

OHIO

STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN



2024

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OHIO STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

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MIKE DEWINE

GOVERNOR OF OHIO



October 26, 2023

Chuck Sams
Director, National Park Service
Stewart Lee Udall Department of Interior Building
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Sams,

I am pleased to present the 2024 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for Ohio. Outdoor recreation is incredibly important to Ohioans, contributing to the economy, public health, and overall well-being of everyone who lives in or visits our great state.

Outdoor recreation generates substantial economic activity in Ohio, contributing to local businesses, tax revenue, and job creation. Our state's diverse natural landscapes contribute to increased tourism, drawing visitors to explore everything that Ohio has to offer. Promoting and investing in access to outdoor recreation provides opportunities for relaxation, leisure, and enjoyment, enhancing the overall quality of life for all.

This SCORP sets the vision for strengthening Ohioans' opportunities for outdoor recreation over the next five years. It promotes collaboration and thoughtful investment across Ohio's broad and diverse landscape, recognizing the important role played by municipal, county, nonprofit, state, federal, and private partners.

Public involvement is critical to ensuring this SCORP reflects the needs and desires of Ohioans. Using input from an advisory group, interviews with recreation providers, community listening sessions, a public survey, and public comments, Ohio developed five broad goals for enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities:

- Advance the trail network.
- Improve, enhance, and adapt recreational facilities.
- Emphasize recreational opportunities and access to Ohio's waters.
- Improve awareness and access to outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Protect and sustain the natural environment.

For each of these goals, several strategies and actions are recommended to provide guidance for outdoor recreation providers as we work together to protect, improve, and expand Ohio's tremendous outdoor recreation opportunities for everyone. I have approved this plan and certify that ample opportunity for public participation has taken place during its development.

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike DeWine".

Mike DeWine
Governor

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**NATURAL
RESOURCES**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ohioans enjoy the outdoors. The state's natural resources provide numerous opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities, from hiking a long-distance trail, fishing in Lake Erie, and tent camping in a state park to night sky viewing in nature preserves and picnicking in local parks. Ohio's outdoor recreation opportunities can be found in federal, state, and local parks, state nature preserves, federal and state forest lands, national and state wildlife lands, historic heritage sites, national trails, and state scenic rivers.

Ohio's 2024 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) was developed to assist recreation providers and state funding offices to strategically deliver

recreational experiences and facilities Ohioans want that provide personal, social, health, and economic benefits. The planning period for this SCORP is 2024 through 2028.

During SCORP development, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) engaged the public and outdoor recreation providers, including creating an Advisory Committee, conducting a public survey, conducting interviews, hosting community listening sessions, conducting qualitative panel interviews, and providing updates on the ODNR website. The public survey was developed in partnership with Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs. Over 15 weeks, from November 2022 to February 2023, 5,948



Ohio's varied landscape and four distinct seasons afford many outdoor recreational opportunities year-round. Bicycling is very popular, especially during the fall color season.



The Ohio public survey on recreation participation found that Ohioans participate in various outdoor recreation activities, with trail activities being the most popular.

households completed the survey, and responses were received from all 88 counties in Ohio. The survey found that Ohioans participated in a wide range of outdoor recreation. Trail activities are the most popular, with 95 percent of households using Ohio's trails. Other popular activities include scenic driving, canoeing, kayaking, touring historic heritage sites, bicycling, and swimming. More passive recreation activities Ohioans enjoy include picnicking, wildlife viewing, nature photography, and night sky viewing. In addition to the public survey, ODNR partnered with DJ Case & Associates (DJ Case) to conduct 13 outdoor recreation

provider interviews, six listening sessions, and qualitative panel interviews. Listening sessions were held in counties with low survey response rates and with populations who were underrepresented in the survey. The online panel comprised Ohio residents who self-identified as Hispanic, Asian, Black/African American, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaskan Native, or multiple races. Over two weeks between April and May, 1,120 panel interviews were completed. Overall, the themes heard during the outdoor recreation provider interviews, the listening sessions, and the panel interviews were similar to the public survey results.

Ohio's changing demographics were an important factor considered during the planning process. Although Ohio's population has seen relatively modest growth, it is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse. The fastest-growing racial and ethnic group in Ohio is the Asian population, followed by the Hispanic population. Ohio's population is also aging, with one in four Ohioans expected to be 60 years or older by 2040. As population shifts occur, it will be important to ensure that Ohio's outdoor participant base reflects the diversifying population. It is vital that outdoor recreation activities reflect the needs and desires of this changing population.

Based on public input and the results of the year-long planning process, the following strategic priorities were developed for the 2024-2028 SCORP:

- **Advance the trail network** by focusing on completing trail projects that fill gaps, complete long-distance trails, build connections with existing trails, and create connections within and between communities.
- **Improve, enhance, and adapt existing recreational facilities**, focusing on incorporating sustainable design concepts, integrating technology and safety enhancements in upgrades and improvements, and ensuring projects have sustainable maintenance plans and community support.
- **Emphasize recreational opportunities and access to Ohio's waters**, focusing on projects with access and amenities for paddling sports, increased wayfinding on waterways, and messaging about water access opportunities.
- **Improve awareness and access to outdoor recreation opportunities** to increase familiarity with nearby recreational opportunities and increase engagement and participation in outdoor recreation.
- **Protect and sustain the natural environment** to continue the legacy of conserving high-quality natural resources and providing appropriate outdoor recreation experiences in areas that can sustain use.

These priorities will continue to advance and improve Ohio's outdoor recreation, promoting stewardship, conservation, and awareness of the natural world. In continuing to work toward these goals, Ohio will enhance outdoor recreational experiences, improve access, and provide quality outdoor spaces for all to enjoy.

INTRODUCTION



With activities ranging from walking, rock climbing, skiing, fishing, hunting, and camping to bicycling, backpacking, sailing, wildlife watching, picnicking, movie nights, and outdoor sports such as baseball, soccer, and football, outdoor recreation has something for everyone. A wide variety of possible activities can make up outdoor recreation. Broadly defined, outdoor recreation is when a person participates in leisure activities in an outdoor setting. Individuals may engage in outdoor recreation for various reasons, including enjoyment, relaxation, exercise, and adventure. It may or may not use a built facility, i.e., fishing from a dock versus the shoreline; however, it does not include activities inside a building, such as swimming in an indoor pool. Outdoor recreation can overlap with competitive outdoor activities like pickleball tournaments or 5k races and can occur with other activities, like outdoor education, through interpretive or skill-building programs. Or it could be a way to enjoy the beauty of nature through more passive activities, such as bird watching or enjoying the scenery.

With approximately 61,000 river and stream miles, more than 1 million acres of publicly accessible lands, and thousands of trail miles, Ohio offers nearly endless opportunities for outdoor recreation. These resources provide connections with nature and each other, healthier lifestyles, and a natural inheritance shared from one generation to the next. Whether it's



Individuals engage in outdoor recreation for various reasons, including enjoyment, relaxation, exercise, and adventure. Ohio has something for everyone!

exploring scenic trails, challenging oneself in outdoor sports, or simply unwinding amidst the tranquility of nature, outdoor recreation provides a refreshing escape from the demands of everyday life.

Plan Purpose

The 2024 Ohio Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is a five-year strategic plan that guides state and local investments for developing and managing outdoor recreational lands and facilities. It is the eleventh in a series of comprehensive plans that represent Ohio's commitment to continuous outdoor

recreation planning. The SCORP serves as a guide to making informed decisions about allocating resources, funding priorities, and preserving and enhancing recreational opportunities. This plan establishes priorities for achieving outdoor recreation goals by evaluating the ongoing and emerging outdoor recreation trends and needs. In addition, the 2024 SCORP makes Ohio eligible for U.S. National Park Service support through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) under the LWCF Act of 1965 (P.L. 88-578), which requires each state to have an approved SCORP on file with the U.S. Department of Interior National Park Service (NPS). Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 1541.03(F) authorizes the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) as the state agency responsible for the development of Ohio's SCORP and the administration of the LWCF program.

The 2024 Ohio SCORP assesses the existing outdoor recreational resources,

participation patterns, state and national trends, identifies gaps, and recommends ways public agencies may strive to meet identified needs within the constraints of the State's social, economic, and natural resources. It is Ohio's most comprehensive regional and statewide outdoor recreation data source. It provides relevant and timely information for the State to consider when apportioning the funds administered through the LWCF program, which are critical for the acquisition of new public park lands and the renovation and development of state and local park and recreation infrastructure to meet the needs of Ohioans and visitors. The 2024 Ohio SCORP also aims to promote equitable access to outdoor recreational opportunities for all residents and visitors and to support economic development through the outdoor recreation sector. By establishing a cohesive and coordinated approach, this SCORP helps ensure that outdoor recreation is



The Land and Water Conservation Fund provides funding and support for conserving and preserving important lands, waters, and natural resources across the United States. States and local governments use these funds to acquire land, water, and easements for conservation purposes, to provide public access to lands and waters, to protect historical and cultural sites, and to develop and improve outdoor recreational facilities and opportunities.

effectively planned, managed, and enjoyed by individuals and communities across Ohio. The 2024 Ohio SCORP will be effective for the five-year planning horizon from 2024 to 2028.

Land and Water Conservation Fund's Impact on Ohio

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal program established by Congress in 1964. The primary objective of the LWCF is to provide funding and support for the conservation and preservation of important lands, waters, and natural resources across the United States. The National Park Service administers the LWCF, which receives earnings from offshore oil and gas drilling activities. They allocate LWCF funds to states and local governments through state assistance grants. States and local governments use these monies to acquire land, water, and easements for conservation purposes, to provide public access to lands and waters, to protect historical and cultural sites, and to develop and improve outdoor recreational facilities and opportunities. Since 1965 the LWCF has provided over \$5.2 billion to states.

The LWCF program includes a federal program for land acquisition and a state assistance program that provides grants to states for acquiring land and developing facilities for public outdoor recreation. States are allocated funds annually based on population size and the state's eligibility for those funds.

States maintain their eligibility for LWCF funds by:

1. preparing and maintaining a SCORP that the NPS accepts,
2. submitting and gaining NPS approval for projects to receive funds, and
3. requesting obligation of the apportioned funds for the approved projects.

The LWCF has been an important tool for conserving and improving outdoor spaces and has benefited communities nationwide. Unfortunately, federal allocations to the states have varied over the years and have often fallen short of the authorized level of LWCF funding, leading to unmet conservation and recreation needs. In 2019, however, Congress permanently reauthorized the LWCF in the Dingell Act, and in 2020, the Great American Outdoors Act authorized permanent annual funding for LWCF, no longer requiring annual congressional appropriations.

In Ohio, the program has been instrumental in expanding and enhancing public access to outdoor spaces, safeguarding critical habitats, preserving cultural and historic sites, and promoting outdoor recreation activities. Since the LWCF program began, Ohio has received over \$180 million in state assistance grants. These grants have assisted Ohio communities with 1,532 outdoor recreation projects. In 2023, ODNR recommended to the National Park Service that eight local communities receive \$3.4 million in LWCF funding.



Ohio ranks fifth nationally in watercraft registrations, with over 653,000 registered boats (motorized and non-motorized).

As the state agency responsible for administering Ohio's LWCF program, ODNR reviews funding requests and ranks them using the Open Project Selection Process (OPSP). To ensure the grant-assisted sites are a permanent legacy to outdoor recreation, Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act requires they be maintained in perpetuity for public outdoor recreation use or be replaced via a specified process with lands of equal market value and recreational usefulness. This assures the permanency of outdoor recreation sites in Ohio and nationwide for future generations.

Planning Process

Overall, public input in decision-making processes ensures that decisions are made in the public's best interest, promotes accountability, and enriches outcomes with a wider range of perspectives and experiences. ODNR designed a public input process to gather information on Ohio residents' outdoor recreation behaviors, needs, and priorities. Efforts were made to ensure the process allowed for the inclusion of voices from different communities, demographic groups, and interested parties who may be directly or indirectly affected by the decisions. As part of this process, ODNR created an Advisory Committee, developed

an Ohio resident online survey, conducted outdoor recreation provider interviews, held listening sessions, and conducted qualitative panel interviews.



Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and his family enjoying the fourth annual Inland Fish Ohio Day at Acton Lake in Hueston Woods State Park. Extraordinary fishing opportunities can be found across Ohio in its lakes, reservoirs, rivers, and streams.

Advisory Committee

The 2024 Ohio SCORP Advisory Committee comprised 23 representatives from local, state, and federal government agencies, park districts, and municipal, township, and county organizations. Committee members were selected for their expertise, knowledge, and interest in outdoor recreation in Ohio. The committee met several times from October 2022 to May 2023 to discuss statewide issues, trends, recreation demands, challenges, and opportunities. The group was integral in the success of public participation during the SCORP process by assisting with marketing the public survey, reviewing the survey

results, helping identify key participants for interviews, and providing resources for the listening sessions. In addition, committee members offered insights, analysis, and recommendations on the statewide priorities and strategies identified in this SCORP.

Ohio Resident Survey

An online survey collected data on outdoor recreation participation, preferences, and facility needs (Appendix A). ODNR developed the 2023 Ohio Resident Outdoor Recreation Survey in partnership with the George Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service (GVS) at Ohio University. This survey allowed any Ohio resident to represent their household and have their opinions included in the planning process. Residents were asked via an online survey their opinions about the improvement, sustainability, and development of Ohio's outdoor recreation opportunities. In addition, the survey included several questions from previous SCORP surveys to enable comparisons and identify trends. Like past SCORP surveys, questions collected information on outdoor recreation participation, preferences, facility needs, and demographics. The availability of the survey was promoted through a variety of outlets:

- Hosted on the ODNR website
- Discussed by ODNR staff in radio interviews
- Featured on various park and outdoor recreation organizations' websites

- Noted in recreation, nature-related, and tourism newsletters and state park flyers
- Appeared in various printed media publications
- Promoted on social media channels
- Highlighted at the annual Ohio Parks and Recreation Association conference
- Announced in multiple press releases

Over 15 weeks, from November 2022 to February 2023, 5,948 households completed the survey, and responses were received from all 88 counties in Ohio.

Outdoor Recreation Provider Interviews

ODNR contracted with DJ Case & Associates (DJ Case) to interview individuals or groups with a vested interest in outdoor recreation in Ohio. ODNR and DJ Case worked closely together to identify potential interview participants. Interviewees were individuals who are affected by or have an impact



Public input in decision-making processes ensures that decisions are made in the public's best interest, promotes accountability, and enriches outcomes with a wider range of perspectives and experiences.

on outdoor recreation opportunities in Ohio and could provide perspectives from around the state. The interviews aimed to better understand the outdoor recreation communities' perspectives, identify potential challenges and opportunities, and inform development of the priorities and strategies for this SCORP. DJ Case social scientists conducted 13 one-hour interviews from November 7, 2022, to April 10, 2023.

Listening Sessions

ODNR provided additional input opportunities in counties with fewer responses to the Ohio resident survey and groups with lower than anticipated response rates. ODNR worked with DJ Case to pursue alternative approaches to collecting additional public input after a review of past efforts revealed low attendance and participation at focus groups. Keeping in mind that one of the best ways to hear from people is to go to where the people are, multiple listening sessions were set up.

The listening sessions were designed to hear residents' perspectives and feedback on outdoor recreation activities, challenges, and needs. They were set up to coincide with previously scheduled events to allow researchers to visit residents instead of having them come to them. The main audience for these listening sessions were residents 65 years or older since they had an overall lower-than-expected survey response in a focal area of nine counties that recorded ten or fewer responses to

the Ohio resident survey. The Advisory Committee and ODNR assisted with contacting local and regional Councils on Aging (COA) to coordinate with ongoing local community events such as lunches, dinners, and planned COA activities. Researchers from DJ Case attended these events and discussed outdoor recreation activities, challenges to participation, and needs in their communities. In March 2023, over 100 Ohio residents participated in six listening sessions held in the following locations:

- Mercer County: Celina, OH
- Williams County: Bryan, OH
- Paulding County: Paulding, OH
- Monroe County: Woodsfield, OH
- Gallia County: Gallipolis, OH
- Preble County: Eaton, OH

Qualitative Panel Interviews

In addition to the lower responses from residents in the nine counties and from older residents, responses to the public survey were predominantly from residents who self-identified as white. To ensure the process was informed by input from diverse audiences, ODNR worked with DJ Case to conduct qualitative panel interviews with Ohio residents underrepresented in the online survey. Using the questionnaire developed for the Ohio Resident Survey, the qualitative panel interviews were conducted using an online panel of Ohio residents who self-identified as Hispanic, Asian, Black/African American, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaskan Native, or multi-racial. As with the Ohio resident survey, respondents were asked about their outdoor recreation participation, preferences, challenges to participation, and recreational facility needs. Over two weeks, from April 24, 2023, to May 5, 2023, the panel interviews were completed by 1,120 respondents.



Outdoor recreation offers an opportunity to connect with nature, appreciate the beauty of the outdoors, and experience the physical and mental benefits of being in a natural environment. Ohio's varied landscapes and natural borders paint the backdrop for creating these outdoor connections.

OHIO'S NATURAL BACKDROP FOR RECREATION

Outdoor recreation offers an opportunity to connect with nature, appreciate the beauty of the outdoors, and experience the physical and mental benefits of being in a natural environment. Ohio's varied landscapes and natural borders paint the backdrop for creating these outdoor connections. The state encompasses over 26 million land acres and 2.5 million water acres. With a mixture of flat plains, rolling hills, river valleys, the Lake Erie coastal plain, and plateaus, Ohio has many opportunities to deepen local natural experiences by connecting residents and visitors with quality outdoor recreation opportunities and spaces.

Found in every land habitat in Ohio, the American goldfinch is a common resident of weedy fields, fencerows, and seed-bearing trees. Bird banding is an effective tool for studying birds without interfering with their natural behavior.



Topography and Climate

From the shores of Lake Erie to the rolling hills of Appalachia, Ohio boasts a variety of landscapes for those looking to connect with the outdoors. Ohio offers the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains in the eastern half of the state, the Lake Erie shoreline and islands along the northern boundary, and the central plains in the western half. Rolling hills and valleys characterize the northern portion of the Alleghany Plateau, while the southern part is home to some of the state's most rugged areas with steep hills and valleys (Exhibit 1). The rugged topography of Ohio's south has high scenic interest and offers diverse outdoor recreation opportunities. The Lake Erie shoreline, characterized by sandy beaches in the west and clay bluffs in the east, runs across the state's northern boundary to the northwest corner along the Michigan border. The hills and valleys of eastern Ohio gradually recede as you move westward across the state. The gently rolling landscape of the central plains extends westward into Indiana. Northwest Ohio holds remnants of the Great Black Swamp, a massive wetland that once covered thousands of square miles. Today these remnants form marshes along Lake Erie's western shores, providing excellent birdwatching opportunities.

The varied landscape and four distinct seasons afford recreational opportunities

ranging from boating and fishing in the summers to sledding and snowshoeing in the winters. Weather in Ohio is like other states across the north-central and eastern United States. January tends to be the coldest month and July the warmest, with average monthly highs of 34°F and 84°F, respectively. The state's climate varies considerably across the state. Summers tend to be warmer the further south one travels, and the average snowfall is much higher in the northern parts of the state. Summers can be warm and humid, with temperatures exceeding 100°F occasionally. Winters are cold, with an average of 5 days of subzero temperatures. The average annual temperature statewide is 52°F and ranges from 55°F in the south to 49°F in the northeast. On the northern border, Lake Erie keeps the surrounding area cooler in the spring and warmer in the fall. Since the start of the 20th century, the average temperature has risen 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit, potentially leading to negative impacts on cities across Ohio due to urban heat island effects. Importantly for outdoor recreation providers, parks have been demonstrated to be a key strategy in mitigating the dangers of urban heat islands.¹

Precipitation amounts vary significantly across the state. Amounts are typically highest in the south and east and decrease toward the northwest. During the winter,

¹ Urban heat island effect occurs when dense concentrations of pavement, buildings, and other surfaces absorb and retain heat.

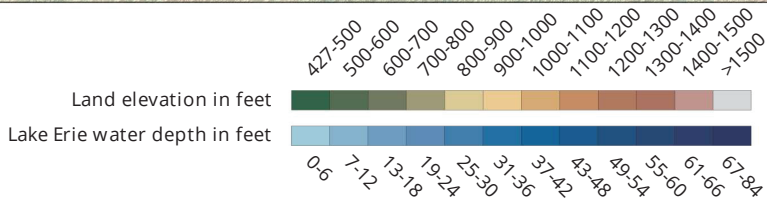
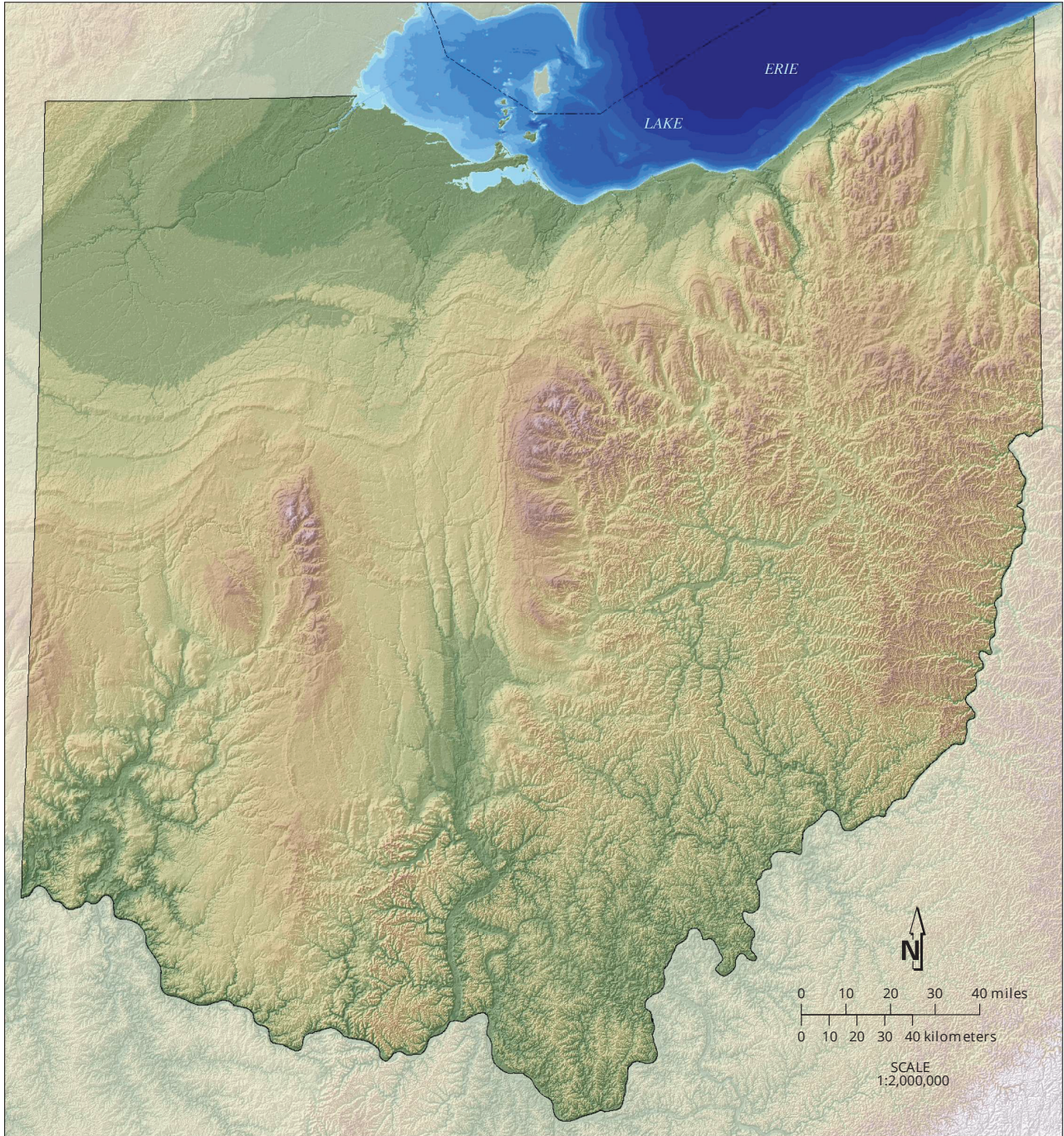
Exhibit 1: Shaded Elevation Map of Ohio

STATE OF OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SHADED ELEVATION MAP OF OHIO



Recommended citation: Ohio Division of Geological Survey, 2002 (2003), Shaded elevation map of Ohio—earth-tone version: Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey Map MG-1, generalized page-size version with text, 2 p., scale 1:2,000,000.



cold air moving across the warmer water of Lake Erie (lake effect) is a considerable driver of snowfall along the northeast shores. Snowfall ranges from 70 to 100 inches² annually in the Snowbelt to less than 20 inches along the Ohio River in the south.

Water Resources

Ohio's waters offer a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities. The state's waters are home to diverse fish species that anglers can enjoy fishing for from the shore or boats. Ohio's waterways provide excellent canoeing and kayaking opportunities, and some rivers have sections with rapids suitable for rafting or tubing. Various wildlife species find their homes along the state's rivers and streams, and birdwatching is a popular activity along the rivers where you can spot waterfowl, migratory birds, and other species. Many communities in Ohio have developed riverfront parks and recreational areas along their rivers and streams, offering residents and visitors opportunities for outdoor recreation and relaxation.

Ohio has two primary watersheds; the northern part of the state is in the Lake Erie Watershed, and the rest of Ohio is part of the Ohio River Watershed. The Lake Erie Watershed includes some of the state's major rivers, including the Auglaize, Maumee, Sandusky, Cuyahoga, and Grand Rivers. The Ohio River Watershed covers the southern three-quarters of the state and

includes Mahoning, Muskingum, Hocking, Scioto, Little Miami, and Great Miami Rivers (Exhibit 2). In addition, a small area of west central Ohio drains into the Wabash River Basin of Indiana.

There are over 3,900 square miles of surface water in the state, 3,579 square miles of which are within Lake Erie, and the remaining portion is spread among inland lakes (Figure 1). In addition to lakes, Ohio has over 50 rivers and several historic canals that once transported goods and

Figure 1: Ohio's Water Resources

Lake Erie

2,290,480 water acres, 312 miles of shoreline

Ohio River

91,000 water acres, 451 miles of shoreline

Sandusky Bay

36,000 water acres

State Wild & Scenic Rivers

15 scenic rivers, more than 830 miles

Inland Lakes

148,411 surface water acres (lakes >5 acres)

Small Lakes & Farm Ponds

60,000 surface water acres (lakes <5 acres)

Inland Rivers & Streams

61,500 miles

² On average, 10 inches of snow, when melted, equals 1 inch of rain.

Exhibit 2: Ohio Principal Rivers & Drainage Divide



— Principal Rivers
— Lake Erie/Ohio River Drainage Divide

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Auglaize River | 6. Kokosing River | 11. Mohican River | 16. Scioto River |
| 2. Cuyahoga River | 7. Licking River | 12. Muskingum River | 17. Scioto River Ditch |
| 3. Grand River | 8. Little Miami River | 13. Ohio River | 18. Stillwater River |
| 4. Great Miami River | 9. Mad River | 14. Olentangy River | 19. Tuscarawas River |
| 5. Hocking River | 10. Maumee River | 15. Sandusky River | 20. Walhonding River |

people throughout the state. Although no longer used for the transportation of goods, these canals are now popular corridors connecting parks, recreation areas, and communities.

In 2019, Governor Mike DeWine created H2Ohio as a comprehensive, data-driven approach to combatting algal blooms, enhancing water quality, and improving water infrastructure over the long term. H2Ohio operates in partnership between the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the Ohio Lake Erie Commission. In 2020-2021, \$172 million was invested to implement the plan. This commitment and the pledge of ongoing funding demonstrate the importance of Ohio's waterways and the state's focus on improving all water and wastewater infrastructure and resources.

Ohio Wetlands

The 1986 Emergency Wetlands Resources Act (Public Law 99-645, Section 303) requires states to address wetlands protections in SCORP documents. The following section reviews the benefits and types of wetlands in Ohio, recent planning efforts, and regional initiatives associated with wetland conservation.

Wetlands are known to provide tremendous benefits to society. Wetlands are vital in maintaining clean and healthy water sources, which is important for drinking water supplies, aquatic habitats, and overall ecosystem health. They can help reduce excess sediments and nutrients flowing into Lake Erie and Ohio's waterways. Wetlands also help regulate water levels, manage flooding and stormwater runoff, and provide a buffer against extreme



Ohio's wetlands support a rich diversity of plant and animal life. The white water-lily is one of the most recognized aquatic plants and almost always occurs in wetlands under natural conditions. The flowers, leaves, and fruits are important to pollinators, dragonflies, damselflies, and turtles.



Managed principally for wetland wildlife, the Pipe Creek Wildlife Area offers opportunities for watching wildlife, hiking, waterfowl hunting, fishing, and trapping. This beautiful natural area is located not far from Cedar Point, one of the most popular amusement parks in the country.

weather events, contributing to protecting communities and infrastructure. Ohio's wetlands support a rich diversity of plant and animal life, serving as important habitats, and are an important outdoor recreation resource, offering many recreational opportunities. The scenic beauty and diversity of plant and animal life in many wetlands make them ideal locations for hiking, boating, birdwatching, sightseeing, nature photography, hunting, and fishing. Through their ability to improve water quality, wetlands can help provide expanded outdoor recreation opportunities by improving habitats for

wildlife-dependent recreation and in lakes and waterways for recreational activities like swimming and paddling (e.g., kayak, canoe, paddleboard). Ohio's efforts to conserve and manage wetland areas contribute to the overall health and well-being of its natural environment and communities.

Significant changes to Ohio's landscape since settlement has reduced wetlands, once a prominent feature of the landscape, to scattered fragments. Before European settlement, wetlands covered nearly one-fifth of the state. Most of these wetlands were swamp forests; the Great Black

Swamp in northwest Ohio once covered an area roughly the size of Connecticut. As population expanded and agriculture and development increased, about 90 percent of the state's wetlands were drained or filled.

Exhibit 3: H2Ohio - Springcreek Wetlands Project



The Springcreek Confluence Off-Channel Wetlands project is a 14-acre off-channel wetland restoration project. The project site is in a 40-acre field that had been previously planted with trees and shrubs through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program in partnership with the property landowner, and the Miami County Park District (MCPD). Restoration of the off-channel wetlands will filter floodwaters from the Great Miami River and Spring Creek during high water events and reduce in-stream energy. Fish and wildlife habitat will also be improved by wetland habitat for native fishes, macroinvertebrates, migratory birds, and reptiles/amphibians.

In recognition of the incredible importance to their communities and environment, Ohio voters have consistently supported preservation initiatives with the passage of the Clean Ohio Fund.

The Clean Ohio program, administered by the Ohio Public Works Commission, was established in 2000 through a voter-approved bond issue to fund the program to enhance the quality of life in Ohio by promoting land conservation and outdoor recreation. The program provides up to 75 percent of the cost of land acquisition for high-quality natural resource areas and sensitive ecological areas, including wetlands. This Clean Ohio program has had a significant impact since its inception. It has helped protect thousands of acres of natural areas, forests, and wetlands, ensuring their conservation for future generations. The program has been supported by multiple rounds of funding approved by Ohio voters through bond measures.

The H2Ohio plan also contains a specific focus on wetlands. This program aims to create, restore, and enhance wetlands in strategic, targeted areas. The program began its work in the Western Lake Erie Basin but has now expanded across Ohio. Work completed under this plan includes 141 current or completed wetland projects, 15,000 acres of wetland and ecosystem restoration work, and more than 100,000 acres of watershed filtered by wetland projects (Exhibit 3).

To assist with identifying high-quality wetlands, the Ohio EPA developed a methodology for characterizing wetlands referred to as the Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands (ORAM). This method creates a score for each wetland based on hydrology, plant and animal species, vegetative canopy and cover, existing buffers, and level of disturbance, among other metrics. The score is then used to categorize the wetland under the Wetland Antidegradation Rule in the Ohio Administrative Code. Under this rule, wetlands are classified as one of the following:

- **Category 1:** Wetlands with minimal wetland function and/or integrity.
- **Category 2:** Wetlands with moderate wetland function and/or integrity.
- **Category 3:** Wetlands with superior wetland function and/or integrity.

The prioritization for wetland acquisition in the state ranks the most desirable Category 3 wetlands as the highest priority and Category 1 wetlands as the lowest priority.



Known for its rolling hills, forests, and scenic river valleys, southeast Ohio is rich in recreational opportunities, varying by season.

National Wetlands Inventory

ODNR, in collaboration with federal and state agencies, park districts, and nonprofit conservation organizations, updates Ohio's wetland data included in the National Wetlands Inventory maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The National Wetlands Inventory is administered to map, classify, and provide information on the extent and characteristics of wetlands in the United States. By mapping and documenting the location and type of wetlands, the Inventory provides critical information to support decision-making processes related to wetland protection, restoration, and management.

Regional Initiatives

The Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture (UMGL JV) is a self-directed partnership involving government agencies, tribes, and non-governmental organizations, that work to achieve regional bird conservation goals directly linked to continental bird conservation plans. The UMGL JV covers more than 240 million acres, including all or part of four of the Great Lakes and much of Ohio. The partnership prioritizes wetland protection and restoration by targeting regionally important wetlands for bird habitat conservation. Restoration of marshes and maintenance of existing wetlands is vital if these habitat objectives are to be met.

Another regional effort is EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), which targets the most significant ecosystem challenges

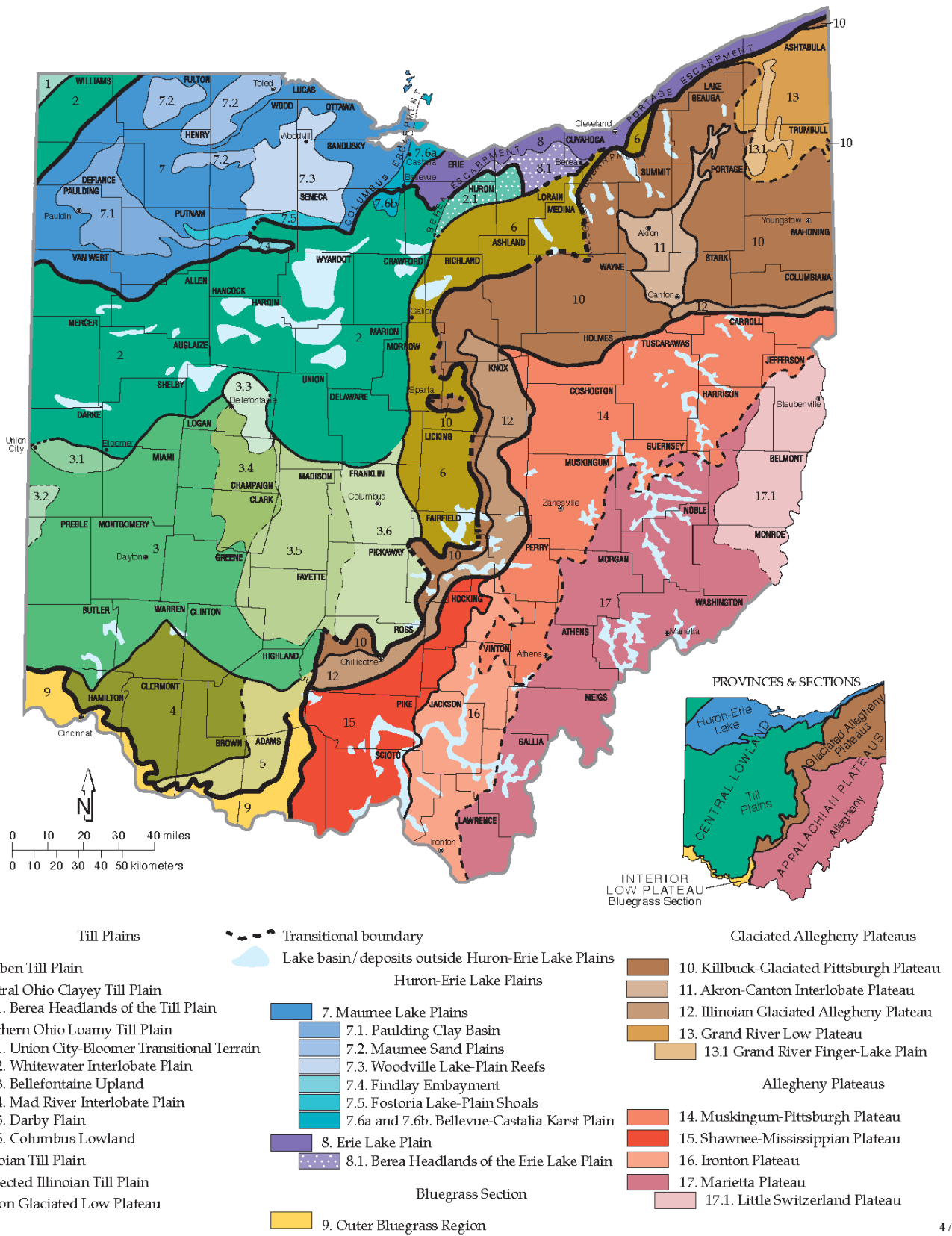
in the Great Lakes region to encourage partnerships and accelerate progress toward protecting and restoring wetlands and other habitats. The program brings resources to address top priorities to Ohio's Lake Erie. The Ohio Lake Erie Commission coordinates with state agencies, federal agencies, and local organizations to identify and report on GLRI investments in Ohio. Since 2010, funding through GLRI has resulted in \$260 million towards over 465 projects in Ohio's portion of the Lake Erie watershed. These projects remove barriers to fish spawning, reduce harmful algal blooms, make beaches safer, protect critical habitats, and reduce contamination from non-point sources. These efforts help preserve the ecological integrity, economic vitality, and recreational opportunities associated with Lake Erie (Exhibit 4).

Flora and Fauna

Ohio is characterized by distinct physiographic regions with unique geological features and landscapes (Exhibit 5). As a result, it is home to a diverse array of flora and fauna that vary across different regions and habitats. The state's natural areas and protected lands provide important habitats for many species, contributing to the region's overall biodiversity and ecological richness. Natural plant communities in the state include forests, bogs, fens, prairies, marshes, riverine, and beach and cliff communities. Nearly one-third of Ohio's land area is

A significant coastal wetland project in Ohio is the 1,000-acre Howard Marsh Metropark. A birding hotspot, the park boasts six miles of water trail for canoeing and kayaking, five miles of trails, including a 1,300-foot boardwalk, and has two overlooks for fishing and observation of hundreds of migratory songbirds, ducks, swans, and geese. Howard Marsh Metropark, previously a working farm, is located near Metzger Marsh State Wildlife Area, Maumee Bay State Park, Magee Marsh State Wildlife Area, and the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. Toledo Metroparks and the ODNR Division of Wildlife entered into a management agreement for fishing, hunting, trapping, and wildlife recreation and conservation at the marsh. The \$6 million purchase price for the property was paid for in part through the ODNR Division of Wildlife, a grant from the Clean Ohio Fund Greenspace Conservation Program, and Toledo Metroparks. Ducks Unlimited worked with Toledo Metroparks to design the wetland habitat infrastructure. The Division of Wildlife committed a total of \$4 million from Pittman-Robertson funds to help fund the wetland restoration, with Metroparks providing the 25 percent match. Ducks Unlimited obtained a \$2.8 million grant through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to assist with construction.

Exhibit 5: Physiographic Regions of Ohio



forested, most of which private woodland owners own. Forests in Ohio are primarily composed of a mix of hardwood species, including oaks, maples, hickories, beeches, and tulip poplars.

In Ohio, approximately 2,300 vascular plants are known to occur in the wild. One in five (about 22 percent) of these known plant species are not native to Ohio. While many non-native plants do not spread very far, several are considered invasive because they spread quickly, crowd out native plants, and disrupt healthy ecosystems. Non-native, invasive plants include bush honeysuckles, buckthorn, garlic mustard, multiflora rose, Canada thistle, purple loosestrife, common reed grass, reed canary grass, and Callery pear, among others. Invasive plants are a major threat to the health of our ecosystems and the sustainability of rare species. The ODNR Division of Natural Areas and Preserves determines the list of

Ohio's endangered and threatened plant species every two years. The current list contains 644 species: 93 are presumed extirpated (no natural populations have been documented since 2002), 271 are considered endangered, 159 are threatened, 92 are potentially threatened, and 24 with status currently under review. In addition, five native Ohio plants are included on the federal list of endangered and threatened species (Figure 2).

Ohio's fish and wildlife resources are abundant and varied. Ohio is home to 56 mammal species, 200 species of breeding birds, 84 species and subspecies of reptiles and amphibians, over 170 species and subspecies of fish, 100 species of mollusks, and 20 species of crustaceans. The first list of Ohio's endangered wildlife was adopted in 1974 and included 71 species. The Division of Wildlife reviews and updates the list every five years and includes six



One of the largest bird species in Ohio, the great blue heron is widely distributed throughout the state. They are often spotted in wetlands slowly stalking fish, frogs, and other small animals in shallow water.

Figure 2: Federal Endangered and Threatened Species in Ohio

SPECIES	STATUS
<i>Mammals</i>	
Indiana bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Endangered
Northern long-eared bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Endangered
<i>Birds</i>	
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Endangered
Red Knot (Rufa) <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>	Threatened
<i>Reptiles</i>	
Copperbelly water snake <i>Nerodia erythrogaster neglecta</i>	Endangered
Eastern massasauga <i>Sistrurus catenatus</i>	Endangered
<i>Fish</i>	
Scioto madtom <i>Noturus trautmani</i>	Endangered
<i>Mussels</i>	
Clubshell <i>Pleurobema clava</i>	Endangered
Fanshell <i>Cyprogenia stegaria</i>	Endangered
Northern riffleshell <i>Epioblasma torulosa rangiana</i>	Endangered
Pink mucket pearlymussel <i>Lampsilis abrupta</i>	Endangered
Purple cat's paw pearlymussel <i>Epioblasma obliquata obliquata</i>	Endangered
Rabbitsfoot <i>Wuadrula cylindrica cylindrica</i>	Endangered
Rayed bean <i>Villosa fabalis</i>	Endangered
Sheepnose <i>Plethobasus cyphus</i>	Endangered
Snuffbox <i>Epioblasma triquetra</i>	Endangered
White cat's paw pearlymussel <i>Epioblasma obliquata perobliqua</i>	Endangered
<i>Insects</i>	
American burying beetle <i>Nicrophorus americanus</i>	Endangered
Mitchell's satyr <i>Neonympha mitchellii mitchellii</i>	Extirpated
Karner blue butterfly <i>Lycaeides melissa samuelis</i>	Endangered
Hine's emerald Skimmer <i>Somatochlora hineana</i>	Endangered
Rusty patched bumble bee <i>Bombus affinis</i>	Endangered
<i>Plants</i>	
Eastern prairie fringed orchid <i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>	Threatened
Lakeside daisy <i>Hymenoxys herbacea</i>	Endangered
Northern monkshood <i>Aconitum noveboracense</i>	Endangered
Virginia spiraea <i>Spirea virginiana</i>	Endangered
Small whorled pogonia <i>Isotria medeoloides</i>	Endangered

categorizations to define the status of wildlife: endangered, threatened, species of concern, special interest, extirpated (species that occurred in Ohio at the time of European settlement and have since disappeared from the state), and extinct. The current list contains 404 species representing 16 taxa: 131 are endangered, 46 are threatened, 123 are species of concern, 57 are of special interest, 36 are presumed extirpated, and 11 are extinct (Figure 3). Twenty-seven of these species are included on the federal list of endangered and threatened species.



Kirtland's warblers bring song and color to the shores of Lake Erie during migration.

However, there are plant and wildlife species that are making a comeback in Ohio. In 2021, running buffalo clover was removed from the federal endangered species list. The population in Boch Hollow State Nature Preserve in Hocking County is one of these success stories. The Division of Natural Areas & Preserves continues to monitor it as a potentially threatened species in Ohio to ensure it never becomes endangered again. Wildlife removed from the federal endangered list include Kirtland's Warblers in 2019, and species removed from the state list include peregrine falcons in 2015, and Bobcats in 2014. Funding for endangered species, nongame animal conservation programs, and the acquisition of nature preserves is provided through state income tax check-off and specialty license plate programs. Federal funds for listed species and wildlife diversity efforts are administered through the State Wildlife Grant Program and Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund.

Additional information on Ohio's plant and wildlife species can be found on the ODNR website, www.ohiodnr.gov.

Figure 3: Ohio Listed Species Classifications

Taxon	Endangered	Threatened	Species of Concern	Special Interest	Extirpated	Extinct
Mammals	6	1	17	2	10	0
Birds	10	6	21	43	5	2
Reptiles	5	4	11	0	0	0
Amphibians	5	1	2	0	0	0
Bees	1	0	0	0	0	0
Fishes	26	9	8	0	6	2
Mollusks	23	5	11	0	11	6
Crayfishes	1	2	2	0	0	0
Isopods	2	1	0	0	0	0
Pseudoscorpions	1	0	0	0	0	0
Dragonflies	20	8	7	0	1	0
Damselflies	6	2	3	0	1	0
Crickets	0	0	1	0	0	0
Butterflies	8	1	11	1	2	0
Moths	14	4	22	11	0	0
Beetles	3	2	7	0	0	1
TOTAL	131	46	123	57	36	11

SUPPLY OF OUTDOOR RECREATION RESOURCES

Rivers, forests, wetlands, and other natural habitats often extend across multiple jurisdictions. Collaboration and partnerships between neighboring regions and interested parties are essential to ensure these interconnected ecosystems' protection, conservation, and sustainable management. By working together, partners can leverage their collective strengths, address shared challenges, promote equitable access to resources, and achieve greater success in conserving and managing Ohio's natural resources. Connecting Ohio residents and visitors to nature and outdoor recreation opportunities in the state is accomplished through the plans and actions of many governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations that provide parks, forests, and wildlife areas with a mix of outdoor recreational facilities for public use and enjoyment.

Partnerships play a crucial role in conservation and providing outdoor recreational opportunities. As part of the Girl Scouts' national initiative to plant 5 million trees across the country, ODNR worked with Girl Scout Councils to plant 250,000 trees in Ohio.



Federal Government Resources

Four federal agencies in Ohio own and manage property for outdoor recreation purposes:

- **National Park Service** (U.S. Department of Interior)
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** (U.S. Department of Interior)
- **U.S. Forest Service** (U.S. Department of Agriculture)
- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** (U.S. Department of Defense)

Two federal agencies that do not own land in Ohio, the Federal Highway Administration and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, play significant roles in providing outdoor recreational opportunities for the state's residents and visitors. The Federal

Highway Administration (FHWA) within the U.S. Department of Transportation offers funding for recreational trails, facilities, and scenic byways in Ohio through the administration of the Transportation Alternative (TA) Set-Aside Program and the Recreational Trail Program (RTP) in partnership with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and ODNR. In addition, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides funding through the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) to help state and tribal governments encourage landowners to allow public access to their land for hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-dependent recreation.

National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) was created by Congress in 1916 to establish and manage a national park system. The



Found within the largest of the National Park Service sites in Ohio, the 60-foot Brandywine Falls is among the most popular attractions of Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

NPS manages natural, historical, cultural, and recreational resources of national significance and provides programs that assist state and local efforts in developing outdoor recreation opportunities.

In Ohio, there are 11 designated Park Service sites (Exhibit 6):

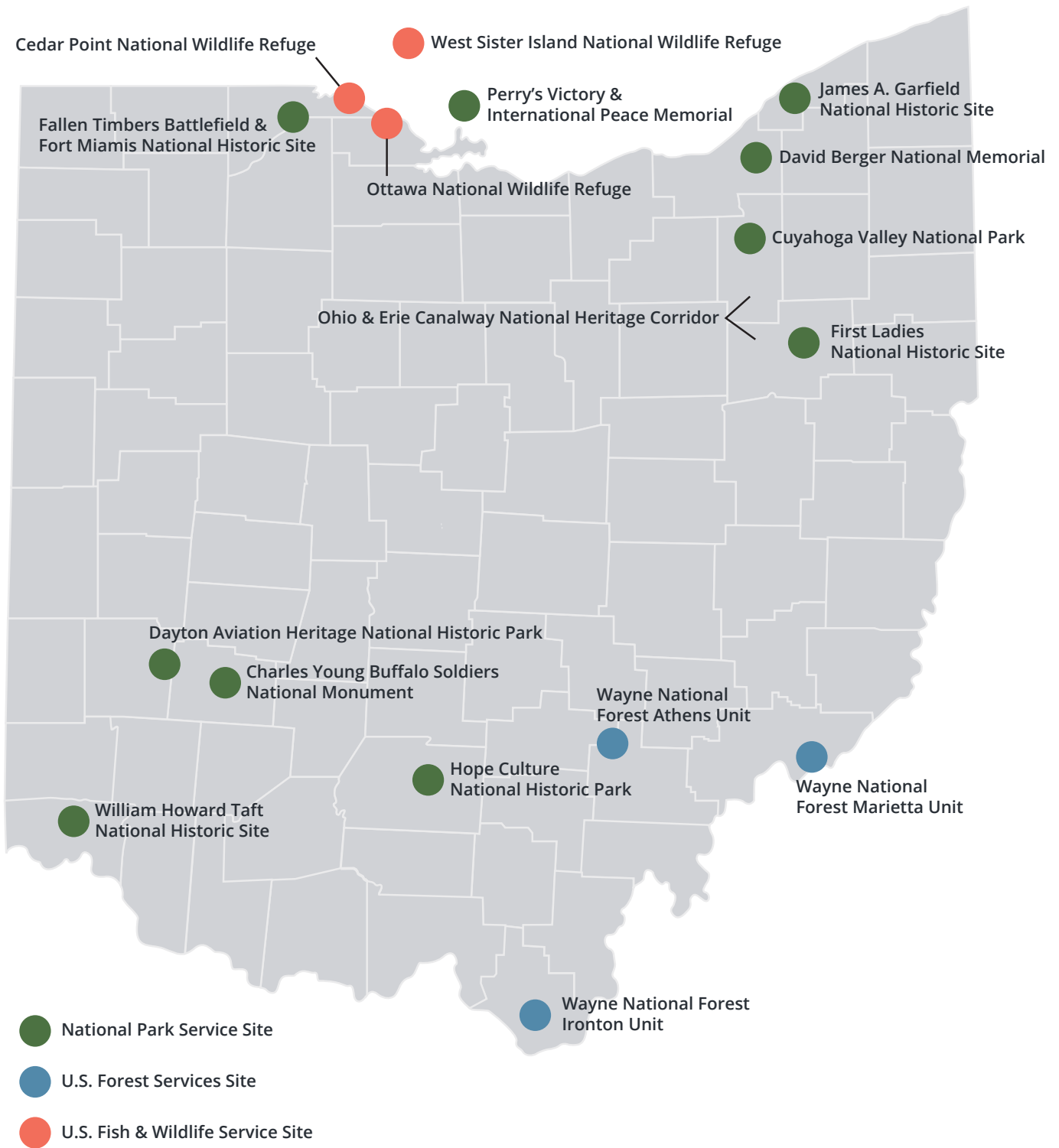
- **Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument** (Greene County)
- **Cuyahoga Valley National Park** (Summit and Cuyahoga Counties)
- **David Berger National Memorial** (Cuyahoga County)
- **Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park** (Montgomery County)
- **Fallen Timbers Battlefield & Fort Miamis National Historic Site** (Lucas County)
- **First Ladies National Historic Site** (Stark County)
- **Hopewell Culture National Historical Park** (Ross County)
- **James A. Garfield National Historical Site** (Lake County)
- **Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor** (Cuyahoga, Summit, Stark, Wayne, and Tuscarawas Counties)
- **Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial** (Ottawa County)
- **William Howard Taft National Historic Site** (Hamilton County)

Most of these sites are managed directly by the NPS; however, there are a few (i.e., David Berger National Memorial, Fallen Timbers Battlefield & Fort Miamis National Historic Site, Ohio & Erie National Heritage Canalway) that local agencies and organizations manage.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CUVA) is the largest of the NPS sites in Ohio. The park protects nearly 33,000 acres. In 2022, CUVA received more than 2.9 million recreational visits and ranked 9th (out of 63 National Parks) in annual recreation visits. A 20-mile section of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath runs through CUVA along the historic route of the Ohio & Erie Canal. Visitors to the park can also ride the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, which offers scenic excursions and shuttle service for bikers, hikers, and paddlers. CUVA is a prime example of the NPS's commitment to bringing parks closer to the people. The park is located within the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area. With a larger regional focus, the Canalway preserves 100 miles of the historic remnants of the Ohio & Erie Canal. As a Natural Heritage Area, the Canalway is intended to help local entities protect and use historical, cultural, and recreational resources for the community's benefit while raising regional and national awareness of its role in changing the nation.

The 1,200-acre Hopewell Culture National Historical Park (HOCU) preserves visible remnants of the Hopewell Culture concentrated in the Scioto River valley. The park preserves six separate archeological

Exhibit 6: Federal Service Sites



sites, which feature trails and recreational opportunities for birdwatching, hiking, and exploring the earthworks. The Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park consists of several sites, including Huffman Prairie, where visitors can walk in the area where the Wright Brothers created and flew their early aircraft. Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial was established to honor those who fought during the War of 1812 and allows fishing to provide recreational enjoyment and customary and traditional uses.

The NPS also manages the North Country National Scenic Trail (NOCO) in partnership with the North Country Trail Association and the USDA Forest Service. The NOCO is the longest in the National Trails System, stretching 4,800 miles across eight states from North Dakota to Vermont. The trail shares 1,050 miles in Ohio with the statewide Buckeye Trail and links several scenic, natural, historic, and recreational areas, including the Wayne National Forest (see Exhibit 14 on page 57).

Another major responsibility of the NPS is the Land and Water Conservation Fund program (LWCF) administration. The program was created in 1965 to help finance federal, state, and local land acquisition for outdoor recreation, state comprehensive recreation planning, and state and local outdoor recreation park development. The LWCF invests earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing to help strengthen communities, preserve their history, and protect the nation's lands and waters. LWCF monies

are allocated to states and, through the states, to their political subdivisions on a 50 percent cost reimbursement basis. The LWCF State and Local Assistance program focuses on public outdoor recreation through land acquisition and development of public park facilities and the protection of these spaces. The LWCF was permanently reauthorized in the Dingell Act in 2019 and fully and permanently funded through the Great American Outdoors Act in 2020. (See page 3 for more information on LWCF in Ohio).

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) is another significant program administered by the NPS. This program supports locally led conservation and outdoor recreation



Stretching 4,600 miles across eight states, the North Country National Scenic Trail joins the Buckeye Trail through parts of Ohio, giving users access to over a thousand miles of trail throughout Ohio.

projects by assisting communities and public land managers in developing or restoring parks, conservation areas, rivers, and wildlife habitats, in addition to creating outdoor recreation opportunities and programs. The RCTA program does not provide financial assistance or grants but rather provides technical assistance through collaborative partnerships. Assistance includes building partnerships, assessing resources, developing concept plans, engaging public participation, and identifying potential funding sources. More detail about how the RCTA program provides services for the communities and people of Ohio and across the nation can be found on the NPS website: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm>.

Ohio has also benefited from the NPS Federal Lands to Parks Program, which helps communities to acquire surplus federal properties for parks and recreational use. Under this program, states, counties, and communities may acquire these properties at no cost, conditional that the land remains available and used for public parks and recreation in perpetuity and important natural and cultural resources are protected. Since its inception in 1949, Ohio public agencies have acquired over 2,000 acres. One such acquisition is the improved river access for recreational boating and fishing on the Ohio River, created when the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers transferred ownership of lock and dam areas along the river to local and state authorities.



With 10,000 acres and hundreds of bird species recorded, Ohio's National Wildlife Refuges provide birding and photography opportunities that many visitors enjoy.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) primary responsibility is conserving and managing fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the American people. The FWS manages an extensive system of over 560 national wildlife refuges, encompassing over 150 million acres, and 70 national fish hatcheries nationwide. Recreational opportunities draw millions of people each year to national wildlife refuges across the country, boosting local economies. Visitors can enjoy hiking, paddling, wildlife viewing, nature photography, hunting, and fishing. For example, in Ohio, the FWS maintains over 10,000 acres across three National Wildlife Refuges in the western basin of Lake Erie (Exhibit 6): Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge, Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, and West Sister Island National Wildlife Refuge.

The Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge covers nearly 2,500 acres and protects rare plants and habitats not found elsewhere in Ohio. The globally rare Cottonwood

dune forests within the Refuge provide a stopover habitat for migratory songbirds and bald eagle nesting sites. Visitors to the refuge can enjoy wildlife watching, birding, photography, fishing, big game hunting, waterfowl hunting, and non-motorized boating. The Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge encompasses more than 8,000 acres of diverse habitat and is best known for the variety of birds found there. More than 300 different bird species have been spotted on the refuge. The refuge is a great place to connect with nature, whether interested in birdwatching, hiking, biking, photography, hunting, or just enjoying the outdoors. The smallest of the three refuges at 82 acres, West Sister Island National Wildlife Refuge is Ohio's only federally designated wilderness. This refuge was created to protect the largest wading bird nesting colony in the U.S. Great Lakes. To protect this vital nesting area, access is permitted for research only.

Just as importantly, the FWS administers two significant fish and wildlife funding programs. The Wildlife Restoration Program is the nation's oldest and most successful wildlife restoration program. Manufacturers' excise taxes on ammunition, firearms, and archery equipment provide the funding for this program, authorized through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, commonly known as the Pittman-Robertson Act. The FWS administers these funds to the states for research, acquisition, and habitat improvement, development of public access to areas and facilities, hunter

education programs, and the construction and operation of public target ranges. Parallel to the Wildlife Restoration Program is the Sport Fish Restoration Program, which provides money to fish and wildlife agencies for fishery projects, boating access, and aquatic education. The Sport Fish Restoration Act, also known as the Dingell-Johnson Act, dedicates permanent funding for fishery conservation. Revenue comes from manufacturers' excise taxes on sport fishing equipment, import duties of fishing tackle and pleasure boats, and the portion of gasoline fuel tax attributable to small engines and motorboats. Both programs typically offer up to 75 percent project costs; however, the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act amended the Pittman-Robertson Act in 2019 by authorizing states to charge up to 90 percent of the costs for acquiring land for expanding or constructing a public target range.

United State Forest Service

The U.S. Forest Service's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the country's 154 national forests and 20 national grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, assists state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Its public lands contribute more than \$13 billion annually to the economy and provide 20 percent of the country's clean water supply.

The U.S. Forest Service manages the Wayne National Forest, the only national forest in the state (Exhibit 6). Located in southeast Ohio, this national forest covers over 244,000 acres and offers numerous opportunities for developed, dispersed, and backcountry recreation experiences throughout its two ranger districts. U.S. Forest Service staff work closely with surrounding communities, partners, and interested parties to manage outdoor recreation opportunities in a sustainable and inclusive manner. Popular destinations in the Ironton Ranger District include off-highway vehicle (OHV) trail systems and



The Wayne National Forest staff work closely with surrounding communities, partners, and interested parties to manage outdoor recreation opportunities in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

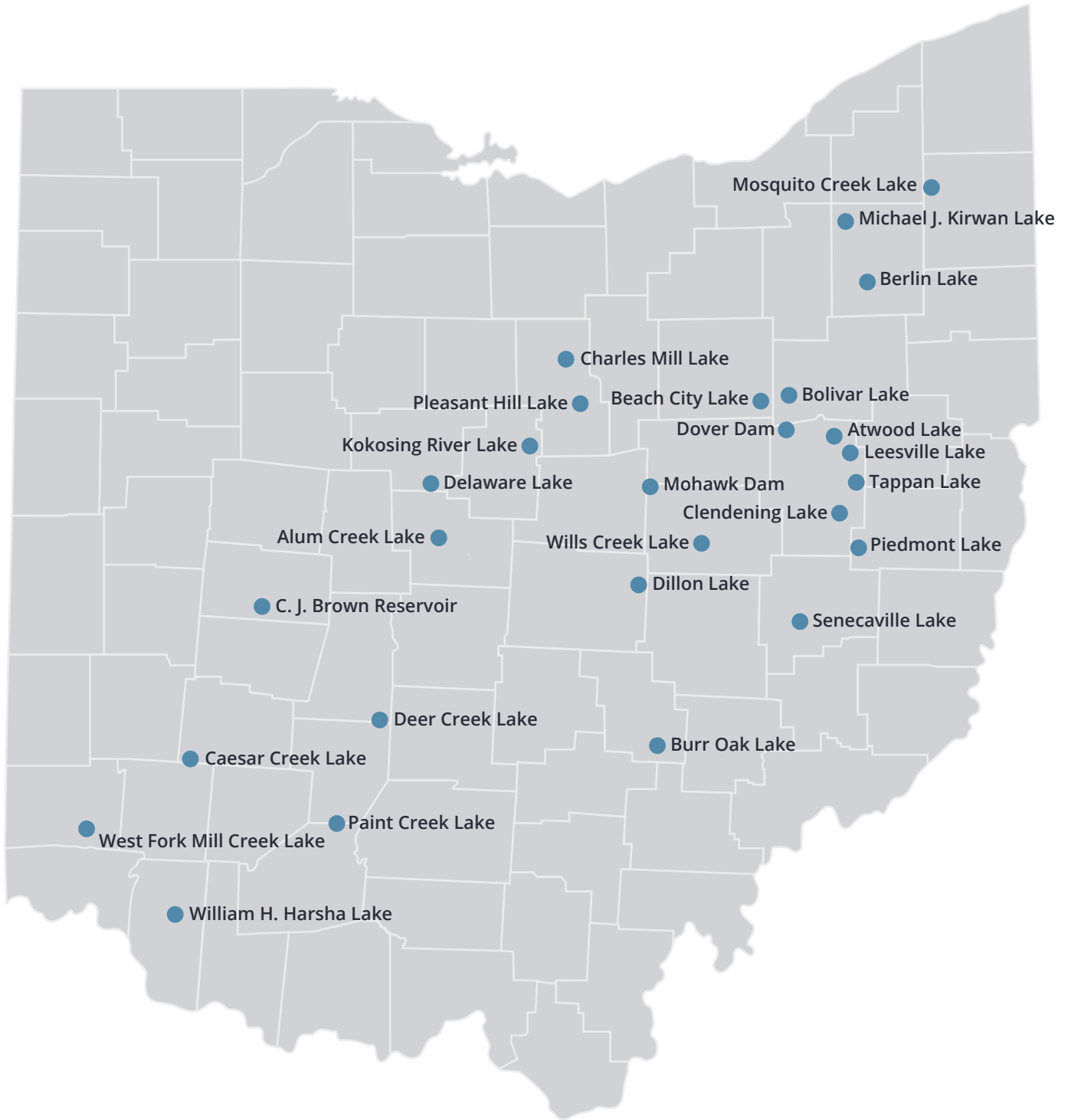
the Lake Vesuvius Recreation Area, which offers a large lake for water activities, campgrounds, equestrian and hiking trails, and historical buildings. Popular destinations in the Athens Ranger District, Athens Unit include the Monday Creek OHV Trail System and the Baileys Trail System, a 49-mile and growing human-powered trail

system connecting multiple communities in Athens County. Popular destinations in the Athens Ranger District, Marietta Unit include the Leith Run Recreation Area along the Ohio River and the Covered Bridge Scenic Byway along the Little Muskingum River. The Buckeye Trail/North Country National Scenic Trail (BT/NCT) traverses both units of the Athens Ranger District.

United States Army Corp of Engineers

The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) constructed many multi-purpose reservoirs and lock and dam structures throughout Ohio, greatly enhancing water-based recreation opportunities (Exhibit 7). The primary uses for the reservoirs are flood control, navigation, hydropower, and water supply, but they also offer opportunities for outdoor recreation and fish and wildlife management. Generally, the USACE operates and maintains the dams and reservoirs and leases adjacent land and water areas to various public recreation agencies. For example, ODNR leases approximately 95,000 acres from the USACE throughout Ohio, including Alum Creek State Park near Columbus and Mosquito Lake State Park near Youngstown. The USACE has also contributed significantly to the Ohio River's recreation potential by constructing and operating navigational locks and dams, where recreational opportunities such as boat-launch ramps, fishing access, and picnic facilities are available for public use.

Exhibit 7: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lakes in Ohio



Federal High Administration

The FHWA administers the Transportation Alternative (TA) Set-Aside Program and the Recreational Trail Program (RTP) in partnership with the states. The TA Set-Aside authorizes funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on-road and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trail projects, safe routes to school projects, and projects for planning, designing, or constructing boulevards in the rights-of-ways of formerly divided highways. The RTP received funding for 2022-2026 through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This program funds states to develop and maintain recreation trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized uses. Eligible projects include the development of urban trail linkages, trailhead, and trailside facilities; maintenance of existing trails; restoration of trail areas damaged by usage; improving access for people with disabilities; acquisition of

easements and property; development and construction of new trails; purchase and lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment; environment and safety education programs related to trails.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) plays an important role in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources across the country. For example, the Ohio Landowner/Hunter Access Partnership (OLHAP) is partly funded by the NRCS's Voluntary Public Access-Habitat Improvement Program (VPA-HIP). The OLHAP offers Ohio's farmers and landowners financial compensation for allowing public hunting on their private lands. This program has opened tens of thousands of acres in Ohio, increasing access and opportunities for hunters and trappers across the state and allowing them to further their hunting and trapping traditions.



Boating and fishing are two of the top outdoor activities at Mosquito Lake, one of the largest lakes in Ohio. The park also offers hiking, horseback riding, and snowmobiling in winter.

State Government Resources

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

One of the state's largest outdoor recreation and natural area providers, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) is responsible for managing and conserving the state's natural resources. They oversee various aspects of natural resource management, including land and water conservation, outdoor recreation, wildlife management, forestry, geological surveying, and oil and gas regulation. Created by the Ohio Legislature in 1949, ODNR works to ensure a balance between the wise use and protection of the State's natural resources for the benefit of all.

