

OHIO

Outdoor Recreation

A plan for the future



2008 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan



Ohio is the State of perfect balance. In Ohio you can live in an urban area and drive just a couple of hours to hike in a state forest, fish on a lake or explore a cave. Also in Ohio, you can live in a rural community and still spend an afternoon in a busy greenspace in one of Ohio's dynamic big cities. When it comes to spending your recreational time in the great outdoors, Ohio has it all.

To ensure that Ohio's recreational and natural resources continue to play an important part in the lives of Ohioans, I am proud to present the 2008 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Please use this guide as an important tool that will allow you to better meet and exceed the current expectations and needs of Ohioans, monitor trends in recreation so that we can best manage our resources, and ensure that every Ohioan has a place to become healthier and happier in Ohio's great outdoors.

From the shores of Lake Erie, to the cavernous and wooded state assets, there should be a place for each individual to explore and enjoy - a place for each of us to find our own state of perfect balance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Strickland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ted Strickland

Acknowledgements

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PURPOSE

The 2008 Ohio Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) has been prepared to guide outdoor recreation land acquisition, facility development, programming and management in the state of Ohio for a five-year planning period. It is the eighth in a series of comprehensive plans that represents the state of Ohio's commitment to continuous outdoor recreation systems planning. The 2008 Ohio SCORP satisfies the requirements of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965 (P.L. 88-578), which requires each state to have an approved SCORP on file with the U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service to participate in the LWCF cost-sharing funding program. The 2008 Ohio SCORP will be effective for the planning period from 2008-2012.

The primary goal of the 2008 Ohio SCORP is to provide a contemporary assessment of outdoor recreation in Ohio and to recommend ways in which public, private and independent agencies might strive to meet identified needs within the constraints of the state's social, economic and natural resources. The 2008 SCORP is the most comprehensive source of data on regional and statewide outdoor recreation in Ohio, and can serve as a valuable tool for decision making for a variety of providers. It is not a site specific document nor does it attempt to make recommendations on every issue facing Ohio's outdoor recreation. The SCORP does identify existing resources and systems, outdoor recreation participation patterns and trends, issues and problems, and recommended solutions to these problems. However, additional local and regional research and planning are strongly recommended to complement information contained in the SCORP.

LEGAL AUTHORIZATION

The Division of Real Estate and Land Management within the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) is authorized by ORC 1504.02(5) as the state agency responsible for the development of Ohio's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and administration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program.

Introduction

A number of issues and trends that are affecting the provision of outdoor recreational opportunities in Ohio are described in the 2008 SCORP. These were identified through a lengthy public participation process that included a series of input discussion groups, one public meeting, extensive survey research, an internal workgroup and significant input from an advisory group of outdoor recreation stakeholders. This multifaceted program was conducted virtually continuously throughout the SCORP planning cycle. The resultant 2008 SCORP implementation recommendations are offered to assist public, private and independent agencies. Together, these agencies comprise Ohio's outdoor recreation delivery system in providing highly valuable outdoor recreation opportunities.

Ohio's Regions

A regional approach was used to acquire public input for the 2008 SCORP. Two or three focus groups were held in each of five delineated regions of Ohio; for purposes of planning these are identified as *Northeast, Northwest, Central, Southeast and Southwest*. The 2006 ODNR Outdoor Recreation Participation and Satisfaction Survey also allowed for a sufficient quantity of responses to reliably evaluate the existence of nuances and differences in outdoor recreation between the five regions. Delineation of the five SCORP planning regions closely correlates with the seven tourism regions established by the Ohio Department of Development, Division of Travel and Tourism.

The 2006 ODNR Outdoor Recreation Participation and Satisfaction Survey report contains detailed information and analysis of survey responses from these five regions as well as the state as a whole. Analysis showed that overall, across the regions, little variability exists in categories such as outdoor recreation participation, satisfaction, activity preference and perceived barriers. However, some subtle differences were noted. For example, lack of information about recreation sites is considered the third most significant barrier to Ohioans in all regions of the state, except the southeast region, where the high cost of gasoline is considered a more significant barrier than lack of information.

Public input from SCORP focus groups is summarized by region in the Focus Group Reports. This information represents a synopsis of the personal observations of more than 100 group participants who are closely associated with outdoor recreation in Ohio, either through park district leadership, outdoor recreation field management, public office, association with a constituency or user group, or another similar connection. Once again, many common themes were noted, with some regional differences. For example, the need for more businesses offering outdoor recreation outfitter services was only expressed in southeast regional meetings, whereas concern about the conversion of public marinas to private use was voiced in northwest Ohio meetings.

Trends and Priorities

The use of federal Land and Water Conservation Fund monies will be aligned with the current findings of the 2008 SCORP planning process. General priorities and trends, summarized below, were derived from analysis of these findings, and are closely related to the statewide issues identified on pages 69-83. SCORP priorities and trends will likely change over time as reflected by the design of a continuous SCORP planning cycle. As changes do occur, Ohio's Open Project Selection Process (the process used by ODNR to make various financial assistance decisions) will be adjusted. Of course, every statewide issue identified in this plan cannot be addressed through the use of LWCF funds.

Ohioans participate in a wide range of activities that require a variety of facilities and resource settings. Recent statewide survey results show that Ohioans are fairly satisfied with outdoor recreation in the state. However, current economic and social challenges in Ohio virtually guarantee that recreation providers will need to continue to be quite resourceful in their efforts to provide quality outdoor recreation opportunities to Ohioans and Ohio visitors.

- **Diverse Needs of Ohioans:** The nature of Ohio's population is increasingly diverse in terms of physical ability and cultural background. For many Ohioans, certain outdoor areas, because of physical location in the natural landscape, can be challenging to visit. It is recommended that a recreational facility's accessibility information (i.e. trail composition and condition) be readily available to help the user determine if they can successfully negotiate the area. Adaptive programs are recommended for challenging areas, and when feasible, parallel adaptive facilities.

Unfamiliar (from an American perspective) cultural

outdoor activities of newly emigrated peoples also are being accommodated in public outdoor recreation areas. Language accommodation, especially in health and safety situations, should be strongly considered. Assistance to economically disadvantaged populations in overcoming access barriers continues to be very important, especially in Ohio's inner cities. This assistance will have both immediate and long term social benefits.



- **Field and Court Sports:** People of all ages and backgrounds recreate on Ohio's fields and courts, from pee-wee football to pick-up games of basketball and senior softball leagues. Ohio's citizens are participants, coaches and spectators to a wide variety of outdoor games.

Many outdoor sports options are free to be enjoyed by the public at no added cost. Most of the time, anyone

can walk up and play games like tennis, shuffle board or soccer without a charge. In addition to these activities, some communities offer options such as lessons, leagues and camps that enhance the sport experience.

Together, pick-up games and scheduled leagues give all citizens an opportunity to exercise and enjoy the outdoors. Children often can walk to their local park and meet up to play. Adults frequently need the benefit of a league to schedule times during their busy week. Ohio's outdoor fields and courts provide a wide variety of settings which make this recreation possible.



- **Healthy Outdoor Lifestyles:** Ohioans, like many Americans, are increasingly plagued by sedentary lifestyles, obesity and lack of time for outdoor pursuits. Unfortunately, recent longevity research even suggests that for the first time in modern history today's younger generation will have shorter and less healthy lives than their parents.

Ohio's population also includes the large baby boom generation that is rapidly moving into their 'golden years' and retirement. Current research suggests that this demographic group will be much more inclined to seek health-enhancing outdoor activities than previous generations of retirees. If this proves to be true, the potential burden on American health care and even the economy from this large aging demographic may be considerably lessened. If boomers do manage to set a new standard for aging healthily, the potential effect of this good example for the boomer's adult children and grandchildren may be far reaching.

“Nature deficit disorder,” a term coined by author Richard Louv, refers to the increasing disconnectedness of young people from the outdoors. Recreation providers report that this ‘disorder’ is an issue of concern in Ohio.

Together, these issues indicate a pressing need to discover better ways to incorporate active outdoor experiences into the daily fabric of our lives. Opportunities for outdoor recreation must be easily accessible. Ohio’s most scenic public lands and waters are incredibly popular destinations; however many of these attractions are not close to urban areas. Gasoline prices continue to rise, a trend that will probably not reverse anytime soon. Many Ohioans say that the price of a tank of gas is a barrier to planning an outdoor outing. Close to home outdoor recreation opportunities are truly key to a healthier daily lifestyle.

- **Land Acquisition:** Ohio continues to be characterized by low levels of per capita outdoor recreation acreage. Approximately 5.7 percent of the state’s total acreage is currently designated for outdoor recreation use. Nearly all counties that contain bedroom communities for Ohio’s major cities are experiencing fairly rapid growth. For example, Delaware County (immediately north of Franklin County and Columbus) experienced an estimated 5.77 percent growth rate between 2001-2006, making it not only the fastest growing county in Ohio, but one of the fastest growing in the nation. Although not at as rapid a pace, 67 percent of Ohio counties are experiencing population growth.

Such brisk growth tends to result in development sprawl and rising land prices. Both are a significant challenge to the acquisition of additional open space and natural resource sites to meet outdoor recreation and conservation needs of the expanding population.



- **Maintenance and Rehabilitation:** Maintaining and rehabilitating facilities are two cost effective methods for providing recreational opportunities. Proper maintenance extends the life of a facility while enhancing public use and enjoyment. A poorly maintained facility can quickly

fall victim to extensive litter and vandalism problems. Unfortunately, funding options to address maintenance issues are insufficient for many Ohio park systems. A concern over maintenance needs was expressed in focus groups in the northwestern, southwestern and southeastern regions of the state. Participants felt that recreation providers must continue to exchange ideas on cost effective maintenance practices. Maintenance management plans that identify priorities and make optimum use of available funds and staff should be a priority for the recreation provider.



- **Motorized Recreation:** Many Ohioans enjoy motor boating, ATV riding, off-road motorcycling and snowmobiling on public lands in Ohio. In order to recreate on public waters and lands these enthusiasts must obtain an Ohio boat or vehicle registration. (This is true for all watercraft, both motorized and non-motorized.) The portion of Ohio gas tax attributable to powerboat use has been calculated, and a percentage of this identified tax is currently allocated to improving boating opportunities in Ohio.

The amount of fuel used by off-road motorcycles, ATVs, off-road four-wheel vehicles and snowmobiles was identified through a similar national study. A portion of these attributable taxes fund the federal Recreational Trails Program from which Ohio receives an annual allocation through the Federal Highway Administration. Thirty percent of these funds are used for the benefit of motorized trails. There is no allocation of state gasoline tax to land-based motorized recreation in Ohio. And, due to the comparative low cost of recreational vehicle registration in Ohio, the size of the recipient fund is insufficient to consistently sponsor significant improvements to motorized access on state lands.

The availability of motorized trail riding opportunities is quite limited; nearly all motorized trail opportunities in Ohio are located on state and national forest lands in the southern half of the state. Ohio residents who live in the

heavily populated northern half of the state must travel a considerable distance to enjoy their sport. While the percentage of Ohioans that use motorized recreation vehicles is relatively small, the level of participation is high. The 2006 Outdoor Recreation Participation and Satisfaction Survey showed satisfaction with public opportunities for this sport to be relatively low.

New, more equitably distributed trail opportunities and additional funds based on a ‘user pays – user benefits’ scenario are needed to expand motorized trail opportunities in Ohio. Careful planning can successfully minimize user conflicts and environmental damage while at the same time providing much needed opportunities.

- **Niche Recreation:** Innovation and specialization - fundamental ingredients of modern society - also are found in the changing realm of outdoor recreation. Although traditional activities such as picnicking and visiting a playground continue to be enjoyed by many, emerging outdoor activities that include orienteering, geocaching, ATV riding and visiting a dog park are reportedly on the increase. In some cases, the specialized needs of these activities can be in conflict with other, more traditional outdoor activities. Dog parks and skateboard parks are good examples of this. When the special activity is individually accommodated in an area well suited to that activity the result is often a more enjoyable experience for the niche participant as well as the more traditional visitor who is simultaneously enjoying a different outdoor area.



- **Playgrounds:** Ohio’s families view playgrounds as important places where parents can spend quality time with young children. Playgrounds are identified as being the type of recreation closest to home, where quality family time can be spent without the burden of a long commute.

The play associated with playgrounds has been found to be instrumental in the development of young children. A Baylor University College of Medicine study reported

that children who do not play develop brains that are 20 to 30 percent smaller than normal for their age.

The endless variety of playground designs, shapes, sizes and materials make enjoyable experiences possible in parks across Ohio. New ADA-accessible designs are being developed to help serve the largest population possible. Environmentally friendly building practices such as using recycled material in rubber matting has helped improve the safety of many playground surfaces. The variety of playground structures can be used by outdoor recreation providers to meet a great number of community needs.

- **Preservation of Open Space & Quiet, Nature Based Recreation:** Many Ohioans increasingly enjoy quiet, nature-based activities such as hiking, wildlife observation and photography, mountain biking, kayaking and camping. Recreation providers also seek to improve environmental education opportunities to Ohioans young and old. These worthy pursuits require land and water environments that are appropriate in character and size. Yet many open areas around Ohio’s cities continue to experience ever broadening development sprawl. The need to preserve open space and significant natural features ahead of this sprawl is a critical issue in many areas of Ohio.
- **Trails:** Hiking, walking and jogging on Ohio trails is a source of enjoyment for more than half of Ohio households. Additionally, more than 30 percent of Ohio households enjoy bicycling on Ohio trails. Easily accessible trails are essential to outdoor recreation in Ohio; with little or no investment in special equipment or other fees Ohioans can derive multiple benefits from enjoying a local trail.

Trails that interconnect, link important places in the community - and that are part of a wider transportation mode-shift system - offer real benefits to air quality,



traffic congestion and energy consumption. Yet Ohioans' satisfaction with the experience of bicycling for transportation purposes ranked last among a list of 17 outdoor activities in the 2006 Outdoor Recreation Participation and Satisfaction Survey. Benefits of public investment in trails and transportation mode-shift infrastructure are numerous, and include greater opportunity for a healthier lifestyle, alleviation of traffic congestion, cleaner air, pedestrian and bicyclist safety and personal economic savings.



Of the many water-based recreation opportunities, localities often bear the heaviest financial burden with respect to swimming facilities. While local pools are able to defray costs by charging admission, costs to maintain swimming pool facilities frequently exceed revenues generated by admissions. One innovative idea communities have adopted is the idea of "splash parks." In many respects a splash park is more like a playground than a pool. Bright colored structures shoot water which showers down to provide a play area for children. While generally little to no admission is charged, the cost for a community to run a splash park is minimal when compared to a full-swim facility. Recreation providers will be tasked to continue coming up with innovative ideas to meet Ohio's water-based recreation needs.

- **Water-Based Recreation:** With Ohio's tendency for hot, muggy summers, water-based recreation will continue to be a refreshing resource for communities. Options such as boating on Lake Erie, canoeing down the Hocking River or swimming at a local pool are typical of the numerous water-based recreation opportunities throughout the state. Education programs and public awareness campaigns by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Watercraft are good sources of information about statewide boating opportunities. Hand-powered crafts such as canoes and kayaks are a fast growing segment of Ohio's boating population. The Ohio Water Trails team within the ODNR along with representatives from the League of Ohio Sportsmen, National Park Service and the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association, work to promote awareness of kayak and canoe access by developing designated water trails on Ohio streams.



Ohio's Resources

State Characteristics

Natural borders form Ohio's northern and southern boundaries. The northern portion of the state is bordered by Lake Erie and the Ohio River forms the state's southern and southeastern boundary. Ohio's political boundaries are Indiana to the west, Kentucky and West Virginia to the south and southeast, Pennsylvania to the east and Michigan and Canada to the north.

The total land area in Ohio is 41,265 square miles or 26,409,909 acres, ranking it 35th among the 50 states in land area. Approximately 6 percent of the land in the state is devoted to residential land uses, 48 percent to agriculture, 33 percent is forested and roughly 1 percent is covered by wetlands or is barren. See Appendix E for additional detail and a summary of individual county land areas and land use categories.

