
CPPSR

Center for Public Policy and Social Research

Governor William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics



CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

2017-2022 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Data

Diana T. Cohen, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator

Kimberly A. Iacino
Research Associate

Alex J. Tomczuk
Research Associate

ISSUED OCTOBER 2017





Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
OVERVIEW.....	1
ASSESSING SUPPLY.....	1
ASSESSMENT OF DEMAND.....	3
PROJECTIONS OF FUTURE TRENDS AND FUNDING DIRECTIONS	5
FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS.....	6
SECTION I: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY	7
ABOUT THIS STUDY.....	7
REVIEW OF PREVIOUS SCORP METHODOLOGIES.....	7
2005-2010 Plan.....	7
2011-2016 Plan.....	8
METHODOLOGY FOR THE 2017-2022 PLAN	8
Statewide Demand Assessment Survey.....	8
Avid Outdoor Enthusiast Survey	8
Town Officials Survey.....	8
Focus Groups	9
STATEWIDE DEMOGRAPHICS	9
Overview.....	9
Population Density.....	9
Age.....	9
Race and Ethnicity	10
Income.....	10
Education	11
Conclusions.....	11
STUDY PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS	11
Number of Individuals per Household.....	11
Age of People in Household	12
Age of Respondents	13
Ethnicity and Race	14

Gender.....	16
Education	17
Income.....	18
Region.....	19
Demographics of Town Officials.....	20
SECTION II: ASSESSING SUPPLY	22
MEASURING INVENTORY: SUPPLY OF STATE RECREATION FACILITIES .	22
Construction of the DIRP Database.....	22
DIRPs in the State.....	22
Ownership of State DIRPs.....	25
Updates to the Database in 2011.....	26
Status and Future Directions of the Database.....	28
Measuring Open Space	28
ASSESSING THE QUALITY OF SUPPLY	29
Assessment of Supply: Constituent Ratings of Facility Conditions.....	29
Assessment of Supply: Town Official Ratings of Facility Conditions.....	30
Town Officials Rate Sufficiency of Supply.....	32
Town Officials Rate Adequacy of Support Components	34
SECTION III: ASSESSING DEMAND	36
PROFILE OF PARTICIPATION: STATEWIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION	36
Household Participation.....	36
Rate of Participation—Land-Based Activities.....	36
Rate of Participation—Water-Based Activities	38
Frequency of Participation—Land-Based Activities	39
Frequency of Participation—Water-Based Activities	41
Combined Participation and Frequency Rates—Use Frequency Index (UFI).....	42
PROFILE OF PARTICIPATION: AVID OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS.....	44
Rate of Participation—Outdoor Enthusiasts.....	44
Frequency of Participation—Outdoor Enthusiasts	47
PROFILE OF PARTICIPATION: STATEWIDE DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS	49
Gender.....	49
Age.....	51
Income.....	53

County.....	56
Town Officials’ View of Activity Trends.....	59
PROFILE OF PARTICIPATION: WHERE DO PEOPLE RECREATE?	60
Location of Recreation Participation by Outdoor Enthusiasts.....	60
State and Municipal Park Visit Frequency	61
ASSESSING MODES OF TRANSPORTATION.....	64
How Residents Get to Outdoor Recreation Facilities	64
DEMAND FOR OUT-OF-STATE OUTDOOR RECREATION	65
Frequency of Out-of-State Recreation	66
Reasons for the Use of Out-of-State Recreation Areas	66
Outdoor Activities Practiced Out-of-State.....	67
TOWN OFFICIALS IDENTIFY AGE-GROUP DEMANDS	69
Understanding Age-Group Activity Demands.....	69
ASSESSING DEMAND FOR ADDITIONAL FACILITIES	73
Citizens Rate Demand for Outdoor Recreation Facilities.....	73
Town Officials Rate Demand for Outdoor Recreation Facilities	77
Town Officials Rate Support Components.....	79
SECTION IV: BARRIERS TO OUTDOOR RECREATION	80
Residents Identify Barriers to Outdoor Recreation.....	80
Outdoor Enthusiasts Identify Barriers to Outdoor Recreation.....	81
How Connecticut Citizens Learn about Recreation Facilities and Activities.....	84
SECTION V: PROJECTIONS OF FUTURE TRENDS AND FUNDING	
DIRECTIONS	86
Town Officials Project Trends and Needs	86
Residents Rank the Most Important Facilities to Develop.....	86
Funding for Outdoor Recreation	90
Town Officials’ Rankings of Community Needs	93
Measuring Support for Fee Increases	94
SECTION VI: FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS	95
AVID OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS	95
LIMITED RECREATIONISTS	96
SECTION VII: STATEWIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION DEMAND	
ANNOTATED QUESTIONNAIRE	99

**SECTION VIII: AVID OUTDOOR ENTHUSIAST SURVEY ANNOTATED
QUESTIONNAIRE.....117**

**SECTION IX: TOWN OFFICIALS SURVEY ANNOTATED
QUESTIONNAIRE.....142**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

This study represents a collaboration between the state of Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the Center for Public Policy and Social Research (CPPSR) at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU). In January 2017, CPPSR was commissioned to collect data and provide analysis to assist DEEP with the drafting and assembly of the 2017-2022 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The data collected will help DEEP evaluate the supply and demand of public outdoor recreation resources throughout Connecticut.

To capture the attitudes and behaviors of various stakeholders in the state, three separate surveys were issued: one to town officials, a second to avid outdoor recreation enthusiasts, and a third to Connecticut's general population. Additionally, four focus groups offered a qualitative lens into topics regarding the barriers to recreation and the concerns of Connecticut residents. Drawing on data from both the 2005-2010 and 2011-2016 SCORP reports, this document provides valuable insight into longitudinal outdoor recreation trends in the Nutmeg State.

One methodological objective of the Statewide Survey was to offer results that could be reasonably generalized to the state's general population. This objective was met, with the demographic profile of the 2017 Statewide Outdoor Recreation Demand Survey closely mirroring that of Connecticut's 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) figures. Given that the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey is non-random, that profile of study participants was not expected to closely mirror census figures. Instead of generalizability to the general population, the goal of this survey was to capture the sentiments of self-identified outdoor recreation enthusiasts.

Additionally, a survey was distributed to Connecticut's town officials. Slightly more than one-quarter (26.5%) of the 55 respondents were from Hartford County, while a similar percentage (24.5%) were from Fairfield County. Most respondents (92%) were associated with their town's parks and recreation department.

ASSESSING SUPPLY

In 2005, the Center for Population Research (CPR) at the University of Connecticut undertook the task of establishing the first comprehensive database of outdoor recreational facilities and resources in the state. To construct the database, the state drew upon survey responses and interviews with local and state officials to comprise a list of "discrete identifiable recreation places" (DIRPs) for each of the state's 169 municipalities. Findings reveal that Connecticut is slightly above average in providing public access to playgrounds. In fact, Connecticut shows above average access to all recreational resources, except for gardens, for which it was only slightly below average. The biggest discrepancies were seen in the provision of baseball/softball fields (3,461 Connecticut residents per site compared to 9,461 U.S. residents) and soccer fields (6,880

Connecticut residents per site compared to 12,226 U.S. residents). More densely populated counties (i.e., New Haven, Hartford, and Fairfield) exhibited the greatest unmet need in terms of number of resources by population. In the 2011 SCORP, town officials reported nearly a 27% increase in the number of sites either newly added to the inventory or newly renovated, with roughly half (49%) being new and the remainder (51%) being completely renovated. Of the 22 categories queried, only hunting and camping accommodations were characterized by no increases or improvements from 2005 to 2011.

New to 2017, town officials were asked to provide the total acreage of open space land for both “active” and “passive” outdoor recreation use. More total acreage is dedicated to passive outdoor recreation use compared to active outdoor recreation use. Two in five towns (43%) feature 301 acres or more dedicated to passive recreation—a number that drops to less than one in five towns (17%) when measuring active recreation acreage in the same acreage range (301+ acres).

The condition of local and state parks was assessed through ratings given by Connecticut citizens on the Statewide Survey. In 2017, nearly nine-tenths (87%) of respondents rated local parks as “good” or “excellent” and about the same proportion (88%) issued “good” or “excellent” ratings for state parks. These percentages mark an increase from the 2005 SCORP because only four-fifths (81%) of local parks and state parks (82%) in 2005 had a “good” or “excellent” rating. Town officials in 2017 were generally much less satisfied with the condition of recreational facilities than the average Connecticut citizen. They were most satisfied with artificial turf fields and least satisfied with camping areas, tennis courts, and basketball courts. Also, hunting areas, boating and fishing access, picnic areas, winter sport facilities, volleyball courts, and playgrounds emerged as facilities in which “poor” and “needs improvement” responses were elevated. Swimming facilities were ranked among those in the best condition by town officials; these same facilities are those for which Connecticut citizens reported the most demand.

Overall, it appears that town officials today feel better equipped to meet the recreation needs of their communities than they did in 2005. The only facility that did not show an apparent increase in “sufficient” responses were volleyball courts, which two-thirds (67%) of town officials rated as “insufficient” in 2017. Additionally, camping and winter sport facilities were areas with heightened unmet need, since 69% and 63% of 2017 Town Officials Survey respondents rated them as “insufficient.”

Seven in ten (69%) of respondents on both the Statewide and Town Officials Surveys rated camping facilities as insufficient, indicating a clear need for increased facilities within the state. Connecticut citizens also agreed with town officials that snowboarding/skiing facilities were lacking: 70% of Connecticut residents indicated that their needs were not at all or only somewhat met and 63% of town officials rated their facilities for winter activities as insufficient.

Finally, respondents to the Town Officials Survey were asked to identify which “support components” were inadequate at any of the facilities in their community. Public transportation to a facility remains the most widely-cited inadequate support component, with nearly one-third (31%) of all towns identifying this deficiency. Public restrooms are the second most-cited support component, with over one-quarter (27%) of officials mentioning this shortcoming. Shelters have

seen the most improvement since the 2005-2010 SCORP, with almost a one-half (46%) reduction in citation.

ASSESSMENT OF DEMAND

In the Statewide Survey, based on 2,026 responses, the most popular outdoor land-based activity was walking/hiking, with nearly nine-tenths (86%) of households and two-thirds (65%) of individuals reporting participation in the last twelve months. Least popular among the residents surveyed were horse camping (3% household and 2% individual participation rates), disc golf (5% household and 3% individual participation rates), and hunting/trapping (8% household and 4% individual participation rates). Along with biking, camping, and golf, tennis and bird watching were among the activities which showed the steepest decline in household participation between the 2005 and 2017 Statewide Demand Surveys. The top three most popular water-based recreation activities were non-swimming beach activities (67% household and 57% individual participation rates), swimming in outdoor pools (57% household and 49% individual participation rates), and swimming in fresh/saltwater (53% household and 44% individual participation rates). The three least popular water-based recreation activities were sailing (9% household and 6% individual participation rates), snorkeling or scuba diving (11% household and 7% individual participation rates), and river rafting or tubing (11% household and 8% individual participation rates).

Similar to findings presented in the section concerning participation rates for land-based activities, walking/hiking sits at the top of the list when it comes to frequency of engagement. Roughly two-fifths (39%) of households reported walking or hiking several times a week and an additional one-quarter (27%) reported engaging in the activity a few times a month. Running was also a frequently practiced activity, with seventeen percent of households reporting running several times a week. Geocaching, letterboxing, and/or mobile application gaming emerged as a surprisingly popular activity, with one-quarter (23%) of households reporting engagement in this activity within the past year. It was also characterized by a high frequency of participation, with two-fifths (41%) of those participating in the activity engaging in it several times per week. Four land-based activities stand out for their low frequency rates: sledding, camping, downhill skiing or snowboarding, and cross-country skiing or snowshoeing.

Non-swimming beach activities, swimming in outdoor pools, and swimming in fresh/saltwater were water-based activities with both a high rate of household participation and a high rate of participation frequency. Two-thirds (67%) of households reported engagement in non-swimming beach activities within the past year and almost two-fifths (37%) of these rated the frequency of their participation as either “a few times a month” or “at least once a month.” The water-based recreation activities with the lowest rates of participation were water skiing/tubing/wakeboarding (13% household participation), snorkeling/scuba diving (11% household participation), and sailing (9% household participation).

Powerful trends emerged in the Avid Outdoor Enthusiast Survey examining the relationship between outdoor activity frequency and demographic variables. Most popular among female avid outdoor enthusiasts were horseback riding (94% female), gardening/landscaping/farming (68% female), swimming/tubing (63% female), non-swimming beach activities (63% female), bird watching/nature activities (58% female), and picnicking/BBQing (57% female). Most popular

among male outdoor enthusiasts were hunting/trapping (94% male), disc golf (94% male), motorized biking (85% male), fishing (83% male), mountain biking (81% male), and rock climbing (79% male).

In the Statewide Survey, households with at least one adult over the age of sixty-five had a higher rate of bird watching (44%) than households without an adult over sixty-five (33%), as well as a higher rate of visiting historic sites (61% versus 53%). Also, golf and walking were activities popular among seniors and showed participation rates very similar to those of households without an individual over the age of 65 (25% and 14%, respectively). Disc golf, rock climbing/caving, and automobile off-roading or motorized biking were activities most frequently practiced by younger avid outdoor enthusiasts.

For land-based activities, the largest disparities in participation between lower and higher income households are most pronounced for activities such as golf, skiing/snowboarding, and cross-country skiing/snowshoeing, with wealthier households being more likely to engage in these activities. In general, households with higher annual incomes tended to engage in more outdoor recreational activities. Camping, geocaching/letterboxing, motorized biking, and backpack camping were the only land-based activities for which households with incomes below \$100,000 had participation rates exceeding those with household incomes of \$100,000 or more. For water-based outdoor recreational activities, a consistent pattern was seen in which higher household income predicted greater participation in all activities but freshwater/ice fishing. Participation trends by county were also witnessed.

Town Officials were asked which activities have shown an increase, as well as a decrease, in participation over the past five to ten years. Officials ranked “walking” and “pool use” in their list of activities with increasing participation. Both baseball/softball and tennis were activities that Town Officials felt were experiencing declines in participation

In the Statewide Survey, the incidence of outdoor recreation area visitation was strong, with households being slightly more likely to visit municipal-owned areas (71%) as opposed to state-owned areas (67%). Additionally, municipal-owned areas attract a larger subset of frequent visitors (20+ visits). Despite the numerous outdoor recreational opportunities Connecticut offers, many residents report engaging in recreational activities out-of-state. A slight majority of households (54%) reported that they had not visited any out-of-state parks or outdoor recreation areas in the past year. Of the 46% of households who did visit these areas, seven in ten (71%) made between 1 and 5 visits in the past year, while 29% visited out-of-state areas 6 times or more. Unsurprisingly, avid outdoor enthusiasts were more likely to utilize out-of-state facilities than members of the general population.

Town officials were asked to list the two most popular resources or activities provided by their town for various age groups. Officials felt significantly better able to meet the needs of individuals of all age groups compared to 2005 SCORP findings. The most substantial increase in this ability was for adolescents. The most frequently cited need was a lack of community centers or other indoor facilities in which to provide programming. This was followed by a lack of financial resources with which to pay for program expansion and additional staff, as well as a general lack of outdoor recreation spaces such as fields, trails, and splashboard areas.

Respondents to the Statewide Outdoor Recreation Demand Survey were asked to indicate whether they or any member of their household had “a need or desire for additional access” to each of 28 recreational facilities. As was the case in 2005, picnic areas/shelters and historic sites/areas showed the greatest need among respondents to the survey. The greatest apparent increase in need from 2005 to 2017 was for outdoor pools, water parks, and splash pads, with 44% indicating a need for these facilities in 2005, and 53% reporting a need in 2017. Unpaved single-use trails, overnight camping areas, sports fields, snorkeling/scuba diving areas, off-roading areas, and hunting/trapping areas all showed increases in need on a smaller scale.

Town Officials were asked to identify which outdoor recreation facilities or programs not currently provided in their community should be provided. Nearly one-quarter (24%) of Town Officials cited pools/aquatic facilities as their most pressing need, closely followed by non-aquatic outdoor recreation facilities (21%). Fields (15%), trails (11%), and a community center (11%) were also cited by more than one in ten officials, respectively. Town Officials were also asked to indicate which support components were inadequate at any of the outdoor recreation facilities in their community. Three in ten (31%) cited public transportation to the facility, while slightly more than one-quarter (27%) of all Town Officials indicated that public restrooms were inadequate.

Over half (55%) of all Connecticut residents identified at least one obstacle to recreation. The top-cited boundaries in 2017 were fees (23%) and distance from a personal residence (21%). Outdoor enthusiasts cited litter (22%) as the most significant issue impacting their participation in outdoor recreation activities, followed by parking (16%). Statewide Survey participants were asked how they learn about outdoor recreational facilities, resources, and activities in Connecticut. As in 2005, word of mouth was most common (59%).

PROJECTIONS OF FUTURE TRENDS AND FUNDING DIRECTIONS

Town officials project that walking and hiking, as well as demand for associated facilities (e.g., paved and unpaved single- and multi-use trails), will gain popularity over the next 5-10 years. Activities such as organized sports, tennis, and golf were projected to lose popularity over that same time span.

Picnic areas and shelters, as well as unpaved and paved multi-use trails were the facilities most frequently noted as top priorities by state citizens in 2017. Playgrounds also showed a high degree of importance. State residents support increasing funding for the maintenance and improvement of existing recreational facilities. This is preferred over additional programming/activities and the development of new facilities. For state-owned recreation areas, nearly three-quarters (68%) of all residents indicated some level of support for an increase in fees to help pay for increased operating expenses.

FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Two groups of avid outdoor enthusiasts, each comprised of five individuals, convened on campuses within the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) system. Individuals were identified through personal contacts at CPPSR, with the results being non-representative beyond those who participated in this portion of the study.

The enthusiasts participated in a wide range of outdoor recreation activities, including: trail running and walking, kayaking, lake and ocean swimming, horseback riding and horse camping, mountain and road biking, cross-country skiing, finishing, snowshoeing, hunting, ATV riding, and canoeing. Their chief concern was their inability to practice preferred activities safely and/or legally. An interesting interplay emerged which points to tensions that exist between those engaging in different outdoor activities, particularly those utilizing multi-use trails. This heated conversation concluded with enthusiasts agreeing that DEEP must re-evaluate its policies towards ATV riding on state property, taking into consideration the needs of numerous constituent groups.

There was a strong call for raising awareness about local resources. In particular, participants wanted access to more information about the location of outdoor areas and facilities in the state. List-serves containing outdoor recreation organizations should be continually updated to account for emerging groups. A primary challenge the groups saw for DEEP was to effectively promote the fact that Connecticut has such natural beauty available for residents to enjoy.

Two groups of limited recreationists were also established using the same processes described for the avid outdoor enthusiast focus groups. “Limited recreationists” are defined as those who self-identify as experiencing significant barriers to outdoor recreation. Some of these limited recreationists engaged in infrequent outdoor recreation, such as walking on a rail trail once a month, while others engaged in zero outdoor activities.

The most widely-cited barrier to participation in outdoor recreation activity was time limitations resulting from the busy life schedules. Between work (which for some included multiple jobs) and family/caretaking responsibilities, leisure time often takes a back seat. Some participants expressed frustration over having to spend time traveling to a recreation area—time that they did not feel they had. Establishing a larger number of smaller-scale facilities such as trail loops or parks, particularly in urban areas, may be an effective way to bring outdoor recreation opportunities to those who are currently most deprived.

Among limited recreationists, two key themes emerged regarding the topic of fees. First, participants felt that fees were not worth the money given the little time that they had to spend in the outdoor recreation area, which was usually 30 minutes or less. Second, participants expressed an expectation that facility fees would be effectively used to fund amenities at facility locations. Both limited recreationist focus groups concluded with participants expressing that they want to know more about outdoor recreation activities in their area. Findings emphasize the importance of increasing the visibility of DEEP and its services, as well as communication and collaboration with citizens and non-profit organizations.

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

ABOUT THIS STUDY

This study represents a collaboration between the state of Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the Center for Public Policy and Social Research (CPPSR) at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU). In January 2017, CPPSR was commissioned to collect data and provide analysis to assist DEEP with the drafting and assembly of the 2017-2022 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The data collected will help DEEP evaluate the supply and demand of public outdoor recreation resources throughout Connecticut.

To capture the attitudes and behaviors of various stakeholders in the state, three separate surveys were issued: one to town officials, a second to avid outdoor recreation enthusiasts, and a third to Connecticut's general population. Additionally, four focus groups offered a qualitative lens into topics regarding the barriers to recreation and the concerns of Connecticut residents. Drawing on data from both the 2005-2010 and 2011-2016 SCORP reports, this document provides valuable insight into longitudinal outdoor recreation trends in the Nutmeg State.

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS SCORP METHODOLOGIES

2005-2010 Plan

The 2005-2010 SCORP was developed utilizing two key components: supply and demand. Information concerning supply was captured in a detailed inventory of Connecticut's outdoor recreational properties and facilities. These properties and facilities could have been owned by the federal, state, or municipal governments. Too, they could have been owned by a non-profit and/or commercial businesses. In fact, property-ownership was often distributed between multiple parties.

Meanwhile, demand for outdoor recreational facilities was retrieved via several surveys, including the Statewide Demand Survey, which was sent to 10,000 individuals of the state's general population. Additionally, demand was gauged from three other surveys that were distributed to different audiences. One of these surveys was sent to municipal recreation officials, while another survey was sent to Connecticut's expert/avid outdoor recreationists. The final survey was not conducted by DEEP nor the University of Connecticut's Center for Population Research; rather, it was sourced outside from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Survey of Recreation and the Environment (2004). Lastly, demand for outdoor recreational facilities was gathered from three public meetings at sites across Connecticut.¹

¹ Language from the 2005-2010 SCORP, page i of executive summary.

2011-2016 Plan

The 2011-2016 SCORP employed many measures similar to the 2005-2010 SCORP; however, the 2011-2016 SCORP was designed to collect information on the changes since the 2005-2010 SCORP. There were five key methods utilized: (1) A thorough agency review that entailed interviewing 20 DEEP employees who provided qualitative insights into accomplishments and new agency initiatives undertaken since the previous SCORP; (2) nine SCORP Advisory Board meetings, giving a diverse grouping of stakeholders the ability to vocalize statewide concerns, as well as important new initiatives, regarding outdoor recreation; (3) four public meetings, held in four geographical quadrants of the state, to allow for public input into the SCORP, (4) a non-random questionnaire electronically distributed to 741 individuals, with the intention of understanding emerging demands for outdoor recreation since 2005; (5) a municipality query, completed by 12 towns, that sought to update DEEP's understanding of new and/or renovated outdoor recreation facilities.

METHODOLOGY FOR THE 2017-2022 PLAN

Three separate surveys were distributed as part of the data collection effort for the 2017-2022 SCORP:

Statewide Demand Assessment Survey

To measure the demand for public outdoor recreation resources throughout the state, CPPSR executed the Statewide Demand Assessment Survey (hereafter referred to as the Statewide Survey), which was a fully-online, non-probability survey of 2,026 Connecticut residents. Through the use of quotas, the survey sample closely mirrors the state demographics as they apply to geography, gender, household income, and ethnicity. This means that, based on these four demographic categories, findings from the Statewide Survey can be reasonably extrapolated to those of Connecticut residents more broadly. The online survey was distributed electronically in English.

Avid Outdoor Enthusiast Survey

To better understand the recreation habits and needs of those who are passionate about outdoor activity in the state, CPPSR conducted the Avid Outdoor Enthusiast Survey (hereafter referred to as the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey), which was a fully-online, non-random survey of 2,649 avid outdoor enthusiasts. Referred to as "Avid Users" in previous SCORPS, this group of survey-takers have self-identified as those who currently participate in outdoor recreation activities. The survey was distributed via numerous channels, including list-serve contacts from SCORP members and the DEEP Facebook page. The survey was distributed electronically in English.

Town Officials Survey

To update DEEP's understanding of public outdoor recreation resources throughout Connecticut, CPPSR conducted a telephone survey of Connecticut's 169 municipalities. Fifty-five towns responded to the Town Officials Survey, with recreation directors serving as the initial point of

contact. In circumstances where the recreation director was unable to answer the survey questions, additional town/city officials were contacted on an as-needed basis. The survey was administered both electronically and via telephone in English.

Focus Groups

To triangulate the quantitative data, four qualitative focus groups were assembled. Two groups, each containing five individuals, were comprised of avid outdoor enthusiasts. The remaining two groups, also containing five individuals per group, were comprised of those who perceive significant barriers to the use of Connecticut's outdoor recreation resources. Focus group locations included the Eastern Connecticut State University and Central Connecticut State University campuses. Data from these focus groups are interspersed throughout the report, with a summary of major themes being offered in the Methodological Appendix.

STATEWIDE DEMOGRAPHICS

Overview

This statewide demographic profile reflects some of the latest population estimates made available by the United States Census Bureau. The statistics cited are from the 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Estimates, which is conducted every year by the Census Bureau.² When it is not a census year, the ACS provides the most accurate and up-to-date information for many topics.³ Overall, the demographics covered include population density, age, race/ethnicity, income, and education. These statistics provide a snapshot as to how demographics have changed since the last SCORP, thus, aiding where state investments and resource allocation should be targeted.

Population Density

According to 2015 ACS data, the population of Connecticut is 3,590,886, marking a 0.5% increase since the 2010 census. Similar to 2010, three-quarters (75.3%) of Connecticut residents are concentrated in the Fairfield, Hartford, and New Haven counties. Too, it is interesting to note that all but Fairfield and Hartford counties experienced declines in population. Litchfield County experienced the largest decline with a recorded 183,603 (3.3% decrease) persons living there in 2015.

Age

Connecticut's median age was above the national median age in 2010 and remains so in 2015. The state's median age rose to 40.6 years (0.6-year increase) in 2015, while the national median grew by 0.6 years (to 37.8 years) over the five years. Connecticut's adult population (defined as 25 years and older) accounted for 68.0% of the total state population in 2010, a figure that rose to 69% (1%

² 2010 U.S. Census Bureau data cited in this section can be located on the United States Census Bureau *American FactFinder* search feature: <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

³ 2015 ACS data cited in this section can be located on the United States Census Bureau *American FactFinder* search feature: <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/searchresults.xhtml?refresh=t>

increase) in 2015. The cohort of 55 to 59 years of age experienced the largest growth (0.9%) relative to all other age groups since the decennial census. The remaining age groups, young adults (20–24 years) and children/early adults (19 years and younger) correspond in the following manner: 6.9% and 24.3% of Connecticut’s population. Nationally, the corresponding percentages were 66.0% (1.3% increase) adults, 7% (no change) young adults, and 25.7% (1.3% decrease) children/early adults.

Race and Ethnicity

Connecticut continues the trend of hosting a larger percentage of White residents relative to the national average. In 2015, those that identified as White (one race) in the state equated to 76.5% (1.1% decrease) of the population, while the national average was 73.1% (0.7% increase). Despite most the population identifying as White (one race), Connecticut’s diversity is expanding, with 2015 ACS data reporting 10.6% (0.5% increase) Black or African American, 0.2% (0.1% decrease) American Indian and Alaska Native, 4.4% (0.6% increase) Asian, and 5.6% “some other race.” The remainder reported two or more races (3.2%, 0.6% increase) and less than 1,000 persons indicated that they are Native Hawaiian or another Pacific Islander. Nationally, the corresponding figures are as follows: 12.7% (0.1% increase) Black or African American, 0.8% (0.1% decrease) American Indian and Alaska Native, 5.4% (0.6% increase) Asian, 4.8% (1.4% decrease) “some other race,” 3.1% (0.2% increase) two or more races, and 0.2% (no change) Native Hawaiian or another Pacific Islander.

As for ethnic origins, the U.S. Census Bureau only collects two ethnicities, which are Hispanic or Latino origin and Non-Hispanic or Latino. Over four-fifths (84.6%, 2% decrease) of Connecticut’s population classify themselves as Non-Hispanic or Latino, while 15.4% (2% increase) identify as having Hispanic or Latino origins. As was the case for racial demographics, Connecticut has a larger population of Non-Hispanic/Latino persons compared to the national average. According to 2015 data, 82.4% (1.3% decrease) of the United States population are Non-Hispanic/Latino and 17.6% (1.3% increase) have Hispanic or Latino origins.

Income

In 2015, the U.S. Census Bureau issued the ACS and found that Connecticut’s per capita income is \$39,430 (\$4,352 increase), which is 1.32 times the national average of \$29,979 (\$3,920 increase). Additionally, the ACS reported Connecticut’s median household and family incomes to be 1.28 and 1.34 times the corresponding national medians. The state’s median household income is \$71,346 (\$7,314 increase) and the median family income is \$91,388 (\$10,142 increase). Nationally, median household income is \$55,775 (\$5,729 increase), while median family income is \$68,260 (\$7,651 increase). Connecticut finds itself above the national average when it comes to two or more workers in a household. In the state, 37.7% of households have two or more workers, while the national average is 35.1%.

Education

In 2015, educational attainment levels of Connecticut's adult population (25 years and older) were higher than the national average. As a state, 90.2% (1.6% increase) of the adult population had a high school degree or higher, while the national figure is 87.1% (1.5% increase). Furthermore, 38.3% (2.8% increase) of Connecticut's adult population had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 30.6% (2.4% increase) across the United States.

Conclusions

One of the methodological objectives of the Statewide Survey was to offer results that could be reasonably generalized to the state's general population. This objective was met, with the demographic profile of the 2017 Statewide Survey closely mirroring that of Connecticut's 2015 ACS figures. Given that the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey is non-random, that profile of study participants was not expected to closely mirror census figures. Instead of generalizability to the general population, the goal of this survey was to capture the sentiments of self-identified outdoor recreation enthusiasts.

Throughout the upcoming section, demographic comparisons are made between the Statewide Survey, Outdoor Enthusiast Survey, and 2015 ACS figures. Also, when data is available, demographic comparisons are made between the 2005-2010 and 2017-2022 SCORP surveys. These comparisons provide a valuable snapshot as to how survey demographics have changed between the SCORP reports.

STUDY PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

Number of Individuals per Household

Study participants taking the Statewide Survey were asked to identify the number of individuals living in their household. The 2015 ACS reports that slightly less than one-third (33.2%) of Connecticut residences contain two members in the household—a percentage that was very closely matched (35%) in the 2017 Statewide Survey (see Figure 1-1). Meanwhile, almost one-third (31%) participating in the 2017 Statewide Survey indicated that four or more individuals reside in the household. The remaining share indicated that three people reside in their household (18%) or reported to be living alone (16%).

Demographics: Number of Household Members

by percentage of respondents

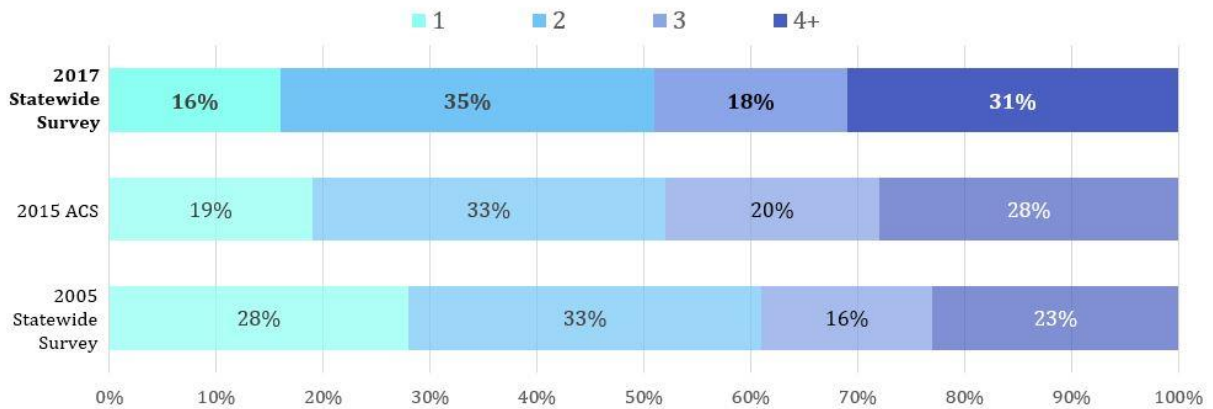


Figure 1-1: Number of Household Members

Age of People in Household

Study participants were asked to identify their age and the age of those living in their household. Respondents were provided with categories consisting of either five-year or ten-year increments. In the 2017 Statewide Survey, roughly two-thirds (66%) of the household individuals are aged 25 years and older (see Figure 1-2). This finding is consistent with data from the 2015 ACS, which reports that those 25 years and older equate to nearly seven-tenths (69%) of a household. However, according to the 2015 ACS, a larger share of those aged 45–54 years and 65 years and older were reported. The remainder of the household in the 2017 Statewide Survey were nearly evenly divided across five age categories, which are as follows: 20–24 years (8%), 15–19 years (7%), 10–14 years (6%), 5–9 years (6%), and under 5 years (6%).

In comparison with the 2005 Statewide Survey, the age distribution in 2017 is relatively similar. The household age distribution in 2005 for those aged 25 and over represented a slightly larger portion of the household—68% vs. 66%—(see Figure 1-2). This can be explained by a decline in the share of individuals aged 35 and over (56% vs. 48%), while the young adult population (25–34 years) has increased (12% vs. 18%).

Demographics: Ages of People in Household

by percentage of household occupants



Figure 1-2: Ages of People in Household

Age of Respondents

Study participants were asked to identify their age range, with categories consisting of either five-year or ten-year increments. In the 2017 Statewide Survey, eighty-five percent of study participants were over the age of 25 years old, with just over one-quarter (27%) being over the age of 55 (see Figure 1-3). The most common response was the 25–34 age group (27%). Outdoor enthusiasts represent an older demographic. About three in five respondents to the 2017 Outdoor Enthusiast Survey (61%) were over the age of 45, while only two in five (42%) Statewide Survey respondents fell into that same category. Data retrieved from the 2015 ACS acts as a median between the 2017 Statewide and Outdoor Enthusiast Surveys. The 2015 ACS reports that almost one-half (44%) of Connecticut residents are over the age of 45. Additionally, a larger share of a young cohort is reported, compared with those identified in the surveys; thus, demonstrating that age distribution is more evenly distributed.

The 2017 Statewide Survey yielded a younger sample compared to the 2005 survey. In 2005, over half (55%) of all respondents were over the age of 45 (see Figure 1-3). This figure dropped to slightly more than two in five (42%) in the 2017 study. This year, nearly three-fifths (58%) of all study participants were under the age of 44—a figure that was 18% lower in 2005 (40%). The age of study participants was not collected in the 2005 Outdoor Enthusiast survey, so no comparisons can be made between 2005 and 2017 data. It is important to note that in 2017, due to Institutional Review Board restrictions, study participants (across all three surveys) could not be minors (individuals under the age of 18).

Demographics: Age of Respondents

by percentage of respondents

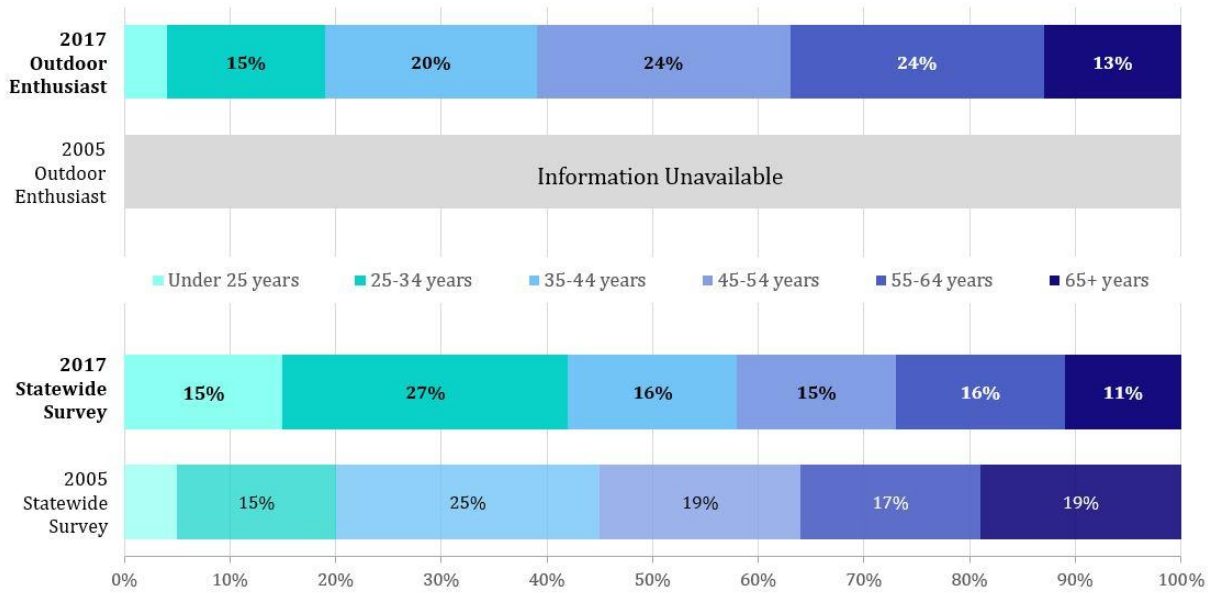


Figure 1-3: Age of Respondents

Ethnicity and Race

Study participants were asked to identify their ethnicity, choosing from multiple options. As anticipated, the 2017 Statewide Survey closely approximates 2015 ACS figures. In 2017, slightly more than three-quarters (76%) identified as White/Caucasian, while just above one in ten (12%) identified as African American (see Figure 1-4). This marks a significant diversification of the ethnic/racial backgrounds of study participants since the 2005 Statewide Survey, when eighty-five percent of participants identified as White/Caucasian and only 7% of participants identified as African American. Additionally, in 2017, respondents identifying as Hispanic/Latino (8%), Asian American (5%), or a different ethnic category (1%) increased. Notably, in a subsequent survey question, over one in ten (13%) participants indicated that household members were of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish ancestry (see Figure 1-5)—a figure that closely approximates 2015 ACS findings (15%). Again, this subsequent question revealed that demographics have changed since 2005, with a 6% increase in participants reporting Hispanic or Latino ancestry.

Demographics: Ethnicity of Survey Respondents

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)

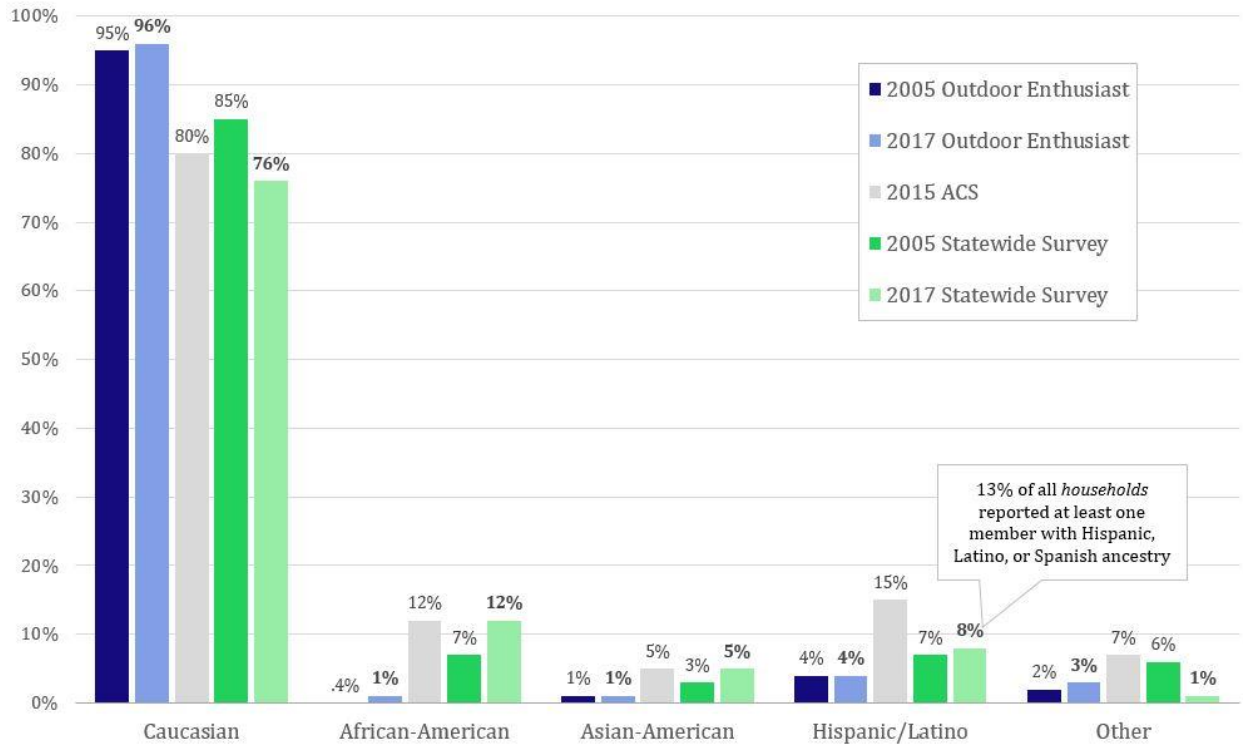


Figure 1-4: Ethnicity of Respondents

By comparison, the 2017 Outdoor Enthusiast Survey featured a significantly less diverse respondent base. Ninety-six percent of all study participants self-identified as White/Caucasian. Less than one in twenty (4%) were Hispanic/Latino, while the remainder either fell under the “other” category (3%), were Asian American (1%), or African American (1%). Similar to the Statewide Survey, Outdoor Enthusiast Survey respondents were asked if any members of their household were of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish ancestry, with approximately 4% (4.4%) indicating that this was the case. Notably, 15% of outdoor enthusiasts declined to respond to this question, meaning that the exact percentage is not known.

Demographics: Anyone in Household of Hispanic or Latino Ancestry

by percentage of respondents

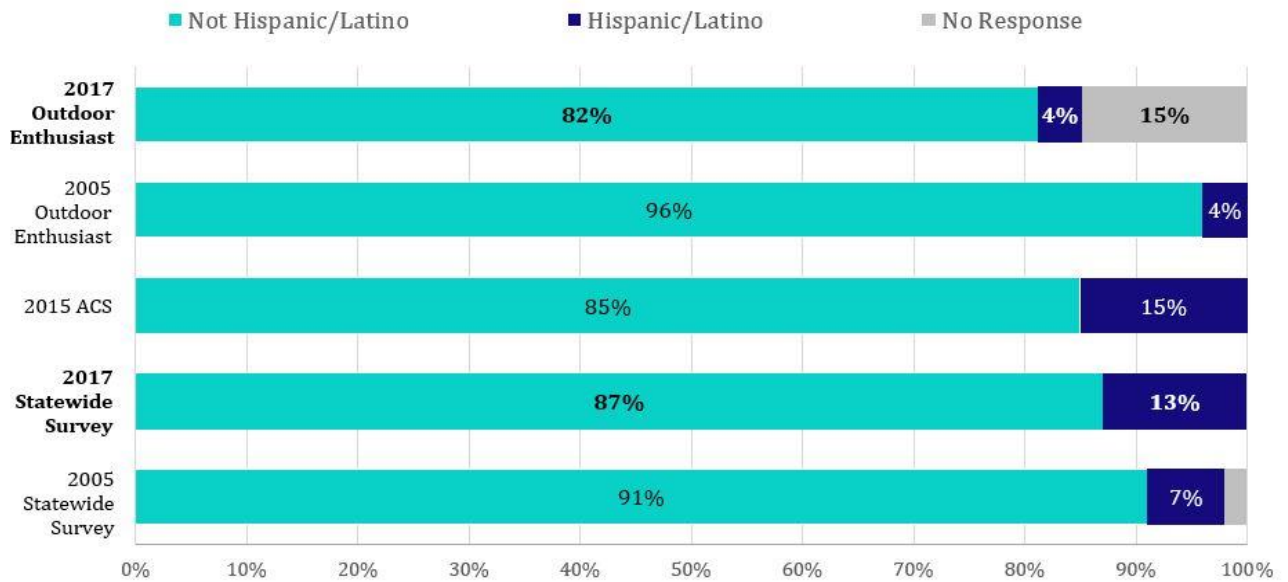


Figure 1-5: Hispanic/Latino Ancestry of Respondents

Gender

Study participants were asked to self-identify as either male or female. A slight majority (54%) of 2017 Statewide Survey-takers self-identified as female, while the remainder (46%) identified as male (see Figure 1-6). This represents a slight uptick in female participants (up 3 percentage points) compared to the 2005 Statewide Survey, as well as from the 2015 ACS, which reveals that 51% of Connecticut residents are female. The 2017 gender breakdown for outdoor enthusiasts also fell within a three-percent margin of its 2005 counterpart. In 2017, three-fifths (60%) of the sample was male, while two-fifths (40%) identified as female. Despite a slightly smaller share of male participants in the 2005 study (57%), males still occupy the majority.

Demographics: Gender of Respondents

by percentage of respondents

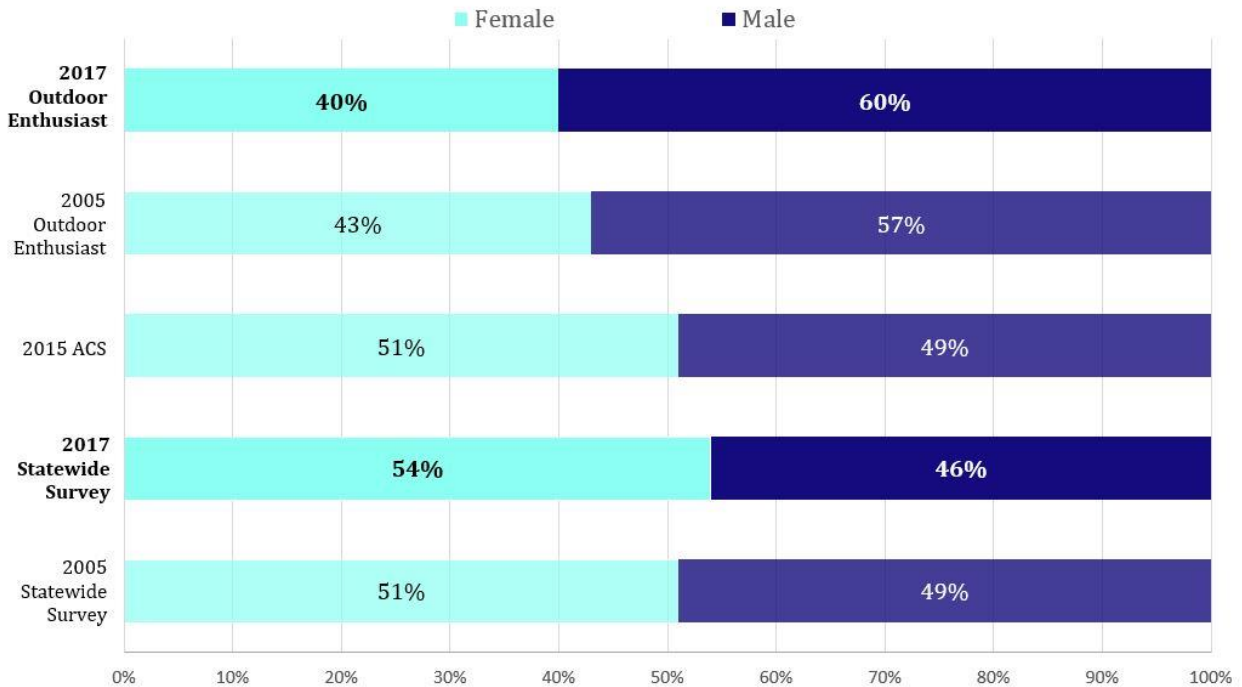


Figure 1-6: Gender of Respondents

Education

Over half (55%) of all participants in the 2017 Statewide Survey reported having at least a college degree, with just over one-fifth (21%) indicating that they possess a post-graduate degree (see Figure 1-7). Meanwhile, nearly three in ten (27%) had some college or trade school training, whereas the remainder had a high school diploma (17%) or did not graduate from high school (1%). The 2017 Statewide Survey sample is more educated than estimates produced by the 2015 ACS. The ACS estimates report a higher share of Connecticut residents not graduating from high school (10%) and only having a high school degree or equivalent (27%). Naturally, this caused a smaller portion of university graduates to be reported.

Compared with both the 2017 Statewide Survey and 2015 ACS, the 2017 Outdoor Enthusiast Survey sample was noticeably more educated. Seven in ten (70%) obtained at least a college degree—15% more than study participants in the Statewide Survey. Too, the 2005 and 2017 samples for both the Outdoor Enthusiast and Statewide Surveys are quite comparable, with no major changes to report.