ODNR enables and oversees the recreational pursuits of millions of people each year while regulating the development and use of Ohio's vast allotment of natural resources, which annually supply billions of dollars of goods to Ohio's economy. The agency is an incredibly diverse department, owning and managing over 800,000 acres of land, including 75 state parks, 24 state forests, 144 state nature preserves, and 150 wildlife areas. The department also has authority for over 120,000 acres of inland waters, 7,000 miles of streams, 481 miles of the Ohio River, and 2.25 million acres of Lake Erie. In Ohio, the ODNR is responsible for hunting, fishing, and watercraft licenses, monitoring and permitting all mineral extraction, monitoring dam safety, managing water resources, mapping geologic structures and mineral resources,

and providing multiple outdoor grant programs to local communities.

Each division is unique in how they operate to fulfill ODNR's mission. Specific divisions within ODNR manage and administer properties and programs to meet the outdoor recreation needs of both residents and visitors to the state. Divisions of the ODNR that make significant contributions to connecting Ohioans and visitors to the outdoors include:

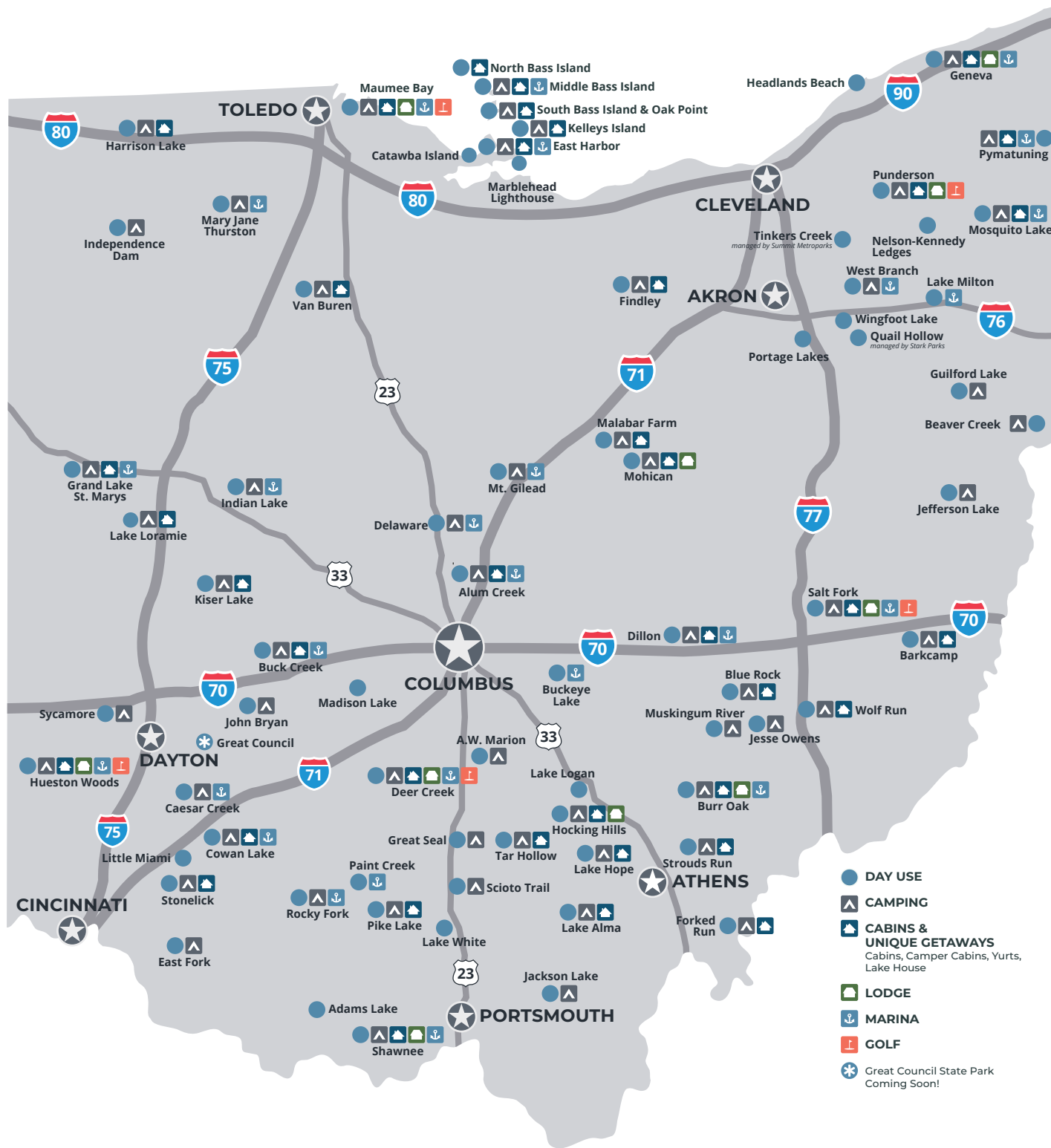


One of Ohio's 75 State Parks, Burr Oak State Park offers a variety of overnight accommodations that visitors can enjoy after a day of outdoor activities, contributing to the over one million overnights at State Parks each year.

ODNR Division of Parks and Watercraft

The Division of Parks and Watercraft is the state's primary recreational provider, with 75 state parks (Exhibit 8). The division offers more than 500 updated cabins and well-appointed guest rooms in 10 lodges across the state, providing comfortable resting places after a day of hiking, fishing, or boating in Ohio's state parks. Camping remains popular, and the division offers 8,685 campsites for tent or RV campers

Exhibit 8: Ohio State Parks



in 57 family campgrounds, 18 horseman's camps with nearly 400 sites, and separate group camps and day shelter rentals. The parks have increased the number of full hookup sites to meet growing demand and are continually improving restrooms, shower houses, and electric and broadband service. These improvements have increased the nights stayed to over one million overnights each year. Ohio State Parks is proud to be one of the remaining state park systems that offers free admission, parking, and programming.

The division is committed to education about the state's great outdoors and unique history. Interpretive signs have been created to mark a collection of historical sites to visit, as well as an online catalog featuring unique artifacts across the state that can be seen in person or explored from home or even in a classroom. In addition, to help explorers of all ages get acquainted with the wonders of nature, the Division of Parks and Watercraft have increased naturalist staff by 40 percent to provide more interpretive programs at 34 newly constructed or updated nature centers and offer educational hikes on more than 1,200 miles of statewide trail.

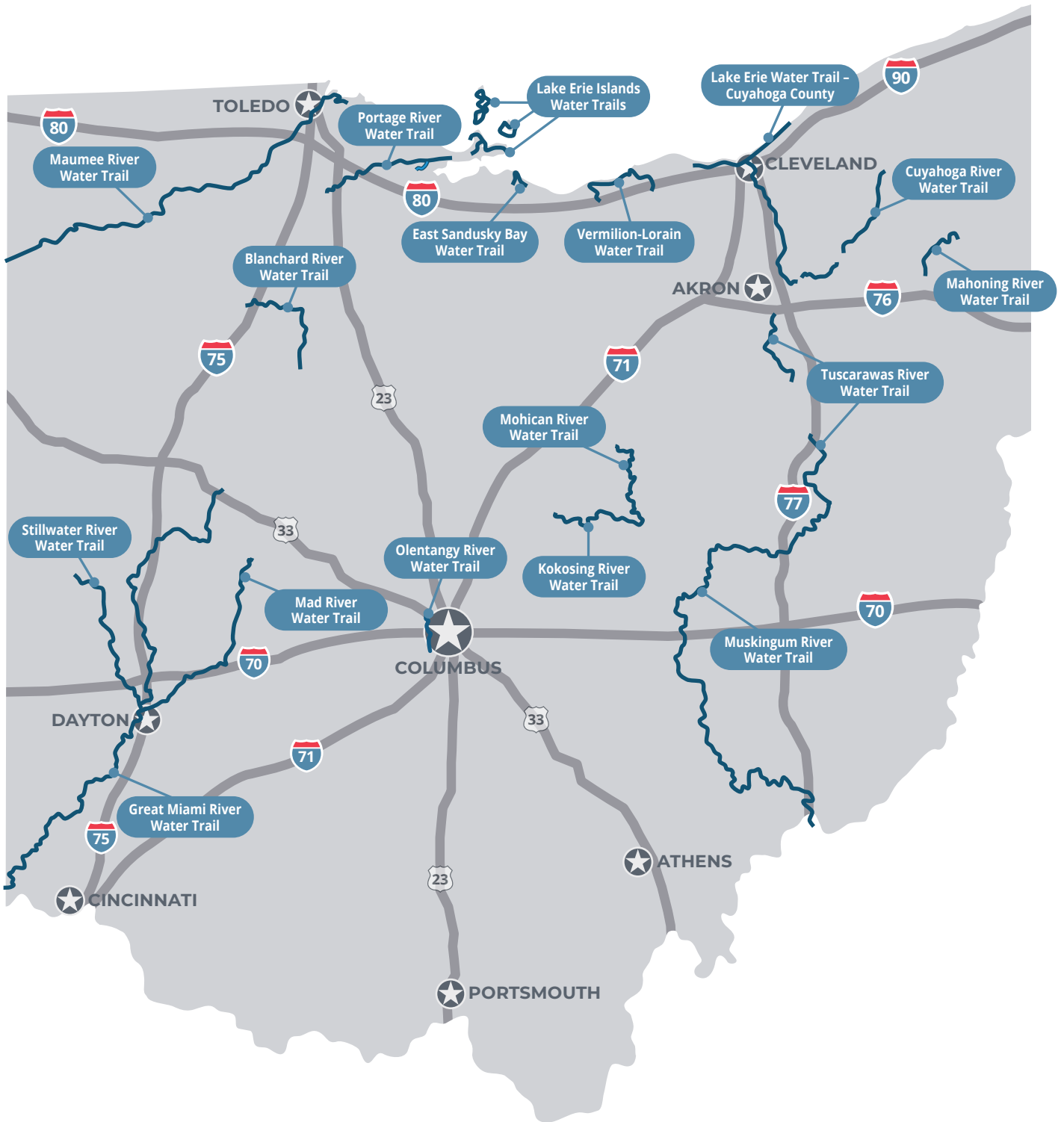
Recently the division rolled out a new sustainability initiative called ConServe Ohio. The initiative's vision is to employ simple, sensible changes in park operations and visitor experiences that will help preserve and protect the beauty and health of Ohio's natural resources while operating more efficiently.

The Division of Parks and Watercraft also supports myriad recreational boating opportunities, and at over 653,000 registered boats, Ohio ranks fifth nationally in watercraft registrations. The largest increase in registrations continues to be hand-powered vessels. Through the water trail program, the Division promotes awareness of public paddling access while increasing safety by partnering with local communities to develop designated water trails on Ohio's waterways. Currently there are 17 ODNR designated water trails in the state (Exhibit 9).

The division administers several grant programs to assist Ohio's boaters, including the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program for transient mooring facilities, the Clean Vessel Act Grant Program for the construction and renovation of waste reception facilities for recreational vessels, the Paddling Enhancement Grant and Cooperative Boating Facility Grant for improving boating access, and the Water Trails Program for signage and printable information related to designated water trails.

The Division of Parks and Watercraft is committed to the success of Governor Mike DeWine's H2Ohio Initiative and has been a collaborator in the ODNR's team of staff working to improve Ohio's water quality. The division has taken the lead on restoring and creating wetlands across the state at Maumee Bay, Grand Lake Saint Mary's, Buckeye Lake, and East Fork state parks. Collaborative discussions are being held

Exhibit 9: Ohio Water Trails



with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and local soil and water conservation districts to plan additional water-quality projects that efficiently reduce nutrients and harmful algal blooms within the lakes.

In 2019, Director Mary Mertz released a plan for trails in Ohio, the Ohio Trails Vision. As a result of this effort, the department committed to providing Ohioans with better information about trails and promoting Ohio as a premier trails destination. As a national leader in the trails community, the division took the initiative to build DETOUR Ohio Trails: a mobile and web-based application designed to help outdoor enthusiasts plan for and explore all recreational trails throughout Ohio. The app was built from the ground up to include all of Ohio's recreational trails, not just those managed as part of the state system. As a result, DETOUR is Ohio's go-to source for authoritative recreational trail information for all trail users.

Additional information on the Division of Parks and Watercraft's programs and recreational opportunities can be found on the ODNR website, www.ohiodnr.gov.

ODNR Division of Natural Areas & Preserves

The Division of Natural Areas & Preserves is dedicated to preserving and protecting Ohio's unique natural heritage and restoring the state's finest land and water resources by managing a system of 144 state nature preserves and 15 scenic rivers. Ohio's state

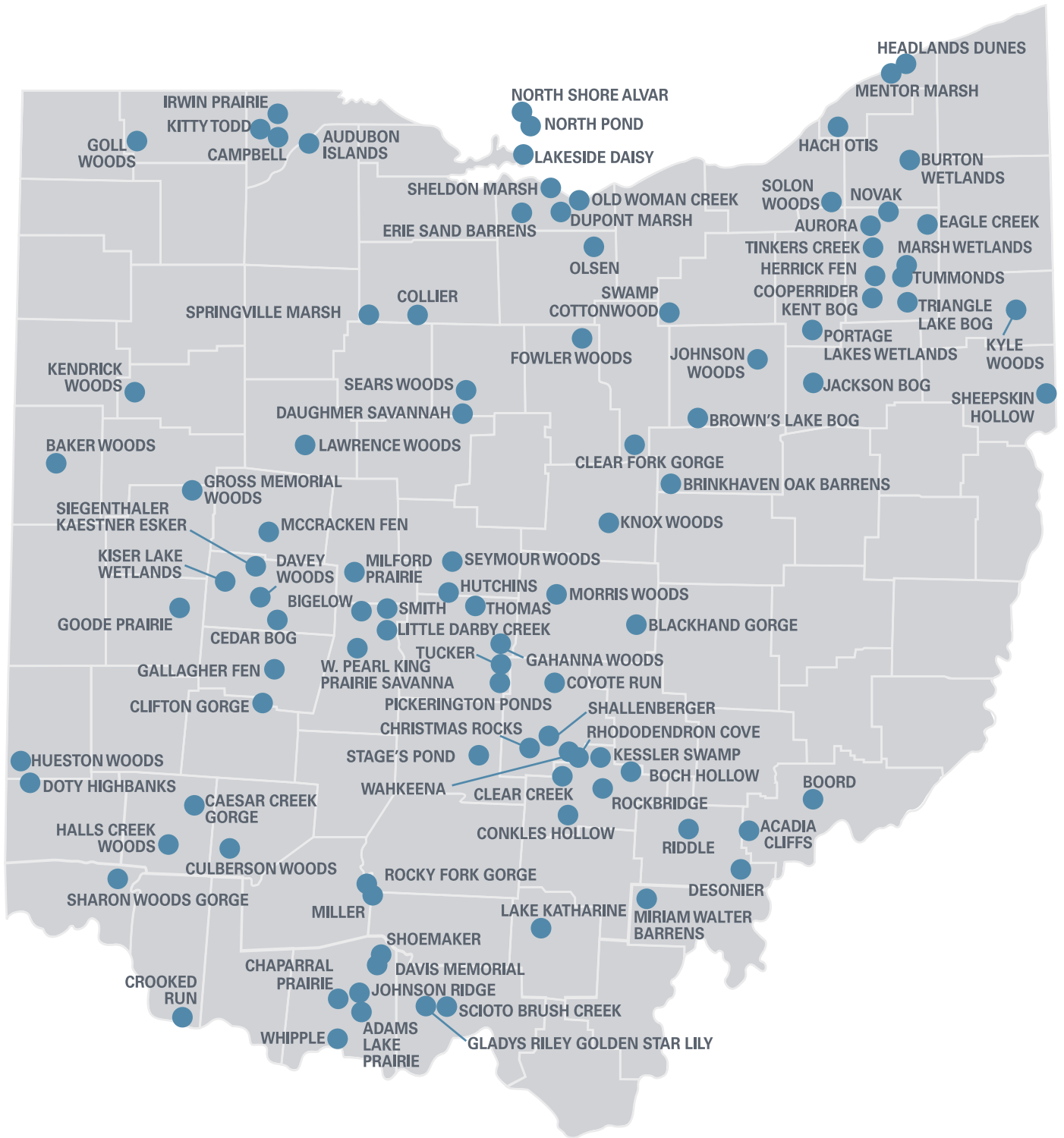
nature preserves and natural areas hold remnants of Ohio's pre-settlement past, rare and endangered species, and geologic features. While most preserves are owned and managed by the state, some are leased to local park districts for management, and others are owned by non-governmental agencies and private landowners (Exhibit 10). Providing access to some of the most scenic locations in Ohio, the Division initiated a statewide interpretive signage project to help educate visitors about the unique qualities of preserves across the state.



The spotted salamander relies on vernal ponds (temporary or seasonal ponds, pools, or wetlands) for breeding and nearby forested habitat for their adult life. Coyote Run State Nature Preserve is a 230-acre preserve containing mature forest with several vernal pools.

Another program within the Division of Natural Areas & Preserves is the Ohio Scenic Rivers Program. Under this program, the division works cooperatively with local governments, businesses, landowners, non-profit organizations, and other state and federal agencies to protect aquatic resources and terrestrial communities dependent on healthy riparian habitats. The Scenic Rivers Act (Ohio Revised Code Section 1547.81) protects Ohio streams

Exhibit 10: Ohio's State Nature Preserves



with exceptional conservation, scenic, historical, or outdoor recreation value. The Act identifies three categories for river classification: wild, scenic, and recreational, with criteria based on stream length, adjacent forest cover, water quality, natural conditions, and present use. Ohio currently has 15 designated Wild, Scenic, and/or Recreational rivers comprising 27 stream segments (Exhibit 11). More than 830 river miles are protected in the Ohio scenic river system. In addition, three state-designated streams (the Little Miami River, Big and Little Darby Creeks, and Little Beaver Creek) are also designated National Scenic Rivers.

Additional information on the Division of Natural Areas & Preserves' programs and recreational opportunities can be found on the ODNR website, www.ohiodnr.gov.

ODNR Division of Wildlife

ODNR's Division of Wildlife works to conserve and improve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainable use and appreciation by all. Throughout the state, the Division manages or cooperates in managing over 750,000 acres of diverse wildlife lands and over 2 million acres of water. World-class opportunities for fishing, hunting, trapping, bird watching, wildlife viewing, and other forms of wildlife-dependent recreation can be found in the 150 state wildlife areas (Exhibit 12). The Division of Wildlife also provides public shooting ranges across the state to ensure safe places for Ohio's sportsmen and sportswomen to practice with their hunting

implements or enjoy recreational shooting opportunities. Safe shooting environments and knowledgeable range attendants foster an attitude of firearms safety and respect, where shooters can develop the knowledge and skills necessary to practice safe firearms use. These ranges offer patrons various target shooting opportunities, including pistol, shotgun, rifle, and both static and walkthrough archery courses.



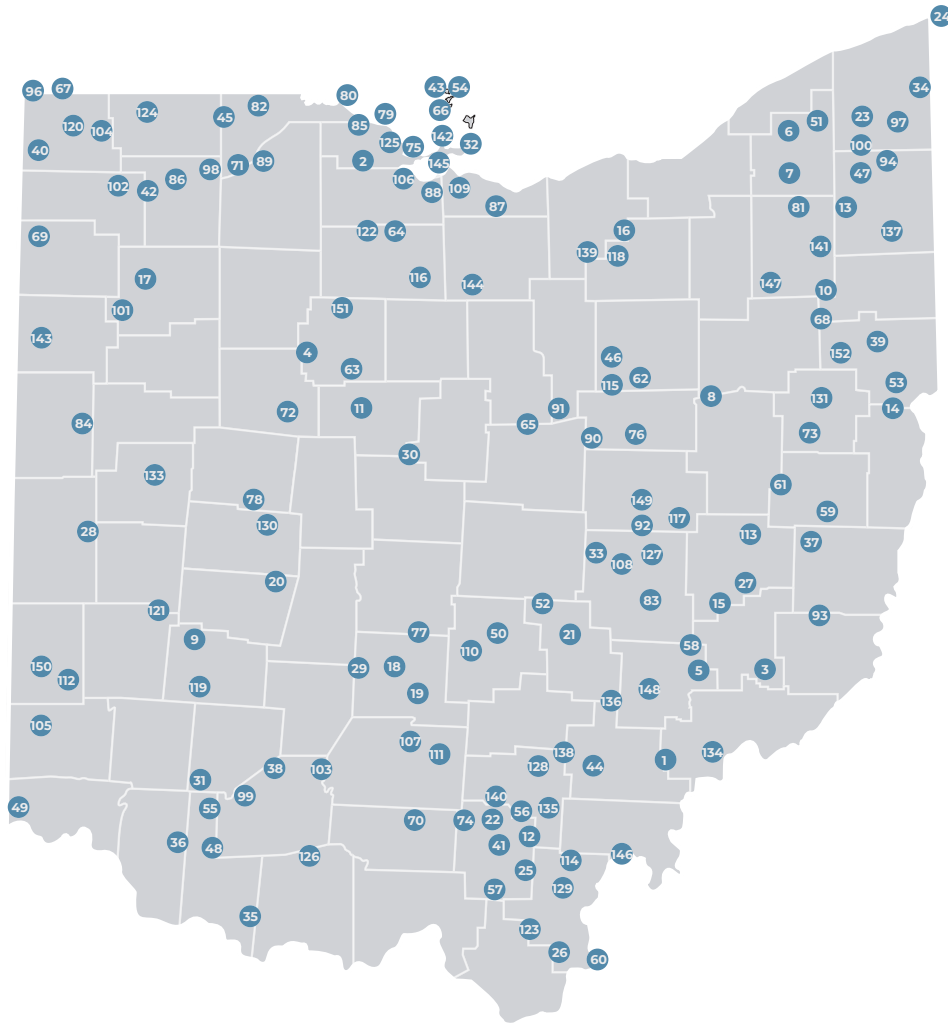
The ODNR Division of Wildlife Kincaid and London State Fish Hatcheries annually rear and stock 20,000 Muskellunge ("muskie") into Ohio waters. Muskie are highly prized by anglers for their size and fight.

Additionally, the Division implements numerous programs to improve wildlife diversity and human enjoyment of wildlife resources. These include a nongame and endangered species program, enforcement of Ohio's wildlife laws and regulations, and educational and public information programs. Wildlife management and protection programs have led to many conservation success stories. Examples include the strong comeback of bald eagles,

Exhibit 11: Ohio State Scenic Rivers



Exhibit 12: Ohio State Wildlife Areas



- | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Acadia Cliffs WA | 32. Dempseys Sandusky Bay WA | 63. Killdeer Plains WA | 94. Mosquito Creek WA | 126. Tranquility WA |
| 2. Aldrich Pond WA | 33. Dillon WA | 64. Knobbs Prairie WA | 95. Moxley WA | 127. Tri-Valley WA |
| 3. Ales Run WA | 34. Dorset WA | 65. Knox Lake WA | 96. Nettle Lake WA | 128. Turkey Ridge WA |
| 4. Andreoff WA | 35. Eagle Creek WA | 66. Kuehnle WA | 97. New Lyme WA | 129. Tycoon Lake WA |
| 5. Appalachian Hills WA | 36. East Fork WA | 67. Lake La Su An WA | 98. North Turkeyfoot WA | 130. Urbana WA |
| 6. Aquilla WA | 37. Egypt Valley WA | 68. Lake Park WA | 99. Oldaker WA | 131. Valley Run WA |
| 7. Auburn Marsh WA | 38. Fallsville WA | 69. Lake Wayne R Carr WA | 100. Orwell WA | 132. Van Tassel WA |
| 8. Beach City WA | 39. Firestone/Yeagley WA | 70. Lake White Tailwaters WA | 101. Ottoville Quarry WA | 133. Vernon A Luthman
Tecumseh WA |
| 9. Beaver Creek WA | 40. Fish Creek WA | 71. Lanker WA | 102. Oxbow Lake WA | 134. Veto Lake WA |
| 10. Berlin Lake WA | 41. Flint Run WA | 72. Lawrence Woods WA | 103. Paint Creek Lake WA | 135. Vinton Furnace WA |
| 11. Big Island WA | 42. Florida WA | 73. Leesville Lake WA | 104. Parkersburg WA | 136. Wallace H. O'Dowd WA |
| 12. Broken Aro WA | 43. Fox's Marsh WA | 74. Liberty WA | 105. Pater WA | 137. Warren WA |
| 13. Brook WA | 44. Fox Lake WA | 75. Little Portage WA | 106. Pickerel Creek WA | 138. Waterloo WA |
| 14. Brush Creek WA | 45. Fulton Pond WA | 76. Lower Killbuck Creek WA | 107. Pleasant Valley WA | 139. Wellington WA |
| 15. Buffalo Fork WA | 46. Funk Bottoms WA | 77. Mackey Ford WA | 108. Powelson WA | 140. Wellston WA |
| 16. Camp Belden WA | 47. Grand River WA | 78. Mad River WA | 109. Resthaven WA | 141. West Branch State Park |
| 17. Cascade Wayside WA | 48. Grant Lake WA | 79. Magee Marsh WA | 110. Rock Mill Lake WA | 142. West Harbor WA |
| 18. Charles O. Trump WA | 49. Great Miami River WA | 80. Mallard Club WA | 111. Ross Lake WA | 143. Whitey Case Wildlife
Production Area |
| 19. Circleville Canal WA | 50. Greenfield Dam WA | 81. Marsh Wetlands State
Nature Preserve | 112. Rush Run WA | 144. Willard Marsh WA |
| 20. Clark Lake WA | 51. Hambden Orchard WA | 82. Meilke Road Savanna WA | 113. Salt Fork WA | 145. Willow Point WA |
| 21. Clouse Lake WA | 52. Hanby WA | 83. Meiners WA | 114. Samuels WA | 146. Wilson Wetlands |
| 22. Coalton WA | 53. Highlandtown WA | 84. Mercer WA | 115. Shreve Lake WA | 147. Wingfoot WA |
| 23. Conant WA | 54. Honey Point WA | 85. Metzger Marsh WA | 116. Silver Creek WA | 148. Wolf Creek WA |
| 24. Conneaut WA | 55. Indian Creek WA | 86. Meyerholtz WA | 117. Simco WA | 149. Woodbury WA |
| 25. Cooper Hollow WA | 56. Jackson County Line WA | 87. Milan WA | 118. Spencer Lake WA | 150. Woodland Trails WA |
| 26. Crown City WA | 57. Jackson Lake WA | 88. Millers Blue Hole WA | 119. Spring Valley WA | 151. Wyandot WA |
| 27. Dan & Margaret James WA | 58. Jesse Owens WA | 89. Missionary Island WA | 120. St Joseph River WA | 152. Zepernick WA |
| 28. Darke WA | 59. Jockey Hollow WA | 90. Mohican River WA | 121. Stillwater WA | |
| 29. Deer Creek WA | 60. K H Butler WA | 91. Mohler WA | 122. Sugar Creek WA | |
| 30. Delaware WA | 61. Keen WA | 92. Monroe Basin WA | 123. Symmes Township WA | |
| 31. Della Gates & Edward
Charles Bott WA | 62. Killbuck Marsh WA | 93. Monroe Lake WA | 124. Tiffin River WA | |
| | | | 125. Toussaint Creek WA | |

wild turkeys in every county, robust deer populations, and the successful nesting of the federally endangered piping plover in Maumee Bay State Park – the first time in over 80 years that piping plovers have bred in Ohio.

Wildlife management consists of projects that affect wildlife populations, their habitats, and wildlife recreational users. These projects usually involve habitat manipulation, managing wildlife populations, land acquisition, research, and creating opportunities to connect people with wildlife. Closely regulated and biologically based hunting seasons are necessary for protecting and controlling some wildlife populations, and these seasons provide the framework for countless hours of wildlife recreation opportunities. Most recently, the Division of Wildlife led multiple H2Ohio wetland

restoration projects that benefit 90 threatened and endangered species and provide birding, waterfowl hunting, and angling opportunities.

The Division of Wildlife is also responsible for managing Ohio's fisheries resources, which include 61,500 miles of streams and over 2 million acres of Lake Erie. Staff conduct research, monitor fish populations, develop programs to eliminate undesirable species, and maintain angler use facilities. In addition, the Division operates six (6) hatcheries to stock many of Ohio's lakes and streams with various sportfish species benefitting shoreline and boat fishing across the state. These hatcheries also provide a plethora of recreational opportunities for visitors including hiking trails, birding and wildlife watching, archery ranges, controlled hunting, and controlled access fishing. Fish management programs include improving



Playing an important role in conservation, hunting is an important part of Ohio's history, culture, and economy. In 2022, over 360,000 people bought Ohio hunting licenses. Hunting in Ohio is seasonal and highly regulated to protect wildlife populations.

spawning habitat, installing fish attractors, and reviewing reservoir plans to ensure their suitability for fish management. In addition, the Division allocates 15 percent of its annual Sport Fish Restoration funds to boat access projects statewide. These include motor and non-motorboat access projects providing boaters, anglers, and waterfowl hunters with numerous options to enjoy Ohio's waterways.

In 2022, over 360,000 people bought hunting licenses, and more than 900,000 bought fishing licenses in Ohio. Popular species for hunting in the state include deer, wild turkeys, mourning doves, and waterfowl. There are many popular sportfish species, including largemouth and smallmouth bass, muskellunge, white bass, perch, bluegill, walleye, saugeye, steelhead and rainbow trout, salmon, and channel catfish. Revenue from hunting and fishing licenses, along with Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson dollars, funds a large part of the fish and wildlife management work conducted by the Division of Wildlife, which benefits both game and non-game species.

The Division offers Step Outside, Conservation Club Partnership, and Aquatic Education grants to local government agencies, non-profit organizations, and other family and youth-oriented facilities to promote outdoor skills such as fishing, hunting, trapping, archery, and shooting sports. These grants are designed to offer funding for activities that are otherwise unaffordable for the sponsoring agency or organization and range from \$500 per

Step Outside grant to \$10,000 per Aquatic Education grant and up to \$15,000 for each Conservation Club Partnership grant.

Additional information on the Division of Wildlife's programs and recreational opportunities can be found on the ODNR website, www.ohiodnr.gov.



Visitors have an opportunity to learn about Ohio's forests during the Hocking State Forest Fall Color Wagon Tour. Hocking State Forest features over 9,800 acres and provides opportunities for hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, camping, rock climbing, and rappelling.

ODNR Division of Forestry

ODNR's Division of Forestry operates and maintains Ohio's 24 state forests encompassing 203,250 acres (Exhibit 13). The Division's mission is to promote and apply sustainable management practices for the use and protection of private and public forestlands. The state forest system is managed under a multiple-use concept to provide timber, backcountry recreation opportunities, wildlife habitat, soil

Exhibit 13: Ohio State Forests



protection, and water quality preservation. The Division extends its expertise by providing technical assistance to private landowners in managing private woodlands for timber and wildlife and to community officials for assistance with urban and street tree plantings.

State forests support numerous outdoor recreation opportunities. Visitors to state forests can enjoy more than 350 miles of backcountry bridle trails, 90 miles of hiking and backpacking trails, and 50 miles of mountain bike trails. The Division provides more than 50 miles of designated trails for off-road all- purpose vehicles (APVs) and motorcycles at Maumee, Perry, Pike, and Richland Furnace state forests and designated snowmobiling trails at Maumee State Forest and Mohican-Memorial State Forest. The statewide Buckeye Trail, a 1,444-mile trail that makes a large loop around

the state, passes through several state forests, including Hocking, Pike, Scioto Trail, Shawnee, and Tar Hollow state forests. (Exhibit 14).

State forests also offer a variety of camping opportunities, including family campgrounds, primitive horse camps, primitive backpacking sites, and “park and pack” campsites for novice backpackers. The Division also manages the 8,000-acre state-designated wilderness area at Shawnee State Forest in southern Ohio.

In 2022, the Division provided \$1.5 million to 16 rural school districts through the Trees to Textbooks program and funded 94 projects for wildfire protection to rural fire departments, communities, and nonprofits. The Division of Forestry, in 2022, also created the Youth Outreach Committee to develop partnerships

Exhibit 14: Buckeye Trail hosts two long distance national trails



Buckeye Trail **North Country Trail** **American Discovery Trail**

with outside organizations to increase recruitment and interest in forestry and the benefits of forests.

ODNR Office of Real Estate and Land Management

ODNR's Office of Real Estate and Land Management (REALM) provides grants administration, environmental review coordination, survey, and real estate functions on behalf of ODNR. Essential in connecting people with nature, REALM administers two federal grant programs: the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), as well as two state grant programs: NatureWorks and the Clean Ohio Trails Fund (COTF).

The RTP is funded through the Federal Highway Administration and is administered in consultation with the Recreational Trails Program Advisory Board. Grants fund up to 80 percent of total project costs and are awarded annually through a statewide competitive process. Eligible political subdivisions and nonprofits leverage federal funds to construct new trails, acquire trail corridors, and rehabilitate trails and trailhead facilities. Since RTP's inception in 1998, over \$38 million in funding has been awarded for 428 Ohio projects.

REALM administers the COTF program in consultation with the Clean Ohio Trails Fund Advisory Board. Grants fund up to 75 percent of project costs and are awarded annually through a statewide competitive process. Grants are awarded for the

construction and development of regional recreational trails. Since the program's inception in 2001, over \$106 million has been awarded to political subdivisions and eligible nonprofits for over 350 trail projects.

The popular NatureWorks program, funded through the sale of state bonds, provides up to 75 percent reimbursement assistance to eligible townships, villages, joint recreation districts, municipalities, park districts, counties, and conservancy districts for the acquisition and/or development of public recreation areas. Funds are divided between Ohio's 88 counties based on a formula that includes population size. Applicants compete only against other applicants from the same county. Many modest, as well as more expensive, park improvements are funded through this program. This program awarded \$5.28 million in grants in 2022.

See page 3 for more information on the LWCF program in Ohio.

ODNR Canal Lands

Canals were once an important part of Ohio's economic sector, and over 1,000 miles of historic canals extend through multiple jurisdictions. The two main canal routes are the Ohio & Erie Canal in eastern Ohio and the Miami & Erie Canal in western Ohio. Construction of Ohio's canal system began after the Ohio Legislature enacted the Ohio Canal Act in 1825 to provide transportation for Ohio farm products and goods to marketplaces to boost Ohio's economy. By the 1850s,

the canals were starting to be replaced by railroads and other more modern modes of transportation. Today, canal lands are owned by many entities, including ODNR, the Ohio History Connection, ODOT, park districts, counties, local communities, and nonprofit organizations. Several portions of these canals have been developed with opportunities for recreational users. The well-known Ohio & Erie Towpath Trail stretches over 100 miles in the northeast portion of the State. It includes 20 miles within the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and is part of the federally designated Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area.

ODNR Office of Coastal Management

The ODNR Office of Coastal Management is primarily responsible for the administration of two state-federal partnership programs focused on improving Ohio's Lake Erie coastal resources. Both state-federal partnerships are authorized by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 and involve close coordination with federal partners at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Ohio Coastal Management Program was federally approved in 1997 and incorporates 41 management policies that utilize the authorities and programs of a variety of Ohio state agencies. Three major approaches are used to implement the program, including:

- **Financial assistance** to local communities, universities, non-profits, and other partners – primarily through the Coastal Management Assistance

Grants program, which provides up to \$500,000 in grants each year, as well as targeted funding, such as annual support for the Ohio Clean Marinas Program and Ohio Clean Boaters Program.

- **Resource Management** through regulatory programs such as Shore Structure Permits, Submerged Lands Leases, Coastal Erosion Area Permits, Federal and State Consistency, and Shipwreck Salvage Permits, as well as non-regulatory programs including the Ohio Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program and the Sandusky Bay Initiative.
- **Technical Assistance and Outreach** provided through the Coastal Design Manual, Ohio Coastal Atlas, interactive maps, consultation with property owners, public events such as grants workshops and training programs, and presentations at meetings and conferences.

The Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve is located along the Lake Erie shore in Huron at the Mike DeWine Center for Coastal Wetland Studies. It was



Partnership programs are impactful in helping communities connect people with nature.

designated in 1980 and is part of a national network of 30 coastal reserves that address state and regional coastal management needs. Its boundaries are coterminous with those of the Old Woman Creek State Nature Preserve, which is managed by the ODNR Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. Each of the reserves, including Old Woman Creek, is implemented through four common sectors:

- **Education** is provided to K-12 students, community members, teachers, and many others through a variety of public and group-specific programs. Programs – listed each year in Estuary Explorations publication – include hikes, canoeing, a brown bag lunch series, and open houses. Programs emphasize hands-on scientific learning for a range of audiences.
- **Research** is focused on two major functions that are carried out by all programs. The first is to facilitate and coordinate scientific understanding of estuaries. Researchers from many academic institutions utilize Old Woman Creek to conduct research activities. The second major function is to monitor baseline conditions of the estuarine ecosystem. The monitoring program (known as the System-Wide Monitoring Program) provides long-term data on water quality, weather, biological communities, habitat, and land-use and land-cover characteristics.

- **Stewardship** activities at Old Woman Creek are carried out through various approaches including coordination with the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, volunteer citizen science initiatives, and collaboration with local entities. Many of the stewardship activities are focused on the identification and management of aquatic invasive species in the estuary.
- **Training** is offered through the Ohio Coastal Training Program, which provides technical training for professionals to advance coastal management priorities, address local needs, and ensure the effective use of reserve-based science. Topical areas include coastal habitat, water quality, stormwater management, land use, nature-based shorelines, and coastal development.

The programs provided under these partnerships are impactful in connecting people with nature, enabling communities to enhance public access to Lake Erie, mitigate hazards, protect and restore natural resources, foster sustainable coastal development, and increase recreational opportunities. Grants provided support outdoor recreation by funding feasibility studies, master plans, and construction projects that increase public access and outdoor recreational opportunities along Lake Erie.

ODNR Division of Water Resources

The Division of Water Resources ensures wise management of Ohio's water resources and infrastructure through the Dam Safety, Floodplain Management, and Water Inventory and Planning programs. Their Dam Safety Program inspects and regulates about 1,400 public and privately owned dams statewide. The main purpose of the Dam Safety Program is to ensure that human life, health, and property are protected from dam failures. These dams and levees provide water supply, flood control, recreation, and irrigation benefits. Each year engineers and staff conduct more than 300 detailed inspections of dams. This work ensures that public safety and economic infrastructure are maintained and enables residents and visitors to the state to enjoy Ohio's impounded water resources safely.

Ohio Department of Transportation

Transportation has a large impact on connecting people with nature, both in terms of getting people from where they live to where they want to recreate and providing recreation opportunities along the way. Ohio is ninth in the nation in the total number of miles of public roads. It maintains the sixth-largest traffic volume, fourth-largest truck traffic volume, and second-largest bridge inventory. In addition, Ohio has the fourteenth-highest transit ridership.

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) manages Ohio's State and U.S.

Bike Route System to establish a statewide network of State and U.S. bike routes that will provide bicyclists with safe and convenient connections with population centers and destinations in Ohio. There are segments of five U.S. Bikes Routes covering 1,400 miles and over 1,600 miles of proposed State Bike routes in Ohio. Combined, these routes connect more than 400 Ohio communities.



Biking is popular in the Buckeye State, with 50 percent of households in the 2022 Ohio Resident Survey biking on paved trails and 1 in 5 households doing so as a means of transportation at least a few times a year.

ODOT also administers Ohio's Byways with the intent to preserve, enhance, and protect the state's intrinsic resources for residents and visitors by designating highways and roads as scenic byway corridors. Through partnerships with communities, organizations, and government agencies, efforts are coordinated to promote travel and recreation and to encourage

stewardship of the features that distinguish the designated byways. These collaborative efforts support balancing conservation and land use, heightening the experience of traveling the designated byway while improving the quality of life. Ohio currently offers 27 Ohio Byways, six nationally designated (Exhibit 15).

Additional information on the Ohio Byways is available at www.ohiobyways.com.

TourismOhio

The Ohio Department of Development's Office of TourismOhio works to showcase all Ohio has to offer as a place of adventure, a place of promise, and the place for you. The state's brand theme, "Ohio, The Heart of it All," speaks to Ohio's central geographic location, which is within a day's drive of 60 percent of the U.S. and Canadian populations. Just as importantly, the brand conveys that Ohio is the heart of the heartland. The heart-shaped state. The home of heartwarming stories and heartfelt joy. Ohio is the heart of adventure as it's home to 75 free state parks, five zoos, two amazing amusement parks, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and thousands of events and festivals. Ohio is the heart of opportunity, boasting the seventh largest economy in the U.S., and is home to 25 fortune 500 companies. In addition to inspiring visitation, TourismOhio supports a tourism industry with a workforce of 424,339. In 2022, direct visitor spending of \$41 billion generated \$53 billion in sales, marking the highest visitor spending ever. Additionally,

Ohio saw 233 million visits in 2022. In addition to promoting its primary call to action, Ohio.org, TourismOhio oversees a co-op advertising program that is open to all Ohio organizations that contribute to a healthy tourism economy. The program provides Ohio destinations and attractions professional support for strategic advertising and content creation that aligns with TourismOhio's target audiences and markets. Matching funds up to \$25,000 per partner are available in exchange for utilizing "Ohio, The Heart of it All" branding on partner content.



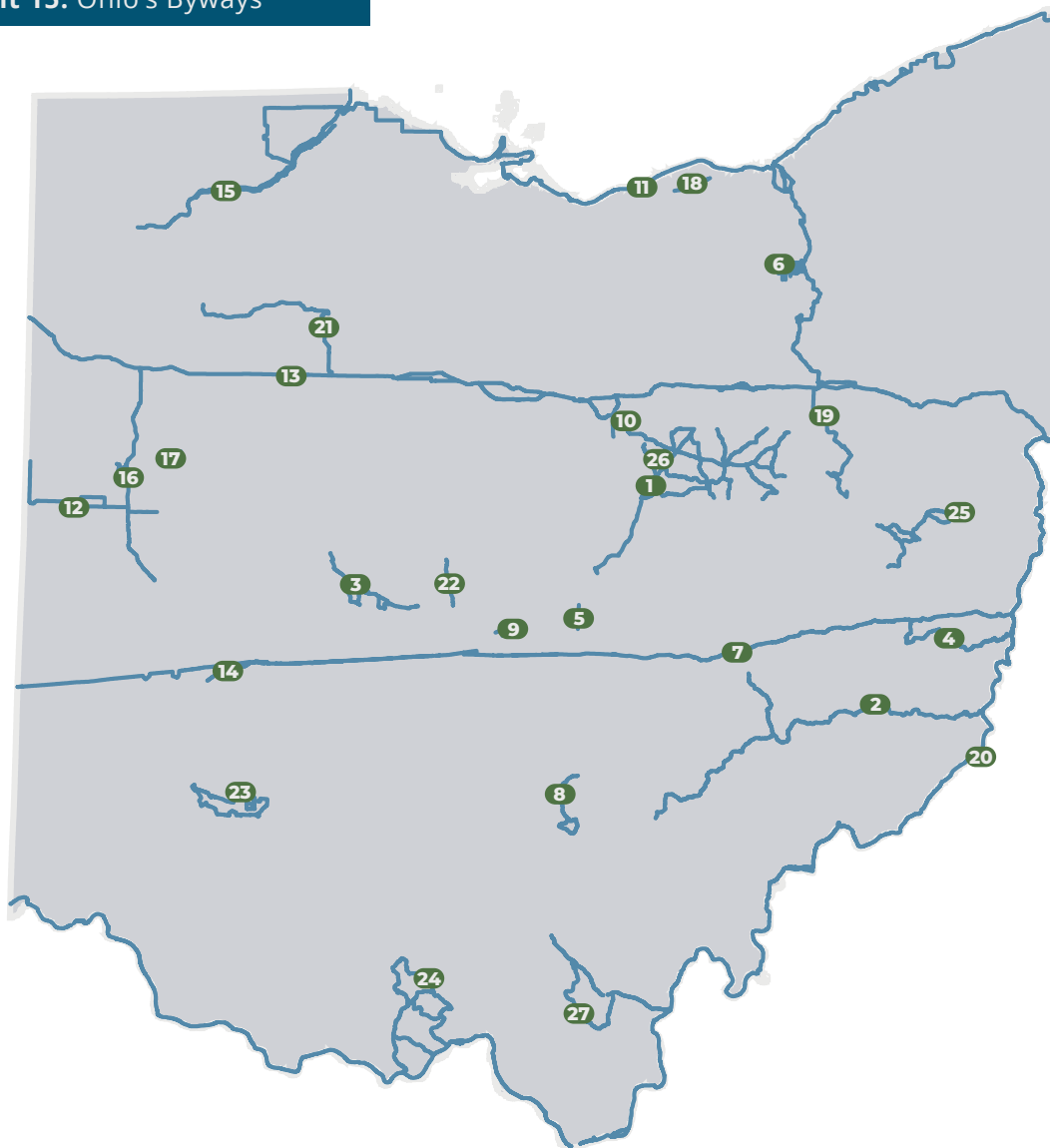
**THE HEART
OF IT ALL™**

Ohio.org

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Ohioans and visitors alike need clean air to breathe and clean water to drink. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's (Ohio EPA) goal is to protect the environment and public health by ensuring compliance with environmental laws. The Ohio EPA

Exhibit 15: Ohio's Byways



- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Amish Country Byway | 8. Hocking Hills Scenic Byway | 15. Maumee Valley Scenic Byway | 22. Olentangy Heritage Corridor |
| 2. Appalachian Byway | 9. Jefferson Township Historic Byway | 16. Miami and Erie Canal | 23. Quaker Heritage Scenic Byway |
| 3. Big Darby Plains Scenic Byway | 10. Johnny Appleseed | 17. Neil Armstrong Scenic Byway | 24. Scioto Heritage Trail |
| 4. Drovers' Trail Scenic Byway | 11. Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail | 18. North Ridge Scenic Byway | 25. Tappan-Moravian Trail |
| 5. Granville Scenic Byway | 12. Land of The Cross-Tipped Churches | 19. Ohio & Erie Canalway | 26. Wally Road Scenic Byway |
| 6. Heritage Corridors of Bath | 13. Lincoln Highway Historic Byway | 20. Ohio River Scenic Byway | 27. Welsh Scenic Byway |
| 7. Historic National Road | 14. Lower Valley Pike | 21. Old Mill Stream Scenic Byway | |

administers the Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) that encourages Ohio residents to be outside and become stewards of Ohio's natural resources. OEEF supports environmental education projects that increase awareness and understanding of environmental issues. OEEF provides approximately \$1 million annually in grants to support environmental education efforts. OEEF grants funding for programs that:

- Increase public awareness and knowledge about environmental issues.
- Provide skills to make informed decisions and take responsible actions.

Ohio EPA also supports the Environmental Career Ambassador's Program, which offers Ohio high school students, teachers, and career counselors a better understanding of the various environmental sciences and engineering careers available. The Environmental Education Council of Ohio established the program with a network of environmental professionals to link students with career opportunities.

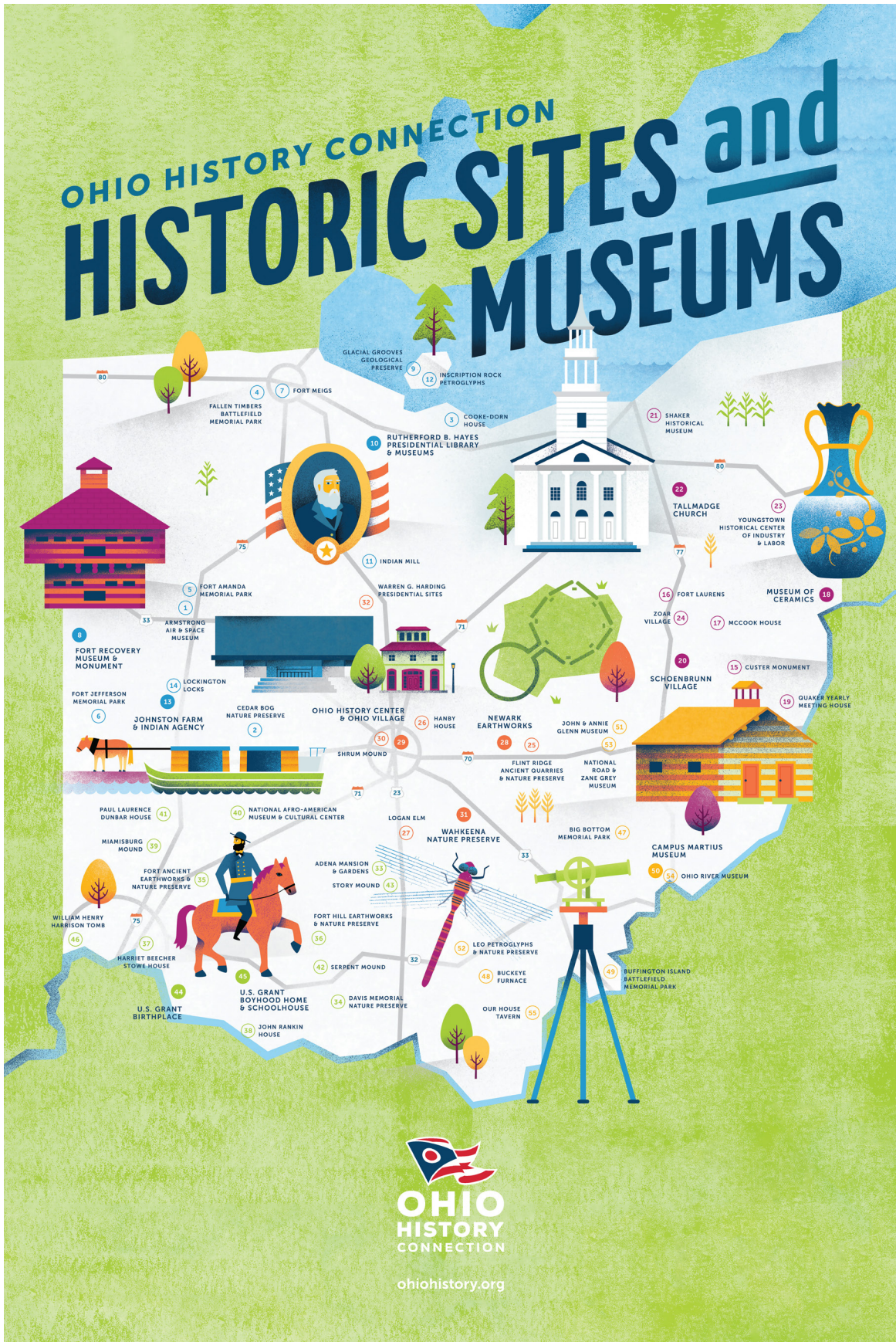
As a partner in the H2Ohio program, the Ohio EPA funds infrastructure projects in small, disadvantaged communities to increase access to safe drinking water and sewer services. The agency provided funding to replace failing home sewage treatment systems for low-income households. Additionally, to help state agencies evaluate technology proposals for reducing nutrient loading and harmful algal blooms, the Ohio EPA developed the H2Ohio Technology Assessment Programs.

Ohio History Connection

It is through stories that people connect. The Ohio History Connection is one of the largest statewide historical organizations in the U.S. It manages an extensive system of over 50 historical, archeological, and natural history sites that provide opportunities for Ohio's residents and visitors to enjoy its cultural and historical heritage. Across the state, the Ohio History Connection oversees 58 historic sites in 40 counties. These sites cover 5,000 acres of land and are some of the most significant tourist attractions in the state (Exhibit 16).

To help preserve the state's historic places, the Ohio History Connection maintains and operates a statewide network of historical sites and museums, preserves and provides public access to the state archives, provides expertise in the area of historic preservation, provides educational materials for Ohio school children, promotes the development of county and local historical societies, and collects and preserves artifacts related to Ohio history.

The Ohio History Connection's State Historic Preservation Office administers the state's responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act, including identifying and cataloging historical buildings and sites, evaluating properties for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, reviewing rehabilitation projects seeking state and federal tax credits, and qualifying communities for the Certified Local Government program.



The State Historic Preservation Office has a comprehensive online mapping system of Ohio's cultural resources, including the National Register of Historic Places, the Ohio Historical Inventory, and the Ohio Archaeological Inventory. The system is available to cultural resource management professionals, agency officials, and researchers to assist with project planning and compliance activities.

Ohio Public Works Commission

The Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) administers the Green Space Conservation Program as part of the Clean Ohio Fund. Program funds are available for political subdivisions, park districts, and nonprofit conservation organizations for environmental conservation, including the acquisition of green space and the protection and enhancement of river and stream corridors. Applicants apply to their respective Natural Resources Assistance Councils (NRACs) that recommend projects to the OPWC. Each of the 19 NRACs in Ohio comprises 11 members, including representatives from soil and water conservation districts, local governments, environmental groups, park districts, agricultural organizations, and local businesses. Each NRAC evaluates and scores grant applications using a locally developed methodology based on criteria in Ohio Rev. Code Chapter 164. A few examples of awarded projects are as follows:

- **Duff Homestead Bayfront and Woodland Preserve** contains the last

section of undeveloped shoreline within the Put-in-Bay harbor and protects various native species (\$2,036,000 project cost, \$1,303,538 Clean Ohio funding).

- **East Fork Riparian Reserve Restoration** in Clinton County serves to stabilize the stream bank on the main tributary to the East Fork Little Miami River to resolve loading sediment to the stream, which impairs water quality and aquatic life (\$400,000 project cost, \$300,000 Clean Ohio funding).
- **Thunderbird Hills Marsh Preserve** in Erie County protects 100 acres of coastal wetlands and freshwater estuary (\$716,000 project cost, \$537,000 Clean Ohio funding).
- **Pond Brook Aurora Lake** in Summit County reestablishes natural habitat and functioning hydrology, thereby restoring aquatic and terrestrial biological communities and improving water quality within Tinker's Creek-Pond Brook watershed (\$1,374,328 project cost, \$814,328 Clean Ohio funding).
- **Bowfin Bottoms-Killbuck Swamp Preserve Expansion** in Holmes and Coshocton counties protects 90-plus acres of bottomland bordering Killbuck Creek, thereby permitting the wetlands to continue filtering pollutants during seasonal flooding and protecting rare and endangered species (\$614,619 project cost, \$460,964 Clean Ohio funding).

Ohio Department of Health

The Ohio Department of Health provides funding to support active living and healthy communities through the Creating Healthy Communities program. This program is focused on activating community-led solutions to create sustainable change in policies, places, and population health. Funds are provided to local health departments to support programs that promote healthy eating and active living. Currently, the program is funding 22 county health departments throughout the state. These funds are awarded on a five-year basis. Through this initiative, local health departments promote changes in the built environment that will support active lifestyles, such as bike paths, active transportation opportunities, accessible parks, safe routes to schools, and others. Some successes from this program include:

- Hosted the Ohio Action Institute, which led to adopting active transportation plans and complete streets policies.
- In Erie County, residents reported that improving parks and trails would increase physical activity. In response, the Erie County Health Department used Creating Healthy Community funds to install bike racks, bike repair stations, and water filling stations for active commute support at four participating businesses.
- In Sandusky County, there were no inclusive playgrounds, which impacted many children and caregivers. The

Sandusky County Public Health Creating Healthy Communities program partnered with Fremont community groups, the City of Fremont, the Kiwanis Club of Fremont, and the Sandusky County of Board of Development Disabilities to build a new inclusive play park at one of the most widely used parks in Fremont.



The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District offers a variety of kayaking programs, giving visitors opportunities to kayak for the first time and to explore lakes on guided kayak tours.

Local and Special District Resources

Conservancy Districts

Conservancy districts are independent political subdivisions of the State of Ohio that are governed by Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Chapter 6101. Conservancy districts are formed to provide flood protection, regulate stream channels, collect and process wastewater, plan for irrigation, assist in preventing erosion, and offer recreation. Of the 57 conservancy districts created since 1915, 20 are currently active.

Two of those, the Muskingum and Miami Conservancy Districts, provide tremendous opportunities for connecting people with nature in the state.



There are many ways to enjoy the water. Nationally, stand-up paddleboarding (SUP) participation has steadily increased over the past decade.

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) is the largest in Ohio, encompassing 8,000 square miles in eastern Ohio. The MWCD was organized in 1933 to develop and implement a plan to reduce flooding and conserve water for beneficial public uses in the Muskingum River Watershed. MWCD owns 54,000 acres, which includes ten lakes covering 16,000 acres of water. ODNR's Division of Wildlife stocks the MWCD lakes, including Atwood, Beach City, Charles Mill, Clendening, Leesville, Piedmont, Pleasant Hill, Seneca, and Tappan lakes, attracting anglers from throughout the state. The lakes have varying speed limits from 10 mph limits to accommodate kayakers and anglers to unlimited horsepower to accommodate water skiers and high-speed boaters. The MWCD offers marinas, public boat launch ramps, public hunting areas, campgrounds, trails, cabin rentals, and an equine primitive

camping area. Five activity centers are staffed with naturalists and offer organized programs and special events throughout the year. The MWCD created a master plan for recreational facilities, and in 2019, phase 2 of the plan was implemented, bringing millions of dollars in improvement to parks, including camping areas and marinas. Plans are underway to add 13 solar power energy projects to reduce the carbon footprint and offset energy costs. MWCD saw 4 million visitors in 2021, a 5% increase from 2020.

The Miami Conservancy District (MCD) in southwest Ohio provides flood risk reduction, preserves water resources, and promotes recreation and community development along the region's waterways. Of the approximately 44,000 acres owned by MCD, about 3,300 acres are reserved for recreation areas. The National Aviation Heritage Area, North Country National Scenic Trail, statewide Buckeye Trail, and U.S. Bike Route 50 use portions of MCD's land, attracting visitors, through-hikers, and cyclists from across the country. MCD's land along the Great Miami River is at the heart of a nearly 350-mile regional network of paved shared-use trails, including the Great Miami, Mad, Stillwater, and Wolf Creek trails that connect to the Central Ohio Greenways' Camp Chase Trail near London, Ohio. MCD leases thousands of acres to Five Rivers MetroParks, MetroParks of Butler County, City of Hamilton, Miami Township, Warren County, and other riverfront communities for public parks along the riverway. These parks feature amenities for various



Ohio park districts are committed to land management and stewardship, while providing opportunities to connect Ohioans with nature.

activities – hiking and mountain biking trails, riverbank fishing, and community gathering areas for festivals and live concerts. In 2021, MCD received \$1.1 million in federal funds for levee and alternative transportation trail system work in Northern Dayton. The Great Miami River, including trails and nearby attractions along a 99-mile corridor, is becoming a destination for locals and visitors – so much so that MCD and the riverfront communities have collaborated to establish and promote The Great Miami Riverway. Work continues, including the purchase of a former brownfield site in the city of Miamisburg in 2020 to redevelop, reimagine, and revitalize the area.

Park Districts

A total of 62 park districts in Ohio preserve, manage, and develop Ohio’s land and water resources for public enjoyment and outdoor recreation (Figure 4). Park districts are established and governed by

Ohio Revised Code Chapter 511 or 1545. Many were established decades ago in semi-rural communities that are now urbanized and nearly built out. As the communities grew, many park districts acquired additional land holdings to preserve land and resources, increasing their commitment to land management and stewardship and providing additional opportunities to connect Ohioans with nature. Over the past decade, the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program has provided significant funding for park districts to acquire land and expand their park offerings.

Staying relevant to the communities they serve is important to park districts to maintain support and financial sustainability through tax levies, grants, and gifts. However, the costs of land acquisition, development of recreational facilities, removal of existing unsuitable structures on acquired land, and maintaining existing

Figure 4: Park Districts of Ohio

1 Ashland County Park District	22 Guernsey County Park District	43 Olander Park System
2 Ashtabula County Metroparks	23 Hancock Park District	44 Paulding County Park District
3 Metroparks of Butler County	24 Hardin County Veterans Memorial Park	45 Pickaway County Park District
4 Carroll County Park District	25 Henry County Park District	46 Portage Park District
5 Clark County Park District	26 Heritage Trails Park District	47 Preble County Park District
6 Clermont County Park District	27 Huron County Park District	48 Preservation Parks of Delaware County
7 Cleveland Metroparks	28 Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District	49 Richland County Park District
8 Clinton County Park District	29 Knox County Park District	50 Ross County Park District
9 Columbiana County Park District	30 Lake Metroparks	51 Sandusky County Park District
10 Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks	31 Licking Park District	52 Seneca County Park District
11 Coshocton Park District	32 Lorain County Metroparks District	53 Shelby County Park District
12 Crawford Park District	33 Madison County Park District	54 Stark County Park District
13 Darke County Park District	34 Marion County Park District	55 Summit Metroparks
14 Defiance County Park District	35 Medina County Park District	56 Metroparks of the Toledo Area
15 Erie Metroparks	36 Meigs County Park District	57 Tumbull County Metro Park District
16 Fairfield County Historical Parks Commission	37 Meigs County Park District	58 Tuscarawas County Park District
17 Five Rivers Metroparks	38 Miami County Park District	59 Van Wert County Park District
18 Friendship Park District	39 Mill Creek Metroparks	60 Warren County Park District
19 Geauga park District	40 Monroe County Park District	61 Wayne County Park District
20 Great Parks of Hamilton County	41 Muskingum Valley Park District	62 Wood County Park District
21 Green County Parks & Trails	42 O.O. McIntyre Park District	

park infrastructure can be quite costly. In response, more park districts have increased their efforts to diversify funding sources, develop endowments, increase grant writing staff, and foster partnerships to expand capacity and outreach. Strong marketing programs, enhanced websites, social media outreach, smartphone applications, slogans, logos, and images that appeal to a broad range of audiences are becoming more mainstream for park districts. Park districts are also developing cost recovery programs and long-term sustainable business practices.

In addition to diversifying funding opportunities, parks seek to diversify program offerings. The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of quality parks and outdoor recreation for everyone. The value of these spaces has continued after lockdowns ended. Programming and equipment that is accessible to everyone is a priority for park districts. Another priority is reaching audiences that have been historically marginalized, creating park equity across the state for all residents.

Joint Recreation Districts

Joint Recreation Districts are collaborations between neighboring entities to acquire land and develop recreational facilities such as trails and sports fields. Ohio Revised Code Chapter 755 creates the legal framework for joint recreation districts and qualifies them to receive funding. The collaborative recreation district partnerships can provide more capacity to operate and

maintain parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, and recreation centers that benefit the communities. Figure 5 lists Ohio's 16 Joint Recreation Districts.

1. Bellefontaine Joint Recreation District
2. Cardington Joint Recreation District
3. Franklin Park Joint Recreation District
4. Franklin Township Joint Recreation District
5. Fredericktown Recreation District
6. Granville Recreation District
7. Lawrence Township Joint Recreation District
8. Malta/Mcconnellsville Joint Recreation District
9. National Trail Parks and Recreation District
10. New Albany Plain Local Joint Parks District
11. Orange Community Education & Recreation
12. Orwell Area Joint Recreation District
13. Richfield Joint Recreation District
14. Sylvania Recreation District
15. Union County Joint Recreation District
16. West Geauga Joint Recreation District

Local Governments

Local government agencies are the backbone of public recreation opportunities in Ohio. Cities, villages, counties, townships, and school districts offer numerous recreational facilities, programs, and events close to home, whether a playground, ballfield, fishing lake, or trail. The role of local governments is significant in improving the quality of life and delivering recreational services to Ohio residents. One recent example of local governments partnering to leverage resources and provide quality outdoor recreation opportunities is the Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia (ORCA).

In 2019, the ORCA, a Council of Governments, was created by Athens County Jurisdictions to deliver outdoor recreation opportunities across governmental boundaries, and work began to develop the Baileys Trail System. ORCA manages the Baileys Trail System in partnership with the Wayne National Forest. Once complete, the Baileys Trail System will feature trails built for beginners through expert mountain bikers that provide hikes and trail runs. To date, 49 miles have been built, with direct connections to the communities of Chauncey and Doanville, with connections planned to Nelsonville and Buchtel.

Private and Non-Profit Organizations

The private sector significantly contributes to the delivery of recreation services in Ohio, whether by managing recreation

lands, providing skill-building courses, offering concessions and amenities, or offering equipment that enables users to enjoy various recreational activities.

Private recreational enterprises often add capacity, supplement offerings, and invest in specialized facilities such as marinas, ski areas, canoe liveries, golf courses, horse stables, swimming complexes, and developed campgrounds. There are also private recreation areas on properties owned by timber, power, and coal companies in southeastern Ohio that are open to public use for hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, and picnicking. Private entities are converting schoolyards into green spaces and parks in urban areas. Often, urban schoolyards are blacktop areas with minimal recreational opportunities. Turning these into quality parks improves neighborhoods, outdoor area access, and climate resilience.

Non-profit organizations also play an important role in outdoor recreation by preserving land, offering programs, and providing educational opportunities. Organizations such as the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of America operate day, weekend, and week-long camps that provide skill-building opportunities and a variety of outdoor recreation activities.

OUTDOOR RECREATION TRENDS AND DEMANDS



Ohio Demographics

Understanding Ohio's demographics provides valuable insights into population size, age structure, gender distribution, income levels, education levels, and racial and ethnic composition, shedding light on social disparities and inequalities. By understanding population demographics, governments, organizations, and communities can make informed decisions and allocate outdoor recreation resources where they most need them. Decision-makers and organizations can identify gaps in access to outdoor recreation resources, services, and opportunities. This understanding can lead to developing programs to promote social equity, reduce inequalities, and ensure inclusion for all population segments.

Ohio's population has grown slowly over the past two decades. Between 2000 and 2010, the state's population increased by 1.6 percent; more recently, between 2010 and 2020, the population grew by 2.3 percent. During this time, the national population grew by 9.7 percent and 7.4 percent, respectively. Between 2010 and 2020, Franklin County had the largest numeric increase in population, with 160,393 more residents. Conversely, Cuyahoga County had the most significant numeric decrease, with 15,305 fewer residents. Regionally, Central Ohio and Southwest Ohio's populations grew between 2010 and 2020. Central Ohio's population increased by an average of 10.8 percent, and Southwest Ohio's population grew by 3.4 percent. Southeast, Northwest,

and Northeast Ohio populations decreased during this same time. Southeast Ohio's population decreased by an average of 3.7 percent, Northwest Ohio decreased by an average of 1.3 percent, and Northeast Ohio decreased by 0.5 percent.