Table 1 Ohio Land Cover

Information from Ohio EPA, Ohio Statewide Land Cover Classification			
	Acres	Square Miles	Percent
Forest	9,476,495	4,807	36%
Water	260,788	407	1%
Other	16,672,626	26,051	63%
Ohio Total	26,409,909	41,265	100%

Topography

Ohio's landscape offers varied terrain for the recreation seeker. The state is characterized by rolling hills in the west and level plain in central Ohio. A large portion of northwest Ohio was once home to a massive swamp that covered thousands of square miles and several counties. Known as the Great Black Swamp, the land was drained over several decades to make it suitable for farming and habitation. Today, remnants of the swamp are the marshes along the southwestern shore of Lake Erie, as well as the flat, rich farmland soil that covers much of the region.

Southern Ohio has deep, undulating hills, becoming more extreme in the southeast corner of the state. The rugged topography of this southeastern unglaciated plateau has high scenic interest. Throughout the state, stream and river valleys are popular recreation destinations. The banks of the Ohio River drop to the state's lowest elevation, about 433 feet above sea level, at the junction of the Ohio and Miami Rivers in Hamilton County. The highest elevation in Ohio is Campbell Hill, 1,549 feet above sea level, located in Logan County.

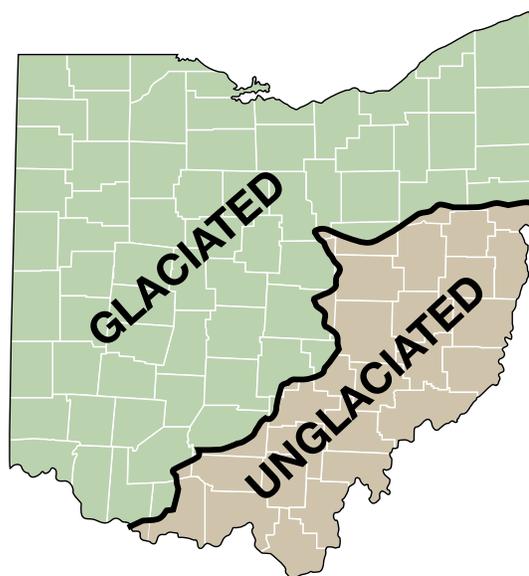


Figure 1 Ohio Topography

Water Resources

Ohio has approximately 3,906 square miles of surface water. This includes 3,579 square miles of Lake Erie (2,290,480 acres) surface water. This 312-mile long shoreline is a huge recreational resource for Ohioans and tourists. Inland lakes comprise the other 327 square miles of surface water and there are approximately 61,500 miles of inland rivers and streams. See Table 2.

Table 2 Ohio's Water Resources

Area	Resources
Lake Erie	2,290,480 water acres, 312 miles of shoreline
Ohio River	91,300 water acres, 451 miles of shoreline
Sandusky Bay	36,000 water acres
State Wild and Scenic Rivers	13 rivers, 771 miles (approximate)
Inland Lakes	148,411 surface water acres (> 5 acres)
Small Lakes & Farm Ponds	60,000 surface water acres (< 5 acres)
Inland Rivers and Streams	61,500 miles

Being located on one of the five Great Lakes, Lake Erie, Ohio waters are part of the largest freshwater system in the world. Approximately one-quarter of Ohio's surface water drains northward to Lake Erie. Major streams in the Lake Erie watershed are the Maumee, Sandusky, Cuyahoga and Grand Rivers. The other three-fourths of Ohio are in the Ohio River watershed with the major streams being the Mahoning, Muskingum, Scioto and the Great Miami Rivers. A small portion of west central Ohio drains westward into Indiana's Wabash River Basin. See Figure 2, Ohio's Major Watersheds and Hydrography.

Ohio Watersheds

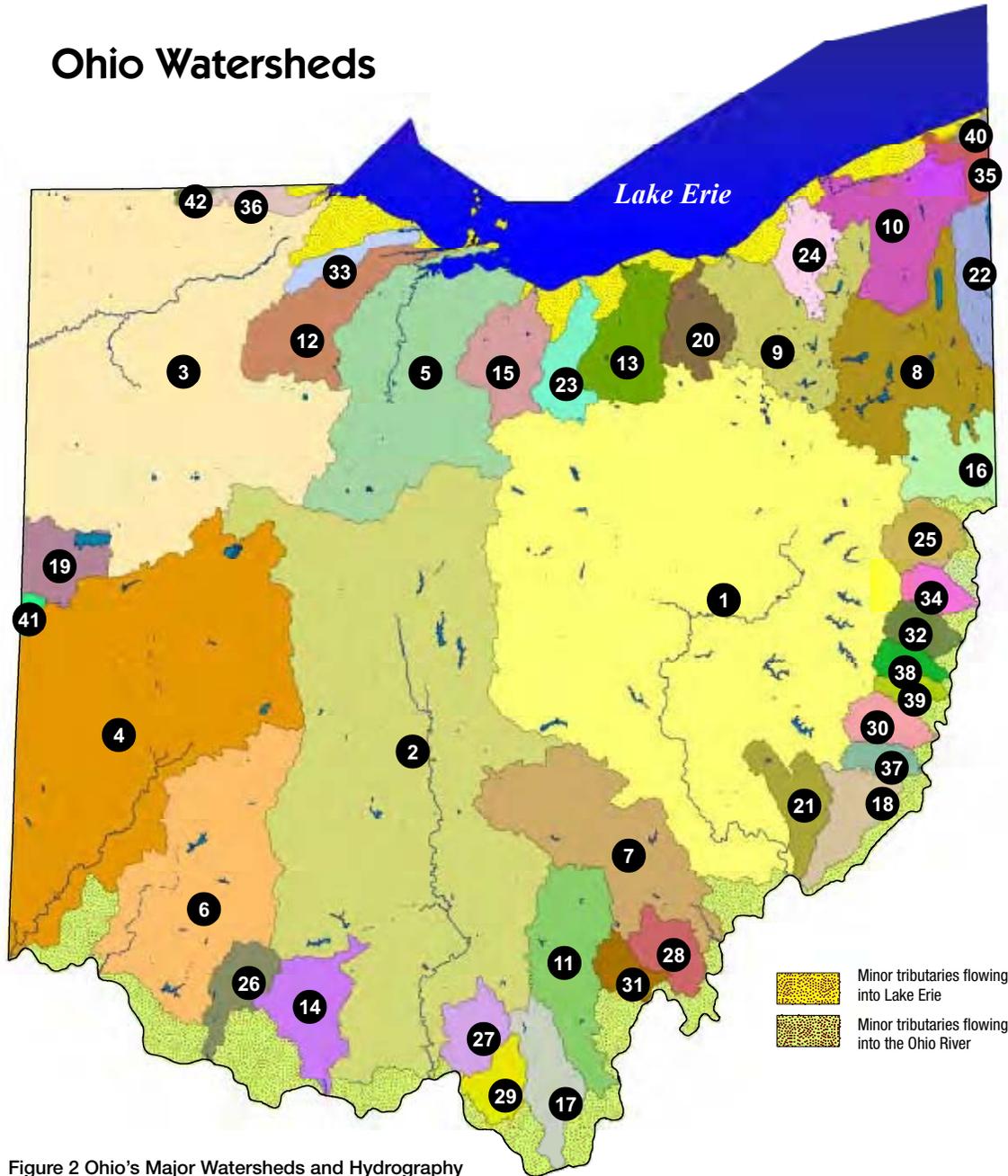


Figure 2 Ohio's Major Watersheds and Hydrography

Label	Watershed Name	Acreage	Label	Watershed Name	Acreage	Label	Watershed Name	Acreage
1	Muskingum River	5,152,765	15	Huron River	259,965	29	Pine Creek	117,892
2	Scioto River	4,171,168	16	Little Beaver Creek	256,559	30	Captina Creek	115,235
3	Maumee River	3,084,011	17	Symmes Creek	228,181	31	Leading Creek	96,094
4	Great Miami River	2,525,885	18	Little Muskingum River	201,488	32	Short Creek	94,539
5	Sandusky River	1,167,365	19	Wabash River	192,443	33	Toussaint Creek	91,714
6	Little Miami River	1,124,011	20	Rocky River	187,432	34	Cross Creek	81,367
7	Hocking River	765,939	21	Duck Creek	183,082	35	Ashtabula River	81,367
8	Mahoning River	694,817	22	Shenango River	182,705	36	Ottawa River	77,679
9	Cuyahoga River	518,373	23	Vermillion River	171,712	37	Sunfish Creek	72,778
10	Grand River	451,874	24	Chagrin River	169,719	38	Wheeling Creek	69,167
11	Raccoon Creek	435,909	25	Yellow Creek	153,226	39	McMahon Creek	58,264
12	Portage River	372,031	26	Whiteoak Creek	150,495	40	Conneaut Creek	24,163
13	Black River	301,286	27	Little Scioto River	149,125	41	Mississinewa River	19,370
14	Ohio Brush Creek	278,145	28	Shade River	141,460	42	Raisin River	16,994

Watershed Issues

Recreational activities are directly affected by the quality of water in an area. Fishing, nature watching, watersports and hunting all rely on clean water either for the recreator or for the plants and animals that depend on clean water for existence. Many communities in Ohio are recognizing the importance of considering the entire natural watershed system in their attempts to improve water quality. This whole-system approach is called watershed management, and it requires a great deal of information and cooperation from a variety of sources to be effective.

A watershed is the area of land from which surface water drains into a common outlet, such as a river, lake or wetland. Depending on its size and location, a watershed can contain one or many of the following features: streams, ditches, ponds, lakes and/or wetlands. These natural features are the highlight of many of Ohio's great parks and protecting them should be a priority. There are steps that communities can take to become responsible stewards of their watersheds, such as developing a watershed plan.

Thirty-eight watershed plans have been endorsed by ODNR and the Ohio EPA (31 fully endorsed and 7 conditionally). These plans thoroughly describe watershed conditions, including the quality of streams and wetlands, and define problems impairing these water resources. Built on a partnership of watershed residents, organizations, businesses, local government and others, these plans include additional critical elements such as goals for restoration and protection, and implementation measures.

To support watershed planning and implementation, ODNR in partnership with Ohio EPA, offers Watershed Coordinator Grants. These grants allow local entities to hire watershed coordinators to facilitate planning or actions on behalf of local watershed partnerships. The program grants are administered by the ODNR Division of Soil & Water Conservation, and provide 4-year grants for developing a watershed action plan, and 3-year grants to groups implementing endorsed watershed action plans. Since 2000, 34 watershed coordinator grants have been awarded.

Developing a watershed action plan helps communities

Table 3 Ohio Watershed Coordinator Grants

Partners	Funds provided annually	Source
Ohio and US EPA	\$400,000	Federal
ODNR		
- Soil and Water Conservation	\$265,000	State
- Mineral Resources Management	\$100,000	State
- Office of Coastal Management	\$70,000	State
- Wildlife	\$35,000	State

accurately identify pollutants and pollution sources so that appropriate solutions can be formulated. As the quality of the water resource at any point in a stream is the product of all natural and human activities in the drainage area above that point, there often is not a simple fix. To positively affect water quality, all sources of potential pollutants need to be identified and evaluated based on their relative pollution contribution. Recreation providers should support programs and initiatives like these that work to improve Ohio's recreation resources.

Climate

Ohio's climate provides opportunity for a full range of recreation experiences. Ohio is in the cooler part of the temperate zone, and the state's location west of the Appalachian Mountains makes the climate essentially continental in nature, characterized by moderate extremes of temperature and moisture. Nevertheless, there is considerable variation of climate from one part of Ohio to another. Summers are moderately warm and humid, with temperatures rarely exceeding 100 degrees fahrenheit. Winters are cold, with an average of about five days of subzero weather. Cool, dry and invigorating weather prevails throughout most of the autumn.

Variations in temperature over the state reflect differences in latitude and topography. The land varies greatly in roughness and elevation throughout the state, producing differences in temperature and moisture during certain times of the year. Lake Erie, on Ohio's northcoast, delays spring and prolongs autumn in the lake area. The mass of warmed lake water keeps the northern shore of Ohio slightly warmer in the fall and winter. This phenomenon also will produce large amounts of snow on the northeast shores of Ohio and is referred to as 'lake effect' snow. The prevailing northwest winds blow across warm Lake Erie picking up moisture, and when this mass hits the frigid shore of northeastern Ohio it dumps moisture laden air in the form of snow. The large, cold mass of frozen Lake Erie also will keep the northern coast of Ohio cooler in the spring. This moderating effect largely accounts for the concentrations of vineyards, orchards, nurseries and truck farming along the lakeshore. The average yearly temperature for the state ranges from 49 degrees fahrenheit in the northeast to 55 degrees fahrenheit in the extreme south. The statewide average annual temperature is 52 degrees fahrenheit.

Ohio's average annual precipitation is approximately 38 inches, slightly above the national average. Moisture, in the form of rain, is moderately extensive and well distributed; long dry or wet spells are infrequent. The southern portion of the state receives the greatest amount of annual rainfall with an average of approximately 44 inches. The driest area of Ohio is the western lakeshore, which normally receives approximately 30 inches. See Figure 4.

