire department, and other community programs. Figure 9.4 displays the households in Detroit Lakes, MN distributed between a series of property tax buckets compared to the national averages for each bucket. Detroit Lakes pays on average, $800-$1,500 of property taxes (Data USA: Detroit Lakes, MN, 2015).
Public Buildings & Facilities

Public buildings in Detroit Lakes include the Becker County Courthouse, Chamber of Commerce, Corrections Department, and other county and city buildings. Photograph 9.2 displays the great quality of the Becker County Courthouse. The buildings are not shared between levels of government; the county government offices are in the Becker County Environmental Office while the city administration and service offices can be found in the Detroit Lakes City Beach building.
Community Center and Lake Agassiz Library

Another category of a community's built assets are the facilities such as libraries and community centers which promote education and increase socialization and community involvement. The Detroit Lakes Community and Cultural Center (DLCCC) promotes wellness and health by providing its members a variety of opportunities and resources. For example, the DLCCC has pools, weight equipment, and recreational and sporting equipment. The Lake Agassiz Regional Library not only offers educational resources but it also regularly shares its space to community events, such as the Legacy Talent Event. Detroit Lakes' library was built in December of 1911, based on a $10,000 grant that Andrew Carnegie funded. Photograph 9.3 displays the historic library, which is still in its original structure.
Emergency Services

Detroit Lakes is housed with one police station, 16 full-time police officers, and an additional two civilian assistants (the City of Detroit Lakes, n.d). These officers serve over 9,3000 citizens in the Detroit Lakes area, which creates a ratio of 1.9 officers per 1,000 people (the City of Detroit Lakes, n.d). Compared to national averages, Detroit Lakes has a low police officer to citizen ratio. The FBI Police Employee Data website reports that in 2010, "cities with fewer than 10,000 residents reported an average of 3.5 officers per 1,000 inhabitants" (FBI: UCR, 2010 para. 7). However, the police station works closely with the fire station and department, which employs 30 part-time officers and members (the City of Detroit Lakes, n.d). The fire station seeks decrease accidents by providing important information about smoke detector and fire extinguisher maintenance. Detroit Lakes’ Fire Department also explains the correct safety measures that should be taken for use of fireplaces, furnaces, dryers, smoking, gasoline, and electrical hazards.

Health Care Facilities

Detroit Lakes has several hospitals and clinics to efficiently serve the community's physical and mental health needs. One of the main physical health programs, which includes a hospital, urgent care, and clinic, is Essentia Health. Essentia Health St. Mary's-Detroit Lakes hospital is an 87-bed acute-care facility with birthing and operating rooms (Essentia Health, n.d). The Essential program has a variety of technologies that allow for CT, MRI,
monography and other laboratory services. Other facilities within Detroit Lakes include vision, chiropractic, dental, therapy, family planning, behavioral and mental facilities. Another valuable healthcare facility is the Sanford Health Detroit Lakes Clinic, which is a primary and specialty. Sanford Health offers "family & internal medicine, behavioral health, optometry, surgery, ob/gyn, podiatric, pulmonology/allergy, retail pharmacy, surgery, optical, and walk-in services" (Explore MN, 2017, para 1). Having this large range of access to health facilities is a major asset to the community because health care and support is a necessity.

**Schools**

Detroit Lakes has three elementary, one middle, and two public high schools, as well as two private schools. The Detroit Lakes Public Schools system provides education for early child care, K-12, and adults. At Detroit Lake High School, each student is offered to check out a Chromebook to use for the year, which allows for many new ideas and programs to be taught in school (Detroit Lakes Public Schools, 2017). Another asset is the Community Education courses which teach driver's education, youth enrichment, community education, and basic adult education (Detroit Lakes Public Schools, 2017). As shown in Figure 9.4, Becker County receives $12,021 in funding per student, which is less than the state average of $13,620 per student (Startclass, 2017).

![Graph of Becker County School Funding in 2014](Source: Startclass, 2017)
Infrastructure

In a study done in 2013 by Explore Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Revenue and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Becker County is the fourth highest in gross tourism sales for the northwest region. The county brings in nearly $72 million in gross sales and $4.5 million in sales tax (WDAZ. May 4, 2015).

