



New Hampshire

Statewide Comprehensive
Outdoor Recreation Plan

2024-2028

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From the desk of New Hampshire Governor Christopher T. Sununu

I am pleased to announce the New Hampshire Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for the years 2024-2028. This plan represents a collaborative effort between federal and state agencies, local communities, non-profit organizations, stakeholders, and passionate outdoor enthusiasts to ensure the preservation and enhancement of our state's extraordinary outdoor recreation resources.

New Hampshire has long been renowned for its breathtaking landscapes, magnificent parks, vibrant forests, pristine lakes, and majestic mountains. Our commitment to protecting and promoting these assets has always been a priority, as they contribute significantly to the well-being and quality of life of our residents, our visitors, and our economy. The 2024-2028 SCORP serves as a roadmap for harnessing the potential of outdoor recreation to strengthen all these elements while also safeguarding our environment.

SCORP is a plan, not a report. For its goals to be achieved, we must foster partnerships with local governments, community organizations, and businesses as well as with fellow outdoor recreationists and the businesses that provide these experiences. Using this SCORP as a guide, we can work together to identify priority projects, secure funding, and implement innovative strategies that address the diverse needs and aspirations of our residents.

I invite all citizens, stakeholders, and interested parties to participate in the implementation of the 2024-2028 SCORP. Your ideas, expertise, and commitment are invaluable in shaping the future of outdoor recreation in our state. Together, we can continue to have New Hampshire be a model for sustainable outdoor recreation, a place where residents and visitors fully enjoy the natural wonders and resources that surround us.

Sincerely,

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor

A message from Commissioner Sarah L. Stewart N.H. Dept. of Natural & Cultural Resources

If you are reading this, it's very likely that you – as I do – have a passion for New Hampshire's outdoor recreational opportunities.

We're in good company.

Known for generations for its natural beauty and wide variety of outdoor activities, New Hampshire ranks in the top 10 states for the impact of outdoor recreation on gross domestic product, tied with Colorado and Utah. Outdoor recreation spending increased 65% from 2019-2021, a 4% higher amount than overall tourism spending. It's a \$2.7 billion industry that employs 28,000 workers and that provides \$25 in tax revenue for every \$1 invested. Pretty impressive statistics!

But outdoor recreation is more than just an economic driver – it's also how we connect with our families, our communities and with ourselves. In addition to the physical benefits that go hand-in-hand with being outside, outdoor recreation helps reduce stress, increase personal satisfaction and create lasting memories that shape our lives.

Using public listening sessions and surveys, this Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, or SCORP, incorporates feedback collected from those who experience New Hampshire's outdoor recreation as well as from those who provide those experiences. An important component of this information gathering was discovering ways that adjustments can be made to outdoor recreation in New Hampshire so that everyone interested in experiencing it in its many forms – from hiking and swimming to skiing and more – is able to do so in the most fulfilling way possible.

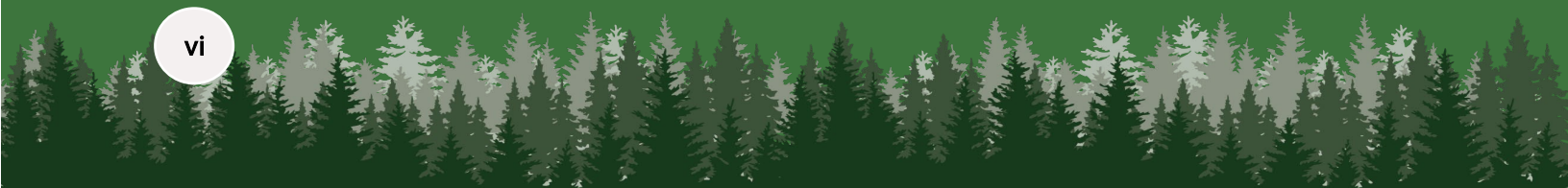
As Commissioner of the N.H. Department of Natural & Cultural Resources, every day I see the positive impact outdoor recreation has on our residents and visitors, as well as how seamlessly it integrates with all aspects of our department: forestry, of course, but also with historic places like rail trails and campgrounds, libraries that provide information and – as is happening more frequently – recreational equipment, and the arts that continue to draw people to our stunning landscapes and all they offer.

When you read this plan, I encourage you to reflect on your own outdoor recreation experiences, to take into consideration the feedback presented, and to envision how the action strategies at the end of the plan will enhance outdoor recreation in New Hampshire. If you are able to do so, please also consider getting involved with local partners – businesses, towns, volunteer groups and others – as they work to implement new ways to enact these strategies. We all benefit when we work together.

Thank you for your interest!

Sarah L. Stewart
Commissioner







EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SCORP at a Glance

The Executive Summary consists of five sections that serve to orient you to the SCORP planning process, main findings, and priority areas.

New Hampshire's Outdoors

Outdoor recreation refers to recreation activities done outside, most commonly in natural settings. It is fundamental to American culture and identity as it connects people with nature, builds healthier minds and bodies, contributes to quality of life in communities, and helps support resilient businesses and economies. The state of New Hampshire is home to an abundance of publicly accessible natural resources for outdoor recreation spanning more than 1.8 million acres managed by public, private, and non-profit organizations including 18 miles of coastline, 1,000+ lakes, 10,000+ miles of rivers, 100+ salt and freshwater beaches, 48 mountains over 4,000 feet, 12,000+ miles of motorized and non-motorized trails, and 30+ alpine and Nordic ski areas. These outdoor recreation resources span a unique blend of federal, state, local, non-profit, and private conservation lands. Further, New Hampshire is ideally located within one day's drive of three major cities (Boston, New York, and Montreal), more than 70 million people, and nine international airports.

Outdoor recreation is also a vital and substantial contributor to the New Hampshire economy and supports a range of jobs, businesses, and industries across the state including retail, hospitality, and manufacturing. In 2019, New Hampshire became the 16th state to establish an outdoor recreation office with the mission of supporting the burgeoning outdoor economy and connecting the state's world-class outdoor assets to broad economic development strategies such as workforce retention and business recruitment. New Hampshire's outdoor recreation economy now represents 2.7% of the state's gross domestic product, tying with both Colorado and Utah, and

ranking in the top 10 states nationwide.¹ The Granite State's \$2.7 billion outdoor recreation industry employs over 28,000 workers and provides more than \$1.2 billion in wage compensation.² Employment in the recreation sector is also projected to grow 10% from 2021 to 2031, more quickly than the average for all occupations nationwide.³

The combination of world-class natural and cultural resources, abundant outdoor recreation access, biological and geological diversity, and high quality and informed natural resource management makes the state of New Hampshire extremely attractive and popular among a wide range of local, regional, and international outdoor recreation visitors. These strengths also have the power to revitalize communities, incentivize investments, and attract new residents and workforce talent to the Granite State. To ensure that current and future generations continue to benefit from outdoor recreation in New Hampshire, wise stewardship, protection, and management of these valuable natural and cultural resources are vital to the Granite State's continued prosperity.



¹ U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2021

² U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2021

³ Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022



"Granite Staters know how beautiful and precious our state's natural sites are, from our mountains to the Seacoast. Protecting New Hampshire's natural resources is vital to our culture, economy, and quality of life."

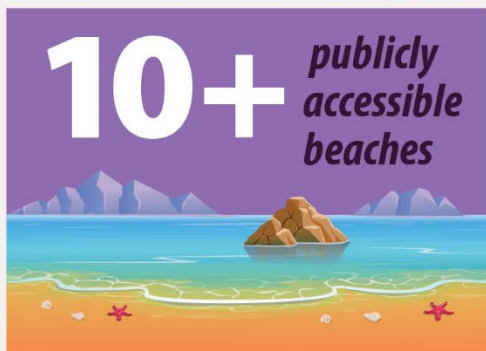
—Senator Hassan

NEW HAMPSHIRE NATURAL RESOURCES BY THE NUMBERS

30+
alpine and
Nordic ski
areas



10+ publicly
accessible
beaches



18 MILES
of coastline



10,000+
miles of rivers

1,000+
lakes

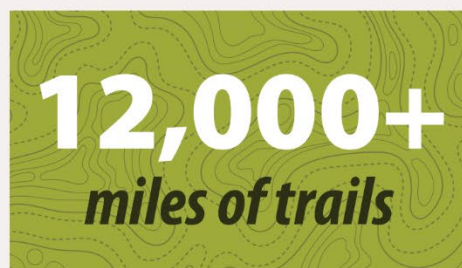
100+
salt and
freshwater
beaches



48 mountains over **4,000** feet



12,000+
miles of trails



800,000+ acres of federal land

180,000+ acres of local community land

450,000+ acres of state land

390,000+ acres of private and/or quasi-public land



The SCORP – A Plan for the People

In the 1960's, the Kennedy Administration proposed legislation that would eventually become the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965 (Public Law 88-578). Among other guidelines meant to safeguard natural areas, water resources, and cultural heritage, the law established the LWCF State and Local Assistance Program which is used to provide matching grant funds to state and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. In recent years, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act and Great American Outdoors Act have permanently reauthorized and fully funded the LWCF program, respectively. Under this landmark legislation as well as its subsequent reiterations, any state that desires to participate in the LWCF program must complete a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every five years. The intent of the New Hampshire SCORP is to justify state and federal expenditures for outdoor recreation using the following planning criteria:

1. Identify major issues and challenges facing the state's outdoor recreation and natural resources using public, provider, and user feedback, including from those who may not be active participants in outdoor recreation activities.
2. Assess the existing supply of, and demand for, outdoor recreation opportunities.
3. Evaluate recreation trends, deficiencies, underserved areas, and desired improvements.
4. Conduct an inventory of current outdoor recreation facilities, trails, and wetlands.

5. Establish priorities based on outreach efforts, data research, and previous plans.
6. Ensure accountability in measuring success using publicly issued annual benchmark reports.

This document is intended to serve as a planning tool for state and local entities that hope to apply for LWCF funding in the next five years. The priority areas listed in subsequent chapters represent issues of great importance for New Hampshire's outdoor recreation growth and management. Outdoor recreation stakeholders and land managers should consider using this document both as a policy guide to help frame future projects and as a resource pertaining to outdoor trends, demographic changes, and challenges or opportunities that may be encountered in the next five years and beyond.



Public Engagement

One of the core requirements of the statewide planning process is robust public participation. After all, this is a plan for the people and by the people. To achieve this goal, the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Division of Parks and Recreation (NHP&R) partnered with researchers at the University of New Hampshire Department of Recreation Management and Policy (UNH RMP) to study New Hampshire residents' outdoor recreation participation patterns, attitudes, perceptions, and opinions. To truly understand what the people of New Hampshire want and need, public input from thousands of Granite Staters was utilized to shape the findings, ideas, and recommendations in the 2024-28 New Hampshire SCORP. Five phases of primary data collection were conducted across New Hampshire to acquire this information: (1) Technical Advisory Board (TAC) meetings, (2) focus groups, (3) a resident survey, (4) a non-probability resident survey, and (5) a provider survey. The following section serves to outline the methodological approaches employed throughout the 2024-28 New Hampshire SCORP public engagement process as well as some topline data results.

Technical Advisory Board (TAC)

In the spring of 2022 and throughout the project as needed, the UNH RMP research team collaborated with NHP&R for a series of meetings with the SCORP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC consisted of organizations representative of federal, state, local, non-profit, and private organizations who manage publicly accessible lands for outdoor recreation in New Hampshire. Organizations included but were not limited to: NH Division of Parks and Recreation, NH Division of Forests and Lands, NH Department of Fish and Game, NH Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development, White

Mountain National Forest, UNH, Appalachian Mountain Club, Granite Outdoor Alliance, Recreation and Park Association, Association of Conservation Commissions, and Regional Planning Commission. Over the course of the project, the TAC served as an advisory panel for the plan's development.

Focus Groups

In the Summer of 2022 and throughout the project as needed, the UNH RMP research team conducted a series of focus groups to better understand the specific outdoor recreation needs and opinions of persons with disabilities as well as those who are Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC). The focus group survey instruments can be found in

Appendices C and D.

Five New Hampshire residents participated in the persons with disabilities focus groups, and discussion topics included: access, sense of belonging, constraints, programmatic needs, strengths of current programs and services, and areas needing improvement. Participants noted a need for accessible water access, the widening of hiking and multi-use trails to accommodate two-way adaptive equipment traffic, more accessible parking and signage, increased accessibility information for all public outdoor recreation spaces, universally designed amenities for all new construction, and more clearly defined regulations pertaining to possible mobility-related devices in outdoor recreation settings, such as e-bikes.

Quote from Persons with Disabilities Focus Groups

"The state does a good job of maintaining access in the front country like trailheads and info centers."

Eleven New Hampshire residents participated in the BIPOC focus groups, and discussion topics included: access, sense of belonging, constraints, programmatic needs, constraints and enablers, strengths of current programs and services, and areas needing improvement. Participants noted that New Hampshire BIPOC communities tend to overlap with lower income communities and that outdoor recreation programs specifically designed to engage BIPOC populations should be low or no cost, that cultural barriers (e.g., lack of exposure, equipment, specialized instruction) to participation are often tied to economic barriers, that a lack of BIPOC representation in outdoor recreation staffing, marketing, and signage may make visitors feel unwelcome, and that non-traditional outdoor recreation events and programs such as arts programming in outdoor venues may be a valuable bridge to BIPOC communities.

Quote from BIPOC Focus Groups

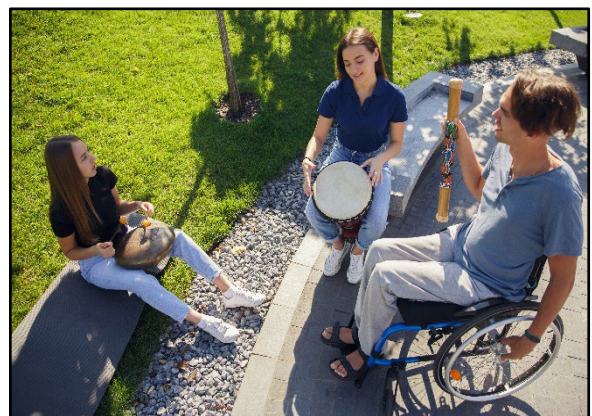
"There is a large opportunity to bring Black people into these spaces, but you need to think creatively. Art and music events are a great way to bring people to the outdoors."

Resident Survey

In the spring of 2023, the UNH RMP research team collaborated with the UNH Survey Center to conduct a survey of New Hampshire residents. The Resident Survey instrument can be found in **Appendix E**. The web-based survey utilized the UNH Survey Center's Granite State Panel to survey randomly selected New Hampshire residents from across the state who were 18+ years of age and who had participated in outdoor recreation in New Hampshire within the past 12 months. In total, 1,364 New Hampshire residents completed the

survey, representing a 19% response rate. To ensure a diverse and representative statewide sample, all data were statistically weighted by gender, age, education, state region, and political affiliation. This survey gauged residents' perceptions, attitudes, and opinions towards outdoor recreation: participation, experiences, behaviors, climate impacts, health and wellness, access, diversity, equity, inclusion, management preferences, funding, and investments.

Regarding outdoor recreation experiences in New Hampshire, respondents generally noted many positive findings related to: extremely high levels of overall satisfaction and intention-to-return; improved mental and physical health; strong feelings of welcomeness and safety, particularly towards persons of all racial and ethnic backgrounds; investment priorities in trail systems, camping areas, support facilities; strong support for the mapping of publicly accessible private lands and trails; easy access to outdoor recreation areas within 10 minutes of their home; strong consensus that outdoor recreation supports the state's economy; and significant support for the use of managed access reservation systems to limit the number of people who can visit some New Hampshire outdoor recreation areas.



Respondents also noted a number of concerns regarding outdoor recreation experiences in New Hampshire related to: significant social and ecological impacts related to visitor crowding, overuse, trail degradation, and litter; a lack of representation in the development of outdoor recreation areas; concerning levels of visitor displacement, largely due to overcrowding and poor visitor etiquette/behaviors; the impact of warmer summers and winters on outdoor recreation; and a lack of public transportation for accessing outdoor recreation areas.



Figure 1: Percent Experiencing Displacement

When given the opportunity to share the single most-important thing that outdoor recreation agencies or organizations could do to help them participate in outdoor recreation in New Hampshire, respondents shared a wide range of suggestions and concerns. Common topics included: trail development and maintenance, overcrowding and visitor use management, access and accessibility, communication and education, funding and resources, and safety and security.

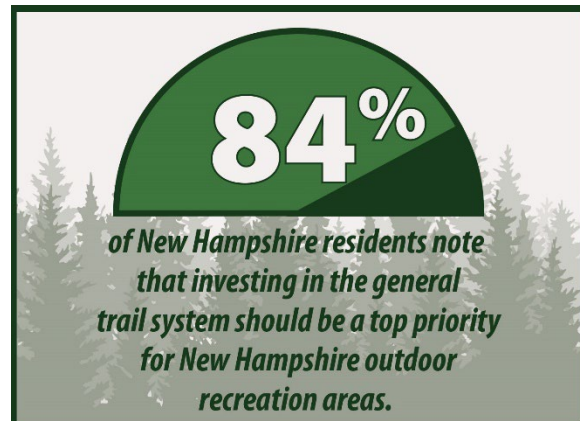


Figure 2: Percent Wanting to Invest in Trail System

Of the more than 1,200 open-ended comments, approximately 33% were related to concerns regarding crowding, overuse, and regulating/limiting recreation visitation in high-use areas, and approximately 21% were related to concerns regarding better visitor education, communication, responsible use, and overall etiquette.

Select Open-ended Responses from Resident Survey

"Build infrastructure to accommodate overcrowding (parking decks, public transport), or create policies to manage overcrowding (weekend reservations for areas) that consider equity in their framework – such as prioritizing access for minorities and persons with disabilities."

"New Hampshire is gorgeous, but it is paying the price for its location and ease of access. The growing popularity of outdoor recreation coupled with certain visitors who don't consider their impacts, behaviors, and etiquette could really be helped with visitor education."

Non-Probability Survey

In the spring of 2023, the UNH RMP research team collaborated with the NHP&R and conducted an open-access survey of any New Hampshire residents who engage in outdoor recreation throughout the Granite State. The open-access web-based survey was open to any New Hampshire residents who were 18+ years of age and had participated in outdoor recreation in New Hampshire within the past 12 months. In total, 2,663 New Hampshire residents completed the survey. Because this survey was open access and not a random sample, the data are considered representative only of the respondents who chose to participate. The overarching purpose of this survey and sample was to verify the reliability and validity of the Resident Survey data. No significant statistical differences were found when comparing data from the two surveys, indicating a lack of response bias and an overall valid and reliable Resident Survey sample. This survey gauged residents' perceptions, attitudes, and opinions towards outdoor recreation participation, experiences, behaviors, climate impacts, health and wellness, access, diversity, equity, inclusion, management preferences, funding, and investments.

Provider Survey

In the spring of 2023, the UNH RMP research team collaborated with the New Hampshire Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development (ORID) to conduct a survey of New Hampshire outdoor recreation providers. The Provider Survey instrument can be found in **Appendix F**. The web-based survey utilized ORID's Outdoor Industry Inventory to recruit New Hampshire outdoor recreation providers from across the state, defined as "any outdoor organization that provides and/or promotes outdoor recreation in New Hampshire." In total, 338 New Hampshire outdoor recreation providers completed the survey, representing

a 39% response rate. To ensure a diverse and representative statewide sample, the scope and scale of the provider sample were expanded to include local, state, federal, non-profit, educational, and private outdoor recreation providers in New Hampshire. This survey gauged providers' perceptions, attitudes, and opinions towards outdoor recreation visitor experiences, climate impacts, management preferences, access, diversity, equity, inclusion, health and wellness, funding, and investments.



Regarding recreation resource management and providing outdoor recreation opportunities in New Hampshire, providers generally noted many positive findings related to: diversity, equity, and inclusion, particularly regarding welcoming, safety, and access for persons of all racial and ethnic backgrounds and income levels; the numerous benefits of outdoor recreation upon local communities, quality of life, and mental and physical health; increased funding and/or investments to support outdoor recreation; agreement that outdoor recreation supports local, state, and regional economies; and strong support for the use of managed access reservation systems to limit the number of people who can visit some New Hampshire outdoor recreation areas. Providers also noted a number of concerns regarding outdoor recreation experiences in New Hampshire related to: significant social and ecological impacts related to visitor crowding, overuse, and resource degradation; the impact of climate change on outdoor recreation, particularly related to damage to recreation infrastructure from storms and fluctuating water levels; and recreation resource access and site accessibility, specifically access to persons with disabilities and access to the outdoors via public transportation.



Figure 3: Percent Agree Outdoor Recreation Promotes Tourism and Economic Development

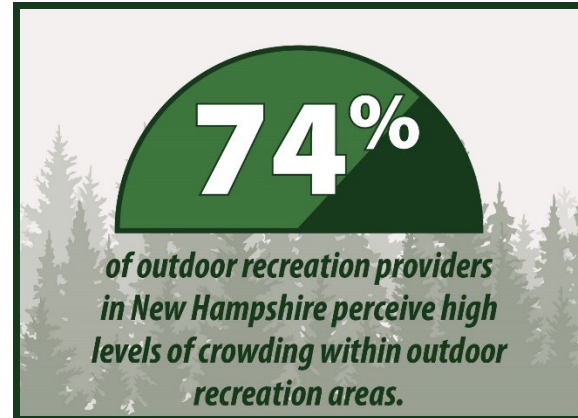


Figure 4: Percent Perceive High Levels of Crowding within Outdoor Recreation Areas

When given the opportunity to share the single most important thing that outdoor recreation providers could do to help future visitors access and participate in outdoor recreation in New Hampshire, providers shared a wide range of suggestions. Common topics included increasing access and inclusivity, outreach and education, partnerships and collaborations, conservation and stewardship, and awareness and promotion. Of the more than 300 open-ended comments, approximately 28% were related to access and inclusivity, specifically signage, removing cost barriers, and accessibility for persons with disabilities; and approximately 19% were related to outreach and education, namely educating visitors regarding proper etiquette, behaviors, and social norms as well as concise and consistent messaging across all forms of public land in the state.