Ohioans benefit from the outdoors both mentally and physically. Equitable outdoor recreation plays a significant role in public health.

Within this overall change in population numbers, Ohio's demographics also continue to change. Nearly one-quarter (22%) of Ohio's population is 17 years or younger, while another 17.8 percent are 65 or older. Ohio's older population is projected to grow more rapidly than its overall population. It is projected that 1 in 4 Ohioans will be 60 or older by 2040. Residents 17 years and younger decreased by 5.1 percent compared to 1.4 percent

nationally. Ohio's median age in 2020 was 39.5 years, making Ohioans slightly older than the U.S. population's median age of 38.5 years. While the population in most areas of the state is growing older, Columbus experienced an increase in younger residents.

Ohio is more diverse in 2020 than it was in 2010. In 2020, Ohio's Diversity Index (DI)³ was 40.4 percent, a 7.8 percent increase over 2010. Ohio's most populous counties are Franklin, Cuyahoga, Hamilton, Summit, Montgomery, and Lucas Counties. These six counties also have the highest diversity, as measured by DI, in the state: Cuyahoga (58.7%), Franklin (58.6%), Hamilton (54.1%), Lucas (51.9%), Montgomery (50.1%), and Summit (43.3%). The fastest-growing racial and ethnic group in Ohio is the Asian community, which has grown by 55.3 percent since 2010. Another factor contributing to the increasing diversity of Ohio is the growing Hispanic/Latino community, which grew by 47 percent over the 2010 population. While both groups saw an increased population from 2010-2020, they remain a small overall proportion of the total population in the state: Hispanic/Latino residents make up 4.4 percent of the state population, and Asian residents account for 2.5 percent of the state's population. Also increasing (5.1% since 2010), Ohio's African American residents account for 12.5 percent of the state's

population and are most highly represented in Cuyahoga, Hamilton, and Franklin Counties. Most of Ohio's Asian population also live in these three counties and Summit County. At the same time, Lorain and Lucas Counties, along with Franklin, Cuyahoga, and Hamilton Counties, are home to most of Ohio's Hispanic/Latino population.



Access to parks can increase opportunities to socialize with friends and connect communities, benefiting Ohioans' well-being.

Ohio's Outdoor Health Connection

Ohioans benefit from the outdoors both mentally and physically. Studies find that access to nature provides benefits in measurable health outcomes. Key findings from the 2019 State Health Assessment indicate that overall well-being for Ohioans declined from 2016 to 2019. Race, income, education, ability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, and geography are all predictors of health disparities across several health measures in the

³ Diversity Index (DI), reported here as percentages, tells us the chance that two people chosen at random will be from different racial and ethnic groups.

state. Equitable outdoor recreation has a significant role to play in public health. Ohio's public lands provide diverse outdoor recreation opportunities, connecting Ohioans with nature in various settings and activities. Researchers link time spent in nature with a lower risk of chronic disease, decreased stress, and boosted happiness, both critical for maintaining good mental health and fighting depression and anxiety. Many outdoor activities require physical activity, which is essential for maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Access to parks can increase opportunities to socialize with friends and connect communities, benefiting Ohioan's well-being.



Access and inclusion are necessary to ensure parks are beneficial for all Ohioans.

While nature is found all around, high-quality parks and greenspaces – most likely to support positive health outcomes – are not available equally to everyone. Proximity can be a limiting factor as low-resource communities and communities of color are less likely to be located near high-quality parks and greenspaces. People with health

conditions or people with disabilities may face barriers to access when parks and greenspaces are not developed with accessibility in mind. Some groups may find parks and greenspaces less accessible or enjoyable because they are not safe from the risk of physical harm, harassment, or discrimination. Access and inclusion are necessary to ensure parks are beneficial for all Ohioans.

It is often thought that rural communities have unlimited access to outdoor space for recreation. Studies of urban-rural differences in access to parks and green spaces, however, found a need for more rural spaces available for public use. Many rural communities, however, may not have an adequate tax base to develop or maintain a local park, sidewalks, or walking paths. Partnering with neighboring communities to leverage resources and create quality outdoor recreation areas may be one way of overcoming this challenge.

National Outdoor Recreation Trends

National surveys offer insight into outdoor recreation participation trends that may be like trends in Ohio or assist in forecasting potential changes in the future. Since 1998, the Outdoor Foundation has published an annual outdoor recreation participation report that provides information and data on various activities and groups. For the 2021 survey, the Outdoor Foundation conducted 18,000 online interviews with a nationwide sample of individuals

representative of the U.S. population to determine the most popular outdoor activities (Figure 6).

In 2021, 54 percent of Americans (164.2 million) participated at least once in outdoor recreation, the highest number of participants recorded. Since March 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic was declared, the number of new or returning participants increased. While one might expect these participation rates to have dropped once indoor activities reopened, the 2021 data indicates outdoor recreation participation maintained momentum. The survey found that new outdoor participants are more diverse than the overall participant base, not only by ethnicity but also across age groups. The number of participants 55 years and older has increased by over 14 percent since 2019. Since the pandemic began, participants 65 and older have been the fastest-growing age group.

Participants spend a lot of time outdoors; however, total outdoor outings continue their decade-long decline, despite the increased number of participants. Local neighborhood parks, playgrounds, and city parks were the most popular venues for outdoor recreation outings. The 2021 survey found that the top motivator for being outdoors was the idea of being physically fit, which correlates with running being the most popular activity.

Overall, the percentage of America's youth (70%) participating in outdoor recreation was high in 2021. Younger kids (ages 6 to



In the 2022 Ohio Resident Survey, trail-related activities had the highest participation rates of any outdoor recreation activity. Nearly 9 in 10 trail users say they walked or hiked on natural surface trails.

12) are more active in the outdoors than teens (ages 13 to 17) or adults (ages 18 and older). The most popular activities by participation for youth (ages 6 to 17) were biking (29.9%), camping (26.6%), fishing (25.6%), running (21.3%), and hiking (20.2%). The most popular activities change slightly when you look at the number of outings. Biking remains the most popular, with over 600,000 outings, followed by running, fishing, skateboarding, and camping. Among youth participating in outdoor recreation, video games were the most popular non-outdoor recreation activity.

Other national trends based on research are summarized below. Although these trends do not represent all activities, they are a glimpse of changes in overall outdoor recreation in the United States.

Figure 6: Outdoor Foundation 2021 Survey

<i>Grew in 2020</i>	<i>Declined in 2020</i>
Backpacking Overnight - More than 1/4 Mile from Vehicle/Bicycling (BMX)	Adventure Racing
Bicycling (Mountain/Non-Paved Surface)	Archery
Bicycling (Road/Paved Surface)	Boardsailing/Windsurfing
Birdwatching More Than 1/4 Mile from Home/Vehicle	Hunting (Handgun)
Camping	Hunting(Shotgun)
Camping (RV)	Kayaking (Sea/Touring)
Canoeing	Shooting (Sport Clays)
Climbing (Sport/Boulder)	Shooting (Trap/Skeet)
Climbing (Traditional/Ice/Mountaineering)	Skiing (Alpine/Downhill/Freeski/Telemark)
Fishing (Fly)	Skiing (Cross-Country)
Fishing (Freshwater/Other)	Sledding/Saucer Riding/Snow Tubing
Fishing (Saltwater)	Snowshoeing
Hiking (Day)	Triathlon (Non-Traditional/Off Road)
Hunting (Bow)	Triathlon (Traditional/Road)
Kayaking (Recreational)	
Kayaking (White Water)	
Rafting	
Running/Jogging	
Skateboarding	
Snorkeling	
Snowboard Touring	
Snowboarding	
Stand Up Paddling	
Surfing	
Trail Running	
Wakesurfing	
Walking for Fitness	
Wildlife Viewing More Than 1/4 Mile from Home/Vehicle	
Winter Fat Biking	

<i>Grew in 2021</i>	<i>Declined in 2021</i>
Archery	Adventure Racing
Boardsailing/Windsurfing	Alpine Touring
Climbing (Sport/Boulder)	Backpacking Overnight - More than 1/4 Mile from Vehicle/ Bicycling (BMX)
Hiking (Day)	Bicycling (Mountain/Non-Paved Surface)
Kayaking (Recreational)	Bicycling (Road/Paved Surface)
Kayaking (Sea/Touring)	Birdwatching More Than 1/4 Mile from Home/Vehicle
Kayaking (White Water)	Camping
Snowboarding	Camping (RV)
Stand Up Paddling	Canoeing
Trail Running	Climbing (Traditional/Ice/Mountaineering)
Wakesurfing	Fishing (Fly)
Walking for Fitness	Fishing (Freshwater/Other)
	Fishing (Saltwater)
	Hunting (Bow)
	Hunting (Handgun)
	Rafting
	Running/Jogging
	Shooting (Sport Clays)
	Shooting (Trap/Skeet)
	Skateboarding
	Skiing (Alpine/Downhill/Freeski/Telemark)
	Skiing (Cross-Country)
	Sledding/Saucer Riding/Snow Tubing
	Snorkeling
	Snowboard Touring
	Snowshoeing
	Surfing
	Triathlon (Non-Traditional/Off Road)
	Triathlon (Traditional/Road)
	Wildlife Viewing More Than 1/4 Mile from Home/Vehicle
	Winter Fat Biking

Camping:

- Interest in camping has continued to grow over the past decade. One in three leisure trips included camping in 2022.
- In 2022, cabin and glamping campers saw the greatest increase in participants. While RV growth slowed, this segment continued to grow. The highest use of tents among new campers was seen in 2020 but has declined over the past two years to pre-2020.
- Over time, access to technology is impacting leisure travelers' ability to camp and experience the outdoors. Four in ten campers say having Wi-Fi has a great deal of impact on their ability to camp more often.
- For those that camp, the primary reasons are being outdoors, spending more time with friends and family, and being able to relax. Emotional well-being and connecting with others are important to campers. Over half of campers say camping is an important part of their families' traditions and that it is important to introduce the next generation to camping. While camping, outdoor recreation activities participated in are shifting to more physical activities such as fishing, kayaking, hiking, bird watching, and biking.

Water-Related Activities:

- Sportfishing provides millions of days of recreation across the country for approximately 52 million anglers in the United States. More than 80 percent of anglers enjoy freshwater fishing areas.
- Stand-up paddleboarding (SUP) participation has steadily increased over the past decade, from 1.15 million participants in 2011 to 3.74 million in 2021.
- Motorboat sales in 2022 were down 18 percent from 2021 and 11 percent from the pre-pandemic level of 2019. Although lower than 2021, pontoon boats, wake boats, and yacht sales remain higher than 2019 levels. Kayak and SUP sales were down about 16 percent from 2021 but remained 23 percent higher than 2019.



With its numerous lakes, rivers, reservoirs, and streams, and its diverse fish species, fishing is a popular outdoor activity for many Ohioans and visitors.

Winter Sports:

- During the 2020-2021 season, people participated more frequently in winter sports than in previous years, but the total number of people participating declined (24.6 million compared to 25.1 million in the 2019-2020 season).

Technology & Marketing:

- Other societal trends can impact recreation, such as 97 percent of American adults own a cellphone of some kind and 85 percent have smartphones, up from 77 percent in 2018. The increased availability and use of technology can impact how people receive information, how they plan outings, and their expectations regarding Wi-Fi accessibility while recreating.
- Outdoor recreation participants are becoming used to having access to technology throughout their trips. They share their experiences on social media apps, connect with friends and family, make reservations, book experiences, and research nearby activities online.

Demographic:

- Despite increased diversity across outdoor recreation, outdoor recreation participants remain less diverse than the overall population and significantly less diverse across younger age groups. Currently, white participants account for 72 percent of outdoor recreation

participants. Forecasts indicate that the percentage of Americans participating in outdoor recreation could fall from 54 percent to 40 percent by 2060 if outdoor recreation participation does not become more diverse over the next 30 years.

Economic:

- Outdoor recreation is among our nation's largest economic sectors. The outdoor recreation economy generates \$887 billion in consumer spending annually and supports 7.6 million jobs. Americans spend more on outdoor recreation than pharmaceuticals and fuel combined.
- Nationally, there are over 860 million visits to state parks, across more than 9,800 units nationwide.
- Each year, Americans spend more on trail sports gear (\$20 billion) than on home entertainment (\$18 billion); more on water sports gear (\$14 billion) than on movie tickets (\$11 billion); and more on cycling and skateboarding (\$97 billion) than on video games (\$61 billion). More Americans participate in outdoor recreation annually (145 million) than attend NFL, NBA, MLB, and NHL games combined (134 million).

Public Participation

During the development of the SCORP document, opportunities were provided for the public to participate in the planning process. As part of this process, ODNR

created an Advisory Committee, developed an Ohio resident online survey, conducted interviews, held listening sessions, and fielded a qualitative panel of diverse Ohio residents. To maximize participation, the Ohio Resident Survey was marketed extensively via social media outlets, press releases, newspaper articles, website links, radio interviews, newsletters, and flyers. Community listening sessions were held in areas with low response rates, and online qualitative panel interviews were conducted for demographic groups underrepresented in the Ohio Resident Survey. The planning process also allowed for public participation through key informant interviews, as well as providing an opportunity for public comment on the draft SCORP document via ODNR's website.

allowed residents to comment and have their opinion included in the SCORP development. The survey focused on public lands in Ohio, including local, community, state and national parks, state wildlife areas, state and national forest areas, and state nature preserves. The survey asked respondents to consider and include all outdoor recreational activities they and anyone in their household engaged in during the 2021 and 2022 calendar years on public lands in Ohio.

Throughout the 15 weeks that the online survey was available, staff evaluated the response rate throughout the state, and based on areas where response rates were low, additional outreach efforts were made via contacts, news outlets, tv and radio stations, and social media. Survey respondents were offered the opportunity to take the survey in an alternative language, but no requests were received.

Ohioans from all 88 counties responded to the survey, with 5,948 households completing the survey. Researchers at the George Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service at Ohio University compiled, analyzed, and summarized responses. Responses were split almost equally between binary genders, with female (50%) and male (47%); two percent of respondents preferred not to provide gender information, and less than one percent identified as non-binary. The highest number of survey responses were from residents 35 to 44 years old (22%), 55 to 64 years old (21%), and 45 to 54 years



ODNR celebrates a century of conservation in Shawnee State Park.

Ohio Resident Survey

An online survey was conducted for 15 weeks, from November 2022 to February 2023, to understand Ohioans' recreational behaviors and gather opinions on outdoor recreation facilities. The survey



Backpacking is one way Ohioans and visitors can enjoy the thousands of miles of trails that crisscross the state.

old (20.5%). About 5 percent of respondents were 18 to 24 years old, 14 percent were 25 to 34, and 17 percent were 65 or older. When completing the survey, respondents were asked to consider and respond for all those who lived in their household. Over one-third of respondents (35%) represented households with children present, slightly higher than the statewide population (31%).

Ohio is a diverse state in demographics, geography, and available recreational facilities. The full report on survey

responses includes both a statewide and regional-based summary of Ohioans' activities, what recreational facilities they would like to see more in their community, and what types of facilities need rehabilitation. The complete report for the Ohio Resident Survey is included in Appendix A.

Ohioans enjoyed a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities, with trail activities being the most popular, with 95 percent of households using Ohio's trails.

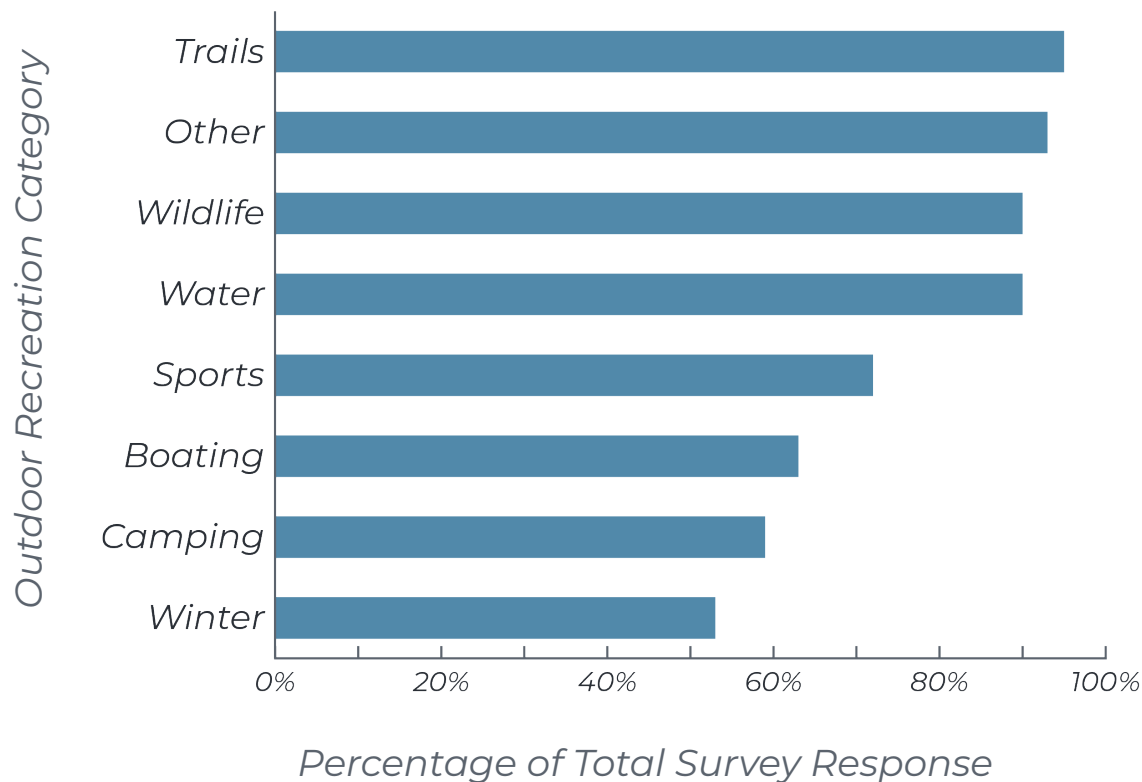
Winter activities had the lowest participation rate, with 53 percent of survey respondents participating in at least one of 11 measured activities. Other outdoor recreation (93%)⁴ and wildlife related activities (90%) rounded out the top three most popular types of activities (Figure 7).

When asked why they engaged in outdoor recreation, respondents said:

- Share time with family and/or friends **30.7%**
- Fun and entertainment **30.1%**
- Experience nature, quiet time and serenity **18.6%**
- Health, wellness, and fitness **18.5%**
- Organized event **2.2%**



Participation in Each Outdoor Recreation Category



⁴ Other outdoor recreation activities ranged from scenic driving, meditation, night-sky viewing, picnicking, outdoor games, technology-driven recreation, and kite flying to visiting playgrounds and outdoor fitness areas, watching an outdoor movie, or attending festivals, and visiting dog parks or historical sites.

Across the eight major categories of outdoor recreation, wildlife-related activities and trail activities had the highest levels of both participation and interest but were unable to participate. Winter activities had the lowest participation but a high level of interest. Respondents who indicated an interest in outdoor activities, but did not participate, were asked what their primary reason was for not participating:

- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities **38.6%**
- Do not own or have access to equipment **11.1%**
- Do not have information on where facilities are offered **9.1%**
- No facilities available **8.0%**
- Facilities too far away **7.9%**
- No one to go with **5.7%**
- The activity or the equipment is too costly **5.7%**
- Health issues **4.2%**
- Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe **1.3%**
- Facilities are not ADA-accessible **0.4%**

Trails:

Trail-related activities had the highest participation rates of any outdoor recreation activity. Among respondents who participated in trail activities, Walking and hiking on trails was very popular, with 89

percent of respondents walking or hiking on a natural surface trail, 81 percent on a paved trail, and 79 percent on a finely crushed stone trail at least a few times a year. The responses were comparable to the 2018 SCORP.

Bicycling was popular, with 50 percent of households using paved trails at least a few times a year, slightly lower than 55 percent in 2018. Twenty-two percent of respondents indicated they bicycled on a trail as a means of transportation at least a few times a year, only slightly lower than 25 percent in 2018. Mountain biking remained consistent with 18 percent of responses compared with 19 percent in 2018.

Water-Based Activities:

Boating and swimming activities are popular with Ohioans. Canoeing and kayaking in a stream, river, lake, or pond was the most popular boating activity with approximately 44 percent of respondents participating at least a few times during the year. Canoeing and kayaking showed the highest level of interest without participation, indicating a desire but lack of time, skill, and/or equipment. Participation in canoeing or kayaking increased from 2018 levels of 37 percent. More than one-third (39%) of respondents indicated their primary reason for canoeing or kayaking was to have fun, 27 percent indicated it was to spend time with family and friends, and another 26 percent said it was to experience nature, quiet time, and serenity. The top three reasons for not participating in boating activities were being

too busy, not owning or having access to equipment, and the activity or equipment being too costly.

Swimming is a popular activity with respondents using facilities such as an outdoor pool (52%), lake, pond, or river (58%) or an outdoor pool complex with a lazy river, wave pool, or similar features (25%). The popularity of splash pads and spray pads continued to grow from 19 percent to 23 percent.

Wildlife Activities:

The top three wildlife activities were wildlife viewing, nature photography, and birdwatching, with most participants indicating their primary reason for doing these activities was to experience nature, quiet time, and serenity. Shore fishing had greater participation than fishing from a motorized boat, fishing from a pier or ADA accessible site, and fishing from a non-motorized boat. All methods of fishing showed high levels of interest without participation, similar to results of the 2018 SCORP survey. Wildlife viewing and trapping were the least selected wildlife-based activities that respondents were interested in without participation.

Camping Activities:

The highest overall participation was for camping with a tent or pop-up camper in a developed campground (34%). Backcountry primitive camping has increased from 23 percent to 32 percent since 2018. Nearly one-third of respondents (31%) camped

with a tent or pop-up camper in an undeveloped campground. Sharing time with family and friends was the primary reason for participation in camping activities, except for backcountry camping, where respondents indicated they enjoyed backpacking to experience nature, quiet time, and serenity. About 5 percent of respondents indicated they had camped in a yurt, pre-set tent or similar structure, 4 percent in a designated boat camping area, and 3 percent in an ADA accessible camping site. Interest levels without participation were similar to participation levels in camping activities. There was an increase, however, in interest levels in camping in a yurt, equestrian camping, camping in designated boat camping area, and camping in ADA accessible sites.



Nature photography is one of the top three wildlife-related recreation activities Ohioans enjoy.

Outdoor Sports:

Overall, non-team sports had higher levels of participation than traditional team-oriented sports. Golfing participation, which declined from 46 percent of Ohio households in 2008 to 21 percent in 2013 and further declining to 19 percent in 2018, was similar to 2018 with 18 percent.



Outdoor activities in winter are a blast! Sledding and tubing has the highest level of participation for the winter activities measured in the 2022 Ohio Resident Survey.

Winter Activities:

Sledding and tubing (26% of respondents) had the highest level of participation of the 11 winter activities measured. Winter hunting and winter festivals had the next highest level of participation at 14 percent of respondents. Snowmobiling had the lowest level of participation with 1.5 percent of respondents. The top two reasons for participating in winter activities was to have fun and spend time with family and friends. However, the main reason respondents participated in winter hunting was to experience nature, quiet time, and solitude. Respondents showed the highest level of

interest without participating in winter festivals. Winter hunting had the lowest level of interest without participating of the 11 activities measured. Being too busy was the primary reason respondents who were interested did not participate. Not owning or having access to equipment, not having information about facilities, and no facilities available were the next most common reasons for not being able to participate.

Other Outdoor Activities:

Out of the 14 outdoor activities that fell into this category, scenic driving had the highest level of participation (70% of respondents), and technology-driven recreation had the lowest level (7% of respondents). Similar to participation levels in 2018, about half (51%) of respondents participated in outdoor festivals, concerts, or plays; 44 percent participated in night sky viewing; and 17 percent played horseshoes/bocce ball/bag toss.

What People Want:

The survey was drilled down to specifics to assess respondents' perspectives on the supply of existing recreation areas and facilities on public lands in their communities. Respondents were asked if specific outdoor recreational facilities were adequate in number, adequate in number but needed to be rehabilitated, or if there was a need for more facilities. The survey did not evaluate facilities on private lands, school district properties, or properties owned by commercial recreation entities, organizations, or clubs.

Respondents' top 10 facilities that Ohio needs more of include:

1. Natural surface trails
2. Paved multi-use trails
3. Canoeing and kayaking access, facilities, water trails
4. Wildlife viewing and birding areas
5. Finely crushed stone trails
6. Primitive, undeveloped campgrounds
7. Outdoor pool complexes with lazy river, wave pool, other similar
8. Mountain biking trails
9. Outdoor pools
10. Developed campgrounds

Respondents' top 10 facilities that need updating or rehabilitation include:

1. Storybook trails
2. Soccer fields
3. Picnic shelters
4. Developed campgrounds
5. Playgrounds
6. Natural surface trails
7. Primitive, undeveloped campgrounds
8. Fishing areas
9. Historic/heritage sites
10. Wildlife viewing and birding areas

To determine funding priorities, respondents were asked where they would prefer funding dollars to be used. The survey asked them to prioritize nine general categories for funding opportunities (Figure 8). Similar to the 2018 SCORP, acquiring



Acquire land for preservation of habitat, wetlands, forests, rivers and lakes	1
Expand trail network with a focus on developing longer distance trails	2
Rehabilitate and upgrade existing park facilities	3
Develop more loop trails	4
Develop active, multi-use parks	5
Expand wildlife-related outdoor recreation opportunities	6
Acquire land for park development	7
Offer basic outdoor recreation skill development programs and events	8
Integrate technology	9

land to preserve habitat, wetlands, forests, rivers, and lakes was ranked first or second by 39 percent of respondents. Expanding the trail network with a focus on developing longer-distance trails, and rehabilitating and upgrading existing park facilities ranked second and third.

Figure 9 is a listing of all surveyed outdoor recreation activities and the percentage of respondents participating at any level of frequency.

Key Informants Interviews

ODNR contracted with DJ Case & Associates (DJ Case) to conduct interviews with individuals or groups who have a vested interest in outdoor recreation in Ohio. Key informants were individuals who are affected by or have an impact on outdoor recreation opportunities in Ohio, and who could provide perspectives from around the state. The purpose of the interviews was to gain a deeper understanding of the outdoor recreation communities' perspectives, identify potential challenges and opportunities, and inform the development of the priorities and strategies for this SCORP. A total of 13 one-hour interviews were conducted from November 7, 2022, to April 10, 2023. Interviewees included individuals from local and municipal parks and recreation authorities, not-for-profit organizations, state and federal recreation and conservation agencies, councils, and districts.

Overall, interviewees were excited to share the story of their organizations

and the creative and innovative efforts underway across the state. Throughout all the interviews, the theme of connection was present: connecting communities, connecting people to their history, connecting people to nature, and the connection of outdoor recreation and green spaces to economic vitality and personal well-being.



Ohioans' participation in mountain biking has remained consistent over the past five years and continues to be a popular trail use.

It is difficult to discuss trends in outdoor recreation without discussing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on people's lives and activities. All those interviewed noted the increased use of outdoor

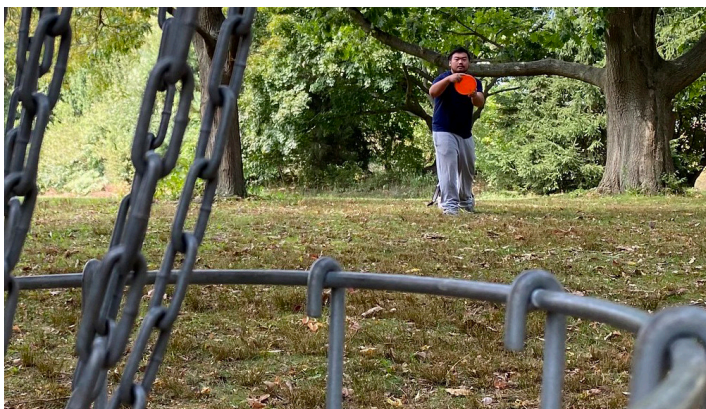
Figure 9: Outdoor Recreation Participation and Interest

<i>Category</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Interested</i>	<i>Participated</i>	<i>Total</i>
Boating	Canoeing/Kayaking in a stream, river, or following a water trail	1510	1950	3460
Boating	Canoeing/Kayaking in a lake or pond	1508	2003	3511
Boating	Canoeing/Kayaking on Lake Erie	1822	362	2184
Boating	Canoeing/Kayaking utilizing ADA accessible launch area	1081	400	1481
Boating	Sailing	1243	134	1377
Boating	Pontoon boating	1620	775	2395
Boating	Powerboating or waterskiing	1297	593	1890
Boating	Jet skiing	1477	254	1731
Boating	Paddleboarding/Stand-up paddleboarding	1595	590	2185
Camping	Camping in the backcountry, accessed by hiking, backpacking, cycling, or paddling	2091	1635	3726
Camping	Camping in a tent or pop-up camper in an undeveloped or primitive campground	1872	1609	3481
Camping	Camping in a tent or pop-up camper in a developed campground	1777	1768	3545
Camping	Camping in a RV in a developed campground	1751	1135	2886
Camping	Camping in a yurt, pre-set up tent or similar structure	2570	258	2828
Camping	Group camping or camping as part of an event	1916	1097	3013
Camping	Equestrian camping	955	243	1198
Camping	Camping in a designated boat camping area	1527	231	1758
Camping	Camping in an ADA accessible site	1000	182	1182
Other	Picnicking - no shelter	833	2095	2928
Other	Picnicking - shelter	880	2090	2970
Other	Playground	319	1648	1967
Other	Kite flying	1071	492	1563
Other	Scenic driving	323	2750	3073
Other	Touring historic/heritage sites, farms	923	2301	3224
Other	Dog park	717	855	1572

Other	Outdoor festival/Concert/Play	1060	2027	3087
Other	Outdoor movie	1683	551	2234
Other	Night sky viewing	1374	1724	3098
Other	Horseshoes/Bocce/Bag toss	1046	666	1712
Other	Outdoor adult fitness area with equipment	1252	336	1588
Other	Technology-driven recreation (smart phone game)	567	276	843
Sport	Yoga/Tai Chi/Outdoor meditation	1317	420	1737
Sport	Soccer	631	451	1082
Sport	Baseball/Softball	786	417	1203
Sport	Basketball	686	523	1209
Sport	Tennis	890	334	1224
Sport	Pickleball	1260	340	1600
Sport	Volleyball	934	355	1289
Sport	Lacrosse/Rugby	411	51	462
Sport	Football	549	284	833
Sport	Golf (9- or 18-hole)	756	741	1497
Sport	Golf - Driving range	845	664	1509
Sport	Disc Golf/Ultimate Frisbee	1034	659	1693
Sport	Archery	1482	508	1990
Sport	Target/Skeet Shooting Sports	1291	453	1744
Sport	Climbing/Rappelling on constructed outdoor wall or facility	1448	344	1792
Sport	Skate park/Skateboarding	553	201	754
Sport	Geocaching/Orienteering	1246	388	1634
Sport	Outdoor rock climbing/Rappelling or bouldering on natural surfaces	1281	339	1620
Sport	Tree climbing	942	321	1263
Sport	Other, please specify	288	429	717
Trail	Hiking/Walking on a natural surface trail	322	4224	4546
Trail	Hiking/Walking on a finely crushed stone trail	638	3750	4388
Trail	Walking on a paved trail	474	3846	4320
Trail	Storybook trails	1487	1363	2850
Trail	Backpacking on a natural surface trail	1794	1334	3128
Trail	Bicycling on a paved trail	1224	2362	3586
Trail	Bicycling on a finely crushed stone trail	1444	1523	2967
Trail	Bicycling on a trail for transportation	1460	1041	2501
Trail	Mountain biking on a trail	1287	862	2149

Trail	Trail jogging/Running on a paved trail	806	1179	1985
Trail	Trail jogging/Running on a fine crushed stone trail	920	957	1877
Trail	Trail jogging/Running on a natural surface trail	918	1028	1946
Trail	Horseback riding on a trail	1400	368	1768
Trail	Fitness trail with exercise/equipment stations	1480	559	2039
Trail	ATV/UTV riding	1276	525	1801
Trail	Dirt bike/Off-road motorcycle riding on a trail	845	354	1199
Trail	Mobility device/wheelchair on a trail	447	87	534
Water	Swimming in a lake, pond, river	889	2263	3152
Water	Swimming in an outdoor pool	927	2536	3463
Water	Swimming in an outdoor pool complex with lazy river, wave pool, or similar features	1867	1104	2971
Water	Splash pad/Spray park	1001	981	1982
Wildlife	Birdwatching	1124	2667	3791
Wildlife	Wildlife viewing	902	4056	4958
Wildlife	Nature photography	1250	3063	4313
Wildlife	Hunting	1025	1320	2345
Wildlife	Trapping	886	234	1120
Wildlife	Fishing from the shore	1276	2560	3836
Wildlife	Fishing from a motorized boat	1919	1377	3296
Wildlife	Fishing from a nonmotorized boat/kayak	1985	1137	3122
Wildlife	Fishing from a pier or ADA accessible site	1871	1249	3120
Winter	Snowshoeing	1244	230	1474
Winter	Sledding/Tubing	1460	1057	2517
Winter	Cross-country skiing	1264	230	1494
Winter	Downhill skiing	1044	316	1360
Winter	Ice skating	1353	424	1777
Winter	Snowboarding	917	172	1089
Winter	Snowmobiling	1210	61	1271
Winter	Ice fishing	892	177	1069
Winter	Winter camping	1048	353	1401
Winter	Winter festival	1563	583	2146
Winter	Winter hunting	488	583	1071

spaces during the pandemic, particularly the significant increase in the number of people using trails across the state. Many of those interviewed felt that visiting parks, getting onto the water, and utilizing trails during the pandemic helped to reintroduce people to parks and greenspaces that are close to home, resulting in an increased appreciation of these spaces that have endured. Interviewees also spoke about the increased demand for camping during the pandemic. While this has slowed, the demand for camping sites is still thought to be higher than pre-2019. The role of parks and greenspaces in bringing communities together was something mentioned often, through connectivity of trails, to walkability of parks, to the role of parks as revenue generators that bring people into small towns or areas, they may not visit otherwise. The importance of trail connectivity was apparent in all settings. While access issues are often thought of in more urban settings, access in rural settings is an issue that different organizations and communities are also dealing with.



Disc golf is a great way to hone skills and enjoy time outdoors. Parks, recreation providers, state agencies, federal agencies, and not-for-profits are working to connect Ohio communities and people to the natural world.

Many have the desire to make trails part of healthy lifestyles and active transportation. To do so, trails must be connected and easily accessible. With the higher use of parks, trails, and greenspaces, there were several specific needs that interviewees mentioned.

- **Making activities and facilities accessible for people with disabilities**
 - Interviewees noted the need for accessible canoe and kayak launches. Facility rehabilitation often focused on things such as restrooms and other services to make them more accessible to all visitors, such as paved paths and larger parking spaces.
- **Trail maintenance and connectivity to communities and regions** - in rural areas, providing trails that connect different small communities is important. In more urban areas, interviewees discussed connecting trails, so they are useful for active transportation.
- **Need for skill-building opportunities**
 - Interviewees often spoke of the need to offer skill building opportunities. New users need an entry point to outdoor recreation activities and parks are primed to offer them. In some cases, organizations across the state are already making these offerings available in their areas through mobile units that are designed to take programming out into the communities.

Every interviewee demonstrated ambitious goals for outdoor recreation. Not surprisingly, the list of priorities they offered was also ambitious and demonstrated a commitment to serving the people of Ohio. Overwhelmingly, the priorities focused on connections. Connecting people to the natural environment, people to parks, parks to parks, trails to communities, and communities to one another through extensive trail systems. Several spoke of the importance of having parks close to the communities they serve. Importantly, park equity should not be measured by distance alone; rather, parks and other recreation areas should be equitably equipped.

The role of trails in connectivity came up repeatedly. Trails are a way to connect different park properties and communities to one another. Interviewees mentioned visitors using trails for leisure, exercise, and transportation. Furthermore, some noted it is not enough to build new trails, but old trails also must be maintained so that they continue to be used and enjoyed. One of the most innovative trail offerings we heard about was the construction of trails for the blind. These trails include changes in trail substrate to mark distinct parts of the trail, braille signage, and limited bike access. This sort of innovative offering opens access to populations often underserved in outdoor recreation. In addition to hiking trails, for those with water access, water trails were also a priority. Like hiking trails, water trails need quality and up-to-date signage to help

participants feel safe and in control of their experience. Also, for those with waterfront resources, being sure that those waterfronts are accessible and maintained was a stated priority. Many identified boat permitting costs as a barrier to participation and identified facilities that rented equipment such as kayaks and paddleboards as potential ways to lower these barriers. Waterways have unique needs, but Ohio is poised to be a destination location for kayakers and paddlers.

Using technology to connect to the outdoors and parks is something that became even more important during the Covid-19 pandemic. Many interviewees were using freely available apps to encourage their visitors to learn more about the natural world. Interviewees were exploring ways technology could be used to connect homebound citizens, to provide access to hard-to-reach places or provide interpretative services. Technology was also used to address risk reduction by providing digital maps or other wayfinding applications that are easy to access and use on a smartphone. As a safety issue, digital maps and wayfinding abilities are also vital for EMT workers, particularly in more rural, backcountry settings. Other ideas for the use and importance of technology included making parks and trails a space for public Wi-Fi. Broadband access is not equal across communities and households. Outdoor areas can provide a place where everyone can have access to this resource. Furthermore, providers need to be forward-

looking in terms of future technologies, providing EV charging and solar for lighting being two priorities mentioned.

Accessibility for all demographics was a priority for all interviewees. Being sensitive to the needs of communities is key to reaching across social and cultural divides. This sensitivity to the needs of communities was best addressed by improving staff training on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Interviewees also spoke about access issues in rural areas, which are often overlooked and need to be considered. For all communities, these issues may be best addressed by including communities in the planning processes and making sure that community voices are part of the planning from the beginning.



Basketball is a popular outdoor sports activity for getting outdoors, having fun with friends and family, and improving fitness.

Addressing issues of risk perception and safety is important for attracting visitors.

This was often primarily addressed by being sure that spaces were well lit, inviting, clean (especially the restrooms), and had well-trained staff. Safety concerns around activities were often addressed through well-maintained equipment, proper signage, and wayfinding tools. For older populations, concerns about falling were addressed by providing trails and places with flat surfaces and clear of debris. Beyond physical safety, interviewees spoke of the need to consider emotional safety. All residents should feel welcome in parks; proper training and welcoming and inclusive arrival experiences are ways parks can address this problem. Parks, recreation providers, state agencies, federal agencies, and not-for-profits are working to connect communities and people to the natural world. These connections can only be made when parks can serve all residents.

The full report of public participation findings can be found in Appendix B.

Listening Sessions

ODNR provided additional input opportunities in counties with fewer responses (10 or fewer) and with groups with lower-than-anticipated response rates to the Ohio resident survey. Keeping in mind that one of the best ways to hear from people is to go to where the people are, multiple listening sessions were set up to coincide with previously scheduled events. With Ohio's older population projected to grow more rapidly than its overall population, it is important to understand

the outdoor recreation activities and needs of older residents. Since residents 65 years or older had an overall lower-than-expected response rate to the online survey, they were selected as the primary population for the listening sessions.

The Advisory Committee and ODNR assisted with contacting local and regional Councils on Aging (COA) to coordinate with ongoing local community events such as lunches, dinners, and planned COA activities. In March 2023, over 100 Ohio residents participated in six listening sessions held in the following locations (Exhibit 17):

- Mercer County: Celina, OH
- Williams County: Bryan, OH
- Paulding County: Paulding, OH
- Monroe County: Woodsfield, OH
- Gallia County: Gallipolis, OH
- Preble County: Eaton, OH

Topics discussed in the listening sessions included current recreational activities, barriers or challenges to participation, and community needs. Participants ranged in retirement age, with some communities experiencing a shift with people retiring early. Present throughout all the listening sessions was the importance of community and the social benefits of group activities and being outdoors. Popular outdoor recreation activities discussed included:

- Trail-based activities such as walking, hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding

- Water-based activities such as fishing, boating, and kayaking
- Camping, hunting, and archery
- Outdoor sports such as pickleball, golf, disc golf, and putt-putt
- Winter activities like snow skiing
- Visiting State Parks, viewing wildflowers, and picnicking
- Wildlife viewing and bird watching
- Gardening
- Attending local events like fitness/yoga, outdoor music/arts, or outdoor movies

Residents shared the challenges they encounter when participating in outdoor activities and the needs they saw in their communities. While residents spoke specifically of their communities, there were common themes. One of the most common was the lack of access to and connection between trails, parks, and outdoor recreation areas. Residents spoke of fostering connectedness by:

- Extending pre-existing bike paths or connecting bike paths from other communities
- Partnering with other organizations to help develop and promote nature and walking paths
- Developing trail systems in town

Specific details mentioned by residents included options that were senior-friendly

Exhibit 17: 2024 SCORP Listening Session Sites



and accessible for safety and mobility concerns. Residents mentioned not always feeling safe on existing trails, where uneven surfaces created fall concerns. In many cases, they mentioned altering their actions (e.g., walking in the early morning to avoid fast traffic or looking for pedestrian-only paths) to feel safer on trails. Other trail characteristics residents looked for were:

- More trails that have shade or go through woods
- Walking trails with swings and benches for resting
- Paved or level walking paths accessible to golf carts or powered wheelchairs
- Parking close by



Trails play an important role in connecting different properties and communities to one another. Developing and maintaining trails is important to ensure trails are used and enjoyed.

The distance from parking areas to walking paths was not the only instance where proximity was mentioned. Residents mentioned that the distance from their

homes to the activity's location could be challenging. Not all the people we spoke to had issues with distance or transportation and they were willing to travel to participate in the outdoor activities. For some, however, even activities four to five miles away could be too far.

Trails were not the only facilities mentioned during the listening sessions. Residents discussed having more open space (including places for outdoor grilling, shelter, picnic tables, and park benches) to participate in activities for all ages and families. There was a desire for more places to sit in the shade to observe nature and enjoy the outdoors. Community gardens with raised beds and benches were also mentioned as ways to address mobility challenges while participating in activities. Facilities to support water activities such as kayaking and fishing were also mentioned. Having benches along docks to provide spots to sit and fish or rest and enjoy nature and kayak launches that adjusted with the lake level were both mentioned to address challenges with participating in outdoor activities. For camping and hunting, residents pointed to a need for more campsites and publicly accessible firearm ranges. Residents also discussed the need for multi-purpose facilities for outdoor recreation. Among those active in outdoor sports, there was an interest in having access to golf, disc-golf, and putt-putt facilities.

The full report of public participation findings can be found in Appendix B.

Panel Interviews

Most responses (95%) received to the Ohio Resident Survey were from residents who identified as white or Caucasian. To ensure the process was informed by input from diverse audiences, ODNR worked with DJ Case to conduct qualitative panel interviews with Ohio residents underrepresented in Ohio Resident Survey. Using the questionnaire developed for the online Ohio Resident Survey. The qualitative panel interviews were conducted using an online panel of Ohio residents who self-identified as being Hispanic (23%), Asian (22%), Black/African American (73%), Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (less than 1%), American Indian/Alaskan Native (1%), or multi-racial (4%).

It is important to note that this research methodology is qualitative in nature. No statistical techniques are used to generalize results across a larger population. Rather, general themes and broad insights into recreational participation, needs, challenges, and priorities are identified. Where non-precise terms such as “few,” “many,” or “nearly all” are used it is done so to provide a general sense of panel responses, without the risk of attaching unintended (and potentially inappropriate) quantitative results to qualitative research data.

As with the online Ohio resident survey, panel participants were asked their opinions about their outdoor recreation participation, preferences, challenges to participation, recreational facility needs, and

funding priorities. Over two weeks, from April 24, 2023, to May 5, 2023, interviews were completed by 1,120 respondents. Respondents were predominantly male (61%). The highest number of interviews were from residents 35 to 44 years old (40%), 25 to 34 years old (19%), and 45 to 54 years old (19%). About 12 percent were 18 to 24 years old, 7 percent were 55 to 64 years old, and 4 percent were 65 years or older. Panelists were recruited from across the state, with approximately 28 percent living in the northeast, 26 percent in the southwest, 23 percent in the southeast, 17 percent in the central region, and 7 percent in the northwest. It is important to note that panelists were not evenly distributed within a region. Overall, about half of the panelists lived in five counties: Washington County (17%), Cuyahoga County (11%), Franklin County (11%), Adams County (6%), and Hamilton County (6%).

To maintain consistency with the Ohio online resident survey, outdoor recreation activities were organized into eight major categories: trail activities, wildlife-based activities, camping activities, boating activities, water activities, outdoor sports, winter activities, and other outdoor recreation activities. Within each major category was a list ranging from four to nineteen activities for a total of 102 individual outdoor activities. In addition to asking about participation in activities, panelists were asked why they participated. Participants were given five broad reasons and asked to indicate their primary reason



Outdoor recreation needs and priorities will vary by community and user groups, making it vital that outdoor recreation providers are sensitive to the needs of their communities.

for participating in an activity. Panelists who indicated interest in an activity but did not participate were also asked their primary reason for not participating. A total of 13 reasons were provided, with an opportunity to specify a different reason.

Panel participants enjoyed a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities. Outdoor sports activities were the most cited activity category. Other outdoor recreation activities, trail activities, wildlife activities, and water activities rounded out participants' top five most popular types of activities. Boating activities were the least common type of activities for panel participants. When asked why they engaged in outdoor recreation, the most common reason indicated by participants was for fun and entertainment, followed by health, wellness, and fitness. These reasons align with respondents participating most commonly in outdoor sports activities. Participating as part of organized events was the least common reason panel participants engaged in outdoor recreation activities.

Across the eight major categories of outdoor recreation, trail activities, outdoor sports, and other recreational activities had the highest level of both participation, as well as interest (individuals who did not participate in the activity but were interested in doing so). When asked the primary reasons they didn't engage in outdoor activities, even though interested, the top five reasons participants indicated were:

- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities.
- Facilities too far away.
- The activity or the equipment is too costly.
- No one to go with.
- Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe.

Trail Activities:

Among panel participants, walking and hiking on trails was very popular. Walking

or hiking on a natural surface trail was the most indicated activity participants did, followed by walking on a paved trail, and on a finely crushed stone trail. Riding bicycles on paved trails and running on natural surfaces were also popular trail activities. The least popular trail activities among panel participants were ATV/UTV riding and using a wheelchair on a trail. Health, wellness, and fitness was the primary reason mentioned for participating in trail activities, followed by fun and entertainment. Reasons for not participating in trail activities included:

- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities.
- No one to go with.
- The activity or the equipment is too costly.
- Facilities too far away.
- Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe.



High equipment costs and not having access to equipment are reasons people commonly give for why they don't participate in boating activities. Providing access to kayaks and canoes can help create new opportunities for participating in these activities.

Water-Based Activities:

Although boating activities were the least common outdoor recreation activity among panelists, many indicated participating in canoeing and kayaking in a stream, river, lake, or pond. To have fun and for entertainment was the top reason panelists participated in canoeing and kayaking. The most common reasons for not participating in boating activities were:

- The activity or the equipment is too costly.
- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities.
- Do not own or have access to equipment.
- Facilities too far away.
- Do not have the skills.

Swimming was also a popular activity with panelists. Using outdoor pools was most common, followed by swimming in natural areas, and outdoor pool complexes with lazy rivers. Panelists primarily swam for fun, and those who didn't participated indicated it was because:

- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities.
- Facilities too far away.
- Do not have information on where facilities are offered.
- No one to go with.
- Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe.

Wildlife Activities:

The top three wildlife activities were wildlife viewing, nature photography, and birdwatching, with most participants indicating their primary reason for doing these activities was for fun or entertainment. Shore fishing had greater participation than fishing from a motorized boat, fishing from a pier or ADA accessible site, and fishing from a non-motorized boat. The least common wildlife activity participated in was trapping. Reasons panelists did not participate in wildlife activities even though they were interested included:

- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities.
- The activity or the equipment is too costly.
- Facilities too far away.
- Do not have the skills.
- Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe.

Camping Activities:

The most common camping activity panelists said they participated in was backcountry primitive camping, followed by camping in an undeveloped campground. The least common types of camping engaged in were ADA camping sites and equestrian camping. Panelists primarily went camping for fun and entertainment. Those who were interested but did not camp, indicated it was because:

- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities.
- Facilities too far away.
- The activity or the equipment is too costly.
- Do not have information on where facilities are offered.
- Do not own or have access to equipment.



Camping remains popular among Ohioans and visitors. While the increased demand for camping during the Covid-19 pandemic has slowed, indications point to the demand remaining higher than pre-pandemic.

Outdoor Sports:

Overall, panelists indicated participating in team sports the most out of all the outdoor sports activities, with basketball being the most common. Health, wellness, and fitness was the most common reason mentioned for participating in outdoor sports. Geocaching was the least common activity among panelists. When thinking about outdoor sports that are not team-oriented sports, using skateparks was the most common activity panelists indicated. Reasons for not participating in outdoor sports were:

- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities.
- Facilities too far away.
- Do not have the skills.
- The activity or the equipment is too costly.
- Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe.

Winter Activities:

Among panelists, sledding and tubing had the highest level of participation of the 11 winter activities. Ice skating and attending winter festivals were also common activities during the winter. Snowmobiling and hunting during the winter had the lowest participation among panelists. As with many other types of activities, panelists participated in winter activities to primarily have fun. The activity panelists were most interested in doing was snowmobiling.

Reasons for not participating in winter activities included:

- Facilities too far away.
- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities.
- Do not have information on where facilities are offered.
- The activity or the equipment is too costly.
- Do not have the skills.

Other Outdoor Activities:

Of the 14 outdoor activities this category encompassed, panelists indicated recreation on playgrounds was the most common activity. Using picnic shelters and attending outdoor festivals were also popular activities. Yoga/Tai Chi/Outdoor meditation and playing horseshoes, bocce ball, or bag toss were the least popular activities. While having fun was the most commonly state reason, spending time with family and friends was a common reason for using picnic shelters. Reasons for not participating included:

- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities.
- No one to go with.
- Do not have information on where facilities are offered.
- Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe.
- The activity or the equipment is too costly.



Providing multiple outdoor recreation activities at parks increases their ability to serve diverse interests and enhances the overall appeal and usability of the park.

What People Want:

Panelists were asked if specific public outdoor recreational facilities were adequate in number, adequate in number but needed to be rehabilitated, or if there was a need for more facilities. Panelists' top 10 facilities that Ohio needs more of include:

1. Outdoor pools
2. Wildlife viewing/birding areas
3. Picnic shelters
4. Natural surface trails
5. Sledding
6. Splash pad/spray park
7. Baseball/softball fields
8. Primitive, undeveloped campgrounds
9. Canoe/Kayaking access, facilities, water trails
10. Fishing areas

Panelists' top 10 facilities in their area that needed to be updated or rehabilitated were:

1. Playgrounds
2. Basketball courts
3. Developed campgrounds
4. Group camping areas
5. Finely crushed stone trails
6. Outdoor pool complexes with lazy river, wave pool, and other attractions
7. Sailing facilities
8. Tennis courts
9. Hunting areas
10. Historic/heritage sites

Overwhelmingly, panelists believed public facilities were important for people to enjoy outdoor recreation activities. Panelists were asked to prioritize nine ways park systems could improve outdoor recreation in Ohio. Their priorities are listed below in order,

with the highest priority based on the categories ranked first most often.

- Develop active, multi-use parks that provide multiple outdoor recreation activities.
- Rehabilitate and upgrade existing park facilities.
- Acquire land for park development.
- Acquire land for preservation of habitat, wetlands, forests, rivers, and lakes.
- Integrate technology with parks and outdoor recreation.
- Offer basic outdoor recreation skill development programs and events.
- Develop more loop trails.
- Expand trail network with a focus on developing longer distance trails

Across all phases of the public involvement process, it is clear that Ohioans value the outdoors and their ability to participate in outdoor recreation activities. Outdoor recreation needs and priorities will vary by community and user groups, making it vital that outdoor recreation providers are sensitive to the needs of their communities. Including community voices as part of outdoor recreation projects and planning from the beginning continues to be an important component of ensuring inclusion for all in outdoor recreation.



There are many providers and organizations that facilitate outdoor activities in the state. Whether you enjoy hunting, hiking, camping, water sports, or other outdoor activities, Ohio has something to offer.



**STATEWIDE
ISSUES, OUTDOOR
RECREATION
PRIORITIES AND
STRATEGIES**

Statewide Issues

Outdoor recreation is important to Ohioans and local, state, and federal government agencies have made significant investments in parks and recreational facilities that provide social, health, economic, and environmental benefits. However, there are key statewide issues that are likely to impact outdoor recreation participation in the future.



Compared with the national population, Ohio's population has experienced relatively modest growth over the past two decades. It's important to continue to provide outdoor recreation opportunities to these new residents.

Demographic Shifts:

Compared with national population, Ohio's population has experienced relatively modest growth over the past two decades, growing 1.6 percent between 2000 and 2010 and 2.3 percent between 2010 and 2020. However, Ohio's population is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse. African American residents comprise 12.5 percent of the state's population, while Hispanic residents account for 4.4 percent and Asian residents 2.5 percent. In 2020, the minority

population comprised 23 percent of Ohio's population. The fastest growing racial and ethnic group in Ohio is the Asian population, followed by the Hispanic population.

Ohio's population is aging with one in four Ohioans expected to be 60 years or older by 2040. In 2020, 17.8 percent of the population was 65 or older, with forecasts projecting this group to be nearly 20 percent by 2025. While the population in most areas of the state is growing older, Columbus experienced an increase in younger residents between 2010 and 2020.

Population shifts are also occurring in Ohio's major cities. The most populous counties are Franklin, Cuyahoga, Hamilton, Summit, Montgomery, and Lucas Counties. In recent years, Franklin County (Columbus) surpassed Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) as the most populous for the first time. In 1970, Cuyahoga County had 1.7 million residents, twice Franklin County's population. Today, the population estimate for Franklin County is 1.3 million and Cuyahoga County has an estimated 1.2 million residents. However, as urban sprawl has spread into surrounding counties, the population for the Greater Cleveland/Akron area, including the seven surrounding counties, has been relatively stable. Cincinnati's Hamilton County has experienced a similar decline in population, while surrounding counties have increased 7.5% to 8.7% since 2010. From 2010 to 2025, the largest of the state's estimated gains in population are expected in the counties surrounding Franklin County.

Continuing Urbanization/Natural Resource Protection:

As Ohio's population has spread out into the surrounding counties from the historic city cores, the built environment has increased, and urban sprawl has spread to areas with headwater streams, wetlands, floodplains, and forests. With increased urbanization, naturally occurring events such as heavy rainstorms have had an increasing impact on drainage ways causing widespread erosion and flooding. Urbanization as well as Ohio's international seaports and highway network has provided entry and establishment opportunities for invasive species, which are negatively impacting natural areas. Without natural controls, non-native invasive plant species can quickly spread, creating monocultures and reducing biodiversity and habitat quality. Invasive terrestrial plants, such as Japanese honeysuckle, purple loosestrife, and garlic mustard, can cause extensive damage to natural areas by displacing native plants and impacting wildlife that rely on native plant communities for food and shelter. The economic cost of invasive species management is high.

For example, the emerald ash borer, a destructive wood-boring insect native to China, Japan, and Taiwan was unknown in the U.S. until 2002 and identified in Ohio in 2003. Approximately one in ten trees in Ohio are ash, a significant part of the ash-elm-cottonwood forest type, which covers parts of northwest Ohio. It is estimated that the loss of native ash from Ohio's forest industry is \$2 billion, which does not include the costs to local and state parks, municipalities, or wildlife areas. Other invasive species such as Gypsy moths and Asian longhorn beetles are also significantly impacting Ohio forests and parks and aquatic invasive species, including zebra mussels, bighead and silver carp, are negatively changing the dynamics of Ohio waterways and lakes.

Sustainable Funding:

Securing funding for ongoing maintenance and operation of existing outdoor recreation facilities is a challenge for many agencies. Funding for operations and maintenance does not generate similar interest and excitement of new projects, but it is an ongoing and increasing need. Based on the public input received during the SCORP



Sustaining high-quality natural areas is key to providing places where Ohioans can go to spend time with family and friends, enjoy nature, and to have fun outdoors.



Well-designed and designated water trails can enhance recreation experiences as well as increase knowledge of safety issues and hazards along the route.

planning process, funding for rehabilitating, updating, and improving existing facilities and associated infrastructure was a priority. Funding is needed to keep existing structures accessible and relevant to users. In Ohio, bond issues and grants have created funding for land acquisition and park development, but project costs often far exceed the available funding, putting a strain on budgets to provide new amenities as well as maintain existing facilities. In the SCORP public survey, rehabilitation and upgrading existing park facilities ranked third with Ohioans as a priority for funding.

Technology:

Technology has continued to impact how people communicate, where they shop, and how they plan their weekends. Continually improving technology provides opportunities to develop accessible

information on outdoor recreation opportunities, events, and facilities but also creates challenges in engaging people in outdoor recreation as “screen time” continues to increase and more time is spent with computers, tablets, smart phones, and televisions. In the United States, smartphone ownership increased to 85 percent of U.S. adults in 2021 from 81 percent in 2019. While adults 65 and older who have a smartphone has increased to 61 percent, the group is less likely than younger Americans to report having a smartphone. It is estimated Americans spend between 4 and 5 hours each day on their smartphones. Nearly half of American teens say they are almost constantly on the phone. On a positive note, smartphone applications such as trail applications can inform recreationalists of possible routes and distances, bird

identification applications can help build a passion for finding the next species, and fitness applications can track mileage and workouts. In addition, many social media platforms encourage users to share photos of park experiences or contribute to citizen science with wildlife sightings. As technology continues to evolve, the challenge to connect people to the outdoors will likely continue, but there will also be new ways to inform and engage people about outdoor recreation opportunities.

Health/Wellness:

Changes in society have brought about a variety of health challenges, such as being less physically active and more overweight and being constantly “plugged in” via technology but disconnected from the natural world. Even with a wealth of healthcare resources, Ohioans health has steadily declined over the past few decades. Key findings from Ohio’s 2019 State Health Assessment indicate that overall well-being for residents has declined from 2016 to 2019. Trends in premature deaths, life expectancy and overall health have worsened. Ohioans’ life expectancy at birth declined from 2010 to 2017 by about 1 year. Chronic disease, such as heart disease, diabetes, and obesity, present a significant challenge for Ohio’s aging population in the coming years. Promoting healthy lifestyles can contribute to efforts to reduce the impacts of chronic diseases. Ohio faces many behavioral health challenges, including addictions to opiates and nicotine, poor nutrition, and

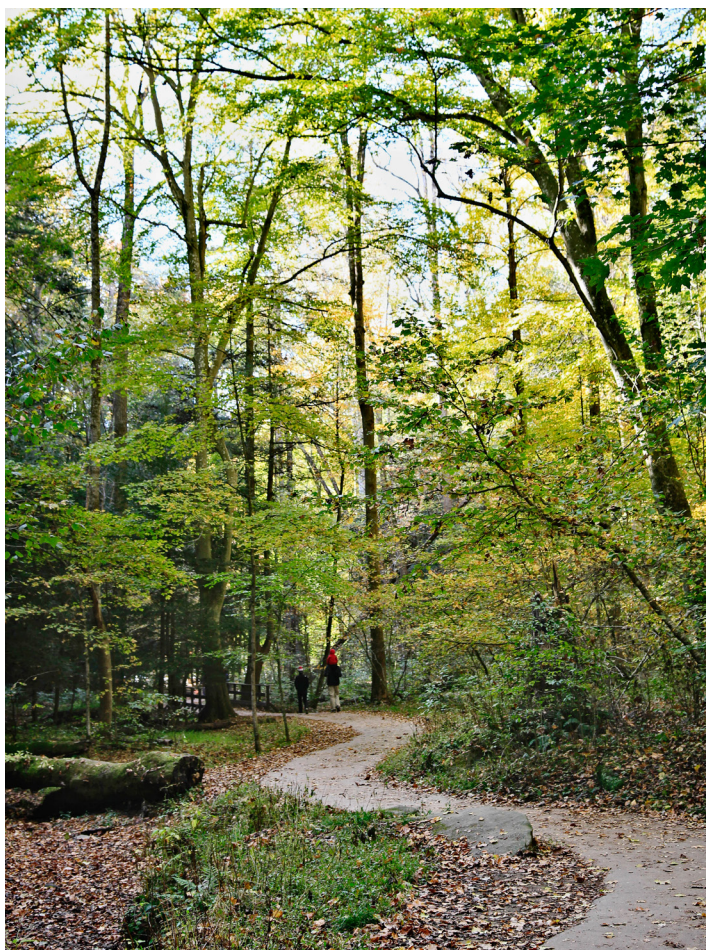
physical inactivity. Often, these behaviors are developed early in life, so that efforts to improve the well-being of Ohioans need to not only consider programs for the aging population, but also strategies to improve health-related behaviors at every stage of life. Socioeconomic conditions, including income levels, education, employment opportunities, and access to safe housing and nutritious food, can influence health outcomes. Addressing social determinants of health, such as poverty and inequality, is crucial for improving overall health. Environmental factors, including air quality, water quality, and exposure to environmental hazards, can also affect the health of Ohioans. Ensuring clean and safe environments, promoting sustainable practices, and mitigating environmental risks are important for protecting public health.

Outdoor Recreation Priorities and Strategies

One of the requirements of the SCORP is to identify the State’s outdoor recreation priorities and strategic actions for the next five-year planning period. The priorities identified here are similar to those presented in the previous SCORP, however, these priorities remain relevant to Ohioans. Much work has been done and continues to be done to accomplish these priorities for providing outdoor recreation opportunities in Ohio. The strategies and actions under each priority have been updated to reflect differences in community needs. Based

on information and data collected and presented in this report, the State has five outdoor recreation priorities, in no order of importance:

- Advance the trail network
- Improve, enhance, and adapt existing recreational facilities
- Emphasize recreational opportunities and access to Ohio’s waters
- Improve awareness and access to outdoor recreation opportunities
- Protect and sustain the natural environment



Ohioans want more trails for walking, jogging, hiking, and bicycling. Trails provide a great way to connect communities and bring people together.

Priority: Advance Trail Network

Ohioans want more trails. In the Ohio Resident Survey, the highest ranked recreational facility that Ohioans want “more of” was natural surface trails. Paved, multi-use trails ranked second, finely crushed stone trails ranked fifth, and mountain biking trails ranked eighth out of the 50 listed recreational facilities that Ohioans want more of on public lands. Trails were a dominant theme throughout the key informant interviews and listening sessions. Communities use trails for walking, jogging, hiking, and bicycling. Survey results indicated 95 percent of respondents use trail facilities. Trail activities were among the top 5 outdoor recreation activities participated in among panelists. Panelists listed natural surface trails among the top 5 recreational facilities their area needed more of, and finely crushed stone trails were listed among the top 5 facilities in need of rehabilitation in their area.

Over the years, a substantial trail network has developed in Ohio with popular trails, such as the 87-mile Ohio & Erie Towpath Trail in the northeast, the 78-mile Little Miami Scenic trail in the southwest, the 66-mile Wabash Cannonball Trail in the northwest, the statewide 1,444-mile Buckeye Trail, 1,000 miles of the North Country National Scenic Trail and 524 miles of the American Discovery trail running through the state, 36 miles of the Baileys Trail System (88 planned miles) in the southeast, and the 326-mile Ohio

to Erie Trail runs from Hamilton County to Cuyahoga County. Many of these trails connect multiple communities and counties, providing close-to-home recreational opportunities. Many trail systems in the state have gaps and unconnected or unfinished sections. Completing these trails would improve connectivity, enhance recreational experiences, increase access, and create more transportation opportunities.

For Ohioans, it is not only about long-distance trails. While most residents participate in trail-based activities, focusing on long distance trails is not a priority for all communities. In some cases, residents and recreation providers spoke of the need to develop connector trails and neighborhoods, city centers, parks, historic sites, schools, shopping hubs, businesses, and other community assets. This difference in priorities among communities highlights the need to include community voices in outdoor recreation projects and planning.

When planning for new, expanded, or rehabilitating trails, options suitable for mountain biking should be part of the discussion. Ohioans' interest in mountain biking (18%) remained consistent with the 2018 levels. Although fewer Ohioans participate in ATV/UTV riding, horseback riding, and dirt bike riding, these activities are of interest to residents and riding opportunities are limited in many areas of the state. For all types of trails, sustainable trail design and construction will be increasingly important as the state

continues to balance use and conservation of natural resources. Well-designed and constructed trails can also reduce costs of upkeep and maintenance.

Trail access point with adequate parking and amenities, such as trail information, restrooms, water, bicycle tire/pump stations, benches, picnic tables, and other features, are seen as essential for creating a social gathering place for recreational users and creating a sense of place. Ohio's trails saw an increase in use during the Covid-19 pandemic, and while that use has decreased some, it is still believed to be higher than pre-pandemic levels. With the high level of interest and use, it is important to recognize there are costs to maintaining, updating, and developing trails. Effective strategies are needed to help communicate the economic benefits of trails for financial, political, and citizen support. As Ohio's trail system grows, improving awareness of opportunities is essential.



Horseback riding is a great way to see the natural scenery. Ohio has nearly 800 miles of bridle trails ready to explore.