Water Treatment and Storage Facilities

As discussed in prior chapters, the water provided to Detroit Lakes comes from many aquifers underground. After the groundwater is used by the residents of Detroit Lakes, the water is piped to facilities where it goes through treatments. The wastewater treatment in Detroit Lakes serves 9,500 residents plus commercial customers and treated a daily average of 1.3 million gallons of water in 2016 (City of Detroit Lakes, n.d.). On average, the water treatment plant treats 1.5-2.5 million gallons of water per day. The facility uses 60 lifts and underground piping to transport water to the needed areas (City of Detroit Lakes, n.d.). The city of Detroit Lakes pulls water from aquifers that are around 230 feet below the surface, and four wells are used to bring groundwater to the Water Treatment Plant. For safety precautions, three chemicals are added to the water, chlorine, fluoride, and ortho-polyphosphate (City of Detroit Lakes, n.d.). Chlorine is added for disinfection, fluoride is added to prevent the decay of teeth and it is also state mandated, and ortho-polyphosphate is added for corrosion control. The maximum storage for water in this facility holds around 1.46 million gallons, which could fill two wells, and one large and one small water tower. (City of Detroit Lakes, n.d.).

Sewer Systems

Detroit Lakes Public Utilities is currently planning a new wastewater treatment facility in order to meet regulatory requirements for sewer facilities (City of Detroit Lakes. n.d.). The community is hoping to receive a grant of $17 million to fund the project, which is estimated to be completed in 2019 (City of Detroit Lakes, n.d.).

Telecommunications

Arvig Telecommunications delivers the latest in technology to homes and businesses. Services include: Internet, television, phone, security, computer repair, managed IT services, backup & disaster recovery, hosted PBX, website creation, digital advertising and more (Arvig Communications, n.d.).

Electricity

Detroit Lakes Public Utilities receives a majority of its power supply from renewable energy sources. Approximately 65% of our energy is purchased from Missouri River Energy Services and the other 35% is purchased from Western Area Power Administration. Figure 9.5 displays Detroit Lakes’ power supply mix. Figure 9.5 provides a visual representation of the resources used to power the city of Detroit Lakes (City of Detroit Lakes. n.d.).
Summary of Built Capital Assets

Detroit Lakes has several built capital assets that the community members continue to use to their advantage. For example, the housing programs and public services, provide the community with a diverse spread of amazing opportunities in the job market and volunteer opportunities. Detroit Lakes attracts tourists to its many lakes, woodlands, and animals. This has greatly affected the economy of Detroit Lakes, as economic consumers frequently visit. If the community continues to invest in their built resources, the economic growth in Detroit Lakes will continue to grow as more advances in the active community arises. Figure 9.6 displays some of the important built assets in the Detroit Lakes Community.
Figure 9.7 Built Capital Asset Map
References

Print


Web


City of Detroit Lakes, Affordable Home Programs. Retrieved from http://detroitmi.gov/How-Do-I/Find/Affordable-Home-Programs


Data USA, Detroit Lakes, MN (201). Retrieved from https://datausa.io/profile/geo/detroit-lakes-mn/


Chapter 10: Government

Photograph 10.1 Becker County Courthouse, Detroit Lakes, MN 2017

Source: Kathy Jorgenson, 2017

Authors: Kobe Kvasager, Kathy Jorgenson, Ashleigh Vogel
**Government**

“Government is defined as a system or group of people exercising political control over an organized community (e.g., state); normally consists of legislators, administrators, and arbitrators; a means by which state policies are developed and enforced” (Flora, Flora, Gasteyer, 2016).

**City and Local Government**

The purpose of local government is to ensure “the peace, order and good governance of their municipal district” (Good Governance). The government of Detroit Lakes branches out to cover several subsections. These include emergency management, parks, and recreation, unique sources of city revenue and projects.