Demographics: Highest Level of Education Achieved

by percentage of respondents over age 25

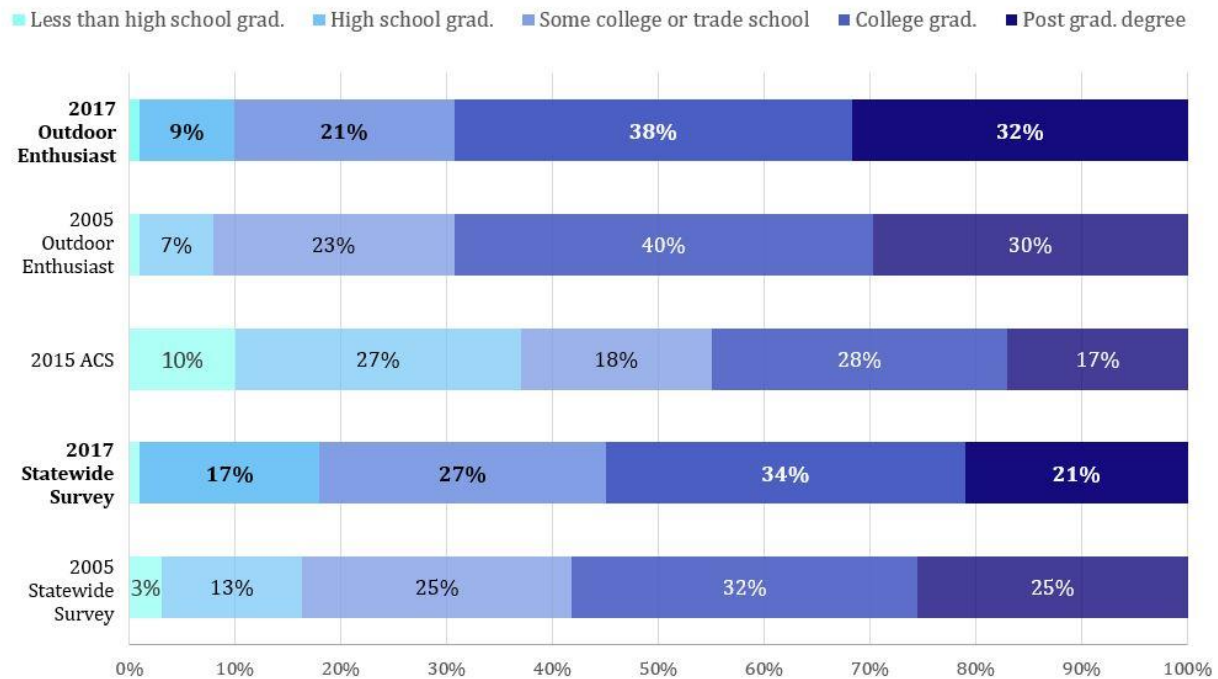


Figure 1-7: Education of Respondents

Income

Participants were asked to identify their annual household income, with categories ranging from under \$15,000 to \$200,000 or more; however, some income categories have been consolidated to provide comparative analysis across surveys and ACS data. Nearly two in five (38%) of 2017 Statewide Survey participants indicated that their household income was \$75,000 or more (see Figure 1-8). This figure closely mirrors that found in the 2015 ACS, which indicates that just over one-third (35%) of Connecticut residents have an annual household income \$75,000 or more. Meanwhile, almost seven in ten (68%) respondents to the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey in 2017 noted that their household income was \$75,000 or more.

The most common response for 2017 Statewide Survey participants is the \$25,000–\$49,999 category (24%), whereas most 2017 Outdoor Enthusiast Survey respondents fell into the \$100,000–\$149,999 category (27%). Since 2005, the share of outdoor enthusiasts with an annual household income of \$75,000 or more has been increasing. In 2005, roughly three-fifths (58%) of Outdoor Enthusiast Survey participants reported income levels at \$75,000 or greater. By 2017, 68% have reported that income level, which marks a ten percent increase in twelve years. As for changes since the 2005 Statewide Survey, no insight can be offered because one in ten (10%) respondents refused to identify their income in 2005; however, the income distribution is roughly the same.

Demographics: Annual Household Income by percentage of respondents



Figure 1-8: Annual Household Income of Respondents

Region

Hartford was the most represented county in the 2017 Statewide Survey, with slightly more than one-quarter (27%) of respondents residing within this county (see Figure 1-9). Also, New Haven County (25%) and Fairfield County (24%) accounted for roughly one-quarter each of study participants. The remainder of study participants resided in New London (7%), Litchfield (5%), Middlesex (5%), Tolland (3%), and Windham (3%) Counties. A similar breakdown was reported in the 2005 Statewide Survey; however, New London, Litchfield, Middlesex, Tolland, and Windham had a slightly larger share. This was fueled by a smaller share of participants residing in Fairfield (20%). Overall, this survey offers a strong parallel to 2015 ACS figures, with Middlesex, Litchfield, and Windham counties being equal to the distribution reported in the ACS. Compared with the 2015 ACS, in 2017, New Haven and Hartford counties are slightly over-represented, while Fairfield, Tolland, and New London counties are slightly under-represented.

Similar to the Statewide Survey, Hartford (28%), New Haven (19%), and Fairfield (10%) Counties were the most well-represented geographical areas in the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey. With that said, there was a lower concentration of participants in two of these three counties. Nearly three-fifths (57%) of Outdoor Enthusiast Survey respondents live in these areas, compared with over

three-quarters (76%) of Statewide Survey respondents. The remaining five counties were slightly over-represented in the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey compared with both the 2015 ACS and Outdoor Recreation Survey, with both Litchfield and Middlesex counties accounting for one in ten (10%) participants. Windham (9%), New London (8%), and Tolland (7%) Counties constituted the remainder of the sample.

Demographics: County of Respondents by percentage of respondents

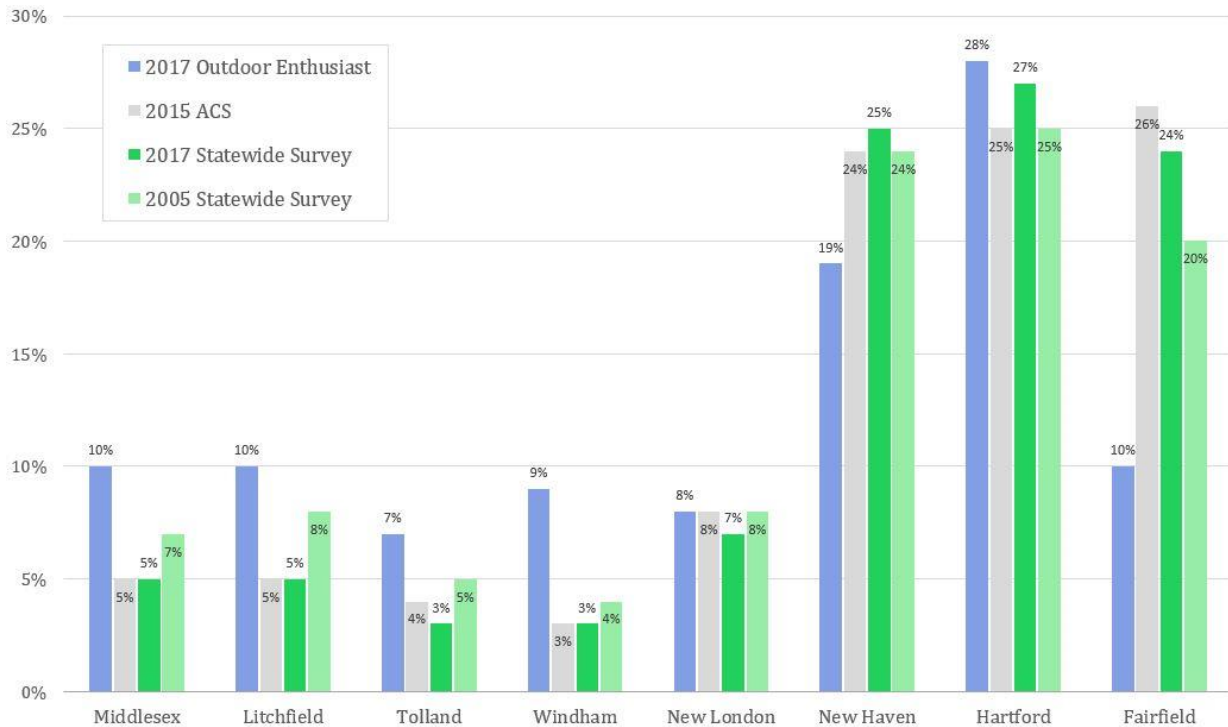


Figure 1-9: County of Respondents

Demographics of Town Officials

All 169 municipalities were contacted for a telephone interview, but only 55 towns were included in the data set because this was the share that completed at least one-fifth of the Town Officials Survey. Five towns elected not to self-identify. Of those that did, slightly more than one-quarter (26.5%) were from Hartford County, while a similar percentage (24.5%) were from Fairfield County. The remainder were from New Haven (14.3%), Litchfield (10.2%), New London (8.2%), Middlesex (8.2%), Tolland (6.1%), and Windham (2%) (See Table 1-1).

Table 1-1: Towns Represented by Town Officials Survey Respondents

Towns by County							
Hartford	Fairfield	New Haven	Litchfield	New London	Middlesex	Tolland	Windham
Avon	Darien	Branford	Goshen	Colchester	Clinton	Coventry	Putnam
Berlin	Fairfield	Guilford	Kent	East Lyme	Durham	Hebron	
Bristol	New Canaan	Madison	Litchfield	Groton	E. Haddam	Mansfield	
Burlington	Newtown	Milford	Torrington	Waterford	Westbrook		
Canton	Norwalk	New Haven	Woodbury				
E. Windsor	Redding	Southbury					
Glastonbury	Ridgefield	Wolcott					
Granby	Shelton						
Marlborough	Stamford						
Newington	Stratford						
Simsbury	Trumbull						
S. Windsor	Weston						
Wethersfield							

As indicated in Figure 1-10, most respondents (92%) were associated with their town’s parks and recreation department, primarily as director or superintendent. This differed somewhat from the demographics reported in the 2005 SCORP because only three-quarters (74%) of respondents were associated with the town’s parks and recreation department. This was the case in 2005 because a larger share (17%) of town officials identified as working for the selectman or mayor.

What Town Department Are You Associated With?

by percentage of respondents

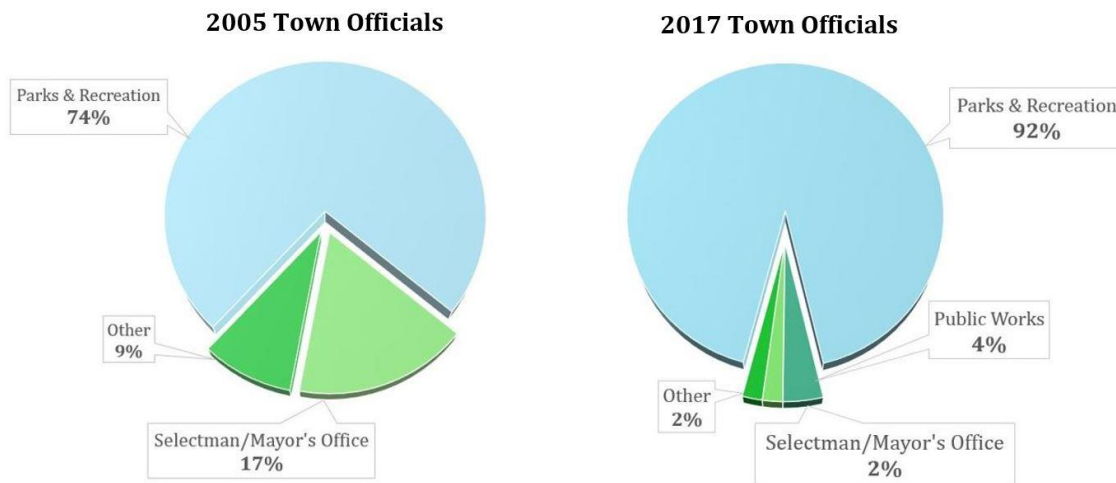


Figure 1-10: Associations of Town Officials

SECTION II: ASSESSING SUPPLY

MEASURING INVENTORY: SUPPLY OF STATE RECREATION FACILITIES

Construction of the DIRP Database

In 2005, the Center for Population Research (CPR) at the University of Connecticut undertook the task of establishing the first comprehensive database of outdoor recreational facilities and resources in the state. This database was intended to serve as an up-to-date, validated, and publicly accessible resource for both administrators and citizens in the state. It was proposed that information contained within the database could be used to assess funding requests and to help prioritize and plan recreational development efforts by location. For citizens, this database would ideally serve as a searchable central resource for recreational opportunities in the state. Citizens would be inclined to use the database because most of Connecticut's recreational areas are small and scattered; thus, unknown to the public. Indeed, "I do not know what is being offered" and "I do not know the locations of facilities" were cited as the two main reasons respondents to the 2005 Statewide Survey did not use recreational facilities more often (36% and 27%, respectively).

To construct the database, the state drew upon survey responses and interviews with local and officials to comprise a list of "discrete identifiable recreation places" (DIRPs) for each of the state's 169 municipalities. For each DIRP, information is provided for over 50 characteristics related to the facility or resource, when possible. Some of the characteristics included are as follows: size, ownership, condition, restroom availability, parking availability, and accessibility for persons with disabilities. As well, information regarding the existing space or resources needed to practice each of a vast number of sports and other outdoor recreational activities is included. Also, the number and/or length/size of individual areas (fields, courts, trails, etc.) within each DIRP is specified.

DIRPs in the State

When the 2005 SCORP report was published, the database was described as "nearly comprehensive," with the idea that the collection of more in-depth information on these recreation sites would be ongoing. At the time, the database included a total of 4,291 DIRPs in the state of Connecticut. Table 2-1 lists the total recreational components among all DIRPs provided in 2005.

Table 2-1: Connecticut Recreation Supply 2005

Recreation Site	# of Components	
Sites with baseball/softball fields	984	(1,806 fields)
Sites with football fields	154	(189 fields)
Sites with multi-use fields	624	(847 fields)
Sites with soccer fields	495	(860 fields)
Sites with basketball courts	645	(830 courts)
Sites with tennis courts	384	(1,186 courts)
Sites with volleyball courts	74	(90 courts)
Total golf courses	125	
Sites with playground areas	1,065	
Sites with swimming pools	137	
Sites with fresh/saltwater swimming	176	
Sites with picnic areas	677	
Sites with fishing access	669	
Sites with boating access	285	
Sites with hunting	88	
Sites with camping	88	
Sites with trails	896	
Sites with winter sports access	238	
Historic or educational sites	99	
Sites with gardens	109	
Total acreage	328,000	(approx. 10% of state)

To compare data to national standards and across recreation activities, a standard unit of measurement of sites per 10,000 people for any given activity was adopted. Table 2-2, replicated from data provided by the 2005 SCORP report, shows the number of publicly accessible recreational sites per 10,000 residents for the most frequently used recreation resources across the state. For this analysis, the number of sites with a particular asset was considered, but the number of assets per recreation site was not taken into consideration. The statewide averages below can be compared with town averages to determine whether a community provides more or less than the standard amount of resources for the state. As indicated by highlighting in Table 2-2, nine recreational resources are present at sites at a rate exceeding one site per every 10,000 citizens: playgrounds, baseball/softball fields, trails, picnic areas, fishing access, basketball courts, multi-use fields, soccer fields, and tennis courts.

Table 2-2 also includes the number of residents per site with each resource statewide; as an example, in 2005, Connecticut had one site with a playground for every 3,198 residents. These numbers can be compared with national standards published by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to determine whether Connecticut is above or below average in providing access to any one of the resources listed. Whereas comparisons are not available for most of the resources listed, those for which information is available are included in Table 2-2. According to the NRPA, there is one playground for every 3,633 U.S. residents; thus, Connecticut is slightly above average in providing public access to playgrounds. In fact, Connecticut shows above average access to all recreational resources, except for gardens, for which it was only slightly below average. The biggest discrepancies were seen in the provision of baseball/softball fields

(3,461 Connecticut residents per site compared to 6,453-19,226 U.S. residents) and soccer fields (6,880 Connecticut residents per site compared to 6,199-12,226 U.S. residents).

Table 2-2: Resident Access to State DIRPs in 2005

Resource	DIRPs per 10,000 Residents (Statewide)	Residents per Site with Resource (Statewide)	Residents per Site with Resource (NRPA Comparison)
Playgrounds	3.1	3,198	3,633
Baseball/Softball Fields	2.9	3,461	6,453-19,226
Trails	2.6	3,801	--
Picnic Areas	2.0	5,030	--
Fishing Access	2.0	5,091	--
Basketball Courts	1.9	5,280	7,080
Multi-use Fields	1.8	5,458	12,468
Soccer Fields	1.5	6,880	6,199-12,226
Tennis Courts	1.1	8,869	4,375
Boating Access	0.8	11,949	--
Winter Sports	0.7	14,309	--
Beach Activities	0.5	19,350	--
Football Fields	0.5	22,114	26,350
Swimming Areas	0.4	24,858	33,040
Golf Courses	0.4	27,245	--
Gardens	0.3	31,244	31,000
Historic Sites	0.3	34,400	--
Hunting	0.3	38,700	--
Camping	0.3	38,700	--
Volleyball Courts	0.2	46,021	15,250

■ = recreational resources exceeding one site per every 10,000 citizens

The number of DIRPs with each recreational resource per 10,000 individuals as reported in 2005 is shown in Table 2-3 for both the state overall and each of its eight counties. Cells highlighted in orange are those which are significantly lower than the statewide average for that resource. As indicated, more densely populated counties (i.e., New Haven, Hartford, and Fairfield) exhibited the greatest unmet need in terms of number of resources by population. To some degree, this is unavoidable because less densely populated areas will have a greater ratio of available recreational land to citizens in the county, particularly for activities requiring larger areas (e.g., hunting, fishing, boating, trails, etc.). At the same time, there is room for improvement. Some resources lacking in densely populated areas, like that of playgrounds, picnic areas, and sports fields, offer better opportunities for incorporation into urban and suburban communities.

Table 2-3: Sites with Recreational Resources by County (by number of sites per 10,000 residents)

Resource	Statewide	Fairfield	Hartford	Litchfield	Middlesex	New Haven	New London	Tolland	Windham
Acreage	964	365	427	4,002	2,435	383	2,234	2,201	2,709
Playgrounds	3.1	2.7	3.6	4.1	2.2	2.8	3.8	3.2	3.7
Baseball	2.9	2.1	3.3	4.0	2.6	2.7	3.5	4.0	3.7
Trails	2.6	2.5	1.8	5.5	4.1	1.5	3.7	5.6	5.8
Picnic Areas	2.0	1.8	1.4	5.2	3.5	1.4	2.8	2.3	2.7
Fishing	2.0	1.4	1.0	6.6	4.5	1.1	3.0	4.1	4.1
Basketball	1.9	1.1	2.2	2.7	1.9	2.0	2.4	2.4	1.7
Multi-use Fields	1.8	1.6	1.6	4.1	1.2	1.3	3.4	2.6	2.7
Soccer	1.5	0.9	1.7	2.4	1.7	1.2	1.4	2.7	2.0
Tennis	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3
Boating	0.8	0.6	0.3	2.5	2.6	0.3	1.6	1.8	2.1
Winter Sports	0.7	0.5	0.6	2.3	0.9	0.4	0.5	1.7	1.1
Beach	0.5	0.5	0.1	1.4	0.9	0.5	0.8	1.1	0.7
Football	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5
Swimming	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.5
Golf	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.6
Gardens	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4
Historic Sites	0.3	0.3	0.2	1.0	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.4
Hunting	0.3	0.1	0.1	1.2	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.7	1.6
Camping	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.1	0.7	0.4	1.2
Volleyball	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.1

■ = Significantly below the statewide average

Ownership of State DIRPs

State and local governments, non-profit organizations, and commercial establishments contribute to the recreational needs of Connecticut citizens. Below, Table 2-4 shows the distribution of ownership between the state, a municipality, and outside organization(s) (i.e., non-profit and/or commercial business) for each publicly available resource. For instances where 50% or more of a resource is owned by a single entity, a cell is highlighted in yellow. Additionally, when 25%–50% of a resource is owned by one entity, a cell is highlighted in orange. Despite the state owning a majority of Connecticut’s recreational land, municipalities comprise the majority of ownership for most individual resources. As noted in the 2005 report, Connecticut may be especially concerned with the long-term acquisition of open space; therefore explaining why the state offers more opportunities for activities requiring large swaths of land, such as hunting, camping, boating, and fishing. Of all the resources, only golf courses were primarily owned by an outside organization (i.e., commercial business).

Table 2-4: Ownership of State DIRPs in 2005

Resource	State Ownership	Municipal Ownership	Other Ownership
<i>(Acreage)</i>	66%	17%	17%
Baseball/Softball Fields	1%	91%	9%
Basketball Courts	1%	91%	9%
Beach Activities	10%	55%	35%
Boating Access	30%	37%	33%
Camping	33%	25%	42%
Fishing Access	26%	42%	32%
Football Fields	1%	88%	12%
Gardens	6%	70%	24%
Golf Courses	1%	24%	75%
Historic Sites	24%	59%	17%
Hunting	71%	2%	27%
Multi-use Fields	5%	83%	11%
Picnic Areas	12%	68%	20%
Playgrounds	0%	88%	11%
Soccer Fields	1%	90%	9%
Swimming Pools	2%	69%	30%
Tennis Courts	1%	91%	8%
Trails	18%	50%	32%
Volleyball Courts	0%	68%	32%
Winter Sports	29%	52%	19%

■ = 25%-50% of DIRPs owned □ = >50% of DIRPs owned

Updates to the Database in 2011

The 2011 SCORP took a more qualitative approach to assessing the supply of DIRPs in Connecticut; however, some quantitative techniques were used. To provide updates to the DIRP database, town officials were asked to indicate what additions and/or renovations had been made to recreational facilities in their municipality. Twelve towns responded in 2011, yielding results which have been reproduced in Table 2-5 below. Rows highlighted in orange represent those that have experienced a 25% or greater increase between the 2005 and 2011 SCORPs, whereas those in yellow have experienced an increase of less than 10%. Overall, since 2005, town officials reported nearly a 27% increase in the number of sites either newly added to the inventory or newly renovated, with roughly half (49%) being new and the remainder (51%) being completely renovated.

Table 2-5: Additions to Outdoor Recreation Resources Supply Since 2005 (by number of resources among 12 responding municipalities)

Resource	Total (2005)	Added Since 2005			Total (2011)	% Increase
		New	Renovated	Total		
Sites with Restrooms	64	3	5	8	72	13
Sites with Handicap Access	89	5	13	18	107	20
Total Baseball/Softball Fields	67	4	18	22	89	33
Total Football Fields	9	0	2	2	11	22
Total Multi-use Fields	49	5	0	5	54	10
Total Soccer Fields	37	5	4	9	46	24
Total Basketball Courts	49	5	0	5	54	10
Total Tennis Courts	27	2	20	22	49	81
Total Volleyball Courts	7	1	0	1	8	14
Total Golf Courses	11	0	1	1	12	9
Sites with Playgrounds	59	10	11	21	80	36
Sites with Pools	18	0	2	2	20	11
Sites w/ Beach/Lake Swimming	9	0	1	1	10	11
Sites with Picnic Areas	42	9	90	9	51	21
Sites with Fishing Access	59	2	0	2	61	3
Sites with Boating Access	25	1	0	1	26	4
Sites with Hunting	6	0	0	0	6	0
Sites with Camping	8	0	0	0	8	0
Sites with Trails	87	36	9	45	132	52
Sites with Winter Sports Access	31	0	1	1	32	3
Historic/Educational Sites	5	3	2	5	10	100
Sites with Gardens	7	7	5	12	19	171
Total Skate Parks	0	1	0	1	1	N/A

□ <10% increase since 2005

■ > 25% increase since 2005

Of the 22 categories queried, only hunting and camping accommodations were characterized by no increases or improvements from 2005 to 2011. The number of sites with boating, fishing, and winter sports access also showed low rates of development, each with increases of less than 10% among the 12 municipalities reporting. Resources with the largest increases were gardens (171%), historic or educational sites (100%), tennis courts (81%), and trails (52%).

In noting these differences, it is important to consider the nature of the development (i.e., new or renovated). For instance, while both trails and tennis courts showed significant development over the six-year timespan, 80% of the developments to trails were new facilities, while 90% of tennis court developments were classified as renovations to existing structures. It is recommended that tennis courts be resurfaced every 4-8 years; thus, emphasizing why most developments of this resource take the form of renovations. At the same time, well-maintained trails do not frequently require renovation; therefore, developments reflect an expansion of trail networks consistent with

the state's recreational initiatives. These findings are consistent with the fact that survey respondents consistently indicated a much greater need or desire for additional access to trails than for tennis courts. Too, there is a large gap in the number of individuals and households who utilize each of these resources, with trails being much more popular.

Multi-use fields, playground areas, and picnic areas all had a relatively high proportion of new vs. renovated facilities, while the opposite was true for baseball/softball fields, basketball courts, and sites with handicap access. Again, these results are encouraging because the new facilities being developed align with those which survey respondents consistently identify as recreational priorities. Too, these developments suggest that many facilities are being retrofitted to accommodate persons with disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Status and Future Directions of the Database

As mentioned previously, "I do not know what is being offered" (36%) and "I do not know the location of facilities" (27%) were the top barriers to recreational participation, according to respondents of the 2005 Statewide Survey. In the 2017 analysis, these two reasons were surpassed by concerns about fees (23%) and distance from one's residence (21%): each mentioned by one-fifth (20%) of respondents to the Statewide Survey. These figures suggest that the state's effort to disseminate information about recreational facilities has, overall, been effective. However, at the time of the publication of the 2005 SCORP report, Connecticut still did not have a single, centralized resource for citizens to find information about recreational opportunities in the state. Online access to the Connecticut Coastal Access Guide (CCAG), a platform which allows users to search for shoreline facilities based on factors such as activities, features, services, and geographic regions, was established by the University of Connecticut and DEEP in 2011. Another online resource, WalkCT, was developed by the Connecticut Forest and Park Association to provide information on publicly accessible trails located in one's vicinity; however, the need and desire for a single comprehensive database persists.

Measuring Open Space

In 2017, town officials were asked to provide the total acreage of open space land for both "active" and "passive" outdoor recreation use. Examples were provided to help guide participants as to the distinction between "passive" and "active." Examples of "active" outdoor recreation facility included sports fields, playgrounds, swimming pools, golf courses, and skate parks. Meanwhile, examples of "passive" outdoor recreation facilities included hiking and nature trails, rails-to-trails, town greens, non-developed fields, wildlife observation areas, hunting sites, and fishing sites. The results of this query are depicted in Figure 2-1.

More total acreage is dedicated to passive outdoor recreation use compared with active outdoor recreation use. More than two in five towns (43%) feature 301 acres or more dedicated to passive recreation—a figure that drops slightly (37%) when measuring active recreation acreage in the same acreage range (301+ acres). One-quarter of all towns (25%) reported having 1,000 acres or more dedicated to passive outdoor recreation, a figure that drops to less than one in ten (8%) when comparing land for active outdoor recreation use in the same acreage range (1,000+ acres). More

than one in ten (14%) town officials were unsure of the active outdoor recreation acreage in their town, and more than two in five (22%) were unable to cite the passive outdoor recreation acreage.

Acreage of Open Space Land for Active and Passive Outdoor Recreation by towns reported

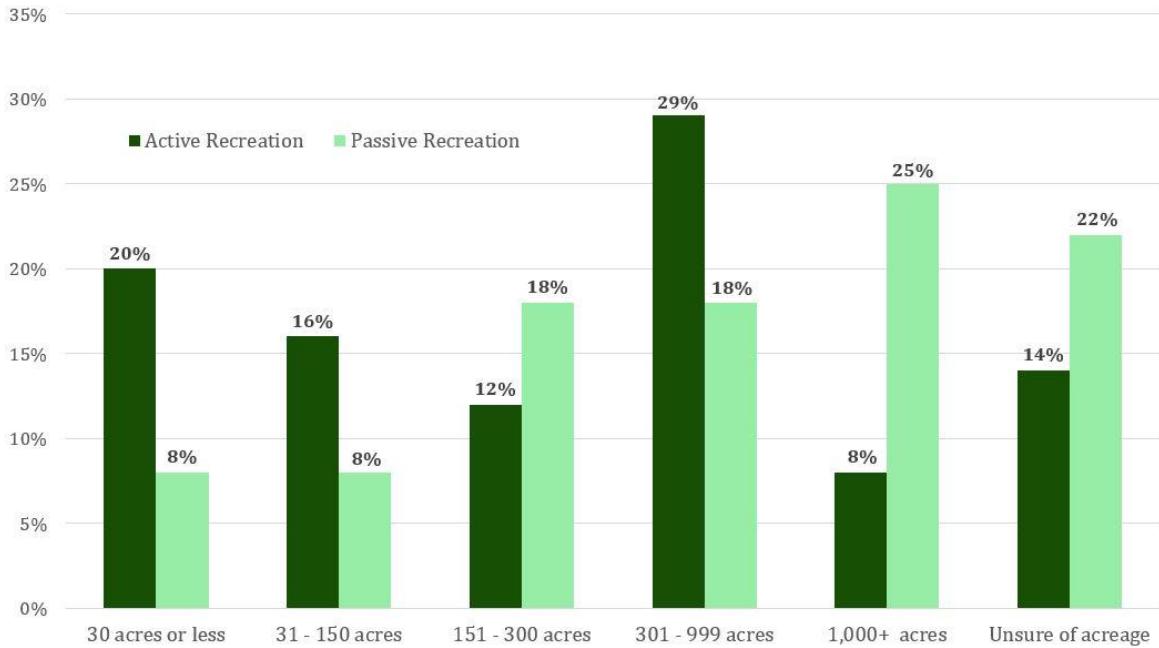


Figure 2-1: Acreage of Open Space for Active and Passive Recreation

ASSESSING THE QUALITY OF SUPPLY

Assessment of Supply: Constituent Ratings of Facility Conditions

The condition of local and state parks was assessed through ratings given by Connecticut citizens on the Statewide Survey. Figure 2-2 displays these results along with a comparison to data reported in the 2005 SCORP. In 2017, nearly nine-tenths (87%) of respondents rated local parks as “good” or “excellent” and about the same proportion (88%) issued “good” or “excellent” ratings for state parks. These percentages mark an increase from the 2005 SCORP because roughly four-fifths (81%) of local parks and state parks (83%) in 2005 had a “good” or “excellent” rating. The increase is clearly encouraging because it suggests that the condition of both local and state parks has improved over the last twelve years. Also, this increase puts Connecticut above the national average of eighty-five percent “good” or “excellent” ratings reported in the 2005 SCORP. However, while very few respondents rated park conditions as “poor,” it is still worth noting that for both local and state parks, thirteen percent of respondents to the Statewide Survey rated conditions as “fair” or worse. Thus, there is still room for some improvement.

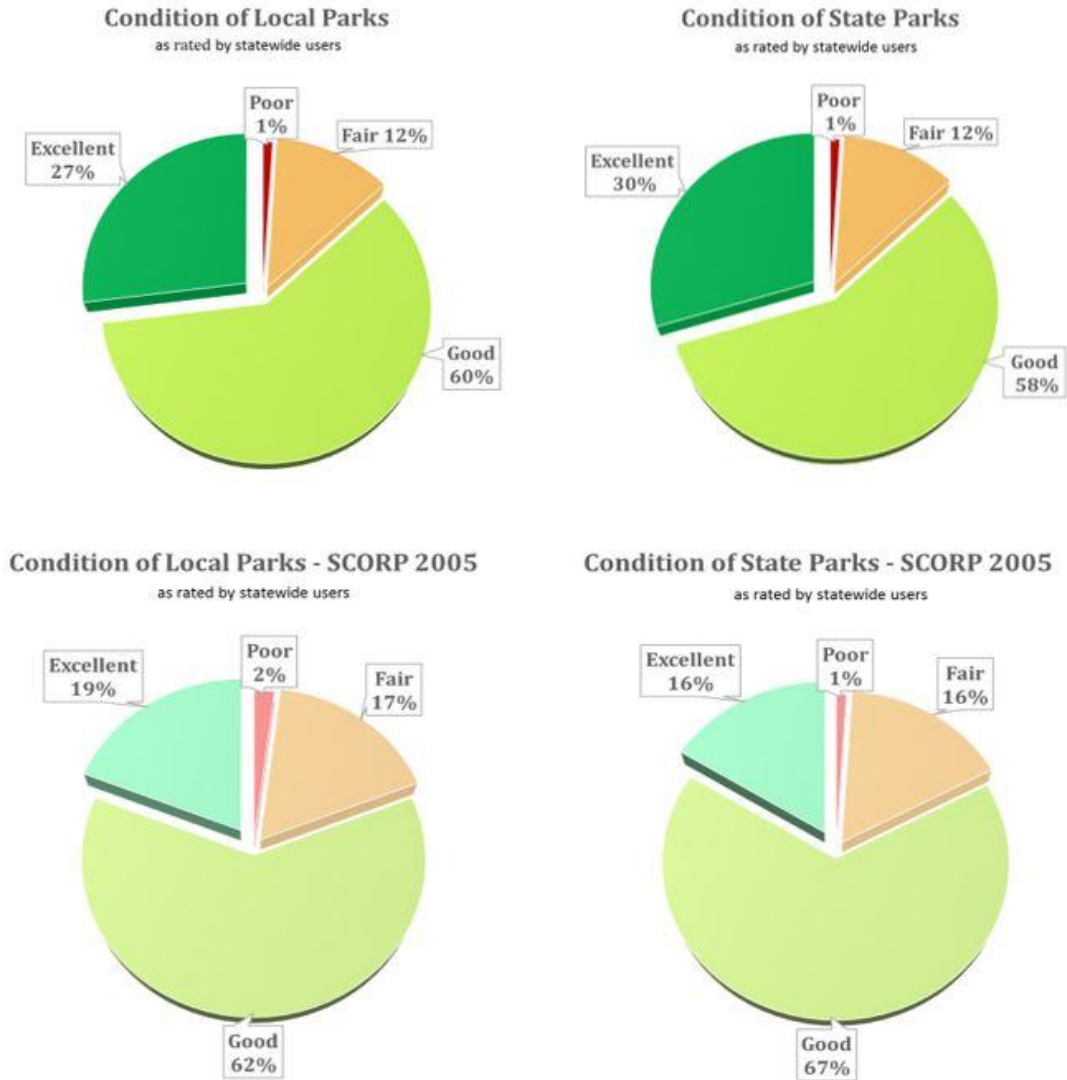


Figure 2-2: Citizens' Rating of State and Local Park Conditions

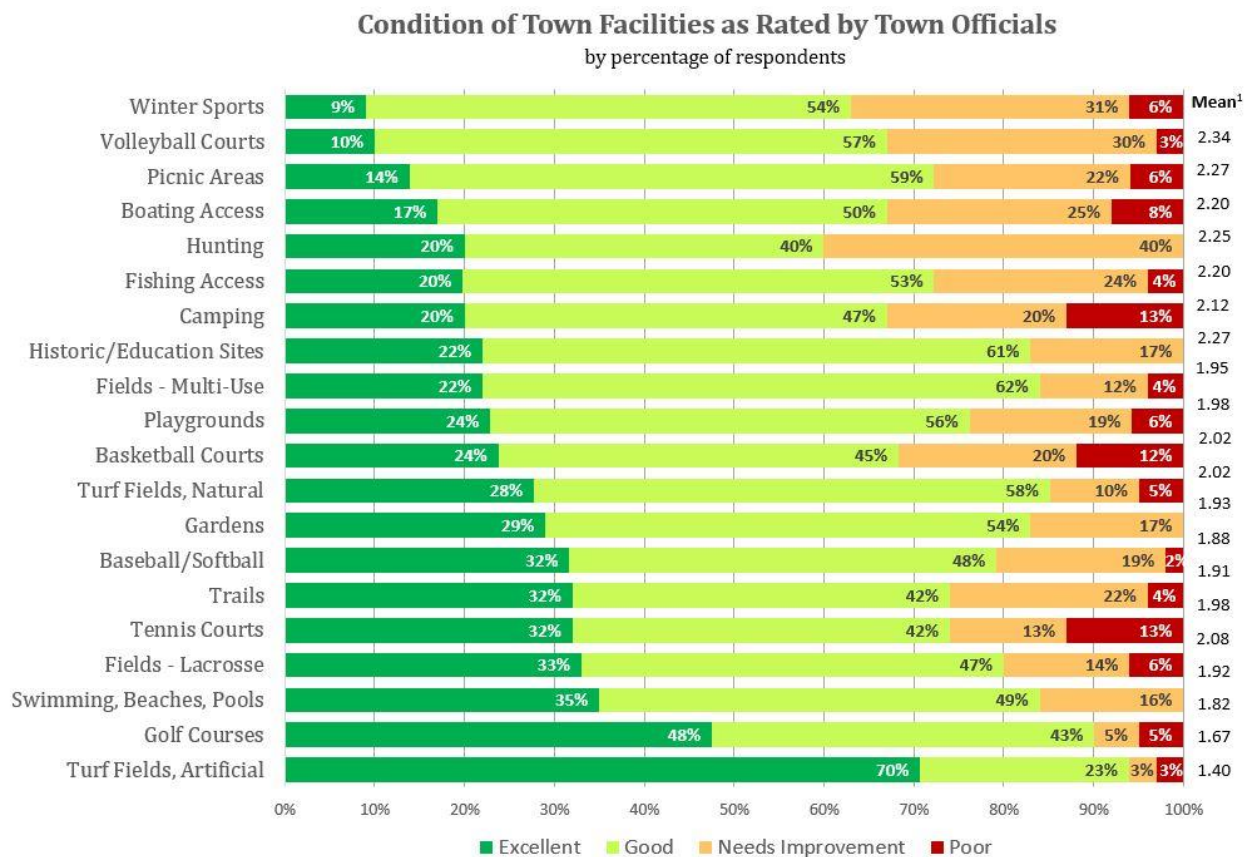
The 2017 Outdoor Enthusiast Survey did not ask respondents to rate the general condition of parks; however, among outdoor enthusiasts who reported that their needs were not being met by activity-specific facilities, 14% of those who provided additional comments mentioned issues pertaining to condition and upkeep. Later in the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey, study participants were asked to identify which characteristics and/or features they like most about the outdoor recreation areas that they use. Over one-quarter (26%) identified “enjoying natural environments,” whereas one in five (19%) cited the “ease of access or proximity.” Other responses included “not crowded, quiet, or remote” areas (13%), “good management, staff, maintenance, or stocking” (13%), and the “variety of terrain or multi-use facilities” (8%).

Assessment of Supply: Town Official Ratings of Facility Conditions

Like results reported in the 2005 SCORP, town officials in 2017 were generally much less satisfied with the condition of recreational facilities than the average Connecticut citizen. However, it

should be noted that while respondents to the Statewide Survey were asked about the general condition of local and state parks, respondents to the Town Officials Survey were asked about the condition of more activity-specific facilities. Given this, a direct comparison should not be made in this case, because the general rating of local park conditions may or may not correspond to ratings of recreational facilities contained within a park.

Figure 2-3 displays town officials' ratings of the condition of recreational facilities within their respective towns. Town officials were most satisfied with artificial turf fields, with seven in ten (70%) indicating that the facilities were in "excellent" condition. Thereafter, about one-half (48%) of respondents rated golf courses as being in excellent condition, and just over one-third said the same for swimming areas (beaches and pools). Facilities with the highest percentage of "poor" ratings included camping areas (13%), tennis courts (13%), and basketball courts (12%). Also, hunting areas, boating and fishing access, picnic areas, winter sport facilities, volleyball courts, and playgrounds emerged as facilities in which "poor" and "needs improvement" responses were elevated.



¹ Means are calculated on a scale from 1 to 4, where 1 = "Excellent" and 4 = "Poor." The lower the mean, the better the overall condition of the facility.

Figure 2-3: Town Officials' Ratings of Facility Conditions, 2017

For the most part, town officials indicated better facility conditions in 2017 than in 2005. Facilities with the greatest improvement in condition included swimming areas, tennis courts, multi-use fields, and volleyball courts, which showed a 5%-10% decrease in "poor" or "needs improvement"

responses. Less improvement was seen with gardens, golf courses, picnic areas, and winter sport facilities, which were characterized by a 5%-8% decrease in “poor” or “needs improvement” responses. However, despite improvements, many of the facilities still show a relatively high percentage of “poor” and “needs improvement” ratings, which indicates that upgrades are still needed.

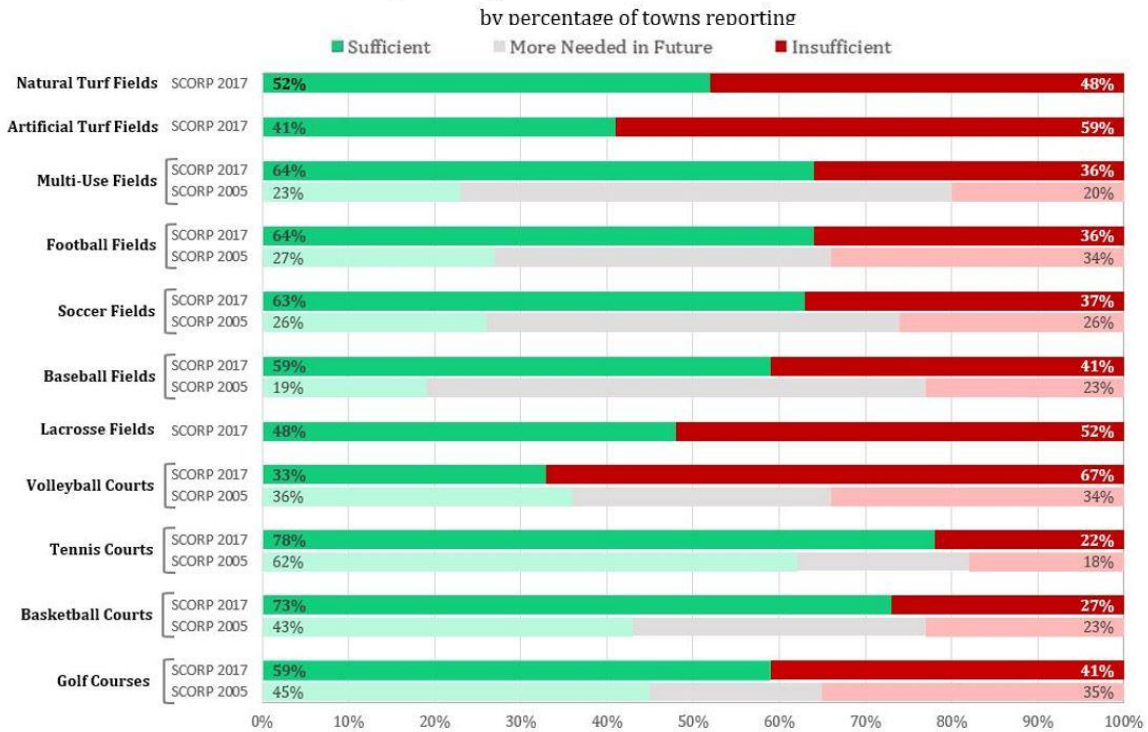
In three instances, there was evidence of deterioration in facility condition since measurement in the 2005 SCORP. Baseball fields and boating areas showed a 5%-7% increase in “poor” or “needs improvement” responses; however, the greatest concern is hunting areas, which showed a one-quarter (26%) increase in “poor” or “needs improvement” responses. While it is unclear exactly what factors town officials might consider when rating the condition of a hunting area, data from the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey suggests that crowding and inadequate stocking/management are central issues. Among outdoor enthusiasts who elaborated on issues related to hunting facilities, one in four (26%) mentioned crowding or stocking issues, while only 1% mentioned lack of maintenance and upkeep. It is also interesting to note that whereas swimming facilities were ranked among those in the best condition by town officials, these facilities are also those for which Connecticut citizens reported the most demand. With just over one-half (53%) of respondents to the Statewide Survey indicating that they had a need or desire for additional access to swimming facilities, it seems that while existing swimming facilities may generally be in good condition, more of them are required to meet the demands of citizens.

Town Officials Rate Sufficiency of Supply

To get a more complete assessment of community needs, respondents to the Town Officials Survey were asked to rate various facilities as “sufficient” or “insufficient” for meeting demand in their town. Figures 2-4 and 2-5 display the results from the town officials surveyed in 2017, as well as comparison data from the 95 town officials surveyed in the 2005 SCORP where available. It should be noted that direct comparison is difficult, since the 2005 Town Officials Survey included the third option of “more needed in the future,” which was not included in the 2017 version. In terms of “need,” this response category indicates, at the very least, that the current resources will be insufficient in the future if additional resources are not developed; thus, aligning more closely with the “insufficient” response in this year’s survey.

Despite the inability to make this comparison with certainty, it seems that overall, town officials today feel better equipped to meet the recreation needs of their communities than they did in 2005. The only facility that did not show an apparent increase in “sufficient” responses were volleyball courts, which two-thirds (67%) of town officials rated as “insufficient” in 2017. Additionally, camping and winter sport facilities were areas with heightened unmet need, since 69% and 63%, respectively, of 2017 Town Officials Survey respondents rated them as “insufficient.” This is consistent with results from the 2017 Statewide Survey, where respondents indicated the greatest unmet need for camping and snowboarding/skiing facilities.

Town Officials Sufficiency Rating of Local Recreation Facilities - Courts & Fields



Town Officials Sufficiency Rating of Local Recreation Facilities - All Others

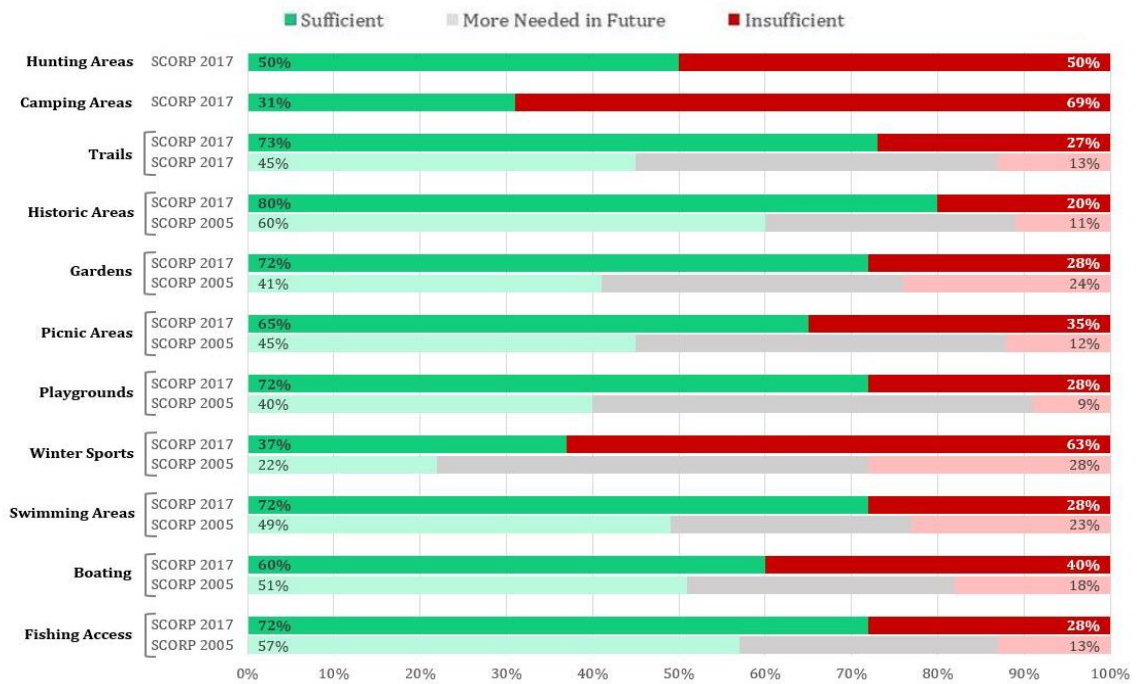


Figure 2-4 and 2-5: Town Officials' Ratings of Facility Sufficiency (Courts and Fields)

A direct comparison between the Statewide and Town Officials Surveys is difficult due to a difference in the rating scales used. However, combining the “needs not at all met” and “needs somewhat met” categories of the Statewide Survey might reasonably be considered a basis for comparison with the proportion of town officials who rated their supply of facilities as insufficient. Seven in ten (69%) respondents on both the Statewide and Town Officials Surveys rated camping facilities as insufficient, indicating a clear need for increased facilities within the state. Connecticut citizens also agreed with town officials that snowboarding/skiing facilities were lacking: 70% of Connecticut residents indicated that their needs were not at all or only somewhat met and 63% of town officials rated their facilities for winter activities as insufficient. However, in open-ended survey responses related to winter activities, many respondents to the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey acknowledged that there was little-to-nothing that could be done about global warming and lack of snow in Connecticut, nor the state’s limited topography. Thus, although it may be the case that facilities for winter activities are lacking in the state, meeting the population’s needs in this area would likely be an unrealistic goal.

Interestingly, only about three-tenths (28%) of town officials in 2017 rated swimming areas in their towns as insufficient to meet the community’s needs, while seven-tenths (70%) of Connecticut citizens rated their need for swimming areas as not at all or only somewhat met. The reason for this discrepancy is not clear, but town officials should be aware that they may be underestimating the need for these facilities in their communities. Respondents to the Town Officials Survey felt most capable of meeting the need for historic areas (80%) and tennis courts (78%) in their communities. While the grouping of tennis with volleyball and basketball courts on the Statewide Survey makes a comparison impossible for this facility, a comparison of citizens’ and town officials’ ratings of historic areas reveals that citizens perceive a much greater unmet need for these facilities than local officials. Only one-fifth (20%) of respondents to the Town Officials Survey indicated that their community’s needs for historic sites were not met, but roughly three-fifths (58%) of those responding to the Statewide Survey rated their needs for these facilities as not at all or only somewhat met.