Strategies & Actions

- Prioritize trail projects to fill trail gaps and complete long-distance trails.
- Prioritize projects that build connections with main spine trails, between trail systems, improve access to existing trails, and create connections to neighborhoods, parks, schools, and other community assets.
- Prioritize trails identified in the Ohio Trails Vision and are part of a public and collaborative planning effort to ensure trails meet the needs of all Ohioans.
- Evaluate the appropriate type of trail surface, whether natural surface, finely crushed gravel, or paved, as well as trail amenities for sustainable design, use, and experience.
- Trail development projects should, if appropriate, include trail amenities, such as access points, drinking water, adequate parking, restrooms, signage, trail route information, bicycle repair stations, benches, picnic tables, and similar improvements that are in context with the sensitivity of the surrounding natural resources.
- Prioritize trail projects for funding that have sustainable trail maintenance plans, approved project designs, community support, and confirmed partnership.
- Prioritize trail projects that develop sustainable trail maintenance plans where they don't already exist or update existing but limited maintenance plans.
- Encourage collaboration between outdoor recreation stakeholders for completing trail gaps, furthering trail planning, creating connections, developing user information, and improving funding opportunities.
- Encourage trail planning to evaluate economic benefits, transportation alternatives, health and wellness benefits, and build collaborations and partnerships to increase funding opportunities.
- Encourage local and regional planners to collaborate on integrating trails into other infrastructure plans such as road and stormwater management plans.
- Use technology in messaging about trail opportunities and park areas.
- Collaborate with ODNR, FHWA, and other funding agencies and organizations to streamline or simplify project grant applications.

Priority: Improve, Enhance, and Adapt Recreational Facilities

Ohioans (online survey respondents and panelists) ranked rehabilitating, updating, and improving existing outdoor recreation facilities in their top three funding priorities. Aging infrastructure is a challenge for many public land managers and outdoor recreation providers. Interview participants identified maintenance and rehabilitation of recreation facilities as a top need, to help ensure facilities are safe and welcoming areas for all Ohioans to enjoy.

Addressing issues of risk perception and safety is important for attracting visitors. Spaces should be well lit, clean, and have knowledgeable staff. Survey respondents, panelists, and interviewees also noted the need to have well-maintained equipment, proper signage, and wayfinding tools as means for alleviating safety concerns during recreational activities.

Facilities need to stay relevant by considering upgrades to meet recreational demands, trends, and changing demographics. Conversations throughout the interviews touched on varying expectations for the availability of technology. People expect to have cellular service while recreating and to access wi-fi at many facilities. Also increasing is the use of smart phones, watches, and tablets for fitness applications, social media platforms, and mapping programs to track hikes, rides, walks, and workouts.

Recreational providers noted the desire for multi-use areas for multi-generational users, such as trail loops by playgrounds and ballfields. As well as, multi-use parks that offer multiple outdoor recreational opportunities, like wildlife viewing, bicycling, paddling, walking trails, swimming, or outdoor sports facilities. These types of facilities may also offer opportunities for festivals and special events which bring people and communities together in a social atmosphere.

Strategies & Actions

- Prioritize projects that improve and adapt existing recreational facilities to meet recreational demands, trends, and changing demographics, especially those that incorporate sustainable design concepts and balance natural resource management and conservation with user experiences.
- Support integration of technology and safety enhancements in facility upgrade and improvements. Integration of features such as lighting needs to be carefully considered with the desire for dark skies for night sky viewing and bird migrations that can be significantly altered with artificial light.
- Increase awareness of elected officials and key stakeholders at all levels to financial needs for improving and updating existing recreational facilities.
- Prioritize projects for funding that have sustainable maintenance plans, approved project designs, community support, and confirmed partnerships.
- Seek alternative or innovative funding and partnership solutions to help fund, manage, and staff current and future recreation projects or initiatives to ensure facilities are safe and welcoming to all Ohioans.
- Survey outdoor recreation facilities and create a facility inventory to better understand existing facilities and needs.

Priority: Emphasize Recreational Opportunities and Access to Ohio's Waters

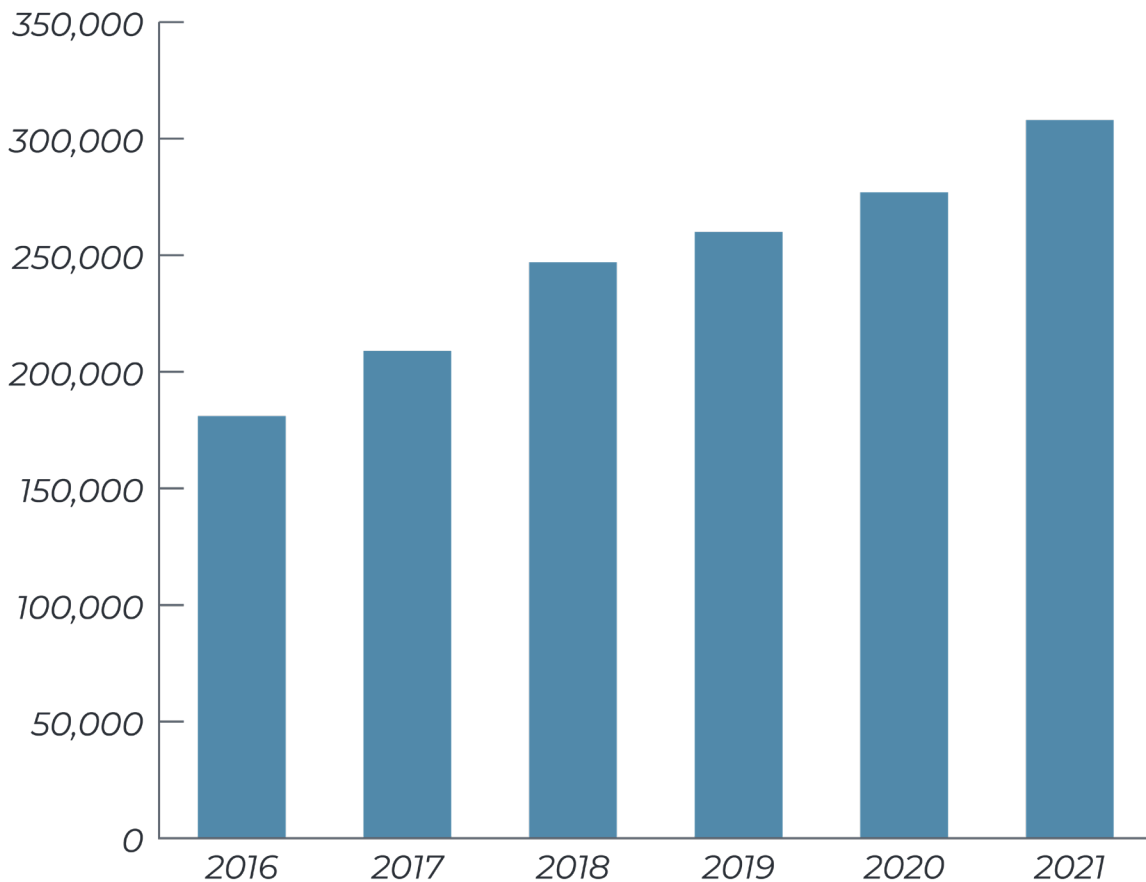
Interest and participation in paddling continues to increase, both nationally and in Ohio. As part of the survey, respondents ranked canoeing and kayaking access, facilities, and water trails as the second highest ranked recreational facility they wanted more of in Ohio. The increase in paddling is reflected in the increase of more than 100,000 canoe and kayaks registrations

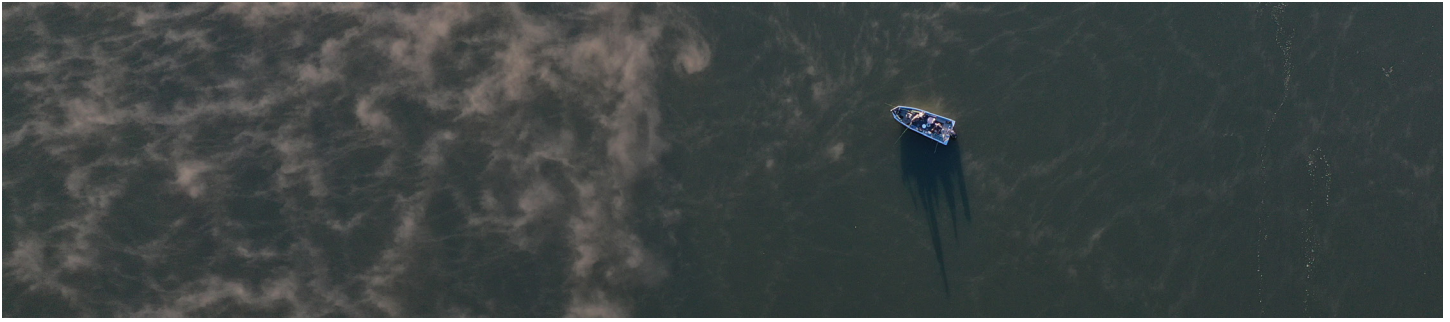
from 2017 to 2021 (Figure 10). Access to Ohio's water benefits more than just paddlers. Anglers, bird watchers, wildlife viewers, nature photographers, and others benefit from greater opportunities to access the state's waters.

As paddling interest has increased, paddling locations and facilities are more in demand. For outdoor recreation providers, water trails were also a priority. Like hiking trails, water trails need quality and up-to-date signage. Additionally, ensuring waterfronts

Figure 10: Ohio Canoe and Kayak Registrations

Canoe/Kayak Registrations





Boaters, paddlers, anglers, bird watchers, wildlife viewers, nature photographers and others benefit from myriad opportunities to access the state's waters.

had ADA accessible ramps and docks, and were well-maintained was a stated priority of interviewees. In areas where there is high unmet demand for paddlers, especially in areas where potential conflicts may develop between motorized and non-motorized boaters, recreation providers should consider additional or alternative launch areas. Well-designed and designated water trails can enhance the experience as well as increase knowledge of safety issues and hazards along the route. Cost of equipment and not owning or having access to equipment were among the top reasons interested residents did not participate in water-based activities.

Strategies & Actions

- Prioritize well-designed development and/or improvement projects with access and amenities for paddling sports, such as landing areas, ramps, ADA accessible canoe and kayak launches, and docks.
- Support planning and implementation activities for outdoor recreation initiatives associated with Ohio waterways, including designated water trails.

- Encourage recreational providers to consider offering nonmotorized and motorized boats for rent or partnering with private vendors to provide easier access to equipment.
- Increase and improve signage on water trails.
- Improve outreach and awareness of various funding opportunities to ensure equitable access to grant funds.
- Use technology in messaging of water trails and water access opportunities.

Priority: Improve Awareness and Access to Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Lack of awareness of survey respondents to existing available outdoor recreation facilities in their communities shows a need for improved communication strategies to reach all populations. Not having information on where facilities are located was a top 5 reason for not participating in outdoor recreation in most of the outdoor recreation categories. In addition to awareness is access. Recreational providers need to offer access to quality outdoor recreation opportunities for all populations.

Demographic changes in Ohio need to be considered, such as an aging population and a more diverse population base. It is vital that outdoor recreation opportunities be evaluated to identify underserved areas within communities and the state. Facility design, development plans, and programming needs to strive to serve all Ohioans.

Many outdoor recreation providers highlighted the need to offer skill building opportunities. Whether skills are related to navigating through the outdoors or requisite for participating in an activity, like fishing, kayaking, or rock climbing, programs that combine outdoor recreation skill development with environmental stewardship would help broaden user awareness of the state's natural resources.

Strategies & Actions

- Use technology and strategic marketing to increase awareness of recreational opportunities and stay relevant with up-to-date information. Websites, an active presence on social media, and mobile applications are powerful tools for recreation providers and can help broaden outreach, connect residents to nearby opportunities, and develop a forum for sharing experiences.
- Support projects that use universal design principles and adaptive equipment that provide recreational opportunities for all users regardless of physical, cognitive, lingual, or auditory ability.
- Encourage collaboration with local planning agencies to identify underserved areas and populations and prioritize projects in these areas, as well as those that connect to areas that lack outdoor recreational facilities.
- Develop educational programming and events to increase skill development for outdoor recreation pursuits.
- Encourage greater collaboration among recreational providers and land managers to offer consistent high-quality outdoor recreational experiences and information to users.
- As trails and other recreational facilities extend beyond city and county boundaries, considerations for promoting regional outdoor recreation (such as wayfinding, campaigns, print publications and digital assets, etc.) that benefit the recreational users need to be considered.
- Improve collaborative efforts between outdoor recreation stakeholders, tourism bureaus, businesses, and non-traditional partners such as health care agencies and libraries, to provide and market outdoor recreation opportunities. Consider marketing messages to introduce non-users to outdoor recreation.
- Encourage recreational providers to improve access to outdoor recreation opportunities by offering access to equipment for rent or partnering with private vendors to provide equipment.

Priority: Protect and Sustain the Natural Environment

Protection of wetlands, forests, rivers, lakes, and other habitats is a top funding priority of Ohioans. Sustaining high-quality natural areas will be key to sustaining the very places where Ohioans go to spend time with family and friends, enjoy nature, and to have fun outdoors. Ohio's federal, state, and local parks, forests, nature preserves, and wildlife areas protect Ohio's natural and cultural resources. Many of the state's most popular outdoor activities are dependent upon having high-quality natural resources. Based on survey responses, residents want more natural surface trails and undeveloped camping sites. Outdoor recreation can provide Ohioans with "instaworthy" experiences. However, there are threats to the environment from continued urbanization and development.

Invasive plants and insects have found their way into Ohio's woodland habitats, and the state's waterways are threatened by harmful algal blooms and invasive species. Preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species is the most cost-effective approach to eliminating or reducing these threats. The earlier invasive species are detected, the more cost-effective and successful management actions will be.

Ohio's natural resources are abundant and varied. It is important to find ways to interpret Ohio's natural resources and biodiversity to increase appreciation and stewardship of these valuable resources. Connecting Ohio residents and visitors to nature and providing high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities is made possible by efforts across the state to protect and sustain the natural environment.



Connecting Ohio residents and visitors to nature and providing high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities is made possible by efforts across the state to protect and sustain the natural environment.



Connecting Ohio residents and visitors to nature and providing high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities are made possible by efforts across the state to protect and sustain the natural environment.

Strategies & Actions

- Prioritize land acquisition and protection of high-quality habitats for flora and fauna, wetlands, forests, rivers, and lakes, with an emphasis on acquisitions that protect high quality natural resources as part of a larger conservation initiative.
- Support a balanced use approach that balances natural resource management and conservation with recreational facilities and user experiences by encouraging sustainable site selection, evaluating appropriate trail surfaces, and considering how invasive species and their pathways will be managed.
- Encourage collaborative and cooperative efforts to sustain and restore natural resources, especially in managing plant, insect, and aquatic threats and invasive species.
- Create opportunities that provide natural and cultural resource experiences for users. Incorporate concepts of natural resource appreciation, education, and stewardship concepts in development and improvement projects.
- Encourage development of management and stewardship plans for natural resource areas.
- Encourage, support, and provide best practices for creating state, regional, and local outdoor ethics programs.

Key Partners for Implementation

In each area of the state, key partners would vary as specific areas are more or less influenced by various state and federal agencies and the presence or absence of local park districts, joint recreation districts, and/or conservancy districts. Overall, the key partners to implement the strategies and actions for each priority are summarized below.

PRIORITY	KEY PARTNERS
Advance the trail network	<p>Federal agencies, including the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS).</p> <p>State agencies, including Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), TourismOhio, Ohio History Connection, and Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC).</p> <p>Regional and local planning organizations that bring together cities, villages, townships, counties, and regional organizations to collaborate and plan trail project initiatives.</p> <p>Local agencies including park districts, conservancy districts, joint recreation districts, transit agencies, municipalities, villages, and townships.</p> <p>Nonprofit organizations, such as foundations, tourism bureaus, trail organizations, recreational-use groups, and nature centers.</p>
Improve, enhance, and adapt recreational facilities	<p>Primarily outdoor recreation providers including NPS, FWS, USFS, ODNR, Ohio History Connection, park districts, conservancy districts, joint recreation districts, nature centers, municipalities, villages, and townships.</p>

PRIORITY

KEY PARTNERS

Emphasize recreational opportunities & access to Ohio's waters

Federal agencies, including NPS and FWS.

State agencies, including ODNR, ODOT, TourismOhio, and OPWC.

Local agencies, including park districts, conservancy districts, joint recreation districts, municipalities, villages, townships, and regional and county planning organizations.

Nonprofit organizations, including land conservancies, land trusts, foundations, recreation-use groups, and trail organizations and groups.

Improve awareness and access to outdoor recreation opportunities

Federal agencies, including NPS, FWS, and USFS.

State agencies, including TourismOhio, ODOT, ODNR, Ohio Department of Health, and Ohio History Connection.

Regional and local planning organizations.

Local agencies, including park districts, conservancy districts, joint recreation districts, transit agencies, nature centers, counties, municipalities, villages, and townships.

Nonprofit organizations, such as trail organizations and groups, recreational-use groups, and tourism bureaus.

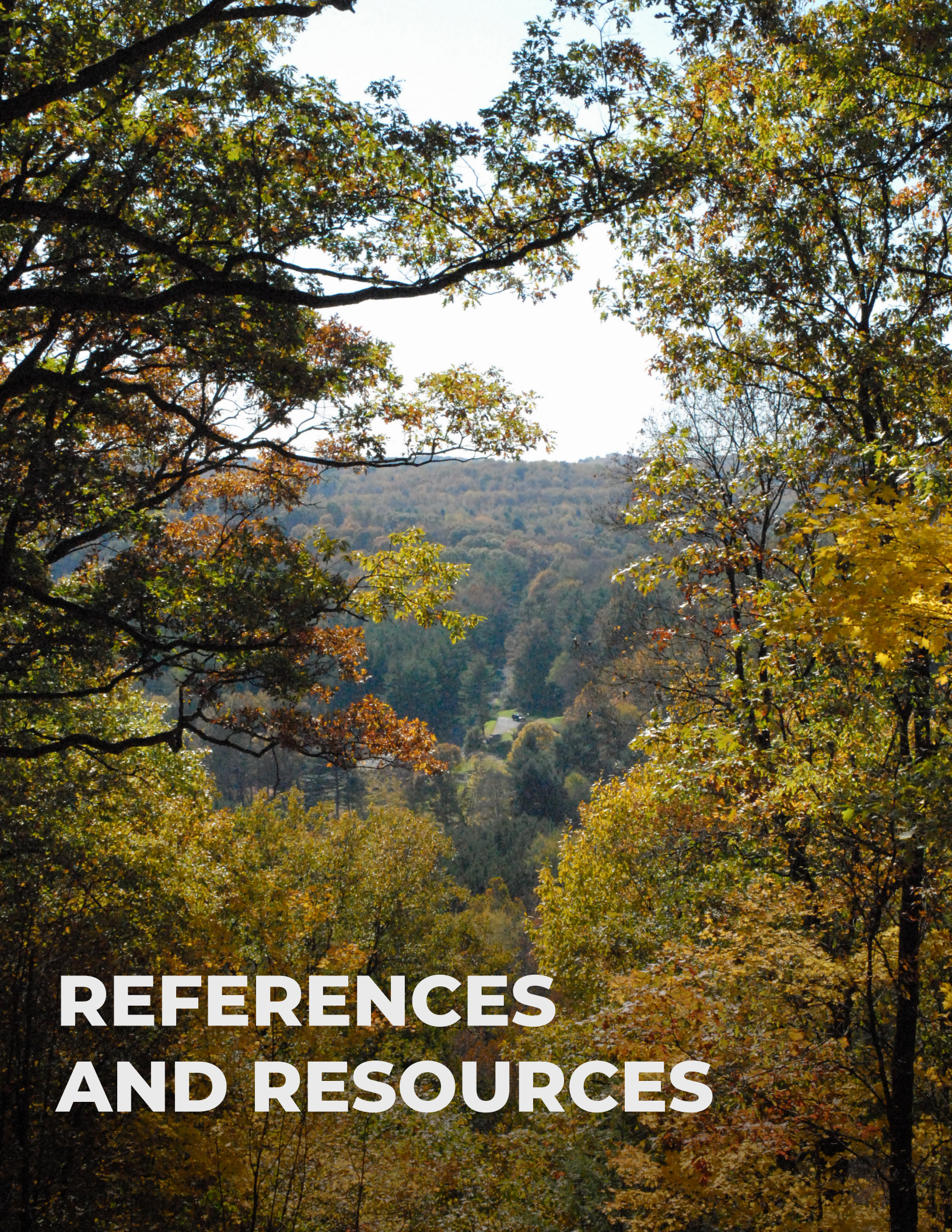
Protect & sustain the natural environment

Federal agencies, including NPS, FWS, and USFS.

State agencies, including ODNR and OPWC.

Local agencies, including park districts, conservancy districts, joint recreation districts, counties, municipalities, villages, and townships.

Nonprofit organizations such as land conservancies, land trusts, natural history museums, nature centers, and other similar organizations.



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Full-Page Image Captions

Cover - Page 1

A kayaker enjoys a sunny day on Lake Erie near Catawba Island. Kayaking is a popular outdoor recreation activity throughout Ohio.

Front Matter - Page 3

Prairie wildflowers and pollinators are just a few of the huge variety of plants and animals found across Ohio's many different regions and habitats.

Table of Contents - Page 5

With nearly endless opportunities for outdoor recreation, tent camping during the summertime is just one example of how residents and visitors alike can enjoy Ohio's outdoors.

Introduction - Page 12

Nationally, fishing is among the top five most popular outdoor recreation activities for youth.

Outdoor Recreation Trends and Demands - Page 73

Archery shooting and bowhunting are outdoor activities enjoyed by many Ohioans. In 2021, a national survey found that 54 percent of Americans participated at least once in outdoor recreation.

Statewide Issues, Outdoor Recreation Priorities and Strategies - Page 106

The Ohio state wildflower, large-flowered trillium, can be found blooming in the early spring in wooded areas.

References and Resources - Page 122

Outdoor recreation providers across the state are working hard to conserve high-quality resources and provide recreational experiences for all Ohioans (and their children and grandchildren) to enjoy.

Appendices - Page 131

Ohio's natural resources provide numerous opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities, from fishing from a dock in Lake Erie to tent camping in a state park to night sky viewing in nature preserves and picnicking in local parks.

APPENDICES



Ohio Resident Outdoor Recreation Survey 2023

Final Report

Prepared by the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs at Ohio University

June 16, 2023

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1.1 ODNR Project Administrator

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Chapter 2 Introduction

Ohio offers a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities in local, state, and national parks, recreation areas, and preserves from Lake Erie to the Ohio River. Hiking, fishing, boating, cycling, hunting, and playing sports are just some of the outdoor recreational activities that Ohio has to offer. Building on the successes of past outdoor recreation surveys conducted in 1997, 2006, 2013, and 2018, the George Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service (GVS) at Ohio University was contracted by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Office of Real Estate and Land Management (ODNR) to perform an updated survey in 2022 and 2023. Ohio residents, by household, were electronically queried on their opinions and statements regarding improvement, sustainability, and development of outdoor recreation experiences and opportunities on public lands in their state.

Like past SCORP surveys that investigated state and ODNR regional trends, the 2023 survey covered topics of interest, such as levels of participation, frequency and satisfaction, expenditures, and information about recreational activities, as well as barriers to participation and preferences for the allocation of taxpayer money on public outdoor recreation. With nearly 6,000 electronic submissions, this survey had an additional initiative to conduct interviews and focus groups by DJ Case & Associates (DJ Case). Information compiled from this Ohio Resident Outdoor Recreation Survey will be incorporated into ODNR's 2023 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

Chapter 3 Survey Methodology

3.1 Survey Development

The 2023 SCORP survey instrument was created by the GVS with outdoor recreation questions provided by the ODNR. Related activity questions were aggregated using Qualtrics Research Suite, a powerful survey development software, and the survey was reviewed through an iterative process. The final survey launched on November 1, 2022, and consisted of 51 main questions with 102 possible associated questions. The ODNR website hosted the link to the survey until February 1st, 2023, with an allowance for any “in-progress” surveys to be completed by February 3rd, 2023.

Questions were queried by household, which was defined as all the adults and children who permanently lived in a residence from September 1, 2021, through August 31, 2022, known as the “surveyed period”. **The survey items focused on public lands in Ohio, which included local, community, state, and national park and recreation areas, state wildlife areas, state and national forest areas, and state nature preserves, and state facilities.** Items did not include activities or time spent on personal property, school district properties or on land held by non-public entities, such as non-profit organizations, clubs, and commercial recreation entities, or for activities outside of Ohio.

The survey was promoted through all forms of electronic media (e.g., email, websites, social media, e-newsletters), and through targeted interviews conducted by DJ Case. As response rates and distribution were tracked throughout the public submission period, specific promotional efforts targeted areas with lower submission rates, were conducted by DJ Case. Submission information from the survey was organized and analyzed *using Qualtrics Research Suite and Microsoft Excel.*

3.2 Survey Submission Details

There was a total of 6,214 surveys submitted during the 3-month open period. The survey was closed on February 1, 2023. On the close date, there were 5,291 submitted surveys and an additional 923 surveys still in progress (incomplete). The in-progress surveys remained open for an additional 48 hours. After the 2-day period, all in progress surveys were closed, adding 657 submitted surveys to the total (5,948) and 266 unsubmitted. The unsubmitted surveys were not included in the analysis. On average, 74% of the survey was completed by respondents, with a median duration of 22 minutes to finish.

The responses were categorized from which region of Ohio it was submitted. The regions were defined by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) using a 5-region map of the state. The results for regional respondents and survey submissions are shown in Table 3.1. Microsoft Excel was used to analyze the submitted surveys.



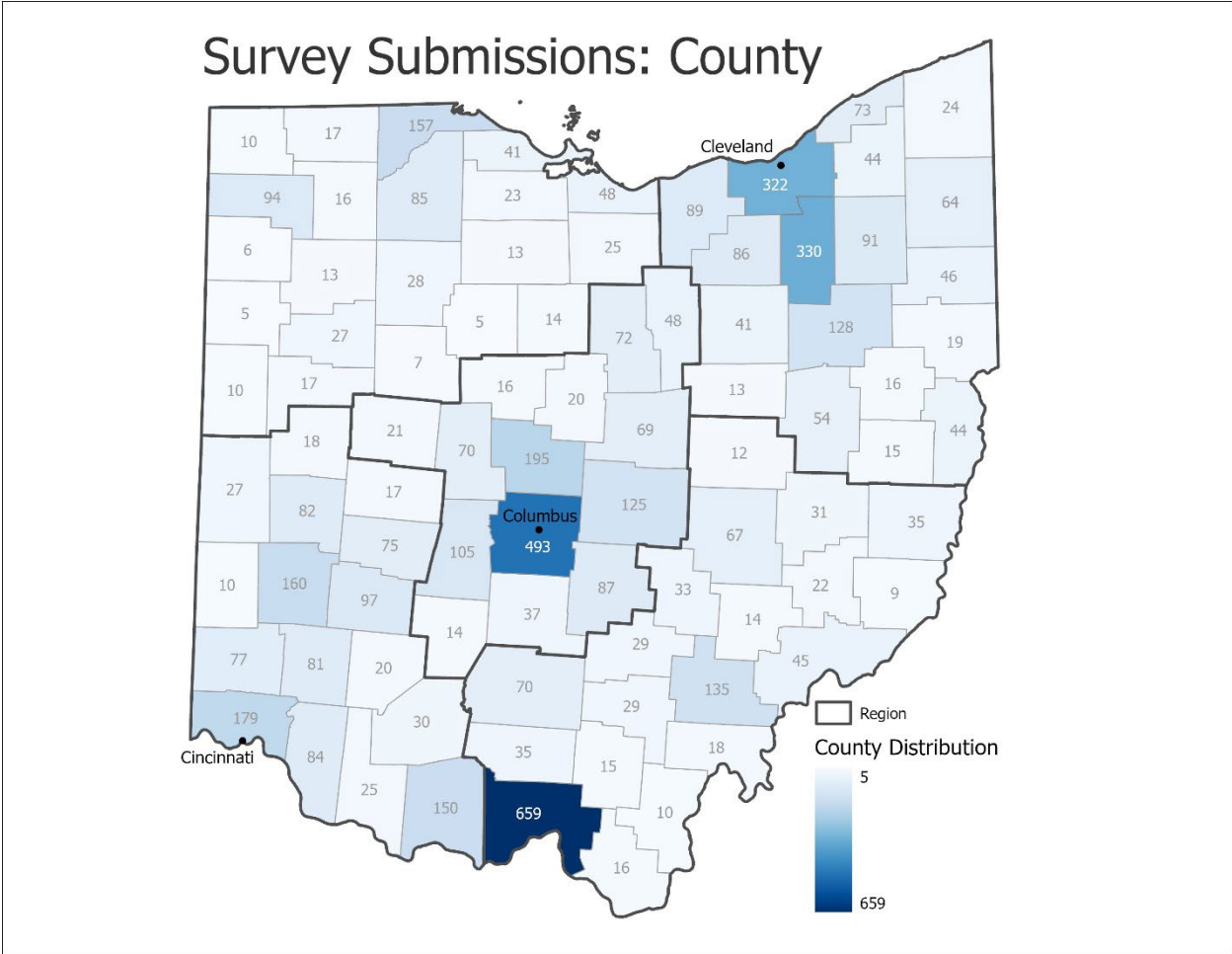
Map 3.1: Summary of survey submissions by Ohio region.

3.3 Survey Limitations

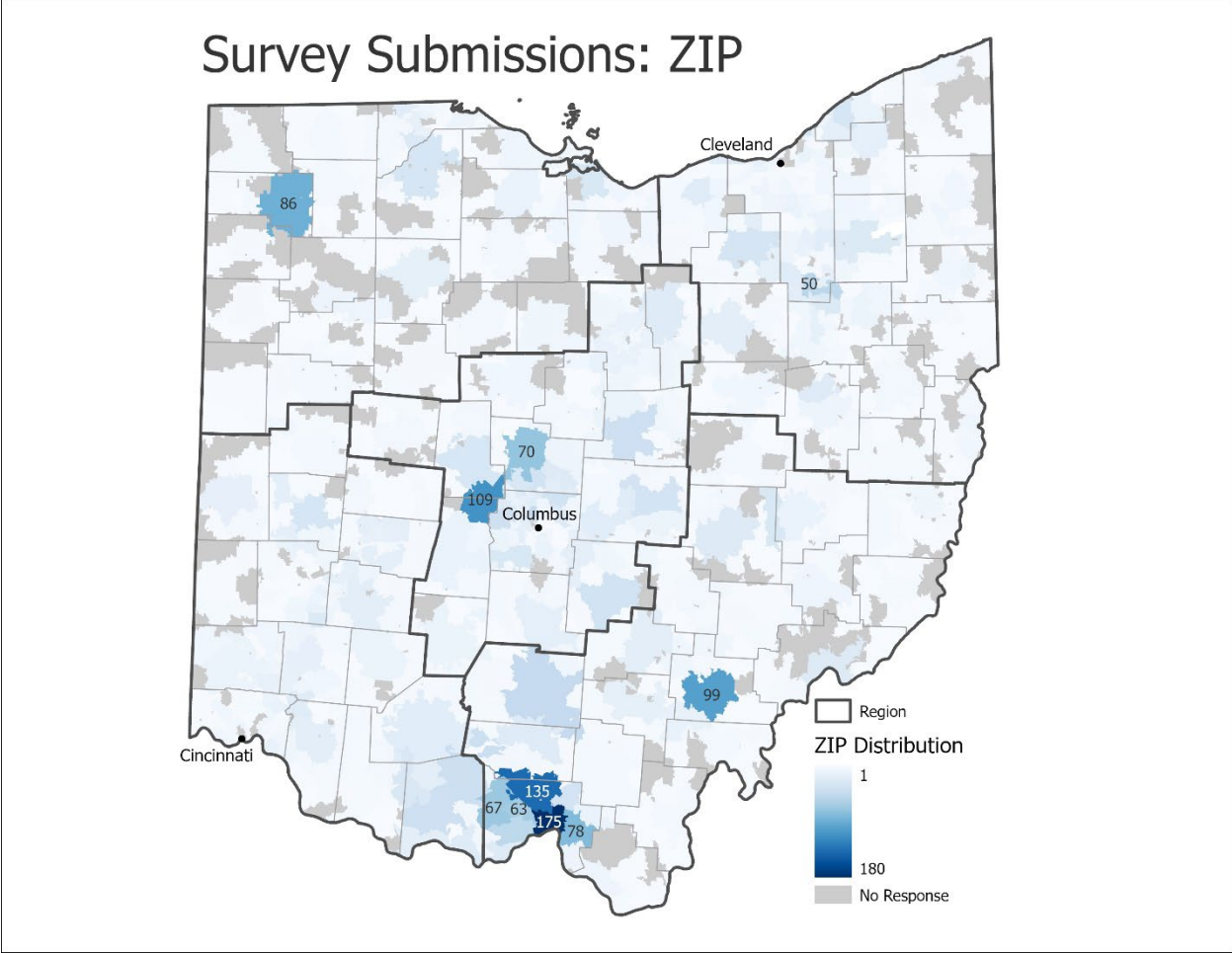
The survey results are limited by the mode of dissemination. Due to the use of an online platform to distribute the survey to Ohio residents, the distribution of responses across the state may have been affected. Private and public access to a reliable internet connection may have restricted survey participation. Survey dissemination results were presented weekly to DJ Case so that targeted interviews could take place in areas with low survey participation.

Chapter 4 Demographics

Survey submissions were received from all 88 Ohio counties (Figure 4.1). Van Wert and Wyandot Counties submitted the lowest number of responses (5), while the highest number of responses (659) came from Scioto County. Zip codes were also used to track the geographical distribution of submissions across the state as well as confirm that survey takers were Ohio residents.



Map 4.1: Survey submissions by Ohio region and county.



Map 4.2: Survey submissions by Ohio region and zip code.

Beyond geographical location, an additional six questions including gender, age, race, primary language, household income, and household dynamics, provided context for the basic demographic makeup of the survey takers.

The gender ratio of respondents was nearly even for binary genders with 2,989 (50.3%) female respondents and 2,811 (47.3%) male respondents (see Table 4.1). There were 23 (0.4%) non-binary respondents and 125 (2%) “Prefer not to answer” respondents.

Table 4.1: Summary of survey submissions by gender of 5,948 total responses.

Gender	Responses	Percentage
Female	2,989	50.3%
Male	2,811	47.3%
Non-Binary	23	0.4%
Prefer not to answer	125	2%
Total	5,948	100%

The age breakdown of responses showed highest responses from age groups of *35 to 44 years* with a total of 1,321 (22%) responses, *55 to 64 years* with a total of 1,259 (21%) responses, and *45 to 54 years* with a total of 1,218 (20.5%) responses (see Table 4.2). Age groups *25 to 34 years* and *65 to 74 years* had similar total numbers of respondents with 852 (14%) and 816 (14%) respectively. The age groups with the lowest number of respondents included *18 to 24 years* with 325 (5.5%) and *74 and older* with 157 (3%), which combined equaled less than 10% of the total.

Table 4.2: Summary of survey submissions by age of 5,948 total responses

Age (years)	Number of Responses	Percentage
18 to 24	325	5.5%
25 to 34	852	14%
35 to 44	1,321	22%
45 to 54	1,218	20.5%
55 to 64	1,259	21%
65 to 74	816	14%
75 or older	157	3%
Total	5,948	100%

Most Ohioans who submitted surveys were white (90.8%) and indicated English as their primary language (99.6%) (see Tables 4.3 and 4.4). The majority of the other 9.2% of respondents, either responded with *Prefer not to answer*, or self-identified as “*other*” or *two or more races*. The text entries for *Other* were “White and Native American”, “German and Scottish”, “Welsh”, and “Hispanic”. Other racial groups including American Indian or Alaskan Native, Black or African American, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander accounted for less than 3% of respondents.

It is worth noting that not all survey respondents chose an indicated race, with four respondents skipping the question. For the 0.4% of respondents who did not indicate English as

their primary language, those who indicated Other for their primary language, represented four additional languages including, “Afrikaans”, “French”, “Slavic”, and “Telugu”.

Table 4.3: Summary of survey submissions by race of 5,944 total responses.

Race	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
American Indian or Alaskan Native	35	0.6%
Asian	17	0.3%
Black or African American	34	0.6%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	4	0.07%
White	5,394	90.8%
Other	32	0.5%
Two or more Races	92	1.6%
Prefer not to Answer	336	5.7%
Total	5,944	100%

Table 4.4: Summary of survey submissions by primary language of 5,946 total responses.

Primary Language	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Total
English	5,924	99.6%
Spanish	9	0.2%
Arabic	1	0.02%
Chinese	2	0.03%
Somali	2	0.03%
German	1	0.02%
Other	7	0.1%
Total	5,946	100%

The household incomes of respondents were spread across four main income levels (see Table 4.5). The levels of \$50,000 to \$74,999, \$75,000 to \$99,999, \$100,000 to \$149,999, and *Prefer not to answer* accounted for 69% of respondents, cumulatively. Household income levels below \$50,000 and above \$149,999 were the remaining 31% of survey respondents.

Table 4.5: Summary of survey submissions by income of 5,943 total responses.

Income	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Total
Under \$10,000	54	1.0%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	67	2.0%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	125	2.0%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	200	4.0%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	409	7.0%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	882	15.0%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	966	16.0%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,243	21.0%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	581	8.0%
\$200,000 or more	381	7.0%
Prefer not to answer	1,035	17.0%
Total:	5,943	100%

The survey also established the demographics of households by having respondents indicate how many adults and children resided in their household over the surveyed period (see Table 4.6 and 4.7). Survey submissions indicated that a two adult household was most common with 3,937 (66.2%) responses. All other responses were less than 20% of the total 5,948 respondents. Additionally, most respondents had 1 or 2 children with these households representing 794 (38.0%), and 851 (40.6%) respondents, respectively. All other response totals were less than 20% for the number of children in the household.

Table 4.6: Summary of survey submissions based on the number of adults per household of 5,948 total responses.

Adults in Household	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Total
1	844	14.2%
2	3,937	66.2%
3	800	13.4%
4	286	4.8%
>4	81	1.4%
Total	5,948	100%

Table 4.7: Summary of survey submissions based on the number of children per household of 2,094 total responses.

Children in Household	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Total
1	794	38.0%
2	851	40.6%
3	323	15.4%
4	97	4.6%
>4	29	1.4%
Total	2,094	100%

Chapter 5 Statewide Overview

Ohioans engaged in a wide range of activities outdoors on public lands in 2021 and 2022. These outdoor recreational activities were organized for the survey into eight major categories: wildlife-based, trail, camping, boating, water, sport, winter, and other outdoor recreation activities. In each major category, subcategories for activities were identified ranging from four to nineteen individual activities.

Wildlife-based activities were concerned with the viewing (e.g., birdwatching) and collection (e.g., hunting, fishing) of animals and contained nine specific activities for respondents to choose from (see Chapter 6, Figure 6.1 for full list of wildlife-based activities). Camping involved the use of different structures (e.g., tents, RVs, yurts) on developed or primitive campgrounds and contained nine types of activities (see Chapter 6, Figure 6.5 for full list of camping activities). Trail activities were a combination of trail types (e.g., natural, paved, or stone) along with a specific form of recreation (e.g., hiking, bicycling, ATV riding) and had the second most activity variation of the eight major outdoor recreation categories with seventeen different activities (see Chapter 6, Figure 6.9 for full list of trail activities). The nine boating activities involved a watercraft (e.g., jet ski, pontoon boat, kayak) (see Chapter 6, Figure 6.13 for full list of boating activities). Water activities were enjoyed in different public waters (e.g., lakes, pools) or water-play areas (e.g., spray park) with four specific activities (see Chapter 6, Figure 6.17 for full list of water activities). Outdoor sport activities were the most variable with nineteen different activities which included both traditional (e.g., baseball, basketball, golf) and nontraditional sports (e.g., shooting, climbing, archery) (see Chapter 6, Figure 6.21 for full list of outdoor sport activities). The eleven winter activities predominantly required snow or ice to engage in, except for winter festivals or camping (see Chapter 6, Figure 6.25 for full list of winter activities). Other outdoor recreational activities ranged from scenic driving, meditation, night-sky viewing, picnicking, outdoor games, technology driven recreation, kite flying, to visiting playgrounds and outdoor fitness areas, watching an outdoor movie, attending a festival, and visiting dog parks or historical sites. There were fourteen specific activities grouped in the other outdoor recreation activities for respondents to choose from (see Chapter 6, Figure 6.29 for full list of other outdoor recreation activities).

Survey takers recorded their participation frequency and primary reasons for participating and not participating in outdoor recreational activities on public land. Their responses were captured and analyzed using different analysis techniques including stacked graphing, heat maps, and aggregated tables.

Participation in Each Outdoor Recreation Category

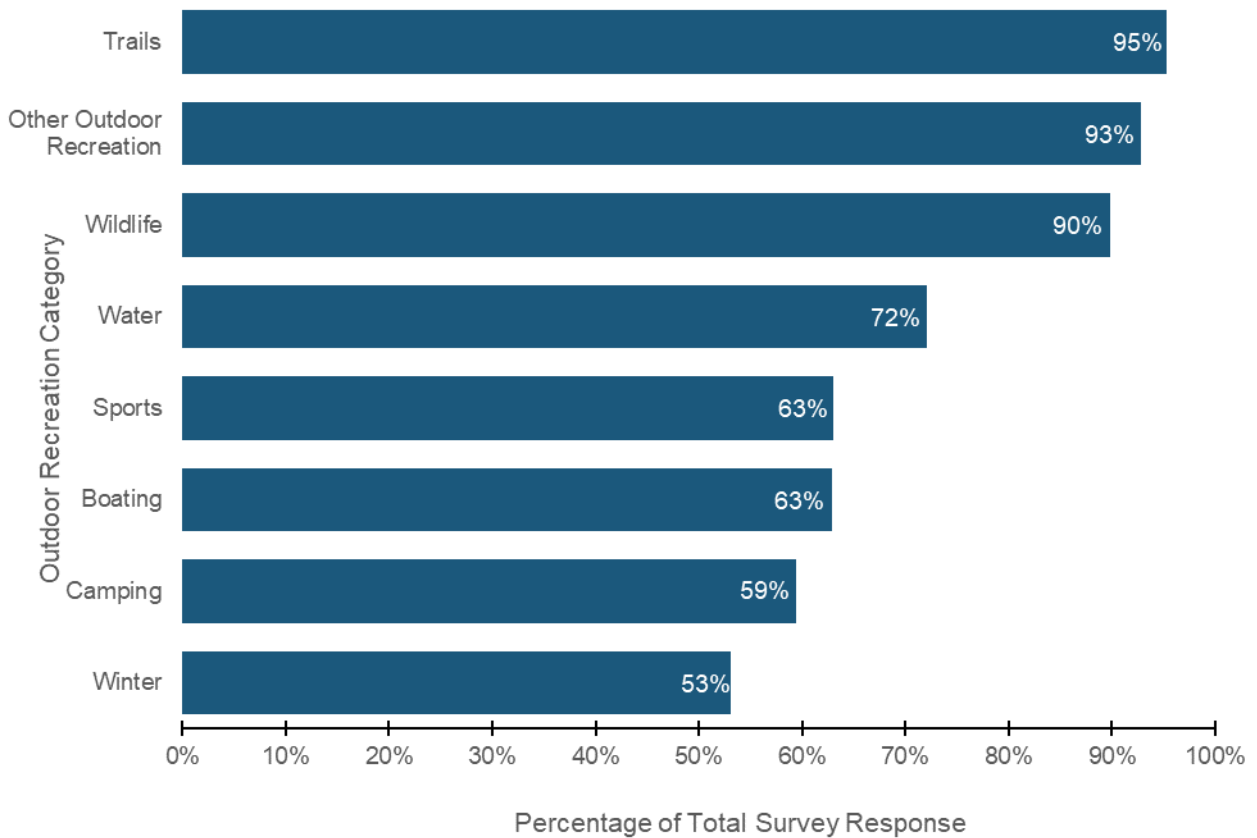


Figure 5.1: Participation levels for the eight major categories of outdoor recreational activities. Participation in a major category was totaled for the number of respondents who indicated that they had participated in any of the major category's activities.

Based on the total number of responses (Figure 5.1), Trail (95.3%) exhibited the highest level of participation, while *Winter* (53.1%) was the lowest. *Other Outdoor Recreation* (92.8%) and *Wildlife* (89.9%) rounded out the top three most frequently participated in recreational activities. The frequency of participation in outdoor recreational activities was also surveyed. Survey takers chose between three distinct levels of participation: annual (1 to 11 times per year), monthly (12 to 49 times per year), and weekly (50 or more times per year). These results were captured for the multiple individual activities queried in each major category and overall indicated a general decreasing trend in participation across all major categories as frequency increased (refer to individual chapters for these results).

Category	Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/ Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
Wildlife	4270	650	3349	5968	156
Camping	1546	354	2284	1274	356
Trail	3942	11514	4390	3954	250
Boating	2311	446	1936	1154	133
Water	3015	348	2642	134	37
Sport	2490	605	1489	120	375
Winter	1080	170	767	281	48
Other	5356	683	7616	1920	398

Figure 5.2: Reasons Ohioans did participate in outdoor recreational activities on public land during surveyed period. Response totals based off responses from each individual activity within the eight major outdoor recreation categories. Numeric values are the total number of responses per category and reason. Deeper color saturation indicates higher response totals.

Overall, the main reason for engaging in outdoor recreation on public lands for most categories was for *Fun/Entertainment* and *Share time with family and/or friends* followed by *Experience nature/quiet time/serenity* (Figure 5.2). *Health/Wellness/Fitness* was also an important reason for participating in outdoor recreation for survey respondents, particularly when it came to trail use (11,514), which was the greatest number of total responses for an individual category. These responses were calculated from the total number of activities per outdoor recreation category, i.e., trails had the highest number of activities in the category (19). Additionally, according to survey respondents, *Organized Events* was the least likely reason people would participate in outdoor activities as it was selected the fewest number of times in all categories.

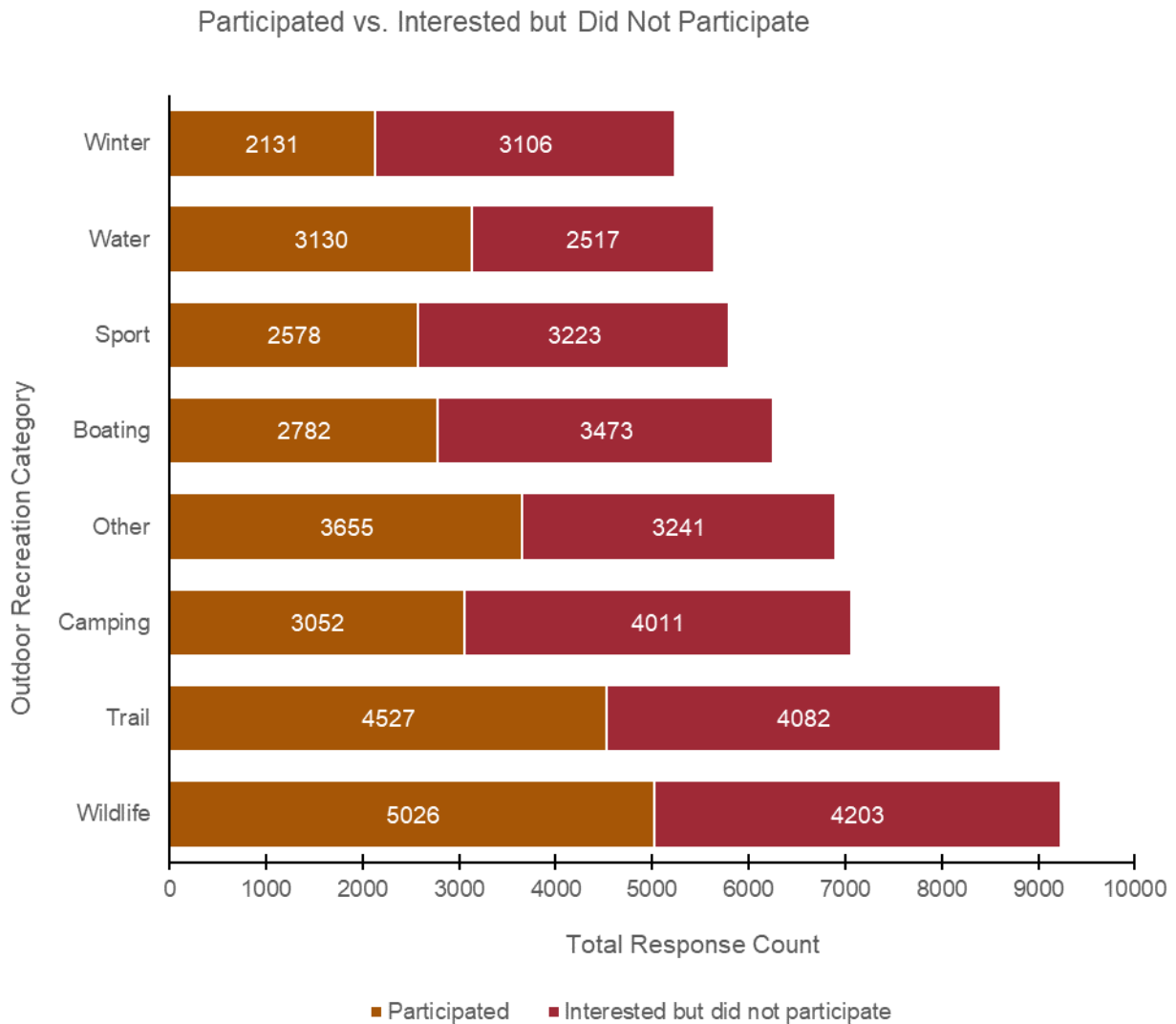


Figure 5.3: Overall interest in each category of outdoor recreational activity distinguished by participation and interest without participation.

Ohioans were queried on their participation in all eight major categories of outdoor recreational activities, and additionally provided feedback on activities that they had been interested in but were unable to participate (Figure 5.3). *Wildlife* and *Trail* had the highest levels of both participation (5,026, and 4,527 respectively) and interest without participation (4,203, and 4,082 respectively). *Winter activities* (2,131) had the lowest participation level, but a high level of interest without engagement (3,106). Half of the categories: *Water*, *Other Outdoor Recreation*, *Trail*, and *Wildlife* had higher levels of participation than interest, while the other half of the categories: *Winter*, *Sport*, *Boating*, and *Camping*, had more respondents who were interested but did not participate than respondents who did participate.

Table 5.1: Reasons Ohioans did not participate in outdoor recreational activities on public lands during surveyed period. Percentages were based on the total responses.

Primary Reason for Interest WITHOUT Participation	Response	
	Count	Percent of Total
Too busy with other responsibilities and activities	9,017	38.6%
Do not own or have access to equipment	2,594	11.1%
Do not have information on where facilities are offered	2,125	9.1%
No facilities available	1,877	8.0%
Facilities too far away	1,838	7.9%
Other, please specify (Appendix 10.6)	1,491	6.4%
No one to go with	1,332	5.7%
The activity or the equipment is too costly	1,321	5.7%
Health issues	979	4.2%
Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe	359	1.5%
Safety concerns	307	1.3%
Facilities are not ADA accessible	96	0.4%

The primary reason respondents indicated they did not participate in outdoor recreation activities was *Too busy with other responsibilities* (38.6%) (Table 5.1). Other barriers to participation included: *Do not own or have access to equipment* (11.1%), *Do not have information on where facilities are offered* (9.1%), *No facilities available* (8.0%), and *Facilities too far away* (7.9%). *Facilities not ADA accessible* (0.4%) was the least likely reason why Ohioans did not engage in an activity of interest.

Additionally, the overall total level of interest and participation across all eight major categories and specific activities was calculated, see Appendix 10.8 for table of results. Interest and participation in outdoor recreation activities followed the same trends as seen in Chapter 6 for specific categories of outdoor recreation activities. For instance, amongst the highest interest and participation levels for outdoor recreation activities were Trail Activities, Wildlife-based Activities, Boating Activities, and Camping Activities. High response totals were seen in Hiking/Walking on *Natural Surfaces* (4,545), *Finely Crushed Stone* (4,388), and *Paved* (4,320) trails, as well as *Wildlife Viewing* (4,958). Additionally, many survey respondents were interested in or participated in camping in a *Tent or Pop-up camper in a developed campground* (3,545) and *Canoeing/Kayaking in a stream, river, or following a water trail* (3,460).

Chapter 6 Results by Outdoor Recreational Category

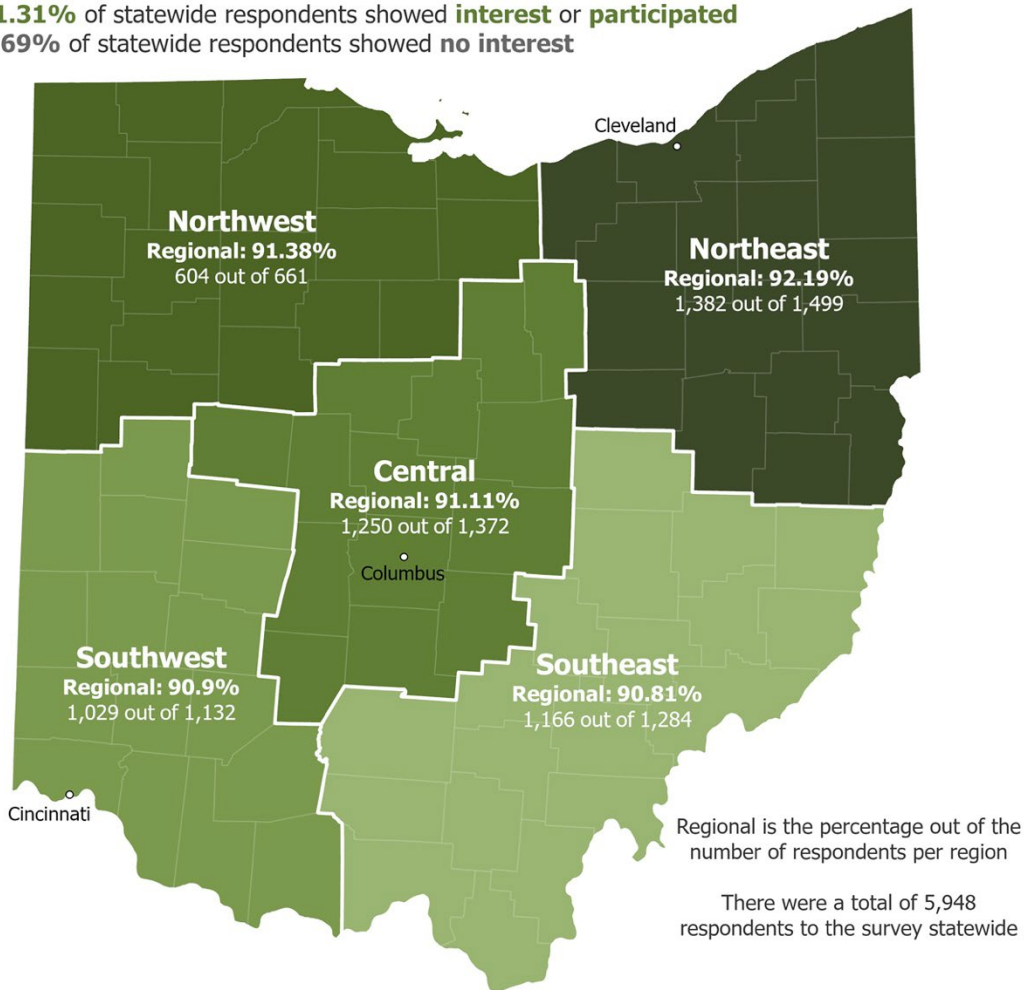
For each of the eight major categories, *Wildlife-based*, *Camping*, *Trail Activities*, *Boating*, *Water Activities*, *Outdoor Sports*, *Winter Activities*, and *Other Outdoor Recreation*, questions relating to interest, participation, frequency and reasons for participation, and interest without participation were queried. Overall participation was calculated by summing the total number of times a subcategory was chosen. There were three frequency ranges to choose from: a few times during the year (1 to 11 times/year), once or twice a month (12 to 49 times/year), and one or more times a week (50 or more times/year), five selections for reasons for participation, and thirteen selections for the primary reason of interest without participation for a survey respondent to record.

6.1 Wildlife-based Activities

Wildlife-based outdoor recreational activities included four methods of fishing (e.g., from a shore, from a pier or ADA accessible site, motorized boat angling, or kayak angling), observation and photography, and hunting or trapping. Wildlife-based activities generally reflected the statewide trends in frequency of participation and reasons for participation as described in the *Statewide Overview* chapter (5).

Interest and Participation in Wildlife Activities

91.31% of statewide respondents showed **interest** or **participated**
8.69% of statewide respondents showed **no interest**



Map 6.1: Overall state-wide and regional interest and participation in wildlife-based activities.

The overall interest and participation in Wildlife-based Activities across subcategories in the state regions can be viewed in Map 6.1. The region with the highest level of interest in wildlife-based is the Northeast region (92.19%), closely followed by the Northwest region (91.38%). Across the regions there is very little difference (90.8% to 92.2%) in overall interest and participation in wildlife-based activities.

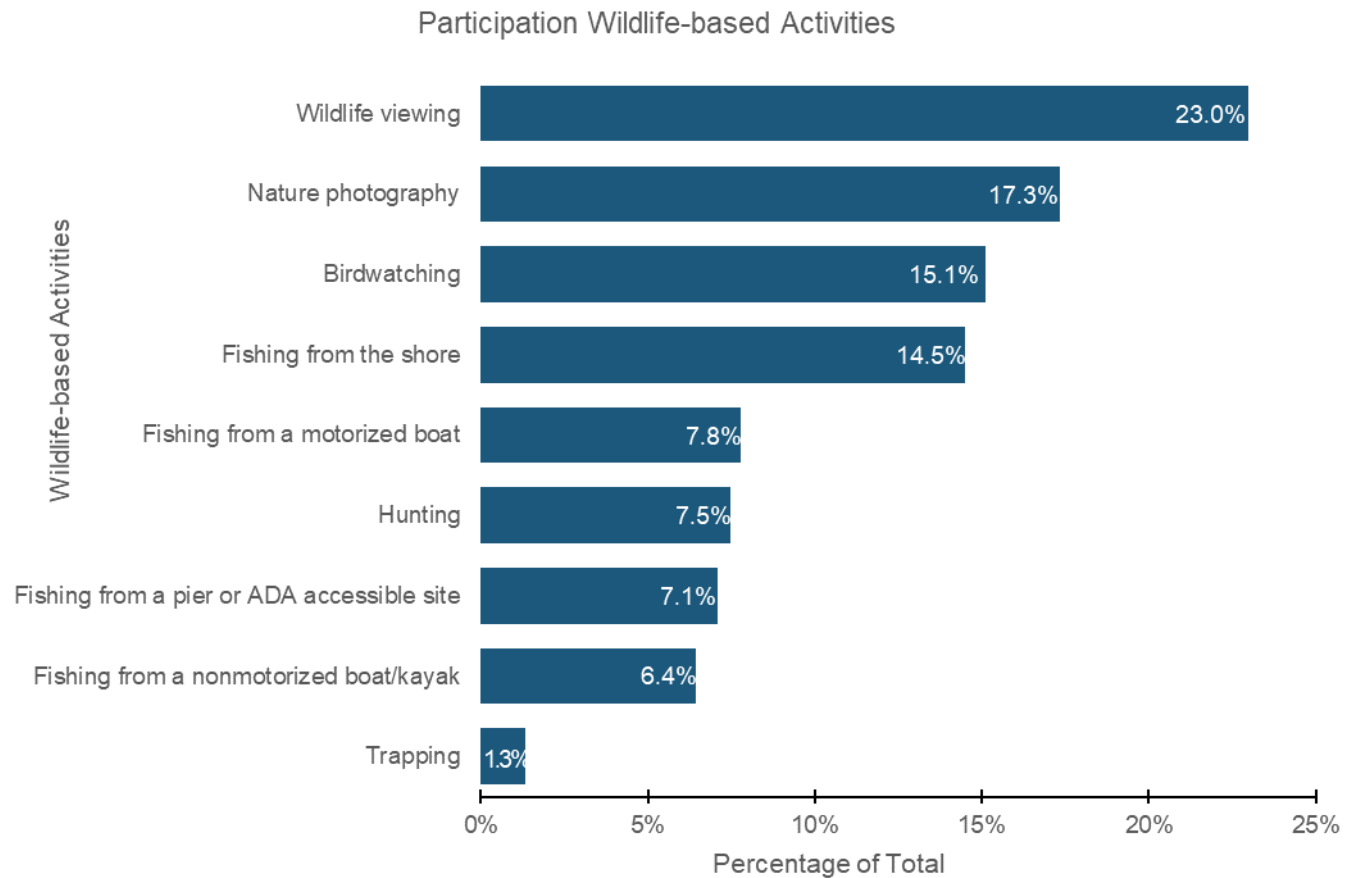


Figure 6.1: Participation level in wildlife-based activities on Ohio public lands during the surveyed period.

There was a moderate level of interest and participation across all wildlife-based activities (Figure 6.1). Based on the total number of responses per subcategory of wildlife-based activities, more passive activities exhibited the highest levels of participation. Those top subcategories included *Wildlife viewing* (23.0%), *Nature photography* (17.3%), and *Birdwatching* (15.1%). Fishing from the shore (14.5%) had the highest level of participation when compared to the three other fishing methods. *Trapping* (1.3%) had the lowest overall participation level.

Wildlife-based Activities	One or more times a week (50 or more times/year)	Once or twice a month (12 to 49 times/year)	A few times during the year (1 to 11 times/year)	Total Responses of Participation
Birdwatching	793	584	1,290	2,667
Wildlife viewing	1,145	1,079	1,832	4,056
Nature photography	568	933	1,562	3,063
Hunting	291	394	635	1,320
Trapping	41	52	141	234
Fishing from the shore	276	634	1,650	2,560
Fishing from a motorized boat	194	322	861	1,377
Fishing from a nonmotorized boat/kayak	115	255	767	1,137
Fishing from a pier or ADA accessible site	85	192	972	1,249

Figure 6.2: Frequency of participation in wildlife-based activities on Ohio public lands during the surveyed period. Numeric values are the total number of responses per subcategory and frequency level. Deeper color saturation indicates higher response totals.

According to survey responses, Ohioans most frequently participated in wildlife-based activities on an annual basis (Figure 6.2). *Wildlife viewing* (4,056) had the overall highest frequencies of participation of all wildlife-based activities. Generally, participation in wildlife-based activities decreased as frequency increased. For all subcategories, the most frequent participation happened once or twice a year, with lower engagement levels on a monthly basis, and the least by week.

Wildlife-based Activities	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/	Organized Event	Share time with family and/or friends
Birdwatching	1,517	668	109	29	300
Wildlife Viewing	1,840	657	242	22	494
Nature Photography	1,148	781	77	9	336
Hunting	345	270	89	12	255
Trapping	59	55	14	9	35
Fishing from the shore	389	652	42	18	706
Fishing: from a motorized boat	212	518	13	26	559
Fishing: from a non-motorized boat (i.e., kayak/canoe/etc.)	305	343	52	17	328
Fishing from a pier or ADA accessible site	153	326	12	14	336

Figure 6.3: Primary reasons for participating in wildlife-based activities on Ohio public lands during the surveyed period. Numeric values are the total number of responses per subcategory and reason. Reasons for participation indicated with multiple colors.

For *Trapping* (59), *Hunting* (345), *Nature photography* (1,148), *Wildlife viewing* (1,840), and *Birdwatching* (1,517), *Experience nature/quiet time/serenity* was the primary reason for participation (Figure 6.3). *Fun/Entertainment* was the primary reason for participation in *Fishing from a nonmotorized boat* (343) and *Share time with family and/or friends* was the primary reason for participating in the three other fishing methods, *Fishing from a pier or ADA accessible site* (336), *Fishing from a motorized boat* (559), and *Fishing from the shore* (706). There was a distinct separation between these top three reasons for participation and the bottom two *Health/Wellness/Fitness* and *Organized event*. Passive activities including observation and photography had the highest total number of responses overall.

Interest WITHOUT Participation-Wildlife-based Activities

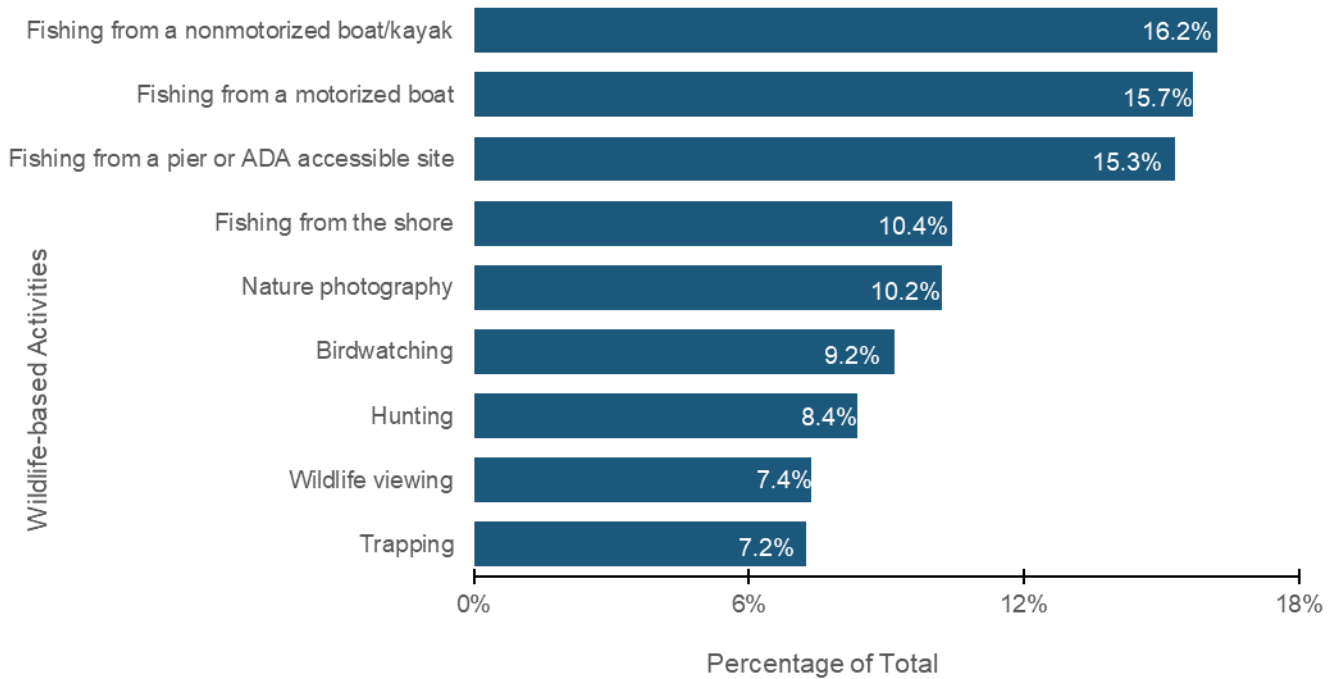


Figure 6.4: Wildlife-based activities that Ohioans were interested but did not participate in on Ohio public lands during the surveyed period.