**County Government**

Becker County (figure 10.1) was named after Brigadier General George Loomis Becker. The county was established March 18, 1858. It would be ten years later before European settlers established in the county forming the towns of Lake Park, Frazee, Audubon and Detroit who all wanted the title of county seat. It was however settled in 1877 with an election, and Detroit aka, Detroit Lakes was voted county seat in a landslide (Becker County).

![Figure 10.1 Becker County Map, 1895](http://www.co.becker.mn.us/our_county/history.aspx)
The city of Detroit Lakes is the Becker County seat where county government is administered. Becker County has five board members who are elected to staggered four-year terms. The goal of Becker County and Departments is financial stability for the county, enhance economic growth through tax base, job creation through economic development and promoting a positive image(Becker County).

Photograph 10.2: Becker County Board of Commissioners

Source: Becker County, MN, http://www.co.becker.mn.us/government/commissioners/

Becker County Citizens Advisory board and commissions is a volunteer program that offers Becker county residents an opportunity to serve on county government boards, commission, and committees. Member can be chosen from board member nomination or appointment made by the five Becker County Commissioners(Becker County).

City Government

The city of Detroit Lakes has a city council(Photo 10.3, on the following page) that consists of 9 members, that meet once a month. There is also are five county commissioners(Photo 10.2) who meet twice a month. Detroit Lakes city government style is a weak mayor style(Figure 10.2 on the following page), where the mayor presides over the city council and both parties have contact with each department head. The mayor also has the power to cast a vote if there is a tie in voting between the council.
Photograph 10.3 Detroit Lakes’ City Council

Figure 10.2: Council Form (Weak Mayor)
Source: Gary Goreham, 2017
Revenue and Expenses

Becker County’s largest sources of revenue come from taxes and operating grants and contributions(Table 10.1). Their largest expense comes from human services, public safety, and highways and streets(Table 10.1). On the next page figure, 10.3 and 10.4 will show the revenues and expenditures(in respective order) that Becker County had in 2016, by using pie charts in a way to show how much each specific category took up for either revenue or expenditure.

Table 10.1: Detroit Lakes Financial Statements(2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changes in Net Position</th>
<th>Governmental Activities</th>
<th>Business-Type Activities</th>
<th>Total Primary Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenues</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Revenues</td>
<td>$ 7,636,635</td>
<td>$ 7,551,060</td>
<td>$ 2,855,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating grants and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>17,341,032</td>
<td>16,356,725</td>
<td>35,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital grants and</td>
<td>2,662,614</td>
<td>2,235,388</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current expenditures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property taxes</td>
<td>19,224,855</td>
<td>18,787,673</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local sales tax</td>
<td>2,132,314</td>
<td>1,994,867</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other taxes</td>
<td>481,269</td>
<td>208,400</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County and contributions restricted to specific programs</td>
<td>1,631,277</td>
<td>1,693,067</td>
<td>642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other general revenues</td>
<td>1,005,994</td>
<td>(2,514)</td>
<td>(719)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenues</td>
<td>$ 51,263,335</td>
<td>$ 69,677,774</td>
<td>$ 2,889,065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General government</td>
<td>$ 6,015,887</td>
<td>$ 6,126,872</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public safety</td>
<td>9,888,600</td>
<td>8,015,412</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public transportation</td>
<td>651,010</td>
<td>586,463</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highways and streets</td>
<td>8,000,808</td>
<td>8,880,631</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitation</td>
<td>3,693,246</td>
<td>2,869,214</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human services</td>
<td>14,263,512</td>
<td>13,511,631</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>1,008,378</td>
<td>1,792,233</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture and recreation</td>
<td>707,033</td>
<td>1,133,966</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation of natural resources</td>
<td>1,223,084</td>
<td>1,032,567</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic development</td>
<td>8,551</td>
<td>77,450</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>164,075</td>
<td>109,274</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunnyvale Care Center</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$ 47,331,464</td>
<td>$ 44,285,035</td>
<td>$ 2,948,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase (decrease) in net position</td>
<td>$ 3,031,871</td>
<td>$ 5,432,121</td>
<td>$ (59,690)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Position, January 1</td>
<td>76,424,317</td>
<td>70,992,196</td>
<td>226,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Position, December 31</td>
<td>$ 80,156,188</td>
<td>$ 76,424,317</td>
<td>$ 166,510</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Revenue**