Select Open-ended Responses from Provider Survey

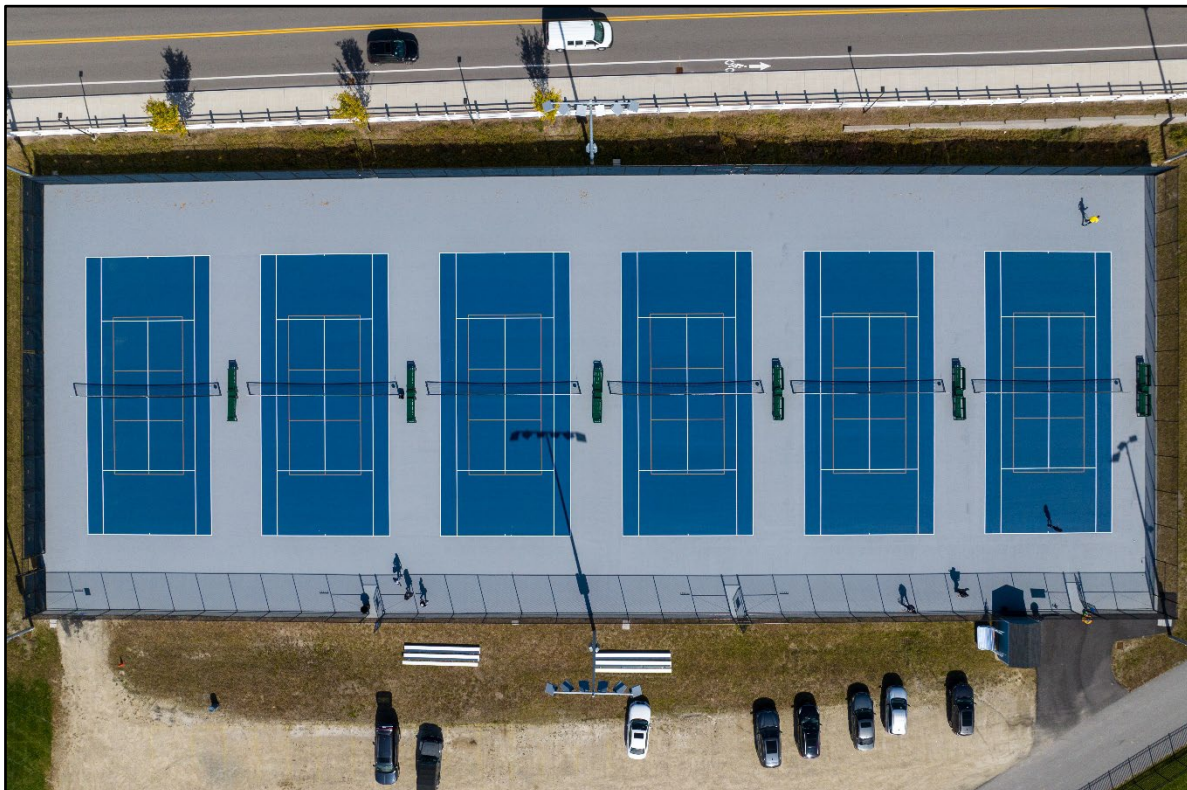
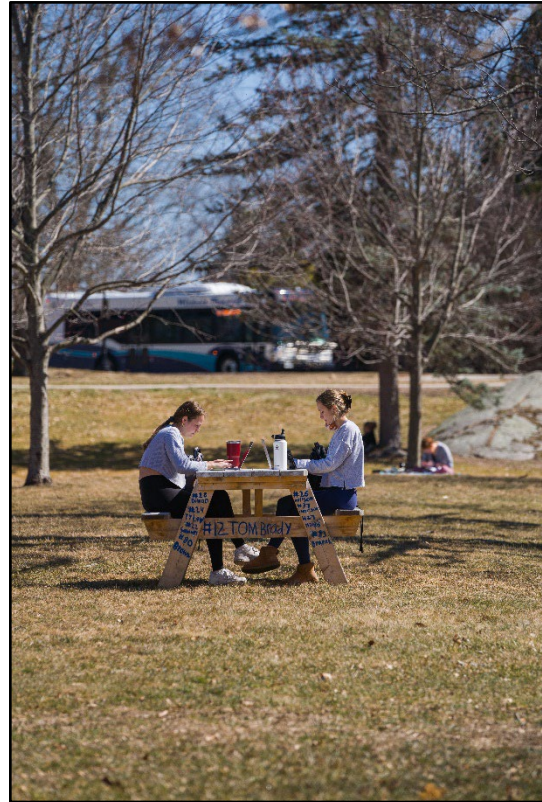
"Increase education with the public so they can help us protect the properties from degradation from outside sources and from their over/misuse."

"Proactive measures to bring marginalized groups into our spaces will help us identify areas of improvement before those areas are identified as issues."

Priority Areas

Based on a combination of feedback from the TAC and other stakeholders as well as the results and data from the five phases of primary data collection, five outdoor recreation priority areas were identified to serve as the foundation for action in this plan. These priorities represent the current challenges and opportunities facing outdoor recreation in New Hampshire. To assist in the development and implementation of these priority areas, 17 recommendations and 59 detailed action steps were developed to guide outdoor recreation providers in New Hampshire. The full recommendations and action steps implementation matrix can be found on pages 63-67 of this plan. The five priority areas are:

1. The Recreation Experience
2. Recreation and the Environment
3. Recreation for All
4. Health and Wellness
5. Economic Vitality



The Recreation Experience



New Hampshire boasts a wealth of publicly accessible natural resources for outdoor recreation which encompass a diverse mix of federal, state, local, non-profit, and publicly accessible private lands. Moreover, the state's location allows for abundant and convenient access to more than 70 million individuals within one day's drive. Outdoor recreation visitation within New Hampshire, however, has increased substantially over the past several decades and has skyrocketed within the past few years. Recreation providers, resource managers, elected officials, and the public are growing increasingly concerned regarding the influence of exponential visitation growth upon the quality of the visitor experience, the protection of natural resources, and the viability of recreation infrastructure. Visitor use management refers to the proactive, sustainable, and long-term management of outdoor recreation visitation to provide and maintain high-quality visitor experiences and natural amenities. The goals outlined below aim to protect and enhance investments in outdoor recreation visitor use management throughout New Hampshire, ensuring that both present and future visitors, workforces, and businesses continue to benefit from outdoor recreation.

1. Enhance visitor use management in outdoor recreation.

- a. Foster partnerships between federal, state, local, non-profit, and publicly accessible private landowners to collaboratively manage and maintain outdoor recreation visitation across jurisdictional boundaries and identify desired conditions for resources, visitor experiences, and facilities and services.
- b. Develop and implement managed access systems, such as capacity limits, reservation systems, and/or permit systems, to manage visitor use in select high-use areas.

2. Implement a comprehensive visitor education program in outdoor recreation.

- a. Coordinate current all federal, state, local, non-profit, and publicly accessible private landowner visitor education programs into a clear, consistent, concise, and statewide visitor education program to enhance visitor education, etiquette, and communication and promote responsible and sustainable outdoor recreation practices.
- b. Enhance visitor communication technology and channels, such as websites, mapping, and mobile applications, to provide real-time guidance and information on visitation levels, resource conditions, alternative recreation options, closures, and safety alerts to visitors.

3. Implement planning activities in outdoor recreation.

- a. Prioritize investing in comprehensive planning and monitoring programs to determine baseline metrics and data related to the impact of increasing recreation visitation levels upon the visitor experience quality, natural resource quality, economic vitality, and management and policy preferences for outdoor recreation management across the Granite State. These programs can include regular surveys, data collection through remote sensing technologies, monitoring of key indicators such as water quality or wildlife populations, and the establishment of long-term monitoring sites.
- b. Utilize consistent, reliable, and legally defensible scientific data and research from regular monitoring and assessments to recognize emerging trends, identify areas for improvement, inform long-term decision-making, and ultimately adapt strategies to maximize the benefits of outdoor recreation while minimizing any negative effects on the environment or local communities across the Granite State.

Recreation and the Environment



The impacts associated with climate change and dramatic increases in outdoor recreation visitation have put unprecedented stress on public lands, their managers, their infrastructure, and surrounding communities. Successful adaptation requires a holistic approach that balances the needs of New Hampshire's natural resources with the needs of recreation enthusiasts. This plan outlines goals focused on adapting facility designs, strengthening public stewardship communications, and deepening interagency collaboration. The overarching goal is to absorb some of the uncertainty associated with climate shifts to preserve both the natural environment and the visitor experience. This notion is underscored by the state's commitment to natural resource management, particularly regarding wetlands, as outlined in **Appendix G**.

1. Develop and redevelop outdoor recreation areas to be adaptable to seasonal shifts and, in turn, minimize visitor impacts on the natural environment.

- a. Encourage professionals involved in the design of new parks or park renovations to be trained in sustainable landscape techniques and practices.
- b. Inventory and prioritize both capital infrastructure and operational maintenance needs (including staffing) across New Hampshire parks and protected areas.
- c. Leverage weather pattern information and trends to determine recreation areas with the greatest need for adaptation, particularly locations that are at risk due to changes in water level and seasonal shifts.

2. Foster stewardship for New Hampshire outdoor recreation areas as well as natural, cultural, and historic resources through educational messaging and programs.

- a. Raise awareness of recreation's impact on natural resources and encourage visitors to assist in improving conditions through participation in volunteer events and programs (e.g., Nature Groupie events, beach clean-ups, trail maintenance days).
- b. Use citizen science programs and volunteerism activities and projects to collect and report data on plants, wildlife, water, weather, and trail conditions.

3. Strengthen interagency relationships and work collaboratively to develop a shared set of guiding principles for sustainable outdoor recreation management across New Hampshire parks and protected areas.

- a. Fully integrate environment vulnerability assessments and adaptation strategies into management planning, water, weather, and trail conditions.
- b. Develop a library of shared training resources focused on visitor use management systems that are adaptable to shifting levels of use because of weather pattern change and seasonal shifts.
- c. Create a rapid response fund that would facilitate resources and grants for emergency repairs of outdoor recreation amenities due to severe weather events.



Recreation for All



New Hampshire is home to a rapidly growing number of older adults as well as a significant number of those under 65 who identify as having a disability. Recreation providers and land managers throughout the state must consider Universal Access as a key aspect of their planning processes. Additionally, as New Hampshire continues to become more diverse in its racial and ethnic makeup, it is important to ensure that outdoor recreation areas are truly accessible and welcoming for everyone. New ways of thinking about outdoor recreation programming as well as consideration of the economic and cultural barriers to participation in traditional outdoor recreation activities and spaces are necessary if nature is to be truly equitable. The following goals should be considered over the next five years to increase access for traditionally underserved sectors of the New Hampshire outdoor recreation population.

1. Utilize universal design principles in the development or renovation of outdoor recreation facilities.

- a. Prioritize Best Management Practices around universal design including the Architectural Barriers Act.
- b. Improve accessibility through the development of universal access routes.
- c. Increase the number of accessible parking spaces with appropriately marked access aisles.
- d. Increase the number of accessible support facilities including toilets and shelters.
- e. Increase physical access to water-based recreation opportunities, including car-top boat launches, fishing areas, and beaches.

2. Create new programs in outdoor recreation settings intended to appeal to new and diverse users.

- a. Create low-cost/no-cost instructional programs to teach outdoor skills in local communities.
- b. Support the creation of lending libraries of outdoor recreation equipment in racially diverse and/or economically disadvantaged communities to allow for participation in activities for which access to necessary equipment may be a barrier to entry.
- c. Support the development of trails with low technical ratings that are well-marked and maintained.

3. Improve access to real-time accessibility information relative to state, local, and privately-owned parks, trails, and outdoor recreation spaces.

- a. Develop a comprehensive database of accessible walking, hiking, and cycling trails managed for public use including ratings and descriptions of accessibility.

4. Build racial and ethnic diversity in the outdoor recreation workforce including volunteers, advisory boards, and partners, as well as full-time and seasonal employees.

- a. Explore the racial and ethnic diversity of recreationists at the state and local level and other issues related to the intersection of recreation and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).
- b. Partner with schools, religious institutions, and local leaders to create and distribute volunteer outreach campaigns to racially and ethnically diverse areas in New Hampshire.
- c. Increase the overall representation of racial and ethnic diversity among recreationists and staff in marketing materials used.

Health and Wellness



Outdoor recreation is a major contributor to the overall health and well-being of New Hampshire's residents and visitors. We have long understood the connection between staying active and living a long and healthy life. The COVID-19 pandemic has only further contributed to the ways Granite Staters manage their physical and mental health through activity outdoors. The following goals are intended to support the continued health and well-being of community members through the support and encouragement of participation in outdoor recreation activities as well as by connecting outdoor recreation providers to the broader health community.

1. Improve access to recreation infrastructure across the state.

- a. Support the development of new recreation facilities distributed equitably across the state to ensure nearby opportunities and promote healthy behaviors.
- b. Develop a comprehensive database of publicly accessible walking, hiking, and cycling trails and recreation facilities including properties managed by federal, state, local, non-profit, and private land managers.
- c. Invest in recreation infrastructure that promotes health and well-being such as shade structures and canopies, outdoor fitness stations and hubs, and wayfinding and signage along trails and pathways that communicate health-related information to users.
- d. Improve recreation facility connectivity at the state and local level to increase use of non-motorized transportation in and around town.

2. Educate residents and visitors on the connection between outdoor recreation and health.

- a. Develop and implement a comprehensive public awareness campaign that educates residents on the benefits of active recreation and promotes outdoor recreation activities.
- b. Develop and distribute resources to increase preventative measures to minimize potential negative health impacts of outdoor recreation including Lyme or other insect-borne diseases.

3. Collaborate with healthcare professionals and policy makers to communicate the physical and mental health benefits of outdoor recreation.

- a. Develop and distribute educational materials in collaboration with healthcare professionals encouraging outdoor recreation participation as a core aspect of healthy living.
- b. Create a publicly accessible database of best practices and current planning and research related to recreation and health.
- c. Engage with public health professionals through participation in conferences, health summits, and collaboration in planning and research.



Economic Vitality



The immense New Hampshire public lands system with its parks, forests, and trails serves to reinvigorate communities, incentivize investments, and attract new residents and workforce talent to the state. There are numerous examples of towns, communities, and businesses across the Granite State capitalizing on the benefits of outdoor recreation, abundant natural resources, and the overall outdoor recreation economy. This wealth of outdoor recreation assets positions the state incredibly well to capitalize on the flourishing and ever-expanding outdoor recreation economy; however, investments and prioritization must continue for this economic sector to reach its potential. Each year, the demands for recreation infrastructure grows exponentially, particularly in the wake of increased visitation, far surpassing the investments made to meet those needs. The following goals are intended to safeguard and increase investments into outdoor recreation across the Granite State and continue to enhance the vitality of this critical economic sector.

1. Protect and expand public and private partnerships and investments.

- a. Increase public and private partnership financial support for the development and maintenance of local outdoor recreation infrastructure and conservation initiatives.
- b. Share success stories and best practices of existing public and private partnerships in outdoor recreation highlighting the positive outcomes, lessons learned, and innovative approaches taken.

2. Expand educational and training programs.

- a. Implement a comprehensive workforce development program that contains professional development opportunities, certification attainment, continuing or advanced education, experiential training, and professional organization involvement.
- b. Support industry collaborations with career and technical education centers, community colleges, and universities to incorporate outdoor recreation courses, certificates, degree programs, and specialized training into their curriculums and to facilitate credit transfers across institutions.
- c. Introduce certification programs and industry-recognized credentials that validate and enhance the skills, expertise, and credibility of professionals in the outdoor recreation field.

3. Improve marketing and promotion.

- a. Develop comprehensive and consistent marketing campaigns across the state that serve to leverage digital platforms and collaborate with recreation and tourism organizations.
- b. Ensure marketing campaigns provide comprehensive understanding of the available recreation resources and how to access them for all Granite Staters, regardless of socio-economic status.

4. Continue to explore the economic impact of outdoor recreation across the state.

- a. Calculate the economic impact of trails, parkland, and recreation infrastructure based on local, regional, and statewide impact.
- b. Create tools and resources for local communities to use to calculate their own economic impact.
- c. Create a shared resource library that includes data points, infographics, and related materials to help local communities articulate the economic benefits of outdoor recreation to elected officials, public health officials, and community stakeholders.



GRANITE STATE TRENDS

Outdoor Recreation

This chapter explores the outdoor recreation, socio-demographic, and health and wellness trends impacting the New Hampshire outdoor recreation industry.

NH Outdoor Recreation

Visitation and the Visitor Experience

Outdoor recreation visitation within the United States (U.S.) public lands system has increased substantially over the past several years and has skyrocketed in recent years, due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic. The most recent national data demonstrates that overall outdoor recreation participation within the U.S. public lands system grew 2.2% in 2021 with more than half of all Americans participating in some form of outdoor recreation.⁴ Moreover, the core constituency of outdoor recreation participants increased 6.9% since the COVID-19 pandemic began while new outdoor participants became more diverse across both ethnicity and age groups.⁵ The latest state-level data confirms this outdoor renaissance as outdoor recreation and tourism visitation increased by 38% in 2021 across New Hampshire,⁶ with the White Mountain National Forest seeing a more than 50% increase in visitation.⁷ As a result of this surge in outdoor recreation visitation, recreation managers, elected officials, and the public are growing increasingly concerned regarding the influence of exponential visitation growth upon both the visitor experience and the protection of natural resources in New Hampshire.

“New Hampshire has been known worldwide for its recreational opportunities for generations. It’s one of the reasons so many people come to visit the Granite State, and it’s definitely why so many choose to live here and do business here.”

*—Brian Wilson, Director of the
NH Division of Parks and Recreation*



Figure 6: Quote from Brian Wilson, Director of the NH Division of Parks and Recreation

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

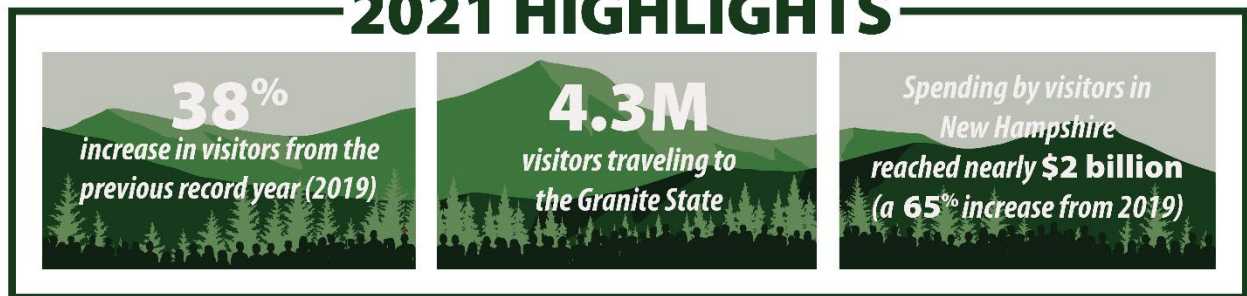


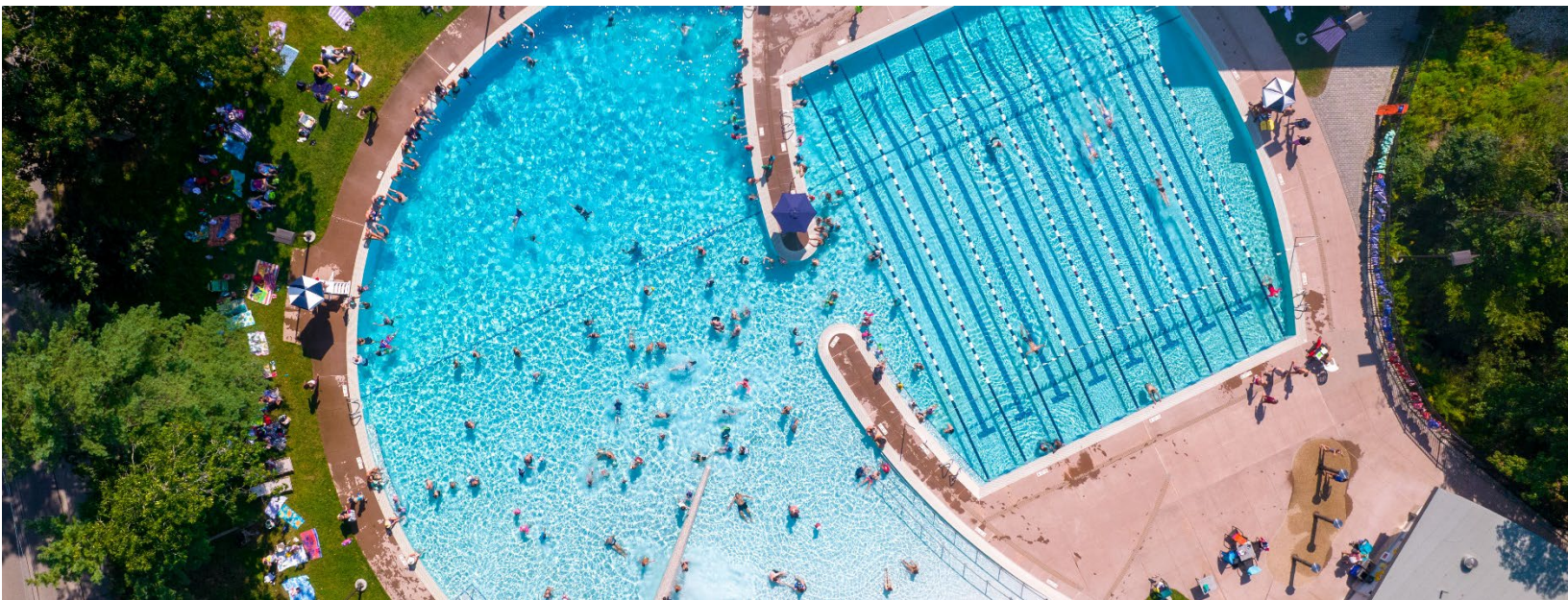
Figure 5: New Hampshire Tourism Highlights from 2021

⁴ Outdoor Foundation, 2022

⁵ Outdoor Foundation, 2022

⁶ New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism Development, 2022

⁷ Ferguson, et al., 2022



Results from the Resident Survey indicate 86% of Granite Staters are highly satisfied with their outdoor recreation experiences in New Hampshire and 98% intend to return for future outdoor recreation experiences. New Hampshire residents and outdoor recreation providers also noted several social and ecological concerns largely related to overcrowding, overuse, and resource degradation.



Figure 7: Percent of Residents that Intend to Return for Future Outdoor Recreation Experiences

60% of Granite Staters and 74% of recreation providers perceived high levels of crowding within New Hampshire recreation areas. Concerning levels of visitor displacement were also found, with 1 in 4 Granite Staters noting they had discontinued their use of certain New Hampshire outdoor recreation areas in the past year, due largely to overcrowding. Instances of crowding and visitor displacement were highest within *local* and *state* managed lands and lowest within *federal* and *non-profit* managed lands. Moreover, 69% of residents and 75% of recreation providers support the use of managed access reservation systems to limit the number of people who can visit some New Hampshire outdoor recreation areas. Overall, the surge in outdoor recreation visitation, driven in part by the COVID-19 pandemic, reflects a growing trend of active engagement in the outdoors and emphasizes the importance of long-term and sustainable visitor use management to provide and maintain high-quality visitor experiences and natural resources conditions across both New Hampshire and the United States.



Resources and Activities

Across the United States, outdoor recreation participation often takes place close to home with local parks, playgrounds, and recreation facilities consistently ranking as some of the most popular and visited outdoor venues nationally.⁸ In New Hampshire, nearly three-quarters of residents reported they can access an outdoor recreation area within 10 miles of their home. Resident Survey results indicate 80% of Granite Staters recreated within *local* and *state* recreation areas at least once in the past year while 65% recreated within *federal* or publicly accessible *private* recreation areas at least once in the past year. Similarly, New Hampshire residents reported recreating most frequently within *local* parks, trails, and/or recreation areas followed by publicly accessible *private* lands, *state* parks and forests, and *federal* lands. Nearly one-quarter of all Granite Staters recreated 11+ times within *local* recreation areas, the highest visitation frequency of all New Hampshire public lands. Moreover, 98% of Granite Staters noted they intend to return to these areas for future outdoor recreation experiences.