Of those activities related to wildlife, all methods of fishing showed the highest level of interest but lack of participation (Figure 6.4). Three out of the four surveyed methods of fishing had the greatest number of responses with *Fishing from a nonmotorized boat/kayak* (16.2%) having the highest total. *Trapping* (7.2%) and *Wildlife viewing* (7.4%) were the least chosen wildlife-based activities that respondents were interested in but did not engage in.

Table 6.1: Reasons Ohioans were interested in but did not participate in wildlife-based activities on public lands during the surveyed period.

Primary Reason for Interest WITHOUT Participation	Response Count	Percentage of Total
Too busy with other responsibilities and activities	1,682	42.7%
Do not own or have access to equipment	375	9.5%
Do not have the skills	352	8.9%
Do not have information on where facilities are offered	294	7.5%
Other, please specify	244	6.2%
Facilities too far away	242	6.1%
No one to go with	226	5.7%
The activity or the equipment is too costly	180	4.6%
No facilities available	119	3.0%
Health issues	108	2.7%
Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe	65	1.6%
Safety concerns	38	1.0%
Facilities are not ADA accessible	17	0.4%

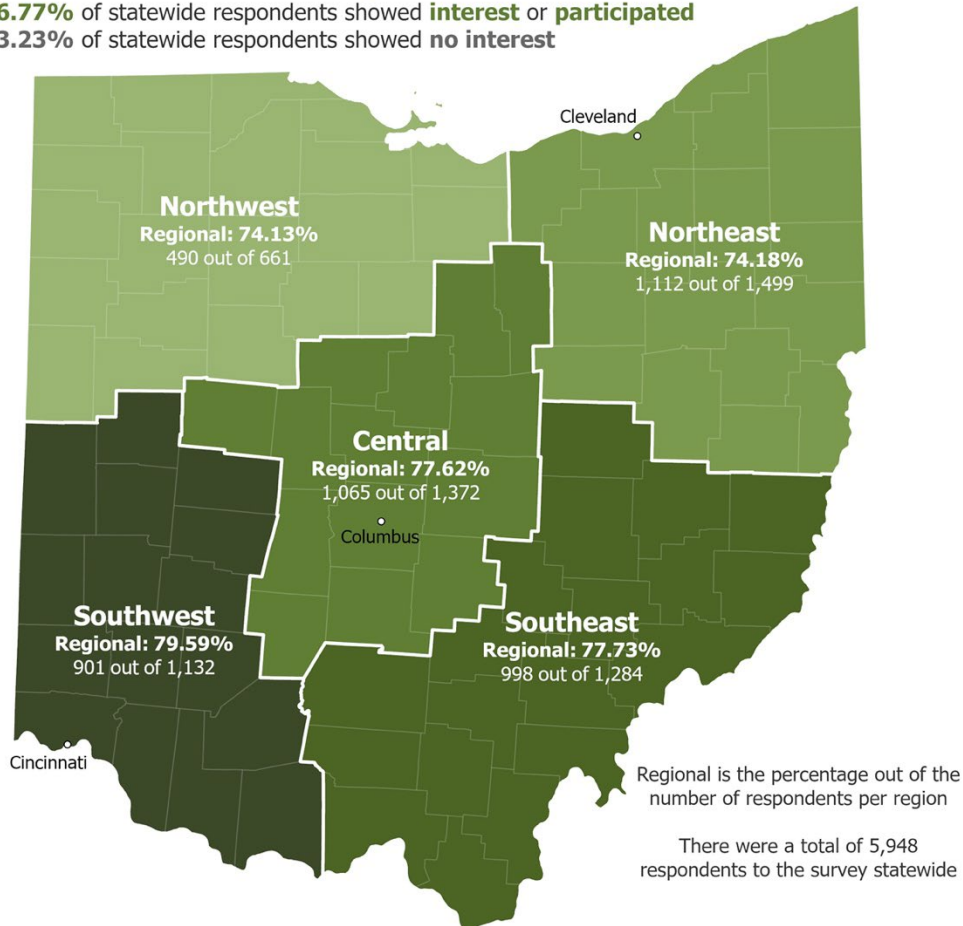
Survey respondents were asked to identify the primary reason they were interested but did not participate in wildlife-based activities on public lands during the surveyed period (Table 6.1). Overall, across all subcategories, the primary reason survey respondents did not participate in wildlife-based activities was *Too busy with other responsibilities and activities* (42.7%). All other selections for primary reason of interest but not participation in wildlife-based activities were less than 10%. Additionally, survey respondents were given the opportunity to write in a separate primary or “other” reason they were interested but did not participate in wildlife-based activities. The primary “other” reason participants indicated for not participating in wildlife-based activities related to prioritization of other activities and lack of time as additional factors limiting their ability to engage in wildlife-based activities, see Appendix 10.61 for full responses and totals.

6.2 Camping Activities

Outdoor camping recreational activities focused on the structure or camping location (i.e., site and type of equipment). Specific sites included primitive and developed campgrounds, equine, boat, or ADA accessible campgrounds. Specific camping equipment included tents, RVs, pop-up campers, yurts, or similar structures. Camping locations were linked to the level of development of the site, its accessibility, and transportation to the site (e.g., Paddling, cycling, hiking, equine). Overall, camping responses correlated with statewide trends as described in the *Statewide Overview* chapter (5).

Interest and Participation in Camping Activities

76.77% of statewide respondents showed **interest** or **participated**
23.23% of statewide respondents showed **no interest**



Map 6.2: Overall state-wide and regional interest and participation in camping activities.

Overall interest and participation level for camping activities was aggregated by region. Interest and participation in camping activities show a 5% difference across the regions. The highest overall interest and participation levels for camping activities came from the Southwest region (79.6%), Southeast region (77.7%), and the Central region (77.6%). The Northwest and Northeast regions had a similar level of interest and participation in camping activities (74.1% and 74.2%).

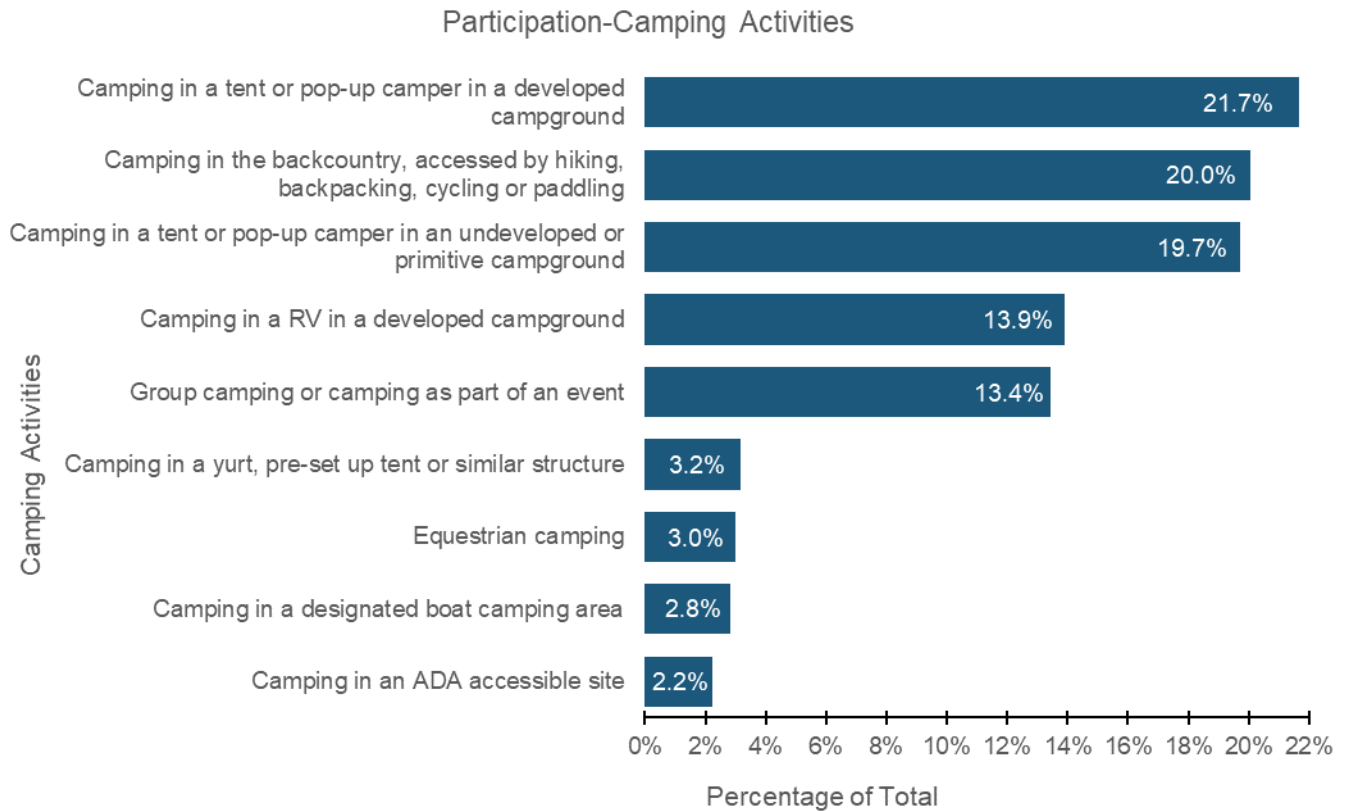


Figure 6.5: Participation level in camping activities on Ohio public lands during the surveyed period.

There was a moderate participation level in camping activities on Ohio public lands (Figure 6.5). Of the nine subcategories of camping activities, the top three chosen categories, *Camping in a tent or pop-up camper in an undeveloped or primitive campground* (21.7%), *Camping in the backcountry, accessed by hiking, backpacking, cycling or paddling* (20.0%), and *Camping in a tent or pop-up camper in a developed campground* (19.7%), had a similar number of total responses. *Camping in a RV in a developed campground* (13.9%) and *Group camping or camping as part of an event* (13.4%) comprised the second highest tier of participation across camping activities. *Camping in a designated boat camping area* (2.8%), and *Camping in an ADA accessible site* (2.2%) exhibited the lowest participation levels.

Camping Activities	One or more times a week (50 or more times/year)	Once or twice a month (12 to 49 times/year)	A few times during the year (1 to 11 times/year)	Total Responses of Participation
Camping in the backcountry, accessed by hiking, backpacking, cycling or paddling	90	332	1,213	1,635
Camping in a tent or pop-up camper in an undeveloped or primitive campground	46	259	1,304	1,609
Camping in a tent or pop-up camper in a developed campground	61	230	1,477	1,768
Camping in a RV in a developed campground	118	331	686	1,135
Camping in a yurt, pre-set up tent or similar structure	11	20	227	258
Group camping or camping as part of an event	42	115	940	1,097
Equestrian camping	41	85	117	243
Camping in a designated boat camping area	22	36	173	231
Camping in an ADA accessible site	16	23	143	182

Figure 6.6: Frequency of participation in camping activities on Ohio public lands during the surveyed period. Numeric values are the total number of responses per subcategory and frequency level. Deeper color saturation indicates higher response totals.

In all nine camping activities, participation predominantly happened on an annual basis (Figure 6.6). The highest number of total responses for the frequency of participation in each of the nine camping activities was A few times during the year (1 to 11 times/year). Overall, participation levels were significantly higher as the frequency decreased, across all subcategories.

Camping Activities	Experience nature/ quiet time/ serenity	Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/ Fitness	Organized Event	Share time with family and/or friends
Back country, accessed by hiking, backpacking, cycling, or paddling	549	429	221	46	338
Tent or pop-up camper in an undeveloped or primitive campground	354	289	41	43	407
Tent or pop-up camper in a developed campground	155	297	30	55	560
RV in developed campground	92	181	15	19	386
Yurt, pre-set up tent or similar structure	24	51	8	12	68
Group camping or camping as part of an event	29	160	13	153	339
Equestrian camping	33	43	10	12	68
Camping in a designated boat camping area	19	64	4	6	65
Camping in an ADA accessible site	19	32	12	10	53

Figure 6.7: Primary reasons for participating in camping activities on Ohio public lands during the surveyed period. Numeric values are the total number of responses per subcategory and reason. Deeper color saturation indicates higher response totals.

Share time with family and/or friends was the primary reason for participation in camping activities in all subcategories except for *Backcountry accessed by hiking, backpacking, cycling, or paddling* where survey respondents chose *Experience nature/quiet time/serenity* (549) as the primary reason for participation (Figure 6.7). The least selected primary reasons for participation across subcategories were *Health/wellness/fitness* and *Organized Event*.

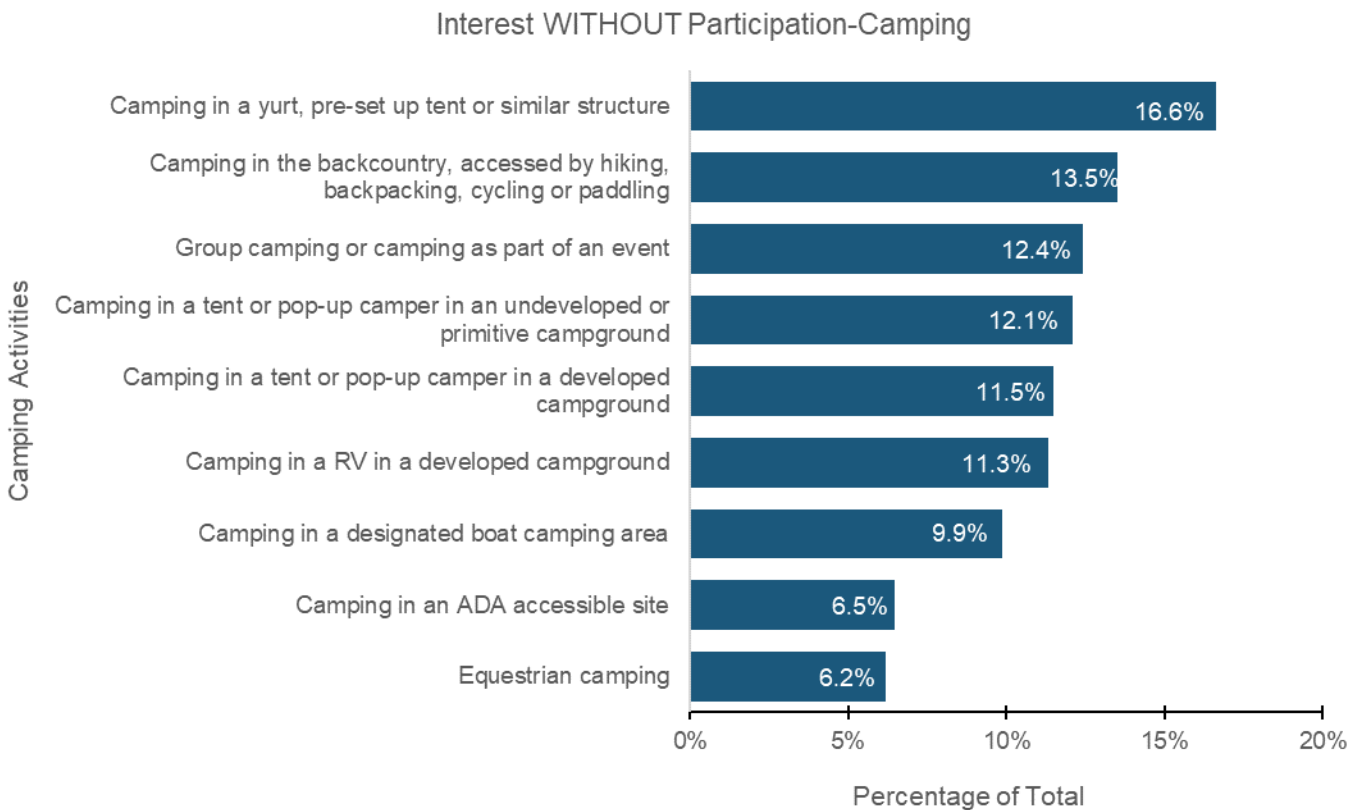


Figure 6.8: Camping activities that Ohioans were interested but did not participate in on Ohio public lands during the surveyed period.

Interest levels without participation were comparable to participation levels in camping activities, there was a comparable number of total responses for participation as interest without participation between camping activities (Figure 6.8). However, there was an increase in interest levels in the four lowest participation levels of camping activities including *Camping in a yurt, pre-set up tent or similar structure* (16.6%), *Equestrian camping* (6.5%), *Camping in designated boat camping area* (9.9%), and *Camping in an ADA accessible site* (6.5%).

Table 6.2: Reasons Ohioans were interested in but did not participate in camping activities on public lands during the surveyed period.

Primary Reason for Interest WITHOUT Participation	Response Count	Percentage of Total
Too busy with other responsibilities and activities	1,588	41.4%
Do not own or have access to equipment	545	14.2%
The activity or the equipment is too costly	289	7.5%
Other, please specify	282	7.4%
No one to go with	236	6.2%
Do not have information on where facilities are offered	207	5.4%
Facilities too far away	164	4.3%
No facilities available	161	4.2%
Health issues	136	3.5%
Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe	95	2.5%
Do not have the skills	71	1.9%
Safety concerns	44	1.1%
Facilities are not ADA accessible	18	0.5%

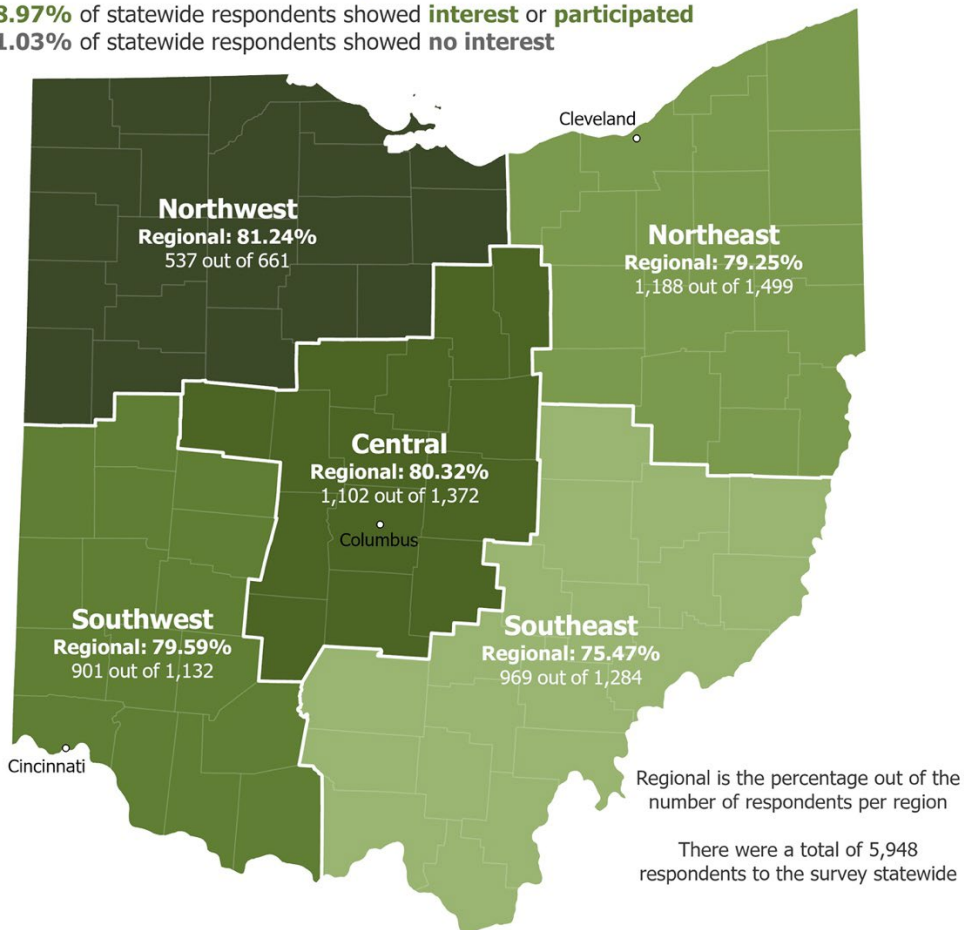
Survey respondents were asked to identify the primary reason they were interested but did not participate in camping activities (Table 6.2). Again, across all activities, the primary reason survey respondents did not participate in camping activities was *Too busy with other responsibilities and activities* (41.4%). All other selections for primary reason of interest but not participation in camping activities were less than 10% except for *Do not own or have access to equipment* (14.2%). Additionally, survey respondents were given the opportunity to write in a separate primary or “other” reason they were interested but did not participate in camping activities. Participants indicated a variety of reasons for their lack of participation in camping activities, however, lack of availability was the primary “other” reason. Participants reference trouble with campsites being fully booked as well as overcrowding in camping areas, see Appendix 10.62 for full responses.

6.3 Trail Activities

Outdoor recreational trail activities on public lands combined the trail activities with trail surfaces. Trail surfaces included paved, natural, and finely crushed stone trails. Walking, jogging/running, hiking, bicycling, storybook, and use of fitness equipment were the non-motorized trail activities. Dirt bikes, off-road motorcycles, mobility devices, and ATVs/UTVs were included in the motorized activities.

Interest and Participation in Trail Activities

78.97% of statewide respondents showed **interest** or **participated**
21.03% of statewide respondents showed **no interest**



Map 6.3: Overall state-wide and regional interest and participation in trail activities.

The overall interest and participation level in trail activities by region indicates high level of interest in the Northwest (81.2%), Central (80.3%), Southwest (79.6%), and Northeast (79.3%) regions. The Southeast region (75.5%) showed a slightly lower level of interest and participation in trail activities in comparison.

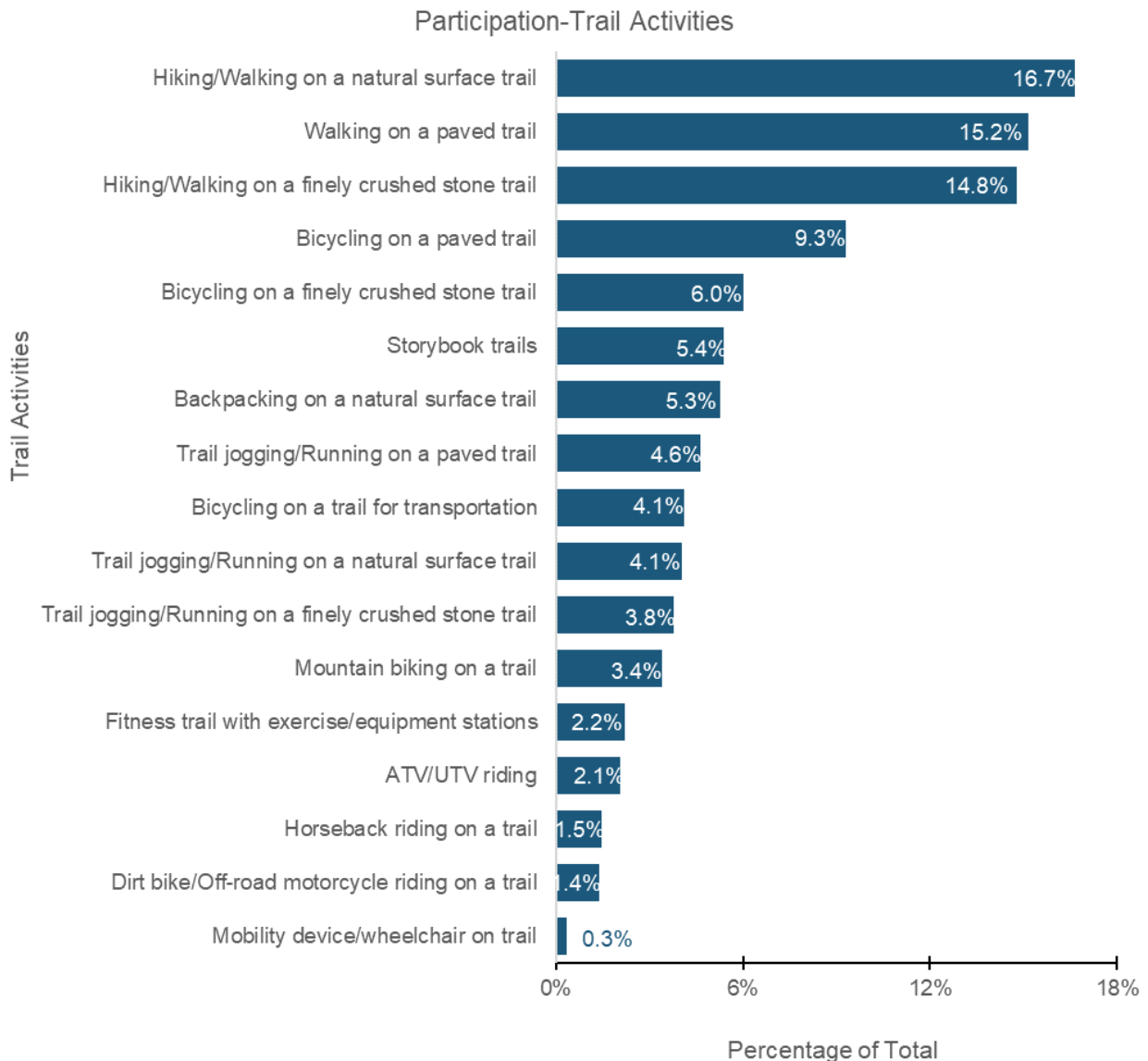


Figure 6.9: Overall participation level in trail activities on Ohio public lands during the surveyed period.

Hiking/Walking on natural trail surface (16.7%) had the greatest levels of participation of all seventeen trail activities (Figure 6.9). *Fitness trail with exercise/equipment stations* (2.2%), *ATV/UTV riding* (2.1%), and *Horseback riding on a trail* (1.5%) comprised a third of the lowest participation in trail activities with *Dirt bike/Off-road motorcycle riding on a trail* (1.4%), and *Mobility device/wheelchair on trail* (0.3%) which had the overall lowest number of total responses. There did not appear to be a preference of trail surface related to participation level with the three highest levels of participation being hiking walking on natural, paved, and stone surfaces. Additionally, many Ohioans indicated they would like to have Bicycles (309), and ATV/UTVs (111) available for rent for a nominal fee.

Trail Activities	One or more times a week (50 or more times/year)	Once or twice a month (12 to 49 times/year)	A few times during the year (1 to 11 times/year)	Total Responses for Participation
Hiking/Walking on a natural surface trail	1,059	1,455	1,710	4,224
Hiking/Walking on a finely crushed stone trail	652	1,124	1,974	3,750
Walking on a paved trail	794	1,122	1,930	3,846
Storybook trails	81	212	1,070	1,363
Backpacking on a natural surface trail	151	280	903	1,334
Bicycling on a paved trail	567	684	1,111	2,362
Bicycling on a finely crushed stone trail	224	375	924	1,523
Bicycling on a trail for transportation	186	261	594	1,041
Mountain biking on a trail	231	211	420	862
Trail jogging/Running on a paved trail	248	298	633	1,179
Trail jogging/Running on a finely crushed stone trail	152	251	554	957
Trail jogging/Running on a natural surface trail	195	260	573	1,028
Horseback riding on a trail	123	84	161	368
Fitness trail with exercise/equipment stations	35	72	452	559
ATV/UTV riding	105	134	286	525
Dirt bike/Off-road motorcycle riding on a trail	108	108	138	354
Mobility device/wheelchair on trail	8	13	66	87

Figure 6.10: Frequency of participation in trail activities on Ohio public lands during the surveyed period. Numeric values are the total number of responses per subcategory and frequency level. Deeper color saturation indicates higher response totals.

Trail activities had relatively higher response totals among all three frequency levels when compared to additional outdoor recreation activities (Figure 6.10). In particular, the three highest levels of participation for trail activities had higher values amongst all frequency levels. *Storybook Trails* (81) had the fewest respondents engaging on a weekly basis when compared to monthly and yearly totals. *Hiking/Walking on a natural surface trail* (1,455), was most frequently occurring at monthly intervals. While the top three most participated activities, *Hiking/Walking on a natural surface trail* (4,224), *Hiking/Walking on a finely crushed stone surface trail* (3,750) and *Walking on a paved trail* (3,846) had the highest frequency of participation across all three frequency types, weekly, monthly and annually. *Mobility device/wheelchair on trail* (87) had the lowest number of total responses of the seventeen trail activities across each frequency type.

Trail Activities	Experience nature/ quiet time/ serenity	Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/ Fitness	Organized Event	Share time with family and/or friends
Hiking/walking on a natural surface trail	1,266	550	1,599	21	711
Hiking/walking on a finely crushed stone trail	869	438	1,555	26	736
Walking on a paved trail	526	399	1,847	39	830
Storybook trails	130	290	178	40	661
Backpacking on a natural surface trail	504	228	278	16	235
Bicycling on a paved trail	121	384	1,355	17	332
Bicycling on a finely crushed stone trail	107	274	808	14	221
Bicycling on a trail for transportation	61	158	639	19	89
Mountain biking on a trail	51	370	309	7	65
Trail jogging/running on a paved trail	46	58	954	10	43
Trail jogging/running on a finely crushed stone trail	54	50	751	6	43
Trail jogging/running on a natural surface trail	93	74	756	8	44
Horseback riding on a trail	77	118	26	6	101
Fitness trail with exercise/equipment stations	15	42	412	2	54
ATV/UTV riding	16	289	15	7	126
Dirt bike/off-road motorcycle trail riding	11	207	15	10	64
Mobility device/wheelchair on trail	7	13	17	2	35

Figure 6.11: Primary reasons for participating in trail activities on Ohio public lands during the surveyed period. Numeric values are the total number of responses per subcategory and reason. Deeper color saturation indicates higher response totals.

Most of the survey respondents' said that their primary reason for participating in trail activities was for *Health/Wellness/Fitness* across most trail activities with the exception of *ATV/UTV riding*, and *Dirt bike/off-road motorcycle trail riding* which primary reason for participation fell under *Fun and Entertainment* (Figure 6.11). *Walking on paved trail* (1,847) had the highest number of total responses across all seventeen trail activities for *Health/Wellness/Fitness*.

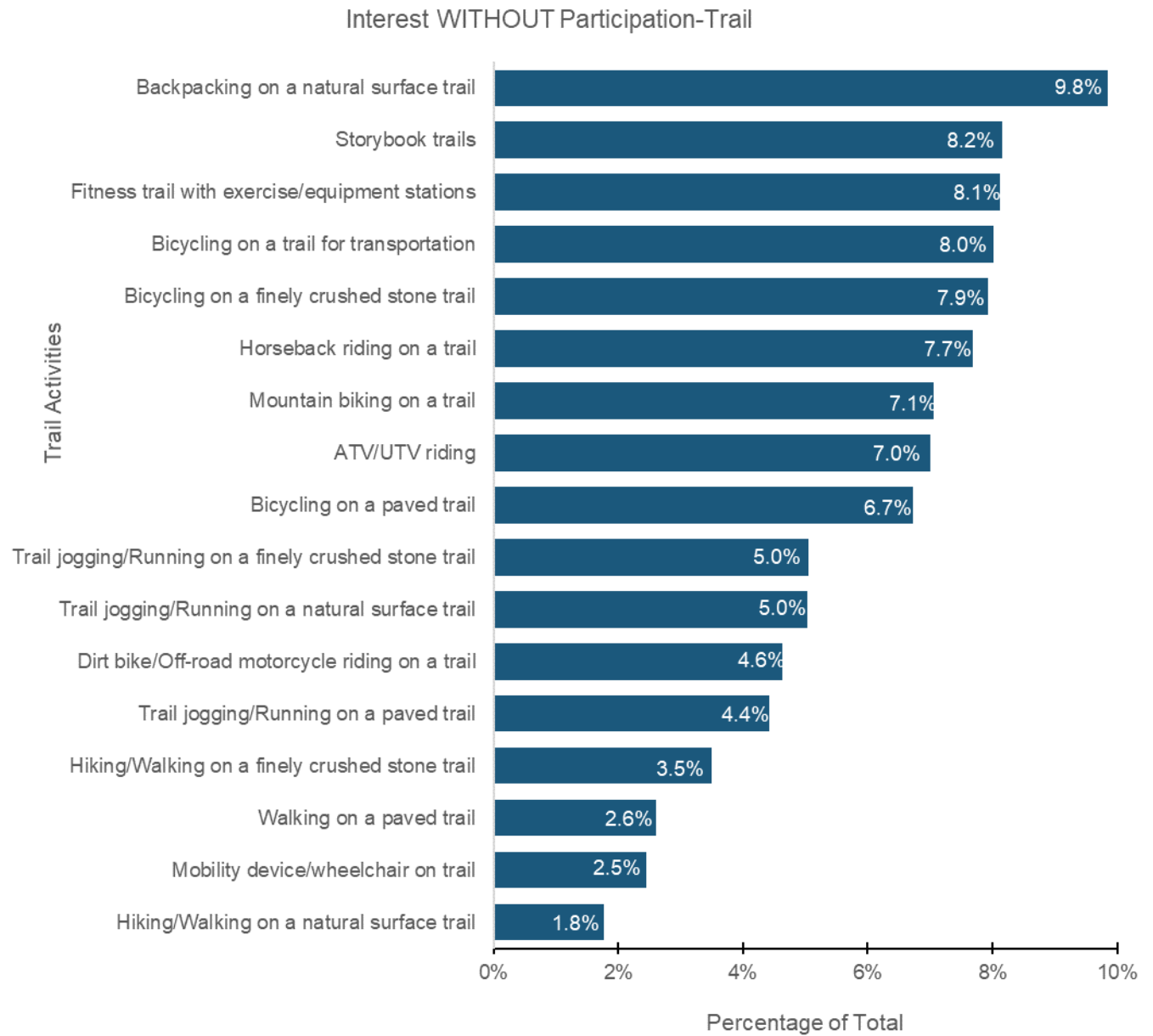


Figure 6.12: Trail activities that Ohioans were interested but did not participate in on Ohio public lands during the surveyed period.

Backpacking on a natural surface trail (9.8%), *Storybook trails* (8.2%), *Fitness trail with exercise/equipment stations* (8.1%), *Bicycling on a trail for transportation* (8.0%) were the most frequently chosen trail activities that Ohioans were interested in but did not engage in (Figure 6.12). *Mobility device/wheelchair on trail* (2.5%), and *Hiking/Walking on a natural surface trail* (1.8%) had the least amount of respondents interested but did not participate however *Hiking/Walking on a natural surface trail* inversely had the highest level of participation.

Table 6.3: Reasons Ohioans were interested in but did not participate in trail activities on Ohio public lands during the surveyed period.

Primary Reason for Interest WITHOUT Participation	Response Count	Percentage of Total
Too busy with other responsibilities and activities	1,454	37.6%
Do not own or have access to equipment	418	10.8%
Facilities too far away	328	8.5%
Do not have information on where facilities are offered	244	6.3%
Health issues	238	6.1%
Other, please specify	237	6.1%
No facilities available	235	6.1%
No one to go with	226	5.8%
The activity or the equipment is too costly	159	4.1%
Do not have the skills	150	3.9%
Safety concerns	87	2.2%
Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe	72	1.9%
Facilities are not ADA accessible	24	0.6%

Survey respondents were asked to identify the primary reason they were interested but did not participate in *Trail Activities* on public lands during the surveyed period (Table 6.3). Overall, across all subcategories, the primary reason survey respondents did not participate in trail activities was *Too busy with other responsibilities and activities* (37.6%) followed by *Do not own or have access to equipment* (10.8%). All other selections for primary reason of interest but not participation in trails activities were less than 10%. Additionally, there were 194 responses for the “other” primary reason for interest without participation in trail activities in which respondents indicated prioritization of other activities as the primary reason, see Appendix 10.63 for full responses.

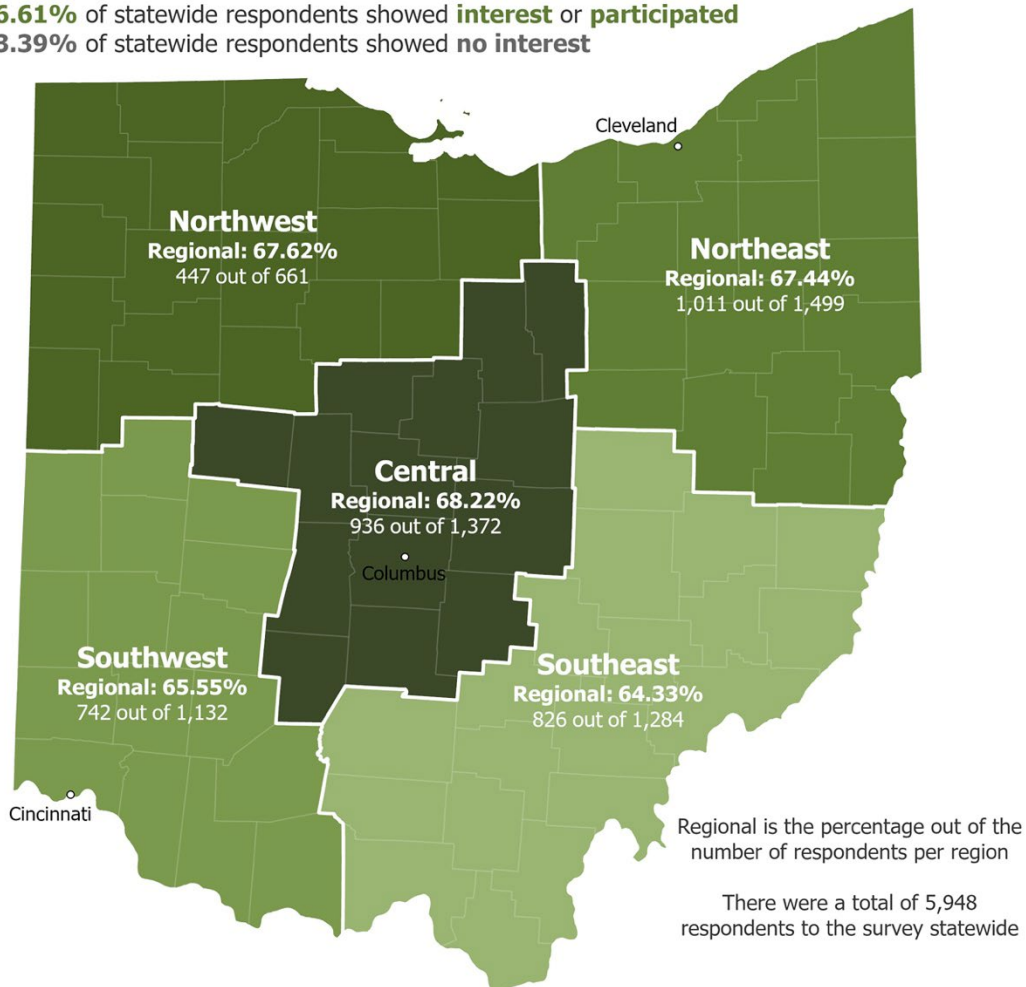
6.4 Boating Activities

Boating activities on Ohio public waters were carried out on several different watercrafts. These watercrafts included kayaks, canoes, powerboats, pontoon boats, water skis, paddleboards, sailboats and jet skis. Boating activities generally follow the statewide trends as described in the *Statewide Overview* chapter (5) but have higher response totals for canoeing and kayaking activities.

Interest and Participation in Boating Activities

66.61% of statewide respondents showed **interest** or **participated**

33.39% of statewide respondents showed **no interest**



Map 6.4: Overall state-wide and regional interest and participation in boating activities.

As seen in previous outdoor recreation activities, there is a similar level of interest and participation (68.2% to 64.3%) in boating activities across the regions. Statewide 33.4% of the respondents showed no interest in boating activities. The Central region (68.2%) was the highest and Southeast region (64.3%) was the lowest.

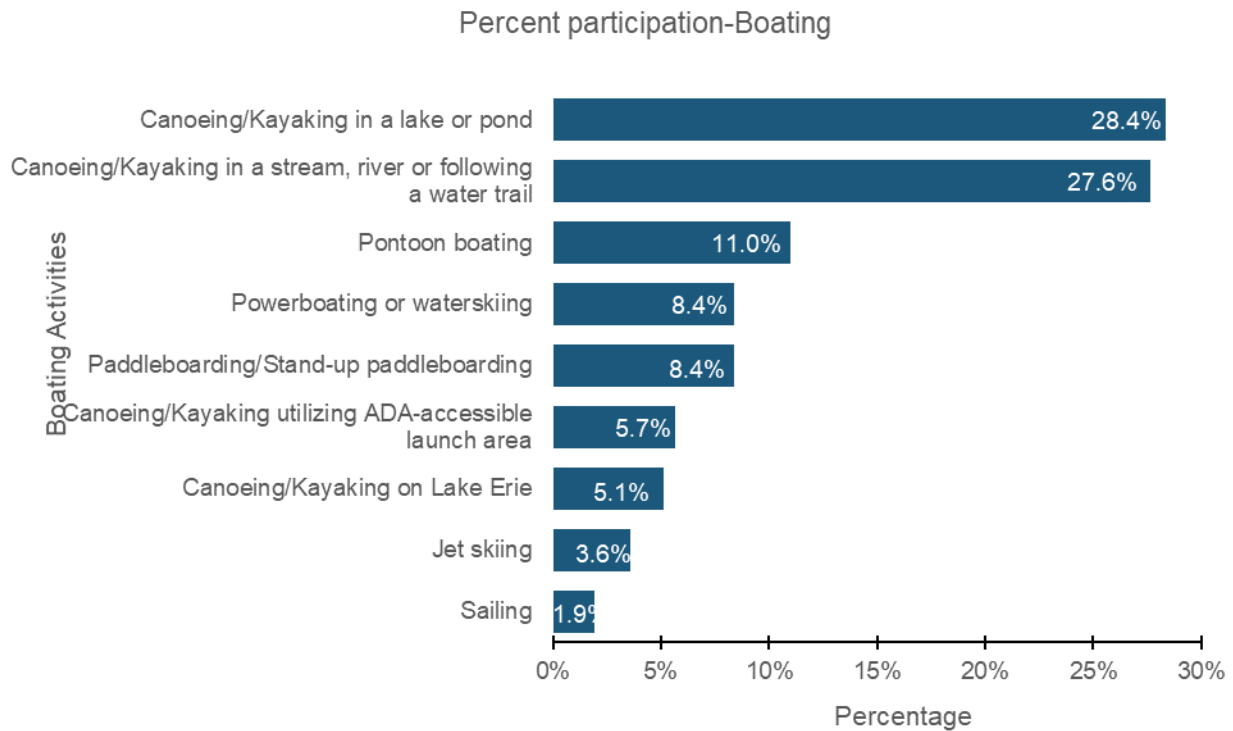


Figure 6.13: Overall participation level in boating activities on Ohio public waters during the surveyed period.

Respondents indicated that canoeing and kayaking were their most frequent boating activities (Figure 6.13), combining 56% of total responses. These were followed in interest by *Pontoon boating* (11%), *Powerboating or waterskiing* (8.4%), and *Paddleboarding/Stand-up paddleboarding* (8.4%). Respondents were least interested in *Jet skiing* (3.6%) and *Sailing* (1.9%). Ohioans also indicated they would like to have Kayaks/Canoes (860), Paddleboards (244), Motorized (198), and Non-Motorized (178) Boats available for rent for a nominal fee (Appendix Table 10.2).

Boating Activities	One or more times a week (50 or more times/year)	Once or twice a month (12 to 49 times/year)	A few times during the year (1 to 11 times/year)	Total Responses for Participation
Canoeing/Kayaking in a stream, river or following a water trail	122	315	1,513	1,950
Canoeing/Kayaking in a lake or pond	102	360	1,541	2,003
Canoeing/Kayaking on Lake Erie	20	50	292	362
Canoeing/Kayaking utilizing ADA-accessible launch area	16	62	322	400
Sailing	16	16	102	134
Pontoon boating	67	102	606	775
Powerboating or waterskiing	60	123	410	593
Jet skiing	18	41	195	254
Paddleboarding/Stand-up paddleboarding	34	104	452	590

Figure 6.14: Frequency of participation in boating activities on Ohio public waters during the surveyed period. Numeric values are the total number of responses per subcategory and frequency level. Deeper color saturation indicates higher response totals.

Two boating activities, *Canoeing/Kayaking in a stream, river or following a water trail* (1,950) and *Canoeing/Kayaking in a lake or pond* (2,003), dominated across all participation frequencies (Figure 6.14). Across all nine boating activities, annual frequency was the highest. Like previously mentioned outdoor recreation activities, frequency of participation increased as participation decreased.

Boating Activities	Experience nature/ quiet time/ serenity	Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/ Fitness	Organized Event	Share time with family and/or friends
Canoeing/kayaking in a stream, river, or following a water trail	494	747	123	42	526
Canoeing/kayaking in a lake or pond	443	587	130	29	462
Canoeing/kayaking on Lake Erie	50	128	44	10	91
Canoeing/kayaking utilizing ADA accessible launch area	63	104	42	21	123
Sailing	9	40	4	7	29
Pontoon	18	196	2	4	331
Powerboating or waterskiing	9	185	9	5	212
Jet skiing	2	125	2	2	64
Paddleboarding/Stand-up paddle boarding	66	199	90	13	98

Figure 6.15: Primary reasons for participating in boating activities on Ohio public waters during the surveyed period. Numeric values are the total number of responses per subcategory and reason. Deeper color saturation indicates higher response totals.

Fun/Entertainment, Shared time with family and/or friends, and Experience nature/quiet time/serenity were the primary reasons for participating in boating activities (Figure 6.15). *Health/Wellness/Fitness and Organized Event* was the least chosen reasons for engaging in boating activities. *Canoeing/Kayaking in a stream, river or following a water trail* (757) and *Canoeing/Kayaking in a lake or pond* (587) had highest total responses for the reasons *Fun/Entertainment* (757, and 587 respectively), *Shared time with family and/or friends* (526, and 462 respectively), and *Experience nature/quiet time/serenity* (494, and 443 respectively).

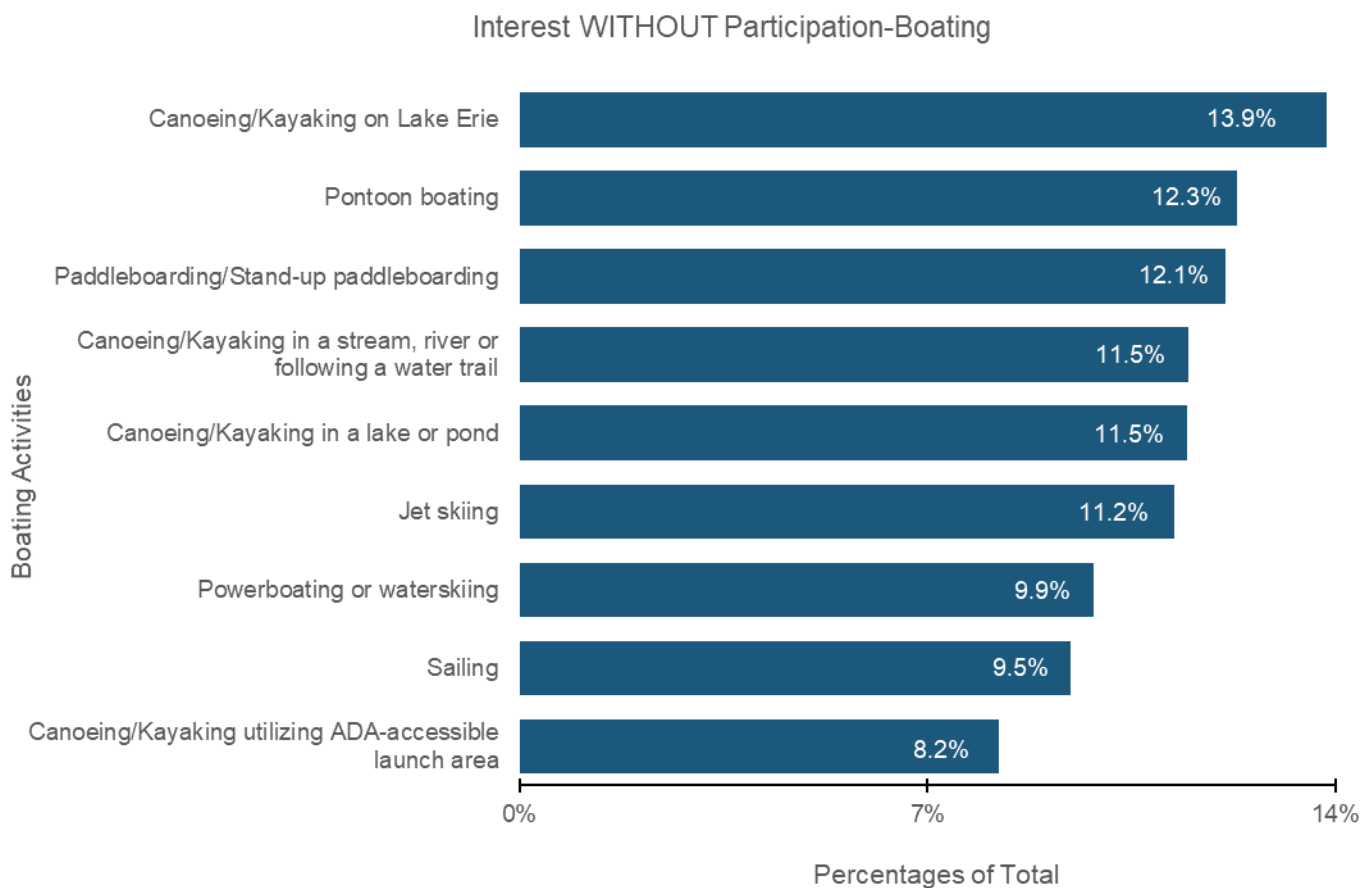


Figure 6.16: Boating activities that Ohioans were interested but did not participate in on Ohio public waters during the surveyed period.

For survey takers who were interested in boating activities, but did not participate in them, *Canoeing/Kayaking on Lake Erie* (13.9%) had the highest response total (Figure 6.16). *Pontoon boating* (12.3%) and *Paddleboarding/Stand-up paddleboarding* (12.1%) were the second highest responses chosen for boating activities that survey respondents were interested in but did not participate. The remaining six boating activities were less than 12% of total responses for interested but did not participate boating activities.

Table 6.4: Reasons Ohioans were interested in but did not participate in Boating Activities on Ohio public water during the surveyed period.

Primary Reason for Interest WITHOUT Participation	Response Count	Percentage of Total
Too busy with other responsibilities and activities	42	30.2%
Do not own or have access to equipment	34	24.5%
The activity or the equipment is too costly	25	18.0%
No facilities available	8	5.8%
Facilities too far away	7	5.0%
Health issues	5	3.6%
Do not have the skills	4	2.9%
No one to go with	4	2.9%
Do not have information on where facilities are offered	3	2.2%
Facilities are not ADA accessible	2	1.4%
Safety concerns	2	1.4%
Other, please specify	2	1.4%
Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe	1	0.7%

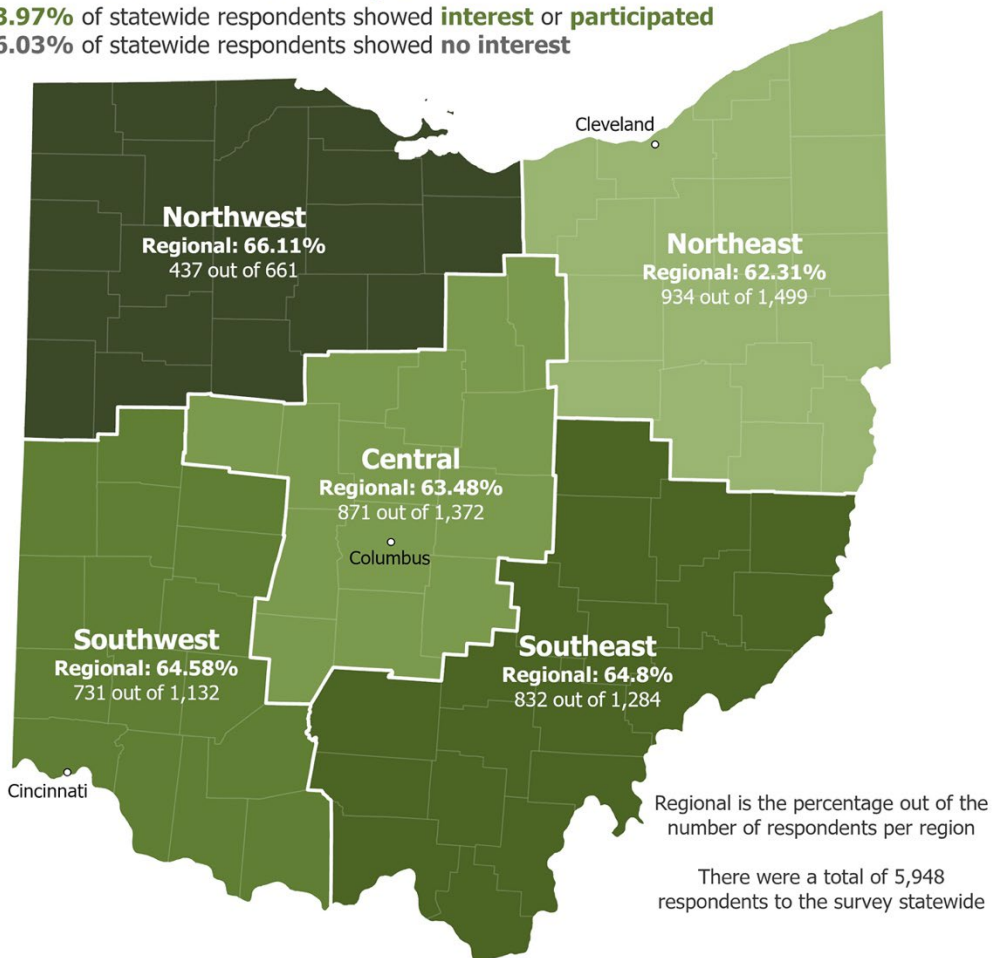
The total responses for the primary reason survey respondents were interested but did not participate in boating activities were more varied than previously mentioned outdoor recreation activities (Table 6.4). As with the other outdoor recreation activities, the primary reason for interest without participation in boating activities was *Too busy with other responsibilities or activities* (30.2%). *Do not own or have access to equipment* (24.5%), and *The equipment is too costly* (18.0%) were second most selected primary reasons for interest in boating activities without participation. There were only two additional responses indicating an “other” primary reason for interest without participation, both of which specified too busy with other activities or prioritization as the primary reason.

6.5 Water Activities

Outdoor recreational activities in Ohio public waters had the fewest number of subcategories. There were two main activities, swimming, and water-play. Swimming activities were differentiated by water type - natural (e.g., lakes, ponds, rivers), and artificial- outdoor pools, and pool complexes (i.e., pools augmented with lazy rivers, wave pools, or similar features). Water-play were water activities at splash pads or spray parks. Water activities followed the statewide trends as described in the *Statewide Overview* chapter (5).

Interest and Participation in Water Activities

63.97% of statewide respondents showed **interest** or **participated**
36.03% of statewide respondents showed **no interest**



Map 6.5: Overall state-wide and regional interest and participation in water activities.

Water Activities showed consistent interest and participation across the regions (66.1% - 62.3%), with 36.0% of respondents not interested in water activities. The Northwest region (66.1%) indicated the highest level of interest and participation followed by the Southeast (64.8%) and Southwest (64.6%) regions. The Northeast region (62.3%) indicated the lowest level of overall interest and participation in water activities.

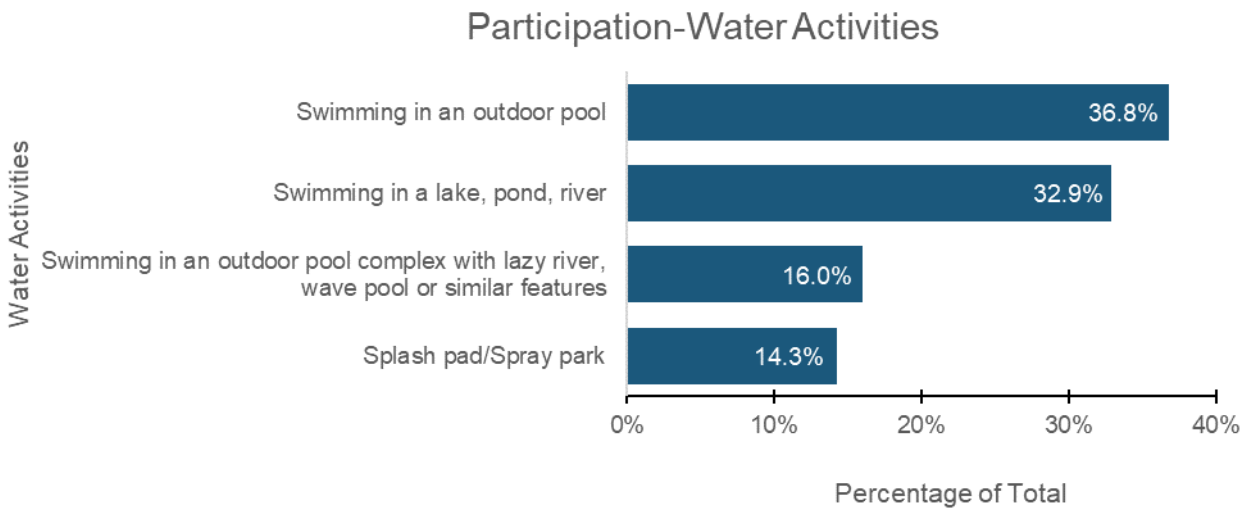


Figure 6.17: Overall participation levels in water activities in Ohio public waters during the surveyed period.

Participation in swimming was by far the highest level in comparison to water-play (Figure 6.17). Both natural and artificial swimming structures showed a high level on participation with *Swimming in an outdoor pool* (36.8%), and *Swimming in a lake, pond, river* (32.9%). *Swimming in an outdoor pool complex with lazy river, wave pool or similar features* (16.0%) and *Splash pad/Spray park* (14.3%) showed similar response totals but saw less participation. Within the water activities category, *Splash pad/Spray Park* received the lowest participation level by total responses.

Water Activities	One or more times a week (50 or more times/year)	Once or twice a month (12 to 49 times/year)	A few times during the year (1 to 11 times/year)	Total Responses for Participation
Swimming in a lake, pond, river	157	395	1,711	2,263
Swimming in an outdoor pool	402	606	1,528	2,536
Swimming in an outdoor pool complex with lazy river, wave pool or similar features	62	161	881	1,104
Splash pad/Spray Park	43	148	790	981

Figure 6.18: Frequency of participation in water activities in Ohio public waters during the surveyed period. Numeric values are the total number of responses per subcategory and frequency level. Deeper color saturation indicates higher response totals.

Annual enjoyment of water activities was notable higher for all four subcategories (Figure 6.18). *Swimming in a lake, pond, river* (1,711) and *Swimming in an outdoor pool* (1,528) had the overall highest frequencies of participation of all water activities. Participation in water activities increased as the frequency decreased from weekly to annually.

Water Activities	Experience nature/ quiet time/ serenity	Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/ Fitness	Organized Event	Share time with family and/or friends
Swimming in a lake, pond, or river	100	1,156	124	15	859
Swimming in an outdoor pool	21	1024	188	8	911
Swimming in an outdoor pool complex with lazy river, wave pool or similar features	11	495	29	9	423
Splash pad/Spray Park	2	340	7	5	449

Figure 6.19: Primary reasons for participating in water activities in Ohio public waters during the surveyed period. Numeric values are the total number of responses per subcategory and reason. Deeper color saturation indicates higher response totals.

Fun/Entertainment was the primary reason survey respondents chose for participating in nearly all water activities, except for *Splash pad/Spray Parks* (449), which had the highest total responses for participation under *Share time with family and/or friends* (Figure 6.19). *Experience nature/quiet time/serenity* and *Organized Event* had the lowest number of responses across activities.

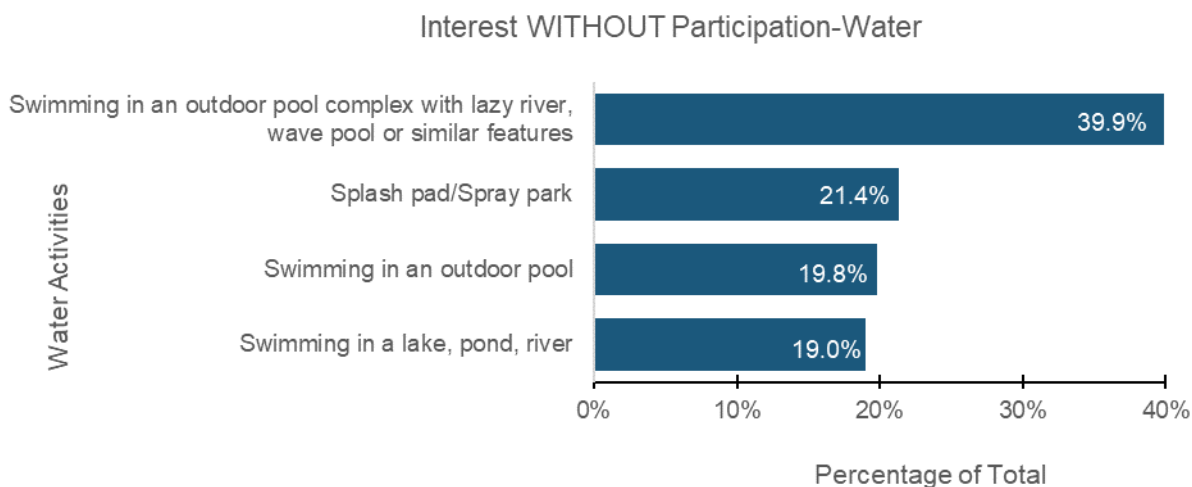


Figure 6.20: Water activities that Ohioans were interested in but did not participate in Ohio public waters during the surveyed period.

Ohioans had the greatest interest without engagement in *Swimming in an outdoor pool complex with lazy river, wave pool or similar features* (39.9%) (Figure 6.20). More respondents were more interested than participated in *Splash pad/Spray Park* (21.4%) activities. There was a similar level of interest without participation between *Swimming in an outdoor pool* (19.8%), and *Swimming in a lake, pond, river* (19.0%).

Table 6.5: Reasons Ohioans were interested in but did not participate in Water Activities on Ohio public waters during the surveyed period.

Primary Reason for Interest WITHOUT Participation	Response Count	Percentage of Total
Too busy with other responsibilities and activities	1,131	33.8%
Do not own or have access to equipment	472	14.1%
Facilities too far away	316	9.4%
No facilities available	291	8.7%
The activity or the equipment is too costly	276	8.2%
Do not have information on where facilities are offered	195	5.8%
Other, please specify	187	5.6%
No one to go with	156	4.7%
Do not have the skills	99	3.0%
Health issues	99	3.0%
Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe	65	1.9%
Safety concerns	49	1.5%
Facilities are not ADA accessible	10	0.3%

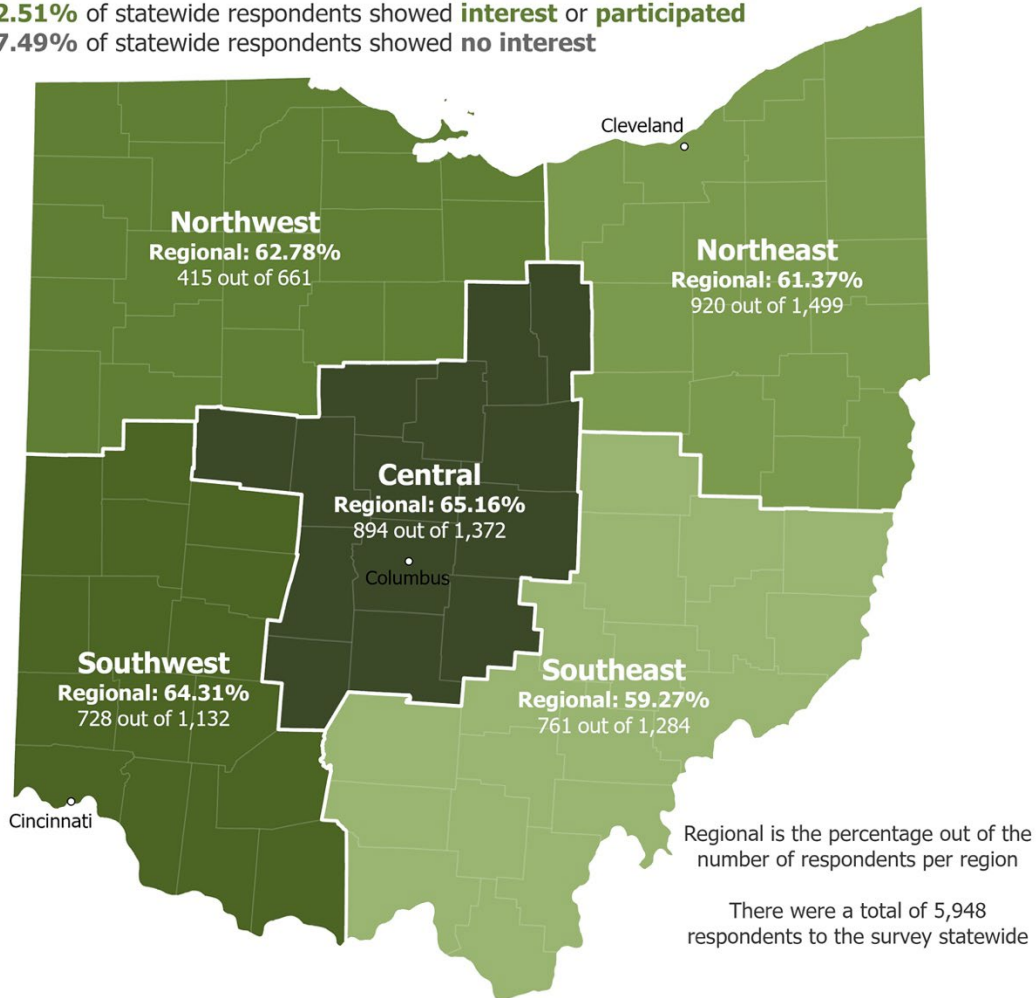
Based on total responses for the primary reason survey respondents were interested but did not participate in water activities respondents indicated *Too busy with other responsibilities or activities* (33.8%) as the primary reason (Table 6.5). *Do not own or have access to equipment* (14.1%) was the secondary reason respondents indicated why they were interested but did not participate. Respondents indicated a concern associated with water quality as the “other” primary reason they were interested but did not participate in water activities, see Appendix 10.64 for the full list of responses.