Fees, Charges, Fines, 20.0%
Op. Grants/Contributions 32.0%
Misc/Other 2.0%
Capital Grants 4.0%
Nonrestricted 3.0%
Taxes 39.0%

*Figure 10.3: Becker County Revenue*
*Source: Becker County, [http://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/auditor_treasurer/financials.aspx](http://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/auditor_treasurer/financials.aspx)*

**Expenses**

Sanitation 7.0%
Highways and streets 18.0%
Public Safety 20.0%
Human Services 28.0%
Health 4.0%
Other 5.0%
Sunny Side Care Center 6.0%
General Government 12.0%

*Figure 10.4: Becker County Expenses*
*Source: Becker County, [http://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/auditor_treasurer/financials.aspx](http://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/auditor_treasurer/financials.aspx)*
Emergency Management

The city of Detroit Lakes has both a fire department and a police department (Photo 10.4). Steve Todd currently serves as the police chief, while Scott Flynn and Todd George serve as the fire department’s chief and assistant chief.

Another crucial emergency service is Becker County's Emergency Management program. Within this program is detailed county-wide Emergency Operations Plan. Becker County’s emergency management system "is responsible for coordinating and implementing emergency plans involving biological, chemical, nuclear/radiological and natural threats, disasters and crisis situations" (Becker County, 2017, para. 2). Becker County works directly with public, private, and non-profit organizations within all levels of government to ensure safety and security for all of Becker County citizens. They use a system called CodeRED which electronically sends messages to residents and businesses regarding AMBER alerts, hazardous traffic, road conditions, evacuation notices, or other urgent information (Becker County, 2017). The 154-page report lays out every step that would be taken in every type of emergency. "CodeRED is a web-based system that can reach a large number of citizens in a very short period of time, by geographically based delivery of phone and text messaging (Becker County)."
Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation programs are important assets to a community. Branching from local and city governments, parks programs receive funding through the government and through grants. A strong parks and recreation program is one that promotes physical and mental well being, as well as education. By offering walking trails, playgrounds, golf courses, shelters and more, the government invests in increasing built capital and social capital.

Due to the various geographical features of Detroit Lakes, there is a chance for a large diverse recreation program. Within Detroit Lakes, one would be able to visit, City Park, GAR Park, Long Lake Park, People's Park and the Dog Park. The GAR Park is one of three Grand Army of the Republic parks that are still in the USA. Also within the Detroit Lakes area, there is the Kent Freeman Arena, Bandshell, the Pavilion, and City Beach. Each with different amenities, there are shelters and building available for weddings, picnics, and concerts. There is also a mile long beach (Photo 10.5), and a spot to frisbee golf (Parks & Recreation).

Photograph 10.5 Mile long beach on Detroit Lake
Source: Kathy Jorgenson, 2017
Government Asset Map

Revenue and Expenses

Revenue: Taxes, Operating Grants and Contributions, Expenditures, Human Services, Public Safety, Highways and Streets

Local Government

Emergency Management

Police
Fire Dept.
CodeRed
Emergency Operations Plan

Park & Rec

City Park
Long Lake Park
Kent Freeman Arena
Mile Long Beach

Figure 10.5: Government Asset Map
References

Written:


Online:


Chapter 11:
Local Development Organizations

Figure 11.1 Detroit Lakes, MN Illustration
Source: TownMapsUSA.com, 2017

Authors: Erika Olson and Amanda Palos
What are Local Development Organizations?