⁸ Outdoor Foundation, 2022

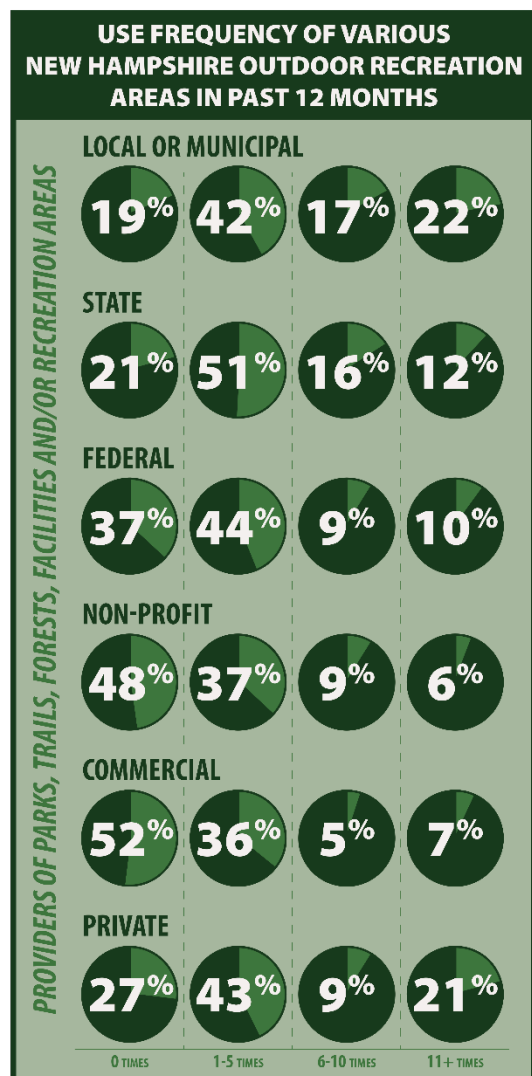


Figure 8: Outdoor Recreation Areas by Frequency of Use

In terms of outdoor pursuits and participation, *walking, running, and/or dog-walking* was consistently noted as the most popular outdoor recreation activity in New Hampshire, with more than two-thirds of all respondents participating 11+ times in the past year. After that, the most popular and frequent outdoor recreation activities in New Hampshire are (in order): scenic driving, wildlife viewing and/or birdwatching, night sky viewing, swimming, outdoor photography, visiting historic sites and/or nature centers, hiking and/or backpacking, picnicking, and non-motorized boating. More women than men indicated they frequently participated in walking, running, and/or dog-walking; swimming; outdoor photography; and picnicking. Conversely, more men than women indicated they frequently participated in scenic driving, wildlife viewing and/or birdwatching, night sky viewing, visiting historic sites and/or nature centers, hiking and/or backpacking, and non-motorized boating.

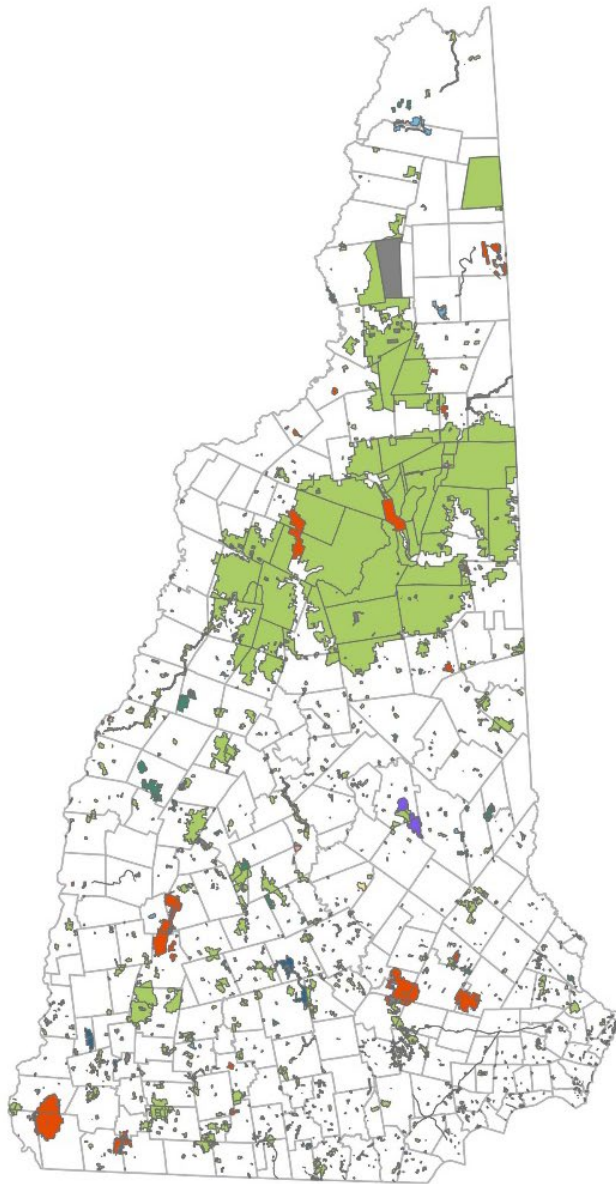


New Hampshire Recreation Areas 2023

Data Source: NH Granit

Primary Use

- Campground
- Field Sports
- Fishing
- Golf
- Historic
- Hunting Area
- Natural Area
- Park
- Picnic Area
- Scenic Road
- Snow Ski Area
- Special Event Fac.
- Trail Area
- Water Sports Area
- Winter Sports Area
- Other
- <all other values>



0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles

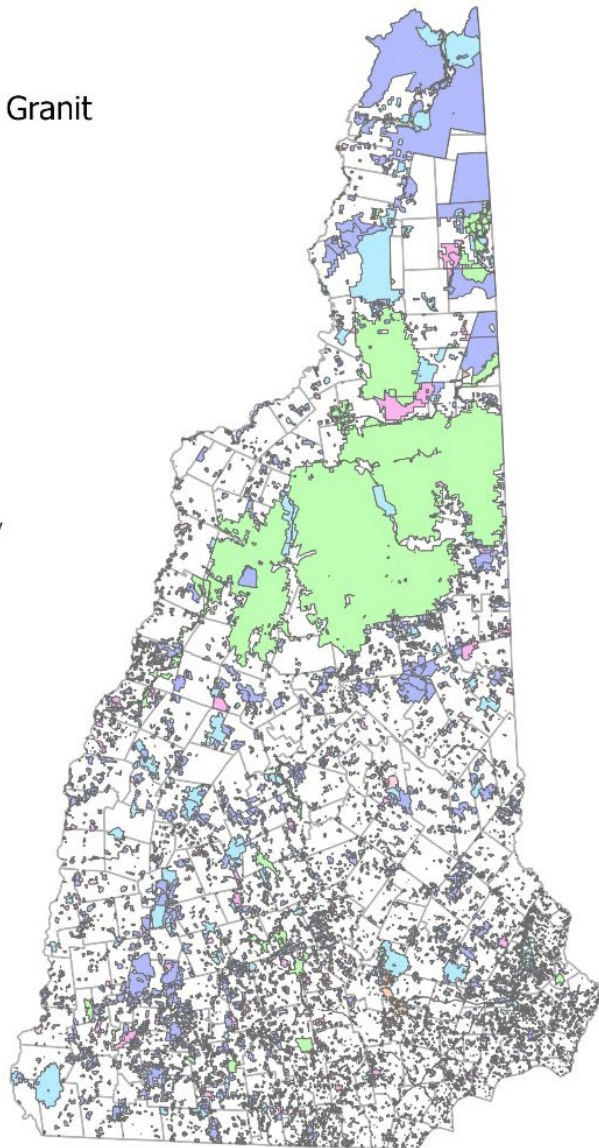
Figure 9: New Hampshire Recreation Areas Map

New Hampshire Conservation/Public Lands 2023

Data Source: NH Granit

Land Ownership

- Federal
- State
- County
- Municipal
- Other
- Private
- NH Political Boundary



0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles

Figure 10: New Hampshire Conservation/Public Land Areas Map

NH Outdoor Recreation Economy

Nationally, the outdoor recreation economy is a massive economic engine, accounting for 1.9% of U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) and supporting a range of jobs, businesses, and industries across the nation including retail, hospitality, transportation, and manufacturing.⁹ Outdoor recreation is also a vital and substantial contributor to the New Hampshire economy, representing 2.7% of the state's GDP, employing more than 28,000 workers, and providing more than \$1.2 billion in wage compensation across the state.¹⁰ In 2021, visitor outdoor recreation spending increased by a record-breaking 65% in New Hampshire from 2019, resulting in more than \$2.7 billion in annual consumer spending.¹¹ Results from the Resident Survey reaffirm the power of the outdoor economy with 98% of Granite Staters agreeing that outdoor recreation supports the New Hampshire economy and increases property values.



Figure 11: Outdoor Recreation Return on Investment (ROI) in New Hampshire
Source: New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism Development, 2022

⁹ U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2021

¹⁰ U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2021

¹¹ New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism Development, 2021; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2021



Further, 97% of residents are satisfied with the investments made by their *state* government into outdoor recreation, and 80% are satisfied with both *local* and *federal* government investments. Results from the Provider Survey indicate that more than 16,000 outdoor recreation professionals are employed across the state, working with an average annual operating budget of more than \$2 million. Most of the funding for outdoor recreation provider budgets stem from user fees (31%), taxes and appropriated funds (15%), and/or private funds and donations (15%). Recreation providers also noted a remarkable improvement in funding and/or investment support for outdoor organizations across New Hampshire in the past five years. Taken together, New Hampshire's robust outdoor economy, well-maintained recreation infrastructure, and abundant natural resources and access position the state incredibly well to capitalize on the flourishing and ever-expanding outdoor recreation economy to continue to draw visitors, businesses, and young people to the Granite State.

LWCF Projects in New Hampshire, 2018-2022

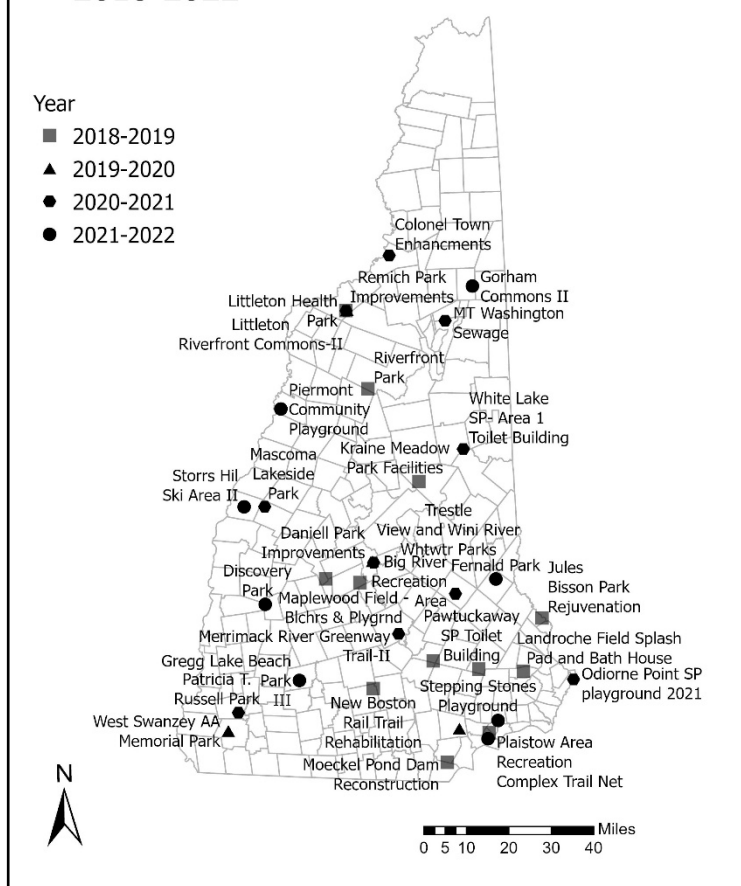


Figure 12: Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State Assistance Project Locations in New Hampshire

Socio-demographics

According to the 2020 Census, New Hampshire is the fastest-growing state in New England. While there are many reasons to move to the Granite State, several of the most common reasons are closely tied to outdoor recreation. For example, “U.S. News and World Reports” named New Hampshire in the top ten nationally for “Natural Environment” and “Economy.” While New Hampshire has a booming and diverse economy, 80% of respondents to the most recent SCORP survey identified recreation as a major economic driver in the state. Clearly, New Hampshire’s natural features, economic vitality, quality of life, and population growth are inextricably linked.

Migration Patterns, Population Growth, and Housing

New Hampshire’s economic opportunity, quality of life, and scenic beauty have been bringing people to the state since its founding. However, the state is now experiencing a period of unprecedented population growth. As the outdoor experience plays a role in the state’s growth, the experience of outdoor recreationists is impacted by the increased number of those seeking to utilize the same resources. The most recent SCORP survey found that many residents are having their outdoor experience negatively impacted by crowding and visitor behavior. As the state’s population continues to swell, these issues will only be compounded if not addressed. In addition, those moving to New Hampshire are faced with a housing market driven by low supply and high demand. This means that housing costs are making up an ever-larger share of residents’ expenses, including those in the recreation and hospitality industry. The recent influx of new residents is creating not only a need for improved visitor use management, but also the lack of housing

availability and subsequent economic impact that are influencing recreation behavior as well as the state’s ability to recruit an adequate outdoor workforce.

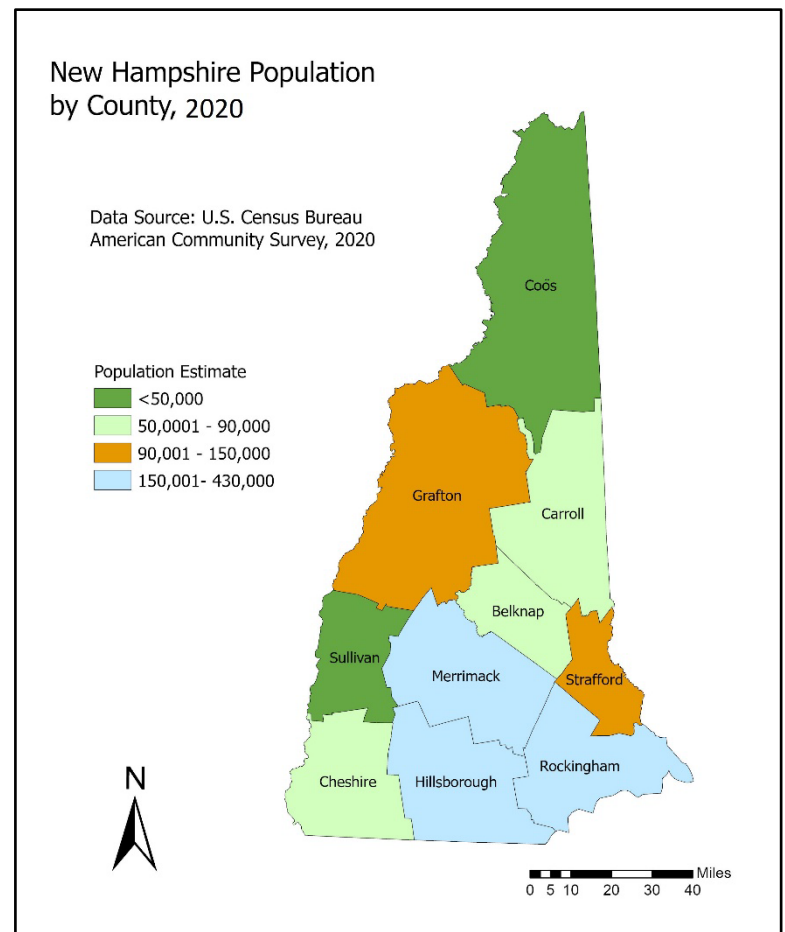


Figure 13: New Hampshire Population by County

Demographic Diversity

While New Hampshire is not demographically dissimilar to the rest of the nation, there are ways in which the state stands out from the crowd. New Hampshire is older, Whiter, and more affluent than most of the U.S. While many consider outdoor recreation universal, these demographic realities do impact participation; in fact, 72% of outdoor recreationists are white.¹² While only 7% of the state's total population is non-white, the future of the state is looking much more diverse. A 2021 interview with UNH's Carsey Institute states that 20% of New Hampshire residents under 18 belong to a racial minority group.¹³ If the racial and ethnic diversity of New Hampshire's populace increases without a sympathetic change in the rate of recreation participation among non-Whites, New Hampshire is likely to experience a significant reduction in overall outdoor participation in the state.

Additionally, older adults are hoping to live in their home communities later into life and have saved more for their retirement than previous generations.¹⁴ According to AARP, 77% of seniors hope to stay in their homes for the long haul. This increase in older adults aging in place in their New Hampshire communities is already impacting the programs and services that local parks and recreation programs are offering, from new pickleball courts to the development of new senior centers. As the makeup of New Hampshire changes over time, the outdoor recreation sector must adapt. The need for outreach to communities of color as well as programs and services that meet the needs of older adults is clear.

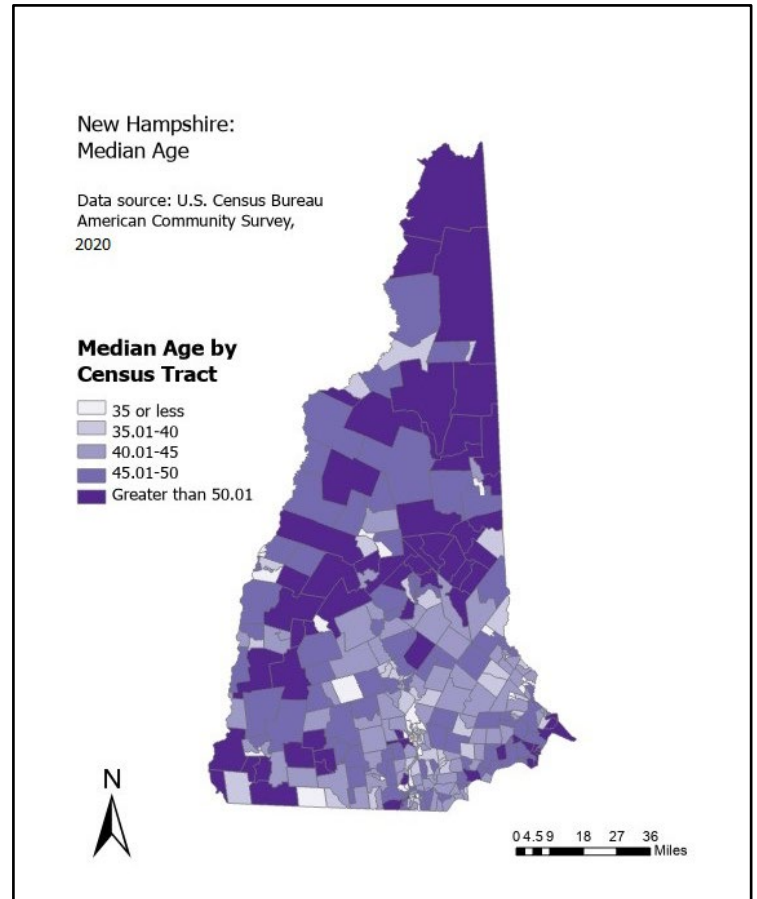
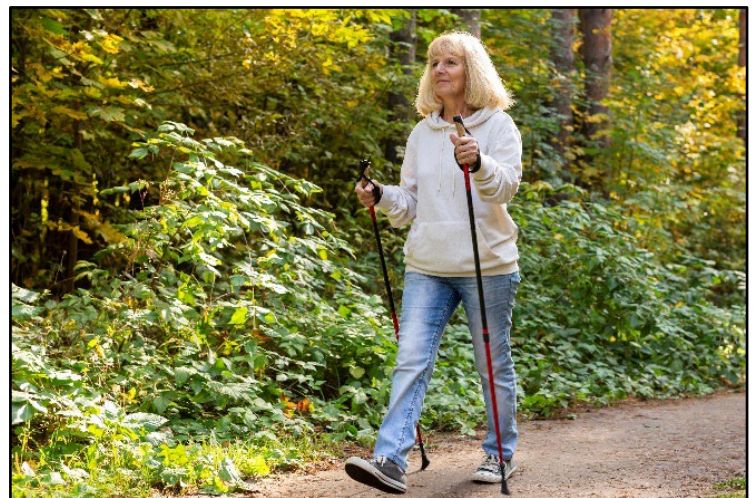


Figure 14: New Hampshire Median Age by Census Tract



¹² Outdoor Foundation, 2022

¹³ Johnson, 2021

¹⁴ Davis, 2022; Caporal, 2023

Health and Wellness

Physical Health

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic hit New Hampshire in much the same ways as elsewhere in the nation. But many of the health effects impacted by the pandemic were already areas of concern for the Granite State. While New Hampshire's obesity rate is below the national average, that number is trending upward. Research suggests that spending time in nature promotes a multitude of physical health benefits and that access to these spaces is essential to providing healthy individuals and communities.¹⁵ A 2020 study from the National Institutes of Health suggests that one of the most powerful predictors of childhood obesity is proximity to a recreational trail system.¹⁶

Additionally, New Hampshire has been facing a serious opioid epidemic in recent years. The number of drug overdose deaths in the state has increased dramatically, with a peak in 2017. However, there has been a decline in overdose deaths since then, and the state has been implementing various programs to combat substance abuse. New Hampshire also holds the dubious distinction of the highest per-capita rate of alcohol consumption in the nation.¹⁷

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has suggested that physical activity including participation in outdoor recreation activities can have immediate and long-term health effects, including weight management, improved brain health, improved functional mobility, and even a reduction in the occurrence of chronic health conditions ranging from asthma to cancer.¹⁸ In addition, many studies have shown that physical exercise can have a positive impact on

recovery from substance use disorders. The results of the SCORP Resident Survey suggest that New Hampshire residents clearly understand the connection between outdoor activity and health, with 85.3% of respondents in the resident survey identifying the improvement of overall health as an important benefit of outdoor recreation participation.

“Several studies highlight the link between time spent in parks and physical activity and the correlation between that activity and positive health outcomes, such as a reduced risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, and heart disease.”