6.6 Outdoor Sport Activities

Sports on Ohio public lands had the highest number of individual activities. These activities can be loosely divided into more traditional, team-oriented sports and less traditional, non-team sports. Overall, participation and reasons for engaging in sport activities were similar to the statewide trends as described in the *Statewide Overview* chapter (5)

Interest and Participation in Outdoor Sports Activities

62.51% of statewide respondents showed **interest** or **participated**
37.49% of statewide respondents showed **no interest**



Map 6.6: Overall state-wide and regional interest and participation in outdoor sports.

Interest and participation in outdoor sport activities across the regions varied by nearly 6% (65.2% - 59.3%). The Central (65.2%) and Southwest (64.3%) showed the highest overall interest and participation levels from respondents. The Southeast region (59.37%) showed a lower level interest and participation in outdoor sport activities. It is worth noting, the Outdoor Sports category had the most activities for respondents to choose from including nineteen different specific activities.

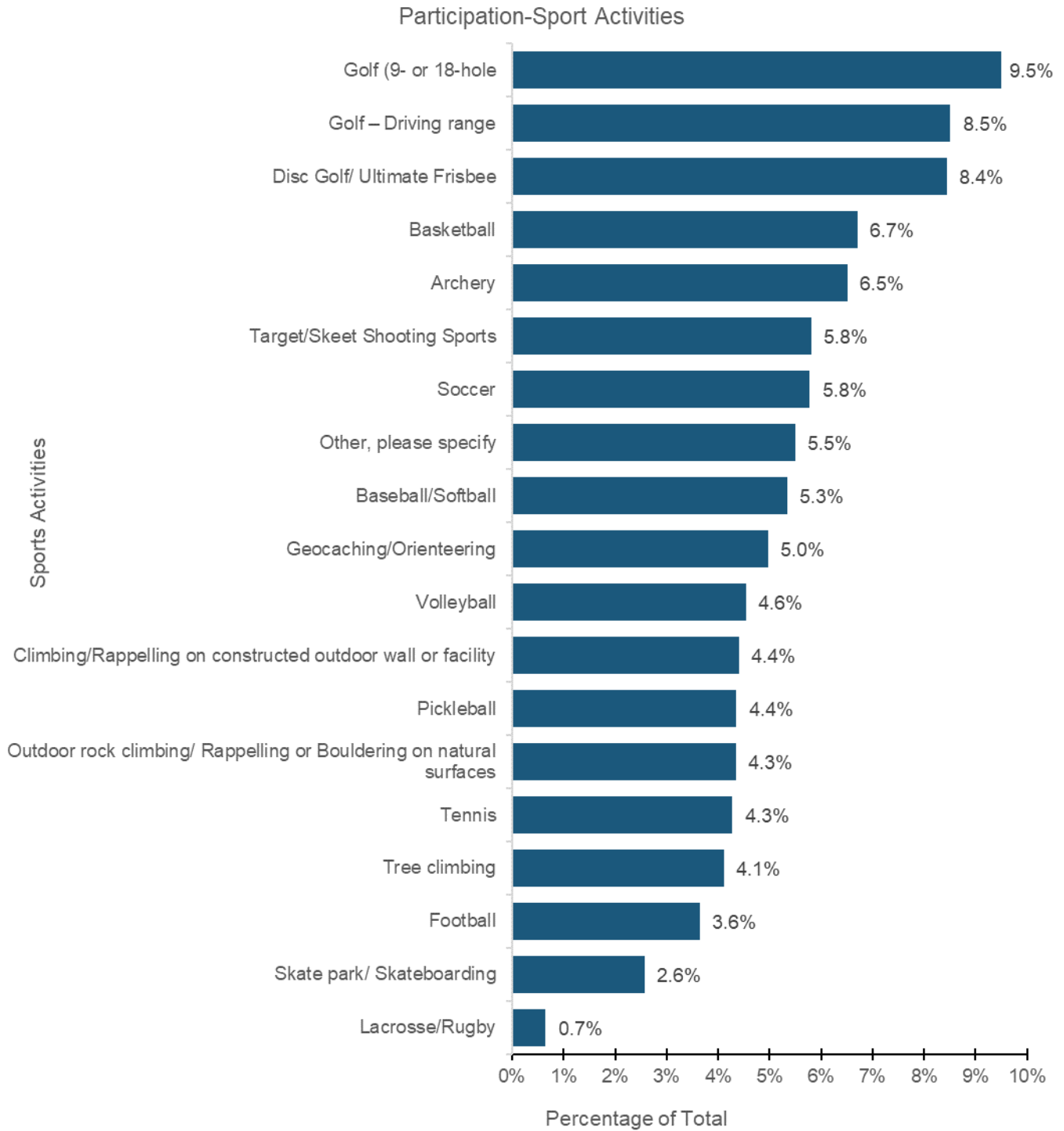


Figure 6.21: Overall participation level in sport activities on Ohio public lands during the surveyed period.

The survey inquired about nineteen different outdoor sports. Overall, non-team-oriented sports had the highest total responses, denoting the largest levels of participation (Figure 6.21). Survey respondents indicated the highest level of participation in golf sports. *Golf (9-hole or 18-hole)* (9.5%) showed the highest level of participation, followed closely by *Golf- Driving range* (8.5%), and *Disc Golf/Ultimate Frisbee* (8.4%). *Football* (3.6%), *Skate Park/Skateboarding* (2.6%), and *Lacrosse/Rugby* (0.7%) showed the lowest levels of participation among the outdoor sports activities. Out of all eight major outdoor recreation categories, Outdoor Sports Activities is the only major category to have an “Other” response selection, allowing for survey respondents to write in what additional outdoor sports they may have participated in during the survey period. For further information on the full list of “Other” response, please see Appendix 10.4 for a full list of responses.

Outdoor Sport Activities	One or more times a week (50 or more times/year)	Once or twice a month (12 to 49 times/year)	A few times during the year (1 to 11 times/year)	Total Responses for Participation
Soccer	111	111	229	451
Baseball/Softball	89	108	220	417
Basketball	68	98	357	523
Tennis	22	44	268	334
Pickleball	64	75	201	340
Volleyball	42	51	262	355
Lacrosse/Rugby	16	11	24	51
Football	48	45	191	284
Golf (9-hole or 18-hole)	88	178	475	741
Golf – Driving range	45	110	509	664
Disc Golf/ Ultimate Frisbee	136	96	427	659
Archery	56	80	372	508
Target/Skeet Shooting Sports	50	101	302	453
Climbing/Rappelling on constructed outdoor wall or facility	62	61	221	334
Skate park/ Skateboarding	17	32	152	201
Geocaching/Orienteering	24	65	299	388
Outdoor rock climbing/ Rappelling or Bouldering on natural surfaces	65	82	192	339
Tree climbing	26	42	253	321
Other (see Appendix 10.4)	178	110	141	429

Figure 6.22: Frequency of participation in water activities in Ohio public lands during the surveyed period. Numeric values are the total number of responses per subcategory and frequency level. Deeper color saturation indicates higher response totals.

Ohioans participated in outdoor sports recreation activities more frequently on an annual basis (Figure 6.22). Annual enjoyment of outdoor sports activities was distinctively higher across all subcategories except for “*Other*” which showed the higher level on responses on a weekly basis and included activities such as, Motorized biking (36), and Horseback riding (34), see Appendix 10.4 for full list of response.

Sports Activities	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/ Fitness	Organized Event	Share time with family and/or friends
Soccer	4	158	66	95	114
Baseball/softball	0	156	31	69	106
Basketball	1	177	79	29	125
Tennis	0	90	72	7	68
Pickleball	1	97	64	6	72
Volleyball	0	107	28	20	80
Lacrosse/rugby	0	19	6	4	9
Football	0	98	20	36	63
Golf-(9-hole or 18-hole)	5	247	16	16	171
Golf-driving range	5	232	27	11	123
Disc golf/ultimate frisbee	5	201	26	5	125
Archery	30	166	13	24	81
Target/skeet/shooting sports	6	173	7	10	88
Climbing/repelling on constructed outdoor wall/facility	4	115	43	8	33
Outdoor rock climbing/ rappelling/ bouldering on natural surface	9	98	39	4	35
Tree Climbing	15	110	13	6	48
Skate park/skateboarding	0	75	7	2	35
Geocaching/orienteering	10	90	4	11	70
Other	25	81	44	12	43

Figure 6.23: Primary reasons for participating in sports activities in Ohio public lands during the surveyed period. Numeric values are the total number of responses per subcategory and reason. Deeper color saturation indicates higher response totals.

Fun/Entertainment and *Share time with family and/or friends* were the two main reasons chosen for participating in sports. Unlike the main reasons for participating in other categories of outdoor recreational activities, one of the top three reasons for participating in sports in Ohio was *Health/Wellness/Fitness* (Figure 6.23), for which *Basketball* (79) had the highest total number of responses. Respondents enjoyed the golf activities, *Golf (9-hole or 18-hole)* (247) and *Golf-Driving range* (232) for *Fun and Entertainment*. *Experience nature/quiet time/serenity* was not chosen as primary reasons for playing sports on public land.

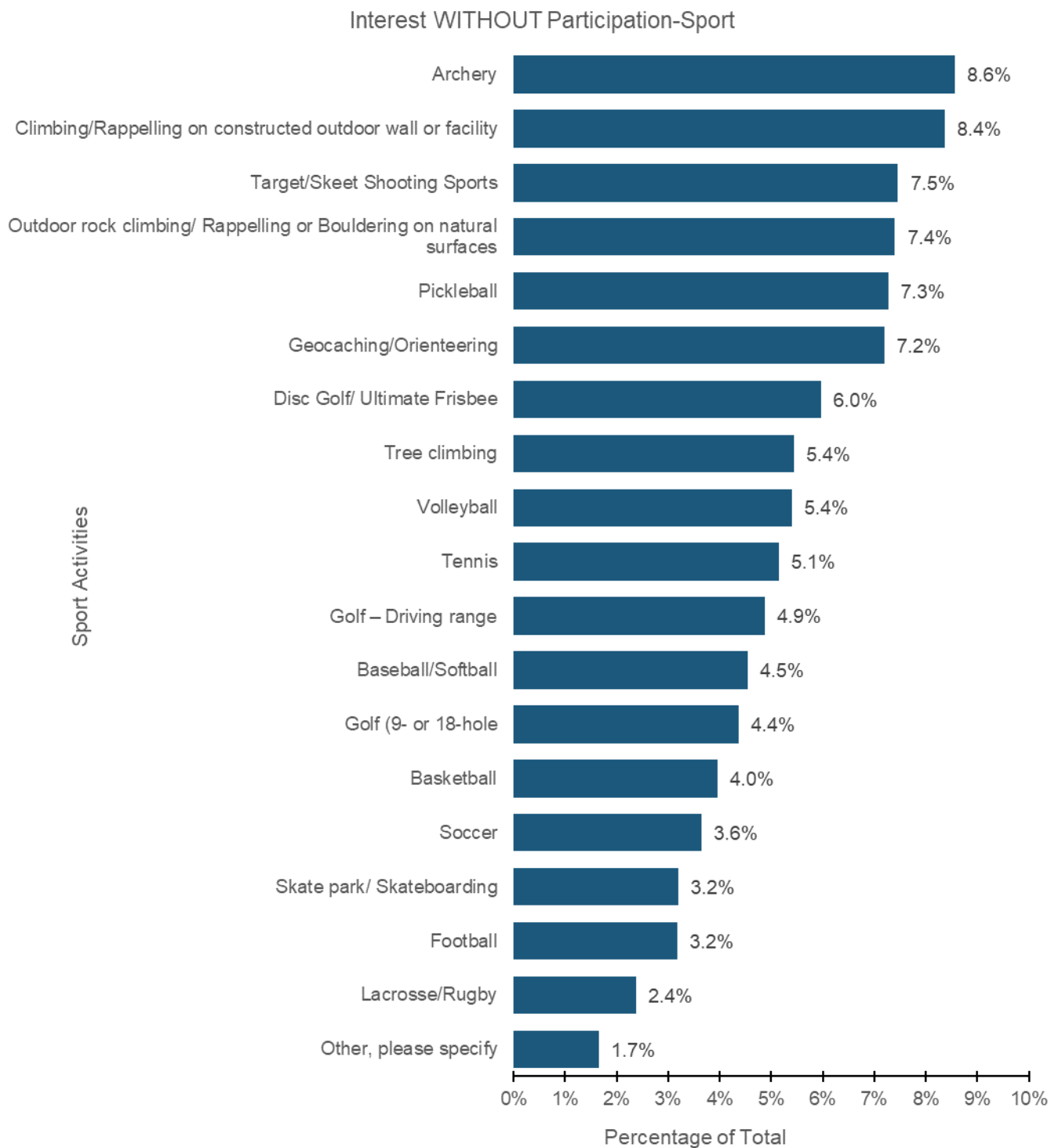


Figure 6.24: Outdoor sport activities that Ohioans were interested in but did not participate in Ohio public lands.

Archery (8.6%) had the greatest interest without engagement, followed closely by *Climbing/Repelling on constructed outdoor wall or facility* (8.4%) (Figure 6.24). There were similar levels of interest and interest without participation across outdoor sports however, there appeared to be an inverse correlation with overall participation and interest but did not participate for outdoor sports activities. For instance, *Golf- Driving range* (4.9%) had a low level of interest without participation but the highest level of participation. Similar to *Golf (9-hole-or18-hole)* (4.4%). *Football* (3.2%), *Lacrosse/Rugby* (2.4%), and *Other (outdoor sports)* (1.7%) had the lowest level of interest among the nineteen outdoor sports activities.

Table 6.6: Reason for not participating in sport activities on Ohio public land during the surveyed period.

Primary Reason for Interest WITHOUT Participation	Response Count	Percentage of Total
Too busy with other responsibilities and activities	997	31.4%
No facilities available	345	10.9%
Do not have information on where facilities are offered	308	9.7%
Do not have the skills	307	9.7%
Do not own or have access to equipment	250	7.9%
Facilities too far away	249	7.8%
Other, please specify	199	6.3%
No one to go with	189	5.9%
Health issues	171	5.4%
The activity or the equipment is too costly	101	3.2%
Safety concerns	30	0.9%
Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe	25	0.8%
Facilities are not ADA accessible	8	0.3%

As seen with the other major outdoor recreational categories, *Too busy with other responsibilities and activities* (31.4%) was the primary reason survey respondents were interested but did not participate in outdoor sports activities. *No facilities available* (10.9%) was the second reason survey respondents did not participate in outdoor sports. All other reasons for Ohioans interest without participation in outdoor sports was less than 10%. Respondents primarily indicated age or the prioritization of other activities as the primary “other” reason for interest without participation in outdoor sports, see Appendix 10.65 for a full list of responses.

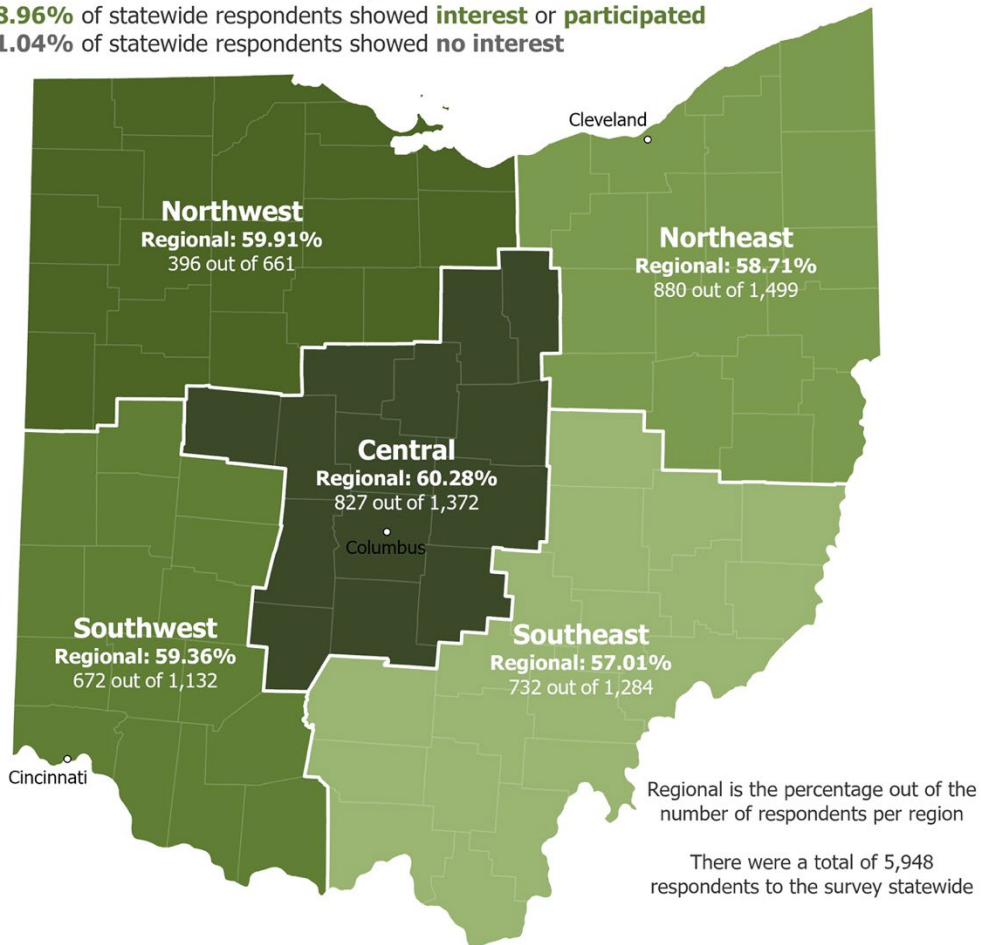
6.7 Winter Activities

Outdoor recreational activities in winter on Ohio public lands displayed a seasonal trend in participation and interest by respondents. The inconsistent levels of precipitation in winter may have had an impact on response totals as snow and ice are requisite for all but two of the winter activities. Those two winter activities, camping and festivals, do not necessarily require snow or ice to occur.

Interest and Participation in Winter Activities

58.96% of statewide respondents showed **interest** or **participated**

41.04% of statewide respondents showed **no interest**



Map 6.7: Overall state-wide and regional interest and participation in winter activities.

The four state regions Central (60.3%), Northwest (59.9%), Southwest (59.4%), and Northeast (58.7%), all showed relatively similar percentages of overall interest and participation in Winter Activities from respondents. The Southeast region (57.0%) showed the lowest level of interest in winter activities. It was expected the northern regions of Ohio would exhibit the highest level of interest and participation in winter activities since most activities were dependent on snow precipitation.

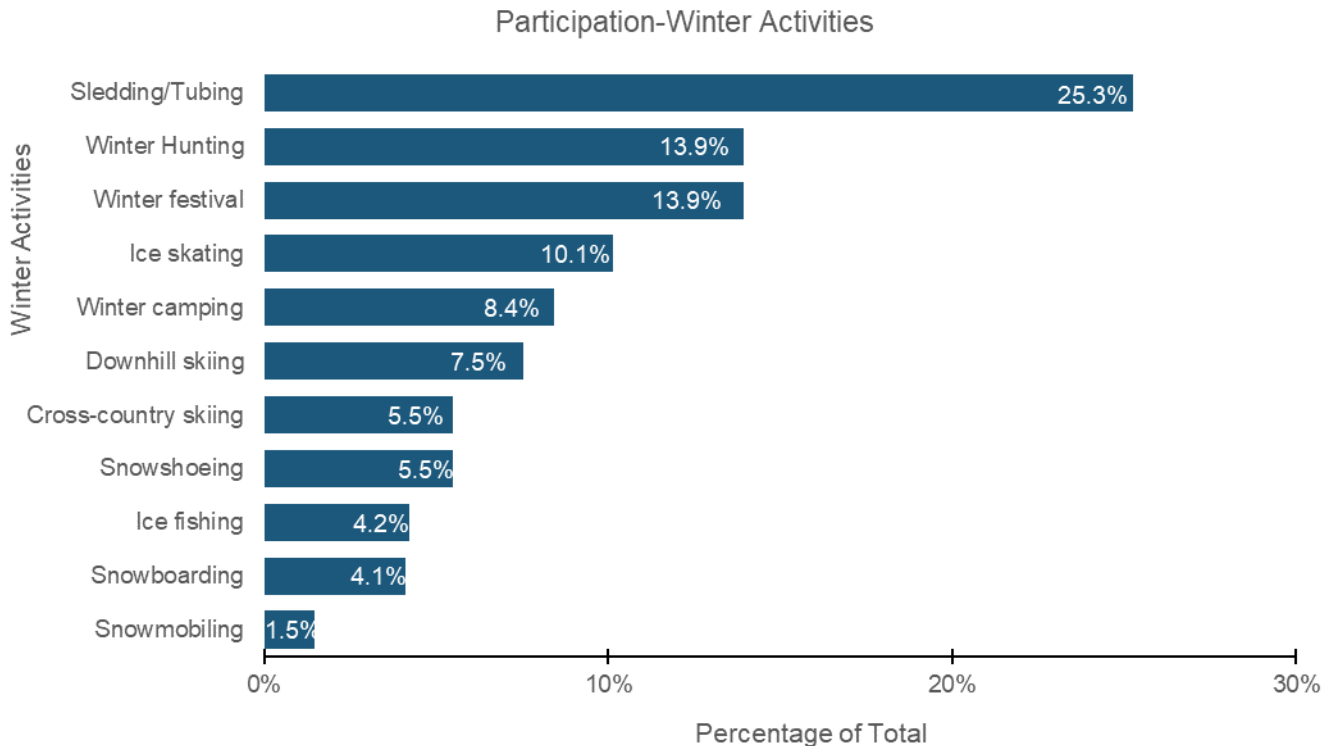


Figure 6.25: Overall participation level in winter activities on Ohio public lands during the surveyed.

Among the eleven winter activities that were surveyed, *Sledding/Tubing* (25.3%) had the highest level of participation based on total responses (Figure 6.25). *Winter hunting* (13.9%) and *Winter festivals* (13.9%) had the second highest level of participation. *Ice skating* (10.1%), *Winter camping* (8.4%), and *Downhill skiing* (7.5%) had similar response totals as did *Cross-county skiing* (5.5%), *Snowshoeing* (5.5%), and *Ice fishing* (4.2%) and *Snowboarding* (4.1%). Survey respondents participated the least in *Snowmobiling* (1.5%), which exhibited the lowest response totals.

Winter Activities	One or more times a week (50 or more times/year)	Once or twice a month (12 to 49 times/year)	A few times during the year (1 to 11 times/year)	Total Responses for Participation
Snowshoeing	12	26	192	230
Sledding/Tubing	13	55	989	1,057
Cross-country skiing	7	35	188	230
Downhill skiing	17	58	241	316
Ice skating	15	30	379	424
Snowboarding	12	23	137	172
Snowmobiling	2	11	48	61
Ice fishing	6	28	143	177
Winter camping	4	37	312	353
Winter festival	10	20	553	583
Winter Hunting	93	144	346	583

Figure 6.26: Frequency of participation in winter activities on Ohio public lands during the surveyed period. Numeric values are the total number of responses per subcategory and frequency level. Deeper color saturation indicates higher response totals.

Winter activities were predominately enjoyed on an annual basis, with the highest frequency of participation in *Sledding/Tubing* (989) (Figure 6.26). Monthly and weekly participation totals were drastically lower throughout all winter activities with the exception of *Winter hunting* which had a much higher frequency in weekly (93) and monthly (144) total responses. Overall, Ohioans were least likely to recreate outdoors in winter on a weekly or monthly basis.

Winter Activities	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Fun/Entertainment	Health/Wellness/Fitness	Organized Event	Share time with family and/or friends
Snowshoeing	64	68	56	5	32
Sledding/tubing	8	407	7	2	277
Cross-country skiing	15	32	55	0	16
Downhill skiing	1	103	8	1	36
Ice skating	3	104	8	9	87
Snowboarding	2	62	4	1	24
Snowmobiling	1	21	1	0	20
Ice fishing	25	45	5	1	32
Winter camping	58	37	4	9	59
Winter festival	0	115	3	17	127
Winter hunting	104	86	19	3	57

Figure 6.27: Primary reasons for participating in winter activities on Ohio public lands during the surveyed period. Numeric values are the total number of responses per subcategory and reason. Deeper color saturation indicates higher response totals.

The top two reasons for participating in winter activities during the surveyed period were *Fun/Entertainment* and *Share time with family and/or friends* (Figure 6.27). The main reason for *Cross-country skiing* (55) was *Health/Wellness/Fitness*, and the main reason for *Winter Hunting* (104) was *Experience nature/quiet time/serenity*. Very few people participated in winter activities for *Organized event* with the small exception of *Winter festival* (17).

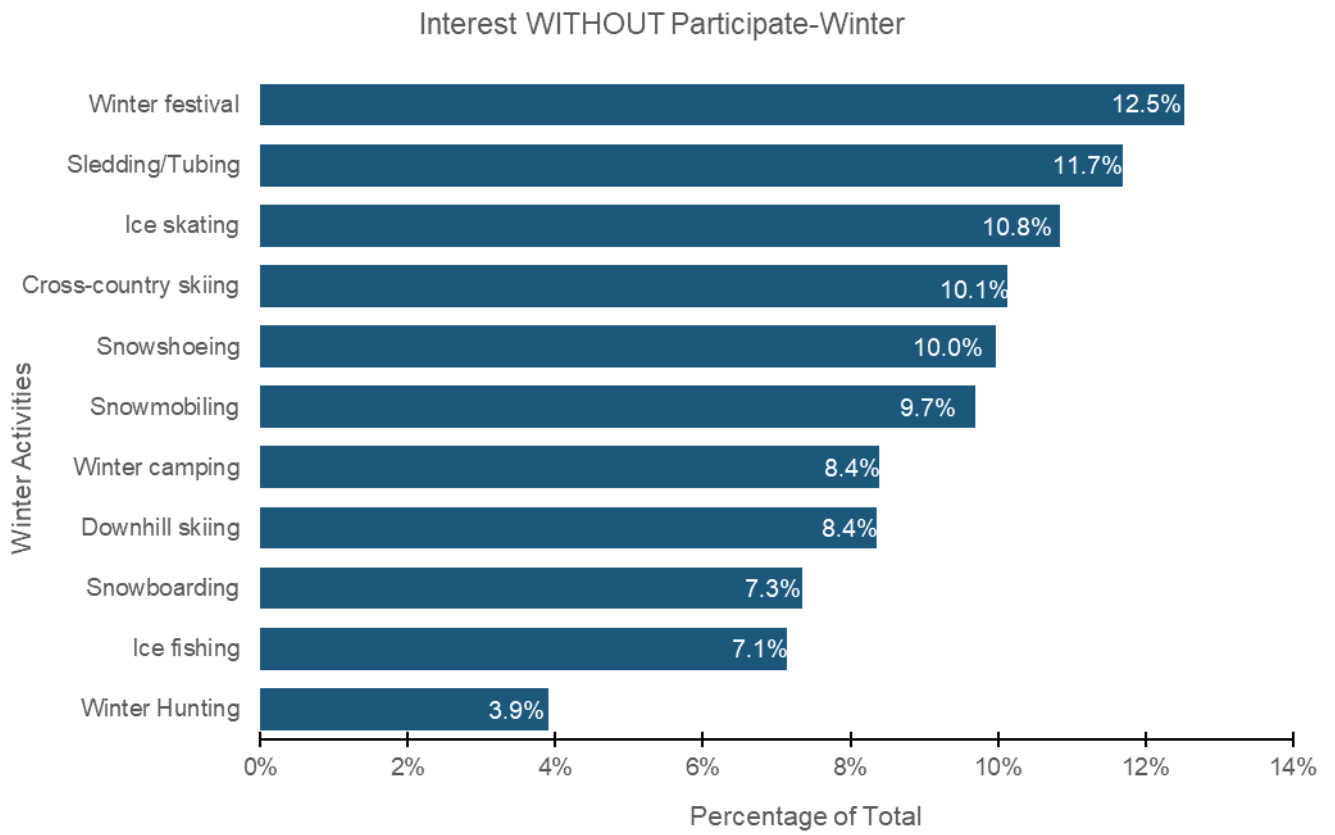


Figure 6.28: Winter activities that Ohioans were interested but did not participate in on Ohio public lands during the surveyed period.

There was a comparably high level of interest in winter activities on public lands to those who expressed interest but did not participate, particularly *Winter festivals* (12.5%) showed the highest level of interest without participation among all winter activities (Figure 6.28). *Sledding/Tubing* (11.7%), which had the highest level of participation among winter activities, also showed the second highest level of interest without participation. *Ice skating* (10.8%), *Cross-country skiing* (10.1%), *Snowshoeing* (10%), and *Snowmobiling* (9.7%) all showed similarly high interest without participation. *Winter Hunting* (3.9%) had the lowest interest level without participation in all eleven winter activities. Additionally, Ohioans indicated they would like to have Snowshoes (200) available for rent for a nominal fee.

Table 6.7: Reasons for not participating in winter activities on public lands during the surveyed period.

Primary Reason for Interest WITHOUT Participation	Response Count	Percentage of Total
Too busy with other responsibilities and activities	811	26.3%
Do not own or have access to equipment	357	11.6%
Do not have information on where facilities are offered	343	11.1%
No facilities available	337	10.9%
Facilities too far away	298	9.7%
The activity or the equipment is too costly	240	7.8%
Other, please specify	215	7.0%
Do not have the skills	190	6.2%
Health issues	119	3.9%
No one to go with	117	3.8%
Safety concerns	35	1.1%
Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe	14	0.5%
Facilities are not ADA accessible	6	0.2%

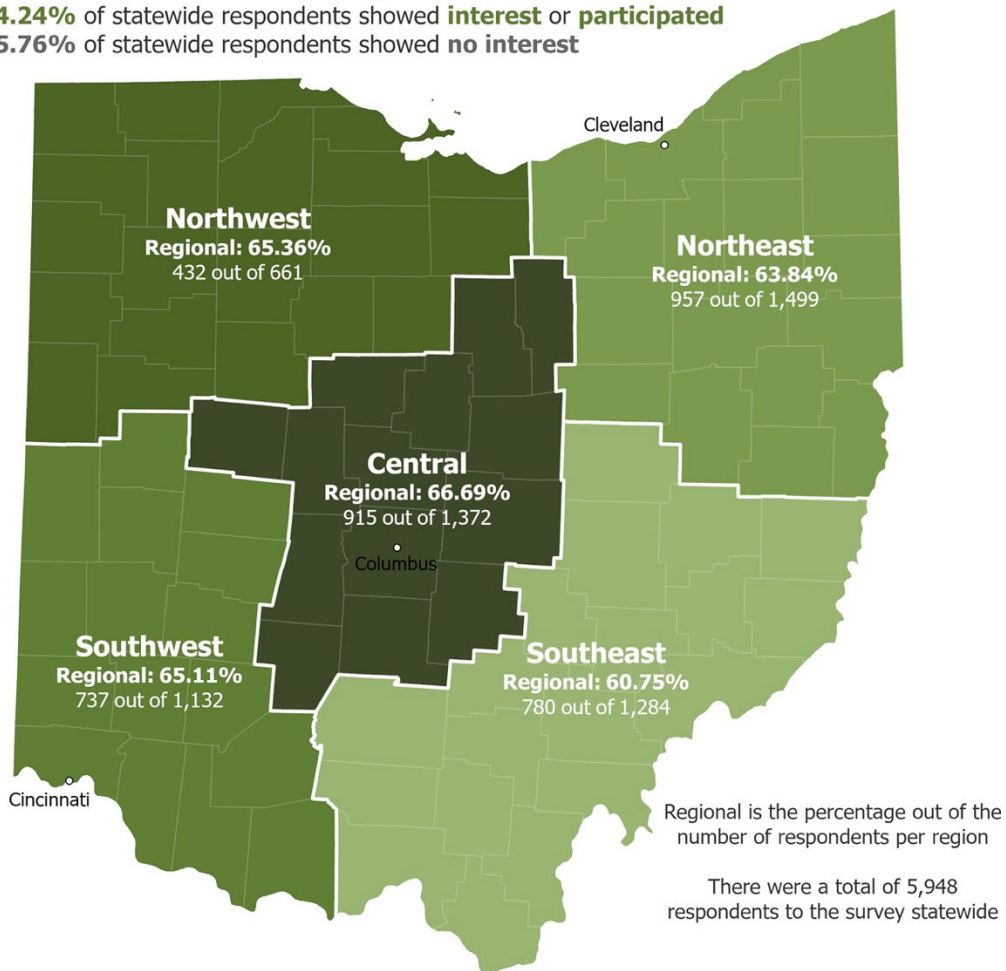
Too busy with other responsibilities and activities (26.3%) was the primary reason survey respondents were interested but did not participate in winter activities. *Do not own or have access to equipment (11.6%)*, *Do not have information on where facilities are offered (11.1%)*, and *No facilities available (10.9%)* were the next primary reasons survey respondents did not participate in winter activities. As for the “other” primary reason respondents were interested but did not participate in winter activities, most noted was a lack of necessary weather conditions (snow and/or ice), see Appendix 10.66 for a full list of responses.

6.8 Other Outdoor Recreation Activities

Additional outdoor recreational activities in Ohio on public lands generally followed the statewide trends in participation and interest as described in the *Statewide Overview* chapter (5). Other outdoor recreation includes activities like picnicking, tree climbing, outdoor movies, scenic driving, and dog parks. For the full list of *Other Outdoor Recreation Activities* see Figure 6.29 and the survey instrument in Appendix 10.9.

Interest and Participation in Other Outdoor Activities

64.24% of statewide respondents showed **interest** or **participated**
35.76% of statewide respondents showed **no interest**



Map 6.8: Overall state-wide and regional interest and participation in other outdoor recreation activities.

Overall interest in Other Outdoor Recreation Activities based on region indicated the highest level of interest in the Central region (66.7%). The Northwest (65.4%) and Southwest (65.1%) regions additionally showed high levels of overall interest and participation in other outdoor recreation activities. The Northeast region (63.9%) and Southeast (60.8%) indicated the lowest level of interest in other outdoor recreation activities.

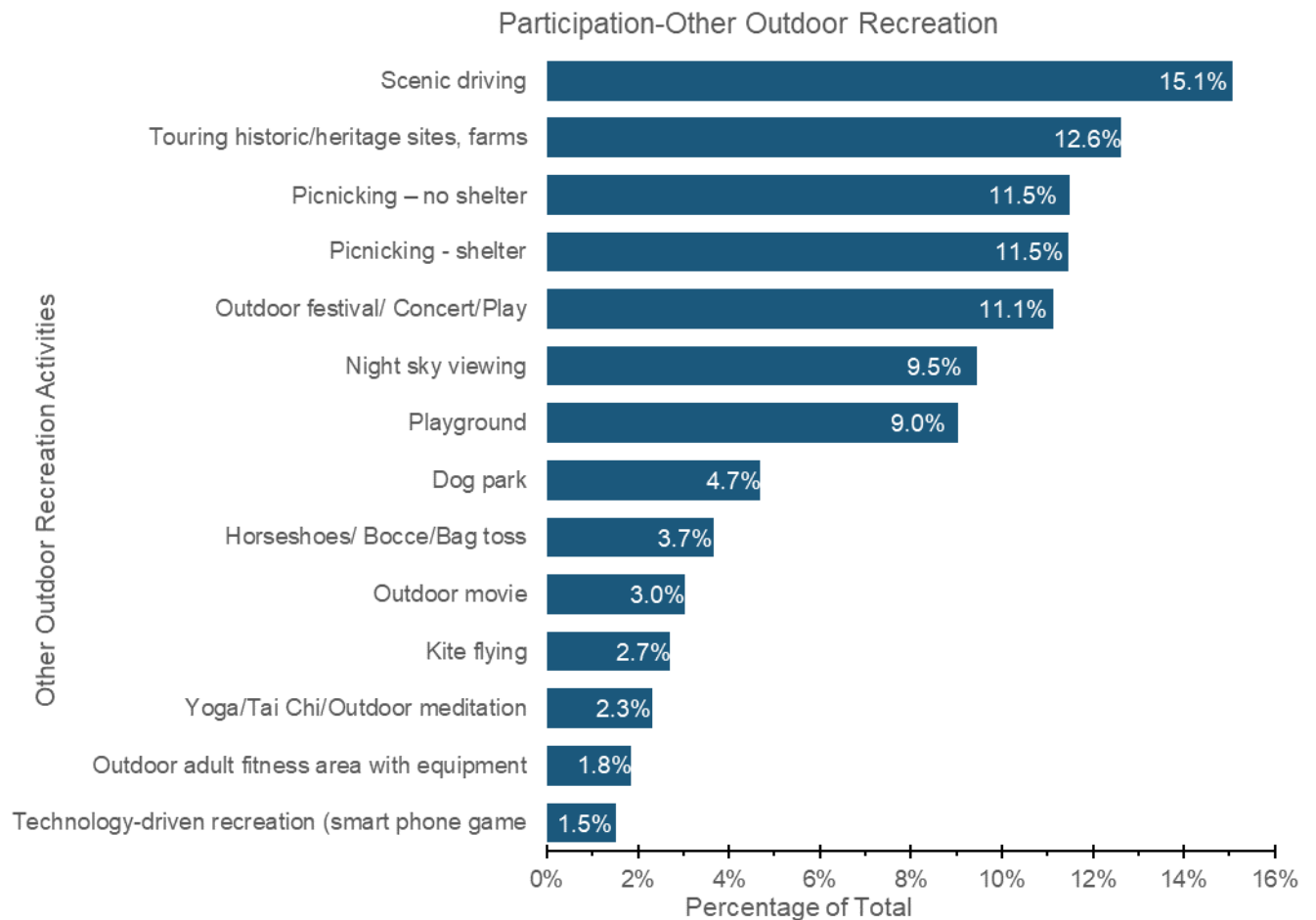


Figure 6.29: Overall participation level in other outdoor recreation activities on Ohio public lands during the surveyed period.

Survey results for other outdoor recreation activities showed a separation between participation level in the top seven activities *Scenic driving* (15.1%), *Touring historic/heritage sites, farms* (12.6%), *Picnicking without shelter* (11.5%), *Picnicking with shelter* (11.5%), *Outdoor festival/ Concert/Play* (11.1%), *Night sky viewing* (9.5%), and *Playground* (9%) and the bottom seven activities *Dog park* (4.7%), *Horseshoes/ Bocce/Bag toss* (3.7%), *Outdoor movie* (3.0%), *Kite flying* (2.7%), *Yoga/Tai Chi/Outdoor meditation* (2.3%), *Outdoor adult fitness area with equipment* (1.8%), and *Technology-driven recreation (smart phone game)*

(1.5%) (Figure 6.29). Of all other outdoor recreation activities, *Scenic driving* had the highest level of participation and *Technology-driven recreation (smart phone game)* had the lowest level.

Other Outdoor Recreation Activities	One or more times a week (50 or more times/year)	Once or twice a month (12 to 49 times/year)	A few times during the year (1 to 11 times/year)	Total Responses for Participation
Picnicking – no shelter	50	214	1831	2,095
Picnicking - shelter	28	158	1904	2,090
Playground	159	413	1076	1,648
Kite flying	7	43	442	492
Scenic driving	234	770	1746	2,750
Touring historic/heritage sites, farms	74	360	1867	2,301
Dog park	91	153	611	855
Outdoor festival/ Concert/Play	51	253	1723	2,027
Outdoor movie	13	51	487	551
Night sky viewing	140	318	1266	1,724
Horseshoes/ Bocce/Bag toss	24	87	555	666
Outdoor adult fitness area with equipment	17	38	281	336
Technology-driven recreation (smart phone game)	73	56	147	276
Yoga/Tai Chi/Outdoor meditation	42	79	299	420

Figure 6.30: Frequency of participation in other outdoor activities on Ohio public lands during the surveyed period. Numeric values are the total number of responses per subcategory and frequency level. Deeper color saturation indicates higher response totals.

Other outdoor recreation activities have the highest frequency of participation annually (Figure 6.30). *Scenic driving* (2,750) was among the highest across all frequencies of participation followed by *Night sky viewing* (1,724), and *Playground* (1,648), activities across all three frequencies. On a weekly and monthly basis, most people engaged in *Scenic driving* however, on an annual basis, most people engaged in *Picnicking with shelter* (1904).

Other Outdoor Recreation Activities	Experience nature/quiet	Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/ Fitness	Organized Event	Share time with family and/or friends
Picnicking-no shelter	201	313	29	19	1526
Picnicking-shelter	90	245	13	78	1418
Playground	7	409	24	8	911
Kite flying	10	172	2	2	249
Scenic driving	640	610	13	6	823
Touring historic/heritage sites, farms	97	884	13	53	772
Dog park	16	274	96	6	261
Outdoor festival/concert/play	8	997	6	65	508
Outdoor movie	9	725	6	122	494
Night sky viewing	778	277	5	23	283
Horseshoes/bocce/bag toss	3	241	4	3	282
Outdoor adult fitness area with equipment	4	39	209	1	31
Technology-driven recreation (smart phone game)	1	154	5	7	41
Yoga/Tai Chi/outdoor meditation	56	16	258	5	17

Figure 6.31: Primary reasons for participating in other outdoor recreation activities on Ohio public lands during the surveyed period. Numeric values are the total number of responses per subcategory and reason. Deeper color saturation indicates higher response totals.

Share time with family and/or friends and *Fun/Entertainment* were the top two overall reasons for engaging in other outdoor recreation activities on public lands (Figure 6.31). *Night sky viewing* (778) and *Scenic driving* (640) were the most common activities associated with *Experiencing nature/quiet time/serenity* outdoors. *Yoga/Tai Chi/outdoor meditation* (258) and *Outdoor adult fitness area with equipment* (209) were the most common activities associated with *Health/fitness/wellness*. *Organized events* (398) were least often recorded as a reason for participating in other outdoor recreation activities.



Figure 6.32: Other outdoor recreation activities that Ohioans were interested but did not participate in on Ohio public lands during the surveyed period.

Outdoor movie (12.6%) was the number one other outdoor recreation activity that Ohioans were interested but did not participate in (Figure 6.32). *Night sky viewing* (10.3%), *Yoga/Tai Chi/Outdoor meditation* (9.9%), and *Outdoor adult fitness area with equipment* (9.4%) and were also among the top three other outdoor recreation activities that people had interest in but did not engage in. *Scenic driving* (2.4%), and *Playground* (2.4%) had the lowest interest without participation however were among the topmost participated in activities.

Table 6.8: Reason for not participating in other outdoor recreation activities on public lands during the surveyed period.

Primary reason for Interest WITHOUT Participation	Response Count	Percentage of Total
Too busy with other responsibilities and activities	1312	40.9%
Do not have information on where facilities are offered	531	16.6%
No facilities available	381	11.9%
Facilities too far away	234	7.3%
No one to go with	178	5.5%
Do not own or have access to equipment	143	4.5%
Other, please specify	125	3.9%
Health issues	103	3.2%
Do not have the skills	95	3.0%
The activity or the equipment is too costly	51	1.6%
Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe	22	0.7%
Safety concerns	22	0.7%
Facilities are not ADA accessible	11	0.3%

Similar to the seven other outdoor recreation categories, *Too busy with other responsibilities and activities* (40.9%) was the primary reason for Ohioans who were interested but did not participate in other outdoor recreation activities. *Do not have information on where facilities are offered* (16.6%) and *No facilities available* (11.9%) were the secondary reasons survey respondents did not participate in other activities. In reference to the “other” primary reason survey respondents were interested but did not participate in other outdoor recreation activities, the primary reason given was limited program offerings as a limit to their ability to engage with certain activities, see Appendix 10.67 for a full list of responses.

Chapter 7 Outdoor Recreational Information Preferences

Ohioans prefer to receive information via electronic media, such as *social media* (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) (31.2%), *Email* (27.3%), *Online websites* (i.e., Ohiodnr.gov, reserveohio.com, etc.) (24.6%) (Figure 7.1). Print media combined for 12.3% of respondents' preference for receiving information on outdoor recreation activities, wanting information by *Newsletter* (5.5%), *Mail* (5.1%), and *Newspaper* (1.7%). *Mobile applications* (i.e., HuntFish OH, DeTour Trails, etc.) (3.3%) were preferred over Newspaper and Other information formats, however respondents preferred traditional print media to receive information on outdoor recreation. These preferences were reflected in the different ways that survey takers initially became aware of this Ohio outdoor recreational survey (Figure 7.2).

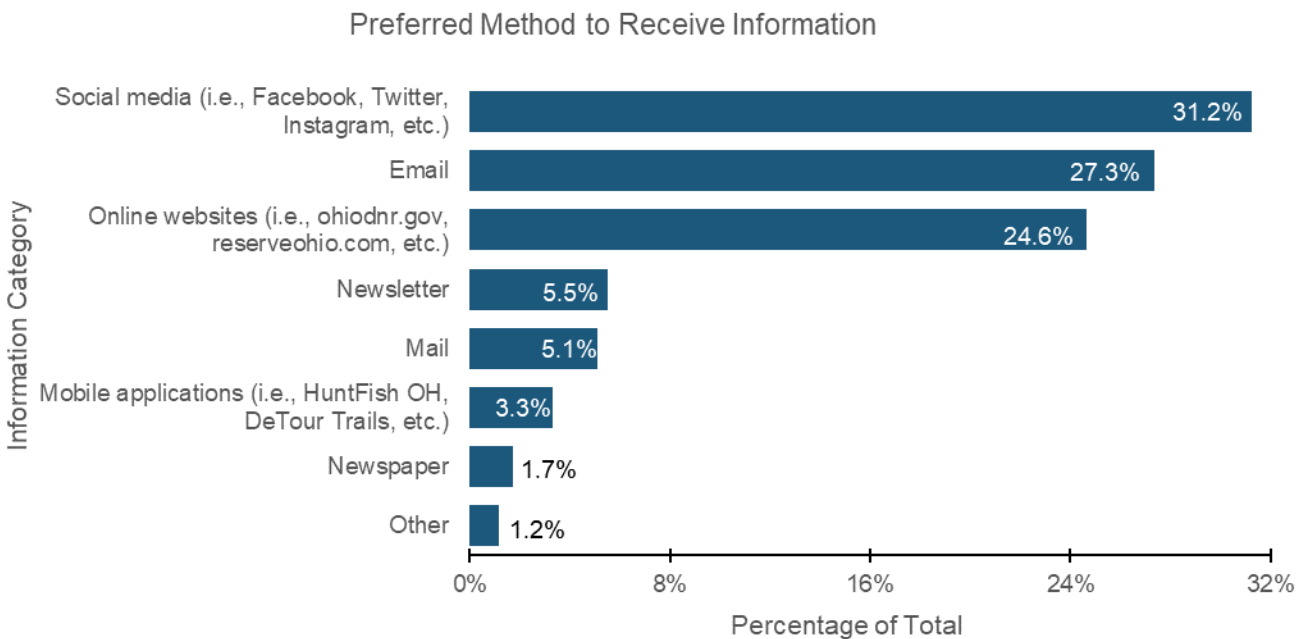


Figure 7.1: Preferences for how survey respondents want to receive information.

Over half of survey respondents heard about this survey via *Facebook or Twitter* (42.5%) and *Email* (20.2%). *Friend/colleague* (13%) also contributed to the promotion of the survey as well as *Other* (12.5%). Respondents indicated the top other ways in which they learned about the survey to be *Outdoor Organizations* (96), and *Local Government* (53), see Appendix 10.5 for a full list of responses. Some respondents heard about the survey from the *Ohio Department of Natural Resources website* (7.7%) while very few learned of the survey via *Newsletter* (2.7%) or *Newspaper* (0.8%). The fewest number of people heard about the survey from the *Ohio Tourism Website* (0.5%).

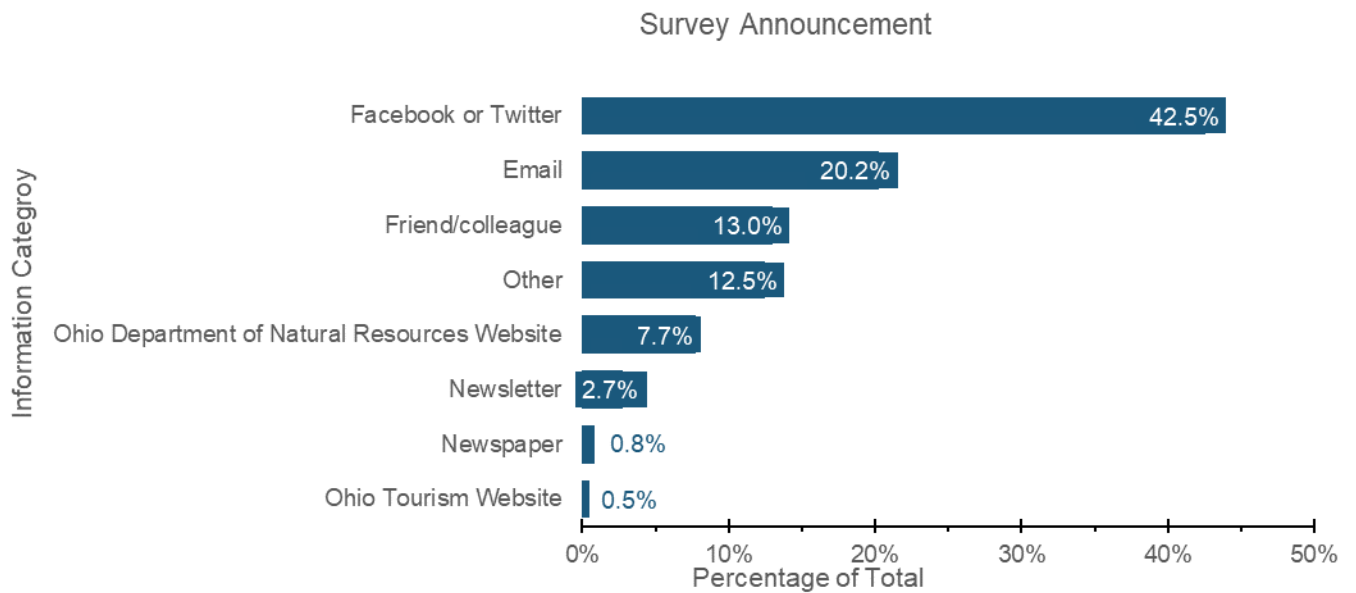


Figure 7.2: How survey respondents initially became aware of the survey.

Information Category	One or more times a week (50 or more times/year)	Once or twice a month (12 to 49 times/year)	A few times during the year (1 to 11 times/year)	Interested but did not participate	Not interested in this activity
Newspaper	743	445	721	203	1,454
Mail	386	330	1,155	384	1,282
Email	1,059	769	935	267	528
Newsletter	340	694	1,160	443	894
Online websites (i.e., <i>ohiodnr.gov</i> , <i>reserveohio.com</i> , etc.)	761	1,065	1,283	213	245
Mobile applications (i.e., <i>HuntFish OH</i> , <i>DeTour Trails</i> , etc.)	391	457	784	670	1,248
Social media (i.e., <i>Facebook</i> , <i>Twitter</i> , <i>Instagram</i> , etc.)	1,535	703	623	145	558
Other	69	59	140	146	2,470

Figure 7.3: How often respondents use media to receive information on outdoor recreation activities.

Survey respondents were queried on the frequency of use for social media/mobile apps/websites to receive information on outdoor recreation activities (Figure 7.3). Respondents were given eight categories to choose from, as seen in Figure 7.1 and Figure 7.2, and asked to note how frequently they use the categories to receive information, i.e., weekly, monthly, annually, or rather, they were interested but did not use or not interested at all. Frequencies were spread relatively equally across all major categories apart from *Other* (2,470) which had the total most responses of uninterested. *Social media* (i.e., *Facebook*, *Twitter*, *Instagram*, etc.) (1,535) was most frequently used on a weekly basis, while *Online websites* (i.e., *ohiodnr.gov*, *reserveohio.com*, etc.) (1,283) was most frequently used annually. Few respondents were comparatively interested without participation.

Technology Category	One or more times a week (50 or more times/year)	Once or twice a month (12 to 49 times/year)	A few times during the year (1 to 11 times/year)	Interested but did not participate	Not interested in this activity
Locate a public outdoor recreation area	643	1,077	1,286	204	357
Search for specific outdoor facility i.e., trail, campground, etc.	649	1,191	1,349	138	240
Charging electric devices i.e., phones, tablets, vehicles, bikes, etc.	393	337	735	779	1,323
For safety purposes	387	463	986	667	1,064
For instructions on outdoor recreation activities	356	609	1,331	491	780
For registration /reservations /permits	316	609	1,647	471	524
To plan hiking and/or trail use	572	997	1,249	342	407
To track location/movement along trail	630	664	949	572	752

Figure 7.4: Technology used in combination with outdoor recreation on public lands during the surveyed period.

Survey respondents were asked how often they use technology in combination with outdoor recreation activities such as to locate a recreation area, search for facilities, charge devices, for safety, registration, or planning purposes (Figure 7.4). Respondents were given the frequency options of weekly, monthly, annually, interested but did not participate, and not interested. Most responses indicated monthly or annual use of technology in combination with outdoor recreation. The highest number of total responses was *For registration/reservations/permits* (1,647) on an annual basis. *Locate a public outdoor recreation area* (1,286), *Search for specific outdoor facility (i.e., trail, campground, etc.)* (1,349), *For instructions on outdoor recreation activities* (1,331), *To plan hiking and/or trail use* (1,249), and *To track location/movement along trail* (949) were most frequently used on an annual basis as well. *Charging electric devices (i.e., phones, tablets, vehicles, bikes, etc.)* (1,323) and *For safety purposes* (1,064) were not of interest to the majority of survey respondents.

When respondents were asked what type of equipment, they would like available for rent on Ohio public lands, many had similar responses. High response totals were seen in *Boating Activities*, *Winter Activities*, and *Trail Activities*. The overall highest response total indicated survey respondents want to have *Kayak/Canoes* (860), *Paddleboards* (244), and *Bicycles* (309) available to rent. Additionally, a high number of respondents indicated they would also like *Motorized* (198) and *Non-Motorized* (178) Boats, *Snowshoes* (200), and *ATV/UTVs* (111) available for rent for a nominal fee. The full list of survey responses can be found in Appendix 10.2.

Category	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eight	Ninth
Rehabilitate and upgrade existing park facilities	540	501	573	526	430	337	268	189	133
Develop active, multi-use parks that provide multiple outdoor recreation activities within a park area (for example, sports fields with trails and picnic shelters)	310	339	357	424	449	476	441	396	305
Acquire land for preservation of habitat, wetlands, forests, rivers and lakes	869	503	396	362	302	316	269	249	231
Acquire land for park development (picnic shelters, playgrounds, ballfields, sport fields, etc.)	234	311	342	371	431	441	468	507	392
Integrate technology (mobile applications, fitness gear) with parks and outdoor recreation	73	149	214	291	372	439	544	609	806
Offer basic outdoor recreation skill development programs and events (examples: how to paddleboard, how to prepare for long day hike, how to pitch a tent)	168	252	379	444	479	479	487	454	355
Expand trail network with a focus on developing longer distance trails	675	552	445	371	330	326	303	284	211
Develop more loop trails	334	637	542	446	390	348	303	269	228
Expand wildlife-related outdoor recreation opportunities (examples: hunting, fishing, etc.)	295	253	249	262	314	335	414	540	835

Figure 7.5: Ranking (1-9) of how Ohio park systems could improve outdoor recreation.

Respondents were asked to rank the top nine ways in which the park systems could improve outdoor recreation in Ohio (Figure 7.5). The highest priorities for survey respondents, the categories ranked 1st place most often, on how to improve Ohio park systems included *Acquire land for preservation of habitat, wetlands, forests, rivers and lakes* (896), followed by *Expand trail network with a focus on developing longer distance trails* (675), and *Rehabilitation and upgrade existing park facilities* (540). The lowest priority for survey respondents, the categories that were ranked highest in 9th place, included *Expand wildlife-related outdoor recreation opportunities (examples: hunting, fishing, etc.)* (835) and *Integrate technology (mobile applications, fitness gear) with parks and outdoor recreation* (806). Moreover, *Offer basic outdoor recreation skill development programs and events (examples: how to paddleboard, how to prepare for a long day hike, how to pitch a tent, etc.)* had the overall lowest number of total responses of times chosen (3,018).

Chapter 8 Facilities Satisfaction and Preferences

Ohioans were asked if the number and state of available public facilities affected their enjoyment, satisfaction, and level of involvement in outdoor recreational activities in Ohio. Outdoor recreation utilizes a variety of facilities. Wildlife-based facilities contain public lands and waters in which wildlife could be observed, fished, trapped, and hunted. Camping facilities comprise of group, designated boat, equestrian, developed, and primitive/undeveloped campgrounds. The trail facilities include natural, finely crushed stone, and paved surfaces along with equestrian, ATV/UTV, dirt bike/off-road motorcycle, and mountain biking trails. Access facilities, and water trails for canoes, kayaks, motorized boats, and sailboats constitute boating facilities. Water facilities include outdoor pools, spray parks, splash pads, and pool complexes with lazy river, wave pool, or similar features. Sport facilities include an array of courts, fields, and shooting areas. Areas to ice skate, sled or tube, snowboard, camp, cross-country ski, and snowmobile were the winter facilities and other outdoor facilities varied between dog parks, playgrounds, and picnic shelters, to adult fitness areas with equipment, scenic drives, and historic/heritage site tours.

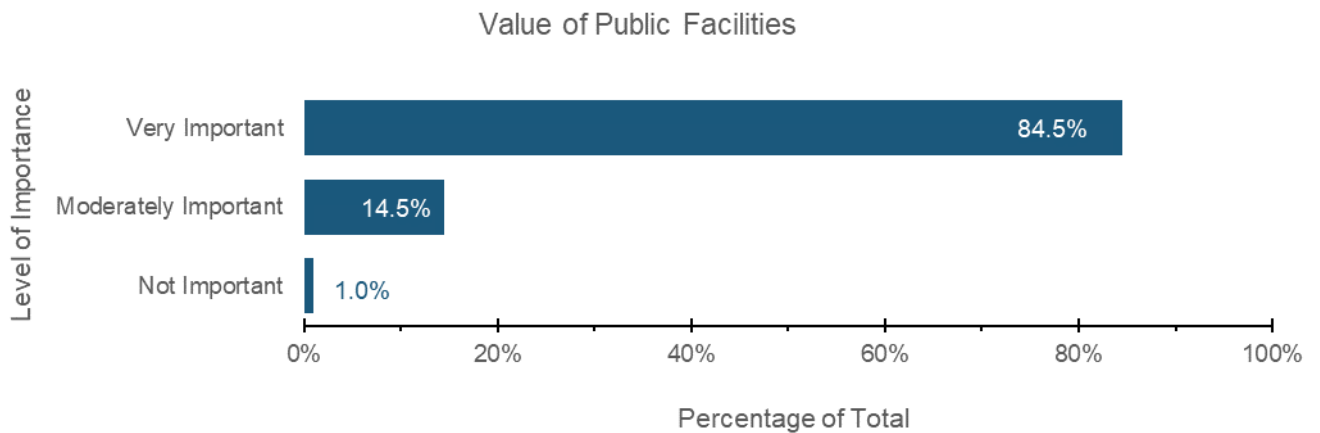


Figure 8.1: Importance level or value of public facilities to outdoor recreation enjoyment.

Survey respondents were questioned on how valuable they think public facilities are for outdoor recreation enjoyment (Figure 8.1). The overwhelming majority of responses indicated respondents thought public facilities were *Very Important* (84.5%) to outdoor recreation enjoyment. Some respondents thought public facilities were *Moderately Important* (14.5%), while very few thought public facilities were *Not Important* (1%).

8.1 Facilities near where you live regarding the eight major categories of outdoor recreation

Across all eight major categories of outdoor recreational activity, Ohioans generally felt that public facilities near their homes were adequate and met their needs. Additionally, respondents felt that more public outdoor recreational facilities were needed near their homes. However, people responded that they were unaware or uninterested in recreational facilities. This may imply that Ohioans tend to travel for recreation and are less familiar with outdoor opportunities near them. Low response numbers may indicate that certain interest groups across the state were not captured by this survey, while high numbers may imply the inverse.

Wildlife-based Facilities	Need more	Need updated or rehabilitated	Adequate/ need is met	Not interested/ don't know
Wildlife viewing/birding areas	1165	410	1613	699
Hunting areas	641	161	833	2251
Fishing areas	716	446	1408	1317

Figure 8.2: A summary of facility satisfaction for wildlife-based facilities.

Many survey respondents indicated they felt that wildlife-based facilities were either adequate or disinterested/unaware (figure 8.2). For instance, Ohioans indicated that *Fishing areas* (1,408) and *Wildlife viewing/birding areas* (1,613) were adequate, while most were disinterested/unaware about *Hunting areas* (2,251). *Wildlife viewing/birding areas* (1,165) showed a moderate need for increase based off survey responses. All three wildlife facility types showed a minor need for rehabilitation or improvement with *Hunting areas* (161) indicating the lowest need.

Camping Facilities	Need more	Need updated or rehabilitated	Adequate/ need is met	Not interested/ don't know
Primitive, undeveloped campgrounds	1251	482	916	1234
Developed campgrounds	966	671	1277	963
Group camping areas	729	399	1087	1659
Equestrian camping areas	469	153	428	2827
Designated boat camping areas	666	166	434	2614

Figure 8.3: A summary of facility satisfaction for camping facilities.

Survey respondents were not interested or did not know the need for camping facilities including Designated *boat camping areas* (2,614), *Equestrian camping* (2,827), or *Group camping areas* (1,659) (Figure 8.3). However, respondents indicated that the need for more *Developed camping areas* (1,277) is adequate or met. While some respondents indicated that there is a need for more *Developed camping areas* (966). Furthermore, many respondents indicated there is a need for more *Primitive, undeveloped camping areas* (1,251).

Trail Facilities	Need more	Need updated or rehabilitated	Adequate/ need is met	Not interested/ don't know
Natural surface trails	1774	458	1379	256
Finely crushed stone trails	1389	400	1558	518
Paved, multi-use trails	1556	331	1531	451
Storybook trails	872	136	914	1936
Mountain biking trails	1075	158	640	1990
Equestrian trails	583	150	492	2638
ATV/UTV trails	783	104	399	2578
Dirt bike/off-road motorcycle riding trails	684	81	351	2744

Figure 8.4: Summary of facility satisfaction for trail facilities.

Concerning trail facilities, Ohioans strongly indicated that there is a need for more for *Natural surface trails* (1,774) and *Paved, multi-use trails* (1,556). Though many respondents indicated their satisfaction with *Paved, multi-use trails* (1,531) and *Finely crushed stone trails* (1,558). The remaining trail activities, the majority of respondents were disinterested/unaware. There was the least amount of need for more facilities from *Equestrian trails* (583), while *ATV/UTV trails* (104) showed the least need for rehabilitation or updates. *Mountain biking trails* (1,075) showed a higher need for more facilities, but overall respondents expressed disinterest or a lack of awareness (1,990). Respondent satisfaction for *Storybook trails* (914) was a higher response total than a need for more facilities.

Boating Facilities	Need more	Need updated or rehabilitated	Adequate/ need is met	Not interested/don't know
Canoeing/Kayaking access, facilities, water trails	1440	357	1187	873
Sailing facilities	482	97	541	2734
Motorized boating facilities	538	271	1020	2021

Figure 8.5: The summary of facility satisfaction for boating facilities.

Respondents had the least amount of interest and awareness of *Sailing facilities* (2,734), followed by *Motorized boating facilities* (2,021); however, for those who do engage in sailing (541) and motorized boating (1,020) adequacy had the highest totals. *Canoeing/Kayaking access, facilities, water trails* (1,440) was the exception, the majority of respondents indicated a need for more facilities. All three boating facilities showed the lowest response total for rehabilitation or updating.

Water Facilities	Need more	Need updated or rehabilitated	Adequate/ need is met	Not interested/don't know
Outdoor pools	1375	435	1038	1000
Outdoor pool complex with lazy river, wave pool, other similar attractions	1644	201	636	1364
Splash pads/Spray parks	1161	143	935	1599

Figure 8.6: Summary of facility satisfaction for water facilities.