Town Officials Rate Adequacy of Support Components

Finally, respondents to the Town Officials Survey were asked to identify which “support components” were inadequate at any of the facilities in their community, with the selection of multiple response options being permitted (see Figure 2-6). “Support components” are considered resources that make it easier and/or more enjoyable to practice outdoor recreational activities in a given recreational area. For example, restrooms are considered a support component because they allow individuals to stay longer in an area to practice an activity. Using this definition, public transportation to a facility remains the most widely cited inadequate support component, with nearly one-third (31%) of all towns identifying this option. It is worth noting that substantial improvement has been made in this area since 2005, as this figure was more than double (64%) twelve years ago. Public restrooms are the second most-cited support component, with over one-quarter (27%) of officials mentioning this option. Water fountains (24%), recycling receptacles (23%), and directional or interpretative signage (22%) rounded out the five most commonly cited concerns of Connecticut town officials. Shelters (6%) and trash receptacles (9%) were the least-common resources cited, meaning that they are viewed as the most adequate support components.

Shelters have seen the most improvement since the 2005-2010 SCORP, with almost a one-half (46%) reduction in citation.

Inadequate Facility Components as Rated by Town Officials

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)

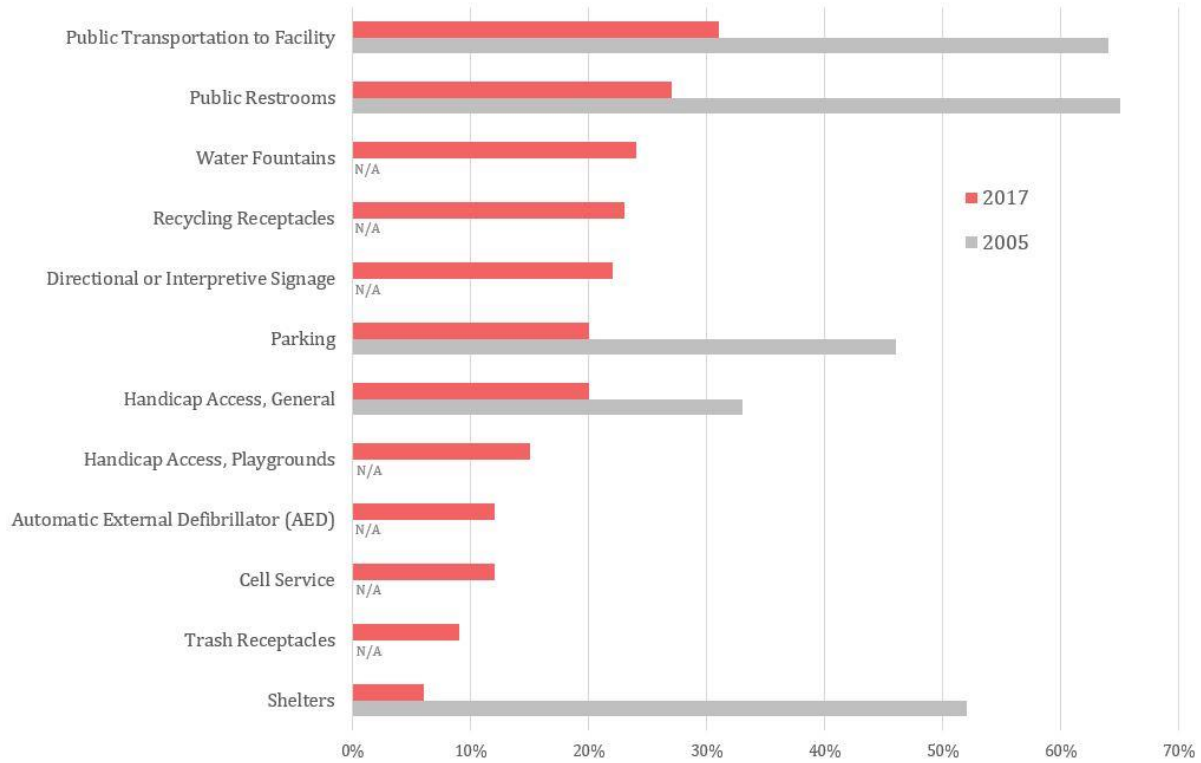


Figure 2-6: Town Officials' Ratings of Inadequate Facilities

SECTION III: ASSESSING DEMAND

PROFILE OF PARTICIPATION: STATEWIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION

To assess demand, this section begins with a profile of participation in outdoor recreation. The questions this section seeks to answer include: who participates in outdoor recreation activities, where, and how often? As well, this section concludes by answering the question of how well activity needs are being met in Connecticut.

Household Participation

A total of 2,026 state residents completed the Statewide Survey, which asked respondents to report the number of household members who, within the past year, participated in each of thirty-nine outdoor recreational activities listed. Since respondents were also asked to report the total number individuals in their household, both household participation rates (based on percentage of respondents) and estimated total population participation rates (based on percentage of total household members) can be calculated for this survey. Although both participation rates can be calculated, the following analysis focuses on household participation rates because it more accurately defines the activities that have wide appeal across age groups and varying interests.

Rate of Participation—Land-Based Activities

Presented in Figure 3-1 are the household participations in 25 land-based outdoor recreational activities, as reported by respondents to the Statewide Survey. Household participation rates from the 2005 SCORP are also presented for comparison. For the purposes of this comparison, running was combined with walking/hiking for the sake of consistency with the 2005 survey. Several activities (geocaching/letterboxing, backpack camping, Ultimate Frisbee, disc golf, and horse camping) were added to the 2017 survey and thus, cannot be compared across years.

The most popular outdoor land-based activity was walking/hiking, with nearly nine-tenths (86%) of households and two-thirds (65%) of individuals reporting participation in the last twelve months. Rounding out the top three were running (48% household and 30% individual participation rates) and visiting historic sites (54% household and 43% individual participation rates). Least popular among the residents surveyed were horse camping (3% household and 2% individual participation rates), disc golf (5% household and 3% individual participation rates), and hunting/trapping (8% household and 4% individual participation rates).

Household Participation Rates in Land-Based Activities

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)

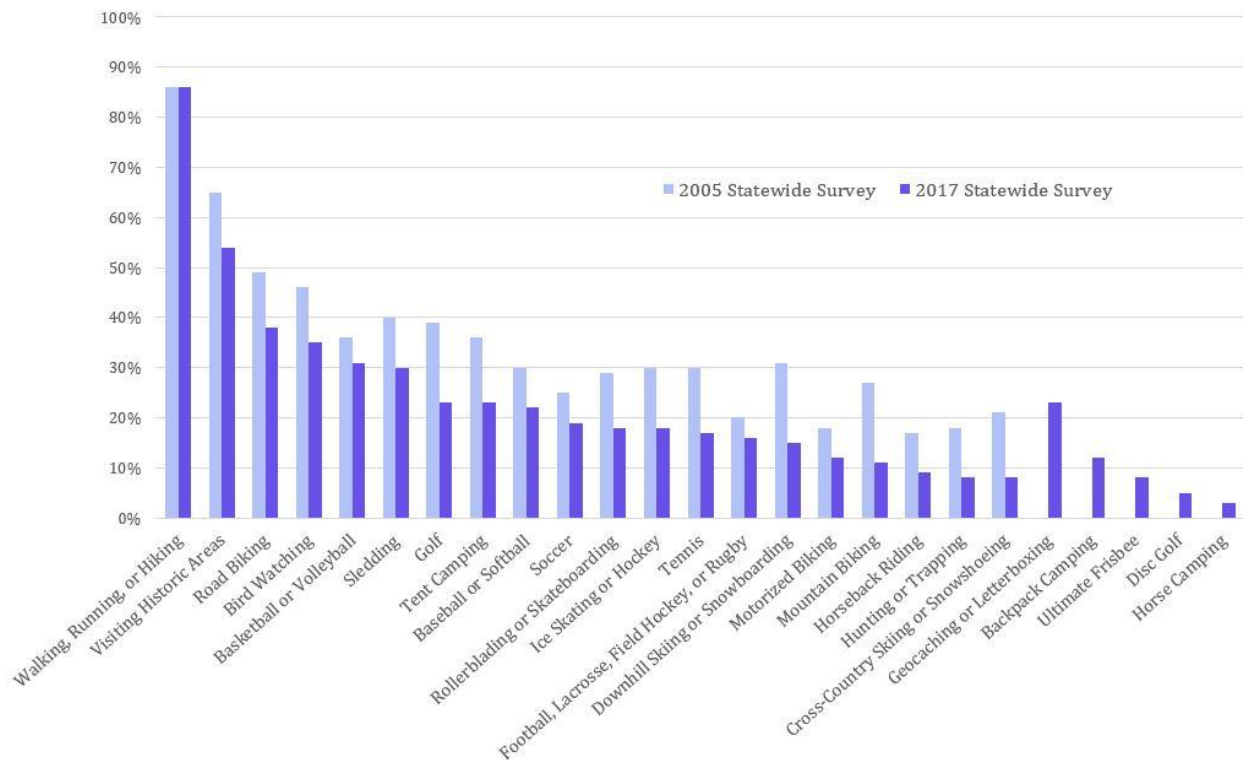


Figure 3-1: Household Participation Rates in Land-Based Activities

At first glance, it appears that since 2005, there has been a general decline in household participation rates for land-based activities; however, there are other factors which may be contributing to this apparent trend that must be considered. For instance, the sample of participants used in 2017 was more ethnically diverse than that of 2005, with seventy-six percent of the present sample identifying as Caucasian compared to eighty-five percent in 2005. The largest discrepancy was in the proportion of African-American respondents, with twelve percent identifying as African American in 2017 compared with seven percent in 2005. Previous reports on outdoor recreation in the United States note that the highest rate of participation is seen among Caucasians, whereas African Americans report the lowest rate of participation. Additionally, the 2017 sample had a slightly higher proportion of men than that of the 2005 survey (54% versus 51%), who have been demonstrated a higher rate of engagement in outdoor recreation than women.⁴

It is important to consider the difference in sampling methods between the two surveys. In 2005, responses were collected via a combination of telephone and mail surveys, whereas the 2017 survey was administered exclusively through the internet. It could be argued that people find mail and telephone surveys more tedious to complete than those presented online. This assumption is

⁴ For additional information, please see: <http://www.outdoorfoundation.org/pdf/ResearchParticipation2014.pdf>

generated from the idea that most people ignore telephone surveys and because handwriting takes longer than clicking/typing for most people. Given this, it is reasonable to conclude that only individuals with strong motivations would complete the surveys. These individuals are likely to be those that are frequent participants in outdoor recreation; thus, causing the 2005 sample to be an over-representation of outdoor recreationists. As a result, the apparent decline in participation rates since 2005 may simply be signaling an adjustment to levels that more accurately represent Connecticut's population as a whole.

Rate of Participation—Water-Based Activities

Respondents to the Statewide Survey were also asked to report their household's participation in water-based outdoor recreation activities. As shown in Figure 3-2, the top three most popular water-based recreation activities were non-swimming beach activities (67% household and 57% individual participation rates), swimming in outdoor pools (57% household and 49% individual participation rates), and swimming in fresh/saltwater (53% household and 44% individual participation rates). The three least popular water-based recreation activities were sailing (9% household and 6% individual participation rates), snorkeling or scuba diving (11% household and 7% individual participation rates), and river rafting or tubing (11% household and 8% individual participation rates). As was the case with land-based activities, water-based activities showed lower participation rates in 2017 than in 2005. Although, the same demographic and sampling factors cited in the discussion of land-based activities may also be at play here; therefore, making it difficult to estimate true differences in participation rates.

Household Participation Rates in Water-Based Activities

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)

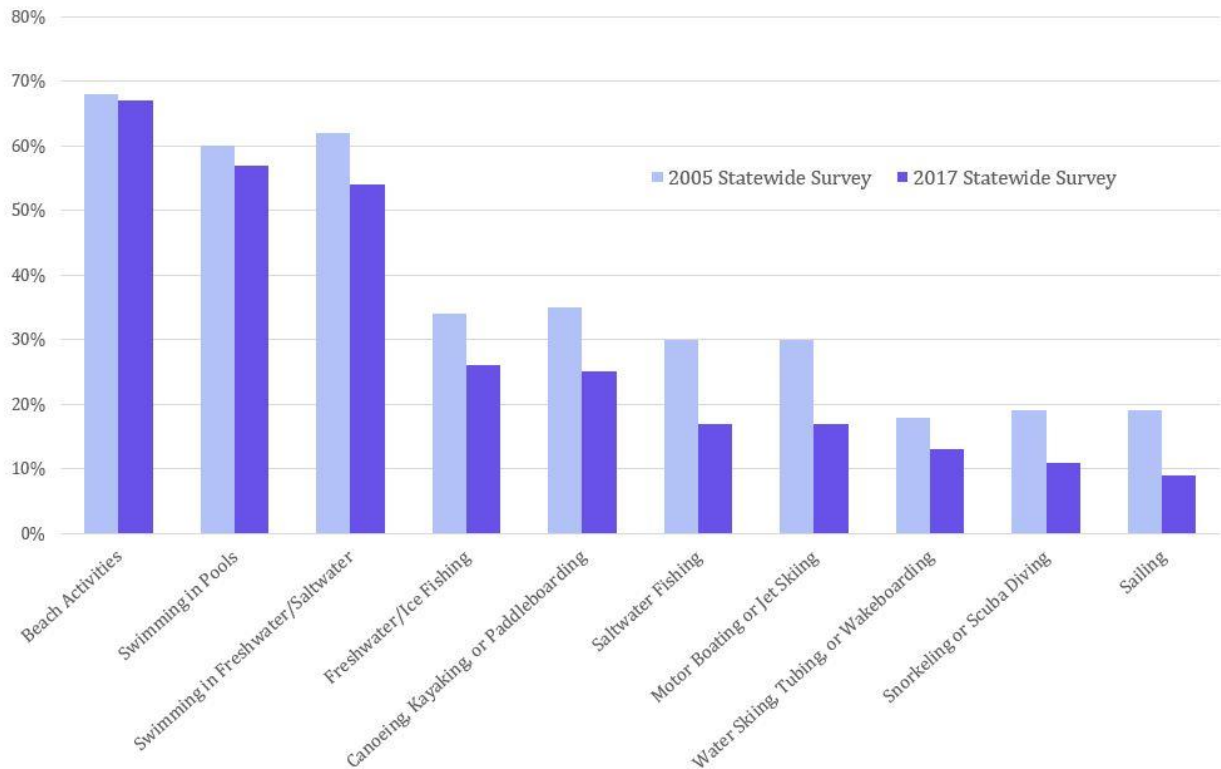


Figure 3-2: Household Participation Rates in Water-Based Activities

Frequency of Participation—Land-Based Activities

In addition to reporting the number of household members who participated in each activity, respondents to the Statewide Survey were asked to indicate the average frequency with which household participants engaged in these activities. Respondents were asked to rate this frequency on the following scale:

- 1 = seldom
- 2 = at least once a month
- 3 = a few times a month
- 4 = several times per week

Figure 3-3 ranks land-based recreation activities from the Statewide Survey according to the average frequency of participation within households.

Average Frequency of Participation in Land-Based Recreation Activities

by household, on a scale from 1 (seldom) to 4 (several times a week)

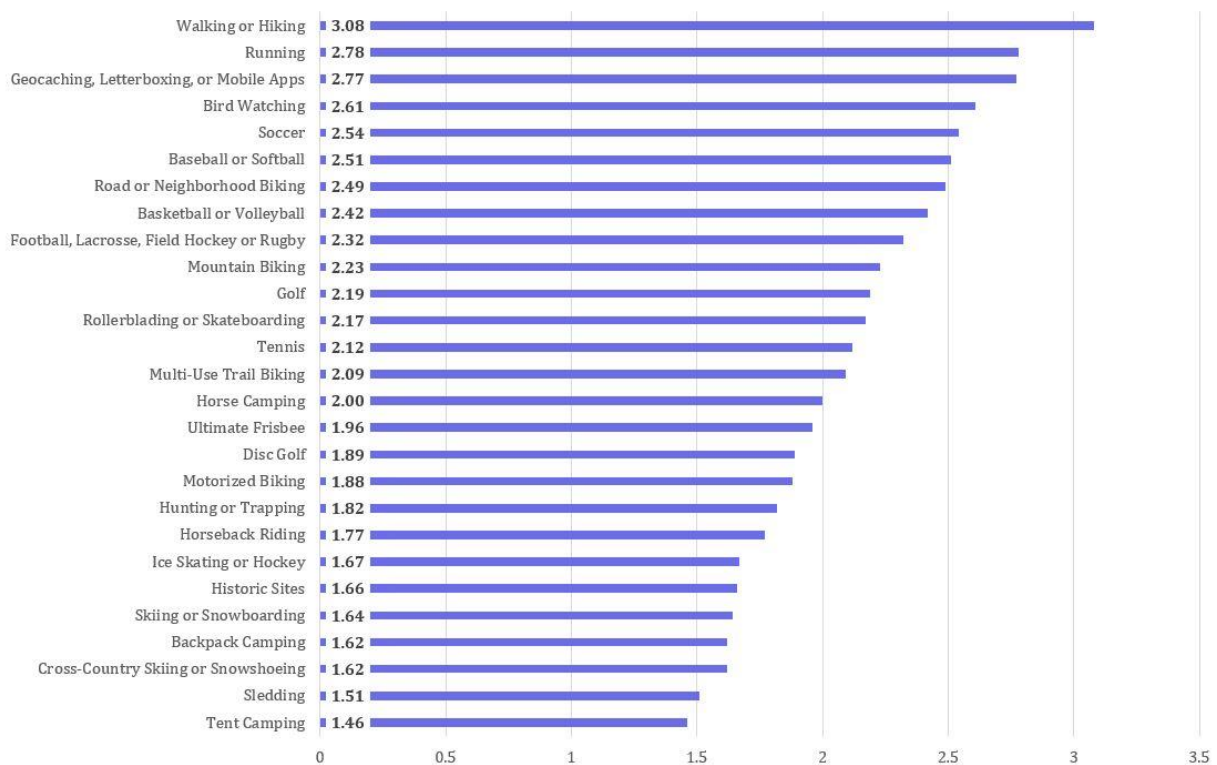


Figure 3-3: Average Frequency of Participation in Land-Based Recreation Activities

Similar to findings presented in the section concerning participation rates for land-based activities, walking/hiking sits at the top of the list when it comes to frequency of engagement. Roughly two-fifths (39%) of households reported walking or hiking several times a week and an additional one-quarter (27%) reported engaging in the activity a few times a month. Running was also a frequently practiced activity, with seventeen percent of households reporting running several times a week and an additional fifteen percent reporting running a few times a month. These results do not represent anything surprising because walking, hiking, and running are all outdoor activities that can be easily practiced by anyone at any location. Trails are found throughout state, while outdoor tracks and sidewalks [for running] are located in nearly every municipality; therefore, individuals and households have little to no barrier preventing them from engagement.

Geocaching, letterboxing, and/or mobile application gaming emerged as a surprisingly popular activity, with one-quarter (23%) of households reporting engagement in this activity within the past year. It was also characterized by a high frequency of participation, with two-fifths (41%) of those participating in the activity engaging in it several times per week. Since this activity was not included in the 2005 survey, it is impossible to estimate its growth in popularity over the last decade. However, the apparent popularity of geocaching, letterboxing, and/or mobile application gaming suggests that it has probably increased substantially in recent years. Furthermore, these results might suggest that individuals who participate in geocaching, letterboxing, or mobile application gaming tend to be more avid participants than those who participate in other activities;

while interesting, these findings should not be accepted without question. For instance, there is a possibility that some respondents might have been unclear as to the definition of “mobile app games,” and may have mistakenly interpreted this to mean any game played on a mobile phone application. This in turn may have artificially inflated the frequency rate for this group of activities. Still, geocaching, letterboxing, and/or mobile application gaming seem to represent a popular and perhaps growing area of outdoor recreation within the state.

Four land-based activities stand out for their low frequency rates: sledding, camping, downhill skiing or snowboarding, and cross-country skiing or snowshoeing. Of those who reported participating in sledding, two-thirds (67%) reported seldom engagement in the activity, while just over three-fifths (63%) of those engaged in downhill skiing/snowboarding or cross-country skiing/snowshoeing reported the frequency of their participation as “seldom.” It makes sense that these winter activities show a lower frequency rate than others, as they are largely dependent on winter weather, which was especially mild this past year. Tent camping showed the lowest frequency of participation, with seven in ten (69%) campers engaging in this activity on a seldom basis. Camping tends to be an activity that requires a significantly higher degree of planning and preparation than the other activities surveyed; thus, the participation frequency rate for this activity would expectedly be low.

Frequency of Participation—Water-Based Activities

Figure 3-4 ranks water-based activities from the Statewide Survey according to the average frequency of participation within households.

Average Frequency of Participation in Water-Based Recreation Activities

by household, on a scale from 1 (seldom) to 4 (several times a week)

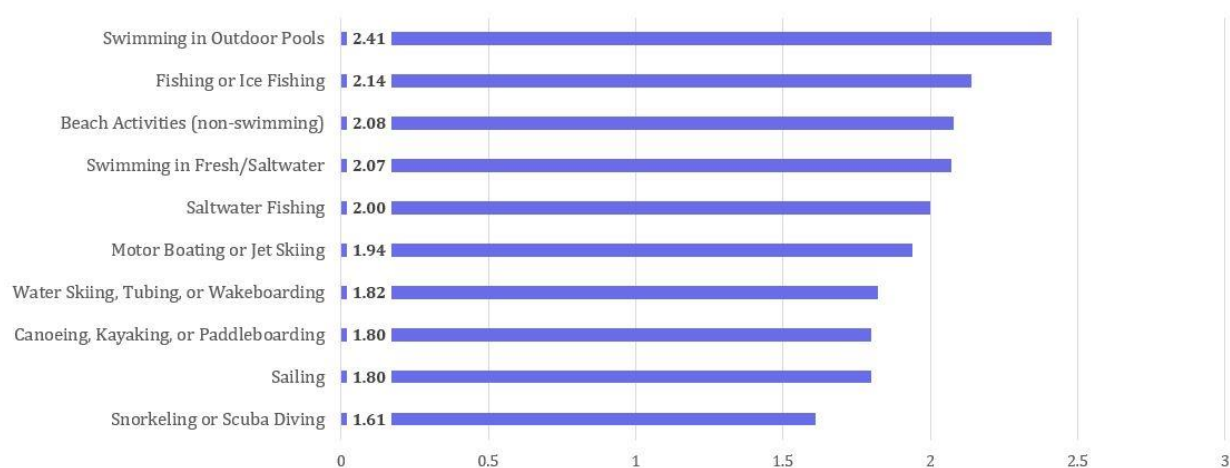


Figure 3-4: Average Frequency of Participation in Water-Based Recreation Activities

Non-swimming beach activities, swimming in outdoor pools, and swimming in fresh/saltwater were water-based activities with both a high rate of household participation and a high rate of participation frequency. Two-thirds (67%) of households reported engagement in non-swimming

beach activities within the past year and almost two-fifths (37%) of these rated the frequency of their participation as either “a few times a month” or “at least once a month.” Almost three in five (57%) households swam in pools, with 46% of these reporting participation “a few times a month” or “at least once a month.” Fresh/saltwater swimming had a similar participation rate of fifty-four percent, however this type of swimming was practiced less frequently because nearly two-fifths (37%) of participants indicated swimming a few times or at least once per month. It is possible that respondents included use of their own personal outdoor pools when considering the frequency of participation, which would naturally lead to a greater frequency of participation than fresh or saltwater swimming, which is less accessible. Any future surveys may wish to specify “public outdoor swimming pools” when describing this activity.

While freshwater or ice fishing had a household participation rate (26%) substantially lower than that of beach activities and swimming (67% and 57%, respectively), it showed a participation frequency level (37%) that matched beach activities and fresh/saltwater swimming, as well as saltwater fishing. This suggests that despite different rates of participation, individuals seem to engage in these activities with a comparable frequency.

The water-based recreation activities with the lowest rates of participation were water skiing/tubing/wakeboarding (13% household participation), snorkeling/scuba diving (11% household participation), and sailing (9% household participation). Also, these activities were practiced with the least frequency, with the addition of canoeing/kayaking/paddleboarding. This pattern of findings makes sense because activities like swimming and fishing require minimal equipment compared to scuba diving, sailing, and water skiing/tubing/wakeboarding.

Combined Participation and Frequency Rates—Use Frequency Index (UFI)

Alone, participation rates provide a partial view of recreation habits, as do frequency rates. In conjunction, however, they form the basis of a more complete picture of the intensity of participation in an activity. To compare intensity of participation across all outdoor recreation activities, taking both popularity and frequency of engagement into account, Use/Frequency (UF) scores were computed for each activity. The same computational methodology described in the 2005 SCORP report was used to calculate scores in 2017.⁵ Use/Frequency scores were used to construct and chart a Use Frequency Index (UFI), which allows for the comparison of participation intensity across all activities. The UFI for an activity can range from 0 to 100, with a UFI of “100” being understood as an activity that is practiced by 50% of all people several times a week. While other combinations of use and frequency can produce a UFI of 100, it is still a viable means of comparing intensity of participation and can reasonably be generalized to the entire population of Connecticut. Figure 3-5 below graphs all outdoor recreational activities from the Statewide Survey by UFI.

⁵ These methodological procedures are articulated on page 104 of the 2005-2010 Connecticut Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Ranking of Recreational Activities by Use Frequency Index (UFI)

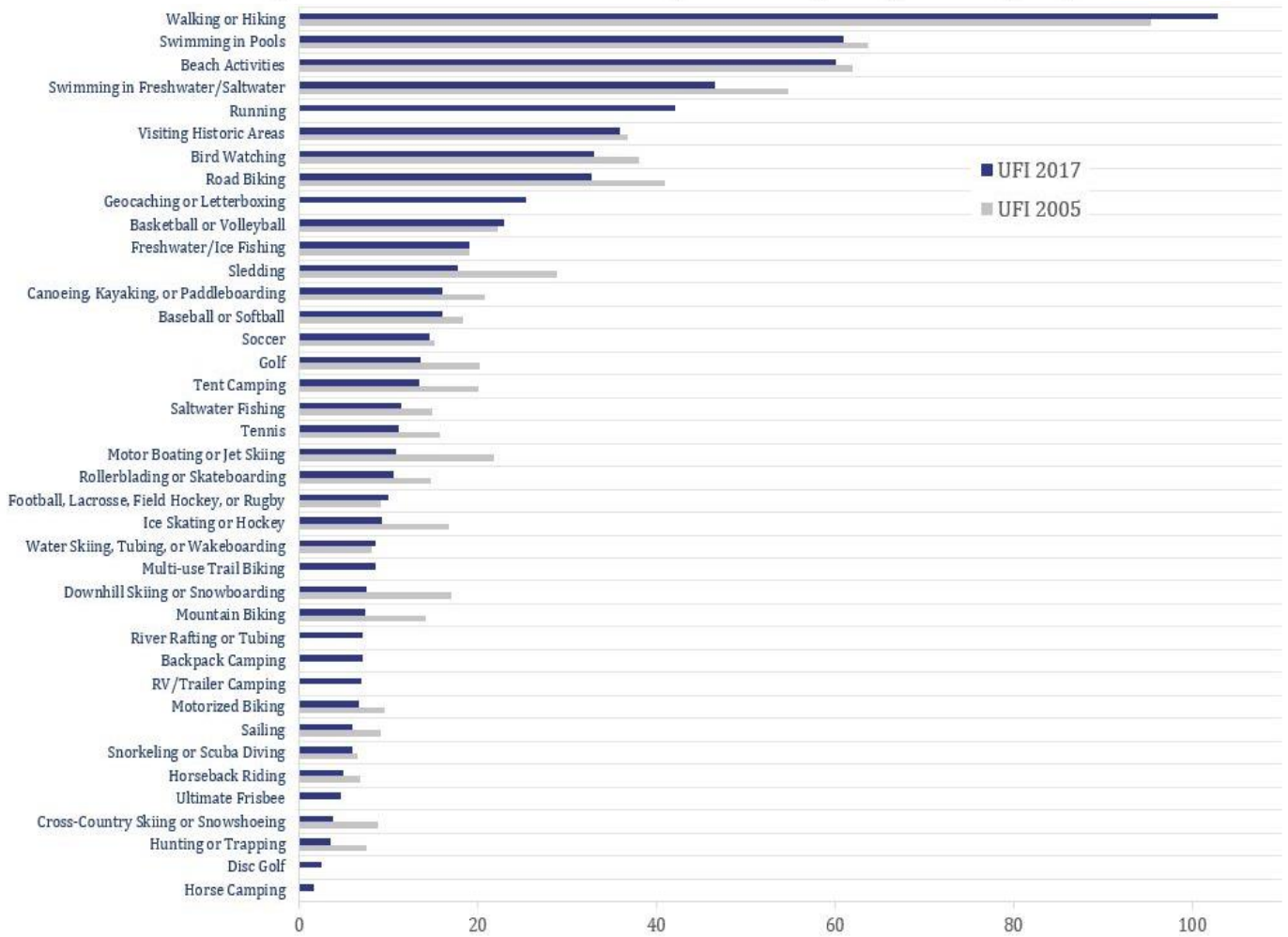


Figure 3-5: Ranking of Recreational Activities by Use Frequency Index (UFI)

Table 3-1 provides precise statistics, including UFI values for each activity in 2005 and 2017. As well, the following are reported in the table:

- Total UF values (frequency level multiplied by number of participants for each activity)
- UF of frequent (several times per week) and seldom (less than once per month) users
- Percentage of UFI attributable to frequent, moderate (at least once per month), and seldom users
- Percentage of the population that engages in each activity regardless of intensity
- Total estimated participants in the population of Connecticut based on percentages from the Statewide Demand Survey
- Estimates of the number of individuals in the population who engage in the activity with frequent, moderate, and seldom intensity, as well as the estimated number of non-participants.

Table 3-1: Comparative Use Frequency Indices for All Outdoor Recreational Activities

Activity	Total UF	UF Frequent	UF Seldom	UFI (2005 SCORP)	UFI	Percent of UFI Frequent	Percent of UFI Moderate	Percent of UFI Seldom	Percent of Population	N of Population	N Frequent	N Moderate	N Seldom	Non-Participants
Walking or Hiking	11375	6572	341	95.3	102.8	45%	45%	9%	65%	2,334,150	1,050,368	1,050,368	210,074	1,256,850
Swimming in Outdoor Pools	6785	2684	733	63.7	60.9	25%	48%	27%	49%	1,759,590	439,898	844,603	475,089	1,831,410
Beach Activities	6699	1172	1111	62.0	60.1	9%	55%	35%	57%	2,046,870	184,218	1,125,779	716,405	1,544,130
Swimming in Freshwater/Saltwater	5195	940	865	54.7	46.6	10%	55%	36%	44%	1,580,040	158,004	869,022	568,814	2,010,960
Running	4687	2320	285	--	42.1	35%	48%	17%	30%	1,077,300	377,055	517,104	183,141	2,513,700
Visiting Historic Areas	3997	236	1271	36.7	35.9	2%	45%	53%	43%	1,544,130	30,882	694,859	818,389	2,046,870
Bird Watching or Wildlife Viewing	3680	1444	296	38.1	33.0	25%	54%	21%	26%	933,660	233,415	504,176	196,069	2,657,340
Road Biking	3653	1244	307	40.9	32.8	22%	56%	22%	26%	933,660	205,405	522,850	205,405	2,657,340
Geocaching or Letterboxing	2832	1736	214	--	25.4	44%	35%	21%	18%	646,380	284,407	226,233	135,740	2,944,620
Basketball or Volleyball	2566	876	241	22.2	23.0	21%	55%	24%	18%	646,380	135,740	355,509	155,131	2,944,620
Freshwater Fishing or Ice Fishing	2117	548	306	19.1	19.0	14%	53%	32%	17%	610,470	85,466	323,549	195,350	2,980,530
Sledding	1976	156	839	26.8	17.7	3%	32%	65%	23%	825,930	24,778	264,298	536,855	2,765,070
Baseball or Softball	1783	684	173	18.4	16.0	24%	51%	25%	13%	466,830	112,039	238,083	116,708	3,124,170
Canoeing, Kayaking, or Paddleboarding	1782	248	477	20.8	16.0	6%	45%	49%	17%	610,470	36,628	274,712	299,130	2,980,530
Soccer	1625	708	132	15.2	14.6	29%	49%	22%	11%	395,010	114,553	193,555	86,902	3,195,990
Golf	1515	396	238	20.2	13.6	15%	50%	35%	12%	430,920	64,638	215,460	150,822	3,160,080
Tent Camping	1503	80	633	20.0	13.5	2%	34%	64%	18%	646,380	12,928	219,769	413,683	2,944,620
Saltwater Fishing	1281	252	244	14.9	11.5	10%	51%	39%	11%	395,010	39,501	201,455	154,054	3,195,990
Tennis	1243	292	219	15.7	11.2	12%	50%	37%	11%	395,010	47,401	197,505	146,154	3,195,990
Motor Boating or Jet Skiing	1220	171	511	21.8	10.9	13%	44%	43%	12%	430,920	56,020	189,605	185,296	3,160,080
Rollerblading or Skateboarding	1177	352	216	14.8	10.6	16%	44%	40%	10%	359,100	57,456	158,004	143,640	3,231,900
Football, Lacrosse, Field Hockey, or Rugby	1114	348	135	9.2	10.0	18%	53%	29%	9%	323,190	58,174	171,291	93,725	3,267,810
Ice Skating or Hockey	1033	152	371	16.8	9.3	6%	34%	60%	11%	395,010	23,701	134,303	237,006	3,195,990
Multi-use Trail Biking	947	192	170	--	8.5	11%	51%	38%	8%	287,280	31,601	146,513	109,166	3,303,720
Water Skiing, Tubing, or Wakeboarding	942	168	205	8.1	8.5	9%	49%	43%	9%	323,190	29,087	158,363	138,972	3,267,810
Downhill Skiing or Snowboarding	845	124	298	17.0	7.6	6%	34%	59%	9%	323,190	19,391	109,885	190,682	3,267,810
Mountain Biking	827	152	103	14.2	7.4	10%	61%	28%	7%	251,370	25,137	153,336	70,384	3,339,630
Backpack Camping	793	96	279	--	7.1	5%	36%	59%	9%	323,190	16,160	116,348	190,682	3,267,810
River Rafting or River Tubing	791	120	219	--	7.1	7%	42%	51%	8%	287,280	20,110	120,658	146,513	3,303,720
RV/Trailer Camping	772	64	276	--	6.9	3%	38%	58%	9%	323,190	9,696	122,812	187,450	3,267,810
Motorized Biking	751	152	178	9.5	6.7	10%	44%	46%	7%	251,370	25,137	110,603	115,630	3,339,630
Snorkeling or Scuba Diving	673	140	259	6.6	6.0	9%	27%	64%	7%	251,370	22,623	67,870	160,877	3,339,630
Sailing	670	152	168	9.2	6.0	11%	42%	47%	6%	215,460	23,701	90,493	101,266	3,375,540
Horseback Riding	547	116	171	6.8	4.9	9%	35%	55%	6%	215,460	19,391	75,411	118,503	3,375,540
Ultimate Frisbee	522	112	106	--	4.7	11%	48%	41%	5%	179,550	19,751	86,184	73,616	3,411,450
Cross-Country Skiing or Snowshoeing	421	88	158	8.8	3.8	9%	30%	61%	5%	179,550	16,160	53,865	109,526	3,411,450
Hunting or Trapping	390	60	119	7.5	3.5	7%	39%	54%	4%	143,640	10,055	56,020	77,566	3,447,360
Disc Golf	275	60	62	--	2.5	10%	46%	43%	3%	107,730	10,773	49,556	46,324	3,483,270
Horse Camping	177	56	41	--	1.6	15%	40%	45%	2%	71,820	10,773	28,728	32,319	3,519,180

Unsurprisingly, walking/hiking had the highest UFI value (102.8), with nine-tenths (90%) of participants practicing the activity at least moderately often (once per month to a few times per month), and half of these reporting frequent participation (several times per week). Also, activities at the beach and swimming in fresh/saltwater had high UFI values (60.1 and 46.6, respectively); though these were still substantially lower than that for walking/hiking. In contrast to walking/hiking, most participants in beach activities and fresh/saltwater swimming reported participating in these activities only moderately often or seldom (less than once per month).

PROFILE OF PARTICIPATION: AVID OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS

Rate of Participation—Outdoor Enthusiasts

The Outdoor Enthusiast Survey was designed to measure the needs of individuals who participate in outdoor recreational activities most frequently. It differed from the Statewide Survey in that it

asked respondents to self-report up to five outdoor recreation activities which they practiced most frequently. Unlike the Statewide Survey, it did not ask participants about their participation in a predetermined list of activities. As a result, participation rates from the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey should not be directly compared to those indicated by the Statewide Survey because they do not reflect actual participation rates, rather the percentage of respondents who mentioned an activity among their top five.

Still, a comparison between these two surveys is illuminative. Consistent with results from the Statewide Survey, walking, running, and hiking were the most popular activities among outdoor enthusiasts. Road or rail trail biking, bird watching, and camping were also activities which showed a relatively high degree of participation on both surveys. Other activities, specifically motorized biking (including ATVs, dirt bikes, and other off-road vehicles), mountain biking, hunting/trapping, cross-country skiing/snowboarding, and horseback riding, showed a comparatively low percentage of household participation compared with the frequency with which they were mentioned by outdoor enthusiasts. This suggests that these activities are practiced by a relatively small portion of the state's population; yet, these are activities for which participants tend to show a high degree of devotion. This contrasts with the activities of visiting historic sites, parks or playgrounds, sledding, and ball/racket sports (e.g. basketball, baseball, tennis, etc.), which are practiced by a greater number of Connecticut households with seemingly less enthusiasm.

The percentage of outdoor enthusiasts who chose each of the twelve most commonly mentioned activities as their first choice is depicted in Figure 3-6, along with comparisons from the 2005 SCORP report. In some instances, methodological differences prevent direct comparison; specifically, it appears that mountain biking may have been categorized under "bicycling" in the 2005 SCORP report. Collectively, nine in ten (90.8%) respondents to the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey in 2017 chose one of the top twelve reported activity as their first-choice activity.

Percentage of Outdoor Enthusiasts Selecting Activity as Their First Choice

by percentage of respondents

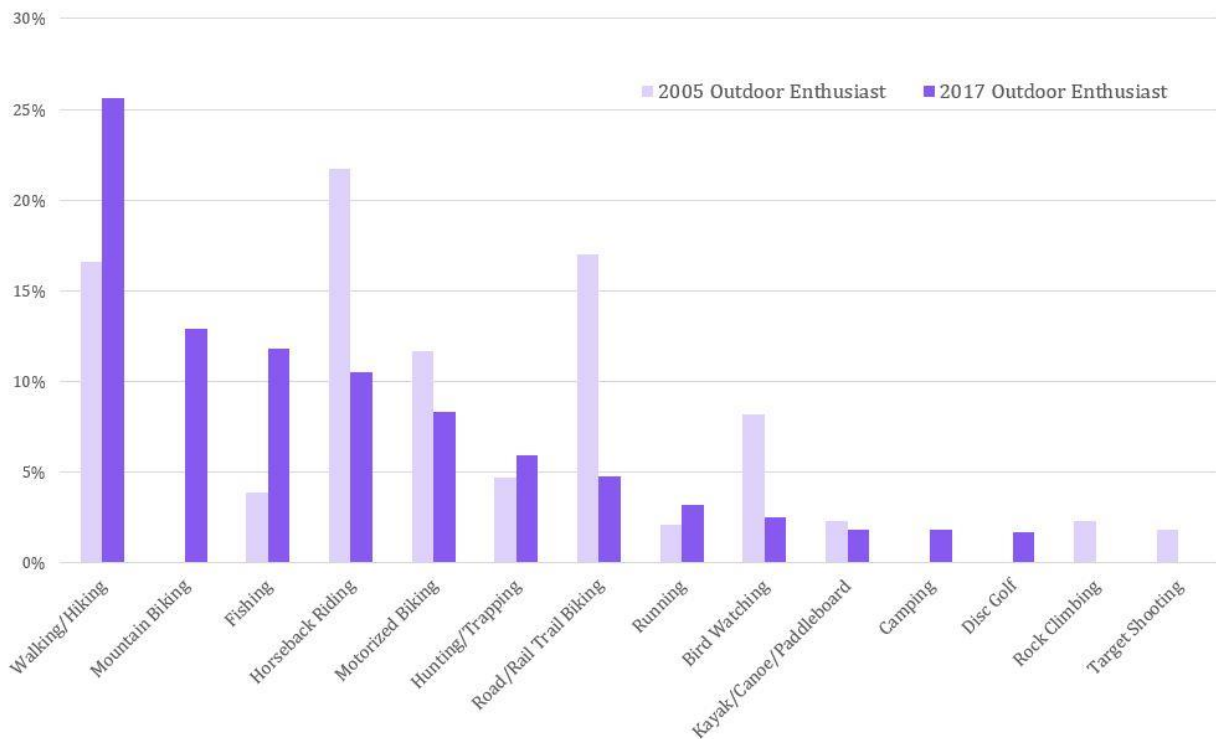


Figure 3-6: Percentage of Outdoor Enthusiasts Selecting Activity as First Choice

Looking at the participation rates of outdoor enthusiasts between 2005 and 2017 reveals that walking and hiking showed the greatest increase in first choice ratings, with one-quarter (25.6%) reporting either walking or hiking as their first-choice activity in 2017 compared with less than one-fifth (16.6%) in 2005. Road or rail trail biking, horseback riding, and bird watching showed substantial decreases in first-choice ratings from 2005 to 2017, with drops of 12.2%, 11.2%, and 5.7%, respectively. Camping and disc golf emerged in 2017 to replace rock climbing and target shooting in the top twelve activities reported by outdoor enthusiasts, with 1.8% listing camping and 1.7% listing disc golf as their first-choice activities. This supports the notion that while disc golf is practiced by only a minority of the population in Connecticut, it appears to be an increasingly important outdoor activity for recreationists.

It should be noted that a comparison was made only for the first-choice of outdoor enthusiasts between 2005 and 2017 because 2005 data is limited; thus, making it difficult to make comparisons for the top five they identified. Interestingly, the relative frequency with which activities were mentioned differed somewhat when looking at all activities reported by enthusiasts, rather than only those reported as an individual's top choice. Below, Figure 3-7 shows that activities like mountain biking, horseback riding, and motorized biking were chosen more often as first-choice activities than overall, therefore, demonstrating that these activities are those which garner participants who tend to be more dedicated or passionate.

In contrast, kayaking/canoeing/paddleboarding, camping, swimming/tubing, and cross-country skiing/snowshoeing were less likely to be ranked as outdoor enthusiasts’ first-choice activity, despite commonly being listed among respondents’ top five. This suggests that these activities, although popular among avid recreationists, do not tend to be practiced with as much enthusiasm as others indicated on the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey.

Percentage of Outdoor Enthusiasts Reporting Activities as First Choice and Overall

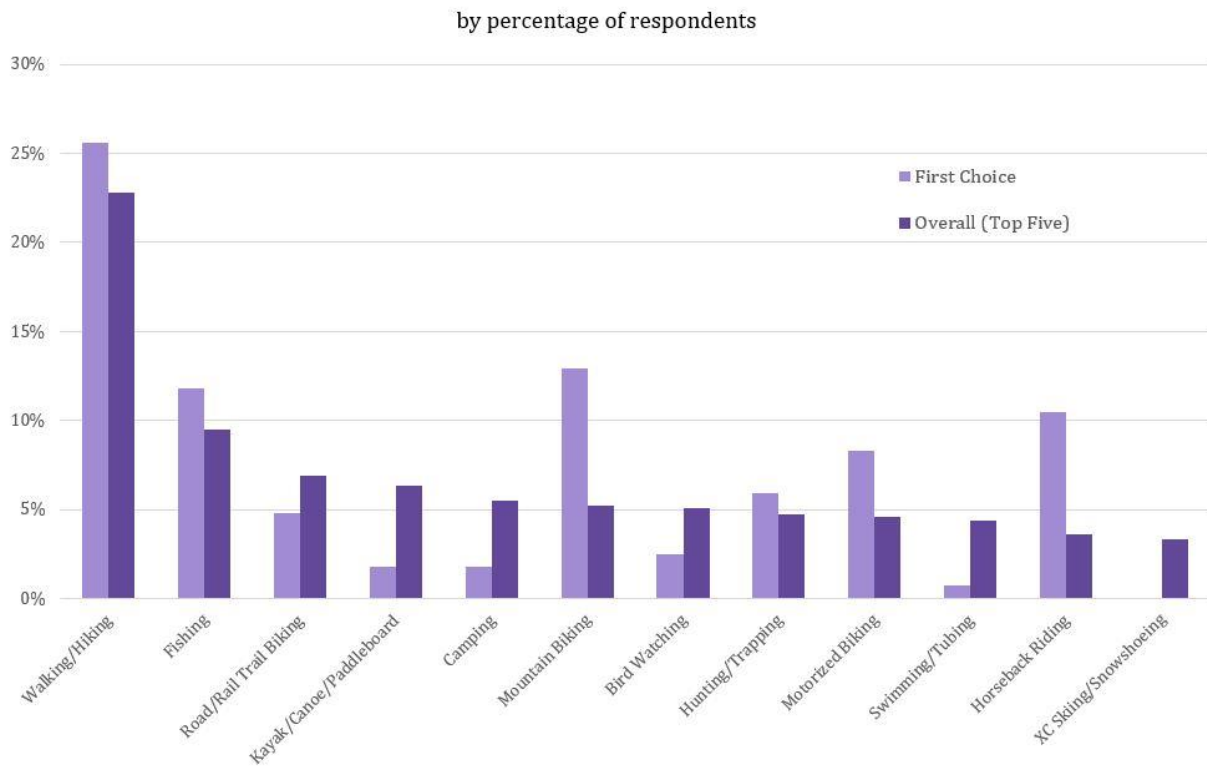


Figure 3-7: Overall and First Choice Activities of Outdoor Enthusiasts

Frequency of Participation—Outdoor Enthusiasts

Figure 3-8 shows the participation frequency in first-choice recreation activities for outdoor enthusiasts. As expected, enthusiasts engaged in these activities more frequently than individuals in the general population, with a very high percentage of “several times a week” frequency ratings. Only motorized biking, rock climbing, and camping showed a greater proportion of enthusiasts participating a few times a month than several times a week. This is consistent because individuals noted difficulties with access to these activities in their open-ended responses on the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey. Specifically, individuals noted a significant lack of areas where they can practice motorized biking or rock climbing, which made it necessary to travel farther or out-of-state, thereby, limiting the frequency of participation.

Additionally, several respondents to both the Outdoor Enthusiast and Statewide Surveys noted in open-ended responses that a limited camping season, early closing of state campgrounds, and difficulties in securing campsite reservations made it difficult to practice their first-choice activity

as much as they would prefer. The low percentage of respondents who engaged in camping several times a week is consistent simply with the fact that even if desired, fitting camping into one’s schedule several times a week is something that would not be feasible for most Connecticut citizens.

Frequency of Participation by Outdoor Enthusiasts in First Choice Activities
by percentage of individuals reporting each activity

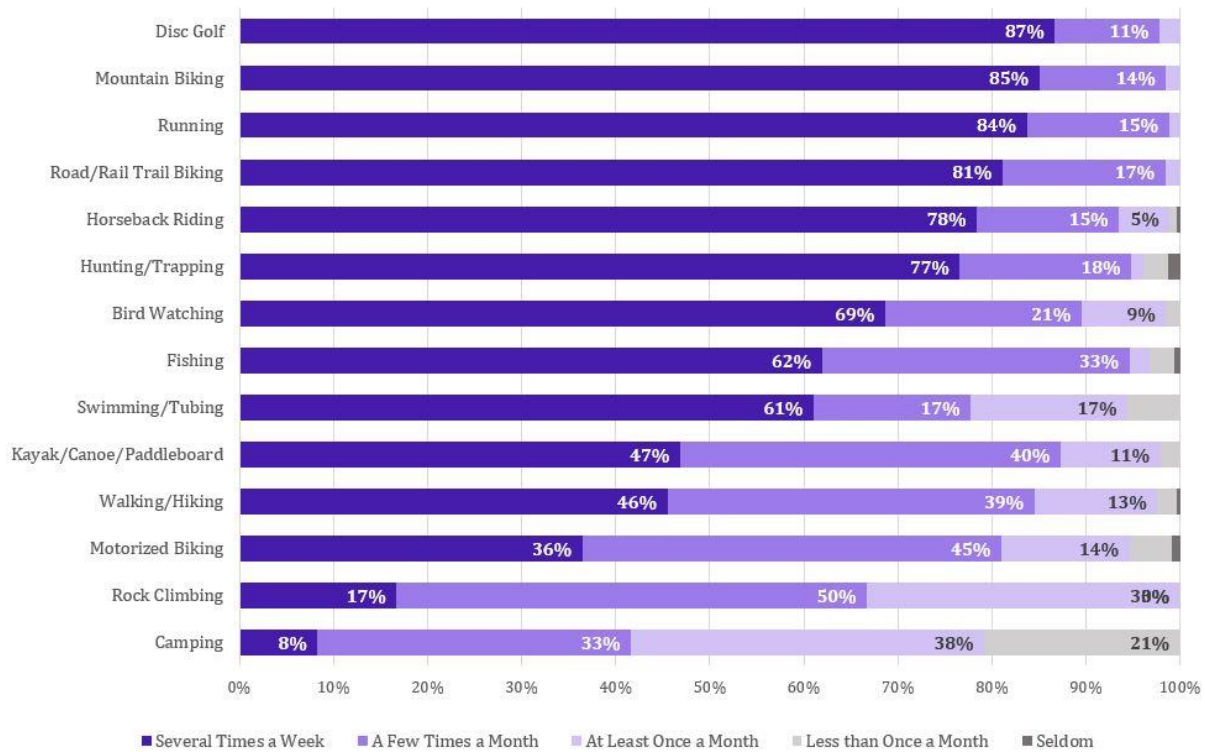


Figure 3-8: Frequency of Participation in Outdoor Enthusiasts’ First Choice Activities

Some less readily interpretable differences are apparent in the comparison between the frequency of participation by outdoor enthusiasts in 2005 and 2017 (Figure 3-9). Activities such as horseback riding, hunting/trapping, and kayaking/canoeing/paddleboarding showed little-to-no difference between 2005 and 2017, while others (running, bicycling, fishing, and bird watching) showed a decline in frequency ratings of several times per week over the same years. Only motorized biking showed an increase in percentage of enthusiasts participating several times per week, which might suggest that this is an activity some have become more excited over in recent years. At the same time, fewer enthusiasts, overall, reported motorized biking as their first-choice activity in 2017 than in 2005. While it is possible that fewer participants have become more “avid” over recent years, there is not enough data to conclude this with any certainty. Most interesting in the comparison between 2005 and 2017 was the difference seen with rock climbing. This difference in “several times per week” frequency ratings is consistent with the decreased popularity of rock climbing as a first-choice activity among outdoor enthusiasts; however, the reasons for this decline

are unclear. While some participants in rock climbing did mention issues related to access, there is no clear reason why access to this activity would be more limited today than in 2005.