—The Urban Institute, 2022

Figure 15: Quote from the Urban Institute

¹⁵ Ho, Payne, Orsega-Smith, & Godbey, 2003

¹⁶ Kim, Thomsen, Nayga, Jr., Fang, & Goudie, 2020

¹⁷ Elflein, 2023

¹⁸ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2022

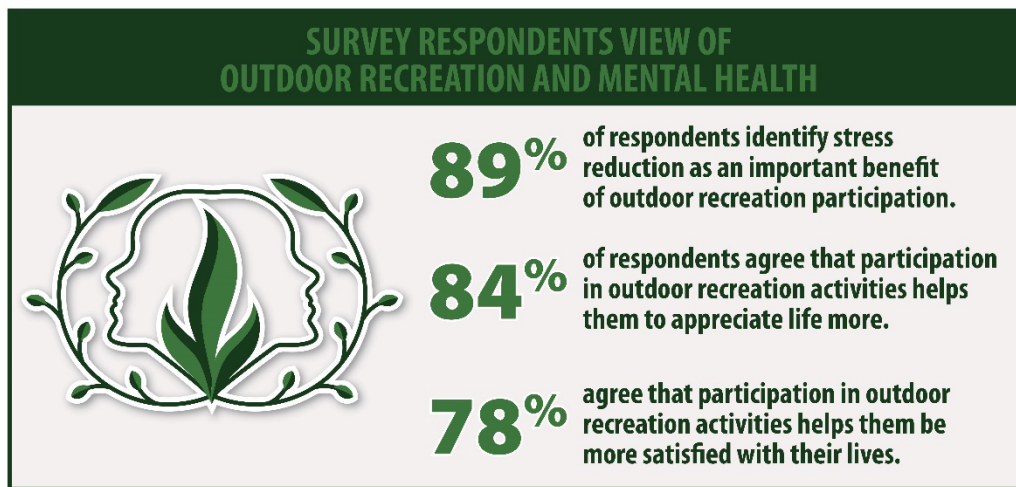


Figure 16: Resident Survey View of Outdoor Recreation and Mental Health

Mental Health

Mental health has been a growing concern in New Hampshire, with an increasing number of people reporting symptoms of anxiety and depression. As of 2022, Mental Health America ranks New Hampshire 30th out of all 50 states,¹⁹ meaning the state experiences slightly higher than average prevalence of mental illness and/or lower rates of access to care. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the mental health of people in New Hampshire. Many people have experienced stress, anxiety, and depression due to isolation, economic challenges, and uncertainty about the future. Outdoor recreation has been shown to reduce stress and improve mental health. This can have physical benefits as well; for example, chronic stress has been linked to a variety of health problems. The Mayo Clinic suggests the following to limit the effects of the pandemic on mental health:

1. Take care of your body
2. Take care of your mind
3. Connect with others

The connection between physical health, mental health, social wellbeing, and outdoor recreation has been understood for decades.

Opportunities for physical activity, the construction and maintenance of social networks, and the opportunity to manage stress and anxiety through nature are more important than ever as we continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Interestingly, even long-held physical health indicators like obesity have been tied back to mental health and well-being. A 2022 study suggested almost half of Americans gained weight during the first year of the pandemic.²⁰ However, the most significant predictor of weight gain was psychological distress, leading to the conclusion that post-pandemic public health strategies should emphasize stress reduction.

Communities that increase access to outdoor recreation can positively impact both physical and mental health in a significant manner. The SCORP Resident Survey suggests that New Hampshire residents are often using outdoor recreation to mitigate the effects of stress in their lives. In fact, 89% of respondents identified stress reduction as an important benefit of outdoor recreation participation. Survey results suggest the positive mental health effects of outdoor recreation are even more important to Granite Staters than are the perceived benefits to physical health.

¹⁹ Mental Health America, 2022

²⁰Khumbchandani, Price, Sharma, Wiblishauser, & Webb, 2022



PRIORITY AREAS

The Foundation

This chapter presents the five priority areas that represent the current challenges and opportunities facing outdoor recreation in New Hampshire.



“Guard well your spare moments. They are like uncut diamonds. Discard them and their value will never be known. Improve them and they will become the brightest gems in a useful life.”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Recreation Experience

New Hampshire offers a wide variety of outdoor recreation activities for residents and visitors to the Granite State alike.

Therefore, visitor use management along with land management practices are even more paramount to the growth of New Hampshire’s outdoor recreation industry.

Before visitor use management practices can be enhanced, it is important to understand access to outdoor recreation resources, the magnitude of outdoor recreation use, and what exactly people are choosing to do for their outdoor recreation experiences. Resource managers and policy makers can then utilize this data to make informed decisions.



72% OF RESIDENTS SAY THEY CAN ACCESS A
NEW HAMPSHIRE OUTDOOR RECREATION AREA WITHIN 10 MINUTES OF HOME.



Figure 17: Resident Survey Perception of Access within 10 Minutes of Home

Outdoor Recreation Conditions

Approximately 9 out of 10 New Hampshire residents participate in outdoor recreation annually. With nearly 90% of the state's population participating, and factoring in non-resident use on top of it, outdoor recreation is more of a way of life than luxury in New Hampshire. As a result, outdoor recreation continues to have its perception change toward being an essential service.

As mentioned previously, New Hampshire has well over 1.8 million acres of publicly accessible land. Based on the relationship between population density and publicly accessible land, 72% of New Hampshire residents indicate they can access a New Hampshire outdoor recreation area within 10 minutes of home.

This metric is an important distinction for New Hampshire as there are localized national movements that strive for cities to achieve full publicly accessible land access within a 10-minute walk from every resident (see 10minutewalk.org for more information). Realizing walkability to outdoor recreation spaces within a 10-minute walk is hindered by the nature of where outdoor recreation locations exist, it is critical to leverage partnerships throughout the Granite State to continually increase access for outdoor recreation opportunities, especially for the most-used areas and popular activities.



Figure 18: Top Ten Primary Outdoor Recreation Activities Participated in by Frequency of Use

73% OF RESIDENTS SUPPORT THE MAPPING OF PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE PRIVATE LANDS AND TRAILS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.



Figure 19: Resident Survey Support for Mapping of Publicly Accessible Private Lands and Trails

Building Awareness

With approximately 90% of the population participating in outdoor recreation activities, it is safe to assume outdoor recreation is a well-known commodity around the state. Although this idea seems valid on the surface, there are still people that do not participate in outdoor recreation or participate to the level that they desire. One factor that influences overall awareness is the availability of private lands and trails for public use. SCORP Resident Survey participants were asked to indicate their support for public/private land policies, and 73% support the mapping of publicly accessible private lands and trails in New Hampshire. This management practice can enhance public knowledge and understanding of available resources and continue to strengthen the relationship between private landowners and general public outdoor recreation enthusiasts.

Visitor Experience

As crowding continues to affect outdoor recreation users around the state, this aspect of the visitor experience necessitates a more comprehensive response. One such strategy is the notion of limiting visitation in high-use areas or for high-use activities. SCORP Resident Survey participants were asked to indicate the extent of their support for various visitor use limitation strategies to improve the overall visitor experience within New Hampshire outdoor recreation areas. As a result, 69% of residents support the introduction of a reservation system to help distribute visitation in high-use areas or activities. In fact, NH State Parks has implemented a reservation system for day use parks enabling a percentage of access to be based on reservation. This is a trending management technique around the country to help curb visitor experience crowding and overall logistics and operations.

69% OF RESIDENTS SUPPORT RESERVATION SYSTEMS TO HELP DISTRIBUTE VISITATION IN HIGH-USE AREAS OR ACTIVITIES.



Figure 20: Resident Survey Support for Reservation Systems to Improve the Outdoor Recreation Experience

Recommendations and Actions

1. Enhance Visitor Use Management in Outdoor Recreation.

- a. Foster partnerships between federal, state, local, non-profit, and publicly accessible private landowners to collaboratively manage and maintain outdoor recreation visitation across jurisdictional boundaries and identify desired conditions for resources, visitor experiences, and facilities and services.
- b. Develop and implement managed access systems, such as capacity limits, reservation systems, and/or permit systems, to manage visitor use in select high-use areas.

2. Implement a Comprehensive Visitor Education Program in Outdoor Recreation.

- a. Coordinate current all federal, state, local, non-profit, and publicly accessible private landowner visitor education programs into a clear, consistent, concise, and statewide visitor education program to enhance visitor education, etiquette, and communication and promote responsible and sustainable outdoor recreation practices.
- b. Enhance visitor communication technology and channels, such as websites, mapping, and mobile applications, to provide real-time guidance and information on visitation levels, resource conditions, alternative recreation options, closures, and safety alerts to visitors.

3. Implement planning activities in outdoor recreation.

- a. Prioritize investing in comprehensive planning and monitoring programs to determine baseline metrics and data related to the impact of increasing recreation visitation levels upon the visitor experience quality, natural resource quality, economic vitality, and management and policy preferences for outdoor recreation management across the Granite State. These programs can include regular surveys, data collection through remote sensing technologies, monitoring of key indicators such as water quality or wildlife populations, and the establishment of long-term monitoring sites.
- b. Utilize consistent, reliable, and legally defensible scientific data and research from regular monitoring and assessments to recognize emerging trends, identify areas for improvement, inform long-term decision-making, and ultimately adapt strategies to maximize the benefits of outdoor recreation while minimizing any negative effects on the environment or local communities across the Granite State.





"The environment, after all, is where we all meet, where we have a mutual interest. It is the one thing that all of us share."

—Lady Bird Johnson

Recreation and the Environment

Changing climate patterns have a large impact on the outdoor recreation industry. On one hand, climate affects when and how visitors use public spaces. On the other hand, it also impacts the built environment (i.e., recreation amenities and infrastructure) along with natural resources.

"Resiliency" has never been more salient in the recreation industry than it is today. In this context, it relates to the degree in which infrastructure, natural resources, and outdoor recreation participation are impacted by climate change. Outdoor recreation planners and providers are continually looking for more ways to be more resilient and can work and operate within changing demands on outdoor recreation resources. This line of thinking stems from *The New Hampshire Climate Action Plan* created in 2009 which provided steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while providing long-term economic benefits.

To better understand the impact climate has on outdoor recreation, we need to understand the components of the industry most affected and implement recommendations that continue to move towards being a more resilient industry.

Seasonality

With weather patterns becoming more and more unpredictable, outdoor recreation providers and the industry are becoming less reliant on historical seasonality to understand use patterns. When asked what they perceive to be the most significant perceived climate impacts on the outdoor recreation industry, providers indicated shorter winter seasons (87%), damage to recreation infrastructure from storms (86%), fluctuating water levels (74%), warmer winter seasons (74%), and fewer days of snow/ice coverage (72%) as their top five.

Infrastructure

Storms can have lasting effects on outdoor recreation use beyond the affected weather-related days. Strong winds, heavy rainfall, wildfires, and much more scatter public spaces with debris, make once bustling trail systems impassable, and damage outdoor recreation infrastructure. Increasing intensity and frequency of storms within the Granite State leads to shortened asset lifecycles and puts a strain on financial resources to keep up with required component replacements, renewal, and re-capitalization.

The New Hampshire Coastal Program (NHCP) is one entity working to advance coastal

resilience within the state in response to worsening coastal storms and extreme precipitation. Additionally, there is a large focus on the state's wetlands as a mechanism for increased land resiliency as described in **Appendix G.**

Visitor Use Limitations

In addition to infrastructure implications, changing weather patterns affect both the quantity and quality of outdoor recreation use. New Hampshire residents indicated unseasonably warm summer months and unseasonably warm winter months (57% and 55%, respectively) significantly impact their outdoor recreation pursuits; however, when looking at climate impacts from the perspective of outdoor recreation providers, winter recreation pursuits are receiving the most impact. Shorter and warmer winter seasons are leading to fewer days with snow/ice coverage. This leads to more concentrated visitor use days and less snow-related opportunities across the winter months in general to participate in traditional winter activities such as cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, winter camping, and the like. This, in turn, reduces economic impact and continues to perpetuate perceptions of overcrowding in the Granite States' outdoor recreation areas.

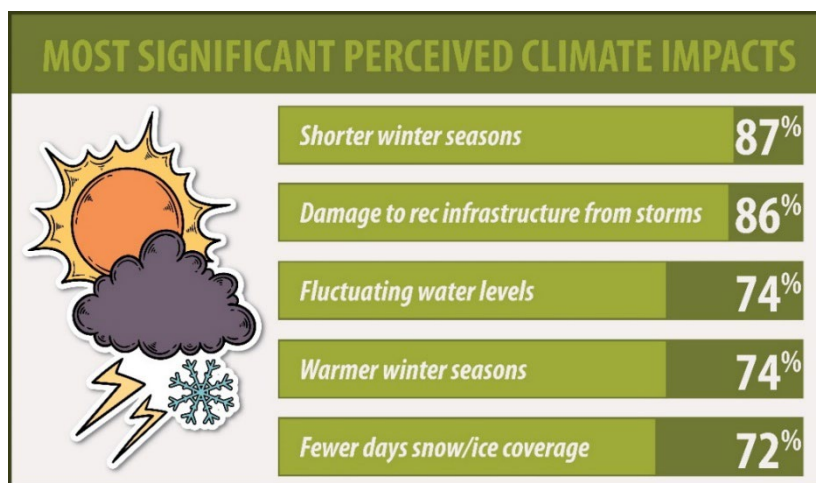


Figure 21: Provider Survey Perception of Most Significant Climate Impacts

Operations

Outdoor recreation users sometimes expect public spaces to be both available for their use and for the way they want to interact with those places. However, the provision of outdoor recreation areas and activities is linked with the ability to develop, maintain, and generally care for those public spaces to begin with. When asked what areas of their operation are impacted the most due to climate change, outdoor recreation industry providers in the Granite State indicated maintenance, finances, and planning as their top three.

Maintenance

There are different types of maintenance outdoor recreation agencies must perform including, but not limited to, preventative, corrective, cyclical, and capital replacement. Preventative maintenance refers to the tasks associated with keeping an asset or facility working at its designed capability. Corrective maintenance refers to the tasks associated with fixing components that have broken or have come into disrepair. Cyclical maintenance refers to tasks that are routine in nature and are typically associated with a replacement schedule. Capital replacement maintenance refers to tasks associated with replacing components, or entire assets/facilities, due to reaching the end of their useful lifecycle. Finally, all maintenance activities that are not completed transition into deferred maintenance backlogs and hinder both operational and capital planning.

Climate changes can and do put a strain on maintenance work programs because increased corrective and cyclical maintenance activities are due to increased visitor use in general, more concentrated use due to weather impacts, and storm damage that decreases the ability for outdoor recreation providers to perform preventative maintenance tasks; thus, spurring the need for sooner-than-expected capital replacements and component renewals.

Finances

As previously illustrated, climate changes greatly impact capital planning; however, there is also a direct impact on general operations as well. Fewer days for outdoor recreation directly translate into less revenue generated from those activities. This, in turn, hinders outdoor recreation providers' ability to reinvest in services, staff, and infrastructure.

Planning

Along with financial challenges, climate changes impact programs and services offered and facility designs. Outdoor recreation activities are dependent upon the natural resources and built environment amenities/facilities required to perform the activities. Facility designs must continually incorporate the latest and greatest materials, functionality, and durability considerations to continue providing outdoor recreation experiences that meet both customer expectations and resource protection needs.

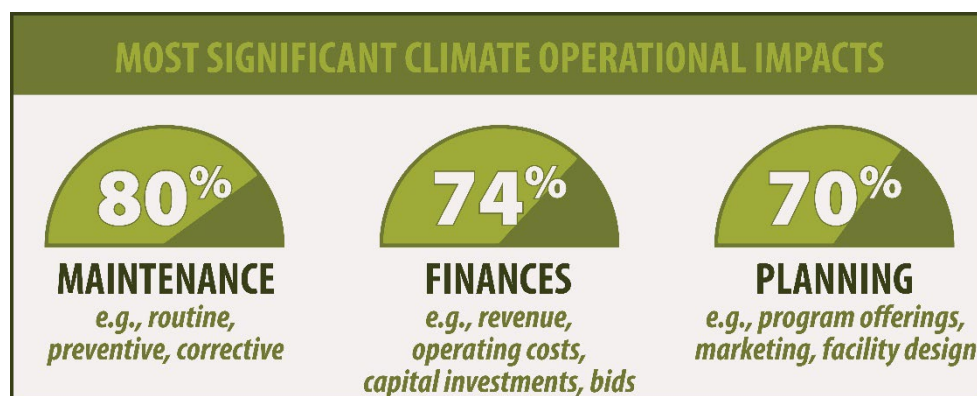


Figure 22: Provider Survey Perception of Most Significant Climate Operational Impacts

Recommendations and Actions

1. Develop and redevelop outdoor recreation areas to be adaptable to seasonal shifts and, in turn, minimize visitor impacts on the natural environment.
 - a. Encourage professionals involved in the design of new parks or park renovations to be trained in sustainable landscape techniques and practices.
 - b. Inventory and prioritize both capital infrastructure and operational maintenance needs (including staffing) across New Hampshire parks and protected areas.
 - c. Leverage weather pattern information and trends to determine recreation areas with the greatest need for adaptation, particularly locations that are at risk due to changes in water level and seasonal shifts.
2. Foster stewardship for New Hampshire outdoor recreation areas as well as natural, cultural, and historic resources through educational messaging and programs.
 - a. Raise awareness of recreation's impact on natural resources and encourage visitors to assist in improving conditions through participation in volunteer events and programs (e.g., Nature Groupie events, beach clean-ups, trail maintenance days).
 - b. Use citizen science programs and volunteerism activities and projects to collect and report data on plants, wildlife, water, weather, and trail conditions.

3. Strengthen interagency relationships and work collaboratively to develop a shared set of guiding principles for sustainable outdoor recreation management across New Hampshire parks and protected areas.
 - a. Fully integrate environment vulnerability assessments and adaptation strategies into management planning, water, weather, and trail conditions.
 - b. Develop a library of shared training resources focused on visitor use management systems that are adaptable to shifting levels of use because of weather pattern change and seasonal shifts.
 - c. Create a rapid response fund that would facilitate resources and grants for emergency repairs of outdoor recreation amenities due to severe weather events.





“An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.”

—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Recreation for All

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) is a term becoming more widely used in the recreation industry. Historically, recreation providers had a heightened focus on physical accessibility to recreation facilities and locations. Although still important, this limited focus only considered those with physical disabilities and did not readily incorporate design standards for those with physical, auditory, sensory, cognitive, visual, and other areas of noted disabilities.

Additionally, the U.S. is diversifying in terms of race and ethnicity. As previously mentioned in this SCORP, 7% of New Hampshire residents are non-White; however, this statistic is projected to change as diversification occurs within the Granite State. Moreover, the need to enhance non-White participation in outdoor recreation activities is paramount as the population grows.

This broader understanding of DEI has catapulted the recreation industry into a more focused industry, and the outdoor recreation sector must enact changes to ensure recreation spaces, places, and activities continue to welcome all users.

Accessibility

Outdoor recreation industry providers were asked to indicate what they believe are the top three accessibility challenges within the Granite State. Providers noted there are challenges to reaching public spaces by public transportation and persons with physical or cognitive disabilities using public spaces in general.

Access

The top challenge noted by providers is access by public transportation. In fact, New Hampshire non-profit Stay Work Play, which works to attract younger residents, indicates the state's vast outdoor recreation attracts young people each year, but a lack of public transportation makes living in the state difficult.²¹ This presents an interesting dichotomy between serving visitor interests and ensuring residents have access to the natural resources essentially in their backyard. Programs such as Manchester's Transit to Trails address this concern.

Transit to Trails

Manchester Transit Authority, New Hampshire Audubon, Fresh Start Farms, New Hampshire State Parks, City of Manchester Parks and Recreation, and the Nature Conservancy are partnering to host the Transit to Trails program. This program provides transportation to walking and hiking trails, state parks, and water destinations free of charge to Manchester residents. A bus takes residents to outdoor spaces within 30 minutes of the city.

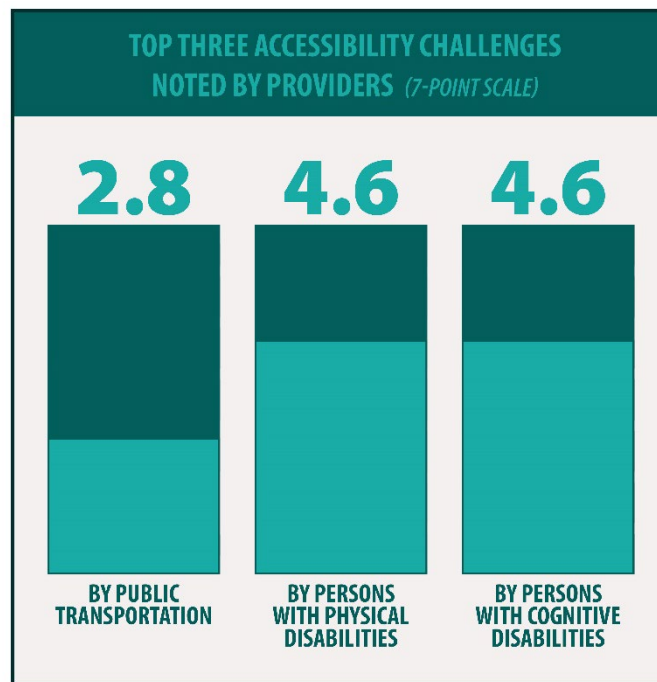


Figure 23: Provider Survey Top-Noted Accessibility Challenges

²¹ Towfighi, 2023

Physical and Cognitive

One in five New Hampshire residents indicates they or someone in their household has a physical or cognitive condition that impacts their ability to participate in outdoor recreation activities. Considering 90% of Granite Staters participate in outdoor recreation annually, there is a large need to ensure public spaces are accessible in every definition of the word. It is clear participatory action planning is one such research method that can help address existing deficiencies while establishing more inclusive guidelines for new outdoor recreation amenities and facilities.²²

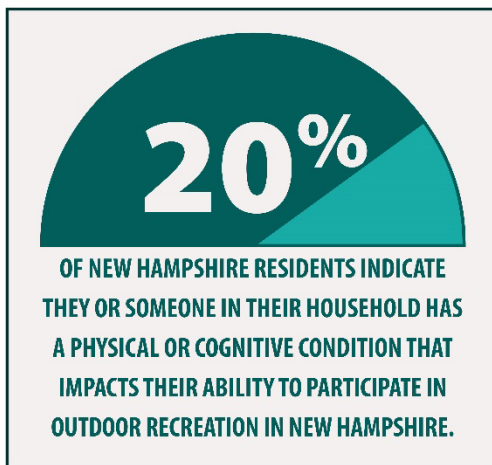
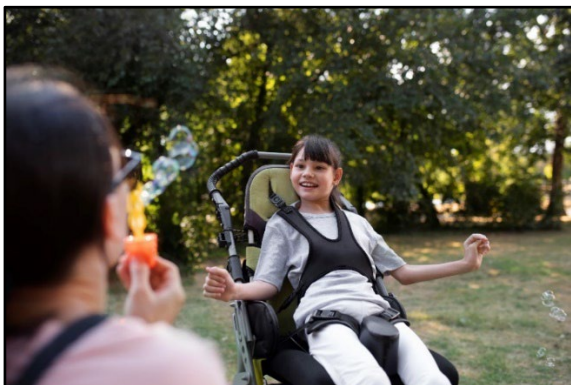


Figure 24: Those with a Noted Physical or Cognitive Condition



All Persons Trail

A three-year planning process resulted in the All Persons Trail. Located in the Manchester Cedar Swamp Preserve, the trail is designed to be more inclusive than traditional nature trails – it follows the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) accessibility standards for outdoor recreation areas which makes it wheelchair accessible and includes resources for those who are hearing or visually impaired, as well as information materials in English and Spanish.

The Nature Conservancy began the planning work with a series of “community conversations” with organizations that have historically been underrepresented in outdoor spaces.

²² Furukawa, 2022

Belonging and Ownership

Belonging and ownership go hand in hand. First, people who feel they belong in an environment will notice they are more comfortable and at ease. Second, and once belonging is established, belonging elevates to ownership, or a responsibility for the environment in which they are in. Putting these two concepts together is crucial for the future of outdoor recreation in New Hampshire. To attract new and diverse users, both in-state and out-of-state, the outdoor recreation industry must ensure users and visitors feel like they belong in the outdoors.