Ohioans indicated different feelings towards water facilities than boating (Figure 8.6). The three water facilities showed appreciable need for more facilities or increased access (4,180). For *Outdoor pools* (1,038) the need for increased facilities was closely followed by the opinion that facilities were adequate. For *Splash pads/Spray parks* (1,599) the highest total number of responses indicated disinterest or lack of awareness.

Outdoor Sport Facilities	Need more	Need updated or rehabilitated	Adequate/ need is met	Not interested/ don't know
Baseball/Softball fields	404	345	1348	1733
Basketball courts	489	398	1072	1874
Soccer fields	435	242	1235	1917
Tennis courts	503	305	1057	1964
Pickleball courts	992	113	612	2117
Volleyball courts	610	238	730	2250
Lacrosse/Rugby fields	256	60	513	2990
Football fields	243	148	953	2475
Golf (9-hole or 18-hole) courses	477	200	1224	1923
Golf – Driving ranges	589	174	1078	1984
Disc Golf/Ultimate Frisbee courses	887	161	894	1882
Archery	1105	154	570	1996
Target/Skeet/Shooting areas	1048	112	478	2191
Climbing/Rappelling walls	1271	89	331	2140
Skate park/Skateboarding areas	580	152	567	2518

Figure 8.7: Summary of facility satisfaction for outdoor sport facilities.

Sport facilities had a high level of need for more facilities, facility satisfaction, and disinterest/unawareness (figure 8.7). Overall, the highest number of total responses for each sport facility indicated disinterest or lack of awareness with the highest total responses for *Lacrosse/Rugby fields* (2,990). However, *Climbing/Rappelling walls* (1,271), *Target/Skeet/Shooting areas* (1,048), *Archery* (1,105), and *Pickle ball courts* (992) showed high response totals for an increase in facilities and access. Respondents also indicated that *Golf-Driving ranges* (1,078), *Golf (9-hole or 18-hole)* (1,224), *Tennis courts* (1,057), *Basketball courts* (1,072), *Soccer fields* (1,235), and *Baseball/Softball fields* (1,348) facilities were adequate. Few respondents expressed a need for update or rehabilitation across the sports facilities with the highest total response for *Basketball courts* (398).

Winter Facilities	Need more	Need updated or rehabilitated	Adequate/ need is met	Not interested/ don't know
Sledding/Tubing areas	1699	172	779	1137
Cross-country skiing areas	1091	96	502	2100
Downhill skiing areas	918	81	585	2205
Ice skating areas	1331	115	587	1755
Ice fishing areas	628	78	585	2495
Snowshoeing areas	783	62	474	2462
Snowboarding areas	789	55	404	2536
Snowmobiling trails	680	53	320	2724
Winter camping areas	905	133	470	2282
Winter camping/festival areas	1017	121	447	2196
Winter hunting areas	650	83	501	2544

Figure 8.8: Summary of facility satisfaction for winter facilities.

Similar to sport facilities, winter facilities showed an overall disinterest or unawareness across facility type with the exception of *Sledding/tubing areas* (1,699) which showed the highest total responses for increased facilities and access (Figure 8.8). However, in general, respondents indicated that there was a higher need for increased winter facilities over facility satisfaction. The seven winter activity facilities had homogeneously low response totals for facilities needing improvements.

Other Outdoor Recreation Facilities	Need more	Need updated or rehabilitated	Adequate/ need is met	Not interested/don't know
Picnic shelters	929	753	1644	488
Playgrounds	860	634	1442	877
Scenic drives	1163	221	1703	725
Historic/Heritage sites	1143	448	1489	731
Dog parks	926	177	1048	1665
Outdoor adult fitness areas with equipment	1038	226	657	1887

Figure 8.9: Summary of facility satisfaction for other outdoor recreation facilities.

Unlike the facility responses from the other seven major categories of outdoor recreation activity, Ohioans showed an immense satisfaction for other outdoor recreation facilities (Figure 8.9). *Outdoor adult fitness areas with equipment* (1,887) and *Dog parks* (1,665) were the only two other outdoor recreation facility categories that indicated the majority of disinterest or unawareness. There was some considerable indication that Ohioans want more other outdoor recreation facilities, particularly *Historical/Heritage sites* (1,143) and *Scenic drives* (1,163). Regarding facilities in need or updating or rehabilitation, *Playgrounds* (634) and *Picnic shelters* (753) had the highest total number of responses.

8.2 Prioritization of Facility Needs

Table 8.1: Prioritization (1-5) summary of outdoor recreational facilities that respondents want to have more of in Ohio.

Ranked Category	1	2	3	4	5
Wildlife viewing/birding areas	222	129	155	99	91
Hunting areas	193	76	61	42	38
Fishing areas	71	134	88	59	55
Primitive, undeveloped campgrounds	131	162	153	124	101
Developed campgrounds	118	90	101	100	74
Group camping areas	11	29	39	58	52
Equestrian camping areas	42	63	14	16	18
Designated boat camping areas	25	43	42	45	52
Natural surface trails	273	314	258	175	154
Finely crushed stone trails	70	202	177	142	95
Paved, multi-use trails	306	186	152	150	109
Storybook trails	22	41	66	51	60
Mountain biking trails	201	97	95	68	72
Equestrian trails	95	36	19	19	18
ATV/UTV trails	57	110	77	55	49
Dirt bike/off-road motorcycle riding trails	134	44	27	30	28
Canoeing/Kayaking access, facilities, water trails	172	183	173	153	113
Sailing facilities	9	10	8	17	11
Motorized boating facilities	18	15	19	21	25
Outdoor pools	114	117	106	83	107
Outdoor pool complex with lazy river, wave pool, other similar	130	149	123	122	115
Splash pads/Spray parks	32	69	85	75	64

Baseball/Softball fields	4	11	8	16	18
Basketball courts	6	21	13	20	21
Tennis courts	8	11	13	23	17
Pickleball courts	79	68	73	72	74
Volleyball courts	11	13	14	18	25
Lacrosse/Rugby fields	1	0	5	4	5
Football fields	1	0	3	4	3
Soccer fields	12	12	8	16	10
Golf (9-hole or 18-hole courses)	27	28	26	27	27
Golf – Driving ranges	11	23	29	24	21
Disc Golf/Ultimate Frisbee courses	91	44	46	42	44
Archery	25	54	83	84	67
Target/Skeet/Shooting areas	36	56	77	67	71
Climbing/Rappelling walls	138	64	60	63	69
Skate Park/Skateboarding areas	11	11	21	33	27
Sledding/Tubing areas	18	46	60	103	94
Cross-country skiing areas	10	26	42	45	59
Downhill skiing areas	11	13	20	29	32
Ice skating areas	17	25	38	87	77
Snowboarding areas	4	11	13	13	28
Snowmobiling trails	4	5	16	13	10
Winter camping areas	12	31	23	49	39
Picnic shelters	22	32	43	41	57
Playgrounds	36	41	52	65	47
Scenic drives	23	62	58	71	78
Historic/Heritage sites	45	51	59	58	76
Dog parks	66	62	71	73	70
Outdoor adult fitness areas with equipment	41	48	64	67	70

Concerning public outdoor recreation facilities available in Ohio, when Ohioans were asked how they felt regarding the abundance of facilities and asked to prioritize the top five that need more, *Natural surface trails* (1,194), *Paved multi-use trails* (903), and *Canoeing/Kayaking access, facilities, water trails* (794) were number one through three overall (Table 8.1). Also among the facilities that respondents would like to see more of, *Outdoor pool complexes with lazy river, wave pool, other similar* (639), *Primitive, undeveloped campgrounds* (671), and *Finely crushed stone trails* (686) rounded out the top five most chosen. *Wildlife viewing/birding areas* (222), *Hunting areas fields* (193), *Climbing/Repelling walls* (138), and *Developed campgrounds* (118) all had high total responses for the number one priority of needs. *Lacrosse/Rugby, Football, and Soccer fields* had the fewest total responses.

Table 8.2: Top five rankings of facilities that need updating or rehabilitation.

Ranked Category	1	2	3	4	5
Wildlife viewing/birding areas	79	65	49	42	30
Hunting areas	28	25	16	11	9
Fishing areas	84	89	74	29	28
Primitive, undeveloped campgrounds	81	88	67	43	31
Developed campgrounds	201	104	72	61	42
Group camping areas	26	53	60	54	31
Equestrian camping areas	18	18	13	17	20
Designated boat camping areas	16	18	13	12	14
Natural surface trails	115	86	53	40	25
Finely crushed stone trails	52	65	58	41	24
Paved, multi-use trails	61	48	43	30	24
Storybook trails	68	161	222	168	176
Mountain biking trails	22	12	10	7	13
Equestrian trails	18	12	8	7	10
ATV/UTV trails	12	14	5	8	4
Dirt bike/off-road motorcycle riding trails	1	4	8	3	7
Canoeing/Kayaking access, facilities, water trails	67	58	44	23	21
Sailing facilities	1	6	7	7	6
Motorized boating facilities	44	33	25	26	19

Outdoor pools	57	76	46	37	37
Outdoor pool complex with lazy river, wave pool, other similar	23	20	19	17	18
Splash pads/Spray parks	10	13	17	13	15
Baseball/Softball fields	27	31	33	31	36
Basketball courts	23	39	33	39	38
Tennis courts	23	28	25	26	13
Pickleball courts	7	3	10	9	6
Volleyball courts	12	11	27	16	23
Lacrosse/Rugby fields		2	1	2	5
Football fields	5	6	9	7	7
Soccer fields	28	71	175	172	149
Golf (9-hole or 18-hole courses)	26	13	18	14	12
Golf – Driving ranges	5	14	8	11	13
Disc Golf/Ultimate Frisbee courses	20	17	13	11	8
Archery	19	13	12	10	10
Target/Skeet/Shooting areas	8	8	6	5	9
Climbing/Rappelling walls	7	5	3	5	7
Skate park/Skateboarding areas	16	9	22	12	4
Sledding/Tubing areas	9	9	21	13	13
Cross-country skiing areas	7	5	7	4	5
Downhill skiing areas	4	4	6	8	4
Ice skating areas	8	6	2	9	9
Snowboarding areas	4	2	1	2	5
Snowmobiling trails		3	2	2	2
Winter camping areas	9	17	12	12	10
Picnic shelters	160	139	91	78	57
Playgrounds	166	112	67	69	38
Scenic drives	21	23	23	22	16
Historic/Heritage sites	92	63	45	42	38
Dog parks	29	29	17	18	11
Outdoor adult fitness areas with equipment	30	29	24	19	16

When Ohioans were asked how they felt regarding the condition of public recreational infrastructure, they were also invited to prioritize the top five facilities they felt were adequate or needed improvement (e.g., updating, rehabilitation) (Table 8.2). Overall, *Storybook trails* (795) and *Soccer fields* (595) had the highest total number of responses for needing improvement. However, the prioritization ranking for both was in the bottom five whereas *Developed campgrounds* (201) had the highest total number of responses for the number one top priority for needing improvement. *Picnic shelters* (525) and *Playgrounds* (452) had the most uniform response totals with high prioritization value. *Dirt bike/off-road motorcycle riding trails* (23), and *Lacrosse/Rugby fields* (10), and most of the winter activities, were among the fewest chosen facilities needing updates or other improvements.

Table 8.3: The prioritized (1-5) importance of facilities in next year’s outdoor recreation planning for Ohio park systems.

Ranked Category	1	2	3	4	5
Wildlife viewing/birding areas	396	264	184	157	114
Hunting areas	78	87	70	64	62
Fishing areas	168	188	177	130	118
Primitive, undeveloped campgrounds	65	89	92	94	78
Developed campgrounds	173	132	142	127	128
Group camping areas	39	69	98	110	103
Equestrian camping areas	12	13	20	12	32
Designated boat camping areas	14	19	21	25	30
Natural surface trails	354	278	181	123	71
Finely crushed stone trails	184	311	221	159	132
Paved, multi-use trails	252	177	226	177	108
Storybook trails	27	59	73	73	71
Mountain biking trails	38	30	35	37	45
Equestrian trails	7	14	8	21	17
ATV/UTV trails	18	11	14	17	23
Dirt bike/off-road motorcycle riding trails	4	10	11	14	13
Canoeing/Kayaking access, facilities, water trails	139	123	122	111	108
Sailing facilities	8	10	18	21	28
Motorized boating facilities	49	53	53	52	48

Outdoor pools	44	48	71	86	66
Outdoor pool complex with lazy river, wave pool, other similar	13	20	26	33	41
Splash pads/Spray parks	32	46	47	56	49
Baseball/Softball fields	23	38	42	76	78
Basketball courts	7	24	29	31	46
Tennis courts	22	20	37	38	43
Pickleball courts	11	17	23	16	25
Volleyball courts	6	7	8	16	16
Lacrosse/Rugby fields	1	1	4	9	8
Football fields	10	16	11	20	28
Soccer fields	17	21	27	41	33
Golf (9-hole or 18-hole courses)	62	57	52	51	41
Golf – Driving ranges	17	39	46	44	25
Disc Golf/Ultimate Frisbee courses	25	33	32	40	47
Archery	14	21	21	17	23
Target/Skeet/Shooting areas	13	16	15	11	6
Climbing/Rappelling walls	11	4	4	4	3
Skate park/Skateboarding areas	5	5	12	7	10
Sledding/Tubing areas	11	14	14	35	39
Cross-country skiing areas	4	3	11	7	10
Downhill skiing areas	7	3	11	12	13
Ice skating areas	4	11	11	11	24
Snowboarding areas	3	1	2	5	6
Snowmobiling trails	4	1	3	3	7
Winter camping areas	10	9	14	12	15
Picnic shelters	76	103	98	138	125
Playgrounds	88	59	73	50	76
Scenic drives	205	148	134	118	119
Historic/Heritage sites	63	103	107	111	120
Dog parks	48	38	35	41	44

Outdoor adult fitness areas with equipment	14	9	9	21	25
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Ranking the importance of which facilities Ohioans plan to use in the next year follows similar trends to the needs for facility prioritizations addressed in the two previous questions (Table 8.3). Respondents indicated that trails were the highest priority of facilities they will use during outdoor recreations next year including, *Natural surface trails* (1,007), *Finely crushed stone trails* (1,007), and *Paved multi-use trails* (940). However, the highest number one top priority, with the highest number of total responses was actually *Wildlife viewing/birding areas* (1,115). Furthermore, hunting, fishing, and camping areas all showed a high number of responses indicating priority on what facilities respondents will likely use next year. *Scenic drives* (724), *Picnic Shelters* (540), and *Historic/Heritage sites* (504) all showed priority in facility use next year by respondents. *Lacrosse/Rugby fields* (23) indicated the lowest priority of use for next year.

8.3 Feelings on Public Support Facilities Near Where You Live

Category	Need more	Need updated or rehabilitated	Adequate/ need is met	Not interested/ don't know
Restrooms	1220	1144	1102	163
Parking lots	577	608	2241	194
Nature centers	1353	436	1440	391
Marina buildings	489	342	958	1824
Interpretive centers	704	278	885	1754
Utilities (for example: available water, electricity)	1052	541	1073	953

Figure 8.10: Summary of facility satisfaction for support facilities.

Respondents were asked how they feel about support facilities in their area/region (Figure 8.10). Ohioans felt many support facilities were either adequate, needed more, or disinterested/unaware. Survey respondents felt like *Utilities (for example: available water, electricity)* (1,073), *Nature Centers* (1,440), and *Parking lots* (2,241) near where they live were adequate and required no more attention. Many however, concluded that the areas where they live need more available *Restrooms* (1,220). Some respondents were disinterested or perhaps

unaware of the needs for *Interpretive Centers* (1,754), and *Marina Buildings* (1,824). While the majority of respondents indicated that *Nature Centers* (1,353) and *Utilities (for example: available water, electricity)* (1,052) were adequate, many suggested there is a need for more.

Category	Need more	Adequate/need updated or rehabilitated	Adequate/need is met	Not interested/don't know
Well-lit facilities and trails	1176	621	1483	334
Trail designations and signage	1300	817	1226	266
Visitor centers	955	552	1472	626
Employee interface/check-ins	670	369	1266	1302
Other	171	66	401	2408

Figure 8.11: Summary of facility satisfaction for safety facilities.

Survey respondents were asked how they feel about the safety in public parks near where they live (Figure 8.11). Ohioans agreed that *Well-lit facilities and trails* (1,483) and *Visitor Centers* (1,472) were adequate while *Trail designations and signage* (1,300) required more. Most were uninterested or unaware of *Employee interface/check-ins* (1,302) and *Other* (2,408) however, many respondents thought that *Employee interface/check-ins* (1,266) are adequate and do not require any other need.

Chapter 9 Typical Expenditures

On a typical day engaging in a wide range of outdoor recreational activities on public lands, Ohioans did not record spending large amounts of money on costs related to transportation, purchasing food, or renting equipment (Figure 9.1). The majority of respondent households spent less than \$100, with the < \$20 (1,079) and \$20 - \$49 (967) being the most frequently chosen. Few Ohioans spent \$100 - \$249 (384), while even fewer spent over >\$500 (144) engaging in outdoor activities on a given day.

Expenditures	Central	Northeast	Northwest	Southeast	Southwest
>\$500	24	44	14	33	29
\$250 - \$500	28	33	9	26	18
\$100 - \$249	86	70	50	124	54
\$50 - \$99	142	151	56	157	126
\$20 - \$49	246	249	113	165	194
< \$20	282	305	123	142	227
Did not participate/ Not applicable	27	28	29	49	30

Figure 9.1: Expenditures of respondents on a typical day engaged in outdoor recreational activity on Ohio public lands.

Ohioans spent more money on a weekend getaway or large-scale event associated with outdoor recreation on public lands (Figure 9.2), and on average went on 4.5 weekend outings per year. Respondents were most frequently 39.1% spending \$100 - \$249 on one large scale, weekend getaway, or similar special event, and were almost as likely to spend over \$500 (9.8%) than they would spend less than \$49 (11.9%) on a single large event. Ohio respondents were slightly more likely (23.5%) to spend between \$250 to \$500 as they were to spend \$50 to \$99 (15.7%)

Expenditures	Central	Northeast	Northwest	Southeast	Southwest
>\$500	79	87	38	94	76
\$250 - \$500	175	177	77	170	149
\$100 - \$249	240	249	110	155	185
\$50 - \$99	81	79	32	71	66
\$20 - \$49	37	32	16	24	28
< \$20	32	32	10	24	18
Did not participate/ Not applicable	189	221	111	156	156

Figure 9.2: Expenditures of respondents for a weekend getaway or large-scale event on Ohio public lands.

The majority of respondents took *one* (416) or *two* (567) weekend getaways during the surveyed period (Table 9.1). However, responses were fairly distributed with some respondents taking more than 50 weekend getaways or participating in large scale events.

Table 9.1: Weekend getaways or large-scale events respondents participated in on public lands during the surveyed period.

Number of Weekend Getaways	Response Count
0	47
1	416
1.5	14
2	567
2.5	13
3	372
3.5	7
4	219
4.5	9
5	224
5.5	3
6	106
6.5	1
7	37
7.5	7
8	59
8.5	1
9	7
10	104
11	1
11.5	1
12	48
13	4
13.5	1
14	5
15	32
16	1
18	2
20	32
23	1
24	3
25	14
26	2
30	13

35	3
39	1
40	4
45	2
50	10
> 50	13
Grand Total	2,406

Chapter 10 Appendix

The sections of Appendix include the answers to free response questions 18, 30, and 40, Other responses for primary reasoning of interest without participation, other responses to outdoor sport activities, submissions by county, interest by activity, and the final survey tool.

10.1 Free Responses to Question 18

There were 993 free response answers recorded for question 18: *Between 2021-2022, were there other outdoor recreation activities you or anyone in your household participated in on public lands in Ohio?* These responses were sorted into the eight major outdoor recreation activities. The highest response totals came from *Trail Activities*, *Wildlife-based Activities*, *Outdoor Sports*, and *Other Outdoor Recreation Activities*. The highest response total was *Hiking* (61), followed by *Foraging* (49), and *Horseback Riding* (46). Many activities across the eight major categories had only one response. Many respondents replied with outdoor recreation activities that were previously mentioned in the survey.

Table 10.1: Category of Outdoor Recreation Activities respondents participated in on Ohio public lands during the surveyed period.

Category	Activity	Total Responses
Boating	Boating	5
Boating	Pontoon Boating	2
Boating	Houseboat	1
Camping	Camping	17
Camping	Bike Camping	10
Camping	Cabin/Cottage Rental	8
Camping	Horse Camping	5
Camping	RV Camping	4
Camping	Campfire	3
Camping	Lodge Rental	3
Camping	Summer Camp	3
Camping	Boondocking/Car Camping	2
Camping	Camp Hosting	1
Camping	Dispersed Camping	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Volunteering	39
Other Outdoor Recreation	Concerts/Festivals/Events	29
Other Outdoor Recreation	Photography	13

Other Outdoor Recreation	Educational Purposes	11
Other Outdoor Recreation	Geology/Rock hounding	10
Other Outdoor Recreation	Art	9
Other Outdoor Recreation	Work/Meetings	8
Other Outdoor Recreation	Hammocking	7
Other Outdoor Recreation	History	7
Other Outdoor Recreation	Playgrounds	7
Other Outdoor Recreation	Family Events/Reunions	6
Other Outdoor Recreation	Picnic/Grilling	6
Other Outdoor Recreation	Scavenger Hunt	6
Other Outdoor Recreation	Geocaching	4
Other Outdoor Recreation	Metal Detecting	4
Other Outdoor Recreation	Public Art Viewing	4
Other Outdoor Recreation	Study/Reading	4
Other Outdoor Recreation	Christmas Light Viewing	3
Other Outdoor Recreation	Fireworks	3
Other Outdoor Recreation	Gardening	3
Other Outdoor Recreation	Slackline	3
Other Outdoor Recreation	Stargazing/Astronomy	3
Other Outdoor Recreation	Alcohol Consumption	2
Other Outdoor Recreation	Drone Flying	2
Other Outdoor Recreation	Farmer's Market	2
Other Outdoor Recreation	Magnet Fishing	2
Other Outdoor Recreation	Fitness Class	2
Other Outdoor Recreation	Pokémon Go	2
Other Outdoor Recreation	Horse Shows	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	People Watching	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Model Rocketry	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	The All-American Treasure Hunt	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Yoga	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Letterboxing	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Caving	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Kite Flying	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Dog Park	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Agrotourism	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Wellness Challenge	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Vaccine Clinic	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Reconnoitering	1

Other Outdoor Recreation	Sunbathing	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Tapped Maple Trees	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Band Practice	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Arrowhead Hunting	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Meditation	1
Sports	Disc Golf	25
Sports	Rock Climbing/Bouldering	15
Sports	Shooting Range/Target Shooting	10
Sports	Football	4
Sports	Basketball	3
Sports	Cornhole	3
Sports	Golf	3
Sports	Pickleball	3
Sports	Skateboard/Rollerblade/BMX	3
Sports	Soccer	3
Sports	Badminton	2
Sports	Miniature Golf	2
Sports	Paragliding/Paramotor	2
Sports	Frisbee	2
Sports	Baseball	2
Sports	Bow Fishing	1
Sports	Broomball	1
Sports	Ultimate Frisbee	1
Sports	Paintball	1
Sports	Gaelic Football	1
Sports	Hurling/Camogie	1
Sports	Softball	1
Sports	Horseshoe	1
Sports	Shuffleboard	1
Sports	Foot Golf	1
Sports	Beach Volleyball	1
Sports	Skeet Shooting	1
Sports	Archery Tag	1
Sports	Bocce Ball	1
Sports	Lifting Weights	1
Trail	Hiking	61
Trail	Horse riding	46
Trail	Mountain Biking/gravel biking	28

Trail	Bike Path	26
Trail	Walking	22
Trail	Dirt biking	20
Trail	Dog Walking	17
Trail	Off-Road Vehicles/Overlanding	15
Trail	Trail Running	13
Trail	ATV/OHV Trails	13
Trail	APV Trails	5
Trail	Backpacking	5
Trail	Cycling (road)	5
Trail	Biking (pump track)	4
Trail	Night Hikes	3
Trail	Single-Track Motorcycle	3
Trail	Orienteering	2
Trail	Sensory Trail	1
Trail	Off-Trail Hiking	1
Trail	Golf Cart	1
Trail	E-Biking	1
Trail	Scenic Drive	1
Trail	Hiking with Dog	1
Water	Kayak/Canoe	14
Water	Fossil Hunting	11
Water	Creeking/Wading	10
Water	Swimming	9
Water	Beach/Beach Combing	4
Water	White Water Rafting/Kayaking	4
Water	Paddleboard	3
Water	Rowing	3
Water	Sailing	3
Water	Snorkeling	2
Water	Jet ski/Water Ski	1
Water	Scuba	1
Water	Dog Swim	1
Water	Rock Skipping	1
Water	Tubing	1
Water	Splash Pads	1
Wildlife-Based	Foraging	49
Wildlife-Based	Fishing	38

Wildlife-Based	Hunting	30
Wildlife-Based	Wildflower/tree viewing	28
Wildlife-Based	Nature Viewing	27
Wildlife-Based	Nature Programs	21
Wildlife-Based	Science/Research	9
Wildlife-Based	Birdwatching	8
Wildlife-Based	Horse Mounted Fox Hunting with dogs	4
Wildlife-Based	Wilderness Survival/Bushcraft	4
Wildlife-Based	Ziplining	4
Wildlife-Based	Bonsai Tree Collection	3
Wildlife-Based	Fly Fishing	3
Wildlife-Based	Stewardship	1
Wildlife-Based	Hunting Dog Training	1
Wildlife-Based	Bigfoot Hunting	1
Wildlife-Based	Falconry	1
Winter	Ice Climbing	7
Winter	Fat-tire Winter Biking	3
Winter	Dog Sledding	1
Winter	Winter Mountain Biking	1
Winter	Cross-Country Skiing	1
Winter	Snow Shoeing	1
Winter	Kite Skiing	1
Winter	In-line Skating	1
Winter	Snowboard/Skiing	1

10.2 Free Responses to Question 30

There were 3,848 free response answers recorded for question 30: *What type of equipment would you rent for a nominal fee?* These responses were sorted into the eight major categories of outdoor recreational activities.

Table 10.2: Type of equipment respondents would rent for a nominal fee.

Category	Equipment	Total Responses
Wildlife	Fishing Gear	70
Wildlife	Firearms	16
Wildlife	Hunting Equipment	7
Wildlife	Live Bait	2
Wildlife	Hunting Boat	1
Wildlife	Hunting Land	1
Camping	Camping Equipment	90
Camping	RV/Camper	27
Camping	Cabin/Yurt	25
Camping	Backpacking Equipment	18
Camping	Camp Sites	9
Camping	Grill/Picnic Supplies	5
Camping	Hammocks	2
Camping	Firewood	2
Camping	Restrooms	2
Camping	Showers	1
Camping	Hammock Stand	1
Camping	Bear Spray	1
Camping	Firewood	1
Trail	Bicycle	309
Trail	ATV/UTV Dirt Bike	111
Trail	Horses	59
Trail	E-Bike/Scooter	47
Trail	Hiking Gear	20
Trail	Golf Cart	16
Trail	Bike Trailer/Child Seats	2
Trail	Accessible Hand Cycle	1
Trail	Bike Ramps/Jumps	1
Trail	Pedal Car	1

Trail	Hobby Carts	1
Trail	Horse Wash Rack	1
Trail	Jeep Trail	1
Trail	Motorcycle	1
Boating	Kayak/Canoe	860
Boating	Paddleboard	244
Boating	Motorized Boat	198
Boating	Non-Motorized Boat	178
Boating	Jet Ski	69
Boating	Sailboats	41
Boating	Tube/Floats	30
Boating	PFD	17
Boating	Dock/Boat Slip	4
Boating	Sail Boards	2
Boating	Water Skis	1
Boating	Water Bike	1
Boating	Houseboat	1
Sports	Archery Equipment	125
Sports	Climbing Equipment	94
Sports	Various Balls and Equipment	74
Sports	Pickleball	65
Sports	Disc Golf	48
Sports	Golf Equipment	23
Sports	Rollerblades/skates	14
Sports	Water Sport Equipment	9
Sports	Skeet Launcher/Targets	8
Sports	Bocce Ball	4
Sports	Cornhole	4
Sports	Skateboard	3
Sports	Miniature Golf	3
Sports	Shuffleboard	2
Sports	Scuba/Snorkeling	2
Sports	Golf Course	1
Sports	Horseshoes	1
Sports	Climbing Wall	1
Sports	Axe Throwing	1
Winter	Snowshoes	200

Winter	Cross-country Skis	184
Winter	Snowboard/Skis	84
Winter	Ice-skates	67
Winter	Snowmobile	45
Winter	Snow Tubes/sleds	43
Winter	Ice Fishing Gear	8
Winter	Snow Sports Equipment	8
Winter	Snow Bikes	6
Winter	Dogsled	1
Winter	Snowboard Lift Pass	1
Winter	Snow Pants	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	No preference/interest	64
Other Outdoor Recreation	Unclear/non-applicable	37
Other Outdoor Recreation	Binoculars	24
Other Outdoor Recreation	Mobility Aids/Powered Chairs	19
Other Outdoor Recreation	Fitness Equipment/Weights	10
Other Outdoor Recreation	Shelters/Picnic Areas	9
Other Outdoor Recreation	Guidebooks	8
Other Outdoor Recreation	Should not offer rentals	6
Other Outdoor Recreation	Telescopes	6
Other	Any/interested in all	5
Other Outdoor Recreation	Horse Stalls	5
Other Outdoor Recreation	Shuttle Service	3
Other Outdoor Recreation	Geocaching Equipment	3
Other Outdoor Recreation	Drones	3
Other Outdoor Recreation	Trail Maps	2
Other Outdoor Recreation	Baby Stroller/Carrier	2
Other Outdoor Recreation	Tree Climbing Equipment	2
Other Outdoor Recreation	Air hose/bike pump	2
Other Outdoor Recreation	Venues	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Gymnasium	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Game Room	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Ball Fields	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Kites	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Segway	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Zipline	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Zumba Equipment	1

Other Outdoor Recreation	Rec Center	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Water Toys	1

10.3 Free Responses to Question 40

There were 1,012 free response answers recorded for question 40: *Other comments*. These responses were sorted into the eight major categories of outdoor recreational activities along with two additional categories - *County Specific* and *General*. The responses for the Other Comments section of the survey were more varied than any other survey question. The highest total response was one of Appreciation (97), followed by a respondent indicated that the survey was too long (73). Additionally, survey respondents indicated that they were interested in more Natural areas (38) and Dirt bike/Single track (37).

Table 10.3: Other comments submitted by survey respondents

Category	Activity	Total Responses
Wildlife	More natural areas/conservation	38
Wildlife	More public hunting/fishing areas	13
Wildlife	Invasive Species removal	7
Wildlife	Expansion & protection of hunting/fishing	6
Wildlife	Stock more fish	4
Wildlife	More/improved waterfowl hunting areas	4
Wildlife	Better game bird management/habitat	4
Wildlife	Nature appreciation	5
Wildlife	Hunting regulations/areas unclear	2
Wildlife	General appreciation of wildlife	1
Wildlife	Wetland/habitat protection	1
Wildlife	Eliminate hunting/fishing fees	1
Wildlife	Less hunting/trapping	1
Wildlife	Improve habitat in hunting areas	1
Wildlife	Limit pheasant take numbers	1
Wildlife	Keep hunting areas separate from other land use	1
Wildlife	Remove buzzards around restrooms	1
Wildlife	Change/extend hunting season	1
Wildlife	Allow bobcat hunting/trapping	1
Wildlife	Close quail hunting	1
Wildlife	More free fishing days	1
Wildlife	Ban raccoon hunting with hounds on public land	1

Wildlife	Suburban deer hunting	1
Wildlife	Lower fishing license cost	1
Wildlife	Improve fish habitat in lakes	1
Camping	Primitive camping-more	17
Camping	Update restrooms/showers	11
Camping	Fee/affordable camping	10
Camping	Backcountry camping-more	9
Camping	RV electric/water/dump stations-more	8
Camping	Fix campsite registration system	8
Camping	More/improved horse camps	7
Camping	Offer electric at horse camps	6
Camping	Campsites/campgrounds-more	5
Camping	Tent only campgrounds	5
Camping	Develop off-roading campsites	4
Camping	More bicycle campgrounds	3
Camping	Campsites should be more private	3
Camping	Update/improve campgrounds	3
Camping	No generators in non-electric campsites	2
Camping	Allow dispersed roadside camping	2
Camping	Make Wi-Fi available at campgrounds	2
Camping	Cabins/lodges-more	2
Camping	Camping appreciation	2
Camping	More dog friendly accommodations	2
Camping	Overnight camping along waterways	2
Camping	More camping options in NW Ohio	2
Camping	Larger/improved RV sites	1
Camping	Deregulate backcountry campfires	1
Camping	Poor enforcement of campground rules	1
Camping	Get rid of campsite reservations	1
Camping	Develop water trail campsites along Maumee River	1
Camping	More lodging other than camping	1
Camping	More activities for children at campgrounds	1
Camping	More parks/camping in north-central Ohio	1
Camping	Maintenance needed at Zaleski horse camp	1
Trail	Dirt bike/motorcycle single track only trails	37
Trail	Mountain bike trails-more	33
Trail	More/improved ATV trails	27

Trail	Rail Trail/bike paths-more	20
Trail	More/improved horse trails	18
Trail	Trail maintenance	13
Trail	More trail and park connectivity	13
Trail	Hiking trails-more	9
Trail	Trailheads and facilities need addressing	8
Trail	Open more trails to dogs	8
Trail	Backpacking trails-more	8
Trail	Keep equestrian facilities separate	7
Trail	Improve trail markers/signage	7
Trail	Better urban bicycle infrastructure	7
Trail	Jeep/full-sized vehicle trails	6
Trail	Better access to restrooms	6
Trail	Hiking appreciation	5
Trail	More trails of all kinds	4
Trail	Biking appreciation	4
Trail	Finish Ohio-to-Erie trail	3
Trail	More natural surface trails	3
Trail	More paved multiuse trails	2
Trail	More shared use mountain bike trails	2
Trail	More trails/better access for e-bikes and PEVs	2
Trail	Make hiking trails single use	2
Trail	Mountain biking appreciation	1
Trail	No horses on hiking trails	1
Trail	Better enforcement of ATV regulations	1
Trail	More parks and trails on east side of Columbus	1
Trail	Better access/connectivity of vehicle trails	1
Trail	Make all trails multiuse	1
Trail	Better signage on waterways/water trails	1
Trail	More trails near water	1
Trail	Add more benches to trails	1
Trail	Fewer motorized vehicle trails	1
Trail	Create barefoot/sensory trail	1
Trail	More horse trails in Maumee State Forest	1
Trail	Close Bailys Trail System during bow season	1
Trail	Re-build Spring Valley Marsh boardwalk	1
Trail	Invest more in Baileys Trail System	1
Trail	Need single track dirt bike trail in Hueston Woods	1

Trail	Maintenance needed on Paint Creek Mountain bike trail	1
Boating	Fewer motorized boats	4
Boating	More supervision/enforcement on lakes	4
Boating	Kayak/canoe access	3
Boating	Better public access to Lake Erie/Waterways	2
Boating	Update/improve boat ramps	2
Boating	Supervision at boat launches needed	2
Boating	Allow motorized boats in more areas	1
Boating	Make real-time data on waterways available	1
Boating	Lower dock fees	1
Boating	Boating/lodging/dining complex needed on Ohio River	1
Boating	Greater use of Ohio River	1
Boating	Better water trail access on Hocking River	1
Boating	More information on kayak access/water trails	1
Boating	Boating appreciation	1
Boating	Better Kayak access to Brush Creek and Scioto River	1
Boating	Improve kayak access to Cuyahoga Valley National Park and allow outfitters	1
Water	Keep waterways and lakes clean	2
Water	Clear logs and debris from waterways	2
Water	Better access to potable water	2
Water	Allow dogs at beaches	1
Water	Clean up beaches	1
Water	Scuba opportunities in limestone quarries	1
Water	More kite surfing/wind surfing	1
Water	Remove dams	1
Water	In-depth local fishing guides	1
Sports	Natural rock-climbing areas wanted	21
Sports	Disc golf courses-more	19
Sports	Rock climbing improvements	8
Sports	Calisthenics Park/fitness equipment	4
Sports	Disc golf courses-improvements needed	2
Sports	cooperate with Disc Golf clubs/volunteers	2
Sports	Public airsoft field	1
Sports	archery ranges/equipment rental-more	1

Sports	More skate parks	1
Sports	Adventure course/ropes course wanted	1
Sports	Fewer sports fields	1
Sports	Need adult sports leagues	1
Sports	Pickleball court	1
Sports	Allow rock climbing on public land	1
Sports	Shooting range in NW Ohio needed	1
Sports	Re-open rifle range at Paint Creek	1
Winter	Winter sports opportunities-more	3
Winter	Ice climbing	2
Winter	Winter biking	1
Winter	Develop cross-country skiing in Dayton area	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Need more public land	16
Other Outdoor Recreation	ADA accessibility	12
Other Outdoor Recreation	Outdoor accessibility for underserved communities	11
Other Outdoor Recreation	Free/low-cost activities and admission	8
Other Outdoor Recreation	Improve website	7
Other Outdoor Recreation	More/improved dog parks	6
Other Outdoor Recreation	Urban greenspace-more	5
Other Outdoor Recreation	More off-leash dog areas	4
Other Outdoor Recreation	Extend park hours/open 24hrs	2
Other Outdoor Recreation	More splash parks	2
Other Outdoor Recreation	Volunteerism/charity	2
Other Outdoor Recreation	More indoor pools/saunas	2
Other Outdoor Recreation	Litter and waste in parks	2

Other Outdoor Recreation	Programs/group activities-more	3
Other Outdoor Recreation	Science/educational programs-more	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Electric vehicle charge stations	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Remove alcohol restrictions	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Adult only events-more	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	ODNR digest bulletin wanted	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	More scenic drives	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	More women's hiking events	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	More outdoor activities	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Allow more geocaching	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Dog splash parks	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	More outdoor pools	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	More outdoor nature playgrounds	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Don't build lodges	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Year-round ice rink in SE Ohio wanted	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Live hunter tracking ap during hunting season	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Clean up Huston Woods and Acton Lake	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	More development/improvements at Pleasant Hill	1
Other Outdoor Recreation	Allow mushroom foraging and off-trail hiking in Cuyahoga Valley National Park	1

Other Outdoor Recreation	Swimming pool at Clinton County State Park wanted	1
General	Thanks/appreciation	97
General	Survey too long/didn't like survey	73
General	Less development	12
General	Wish parks were closer to me	10
General	No oil/gas extraction or fracking on public land	5
General	Maintain/improve existing parks	8
General	Other states doing a better job	6
General	More DNR employees	4
General	Stopping logging/timber	3
General	Charge fees for land use other than hunting/fishing	2
General	Focus on climate change	2
General	Use funding for parks and public land development	2
General	Establish official ODNR outfitters	1
General	Official DNR office with staff	1
General	Public land boundaries unclear	1
General	Create sporting goods tax to fund DNR	1
General	More grant funding for local communities	1
General	Create fine for unleashed dogs	1
General	DNR should partner with public libraries	1
County Specific	Adams (swimming area for children in Adams State Park)	1
County Specific	Adams (consider county for maximum grant allowance)	1
County Specific	Adams (need resort, more beaches and family activities)	1
County Specific	Adams (more funding/improvements to Adams County Lake)	1
County Specific	Adams (Better hunting access to Brush Creek State Forest)	1
County Specific	Ashland (long distance paved bike path needed)	1
County Specific	Ashland (keep Mohican Beach open year-round)	1
County Specific	Ashland (re-open campsites at Mohican)	1
County Specific	Athens (public pickleball court)	1

County Specific	Athens (trail maintenance at Stroud's Run State Park)	1
County Specific	Athens (recognize Glouster for mining/heritage tourism)	1
County Specific	Belmont (hiking and ATV trails at Egypt Valley Wildlife Area)	1
County Specific	Clark (Better dining at CJ Brown reservoir marina)	1
County Specific	Clermont (upgrade trail markers at East Fork State Park)	1
County Specific	Clermont (disc golf course at East Fork State Park)	1
County Specific	Defiance (need potable water at Independence Dam)	1
County Specific	Defiance (water/bathrooms/internet at Independence Dam)	1
County Specific	Delaware (manage water flow in Olentangy River for watercraft)	1
County Specific	Delaware (public pickleball court)	1
County Specific	Delaware (remove kayak launch from Alum Creek SP Howard Boat Launch)	1
County Specific	Delaware (kayak/paddleboard rental at Alum Creek Howard Boat Launch)	1
County Specific	Franklin (improve/expand bike trails in Grove City)	1
County Specific	Franklin (need playground in Hilliard)	1
County Specific	Geauga (more parking for disc golf at Punderson State Park)	1
County Specific	Guernsey (water park at Salt Fork State Park)	1
County Specific	Guernsey (shooting range and ATV trails at Salt Fork State Park)	1
County Specific	Guernsey (improve shooting range at Salt Fork State Park)	1
County Specific	Guernsey (allow multiuse of equestrian trails at Salt Fork State Park)	1
County Specific	Hamilton (better access to rivers and public lands)	1

County Specific	Highland (upgrade restrooms at Rocky Fork Lake campground)	1
County Specific	Hocking (maintenance needed for Hocking Hills horse camp)	1
County Specific	Knox (park district appreciation)	1
County Specific	LaRue (better kayak access)	1
County Specific	Logan (expand trails/improve nature center at Indian Lake State Park	1
County Specific	Logan (lights too bright at Indian Lake for stargazing)	1
County Specific	Lorain (limit disc golf in Findley Woods)	1
County Specific	Lucas (Metroparks appreciation)	3
County Specific	Lucas (more outdoor swimming access in ponds)	1
County Specific	Lucas (more climbing structures)	1
County Specific	Madison (more mountain bike trails)	1
County Specific	Marion (better kayak access)	1
County Specific	Monroe (invest more in Monroe County facilities)	1
County Specific	Montgomery (more multiuse and bike trails near Centerville)	1
County Specific	Morgan (more off-road areas near Jesse Owens State Park)	1
County Specific	Morgan (update historic sites/amenities in Burr Oak State Park and Glouster)	1
County Specific	Morgan (water park in Jesse Owens State Park)	1
County Specific	Muskingum (update skeet range at Dillon State Park)	1
County Specific	Muskingum (update 146 boat ramp and docking area at Dillon Lake)	1
County Specific	Muskingum (restroom needed at Dillon Lake)	1
County Specific	Muskingum (trail maintenance/facility improvement at Dillon Lake State Park)	1
County Specific	Noble (improve trails and signage at Wolf Run Sate Park)	1
County Specific	Noble (invest in Noble County facilities)	1
County Specific	Noble (update Seneca Lake boat ramp)	1
County Specific	Noble (more bird trails and observation towers)	1
County Specific	Ottawa (more/improved fishing piers at Mazurek Fishing Access)	1

County Specific	Perry (allow user generated single use dirt bike trails in Perry State Forest)	1
County Specific	Pike (update pool/splash pad at Pike Lake)	1
County Specific	Ross (dirt bike/ATV only trails at Scioto Trail State Park)	1
County Specific	Scioto (need ATV trails)	1
County Specific	Scioto (bring back 18-hole golf)	1
County Specific	Scioto (more crushed gravel trails)	1
County Specific	Scioto (facilities need updating)	1
County Specific	Scioto (allow ATVs/motorcycles in Shawnee State Forest)	1
County Specific	Scioto (more opportunities in Scioto County)	1
County Specific	Scioto (more walking and biking paths)	1
County Specific	Summit (more trails/facilities/activities)	1
County Specific	Summit (more equestrian trails)	1
County Specific	Summit (allow equestrians on Summit portion of towpath)	1
County Specific	Trumbull (leave dam in Leavittsburg, Ohio)	1
County Specific	Tuscarawas (make towpath through Tuscarawas a priority)	1
County Specific	Union (more public hunting grounds)	1
County Specific	Vinton (need single track trails)	1

10.4 “Other” Outdoor Sports Activities Respondents Were Interested or Participated In

Activity	Total Responses
Motorized Biking	36
Horseback Riding	34
Mountain Biking	18
Biking	14
Hiking	13
Bicycle Pump Track	10
Disc Golf	10
Walking	10
Dog Walking	9
Ice Climbing	9
Ziplines	9

Cycling	8
Hunting	6
ATV/OHV	5
Bocce Ball	5
Bouldering	5
Cornhole	5
Creek Walking	5
Fishing	5
Rock Hounding	5
Dog Park	4
Horseshoes	4
Mini Golf	4
Mushroom Foraging	4
Picnicking	4
Playground	4
Rock Climbing	4
Roller Skating	4
Shuffleboard	4
Snowboarding	4
Yoga	4
Birding	3
Dispersed Camping	3
Equestrian Trails	3
Foraging	3
Ice Skating	3
Kayaking	3
Running	3
Scuba Diving	3
Axe Throwing	2
Backpacking	2
Badminton	2
Bikepacking	2
Cheerleading	2
Cross Country Skiing	2
E-Biking	2
Fossil Hunting	2
In-line Skating	2
Lap Swimming	2

Nature Center	2
Outdoor Seating	2
Paintball	2
Photography	2
Rowing	2
Sailing	2
Shooting Range	2
Shooting Sports	2
Skiing	2
Sledding	2
Stargazing	2
Swimming	2
Tag	2
Target Practice	2
Winter Activities	2
Adult Kickball League	1
Adult Leagues	1
Adventure Play	1
Aerobics	1
Arrowhead Hunting	1
Art	1
Astronomy	1
Backcountry Skiing	1
Ballooning	1
Band Camp	1
Bike Trails	1
Bird Hunting	1
BMX	1
Boat Camping	1
Bootcamp	1
Boxing	1
Bush crafting	1
Campfires	1
Camping	1
Canyoneering	1
Climb Trees	1
Croquet	1

Cross Country Horseback	
Riding	1
Curling	1
Dance	1
Deer Hunting	1
Diving	1
Dog Beach/Pool	1
Dog Sledding	1
Dog Training	1
Downhill Mountain Biking	1
Dual Sporting Events	1
Easy Off-Road Biking	1
Equestrian Camping	1
Equine Geocaching	1
Field Hockey	1
Frisbee	1
Frog Hunting	1
Gardening	1
Grilling	1
Guided Hikes	1
Hammocking	1
Historic Sites	1
Hopscotch	1
Ice Hockey	1
Indoor Climbing	1
Indoor Shooting Range	1
Invasive Plant Removal	1
Kickball	1
Kite Flying	1
Lacrosse	1
Lawn Games	1
Letterboxing	1
Litter Clean Up	1
Marching Band	1
Martial Arts	1
Metal Detecting	1
Motorized Site Seeing	1
Mountain Bike Skills Park	1

Nature Observation	1
Nature Photography	1
Nature Programs	1
Non-Motorized Days	1
Non-Motorized Scooters	1
Obstacle Course	1
Off Roding	1
One wheel Riding	1
Orienteering	1
Outdoor Drama	1
Overlanding	1
Paragliding	1
Partner Acrobatics	1
Paved Bike Trails	1
Race Cars	1
Radio Control Boating	1
Recce	1
Recumbent Tricycling	1
Remote Control Airplanes	1
Riding Scooter	1
Roller Skiting	1
Roller Blading	1
Roller Coasters	1
Rollerblading	1
Ropes Course	1
Scavenger Hunts	1
Seminars	1
Shell-Collecting	1
Shooting Ranges	1
Skateboarding	1
Skating	1
Snow Shoeing	1
Spike ball	1
Stand Up Paddle Boarding	1
Tetherball	1
Track	1
Trail Riding	1
Trail Running	1

Trail Skating	1
Trampoline	1
Trap Shooting	1
Triathlon	1
Ultimate Frisbee	1
Video Games	1
Volunteer Opportunities	1
Water Skiing	1
Whitewater Kayaking	1
Whitewater Park	1
Wine Tasting	1
Total	447

10.5 “Other” Ways Respondents Learned about the Survey

Information Source	Total Responses
Outdoor Organization	96
Instagram	57
Local Government	53
Facebook	47
State Agency	33
Outdoor Association	30
Employer	23
School	19
News Outlet	13
Local Parks	12
County Agency	8
Individual	7
Friend	6
Park District	6
Outdoor Group	5
Social Media	5
Teacher	5
AMA	4
App	3
Library	3
Regional Council	3
University Outreach	3
LinkedIn	2

Online	2
Twitter	2
Word of Mouth	2
Boat and RV Show	1
BTA	1
Educator Group	1
Email	1
Museum Webpage	1
Newsletter	1
Paper Flyer	1
Phone App	1
Professional Network	1
Radio	1
Recreation Store	1
State Website	1
Website	1
Total	462

10.6 “Other” Primary Reason Survey Respondents Were Interested but Did Not Participate in the Eight Major Outdoor Recreation Categories

Table 10.4: “Other” Primary reason survey respondents did not participate in Wildlife-based Activities on public lands during the surveyed period.

Reason	Total Responses
Not Interested	92
Prioritize Other Activities	20
Too Busy	19
Don't Hunt	11
No License/Permit	8
Lack of Maintenance	7
Overcrowding	7
Few Options	6
Prefer Other Areas	6
Prefer Private Property	6
Don't Enjoy	5
Don't Have Equipment	5

No Reason	5
Vegan/Vegetarian	5
Cost	4
Family	4
Safety	2
Unaware of Options	2
Unsure	2
Lack of Education/Skill	1
Lack of Wildlife	1
Mismatched Target Audience	1
No Barriers	1
Weather	1
Total	221

Table 10.5: “Other” Primary reason survey respondents did not participate in Camping Activities on public lands during the surveyed period.

Reason	Total Responses
Not Interested	41
Lack of Availability	22
Overcrowding	21
Children Too Young	17
Prefer Primitive Site	12
Prefer RV/Camper	12
Cost	10
Too Busy	10
Too Old	10
Camp on Private Property	9
Lack of Amenities	7
Lack of Equipment	7
Prioritize Other Activities	7
Camp Out-of-State	6
Lack of Equestrian Amenities	6
Spouse Not Interested	6
Prefer Established Shelter	5
Prefer Tent Camping	5
Lack of Pet Friendly Options	4
Lack of Equestrian Sites	3
Lack of Skills	3

Don't Sleep Well When Camping	2
Inadequate Restroom Facilities	2
Lack of Information	2
Safety	2
Weather	2
ADA Accessibility	1
ATV Interactions	1
COVID	1
Did not have Opportunity	1
Difficulty with Website	1
Don't Want to Purchase Equipment	1
Health Issues	1
Interactions with E-bikes	1
Lack of Access	1
Lack of Access to Hiking	1
Lack of Access to Mountain Bike	
Trails	1
Lack of Camping Options	1
Live in Woods	1
No Specific Reason	1
Not Enough Resources of Off-Road	
Vehicles	1
Only Camp for Specific Events	1
Prefer Camping with Large Groups	1
Prefer Equestrian Camping	1
Reservation System	1
Unable to Camp	1
Unsure	1
Wildlife Interactions	1
Total	255

Table 10.6: “Other” Primary reason survey respondents did not participate in Trail Activities on public lands during the surveyed period.

Reason	Total Responses
Not Interested	64
Prioritize Other Activities	15
Too Busy	13
Lack of Equipment	10
Lack of Motor Vehicle Trails	9
Safety	9
Overcrowding	7
Age	5
Lack of Maintenance	5
Children too Young	4
Distance to Trails	4
Closed Trail	3
Health Issues	3
Unsure	3
Use Private Lands	3
Weather	3
Lack of Accessibility	3
COVID	2
Lack of Information	2
Lack of Interconnected Trails	2
Lack of Amenities	2
ATV Interactions	1
Cost	1
E bike interactions	1
Family Disability	1
Inaccessible due to Maintenance	1
Lack of Challenging Trails	1
Lack of Pet Access	1
Lack of Trail Types	1
Lack of Unpaved Trails	1
Lack of Vehicle Camping Sites	1
Lack of Women on Trails	1
Limited Bike Lanes	1
Limited Distance Trails	1
Limited Park Hours	1

Motor Vehicle Interactions	1
Prefer Biking	1
Prefer Other Areas	1
Prefer Single Use Trails	1
Too Noisy	1
Trails too Strenuous	1
Unable to Transport Equipment	1
Lack of Equestrian Trails	1
Lack of Primitive Camping	1
Total	194

Table 10.7: “Other” Primary reason survey respondents did not participate in Water Activities on public waters during the surveyed period.

Reason	Total Responses
Not Interested	59
Water Quality	23
Cost	9
Prioritize Other Activities	9
Lack of Access	8
Overcrowding	8
Children Too Young	6
Lack of Equipment	6
Prefer Pool	5
Safety	4
Weather	4
Not Adult Friendly	3
Participate Out-of-State	3
Prefer Indoor Water Activities	3
Area Closed	2
Haven't Tried it Yet	2
Too Busy	2
Age	1
Animal Interactions	1
Children Too Old	1
COVID	1
Lack of Boat Launch	1
Lack of Boat Registration	1
Lack of Classes	1

Lack of Hours	1
Lack of Maintenance	1
Lack of Pet Friendly Access	1
No One to Go With	1
Only Interested if in Group	1
Prefer Natural Area	1
Unsure	1
Total	170

Table 10.8: “Other” Primary reason survey respondents did not participate in Outdoor Sports Activities on public lands during the surveyed period.

Reason	Total Responses
Not Interested	97
Age	15
Prioritize Other Activities	10
Too Busy	7
Lack of Access to Climbing	6
Participate with other Organizations	5
Use Private Property	5
Lack of Facilities	3
Lack of Maintenance	3
Cost	2
Lack of Knowledge	2
Overcrowding	2
Children Too Young	1
Distance to Activities	1
Ease of Access	1
Forget it as an Option	1
Haven't Tried It	1
Health	1
Just Starting	1
Lack of Access to Disc Golf	1
Lack of Access to Facilities	1
Lack of Access to Land	1
Lack of Activities	1
Lack of Adult Leagues	1
Lack of Equipment	1
Lack of Golf Facilities	1
Lack of Hours	1
Lack of Land	1
Lack of Offerings	1
Lack of Skills	1
Lack of Snow	1

Lack of Swimming	1
Lack of Trails	1
Participate Out of State	1
Prefer to Watch	1
Too Much Planning	1
Weather	1
Total	182

Table 10.9: “Other” Primary reason survey respondents did not participate in Winter Activities on public lands during the surveyed period.

Reason	Total Responses
Lack of Necessary Weather Conditions	94
Not Interested	30
Dislike Cold	23
Lack of Access	7
Use Private Lands	7
Prioritize Other Activities	6
Age	4
Lack of Program Offering	4
Too Busy	4
Weather	4
Lack of Information	3
Safety	3
Children Too Young	2
Cost	2
Lack of Skill	2
Activities are too Strenuous	1
Driving In Snow	1
Forget it as Option	1
Haven't Tried it Before	1
Lack of Equipment	1
Lack of Management	1
Land Closures	1
No Specific Reason	1
Overcrowding	1
Participate Out-of-State	1
Spouse Uninterested	1
Total	206

Table 10.10: “Other” Primary reason survey respondents did not participate in Other Outdoor Recreation Activities on public lands during the surveyed period.

Reason	Total Responses
Not Interested	40
Lack of Program Offerings	7
Prioritize Other Activities	6
Too Busy	6
Participate at Home	5
Weather	4
Doesn't Own Dog	3
Lack of Information	3
Overcrowding	3
Banned Activities	2
Cost	2
Health Issues	2
Lack of Access	2
Light Pollution	2
Unsure	2
Age	1
ATV Interactions	1
Children Too Yong	1
COVID	1
Didn't Consider Options	1
Lack of Maintenance	1
Lack of Needed Weather Conditions	1
Large Groups Using Facilities	1
Reduce Hours	1
Safety	1
Spouse Unable to Participate	1
Unable to with Dog	1
Unsure of Options	1
Wrong Timing	1
Total	103

10.7 Submissions by County

Survey submissions were distributed across the state with Scioto (659), Franklin (493) and Cuyahoga (322) having the highest total number of survey submissions.

Table 10.11: Number of survey submissions by county

County	Survey Submissions
Adams	150
Allen	27
Ashland	48
Ashtabula	24
Athens	135
Auglaize	17
Belmont	35
Brown	25
Butler	77
Carroll	16
Champaign	17
Clark	75
Clermont	84
Clinton	20
Columbiana	19
Coshocton	12
Crawford	14
Cuyahoga	322
Darke	27
Defiance	94
Delaware	195
Erie	48
Fairfield	87
Fayette	14
Franklin	493
Fulton	17
Gallia	10
Geauga	44
Greene	97
Guernsey	31

Hamilton	179
Hancock	28
Hardin	7
Harrison	15
Henry	16
Highland	30
Hocking	29
Holmes	13
Huron	25
Jackson	15
Jefferson	44
Knox	69
Lake	73
Lawrence	16
Licking	125
Logan	21
Lorain	89
Lucas	157
Madison	105
Mahoning	46
Marion	16
Medina	86
Meigs	18
Mercer	10
Miami	82
Monroe	9
Montgomery	160
Morgan	14
Morrow	20
Muskingum	67
Noble	22
Ottawa	41
Paulding	6
Perry	33
Pickaway	37
Pike	35
Portage	91
Preble	10

Putnam	13
Richland	72
Ross	70
Sandusky	23
Scioto	659
Seneca	13
Shelby	18
Stark	128
Summit	330
Trumbull	64
Tuscarawas	54
Union	70
Van Wert	5
Vinton	29
Warren	81
Washington	45
Wayne	41
Williams	10
Wood	85
Wyandot	5

10.8 Interest and Participation Totals for each Activity

Table 10.12: Interest and participation totals for each activity.

Category	Activity	Interested	Participated	Total
Boating	Canoeing/Kayaking in a stream, river or following a water trail	1,510	1,950	3,460
Boating	Canoeing/Kayaking in a lake or pond	1,508	2,003	3,511
Boating	Canoeing/Kayaking on Lake Erie	1,822	362	2,184
Boating	Canoeing/Kayaking utilizing ADA-accessible launch area	1,081	400	1,481
Boating	Sailing	1,243	134	1,377
Boating	Pontoon boating	1,620	775	2,395
Boating	Powerboating or waterskiing	1,297	593	1,890
Boating	Jet skiing	1,477	254	1,731
Boating	Paddleboarding/Stand-up paddleboarding	1,595	590	2,185
Camping	Camping in the backcountry, accessed by hiking, backpacking, cycling or paddling	2,091	1,635	3,726
Camping	Camping in a tent or pop-up camper in an undeveloped or primitive campground	1,872	1,609	3,481
Camping	Camping in a tent or pop-up camper in a developed campground	1,777	1,768	3,545
Camping	Camping in a RV in a developed campground	1,751	1,135	2,886
Camping	Camping in a yurt, pre-set up tent or similar structure	2,570	258	2,828
Camping	Group camping or camping as part of an event	1,916	1,097	3,013
Camping	Equestrian camping	955	243	1,198
Camping	Camping in a designated boat camping area	1,527	231	1,758
Camping	Camping in an ADA accessible site	1,000	182	1,182
Other	Picnicking – no shelter	833	2,095	2,928
Other	Picnicking - shelter	880	2,090	2,970
Other	Playground	319	1,648	1,967
Other	Kite flying	1,071	492	1,563
Other	Scenic driving	323	2,750	3,073
Other	Touring historic/heritage sites, farms	923	2,301	3,224
Other	Dog park	717	855	1,572
Other	Outdoor festival/ Concert/Play	1,060	2,027	3,087

Other	Outdoor movie	1,683	551	2,234
Other	Night sky viewing	1,374	1,724	3,098
Other	Horseshoes/ Bocce/Bag toss	1,046	666	1,712
Other	Outdoor adult fitness area with equipment	1,252	336	1,588
Other	Technology-driven recreation (smart phone game	567	276	843
Other	Yoga/Tai Chi/Outdoor meditation	1,317	420	1,737
Sport	Soccer	631	451	1,082
Sport	Baseball/Softball	786	417	1,203
Sport	Basketball	686	523	1,209
Sport	Tennis	890	334	1,224
Sport	Pickleball	1,260	340	1,600
Sport	Volleyball	934	355	1,289
Sport	Lacrosse/Rugby	411	51	462
Sport	Football	549	284	833
Sport	Golf (9- or 18-hole	756	741	1,497
Sport	Golf – Driving range	845	664	1,509
Sport	Disc Golf/ Ultimate Frisbee	1,034	659	1,693
Sport	Archery	1,482	508	1,990
Sport	Target/Skeet Shooting Sports	1,291	453	1,744
Sport	Climbing/Rappelling on constructed outdoor wall or facility	1,448	344	1,792
Sport	Skate Park/ Skateboarding	553	201	754
Sport	Geocaching/Orienteering	1,246	388	1,634
Sport	Outdoor rock climbing/ Rappelling or Bouldering on natural surfaces	1,281	339	1,620
Sport	Tree climbing	942	321	1,263
Sport	Other, please specify	288	429	717
Trail	Hiking/Walking on a natural surface trail	322	4,224	4,546
Trail	Hiking/Walking on a finely crushed stone trail	638	3,750	4,388
Trail	Walking on a paved trail	474	3,846	4,320
Trail	Storybook trails	1,487	1,363	2,850
Trail	Backpacking on a natural surface trail	1,794	1,334	3,128
Trail	Bicycling on a paved trail	1,224	2,362	3,586
Trail	Bicycling on a finely crushed stone trail	1,444	1,523	2,967
Trail	Bicycling on a trail for transportation	1,460	1,041	2,501

Trail	Mountain biking on a trail	1,287	862	2,149
Trail	Trail jogging/Running on a paved trail	806	1,179	1,985
Trail	Trail jogging/Running on a finely crushed stone trail	920	957	1,877
Trail	Trail jogging/Running on a natural surface trail	918	1,028	1,946
Trail	Horseback riding on a trail	1,400	368	1,768
Trail	Fitness trail with exercise/equipment stations	1,480	559	2,039
Trail	ATV/UTV riding	1,276	525	1,801
Trail	Dirt bike/Off-road motorcycle riding on a trail	845	354	1,199
Trail	Mobility device/wheelchair on trail	447	87	534
Water	Swimming in a lake, pond, river	889	2,263	3,152
Water	Swimming in an outdoor pool	927	2,536	3,463
Water	Swimming in an outdoor pool complex with lazy river, wave pool or similar features	1,867	1,104	2,971
Water	Splash pad/Spray Park	1,001	981	1,982
Wildlife	Birdwatching	1,124	2,667	3,791
Wildlife	Wildlife viewing	902	4,056	4,958
Wildlife	Nature photography	1,250	3,063	4,313
Wildlife	Hunting	1,025	1,320	2,345
Wildlife	Trapping	886	234	1,120
Wildlife	Fishing from the shore	1,276	2,560	3,836
Wildlife	Fishing from a motorized boat	1,919	1,377	3,296
Wildlife	Fishing from a nonmotorized boat/kayak	1,985	1,137	3,122
Wildlife	Fishing from a pier or ADA accessible site	1,871	1,249	3,120
Winter	Snowshoeing	1,244	230	1,474
Winter	Sledding/Tubing	1,460	1,057	2,517
Winter	Cross-country skiing	1,264	230	1,494
Winter	Downhill skiing	1,044	316	1,360
Winter	Ice skating	1353	424	1,777
Winter	Snowboarding	917	172	1,089
Winter	Snowmobiling	1,210	61	1,271
Winter	Ice fishing	892	177	1,069
Winter	Winter camping	1,048	353	1,401
Winter	Winter festival	1,563	583	2,146
Winter	Winter Hunting	488	583	1,071

10.9 Survey Instrument

2023 SCORP ODNR Survey

Ohio Resident Outdoor Recreation Survey Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2023 From Lake Erie to the Ohio River, Ohio offers a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities in local, state and national parks, recreation areas and preserves. Outdoor recreation involves many activities, including walking, fishing, boating, cycling and playing sports. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources is asking your opinion on improvements to sustain and develop outdoor recreation experiences and opportunities. As you complete this survey, respond to the questions keeping the following in mind: Respond for yourself and all members of your household. By HOUSEHOLD, we mean all of the adults and children who permanently lived in your residence in the year of 2021 to 2022. Period of outdoor recreation participation: September 1, 2021, through August 31, 2022. Respond for outdoor recreation only on public lands in Ohio, including local, community, state and national parks and recreation areas, state wildlife areas, state and national forest areas and state nature preserves. Do not include activities or time spent on your personal property, school district properties or on land held by non-public entities, such as non-profit organizations, clubs and commercial recreation entities, or for activities outside of Ohio. Please answer each question completely. All responses are confidential. This survey is estimated to take 15 minutes to complete.

SECTION 1: DEMOGRAPHICS

Q1) Which Ohio county do you live in?

Q2) What is your zip code where you live?

Q3) How many adults (age 18 or older) live in your household, including yourself?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- >4

Q4) How many children (age 17 or younger) live in your household?

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- >4

Q5) What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary gender
- Prefer not to answer

Q6) What is your age?

- 18 to 24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75 or older

Q7) Is English the primary language in your household?

- Yes
- No, please specify _____

Q8) What is your race?

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander White
- Two or more races
- Other race
- Prefer not to answer

Q9) What is your household income level?

- under \$10,000
- \$10,000 to \$14,999
- \$15,000 to \$24,999
- \$25,000 to \$34,999
- \$35,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$74,999
- \$75,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000 to \$149,999
- \$150,000 to \$199,999
- \$200,000 or more
- Prefer not to answer

SECTION 2: PARTICIPATION

As a reminder, as you complete the survey, respond to the questions keeping the following parameters in mind: Respond for yourself and all members of your household. By HOUSEHOLD, we mean all of the adults and children who permanently lived in your residence between 2021 to 2022. Period of outdoor recreation participation: September 1, 2021, through August 31, 2022. Respond for outdoor recreation only on public lands in Ohio, including local, community, state and national parks and recreation areas, state wildlife areas, state and national forest areas and state nature preserves. Do not include activities or time spent on your personal property, school district properties or on land held by non-public entities, such as non-profit organizations, clubs and commercial recreation entities, or for activities outside of Ohio. Please answer each question completely. All responses are confidential.