Local Development Organizations (LDOs) are a type of organization common in smaller towns and cities. The organizations consist of local community members and work together to improve the community's economy through projects that work with the resources a town has currently. They often receive help from State or Federal Government or other outside sources. Below you will find a list of their goals for influencing economic activity to benefit the residents:

- Increasing income, employment and self-employment opportunities, and net tax revenues
- Improving the long-term stability of the local economy
- Improving, or maintaining, the local quality of life and work.
- Enhancing the wellbeing of the local population

The mission of LDOs includes creating or preserving the jobs in the community, often placing importance on jobs for lower-income residents. LDOs may also develop industrial parks and packaging of business loans or even counseling individuals who wish to start a business. No matter the size of the LDO they all share certain characteristics: flexible, strong, and creative leadership, solid local support, adequate funding, and competent, dedicated staff (Malizia & Rubin, 1985). LDOs can range in scale from small organization to large local development corporations that help finance multimillion-dollar programs.

Detroit Lakes Minnesota Regional Chamber of Commerce

MISSION: “To Advance a vibrant business and tourism economy through service, advocacy, networking, and innovation.”

Detroit Lakes Minnesota Regional Chamber of Commerce was established in March of 1906 as a commercial club to promote the Detroit Lakes Area. The Chamber is a voluntary organization made up of 500 businesses, organizations and individuals who are working together to better the area. They work on advancing the area commerce, industry, agriculture, tourism, retailing, recreation, transportation, education, government, business development, and community development (Minnesota Regional Chamber of Commerce, 2017).

The Chamber membership is made up of people who are willing to invest money, time, and effort into enhancing Detroit Lakes and its economy (Minnesota Regional Chamber of Commerce, 2017). The membership can include small and large businesses and organization, with its wide range of members it includes all kind of people from every segment of the community who are passionate about the Detroit Lakes area. The Chamber is very welcoming to new members and is open to any interested business, organization, or individuals who maintains a voluntary annual dues investment.

The members who join the Chamber are there to help the community and area by identifying needs, problems, and opportunities within Detroit Lakes. Through the Chamber, the members have made the area the leading trade center of Becker County and improved the quality of life in the region greatly.
Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation

The Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation (MMCDC) is a non-profit organization that works with commercial lending, mortgage lending, and additional housing services. MMCDC has been around for over 40 years providing capital resources and innovative ideas to help businesses and communities become successful throughout Minnesota and the Midwest. They revived the Graystone Hotel in Downtown Detroit Lakes which is now the location of their office, as well as the rest of the Graystone block.

The organization started through the cooperative efforts of Mahube Community Action Program in Detroit Lakes and the Inter-County Community Council of Oklee, MN. They are around due to a bill that was introduced in 1968 creating the Community Development Corporations (CDCs) (Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation, 2017). The CDCs were authorized to borrow funds from the federal government or private sources and then re-lend the money to businesses to create jobs in rural parts of America. They work with communities to create solutions, which can include the development of apartments, homes with affordable payments and new subdivisions. MMCDC works with the Detroit Lakes community to provide affordable loans for home purchase, repair and refinance. They help the community find affordable rental properties or services if they are looking to own a home.

As a workforce combined they have over 70 years of finance and banking experience, they will work with the customer to make the process as understandable and uncomplicated as possible. They have loan products such as; conventional loans, USDA loans, refinancing loans and many others. As of 2011 MMCDC has started to partner with NeighborWorks America.
which is an organization that follows the same mission as MMCDC but works through the entire nation.

![Detroit Lakes MMCDC Office, 2017](source: Wikimedia Commons, 2012)

**Lake Detroiters Association (LDA)**

This is an association that is meant to represent both lakeshore and community area property owners (Lake Detroiters Association, 2017). Lake is a very big part of Minnesota, and Detroit Lakes understands that, which is why the mission of the LDA is to “promote the protection and enhancement of Detroit Lake,” (Lake Detroiters Association, 2017). Lake can be considered a public asset and it has been enjoyed by all of the population of Detroit Lakes as well as those who have made the stop in town.

Detroit Lakes Development Authority

The Detroit Lakes Development Authority was established in 1985 by the City Council in order to improve economic and industrial development and redevelopment within the City of Detroit Lakes (Development Authority, 2017). Seven board of Commissioners govern the Development Authority, and each one has a six-year serving term that is appointed by the Mayor. Two members of the Development Authority board serve as Council members. The Development Authority is trying to create jobs within the community as well as broadening the community’s tax base by encouraging private industries to locate or expand in DL. The Authority firmly believes that public and private sector cooperation is the key to attracting new development to the community as well as ensuring future growth in the city’s business sector (Development Authority, 2017).