When asked their level of agreement with various attributes associated with belonging and ownership in outdoor recreation areas, residents acknowledge they feel welcome and safe in outdoor spaces; however, they do not believe they see their voices being represented in outdoor recreation planning nor know their feedback is valued very well. This is a gap area that must be closed as outdoor recreation industry providers believe voices are represented to a higher degree than what residents believe.

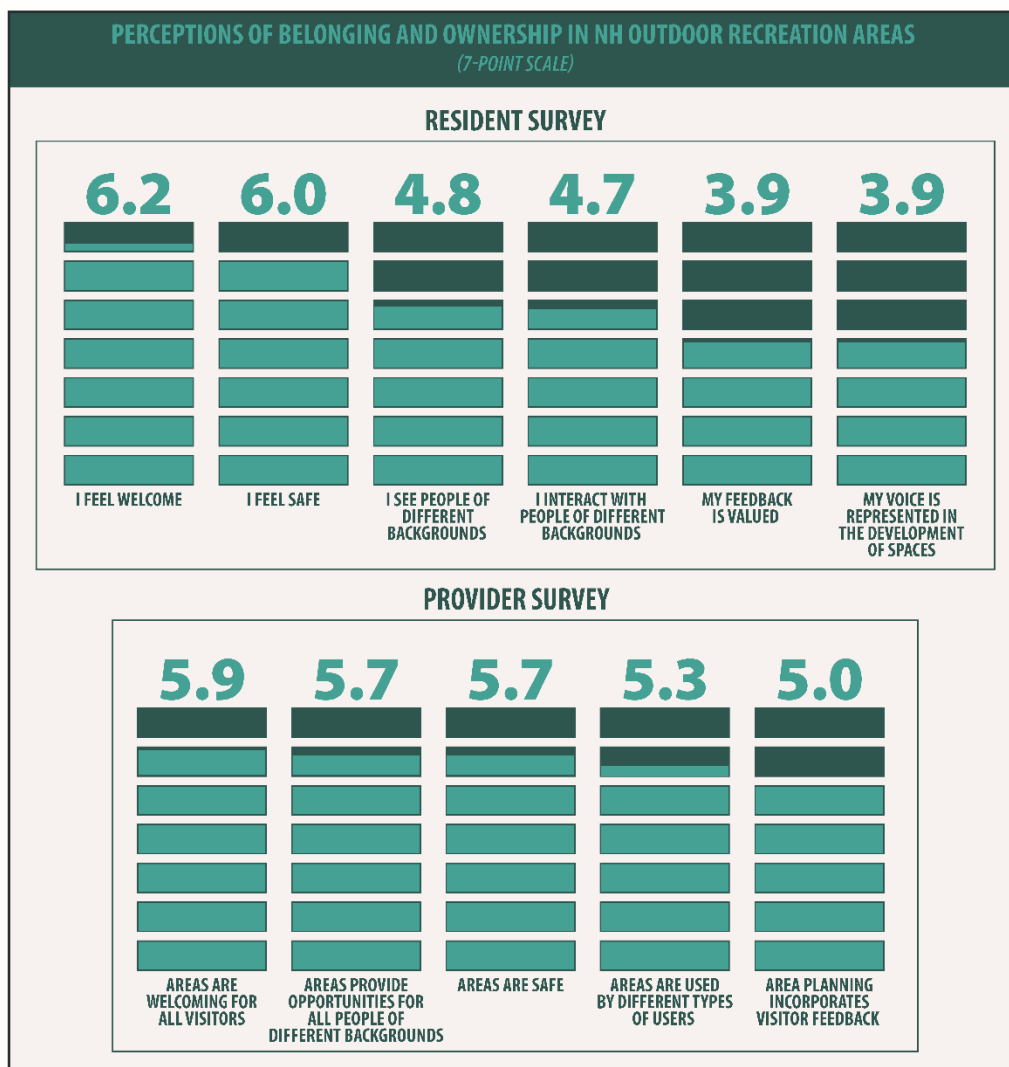


Figure 25: Perceptions of Belonging and Ownership in Outdoor Recreation Areas

Recommendations and Actions

1. Utilize universal design principles in the development or renovation of outdoor recreation facilities.
 - a. Prioritize Best Management Practices around universal design including the Architectural Barriers Act.
 - b. Improve accessibility through the development of universal access routes.
 - c. Increase the number of accessible parking spaces with appropriately marked access aisles.
 - d. Increase the number of accessible support facilities including toilets and shelters.
 - e. Increase physical access to water-based recreation opportunities including car-top boat launches, fishing areas, and beaches.



2. Create new programs in outdoor recreation settings intended to appeal to new and diverse users.
 - a. Create low-cost/no-cost instructional programs to teach outdoor skills in local communities. These programs should focus on the safe and successful participation in outdoor activities that are not equipment intensive and should be offered in local communities whenever possible.
 - b. Support the creation of lending libraries of outdoor recreation equipment in racially diverse and/or economically disadvantaged communities to allow for participation in activities for which access to necessary equipment may be a barrier to entry. This may include snowshoes, microspikes, trekking poles, backpacks, flashlights, tents, PFDs, fishing poles, and stoves.
 - c. Support the development of trails with low technical ratings that are well-marked and maintained.
3. Improve access to real-time accessibility information relative to state, local, and privately owned parks, trails, and outdoor recreation spaces.
 - a. Develop a comprehensive database of accessible walking, hiking, and cycling trails managed for public use including ratings and descriptions of accessibility.



4. Build racial and ethnic diversity in the outdoor recreation workforce including volunteers, advisory boards, and partners, as well as full-time and seasonal employees.

- a. Explore the racial and ethnic diversity of recreationists at the state and local level and other issues related to the intersection of recreation and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).
- b. Partner with schools, religious institutions, and local leaders to create and distribute volunteer outreach campaigns to racially and ethnically diverse areas in New Hampshire.
- c. Increase the overall representation of racial and ethnic diversity among recreationists and staff in marketing materials used.



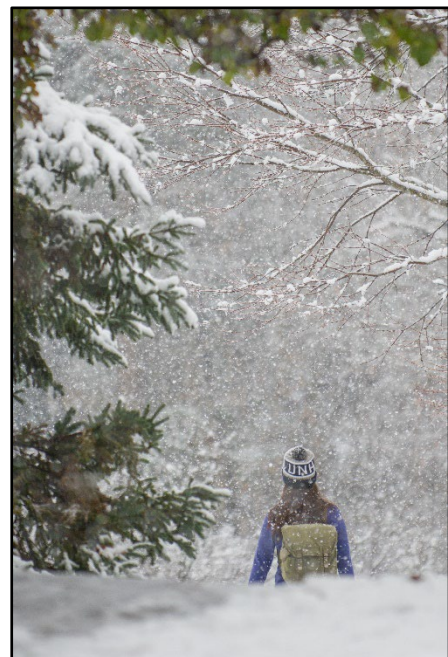


"We can never have enough of nature."

—Henry David Thoreau

Health and Wellness

The connection between engaging in recreational activities and health and wellness has been an important topic over the years. Recently, the COVID-19 pandemic brought more attention to this connection when outdoor recreation activity engagement increased across the country as being outside was, in some manner, one of the few things that provided a much-needed mental health escape along with opportunities for physical exercise outdoors.





Inactivity

According to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, there are relatively large pockets of New Hampshire residents that report no leisure-time physical activity. When examining the distribution of lack of leisure-time physical activity by county, the percentage of inactivity generally increases from south to north. This is an interesting trend considering larger, and more prevalent, public recreation areas and conservation lands are in the northern half of the state.

Research associated with physical activity benefit and outdoor recreation continues to grow and includes, but is not limited to:²³

- Improved bone health and weight status for children ages 3 through 5 years.
- Improved cognitive function for youth ages 6 to 13 years.
- Reduced risk of cancer at a greater number of sites.
- Brain health benefits, including possible cognitive function, reduced anxiety and depression risk, and improved sleep and quality of life.

- For pregnant women, reduced risk of excessive weight gain, gestational diabetes, and postpartum depression.
- For older adults, reduced risk of fall-related injuries.
- For people with various chronic medical conditions, reduced risk of all-cause and disease-specific mortality, improved physical function, and improved quality of life.

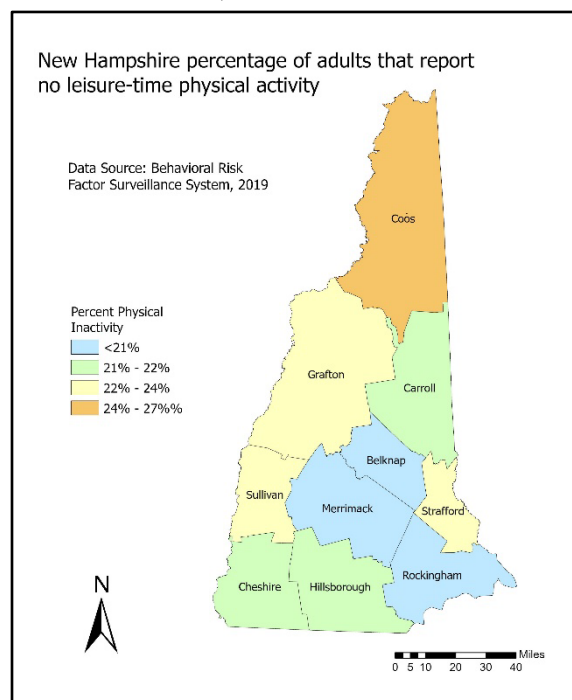


Figure 26: No Leisure-time Physical Activity Reported by County

²³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2018



Obesity

Realizing physical activity is not the only contributing factor to obesity, it is, however, an important contributor. Interestingly, the percentage of adult obesity does not necessarily follow the same pattern as those that reported no leisure-time physical activity. This supports the notion of varying factors that lead to obesity. However, research shows that accessibility of green space serves as a strong predictor of reduced obesity rates among adults.²⁴

Given the challenges of public transportation availability to outdoor recreation opportunities, accessibility issues facing outdoor recreation spaces, and climate change impacts on outdoor recreation resources and seasons, there is an increased urgency to facilitate better all-around access to outdoor recreation opportunities in New Hampshire to help promote healthier lifestyles (both in terms of quantity and quality).

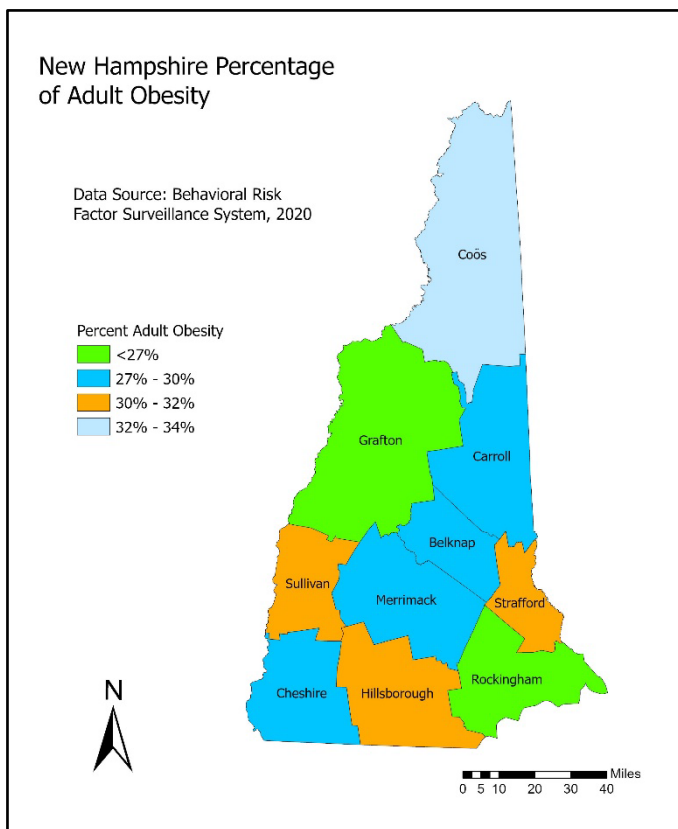


Figure 27: Percentage of Adult Obesity Reported by County

²⁴ Kim, Lee, & Ramos, 2021

Brain Health

Across the lifespan, benefits of physical activity for brain health are vast.²⁵ Specifically, mental benefits of outdoor recreation include:²⁶

- Lower risk of depression
- Faster psychological stress recovery
- Mental capacity restoration and strengthening
- Increased focus and attention
- Increased social connection (feelings of togetherness)

When asked how outdoor recreation impacts their health, New Hampshire residents overwhelmingly agree outdoor recreation has a positive influence on their lives. The importance of safe and accessible outdoor recreation spaces cannot be underlined enough.



Figure 28: Resident Survey Agreement with Positive Health Statements

Endowment for Health

The Endowment for Health is a statewide, private, nonprofit foundation dedicated to improving the health of New Hampshire's people, especially those who are vulnerable and underserved. Since 2001, the Endowment has awarded more than 1,500 grants totaling \$58 million to support a wide range of health-related programs and projects in New Hampshire.

Additionally, a private operating foundation, Health Strategies of New Hampshire, was created by Endowment for Health to assist with the mission to improve the health and reduce the burden of illness of the people of New Hampshire. Since 2008, the operating foundation has managed more than \$3 million in grant revenue to conduct programs within New Hampshire.

²⁵ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2018

²⁶ Avitt, 2021

Recommendations and Actions

1. Improve access to walking, hiking, and cycling trails across the state.

- a. Support the development of new recreation facilities distributed equitably across the state to ensure nearby opportunities and promote healthy behaviors.
- b. Develop a comprehensive database of publicly accessible walking, hiking, and cycling trails and recreation facilities including properties managed by federal, state, local, non-profit, and private land managers.
- c. Invest in recreation infrastructure that promotes health and well-being such as shade structures and canopies, outdoor fitness stations and hubs, and wayfinding and signage along trails and pathways that communicate health-related information to users.
- d. Improve recreation facility connectivity at the state and local level to increase use of non-motorized transportation in and around town.

2. Educate residents and visitors on the connection between outdoor recreation and health.

- a. Develop and implement a comprehensive public awareness campaign that educates residents on the benefits of active recreation and promotes outdoor recreation activities.
- b. Develop and distribute resources to increase preventative measures to minimize potential negative health impacts of outdoor recreation including Lyme or other insect-borne diseases.

3. Collaborate with healthcare professionals and policy makers to communicate the physical and mental health benefits of outdoor recreation.

- a. Develop and distribute educational materials in collaboration with healthcare professionals encouraging outdoor recreation participation as a core aspect of healthy living.
- b. Create a publicly accessible database of best practices and current planning and research related to recreation and health.
- c. Engage with public health professionals through participation in conferences, health summits, and collaboration in planning and research.





“The wilderness holds answers to questions man has not yet learned to ask.”

—Nancy Newhall

Economic Vitality

Outdoor recreation and economics are not mutually exclusive. From its origins, recreation was seen as a supplement to everyday life and as a means of entertainment. Fast forward to today, and recreation is being increasingly viewed as an economic driver along with its more traditional interpretation.

As a result, outdoor recreation planning has focused on making the connection between the recreation industry and local economies as the outdoor recreation economy is known to support entire towns, states, and regions (particularly in rural areas). This connection could not be clearer with the creation of New Hampshire’s Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development (ORID) within the larger Department of Business and Economic Affairs mentioned earlier in this document.

Furthermore, there is major economic value in reducing visitation levels within public lands; thus, proper visitor use management ensures high-quality experiences, resource protection, and economic prosperity.²⁷

²⁷ Hughes & Starkey, 2021



Perceptions

First and foremost, when asked a question about economics, 99% of New Hampshire residents agree (80% strongly agree) that outdoor recreation supports the state's economy. Moreover, 97% of outdoor recreation providers agree that outdoor recreation helps increase property values in surrounding communities and 94% agree outdoor recreation helps promote tourism and economic development in New Hampshire. Given these statistics, it is imperative to acknowledge the connection between outdoor recreation and the Granite State's economics. As previously discussed in this document, outdoor recreation is a large contributor to New Hampshire's gross domestic product (GDP), and its spending increased by a record-breaking 65% from 2019 (equating to more than \$2.7 billion in annual consumer spending).



Figure 29: Percent Agree that outdoor Recreation Supports NH Economy

Value Added by Select ORSA Activity [Thousands of Dollars]				
Activity	2019	2020	2021	State Rank
Hunting/Shooting/Trapping	171,657	228,965	264,942	14
Snow Activities	208,403	183,659	191,583	7
Boating/Fishing	146,947	199,576	158,931	39
RVing	118,242	134,883	142,495	37
Motorcycling/ATVing	32,387	40,286	44,786	38
Climbing/Hiking/Tent Camping	32,615	34,828	41,249	34
Equestrian	13,324	14,343	18,245	45
Bicycling	11,257	14,682	16,146	35
Recreational Flying	3,424	3,594	3,968	43

Figure 30: Value Added by Select Outdoor Research Satellite Account (ORSA) Activity

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis



Investments

Both residents and outdoor recreation providers were asked to indicate how satisfied they are with the investments made in outdoor recreation resources within New Hampshire. Both surveys asked the question as it relates to local town government, N.H. State Government, and the U.S. Federal Government. A common trend was identified that residents and providers are more satisfied with local government investments in general. Interestingly, residents reported higher average mean scores compared to providers. Regardless, with relatively average mean scores reported, both residents and providers feel there can be more investments made in New Hampshire outdoor recreation resources, particularly from the State and Federal Government.

“When looking at tourists to NH, the majority visit NH for the year-round outdoor recreational activities. The funding available to support outdoor recreation and the organizations (especially non-profits) that support outdoor recreation in NH is inadequate.”

“NH has to continue and improve upon protecting and managing resources to successfully benefit from recreation.”

—Provider Survey Respondents

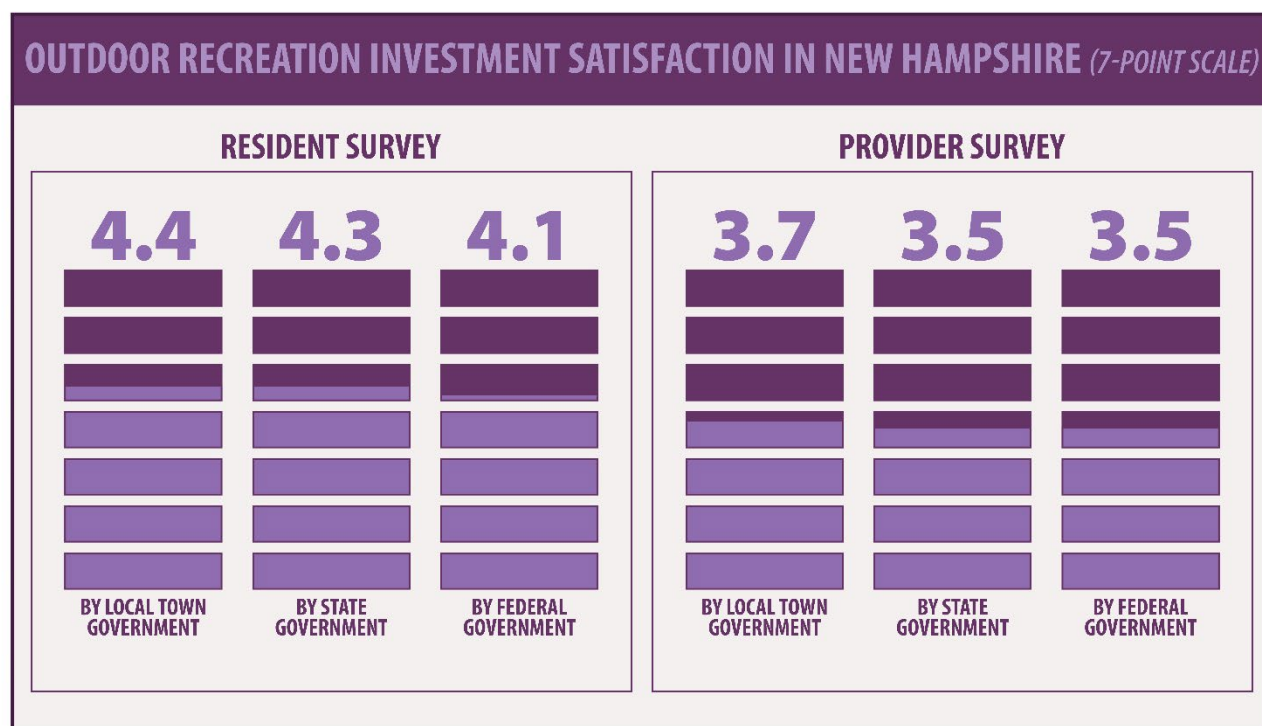


Figure 31: Outdoor Recreation Investment Satisfaction in New Hampshire

As shown on the preceding page, and discussed throughout this SCORP, outdoor recreation is not solely a regional, state, or federal industry. Local parks and recreation departments can be overshadowed in outdoor recreation planning because they are inherently more urban and suburban focused; however, local parks and recreation agencies have a large influence on creating both meaningful outdoor recreation experiences close to home, and places that enhance local economies. When asked to indicate how important it is to develop various outdoor recreation facilities/infrastructure,

New Hampshire residents indicated a variety of facilities that are not solely reserved for state parks and federal areas. Facilities such as trail systems, support facilities, camping, aquatics, mountain biking, and sports facilities are common local park and recreation department experiences. Moreover, these types of facilities can continue to increase outdoor recreation access within the Granite State while also increasing economic impact. More emphasis should be placed on funding recreation projects at the local level that serve the dual purpose of increasing outdoor recreation access and supporting the state's economic strength.