Watersheds Coordinator Grants

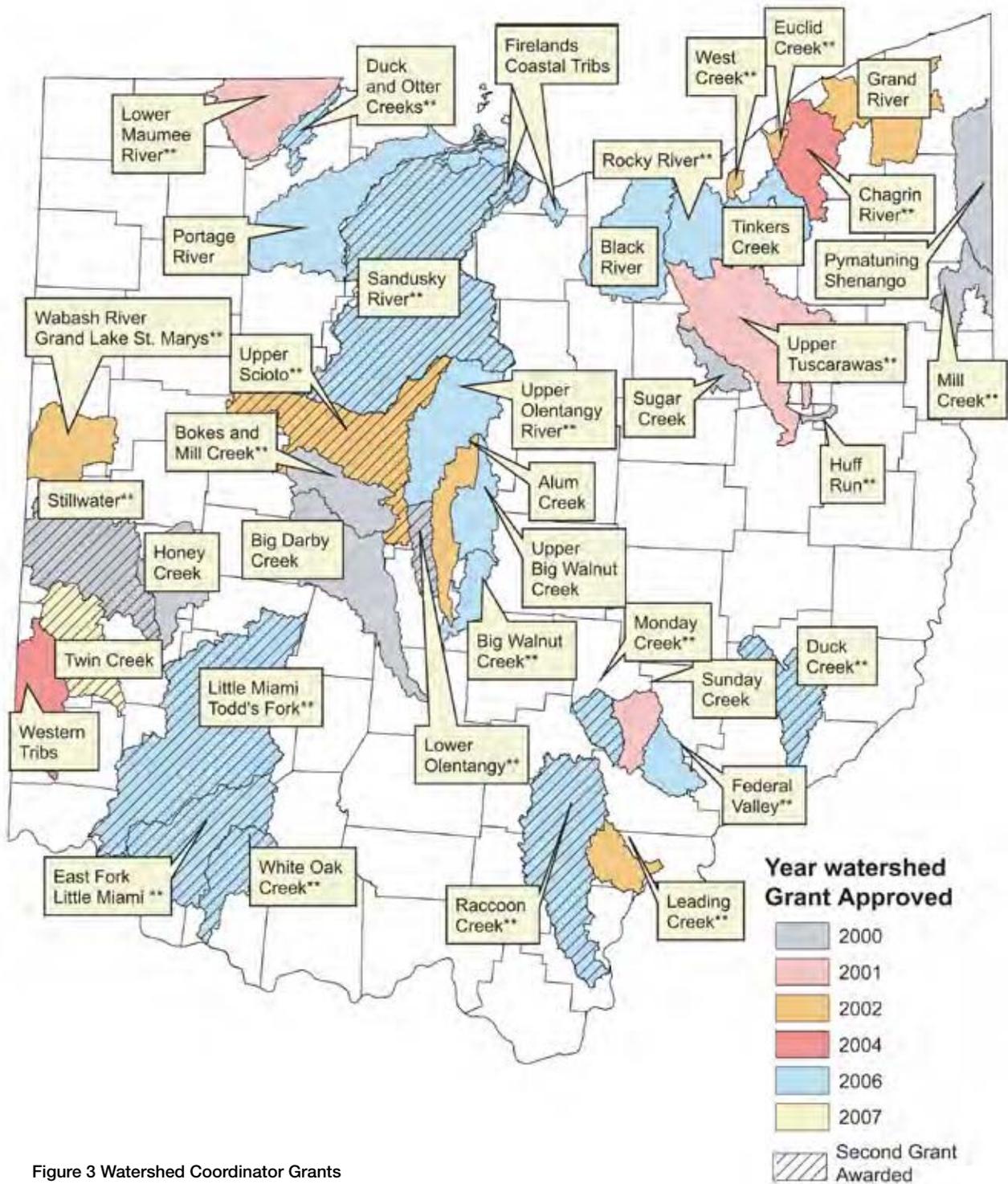


Figure 3 Watershed Coordinator Grants

** Conditionally or fully endorsed watershed action plan

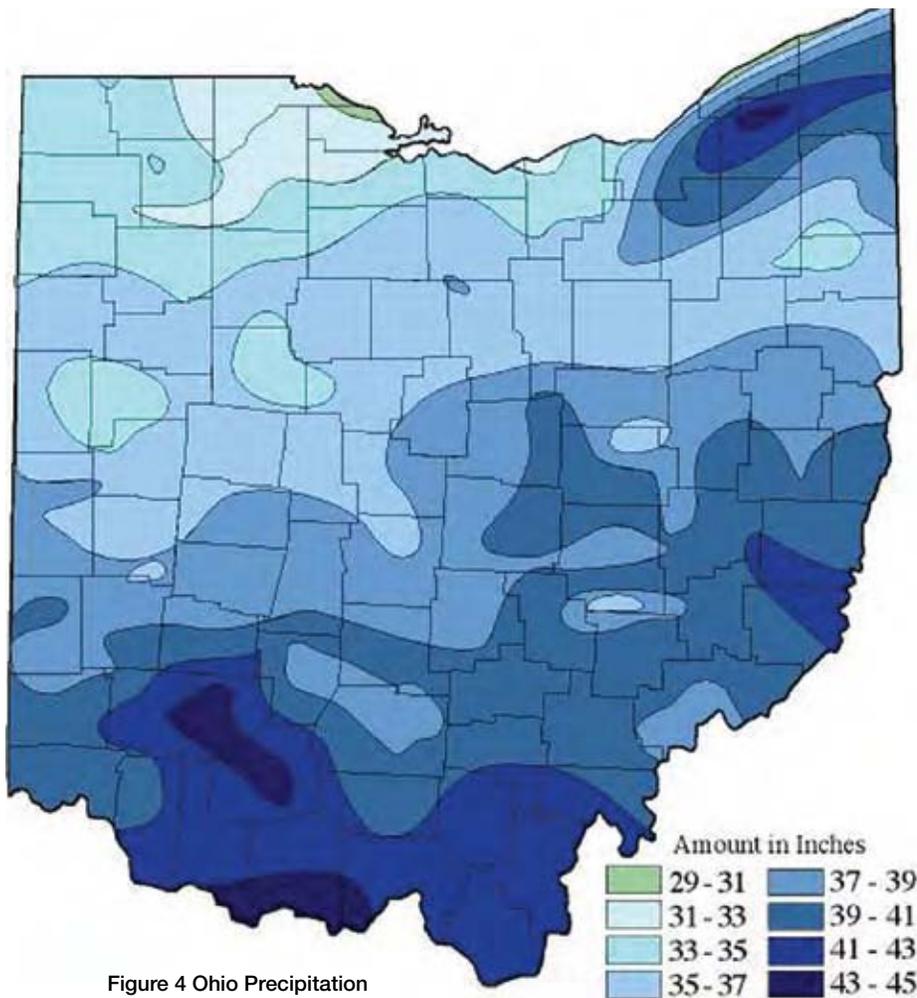


Figure 4 Ohio Precipitation
Recorded from 1931 - 1980

Winters are usually not severe in Ohio and most regions receive only a moderate amount of snowfall. Although the statewide average is 27 inches, annual snowfall in the northwest counties ranges to 40 inches, and less than 20 inches of snow falls per year in southern Ohio along the river. There is a small area (Geauga and Ashtabula Counties) affected by Lake Erie that typically receives 70 –100 inches of snow a year.

A discussion of Ohio’s climate would be incomplete without at least a mention of possible side effects from climate change. Current studies suggest possible adjustments in Ohio’s recreation patterns if, in general, the state’s climate grows warmer and drier. These changes would affect a range of activities from bird watching and hunting, to winter sports such as cross-country skiing, ice fishing and snowmobiling.

Flora and Fauna

Ohio is blessed with a rich and diverse landscape, providing opportunities for Ohio’s multitude of flora and fauna to flourish. Roughly 2,300 plant species enhance and improve the state’s environment. Wildlife is equally plentiful and beneficial in the Buckeye State. White-tailed deer, wild turkey, ring-necked pheasant, ruffed grouse, cottontail rabbit, squirrel and waterfowl are among the multitude of creatures found throughout the state.

Ohio has a diversity of natural plant communities including remnant bogs, fens and prairies, extensive marsh and riverine communities, smaller beach and cliff communities and very extensive forest communities. Ohio’s forests are primarily beech-maple, oak-hickory and mixed wet-woodland communities.

At the time of the earliest land surveys, Ohio was 95 percent forested. Land clearing, primarily for agriculture, steadily reduced the forestland base to about 15 percent as the 20th Century arrived. This trend slowed

significantly but was not reversed until 1940, by which time only 12 percent of Ohio remained forested. Since then, sound management practices have enabled the forests to gradually return, and they now cover more than 31 percent of the state, or more than 8,100,000 acres.

Of the approximately 2,300 species of plants known to occur in the wild in Ohio, about 78 percent are native or they occurred here the time of substantial European settlement. The other 22 percent, more than 500 species, are not native to Ohio, having been introduced from other states or countries. Some of these plant species are considered to be invasive. See Table 4.

Table 4 - Ohio's Top Ten Invasive Non-Native Plants

Japanese Honeysuckle
Japanese Knotweed
Autumn-Olive
Buckthorn
Purple Loosestrife
Common Reed or Phragmites
Reed Canary Grass
Garlic Mustard
Multiflora Rose
Bush Honeysuckle

Without natural controls, non-native, invasive plants are able to spread quickly. In some Ohio wetlands, large plots of a single invasive plant species, such as purple loosestrife, narrow-leaved cattail and phragmites have crowded out areas that were once filled with a wide variety of important native plants. In Ohio's woods, native spring wildflowers are often quickly replaced by garlic mustard and invasive bush honeysuckle. A diverse, healthy ecosystem is important for clean air and water, soil stability, buffer, and food and shelter for wildlife.

Six Ohio plants are included on the federal list of endangered and threatened species. Running Buffalo Clover, *Trifolium stoloniferum*, is federally endangered. Northern Monkshood, *Aconitum noveboracense*; Lakeside Daisy, *Hymenoxys herbacea*; Small Whorled Pogonia, *Isotria medeoloides*; Prairie Fringed Orchid, *Platanthera leucophaea* and Appalachian Spiraea, *Spiraea virginiana*, are federally threatened species. Additionally, many plants in Ohio are considered rare. Of these, 257 are state endangered, 168 are threatened, 119 are potentially threatened and 95 are presumed extirpated.

The ecosystems of Ohio provide for many different forms of wildlife. Although virtually absent from the state for nearly two decades (1904 to 1923), the white-tailed deer, Ohio's only big game animal, now occurs in all 88 counties. Differences in the amount of forest cover, agriculture and human population have contributed to its patchwork of densities across the state.

Like the white-tailed deer, the wild turkey is found in forested habitats in all of Ohio's 88 counties. Forest cover determines the turkey's habitat and highest densities occur in the heavily wooded counties of the unglaciated portion of eastern Ohio. The Eastern cottontail rabbit is one of the most common wildlife species in the state. Unlike wild turkey and white-tailed deer, the Eastern cottontail rabbit is a beneficiary of settlement; the clearing of woodlands and the establishment of more open areas along wooded borders provides an ideal environment.

Ohio's fish and wildlife resources are as varied as the habitat conditions which support them. Anglers can catch a number of game fish, including walleye, large and smallmouth bass, muskellunge, saugeye, white bass, perch, bluegill, crappie, steelhead, rainbow trout, salmon and channel catfish. Approximately 1.5 million anglers fish each year in Ohio, on both Lake Erie and inland waterways. At slightly more than eight licensed anglers per surface acre, this makes Ohio's inland lakes some of the most heavily fished waters in the United States.

The total number of wildlife species that have been classified as endangered in the state numbers 128. Some of Ohio's endangered animals include the bobcat, black bear and the snowshoe hare. An endangered creature that seems to be doing better is the bald eagle. Strong endangered species and environmental protection laws, as well as the efforts of state and federal conservation programs, have helped bring the bald eagle off of the endangered species list. To help protect wildlife, Ohio has options such as the state income tax check off and specialty license plate programs.



The Ohio Buckeye, state tree of Ohio, is found primarily as an understory tree in the western half of Ohio. However, it is scattered throughout the eastern half of the state, except in extreme northeastern and extreme southeastern Ohio. Its lightweight wood is used in the production of artificial limbs. Carrying a "buckeye nut" in one's pocket is considered good luck, and some people believe it wards off rheumatism.



Proceeds from Ohio's natural resources license plate collection benefit various programs. The Wildlife Diversity Fund, Ohio State Parks nature programs, projects that help preserve Ohio's streams, the Ohio Lake Erie

in placing thriving colonies of Karner blue butterflies in the Oak Openings of Lucas County and helped purchase critical habitat and fund programs for wildlife research and education.

Donations to the ODNR Division of Natural Areas & Preserves have preserved additional habitat at many of the 131 state nature preserves including: Kent Bog and Mantua Bog in Portage County, Chaparral Prairie in Adams County, Irwin Prairie and Campbell in Lucas County and Rocky Fork Gorge in Highland County. Contributions also have assisted with trail construction and visitor facilities at: Conkle's Hollow in Hocking County, Sheldon's Marsh and North Pond in Erie County, Goll Woods in Fulton County, Blackhand Gorge in Licking County and Lake Katharine in Jackson County. Tax check-off donations have helped fund the fight against invasive plant species in many of the state's nature preserves and fund publications and public awareness programs to educate Ohioans about nature preserves and scenic rivers.

Protection Fund and numerous others are assisted by the purchase of one of 12 different plates.

Since 1984, voluntary tax check-off programs have generated more than \$23 million. Donations to the ODNR Division of Wildlife have: restored bald eagle, trumpeter swan and peregrine falcon populations, helped reintroduce showshoe hares to Geauga and Ashtabula counties, assisted

Table 5- Species in Major Taxa Classified as Endangered, Threatened, Of Concern, Special Interest, Extirpated or Extinct in Ohio. September 2007

Taxon	Endangered	Threatened	Concern	Special Interest	Extirpated	Extinct
Mammals	5	0	8	0	9	0
Birds	19	8	13	30	5	2
Reptiles	5	2	12	0	0	0
Amphibians	5	1	2	0	0	0
Fishes	23	13	11	0	5	2
Mollusks	24	4	9	0	13	5
Crayfishes	0	2	3	0	0	0
Isopods	0	0	2	0	0	0
Psuedoscorpions	0	0	1	0	0	0
Dragonflies	13	6	1	0	0	0
Damselflies	3	0	0	0	0	0
Caddisflies	3	6	3	0	0	0
Mayflies	2	0	1	0	0	0
Midges	1	3	1	0	0	0
Crickets	0	0	1	0	0	0
Butterflies	8	1	1	1	1	0
Moths	14	4	23	10	0	0
Beetles	3	2	6	0	0	0
Total	128	52	98	41	33	9

Table 6- Twenty-five Federal Endangered and Threatened Animal Species Found in Ohio

E= Endangered T = Threatened

Status	Species/Listing Name
E	Bat, Indiana (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>)
E	Beetle, American burying (<i>Nicrophorus americanus</i>)
E	Butterfly, Karner blue (<i>Lycaeides melissa samuelis</i>)
E	Catspaw (<i>Epioblasma obliquata obliquata</i>)
E	Clubshell (<i>Pleurobema clava</i>)
E	Curlew, Eskimo (<i>Numenius borealis</i>)
E	Dragonfly, Hine's emerald (<i>Somatochlora hineana</i>)
T	Eagle, bald – lower 48 States (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)
E	Fanshell (<i>Cyprogenia stegaria</i>)
E	Madtom, Scioto (<i>Noturus trautmani</i>)
E	Mapleleaf (<i>Quadrula fragosa</i>)
E	Mucket, pink (<i>Lampsilis abrupta</i>)
E	Mussel, scaleshell (<i>Leptodea leptodon</i>)
E	Pearlymussel (<i>Hemistena lata</i>)
E	Pimpleback, orangefoot (<i>Plethobasus cooperianus</i>)
E	Plover, piping Great Lakes watershed (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>)
T	Plover, piping except Great Lakes watershed (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>)
E	Pocketbook, fat (<i>Potamilus capax</i>)
E	Puma, eastern (<i>Puma (=Felis) concolor cougar</i>)
E	Riffleshell, northern (<i>Epioblasma torulosa rangiana</i>)
E	Ring pink (<i>Obovaria retusa</i>)
T	Snake, copperbelly water MI, OH, IN N of 400 N. Lat. (<i>Nerodia erythrogaster neglecta</i>)
T	Snake, Lake Erie water subspecies range clarified (<i>Nerodia sipedon insularum</i>)
E	White Catspaw (<i>Epioblasma obliquata perobliqua</i>)
E	Wolf, gray – lower 48 States, except MN and where XN; Mexico (<i>Canis lupus</i>)

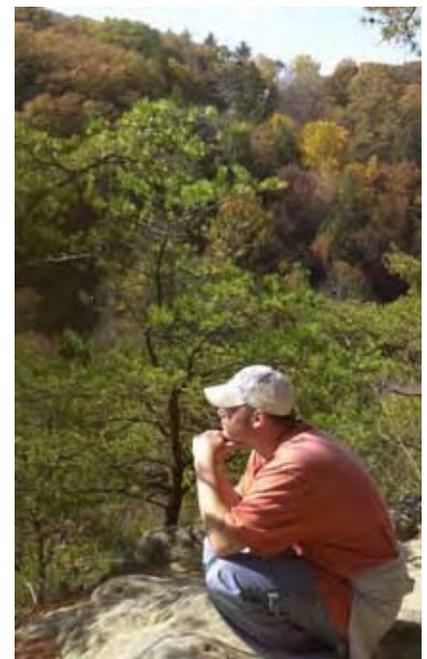


Table 7 - Five Federal Endangered and Threatened Plant Species Found in Ohio

E= Endangered T = Threatened

Status	Species/Listing Name
E	Clover, Running Buffalo (<i>Trifolium stoloniferum</i>)
T	Daisy, Lakeside (<i>Hymenoxys herbacea</i>)
T	Monkshood, Northern Wild (<i>Aconitum noveboracense</i>)
T	Orchid, Eastern Prairie Fringed (<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>)
T	Spiraea, Virginia (<i>Spiraea virginiana</i>)

Societal Trends Affecting Recreation

Generational Differences

The median age of Ohioans has increased from 36 years to 38 years since publication of the 2003 SCORP (Table 8). This upward trend is expected to continue. The first of 78 million baby boomers reached age 60 in 2006. As baby boomers age they will continue to have a huge impact on consumer spending and this could be especially beneficial to recreation and health and fitness businesses that strive to help boomers look and feel younger.