The Development Authority is focused on encouraging economic growth within the community. One of the ways that they do this is through the purchasing of property surrounding the city and selling it to businesses that are interested in locating or relocating in the Detroit Lakes area. The second aspect to this would be that the Development Authority also provides some of these businesses with the chance to receive loans in order to grow their businesses. The goal is to promote growth in Detroit Lakes, that means being willing to take risks and chances of businesses that are starting up or looking to move to the area (Development Authority, 2017).

United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development

The USDA Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America (United States Development of Agriculture Rural Development, 2017). They offer loans, grants and loan guarantees that help create jobs and support economic development and essential services such as housing, healthcare, first responder services and equipment, and water, electric and communications infrastructure (United States Development of Agriculture Rural Development, 2017).
Figure 11.3, Local Development Organization Asset Map of Detroit Lakes
References


Chapter 12:
Ripple Effects Mapping

Figure 12.1 Community Capitals Asset Map, Source Kyle Sample

By: Vincent Burkhardt, Kyle Sample, and Kaitlyn Ryan
Introduction

Ripple Effect Mapping (REM) is a method of evaluating impacts or depicting the “performance story” of a community development program with the help of the community stakeholders (Kollock, Flage, Chazdon, Paine, and Higgins, 2012; Baker, Calvert, Emery, Enfield, and Williams, 2011).

REM is a tool that a concept or an idea, either physical or metaphorical can be measured in how many things it effects or changes. So, REM is the idea that if a concept or idea was a rock and it was dropped into a pool or water how many ripples would it make. However, the groups involved in community development are only aware of the immediate and most visible impacts it had on the community (Kollock et al. 2012). By making a ripple map groups involved in community development and able to see the other “waves” that are also created through a concept or idea.

REM is a qualitative approach that relies on open-ended interviewing, placing great emphasis on “attention to context” (Greene, 1994: 538) and stakeholder concerns. This approach engages participants actively brainstorming and organizing their thoughts further encouraging future collaborative efforts (Kollock et al., 2012). Open-ended interviews for a ripple map, however, were not able to be completed due to time restraints for this semester’s project. However, through the advisory meeting, a ripple map on tourism was created.

Tourism

Tourism on the natural resources is one of the many major factors that has taken a part in the growth in Detroit Lakes. The many lakes, the beach, Tamarack Park, and Detroit Mountain are some of the many natural resources the Detroit Lakes has used to grow and maintain its community. These natural resources have been used to create businesses that are both year-round and seasonal. Off of that a small list of events and businesses formed. Now with businesses being formed that has increased the number of tourists that come each year, leading to an increase in business income, individuals incomes, and tax revenue. It can lead to improved infrastructure, improved schools, leading to a better education causing an increase in population with permanent and seasonal residents. More people will eventually lead to more businesses and the cycle can keep revolving and the ripple can grow exponentially larger.
Tourism from Natural Resources

- Improved Infrastructure
- Improved Schools
- Improved Health of Population
- Improved in Tax Revenue
- Increase in Tourist Population
- Polar Fest
- Seasonal Business
- WE Fest
- Increase in Business Income
- Increase in Population
- Increase in Temporary Residence
- Increase in Number of Businesses
- Local Development Organizations
- Becker County Museum
- Better Education
- Essentia Health
- Sanford Health
- BTG
- Lake Shirts
- Holmes Theatre
- Chamber of Commerce
- Increase in Household Incomes

Figure 12.2
References


Appendix Tables

Appendix Chapter 3: Cultural Capital

Appendix Table 3.1: Racial Composition Detroit Lakes, MN 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>90.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>0.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaskan Native</td>
<td>4.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders</td>
<td>0.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Races</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td>2.90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census Bureau, 2010 Census, www.census.gov