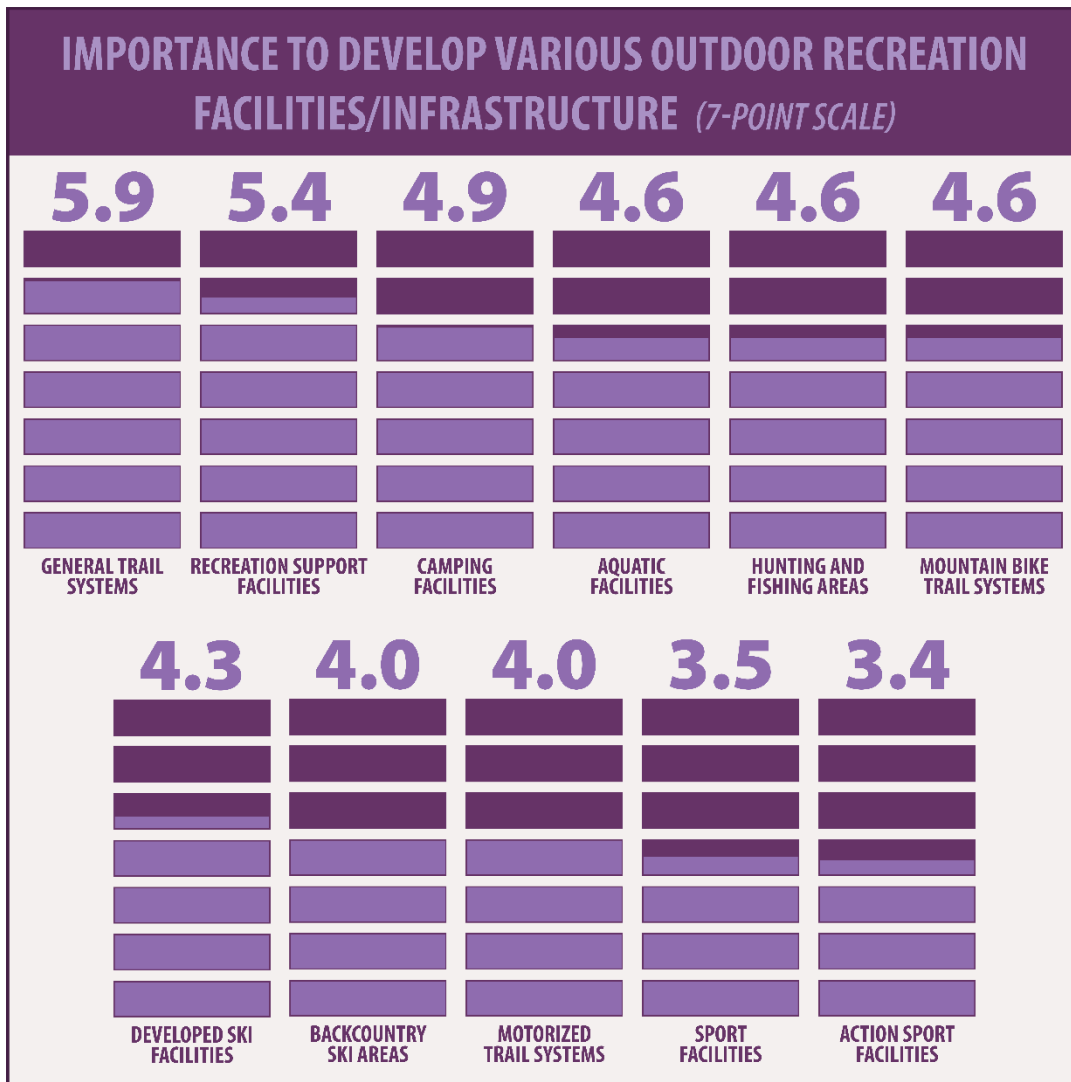


Figure 32: Importance to Develop Various Outdoor Recreation Facilities/Infrastructure

Recommendations and Actions

1. Protect and expand public and private partnerships and investments.

- a. Increase public and private partnership financial support for the development and maintenance of local outdoor recreation infrastructure and conservation initiatives.
- b. Share success stories and best practices of existing public and private partnerships in outdoor recreation highlighting the positive outcomes, lessons learned, and innovative approaches taken.

2. Expand educational and training programs.

- a. Implement a comprehensive workforce development program that contains professional development opportunities, certification attainment, continuing or advanced education, experiential training, and professional organization involvement.
- b. Support industry collaborations with career and technical education centers, community colleges, and universities to incorporate outdoor recreation courses, certificates, degree programs, and specialized training into their curriculums and to facilitate credit transfers across institutions.
- c. Introduce certification programs and industry-recognized credentials that validate and enhance the skills, expertise, and credibility of professionals in the outdoor recreation field.

3. Improve marketing and promotion.

- a. Develop comprehensive and consistent marketing campaigns across the state that serve to leverage digital platforms and collaborate with recreation and tourism organizations.
- b. Ensure marketing campaigns provide comprehensive understanding of the available recreation resources and how to access them for all Granite Staters, regardless of socio-economic status.

4. Continue to explore the economic impact of outdoor recreation across the state.

- a. Calculate the economic impact of trails, parkland, and recreation infrastructure based on local, regional, and statewide impact.
- b. Create tools and resources for local communities to use to calculate their own economic impact.
- c. Create a shared resource library that includes data points, infographics, and related materials to help local communities articulate the economic benefits of outdoor recreation to elected officials, public health officials, and community stakeholders.



A photograph of two men sitting on a grassy field. The man on the left is younger, with dark hair tied in a bun, wearing a black t-shirt and light blue jeans. The man on the right is older, with white hair and a beard, wearing a blue plaid shirt and blue jeans. They are both smiling and looking down at something in their hands. A green circular graphic with a white border is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text 'ACTION PLAN'.

ACTION PLAN

Implementing the SCORP

*The following pages present the
action strategies for 2024-2028.*

Priority Area	Recommendations and Action Steps	Performance Measure(s)
The Recreation Experience 	1. Enhance visitor use management in outdoor recreation.	
	a. Foster partnerships between federal, state, local, non-profit, and publicly accessible private landowners to collaboratively manage and maintain outdoor recreation visitation across jurisdictional boundaries and identify desired conditions for resources, visitor experiences, and facilities and services.	Number of acres available; inter-agency visitor use management working group
	b. Develop and implement managed access systems, such as capacity limits, reservation systems, and/or permit systems, to manage visitor use in select high-use areas.	Visitor numbers; managed access systems; experience quality; ecological integrity
	2. Implement a comprehensive visitor education program in outdoor recreation.	
	a. Coordinate current all federal, state, local, non-profit, and publicly accessible private landowner visitor education programs into a clear, consistent, concise, and statewide visitor education program to enhance visitor education, etiquette, and communication and promote responsible and sustainable outdoor recreation practices.	Number of visitor conflicts reported; satisfaction scores of visitor experience; cost-effectiveness; policy and management changes
	b. Enhance visitor communication technology and channels, such as websites, mapping, and mobile applications, to provide real-time guidance and information on visitation levels, resource conditions, alternative recreation options, closures, and safety alerts to visitors.	Website page views; number of mobile app users
	3. Implement planning activities in outdoor recreation.	
	a. Prioritize investing in comprehensive planning and monitoring programs to determine baseline metrics and data related to the impact of increasing recreation visitation levels upon the visitor experience quality, natural resource quality, economic vitality, and management and policy preferences for outdoor recreation management across the Granite State. These programs can include regular surveys, data collection through remote sensing technologies, monitoring of key indicators such as water quality or wildlife populations, and the establishment of long-term monitoring sites.	Amount of research funding dedicated; number of consistent and reliable studies across agencies and organizations conducted
	b. Utilize consistent, reliable, and legally defensible scientific data and research from regular monitoring and assessments to recognize emerging trends, identify areas for improvement, inform long-term decision-making, and ultimately adapt strategies to maximize the benefits of outdoor recreation while minimizing any negative effects on the environment or local communities across the Granite State.	Amount of research funding dedicated; number of consistent and reliable studies across agencies and organizations conducted

Figure 33: Recommendations and Action Steps: The Recreation Experience


Priority Area	Recommendations and Action Steps	Performance Measure(s)
Recreation and the Environment 	1. Develop and redevelop outdoor recreation areas to be adaptable to seasonal shifts and, in turn, minimize visitor impacts on the natural environment.	
	a. Encourage professionals involved in the design of new parks or park renovations to be trained in sustainable landscape techniques and practices.	Number of trainings; number of certifications; workforce knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSA) gaps or coverage
	b. Inventory and prioritize both capital infrastructure and operational maintenance needs (including staffing) across New Hampshire parks and protected areas.	Outdoor recreation infrastructure inventory compiled; cost effectiveness; policy and management changes
	c. Leverage weather pattern information and trends to determine recreation areas with the greatest need for adaptation, particularly locations that are at risk due to changes in water level and seasonal shifts.	Number of recreation areas addressed annually; policy and management changes; long-term impact
	2. Foster stewardship for New Hampshire outdoor recreation areas as well as natural, cultural, and historic resources through educational messaging and programs.	
	a. Raise awareness of recreation's impact on natural resources and encourage visitors to assist in improving conditions through participation in volunteer events and programs (e.g., nature groupie events, beach clean-ups, trail maintenance days).	Number of volunteer hours donated annually; annual value of volunteerism
	b. Use citizen science programs and volunteerism activities and projects to collect and report data on plants, wildlife, water, weather, and trail conditions.	Number of volunteer hours donated annually; annual value of volunteerism; number of citizen science data points generated
	3. Strengthen interagency relationships and work collaboratively to develop a shared set of guiding principles for sustainable outdoor recreation management across New Hampshire parks and protected areas.	
	a. Fully integrate climate vulnerability assessments and adaptation strategies into management planning, water, weather, and trail conditions.	Amount of research funding dedicated; number of consistent and reliable studies across agencies and organizations conducted
	b. Develop a library of shared training resources focused on visitor use management systems that are adaptable to shifting levels of use because of weather pattern change and seasonal shifts.	Number of resource library downloads; partnerships and collaborations; visitor behavior change
	c. Create a rapid response fund that would facilitate resources and grants for emergency repairs of outdoor recreation amenities due to severe weather events.	Amount of rapid response funds used annually; partnerships and collaborations; cost effectiveness

Figure 34: Recommendations and Action Steps: Recreation and the Environment


Priority Area	Recommendations and Action Steps	Performance Measure(s)
Recreation for All 	1. Utilize universal design principles in the development or renovation of outdoor recreation facilities.	
	a. Prioritize Best Management Practices around universal design including the Architectural Barriers Act.	Percentage of system designed with universal design considerations
	b. Improve accessibility through the development of universal access routes.	Number or percentage of universally designed trails within system
	c. Increase the number of accessible parking spaces with appropriately marked access aisles.	Number or percentage of spaces within system
	d. Increase the number of accessible support facilities including toilets and shelters.	Number or percentage of accessible support facilities within system
	e. Increase physical access to water-based recreation opportunities including car-top boat launches, fishing areas, and beaches.	Percentage of accessible water-based recreation opportunities within system
	2. Create new programs in outdoor recreation settings intended to appeal to new and diverse users.	
	a. Create low-cost/no-cost instructional programs to teach outdoor skills in local communities. These programs should focus on the safe and successful participation in outdoor activities that are not equipment intensive and should be offered in local communities whenever possible.	Number of community programs implemented; number of community participants
	b. Support the creation of lending libraries of outdoor recreation equipment in racially diverse and/or economically disadvantaged communities to allow for participation in activities for which access to necessary equipment may be a barrier to entry. This may include snowshoes, microspikes, trekking poles, backpacks, flashlights, tents, PFDs, fishing poles, and stoves.	Number of lending libraries; partnerships and collaborations
	c. Support the development of trails with low technical ratings that are well-marked and maintained.	Percentage of trails with low technical ratings within system
	3. Improve access to real-time accessibility information relative to state, local, and privately owned parks, trails, and outdoor recreation spaces.	
	a. Develop a comprehensive database of accessible walking, hiking, and cycling trails managed for public use including ratings and descriptions of accessibility.	Percentage of available trails inventoried; partnerships and collaborations
	4. Build racial and ethnic diversity in the outdoor recreation workforce including volunteers, advisory boards, and partners, as well as full-time and seasonal employees.	
	a. Explore the racial and ethnic diversity of recreationists at the state and local level and other issues related to the intersection of recreation and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.	Number of advisory boards or commissions created and active; demographic representation; long-term impact
	b. Partner with schools, religious institutions, and local leaders to create and distribute volunteer outreach campaigns to racially and ethnically diverse areas in New Hampshire.	Number of programs receiving outreach campaign materials; partnerships and collaborations; long-term impact
	c. Increase the overall representation of racial and ethnic diversity among recreationists and staff in marketing materials used.	Number of marketing materials produced; demographic representation; long-term impact

Figure 35: Recommendations and Action Steps: Recreation for All

Priority Area	Recommendations and Action Steps	Performance Measure(s)
Health and Wellness 	1. Improve access to walking, hiking, and cycling trails across the state.	
	a. Support the development of new recreation facilities distributed equitably across the state to ensure nearby opportunities and promote healthy behaviors.	Percentage of recreation facility access gaps within New Hampshire; long-term impact
	b. Develop a comprehensive database of publicly accessible walking, hiking, and cycling trails and recreation facilities including properties managed by federal, state, local, non-profit, and private land managers.	Percentage of available trails inventoried; partnerships and collaborations
	c. Invest in recreation infrastructure that promotes health and well-being such as shade structures and canopies, outdoor fitness stations and hubs, and wayfinding and signage along trails and pathways that communicate health-related information to users.	Number of health and well-being infrastructure developed annually.
	d. Improve recreation facility connectivity at the state and local level to increase use of non-motorized transportation in and around town.	Percentage of recreation facility access gaps within New Hampshire; partnerships and collaborations; long-term impact
	2. Educate residents and visitors on the connection between outdoor recreation and health.	
	a. Develop and implement a comprehensive public awareness campaign that educates residents on the benefits of active recreation and promotes outdoor recreation activities.	Number of participants engaged; demographic representation; survey feedback
	b. Develop and distribute resources to increase preventative measures to minimize potential negative health impacts of outdoor recreation including Lyme or other insect-borne diseases.	Number of participants engaged; demographic representation; survey feedback
	3. Collaborate with healthcare professionals and policy makers to communicate the physical and mental health benefits of outdoor recreation.	
	a. Develop and distribute educational materials in collaboration with healthcare professionals encouraging outdoor recreation participation as a core aspect of healthy living.	Number of health care entities engaged; partnerships and collaborations; long-term impact
	b. Create a publicly accessible database of best practices and current planning and research related to recreation and health.	Number of research database downloads; website traffic
	c. Engage with public health professionals through participation in conferences, health summits, and collaboration in planning and research.	Number of health care professionals engaged; partnerships and collaborations

Figure 36: Recommendations and Action Steps: Health and Wellness


Priority Area	Recommendations and Action Steps	Performance Measure(s)
Economic Vitality 	1. Protect and expand public and private partnerships and investments.	
	a. Increase public and private partnership financial support for the development and maintenance of local outdoor recreation infrastructure and conservation initiatives.	Partnerships and collaborations; long-term impact; partnership equity
	b. Share success stories and best practices of existing public and private partnerships in outdoor recreation highlighting the positive outcomes, lessons learned, and innovative approaches taken.	Number of annual reports published; media coverage
	2. Expand educational and training programs.	
	a. Implement a comprehensive workforce development program that contains professional development opportunities, certification attainment, continuing or advanced education, experiential training, and professional organization involvement.	Number of blended learning programs implemented; number of participants; demographic representation; visitor behavior change
	b. Support industry collaborations with career and technical education centers, community colleges, and universities to incorporate outdoor recreation courses, certificates, degree programs, and specialized training into their curriculums and to facilitate credit transfers across institutions.	Number of career and education organizations engaged; partnerships and collaborations
	c. Introduce certification programs and industry-recognized credentials that validate and enhance the skills, expertise, and credibility of professionals in the outdoor recreation field.	Number of certification programs implemented; number or percentage of industry with credentials; workforce knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSA) gaps or coverage
	3. Improve marketing and promotion.	
	a. Develop comprehensive and consistent marketing campaigns across the state that serve to leverage digital platforms and collaborate with recreation and tourism organizations.	Number of recreation and tourism organizations engaged; partnerships and collaborations; cost effectiveness
	b. Ensure marketing campaigns provide comprehensive understanding of the available recreation resources and how to access them for all Granite Staters, regardless of socio-economic status.	Number of underserved communities reached; demographic representation
	4. Continue to explore the economic impact of outdoor recreation across the state.	
	a. Calculate the economic impact of trails, parkland, and recreation infrastructure based on local, regional, and statewide impact.	Economic impact figures calculated and reported annually
	b. Create tools and resources for local communities to use to calculate their own economic impact.	Resources, worksheets, and methodologies created and shared
	c. Create a shared resource library that includes data points, infographics, and related materials to help local communities articulate the economic benefits of outdoor recreation to elected officials, public health officials, and community stakeholders.	Toolkit created; number of downloads annually

Figure 37: Recommendations and Action Steps: Economic Vitality



APPENDIX

Supporting Materials

This chapter contains the various survey instruments and focus group facilitation guides used to create the SCORP.

Appendix A: References

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New Hampshire Outdoor Recreation

Appendix B: Technical Advisory Committee Focus Group Research



The University of New Hampshire – Department of Recreation Management and Policy and the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources – Division of Parks and Recreation are requesting your participation in a brief technical advisory committee research focus group regarding outdoor recreation providers perceptions and attitudes towards the *New Hampshire Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Management Plan*.

The information you provide in this focus group is very important, as it will help inform the *New Hampshire Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Management Plan* and other management actions and investments across the state.

This technical advisory committee research focus group should take about 1 hour to complete. You must be at least 18 years old and a resident of New Hampshire to participate. Your participation in this research focus group is completely voluntary, but very important. You may decide to quit at any time. All information collected in this focus group will be kept confidential. Participation in this research is expected to present no more than minimal risk to you. Thank you for your time and consideration!

By providing your verbal consent and commencing this focus group with the trained research associate, you are indicating that you consent to participate in this research study. If you prefer not to participate, please inform the trained research associate and you may leave at any time.

UNH IRB # IRB-FY2022-394

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the focus group, please contact:

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If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact:

Melissa McGee
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The University of New Hampshire
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Focus Group Discussion Guide – New Hampshire SCORP Population: Technical Advisory Committee

- Introduction and Informed Consent
- Welcome
- Facilitator Introductions
- Project Introduction
- Explanation of Focus Group Process
- Participant Introductions

Facilitated Discussion – The questions that follow are provided as primary inquiries followed by potential follow-up questions. Not every question will be asked dependent on conversation.

1. How have you or your colleagues used the SCORP in the past?
 - a. Have you used the SCORP as a planning tool?
 - i. How?
 - b. Have you referenced the SCORP for grant applications?
 - i. How?
 - c. Have you used the SCORP as a tool for programmatic evaluation?
 - i. How?
 - d. What information has been the most useful?
 - e. Is there information not included in the previous SCORP that would better assist you in the performance of your duties?
 - f. What areas do you think are important for the SCORP team to address in this iteration of the SCORP?
 - i. Equity
 - ii. Access
 - iii. Sustainability
 - iv. Education
 - v. Nearby diverse options
 - vi. Outdoor Economy
 - vii. Workforce development

**Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.*

2. How do you feel about the process used for developing the SCORP?
 - i. Positives and Negatives?
 - ii. Improvements?

**Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.*
3. Do you feel that your departments' wants and needs have been reflected in the SCORP documents and / or development process?
 - i. How would you like to use the SCORP moving forward?
 - ii. Planning
 - b. Grants
 - c. Evaluation

**Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.*

New Hampshire Outdoor Recreation
Appendix C: Focus Group Research (BIP0C)



The University of New Hampshire – Department of Recreation Management and Policy and the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources – Division of Parks and Recreation are requesting your participation in a brief focus group regarding New Hampshire residents' attitudes and perceptions towards outdoor recreation.

The information you provide in this focus group is very important, as it will help inform the *New Hampshire Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Management Plan* and other management actions and investments across the state.

This research focus group should take about 1 hour to complete. You must be at least 18 years old and a resident of New Hampshire to participate. Your participation in this research focus group is completely voluntary, but very important. You may decide to quit at any time. All information collected in this focus group will be kept confidential. Participation in this research is expected to present no more than minimal risk to you. Thank you for your time and consideration!

By providing your verbal consent and commencing this focus group with the trained research associate, you are indicating that you consent to participate in this research study. If you prefer not to participate, please inform the trained research associate and you may leave at any time.

UNH IRB # IRB-FY2022-394

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the focus group, please contact:

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Focus Group Discussion Guide – New Hampshire SCORP Population: BIPOC Individuals

- Introduction and Informed Consent
- Welcome
- Facilitator Introductions
- Project Introduction
- Explanation of Focus Group Process
- Participant Introductions

Facilitated Discussion – The questions that follow are provided as primary inquiries followed by potential follow-up questions. Not every question will be asked dependent on conversation.

1. What are the strengths of outdoor recreation programs and services in New Hampshire?
 - a. State Parks?
 - b. Municipal Parks and Recreation?
 - c. National Forest?
 - d. Other outdoor recreation providers and resources?

**Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.*
2. What wants and needs are met in your communities through outdoor recreation?
 - a. Are there ways that other needs could be met for your communities?

**Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.*
3. How are the needs of you and your communities not being met by outdoor recreation programs and services in New Hampshire?
 - a. State Parks?
 - b. Municipal Parks and Recreation?
 - c. National Forest?
 - d. Other outdoor recreation providers and resources?

**Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.*
4. What are the barriers that you and your communities have faced in accessing outdoor recreation?

**Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.*
5. What ideas do you have that could improve the way outdoor recreation programs and services are delivered and/or accessed?

**Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.*

New Hampshire Outdoor Recreation

Appendix D: Focus Group Research (Persons with Disabilities)



The University of New Hampshire – Department of Recreation Management and Policy and the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources – Division of Parks and Recreation are requesting your participation in a brief focus group regarding New Hampshire residents' attitudes and perceptions towards outdoor recreation.

The information you provide in this focus group is very important, as it will help inform the *New Hampshire Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Management Plan* and other management actions and investments across the state.

This research focus group should take about 1 hour to complete. You must be at least 18 years old and a resident of New Hampshire to participate. Your participation in this research focus group is completely voluntary, but very important. You may decide to quit at any time. All information collected in this focus group will be kept confidential. Participation in this research is expected to present no more than minimal risk to you. Thank you for your time and consideration!

By providing your verbal consent and commencing this focus group with the trained research associate, you are indicating that you consent to participate in this research study. If you prefer not to participate, please inform the trained research associate and you may leave at any time.

UNH IRB # IRB-FY2022-394

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the focus group, please contact:

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Focus Group Discussion Guide – New Hampshire SCORP Population: Persons with Disabilities

- Introduction and Informed Consent
- Welcome
- Facilitator Introductions
- Project Introduction
- Explanation of Focus Group Process
- Participant Introductions

Facilitated Discussion – The questions that follow are provided as primary inquiries followed by potential follow-up questions. Not every question will be asked dependent on conversation.

1. What are the strengths of outdoor recreation programs and services in New Hampshire?
 - a. State Parks?
 - b. Municipal Parks and Recreation?
 - c. National Forest?
 - d. Other outdoor recreation providers and resources?

**Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.*
2. What wants and needs are met in your communities through outdoor recreation?
 - a. Are there ways that other needs could be met for your communities?

**Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.*
3. How are the needs of you and your communities not being met by outdoor recreation programs and services in New Hampshire?
 - a. State Parks?
 - b. Municipal Parks and Recreation?
 - c. National Forest?
 - d. Other outdoor recreation providers and resources?

**Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.*
4. What are the barriers that you and your communities have faced in accessing outdoor recreation?

**Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.*
5. What ideas do you have that could improve the way outdoor recreation programs and services are delivered and/or accessed?

**Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.*

New Hampshire Outdoor Recreation

Appendix E: Resident Research Survey



Section 1: Introduction and Informed Consent

The University of New Hampshire – Department of Recreation Management and Policy and the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources – Division of Parks and Recreation are requesting your participation in a brief research survey regarding New Hampshire residents' attitudes and perceptions towards outdoor recreation in NH.

The information you provide in this survey is very important, as it will help inform the *New Hampshire Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* and other management actions and investments across the state.

The survey should take about 10-15 minutes to complete. You must be at least 18 years old and a resident of New Hampshire to participate. Your participation in this research survey is completely voluntary, but very important. We expect about 1,000 individuals to participate in this research survey. You may decide to quit at any time. All information collected in this survey will be kept confidential. Participation in this research is expected to present no more than minimal risk to you. Thank you for your time and consideration!