Table 8 - U.S. Census Data for Ohio 2000 vs. 2005

POPULATION	2000 11,353,140	2005 11,478,006	% of 2005 Population
Male	5,512,262	5,423,416	47.3%
Female	5,840,878	5,732,190	49.9%
Under 5 years	754,930	735,204	6.4%
5 to 9 years	816,346	744,477	6.5%
10 to 14 years	827,811	785,303	6.8%
15 to 19 years	816,868	749,757	6.5%
20 to 24 years	728,928	735,604	12.8%
25 to 34 years	1,519,894	1,419,236	12.4%
35 to 44 years	1,805,316	1,636,263	14.3%
45 to 54 years	1,566,384	1,707,801	14.9%
55 to 59 years	553,174	691,087	6.0%
60 to 64 years	455,732	519,890	4.5%
65 to 74 years	790,252	726,116	6.3%
75 to 84 years	540,709	542,362	4.7%
85 years and over	176,796	162,506	1.4%
Median age (years)	36.2	37.6	
HOUSEHOLDS			
Average household size	2.49	2.47	
Average family size	3.04	3.04	
INCOME (Household)			%
Less than \$10,000	406,698	408,866	9.1%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	285,372	293,117	6.5%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	594,143	572,108	12.7%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	602,996	547,699	12.1%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	771,129	717,620	15.9%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	905,323	883,623	19.6%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	444,599	502,469	11.1%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	289,049	401,731	8.9%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	71,062	98,273	2.2%
\$200,000 or more	76,250	82,315	1.8%
Median household income	\$40,956	\$43,493	
EDUCATION			
High school or higher	83.0%	86.3%	
Bachelor's degree or higher	21.1%	23.3%	

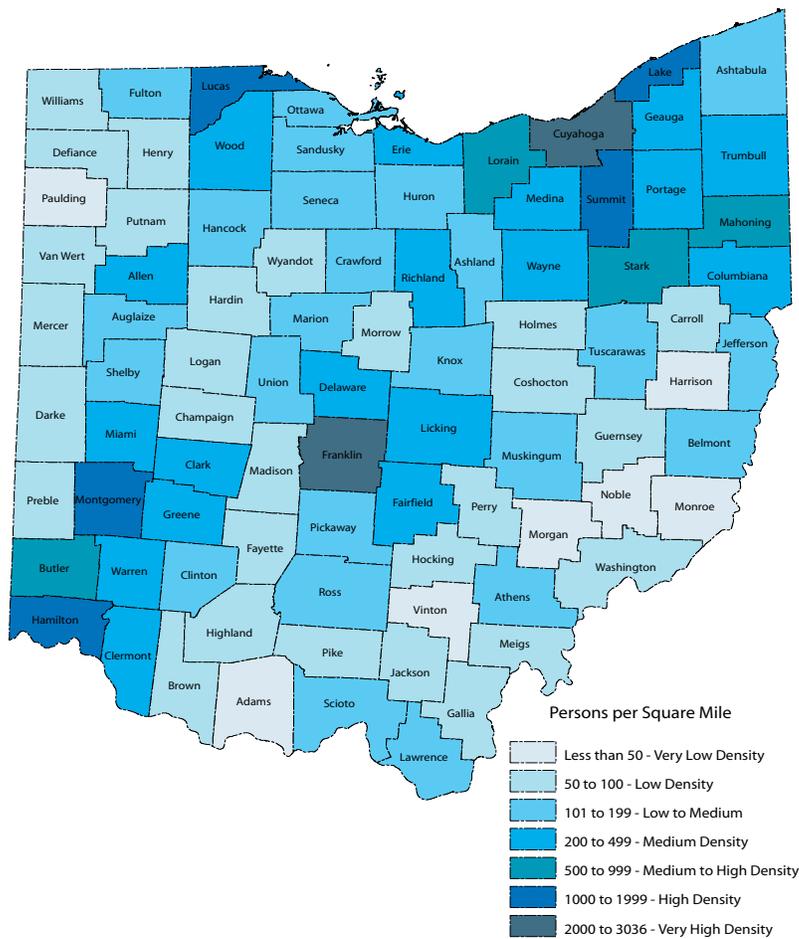


Figure 5 Population Density of Ohio

However, baby boomers are increasingly likely to delay their retirement. Many have not saved enough for this milestone and the age at which full Social Security benefits will kick in has risen to 66 years old. Boomers also have higher educational attainment and higher paying professional careers than previous generations. As a result they are less likely than prior generations to abandon their careers at retirement age. This could negatively affect the business of outdoor recreation providers that cater to retirees.

Although later retirement could hurt recreation business, improved medical care is allowing many seniors to experience unprecedented good health. The fact that Americans are in better health suggests they are more inclined to participate in recreational activities. Research has shown that seniors continue to become more active in the outdoors. Now, more than ever, it appears that aging Americans are likely to challenge themselves to do something extraordinary, especially where physical dexterity is concerned. Recreation providers will want to cater to this trend.

As the 21st Century continues, the children of baby boomers are reaching adulthood and are beginning to raise families. These groups are characterized as being sufficiently independent, financially and otherwise, to take up alternative

recreation activities. Traditional activities such as hiking, biking and team sports will continue to be popular, however, activities such as snowboarding, kayaking, climbing and skateboarding also are popular with younger generations. These activities appeal to a growing section of the recreating population that seeks out individual rather than team or group outdoor recreation. Recreation providers will need to keep a close watch on youth trends to keep current with activity demands and balance the needs of individual and group activities.

Land Use and Development

As communities grow the space available for recreation shrinks. As Ohio's population continues to expand new challenges will develop. Recreation planners must work with a public that sometimes takes natural resources for granted. When beachfronts, wooded areas, river banks or green spaces are lost to non-recreational use the public loses. New areas need to be identified and steps taken to acquire them prior to their being impacted by, or lost to, development. The value of a solitary walk along the beach or a family picnic in the woods cannot compete in quantifiable measures with the economic value of the use of these resources for housing and commercial use. Clear benefits of green space preservation will need to be stressed in order to convince citizens to plan for smart, sustainable and balanced growth.



Leisure Time

There is evidence that the amount of free time in Americans' lives has shrunk over the past three decades. Longer work days and commute times are only two of the reasons this trend is occurring. Technology has allowed people to stay in almost constant contact with their jobs. Vacation time has lessened to the point where a three week trip to the Grand Canyon is a rarity. While career related activities may have eaten into available free time for adults, the nation's youth seem to have actively chosen electronic media over nature.

A Kaiser Family Foundation study shows that the typical 8 to 18 year old spends an average of six hours per day in front of a television or computer screen. Inactivity is considered a major contributor to obesity and is associated with some chronic medical conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Type 2 diabetes, the most common type of this disease, was formerly known as adult-onset diabetes or noninsulin-dependent diabetes, but now is becoming increasingly common with the teenaged population. It is a condition where the



body does not produce enough insulin to process digested sugar. Just about everyone with Type 2 diabetes is considered obese or overweight. Doctors suggest that being heavy causes cells to change, making them less able to process sugar from the blood. With Type 2 diabetes, blood sugar levels are elevated which can lead to heart disease, kidney problems, blindness and shortened life expectancy.

The same Kaiser study also points to nearly 1.5 hours of physical activity per day for 8 to 18 year olds. Though the numbers seem to be at odds with each other, much of the 1.5 hours comes in structured recreation time through school. Care must be taken to ensure youth participate in outdoor recreation outside of school and as they get older.

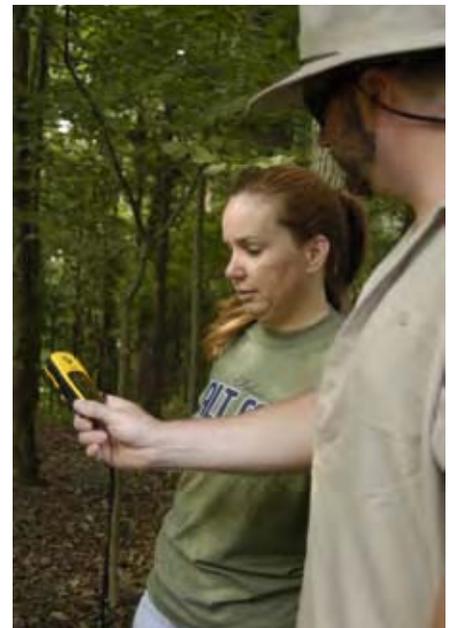
Technological Advances

While fitness centers, home gyms and workout DVDs all improve the health of Ohioans, this may come at the expense of time spent outside. Every time a person uses a treadmill it is most likely instead of a trip outside. Although beneficial physically, as far as outdoor appreciation and fresh air goes, the experience of a treadmill cannot compete with a jog on a trail through the woods.

Many recreation equipment advances are aimed directly at improving the outdoor experience. Examples include: lightweight hiking shoes, synthetic materials that allow clothing and sleeping bags to withstand sub-zero weather and new materials that make kayaks lighter and easier to handle. Incentives to participate increase as individuals realize they can be more comfortable while doing the activity, even in challenging weather conditions. Equipment innovations help participants enjoy activities even more and can help increase skill levels. This provides greater incentive to participate, especially to those with an athletic disadvantage or physical challenge.

One new activity that has everything to do with technology advances is Geocaching. Individuals and organizations set up hidden items and then share the GPS coordinates of these items on the internet. GPS users then use the location coordinates to find the caches. Once found, a cache may provide the visitor with a wide variety of rewards. The word Geocaching broken out is GEO for geography, and CACHING for the process of concealing items and preserving provisions while hiking or camping. In 2007 the Portage Lakes Region of Ohio State Parks hosted a Summer Series Geocaching Challenge.

Sports marketing, a driving force behind these technological advances, could be a huge help to the outdoor recreation cause. Sports advertising dollars total over \$30 billion per year. Billboards and stadium signage, television, radio and sports magazines all cater to outdoor recreation. The task for the outdoor recreation provider is to entice the public into using their new equipment outdoors.



Government Resources for Outdoor Recreation

Federal Government Resources

There are four federal agencies in Ohio that own and manage property for outdoor recreation purposes. They are the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

The **National Park Service** (NPS) was created by Congress in 1916 as an agency of the Department of the Interior for the purpose of establishing and managing a National Park System. The NPS manages natural, historical and recreational resources of national significance. In Ohio, the NPS's primary role is the management of seven Park Service units: Hopewell Culture National Historical Park (NHP), Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP, William Howard Taft National Historical Site (NHS), Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial, James A. Garfield NHS, First Ladies NHS and Cuyahoga Valley National Park. There also is an affiliated site, the David Berger National Memorial. Most of the sites are relatively small historic sites focused on historic structures with few opportunities for outdoor recreation. The Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) is the largest of the NPS sites and is the state's only national park. It has more than 30,000 acres that are spread along a 22-mile corridor of the Cuyahoga River and the remains of the Ohio & Erie Canal. The CVNP is a prime example of the NPS's commitment to the concept of bringing parks closer to the people. Located in Ohio's highly urbanized northeast, visitor facilities at CVNP contain a variety of historical, cultural and recreational attractions for the citizens of Ohio and its visitors.

Both Hopewell Culture and Dayton Aviation Heritage national historic parks feature trails and other outdoor recreation opportunities. The 1,200 acre Hopewell Culture NHP consists of five geographically separate archeological sites, three of which feature trails: 1) The Mound City Group unit has a one-mile loop trail and facilities for picnicking. 2) The Hopewell Mound Group unit has three miles of trails including a one-mile segment of the paved Adena Recreation Trail. This unit provides a trailhead for the trail which connects Chillicothe and Frankfort. 3) The Seip Earthwork unit has one mile of trail. All three units provide opportunities for bird watching. Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP is made up of several sites, some managed by the NPS and others

by partners. Through its partnership with Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP facilitates access to Huffman Prairie where about a mile of trail is provided.

The National Park Service also manages the North Country National Scenic Trail in association with the North Country Trail Association. The trail aims to connect scenic, natural, historical and cultural features in seven states from New York to North Dakota through the states that border Canada. In Ohio, the trail is planned to follow long segments of the Buckeye Trail.

Another major responsibility of the National Park Service is the administration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund program (LWCF). The LWCF is the most significant federal funding program affecting the provision of public outdoor recreation opportunities in Ohio. The program was created in 1965 to help finance federal recreation land acquisition, state comprehensive recreation planning and state and local outdoor recreation land acquisition and development. Initially the funds were derived from three sources of revenue: proceeds from the sales of surplus Federal real property, motorboat fuel taxes and fees for recreation use of Federal lands. In 1968 it was determined that the funding level was below expectations and Outer Continental shelf mineral leasing receipts were utilized. LWCF monies are allocated to states and, through the states, to their political subdivisions on a 50 percent cost reimbursement basis. Since the fund's inception in 1965 more than \$150 million of federal funds have been apportioned to the state of Ohio for more than 1,250 projects for outdoor recreation acquisition and development projects. More than 51,705 acres of outdoor recreation land have been acquired in Ohio with LWCF assistance.

The NPS is responsible for administering the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery program (UPARR), enacted in 1978 (P.L. 95-625) in recognition of the severe deficiencies of urban recreation facilities in the United States. UPARR encourages local governments to rehabilitate existing recreation facilities, demonstrate innovative programs and plan for overall revitalization of community recreation systems. When funding is appropriated by Congress, grants are available to eligible jurisdictions under three program categories – rehabilitation, innovation and planning. Local governments are eligible for assistance under UPARR grants to restore facilities which have fallen into disuse or

disrepair; to encourage innovations in recreation programming; to stimulate and support local commitments to recreation system recovery and maintenance; and to improve the management and delivery of recreation services to urban residents.

Another significant program that is administered by the NPS is the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program. The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of the National Park Service in communities across America. Currently there are approximately 80 conservation and recreation planning professionals around the country available to assist communities and organizations in setting conservation priorities and achieving their goals.

Assistance includes building partnerships to achieve community-set goals, assessing resources, developing concept plans, engaging public participation and identifying potential sources of funding. By working side-by-side with grassroots groups and local governments in communities throughout the county, the National Park Service is

providing technical assistance for developing a nationwide system of parks, open spaces, rivers and trails. Increased interest in the rails-to-trails movement and acquiring and developing greenways by government agencies and private organizations has brought greater visibility to the program. RTCA highlights in Ohio include utilizing the Buckeye Trail and locating the hundreds of sites along the trail that are associated with the Underground Railroad; assisting officials in an eight-county area of northeastern Ohio create a system of interconnected trails and greenways for recreation, conservation and transportation; planning an interconnected trail system of rail trails and greenways in the tri-state area of Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia; and helping establish the Ohio to Erie Trail, a 300+ mile multi-purpose trail connecting Cincinnati, Columbus and Cleveland.

The RTCA program was influential in the designation of the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor (OECNHC). A special resource study prepared by the Ohio field office of the RTCA entitled "*The Ohio & Erie Canal*

Corridor Study, A Route to Prosperity" and the efforts of two large non-profit groups (the Ohio and Erie Canal Corridor Coalition and the Ohio Canal Corridor) lead to the designation of the OECNHC in 1996. The OECNHC is an area that stretches approximately 87 miles from Zoar in Tuscarawas County to Cleveland's lakefront. The corridor celebrates the 19th-Century Ohio & Erie Canal and its legacy, and offers a place to experience trails, trains, scenic byways, canal towns and more. There are numerous attractions throughout the corridor including federal, state, county and city parks, theme parks, and historic and cultural attractions. The Cuyahoga Valley National Park is arguably the backbone of the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.



In 2004, a second national heritage area was designed in Ohio. The National Aviation Heritage Area is an eight-county region surrounding Dayton the Birthplace of Aviation and Home of the Wright Brothers. The Heritage Area preserves and promotes the rich aviation heritage of the region that began with the Wright brothers

and continues to the current day with Dayton's leadership in aerospace development. The Heritage Area includes 14 major heritage sites and/or organizations, ranging in size from the National Museum of the United States Air Force to the Grimes Flying Lab in Urbana. It also includes four National Park sites that make up the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

Natural Heritage Corridors/Areas are a park concept that encompasses a mix of public and private lands, buildings, resources and communities. The designated areas are eligible for limited assistance through the U.S. Department of the Interior. The intent of the designation is to help local entities protect and use historic, cultural and recreational resources for community benefit while raising regional and natural awareness of their unique importance.

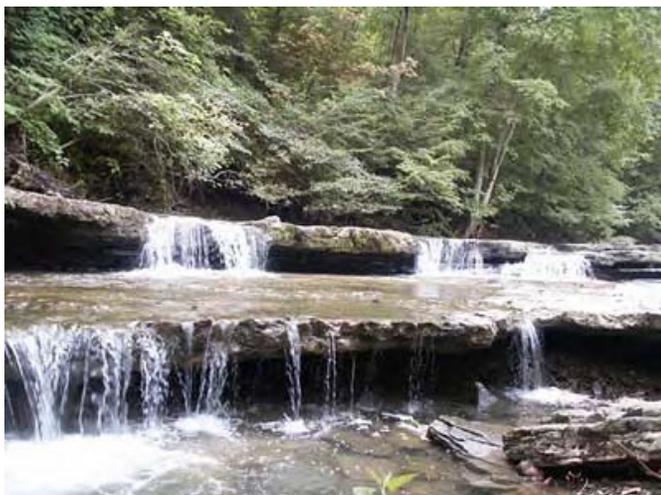
Ohio has also been the beneficiary of the Federal Lands to Parks Program. Since its inception, Ohio agencies have been able to acquire more than 2,000 acres through this program. The state and local agencies managing these

properties provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the state. A total of 36 surplus land sites in Ohio have received assistance, including the U.S. Coast Guard Marblehead Lighthouse (ODNR), a former Voice of America relay station (Metro Parks of Butler County) and the Portland Lock and Dam River Access (ODNR).

