



Community Life

Goal: Maintain and improve quality of life in the Denver region. Active engagement and participation of residents in the community make a substantial contribution to our region's quality of life.

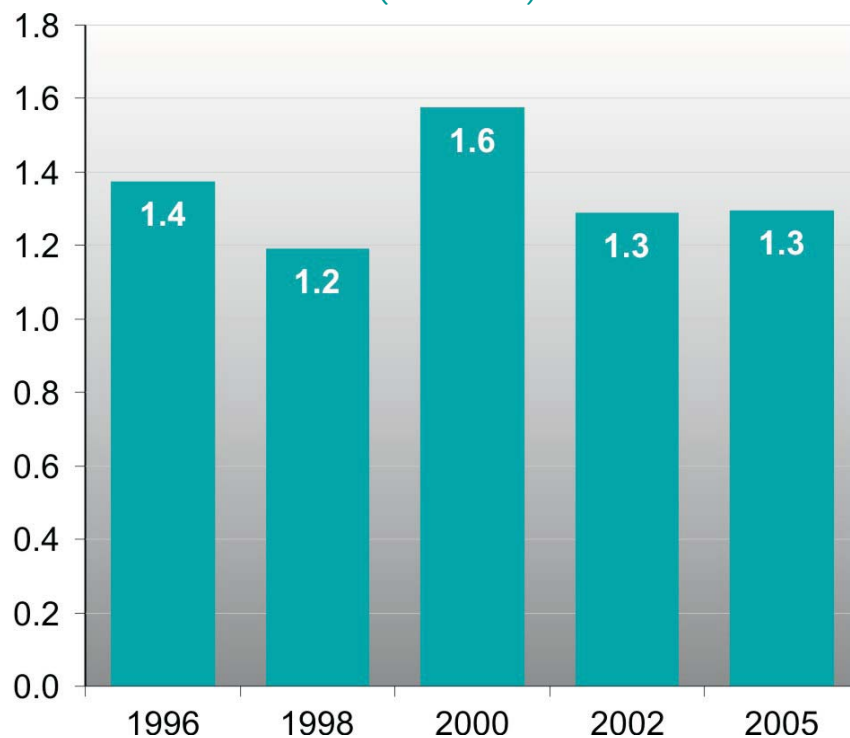
Measures: Park and recreation spending, cultural spending, and voter participation. These measures reflect state and local government efforts to provide opportunities for engagement within the region and indicate how active residents are in selecting their local leaders.

Conclusions: Local per capita spending on parks and recreational facilities in our region and state spending on scientific and cultural affairs has remained relatively constant during recent years. Funding of regional scientific and art programs through the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) was \$42 million in 2007, up from \$40 million the previous year.

Support for scientific and cultural opportunities contributes not only to our region's quality of life, but also the economy. The Colorado Business Committee for the Arts estimated that in 2006, the art community's impact on the Denver economy was approximately \$1.4 billion generated from tourism, job creation, and tax revenue.

Voter participation in our region has remained constant for the past few years, with increased participation during presidential election years. Overall participation remains relatively low, at about 50 percent.

Voter Participation
(Millions)



Action Steps: To improve community life, our region can take the following actions:

- Ensure adequate financial resources from public and private sources for both recreational and cultural amenities.
- Encourage more eligible residents to register and to vote.
- Encourage neighborhood design and social conditions that foster a sense of community.