Percentage of Outdoor Enthusiasts Participating in First Choice Activity Several Times per Week

by percentage of individuals reporting each activity

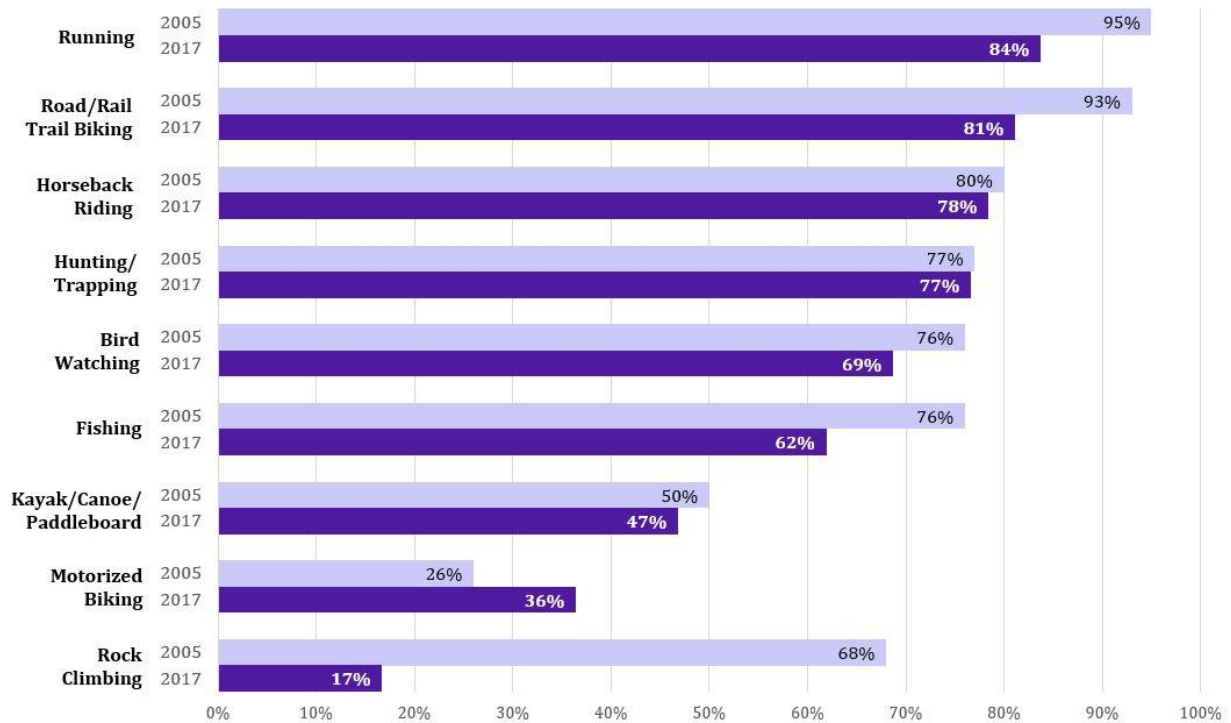


Figure 3-9: Percentage of Outdoor Enthusiasts Frequently Participating in First Choice Activities

PROFILE OF PARTICIPATION: STATEWIDE DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

In addition to participation and frequency of engagement rates, potential correlations with demographic variables were explored, namely: gender, age, income, and county of residence.

Gender

Since the Statewide Survey asked respondents to provide information generalized across all members of their household, it was not possible to look at the relationship between gender and participation in specific activities on this survey. Thus, it should be noted that the following discussion of gender differences is based solely on responses to the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey, and may not be generalizable to the general statewide population.

Figure 3-10 shows the proportion of participants attributable to each gender for activities with fifty or more respondents.

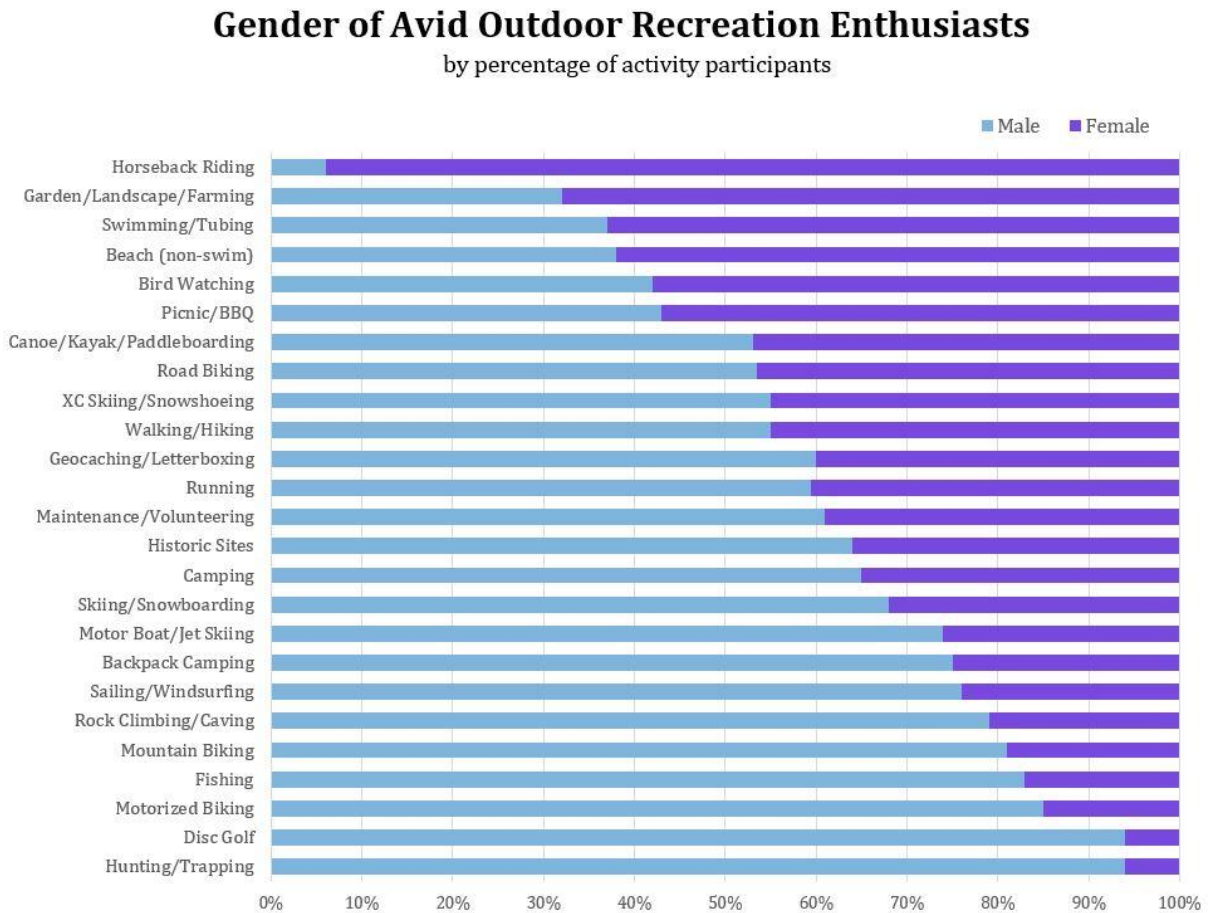


Figure 3-10: Gender of Avid Participants in Recreational Activities

It is evident that male and female outdoor enthusiasts exhibited different patterns of outdoor recreational activity. While some activities such as canoeing/kayaking/paddleboarding, road biking, cross-country skiing/snowshoeing, and walking/hiking were practiced by relatively equal proportions of men and women, others showed a strong tendency to be practiced by a particular gender. Most popular among female respondents were horseback riding (94% female), gardening/landscaping/farming (68% female), swimming/tubing (63% female), non-swimming beach activities (63% female), bird watching/nature activities (58% female), and picnicking/BBQing (57% female). Most popular among male outdoor enthusiasts were hunting/trapping (94% male), disc golf (94% male), motorized biking (85% male), fishing (83% male), mountain biking (81% male), and rock climbing (79% male).

In general, males exhibited a higher rate of participation in most outdoor recreational activities compared to females and, thus, comprised most participants for most of the activities shown. Although males represented the majority (60%) of the overall sample to the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey, the similarity of this year's demographic profile to that reported for the 2005 survey (57% male) suggests that there is a true difference in the population rather than in the sampling.

Age

Again, due to the nature of responses to the Statewide Survey, it was not possible to accurately link the age of participants to specific activities; however, several trends can be identified. These trends are solely produced on the notion that respondents to the Statewide Survey provided participation rates and ages of household members. Households with at least one adult over the age of sixty-five had a higher rate of bird watching (44%) than households without an adult over sixty-five (33%), as well as a higher rate of visiting historic sites (61% versus 53%). Also, golf and walking were activities popular among seniors and showed participation rates similar to those of households without an individual over the age of 65 (25% and 14%, respectively). Sledding was popular among households with children under the age of nine (53% participation versus 26% for households without children under age 9), while rollerblading/skateboarding and sports such as basketball, football, baseball, and soccer were popular among households with children and/or adolescents under fifteen years old. Unsurprisingly, households with children and/or adolescents tended to participate in a greater number of outdoor recreational activities than those without individuals in this age group

Age could be more directly linked with specific activities via the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey, and the average age of individuals reporting each activity is displayed below in Figure 3-11. The overall median age of respondents to the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey was 49, which is significantly higher than the median of 41 reported by the Census Bureau for Connecticut in 2015. Unfortunately, comparisons cannot be made to the 2005 SCORP because the average age of outdoor enthusiasts was not reported; however, as discussed previously, the heavy reliance on outdoor recreation groups for the recruitment of participants may have contributed to this apparent age bias. Nevertheless, the relative comparison of average age across activities presented below is still useful in examining which activities are popular among younger versus older recreationists. This usefulness allows for predictability concerning which activities will show an increase or decrease in participation over coming years.

Average Age of Avid Outdoor Recreation Enthusiasts

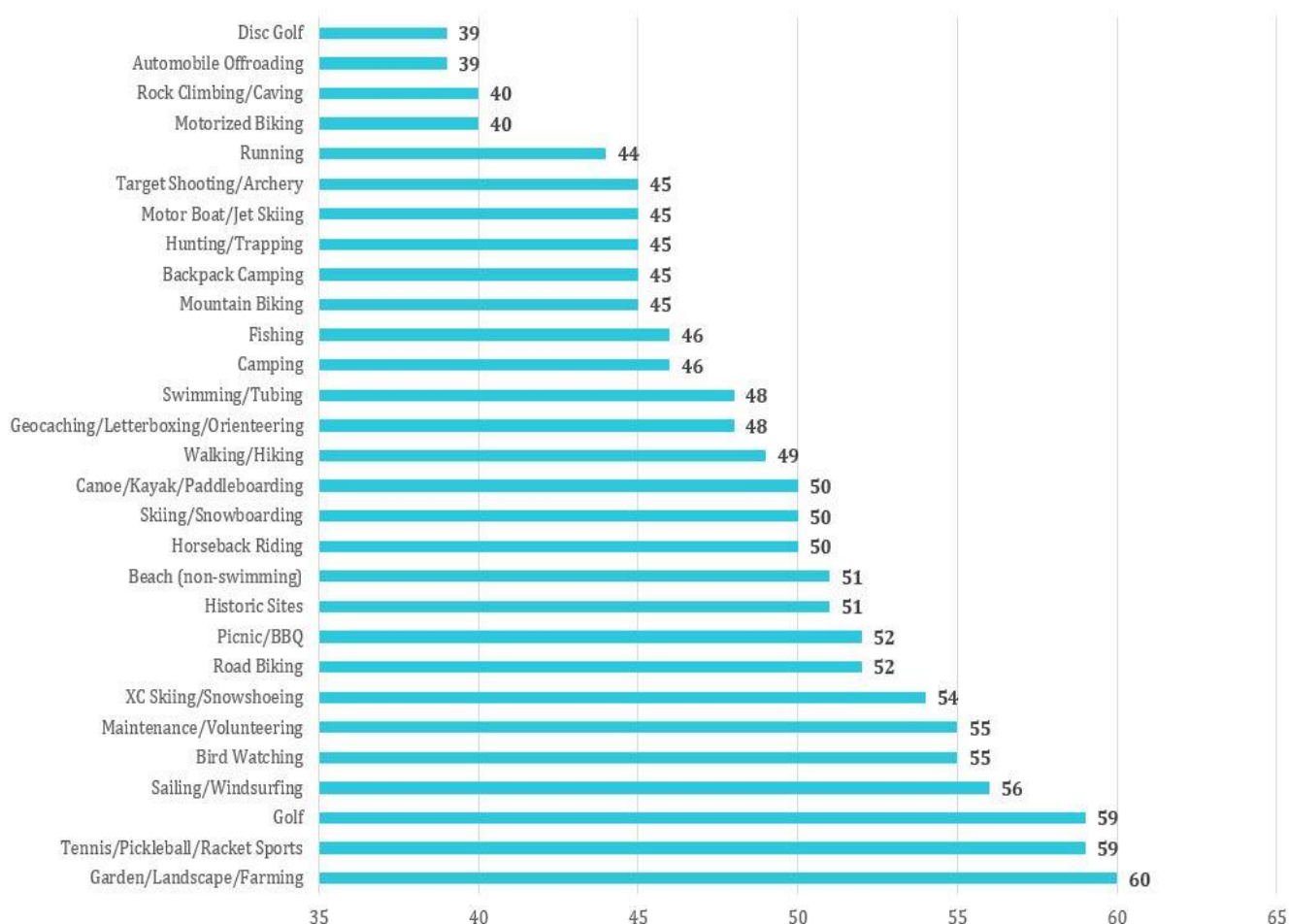


Figure 3-11: Average Age of Avid Participants in Recreational Activities

Disc golf, rock climbing/caving, and automobile off-roading or motorized biking were activities most frequently practiced by younger outdoor enthusiasts, which is consistent with the relatively recent emergence of these activities among recreationists. Gardening/landscaping/farming, tennis and other racket sports, golf, sailing/windsurfing, bird watching, and maintenance/volunteering were the most popular outdoor recreational activities among older respondents to the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey. It is reasonable to assume that these activities have a larger appeal among older adults because of their lower physical demands, but note that racket sports and bird watching are becoming less popular among Connecticut residents over time. Indeed, along with biking, camping, and golf, tennis and bird watching were among the activities which showed the steepest declines in household participation between the 2005 and 2017 Statewide Surveys.

Income

Household income was a variable that applied to all members reported on the Statewide Survey; thus, the relationship between this variable and the type of activities practiced could be examined. Figures 3-12 and 3-13 depict the percentage of households who reported engaging in each land and water-based activity based on results from this survey.

For land-based activities, the disparities in participation between lower and higher income households are most pronounced for activities such as golf, skiing/snowboarding, and cross-country skiing/snowshoeing, with wealthier households being more likely to engage in these activities. Activities such as walking, running, and biking also showed significant income disparity, with higher household income being related to higher levels of participation. Activities which showed a relatively even proportion of individuals from each of the three income brackets, included geocaching/letterboxing, soccer, rollerblading/skateboarding, motorized biking, mountain biking, hunting/trapping, horse camping, and Ultimate Frisbee. In general, households with higher annual incomes tended to engage in more outdoor recreational activities. Camping, geocaching/letterboxing, motorized biking, and backpack camping were the only land-based activities for which households with incomes below \$100,000 had participation rates exceeding those with household incomes of \$100,000 or more. For water-based outdoor recreational activities, a consistent pattern emerged in which higher household income predicted greater participation in all activities but freshwater/ice fishing.

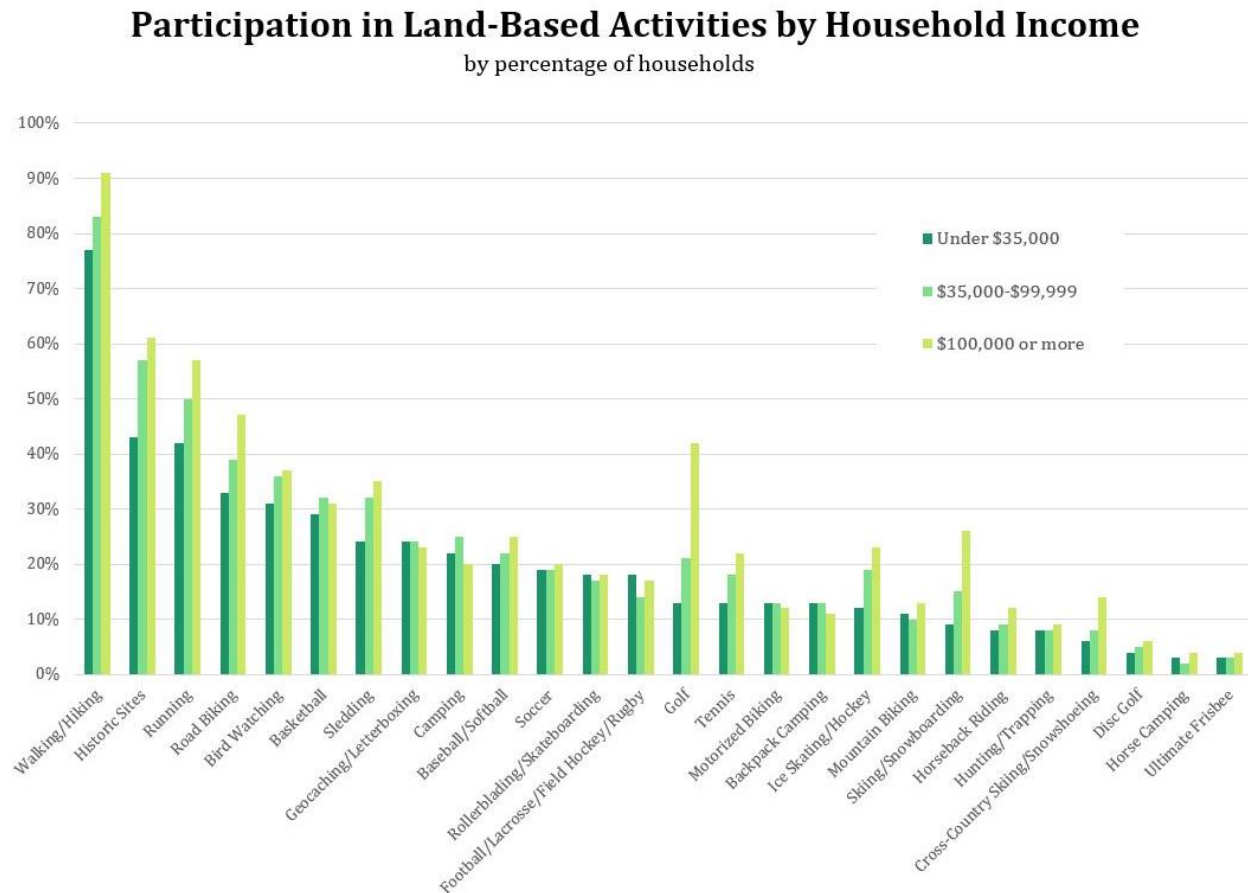


Figure 3-12: Participation in Land-Based Activities by Household Income

Participation in Water-Based Activities by Household Income by percentage of households

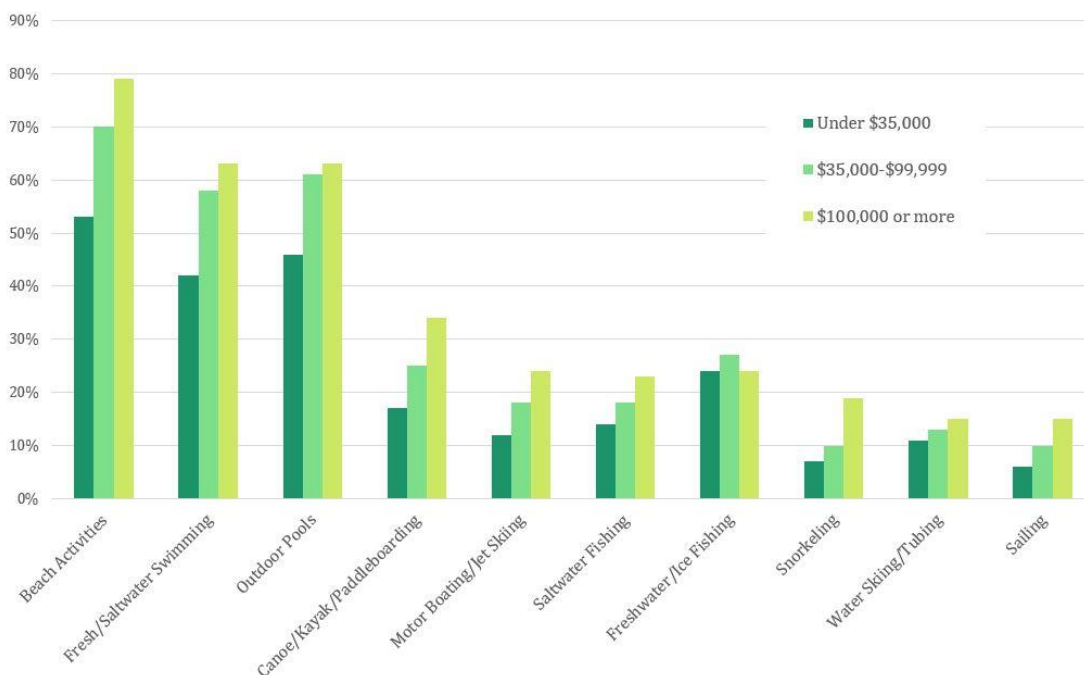


Figure 3-13: Participation in Water-Based Activities by Household Income

Interestingly, the lower rates of participation among households with lower incomes do not appear to derive primarily from a lack of access to these activities. That is, when asked whether their household had a need or desire for additional access to recreation facilities, those with lower incomes tended to report less additional need than those with higher incomes across nearly all activities. This was especially true for activities which showed the greatest disparity in participation rates by income; for example, only 17%–18% of households with incomes ranging from below \$15,000 to \$50,000 reported having additional unmet need for golf courses, compared with 35%–37% of households with annual incomes above \$150,000. However, households with lower incomes did cite lack of interest and/or time for recreation as a reason preventing them from utilizing outdoor recreational facilities, with one-quarter (24%) of those with incomes under \$15,000 citing this as a reason compared with seven percent of those with household incomes of \$100,000–\$149,999, eight percent of those with incomes of \$150,000–\$199,999, and twelve percent of those with incomes above \$200,000.

The cost of using outdoor recreational facilities is likely a factor because one-third (33%) of those with household incomes under \$15,000 and three-tenths (29%) of those with incomes of \$15,000–\$24,999 cited fees as an obstacle to their practice of outdoor recreation. In comparison, only one-tenth (9%) of those with incomes of \$150,000–\$199,999 and twelve percent of those with incomes over \$200,000 cited fees as an obstacle. Too, those with lower household incomes were more likely to be affected by inconvenient operating hours of outdoor facilities, with one-fifth (18%) of those with household incomes below \$15,000 and one-fifth (20%) of those with incomes of \$15,000–

\$24,999 citing it as an impediment to their practice of outdoor recreation. In contrast, just over one-tenth (12%) of those with household incomes of \$150,000–\$199,999 and less than one-tenth (7%) of those with incomes over \$200,000 cited operating hours as an issue. It may likely be the case that those with lower annual household incomes find themselves needing to work additional or other than typical hours, which in turn impedes engagement in outdoor recreation. Indeed, several open-ended responses given by respondents to the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey noted that extended operating hours (e.g., parks open after dark) would allow them to engage in recreation which was otherwise severely limited by their work schedule.

An examination of the relationship between income and participation in outdoor recreational activities among enthusiasts generally supported the findings of the Statewide Survey and is depicted in Figure 3-14. That is, activities such as skiing/snowboarding, cross-country skiing/snowshoeing, and non-swimming beach activities tended to be practiced more frequently by those with higher incomes. Meanwhile, those with lower incomes tended to practice activities such as backpack camping, fishing, and hunting/trapping more often. At the same time, other activities such as mountain biking, geocaching/letterboxing, and disc golf showed a stronger positive relationship with income among outdoor enthusiasts than among statewide households. The exact reason for this discrepancy is unclear; however, it may be at least partially a result of the greater average income among respondents to the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey compared with respondents to the Statewide Survey. Half (49%) of respondents to the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey reported incomes above \$100,000 and only one-quarter (25%) of respondents to the Statewide Survey fell into this income bracket.

Income Distribution of Outdoor Enthusiasts by Activity

by percentage of activity participants

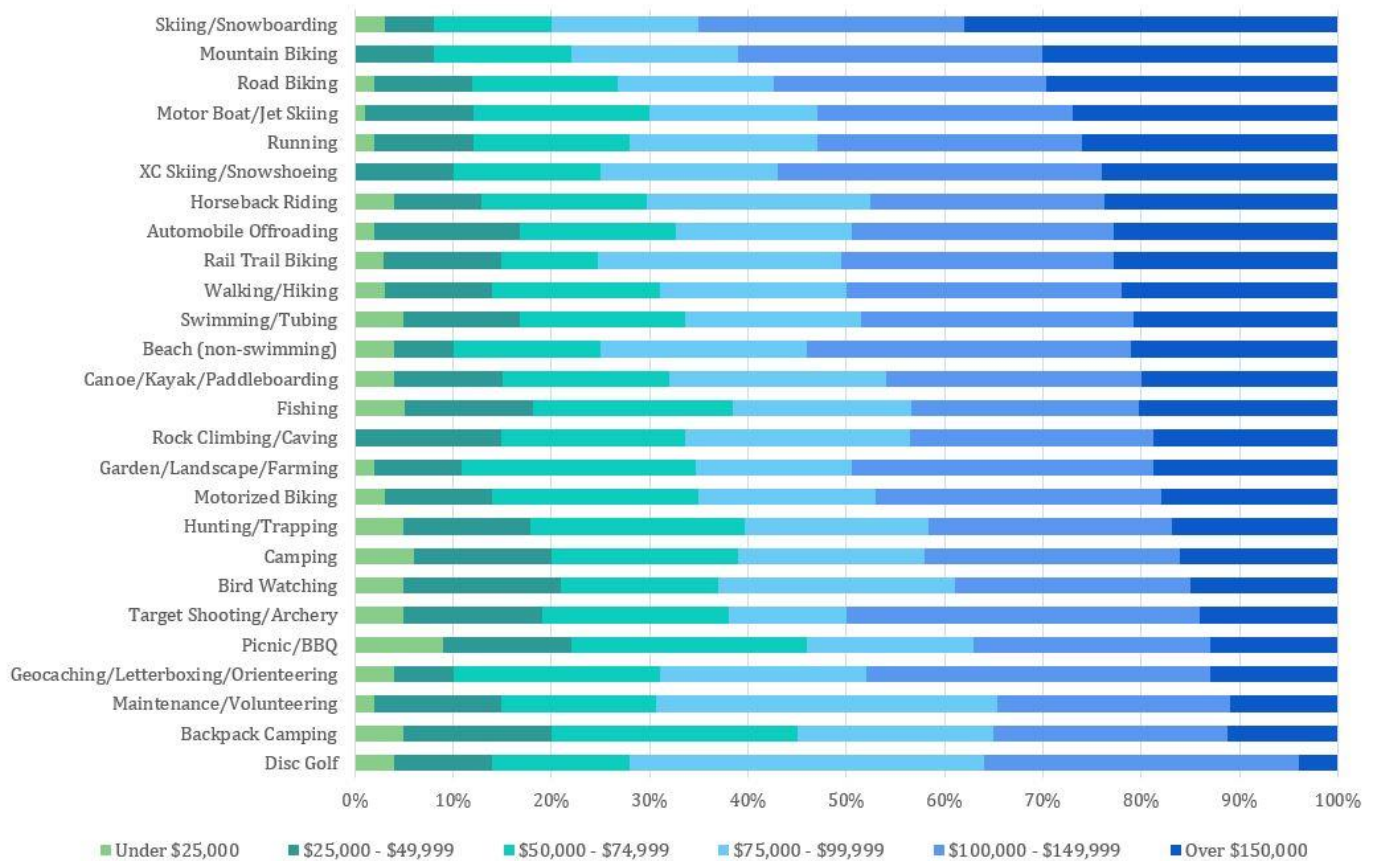


Figure 3-14: Income Distribution of Outdoor Enthusiasts by Activity

County

The rate of participation in outdoor recreational activities among Connecticut households was compared by county for both the Statewide and Outdoor Enthusiast surveys. Interestingly, the pattern of results differs considerably in some cases between the surveys. Without any ready explanation for these differences, results from the Statewide Survey should be considered the more reliable of the two due to the nature and size of the sample used. Thus, results from the Statewide Survey are discussed in depth below, followed by results from the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey presented solely in graphical form as Figures 3-15 and 3-16.

On the Statewide Survey, horseback riding was most popular among households in Litchfield and Middlesex Counties (21% and 13% participation compared with 6%–9% for all other counties). Motorized biking was also most popular in Litchfield (21% participation) and Middlesex (19% participation) Counties, and was practiced least in Fairfield and New London Counties (10% and 11%, respectively). It may be worth noting that Litchfield and Middlesex Counties contain the three largest “focus areas” identified by the Department of Environmental Protection Connecticut

Resource Protection Project in *The Connecticut Green Plan: Open Space Acquisition*, which was first developed in 2001 and was most recently updated in 2017. Since horseback riding and motorized biking are activities that require relatively large areas of open space to practice, the acquisition of open land in Litchfield and Middlesex Counties may, at least, partially account for the popularity of these activities in those regions.

Bird watching or wildlife viewing was most practiced in Windham County (54% participation) and Tolland County (51% participation), which together have been described as “the quiet corner” of Connecticut. This area would naturally be well-suited for such an activity because bird and wildlife viewing requires a certain degree of tranquility in the environment. Windham, Tolland, and Litchfield were also the most popular counties for freshwater fishing (with 42%, 34%, and 36% participation) and these counties can be described as among the most rural in Connecticut. Similarly, hunting or trapping was practiced by fourteen percent of households in Litchfield County, eleven percent in New London and Middlesex Counties, and ten percent in Windham. Both hunting or trapping and freshwater fishing had the lowest rates of participation in Hartford County and New Haven County, which is unsurprising given their more urban geography.

Downhill skiing or snowboarding was most popular in Fairfield County (22% participation) and Litchfield County (20% participation), and least popular in New London County and Windham County (both 9% participation). Fairfield and Litchfield Counties are characterized by the highest income rates in Connecticut, whereas New London and Windham counties have among the lowest. As downhill skiing and snowboarding were shown to be practiced more frequently by households with higher incomes, this pattern of findings makes sense. At the same time, Fairfield and Litchfield counties contain the Taconic Mountain and Berkshire Mountain ranges of the Appalachian Mountains, which provides more suitable topography for downhill skiing and snowboarding. The pattern of participation for cross-country skiing or snowshoeing was less readily interpretable, with the highest levels of household participation occurring in Litchfield, Tolland, Fairfield, and Hartford Counties; whereas the lowest was in Middlesex, Windham, New Haven, and New London Counties. Aside from Fairfield and Windham Counties, the counties in the northern half of the state have the highest rate of participation in cross-country skiing/snowshoeing; thus, it is possible that higher levels of participation are correlated to areas that receive more or more frequent snowfall.

Finally, it is notable that Tolland and Windham Counties showed particularly low rates of motor boating/jet skiing, water skiing/wakeboarding, and river rafting/tubing, and moderately low rates of beach activities, sailing, canoeing/kayaking/paddleboarding, and snorkeling or scuba diving. At the same time, these counties were characterized by an elevated rate of freshwater fishing, and comparable rates of saltwater fishing and fresh/saltwater swimming. While not an all-encompassing explanation, it is worth noting that Tolland and Windham Counties have a noticeable shortage of Connecticut water utility properties. Water utility properties are areas that offer beaches, swimming opportunities, and non-motorized or electric boating to state residents. This shortage is depicted in the 2005 SCORP report.

Most Popular Land-Based Activities Practiced by Outdoor Enthusiasts by County

by percentage of county respondents

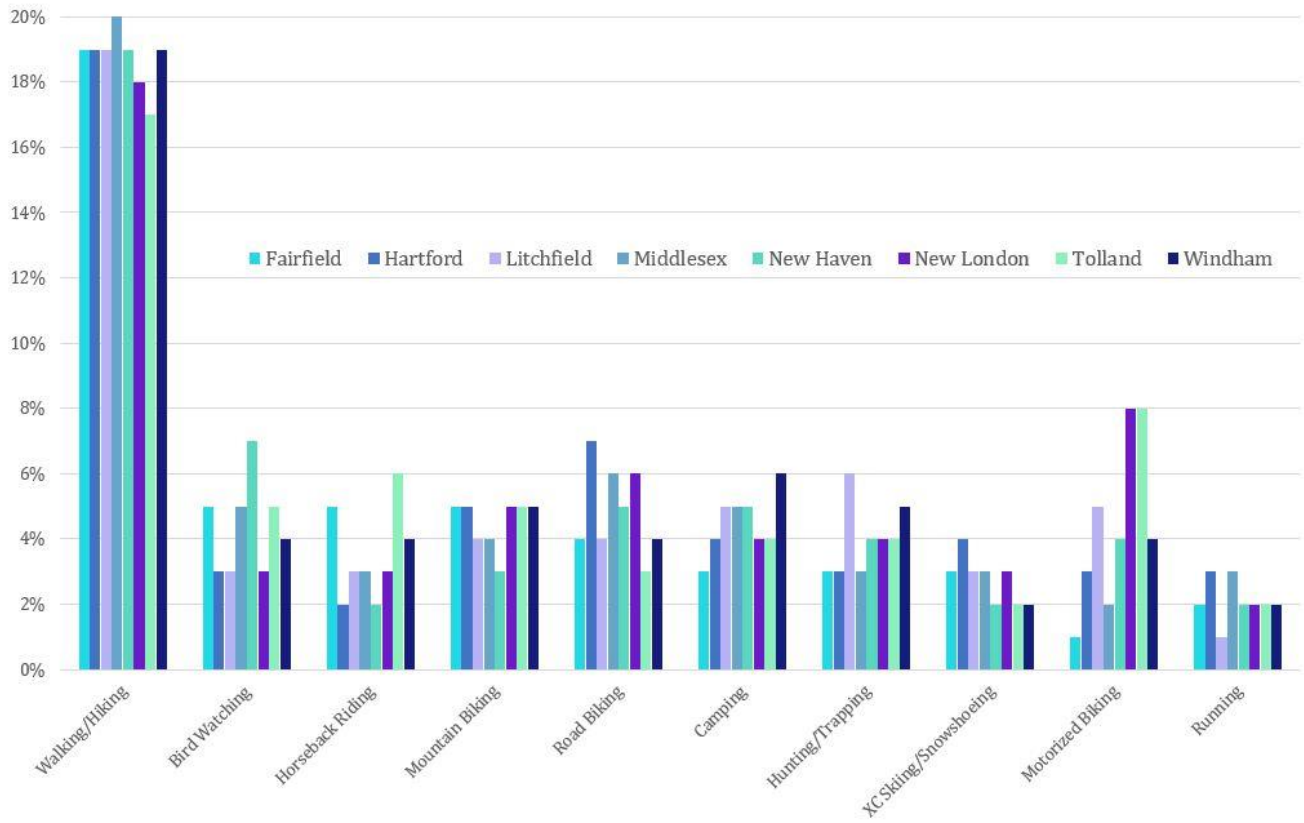


Figure 3-15: Most Popular Land-Based Activities of Enthusiasts by County

Most Popular Water-Based Activities Practiced by Outdoor Enthusiasts by County

by percentage of county respondents



Figure 3-16: Most Popular Water-Based Activities of Enthusiasts by County

Town Officials' View of Activity Trends

For a different perspective on recreation trends, town officials were asked which activities have shown an increase, as well as a decrease, in participation over the past five to ten years. The results of this query are presented in Table 3-2, and closely mirror the results of the Statewide Survey. Recall that the Use Frequency Index (UFI) ranked “walking or hiking” and “swimming in pools” as the top activities. Town officials have observed this trend, ranking “walking” and “pool use” in their list of activities with increasing participation. While “lacrosse” fell in the middle of the UFI chart, focus group participants agreed that this is an emerging sport.

Both baseball/softball and tennis, two activities that town officials felt were experiencing declines in participation, fell towards the middle of the UFI chart. Interestingly, comparing the most recent UFI data from that of the 2005-2010 SCORP, we see that both baseball/softball and tennis have declined in terms of statewide participation rates. It would be valuable to see if this trend continues in the next SCORP.

Table 3-2: Activity Participation Rates Over the Past 5-10 Years as Ranked by Town Officials

<i>Increased</i>	<i>Decreased</i>
↑ Summer Camp	↓ Baseball/Softball
↑ Lacrosse	↓ Adult Programming
↑ Walking	↓ Tennis
↑ Trails	↓ Other Outdoor Sports
↑ Pool Use	

PROFILE OF PARTICIPATION: WHERE DO PEOPLE RECREATE?

Location of Recreation Participation by Outdoor Enthusiasts

Respondents to the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey were asked to identify the locations where they practice their top five outdoor recreation activities, with multiple responses being accepted. Figure 3-17 compares the preferred practice locations of enthusiasts’ first choice (favorite) activities to those of all five activities in the aggregate.

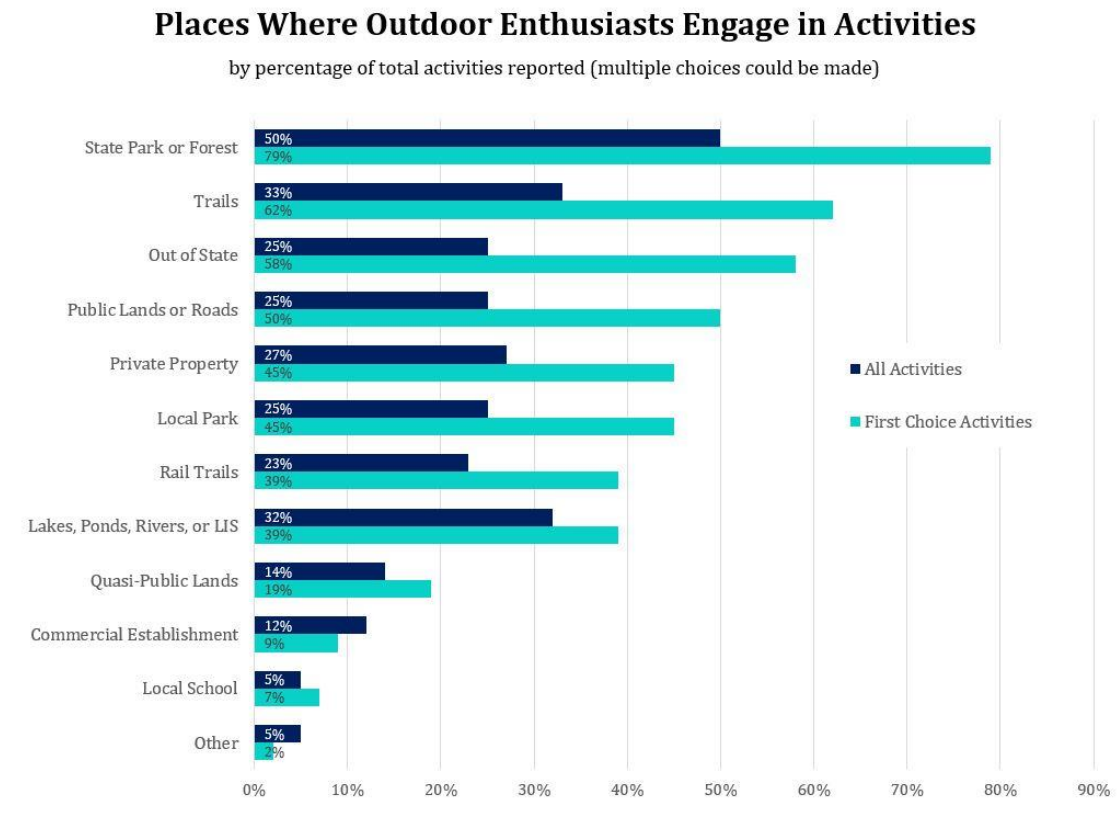


Figure 3-17: Places Where Outdoor Enthusiasts Engage in Activities

Outdoor enthusiasts tend to practice their favorite activity in a wider variety of locations than lower-ranked activities, with significantly higher percentages for nearly all locations. This finding is unsurprising, as respondents were instructed to identify their first-choice activity as the one in which they participated most frequently or to which they were most devoted. Naturally, individuals who are more devoted to an activity will practice that activity in a wider variety of places than other activities, whether they visit these locations for the primary purpose of engaging in this activity or not.

State parks or forests were the most popular activity location, with nearly four in five (79%) outdoor enthusiasts practicing their favorite activity here. Over three in five (62%) practice their favorite activity on trails, while a slightly smaller percentage (58%) participate out-of-state. Again, individuals who are particularly devoted to an activity are more likely to incorporate it into other activities such as out-of-state vacations, for instance. Half (50%) of respondents to the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey reported practicing their favorite activity on public lands or roads not designated as parks, with local parks and private property both following at 45%. Outdoor enthusiasts are less likely to practice their favorite activity at a commercial establishment, with 9% practicing their favorite activity here compared with 12% practicing any one of their listed activities.

State and Municipal Park Visit Frequency

The clear reliance on state parks and forests (and to a lesser extent local parks) as places for outdoor enthusiasts to recreate emphasizes the importance of these facilities to those individuals most enthusiastic about outdoor recreation. To assess the extent to which state- and municipal-owned outdoor recreation facilities are being used by households from the general population of Connecticut, respondents to the Statewide Survey were asked if, and if so how frequently, they visited these outdoor recreation areas over the past 12 months. Results from this inquiry are depicted in Figures 3-18 and 3-19 below, with comparison data from the 2005 SCORP provided in parentheses, where available.

The incidence of outdoor recreation area visitation was strong, with households being slightly more likely to visit municipal-owned areas (71%) as opposed to state-owned areas (67%). Additionally, municipal-owned areas attract a larger subset of frequent visitors (20+ visits). Of those households indicating that they had visited a municipal-owned area within the past 12 months, nearly one in five (18%) had visited 20 or more times. Comparatively, slightly less than one in ten (8%) of households reported visiting a state-owned park 20 or more times. The majority (57%) of households reporting that they had visited a state-owned park in the past year made 1-5 visits, with just shy of one-quarter (24%) making 6-10 visits. Ease of accessibility (i.e., shorter distance of the location from one's residence) may account for the uptick in visits to municipal-owned parks, with a larger percentage of households reporting more frequent visits. Little difference is apparent between data from 2005 and 2017, although somewhat fewer households visited state-owned recreation areas more than 20 times per year in 2017 than in 2005 (8% versus 13%).

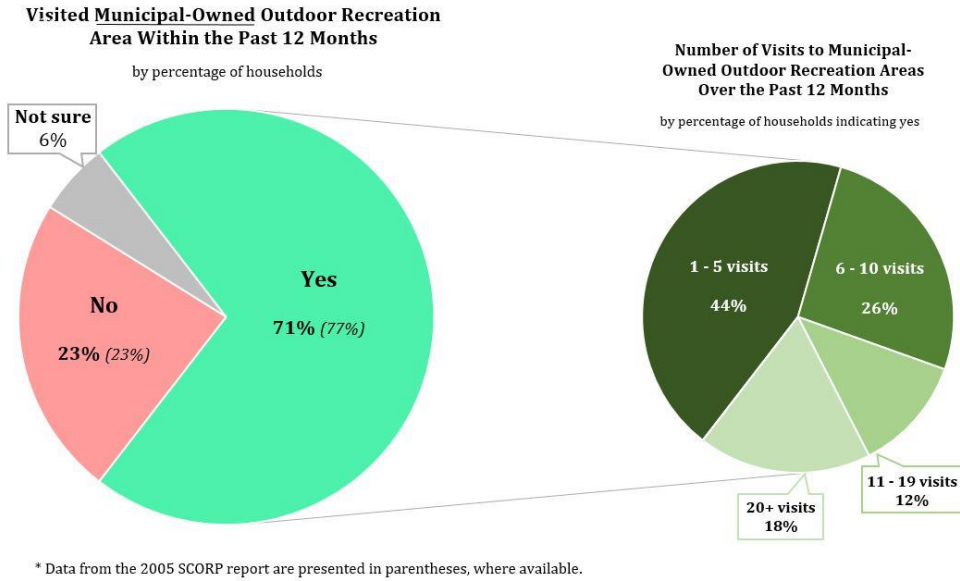


Figure 3-18: Household Visits to Municipal-Owned Recreation Areas

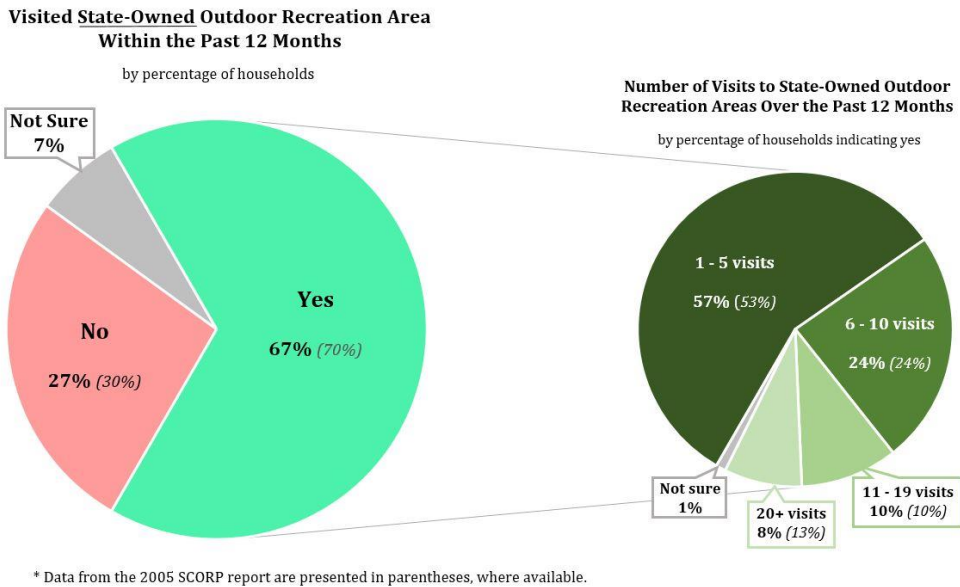


Figure 3-19: Household Visits to State-Owned Recreation Areas

In addition to rates of visitation for municipal- and state-owned outdoor recreation facilities among the general population of Connecticut, an inquiry was made into rates of visitation among individuals of different household income brackets. Figure 3-20 shows the proportion of households from each income bracket who reported visiting municipal- and state-owned outdoor recreation areas at least once within the past year. Figure 3-21 shows the frequency of visits to

municipal-owned outdoor recreation facilities based on household income (the pattern of results was comparable for state-owned facilities, which are not shown).

Households with incomes below \$15,000 were least likely to have visited a state or municipal recreation facility in the past 12 months, with 55% and 47% visiting municipal- and state-owned facilities, respectively. The most likely to have visited a state- or municipal-owned outdoor recreation facility within the past year were those with annual incomes between \$100,000 and \$150,000, with 76% and 81% reporting visits to state and municipal facilities, respectively. In general, there was a trend towards a greater proportion of visitors to state and municipal recreation facilities with increasing household income; however, the percentage of households who visit these facilities appears to drop off somewhat among households with incomes above \$150,000.