The **United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**, along with the states, shares the responsibility for the conservation and management of fish and wildlife resources. The USFWS manages an extensive system of 540 national wildlife refuges encompassing more than 95 million acres. The USFWS also conducts fish and wildlife research; coordinates and administers grants and technical assistance programs to states, universities and other federal agencies; and reviews federal or federally assisted water development projects and their impact on fish and wildlife.

The USFWS maintains three national wildlife refuges in Ohio; they are part of the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge complex. All are located along the western basin of Lake Erie. The three refuges total nearly 9,000 acres. The West Sister Island Wildlife Refuge is also a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, the only area in this system in the State of Ohio.

Two important funding programs for fish and wildlife conservation are also administered by the USFWS. The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, commonly referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act, provides funds to ODNR's Division of Wildlife for uses such as acquisition and improvement of wildlife habitat, introduction of wildlife into suitable habitat, wildlife research, surveys and inventories of wildlife problems, acquisition and development of access facilities for public use, and hunter education programs, including construction and operation of public target ranges. Funding for implementing the program is obtained from an 11 percent excise tax on sporting arms, ammunition, bows, arrows and their parts and accessories, and a 10 percent tax on pistols and revolvers. Monies are apportioned based on a formula



that factors in state population, the number of paid hunting license holders and geographic size. States can receive up to 75 percent federal reimbursement for approved conservation projects.

The Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, commonly referred to as the Dingell-Johnson Act, is also administered by the USFWS. The Dingell-Johnson Act was amended in 1984 (Wallop Breaux) to earmark a percentage of marine gas tax for various boating improvements. This program provides funds to the state fish and wildlife and boating agencies managing recreational fisheries. It provides for aquatic education, wetlands restoration, boat safety, clean vessel sanitation devices (pump-outs) and a non-trailerable boat program. The latter two programs are administered by the ODNR Division of Watercraft. Projects include acquisition and improvement of sport fish habitat, stocking of fish, research into fishery resource problems, surveys and inventories of sport fish populations and acquisition and development of access facilities for public use. States can receive up to 75 percent federal reimbursement for approved projects.

Program funds are obtained from a 10 percent excise tax on sport fishing tackle and a 3 percent excise tax on fish finders and electric trolling motors, import duties on fishing tackle, yachts and pleasure craft, interest on account, and a portion of motorboat fuel tax revenues and small engine fuel taxes. Each state's share is based 60 percent on the number of licensed sport anglers and 40 percent on the land and water area of the state.

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The **United States Forest Service (USFS)** is responsible for managing the national forest system for multiple uses and benefits, and for sustained yield of renewable resources such as water, forage, wildlife, wood and recreation.

Through implementation of land and resource management plans, the agency ensures sustainable ecosystems by restoring and maintaining species diversity and ecological productivity that helps provide recreation, water, timber, minerals, fish and wildlife, wilderness and aesthetic values for current and future generations.

Major USFS functions include management of the National Forest System, conducting forest service research, assisting state and private forestry agencies, coordinating/supporting international forestry, providing customer service and the administration required to carry out these programs.

The USFS manages the Wayne National Forest in southeastern Ohio (the state's only national forest). It has staff at one research site, the Northeastern Research Station in Delaware, Ohio.

The Wayne National Forest is comprised of three units, encompasses approximately 238,000 acres and provides numerous opportunities for developed, dispersed and back-country recreation activities. Some of the popular recreation activities offered at the Wayne National Forest include hunting, hiking, picnicking, camping, horseback riding, off-road vehicle riding, fishing, gathering forest products, canoeing, biking and wildlife viewing/observation activities.

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The **United States Army Corps of Engineers** assists the state in the planning and development of Ohio's water resources. In doing so, the Corps coordinates with many other federal, state and local agencies in the development of water related recreation facilities.

Throughout Ohio, the Corps has constructed many multi-purpose reservoirs and lock and dam structures that have greatly enhanced water-based recreation opportunities in Ohio. The primary purposes for these construction activities are flood control, navigation, hydropower, water supply, environmental and outdoor recreation, and fish and wildlife management. The Corps of Engineers finances construction projects that create reservoirs for recreation use in Ohio. Generally, after a dam project is completed, the Corps will continue to operate and maintain the dam site and reservoir impoundment area, but will lease adjacent land areas to various public recreation agencies. Many of Ohio's state parks and wildlife areas are located on such lands and utilize these cooperative use agreements. ODNR leases approximately 95,000 acres from the Corps of Engineers. Additionally, the Corps has contributed significantly to the Ohio River's recreation potential with the construction, operation and maintenance of a system of navigational locks and dams. The Corps has provided boat-launch ramps, fishing access and picnic facilities at nearly all of the lock and dam sites.

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The **Federal Highway Administration** administers the Transportation Enhancement Program (TE) and the Recreational Trail Program (RTP) in partnership with the states. The TE Program provides funds for projects that enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of transportation infrastructure. Primary project categories are Historic and Archaeological, Scenic and Environmental, and Bicycle and Pedestrian.

The RTP was established by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century and reauthorized in 2005 through SAFETEA-LU. The funding amount allocated to the RTP is derived from a formula based on a percentage of the fuel that is used for off-road recreational use (snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, off-road motorcycles and off-road light

trucks). RTP funds can be used for a wide variety of recreational trail projects including trail maintenance and construction, acquisition of land for trails, trail equipment and trailhead and trailside facilities. For additional information on the RTP, see the description of ODNR's Division of Real Estate and Land Management.

State Government Resources

The State of Ohio, primarily through its Department of Natural Resources, is the largest provider of outdoor recreation and open space in the state. State parks, forests, wildlife areas, nature preserves, scenic rivers, canal lands and historic sites provide a multitude of land, water, facilities and programs to help meet the outdoor recreation needs of Ohio's citizens.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) was created by legislative action in 1949 "to formulate and execute a long-term comprehensive plan and program for the development and wise use of the natural resources of the state...that increased recreation opportunities and advantages be made available to the people of Ohio and her visitors..."

As the leading agency in providing outdoor recreation services in Ohio, ODNR's major emphasis is on satisfying statewide and/or regional recreation needs that are beyond the scope of local governments and the private sector. ODNR helps satisfy Ohio's recreation needs via recreation land management, planning, research and through the administration of financial and technical assistance programs to political subdivisions and the private sector. Specific divisions within ODNR manage and administer a variety of programs and lands designed to help meet the outdoor recreation needs of Ohioans and its visitors.

Division of Parks and Recreation



The Division of Parks and Recreation manages the most visible and popular areas available for public recreation, with a system of 74 state parks in

60 counties encompassing more than 174,000 acres (see Figure 6). The state parks attract more than 50 million visits each year. Through land acquisition, management, and development of recreation facilities, the state parks provide recreation opportunities while helping conserve natural and scenic resources with statewide significance. Included in the



Figure 6 Ohio State Parks

state park system are resort lodges, cottages, campgrounds, beaches, picnic areas, golf courses, hiking/bridle/backpack trails and horsemen's camps. Hunting and fishing opportunities are available in Ohio State Parks, as well as winter activities, including cross-country skiing, sledding, ice skating, snowmobiling and ice boating.

Ohio State Parks' focus is on customer service. Ninety percent of the visitors responding to recent customer satisfaction surveys rated their overall state park experience as "excellent" or "good" during the survey season of May through October. Employee helpfulness, special events and nature programs were frequently complimented in customer feedback. Additional surveys indicate that 42 percent of Ohioans are current visitors to Ohio State Parks, and their combined visits contribute an estimated \$1 billion to Ohio's economy each year.

In order to keep the public informed of new programs and special opportunities within the parks, numerous sources of public information are provided. A comprehensive Website, ohiostateparks.org, offers information on recreational opportunities and individual state parks, as well as reservations for camping, lodge and cottage stays. The "Ohio State Parks" magazine is published semi-annually, providing news, special interest articles and a calendar of events. The magazine is mailed to more than 50,000 subscribers and also distributed through the state parks. Ohio State Parks also works closely with the Ohio Department of Development's Division of Travel and Tourism to provide the most current information on Ohio's state parks. This information is available by calling 1-800-BUCKEYE, visiting discoverohio.com and at the Ohio Department of Transportation's Travel Information Centers.



Figure 7 Golfing in Ohio State Parks



Golfing in Ohio State Parks

State park golf courses are ideal settings for golf outings and tournaments, and offer banquet services ranging from picnic lunches to sit-down dinners.

All six Ohio State Park resort golf courses have been listed in Golf Digest's Places to Play with ratings of 3 stars (very good), 3.5 stars or 4 stars (outstanding).

Each of these six championship-quality, 18-hole public golf courses offer unique challenges and rewards. All courses offer golf cart rentals and pro shops. Golf packages are available that include overnight accommodations in the lodge or a 2-bedroom cottage, plus meals in the lodge dining room.

Division of Forestry

ODNR's Division of Forestry is responsible for the operation and maintenance of Ohio's 185,000-acre state forest system, which includes 20 state forests and the Marietta State Nursery (see Figure 8). The mission of the Division of Forestry is to promote and apply management for the sustainable use and protection of Ohio's private and public forest lands. The state forest system is managed under a multiple-use concept to provide timber, backcountry recreation opportunities, wildlife habitat, resources for education and research and protection of soils, watersheds, aesthetics and other environmental qualities. The division also provides technical assistance to private landowners and forest industries on harvesting and the utilization of forests for wildlife, watershed and soil protection.

State forests support numerous outdoor recreation opportunities. Visitors to state forests can enjoy more than 350 miles of backcountry bridle trails, more than 80 miles of backpacking trails, many day-use hiking trails, as well as camping, hunting, wildlife viewing and gathering. The Division of Forestry is the sole provider of designated motorized trail-riding areas on state lands for off-road all-purpose vehicle (APV) and motorcycle riding. The Division of Forestry manages the only state designated wilderness area at Shawnee State Forest in southern Ohio. The division also manages nearly 16,000 acres of conservation easements on previously owned Mead Corporation lands for public recreation opportunities.



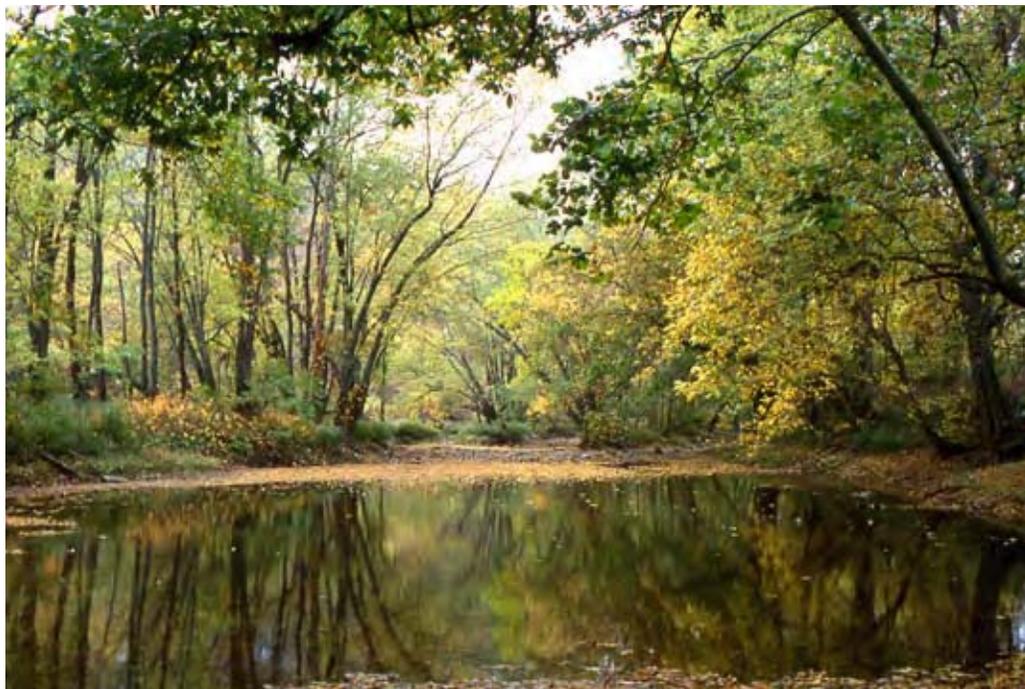
Figure 8 Ohio State Forests

Division of Wildlife

ODNR's Division of Wildlife is responsible for the protection, propagation, conservation and management of Ohio's fish and wildlife resources. With expanding pressures on the environment and a dwindling habitat base, the division faces many challenges in the pursuit of its goal to provide fish and wildlife recreational opportunities for Ohio citizens while conserving those resources.

Land acquisition and management, harvest regulations, licensing and law enforcement are fundamental tools employed by the division in the management of Ohio's fish and wildlife resources. The division manages or cooperates in managing more than three-quarters of a million acres of diverse wildlife lands throughout the state, plus more than 2.25 million acres of water (see Figure 9). Through the Wildlife Management Section, programs are implemented for habitat manipulation, hunting and species management and research. The section also offers habitat management assistance to private landowners, and helps control hunting pressure and trespass problems on private lands available for hunting. On the basis of biological data and public input, the division issues harvest regulations (limits) to protect game and non-game wildlife and to encourage wise resource use. The division also licenses sportsmen and sportswomen to provide control of consumptive wildlife use.





The division also is responsible for managing the Ohio Natural Heritage Database. More than 17,000 records are included in the database, which provides the location and important biological and ecological information about Ohio's rare plants and animals, high-quality plant communities and other significant natural features. The database provides critical answers for developers, landowners, public agencies, scientists and other land users. It is designed as an identification tool so that sites with high-quality habitats and rare species can be targeted for protection.

Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

Established in 1975, ODNR's Division of Natural Areas & Preserves is authorized to acquire, dedicate and accept donations of public and privately owned lands as nature preserves. Today, the division administers a statewide system of 131 nature preserves encompassing more than 28,000 acres of land (see Figure 10). The division owns more than 14,000 acres and manages additional acreage owned by other public and private landholders. The division has the legal authority to manage and protect these lands and waters for education, scientific use and public visitation. Preserves vary in size from less than an acre to thousands of acres. Its ecological or geological significance, not size, determines whether a site is worthy of state dedication. A preserve may be home to rare species, plant communities or unusual geological features. Preserves are best suited for research, education and low-impact activities, such as nature study, photography, hiking and bird watching.

Currently, 88 preserves are open to the public while 43 preserves – fragile sites not suited to general use – are only open to the public by permit. A combination of monitoring and management helps ensure the preservation of the features for which preserves are established. The division coordinates an array of statewide research, inventorying and ecological management projects. Examples of management activities include prescribed burning and manual cutting and removal of non-native species. Visitors to Ohio's state nature preserves will find a variety of facilities to enhance their visit. Trail systems, boardwalks, observation decks, benches, bridges and staircases enable visitors to see unique environments while protecting the fragile plant and natural communities found within preserves.

Ohio pioneered the river preservation movement in 1968 by passing the nation's first scenic rivers act. The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves coordinates the Scenic Rivers Program, which is dedicated to protecting Ohio's remaining high-quality streams for future generations. River corridors, only a few hundred feet wide and many miles long, are dynamic natural systems. An abundance of diverse plant and animal communities can be found where the terrestrial (land) and aquatic (water) ecosystems meet. Scenic rivers retain most of their natural characteristics at a time when many rivers reflect the negative impacts of human activities. Restoring streamside forests is the most important factor in maintaining the health of streams and rivers. The removal of forested corridors along waterways increases erosion, runoff and sedimentation, resulting in the degradation of water quality and reduced natural diversity of aquatic communities.





Figure 10 Natural Areas and Preserves

The Scenic Rivers Act provides three categories for river classification: wild, scenic and recreational. Scenic rivers are classified and designated according to the outstanding qualities they possess. Various criteria are used to examine the stream's length, adjacent forest cover, biological characteristics, water quality, present use and natural conditions. Designation is a cooperative venture among state and local governments, citizens groups and local communities within a watershed. After determining that a proposed river does meet scenic river criteria, the division meets with all interested parties to discuss the program and encourage local support, which is critical to the designation process. Scenic river designation does not affect private property rights. Currently, Ohio has 13 state scenic rivers, including three nationally designated rivers (Big and Little Darby Creeks, Little Beaver Creek and Little Miami River). Along those rivers, there are 23 dedicated stream segments in the state



Figure 11 Ohio's Scenic Rivers

river system. The Scenic Rivers Program provides protection for 754 miles of the state's rivers and streams to ensure that the recreation, biological, scientific, historical and aesthetic qualities of these rivers will be preserved. A variety of recreational activities, such as canoeing, fishing, swimming and hiking are compatible in these scenic river corridors. The division administers a system of scenic river areas and access sites along these waterways.

