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Design Load For Visitor Centers

For this example we are assuming that 80% of the visitors will use the center.

$$DL = \frac{VI \times .80 \times VS \times VW}{NW}$$

DL = Design load for the visitor Center

VI = Total visitation for the facility/site (estimate).

VS = Percentage of visitation occurring during your peak season.

VW = Percentage of peak season visitation occurring on weekend days or holidays.

NW = Number of weekend days or holidays during the peak season.

$$DL = \frac{521,000 \times .80 \times .80 \times .70}{27} = 8,644$$

To determine people at one time (PAOT) expected in the center:

$$PAOT = \frac{DL}{H \times TR}$$

DL = design load from above.

H = number of hours of operations (8 used in this example).

TR = Turnover Rate (estimated 20 minutes length of visit or turnover of 3 visitors per hour).

$$PAOT = \frac{8644}{8 \times 3} = 360 \text{ people at one time at your busiest time.}$$

WHAT NEXT?

360 visitors will need 25sq.ft. of floor space each as a MINIMUM for psychological carrying capacity. That means this facility needs an exhibit room and/or space of 9000 square feet if all the visitors were in the facility at one time.

This also means that the car park would need parking spaces for at least _____ cars – and what about coaches?