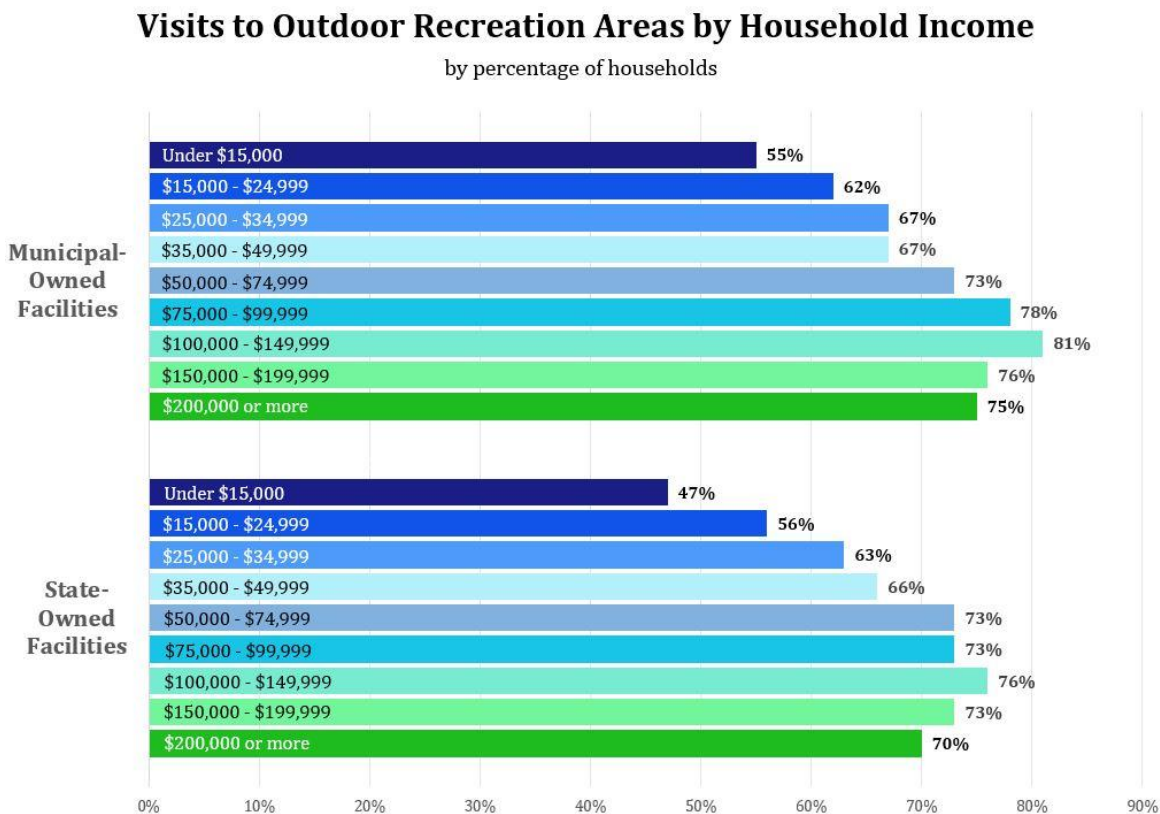


Figure 3-20: Visits to Recreation Areas by Household Income

In terms of frequency, households with incomes above \$200,000 and households with incomes below \$15,000 showed the greatest discrepancy. Whereas the visitation rate of households with incomes between \$15,000 and \$200,000 did not differ markedly or with any clear pattern, households with incomes below \$15,000 had a substantially higher proportion of those who visited a municipal-owned facility between 1 and 5 times over the course of the last year (58%) compared with households with incomes above \$200,000 (27%). Although fewer households with incomes below \$15,000 visited municipal facilities 20 or more times in the past year (17%) compared with households with incomes above \$200,000 (22%), the greatest difference was seen between the

proportion of households which reported 6–10 or 11–19 visits over the past year. Thus, while there seems to be a significant portion of avid or frequent recreation facility users (i.e., those with 20 or more visits) among households with lower incomes, there are relatively fewer casual users (i.e., those with 1–19 annual visits), among households with incomes below \$15,000. There are several potential reasons for this observed discrepancy, one of which is the greater likelihood of those with lower incomes to experience difficulties with transportation. Such individuals may lack access to a personal vehicle, and consequently rely on other means of transportation, such as public transit (trains and buses). This in turn may make it more difficult to access certain facilities with as much frequency as might ideally be desired by the individual. The ways in which Connecticut residents travel to and from outdoor state recreational facilities is elaborated upon in the section immediately following.

Frequency of Visits to Municipal-Owned Facilities by Household Income

by percentage of households visiting at least once in the past 12 months

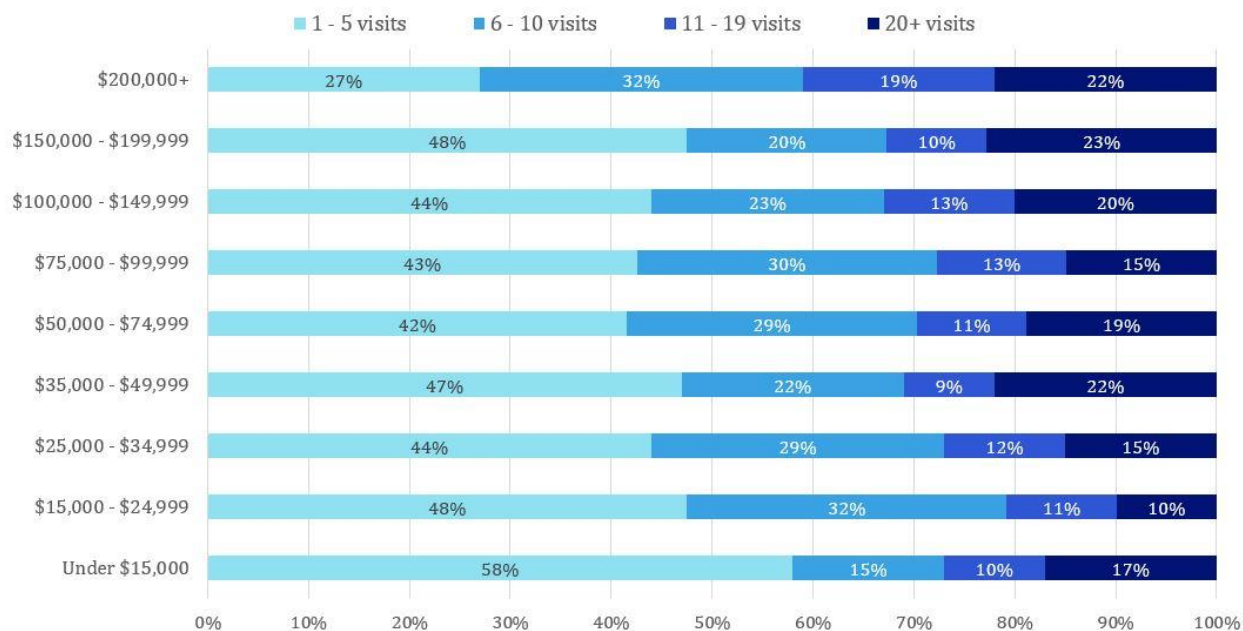


Figure 3-21: Frequency of Visits to Municipal-Owned Facilities by Income

ASSESSING MODES OF TRANSPORTATION

How Residents Get to Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Connecticut residents were asked to identify the ways that they or members of their household, travel to outdoor recreation facilities in their local community and throughout the state of Connecticut. The results of this inquiry are presented in Figure 3-22. Unsurprisingly, most residents (88%) travel to outdoor recreation facilities via automobile. Still, over half (56%) of households surveyed in the Statewide Survey reported walking to outdoor recreation facilities in

their area, and one-quarter (25%) of households reported biking to such facilities. These figures are encouraging, as they suggest that a significant portion of state residents have access to and utilize outdoor recreation areas within walking or biking distance of their residence.

Notably, more than one in ten (16%) use public transportation (bus or train) to travel to outdoor recreation areas in Connecticut. The remainder travel via boat (9%) or via an alternate option (3%) such as a motorcycle, scooter, or human locomotion (running/skateboarding). In consideration of Connecticut’s relatively low rate of public transportation use, the proportion of households who report traveling to outdoor recreation areas via bus or train is encouraging. However, as mentioned earlier, limitations in accessibility to recreation areas via public transportation systems may serve as a barrier to the use of these facilities, particularly among households with lower incomes. Thus, while the percentage of residents who report using public transportation to travel to recreational facilities is encouraging, efforts should continue to be made to connect facilities to public transportation systems to maximize accessibility for all state residents.

How Citizens Travel to Outdoor Recreation Facilities in the State

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)

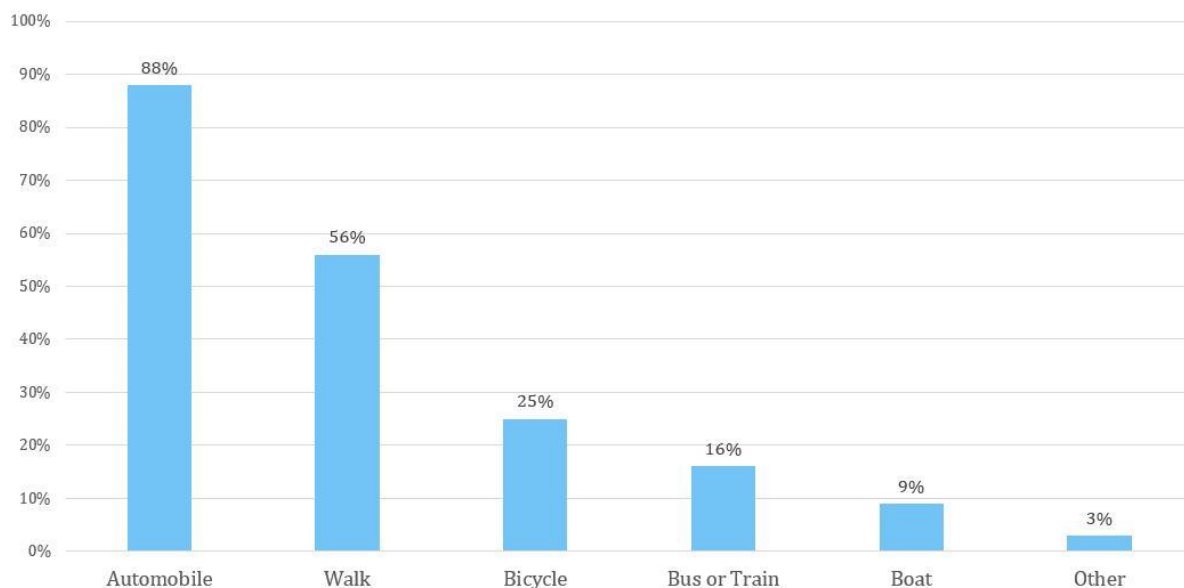


Figure 3-22: How Citizens Travel to State Recreation Facilities

DEMAND FOR OUT-OF-STATE OUTDOOR RECREATION

Despite the numerous outdoor recreational opportunities Connecticut has to offer, many residents report engaging in recreational activities out-of-state. New for 2017, data was collected on several factors related to residents’ use of outdoor recreational facilities outside of the state. The most commonly cited out-of-state attractions by respondents to the Statewide Survey in order of popularity included Massachusetts (including Cape Cod), New York (including the Catskills and Finger Lakes), regional cities (including Boston, New York City/Central park), Florida (including beaches and the Everglades), and Acadia National park.

Frequency of Out-of-State Recreation

First, respondents to the Statewide Survey were asked if, during the past 12 months, either they or a member of their household had visited any parks or outdoor recreation areas located outside of Connecticut. The majority (54%) reported that they had not visited any out-of-state parks or outdoor recreation areas in the past year. Of the 46% of households who did visit these areas, seven in ten (71%) made between 1 and 5 visits in the past year, while 29% visited out-of-state areas 6 times or more. A very tiny cohort (4%) reported 20 or more out-of-state visits in the past year. These figures are displayed in Figure 3-33.

Citizens' Visits to Out-of-State Recreation Areas

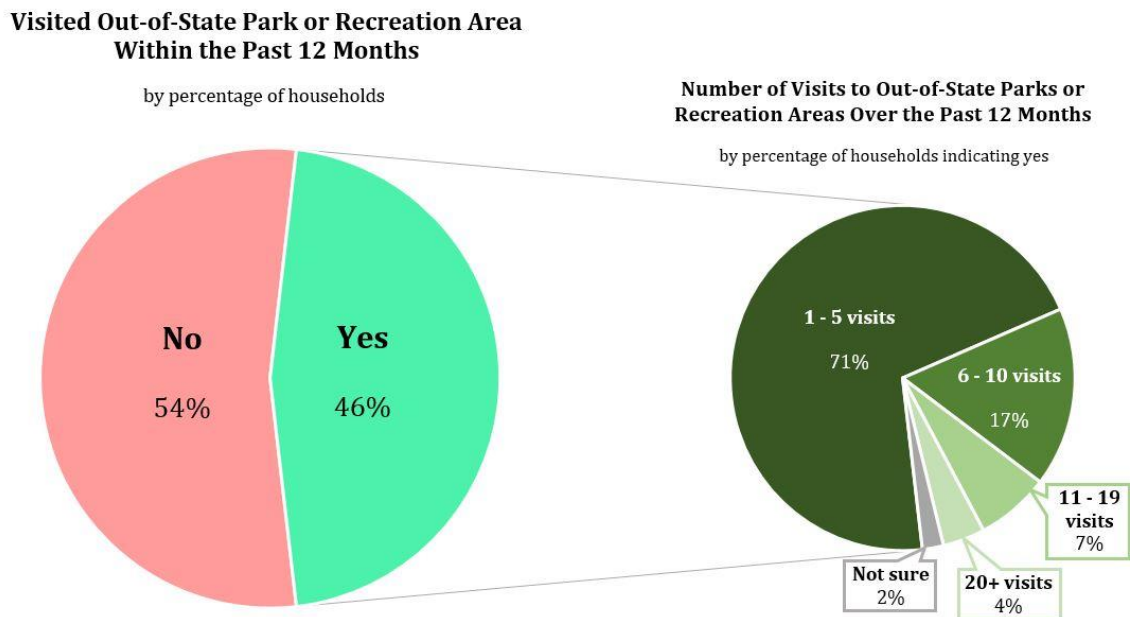


Figure 3-33: Citizens' Visits to Out-of-State Recreation Areas

Respondents to the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey were also asked whether they practiced each of their top five activities at outdoor recreational facilities outside of the state. Unsurprisingly, these enthusiasts were more likely to utilize out-of-state facilities than members of the general population, with 58% reporting that they had practiced their top-ranked activity at an out-of-state facility within the past year, compared with 46% of state households.

Reasons for the Use of Out-of-State Recreation Areas

Respondents to the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey who indicated that they practiced any of their reported activities out-of-state were asked to explain their reasons for doing so in an open-ended

response. Figure 3-34 shows the results of this query, with categories coded from individual free responses. Most individuals who engaged in recreational activities out-of-state did so for variety, incidentally as part of a vacation or other activity, or for other reasons unrelated to any dissatisfaction with the recreational offerings of Connecticut (52%).

Better accessibility and less restrictive access or permit processes were the next most commonly cited reasons for traveling out-of-state, at only 12%. Indeed, some survey respondents characterized surrounding New England states as less restrictive in general towards the use of recreational areas and other land, which was especially true for activities such as hunting, camping, and ATV/off-roading. While it is reassuring that most out-of-state recreation is not a reaction to unmet need within the state, it is still significant that a sizable portion of outdoor enthusiasts were motivated to travel out-of-state by factors such as better maintenance and safety. Physical condition of facilities was a clear draw for Connecticut residents, with 95% of respondents to the Statewide Survey rating out-of-state facilities as either “excellent” or “good”, compared to only 88% for facilities within the state. While to a certain extent the more highly regulated nature of outdoor recreation in Connecticut is a necessary result of more limited space which must be shared by residents, the condition/maintenance and safety of recreational facilities are areas in which the state could easily strive to improve.

Reasons Outdoor Enthusiasts Participate in Recreation Activities Out-of-State

by percentage of out-of-state participants (categories coded from responses)

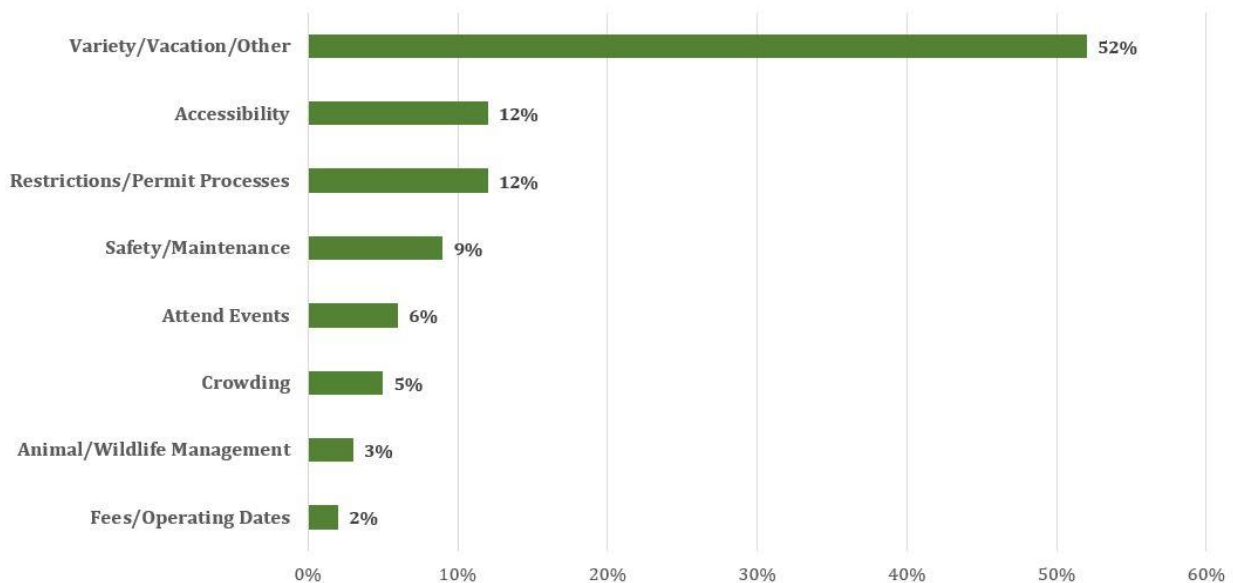


Figure 3-34: Reasons Outdoor Enthusiasts Participate in Recreation Out-of-State

Outdoor Activities Practiced Out-of-State

Figure 3-35 depicts the proportion of outdoor recreation enthusiasts who reported practicing that activity at an out-of-state recreational facility within the past year. Among outdoor enthusiasts, ATV/off-road riding was the activity most frequently associated with visits to out-of-state

facilities, with 64% of those engaging in this activity reporting that they had done so at an out-of-state recreational facility within the past year. Open-ended response questions on the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey, as well as information gathered from focus groups, provide insight into this association. Of respondents to the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey, 81% of those who engaged in ATV/off-road riding out-of-state within the past year indicated that they did so for legal reasons. Legal access to riding facilities was overwhelmingly mentioned by both outdoor enthusiasts and focus group participants as the primary concern, with many noting that there were no facilities in the state available for practicing these activities. Indeed, the CT DEEP website confirms that, “At the current time, Connecticut does not have any public areas open to quads.”

One focus group participant explained that bartering sometimes occurs, with ATV/off-road enthusiasts trading services and/or goods for permission to ride on the private property of others. It is also clear based on the open-ended responses of survey respondents that some individuals ride these vehicles illegally. As many survey respondents noted, the illegal use of ATV and off-road vehicles on trails often damages trails in ways which make their use less convenient for others. In fact, several respondents noted in open-ended responses that although they did not personally practice the activity, they believed that ATV/off-road vehicle users should be provided with facilities in which to do so for the benefit of all outdoor recreationists.

A significant number of outdoor enthusiasts who reported engaging in ATV/off-road riding noted in open-ended responses that residents must pay to register their ATV or off-road vehicle with the Department of Motor Vehicles, despite being provided with no legal place to ride. The CT DMV website confirms that “all-terrain vehicles operated in Connecticut must be registered, unless the vehicle is being operated on property owned or leased by the owner of the ATV.”⁶ Overall, ATV/off-road riders were overwhelmingly unsatisfied with the recreation options available to them in Connecticut, and many appear to travel out-of-state specifically for the purpose of practicing this activity. Indeed, several respondents in open-ended responses noted that they were forced to travel out of state and spend money which would have otherwise gone to the state.

Most of the disc golfers (63%) also reported traveling out-of-state at least once in the past year. While it is estimated that the number of disc golf courses has expanded significantly since the production of the last SCORP, supply still does not meet demand. Of those disc golfers who report practicing their activity out-of-state, more than one-third (36%) do so for better access to courses, while over one-quarter (28%) do so for variety. The allure of tournament play also draws disc golfers away from the Nutmeg State.

More than half of all backpack campers (57%) reported engaging in this activity out-of-state within the past year. Of these individuals, more than one-third (36%) reportedly do so for variety, whereas a similar percentage (33%) do so for access. Slightly more than one in five (21%) traveling backpack campers go across state lines to avoid crowding. Many backpack campers complained of the lack of legal places to camp in Connecticut, and some cited the hassle of navigating permit procedures.

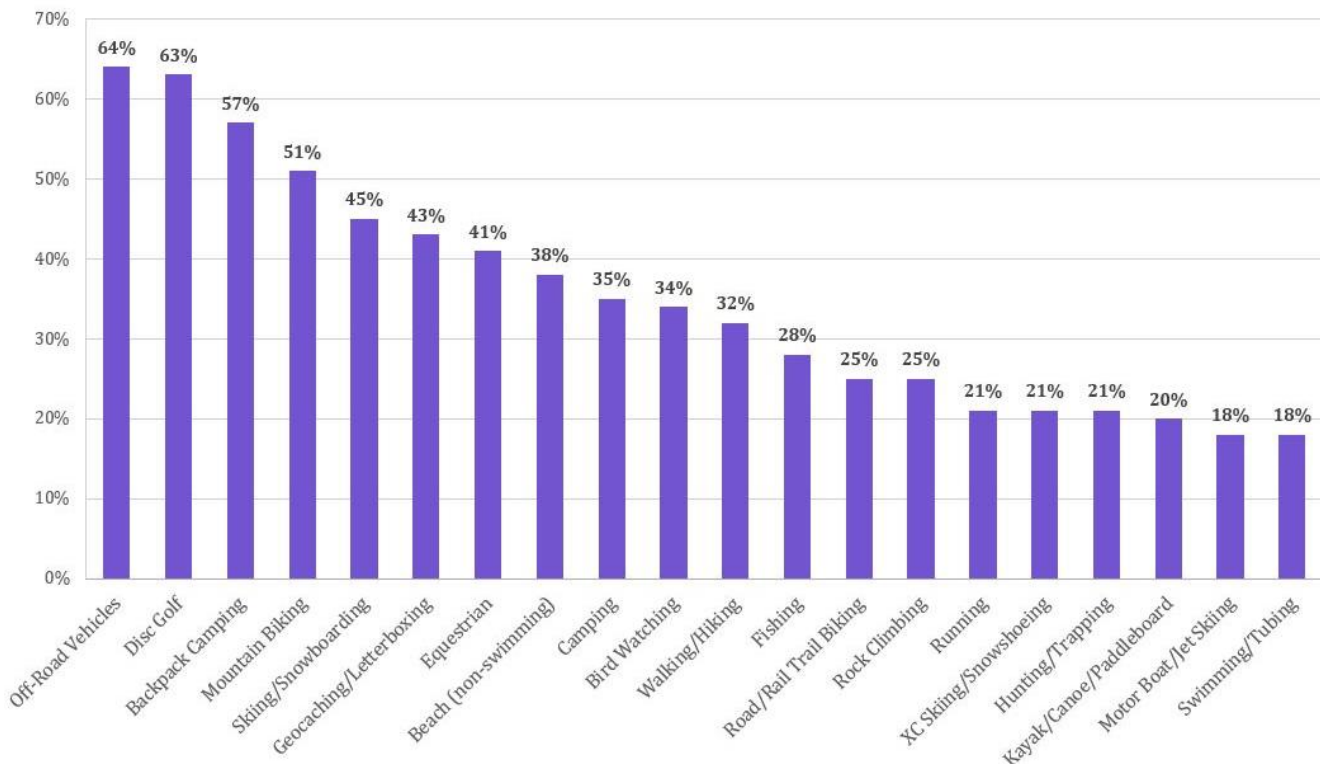
The issue of legal access and restrictions emerged as a chief concern across a multitude of other activities—a reality that drives some Connecticut recreationists out-of-state. Hunters and trappers, for example, indicated legal concerns that send them outside of state lines where regulations related

⁶ <http://www.ct.gov/dmv/cwp/view.asp?a=810&pm=1&Q=285500&dmvPNavCtr=#42938>

to seasons, type and limit of hunted animals, permitted firearms, land use laws, and Sunday hunting are more relaxed. Kayakers, canoers, and paddleboarders struggle to find legal access to launch their vessels, with much of the shoreline being privately owned or otherwise inaccessible to users. Swimmers and tubers found cleaner beaches and/or water in other states, as did non-swimming beach-goers. Finally, some outdoor enthusiasts perceive a stronger culture of recreation in other states where they feel their recreational interests are better accommodated and embraced. Mountain bikers and equestrian enthusiasts, in particular, reported feeling that their sport was more accepted and better promoted elsewhere.

Outdoor Enthusiasts' Participation in Activities Out-of-State

by percentage of participants who reported each activity



* Activities with fewer than 50 total participants not shown

Figure 3-35: Outdoor Enthusiasts' Participation in Activities Out-of-State

TOWN OFFICIALS IDENTIFY AGE-GROUP DEMANDS

Understanding Age-Group Activity Demands

For another perspective on popular recreational activities in the state, respondents to the Town Officials Survey were asked to list the two most popular resources or activities provided by their town for the following groups of people: families, preschool children 0-5, children 5-12,

adolescents, adults, and seniors. The four most frequent responses for each group are presented below in Table 3-3, along with the most popular responses given by town officials in 2005. The percentage of respondents to the 2017 survey who listed an activity among their top two are provided in parentheses. Percentages from the 2005 SCORP were not available for comparison, and as this was an open-ended survey question, response categories were coded from individual responses. Overall, the resources and activities cited in 2005 and 2017 are similar and do not reveal any significant changes in activity popularity according to town officials, with the exception of skate parks replacing skiing as a popular resource/activity for adolescents.

Table 3-3: Ranking of Most Popular Town Activities/Resources by Town Officials

<u>SCORP 2005</u>	<u>SCORP 2017</u>
Families:	Families:
- swimming	- beaches, lakes ponds (26%)
- sports	- parks and picnic areas (22%)
- playgrounds	- special events (15%)
- picnic areas	- athletic fields (13%)
	- swimming pools (13%)
Pre-School Children:	Pre-School Children:
- swimming	- playgrounds (39%)
- recreation programs:	- swimming pools (19%)
- picnic areas	- recreation programs (17%)
- playgrounds	- beaches, lakes, ponds (7%)
Children:	Children:
- playgrounds	- recreation programs (26%)
- recreation programs	- fields (21%)
- swimming	- sports or playgroups (16%)
- sports	- playgrounds (16%)
Adolescents:	Adolescents:
- sports leagues	- fields (22%)
- recreation center	- sports or playgroups (16%)
- skiing	- camps or programming (11%)
	- skate parks (10%)
<u>SCORP 2005</u>	<u>SCORP 2017</u>
Adults:	Adults
- sports leagues	- walking or hiking trails (30%)
- fitness facilities	- sports (13%)
- walking and hiking trails	- trips, programs, or events (11%)
- swimming	- parks and picnic areas (10%)
Seniors:	Seniors:
- community centers	- walking or hiking trails (25%)
- fitness facilities	- trips, programs, or events (18%)
- trips	- parks and picnic areas (15%)
- swimming	- fitness facilities/classes (11%)
- walking trails	

The officials surveyed were also asked to report whether they felt their town was currently able to meet the outdoor recreation needs of each of the six age groups. Figure 3-36 shows responses from both the 2017 and 2005 SCORP, and indicates that town officials surveyed in 2017 felt significantly better able to meet the needs of individuals of all age groups. The most substantial increase in this ability was for adolescents, which showed a 37% increase from 2005 to 2017. The increase in ability to meet the needs of pre-school children is also striking, because the 2005 SCORP indicated a lack of resources and programming for toddlers, especially. Despite these increases, adolescents and toddlers remain the most underserved populations, with 29% of town officials indicating an inability to meet the needs of these age groups in their communities. It is worth noting that sample differences between the 2005 and 2017 Town Officials Survey may account for some of this change. The sample (“N”) for 2005 was almost double that of the 2017 survey, with an over-representation of wealthy communities influencing 2017 findings.

In addition to specifying whether the needs of each age group are being met, town officials were given the opportunity to expand upon any issues related to these needs. Among the open-ended responses, several themes emerged. The most frequently cited need was a lack of community centers or other indoor facilities in which to provide programming. This was followed by a lack of financial resources with which to pay for program expansion and additional staff, as well as a general lack of outdoor recreation spaces such as fields, trails, and splashboard areas. Regarding specific age groups, town officials indicated a need for additional indoor spaces specialized for senior activities (i.e., senior centers), and an inability to identify the recreation desires of adolescents in the community.

Ability to Meet Recreation Needs by Age Group

by percentage of respondents

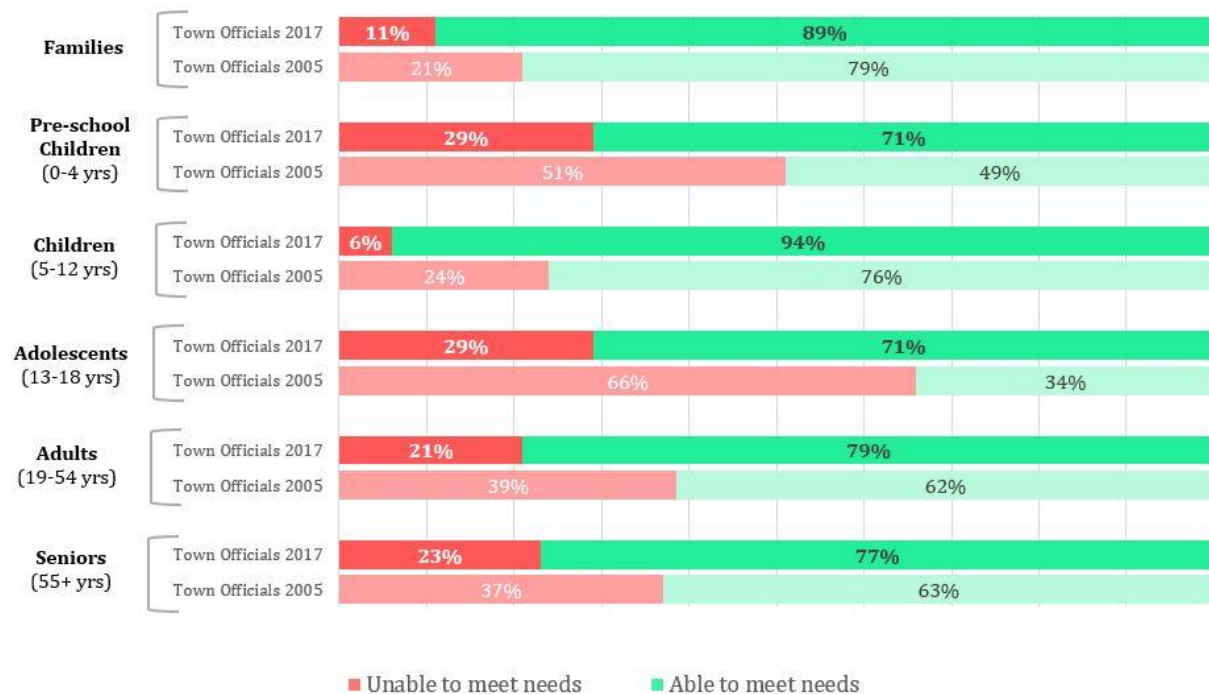


Figure 3-36: Town Officials’ Perceived Ability to Meet Needs by Age Group

ASSESSING DEMAND FOR ADDITIONAL FACILITIES

With a better understanding of who participates in what outdoor recreation activities, we turn our attention to understanding the extent to which facility needs are being met throughout Connecticut.

Citizens Rate Demand for Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Respondents to the Statewide Survey were asked to indicate whether they or any member of their household had “a need or desire for additional access” to each of 28 recreational facilities. Figure 3-37 shows the percentage of survey respondents who indicated that they had a need for each facility in 2005 and 2017, as well as the estimated number of households in the state population based on the total number of households in Connecticut.

As was the case in 2005, picnic areas/shelters and historic sites/areas showed the greatest need among respondents to the survey and appeared to be relatively stable across years. Fresh/saltwater swimming, paved multi-use trails, volleyball, tennis, and basketball courts, and fishing areas also showed consistent levels of need from 2005 to 2017. The need for unpaved multi-use trails, nature preserves and bird watching areas, ice skating/hockey areas, skiing/snowboarding areas, and cross-country skiing/snowshoeing trails decreased slightly from 2005 to 2017, with more significant decreases seen with golf courses and boating access.

The greatest increase from 2005 to 2017 was for outdoor pools, water parks, and splash pads, with 44% indicating a need for these facilities in 2005, and 53% reporting a need in 2017. Unpaved single-use trails, overnight camping areas, sports fields, snorkeling/scuba diving areas, off-roading areas, and hunting/trapping areas all showed increases in need on a smaller scale. Backpack camping and disc golf were not included in the 2005 survey, but while not among the top needed facilities were nevertheless heavily needed considering the smaller proportion of households that engaged in these activities.

Overall, the results of this analysis are consistent with themes identified in the present SCORP, which include a demand for fresh and saltwater swimming areas as well as motorized biking areas. In comparing the results of the 2005 and 2017 SCORPs, one methodological difference should be noted, however. In the 2005 survey, participants were asked to indicate whether they or any member of their household had “a need” for each of the recreational facilities listed; in the 2017 version of the survey, participants were asked to indicate whether they or any member of their household had “a need or desire for additional access” to each of the facilities. Respondents to the 2005 survey who selected “yes” to needing each of the facilities were further given the option of specifying that their needs were 100% met, whereas respondents to the 2017 survey were instructed only to select “yes” if their needs were not fully being met. Thus, the percentage of households needing each recreational facility may be slightly inflated in 2005 compared to 2017, as it includes individuals who use a recreational facility but whose needs are entirely met. This, in turn, would mean that in instances where there was a greater need for facilities in 2017 than 2005, the discrepancies may be even larger than they appear.

Respondent Households Reporting a Need for Recreational Facilities

by percentage of respondents; multiple responses accepted

Estimated total number of households needing facilities are presented outside bars (based on 1,352,583 total households in CT)

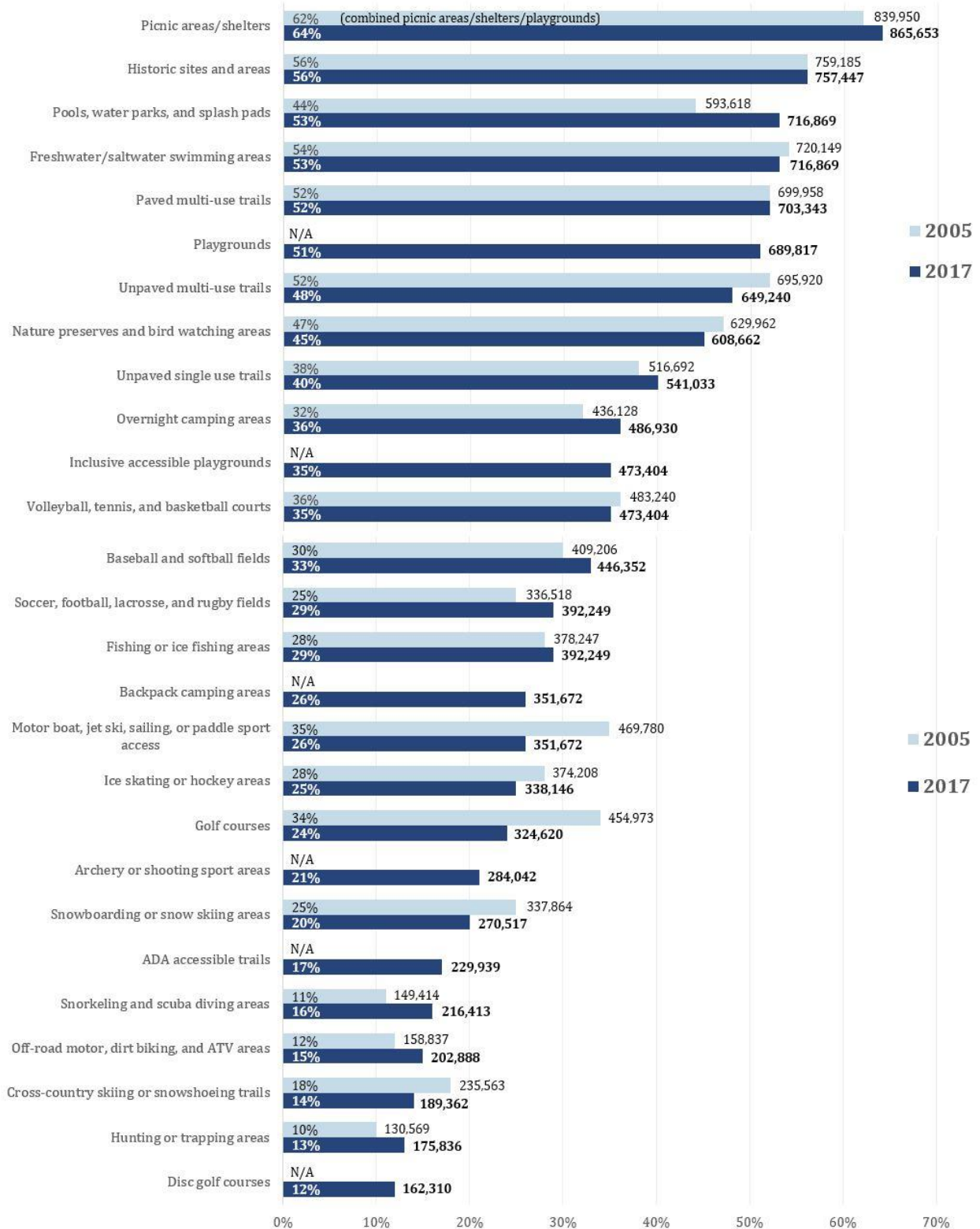


Figure 3-37: Households Reporting a Need for Facilities

To get a better idea of citizens' needs regarding state recreational offerings, the total estimated number of participants for each activity was compared to the total estimated number of people with an unmet need related to that activity. In Figure 3-38, eleven outdoor recreational activities with dedicated facilities are compared; facilities accommodating multiple activities such as paved or unpaved multi-use trails were not included. The total number of participants for each activity was estimated based on the number of household members who were reported as engaging in that activity within the past year on the Statewide Survey. The total number of state residents with a need or desire was estimated using the average number of household occupants for Connecticut (2.53).

Comparing Demand as Measured by Expressed Need and Participation

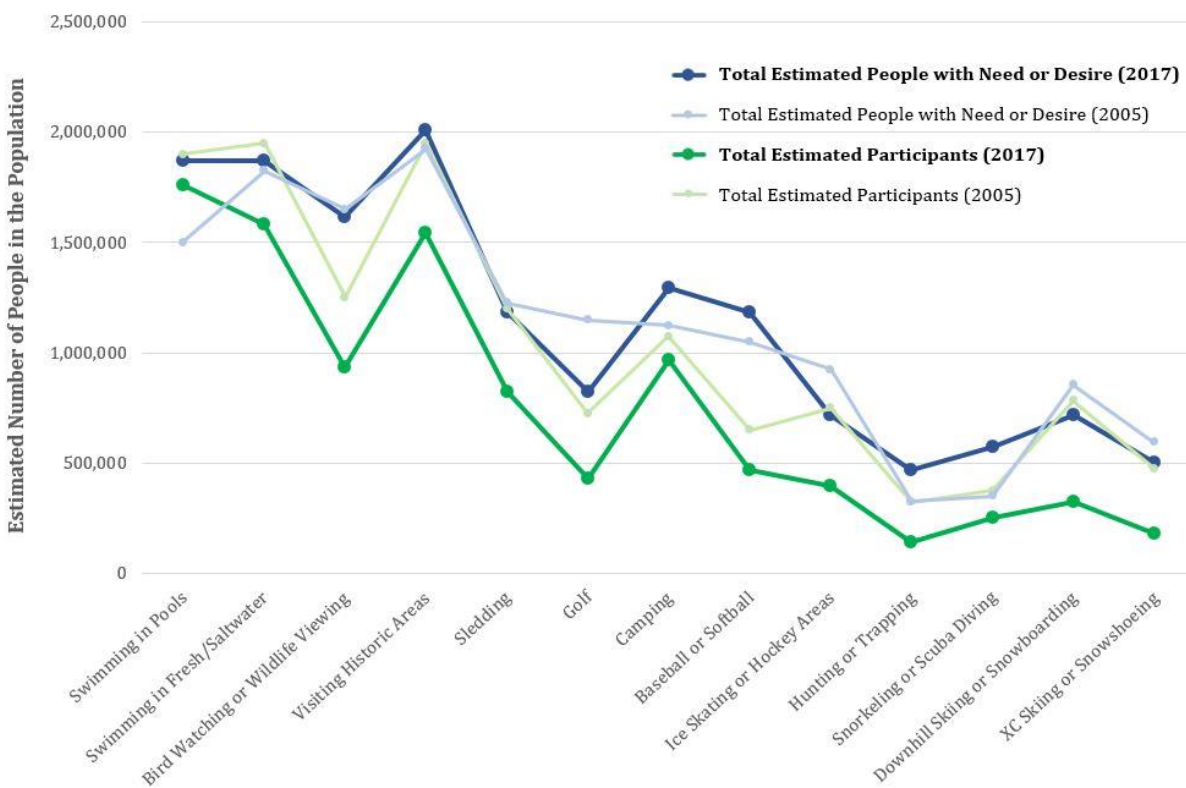


Figure 3-38: Comparing Demand as Measured by Need and Participation

There are a number of things to note in Figure 3-38. Looking first at the lines in green, one can see that there are fewer participants in 2017 than 2005 across all activities. Whether this represents a true difference in the population or some type of sampling/measurement inconsistency between survey years is uncertain. For the former, the notion that participation in outdoor recreation has decreased over time is plausible given the seemingly ever-greater role of technology in the lives of individuals. For the latter, differences in characteristics of the survey samples from 2005 to 2017 may be a factor.

Citizens' needs for resources were also assessed via the Statewide Survey in 2005 and 2017, the results of which are represented by the blue lines in Figure 3-38. For this variable, the values

generated from the 2005 and 2017 surveys were more similar, although the pattern of discrepancy was less consistent than that of participation rates. Fresh/saltwater swimming, bird watching/wildlife viewing, visiting historic areas, and sledding had rates of need that remained virtually unchanged from 2005 to 2017. Needs grew slightly between 2005 and 2017 for camping, baseball/softball, hunting/trapping, and snorkeling/scuba diving, and more significantly for swimming in pools. Facilities with less need in 2017 than 2005 included golf, ice skating/hockey areas, and to a lesser extent, downhill skiing/snowboarding and cross-country skiing/snowshoeing areas.

The difference between the total estimated number of people who participate in an activity and the total estimated number of people who have a need for facilities and services related to that activity is depicted by the bolded lines in Figure 3-38. As is apparent, need surpasses participation for every activity in 2017. Whereas it seems counterintuitive that the number of individuals needing or desiring additional access to particular facilities could surpass the total number of participants in that activity, one must consider so-called “aspirational participants:” individuals who have interest in, but do not currently practice, an activity. Such individuals would likely have indicated a need or desire for additional access to these activities of interest; thus, the estimated number of people with needs or desires likely includes participants as well as non-participants. Results from a national survey indicate that the percentage of aspirational users is relatively high; for instance 13% of individuals ages 18-24 reporting an unexplored interest in backpack camping.⁷ Furthermore, respondents to the Statewide Survey reported participation only over the past 12 months. Thus, the number of individuals with a need or desire for facilities may also include those who wish to “get back into” an activity that they last practiced more than a year prior.

The discrepancy between participation and need was smallest in 2017 for swimming in pools and largest for bird watching/wildlife viewing and baseball/softball. While the interest in additional swimming access is high among residents of the state, the proportion of individuals who have engaged in pool swimming within the past 12 months is also large. This likely reflects the fact that respondents may have considered the use of private swimming pools when indicating their participation in the activity but not when indicating their need or desire for additional access to swimming pools, thus inflating the rate of participation. Additionally, due to the relatively low barrier to entry, swimming in pools is less likely to have a significant number of aspirational users. While they might not necessarily engage in the activity with great frequency, many individuals experience swimming in a pool at least annually.

On the other hand, the difference between need and participation was pronounced for bird watching/wildlife viewing and baseball/softball among respondents to the Statewide Survey. Interestingly, together with golf, these were also the two activities which showed the greatest discrepancy between need and participation in 2005 as well. However, as is illustrated in the non-bolded lines in Figure 3-38, for all other activities in 2005 except ice skating/hockey areas, participation was equal or greater to need. As mentioned earlier, this was not the case for recreational activities in 2017, where need exceeded participation across the board. In some cases such as swimming in pools, the discrepancy between need and participation grew mostly as a result of increased need, while in others such as swimming in fresh/saltwater, bird watching/wildlife viewing, visiting historic areas, and sledding, the growing discrepancy appeared to be owed

⁷ For more information, see: <http://www.outdoorfoundation.org/pdf/ResearchParticipation2016Topline.pdf>

primarily to decreases in participation in 2017. Golf and ice skating/hockey were the only activities for which need and participation both fell significantly from 2005 to 2017, while the more common pattern seen with activities such as camping, baseball/softball, hunting/trapping, and scuba diving/snorkeling was simultaneous increases in need and decreases in participation.

Overall, the results presented in Figure 3-38 do not necessarily paint an encouraging picture of the state's progress in meeting the unfulfilled outdoor recreation needs of citizens. With the sole exception of golf, which is an activity less frequently provided by the state, there were larger differences between participation and need for all activities measured in 2017 than there were in 2005. However, as mentioned earlier, these results should not be accepted without question due to potential differences in the samples of survey participants. Looking solely at the estimated total number of people with need or desire and disregarding rates of participation, visiting historic sites, swimming in fresh/saltwater, and swimming in pools were the most needed activities in 2017, followed by bird watching/wildlife viewing. The need for these activities was generally unchanged from 2005 to 2017 with the exception of swimming in pools, and despite any true decreases in rates of participation these are activities which should continue to be prioritized in the consideration of the outdoor recreation needs of Connecticut citizens.

Town Officials Rate Demand for Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Respondents to the Town Officials Survey were asked to identify which outdoor recreation facilities or programs not currently provided in their community should be provided. Up to two open-ended responses were accepted, which were ultimately combined to provide a more holistic picture of town needs. These results are presented in Figure 3-39.

Nearly one-quarter (24%) of town officials cited pools/aquatic facilities as their most pressing need, closely followed by non-aquatic outdoor recreation facilities (21%). Fields (15%), trails (11%), and a community center (11%) were also cited by more than one in ten officials, respectively. Other resources that registered responses included parks and gardens (6%), community events and programs (6%), an ice rink (4%) or other responses (2%).

Most Pressing Community Needs as Reported by Town Officials

by percentage of respondents (categories coded from responses)

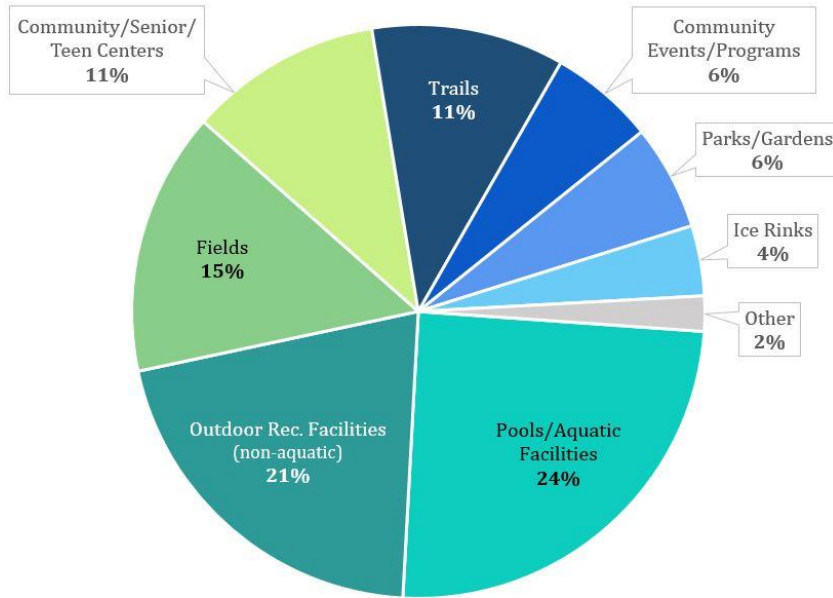


Figure 3-39: Most Pressing Community Needs Reported by Town Officials

Data from the 2017 Statewide Survey further substantiate the desirability of pools and/or aquatic facilities. Over half (53%) of all residents expressed a need or desire for additional access to outdoor pools, water parks, or splash pads—a 9% increase from 2005. Nearly half of all residents (49%) reported that at least one member of their household swam in an outdoor pool in the past 12 months. Notably, looking across all water-based activities, swimming is done with the highest reoccurring frequency. Half (50%) of all swimmers take to the pool at least “a few times a month” or “several times a week.” The 2005 SCORP found that municipalities provide most of Connecticut’s swimming pools (p. iii). In 2017, one-quarter (25%) of all Connecticut residents stated their needs were “not at all met” regarding outdoor pools, indicating that private facilities are not adequate in filling the gap between supply and demand.