Division of Watercraft

ODNR's Division of Watercraft is the primary boating agency in Ohio and plays a vital role in providing positive boating experiences and opportunities. The division supports recreational boating opportunities through programs, services and facilities for a safe boating experience. The division has 11 field offices with an additional five remote offices to carry out programs on a local level. Mandated responsibilities include: administering the Ohio Boating Safety Program; watercraft registration and titling program; aids to navigation on certain waters; the litter and sanitation program as it pertains to watercraft; and recreational boating access.

The Division of Watercraft has identified 11 strategic issues that are a priority to its customers. They are: 1) Develop new, and maintain and upgrade existing boating access and facilities to enhance boating opportunities; 2) Develop and implement a plan for waterways management to improve boater experiences; 3) Increase and enhance boating education opportunities; and 4) Provide consistent, coordinated and increased boating law enforcement/safety services; 5) Enhance revenue sources for the Division of Watercraft to fulfill service expectations of our customers; 6) Improve and enhance the watercraft registration process; 7) Get boating information to the people who need it; 8) Improve water quality on boating waterways; 9) Improve public boating areas through strategic dredging and/or debris removal; 10) Research and enact uniform watercraft laws that promote safe and enjoyable boating experiences; and 11) improve waterway markings for recreational boating.

The Division of Watercraft also is responsible for administration of the Waterways Safety Fund. Created in 1955, the fund was established to provide monies for construction or improvement of public facilities for recreational boating on the state's navigable waters. The fund also enables the state to obtain federal matching funds for the establishment of harbors of refuge. The sources of funds for the Waterways Safety Fund are the Ohio Marine Fuel Tax and the fees collected by the Division of Watercraft for boating registration. In addition to providing funds for boating capital improvements, the Waterways Safety Fund is used to provide navigational aids, the equipping and patrolling of waterways, educational grants to political subdivisions and to fund the dredging of state park lakes.

The Division of Watercraft administers several additional grant programs to assist Ohio's boaters. They include the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program, providing transient



mooring facilities; the Recreational Harbor Evaluation Program, to dredge near public boating facilities; and the Clean Vessel Act Grant Program, providing construction and renovation of waste reception facilities for recreational vessels.

Another major responsibility is the titling and registration of Ohio watercraft. The 416,000 registered boats in Ohio ranked the state ninth in the nation in 2006.

Boater safety always has been a major focus for the Division of Watercraft. Educating boaters is achieved through partnerships with volunteer organizations such as the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the U.S. Power Squadrons and through boating safety education grant recipients. Grants are awarded annually to help local boating organizations increase boating education and to help younger boaters meet provisions of Ohio's mandatory education law that became effective in 2000. This law requires boaters born on or after January 1, 1982, to show successful completion of the state's boater education program or other approved boater education course. The division produces a variety of informational brochures and publications to educate the

public on safe boating practices and boating opportunities in Ohio.

Professional, full-time officers are employed by the Division of Watercraft to enforce watercraft laws during the boating season, and to conduct various boating safety and instruction programs for schools, organizations and various other interested groups – some of these programs, conducted primarily during the non-boating season, have received national recognition. Increased emphasis has been placed on the hazards of alcohol and drug use while boating. The Division of Watercraft led the drive to enact legislation that resulted in severe penalties for boating while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

In the past several years the division has focused a heightened emphasis on homeland security. Reservoirs, bridges, security zones, restricted areas near dams, power plants and commercial port operations areas (especially those that involve military, cruise line or petroleum facilities) are patrolled and monitored for anything that looks suspicious or out of the ordinary.

Division of Real Estate and Land Management

ODNR's Division of Real Estate and Land Management (REALM) was established to assist in the administration of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources by providing department-wide planning, grants administration, environmental review coordination and real estate functions. The division is responsible for statewide trails coordination and planning, comprehensive planning through the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, and works in partnership with the Division of Water to administer Ohio's public canal lands.

While the division does not directly provide outdoor recreation opportunities, it is responsible for the administration of various recreation acquisition and development grant programs. These grant programs include the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreational Trails Program, as well as the Ohio NatureWorks program and the Clean Ohio Trails Fund.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (Public Law 88-578) was passed by Congress on September 3, 1964 and became effective January 1, 1965. Additional federal legislation authorized the LWCF program to continue until

December 31, 2015. Purposes of the act are "...to assist in preserving, developing and assuring accessibility to all citizens of the United States of America of present and future generations...such quality and quantity of outdoor recreation resources as may be available and are necessary and desirable...by 1) providing funds for authorizing federal assistance to the states in planning, acquisition and development of needed land and water areas and facilities, and 2) providing funds for the federal acquisition and development of certain lands and other areas."

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act provides up to 50 percent reimbursement assistance to the states and their political subdivisions (townships, joint recreation districts, municipalities, park districts, counties and conservancy districts), for acquiring and/or developing public outdoor recreation areas. Since the program's inception in 1965, more than 1,150 projects in Ohio have been awarded more than \$141 million from the LWCF.

The Ohio Parks and Natural Resources Fund (State Issue 1) was passed by voters on November 3, 1993 – additional legislation eventually authorized the creation of the NatureWorks grants program. State Issue 1 authorized "The State of Ohio to issue bonds, which will be retired from general state revenues, to finance capital improvements for state and local parks and recreation areas and to preserve Ohio's natural areas and habitats..." and "...permits the state to make grants and assist local governments with capital improvements projects related to natural resources

and require that at least 20 percent of the proceeds of the first \$200,000,000 of these bond dollars will be available to Ohio communities for such local capital improvements."

The NatureWorks program provides up to 75 percent reimbursement assistance to eligible political subdivisions (townships, joint recreation districts, municipalities, park districts, counties and conservancy districts) for acquiring and/or developing public recreation areas.

From 1994 through 2006, more than 1,500 projects in all 88 Ohio counties have been awarded more than \$67 million in NatureWorks funds.

The federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, commonly referred to as SAFETEA-LU, re-authorized the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) for the 5-year period 2005-2009. The RTP is funded by federal gas taxes paid on fuel used in off-highway vehicles used for recreational purposes. The funds



photo by J. Rampelt

can be used to assist government agencies and non profit trail groups in the rehabilitation, development, maintenance and acquisition of recreational trails and related facilities. The trails may be motorized, non-motorized or multiple-use trails. RTP funds also can be used for environmental protection and safety education projects related to trails. The RTP provides up to 80 percent of eligible project costs for the maintenance and restoration of existing trails, development/rehabilitation of trailside/trailhead facilities, purchase/lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment, construction of new trails and acquisition of easements or property for trails.

The Clean Ohio Trails Fund was originally proposed by former Governor Bob Taft in his 2000 State of the State address. The Governor called for a \$400 million bond program to preserve natural areas and farmland, protect streams, create outdoor recreational opportunities, expand a statewide system of recreational trails and revitalize urban areas by returning contaminated properties to productive use. The Ohio General Assembly voted by an overwhelming bipartisan majority to place this proposal before the voters as State Issue 1. Former U.S. Senator John Glenn joined Governor Taft to urge Ohio voters to approve State Issue 1, the Clean Ohio Fund, and the voters did so in November, 2000. In July, 2001 the Ohio General Assembly enacted legislation (Am.Sub.H.B.3) spelling out the administrative details of the program. ODNR's Division of Real Estate and Land Management administers the Clean Ohio Trails Fund grant program in consultation with the Clean Ohio Trails Fund Advisory Board. The fund provides up to 75 percent of eligible project costs for the construction/development of recreational trails, and/or the purchase of land or interests in land for recreational trails.

Other recreation services provided by the Division of Real Estate and Land Management include preparation of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, coordination of the statewide trails program and occasional preparation of special recreation studies and master plans.

Division of Water

ODNR's Division of Water manages the remaining portions of the Ohio & Erie Canal in eastern Ohio, the Miami & Erie Canal in western Ohio and associated reservoirs and hydraulic structures. The watered section of the Miami & Erie Canal is approximately 57 miles from Delphos south to Piqua. The watered section of the Ohio & Erie Canal is 10 miles from downtown Akron south to Barberton. The



Figure 12 Ohio Canal System

two watered sections, their adjacent lands and associated reservoirs provide numerous opportunities for recreational users. The remaining section along the Ohio & Erie Canal is part of the federally designated Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor from Cleveland to New Philadelphia. Efforts are being made to obtain similar designation for the Miami & Erie Canal section. The division has been partnering with local governmental agencies and park districts to improve, preserve and promote the remnants of Ohio's 19th Century engineering marvels. Since 2000, the division and local partners have secured more than \$600,000 in federal, state, local and private foundation funds to modify approximately five miles of the existing Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath to a multi-use trail surface.

In 2005, the division and partners completed a master plan for the canal and adjacent areas within the corporation limits of the City of Akron. The master plan identified and prioritized development opportunities to use in obtaining funding from sources such as the Clean Ohio Trails Fund, Ohio NatureWorks, the Recreational Trails Program and the Waterways Safety Fund. Several parcels, as identified in the master plan, have been acquired using federal and state funds. The division also assisted the Miami & Erie Canal Corridor Association in preparing a master plan encompassing the entire 57 miles of the canal from Delphos south to Piqua. Local park districts and communities have successfully partnered with the division to secure federal and state funds for the preservation and development activity for approximately 5 miles of the Miami & Erie Canal in Allen and Auglaize Counties.

The division has been actively involved with the Buckeye Trail Association (BTA) to clear and reclaim old canal towpaths for trail users. The BTA has secured several Lease Management Agreements for canal lands located in Henry, Paulding and Shelby Counties for recreational purpose. The division also is in the process of acquiring a property located immediately downstream from North Reservoir Dam. The acquisition will facilitate the maintenance and improvement to the dam that is part of the Portage Lakes system. Improvements are in progress for the associated canal reservoirs and hydraulic structures through the department's capital budget. Constant flows through the remaining canals will provide additional opportunities for water-based recreational users. The division anticipates continuing the funded partnership projects along both the Ohio & Erie and Miami & Erie Canals in 2008.

The Office of Coastal Management

ODNR's Office of Coastal Management works to develop, restore, enhance and ensure the wise use of the land and water resources of Ohio's north-coast area. Special attention is given to natural, cultural, historic and aesthetic values; agricultural, recreational, energy and economic needs; and national interests. To help achieve these goals, the office annually provides approximately \$1 million in grants for the preservation and protection of the coastal region. The goal of these grants is to enable communities to plan and take actions that will enhance public access to Lake Erie, mitigate hazards, protect and restore natural resources, foster sustainable coastal development and increase recreational opportunities. Grants are awarded to local governments, area-wide agencies (including state, county and regional planning agencies), colleges, universities, school districts, park and conservancy districts, port authorities and non-profit organizations.

An example of a project that has benefited from a Coastal Management Assistance Grant is the Cleveland Metroparks Mill Creek Greenway Connector Trail. This 2004 award supported the construction of 1.5 miles of a 2.5 mile all-purpose trail. This first phase is part of a conservation greenway that will link the Cuyahoga River, Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, the Mill Creek Falls Trail and Garfield Park Reservation.

Nearly a dozen communities have benefited from recreation-related public access projects funded through Coastal Management Assistance Grants. Additionally, numerous communities and groups have been awarded grants for feasibility studies to increase public access and recreation opportunities along Lake Erie. The Office of Coastal Management

also administers the federal Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, which is used by local public entities to acquire ecologically significant coastal property for protection and the enhancement of public access to Lake Erie and lands within its watershed. Through the end of 2006, this conservation program has provided nearly \$19 million in funds for the purchase of more than 2,400 acres of public land for the enjoyment of Ohio's residents and visitors.

OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Ohio Historical Society (OHS), one of the largest statewide historical organizations in the United States, was established in 1885 to preserve, protect and enhance sites, edifices and artifacts associated with the history of Ohio. The mission of the OHS is to interpret, preserve, collect and make available evidence of the past and to provide leadership in furthering knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the prehistory and history of Ohio and of the broader cultural and natural environments of which Ohio is a part. Education, coordination of programs and guidance for historical preservation and restoration throughout the state are additional major functions of the Society.

The OHS manages and maintains an extensive system of state historical, archeological and natural history sites that provide numerous opportunities for Ohioans to enjoy the cultural and historic heritage of the state. The 60 sites in



Figure 13 Ohio Historical Society Sites

this system, encompassing more than 3,600 acres, are some of the most significant tourist attractions in the state (see Figure 13).

The Society also houses the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, which administers the state’s responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act. Each year, 10 percent of the annual matching grant awarded through the National Park Service for Ohio Historic Preservation Office operations is set aside for 60/40 matching subgrants to local governments that participate in the Certified Local Government program. These program grants may be used for architectural, historical and archaeological surveys; nominations to the National Register of Historic Places; training for historic preservation commissions; design guidelines and preservation plans; public outreach materials such as publications, videos, exhibits and brochures; training for commission members and staff; and rehabilitation or restoration of National Register-listed properties. Matching share funds may come from state funds, city or county appropriations or private funds of an organization or individual. Community Development Block Grant funds also may be used as match under this program. The law defines historic preservation to include the protection, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects.

To help preserve state historic places, the Ohio Historical Society is authorized under Section 149.3 of the Ohio Revised Code to provide advisory and technical assistance in the preservation and restoration of historic and archeological sites; to devise uniform criteria for the designation of historical and archeological sites and to assist in the application of the criteria; to inventory significant designated and undesignated sites; keep a registry of all designated sites within the state; and to contract with owners to control the use of designated property.

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

The Ohio Department of Development works with communities and businesses to promote opportunities that will stimulate the state’s economy, while creating high-quality jobs and a better quality of life for all Ohioans. The department provides financial, informational and technical assistance with a portfolio of programs that promote travel and tourism.

The Department of Development’s primary role in outdoor recreation is the promotion of Ohio’s travel and tourism industry. Through its Ohio Division of Travel and Tourism, the department enhances the economic health of Ohio through marketing the state’s unique travel and tourism brand attributes. These marketing efforts promote tourism under four interest areas – Family Fun; Cities, Culture & Cuisine; History & Heritage; and Sports & Recreation.



Figure 14 Department of Development Appalachia Regions

Under the heading of Sports & Recreation, the division avidly markets state parks, natural areas & preserves and outdoor travel experiences including, but not limited to, hiking, biking, golfing, birding, fishing, hunting, camping, skiing, boating and swimming.

The Division of Travel and Tourism oversees Ohio’s official state tourism web site, DiscoverOhio.com and the toll free tourism hotline, 1-800-BUCKEYE. Additionally, the division includes numerous recreation oriented travel businesses in the annual *Discover Ohio Travel Planner*. The planner also includes a page listing Ohio State Parks and their overnight facilities. Outdoor events are included in the biannual *Discover Ohio Calendar of Events* (Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter).

The Governor’s Office of Appalachia (GOA) is another division of the Department of Development and represents the interests of the 29 counties comprising east-central, southeastern and southern Ohio. The U.S. Congress, in the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, designated these counties as Appalachian and part of a region in need of opportunities to accommodate future growth and development. The GOA works on behalf of the Appalachian Regional Commission in Washington, D.C. to support local, regional, state and federal initiatives that allow the people of Ohio’s Appalachian region to obtain economic, educational and community prosperity. These counties also present exceptional opportunities for tourists and Ohioans seeking recreation activities.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is involved in several programs that are indirectly associated with outdoor recreation in Ohio. Foremost is the operation and maintenance of the state highway system, that provides vital access to Ohio's recreation areas and opportunities. Along this highway system, ODOT maintains an extensive network of travel information centers and roadside rest areas that include picnic facilities and tourist information for Ohio citizens and its visitors.

The Department of Transportation also plays a vital technical role in the promotion and development of bicycling opportunities in Ohio. A Bicycle Coordinator's Office was established in ODOT in 1983 to assist with the administration of a funding program created by the Federal Surface Transportation Act of 1982. This program was expanded with the passage of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA), the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, passed in 1998, and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, passed in August, 2005. ISTEA and subsequent transportation reauthorization acts have required states to set aside 10 percent of their Surface Transportation Program funds or the amount set aside for Transportation Enhancement (TE) in the state for the year, whichever is greater. ODOT defines three categories for the use of these

funds: historic and archaeological enhancements, scenic and environmental transportation enhancements and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. A portion of these funds are distributed to the state's Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) for their own TE projects while the balance is set aside for the statewide TE program. Statewide projects must be sponsored by ODOT, political subdivisions or state agencies outside of MPO areas. Applications are accepted annually and the applicant is responsible for at least 20 percent of the construction and/or acquisition costs. Numerous rail-trails and bicycle projects across Ohio have been the beneficiary of transportation enhancement grants.