By clicking the "Yes, I'd like to participate in this research study" button below, you are indicating that you consent to participate in this research study. If you prefer not to participate, please simply close this window in your browser.

UNH IRB # IRB-FY2022-394

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the survey, please contact:

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Section 2: Outdoor Recreation Participation

1. How frequently have you participated in each of the following outdoor recreation activities in New Hampshire in the past 12 months?

*Categorical response options: 0 times, 1-5 times, 6-10 times, 11+ times

- a. Walking/running/dog-walking [Valid %: 0 times: 8.6%, 1-5: 15.1%, 6-10: 9.5%, 11+: 66.8%]
- b. Hiking/backpacking [Valid %: 0 times: 40%, 1-5: 37.5%, 6-10: 8.5%, 11+: 14%]
- c. Bicycling/mountain biking [Valid %: 0 times: 71.9%, 1-5: 16%, 6-10: 3.7%, 11+: 8.4%]
- d. Hunting [Valid %: 0 times: 83%, 1-5: 9.2%, 6-10: 1.3%, 11+: 6.6%]
- e. Fishing [Valid %: 0 times: 72.3%, 1-5: 17.2%, 6-10: 4.6%, 11+: 5.8%]
- f. Shooting sports (e.g., archery, target) [Valid %: 0 times: 73.2%, 1-5: 13.2%, 6-10: 3.6%, 11+: 9.9%]
- g. Wildlife viewing/birdwatching [Valid %: 0 times: 33.1%, 1-5: 26.1%, 6-10: 8.7%, 11+: 32.1%]
- h. Swimming (e.g., pool, lake, ocean) [Valid %: 0 times: 27.7%, 1-5: 33.3%, 6-10: 16.1%, 11+: 22.9%]
- i. Picnicking [Valid %: 0 times: 41.6%, 1-5: 36.4%, 6-10: 12.6%, 11+: 9.5%]
- j. Horseback riding [Valid %: 0 times: 95.8%, 1-5: 2.3%, 6-10: 0.1%, 11+: 1.9%]
- k. Rock climbing [Valid %: 0 times: 95.1%, 1-5: 4.6%, 6-10: 0.3%, 11+: 0%]
- l. Outdoor photography [Valid %: 0 times: 43.8%, 1-5: 22.9%, 6-10: 12.7%, 11+: 20.6%]
- m. Night sky viewing [Valid %: 0 times: 21.5%, 1-5: 41.2%, 6-10: 15.7%, 11+: 21.6%]
- n. Playing at/visiting playgrounds [Valid %: 0 times: 63.3%, 1-5: 22.8%, 6-10: 6.5%, 11+: 7.4%]
- o. Motorized trail use (e.g., ATV, dirtbike) [Valid %: 0 times: 83.5%, 1-5: 7.0%, 6-10: 5.8%, 11+: 3.8%]
- p. Motorized boating [Valid %: 0 times: 64.9%, 1-5: 18.8%, 6-10: 3.5%, 11+: 12.8%]
- q. Non-motorized boating (e.g., kayaking) [Valid %: 0 times: 48.7%, 1-5: 30.4%, 6-10: 13.5%, 11+: 7.4%]
- r. Snowmobiling [Valid %: 0 times: 94.5%, 1-5: 4.0%, 6-10: 0.9%, 11+: 0.6%]
- s. Scenic driving [Valid %: 0 times: 14.5%, 1-5: 38.0%, 6-10: 18.0%, 11+: 29.5%]
- t. Visiting historic sites or nature centers [Valid %: 0 times: 22.3%, 1-5: 56.6%, 6-10: 13.5%, 11+: 7.6%]
- u. Camping (e.g., tent, RV) [Valid %: 0 times: 68.5%, 1-5: 24.5%, 6-10: 3.3%, 11+: 3.7%]
- v. Team or organized sports [Valid %: 0 times: 79.3%, 1-5: 8.3%, 6-10: 5.5%, 11+: 6.9%]
- w. Downhill skiing/snowboarding [Valid %: 0 times: 81.4%, 1-5: 10.4%, 6-10: 3.7%, 11+: 4.9%]
- x. Backcountry skiing/snowboarding [Valid %: 0 times: 96.3%, 1-5: 3.0%, 6-10: 0.2%, 11+: 0.5%]
- y. Cross-country skiing/snowshoeing [Valid %: 0 times: 80.7%, 1-5: 16.9%, 6-10: 1.2%, 11+: 1.2%]
- z. Sledding/tubing [Valid %: 0 times: 73.6%, 1-5: 24.5%, 6-10: 1.7%, 11+: 0.2%]

2. How frequently have you visited each of the following types of outdoor recreation areas in New Hampshire in the past 12 months?

*Categorical response options: 0 times, 1-5 times, 6-10 times, 11+ times

- a. Local or municipal parks, trails, and/or recreation areas (e.g., Rollins Park, Livingston Park, Arms Park) [Valid %: 0 times: 19.4%, 1-5: 41.6%, 6-10: 16.9%, 11+: 22%]
- b. State parks, forests, trails, and/or recreation areas (e.g., Franconia Notch State Park, Belknap Mountain State Forest) [Valid %: 0 times: 21.1%, 1-5: 50.7%, 6-10: 16.1%, 11+: 12.1%]
- c. National/federal parks, forests, trails, and/or recreation areas (e.g., White Mountain National Forest) [Valid %: 0 times: 36.9%, 1-5: 44.4%, 6-10: 9.0%, 11+: 9.7%]
- d. Non-profit parks, forests, trails, and/or recreation areas (e.g., Mount Major, Lost River, College Woods) [Valid %: 0 times: 48.0%, 1-5: 37.5%, 6-10: 8.6%, 11+: 5.9%]
- e. Commercial recreation facilities and/or areas (e.g., golf courses, ski resorts, water parks) [Valid %: 0 times: 52.2%, 1-5: 35.5%, 6-10: 5.4%, 11+: 6.9%]
- f. Publicly accessible private trails and/or recreation areas (e.g., conservation easements, current use) [Valid %: 0 times: 26.7%, 1-5: 42.9%, 6-10: 8.8%, 11+: 21.6%]

Section 3: The Outdoor Recreation Experience

3. Please indicate how *satisfied* you are with your overall outdoor recreation experience(s) in New Hampshire in the last 12 months, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1= poor and 7= perfect. [Mean: 5.8]
4. Please indicate the *overall level of crowding* you have experienced in New Hampshire outdoor recreation areas in the last 12 months, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1= no crowding and 7= extreme crowding. [Mean: 3.9]
5. Please indicate the *overall level of conflict* (e.g., inconveniences, annoyances, arguments) you have experienced in New Hampshire outdoor recreation areas in the last 12 months, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1= no conflict and 7= extreme conflict. [Mean: 3.2]
6. To what extent have the following *social conditions* impacted your outdoor recreation experience(s) in New Hampshire in the last 12 months, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1= no impact and 7= major impact.
 - a. Crowding [Mean: 3.0]
 - b. The number of other visitors [Mean: 3.1]
 - c. Conflict with other visitors [Mean: 1.7]
 - d. The actions or behaviors of other visitors [Mean: 2.4]
 - e. Conflict with domestic animals (e.g., dogs, horses) [Mean: 1.7]
 - f. Conflict with bikes (e.g., bicycles, mountain bikes) [Mean: 1.6]
 - g. Conflict with off-highway recreational vehicles (e.g., dirtbikes, ATVs, snowmobiles) [Mean: 1.5]
7. To what extent have the following *infrastructure conditions* impacted your outdoor recreation experience(s) in New Hampshire in the last 12 months, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1= no impact and 7= major impact.
 - a. Site accessibility (e.g., road access, trail access, boat launch access) [Mean: 2.2]
 - b. Parking accessibility or traffic [Mean: 3.0]
 - c. Overall sanitation and cleanliness [Mean: 2.3]
 - d. Availability of restroom facilities [Mean: 2.6]
8. To what extent have the following *ecological conditions* impacted your outdoor recreation experience(s) in New Hampshire in the last 12 months, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1= no impact and 7= major impact.
 - a. Visible litter, garbage, waste, or trash [Mean: 2.5]
 - b. Domestic animal waste [Mean: 2.3]
 - c. Trail degradation (e.g., mud, social trails, erosion) [Mean: 2.2]
 - d. Water quality (e.g., E. coli, algal blooms, bacteria) [Mean: 2.0]

9. To what extent have the following *climate conditions* impacted your outdoor recreation experience(s) in New Hampshire in the last 12 months, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1= no impact and 7= major impact.
- a. Damage to recreation infrastructure from storms (e.g., downed trees, flooding) [Mean: 1.8]
 - b. Loss of recreation access from storms (e.g., road/trail closures, poor trail conditions) [Mean: 1.7]
 - c. Negative travel impacts from storms (e.g., poor road conditions, ice, snow, rain, wind) [Mean: 1.9]
 - d. Decreased wildlife populations (e.g., fish, birds, mammals) [Mean: 2.1]
 - e. Fluctuating water levels (e.g., rivers, ponds, lakes, estuaries, ocean) [Mean: 2.1]
 - f. Decreased water quality (e.g., E. coli, algal blooms, bacteria) [Mean: 2.1]
 - g. Less vibrant fall foliage (e.g., less fall colors, less intensity) [Mean: 1.9]
 - h. Later peak foliage (e.g., fall foliage starting later) [Mean: 1.7]
 - i. Decreased tree populations (e.g., tree death, disease, less species diversity) [Mean: 1.9]
 - j. Hotter summer seasons (e.g., unseasonably warm summer days) [Mean: 2.6]
 - k. Longer summer seasons (e.g., summer starting earlier, lasting later) [Mean: 2.1]
 - l. More frequent heatwaves (e.g., extreme summer heat) [Mean: 2.6]
 - m. Warmer winter seasons (e.g., unseasonably warm winter days) [Mean: 2.8]
 - n. Shorter winter seasons (e.g., snow starting later, snow melting earlier) [Mean: 2.6]
 - o. Fewer days of snow/ice cover (e.g., reduced snowpack) [Mean: 2.7]
10. Please tell us more about any *conditions and/or situations* that positively or negatively impacted your outdoor recreation experience(s) or satisfaction in New Hampshire in the last 12 months (e.g., what happened, where did it happen, when/why it occurred, what/why you changed, where you went instead, potential solutions, etc.).

*Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.

Section 4: Outdoor Recreation Behaviors

11. The following are some strategies people use to deal with various *conditions, situations, or impacts* in outdoor recreation settings. Please indicate whether you have done any of the following in response to *various conditions, situations, or impacts* in New Hampshire outdoor recreation areas in the last 12 months, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1= never and 7= always.
- a. Visited a different part of the same recreation area [Mean: 2.9]
 - b. Visited different locations within the same recreation area [Mean: 3.0]
 - c. Visited earlier or later in the day [Mean: 3.4]
 - d. Visited on a different day of the week [Mean: 3.4]
 - e. Changed your recreation activity [Mean: 2.8]
 - f. Started a new recreation activity [Mean: 2.3]
 - g. Abandoned your recreation experience [Mean: 2.2]
 - h. Stopped visiting that recreation area [Mean: 2.4]
12. Please indicate whether you intend to return to New Hampshire outdoor recreation areas in the future, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1= definitely not and 7= without a doubt. [Mean: 6.6]
13. Outdoor recreation visitation can sometimes lead to issues such as overcrowding, resource degradation, or rural community impacts. Please indicate how likely you are to *forgo/skip an outdoor recreation trip* in New Hampshire to ensure the following, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1= not at all likely and 7= very likely
- i. I would be willing to forgo/skip an outdoor recreation trip in NH....
 - i. To ensure *other visitors* are uncrowded [Mean: 3.1]
 - ii. To ensure *natural resources* are preserved and protected [Mean: 4.8]
 - iii. To ensure *rural communities* maintain their way of life [Mean: 4.2]
14. The term *displacement* refers to discontinuing your use of an outdoor recreation area due to various *conditions, situations, or impacts* (e.g., stopped visiting, abandoned your activity, did not return, etc.). In the last 12 months, have you ever been displaced from a New Hampshire outdoor recreation area?
- _____ Yes [Valid %: 24.5%]
 _____ No [Valid %: 75.5%]
15. [If **YES to Q14**] Please tell us more about that experience (e.g., what happened, where did it happen, when/why it occurred, what/why you changed, where you went instead, potential solutions, etc.).

*Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.

Section 5: Health and Wellness in Outdoor Recreation

16. The following are some *physical and mental health outcomes* users derive from outdoor recreation. Please indicate how important each of the following health outcomes is to you when participating in outdoor recreation in New Hampshire in the past 12 months, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1= not at all important and 7= extremely important.
- a. Improves my overall health [Mean: 6.0]
 - b. Improves my overall fitness [Mean: 5.7]
 - c. Reduces chances of future health issues [Mean: 5.4]
 - d. Reduces my stress levels [Mean: 6.2]
 - e. Causes me to appreciate life more [Mean: 6.0]
 - f. Causes me to be more satisfied with my life [Mean: 5.8]
17. Please indicate how important each of the following is to you for *healthy outdoor recreation* in New Hampshire, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1= not at all important and 7= extremely important.
- a. Long-distance trails/pathways (e.g., rail trails) in New Hampshire [Mean: 4.8]
 - b. Fitness/exercise stations at outdoor recreation areas/facilities in New Hampshire [Mean: 2.8]
 - c. Educational health-related signage at outdoor recreation areas/facilities in New Hampshire [Mean: 3.2]
 - d. Health and fitness community events (e.g., 5K races, adventure races) in New Hampshire [Mean: 2.7]

Section 6: Recreation for All- Access, Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity in Outdoor Recreation

18. Please tell us about your perceptions of *general access* to outdoor recreation in New Hampshire in the past 12 months, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1=do not agree, 7= strongly agree
- To what extent do you agree that outdoor recreation areas in New Hampshire are...
 - Accessible to persons with disabilities [Mean: 4.4]
 - Accessible to people of all income levels [Mean: 5.5]
 - Accessible to people from all racial and ethnic backgrounds [Mean: 6.0]
19. Please tell us about *your access* to outdoor recreation in New Hampshire in the past 12 months, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1=do not agree, 7= strongly agree
- To what extent do you agree that outdoor recreation areas in New Hampshire are...
 - Accessible within 10 minutes of where you live [Mean: 5.5]
 - Accessible by walking and/or bicycle [Mean: 4.9]
 - Accessible by public transportation [Mean: 2.5]
20. Do you, or anyone in your household, have any physical or cognitive conditions, including but not limited to sensory, mobility, or neurological impairment, that may impact your ability to participate in outdoor recreation in New Hampshire?
- ___ Yes [Valid %: 23.0%]
 ___ No [Valid %: 77.0%]
21. [If **YES to Q20**] What accommodations could be made to improve your ability to engage in outdoor recreation in New Hampshire?
22. Please tell us about your perceptions of *belonging and ownership* within New Hampshire outdoor recreation areas in the past 12 months, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1= never and 7= always
- I feel welcome in New Hampshire outdoor recreation areas [Mean: 6.0]
 - I feel safe in New Hampshire outdoor recreation areas [Mean: 5.8]
 - My voice is represented in the development of New Hampshire outdoor recreation areas [Mean: 4.0]
 - My feedback is valued in the operation of New Hampshire outdoor recreation areas [Mean: 4.1]
 - I see people of different backgrounds interacting in NH outdoor recreation areas [Mean: 5.1]
 - I interact with people of different backgrounds at New Hampshire outdoor recreation areas [Mean: 4.9]
23. What is the single most important thing that outdoor recreation agencies/organizations could do to help you participate in outdoor recreation in New Hampshire?
- *Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.

Section 7: Outdoor Recreation Management Preferences

24. To what extent do you support the following *visitor use limitation strategies* to improve the overall visitor experience within New Hampshire outdoor recreation areas, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1=do not support and 7=strongly support.
- a. A reservation system to limit the number of people who can visit some New Hampshire outdoor recreation areas [Mean: 3.5]
 - b. An *online/advanced purchase* reservation system for some NH outdoor recreation areas [Mean: 3.6]
 - c. An *on-site/in-person* reservation system for some New Hampshire outdoor recreation areas [Mean: 3.7]
25. Much of the outdoor recreation in New Hampshire takes place on publicly accessible private lands and trails around the state. Please indicate the extent to which you support each of the following *public/private land policies* in New Hampshire, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1=do not support and 7=strongly support.
- a. The mapping of publicly accessible private lands and trails in New Hampshire [Mean: 5.4]
 - b. Legally require publicly accessible private lands and trails in New Hampshire to be mapped [Mean: 3.9]

Section 8: Funding and Investments in Outdoor Recreation

26. How important do you feel it is to develop the following *outdoor recreation facilities/infrastructure* in New Hampshire, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1= not at all important and 7= extremely important.
- a. Sport facilities (e.g., courts, fields, golf courses) [Mean: 3.5]
 - b. Action sport facilities (e.g., skate parks, pump tracks) [Mean: 3.4]
 - c. Aquatic facilities (e.g., beaches, swimming/wading pools, splash pads) [Mean: 4.6]
 - d. Camping facilities (e.g., campgrounds, RV hookups, cabins, yurts) [Mean: 4.9]
 - e. General trail systems (e.g., hiking trails, rail-trails, community trails) [Mean: 5.9]
 - f. Mountain bike trail systems (e.g., single track, downhill, lift access) [Mean: 4.6]
 - g. Motorized trail systems (e.g., dirtbikes, snowmobiles, off-highway vehicles) [Mean: 4.0]
 - h. Developed ski facilities (e.g., downhill, cross-country, resorts) [Mean: 4.3]
 - i. Backcountry ski areas (e.g., glades, trails, slopes) [Mean: 4.0]
 - j. Hunting and fishing areas (e.g., game lands, shooting ranges, boat launches) [Mean: 4.6]
 - k. Recreation support facilities (e.g., bathrooms, playgrounds, picnic areas, signage) [Mean: 5.4]
27. Please indicate your *maximum willingness to pay* for the following outdoor recreation fees in New Hampshire. Please estimate to the nearest dollar value.
- a. Local or municipal park - daily entrance fee [Mean: \$3.10]
 - b. Local or municipal pool - daily entrance fee [Mean: \$3.20]
 - c. State Park - daily entrance fee [Mean: \$4.60]
 - d. State Park - camping fee (per night) [Mean: \$14.70]
 - e. National Forest - daily parking fee [Mean: \$7.10]
 - f. National Forest - camping fee (per night) [Mean: \$18.40]
28. Please indicate how satisfied you are with *outdoor recreation investments* in New Hampshire, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1= not at all satisfied and 7= very satisfied
- a. Investments made by your *local town government* in New Hampshire outdoor recreation [Mean: 4.1]
 - b. Investments made by the *NH State government* in New Hampshire outdoor recreation [Mean: 4.3]
 - c. Investments made by the *U.S. Federal government* in New Hampshire outdoor recreation [Mean: 3.8]
29. To what extent do you agree that outdoor recreation supports the *New Hampshire economy*, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1=do not agree and 7= strongly agree. [Mean: 5.8]
30. Please tell us more about your perceptions of the *New Hampshire outdoor recreation economy* (e.g., strengths and/or weaknesses; implications for commerce, communities, workforce/jobs, housing, quality of life, etc.)
- *Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.*

Section 9: Sociodemographic Information

The survey is almost finished – thank you for sticking with us!

Please tell us a little bit about yourself and keep in mind that all responses are kept confidential.

31. What is your home ZIP code? *Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.

32. What county do you live in? *Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.

33. What is your current age? [Mean: 48.5]

34. What is your gender? Male [Valid %: 50.0%] Female [Valid %: 48.1%]

Non-binary [Valid %: 1.9%] Prefer not to say [Valid %: 0%]

35. What is the highest level of formal schooling you have completed?

Less than high school [Valid %: 0.8%]	High school graduate [Valid %: 34.2%]	2-year college [Valid %: 9.6%]	Graduate/professional [Valid %: 12.3%]
Some high school [Valid %: 0%]	Some college [Valid %: 21.1%]	4-year college [Valid %: 20.2%]	Prefer not to say [Valid %: 1.7%]

36. With which racial group do you most closely identify?

White [Valid %: 92.6%]	American Indian/ Alaskan Native [Valid %: 1.4%]	
Black/African American [Valid %: 0.6%]	Asian/ Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific [Valid %: 1.9%]	Other [4.3%]
Spanish/Hispanic/Latin [Valid %: 0.3%]	Middle Eastern/North African [Valid %: 0%]	Prefer not to say [Valid %: 6.0%]

37. In what income category does your household fall?

Under \$25,000 [Valid %: 3.8%]	\$75,000-\$99,999 [Valid %: 14.2%]	Don't Know [Valid %: 3.0%]
\$25,000-\$49,999 [Valid %: 9.9%]	\$100,000-\$149,999 [Valid %: 16.9%]	Prefer not to say [Valid %: 10.3%]
\$50,000-\$74,999 [Valid %: 21.1%]	\$150,000 or more [Valid %: 20.7%]	

38. Which of the following best describes your political orientation?

[Mean: 3.7]

Extreme Liberal	Very Liberal	Slightly Liberal	Moderate	Slightly Conservative	Very Conservative	Extreme Conservative
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.
This information will be used to improve the management
of outdoor recreation across the state of New Hampshire.

New Hampshire Outdoor Recreation

Appendix F: Provider Research Survey



Section 1: Introduction and Informed Consent

The University of New Hampshire – Department of Recreation Management and Policy and the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources – Division of Parks and Recreation are requesting your participation in a brief research survey regarding New Hampshire outdoor recreation providers' attitudes and perceptions towards outdoor recreation in NH.

For the purposes of this study, a New Hampshire outdoor recreation provider is defined as:
Any outdoor organization that provides and/or promotes outdoor recreation in New Hampshire.

The information you provide in this survey is very important, as it will help inform the *New Hampshire Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* and other management actions and investments across the state. The hope is that the results from this survey can be used to provide benchmarks for the purposes of comparison between similar outdoor recreation providers.

The survey should take about 10-15 minutes to complete. You must be at least 18 years old and a resident of New Hampshire to participate. Your participation in this research survey is completely voluntary, but very important. We expect about 1,000 individuals to participate in this research survey. You may decide to quit at any time. All information collected in this survey will be kept confidential. Participation in this research is expected to present no more than minimal risk to you. Thank you for your time and consideration!

By clicking the "Yes, I'd like to participate in this research study" button below, you are indicating that you consent to participate in this research study. If you prefer not to participate, please simply close this window in your browser.