Non-aquatic outdoor recreation facilities were viewed as the second-most important demand that is not being met, with over one in five (21%) town officials picking this option. Connecticut residents agree that there is a gap between supply and demand in this area. Most state residents indicated that they had a desire or need for additional picnic areas/shelters (64%), historic sites/areas (56%), and playgrounds (51%). Further, the majority of Connecticut residents (52%) agree with town officials that there is need for additional paved multi-use trails. The need for unpaved trails is not quite as strong, with less than half (48%) indicating a need for unpaved multi-use trails, and an even smaller percentage reporting a need for unpaved single-use trails (40%). ADA accessibility should be a prominent consideration for any town considering the addition of

trail resources. Nearly one-quarter (23%) of all state residents feel that their needs are “not at all met” when it comes to ADA accessibility with Connecticut’s trails.

Town Officials Rate Support Components

Town officials were asked to indicate which support components were inadequate at any of the outdoor recreation facilities in their community (Figure 3-40). Three in ten (31%) cited public transportation to the facility, a concern echoed by participants in two-of-the-four focus groups. Slightly more than one-quarter (27%) of all town officials indicated that public restrooms were inadequate. A lack of water fountains (24%), recycling receptacles (23%), directional/interpretative signage (22%), and handicap access (20%) were all closely-grouped concerns.

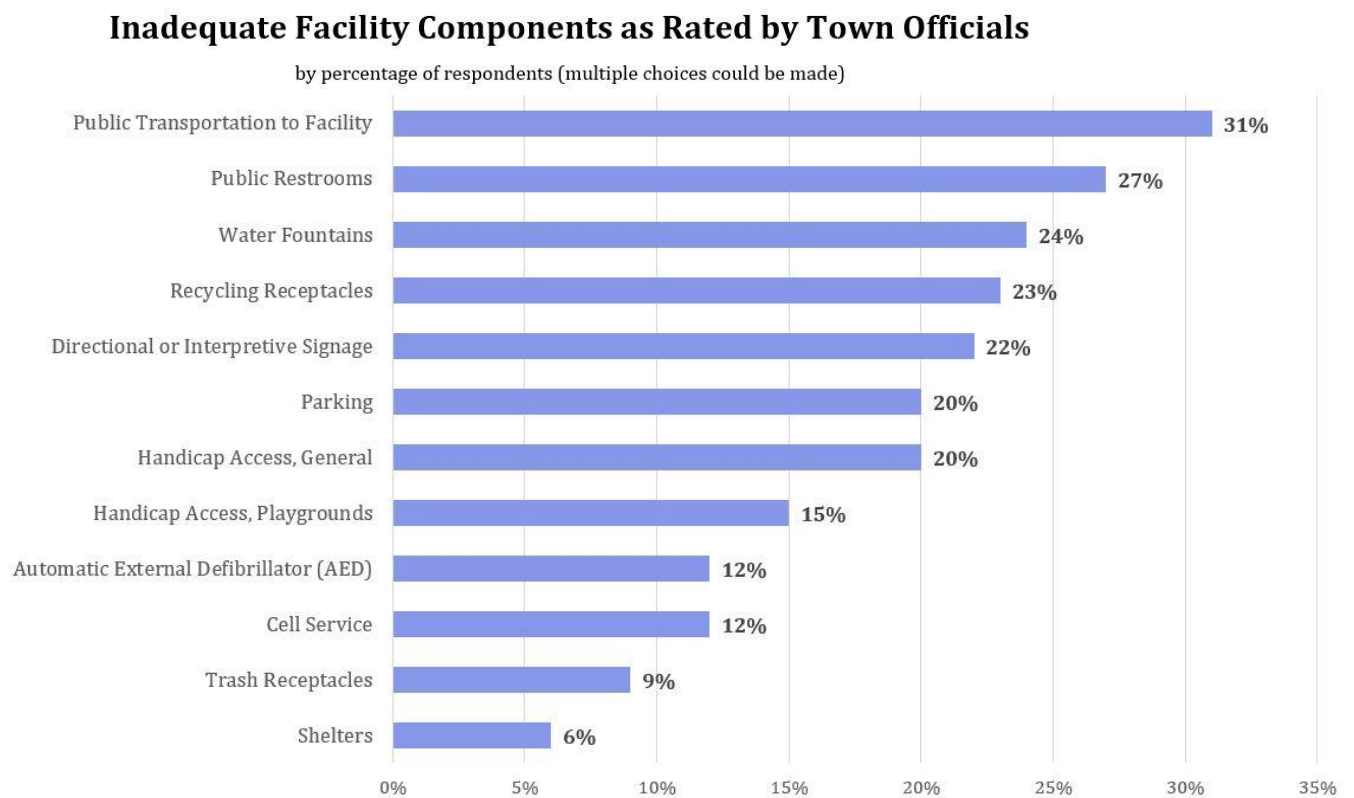


Figure 3-40: Inadequate Facility Components as Rated by Town Officials

SECTION IV: BARRIERS TO OUTDOOR RECREATION

Residents Identify Barriers to Outdoor Recreation

Connecticut residents were asked to identify the reasons preventing themselves or members of their household from using outdoor recreation facilities in the state. Over half (55%) of all residents identified at least one obstacle to recreation. As indicated in Figure 4-1, the top-cited boundary in 2017 was fees, with nearly one-quarter (23%) of all residents picking this option. Distance from their personal residence was also well-cited, with just over one in five (21%) selecting this option. One in five (20%) felt that they do not know what recreational opportunities are offered, while the same percentage (20%) indicated that they do not know the location of facilities. Other study participants cited the following barriers to participation: lack of available parking (15%), facilities not being well-maintained (14%), parks not being well-maintained (14%), and operating hours not being convenient (14%). Some survey takers volunteered alternate responses, which included: the prohibition of dogs, town residency restrictions, lack of snow/ice removal, closed facilities, and disruptions to the outdoor recreation experience (such as unleashed dogs or unsupervised children).

Reasons Preventing Households from Using Recreational Facilities

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)

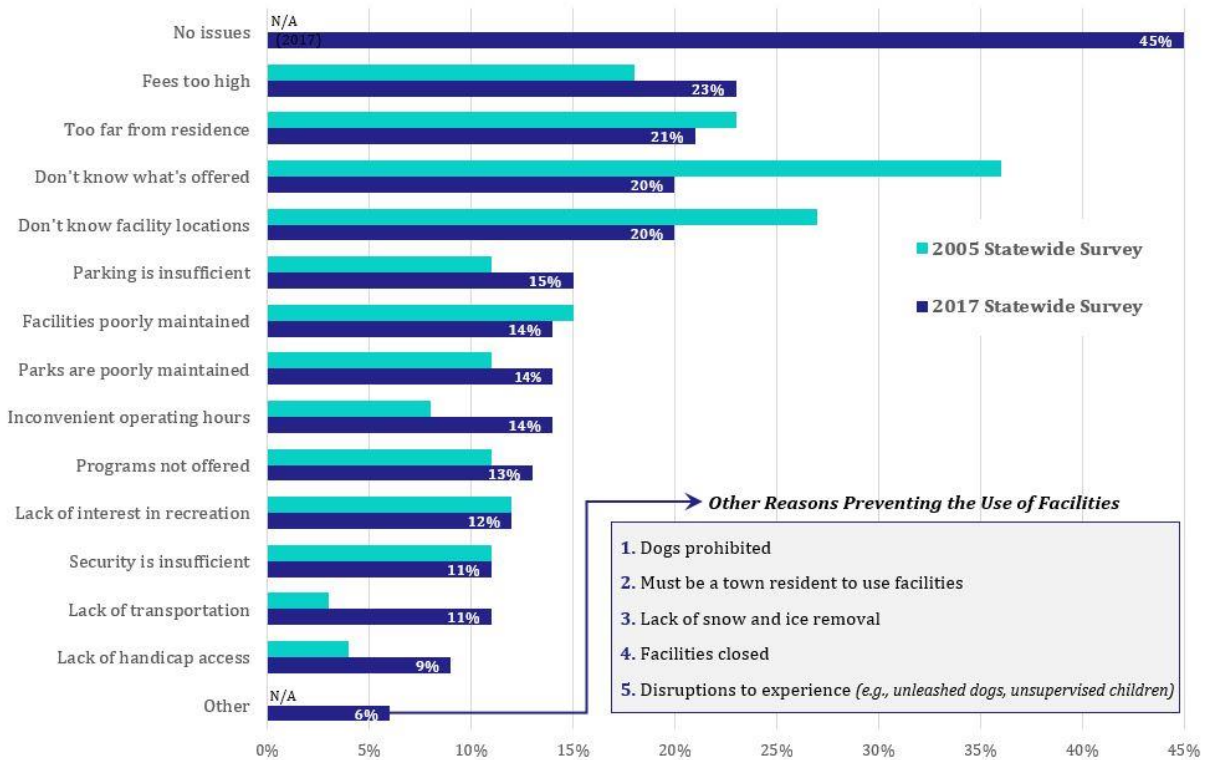


Figure 4-1: Reasons Preventing Households from Using Facilities

Outdoor Enthusiasts Identify Barriers to Outdoor Recreation

For each of their top five activities, outdoor enthusiasts were asked to what extent their needs for outdoor recreation facilities or resources were being met. Those indicating that their needs were not being “completely met” were subsequently asked to identify what problems they experienced. Just shy of half (45%) reported issues related to access/legal restrictions, a finding that is partially driven by ATV concerns. Other participants mentioned maintenance concerns (11%), road safety (7%), and hours/hunting limits (6%).

Obstacles to the Enjoyment of Outdoor Recreation by Enthusiasts

by percentage of respondents indicating an unmet need for facilities (categories coded from responses)

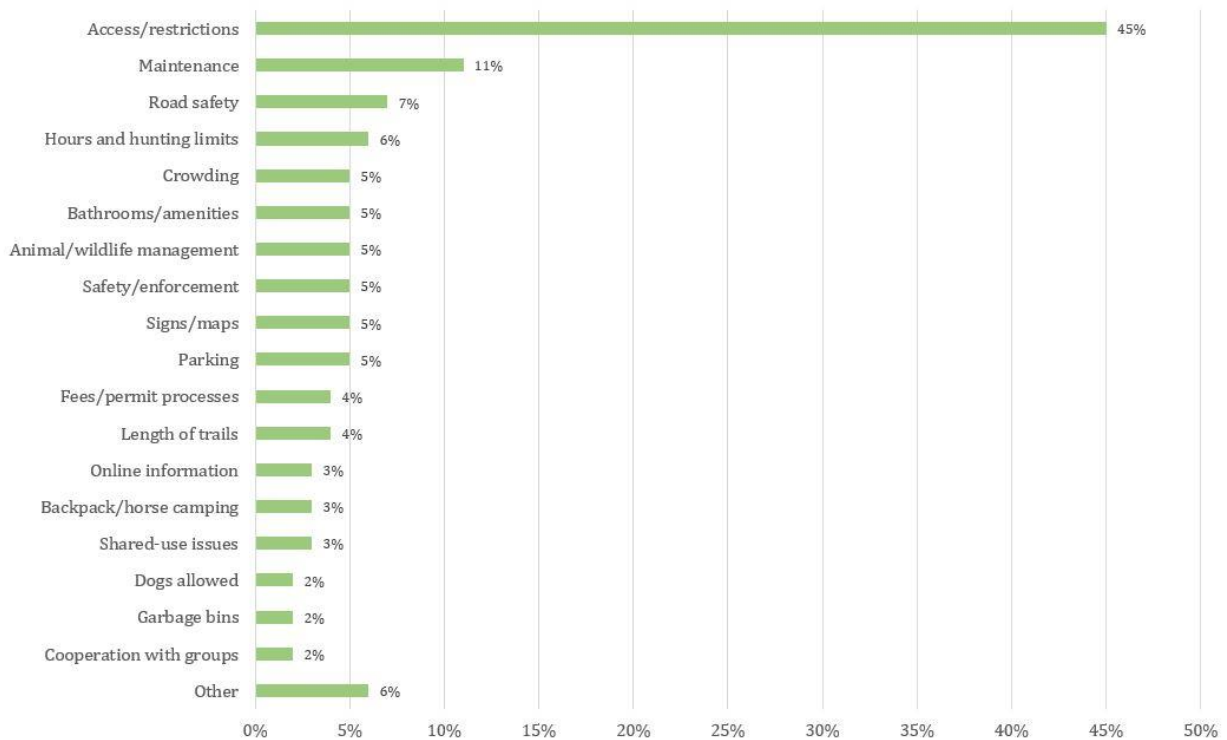


Figure 4-2: Obstacles to Recreation Enjoyment by Outdoor Enthusiasts

Outdoor enthusiasts were then asked to identify the most significant issue they encounter overall when engaging in any of the five preferred activities that they identified. Unlike the question discussed above, which was only asked to those who indicated that their outdoor recreation needs were not “completely met,” this question presents more of a general sentiment towards outdoor recreation. Two other methodological points are worth noting. Unlike the prior question, only one answer choice could be identified by each study participant. Further, this question required participants to select from closed-ended answer options, while the prior question was completely

open-ended. However, 15% of respondents did choose to provide additional “other” responses, which are presented in Figure 4-4.

As depicted in Figure 4-3, slightly more than one in five (22%) outdoor enthusiasts cited litter as the most significant issue impacting their participation in outdoor recreation activities. Parking (16%) was the second issue cited, followed by alternate (other) responses (15%) and tick or mosquito-borne diseases (15%). Additionally, at least one in ten outdoor enthusiasts cited either crowding (13%) or obnoxious/reckless behavior (10%) as the most significant issue impacting their outdoor recreation activity.

Most Significant Issue Impacting Recreation Activities of Outdoor Enthusiasts

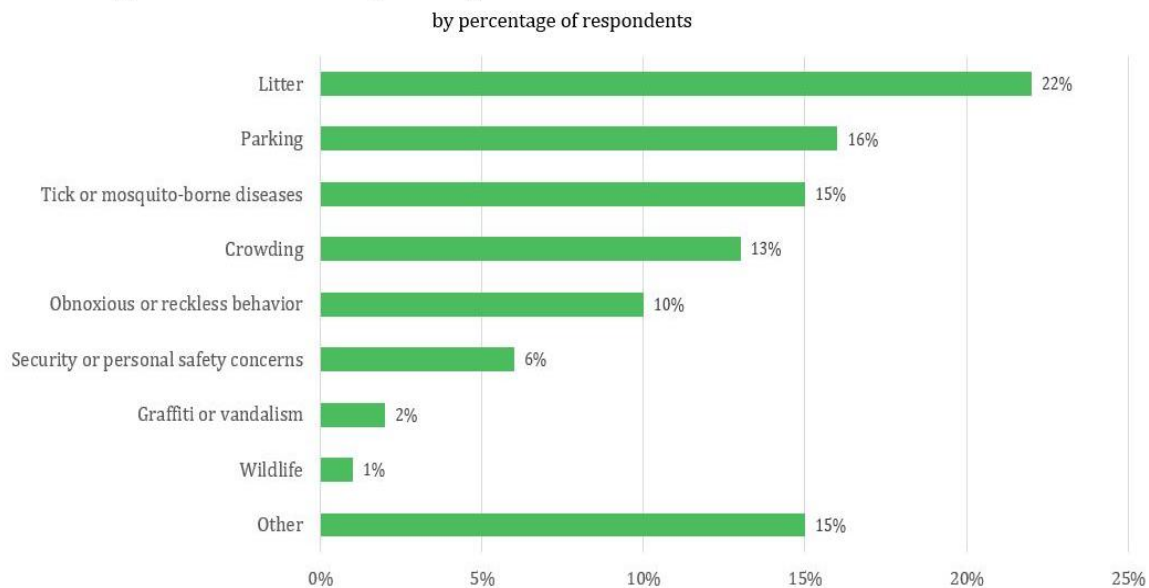


Figure 4-3: Most Significant Issues Impacting Recreation of Outdoor Enthusiasts

Finally, all respondents to the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey were asked to identify what they perceived to be the most pressing needs of the outdoor recreation areas that they visit (Figure 4-5). Themes were coded based off open-ended responses, with multiple responses being accepted. Similar to when these individuals were asked about the most significant issue impacting the recreation activities that they engage in, access to facilities or activity restrictions emerged as the most pressing need. Nearly half of the sample (49%) identified this theme, with maintenance or quality of facilities being a distant second need (11%). Fees or permit processes (7%), crowding/lack of space (6%), and safety on public roads (6%) were viewed as the next set of priorities.

'Other' Most Significant Issues Impacting Recreation Activities of Outdoor Enthusiasts

by percentage of respondents selecting "other" (categories coded from responses; multiple responses accepted)

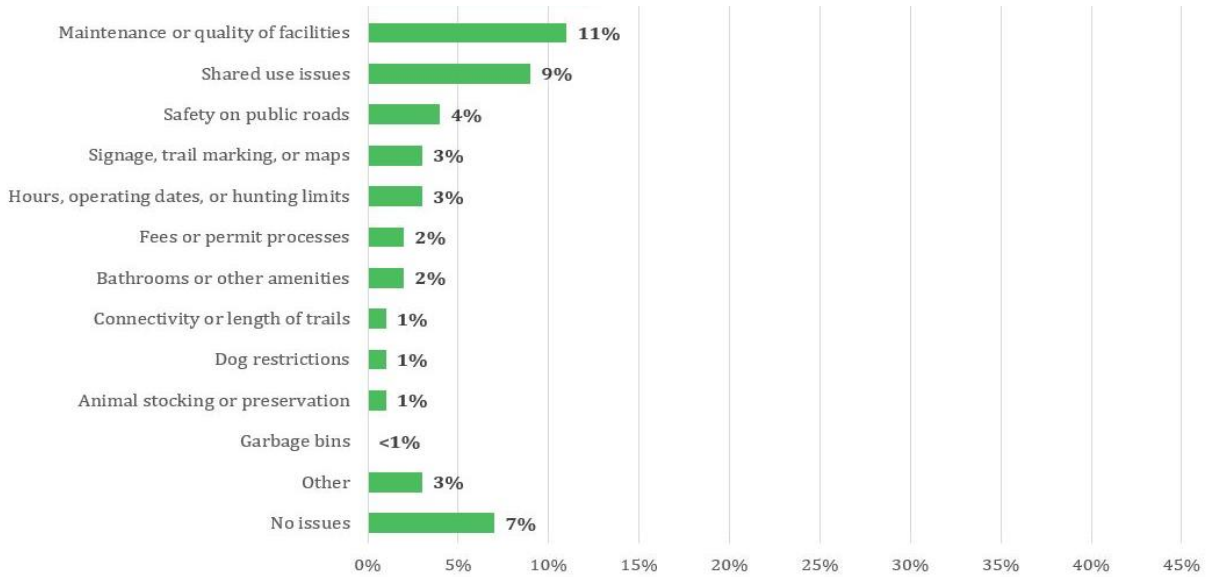


Figure 4-4: Most Significant Issues Impacting Recreation of Outdoor Enthusiasts

Most Pressing Needs of Recreation Areas as Reported by Outdoor Enthusiasts

by percentage of respondents (categories coded from responses, multiple responses accepted)

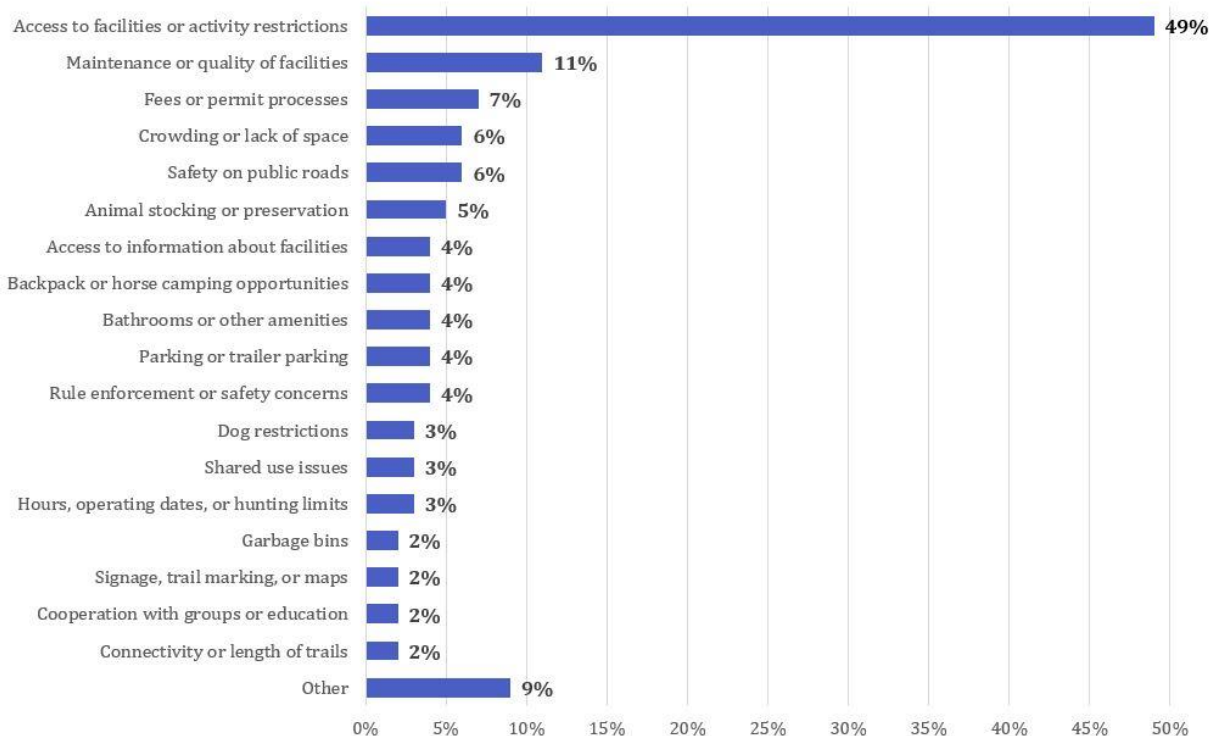


Figure 4-5: Most Pressing Needs of Recreation Areas Reported by Outdoor Enthusiasts

How Connecticut Citizens Learn about Recreation Facilities and Activities

Finally, Figure 4-6 below displays the ways in which respondents to the Statewide Survey learn about outdoor recreational facilities, resources, and activities in Connecticut. As in 2005, word of mouth was the most common means by which residents learned about facilities (59%), although it was less common than in 2005 (67%). Newspapers, maps/road signs, and magazines also were significantly less frequent means of communication in 2017 than 2005, with differences of at least 10%.

The most blatant trend in the data however is the movement towards digital advertising, specifically via the internet. While websites/internet was the fourth most popular means of obtaining recreational information in 2005 (34% of respondents), it was only 1% below the top method of obtaining information in 2017, with 58% of respondents. Furthermore, while not included as an option in the 2005 survey, 37% of survey respondents in 2017 indicated learning about recreational facilities through social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, etc.). Social media was not widely used in 2005, but has expanded to become one of the primary modes of communication today. This is increasingly true among all age groups including older citizens. The average age of respondents to the Statewide Survey was 42.

How Citizens Learn About Recreational Facilities and Activities

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)

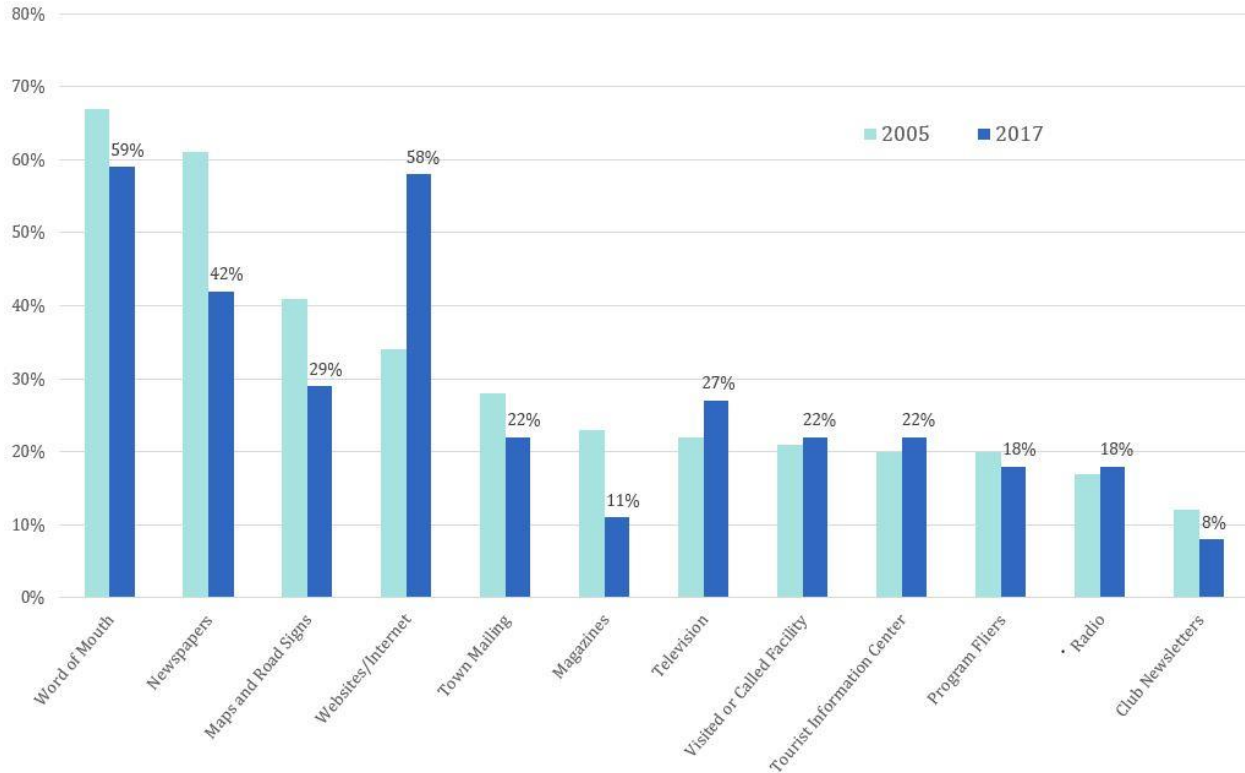


Figure 4-6: How Citizens Learn About Facilities and Activities

Internet and social media advertising can be done with little to no financial cost to the state, which is not true of most other avenues. With a low-cost yet effective alternative to other costlier means of advertising, it is natural that the state would increase its reliance on internet and social media advertising, perhaps to compensate for relatively less spending on printed communications. It is notable that numerous study group participants, including self-proclaimed avid outdoor enthusiasts, felt that they did not know what was happening at Connecticut’s outdoor recreation facilities. At the same time, these individuals are avid social media users, and expressed a willingness to “like” or “follow” CT DEEP online. Future policies should attempt to fill these communication gaps.

With that said, a word of caution is offered about an over-reliance on digital outlets as a means of disseminating information. As is noted in the 2005 SCORP report, the state’s reliance on free or low-cost advertising and word of mouth as means of disseminating information on recreational resources may mean that a significant portion of the population is not adequately informed of these opportunities—a theme that was echoed in all focus groups. Developing a targeting plan for those who fall in the “digital divide”—those without access to the internet—would also be fruitful.

SECTION V: PROJECTIONS OF FUTURE TRENDS AND FUNDING DIRECTIONS

TOWN OFFICIALS PROJECT TRENDS AND NEEDS

Town officials were asked which outdoor recreation activity or activities provided by their department were predicted to gain and/or lose popularity over the next 5 to 10 years (Table 5-1). Open-ended responses were coded, with multiple responses being accepted per study participant. For the most part, the predictions of town officials appear to be consistent with recent trends in recreation as far as can be discerned from the data. Virtually all activities included in the Statewide Survey showed lower participation rates in 2017 than in 2005, thus trends in the popularity of individual activities are difficult to discern. However, the relative popularity of activities such as walking, hiking, or bicycling as well as the high demand for associated facilities (e.g., paved and unpaved single- and multi-use trails) suggest that these activities will continue to be popular among state residents in the coming years. Swimming areas, which in this instance may be included in beach activities, were one of the activities for which residents indicated the most desire for additional access on the Statewide Survey, which is also consistent with town officials' predictions.

Similarly, the prediction that activities such as organized sports, tennis, and golf will lose popularity over the next 5-10 years was supported by data from the Statewide Survey, as state residents indicated relatively little desire for additional access to facilities related to these activities. However, contrary to town officials' prediction that playgrounds will lose popularity in the coming years, results from the Statewide Survey indicate a particularly high need for more playgrounds, as well as passive recreation sites such as picnic areas and historic sites. Indeed, over half (51%) of all respondents to the Statewide Survey reported a desire for additional access to playgrounds among members of their household, which is comparable to the percentage who desire additional access to paved multi-use trails (52%) and swimming areas (53%).

Table 5-1: Activities Predicted by Officials to Gain or Lose Popularity over the Next 5-10 Years

<i>Gain Popularity</i>	<i>Lose Popularity</i>
↑ Walking/Hiking	↓ Organized Youth Sports
↑ Day/Summer Camps	↓ Other (Triathlon, Pickleball)
↑ Beach Activities	↓ Tennis/Golf
↑ Disc Golf	↓ Playgrounds
↑ Cycling	↓ Fitness/Dance Classes

RESIDENTS RANK THE MOST IMPORTANT FACILITIES TO DEVELOP

To prioritize the demand for outdoor recreational facilities among Connecticut households, respondents to the Statewide Survey were asked to indicate their opinion as to the top three most important facilities to develop in municipal- and state-owned recreation areas. Figure 5-1 shows

the percentage of respondents who chose each of the 28 recreation facilities as their first, second, and third choices for municipal-owned outdoor recreation areas, while Figure 5-2 shows the same information for state-owned recreation areas. To assess trends over time, comparison data from the 2005 SCORP report is also included.

Picnic areas and shelters, as well as unpaved and paved multi-use trails were the facilities most frequently noted as top priorities by state citizens in both 2005 and 2017, with 30% of 2017 survey respondents choosing picnic areas/shelters as among the top three most important facilities to develop in both municipal- and state-owned areas. Playgrounds, which were assessed separately in the 2017 Statewide Survey, also showed a high degree of importance, with 24% and 22% of respondents citing playgrounds as a top need in municipal- and state-owned recreation areas, respectively. Facilities such as picnic areas/shelters, paved multi-use trails, and playgrounds are used by many people in the general population and do not require recreational skill to utilize; thus, their popularity among the citizens of Connecticut is unsurprising.

While the rank-order of facilities rated by citizens as most important to develop in municipal- and state-owned areas was generally stable from 2005 to 2017, there are occasions where the degree of importance of a particular facility differs significantly between the two survey measurements. Picnic areas/shelters exhibited one of the largest differences between degree of need in 2005 and degree of need in 2017, which is especially notable in consideration of the fact that playgrounds were included with picnic areas/shelters in the 2005 survey. This was also true for historic sites and areas, which may appeal to a similar demographic as picnic areas, shelters, and playgrounds. Such emphasis on the development of these outdoor recreational facilities has been a consistent theme throughout this report. Swimming pools also showed a significant discrepancy in total proportion of importance between the two measurements. Indeed, the increasing desire for access to swimming pools and water parks has been another consistent theme in this report.

In general, trails (paved, unpaved, multi-use, and single-use) showed little change in degree of importance assigned by survey respondents between 2005 and 2017 for both municipal- and state-owned facilities, which was true for most of the facilities measured. Golf courses, and to a lesser extent fishing/ice fishing areas, ice skating/hockey areas, and sledding areas all showed evidence of decreased importance to Connecticut citizens in 2017. It is unclear whether this decrease reflects lessened interest those recreational activities among the population over time, or a situation in which better-met needs have resulted in less desire for additional development. Nevertheless, these represent facilities that should be a lower priority for recreational development at both a state and local level.

Most Important Facilities to Develop in Municipal-Owned Outdoor Recreation Areas

by percentage of respondents; three choices could be made

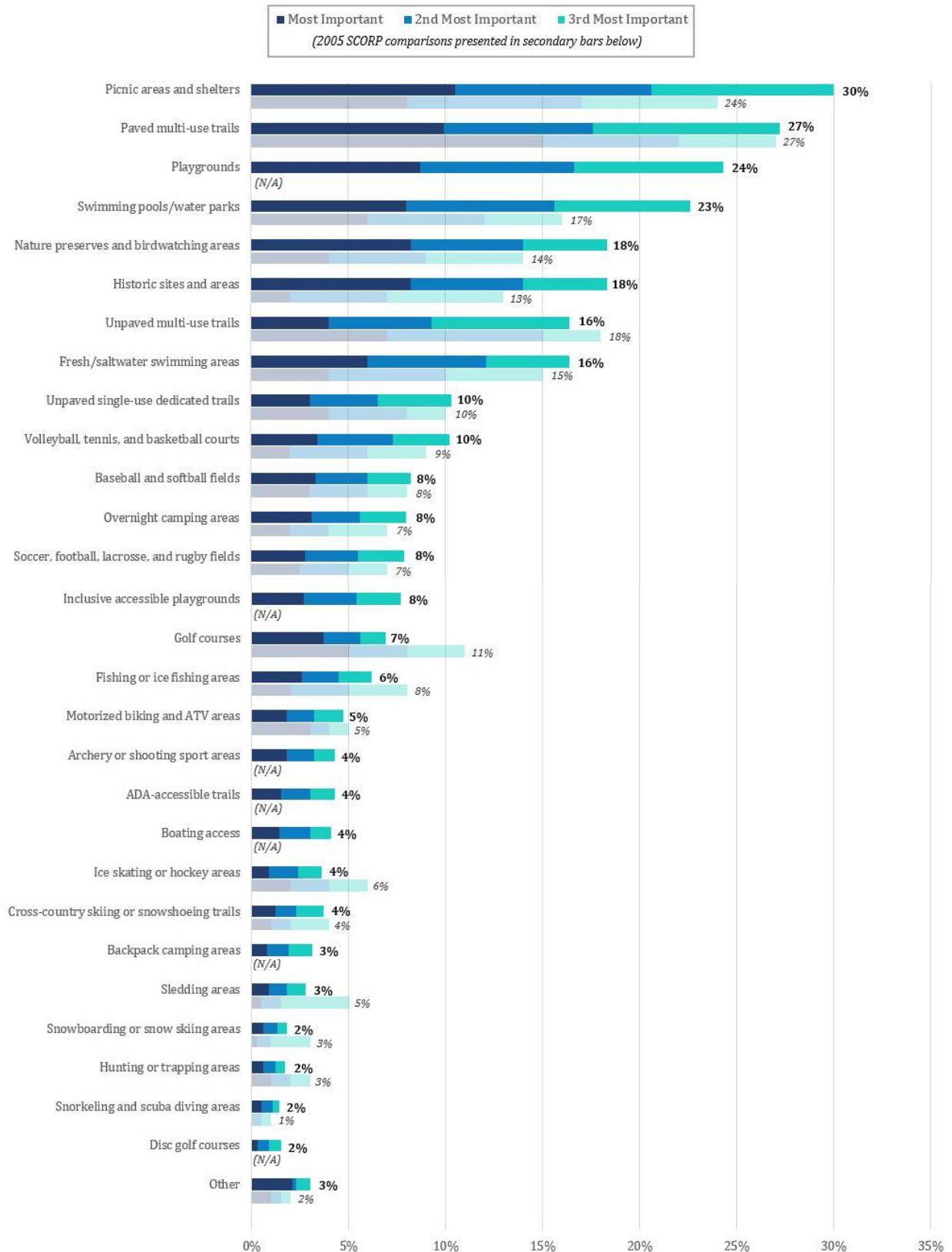


Figure 5-1: Most Important Facilities to Develop in Municipal-Owned Areas as Rated by Citizens

Most Important Facilities to Develop in State-Owned Outdoor Recreation Areas

by percentage of respondents; three choices could be made

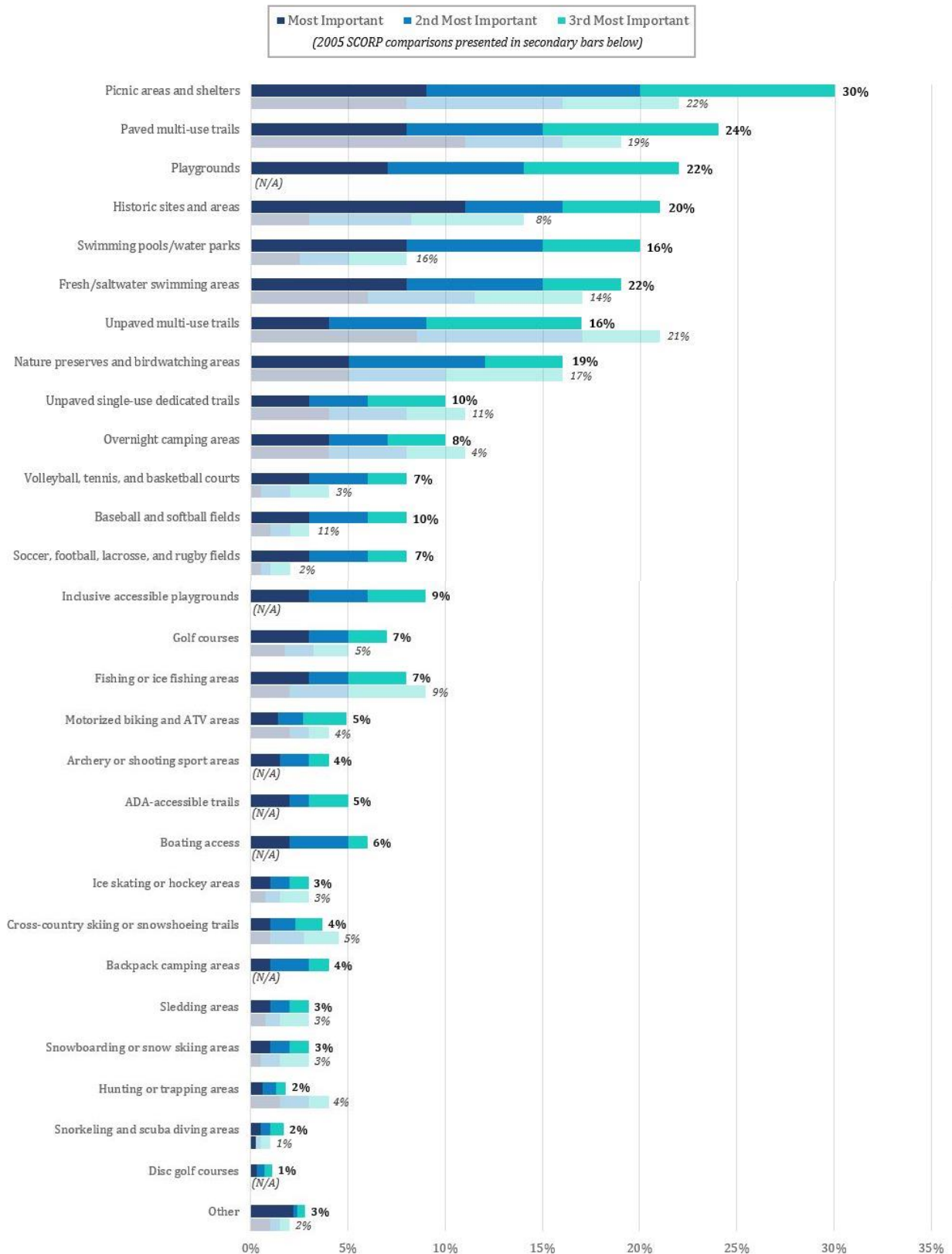


Figure 5-2: Most Important Facilities to Develop in State-Owned Areas as Rated by Citizens

FUNDING FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

As both taxpayers and potential outdoor recreationalists, many Connecticut citizens have an interest in how funding is apportioned to various initiatives associated with outdoor recreation at the state and local level. To gauge the relative importance given by state residents to several funding initiatives, respondents to the Statewide Survey were asked to consider the following actions related to outdoor recreation:

- Acquire open space
- Maintain and improve existing outdoor facilities
- Develop new outdoor recreation facilities
- Provide additional recreational programs and activities
- Improve advertising and information regarding existing outdoor facilities and programs

First, respondents were asked to indicate if they felt that the state of Connecticut and/or their local community should increase, maintain, or decrease funding for each of the actions listed. Figure 5-3 shows the results of this inquiry, along with a comparison to data from the 2005 SCORP report. The opinion breakdown in 2017 suggests that citizens are least supportive of increasing advertising for/information about facilities and acquiring open space. There are comparable levels of support for developing new facilities and offering additional programs and activities, and slightly more support for maintaining and improving existing facilities.

The emphasis on maintaining and enhancing the state's current infrastructure is again apparent; as is the high level of desire for additional recreation facilities and activities among the population. Some respondents were unsure how to allocate funding for outdoor recreation, but few (between 4% and 11%) believed that funding should be decreased for any of the five initiatives. This level of support is encouraging, as it reinforces the importance and utility of the present report.

In comparing the present data to that from 2005, a few trends are apparent. Connecticut residents have generally expressed a stable level of support for the maintenance and improvement of existing recreational facilities. Residents seemed to become more satisfied with the level of funding given to acquiring open space and advertising/information since 2005, as evidenced by increases primarily in the "maintain funding" category. On the other hand, Connecticut residents appeared to become less certain about the amount of funding that should be given to the development of new facilities and programs/activities, as evidenced by apparent increases localized largely to the "not sure" category.

In general, there appears to be slightly less support for outdoor recreation funding in 2017 than there was in 2005, based on the trend towards a smaller proportion of "increase funding" responses and higher proportion of "decrease funding" responses across all options in 2017.

Citizens' Support for Outdoor Recreation Funding Initiatives

by percentage of respondents

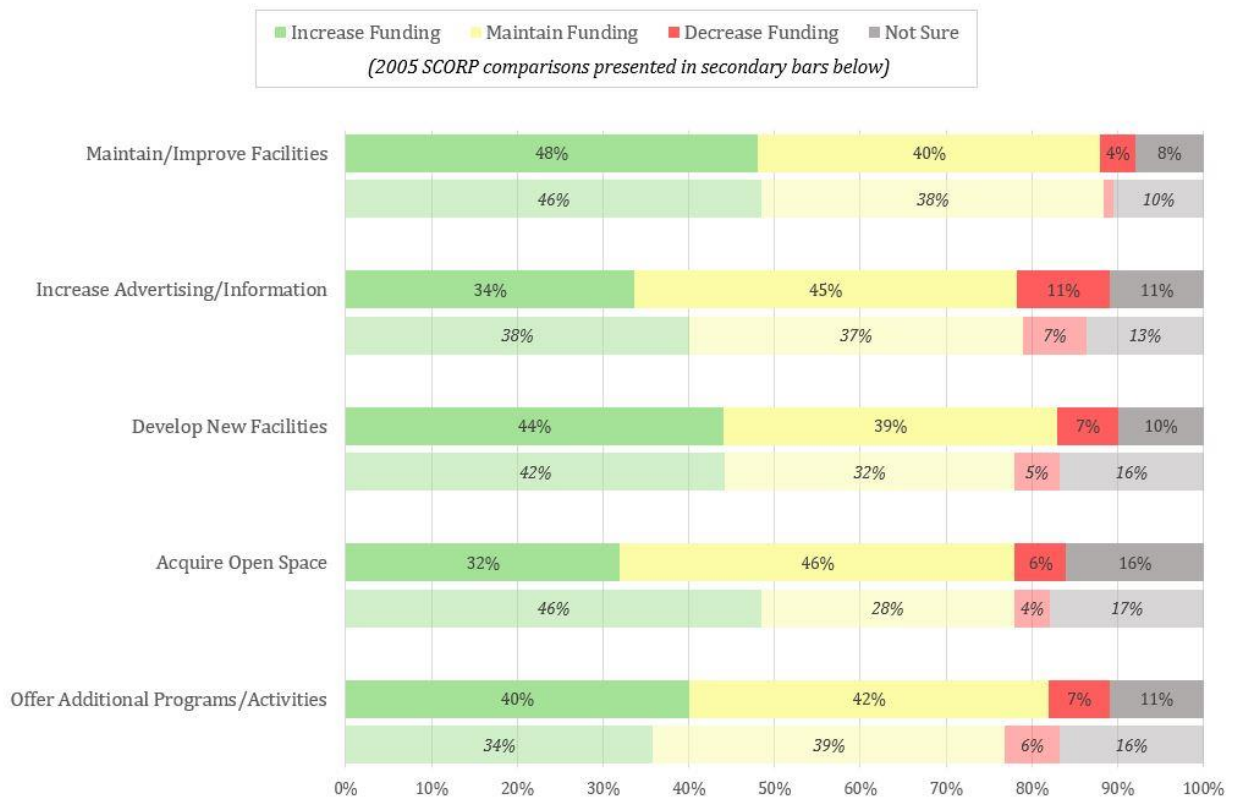


Figure 5-3: Citizens' Support for Outdoor Recreation Funding

To get a better idea of citizens' priorities regarding funding for outdoor recreation, respondents to the Statewide Survey were asked to rank the top three of five actions that they most supported. Figure 5-4 displays these results. Consistent with the results discussed hitherto, state residents most support increasing funding for the maintenance and improvement of existing recreational facilities, with 40%, 25%, and 17% of respondents choosing it as the first, second, or third most important funding initiatives related to outdoor recreation, respectively. Respondents to the survey in 2017 indicated comparable levels of support for increased funding of additional programming/activities and the development of new facilities, with 63% and 60% including them in their top three.

Less support was shown for increasing advertising/information and acquiring open space, with 45% and 41% including these actions among their top three, respectively. However, while support for the funding of increased advertising/information appeared to increase from 2005 to 2017, support for the funding of the acquisition of open space seemed to decrease slightly. Whereas the acquisition of open space was the second most-supported funding objective reported by citizens in 2005, it is the action that 2017 respondents to the Statewide Survey least support.

A large percentage of respondents to the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey noted their appreciation for the natural feel (26%) and quiet/remoteness (13%) of outdoor recreation areas, but more than 10%

also cited maintenance, management, and staffing as impediments to recreation consistently throughout the survey. Litter was the top issue reported by outdoor enthusiasts in their engagement in recreational activities; and respondents to both the Outdoor Enthusiast and Statewide Surveys repeatedly noted issues related to the maintenance and/or improvement of existing facilities: for example, better trail marking and animal stocking, and the provision of maps, garbage bins, and bathrooms. While citizens of the state might ideally desire additional open land for recreation, it seems to be of greater importance to residents that the spaces they currently use retain their natural quality and beauty. Finally, there is evidence presented elsewhere in this report that a considerable number of citizens report a lack of knowledge as to the locations and offerings of recreational facilities, but it may be that they do not believe significant funds are required to accomplish such advertising/informational objectives (e.g., establishing a searchable internet database).

Most Important Funding Initiatives as Rated by Citizens

by percentage of respondents

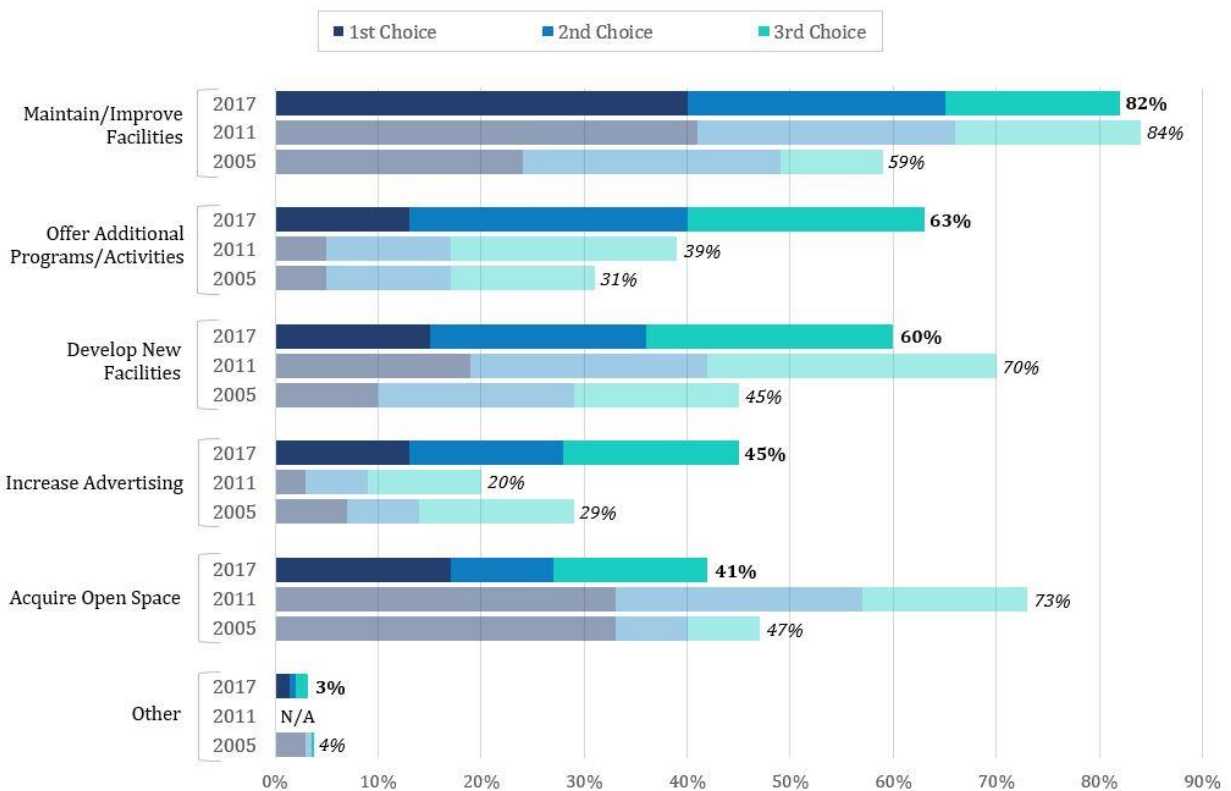


Figure 5-4: Most Important Funding Initiatives Rated by Citizens

Town Officials' Rankings of Community Needs

Town officials were asked to rate six outdoor recreational needs in their community on a scale of 1-6, with 1 being the least pressing and 6 being the most urgent need. These needs essentially mirror the funding initiatives presented to Statewide Survey respondents, and include the building of new facilities, improvements to or maintenance of existing facilities, increased staffing, and additional programming. The results of this inquiry are presented in Figure 5-5. Connecticut town officials indicated that their most urgent needs were to improve and maintain existing recreational facilities, with averages ratings of 4.43 and 4.37, respectively. Increased staffing followed in importance with an average rating of 3.92. Maintaining existing trails, offering additional programming, and developing new facilities were rated as somewhat less urgent, with averages of 3.74, 3.71, and 3.69, respectively, though still clearly important concerns for town officials.