WILDLIFE-BASED ACTIVITIES

Q10) Between 2021-2022, how often did you or anyone in your household participate in the following **WILDLIFE-BASED** outdoor recreational activities?

WILDLIFE-BASED...	One or more times a week (50 or more times/year)	Once or twice a month (12 to 49 times/year)	A few times during the year (1 to 11 times/year)	Interested but did not participate	Not interested in this activity
Birdwatching	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wildlife Viewing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nature Photography	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hunting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trapping	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fishing: from the shore	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fishing: from a motorized boat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fishing: from a non-motorized boat (i.e., kayak/canoe/etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fishing: from a pier or ADA accessible site	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q10a) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Birdwatching WILDLIFE-BASED** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q10a2) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Wildlife Viewing WILDLIFE-BASED** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q10a3) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Nature Photography WILDLIFE-BASED** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q10a4) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Hunting WILDLIFE-BASED** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q10a5) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Trapping WILDLIFE-BASED** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q10a6) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Fishing: from the shore WILDLIFE-BASED** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q10a7) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Fishing: from a motorized boat WILDLIFE-BASED** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q10a8) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Fishing: form a non-motorized boat (i.e., kayak/canoe/etc.) WILDLIFE-BASED** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q10a9) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Fishing: from a pier or ADA accessible site** **WILDLIFE-BASED** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q10b) Please think about the activity category Wildlife-Based activities. Of the activity or activities that you were interested in, but did not participate, what was the **ONE** primary reason why you did not participate?

- No facilities available
- Facilities too far away
- Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe
- The activity or the equipment is too costly
- Do not have information on where facilities are offered
- Do not have the skills
- Health issues
- No one to go with
- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities
- Do not own or have access to equipment
- Facilities are not ADA accessible
- Safety concerns
- Other

Q10b2.) If you selected “other”, please identify the primary reason you were interested in these activities but did not participate in? Please use the text box below to record your answer.

CAMPING ACTIVITIES

Q11) Between 2021-2022, how often did you or anyone in your household participate in the following **CAMPING** activities?

CAMPING...	One or more times a week (50 or more times/year)	Once or twice a month (12 to 49 times/year)	A few times during the year (1 to 11 times/year)	Interested but did not participate	Not interested in this activity
In the back country, accessed by hiking, backpacking, cycling, or paddling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In a tent or pop-up camper in an undeveloped or primitive campground	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In a tent or pop-up camper in a developed campground	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In a RV in a developed campground	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In a yurt, pre-set up tent or similar structure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Group camping or camping as part of an event	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Equestrian camping	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Camping in a designated boat camping area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Camping in an ADA accessible site	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q11a) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **In the back country, accessed by hiking, backpacking, cycling, or paddling CAMPING** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q11a2) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **In a tent or pop-up camper in an undeveloped or primitive campground CAMPING** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q11a3) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **In a tent or pop-up camper in a developed campground CAMPING** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q11a5) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **In a yurt, pre-set up tent or similar structure** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q11a6) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Group camping or camping as part of an event** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q11a7) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Equestrian camping** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q11a8) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Camping in a designated boat camping area** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q11a9) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Camping in an ADA accessible site** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q11b) Please think about the activity category Camping. Of the activity or activities that you were interested in, but did not participate, what was the **ONE** primary reason why you did not participate?

- No facilities available
- Facilities too far away
- Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe
- The activity or the equipment is too costly
- Do not have information on where facilities are offered
- Do not have the skills
- Health issues
- No one to go with
- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities
- Do not own or have access to equipment
- Facilities are not ADA accessible
- Safety concerns
- Other

Q11b2.) If you selected “other”, please identify the primary reason you were interested in these activities but did not participate. Please use the text box below to record your answer.

TRAIL ACTIVITIES

Q12) Between 2021-2022, how often did you or anyone in your household participate in the following **TRAIL** activities?

Trail...	One or more times a week (50 or more times/year)	Once or twice a month (12 to 49 times/year)	A few times during the year (1 to 11 times/year)	Interested but did not participate	Not interested in this activity
Hiking/walking on a natural surface trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hiking/walking on a finely crushed stone trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walking on a paved trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In a RV in a developed campground	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Storybook trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Backpacking on a natural surface trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bicycling on a paved trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bicycling on a finely crushed stone trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bicycling on a trail for transportation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mountain biking on a trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trail jogging/running on a paved trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trail jogging/running on a finely crushed stone trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trail jogging/running on a natural surface trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Horseback riding on a trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Fitness trail with exercise/equipment stations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ATV/UTV riding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dirt bike/off-road motorcycle trail riding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mobility device/wheelchair on trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q12a) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Hiking/walking on a natural surface trail** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q12a2) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Hiking/walking on a finely crushed stone trail** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q12a3) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Walking on a paved trail** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q12a4) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **In a RV in a developed campground** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q12a5) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Storybook trails** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q12a6) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Backpacking on a natural surface trail** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q12a7) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Bicycling on a paved trail** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q12a8) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Bicycling on a finely crushed stone trail** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q12a9) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Bicycling on a trail for transportation** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q12a10) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Mountain biking on a trail** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q12a11) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Trail jogging/running on a paved trail** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q12a12) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Trail jogging/running on a finely crushed stone trail** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q12a13) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Trail jogging/running on a natural surface trail** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q12a14) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Horseback riding on a trail** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q12a15) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Fitness trail with exercise/equipment stations** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q12a16) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **ATV/UTV riding** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q12a17) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Dirt bike/off-road motorcycle trail riding** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q12a18) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Mobility device/wheelchair on trail** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q12b) Please think about the activity category Trail Activities. Of the activity or activities that you were interested in, but did not participate, what was the **ONE** primary reason why you did not participate?

- No facilities available
- Facilities too far away
- Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe
- The activity or the equipment is too costly
- Do not have information on where facilities are offered
- Do not have the skills
- Health issues
- No one to go with
- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities
- Do not own or have access to equipment
- Facilities are not ADA accessible
- Safety concerns
- Other

Q12b2.) If you selected “other”, please identify the primary reason you were interested in these activities but did not participate in? Please use the text box below to record your answer.

BOATING ACTIVITIES

Q13) Between 2021-2022, how often did you or anyone in your household participate in the following **BOATING** activities?

BOATING...	One or more times a week (50 or more times/year)	Once or twice a month (12 to 49 times/year)	A few times during the year (1 to 11 times/year)	Interested but did not participate	Not interested in this activity
Canoeing/kayaking in a stream, river, or following a water trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Canoeing/kayaking in a lake or pond	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Canoeing/kayaking on Lake Erie	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Canoeing/kayaking utilizing ADA accessible launch area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sailing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pontoon boating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Powerboating or waterskiing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jet skiing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paddleboarding/Stand-up paddle boarding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q13a) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Canoeing/kayaking in a stream, river, or following a water trail** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q13a2) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Canoeing/kayaking in a lake or pond** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q13a3) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Canoeing/kayaking on Lake Erie** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q13a4) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Canoeing/kayaking utilizing ADA accessible launch area** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q13a5) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Sailing** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q13a6) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Pontoon boating** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q13a7) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Powerboating or waterskiing** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q13a8) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Jet skiing** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q13a9) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Paddleboarding/Stand-up paddle boarding** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q13b) Please think about the activity category Boating. Of the activity or activities that you were interested in, but did not participate, what was the **ONE** primary reason why you did not participate?

- No facilities available
- Facilities too far away
- Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe
- The activity or the equipment is too costly
- Do not have information on where facilities are offered
- Do not have the skills
- Health issues
- No one to go with
- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities
- Do not own or have access to equipment
- Facilities are not ADA accessible
- Safety concerns
- Other

Q13b2.) If you selected “other”, please identify the primary reason you were interested in these activities but did not participate in? Please use the text box below to record your answer.

WATER ACTIVITIES

Q14) Between 2021-2022, how often did you or anyone in your household participate in the following **WATER** activities?

WATER...	One or more times a week (50 or more times/year)	Once or twice a month (12 to 49 times/year)	A few times during the year (1 to 11 times/year)	Interested but did not participate	Not interested in this activity
Swimming in a lake, pond, or river	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swimming in an outdoor pool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swimming in an outdoor pool complex with lazy river, wave pool or similar features	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Splash pad/spray park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q14a) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Swimming in a lake, pond, or river** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q14a2) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Swimming in an outdoor pool** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q14a3) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Swimming in an outdoor pool complex with lazy river, wave pool or similar features** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q14a4) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Splash pad/spray park** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q14b) Please think about the activity category Water Activities. Of the activity or activities that you were interested in, but did not participate, what was the **ONE** primary reason why you did not participate?

- No facilities available
- Facilities too far away
- Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe
- The activity or the equipment is too costly
- Do not have information on where facilities are offered
- Do not have the skills
- Health issues
- No one to go with
- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities
- Do not own or have access to equipment
- Facilities are not ADA accessible
- Safety concerns
- Other

Q14b2.) If you selected “other”, please identify the primary reason you were interested in these activities but did not participate. Please use the text box below to record your answer.

OUTDOOR SPORT ACTIVITIES

Q15) Between 2021-2022, how often did you or anyone in your household participate in the following **OUTDOOR SPORT** activities on public lands in Ohio? Remember, do NOT include participation on your personal property, school district properties or on land held by non-public entities, such as non-profit organizations, clubs and commercial recreation entities.

OUTDOOR SPORT...	One or more times a week (50 or more times/year)	Once or twice a month (12 to 49 times/year)	A few times during the year (1 to 11 times/year)	Interested but did not participate	Not interested in this activity
Soccer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Baseball/softball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Basketball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tennis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pickleball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Volleyball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lacrosse/rugby	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Football	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Golf – 9 or 18 holes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Golf – driving range	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disc golf/ultimate frisbee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Archery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Target/skeet/shooting sports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climbing/repelling on constructed outdoor wall/facility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Skate park/skateboarding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Geocaching/orienteering	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor rock climbing/rappelling/bouldering on natural surfaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tree climbing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other, please specify	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q15a) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Soccer** **OUTDOOR SPORT** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q15a2) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Baseball/softball** **OUTDOOR SPORT** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q15a3) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Basketball** **OUTDOOR SPORT** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q15a4) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Tennis** **OUTDOOR SPORT** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q15a5) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Pickleball** **OUTDOOR SPORT** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q15a6) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Volleyball** **OUTDOOR SPORT** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q15a7) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Lacrosse/rugby** **OUTDOOR SPORT** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q15a8) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Football** **OUTDOOR SPORT** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q15a9) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Golf – 9 or 18 holes** **OUTDOOR SPORT** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q15a10) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Golf – driving range** **OUTDOOR SPORT** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q15a11) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Disc golf/ultimate frisbee** **OUTDOOR SPORT** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q15a12) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Archery** **OUTDOOR SPORT** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q15a13) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Target/skeet/shooting sports** **OUTDOOR SPORT** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q15a12) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Climbing/repelling on constructed outdoor wall/facility** **OUTDOOR SPORT** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q15a13) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Skate park/skateboarding** **OUTDOOR SPORT** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q15a14) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Geocaching/orienteering** **OUTDOOR SPORT** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q15a15) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Outdoor rock climbing/rappelling/bouldering on natural surfaces OUTDOOR SPORT** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q15a16) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Tree Climbing OUTDOOR SPORT** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q15a17) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Other OUTDOOR SPORT** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q15b) Please think about the activity category Outdoor Sports. Of the activity or activities that you were interested in, but did not participate, what was the **ONE** primary reason why you did not participate?

- No facilities available
- Facilities too far away
- Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe
- The activity or the equipment is too costly
- Do not have information on where facilities are offered
- Do not have the skills
- Health issues
- No one to go with
- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities
- Do not own or have access to equipment
- Facilities are not ADA accessible
- Safety concerns
- Other

Q15b2.) If you selected “other”, please identify the primary reason you were interested in these activities but did not participate in? Please use the text box below to record your answer.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

Q16) Between 2021-2022, how often did you or anyone in your household participate in the following **WINTER** activities on public lands in Ohio?

WINTER...	One or more times a week (50 or more times/year)	Once or twice a month (12 to 49 times/year)	A few times during the year (1 to 11 times/year)	Interested but did not participate	Not interested in this activity
Snowshoeing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sledding/tubing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cross-country skiing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Downhill skiing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ice skating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Snowboarding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Snowmobiling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ice fishing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Winter camping	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Winter festival	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Winter Hunting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q16a) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Snowshoeing WINTER** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q16a2) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Sledding/tubing WINTER** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q16a3) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Cross-country skiing WINTER** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q16a4) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Downhill skiing WINTER** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q16a5) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Ice skating WINTER** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q16a6) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Snowboarding WINTER** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q16a7) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Snowmobiling WINTER** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q16a8) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Ice fishing WINTER** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q16a9) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Winter camping WINTER** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q16a10) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Winter festival WINTER** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q16a11) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Winter hunting WINTER** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q16b) Please think about the activity category other Winter Activities. Of the activity or activities that you were interested in, but did not participate, what was the **ONE** primary reason why you did not participate?

- No facilities available
- Facilities too far away
- Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe
- The activity or the equipment is too costly
- Do not have information on where facilities are offered
- Do not have the skills
- Health issues
- No one to go with
- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities
- Do not own or have access to equipment
- Facilities are not ADA accessible
- Safety concerns
- Other

Q16b2.) If you selected “other”, please identify the primary reason you were interested in these activities but did not participate. Please use the text box below to record your answer.

OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Q17) Between 2021-2022 how often did you or anyone in your household participate in the following **OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION** activities on public lands in Ohio?

OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION ...	One or more times a week (50 or more times/year)	Once or twice a month (12 to 49 times/year)	A few times during the year (1 to 11 times/year)	Interested but did not participate	Not interested in this activity
Picnicking – no shelter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Picnicking - shelter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Playground	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kite flying	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scenic driving	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Touring historic/heritage sites, farms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor festival/concert/play	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor movie	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Night sky viewing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Horseshoes/bocce/bag toss	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor adult fitness area with equipment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Technology-driven recreation (smart phone game)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Yoga/Tai Chi/outdoor meditation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q17a) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Picnicking-no shelter OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q17a2) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in **Picnicking-shelter OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q17a3) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in Playground **OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q17a4) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in Kite flying **OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q17a5) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in Scenic driving **OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q17a6) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in Touring historic/heritage sites, farms **OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q17a7) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in Dog park **OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q17a8) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in Outdoor festival/concert/play **OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q17a9) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in Outdoor movie **OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q17a10) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in Night sky viewing **OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q17a11) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in Horseshoes/bocce/bag toss **OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q17a12) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in Horseshoes/bocce/bag toss **OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q17a13) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in Outdoor adult fitness area with equipment **OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q17a12) Please indicate your primary reason for participating in Technology-driven recreation (smart phone game) **OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION** activity.

Fun/ Entertainment	Health/ Wellness/Fitness	Share time with family and/or friends	Experience nature/quiet time/serenity	Organized Event
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Q17b) Please think about the activity category Other Outdoor Recreation. Of the activity or activities that you were interested in, but did not participate, what was the **ONE** primary reason why you did not participate?

- No facilities available
- Facilities too far away
- Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe
- The activity or the equipment is too costly
- Do not have information on where facilities are offered
- Do not have the skills
- Health issues
- No one to go with
- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities
- Do not own or have access to equipment
- Facilities are not ADA accessible
- Safety concerns
- Other

Q17b2.) If you selected “other”, please identify the primary reason you were interested in these activities but did not participate in? Please use the text box below to record your answer.

Q18) Between 2021- 2022 were their other outdoor recreation activities you or anyone in your household participated in on public lands in Ohio? If so, please list them below.

SECTION 3: OUTDOOR RECREATION AREA AND FACILITY NEEDS

Q19) How do you feel about the following outdoor recreational areas and facilities near where you live, regarding **WILDLIFE-BASED** activities?

	Need More	Need updated or rehabilitated	Adequate/ need is met	Not interested/ don't know
Wildlife viewing/birding areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hunting areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fishing areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q20) How do you feel about the following outdoor recreational areas and facilities near where you live, regarding **CAMPING** activities?

	Need More	Need updated or rehabilitated	Adequate/ need is met	Not interested/ don't know
Primitive undeveloped campgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Developed campgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Group camping areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Equestrian camping areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Designated boat camping areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q21) How do you feel about the following outdoor recreational areas and facilities near where you live, regarding **TRAIL** activities?

	Need More	Need updated or rehabilitated	Adequate/ need is met	Not interested/ don't know
Natural surface trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Finely crushed stone trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paved, multi-use trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Storybook trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mountain biking trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Equestrian trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ATV/UTV trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dirt bike/off-road motorcycle riding trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q22) How do you feel about the following outdoor recreational areas and facilities near where you live, regarding **BOATING** activities?

	Need More	Need updated or rehabilitated	Adequate/ need is met	Not interested/ don't know
Canoeing/kayaking access, facilities, water trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sailing facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Motorized boating facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q23) How do you feel about the following outdoor recreational areas and facilities near where you live, regarding **SWIMMING** activities?

	Need More	Need updated or rehabilitated	Adequate/ need is met	Not interested/ don't know
Outdoor pools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor pool complex with lazy river, wave pool, other attractions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Splash pad/spray park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q24) How do you feel about the following outdoor recreational areas and facilities near where you live, regarding **SPORTS** activities?

	Need More	Need updated or rehabilitated	Adequate/ need is met	Not interested/ don't know
Baseball/softball fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Basketball courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Soccer fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tennis courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pickleball courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Volleyball courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lacrosse/rugby fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Football fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Golf – (9 hole or 18 hole) courses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Golf – driving range	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disc golf/ultimate frisbee courses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Archery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Target/skeet/shooting areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climbing/Rappelling walls	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Skate park/skateboarding areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q25) How do you feel about the following outdoor recreational areas and facilities near where you live, regarding OTHER OUTDOOR activities?

	Need More	Need updated or rehabilitated	Adequate/ need is met	Not interested/ don't know
Picnic shelters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scenic drives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historic/heritage sites	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor adult fitness areas with equipment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q26) How do you feel about the following outdoor recreational areas and facilities near where you live, regarding **WINTER** activities?

	Need More	Need updated or rehabilitated	Adequate/ need is met	Not interested/ don't know
Sledding/tubing areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cross-country skiing areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Downhill skiing areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ice skating areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ice fishing areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Snowshoeing areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Snowboarding areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Snowmobile trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Winter camping areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Winter camping/festival areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Winter hunting areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

27) Of the facilities you checked as '**Need more**,' please prioritize your top 5. Click and drag responses to rank in order.

- Wildlife viewing/birding areas
- Hunting areas
- Fishing areas
- Primitive, undeveloped campgrounds
- Developed campgrounds
- Group camping areas
- Equestrian camping areas
- Designated boat camping areas
- Natural surface trails
- Finely crushed stone trails
- Paved, multi-use trails
- Storybook trails
- Mountain biking trails
- Skate Park/Skateboarding areas
- Equestrian trails
- ATV/UTV trails
- Dirt bike/off-road motorcycle riding trail
- Canoeing/Kayaking access, facilities, water trails
- Sailing facilities
- Motorized boating facilities
- Outdoor pools
- Outdoor pool complex with lazy river, wave pool, and other attractions
- Splash pads/Spray parks
- Baseball/Softball fields
- Basketball courts
- Tennis courts
- Pickleball courts
- Volleyball courts
- Lacrosse/Rugby fields
- Football fields
- Soccer fields
- Golf (9-hole or 18-hole) courses

- Driving ranges
- Disc Golf/Ultimate Frisbee courses
- Archery
- Target/Skeet/Shooting areas
- Climbing/Rappelling wall
- Cross-country skiing areas
- Downhill skiing areas
- Sledding/tubing
- Snowboarding areas
- Snowmobiling trails
- Winter Camping
- Picnic shelters
- Playgrounds other similar
- Scenic drives
- Historic/Heritage sites
- Dog parks
- Outdoor adult fitness areas with equipment

28) Of the facilities you checked as '**Adequate/need updated or rehabilitated,**' please prioritize your top

5. Click and drag responses to rank in order.

- Wildlife viewing/birding areas
- Hunting areas
- Fishing areas
- Primitive, undeveloped campgrounds
- Developed campgrounds
- Group camping areas
- Equestrian camping areas
- Designated boat camping areas
- Natural surface trails
- Finely crushed stone trails
- Paved, multi-use trails
- Storybook trails
- Mountain biking trails
- Skate Park/Skateboarding areas
- Equestrian trails
- ATV/UTV trails
- Dirt bike/off-road motorcycle riding trail
- Canoeing/Kayaking access, facilities, water trails
- Sailing facilities
- Motorized boating facilities
- Outdoor pools
- Outdoor pool complex with lazy river, wave pool, and other attractions
- Splash pads/Spray parks
- Baseball/Softball fields
- Basketball courts
- Tennis courts
- Pickleball courts
- Volleyball courts
- Lacrosse/Rugby fields
- Football fields
- Soccer fields
- Golf (9-hole or 18-hole) courses
- Driving ranges
- Disc Golf/Ultimate Frisbee courses

- Archery
- Target/Skeet/Shooting areas
- Climbing/Rappelling wall
- Cross-country skiing areas
- Downhill skiing areas
- Sledding/tubing
- Snowboarding areas
- Snowmobiling trails
- Winter Camping
- Picnic shelters
- Playgrounds other similar
- Scenic drives
- Historic/Heritage sites
- Dog parks
- Outdoor adult fitness areas with equipment

Q29) Of the facilities, rank which you plan to do in the next year-long period:

- Wildlife viewing/birding areas
- Hunting areas
- Fishing areas
- Primitive, undeveloped campgrounds
- Developed campgrounds
- Group camping areas
- Equestrian camping areas
- Designated boat camping areas
- Natural surface trails
- Finely crushed stone trails
- Paved, multi-use trails
- Storybook trails
- Mountain biking trails
- Skate Park/Skateboarding areas
- Equestrian trails
- ATV/UTV trails
- Dirt bike/off-road motorcycle riding trail
- Canoeing/Kayaking access, facilities, water trails
- Sailing facilities
- Motorized boating facilities
- Outdoor pools
- Outdoor pool complex with lazy river, wave pool, and other attractions
- Splash pads/Spray parks
- Baseball/Softball fields
- Basketball courts
- Tennis courts
- Pickleball courts
- Volleyball courts
- Lacrosse/Rugby fields
- Football fields
- Soccer fields
- Golf (9-hole or 18-hole) courses
- Driving ranges
- Disc Golf/Ultimate Frisbee courses
- Archery
- Target/Skeet/Shooting areas
- Climbing/Rappelling wall
- Cross-country skiing areas

- Downhill skiing areas
- Sledding/tubing
- Snowboarding areas
- Snowmobiling trails
- Winter Camping
- Picnic shelters
- Playgrounds other similar
- Scenic drives
- Historic/Heritage sites
- Dog parks
- Outdoor adult fitness areas with equipment

Q30) What type of equipment would you like available to rent for a nominal fee? Please use the text box below to list the types of equipment.

Q31) How do you feel about the following support facilities near where you live, regarding outdoor recreation in public park areas?

	Need More	Need updated or rehabilitated	Adequate/ need is met	Not interested/ don't know
Restrooms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parking lots	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nature centers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marina buildings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Interpretive centers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Utilities (i.e., available water, electricity, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q32) How do you feel about the safety near where you live, regarding outdoor recreation in public park areas?

	Need More	Need updated or rehabilitated	Adequate/ need is met	Not interested/ don't know
Well-lit facilities and trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trail designations and signage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visitor Centers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Employee interface/check-ins	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q33) What is your preferred method to receive information on outdoor recreation opportunities?

- Newspaper
- Mail
- Email
- Newsletter
- Online websites (i.e., ohiodnr.gov, reserveohio.com, etc.)
- Mobile applications (i.e., HuntFish OH, DeTour Trails, etc.)
- Social media (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)
- Other

Q34) How often do you use social media/mobile apps/websites to receive information on outdoor recreation activities?

	One or more times a week (50 or more times/year)	Once or twice a month (12 to 49 times/year)	A few times during the year (1 to 11 times/year)	Interested but did not participate	Not interested in this activity
Newspaper	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Email	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Newsletter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Online websites (i.e., ohiodnr.gov, reserveohio.com, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mobile applications (i.e., HuntFish OH, DeTour Trails, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social media (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q35) How often do you use technology, in combination with outdoor recreation, to do the following:

	One or more times a week (50 or more times/year)	Once or twice a month (12 to 49 times/year)	A few times during the year (1 to 11 times/year)	Interested but did not participate	Not interested in this activity
Locate a public outdoor recreation area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Search for specific outdoor facility (i.e., trail, campground, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Charging electric devices (i.e., phones, tablets, vehicles, bikes, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
For safety purposes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
For instruction on outdoor recreation activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
For registration/reservations/permits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To plan hiking and/or trail use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To track location/movement along trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q36) How valuable do you think public facilities are for people to enjoy outdoor recreation?

Not Important	Moderately Important	Very Important
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Q37) There are many ways in which park systems could improve outdoor recreation. Please rank from most important (number 1) to least important (number 8) how important each of the following priorities are to you for funding outdoor recreation and conservation efforts in Ohio. Click and drag responses to rank in order.

- Rehabilitate and upgrade existing park facilities
- Develop active, multi-use parks that provide multiple outdoor recreation activities within a park area (for example, sports fields with trails and picnic shelters)
- Acquire land for preservation of habitat, wetlands, forests, rivers and lakes
- Acquire land for park development (picnic shelters, playgrounds, ballfields, sport fields, etc.)
- Integrate technology (mobile applications, fitness gear) with parks and outdoor recreation
- Offer basic outdoor recreation skill development programs and events (examples: how to paddleboard, how to prepare for long day hike, how to pitch a tent)
- Expand trail network with a focus on developing longer distance trails
- Develop more loop trails
- Expand wildlife-related outdoor recreation opportunities (examples: hunting, fishing, etc.)

Q38) How much did your household spend in a typical day in 2021-2022 engaged in outdoor recreation on public lands in Ohio, including transportation, equipment rental, food and other costs.

- Did not participate/Not applicable
- < \$20
- \$20 - \$49
- \$50 - \$99
- \$100 - \$249
- \$250 - \$500
- >\$500

Q39) How much did your household spend for outdoor recreation between 2021-2022 on a getaway weekend, large-scale special event or other similar special activity that you participated in on public lands in Ohio? (Estimate cost based on one such event.)

- Did not participate/Not applicable
- < \$20
- \$20 - \$49
- \$50 - \$99
- \$100 - \$249
- \$250 - \$500
- >\$500

Q39b) Approximately how many such getaway weekends/large-scale events did you engage between 2021-2022 in Ohio on public lands?

Q40) Other comments?

Q41) How/where did you learn about this survey? Please check all that apply.

- Ohio Department of Natural Resources Website
- Ohio Tourism Website
- Facebook or Twitter
- Read about it in the paper
- Friend/colleague
- Email
- Newsletter
- Other, please specify

Ohio 2024 SCORP Public Involvement Process

Supplemental Report
Prepared by DJ Case & Associates
September 14, 2023

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Ohio 2024 SCORP Public Involvement Process

Supplemental Report

Introduction

The provision of outdoor recreation opportunities impacts all Ohioans. Ohio's public lands and waters, playgrounds, trails, and more provide essential social, health, economic, and environmental benefits. The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is a guide to making informed decisions about allocating resources, funding priorities, and preserving and enhancing recreational opportunities. The task of updating Ohio's priorities for achieving outdoor recreation goals falls to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) as the state agency responsible for developing the state's SCORP and the administration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program in the state. The plan suggests broad priorities for expenditures of LWCF dollars in Ohio and serves as a resource for outdoor recreation providers to align projects with the state's outdoor recreation needs.

Public participation is a critical part of the SCORP development process. ODNR designed a public input process to gather information on Ohio residents' outdoor recreation behaviors, needs, and priorities, and ensured the inclusion of voices from different communities, demographic groups, and interested parties who may be directly or indirectly affected by the decisions. As part of this process, ODNR created an Advisory Committee, developed an Ohio resident online survey, conducted outdoor recreation provider interviews, held listening sessions, and conducted qualitative panel interviews. ODNR contracted with DJ Case & Associates (DJ Case) to gather public input through interviews, listening sessions, qualitative panel interviews, and to support the SCORP Advisory Committee's work. This report details the findings of these efforts except for the Ohio resident online survey. Detailed reporting of the Ohio resident online survey conducted by Ohio University can be found in a separate appendix of the 2024 SCORP.

Advisory Committee

The 2024 Ohio SCORP Advisory Committee comprised 23 representatives from local, state, and federal government agencies, park districts, and municipal, township, and county organizations. Committee members were selected for their expertise, knowledge, and interest in outdoor recreation in Ohio. The Committee met several times from October 2022 to May 2023 to discuss statewide issues, trends, recreation demands, challenges, and opportunities. The group was integral to the success of public participation during the SCORP process by assisting with marketing the public survey, reviewing the survey results, helping identify key participants for interviews, and providing resources for the listening sessions. In addition, committee members offered insights and recommendations on the statewide priorities and strategies identified in this SCORP.

During the initial meeting, Advisory Committee members participated in group discussions regarding the outdoor recreation trends they observed in the last five years and the challenges and opportunities for meeting this demand. Discussions began in small groups and then members came back together as a full group to compare and integrate their ideas. The discussion results are presented here.

Outdoor Recreation Trends

COVID-19 was a big part of the discussion of trends over the past five years. Nearly all members saw increased outdoor recreation in their areas of the state. The use of trails was particularly apparent. Increases in hiking and biking came up often throughout the discussion, with some members noting an increase in the use of trails for active transportation in their areas. Members noted the importance of trails and the need to collaborate with landowners, communities, hospitals, businesses, and others to expand trail offerings and connectivity. During the discussion, trails were tied to quality of life, residents' health, and community economic development. Regarding bike trails, committee members discussed the value of paved trails for active transportation, such as those biking to and from school or work, and the increased demand for trails that support electric bikes. Mountain biking was also highlighted as a growing trend.

Committee members also noted increased interest in other recreational activities, such as camping, water-based, outdoor sports, and passive recreational activities. A considerable increase in camping interest was noted, with campers often looking to stay longer than before the shift to remote work. Campers are seeking more amenities at their campsites, particularly electricity and Wi-Fi. Committee members also discussed an apparent increase in demand for cabins and lodges, allowing visitors to experience nature while maintaining the comfort of indoor bathrooms and beds. An increase was noted in the use of water trails and paddle craft, such as kayaks and standup paddle boards. Paddling was not the only water-based activity highlighted; committee members also noted the increased interest in fishing. The importance of splash pads, playgrounds for children, and dog-friendly parks was noted in more populated areas. Other activities with increased interest were pickleball, disc golf, birdwatching, night sky viewing, and hammock camping. Throughout the discussion of trends, committee members reiterated the importance of not conflating growth in an activity with overall participation.

Challenges and Opportunities

Some of the primary challenges to meeting recreation demands discussed by the Committee involved the increased usage of trails and campsites. User conflicts and capacity concerns were noted as significant challenges. In cases of trails, committee members noted conflicts between electric bike users and those who use trails at a slower pace. The Committee also discussed the frustration of existing campers about being unable to get their usual spots or lack of parking because of all the new campers. These examples highlight the challenge of ensuring there are enough opportunities to allow existing users to continue to recreate in the ways they have for years while also providing opportunities for new users to recreate in different ways.

Committee members emphasized the importance of having updated and accessible restrooms and recreational facilities, such as playgrounds, nature centers, boat launches, campsites, basketball courts, and others. It was noted that availability impacts whether people use recreational facilities or participate in activities. Therefore, updating and rehabilitating existing properties was a significant priority for outdoor recreation providers.

Terrestrial trails, as well as water trails, were highlighted in Committee members' priorities for outdoor recreation funding in their area. The connectivity of terrestrial trails was a priority among committee members. The need to accommodate existing and new users was evident in the discussion about creating access to quality recreational opportunities by acquiring additional property and establishing

partnerships. Committee members highlighted the importance of collaborating with partners to link trails and make more natural areas accessible to recreational users. In discussions surrounding rehabilitating existing facilities and creating access to quality outdoor recreation opportunities, committee members emphasized the need to design places and programs that are inclusive of all. Members also highlighted the need to support the use of waterways with more paddling opportunities and accessible boat launches. Technology's role in providing self-guided opportunities on both land and water was also seen as important. With more people getting outside, committee members noted the increased popularity of navigation apps that are easy to use in their discussion regarding the importance of wayfinding information and safety.

Public Input Process and SCORP Priorities

In addition to discussions regarding outdoor recreational trends, challenges, and opportunities in Ohio, the Advisory Committee met periodically throughout the SCORP development process. The Advisory Committee received updates throughout the public input process. It was instrumental in helping advertise the opportunity for responding to the Ohio residents online survey, identifying key participants for the outdoor recreation provider interviewers, helping identify community leaders for setting up the listening sessions, and identifying additional input opportunities for Ohio residents underrepresented in the online survey. The Committee also played a key role in updating and revising the natural resources and outdoor recreation resources sections in the SCORP document. Once the information was gathered through the survey, listening sessions, and various interviews, ODNR worked collaboratively with the Committee to review and update the SCORP priorities and strategies. Additionally, opportunities to review the full draft and provide feedback on the SCORP document were provided during the initial draft stages and the 30-day public comment period.

Outdoor Recreation Provider Interviews

As part of the public input process, ODNR contracted with DJ Case to interview individuals or groups interested in outdoor recreation in Ohio. ODNR, the SCORP Advisory Committee, and DJ Case worked together to identify a list of potential interviewees. Interviewees were individuals who are affected by, or have an impact on, outdoor recreation opportunities in Ohio and could provide perspectives from around the state. The interviews aimed to understand better the outdoor recreation communities' perspectives, identify potential challenges and opportunities, and inform the development of the statewide priorities and strategies for the 2024 SCORP. DJ Case social scientists conducted 13 one-hour interviews from November 7, 2022, to April 10, 2023. Interviewees included individuals from local and municipal parks and recreation authorities, not-for-profit organizations, state and federal recreation and conservation agencies, councils, and districts. Snowball sampling was used in addition to the initial list of interviewees developed collaboratively with ODNR. This technique involves asking interviewees who else they think would be good to interview and following up with those suggestions.

The individuals interviewed were excited to share the story of their organizations. They described creative and innovative programming efforts underway across the state. Throughout all the interviews, the theme of connection was present: connecting communities, connecting people to their history, connecting people to nature, and the connection of outdoor recreation and green spaces to economic vitality and personal well-being. This theme emerged from interviewees' perspectives on outdoor recreation trends, identified needs to best serve communities, and recreational priorities for the next five years. Connection is also apparent in how organizations use technology in outdoor recreation and the opportunities and challenges of serving diverse audiences.

Trends

It is difficult to discuss trends in outdoor recreation without discussing the impact of COVID-19 on people's lives and activities. All those interviewed noted the increased use of outdoor spaces during COVID-19, particularly the significant increase in the number of people using trails across the state. Many of those interviewed felt that visiting parks, getting onto the water, and utilizing trails during this time helped reintroduce people to parks and greenspaces close to home, resulting in an increased appreciation of these spaces, which has endured.

Many of the trends discussed focused on active recreation. While there is still the need for birdwatching stations and environmental interpretation, many interviewed noted the desire for more active opportunities by Ohioans – in particular, kayaking, other watersports, easy grab-and-go-style activities such as pickleball and disc golf, as well as even more adventurous activities such as rock climbing and tree climbing. The use of all types of trails has gone up – from paved to more rugged, to mountain biking, to equestrian. Interviewees also spoke about the increased demand for camping during the pandemic. While this has slowed, the demand for camping sites is still thought to be higher than before 2019. Campers are seeking more accessible and accessorized campsites. Larger RVs mean there is a need for larger concrete slabs and more modern hook-ups. Many campers are also looking to use their camping time as remote work time, meaning Wi-Fi connectivity at sites is becoming necessary for many campers.

Another change that happened during COVID-19 was the use of online offerings. Many of those interviewed continue to offer some level of remote, online engagement to increase the accessibility of their programs. Online, remote options make programs accessible for those who cannot attend in-person programs for health or other reasons. One example that remained popular post-pandemic is videoing large-scale events that are community traditions and making it possible for people to participate virtually. Furthermore, interviewees spoke of the importance of quality parks for community meeting spaces where participants could safely meet. Outdoor spaces providing activities for kids while parents and other adults meet for various reasons remain important for communities. In this same vein, interviewees highlighted the importance of parks in distributing needed resources for communities as reachable locations where those in need can access items.

Throughout, interviewees talked about the role of parks and greenspaces in bringing communities together through the connectivity of trails, the walkability of parks, and the role of parks as economic generators that bring people into small towns or areas they may not otherwise visit. The importance of trail connectivity was apparent in all settings. While people often think about access issues for those in more urban settings, access in rural settings is an issue that different organizations and communities are also dealing with. Overall, interviewees desired to make trails part of healthy lifestyles and active transportation. To do so, trails must be connected and easily accessible.

Needs

With the higher use of parks, trails, and greenspaces and the trends spanning a wide array of activities and uses, interviewees mentioned several specific needs. One issue that came up multiple times was the need to offer skill-building opportunities. For example, an individual without experience kayaking rarely purchases a kayak and hops on a river. New users need an entry point to outdoor recreation activities, and recreation providers are primed to offer those entry-level opportunities. In addition, making these offerings available across the populations that systems serve often requires mobile units to offer these

entry-level activities in multiple places. In some cases, organizations across the state are already making these offerings available in their areas through mobile units taking programming out into the communities. Interviewees talked about mobile rock walls, mobile pools to try out kayaking, and mobile tree climbing units. These offer an entry-level, invitational option in a safe and controlled environment. The need for more of these types of equipment and facilities for skill-building activities was a common theme.

Beyond mobile units, providing guided opportunities further away from home, particularly for young people, can help increase participation and welcome underrepresented and underserved groups and communities into outdoor recreation in Ohio. Programming that introduces new users to recreational activities in rural areas is an important way to ensure that participants feel safe and comfortable participating in activities that may occur in an area perceived to be more isolated. Rural parks and trailheads can become destination sites if equipped with up-to-date facilities, particularly restrooms with sufficient parking. Trail maintenance and connectivity to communities and different areas in the state was a need we heard repeatedly. In more urban areas, connecting trails so that they are useful for active transportation, even in high-traffic areas, is important. Interviewees also spoke about access issues in rural areas, which are often overlooked and need to be considered. Often, people see rural areas and assume access to nature is a given. But, when residents are surrounded by intensive agriculture or private lands, this is not necessarily the case. Providing trails that connect different small communities in rural areas and provide access to public spaces is also important.

Another common need discussed was making activities and facilities accessible to people with disabilities. Some mentioned the need for accessible boat launches to make outdoor recreation available to more people. Facility rehabilitation often focuses on restrooms and other services to make them accessible to all visitors. Importantly, participants who are older or have physical disabilities may need things like paved paths, larger parking spaces, or other accommodations.

While the needs identified shared common features across the state, determining how best to market outdoor recreation offerings will vary by community. Public offerings and services are viewed differently across different areas. Interviewees highlighted the importance of considering different social and cultural contexts in this regard.

Priorities

Every interviewee offered ambitious goals for outdoor recreation. Not surprisingly, the list of priorities they offered was also ambitious and demonstrated a commitment to serving the people of Ohio. Overwhelmingly, the priorities focused on connections. Connecting people to the natural environment, people to parks, parks to parks, trails to communities, and communities to one another through extensive trail systems. Several spoke of the importance of having parks close to the communities they serve. Still some interviewees noted that distance alone was not the measure of equitable access; rather recreation areas should be equitably equipped. Furthermore, outdoor recreation areas beyond parks, including boating areas, trailheads, and others, should include equitable access to facilities, bathrooms, parking, and other things so that people from all over the state have access to places to recreate that are comfortable and inviting.

In urban areas, achieving the goal of having parks within a walkable distance for all residents is challenging as property is harder to come by in a city. Some recreation providers attempted to address this issue by coming into communities, providing mobile units, forming collaborations with community

centers to offer programming, and being creative about the property for a park – looking at property that may need more restoration for a future park or converting schoolyards to parks.

Across the board, interviewees demonstrated a commitment to reaching out and creating experiences that could serve different audiences. All those interviewed want the populations they serve to be able to come to the outdoors, parks, and trails and use the spaces in ways that suit them. Good trail systems from federal, state, and community parks leading into urban cores are needed to increase connectivity. These connected trails also provide active transportation opportunities. Promoting diverse participation in rural areas may require creative collaborations with groups serving more urban areas. A few interviewees talked about programs that take residents, often younger people, from underserved areas on outdoor adventures – such as kayaking, hiking, skiing, or biking. Programming that links urban-serving groups to rural outdoor recreation opportunities can demonstrate a welcoming place outdoors and lower the bar for participation by providing guided opportunities.

The priority for trail connectivity came up repeatedly. Trails are a way to connect different park properties and communities. Interviewees mentioned visitors using trails for leisure, exercise, and transportation, and they want to continue prioritizing this connectivity through trail systems. Furthermore, some noted it is not enough to build new trails, but old trails must also be maintained to continue to be used and enjoyed. Easy access to trailheads is vital. As one person put it, the best trailhead is your driveway. Residents must know where trailheads are and have easy access to them. Interviewees indicated that providing good signage at trailheads was important for users to know what to expect on any given trail and feel more confident and safer in using the trail. Discussions about the connectivity of trails across multiple properties also pointed to the need for good collaborative relationships among multiple providers. Some interviewees highlighted the need to add bike stations to trails and, less commonly, have trails open to equestrian use. One of the more innovative trail offerings we heard about during interviews was the construction of trails for blind individuals. These trails include changes in trail substrate to mark distinct parts of the trail, braille signage, and limited bike access. This type of innovative offering opens access to populations often left behind in outdoor recreation.

In addition to terrestrial trails, water trails were also a priority for those with water access. Like terrestrial trails, water trails need quality and up-to-date signage to help participants feel safe and in control of their experiences. Interviewees with waterfront resources indicated as a priority making sure their waterfronts were accessible and maintained. Many identified boat permitting costs as a barrier to participation and identified facilities that rented equipment such as kayaks and paddleboards as potential ways to lower some barriers.

Many interviewees want to expand their ability to offer a continuum of services, from entry-level activities to more advanced outdoor recreation. Having facilities that provide a safe, controlled, easy access opportunity to try new forms of recreation is important for facilitating entry into new activities, for example, offering a pool for learning how to kayak or a climbing wall to introduce rock climbing skills. These efforts can be furthered by partnering across different organizations to connect communities with opportunities in other areas. Prioritizing opportunities for increasing participation in winter outdoor recreation was also important to some interviewees, noting that often northern locations are overlooked for outdoor recreation in the winter months.

Maintaining and updating existing facilities was another important priority for interviewees. Creating spaces for all people to access quality outdoor recreational opportunities was mentioned across the board. For providers maintaining historic properties, it was important to be able to keep those

properties in good condition and updated to ensure accessibility. In terms of new facilities and rehabilitation of existing facilities, most were primarily opportunistic about acquiring new facilities. Updating facilities to be more sustainable and to serve the changing needs of the public better was a stated priority. Many already maintain several facilities, and addressing general or deferred maintenance was especially important. Ensuring all signage was maintained and updated and all facilities were safe, clean, and inviting was a priority.

Technology in Recreation

Using technology to connect to the outdoors and parks is something that became even more important during COVID-19. Many interviewees used freely available apps to encourage their visitors to learn more about the natural world. Interviewees were exploring ways technology could provide access to hard-to-reach places or provide interpretative services. Some interviewees talked about using QR codes to make trail maps interactive. Technology was also used to address risk reduction by providing digital maps or other wayfinding applications to access and use on a smartphone. Some of the most inventive uses of technology were directed at trying to engage the harder to reach 12- to 17-year-old age group by linking technology these groups already use regularly with outdoor recreation programming. When the *Pokémon Go* game was so popular, some providers incorporated this into their offerings. One interviewee offered a *Fortnite* drop activity to mirror the popular video game. Another interviewee recognized the chance to offer archery when the *Hunger Games* movie was popular to attract younger recreationists. Being responsive and having suitable facilities to support programming related to current trends is a way providers try to both use tech and be creative in their engagement efforts. One interviewee noted the importance of embracing these types of activities and not assuming that outdoor recreation should only look like it has in the past. Other ideas for the use and importance of technology included making public Wi-Fi available at parks and trails. Broadband access is not equal across communities and households. Outdoor areas can provide a place where everyone can access this resource. Additionally, providers were looking to use facility infrastructure technologies, such as electric vehicle charging and solar lighting.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Accessibility for all demographic groups was a priority for all interviewees. Many focused on providing services to underserved communities, all age ranges, and those with special needs. Improving access for all these groups required different tactics. Being sensitive to the needs of communities is key to reaching across social and cultural divides. This sensitivity to the needs of communities was addressed by improving staff training on diversity, equity, and inclusion issues. Including communities in the planning processes and ensuring community voices are part of the planning from the beginning is important to meeting community needs.

Addressing issues of risk perception and safety is, of course, important for attracting visitors. This was often addressed by making sure spaces were well-lit, inviting, clean (especially the restrooms), and had well-trained staff present. Interviewees addressed safety concerns inherent in some recreational activities in many ways. Being sure that equipment was always in tip-top shape was important, as well as good signage to be sure people knew their location on trails and were aware of their surroundings. For older populations, concerns about falling should not be overlooked. Providing trails and places with flat surfaces clear of debris is important. Those who offer water-based activities expressed safety concerns related to water quality. The capacity to monitor and share water quality information is important for participants to feel their water recreational choices are safe. Beyond physical safety,

interviewees spoke of the need to consider emotional safety. All residents and visitors should feel welcome; proper training and welcoming and inclusive arrival experiences are ways facilities can address this problem.

Listening Sessions

ODNR provided additional input opportunities in counties with fewer responses (10 or fewer) and groups with lower-than-anticipated response rates to the Ohio resident survey. After a review of past efforts revealed low attendance and participation at focus groups, ODNR worked with DJ Case to pursue alternative approaches to collecting additional public input. Keeping in mind that one of the best ways to hear from people is to go to where the people are, multiple listening sessions were set up. The listening sessions were set up to coincide with previously scheduled events and were designed to hear residents' perspectives and feedback on outdoor recreation activities, challenges, and needs.

With Ohio's older population projected to grow more rapidly than its overall population, it is important to understand the outdoor recreation activities and needs of older residents. Since residents 65 years or older had an overall lower-than-expected response rate to the online survey, they were selected as the primary population for the listening sessions. The listening sessions were focused on counties with ten or fewer online survey responses. The Advisory Committee and ODNR assisted with contacting local and regional Councils on Aging (COA) to coordinate with ongoing local community events such as lunches, dinners, and planned COA activities. Researchers from DJ Case attended these events and heard about outdoor recreation activities, challenges to participation, and needs in local communities. In March 2023, over 100 Ohio residents participated in six listening sessions held in the following locations:

- Mercer County: Celina, OH
- Williams County: Bryan, OH
- Paulding County: Paulding, OH
- Monroe County: Woodsfield, OH
- Gallia County: Gallipolis, OH
- Preble County: Eaton, OH

Topics discussed in the listening sessions included current recreational activities, barriers or challenges to participation, and community needs. Participants ranged widely in retirement age, with some communities experiencing a shift toward younger ages as people retire earlier. With this wide age range, it was not surprising to hear that proposed activities ranged from very active to more passive outdoor recreation opportunities. Present throughout all the listening sessions was the importance of community and the benefits outdoor recreation provided – social gatherings, physical exercise, connection to nature, and skill development. Popular outdoor recreation activities discussed included:

- Trail-based activities such as walking, hiking, horseback riding, and bicycling
- Water-based activities such as fishing, boating, and kayaking
- Camping, hunting, and archery
- Outdoor sports such as pickleball, golf, disc golf, and putt-putt
- Winter-based activities such as snow skiing
- Visiting state parks, viewing wildflowers, and picnicking
- Wildlife viewing and bird watching
- Gardening
- Attending local events like fitness/yoga, outdoor music/arts, or outdoor movies

Residents also shared some of the challenges they encounter when participating in outdoor activities and the needs they saw in their communities. In all cases, residents rooted their experiences within specific examples in their communities; however, themes were common across communities. One of the most common themes heard during the listening sessions was the lack of access to and connection between trails, parks, and outdoor recreation areas. Residents expressed their desire for connecting trails in local communities to foster connectedness by:

- Extending pre-existing bike paths or connecting bike paths from other communities
- Partnering with other organizations to help develop and promote nature and walking paths in the community
- Developing trail systems in town

When discussing the specific details about trails and their amenities, residents were looking for options that were senior-friendly and accessible for safety and mobility concerns. Residents mentioned not always feeling safe on existing trails, where uneven surfaces created fall concerns. In many cases, they mentioned altering their actions (e.g., walking in the early morning to avoid fast traffic or looking for pedestrian-only paths) to feel safer on trails. Other trail characteristics residents looked for were:

- More trails that have shade or go through woods
- Walking trails with swings and benches for resting
- Paved or level walking paths accessible to golf carts or powered wheelchairs
- Parking close by

The distance from parking areas to walking paths was not the only instance where proximity was mentioned. Residents mentioned that the distance from their homes to the activity's location could be challenging. Not all the people we spoke to had issues with distance or transportation and they were willing to travel to participate in the outdoor activities. For some, however, even activities four to five miles away could be too far. In addition to walking paths being accessible to wheelchairs, residents suggested that having mobility chairs or track chairs available for use would improve their trail use.

Trails were not the only facilities mentioned during the listening sessions. Residents discussed having more open space (including places for outdoor grilling, shelter, picnic tables, and park benches) to participate in activities for all ages and families. These facilities were seen as spaces for families and social groups to gather and play games, such as cards or dominoes while enjoying the outdoors. There was a desire for more places to sit in the shade to observe nature and enjoy the outdoors. Community gardens with raised beds and benches were also mentioned as ways to address mobility challenges while participating in activities. Facilities to support water activities such as kayaking and fishing were also mentioned. Having benches along docks to provide spots to sit and fish or rest and enjoy nature and kayak launches that adjusted with the lake level were both mentioned to address challenges with participating in outdoor activities. For camping and hunting, residents pointed to a need for more campsites and publicly accessible firearm ranges. Some spoke of helping communities by increasing local wildlife populations (e.g., pheasants) to attract visitors to the area for hunting and wildlife watching. Residents also discussed the need for multi-purpose facilities for outdoor recreation. Some gave examples like storybook trails geared toward families with young kids, which are often short, manageable paths that older residents can also use. Other examples included developing and using multi-use courts like pickleball and tennis courts. Among those active in outdoor sports, there was an interest in having access to golf, disc-golf, and putt-putt facilities.

Overall, the activities of interest were similar to those mentioned throughout the public involvement process. The challenges discussed during the listening sessions focused primarily on mobility concerns, having access to facilities and opportunities close to home, and having facilities that afforded opportunities to sit and enjoy their surroundings.

Qualitative Panel Interviews

In addition to reviewing results from the Ohio online resident survey for response gaps in geography, responses across demographic categories were also examined. During this process, it was noted that responses to the online survey were predominantly (95%) from residents who self-identified as white. To ensure the process was informed by input from diverse audiences, ODNR worked with DJ Case to conduct qualitative panel interviews with Ohio residents underrepresented in the online survey. The qualitative panel interviews were conducted using an online panel of Ohio residents who self-identified as being Hispanic (23%), Asian (22%), Black/African American (73%), Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (less than 1%), American Indian/Alaskan Native (1%), or multi-racial (4%). DJ Case worked with SAGO, a nationally prominent market research firm, to provide the online panel. The questionnaire developed for the Ohio resident online survey served as the basis for the panel interviews. As with the Ohio resident survey, respondents were asked about their outdoor recreation participation, preferences, challenges to participation, recreational facility needs, and funding priorities.

Over two weeks, from April 24, 2023, to May 5, 2023, the panel interviews were completed by 1,120 respondents. Respondents were predominantly male (61%). The highest number of interviews were from residents 35 to 44 years old (40%), 25 to 34 years old (19%), and 45 to 54 years old (19%). About 12 percent were 18 to 24 years old, 7 percent were 55 to 64, and 4 percent were 65 or older. Panelists were recruited from across the state, with approximately 28 percent living in the northeast, 26 percent in the southwest, 23 percent in the southeast, 17 percent in the central region, and 7 percent in the northwest. It is important to note that panelists were not evenly distributed within a region. Overall, about half of the panelists lived in five counties: Washington County (17%), Cuyahoga County (11%), Franklin County (11%), Adams County (6%), and Hamilton County (6%).

It is important to note that this research methodology is qualitative. No statistical techniques are used to generalize results across a larger population. Rather, general themes and broad insights into recreational participation, needs, challenges, and priorities are identified. Where non-precise terms such as "few," "many," or "nearly all" are used, it is done so to provide a general sense of panel responses without the risk of attaching unintended (and potentially inappropriate) quantitative results to qualitative research data.

To maintain consistency with the Ohio online resident survey, outdoor recreation activities were organized into eight major categories: trail activities, wildlife-based activities, camping activities, boating activities, water activities, outdoor sports, winter activities, and other outdoor recreation activities. Within each major category was a list ranging from four to nineteen activities for a total of 102 individual outdoor activities. In addition to asking panelists about their participation in activities, they were asked why they participated. Participants were given five broad reasons and asked to indicate their primary reason for participating in an activity.

- Fun or entertainment
- Health, wellness, or fitness
- Share time with family and friends

- Experience nature, quiet time, or serenity
- Organized event

Panelists who indicated interest in an activity but did not participate were also asked their primary reason for not participating. A total of 13 reasons were provided, with an opportunity to specify a different reason. The listed reasons for not participating included:

- No facilities available
- Facilities too far away
- Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe
- The activity or equipment is too costly
- Do not have information on where facilities are offered
- Do not have the skills
- Health issues
- No one to go with
- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities
- Do not own or have access to equipment
- Facilities are not ADA accessible
- Safety concerns
- Other

Overall, panel participants enjoyed a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities. Outdoor sports activities were the most cited category. Other outdoor recreation activities, trail activities, wildlife activities, and water activities rounded out participants' top five most popular categories of activities. Boating activities were the least common type of activities for panel participants. When asked why they engaged in outdoor recreation, the most common reason indicated by participants was for fun and entertainment, followed by health, wellness, and fitness. Participating in organized events was the least common reason panelists engaged in outdoor recreation activities.

Across the eight major categories of outdoor recreation, trail activities, outdoor sports, and other recreational activities had the highest level of participation, as well as interest (individuals who did not participate in the activity but were interested in doing so) among panelists. When asked the primary reasons they did not engage in outdoor activities, even though interested, the top five reasons indicated were:

- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities
- Facilities too far away
- The activity or the equipment is too costly
- No one to go with
- Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe

When viewed individually, panelists' responses for each of the eight major outdoor recreation categories are similar to their responses regarding outdoor recreation overall; however, there are some differences to note.

Trail Activities

Among panel participants, walking and hiking on trails was very popular. Walking or hiking on a natural surface trail was the panelists' most indicated activity, followed by walking on a paved trail, and walking on a finely crushed stone trail. Riding bicycles on paved trails and running on natural surfaces were also popular trail activities. The least popular trail activities among panel participants were ATV/UTV riding and using a wheelchair on a trail. Health, wellness, and fitness was the primary reason mentioned for participating in trail activities, followed by fun and entertainment. Reasons for not participating in trail activities included:

- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities
- No one to go with
- The activity or the equipment is too costly
- Facilities too far away
- Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe

Water-Based Activities

Although boating activities were the least common outdoor recreation category among panelists, many indicated participating in canoeing and kayaking in a stream, river, lake, or pond. To have fun and for entertainment was the top reason panelists participated in canoeing and kayaking. The most common reasons for not participating in boating activities were:

- The activity or the equipment is too costly
- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities
- Do not own or have access to equipment
- Facilities too far away
- Do not have the skills

Swimming was also a popular activity with panelists. Using outdoor pools was most common, followed by swimming in natural areas, and outdoor pool complexes with lazy rivers. Panelists primarily swam for fun, and those who didn't participate indicated it was because:

- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities
- Facilities too far away
- Do not have information on where facilities are offered
- No one to go with
- Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe

Wildlife Activities

The top three wildlife activities were wildlife viewing, nature photography, and birdwatching, with most participants indicating their primary reason for doing these activities was for fun or entertainment. Shore fishing had greater participation than fishing from a motorized boat, a pier or ADA-accessible site, and a non-motorized boat. The least common wildlife activity participated in was trapping. Reasons panelists did not participate in wildlife activities even though they were interested included:

- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities
- The activity or the equipment is too costly
- Facilities too far away
- Do not have the skills
- Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe

Camping Activities

The most common camping activity panelists said they participated in was backcountry primitive camping, followed by camping in an undeveloped campground. The least common types of camping engaged in were ADA camping sites and equestrian camping. Panelists primarily went camping for fun and entertainment. Those who were interested but did not camp indicated it was because:

- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities
- Facilities too far away
- The activity or the equipment is too costly
- Do not have information on where facilities are offered
- Do not own or have access to equipment

Outdoor Sports

Overall, panelists selected participating in team sports the most out of all the outdoor sports activities, with basketball being the most common. Health, wellness, and fitness was the most common reason mentioned for participating in outdoor sports. Geocaching was the least common activity among panelists. Using skateparks was the most common activity panelists indicated when considering outdoor sports that are not team oriented. Reasons for not participating in outdoor sports were:

- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities
- Facilities too far away
- Do not have the skills
- The activity or the equipment is too costly
- Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe

Winter Activities

Among panelists, sledding and tubing had the highest level of participation of the 11 winter activities. Ice skating and attending winter festivals were also common activities during the winter. Snowmobiling and hunting during the winter had the lowest participation among panelists. As with many other activities, panelists participated in winter activities primarily to have fun. Snowmobiling was the activity

not participated in that panelists were most interested in trying. Reasons for not participating in winter activities included:

- Facilities too far away
- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities
- Do not have information on where facilities are offered
- The activity or the equipment is too costly
- Do not have the skills

Other Outdoor Activities

Of the 14 outdoor activities this category encompassed, panelists indicated recreation on playgrounds as the most common activity. Using picnic shelters and attending outdoor festivals were also popular activities. Yoga/Tai Chi/Outdoor meditation and playing horseshoes, bocce ball, or bag toss were the least popular activities. While having fun was the most common reason, spending time with family and friends was often why panelists used picnic shelters. Reasons for not participating included:

- Too busy with other responsibilities and activities
- No one to go with
- Do not have information on where facilities are offered
- Facilities seem poorly maintained and/or seem unsafe
- The activity or the equipment is too costly

What People Want

Panelists were asked if specific public outdoor recreational facilities were adequate in number, adequate in number but needed to be rehabilitated, or if there was a need for more facilities. Panelists' top 10 facilities that their area needs more of include:

1. Outdoor pools
2. Wildlife viewing/birding areas
3. Picnic shelters
4. Natural surface trails
5. Sledding
6. Splash pad/spray park
7. Baseball/softball fields
8. Primitive, undeveloped campgrounds
9. Canoe/Kayaking access, facilities, water trails
10. Fishing areas

Panelists' top 10 facilities in their area that needed to be updated or rehabilitated were:

1. Playgrounds
2. Basketball courts
3. Developed campgrounds
4. Group camping areas
5. Finely crushed stone trails

6. Outdoor pool complexes with lazy river, wave pool, and other attractions
7. Sailing facilities
8. Tennis courts
9. Hunting areas
10. Historic/heritage sites

When asked about support facilities, panelists felt outdoor recreation facilities in their area needed more restrooms, nature centers, and interpretive centers. The top support facilities needing updating were parking lots, available utilities, and marina buildings. When considering the safety of outdoor recreation facilities in their areas, panelists said there needed to be more well-lit facilities/trails and visitor centers. They indicated that trail designations/signage and check-in procedures needed to be updated.

Overwhelmingly, panelists believed public facilities were important for people to enjoy outdoor recreation activities. Panelists were asked to prioritize nine ways park systems could improve outdoor recreation in Ohio. Their priorities are listed below in order, with the highest priority based on the categories ranked first most often.

- Develop active, multi-use parks that provide multiple outdoor recreation activities
- Rehabilitate and upgrade existing park facilities
- Acquire land for park development
- Acquire land for preservation of habitat, wetlands, forests, rivers, and lakes
- Integrate technology with parks and outdoor recreation
- Offer basic outdoor recreation skill development programs and events
- Develop more loop trails
- Expand trail network with a focus on developing longer distance trails

SCORP Public Comment Period

A draft version of the 2024 to 2028 SCORP was made available for public comment on the ODNR website from August 2nd through August 31st, 2023. A press announcement was made advertising the public comment period.

Many public comments were received requesting more of specific amenities including playgrounds, access to waterways and improved signage for paddle boarding and kayaking, more land for natural areas, golf courses, hiking, mountain biking, and multi-use trails, swimming pools, camping areas, and swimming areas for dogs.

Multiple comments were received noting the importance of management and control of invasive species in parks to maintain the quality of recreational opportunities. Additional comments were submitted to note personal concerns of specific recreational facilities or opinions on how public dollars should be spent. Topics included continued focus on maintenance of park facilities, cleanliness, and safety. Comments noting concerns of specific park facilities were forwarded to the appropriate management agency.

Many public comments received expressed concern of mineral extraction on state lands, specifically at State Parks, State Wildlife Areas, and State Forests. Many unique comments were submitted stating opposition to leasing state lands for subsurface mineral extraction. Dozens of other similar comments

were submitted through a third-party website as a form letter. We received no public comments in favor of mineral extraction on state lands through the public comment period.

The nature and volume of comments documents the passion Ohioans have for our public outdoor recreation spaces. The statewide survey we conducted sought feedback on the types of public outdoor recreation Ohioans participate in, and what types of public outdoor recreation facilities, or opportunities, should be prioritized for the next five years. The survey included space for “Other Comments” where respondents had the opportunity to provide comments on any issue. Under the “Other Comments” category comments were submitted stating opposition to leasing state lands for subsurface mineral extraction. We received no public comments in favor of mineral extraction from under state lands, through the public comment period. It should be noted that the Land and Water Conservation Fund Federal Financial Assistance Manual provides specific guidance regarding non-destructive mineral extraction on LWCF-assisted projects involving the purchase of subsurface rights. (Chapter 7.A.7.e; p. 99-100)

ODNR believes the five priorities identified in Ohio’s 2024 to 2028 SCORP support the ideals commenters expressed and are aligned with the public comments received.

- Advance the trail network
- Improve, enhance, and adapt existing recreational facilities
- Emphasize recreational opportunities and access to Ohio’s waters
- Improve awareness and access to outdoor recreation opportunities
- Protect and sustain the natural environment

Conclusion

Information gathered throughout all phases of the public involvement process demonstrates that Ohioans value the outdoors and their ability to participate in outdoor recreation activities. They saw the outdoors and recreation as a way to connect communities and people to nature, bolstering personal well-being, community vitality, and quality of life. Parks, recreation providers, state agencies, federal agencies, and not-for-profits are working to connect communities and people to the natural world. These connections can only be made when parks can serve all residents. Outdoor recreation needs and priorities will vary by community and user groups, making it vital that outdoor recreation providers are sensitive to the needs of their communities. Including community voices as part of outdoor recreation projects and planning from the beginning continues to be an important component of ensuring inclusion for all in outdoor recreation.

Appendix

Outdoor Recreation Provider Interview Guide

For this first set of questions I want to ask you more about your organization, who you serve, what your priorities are, what your needs are, as well as some other issues.

1) To get us started, can you tell me a little bit about your outdoor recreation organization?

Potential prompts if needed:

- a. What types of programming do you currently offer?
- b. What types of facilities do you currently have?
- c. Can you share an example of work your organization has done that you are particularly proud of? What role did the facilities you had available play in the success of that program?
- d. What about something that hasn't worked? Why do you think it didn't work?
- e. What are some of the specific challenges you've encountered in providing outdoor recreation opportunities?
- f. Are there folks in your area that you would like to reach but struggle to get involved with what you offer?
- g. How do you incorporate technology into outdoor recreation?
- h. What are some things your organization considers when making funding decisions?
- i. What do you see as some of your specific facility needs and priorities over the next five years?
 - i. Is there a focus on new development or on rehabilitation/renovation of existing facilities?
 - ii. Is your organization looking to acquire property to create new parks?
- j. What about looking into the future – what are your organization's long-range goals for outdoor recreation in your area?
- k. Have you gone through any recent planning efforts?

For this next set of questions, I want to hear more about what you think outdoor recreation currently looks like in your area as well as what you think may be changing into the future.

- 2) Did your organization see changes in outdoor recreation patterns during the pandemic?
 - a. Did any of those changes have implications for your management practices?
 - b. Thinking about pre-pandemic, during the pandemic and now – what factors do you think have influenced outdoor recreation both in terms of activities and participation over the past five years?
 - c. Do you think the changes you have seen in your area represent larger trends in outdoor recreation in Ohio itself? If yes, how so?
 - d. Do you suspect the changes you have seen will continue?

- 3) Over the next five years, what do you think should be the priorities for outdoor recreation in Ohio?

Finally, one thing the Ohio DNR is interested in is thinking about risk perception and how this may impact who participates in different activities relevant to outdoor recreation.

- 4) How do you think participation varies in the different outdoor recreation activities you provide due to variability in risk perception of different audiences you serve?
 - a. What are the safety concerns of your primary audience?
 - b. Do you hear other safety concerns expressed by others?
 - c. Do you currently do anything to mitigate or account for this variability in what you offer?

- 5) Based on our conversation today, are there any other groups or individuals you think we should talk with?

Fin. Before we wrap up, do you have any additional comments or thoughts you'd like to share?



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