UNH IRB # IRB-FY2022-394

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the survey, please contact:

Dr. Michael Ferguson
Principal Investigator
Department of Recreation Management and Policy
The University of New Hampshire
Michael.Ferguson@unh.edu

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact:

Melissa McGee
Assistant Director
Research Integrity Services
The University of New Hampshire
Melissa.Mcgee@unh.edu

Please answer each question in this survey from your professional (not personal) perspective as an outdoor recreation provider and/or promoter in New Hampshire

Section 2: Organizational Background Information

1. Does your organization *provide and/or promote outdoor recreation in New Hampshire*?
 - a. Yes [Valid %: 97.0%]
 - b. No [Valid %: 3.0%]
2. What is the *name* of your organization?
 *Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.
3. What is *your position/title* within your organization?
 *Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.
4. Approximately how many *years* have you held this position with your organization?
 [Mean: 8.6]
5. Which of the following best describes *your position* within your organization?
 - a. Top-level management (e.g., chief, commissioner, owner) [Valid %: 37.8%]
 - b. Middle-level management (e.g., director, supervisor, manager) [Valid %: 43.2%]
 - c. Front-line staff (e.g., visitor/customer facing, ranger, guide) [Valid %: 9.0%]
 - d. Other position (please specify) [Valid %: 10.1%]
6. Which of the following categories best describes *your organization*?
 - a. Local/town/city outdoor recreation organization [Valid %: 24.5%]
 - b. State outdoor recreation organization [Valid %: 10.8%]
 - c. Federal outdoor recreation organization [Valid %: 0.7%]
 - d. Non-profit outdoor recreation organization [Valid %: 26.6%]
 - e. Private outdoor recreation organization [Valid %: 3.2%]
 - f. School district/College/University [Valid %: 19.8%]
 - g. Other outdoor recreation organization (please specify) [Valid %: 14.4%]
7. Does your organization *manage publicly accessible lands* in New Hampshire?
 - a. Yes [Valid %: 55.4%]
 - b. No [Valid %: 44.6%]
8. Please estimate the *total acres of publicly accessible land* your organization manages in New Hampshire.
 [Mean: 18,267.2]
9. Please estimate the *total number of staff* your organization utilizes in the following categories.
 - a. Full-time staff [Mean: 18.2]
 - b. Part-time/seasonal staff [Mean: 29.4]
 - c. Volunteers [Mean: 63.7]
 - d. Other staff [Mean: 6.9]
10. Please estimate your organization's *total annual operating budget* for outdoor recreation in 2022.
 [Mean: \$2,098,993]
11. Please provide the nearest/most central *zip code* of the community you serve.
 *Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.

12. Please estimate the *size of the population* your organization serves.
- a. Less than 5,000 people [Valid %: 27.8%]
 - b. 5,000-9,999 people [Valid %: 20.4%]
 - c. 10,000-24,999 people [Valid %: 14.8%]
 - d. 25,000-49,999 people [Valid %: 6.5%]
 - e. 50,000-99,000 people [Valid %: 3.9%]
 - f. 100,000+ people [Valid %: 17.4%]
 - g. Don't know [Valid %: 9.1%]
13. Has your organization ever received *Land and Water Conservation Fund* grants in the past?
- a. Yes [Valid %: 22.6%]
 - b. No [Valid %: 53.5%]
 - c. Don't know [Valid %: 23.9%]
14. Are you/your organization aware of the New Hampshire *Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development*?
- a. Yes [Valid %: 47.8%]
 - b. No [Valid %: 52.2%]
15. Have you/your organization ever worked with the New Hampshire *Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development* in any capacity?
- a. Yes [Valid %: 33.6%]
 - b. No [Valid %: 31.8%]
 - c. Don't know [Valid %: 34.5%]
16. Are you/your organization aware of the New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism Development - *Leave No Trace Partner Toolkit and Resource Repository*?
- a. Yes [Valid %: 39.7%]
 - b. No [Valid %: 60.7%]
17. Do you/your organization utilize the New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism Development - *Leave No Trace Partner Toolkit and Resource Repository* in any capacity?
- a. Yes [Valid %: 27.5%]
 - b. No [Valid %: 47.3%]
 - c. Don't know [Valid %: 25.3%]

Section 3: The Outdoor Recreation Visitor Experience

18. Within the outdoor recreation resource(s) your organization manages/uses in New Hampshire, to what extent have the following impacted your outdoor recreation visitors/constituents/clients in the past 12 months, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1=no impact and 7= major impact.
- Crowding [Mean: 3.5]
 - The number of other visitors [Mean: 3.5]
 - Conflict with other visitors [Mean: 2.5]
 - The actions or behaviors of other visitors [Mean: 3.1]
 - Conflict with domestic animals (e.g., dogs, horses) [Mean: 2.3]
 - Conflict with bikes (e.g., bicycles, mountain bikes) [Mean: 2.0]
 - Conflict with off-highway recreational vehicles (e.g., dirtbikes, ATVs, snowmobiles) [Mean: 2.3]
 - Site accessibility (e.g., road access, trail access, facility access) [Mean: 3.2]
 - Parking accessibility or traffic [Mean: 3.7]
 - Overall sanitation and cleanliness [Mean: 2.6]
 - Availability of restroom facilities [Mean: 3.0]
 - Visible litter, garbage, waste, or trash [Mean: 3.2]
 - Domestic animal waste [Mean: 2.7]
 - Resource degradation (e.g., erosion, trampling, social trails) [Mean: 3.3]
 - Water quality (e.g., E. coli, algal blooms, bacteria) [Mean: 2.6]
19. Within the outdoor recreation resource(s) your organization manages/uses in New Hampshire, which of the following impacts are the *most common/prevalent* among your outdoor recreation visitors/constituents/clients over the last 12 months? [Please rank order these impacts from most (top) to least (bottom) common].
- Infrastructure impacts (e.g., access, parking, facilities) [Rank order: #1 (Valid %: 43.4%)]
 - Social impacts (e.g., crowding, conflict, hassles) [Rank order: #2 (Valid %: 34.6 %)]
 - Ecological impacts (e.g., litter, garbage, resource degradation) [Rank order: #3 (Valid %: 22%)]
20. Please tell us more about any *conditions and/or situations* that have positively or negatively impacted your visitors/constituents/clients over the last 12 months in New Hampshire (e.g., what happened, where did it happen, when/why it occurred, how it impacted you as a provider/manager, potential solutions, etc.).

*Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.

Section 4: Outdoor Recreation and Climate Conditions

21. To what extent have the following *climate conditions* impacted the outdoor recreation *resources, areas, facilities, programs, and/or staff* that your visitors/constituents/clients utilize in New Hampshire over the last 12 months, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1=no impact and 7= major impact.
- a. Damage to recreation infrastructure from storms (e.g., downed trees, flooding) [Mean: 3.5]
 - b. Loss of access from storms (e.g., road/facility/trail closures, poor facility/trail conditions) [Mean: 2.9]
 - c. Negative travel impacts from storms (e.g., poor road conditions, ice, snow, rain, wind) [Mean: 2.8]
 - d. Hotter summer seasons (e.g., unseasonably warm summer days, facility closures, programming moved/cancelled due to heat) [Mean: 2.8]
 - e. Longer summer seasons (e.g., summer starting earlier, lasting later) [Mean: 2.9]
 - f. More frequent heatwaves (e.g., extreme summer heat, facility closures) [Mean: 2.8]
 - g. Warmer winter seasons (e.g., unseasonably warm winter days, lack of temps for operation) [Mean: 3.9]
 - h. Shorter winter seasons (e.g., snow/ice starting later, snow/ice melting earlier) [Mean: 3.9]
 - i. Fewer days of snow/ice cover (e.g., reduced snowpack, fewer days of facility operation) [Mean: 3.9]
 - j. Decreased wildlife populations (e.g., fish, birds, mammals) [Mean: 2.5]
 - k. Fluctuating water levels (e.g., rivers, ponds, lakes, estuaries, ocean) [Mean: 3.2]
 - l. Decreased water quality (e.g., E. coli, algal blooms, bacteria) [Mean: 2.7]
 - m. Less vibrant fall foliage (e.g., less fall colors, less intensity) [Mean: 2.0]
 - n. Later peak foliage (e.g., fall foliage starting later) [Mean: 2.0]
 - o. Decreased tree populations (e.g., tree death, disease, less species diversity) [Mean: 2.6]
22. Within the outdoor recreation resource(s) your organization manages/uses in New Hampshire, to what extent have the following *operational aspects* been impacted by *climate conditions* over the past 12 months, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1=no impact and 7= major impact.
- a. Planning (e.g., program offerings, marketing, facility design) [Mean: 3.3]
 - b. Maintenance (e.g., routine, preventive, corrective) [Mean: 3.5]
 - c. Finances (e.g., revenue, operating costs, capital investments, bids) [Mean: 3.5]
 - d. Staffing (e.g., coordination, scheduling, training) [Mean: 3.1]
 - e. Safety (e.g., risk management, accidents, emergency response) [Mean: 2.7]
 - f. Visitor use management (e.g., access, permitting, crowding, satisfaction) [Mean: 3.0]
 - g. Communication (e.g., advertising, outreach, daily operations changes) [Mean: 2.7]
23. Please tell us more about any *climate-related conditions and/or situations* that impacted or changed *the operational aspect(s)* of the outdoor recreation *resources, areas, facilities, programs, and/or staff* that you manage or that your visitors/constituents/clients utilized in New Hampshire over the last 12 months (e.g., what happened, where did it happen, when/why it occurred, potential solutions, adaptation strategies, etc.).

*Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.

Section 5: Outdoor Recreation Management Preferences

24. Indirect management techniques are methods used by recreation providers to influence or modify visitor behavior without direct interaction. To what extent do you support the following *indirect management techniques* within the outdoor recreation resource(s) your organization manages/uses in New Hampshire, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1=do not support and 7= strongly support.
- a. Visitor education (e.g., interpretative programs, ranger talks) [Mean: 5.4]
 - b. Signage and information (e.g., safety signs, websites, brochures, maps) [Mean: 6.0]
 - c. Design and infrastructure (e.g., designated: trails, parking, camping, restrooms) [Mean: 5.7]
 - d. Incentives and rewards (e.g., discount, special access, certificates) [Mean: 3.7]
 - e. Partnerships and collaborations (e.g., communities, schools, public-private) [Mean: 5.7]
25. Direct management techniques are methods used by recreation providers to directly influence or modify visitor behavior. To what extent do you support the following *direct management techniques* within the outdoor recreation resource(s) your organization manages/uses in New Hampshire, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1=do not support and 7= strongly support.
- a. Enforcement (e.g., citations, fines, penalties) [Mean: 4.5]
 - b. Activity zoning (e.g., hiking, equestrian, mountain biking) [Mean: 4.5]
 - c. Resource zoning (e.g., wilderness, day-use, overnight use) [Mean: 4.5]
 - d. Access restrictions (e.g., carrying capacity, reservation systems, timed entry) [Mean: 4.1]
26. Managing visitor access via reservation systems is becoming an increasingly popular management technique to help distribute visitation in high-use areas or activities. To what extent do you support the use of *reservation systems* within certain high-use outdoor recreation areas or activities your organization manages/uses in New Hampshire, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1=do not support and 7= strongly support.
[Mean: 3.8]
27. Are there *any forms of reservation systems currently employed* within the outdoor recreation resource(s) your organization manages/uses in New Hampshire?
- a. Yes [Valid %: 34.2%]
 - b. No [Valid %: 65.8%]
28. Please tell us more about the use of reservation systems within certain high-use areas or activities your organization manages/uses in New Hampshire (e.g., when/where/why the reservation system is in place, type of reservation systems in place, effectiveness, pros/cons, lessons learned, etc.).
*Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.
29. Please tell us more about the *potential* use of reservation systems within the outdoor recreation resource(s) your organization manages/uses in New Hampshire (e.g., is there a need for a reservation system in the future, why or why not, other potential solutions or adaptation strategies, etc.).
*Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.

Section 6: Recreation for All – Access, Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity in Outdoor Recreation

30. To what extent do you agree that the outdoor recreation resource(s) your organization manages/uses in New Hampshire are *accessible* to your visitors/constituents/clients, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1=do not agree and 7= strongly agree.
- "The outdoor recreation resource(s) your organization manages/uses in New Hampshire is..."
 - Accessible by walking and/or bicycle [Mean: 5.3]
 - Accessible by public transportation [Mean: 2.8]
 - Accessible to people of all income levels [Mean: 5.6]
 - Accessible to people from all racial and ethnic backgrounds [Mean: 6.0]
 - Accessible to persons with disabilities [Mean: 4.8]
 - Accessible to persons with *physical* disabilities (e.g., mobility/visual impairment) [Mean: 4.6]
 - Accessible to persons with *cognitive* disabilities (e.g., issues w/ memory, language) [Mean: 4.6]
31. Within the outdoor recreation resource(s) your organization manages/uses in New Hampshire, what other *accommodations* do you feel could improve your visitors/constituents/clients access to outdoor recreation?
 *Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.
32. To what extent do you agree that the outdoor recreation resource(s) your organization manages/uses in New Hampshire are *inclusive of all* visitors/constituents/clients, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1=do not agree and 7= strongly agree.
- "The outdoor recreation resource(s) your organization manages/uses in New Hampshire is..."
 - Welcoming for *all* visitors/constituents/clients [Mean: 5.9]
 - Safe for *all* visitors/constituents/clients [Mean: 5.7]
 - Representative of *all* visitors/constituents/clients [Mean: 5.3]
 - Integrates feedback from *all* visitors/constituents/clients [Mean: 5.1]
 - Provide opportunities for *all* visitors/constituents/clients from different backgrounds [Mean: 5.7]
33. Within the outdoor recreation resource(s) your organization manages/uses, what is the *single most important thing* your organization should/could be doing to help future visitors/constituents/clients *access and participate* in outdoor recreation in New Hampshire?
 *Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.

Section 7: Benefits of Outdoor Recreation

34. To what extent do you agree that the outdoor recreation resource(s) your organization manages/uses in New Hampshire delivers/provides the following *benefits to your community*, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1=do not agree and 7= strongly agree.
- a. Provides a sense of community [Mean: 6.2]
 - b. Provides a sense of identity [Mean: 6.0]
 - c. Helps attract new residents and businesses [Mean: 5.4]
 - d. Helps promote tourism and economic development [Mean: 5.7]
 - e. Helps increase property values in the community [Mean: 5.3]
 - f. Helps reduce crime in the community [Mean: 4.6]
35. To what extent do you agree that the outdoor recreation resource(s) your organization manages/uses in New Hampshire delivers/provides the following *health benefits* to your visitors/constituents/clients, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1=do not agree and 7= strongly agree.
- a. Improves overall physical health [Mean: 6.4]
 - b. Improves physical fitness [Mean: 6.3]
 - c. Reduces chances of future health issues [Mean: 5.9]
 - d. Improves psychological wellbeing [Mean: 6.4]
 - e. Improves mental health [Mean: 6.4]
 - f. Improves quality of life [Mean: 6.6]
 - g. Reduces stress [Mean: 6.5]
 - h. Promotes restoration [Mean: 6.2]
 - i. Improves mood [Mean: 6.5]
36. Please select the *single most important health benefit* that you feel your organization provides to your visitors/constituents/clients from the list above.
- a. Improves overall physical health [Valid %: 13.9%]
 - b. Improves physical fitness [Valid %: 4.6%]
 - c. Reduces chances of future health issues [Valid %: 0.6%]
 - d. Improves psychological wellbeing [Valid %: 15%]
 - e. Improves mental health [Valid %: 9.2%]
 - f. Improves quality of life [Valid %: 46.8%]
 - g. Reduces stress [Valid %: 4.6%]
 - h. Promotes restoration [Valid %: 1.2%]
 - i. Improves mood [Valid %: 4.0%]

Section 8: Funding and Investments in Outdoor Recreation

You are nearing the end of the survey – only two more short sections to go – please stick with us!

37. Overall, how has the *funding and/or investment support* for your outdoor recreation organization changed over the past 5 years in New Hampshire, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1= remarkable decline and 7= remarkable improvement. [Mean: 6.5]
38. Regarding the overall funding for your outdoor organization, please rate the following funding sources based on their estimated (%) contribution to your operating budget:
 *Enter percentages for each variable, totaling at the bottom
- a. Taxes/appropriated funds [Mean: 15.4%]
 - b. User fees/charges [Mean: 31.4%]
 - c. Public grants (e.g., state or federal grants) [Mean: 9.7%]
 - d. Private grants (e.g., foundation grants) [Mean: 7.5%]
 - e. Private funds/donations (e.g., gifts, donations) [Mean: 14.6%]
 - f. Corporate sponsorship [Mean: 2.7%]
 - g. Impact fees [Mean: 0.5%]
 - h. Lease/rental fees [Mean: 4.4%]
 - i. Other funding sources (please specify) [Mean: 13.8%]
39. Please indicate how satisfied you are with the *investments* made in the outdoor recreation resource(s) your organization manages/uses in New Hampshire, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1= not at all satisfied and 7= very satisfied.
- a. Investments made by the *local town government* [Mean: 3.7]
 - b. Investments made by *school districts* [Mean: 3.0]
 - c. Investments made by the *New Hampshire State government* [Mean: 3.5]
 - d. Investments made by the *United States Federal government* [Mean: 3.5]
 - e. Investments made by the *private sector* [Mean: 4.0]
40. To what extent do you agree that outdoor recreation supports the *New Hampshire economy*, on a scale from 1 to 7; 1=do not agree and 7= strongly agree. [Mean: 6.7]
41. Please tell us more about your perceptions of the *New Hampshire outdoor recreation economy* (e.g., strengths and/or weaknesses; implications for commerce, communities, workforce/jobs, housing, quality of life, etc.)

*Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.

Section 9: Sociodemographic Information

The survey is almost finished – thank you for sticking with us!

Please tell us a little bit about yourself and keep in mind that all responses are kept confidential.

42. What is your current age? [Mean: 64.7]

43. What is your gender? Male [Valid %: 54.2%] Female [Valid %: 44.0%]
Non-binary [Valid %: 0%] Prefer not to say [Valid %: 1.8%]

44. What is the highest level of formal schooling you have completed?

Less than high school [Valid %: 0%]	High school graduate [Valid %: 2.4%]	2-year college [Valid %: 7.2%]	Graduate/professional [Valid %: 28.3%]
Some high school [Valid %: 0%]	Some college [Valid %: 9.0%]	4-year college [Valid %: 51.2%]	Prefer not to say [Valid %: 1.8%]

45. With which racial group do you most closely identify? [Select ALL that apply].

Native American, Inuit, or Aleut [Percent %: 0%]	Caucasian/White [Percent %: 96.2%]	
Asian American/Pacific Islander [Percent %: 0.6%]	Latin/Hispanic [Percent %: 0.3%]	Prefer not to say [Percent: 2.9%]
African American/Black/Caribbean American [Percent %: 0%]	Other (Please specify) [Percent %: 0%]	

46. Is there anything else we should consider as we develop the next five-year outdoor recreation plan for New Hampshire (e.g., recent trends/challenges)?

*Open-ended qualitative responses not reported in this appendix.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.
This information will be used to improve the management
of outdoor recreation across the state of New Hampshire.

Appendix G: Wetlands Priority Component

Wetlands and SCORP

Section 303 of the 1986 Federal Emergency Wetlands Act mandates the inclusion of wetlands as a significant outdoor recreational asset within the SCORP, alongside the establishment of protection priorities. The priorities set forth in this SCORP duly fulfill this requirement.

The Impact of Wetlands in New Hampshire

According to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), wetlands are another type of natural resource that drives the state's economy.²⁸ Beyond their economic value, wetlands are important contributors to flood control, water quality, water storage, and groundwater and surface water recharge. With changing weather patterns detailed in the SCORP, the land resiliency functions of wetlands are becoming more valuable and important.

Overview of New Hampshire's Wetlands

New Hampshire is fortunate to have numerous lakes, ponds, and rivers, as well as valuable groundwater. The environmental savings related to clean water can be measured in terms of water pollution reduction and stormwater treatment cost reduction. Measures to control invasive species, plant kills, and algae blooms are important for the continued safe use and enjoyment of water-based recreation and for maintaining sustainable rivers, lakes, and ponds.

With an understanding of how recreational use and the number of visitors can affect watershed resources, community planners can make responsible choices when locating recreation activities and facilities. Once a recreation site is created, long-term maintenance is essential for maintaining landscape health as well as continued user satisfaction. In some instances, volunteer maintenance may be supplemented where public funding ends in determining resource capacity limitations. Watershed groups, whose efforts focus on education, monitoring, and rehabilitation, can also serve as a bridge between the public agencies and volunteer maintenance groups.

Wetlands have been shown to be used for various outdoor recreation purposes including fishing, boating, hiking, and wildlife observation. In New Hampshire, the NH Fish and Game Department (Fish and Game) is the guardian of the state's fish, wildlife, and marine resources and works in partnership with the public to conserve, manage, and protect these resources and their habitats; inform and educate the public about these resources; and provide the public with opportunities to use and appreciate these resources.

New Hampshire Wetlands Inventory and Regional Data

The estimated acreage of wetlands in New Hampshire ranges between 290,000 acres, estimates from the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and 576,386 acres, from soil surveys by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Accordingly, wetlands occupy between five and ten percent of New Hampshire's landscape. Further, NWI analyses indicate there are approximately 8,029 acres of estuarine wetlands in New Hampshire, with the vast majority of New Hampshire's wetlands being nontidal.²⁹

²⁸ New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, 2023

²⁹ Tiner, 2007

Wetlands Protection

NHDES has established the New Hampshire Wetland Program Plan. In the most recent edition, both environmentally based outcomes and programmatic-based outcomes were established:

- **Environment**
 - Wetland complexes of high ecological value, high-function, and high condition are afforded adequate protections.
 - Blocks of un-fragmented habitat are protected or connected to other habitats, protected land, or stream and wildlife corridors.
 - Land development practices avoid and minimize cumulative and indirect impacts to wetland and aquatic resources.
 - Natural stream flow regimes are maintained, and stream crossings allow aquatic resources to stay connected.
 - Streams and wetlands have adequate protective buffers.
 - Retain or restore the condition of New Hampshire's wetlands to support aquatic life and wetland functions.
- **Program**
 - Wetland permit processes will be integrated with other land resources permits and water quality related permitting.
 - Wetland protection efforts are well funded and wetland resources are protected and maintained to provide ecosystem services (reduce flooding, improve water quality, provide habitat and recreation opportunities) and the economic benefits they provide.
 - There is a broad base of stewardship and public understanding of the multiple benefits of the functions and values of wetlands and aquatic resources. There will be a coordinated message from state and federal agencies, local governments, citizen volunteers and nongovernmental organizations.
 - Wetland compliance and enforcement efforts are well funded, consistent, and responsive.
 - New Hampshire's wetlands are assessed for their condition on a regular basis consistent with the NH Wetland Monitoring Strategy and 305(b) reporting, once indicators and thresholds are developed.
 - Environmentally based outcomes and measures are identified and are used for annual status and trends reporting and to influence proposed regulation, policy, and decision making.
 - Resource management decisions are based on sound science and balance competing interests.

To achieve the stated goals, NHDES has identified four core program elements for the wetland planning process. These core elements relate to the overall goals and objectives found in this SCORP.

1. Regulation and enforcement
2. Restoration and protection
3. Data/monitoring and assessment/water quality standards
4. Outreach and education/local capacity building

Funding Conservation Across New Hampshire

In 2022, there were over 15 acres of wetlands loss, over 2,500 feet of stream impacts, and almost 4.5 acres of wetland conversion that required compensatory mitigation and generated available funds.³⁰ As a response to wetland loss, NHDES manages the *Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund*. The ARM Fund offers an alternative to permittee-responsible mitigation. The funds are pooled according to nine watersheds called Service Areas, and then made available as competitive grants to fund preservation, restoration, and enhancement activities across the state. Since 2009, the ARM Fund has provided funding for 130 projects, protecting over 27,000 acres and over 400 vernal pools.

³⁰ New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, 2023



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