Overall, these findings are consistent with those from the Statewide Survey, in which citizens indicated a clear preference for maintaining or improving existing facilities over developing new facilities or programming. Connecticut is already host to a wide variety of outdoor recreational resources that collectively possess significant maintenance needs. In both the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey and two focus groups, avid recreation users identified improvements such as better parking accommodations, more trail marking/signage and connectivity, and provision of amenities such as bathrooms, water sources, and rest stations as some of the more pressing needs of recreational areas.

Most Important Community Needs as Ranked by Town Officials

by average ratings on a scale of 1 (least pressing) to 6 (most urgent)

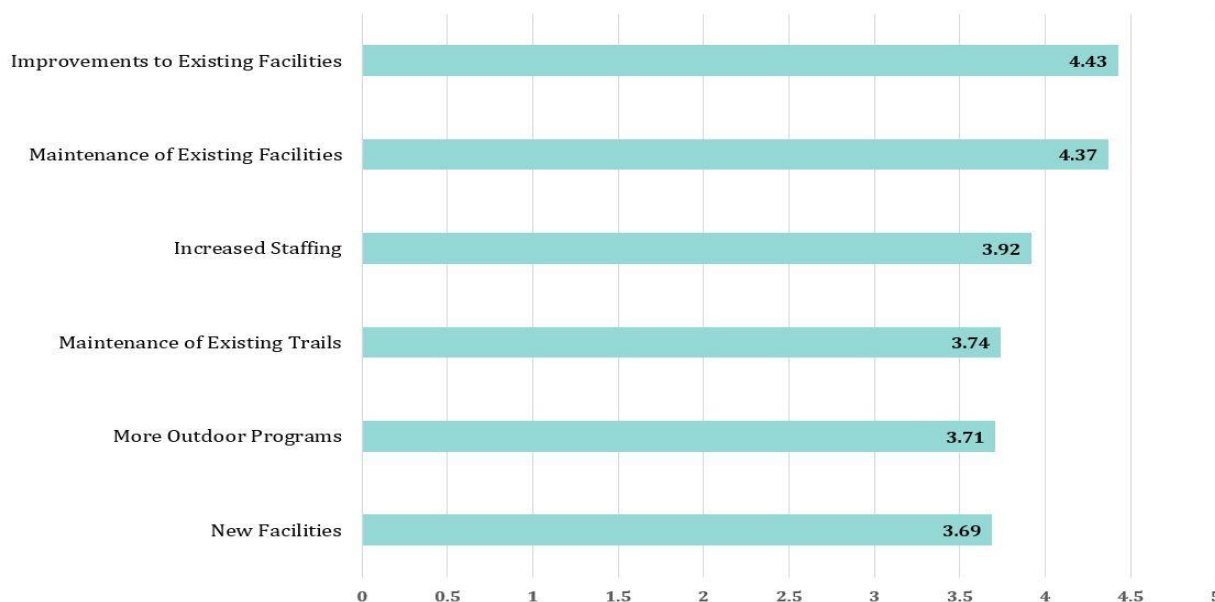


Figure 5-5: Most Important Community Needs Ranked by Town Officials

Measuring Support for Fee Increases

Later in the Statewide Survey, Connecticut residents were told that improvements to outdoor recreation facilities and activities may increase operating costs. They were then asked about their level of support for implementing or increasing the fees for outdoor recreation facilities, programs, and services. The results of this query are depicted in Figure 5-6. For state-owned recreation areas, nearly three-quarters of all residents indicated some level of support for an increase in fees to help pay for increased operating expenses. One-quarter of residents (25%) indicated that they were “very supportive” of a fee increase, with almost half (48%) stating that they were “somewhat supportive.” One in five residents (20%) are not supportive of a fee increase, while the remainder (7%) are not sure.

There is slightly less support for increasing fees for the purposes of improving outdoor recreation facilities, programs, and services in study participant’s local community. Nearly seven in ten (68%) indicated some level of support for fee increases. Nearly one-quarter (24%) are very supportive, with slightly more than two in five (44%) being somewhat supportive. One-quarter (25%) of residents are not supportive of fee increases to improve the local community, while the remainder (8%) are not sure.

Citizens’ Support for Increased Fees to Fund Outdoor Recreational Facilities

by percentage of respondents

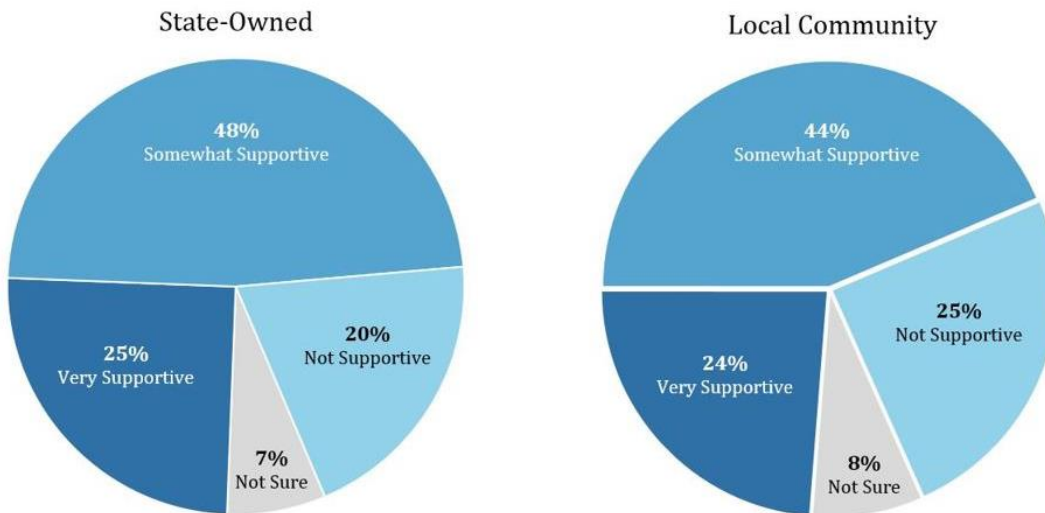


Figure 5-6: Citizens’ Support for Increased Facility Fees

SECTION VI: FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

AVID OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS

Two groups of avid outdoor enthusiasts, each comprised of five individuals, convened on campuses within the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) system. Individuals were identified through personal contacts at CPPSR, with the results being non-representative beyond those who participated in this portion of the study. During the summer of 2017, one group met at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), while the other met at Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU). The enthusiasts participated in a wide range of outdoor recreation activities, including trail running and walking, kayaking, lake and ocean swimming, horseback riding and horse camping, mountain and road biking, cross-country skiing, fishing, snowshoeing, hunting, ATV riding, and canoeing.

Outdoor enthusiasts expressed concern over their inability to practice preferred activities safely and/or legally. This was especially true of horseback riders/campers and ATV riders. One of the two focus groups included three horseback riders, all of whom agreed that they must travel a great distance to find horse-friendly trails. These individuals reported seeking trails that are more secluded, less prone to bike and foot traffic, and that have adequate parking for trailers. The number of recreation areas in Connecticut that meet these criteria is very small, forcing these individuals to recreate out-of-state. These sentiments were consistent with those expressed by horseback riders responding to the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey.

An interesting interplay emerged in this focus group that points to tensions existing between those engaging in different outdoor activities, particularly those utilizing multi-use trails. Horseback riders in the focus group, as well as trail runners and walkers, expressed that motorized dirt bikes and ATVs should not be present on state land. In the view of these enthusiasts, motorized bikes and ATVs “tear up” the ground, making trails more difficult and potentially dangerous to use, and are extremely loud, which can scare both humans and horses. ATV enthusiasts countered that there are few legal places to ride, classifying Connecticut as a “non-friendly” state to ATV riders. ATV riders pointed to Maine as a great place to recreate, indicating that the state has dual-use trails dedicated to snow mobile and ATV riding. This heated conversation concluded with enthusiasts agreeing that DEEP must re-evaluate its policies towards ATV riding on state property, taking into consideration the needs of numerous constituent groups.

There was a strong call for raising awareness about local resources. In particular, focus-group participants wanted access to more information about the location of outdoor areas and facilities in the state. Enthusiasts suspected that there were likely resources that they were not aware of, possibly even in their own hometown. Trail runners spoke about an app called “AllTrails,” which provides directions from a user’s current location to any trail in the app’s database. The app features over 50,000 trail maps, allowing users to follow their progress as they move along the trail. Enthusiasts universally agreed that DEEP should create an app that gives users directions to all outdoor recreation areas, allowing individuals to search by activity (e.g., places to fish, places to kayak). None of the ten enthusiasts were aware of the CT State Parks and Forests Guide app,

which seems to have the type of functionality that they are seeking. The fact that the app only has approximately 10,000 downloads indicates a strong need to advertise this service more widely.

Focus group participants were challenged to brainstorm ways in which DEEP could connect with other avid outdoor enthusiasts. Both focus groups mentioned the Run 169 Towns Society, a group of runners who share the goal of completing a road race in each of Connecticut's towns. The group has over 2,100 members and is growing at a very rapid pace. Enthusiasts suggested that DEEP should keep in communication with groups like the Run 169 Towns Society and the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. If a list-serve of these organizations already exists, it should be continually updated to account for emerging groups. DEEP could also consider a digital survey that would allow groups to sign up for agency e-mail blasts. Finally, focus group participants brought up the idea of having access to a calendar of outdoor recreation activities in the state. It was suggested that Connecticut's organizations could upload future activities to this calendar.

Both avid outdoor enthusiast focus groups concluded on a similar note, with participants expressing a love for the natural beauty of the state. A primary challenge the groups saw for DEEP was to effectively promote the fact that Connecticut has such natural beauty available for residents to enjoy. While as self-described outdoor enthusiasts, participants felt that they already knew about accessing this beauty, they expressed concern that fellow residents may be unaware of the natural resources right in front of them.

LIMITED RECREATIONISTS

Two groups of limited recreationists were also established using the same processes described for the avid outdoor enthusiast focus groups above. "Limited recreationists" are defined as those who self-identify as experiencing significant barriers to outdoor recreation. Some of these limited recreationists engaged in infrequent outdoor recreation, such as walking on a rail trail once a month, while others engaged in zero outdoor activities.

Both focus groups opened with a conversation about what the most prominent barriers to recreation were for these individuals. The most widely cited issue was time limitations resulting from the busy life schedules that focus group participants juggle daily. Between work (which for some included multiple jobs) and family/caretaking responsibilities, leisure time often takes a back seat for these individuals. When pressed further on the topic, some participants expressed frustration over having to spend time traveling to a recreation area—time that they did not feel they had. This corresponds to findings from the 2017 Statewide Survey, where "distance from one's residence" was the second-most widely cited barrier to participation (21%). It thus may be the case that many limited recreationists would not be so if they perceived more convenient and easily accessible facilities close to their residence. Naturally, such proximity is more difficult to achieve in urban areas without large areas of open space land; however, establishing a larger number of smaller-scale facilities such as trail loops or parks in these locations may be an effective way to bring outdoor recreation opportunities to those who are currently most deprived.

The top-ranked barrier to participation in the Statewide Survey was fees (23%), which was a lengthy topic of conversation in both focus groups. Two key themes emerged in this regard. First,

participants felt that fees were not worth the money given the little time that they had to spend in the outdoor recreation area, which was usually 30 minutes or less. Second, participants expressed an expectation that facility fees would be effectively used to fund amenities at facility locations. Limited recreationists felt that this expectation is largely not being met at present, with security and restroom facilities particularly lacking. Focus group participants expressed the general belief that most outdoor recreation areas in Connecticut charge fees, which may be more perception than reality. Despite all being Connecticut residents, a few individuals expressed dissatisfaction with non-resident admission rates. The \$22 non-resident weekend/holiday fee to enter Hammonasset State Park and Campground, for instance, was perceived as evidence of state greed. Focus group participants questioned where this money was going, convinced that the funds were not being reinvested in outdoor recreation areas. Open-ended responses given by several respondents to the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey suggested a perception that in general, out-of-state visitors to facilities are less respectful to the environment and other users than residents, and several individuals expressed frustration at the perception that out-of-state users were contributing to crowding and preventing Connecticut residents from using the facilities to which they believe they should have priority access as taxpayers. This may help explain the notion expressed by focus group participants that the state is not prioritizing the interests of citizens in favor of maximizing profits through such means as non-resident admission rates.

The clear distrust of the state government to act appropriately in the interest of recreation was echoed to a certain extent in comments given by respondents to the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey. In addition to feeling relatively unsupported in their recreational activities by the state government, some individuals even perceived a level of hostility towards certain recreational activities, particularly motorized biking and off-road vehicle use. Addressing the concerns of recreationists who feel marginalized would likely go a long way in promoting more positive relationships between recreationists and government agencies such as DEEP. Increasing the visibility of DEEP and its objectives to the public may also help dispel any negative misconceptions regarding the state's role in outdoor recreation. In fact, several respondents to the Outdoor Enthusiast Survey remarked upon their positive experiences with DEEP staff at the recreational facilities they visited, and a very large number expressed a desire for increased collaboration between DEEP and recreation groups and/or better public outreach from DEEP to citizens.

In one focus group, female study participants shared that they often did not feel safe recreating alone. At the same time, they did not have the desire or perceived ability to commit to regularly meeting friends for this purpose, with most citing conflicting or unpredictable personal schedules as a significant barrier. In addition to increasing surveillance by park rangers, these limited recreationists suggested introducing an emergency contact system in Connecticut's outdoor recreation areas. Two individuals referenced the blue light emergency system found on many of America's college campuses, such as CCSU and ECSU. A feeling of personal vulnerability led some of these women to join gyms in lieu of recreating outdoors.

Both focus groups concluded with participants expressing that they want to know more about outdoor recreation activities in their area. They were excited at the prospect of getting communication from DEEP via social media. Many also shared a willingness to download an outdoor recreation app on their phone, believing that such a resource would help them know where local recreation areas are located. This is encouraging, and again emphasizes the importance of

increasing the visibility of DEEP and its services, as well as communication and collaboration with citizens and non-profit organizations.

It must be noted that because focus groups rely on small samples (in this case 10 avid outdoor enthusiasts and 10 limited recreationists), there is a greater chance that their results may not be generalizable to the population being measured. That is, one must be cautious in drawing any widespread conclusions from the information gathered, as the views and opinions of both avid and limited recreationists are likely to be so variable among individuals that they cannot all possibly be captured in a sample of this size. Rather than generalizability, the main objective of focus groups is to gain a deeper understanding of the subject at hand by eliciting more detailed information from individuals than can be obtained through a large-scale survey. Indeed, the detailed information gained through the focus groups was vast and varied despite the small sample size, and the findings above represent only general themes among focus group participants and not a common opinion shared by all members of the group.

SECTION VII: STATEWIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION **DEMAND ANNOTATED QUESTIONNAIRE**

INTRODUCTION

This fifteen-minute online survey is designed to help the development of a new Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). In order to include the viewpoints of as many of Connecticut’s residents as possible, you are invited to share your thoughts and experiences on outdoor recreation priorities in our state. Before agreeing to participate, please read the following information carefully.

Your privacy will be protected at all times. Your participation and survey responses are anonymous, meaning that the information you provide cannot be identified or tied to you. This information has been provided so you know what to expect if you participate in this study. Your consent will be implied by your completion and submission of this survey. The data collected will be used to help inform the upcoming Connecticut Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. To convey that you understand and agree to participate, please press the right arrow found below. Thank you for making our state a better place to live!

SECTION 1: FILTER and QUOTAS

Do you currently reside in the state of Connecticut? (If no, survey was concluded)

Response Category	Total N = 2026 ⁸
Yes	100%
No	0%

The SCORP is a plan for OUTDOOR recreation; however, many activities can be enjoyed outdoors or indoors. For the purposes of this survey, please only consider the occasions when recreation occurs outdoors. For example, if you swim at an indoor pool for exercise, and you occasionally swim at an outdoor pool during the summer, please consider only the outdoor swimming activities in your responses to this survey.

Q1. Counting yourself, how many people live in your household?

Response Category	Total N = 2026
1	19%
2	33%
3	20%
4	17%
5	8%
6	3%
7	1%
8	--
9	--
10+	--

⁸ Note: For this table and all other tables, the sum may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Q2. Counting yourself, how many people in your household fall into each age category? [Please type zero if nobody in your household is of a particular age category.]

Response Category <i>Percentage of households reporting at least one person in age category</i>	Total N (<i>respondents</i>) = 2026 Total N (<i>all households</i>) = 5572 ⁹
Under 5 years	14%
5 – 9 years	14%
10 – 14 years	13%
15 – 19 years	15%
20 – 24 years	18%
25 – 34 years	34%
35 – 44 years	26%
45 – 54 years	25%
55 – 64 years	27%
65+ years	18%

⁹ Percentages represent the proportion of total household members reported in the sample (N = 5572) falling into each age category.

SECTION 2: OUTDOOR LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

Listed below are various OUTDOOR, LAND-BASED recreation activities that Connecticut residents can participate in within their local home communities or throughout the state. For each activity, please indicate how many members of your household have participated in the activity during the past 12 months.

Q3A. Counting yourself, how many members of your household have participated in each OUTDOOR, LAND-BASED activity during the past 12 months? If no one in your household participated in an activity, write “0” for the number of household users.

Response Category <i>Percentage of total household members reported</i>	Total N (respondents) = 2026 Total N (all household) = 5572 ¹⁰
Running	30%
Walking or hiking	65%
Road biking/biking in neighborhoods	26%
Mountain biking	7%
Multi-use trail biking	8%
Rollerblading or skateboarding	10%
Horseback riding	6%
Horse camping	2%
Motorized biking, i.e. dirt biking, ATVing	7%
Downhill skiing or snowboarding	9%
Cross-country skiing or snowshoeing	5%
Sledding	23%
Ice skating or hockey	11%
Backpack camping	9%
Tent camping	18%
RV/trailer camping	9%
Bird watching or wildlife viewing	26%
Visiting historic sites/areas	43%
Hunting or trapping	4%
Tennis	11%
Basketball or volleyball	18%
Football, lacrosse, field hockey, or rugby	9%
Baseball or softball	13%
Soccer	11%
Golf	12%
Disc Golf	3%
Ultimate Frisbee	5%
Geocaching, letterboxing, or mobile app games	18%
Other	1%

¹⁰ Percentages represent the proportion of total household members reported in the sample (N = 5572) engaging in each activity

Q3B. Please indicate approximately how often you or members of your household have participated in each OUTDOOR, LAND-BASED recreation activity during the past 12 months (or, if the activity is seasonal, during the most recent season). If more than one person in your household participated in the activity, record the average frequency that all members of your household participate. *Note: activity was only asked if Q3 indicated that participation in an activity occurs.*

Response Category <i>Total N varies by activity</i>	Seldom or Never	Less than Once a Month	At least Once a Month	A few times a Month	Several times a Week
Running (N=994)	6%	14%	16%	30%	34%
Walking or hiking (N=1777)	2%	9%	14%	30%	44%
Road biking/biking in neighborhoods (N=784)	6%	18%	22%	34%	20%
Mountain biking (N=227)	9%	23%	26%	31%	12%
Multi-use trail biking (N=253)	10%	29%	23%	28%	10%
Rollerblading or skateboarding (N=359)	12%	28%	19%	24%	16%
Horseback riding (N=197)	23%	34%	20%	15%	9%
Horse camping (N=61)	18%	25%	31%	10%	16%
Motorized biking, i.e. dirt biking, ATVing (N=225)	17%	33%	21%	19%	9%
Downhill skiing or snowboarding (N=312)	16%	47%	16%	16%	5%
Cross-country skiing or snowshoeing (N=166)	14%	49%	21%	7%	9%
Sledding (N=615)	18%	50%	17%	12%	3%
Ice skating or hockey (N=362)	17%	43%	19%	13%	7%
Backpack camping (N=250)	10%	52%	19%	14%	5%
Tent camping (N=474)	12%	56%	19%	10%	2%
RV/trailer camping (N=217)	15%	45%	23%	13%	4%
Bird watching or wildlife viewing (N=719)	5%	16%	24%	29%	26%
Visiting historic sites/areas (N=1118)	6%	48%	30%	14%	3%
Hunting or trapping (N=167)	16%	37%	21%	18%	8%
Tennis (N=342)	9%	29%	25%	25%	12%
Basketball or volleyball (N=631)	7%	19%	25%	30%	19%
Football, lacrosse, field hockey, or rugby (N=319)	8%	22%	26%	27%	18%
Baseball or softball (N=449)	6%	19%	22%	30%	23%
Soccer (N=398)	8%	17%	20%	30%	24%
Golf (N=470)	9%	27%	22%	29%	13%
Disc golf (N=101)	18%	28%	30%	15%	10%
Ultimate Frisbee (N=171)	9%	33%	29%	19%	10%
Geocaching, letterboxing, or mobile app games (N=486)	8%	16%	15%	20%	41%

SECTION 3: OUTDOOR WATER-BASED ACTIVITIES

Q4A. Counting yourself, how many members of your household have participated in each OUTDOOR, WATER-BASED activity during the past 12 months? If no one in your household participated in an activity, write “0” for the number of household users.

Response Category <i>Percentage of total household members reported</i>	Total N (respondents) = 2026 Total N (all household) = 5572¹¹
Swimming in outdoor pools	49%
Swimming in freshwater/saltwater	44%
Activities at the beach	57%
Motor boating or jet skiing	12%
Sailing	6%
Canoeing, kayaking, or stand-up paddleboarding	17%
Water skiing, tubing, or wakeboarding	9%
River rafting or river tubing	8%
Snorkeling or scuba diving	7%
Freshwater fishing or ice fishing	17%
Saltwater fishing	11%
Other	1%

Q4B. Please indicate approximately how often you or members of your household participated in each OUTDOOR, WATER-BASED recreation activity during the past 12 months (or, if the activity is seasonal, during the most recent season). If more than one person in your household participated in the activity, record the average frequency that all members of your household participate.

Response Category <i>Total N varies by activity</i>	Seldom or Never	Less than Once a Month	At least Once a Month	A few times a Month	Several times a Week
Swimming in outdoor pools (<i>N=1212</i>)	4%	27%	19%	27%	23%
Swimming in fresh/saltwater (<i>N=1128</i>)	6%	33%	25%	28%	9%
Activities at the beach (<i>N=1402</i>)	4%	33%	25%	28%	9%
Motor boating or jet skiing (<i>N=357</i>)	12%	36%	22%	20%	11%
Sailing (<i>N=196</i>)	14%	38%	26%	13%	10%
Canoeing, kayaking, or stand-up paddleboarding (<i>N=519</i>)	10%	41%	25%	19%	6%
Water skiing, tubing, or wakeboarding (<i>N=263</i>)	15%	35%	25%	18%	7%
River rafting or river tubing (<i>N=235</i>)	18%	40%	17%	19%	6%
Snorkeling or scuba diving (<i>N=228</i>)	17%	49%	15%	11%	8%
Freshwater or ice fishing (<i>N=531</i>)	8%	28%	27%	25%	12%
Saltwater fishing (<i>N=362</i>)	7%	33%	29%	22%	9%

¹¹ Percentages represent the proportion of total household members reported in the sample (*N* = 5572) engaging in each activity

SECTION 4: STATE-OWNED OUTDOOR RECREATION

Connecticut’s SCORP addresses both state-owned and municipal-owned recreation areas. These areas are managed by different agencies and receive funding from different sources. Please note that this survey will ask separate questions concerning state-owned and municipal-owned areas. If you don’t know whether an area you use is state or municipal, please select “don’t know.”

Q5A. Have you or members of your household visited any STATE-OWNED outdoor recreation areas during the past year? Examples include: state parks and forests, wildlife management areas, boat launches, etc.

Response Category	Total N = 2026
Yes	67%
No	26%
Don’t know	7%

Q5B. Approximately how many times did you or members of your household visit STATE-OWNED outdoor recreation areas during the past 12 months (only asked if Q5 = YES)? Examples include: state parks and forests, wildlife management areas, boat launches, etc.

Response Category	Total N = 1355
1 to 5 visits	57%
6 to 10 visits	24%
11 to 19 visits	10%
20 or more visits	8%
Don’t know	1%

Q5C. Overall, how would you rate the condition of all the STATE-OWNED outdoor recreation areas you visited (only asked if Q5 = YES)?

Response Category	Total N = 1355
Excellent	30%
Good	58%
Fair	12%
Poor	1%

SECTION 5: MUNICIPAL-OWNED OUTDOOR RECREATION

Municipal parks in Connecticut are open to all visitors (not just town residents). When responding to questions about recreation areas in your local community, please consider your activities in ALL municipal-owned recreation areas in Connecticut, whether the recreation area is located in your town or in another nearby.

Q6A. Have you or members of your household visited any MUNICIPAL-OWNED outdoor recreation areas during the past 12 months? Examples of municipal-owned outdoor recreation areas include: town parks and greens, playgrounds, or local open space areas.

Response Category	Total N = 2026
Yes	71%
No	23%
Don't know	6%

Q6B. Approximately how many times did you or members of your household visit MUNICIPAL-OWNED outdoor recreation areas during the past 12 months (only asked if Q6 = YES)? Examples of municipal-owned outdoor recreation areas include: town parks and greens, playgrounds, or local open space areas.

Response Category	Total N = 1430
1 to 5 visits	44%
6 to 10 visits	26%
11 to 19 visits	12%
20 or more visits	18%
Not sure/can't recall	<1%

Q6C. Overall, how would you rate the condition of all the MUNICIPAL-OWNED outdoor recreation areas you visit in your local community (only asked if Q6 = YES)?

Response Category	Total N = 1430
Excellent	27%
Good	60%
Fair	12%
Poor	1%

SECTION 6: ACCESS AND IMPROVEMENT

Q7A. Please indicate whether you or any member of your household have a need or desire for additional access to each of the outdoor recreation facilities listed below. If you are completely satisfied, please select “NO.”

Response Category <i>Total N = 2026</i>	Yes	No	N/A - no interest in activity
Paved multi-use trails	52%	35%	13%
Unpaved multi-use trails	48%	37%	15%
Unpaved single-use trails	40%	42%	18%
ADA accessible trails	7%	46%	38%
Cross-country skiing or snowshoeing trails	4%	46%	40%
Off-road motor, dirt biking, and ATV areas	15%	44%	41%
Picnic areas/shelters	64%	26%	10%
Playgrounds	51%	30%	19%
Inclusive accessible playgrounds	35%	36%	29%
Baseball and softball fields	33%	39%	29%
Soccer, football, lacrosse, and rugby fields	29%	39%	32%
Volleyball, tennis, and basketball courts	35%	38%	28%
Golf courses	24%	44%	32%
Disc golf courses	12%	47%	41%
Outdoor pools, water parks, and splash pads	53%	30%	17%
Freshwater/saltwater swimming areas	53%	33%	14%
Boating access for motor boating, jet skiing, sailing, or paddle sports	26%	43%	31%
Snorkeling and scuba diving areas	16%	47%	38%
Nature preserves and bird watching areas	45%	36%	20%
Historic sites and areas	56%	32%	20%
Sledding areas	33%	40%	27%
Ice skating or hockey areas	25%	43%	33%
Snowboarding or snow skiing areas	20%	44%	36%
Overnight camping areas	36%	38%	27%
Backpack camping areas	26%	41%	33%
Fishing or ice fishing areas	29%	40%	31%
Hunting or trapping areas	13%	45%	42%
Archery or shooting sport areas	21%	42%	37%
Other	6%	45%	49%

Q7B. For each OUTDOOR recreational facility, please rate how well the needs of your household are being met in terms of access or desire for improvement.

Response Category <i>Total N varies by activity</i>	Needs not at all met	Needs somewhat met	Needs mostly met
Paved multi-use trails (N=1051)	14%	48%	39%
Unpaved multi-use trails (N=970)	10%	47%	43%
Unpaved single-use trails (N=811)	11%	46%	43%
ADA accessible trails (N=339)	23%	48%	29%
Cross-country skiing or snowshoeing trails (N=274)	20%	50%	31%
Off-road motor, dirt biking, and ATV areas (N=305)	33%	40%	27%
Picnic areas/shelters (N=1051)	10%	50%	41%
Playgrounds (N=1041)	7%	45%	48%
Inclusive accessible playgrounds (N=703)	14%	49%	38%
Baseball and softball fields (N=662)	9%	46%	46%
Soccer, football, lacrosse, and rugby fields (N=595)	11%	44%	45%
Volleyball, tennis, and basketball courts (N=701)	12%	47%	41%
Golf courses (N=480)	12%	39%	50%
Disc golf courses (N=239)	26%	44%	30%
Outdoor pools, water parks, and splash pads (N=1074)	25%	45%	30%
Freshwater/saltwater swimming areas (N=1071)	16%	50%	34%
Boating access for motor boating, jet skiing, sailing, or paddle sports (N=529)	13%	61%	36%
Snorkeling and scuba diving areas (N=315)	38%	39%	24%
Nature preserves and bird watching areas (N=909)	15%	48%	37%
Historic sites and areas (N=1140)	9%	49%	42%
Sledding areas (N=669)	26%	48%	26%
Ice skating or hockey areas (N=502)	26%	47%	27%
Snowboarding or snow skiing areas (N=400)	20%	50%	31%
Overnight camping areas (N=721)	22%	47%	32%
Backpack camping areas (N=531)	24%	46%	30%
Fishing or ice fishing areas (N=589)	15%	48%	38%
Hunting or trapping areas (N=261)	20%	51%	29%
Archery or shooting sport areas (N=419)	34%	42%	23%
Other (N=222)	36%	32%	33%

Q8. Please select the three facilities most important to your household to develop in municipal-owned outdoor recreation areas.

Response Category <i>Total N varies by activity</i>	Most important	2nd most important	3rd most important
Paved multi-use trails (<i>N=550</i>)	10%	8%	10%
Unpaved multi-use trails (<i>N=333</i>)	4%	5%	7%
Unpaved single use trails (<i>N=207</i>)	3%	4%	4%
ADA accessible trails (<i>N=88</i>)	2%	2%	1%
Cross-country skiing or snowshoeing trails (<i>N=74</i>)	1%	1%	1%
Off-road motor, dirt biking, and ATV areas (<i>N=94</i>)	2%	1%	2%
Picnic areas/shelters (<i>N=608</i>)	11%	1%	9%
Playgrounds (<i>N=491</i>)	9%	8%	8%
Inclusive accessible playgrounds (<i>N=155</i>)	3%	3%	2%
Baseball and softball fields (<i>N=166</i>)	3%	3%	2%
Soccer, football, lacrosse, and rugby fields (<i>N=159</i>)	3%	3%	2%
Volleyball, tennis, and basketball courts (<i>N=205</i>)	3%	4%	3%
Golf courses (<i>N=138</i>)	4%	2%	1%
Disc golf courses (<i>N=31</i>)	<1%	1%	1%
Outdoor pools, water parks, and splash pads (<i>N=458</i>)	8%	8%	7%
Freshwater/saltwater swimming areas (<i>N=332</i>)	6%	6%	4%
Boating access for motor boating, jet skiing, sailing, or paddle sports (<i>N=82</i>)	1%	2%	1%
Snorkeling and scuba diving areas (<i>N=30</i>)	1%	1%	<1%
Nature preserves and bird watching areas (<i>N=310</i>)	5%	6%	4%
Historic sites and areas (<i>N=373</i>)	8%	6%	4%
Sledding areas (<i>N=59</i>)	1%	1%	1%
Ice skating or hockey areas (<i>N=75</i>)	1%	2%	1%
Snowboarding or snow skiing areas (<i>N=38</i>)	1%	1%	1%
Overnight camping areas (<i>N=161</i>)	3%	3%	2%
Backpack camping areas (<i>N=64</i>)	1%	1%	1%
Fishing or ice fishing areas (<i>N=127</i>)	3%	2%	2%
Hunting or trapping areas (<i>N=36</i>)	1%	1%	1%
Archery or shooting sport areas (<i>N=87</i>)	2%	1%	1%
Other (<i>N=60</i>)	2%	<1%	1%
Don't know/did not specify	<1%	18%	15%

Q9. Please select the three facilities most important to your household to develop in state-owned outdoor recreation areas.

Response Category <i>Total N varies by activity</i>	Most important	2nd most important	3rd most important
Paved multi-use trails (N=491)	8%	7%	9%
Unpaved multi-use trails (N=329)	4%	5%	8%
Unpaved single use trails (N=210)	3%	3%	4%
ADA accessible trails (N=104)	2%	1%	2%
Cross-country skiing or snowshoeing trails (N=76)	1%	1%	1%
Off-road motor, dirt biking, and ATV areas (N=100)	1%	1%	2%
Picnic areas/shelters (N=604)	9%	11%	10%
Playgrounds (N=444)	7%	7%	8%
Inclusive accessible playgrounds (N=174)	3%	3%	3%
Baseball and softball fields (N=144)	3%	3%	2%
Soccer, football, lacrosse, and rugby fields (N=139)	3%	3%	2%
Volleyball, tennis, and basketball courts (N=164)	3%	3%	2%
Golf courses (N=132)	3%	2%	2%
Disc golf courses (N=23)	<1%	<1%	<1%
Outdoor pools, water parks, and splash pads (N=413)	8%	7%	5%
Freshwater/saltwater swimming areas (N=376)	8%	7%	4%
Boating access for motor boating, jet skiing, sailing, or paddle sports (N=114)	2%	3%	1%
Snorkeling and scuba diving areas (N=36)	1%	1%	1%
Nature preserves and bird watching areas (N=327)	5%	7%	4%
Historic sites and areas (N=440)	11%	5%	5%
Sledding areas (N=50)	1%	1%	1%
Ice skating or hockey areas (N=55)	1%	1%	1%
Snowboarding or snow skiing areas (N=53)	1%	1%	1%
Overnight camping areas (N=194)	4%	3%	3%
Backpack camping areas (N=73)	1%	1%	1%
Fishing or ice fishing areas (N=138)	3%	2%	2%
Hunting or trapping areas (N=37)	1%	1%	1%
Archery or shooting sport areas (N=84)	2%	2%	1%
Other (N=56)	2%	<1%	<1%
Don't know/did not specify	0%	9%	15%

Q10A. Please check ALL the ways that you and members of your household travel to use OUTDOOR recreation facilities in your local community and throughout the state of Connecticut.

Response Category <i>Multiple responses accepted, N varies by mode of transportation</i>	
Automobile (N=1787)	88%
Walk (N=1137)	56%
Bicycle (N=508)	25%
Bus or train (N=320)	16%
Boat (N=180)	9%
Other (N=61)	3%

Q10B – “Other” responses:

Response Category (<i>Coded from responses</i>) <i>Multiple responses accepted, N varies by mode of transportation</i>	
“Other” – not specified (N=46)	75%
Motorcycle/Scooter (N=11)	18%
Human locomotion/Running/Skateboard (N=3)	5%
R.V. (N=1)	2%

Q11A. If there are reasons preventing you or members of your household from using OUTDOOR recreation facilities in Connecticut, please indicate them by selecting all that apply from the list below.

Response Category <i>Multiple responses accepted, N varies by answer choice</i>	
Not applicable, as I am fully able to use outdoor recreation facilities and activities (N=906)	45%
Fees are too high (N=472)	23%
Too far from residence (433)	21%
Don’t know what’s being offered (N=412)	20%
Don’t know locations of facilities (408)	20%
Lack of available parking (N=297)	15%
Facilities are not well-maintained (N=292)	14%
Parks are not well-maintained (N=279)	14%
Operating hours are not convenient (N=274)	14%
Programs not offered (N=261)	13%
Lack of interest/time for recreation (N=247)	12%
Security is insufficient (N=222)	11%
Lack of transportation to sites (N=214)	11%
Lack of access for people with disabilities (N=178)	9%
Other (N=129)	6%

Q11B – “Other” responses:

Response Category (5 Most Common Responses)	Response Rank
Prohibition of licensed dogs	1
Town residency restrictions/not allowing “outsiders”	2
Inclement weather/lack of snow removal/ice	3
Closed facilities	4
Disruptions to outdoor experience (unleashed dogs, unsupervised children)	5

Q12A. Please check ALL the ways you learn about OUTDOOR recreation facilities and/or activities in your local community and throughout the state of Connecticut.

Response Category	Percentage
<i>Multiple responses accepted, total N varies by response option</i>	
Word of mouth (N=1188)	59%
Websites/internet (N=1180)	58%
Newspaper (N=847)	42%
Social media (N=751)	37%
Maps and road signs (N=590)	29%
Television (N=541)	27%
Town mailings (N=446)	22%
Visited/called parks and recreation office (N=444)	22%
Tourist information center (N=442)	22%
Radio (N=371)	18%
Program fliers (N=360)	18%
Magazines (N=223)	11%
Club membership newsletters (N=162)	8%
Other (N=91)	5%

Q12B – “Other” responses (most overlapped with options presented above):

Response Category (5 Most Common Responses)	Response Rank
Friends/Family (word of mouth)	1
AAA/AARP Websites & Newsletters	2
Bulletin boards	3
Local library	4
Driving around/unexpected discovery	5

Q13. The following is a list of actions that the state of Connecticut and your local community fund to provide OUTDOOR recreation facilities and activities in Connecticut. Please indicate if you feel that the state of Connecticut and your local community should increase funding, maintain existing funding, decrease funding, or if you are unsure for each action.

Response Category <i>Total N = 2026</i>	Increase funding	Maintain funding	Decrease funding	Not sure
Maintain and improve existing outdoor facilities	48%	39%	4%	8%
Develop new outdoor recreation activities	44%	39%	7%	10%
Provide additional recreation programs and activities	40%	42%	7%	11%
Improve advertising and information regarding existing outdoor facilities and programs	34%	45%	11%	11%
Acquire open space	32%	45.9%	6%	16%
Other	11%	18%	4%	67%

Q14. Please indicate which THREE of the actions listed below you would most support increasing the funding for by dragging the items from the column on the left into the box on the right.

Response Category <i>Total N varies by response option</i>	Most important	2nd most important	3rd most important
Maintain and improve existing outdoor facilities (N=1654)	40%	25%	17%
Acquire open space (N=833)	17%	10%	15%
Develop new outdoor recreation activities (N=1221)	15%	21%	24%
Provide additional recreation programs and activities (N=1275)	13%	27%	23%
Improve advertising and information regarding existing outdoor facilities and programs (N=906)	13%	15%	17%
Other (N=65)	1%	1%	1%
Don't know/did not specify	--	2%	4%

Q15A. Improvements to outdoor recreation facilities and activities may increase operating costs. To help pay for increased operating expenses, which one of the following statements best describes your level of support for implementing or increasing the fees for outdoor recreation facilities, programs, and services you use in STATE-OWNED outdoor recreation areas?

Response Category	Total N = 2026
Very supportive	25%
Somewhat supportive	48%
Not supportive	20%
Not sure	7%

Q15B. To help pay for increased operating expenses, which one of the following statements best describes your level of support for implementing or increasing the fees for outdoor recreation facilities, programs, and services you use IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?

Response Category	Total N = 2026
Very supportive	24%
Somewhat supportive	44%
Not supportive	25%
Not sure	8%

SECTION 7: OUT-OF-STATE RECREATION

Q16A. During the past 12 months, have you or members of your household visited any parks or outdoor recreation areas NOT in Connecticut?

Response Category	Total N = 2026
Yes	46%
No	54%

Q16B. If yes, where did you go? List all that apply.

Response Category (5 Most Common Responses)	Response Rank
Massachusetts - Cape Cod, & unspecified areas in the state	1
New York – Catskills, Finger Lakes, & unspecified areas in the state	2
Regional cities – New York City/Central Park, Boston	3
Florida – Beaches, Everglades, & unspecified areas in the state	4
Acadia National Park	5

Q16C. Approximately how many times did you or members of your household visit OUT-OF-STATE parks or outdoor recreation areas during the past 12 months?

Response Category	Total N = 928
1 to 5 visits	71%
6 to 10 visits	17%
11 to 19 visits	7%
20 or more visits	4%
Don't know or don't recall	2%

Q16D. Overall, how would you rate the physical condition of OUT-OF-STATE parks or other outdoor recreation areas?

Response Category	Total N = 928
Excellent	44%
Good	51%
Fair	4%
Poor	1%

SECTION 8: DEMOGRAPHICS

Q17. What is your home zip code? (top 10 zip codes presented in table)

Response Category	Total N = 2026
06010 (<i>N=41</i>)	2%
06082 (<i>N=40</i>)	2%
06457 – Middletown area (<i>N=37</i>)	2%
06770 – Naugatuck area (<i>N=36</i>)	2%
06611 – Trumbull area (<i>N=34</i>)	2%
06460 – Milford area (<i>N=31</i>)	2%
06516 – West Haven area (<i>N=31</i>)	2%
06810 – Danbury area (<i>N=30</i>)	2%
06040 – Manchester area (<i>N=29</i>)	1%
06811 – Danbury area (<i>N=29</i>)	1%

Q18. What county do you reside in?

Response Category	Total N = 2026
Hartford County	27%
New Haven County	25%
Fairfield County	24%
New London County	7%
Litchfield County	5%
Middlesex County	5%
Tolland County	3%
Windham County	3%

Q19. What is your gender?

Response Category	Total N = 2026
Male	46%
Female	54%

Q20. What is your age?

Response Category	Total N = 2018
10-14 years	--
15-19 years	4%
20-24 years	11%
25-34 years	27%
35-44 years	16%
45-54 years	15%
55-64 years	16%
65+ years	11%

Q21. Are you or other members of your household of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish ancestry?

Response Category	Total N = 2026
Yes	13%
No	87%

Q22A. What is the primary language you speak in your household?

Response Category	Total N = 2026
English	96%
Spanish	1%
Other	3%

Q22B. "Other" responses:

Response Category (5 Most Common Responses)	Response Rank
Korean	1
Polish	2
Portuguese	3
Arabic	4
Russian	5

Q23. Which of the following best describes your ethnicity?

Response Category	Total N = 2026
<i>Multiple responses accepted</i>	
Caucasian	76%
Hispanic/Latino	8%
African American	13%
Asian American	5%
Other	1%

Q24. What is your annual household income?

Response Category	Total N = 2026
Under \$15,000	10%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	10%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	10%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	14%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	19%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	13%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	14%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	5%
\$200,00 or more	6%

Q25. What is the highest level of education you have received?

Response Category	Total N = 2026
Less than high school graduate	2%
High school graduate	19%
Some college or trade school	29%
College graduate	32%
Post graduate degree	18%

Q26. Do you or other members of your household have any of the following health conditions? Check all that apply, or “none” if no condition is present.

Response Category	Percentage
<i>Multiple responses accepted, total N varies by response option</i>	
None (N=1660)	82%
Physical or mobility limitation that makes walking or climbing steps difficult, or requires the use of a wheelchair, cane, walker, or other aide (N=280)	14%
Deafness or hearing loss that requires the use of a hearing aid or other devices (N=95)	5%
Blindness or a vision impairment that requires the use of readers, a guide animal, or equipment while walking (N=69)	3%

CONCLUSION

The Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection thanks you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your feedback is extremely valuable for making the state a better place to live. Should you have any questions or comments about this survey, please contact Dr. Diana Cohen, Associate Professor of Political Science at Central Connecticut State University. She can be reached via e-mail at cohendit@ccsu.edu, or via telephone at 860-832-2962.

SECTION VIII: AVID OUTDOOR ENTHUSIAST SURVEY **ANNOTATED QUESTIONNAIRE**

INTRODUCTION

Dear Avid Outdoor Enthusiast:

This survey is designed to help the development of a new Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). In order to include the viewpoints of as many Connecticut residents as possible, you are invited to share your thoughts and experiences on outdoor recreation in our state. Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary and you are free to discontinue the survey at any time and without consequence. All answers are confidential and will be reported in the collective (i.e., individual responses will be combined and reported as group results). You will not be contacted at a later point due to your participation. This information will become part of the SCORP, and your participation will benefit all Connecticut residents who enjoy outdoor recreation. Thank you for making our state a better place to live in!

Please think about the various outdoor recreation activities you enjoy. In the table below are five headings titled "ACTIVITY ONE," "ACTIVITY TWO," "ACTIVITY THREE," "ACTIVITY FOUR," and "ACTIVITY FIVE." In the space next to Activity One, please indicate the activity in which you participate most frequently, is most important to you, or to which you are most devoted. In the space next to Activity Two, please indicate the activity in which you participate second most frequently, is second most important to you, or to which you are second most devoted. Please repeat this process for Activities Three through Five. If you do not have five activities in mind, please complete as many as possible.

SECTION 1: ACTIVITY ONE

Response Category	Total N = 2649 ¹²
Walking or hiking	26%
Mountain biking or snow biking	13%
Motorized boating, jet skiing, or water skiing	12%
Horseback riding or horse showing	11%
ATVing, dirt biking, or snowmobiling	8%
Visiting historic sites, parks, or playgrounds	6%
Road biking or biking unspecified	5%
Running	3%
Tent, RV, or cabin camping	3%
Backpack camping, bike-packing, or kayak camping	2%
Beach activities (non-swimming)	2%
Golf	2%
Off-roading/4-wheeling (full-sized automobiles)	1%
Fishing	1%
Multi-use (rail trail) biking	1%
Geocaching, letterboxing, mobile apps, or orienteering	1%
Kayaking, canoeing, paddleboarding, or rafting	1%
Ultimate Frisbee or Frisbee	1%
Ice skating or hockey	<1%
Swimming, wading, or river tubing	<1%
Target/trap shooting or archery	<1%
Trail building, maintenance, conservation, or other volunteering	<1%
Soccer	<1%
Picnicking, BBQs, or other gathering	<1%
Cross-country skiing or snowshoeing	<1%
Downhill skiing or snowboarding	<1%
Sailing or windsurfing	<1%
Dog parks, dog training, or field trials	<1%
Rock climbing, ice climbing, or caving	<1%
Scuba diving or surfing	<1%
Bird watching, nature photography, botany, or gathering	<1%
Hunting or trapping	<1%
Basketball or volleyball	<1%
Football, lacrosse, field hockey, or rugby	<1%
Rollerblading or skateboarding	--
Horse camping	--
Sledding	--
Tennis, pickleball, or other racquet sports	--
Baseball or softball	--
Disc golf	--
Other or unclear	<1%

¹² Note: For this table and all other tables, the sum may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Please answer the following questions regarding your participation in ACTIVITY ONE.

Q1. In the past twelve months or during its “season,” how often did you participate in ACTIVITY ONE?

Response Category	Total N = 2646
Seldom or never	<1%
Less than once a month	2%
At least once a month	8%
A few times per month	29%
Several times per week	61%

Q2A. Please check all the different types of places where you practice ACTIVITY ONE.

Response Category	Total N = 2648
<i>Multiple responses accepted</i>	
State park or forest	79%
Trails	62%
Out-of-state	58%
Public lands or roads not designated as a park	50%
Local park	45%
Private property	45%
Lakes, ponds, rivers, or Long Island Sound	39%
Rail trails	39%
Quasi-public lands	19%
Commercial establishment	9%
Local school	7%
Other	2%

Q2B. If you indicated that you practice ACTIVITY ONE out-of-state, please elaborate why.

Response Category (<i>Coded from responses</i>)	Total N = 1457
Variety, natural features, vacation, or other reason	49%
Avoid restrictions or licensing/permit processes	15%
Better quality, safety, or maintenance of facilities	10%
Greater accessibility/more areas	8%
Attend competitions and events	8%
Better management of animal stock	7%
Less crowding or larger areas	3%
Limited state park operating dates or high fees	1%

Q2C. If “other,” please describe (e.g., location, terrain, services).

Response Category (Coded from responses)	Total N = 58
Club/organization-owned land	26%
Land trusts	22%
National parks or historic sites	10%
Reservoirs	9%
Campgrounds	7%
Beaches	7%
Parking lots or rest areas	5%
Wildlife centers	5%
Abandoned roads/property	5%
Unsure who owns land	3%

Q3A. In your use of these outdoor recreation facilities or resources for ACTIVITY ONE, would you say that your needs are:

Response Category	Total N = 2642
Completely met	40%
Partially met	47%
Barely met	8%
Not met at all	6%

Q3B. If you provided any response other than “completely met,” please elaborate on your outdoor recreation needs. What problems do you experience in your enjoyment of the activity? What would you like to see done to increase access or enjoyment?