ODOT also administers Ohio's Scenic Byways program. The program recognizes roads that have outstanding scenic, historic, cultural, natural, recreationally or archaeological qualities. There are presently 23 designated scenic byways in Ohio; one is designated an All-American Road, and four are National Scenic Byways. ODOT works with local agencies to develop viable candidate projects and prioritize them. Federal Scenic Byways funds are available on a competitive basis nationwide to develop Byway Management Plans, safety improvements, construction along or improvement to a scenic byway, protection of resources adjacent to a byway and development of tourist information.



Designated Scenic Byways



Figure 15 Ohio's Designated Scenic Byways

OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION

The Ohio Public Works Commission administers the Clean Ohio Conservation Program which is one of the four Clean Ohio Fund programs. Funds are available for political subdivisions and nonprofit organizations to acquire open spaces and enhance riparian corridors.

To apply for Clean Ohio Conservation funds the applicant must work through its local Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC). There are 19 NRACs that are responsible for approving projects to send to the commission. NRACs are comprised of 11 members that consist of a diverse group, including local district public works integrating committee members, soil and water conservation districts, local governments, environmental groups, parks, agriculture and business. Each NRAC evaluates and scores applications using a locally developed methodology, approved by the Public Works Commission, based on criteria listed in Chapter 164 of the Ohio Revised Code. These evaluation criteria focus on projects that:

- Support comprehensive open space planning
- Protect habitat
- Preserve existing high quality wetlands
- Provide linkages to other open spaces
- Enhance economic development that relies on recreation and ecotourism

After evaluating and scoring the projects, each NRAC creates a list of high priority projects that are submitted to the Ohio Public Works Commission to be funded.

Approximately \$37.5 million has been available per funding round since the program was created in 2002. To date the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund has funded more than 500 projects valued at more than \$297 million which have protected and enhanced nearly 26 thousand acres. The next opportunity for an appropriation to the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund is the upcoming 2009-2010 Capital Biennium.

Special Districts and Other Organizations

State of Ohio enabling legislation allows for the establishment of special districts that can be involved in the delivery of recreation opportunities. Conservancy districts, county/metropolitan park districts, township park districts and joint recreation districts are the primary examples of special districts that provide recreation services in Ohio.

CONSERVANCY DISTRICTS

Conservancy Districts are independent political subdivisions of the State of Ohio governed by Ohio Revised Code (ORC) sections 6101.01- 6101.99. The original conservancy legislation was passed in 1914 following catastrophic floods

in 1913. Conservancy legislation has been amended several times to meet changing needs.

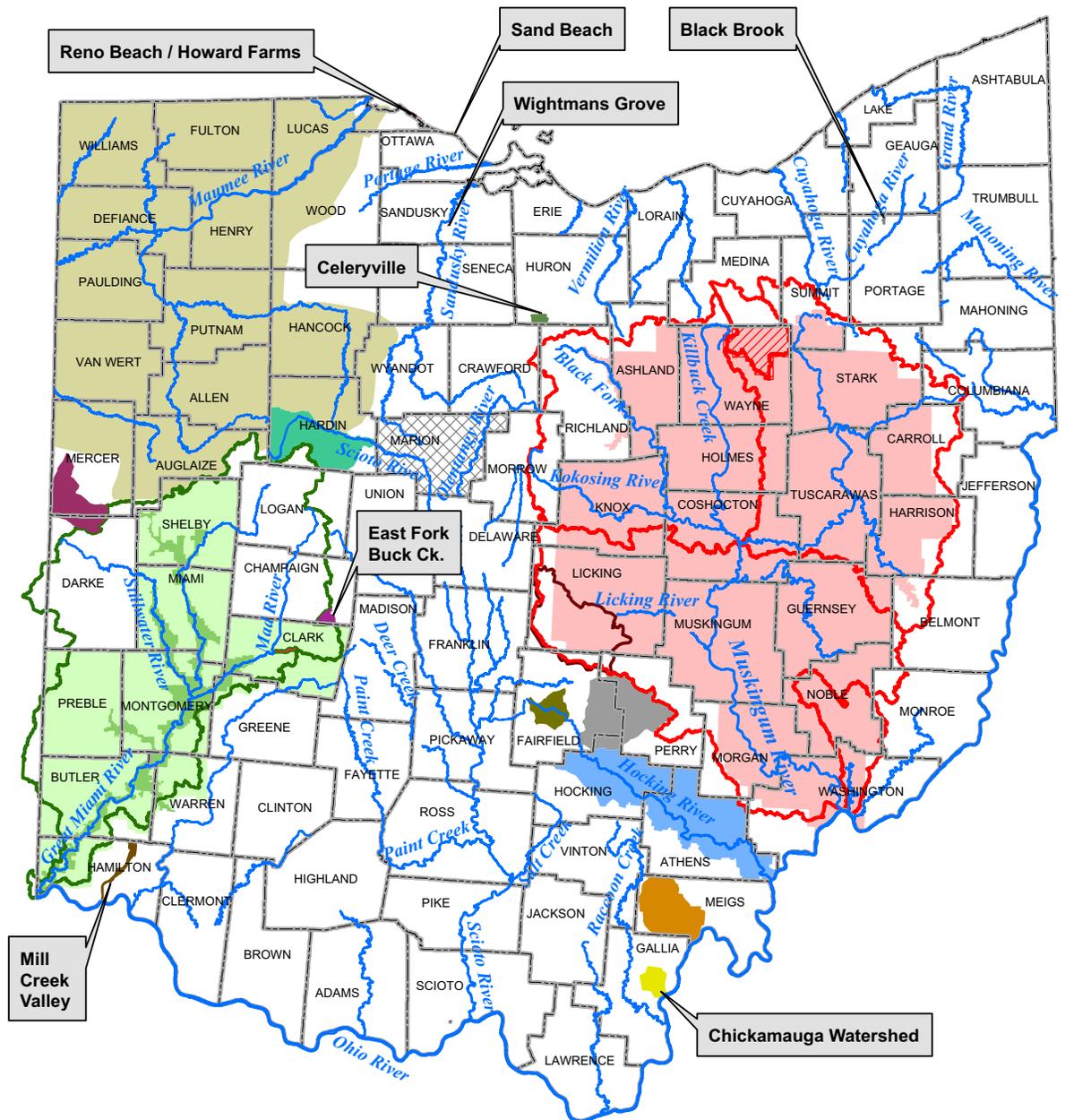
Purposes for which conservancy districts are formed include flood protection, regulating stream channels, collecting and processing wastewater, providing for irrigation, arresting erosion, providing water supplies and providing recreational resources. ORC section 6101.25 describes how conservancy districts may provide improvements and services to recreation. The Upper Scioto Drainage and Conservancy District at Kenton was the first conservancy district created (February, 1915) and is still operating today. The Miami and Muskingum Conservancy Districts are the major recreation-providing conservancy districts serving regional needs.

The Miami Conservancy District, through leases and permits, allows park districts, townships and cities to develop recreational facilities on its lands. It also formed the River Corridor Improvement Subdistrict to further develop recreational facilities, including paved trails and boating access along the river corridors within the Great Miami River watershed.

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy, created in 1933, is the largest district, encompassing about 8,000 square miles – almost 20% of the state of Ohio. In addition to flood control, the district manages 10 lakes and surrounding lands that have many recreational developments, including campgrounds, a lodge, golf courses, picnic areas, boating and fishing facilities, swimming areas and rental cottages.



Conservancy Districts



- Legend**
- Major river
 - County
 - Muskingum Chippewa SubDistrict
 - Muskingum Regions
 - Black Brook
 - Celeryville
 - Chickamauga Watershed
 - East Fork Buck Creek
 - Hocking
 - Hunter's Run
 - Leading Creek
 - Maumee Watershed
 - Miami Watershed
 - Millcreek Valley
 - Rushcreek
 - Sand Beach
 - Scioto
 - South Licking Watershed
 - Springfield
 - Upper Scioto Drainage
 - Wabash River
 - Wightmans Grove
 - Miami
 - Miami Aquifer Preservation
 - Muskingum Boundary

Figure 16 Ohio Conservancy Districts

PARK DISTRICTS

Ohio’s park districts have a cooperative relationship with other outdoor recreation agencies in the state. Ohio currently has 61 park districts (established under Chapter 1545 of the Ohio Revised Code) that manage more than 100,000 acres of land and water. See Table 9 for a listing of these park districts. Besides contributing to the total amount of open space preserved, park districts supplement the services provided by city park and recreation agencies and state and federal governments by providing large expanses of open space closer to cities than most state and federal lands. Recreation opportunities provided by park districts vary according to regional needs and individual park district philosophy, but virtually all park districts offer a variety of recreation opportunities.

Educating the public about Ohio’s natural environment is an important goal of Ohio’s park districts. Most park districts

have outdoor education and nature interpretation programs available to the public. Nature centers, staffed by trained naturalists and offering a variety of programs such as nature walks and science workshops, are typical of the educational programs offered by park districts.

Many park district areas were established in semi-rural locations a few decades ago and are now surrounded by housing, industry and shopping centers, but continue to serve as natural area parks. As Ohio continues to urbanize, more open space is needed to provide recreation opportunities close to centers of population. A growing demand for activities related to nature and open space has already placed increased pressure on existing parks. The future will hold major challenges for Ohio’s park districts as they pursue their goals of preserving our natural heritage while providing outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for Ohioans.

Table 9 Park Districts in Ohio

Anderson Park District	Greene County Park District	Monroe County Park District
Ashland County Park District	Guernsey County Park District	Muskingum Valley Park District
Ashtabula County Metro Park	Hamilton County Park District	National Trail Parks & Recreation District
Metro Parks of Butler County	Hancock Park District	The Olander Park System
Carroll County Park District	Hardin County Veterans Memorial Park	O.O. McIntyre Park District
Centerville-Washington Park District	Henry County Park District	Pickaway County Park District
Clermont County Park District	Heritage Trails Park District	Portage County Park District
Cleveland Metroparks	Holmes County Park District	Preble County Park District
Clinton County Park District	Huron County Park District	Richland County Park District
Columbiana County Park District	Johnny Appleseed Metropark District	Ross County Park District
Columbus & Franklin County Metroparks	Knox County Park District	Sandusky County Park District
Coshocton City & County Park District	Lake Metroparks	Seneca County Park District
Crawford County Park District	Licking Park District	Shelby County Park District
Darke County Park District	Lorain County Metropark District	Stark County Park District
Defiance County Park District	Madison County Park District	Metroparks Serving Summit County
Preservation Parks of Delaware County	Marion County Park District	Metroparks of the Toledo Area
Erie Metroparks	Meigs County Park District	Trumbull County Metropark District
Fairfield County Historical Parks	Medina County Park District	Van Wert County Park District
Five Rivers Metroparks	Miami County Park District	Warren County Park District
Geauga Park District	Mill Creek Park District	Wood County Park District

Information provided by the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association

JOINT RECREATION DISTRICTS

Joint Recreation Districts are collaborations between neighboring entities to build recreation facilities such as trails, baseball fields and playgrounds. Ohio Revised Code provides the legal framework for these districts, which qualifies them to receive governmental funds for the construction of recreational facilities. Bringing together and uniting participating communities, and in many cases, school districts, increases access to many available opportunities, thus making these districts very attractive.

Table 10 Joint Recreation Districts in Ohio

Bellefontaine Joint Recreation District
Canton Joint Recreation District
Cardington Joint Recreation District
Franklin Park Joint Recreation District
Franklin Township Joint Recreation District
Fredericktown Joint Recreation District
Lawrence Township Joint Recreation District
Malta / Connellsville Joint Recreation District
National Trail Parks and Recreation District
New Albany -Plain Local Joint Parks District
Orwell Area Joint Recreation District
Sylvania Area Joint Recreation District
Union City Joint Recreation District
West Geauga Joint Recreation District

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Local government agencies provide the backbone of public recreation opportunities in Ohio. Cities, villages, counties, townships and school districts all provide numerous recreation facilities and programs. Although there are often distinctive differences among these government entities in approach to providing recreation opportunities, the primary role of local government is to provide close-to-home facilities for the numerous recreation needs of its citizens. Many municipalities in Ohio have comprehensive recreation delivery systems that provide a wide range of facilities and programs. County and township governments can be expected to play a greater role in the provision of open space, recreation facilities and programs as more people move into rural areas and demand recreation services.

PRIVATE AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

The private sector makes a significant contribution to the delivery of recreation services in Ohio. The private sector in Ohio manages recreation lands, conducts courses that teach recreation skills, provides concessions and other comfort services or amenities on many public lands and produces equipment that enables people to enjoy all kinds of recreation activities. Generally, although some variation and overlap does occur, two broad groups are included in the category that manages recreation land: the private-for-profit enterprise and the non-profit or charitable organization.

Private-for-profit recreation enterprises in Ohio represent a large investment and make a major contribution to the state's recreation system. Specifically, this group provides many specialized recreation facilities and supportive services including campgrounds, ski areas, marinas, canoe liveries and golf courses. This group also provides numerous swimming pools, fishing lakes, riding stables and shooting preserves.

There also are a number of private recreation areas in Ohio that are controlled by industry, but available for public use. Of particular importance are the large land areas, primarily in southeastern Ohio, which are provided by power, timber and coal companies. These areas offer a variety of recreation opportunities including hunting, fishing, hiking, picnicking and camping.

Private, non-profit organizations in Ohio also play a major role in the state's recreation delivery system. User groups, charitable organizations, conservation/preservation groups and quasi-public organizations can all be placed into this category. These organizations conduct a wide range of recreation related programs and activities. Some examples of programs and activities that non-profit organizations participate in include land acquisition and preservation, lobbying, advocacy, interpretive education, skill training and safety, planning, coordination, activity information and financial and technical assistance programs. Zoos and wildlife preserves are other examples of non-profit recreation/conservation agencies in Ohio. The Wilds, for example, is located on nearly 10,000 acres in southeastern Ohio and provides educational and interpretive services as well as wildlife viewing and picnicking areas. Other significant non-profit agencies operating in Ohio include Boy and Girl Scouts of America. They both operate a number of camps that provide different types of outdoor recreation experiences.

Another example of a not-for profit recreation organization is Recreation Unlimited, located on 165 acres in Delaware County. The organization's primary role is to serve physically and mentally challenged individuals. They are managed to provide recreation for a specific group, but frequently provide their services to others not related to the intended group.

The Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) is a non-profit, public interest organization representing more than 1,600 professionals and citizen board members involved in providing leisure facilities and opportunities to all Ohioans as well as the tourists who visit our state each year. OPRA's mission is to promote parks and recreation services for all Ohioans and the sound stewardship of Ohio's natural resources.

OPRA was initially organized in 1934 as the Ohio Recreation Association, with a separate organization, the Ohio Parks Association, formed in 1942. In 1963 the two organizations incorporated to become OPRA. The association is directed by a board, executive director and administrative staff. OPRA also works to implement a legislative program for the advancement of park, recreation, leisure services and natural resource management and enhance the knowledge and skills of those working in the field of parks, recreation, leisure services and natural resource management.

Outdoor Recreation Lands in Ohio

All levels of government, as well as non-profit organizations, institutions and private sector businesses, are actively involved in providing outdoor recreational opportunities in Ohio. However, total public recreational lands in Ohio average about 122 acres per 1,000 residents. Approximately 5.3 percent of the state is currently designated for outdoor recreational use.

The distribution of public outdoor recreation lands and waters is shown in Table 11. This data is not the only (or the best) measure of outdoor recreational opportunities.

The quality, capacity and management of recreational lands vary greatly. Accessibility available facilities and programming are also important factors that affect the usefulness of an outdoor recreational opportunity.

Accessibility is affected by many factors, including location, roads, parking, public transportation and support facilities. Many of Ohio’s largest outdoor recreational areas are located in the sparsely populated southeast, making access challenging.