Appendix Chapter 5: Human Capital

Appendix Table 5.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>2060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>2807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>3426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>3675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>5015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>5787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>5633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>5797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>7106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>7353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>7732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>8569</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 5.2 Population 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range (yrs)</th>
<th>MALE (%)</th>
<th>FEMALE (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 – 4</td>
<td>3.242</td>
<td>2.815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 – 9</td>
<td>2.69</td>
<td>3.146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 – 14</td>
<td>3.284</td>
<td>3.573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 – 19</td>
<td>3.615</td>
<td>3.366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 – 24</td>
<td>2.828</td>
<td>2.249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 – 29</td>
<td>2.539</td>
<td>2.704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 – 34</td>
<td>2.994</td>
<td>2.884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 – 39</td>
<td>3.215</td>
<td>3.435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 – 44</td>
<td>3.491</td>
<td>3.435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 – 49</td>
<td>3.615</td>
<td>2.194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 – 54</td>
<td>2.608</td>
<td>3.022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 – 59</td>
<td>2.083</td>
<td>2.414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 – 64</td>
<td>1.863</td>
<td>2.718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 – 69</td>
<td>2.014</td>
<td>2.828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 – 74</td>
<td>2.387</td>
<td>3.104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 - 79</td>
<td>1.807</td>
<td>2.953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80+</td>
<td>2.125</td>
<td>6.76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5.3 Population 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range (yrs)</th>
<th>MALE (%)</th>
<th>FEMALE (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 – 4</td>
<td>3.688</td>
<td>3.163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 – 9</td>
<td>3.338</td>
<td>2.999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 – 14</td>
<td>2.836</td>
<td>2.871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 – 19</td>
<td>2.637</td>
<td>2.847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 – 24</td>
<td>2.953</td>
<td>3.104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 – 29</td>
<td>3.711</td>
<td>3.384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 – 34</td>
<td>2.871</td>
<td>3.023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 – 39</td>
<td>2.602</td>
<td>2.451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 – 44</td>
<td>2.696</td>
<td>2.381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 – 49</td>
<td>3.151</td>
<td>3.093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 – 54</td>
<td>3.174</td>
<td>3.279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 – 59</td>
<td>3.244</td>
<td>3.373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 – 64</td>
<td>2.369</td>
<td>2.929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 – 69</td>
<td>1.774</td>
<td>2.486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 – 74</td>
<td>1.587</td>
<td>2.637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 - 79</td>
<td>1.821</td>
<td>2.556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80+</td>
<td>2.754</td>
<td>6.220</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix Chapter 8: Financial Capital

Table 8.1 Jobs Types in Detroit Lakes, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale trade</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail trade</td>
<td>783</td>
<td>18.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and warehousing, and utilities</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>management services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational services, and healthcare and social assistance</td>
<td>1206</td>
<td>29.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other services, except public administration</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public administration</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey

Table 8.2 Detroit Lakes Commuting Patterns, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Households</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than $10,000</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000-$14,999</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,000-$24,999</td>
<td>629</td>
<td>15.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000-$34,999</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$35,000-$40,999</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000-$74,000</td>
<td>771</td>
<td>18.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000-$99,999</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000-$149,000</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150,000-$199,999</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$200,000 or more</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey

Table 8.3 Detroit Lakes Per Household Income, 2011

121
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method of Commute</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Car, truck, or van -- drove alone</td>
<td>3125</td>
<td>76.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car, truck, or van -- carpooled</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>10.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public transportation (excluding taxicab)</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walked</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other means</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked at home</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey

**Appendix Chapter 10: Government**

Appendix Table 10.1: Becker County Revenue

| Source: Becker County, [http://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/auditor_treasurer/financials.aspx](http://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/auditor_treasurer/financials.aspx) |
|---|---|
| Fees, Charges, Fines, Other | 20% |
| Operating Grants/Contributions | 32% |
| Taxes | 39% |
| Non Restricted Grants/Contributions | 3% |
| Capital Grants | 4% |
| Misc/Other | 2% |
Appendix Table 10.2: Becker County Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Services</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunny Side Care Center</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Government</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Safety</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highways and Streets</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitation</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Becker County, [http://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/auditor_treasurer/financials.aspx](http://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/auditor_treasurer/financials.aspx)