Response Category (Coded from responses) <i>Multiple responses accepted</i>	Total N = 1448
Better access, more areas, or fewer restrictions of activity	50%
Better maintenance or quality of facilities	12%
More parking or trailer parking	9%
More signage, trail marking, or maps	8%
Enforcement of rules or safety issues	6%
Extended hours, operating dates, or hunting limits	6%
Animal stocking or wildlife preservation	6%
Connect existing trails or longer trails	6%
More bathrooms, water sources, or other amenities	5%
Improved safety on public roads	5%
Shared-use issues	3%
Less crowding or more isolated areas	3%
Better cooperation with recreation groups or public education	3%
More backpack or horse camping opportunities	2%
Access to comprehensive information online	2%
More garbage bins	2%
Lower fees or easier permit processes	1%
Dogs allowed	1%
Other	4%

SECTION 2: ACTIVITY TWO

Response Category	Total N = 2550
Walking or hiking	32%
Fishing	11%
Road biking or biking unspecified	8%
Kayaking, canoeing, paddleboarding, or rafting	6%
ATVing, dirt biking, or snowmobiling	5%
Hunting or trapping	5%
Mountain biking or snow biking	4%
Tent, RV, or cabin camping	4%
Bird watching, nature photography, botany, or gathering	4%
Running	3%
Motorized boating, jet skiing, or water skiing	2%
Horseback riding or horse showing	2%
Cross-country skiing or snowshoeing	2%
Downhill skiing or snowboarding	1%
Backpack camping, bike-packing, or kayak camping	1%
Beach activities (non-swimming)	1%
Golf	1%
Off-roading/4-wheeling (full-sized automobiles)	1%
Multi-use (rail trail) biking	1%
Trail building, maintenance, conservation, or other volunteering	1%
Picnicking, BBQs, or other gathering	1%
Geocaching, letterboxing, mobile apps, or orienteering	<1%
Ultimate Frisbee or Frisbee	<1%
Swimming, wading, or river tubing	<1%
Target/trap shooting or archery	<1%
Soccer	<1%
Visiting historic sites, parks, or playgrounds	<1%
Sailing or windsurfing	<1%
Dog parks, dog training, or field trials	<1%
Rock climbing, ice climbing, or caving	<1%
Scuba diving or surfing	<1%
Basketball or volleyball	<1%
Football, lacrosse, field hockey, or rugby	<1%
Rollerblading or skateboarding	<1%
Horse camping	<1%
Tennis, pickleball, or other racquet sports	<1%
Baseball or softball	<1%
Disc golf	<1%
Ice skating or hockey	--
Sledding	--
Other or unclear	1%

Please answer the following questions regarding your participation in ACTIVITY TWO.

Q4. In the past twelve months or during its “season,” how often did you participate in ACTIVITY TWO?

Response Category	Total N = 2487
Seldom or never	2%
Less than once a month	13%
At least once a month	21%
A few times per month	39%
Several times per week	25%

Q5A. Please check all the different types of places where you practice ACTIVITY TWO.

Response Category	Total N = 2486
<i>Multiple responses accepted</i>	
State park or forest	69%
Trails	47%
Lakes, ponds, rivers, or Long Island Sound	42%
Local park	38%
Public lands or roads not designated as a park	38%
Out-of-state	37%
Private property	33%
Rail trails	29%
Quasi-public lands	14%
Commercial establishment	6%
Local school	4%
Other	6%

Q5B. If you indicated that you practice ACTIVITY TWO out-of-state, please elaborate why.

Response Category (Coded from responses)	Total N = 834
Variety, natural features, vacation, or other reason	63%
Greater accessibility/more areas	12%
Avoid restrictions or licensing/permit processes	9%
Better quality, safety, or maintenance of facilities	7%
Attend competitions and events	4%
Better management of animal stock	3%
Less crowding or larger areas	2%
Limited state park operating dates or high fees	1%

Q5C. If “other,” please describe (e.g., location, terrain, services).

Response Category (Coded from responses)	Total N = 25
Club/organization-owned land	24%
Land trusts	24%
Beaches	16%
Campgrounds	12%
National parks or historic sites	8%
Wildlife centers	8%
Parking lots or rest areas	4%
Pools	4%

Q6A. In your use of these outdoor recreation facilities or resources for ACTIVITY TWO, would you say that your needs are:

Response Category	Total N = 2456
Completely met	59%
Partially met	32%
Barely met	6%
Not met at all	4%

Q6B. If you provided any response other than “completely met,” please elaborate on your outdoor recreation needs. What problems do you experience in your enjoyment of the activity? What would you like to see done to increase access or enjoyment?

Response Category (Coded from responses)	Total N = 868
<i>Multiple responses accepted</i>	
Better access, more areas, or fewer restrictions of activity	44%
Better maintenance or quality of facilities	11%
Improved safety on public roads	9%
Animal stocking or wildlife preservation	6%
Enforcement of rules or safety issues	6%
More signage, trail marking, or maps	6%
Extended hours, operating dates, or hunting limits	5%
More bathrooms, water sources, or other amenities	5%
More parking or trailer parking	5%
Connect existing trails or longer trails	4%
Less crowding or more isolated areas	4%
Dogs allowed	4%
Lower fees or easier permit processes	3%
Better cooperation with recreation groups or public education	3%
More backpack or horse camping opportunities	3%
Shared-use issues	3%
Access to comprehensive information online	2%
More garbage bins	2%
Other	5%

SECTION 3: ACTIVITY THREE

Response Category	Total N = 2327
Walking or hiking	22%
Kayaking, canoeing, paddleboarding, or rafting	9%
Fishing	8%
Road biking or biking unspecified	7%
Tent, RV, or cabin camping	7%
Swimming, wading, or river tubing	6%
Bird watching, nature photography, botany, or gathering	5%
Cross-country skiing or snowshoeing	4%
Hunting or trapping	4%
ATVing, dirt biking, or snowmobiling	3%
Running	3%
Mountain biking or snow biking	2%
Motorized boating, jet skiing, or water skiing	2%
Beach activities (non-swimming)	2%
Picnicking, BBQs, or other gathering	2%
Horseback riding or horse showing	1%
Downhill skiing or snowboarding	1%
Backpack camping, bike-packing, or kayak camping	1%
Off-roading/4-wheeling (full-sized automobiles)	1%
Multi-use (rail trail) biking	1%
Trail building, maintenance, conservation, or other volunteering	1%
Geocaching, letterboxing, mobile apps, or orienteering	1%
Target/trap shooting or archery	1%
Rock climbing, ice climbing, or caving	1%
Visiting historic sites, parks, or playgrounds	1%
Soccer	<1%
Sailing or windsurfing	<1%
Dog parks, dog training, or field trials	<1%
Scuba diving or surfing	<1%
Basketball or volleyball	<1%
Rollerblading or skateboarding	<1%
Horse camping	<1%
Tennis, pickleball, or other racquet sports	<1%
Golf	<1%
Baseball or softball	<1%
Disc golf	<1%
Football, lacrosse, field hockey, or rugby	--
Ultimate Frisbee or Frisbee	--
Ice skating or hockey	--
Sledding	--
Other	2%

Please answer the following questions regarding your participation in ACTIVITY THREE.

Q7. In the past twelve months or during its “season,” how often did you participate in ACTIVITY THREE?

Response Category	Total N = 2215
Seldom or never	6%
Less than once a month	26%
At least once a month	23%
A few times per month	30%
Several times per week	15%

Q8A. Please check all the different types of places where you practice ACTIVITY THREE.

Response Category	Total N = 2210
<i>Multiple responses accepted</i>	
State park or forest	65%
Lakes, ponds, rivers, or Long Island Sound	42%
Trails	37%
Local park	35%
Private property	30%
Public lands or roads not designated as a park	29%
Out-of-state	28%
Rail trails	23%
Quasi-public lands	12%
Commercial establishment	6%
Local school	5%
Other	5%

Q8B. If you indicated that you practice ACTIVITY THREE out-of-state, please elaborate.

Response Category (Coded from responses)	Total N = 493
Variety, natural features, vacation, or other reason	66%
Greater accessibility/more areas	13%
Avoid restrictions or licensing/permit processes	8%
Better quality, safety, or maintenance of facilities	5%
Attend competitions and events	3%
Less crowding or larger areas	3%
Better management of animal stock	2%
Limited state park operating dates or high fees	1%

Q8C. If “other,” please describe (e.g. location, terrain, services).

Response Category (Coded from responses)	Total N = 18
Wildlife centers	28%
Club/organization-owned land	22%
Beaches	17%
Land trusts	11%
Pools	11%
National parks or historic sites	6%
Campgrounds	6%

Q9A. In your use of these outdoor recreation facilities or resources for ACTIVITY THREE, would you say that your needs are:

Response Category	Total N = 2199
Completely met	64%
Partially met	26%
Barely met	6%
Not met at all	3%

Q9B. If you provided any response other than “completely met,” please elaborate on your outdoor recreation needs. What problems do you experience in your enjoyment of the activity? What would you like to see done to increase access or enjoyment?

Response Category (Coded from responses)	Total N = 615
<i>Multiple responses accepted</i>	
Better access, more areas, or fewer restrictions of activity	43%
Better maintenance or quality of facilities	10%
Extended hours, operating dates, or hunting limits	9%
Improved safety on public roads	7%
Enforcement of rules or safety issues	6%
More parking or trailer parking	5%
More bathrooms, water sources, or other amenities	5%
Lower fees or easier permit processes	4%
Animal stocking or wildlife preservation	4%
More signage, trail marking, or maps	4%
Less crowding or more isolated areas	4%
Connect existing trails or longer trails	4%
More backpack or horse camping opportunities	3%
Access to comprehensive information online	3%
Better cooperation with recreation groups or public education	3%
Shared-use issues	2%
More garbage bins	2%
Dogs allowed	2%
Other	4%

SECTION 4: ACTIVITY FOUR

Response Category	Total N = 1859
Walking or hiking	17%
Kayaking, canoeing, paddleboarding, or rafting	9%
Tent, RV, or cabin camping	9%
Swimming, wading, or river tubing	8%
Fishing	7%
Bird watching, nature photography, botany, or gathering	7%
Cross-country skiing or snowshoeing	6%
Road biking or biking unspecified	5%
Picnicking, BBQs, or other gathering	3%
Hunting or trapping	3%
Motorized boating, jet skiing, or water skiing	3%
ATVing, dirt biking, or snowmobiling	2%
Mountain biking or snow biking	2%
Downhill skiing or snowboarding	2%
Running	2%
Beach activities (non-swimming)	2%
Horseback riding or horse showing	1%
Backpack camping, bike-packing, or kayak camping	1%
Golf	1%
Multi-use (rail trail) biking	1%
Trail building, maintenance, conservation, or other volunteering	1%
Geocaching, letterboxing, mobile apps, or orienteering	1%
Visiting historic sites, parks, or playgrounds	1%
Target/trap shooting or archery	1%
Sailing or windsurfing	1%
Rock climbing, ice climbing, or caving	1%
Soccer	<1%
Off-roading/4-wheeling (full-sized automobiles)	<1%
Ultimate Frisbee or Frisbee	<1%
Dog parks, dog training, or field trials	<1%
Scuba diving or surfing	<1%
Basketball or volleyball	<1%
Football, lacrosse, field hockey, or rugby	<1%
Rollerblading or skateboarding	<1%
Horse camping	<1%
Tennis, pickleball, or other racquet sports	<1%
Baseball or softball	<1%
Disc golf	<1%
Ice skating or hockey	<1%
Sledding	<1%
Other or unclear	3%

Please answer the following questions regarding your participation in ACTIVITY FOUR.

Q10. In the past twelve months or during its “season,” how often did you participate in ACTIVITY FOUR?

Response Category	Total N = 1753
Seldom or never	9%
Less than once a month	32%
At least once a month	23%
A few times per month	24%
Several times per week	12%

Q11A. Please check all the different types of places where you practice ACTIVITY FOUR.

Response Category <i>Multiple responses accepted</i>	Total N = 1746
State park or forest	65%
Lakes, ponds, rivers, or Long Island Sound	43%
Local park	34%
Trails	33%
Private property	31%
Public lands or roads not designated as a park	27%
Out-of-state	26%
Rail trails	21%
Quasi-public lands	11%
Commercial establishment	8%
Local school	6%
Other	5%

Q11B. If you indicated that you practice ACTIVITY FOUR out-of-state, please elaborate why.

Response Category (<i>Coded from responses</i>)	Total N = 352
Variety, natural features, vacation, or other reason	66%
Greater accessibility/more areas	12%
Better quality, safety, or maintenance of facilities	7%
Avoid restrictions or licensing/permit processes	5%
Less crowding or larger areas	5%
Better management of animal stock	3%
Attend competitions and events	2%
Limited state park operating dates or high fees	1%

Q11C. If “other,” please describe (e.g. location, terrain, services).

Response Category (Coded from responses)	Total N = 16
Club/organization-owned land	38%
National parks or historic sites	19%
Campgrounds	13%
Beaches	13%
Pools	6%
Land trusts	6%
Wildlife centers	6%

Q12A. In your use of these outdoor recreation facilities or resources for ACTIVITY FOUR, would you say that your needs are:

Response Category	Total N = 1733
Completely met	69%
Partially met	23%
Barely met	5%
Not met at all	3%

Q12B. If you provided any response other than “completely met,” please elaborate on your outdoor recreation needs. What problems do you experience in your enjoyment of the activity? What would you like to see done to increase access or enjoyment?

Response Category (Coded from responses)	Total N = 415
<i>Multiple responses accepted</i>	
Better access, more areas, or fewer restrictions of activity	40%
Better maintenance or quality of facilities	11%
Extended hours, operating dates, or hunting limits	7%
Improved safety on public roads	7%
More bathrooms, water sources, or other amenities	6%
Less crowding or more isolated areas	6%
Enforcement of rules or safety issues	5%
More parking or trailer parking	4%
Lower fees or easier permit processes	4%
Animal stocking or wildlife preservation	4%
More signage, trail marking, or maps	4%
Connect existing trails or longer trails	4%
More backpack or horse camping opportunities	4%
Shared-use issues	4%
Access to comprehensive information online	2%
More garbage bins	2%
Dogs allowed	2%
Better cooperation with recreation groups or public education	1%
Other	7%

SECTION 5: ACTIVITY FIVE

Response Category	Total N = 1392
Walking or hiking	10%
Fishing	9%
Bird watching, nature photography, botany, or gathering	9%
Tent, RV, or cabin camping	9%
Swimming, wading, or river tubing	8%
Kayaking, canoeing, paddleboarding, or rafting	8%
Cross-country skiing or snowshoeing	7%
Road biking or biking unspecified	5%
Hunting or trapping	4%
Picnicking, BBQs, or other gathering	4%
Motorized boating, jet skiing, or water skiing	3%
ATVing, dirt biking, or snowmobiling	2%
Beach activities (non-swimming)	2%
Mountain biking or snow biking	2%
Horseback riding or horse showing	2%
Tennis, pickleball, or other racquet sports	2%
Downhill skiing or snowboarding	1%
Visiting historic sites, parks, or playgrounds	1%
Running	1%
Trail building, maintenance, conservation, or other volunteering	1%
Rock climbing, ice climbing, or caving	1%
Target/trap shooting or archery	1%
Backpack camping, bike-packing, or kayak camping	1%
Geocaching, letterboxing, mobile apps, or orienteering	1%
Sailing or windsurfing	1%
Basketball or volleyball	<1%
Disc golf	<1%
Rollerblading or skateboarding	<1%
Baseball or softball	<1%
Off-roading/4-wheeling (full-sized automobiles)	<1%
Golf	<1%
Dog parks, dog training, or field trials	<1%
Scuba diving or surfing	<1%
Ice skating or hockey	<1%
Horse camping	<1%
Multi-use (rail trail) biking	--
Ultimate Frisbee or Frisbee	--
Soccer	--
Football, lacrosse, field hockey, or rugby	--
Sledding	--
Other	6%

Please answer the following questions regarding your participation in ACTIVITY FIVE.

Q13. In the past twelve months or during its “season,” how often did you participate in ACTIVITY FIVE?

Response Category	Total N = 1307
Seldom or never	14%
Less than once a month	35%
At least once a month	20%
A few times per month	20%
Several times per week	12%

Q14A. Please check all the different types of places where you practice ACTIVITY FIVE.

Response Category	Total N = 1295
<i>Multiple responses accepted</i>	
State park or forest	60%
Lakes, ponds, rivers, or Long Island Sound	47%
Local park	32%
Private property	32%
Trails	29%
Public lands or roads not designated as a park	26%
Out-of-state	23%
Rail trails	18%
Quasi-public lands	10%
Commercial establishment	8%
Local school	5%
Other	4%

Q14B. If you indicated that you practice ACTIVITY FIVE out-of-state, please elaborate why.

Response Category (Coded from responses)	Total N = 272
Variety, natural features, vacation, or other reason	59%
Greater accessibility/more areas	16%
Better quality, safety, or maintenance of facilities	13%
Less crowding or larger areas	5%
Avoid restrictions or licensing/permit processes	3%
Better management of animal stock	2%
Limited state park operating dates or high fees	2%
Attend competitions and events	1%

Q14C. If “other,” please describe (e.g. location, terrain, services).

Response Category (<i>Coded from responses</i>)	Total N = 10
Club/organization-owned land	70%
Land trusts	10%
Parking lots or rest areas	10%
Pools	10%

Q15A. In your use of these outdoor recreation facilities or resources for ACTIVITY FIVE, would you say that your needs are:

Response Category	Total N = 1296
Completely met	68%
Partially met	24%
Barely met	5%
Not met at all	3%

Q15B. If you provided any response other than “completely met,” please elaborate on your outdoor recreation needs. What problems do you experience in your enjoyment of the activity? What would you like to see done to increase access or enjoyment?

Response Category (<i>Coded from responses</i>)	Total N = 323
<i>Multiple responses accepted</i>	
Better access, more areas, or fewer restrictions of activity	49%
Better maintenance or quality of facilities	11%
Lower fees or easier permit processes	7%
Improved safety on public roads	6%
Less crowding or more isolated areas	6%
Animal stocking or wildlife preservation	5%
Enforcement of rules or safety issues	4%
More parking or trailer parking	4%
More bathrooms, water sources, or other amenities	4%
More backpack or horse camping opportunities	4%
Access to comprehensive information online	4%
Extended hours, operating dates, or hunting limits	3%
Shared-use issues	3%
Dogs allowed	3%
Connect existing trails or longer trails	2%
Better cooperation with recreation groups or public education	2%
More signage, trail marking, or maps	2%
More garbage bins	2%
Other	9%

SECTION 6: GENERAL SENTIMENTS TOWARD OUTDOOR RECREATION

Q16A. What is the most significant issue you encounter when engaging in any of the activities you listed?

Response Category	Total N = 2279
Litter	22%
Parking	16%
Tick or mosquito-borne diseases	15%
Other	15%
Crowding	13%
Obnoxious/reckless behavior	10%
Security or personal safety concerns	6%
Graffiti or vandalism	2%
Wildlife	1%

Q16B. If “other,” please describe the issue you have in mind.

Response Category (<i>Coded from responses</i>)	Total N = 342
Better access, more areas, or fewer restrictions of activity	40%
Better enforcement of rules and regulations	12%
Better maintenance of areas/facilities	11%
Shared-use issues	9%
Improved safety on public roads	4%
Extended hours, operating dates, or hunting limits	3%
Better signage, trail marking, or provision of maps	3%
More bathrooms, water sources, or rest stations	2%
Lower fees or easier permit processes	2%
Animal stocking or wildlife preservation	1%
Dogs allowed	1%
Connect existing trails or longer trails	1%
More garbage bins	<1%
Other	3%
No issues	7%

Q17. In your opinion, what are the most pressing needs of the outdoor recreation areas you visit? Please indicate a specific recreation area, if you have one in mind.

Response Category (Coded from responses) <i>Multiple responses accepted</i>	Total N = 1766
Better access, more areas, or fewer restrictions of activity	22%
Better maintenance of areas/facilities	18%
Better enforcement of rules and regulations	16%
More garbage bins	15%
More parking or trailer parking	11%
Better signage, trail marking, or provision of maps	7%
Better cooperation with recreation groups or public education	6%
Less crowding or more isolated areas	5%
Animal stocking or wildlife preservation	5%
More bathrooms, water sources, or rest stations	5%
Prevention of off-road vehicles/mountain bikes from using and damaging walking/hiking trails, shared-use issues	4%
Extended hours, operating dates, or hunting limits	3%
Interconnect existing trails or longer trails	2%
Increased safety on public roads (more bike lanes, sidewalks, pedestrian cross signs, lower speed limits, etc.)	2%
Lower fees	2%
More backpack, overnight, or horse camping opportunities	1%
Access to comprehensive list/map of state locations for recreation activities	1%
More off-leash dog areas or dog parks	1%
More resources or safety for children	1%
Snow plowing of trails/parking lots	1%
Handicap accessibility	1%
Personal issues/other	7%
No issues	5%

Q18. What do you like most about the outdoor recreation areas you use?

Response Category (Coded from responses)	Total N = 1823
Enjoying natural environments	26%
Ease of access or proximity	19%
Uncrowded, quiet, or remote	13%
Good management, staff, maintenance, or stocking	13%
Variety of terrain or multi-use facilities	8%
Ability to practice activity or activity-specific facilities	5%
Affordable	3%
Safe or family friendly	2%
Accessible parking	2%
Networked trails or access to attractions	2%
Information, maps, or trail marking	2%
Amenities (bathrooms, picnic areas, etc.)	1%
Other	3%
None	1%

Q19. If you indicated that you practice any of your five activities out-of-state, please elaborate why.

Response Category (Coded from responses)	Total N = 1444
Variety, natural features, vacation, or other reason	52%
Greater accessibility/more areas	12%
Avoid restrictions or licensing/permit processes	12%
Better quality, safety, or maintenance of facilities	9%
Attend competitions and events	6%
Less crowding or larger areas	5%
Better management of animal stock	3%
Limited state park operating dates or high fees	2%

Q20. Is there anything else you would like to say about your current or future outdoor recreation usage and/or needs?

Response Category (Coded from responses)	Total N = 1177
Maintain or improve access	12%
Additional ATV/dirt bike trails	8%
Maintain or increase funding for DEEP etc.	6%
Increase maintenance of facilities	5%
Conserve natural resources and open space	5%
More trails/rail trails or interconnected trails	5%
Increased public education or information on facilities	5%
Rule enforcement or safety concerns	4%
Issues with legal or administrative policies (e.g., permits, regulations)	4%
Improve cooperation with organizations or landowners, volunteer opportunities	3%
Additional equestrian facilities or access	3%
Additional mountain bike facilities/features or access	3%
Lower fees	3%
Additional hunting opportunities or stocking	3%
Shared-use issues	2%
Maintain or increase programs and services	2%
Improved marking, signage, or maps	1%
Additional camping opportunities	1%
Additional disc golf opportunities	1%
Additional water or fishing access	1%
Pets allowed	1%
Improve road safety	1%
Additional bathroom facilities and amenities	1%
Handicap accessibility	1%
Other	8%
Satisfied or unrelated	16%

SECTION 7: DEMOGRAPHICS

Q21A. Are you a member of a club or organization whose purpose or mission is the enjoyment or support of outdoor recreation in some form?

Response Category	Total N = 2328
Yes	64%
No	36%

Q21B. If yes, please indicate the name of the organization.

Response Category (<i>Top 10 responses</i>) <i>Multiple responses accepted</i>	Total N = 1422
1. New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA)	15%
2. Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC)	10%
3. Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA)	9%
4. Trout Unlimited (TU)	3%
5. Connecticut Audubon Society	3%
6. Farmington Valley Trails Council (FVTC)	3%
7. New England Trail Riders Association (NETRA)	3%
8. Newtown Bridle Lands Association (NBLA)	2%
9. Connecticut Trail Rides Association (CTRA)	2%
10. Sleeping Giant Park Association (SGPA)	2%

Q21C. What is the purpose and/or goals of the organization?

Response Category (<i>See corresponding organizations above, coded from responses</i>)
1. Develop and maintain access to sustainable mountain bike trails and multi-use trail systems
2. Promote the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of the mountains, forests, waters, and trails of America's Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions
3. Conserve forests, parks, trails, and open spaces in the state by connecting people to the land
4. Conserve, protect, and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds
5. Conserve the state's environment through science-based education and advocacy focused on bird populations and habitats
6. Build, maintain, beautify, and connect off-road multi-use trails through central CT
7. Promote the sport of safe and responsible off-road motorcycling in New England and NY
8. Foster an interest in horseback riding and preserve, protect, connect, and maintain riding and hiking trails
9. Promote the sport of trail riding through family-oriented group trail rides and horse camping
10. Protect and enlarge Sleeping Giant State Park and offer park services and maintenance

Q22. What is your home zip code?

Response Category (Top 10 responses)	Total N = 2648
06010 – Bristol (N=47)	2%
06457 – Middletown (N=38)	1%
06013 – Burlington (N=35)	1%
06033 – Glastonbury (N=35)	1%
06492 – Wallingford (N=34)	1%
06424 – East Hampton (N=32)	1%
06790 – Torrington (N=32)	1%
06082 – Enfield (N=29)	1%
06489 – Southington (N=28)	1%
06473 – North Haven (N=26)	1%

Q23. In which county do you reside?

Response Category	Total N = 2290
Hartford County	28%
New Haven County	19%
Fairfield County	10%
Litchfield County	10%
Middlesex County	10%
Windham County	9%
New London County	8%
Tolland County	7%

Q24. What is your gender?

Response Category	Total N = 2317
Male	60%
Female	40%

Q25. What is your age?

Response Category	Total N = 2233
10-14 years	<1%
15-19 years	1%
20-24 years	3%
25-34 years	15%
35-44 years	20%
45-54 years	24%
55-64 years	24%
65+ years	13%

Q26. Are you or other members of your household of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish ancestry?

Response Category	Total N = 2260
No	96%
Yes	4%

Q27. Which of the following best describes your race (check all that apply)?

Response Category <i>Multiple responses accepted</i>	Total N = 2256
White/Caucasian	96%
Native American	2%
African American/Black	1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1%
Other (Hispanic, Arab-American, Cuban)	3%

Q28A. What is the primary language spoken in your household?

Response Category	Total N = 2311
English	99%
Spanish	<1%
Polish	<1%
Portuguese	<1%
Arabic	--
Bengali	--
Hindi/Urdu	--
Japanese	--
Korean	--
Russian	--
Other	1%

Q28B. If you chose “other,” please specify the primary language spoken in your household.

Response Category	Total N = 4
Bosnian	N = 1
Bulgarian	N = 1
Dutch	N = 1
French	N = 1

Q29. What is your annual gross household income?

Response Category	Total N = 2051
Under \$25,000	3%
\$25,000 - \$49,999	11%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	17%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	19%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	27%
\$150,000 and over	22%

Q30. What is the highest level of education you have obtained? If you are currently enrolled in school, indicate the highest degree received.

Response Category	Total N = 2263
Less than high school graduate	1%
High school graduate	9%
Some college or trade school	21%
College graduate	37%
Post graduate degree	31%

Q31. Do you or other members of your household have any of the following health conditions? Check all that apply, or “none” if no condition is present.

Response Category	Total N = 2180
<i>Multiple responses accepted</i>	
Physical or mobility limitation that makes walking or climbing steps difficult, or requires the use of a wheelchair, cane walker, or aide (N=188)	9%
Deafness or hearing loss that requires the use of a hearing aid or other devices (N=108)	5%
Blindness or a vision impairment that requires the use of readers, a guide animal or equipment while walking (N=27)	1%
None (N=1904)	87%

CONCLUSION

The Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection thanks you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your feedback is extremely valuable for making the State a better place to live. Should you have any questions or comments about this survey, please contact Dr. Diana Cohen, Associate Professor of Political Science at Central Connecticut State University. She can be reached via e-mail at cohendit@ccsu.edu, or via telephone at 860-832-2962.

SECTION IX: TOWN OFFICIALS SURVEY ANNOTATED QUESTIONNAIRE

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION AND TOWN DEMOGRAPHICS

As part of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), we ask you to respond to the following questions about the condition of resources, their use, and your town's needs and priorities.

Q1. Select the town that you represent or will comment on.

Towns by County							
Hartford	Fairfield	New Haven	Litchfield	New London	Middlesex	Tolland	Windham
Avon	Darien	Branford	Goshen	Colchester	Clinton	Coventry	Putnam
Berlin	Fairfield	Guilford	Kent	East Lyme	Durham	Hebron	
Bristol	New Canaan	Madison	Litchfield	Groton	E. Haddam	Mansfield	
Burlington	Newton	Milford	Torrington	Waterford	Westbrook		
Canton	Norwalk	New Haven	Woodbury				
E. Windsor	Redding	Southbury					
Glastonbury	Ridgefield	Wolcott					
Granby	Shelton						
Marlborough	Stamford						
Newington	Stratford						
Simsbury	Trumbull						
S. Windsor	Weston						
Wethersfield							

* 6 responding towns did not self-identify

Q2A. What town department are you associated with?

Response Category	Total N = 55 ¹³
Parks & Recreation	93%
Public Works	4%
Selectman/Mayor's Office	2%
Other	2%

¹³ Note: For this table and all other tables, the sum may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Q2B. If you selected “other” in the previous question, please indicate the department that you are associated with.

Response Category	
Agricultural Commission	N = 1

Q3. If you are directly employed by, or associated with a town agency, indicate your title.

Response Category	Total N = 55
Parks & Recreation Director/Superintendent	93%
Other	7%

Q4. If you are not directly associated with, or employed by a town agency, but you are associated with an independent organization or state agency that has information on recreation, please indicate the name of the organization.

Response Category	Total N = 0
No responses offered	---

Q5. In your town, what is the total acreage of open space land for active outdoor recreation use? For the purposes of this question, active outdoor recreation facilities include facilities that are primarily: sports fields, playgrounds, swimming pools, golf courses, or skate parks.

Response Category	Total N = 49
30 acres or less	20%
31-150 acres	16%
151-300 acres	12%
301-999 acres	29%
1,000 or more acres	8%
Unsure of acreage	14%

Q6. In your town, what is the total acreage of open space land for passive outdoor recreation use? For the purposes of this question, passive outdoor recreation facilities include facilities that are primarily: hiking and nature trails, rails-to-trails, town greens, non-developed fields, wildlife observation areas, or hunting and fishing sites.

Response Category	Total N = 49
30 acres or less	8%
31-150 acres	8%
151-300 acres	18%
301-999 acres	18%
1,000 or more acres	25%
Unsure	22%

SECTION 2: FACILITY CONDITION

Q7. In the following table, please indicate the overall condition of each type of recreational facility that your community offers.

BASKETBALL COURTS

Mean: 2.20¹⁴

Response Category	Total N = 51
Excellent	24%
Good	45%
Needs Improvement	20%
Poor	12%

BOATING ACCESS

Mean: 2.25

Response Category	Total N = 36
Excellent	17%
Good	50%
Needs Improvement	25%
Poor	8%

CAMPING

Mean: 2.27

Response Category	Total N = 15
Excellent	20%
Good	47%
Needs Improvement	20%
Poor	13%

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

Mean: 1.91

Response Category	Total N = 54
Excellent	32%
Good	48%
Needs Improvement	19%
Poor	2%

FIELDS - FOOTBALL

Mean: 1.74

Response Category	Total N = 42
Excellent	43%
Good	43%
Needs Improvement	12%
Poor	2%

¹⁴ Means for this section are calculated on a scale from 1 to 4, where 1 = "Excellent" and 4 = "Poor." The lower the mean, the better the overall condition of the facility.

FIELDS - LACROSSE

Mean: 1.92

Response Category	Total N = 36
Excellent	33%
Good	47%
Needs Improvement	14%
Poor	6%

FIELDS - MULTI-USE

Mean: 1.98

Response Category	Total N = 50
Excellent	22%
Good	62%
Needs Improvement	12%
Poor	4%

FISHING ACCESS

Mean: 2.12

Response Category	Total N = 51
Excellent	20%
Good	53%
Needs Improvement	24%
Poor	4%

GARDENS

Mean: 1.88

Response Category	Total N = 41
Excellent	29%
Good	54%
Needs Improvement	17%
Poor	--

GOLF COURSES

Mean: 1.67

Response Category	Total N = 21
Excellent	48%
Good	43%
Needs Improvement	5%
Poor	5%

HISTORIC/EDUCATION SITES

Mean: 1.95

Response Category	Total N = 41
Excellent	22%
Good	61%
Needs Improvement	17%
Poor	--

HUNTING

Mean: 2.20

Response Category	Total N = 10
Excellent	20%
Good	40%
Needs Improvement	40%
Poor	--

PICNIC AREAS

Mean: 2.20

Response Category	Total N = 51
Excellent	14%
Good	59%
Needs Improvement	22%
Poor	6%

PLAYGROUNDS

Mean: 2.02

Response Category	Total N = 54
Excellent	24%
Good	56%
Needs Improvement	19%
Poor	6%

SWIMMING, BEACHES, OR OUTDOOR POOLS

Mean: 1.82

Response Category	Total N = 49
Excellent	35%
Good	49%
Needs Improvement	16%
Poor	--

TENNIS COURTS

Mean: 2.08

Response Category	Total N = 53
Excellent	32%
Good	42%
Needs Improvement	13%
Poor	13%

TRAILS

Mean: 1.98

Response Category	Total N = 50
Excellent	32%
Good	42%
Needs Improvement	22%
Poor	4%

TURF FIELDS, ARTIFICIAL

Mean: 1.40

Response Category	Total N =
Excellent	70%
Good	23%
Needs Improvement	3%
Poor	3%

TURF FIELDS, NATURAL

Mean: 1.93

Response Category	Total N = 40
Excellent	28%
Good	58%
Needs Improvement	10%
Poor	5%

VOLLEYBALL COURTS

Mean: 2.27

Response Category	Total N = 30
Excellent	10%
Good	57%
Needs Improvement	30%
Poor	3%

WINTER SPORTS

Mean: 2.34

Response Category	Total N = 35
Excellent	9%
Good	54%
Needs Improvement	31%
Poor	6%

SECTION 3: FACILITY SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Q8. Now considering the same group of recreational facilities, please indicate, based upon both your research and the comments from the community, whether or not your community has sufficient resources of each type to meet the demand.

BASKETBALL COURTS

Response Category	Total N = 55
Sufficient	73%
Insufficient	27%

BOATING ACCESS

Response Category	Total N = 50
Sufficient	60%
Insufficient	40%

CAMPING

Response Category	Total N = 48
Sufficient	31%
Insufficient	69%

FIELDS - BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

Response Category	Total N = 54
Sufficient	59%
Insufficient	41%

FIELDS - FOOTBALL

Response Category	Total N = 53
Sufficient	64%
Insufficient	36%

FIELDS - LACROSSE

Response Category	Total N = 52
Sufficient	48%
Insufficient	52%

FIELDS - MULTI-USE

Response Category	Total N = 53
Sufficient	64%
Insufficient	36%

FIELDS - SOCCER

Response Category	Total N = 54
Sufficient	63%
Insufficient	37%

FISHING ACCESS

Response Category	Total N = 50
Sufficient	72%
Insufficient	28%

GARDENS

Response Category	Total N = 53
Sufficient	72%
Insufficient	28%

GOLF COURSES

Response Category	Total N = 49
Sufficient	59%
Insufficient	41%

HISTORIC/EDUCATIONAL SITES

Response Category	Total N = 50
Sufficient	80%
Insufficient	20%

HUNTING

Response Category	Total N = 44
Sufficient	50%
Insufficient	50%

PICNIC AREAS

Response Category	Total N = 52
Sufficient	65%
Insufficient	35%

PLAYGROUNDS

Response Category	Total N = 54
Sufficient	72%
Insufficient	28%

SWIMMING, BEACHES, OR OUTDOOR POOLS

Response Category	Total N = 54
Sufficient	72%
Insufficient	28%

TENNIS COURTS

Response Category	Total N = 54
Sufficient	78%
Insufficient	22%

TRAILS

Response Category	Total N = 52
Sufficient	73%
Insufficient	27%

TURF FIELDS, ARTIFICIAL

Response Category	Total N = 49
Sufficient	41%
Insufficient	59%

TURF FIELDS, NATURAL

Response Category	Total N = 48
Sufficient	52%
Insufficient	48%

VOLLEYBALL COURTS

Response Category	Total N = 48
Sufficient	33%
Insufficient	67%

WINTER SPORTS

Response Category	Total N = 51
Sufficient	37%
Insufficient	63%

SECTION 4: AGE CLUSTER SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Q9. Now, thinking about the various age groups or clusters of people you serve, please indicate whether or not you are currently able to adequately meet their needs. Following this question, you will have an opportunity to indicate the problems you face in serving each group.

FAMILIES

Response Category	Total N = 52
Able	89%
Unable	11%

PRESCHOOL CHILDREN, AGES 0-4

Response Category	Total N = 52
Able	71%
Unable	29%

CHILDREN, AGES 5-12

Response Category	Total N = 52
Able	94%
Unable	6%

ADOLESCENTS, AGES 13-18

Response Category	Total N = 52
Able	71%
Unable	29%

ADULTS, AGES 19-54

Response Category	Total N = 52
Able	79%
Unable	21%

SENIORS, AGES 55+

Response Category	Total N = 51
Able	77%
Unable	23%

Q10. For any group in which you indicated that needs were not being adequately met, please specify what is lacking.

Response Category (5 most common coded responses)	Response Rank
Lack of community center/programming space/indoor facilities	1
Lack of programming resources (money for staff/program expansion)	2
Lack of outdoor recreation spaces (fields, trails, splashboard area)	3
Lack of indoor spaces specific to seniors (senior center)	4
Inability to identify the recreation desires of adolescents	5

Q11. What are the two most popular resources or outdoor activities you supply for families?

RESOURCE/ACTIVITY ONE

Response Category (coded from responses)	Total N = 48
Ponds/beaches/boating/kayak rentals	25%
Parks/pavilions/boardwalks	17%
Playgrounds	15%
Aquatics/swimming/pools (indoor & outdoor)	15%
Special events (Turkey trots/community days/town social events)	13%
Athletic fields	10%
Summer camps/after school programs	4%
Community centers/senior centers	2%

RESOURCE/ACTIVITY TWO

Response Category (coded from responses)	Total N = 46
Parks/pavilions/boardwalks	26%
Special events (Turkey trots/community days/town social events)	17%
Athletic fields	15%
Ponds/beaches/boating/kayak rentals	11%
Aquatics/swimming/Pools (indoor & outdoor)	11%
Playgrounds	7%
Summer camps/after school programs	7%
Fishing	4%
Community centers/senior centers	2%

Q12. What are the two most popular resources or outdoor activities you supply for pre-school children, aged 0-4?

SPECIFIED RESOURCE/ACTIVITY ONE

Response Category (coded from responses)	Total N = 47
Playgrounds	53%
Aquatics/swimming/Pools (indoor & outdoor)	15%
Day camps/programming (non-sport)/classes	15%
Sports programming/playgroups	9%
Parks/walking paths/trails	6%
Beaches/Lakes	2%

SPECIFIED RESOURCE/ACTIVITY TWO

Response Category (<i>coded from responses</i>)	Total N = 35
Aquatics/swimming/pools (indoor & outdoor)	26%
Playgrounds	20%
Day camps/programming (non-sport)/classes	20%
Beaches/Lakes	14%
Parks/walking paths/trails	6%
Fields	6%
Sports programming/playgroups	6%
Community center	3%

SPECIFIED RESOURCES/ACTIVITIES COMBINED

Response Category (<i>coded from responses</i>)	Total N = 82
Playgrounds	39%
Aquatics/swimming/pools (indoor & outdoor)	19%
Day camps/programming (non-sport)/classes	17%
Beaches/lakes	7%
Sports programming/playgroups	7%
Parks/walking paths/trails	6%
Fields	2%
Community center	1%

Q13. What are the two most popular resources or outdoor activities you supply for children, aged 5-12?

SPECIFIED RESOUCE/ACTIVITY ONE

Response Category (<i>coded from responses</i>)	Total N = 49
Day camps/programming (non-sport)/classes	27%
Fields	27%
Sports programming/playgroups	20%
Playgrounds	16%
Aquatics/swimming/pools (indoor & outdoor)	4%
Beaches/lakes	2%
Parks/walking paths/trails	4%

SPECIFIED RESOURCE/ACTIVITY TWO

Response Category (<i>coded from responses</i>)	Total N = 45
Day camps/programming (non-sport)/classes	24%
Aquatics/swimming/pools (indoor & outdoor)	20%
Fields	16%
Playgrounds	16%
Beaches/lakes	11%
Sports programming/playgroups	11%
Parks/walking paths/trails	2%

SPECIFIED RESOURCES/ACTIVITIES COMBINED

Response Category (<i>coded from responses</i>)	Total N = 94
Day camps/programming (non-sport)/classes	26%
Fields	21%
Sports programming/playgroups	16%
Playgrounds	16%
Aquatics/swimming/pools (indoor & outdoor)	12%
Beaches/lakes	6%
Parks/walking paths/trails	3%

Q14. What are the two most popular resources or outdoor activities you supply for adolescents, aged 13-18?

SPECIFIED RESOURCE/ACTIVITY ONE

Response Category (<i>coded from responses</i>)	Total N = 46
Fields	30%
Summer camp/programming (non-sport)/adventure camp	13%
Sports programming/playgroups	13%
Skate parks	11%
Parks/walking paths/trails	7%
Social events/day trips	7%
Indoor recreation facilities (basketball courts, gyms)	7%
Beaches/lakes	4%
Leadership or counselor training/lifeguard duties	4%
Special events (road races, concerts)	2%
Aquatics/swimming/pools (indoor & outdoor)	2%

SPECIFIED RESOURCE/ACTIVITY TWO

Response Category (<i>coded from responses</i>)	Total N = 42
Sports programming/playgroups	19%
Aquatics/swimming/pools (indoor & outdoor)	17%
Beaches/lakes	14%
Fields	12%
Skate parks	10%
Summer camp/programming (non-sport)/adventure camp	10%
Parks/walking paths/trails	7%
Special events (road races, concerts)	5%
Indoor recreation facilities (basketball courts, gyms)	3%
Leadership or counselor training/lifeguard duties	2%
Social events/day trips	2%

SPECIFIED RESOURCES/ACTIVITIES COMBINED

Response Category (<i>coded from responses</i>)	Total N = 88
Fields	22%
Sports programming/playgroups	16%
Summer camp/programming (non-sport)/adventure camp	11%
Skate parks	10%
Aquatics/swimming/pools (indoor & outdoor)	9%
Beaches/lakes	9%
Parks/walking paths/trails	7%
Indoor recreation facilities (basketball courts, gyms)	5%
Social events (dances)/day trips	5%
Special events (road races, concerts)	3%
Leadership or counselor training/lifeguard duties	3%

Q15. What are the two most popular resources or outdoor activities you supply for adults, aged 19-54?

SPECIFIED RESOURCE/ACTIVITY ONE

Response Category (<i>coded from responses</i>)	Total N = 48
Trails/paths	27%
Sports (including leagues and fields)	17%
Trips/programs/special events (road races, concerts)	17%
Outdoor recreation facilities (tennis courts, skate parks, golf courses)	8%
Fitness classes	8%
Beaches	8%
Parks/gardens/picnic areas	6%
Pools/aquatics	6%
Other	2%

SPECIFIED RESOURCE/ACTIVITY TWO

Response Category (<i>coded from responses</i>)	Total N = 43
Trails/paths	33%
Parks/gardens/picnic areas	14%
Pools/aquatics	14%
Beaches	9%
Sports (including leagues and fields)	9%
Other	9%
Trips/programs/special events (road races, concerts)	5%
Outdoor recreation facilities (tennis courts, skate parks, golf courses)	5%
Fitness classes	2%

SPECIFIED RESOURCES COMBINED

Response Category (<i>coded from responses</i>)	Total N = 91
Trails/paths	30%
Sports (including leagues and fields)	13%
Trips/programs/special events (road races, concerts)	11%
Parks/gardens/picnic areas	10%
Pools/aquatics	10%
Beaches	9%
Outdoor recreation facilities (tennis courts, skate parks, golf courses)	7%
Fitness classes	6%
Other	5%

Q16. What are the two most popular resources or outdoor activities you supply for seniors, aged 55+?

SPECIFIED RESOURCE/ACTIVITY ONE

Response Category (<i>coded from responses</i>)	Total N = 49
Trails/paths	31%
Fitness classes	16%
Trips/programs/special events (road races, concerts)	14%
Parks/gardens/picnic areas	12%
Beaches	10%
Pools/aquatics	6%
Indoor facilities (senior center, recreation centers)	6%
Outdoor recreation facilities (tennis courts, skate parks, golf courses)	4%

SPECIFIED RESOURCE/ACTIVITY TWO

Response Category (<i>coded from responses</i>)	Total N = 45
Trips/programs/special events (road races, concerts)	22%
Trails/paths	18%
Parks/gardens/picnic areas	18%
Outdoor recreation facilities (tennis courts, skate parks, golf courses)	13%
Pools/aquatics	11%
Beaches	4%
Fitness classes	4%
Indoor facilities (senior center, recreation centers)	4%

SPECIFIED RESOURCES COMBINED

Response Category (<i>coded from responses</i>)	Total N = 94
Trails/paths	25%
Trips/programs/special events (road races, concerts)	18%
Parks/gardens/picnic areas	15%
Fitness classes	11%
Pools/aquatics	9%
Outdoor recreation facilities (tennis courts, skate parks, golf courses)	9%
Beaches	7%
Indoor facilities (senior center, recreation centers)	5%

SECTION 5: OUTDOOR RECREATION TRENDS and NEEDS

Q17. Which outdoor recreation activity/activities provided by your department have shown an increase in participation over the past 5 to 10 years, if any? (multiple responses accepted per participant)

Response Category (<i>5 most common coded responses</i>)	Response Rank
Summer camp	1
Lacrosse	2
Walking	3
Trails	4
Pool use	5

Q18. Which outdoor recreation activity/activities provided by your department have shown a decrease in participation over the past 5 to 10 years, if any?

Response Category (<i>coded from responses</i>)	Total N = 51
<i>Multiple responses accepted, N varies by response category</i>	
Baseball/softball (<i>N=14</i>)	28%
Other (adult programming) (<i>N=9</i>)	18%
No activities have shown a decrease in participation (<i>N=8</i>)	16%
Outdoor sports (excluding baseball/softball) (<i>N=8</i>)	16%
Tennis (<i>N=6</i>)	12%
Organized youth sports (non-specific) (<i>N=4</i>)	8%
Swimming lessons/swimming areas (<i>N=2</i>)	4%

Q19. Which outdoor recreation activity/activities do you predict will gain popularity in your community over the next 5 to 10 years?

Response Category (coded from responses)	Total N = 45
Walking/hiking	24%
Day camps/summer camps	20%
Beach	18%
Disc golf	9%
Cycling	7%
Lacrosse	7%
Pickleball	7%
Softball	4%
Other	4%

Q20. Which outdoor recreation activity/activities do you predict will lose popularity in your community over the next 5 to 10 years?

Response Category (coded from responses)	Total N = 27
Youth/organized sports	52%
Other outdoor activities (triathlon/pickleball)	22%
Golf/tennis	11%
Playgrounds	7%
Fitness/dance classes	7%

Q21. State which outdoor recreation facilities or programs not currently provided in your community should be provided. (Up to two answers were coded)

SPECIFIED FACILITY/PROGRAM ONE

Response Category (coded from responses)	Total N = 37
Pool/aquatic facilities	22%
Fields	16%
Outdoor recreation facilities (non-aquatic)	16%
Trails	14%
Community/senior/teen center	11%
Parks/gardens	8%
Ice rink	5%
Community events/programs	5%
Other	3%

SPECIFIED FACILITY/PROGRAM TWO

Response Category (coded from responses)	Total N = 16
Pool/aquatic facilities	31%
Outdoor recreation facilities (non-aquatic)	31%
Community/senior/teen center	13%
Fields	13%
Community events/programs	6%
Trails	6%

SPECIFIED FACILITIES/PROGRAMS COMBINED

Response Category (<i>coded from responses</i>)	Total N = 53
Pool/aquatic facilities	25%
Trails	11%
Community/senior/teen center	11%
Parks/gardens	6%
Fields	15%
Outdoor recreation facilities (non-aquatic)	21%
Ice rink	4%
Community events/programs	6%
Other	2%

Q22. Please indicate which, if any, of the following support components are inadequate at any of the facilities in your community (select all that apply).

Response Category <i>Multiple responses accepted, N varies by response category</i>	Total N = 230
Public transportation to the facility (<i>N=32</i>)	31%
Public restrooms (<i>N=27</i>)	27%
Water fountains (<i>N=25</i>)	24%
Recycling receptacles (<i>N=23</i>)	23%
Directional or interpretive signage (<i>N=22</i>)	22%
Parking (<i>N=20</i>)	20%
Handicap accessibility, general (<i>N=17</i>)	20%
Handicap accessibility, playgrounds (<i>N=15</i>)	15%
Cell service (<i>N=12</i>)	12%
Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) (<i>N=12</i>)	12%
Trash receptacles (<i>N=9</i>)	9%
Shelter (including pavilions and gazebos) (<i>N=16</i>)	6%

Q23. Thinking about the needs of your community, please rate the following in order of importance, with "1" being the least pressing and "6" being the most urgent.

Response Category <i>Average ratings reported on a 1-6 scale</i>	Total N = 51
Improvements added to existing facilities	4.43
Maintenance of existing facilities	4.37
Increased staffing	3.92
Maintenance of existing trails	3.74
Offer additional outdoor programs	3.71
Development of new facilities	3.69

CONCLUSION

The Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection thanks you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your feedback is extremely valuable for making Connecticut a better place to live. Should you have any questions or comments about this survey, please contact Dr. Diana Cohen, Associate Professor of Political Science at Central Connecticut State University. She can be reached via e-mail at cohendit@ccsu.edu, or via telephone at 860-832-2962.