Table 11 – Distribution of Outdoor Recreation Acreage in Ohio by Management Type

Management Unit	LAND Acres	WATER Acres	COMBINED	
			Total Acres	%
Federal	258,121.00	4,659.00	262,780.00	18.77
State	527,198.00	73,132.00	600,330.00	42.88
County	11,622.00	212.00	11,834.00	0.85
Township	7,205.00	76.00	7,281.00	0.52
Municipal/City	74,382.00	11,516.00	85,898.00	6.14
Park District	132,519.00	5,157.00	137,676.00	9.83
Commercial	96,432.00	5,399.00	101,831.00	7.27
Non Profit	48,164.00	2,243.00	50,407.00	3.6
Private	31,394.00	2,111.00	33,505.00	2.39
Institutional	8,791.00	551.00	9,342.00	0.67
Conservancy District	32,223.00	16,240.00	48,463.00	3.46
Other	49,428.00	1,137.00	50,565.00	3.61
Unknown	106.00	1.00	107.00	0.01
TOTALS	1,277,585.00	122,434.00	1,400,019.00	100.00

Table 12 contains outdoor recreational acres by county, comparative county rankings and associated 2006 census information. This table does not include approximately 2.29 million water acres, which is Ohio’s portion of Lake Erie. The data contained in Tables 11 and 12 are derived from the ODNr Recreation Facility Database. This database is still being updated. For additional information see pages 85-87.



Table 12 - 2008 SCORP Outdoor Recreation Acreage by County (Land and Water)

COUNTY	Total County Acreage	Rank	Outdoor Recreation Acres	Rank	% of Total Acres for Outdoor Recreation	Rank	2006 Population*	Rank	Outdoor Recreation Acres per 1,000 Residents	Rank
Adams	375,226	10	34,758	9	2.5	9	28,516	78	1219	7
Allen	260,439	78	4,867	67	0.4	67	105,788	26	46	75
Ashland	273,242	48	11,949	42	0.9	42	54,727	46	218	26
Ashtabula	454,826	1	12,518	40	0.9	40	102,703	27	122	38
Athens	325,487	23	29,004	14	2.1	14	61,860	41	469	17
Auglaize	257,360	82	3,155	82	0.2	76	47,060	50	67	58
Belmont	346,764	18	25,727	18	1.8	23	68,771	37	374	21
Brown	315,717	30	7,405	30	0.5	58	44,423	54	167	32
Butler	300,751	35	9,398	35	0.7	52	354,992	8	27	85
Carroll	255,435	84	9,551	84	0.7	49	29,189	76	327	23
Champaign	275,222	47	3,394	47	0.2	75	39,921	64	85	48
Clark	256,924	83	13,398	83	1.0	39	141,872	20	94	46
Clermont	294,264	40	20,797	40	1.5	28	192,706	14	108	42
Clinton	263,945	65	6,187	65	0.4	61	43,399	55	143	34
Columbiana	342,379	19	10,754	19	0.8	45	110,542	25	97	45
Coshocton	363,155	13	28,534	13	2.0	16	36,976	67	772	12
Crawford	257,884	81	2,048	81	0.2	84	45,047	53	46	76
Cuyahoga	294,307	39	27,361	39	2.0	18	1,314,241	1	21	87
Darke	383,750	9	2,570	9	0.2	81	52,780	48	49	73
Defiance	265,363	62	2,611	62	1.9	19	39,091	65	67	59
Delaware	292,820	41	27,052	41	1.9	20	156,697	16	173	31
Erie	163,355	87	10,796	87	0.8	44	78,116	32	138	36
Fairfield	325,435	24	8,948	24	0.6	53	140,591	21	64	61
Fayette	260,551	77	3,450	77	0.3	74	28,305	79	122	37
Franklin	348,098	17	29,282	17	2.1	12	1,095,662	2	27	84
Fulton	260,987	73	3,912	73	0.3	71	42,900	56	91	47
Gallia	301,685	33	27,686	33	2.0	17	31,313	73	884	10
Geauga	261,738	72	10,015	72	0.7	48	95,676	29	105	43
Greene	266,245	60	10,393	60	0.7	47	152,298	19	68	57
Guernsey	338,148	22	25,750	22	1.8	22	40,876	63	630	14
Hamilton	264,067	63	25,768	63	1.8	21	822,596	3	31	81
Hancock	341,835	20	5,334	20	0.4	63	73,824	35	72	52
Hardin	301,301	34	2,321	34	0.2	83	31,966	72	73	50
Harrison	262,876	68	24,728	68	1.8	24	15,799	84	1565	4
Henry	268,895	58	2,923	58	0.2	78	29,520	74	99	44
Highland	356,919	14	17,495	14	1.3	30	42,833	57	408	19
Hocking	271,055	53	44,576	53	3.2	4	28,973	77	1539	5
Holmes	271,491	51	3,513	51	0.3	72	41,574	59	85	49
Huron	317,761	28	4,173	28	0.3	69	60,313	43	69	55
Jackson	269,700	56	13,568	56	1.0	37	33,543	71	405	20
Jefferson	262,522	70	13,502	70	1.0	38	70,125	36	193	29
Knox	338,916	21	6,030	21	0.4	62	58,561	44	52	72
Lake	148,095	88	12,213	88	0.9	41	232,892	11	52	71
Lawrence	292,506	43	76,200	43	5.5	1	63,179	39	1206	8
Licking	439,971	3	9,532	3	0.7	50	156,287	17	61	63

COUNTY	Total County Acreage	Rank	Outdoor Recreation Acres	Rank	% of Total Acres for Outdoor Recreation	Rank	2006 Population*	Rank	Outdoor Recreation Acres per 1,000 Residents	Rank
Lorain	316,566	29	16,038	29	1.2	32	301,993	9	53	69
Lucas	222,214	85	23,473	85	1.7	25	445,281	6	53	70
Madison	299,140	36	2,624	36	0.2	80	41,496	60	63	62
Mahoning	272,300	50	15,018	50	1.1	33	251,026	10	60	64
Marion	258,732	80	7,895	80	0.6	57	65,583	38	120	39
Medina	270,905	54	11,876	54	0.2	79	169,353	15	70	54
Meigs	276,418	46	5,227	46	0.4	64	23,092	81	226	25
Mercer	303,064	32	14,135	32	1.0	35	41,303	62	342	22
Miami	262,278	71	4,229	71	0.3	68	101,914	28	42	78
Monroe	292,655	42	29,174	42	2.1	13	14,606	86	1997	3
Montgomery	297,272	38	19,325	38	1.4	29	542,237	5	36	79
Morgan	269,877	55	37,253	55	2.7	7	14,821	85	2514	2
Morrow	260,616	76	1,639	76	0.1	85	34,529	70	48	74
Muskingum	430,413	4	54,229	4	3.9	3	86,125	31	630	15
Noble	258,930	79	21,116	79	1.5	27	14,165	87	1491	6
Ottawa	167,341	86	8,207	86	0.6	56	41,331	61	199	27
Paulding	268,297	59	427	59	0.0	88	19,432	83	22	86
Perry	263,965	64	28,754	64	2.1	15	35,313	68	814	11
Pickaway	324,002	25	10,597	25	0.8	46	53,606	47	198	28
Pike	284,142	44	14,529	44	1.0	34	28,269	80	514	16
Portage	322,904	26	21,796	26	1.6	26	155,012	18	141	35
Preble	272,958	49	5,032	49	0.4	65	42,491	58	118	40
Putnam	310,123	31	1,031	31	0.1	86	34,744	69	30	82
Richland	320,244	27	8,449	27	0.6	54	127,010	22	67	60
Ross	443,452	2	34,913	2	2.5	8	75,556	34	462	18
Sandusky	263,221	66	6,980	66	0.5	59	61,625	42	113	41
Scioto	394,380	8	74,820	8	5.4	2	76,441	33	979	9
Seneca	354,152	16	3,037	16	0.2	77	57,255	45	53	68
Shelby	262,886	67	3,478	67	0.3	73	48,884	49	71	53
Stark	371,528	11	16,676	11	1.2	31	380,575	7	44	77
Summit	269,000	57	31,763	57	2.3	11	545,931	4	58	65
Trumbull	407,413	6	32,162	6	2.3	10	217,362	12	148	33
Tuscarawas	365,884	12	4,972	12	0.4	66	91,766	30	54	67
Union	279,550	45	2,556	45	0.2	82	46,702	51	55	66
Van Wert	262,805	69	795	69	0.1	87	29,303	75	27	83
Vinton	265,605	61	42,091	61	3.0	5	13,519	88	3114	1
Warren	260,668	75	13,818	75	1.0	36	201,871	13	69	56
Washington	409,408	5	42,082	5	3.0	6	61,867	40	680	13
Wayne	356,672	15	8,244	15	0.6	55	113,950	24	72	51
Williams	271,137	52	6,735	52	0.5	60	38,719	66	174	30
Wood	397,662	7	4,039	7	0.3	70	124,183	23	33	80
Wyandot	260,956	74	9,529	74	0.7	51	22,553	82	423	88
TOTAL	26,411,239		1,397,631				11,478,006		122	

*Annual Estimates of the Population for Counties of Ohio: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006 (CO- EST2006-01-39) Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau. Release Date: March 22, 2007

Lawrence, Scioto and Muskingum counties contain the most outdoor recreational acreage in Ohio. These counties contain extensive public land holdings, including Shawnee State Forest, the Wayne National Forest and Tri -Valley Wildlife Area. Paulding, Van Wert and Putnam counties, in the northwestern part of the state, an area of flat terrain and rich agricultural soils, have the lowest outdoor recreational acreages.

Another indicator of outdoor recreational opportunities can be ascertained by comparing 2006 estimated population data with the amount of outdoor recreational acreage in each county for a per capita ranking. Outdoor recreational acreage by county per 1,000 residents is shown in Table 12. The three highest-ranked counties, Vinton, Morgan and Monroe, rank respectively 88th, 85th and 86th in population of Ohio's 88 counties. These counties have extensive federal, state and/or privately provided outdoor recreational areas. Conversely, counties that are highly urbanized and densely populated tend to have lower outdoor recreational acreage per 1,000 residents. Cuyahoga, Franklin and Hamilton Counties, all with populations of 800,000 or more, rank 88th, 85th and 82nd in outdoor recreational acreage per 1000 residents.

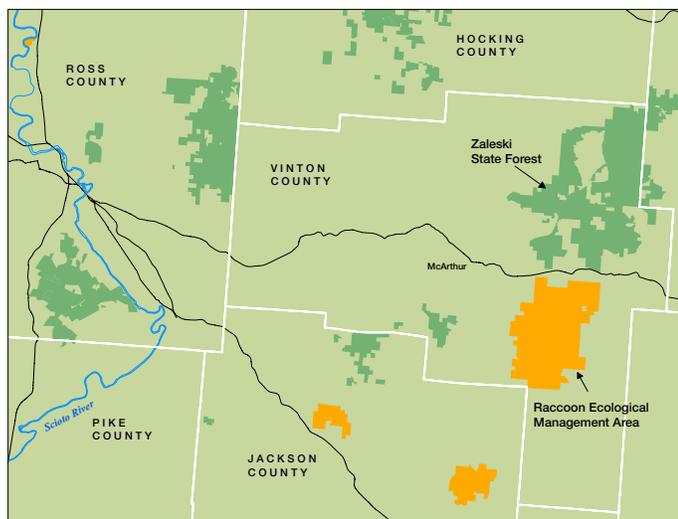


Figure 17 REMA lands

Ohio's Largest Single Tract of Privately Held Forest Now Protected

The Raccoon Ecological Management Area (REMA), formerly owned by Dayton-based Mead Corporation, is the largest tract of privately owned woodland remaining in Ohio. A unique partnership involving ODNR and the Forestland Group, a North Carolina-based timberland investment management organization, will allow the area to continue as a working forest. At the same time, it will remain open to public hunting, fishing, hiking and wildlife watching.

Through this partnership 15,896 contiguous acres in Vinton County will be permanently protected as a working forest while continued public access for outdoor recreation will be assured.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) purchased conservation easements on 12,649 acres of the property for \$6,324,500. Land and Water Conservation Fund assistance in the amount of \$1,454,500 helped to make this possible. Agency representatives also signed a memorandum of understanding to protect the inclusive Vinton Furnace Experimental Forest until a conservation easement is obtained for that 3,247-acre tract. Vinton Furnace is considered one of the most important forest research and demonstration sites east of the Mississippi River, and is used for education and training by industry and government.

Bobcats, black bears, timber rattlesnakes, cerulean warblers and other endangered species that require large blocks of woodland habitat, as well as countless other game species, will benefit from the conservation easement. The southern tip of REMA is home to the state's largest known population of bobcat.

The ODNR Division of Wildlife also purchased outright an additional 4,879 acres of former Mead Corporation lands in Jackson, Vinton and Ross Counties. Those tracts became state wildlife areas. Together, these acquisitions will preserve almost 21,000 acres of southeast Ohio woods as public lands.

Public Participation

The SCORP planning process was supported by the following public participation framework:

- Thirteen focus groups
- A centrally located public meeting in Columbus
- ODNR website survey
- SCORP Advisory Group
- A Statewide Outdoor Recreation Participation and Satisfaction Survey

Information and insight gathered through these public input techniques provided the basis for identification of current issues, trends, priorities, strategies and recommendations that are contained within this SCORP document.



SCORP Focus Groups

“Focus groups come in a matter of hours to conclusions that the population as a whole will eventually come to... When well done, it works with an uncanny efficiency.” – Hans Bleiker, Citizen Participation Handbook

The public input process for the 2008 SCORP began with a series of focus groups. This approach, initiating the public input component of a planning process with a series of focus groups, is a reliable method of identifying current pertinent issues, trends and challenges. The information derived through these groups then informed the design of a survey that was sent to a much broader and more diverse group, in this case a random sample of licensed Ohio drivers.

This process — starting with focus groups, which then inform broader surveys... appears to be gaining favor. It certainly makes sense – Governing Magazine, May 2007

ODNR hosted thirteen regional input focus groups around Ohio during 2006. Through these groups ODNR heard from over one hundred outdoor recreation professionals, public office holders and recreation enthusiasts regarding outdoor recreation participation, trends and current issues in Ohio. Additionally, an advertised public meeting was held in centrally located Columbus. Focus group and meeting participants were asked a series of questions related to outdoor recreation trends and issues. These questions often generated a good deal of lively discussion. In fact, in some of the most animated groups, the topics associated with all ten questions were thoroughly debated within the discussion of the first two questions.

Commentary from these focus group events was combined into five regional summary reports. These reports are presented on pages 47-57.



Figure 18 - 2006 SCORP Focus Group Locations

ODNR Website Input

During the summer and fall of 2006, all visitors to the ODNR website homepage were invited to share their comments on outdoor recreation in Ohio through an online survey. More than 125 outdoor recreation enthusiasts participated in this online survey. Questions asked in this online survey were very similar to SCORP focus group discussion questions. Detailed information on the results of this website survey is available at <http://www.ohiodnr.com/scorp/default/tabid/9415/Default.aspx>

SCORP Advisory Group

The SCORP Advisory Group was comprised of a group of volunteers who participated in an advisory capacity during the SCORP planning process. This group included representatives of two metroparks, coastal Ohio tourism, an urban parks and recreation department, the National Park Service, the USDA Wayne National Forest and the ODNR Divisions of Parks and Recreation, Watercraft, Wildlife and Forestry. The group met several times and corresponded through email. Guidance and feedback offered during the planning process included interpretation of focus group input and review of the draft SCORP 2008 document.

A survey workgroup, a subgroup of the SCORP Advisory Group, was also formed. This workgroup guided the development of the 2006 Statewide Outdoor Recreation Participation and Satisfaction Survey instrument.



SCORP Focus Group Report: Northwest Ohio

Focus Group Locations: Findlay,
Fremont and Toledo



Figure 19 - Northwest Region Map

What are the most POPULAR outdoor recreation activities in this region?

Outdoor recreation providers identified birding, boating, fishing and organized sports as the most popular activities in this region. Multi-purpose trail use is on the INCREASE, as is the demand for dog parks. The only outdoor recreation activity in which participation seems to be DECLINING is picnicking.

These activities are popular in northwest Ohio:

- Active sports (soccer, softball, baseball, etc.)
- Birding (for example: Migratory Bird Day)
- Boating (power boating; boating in conjunction with camping or fishing)
- Dog park use
- Fishing (ice fishing, sport fishing)
- Organized activities/sports
- Swimming
- Trail use
- Walking

What are BARRIERS to public PARTICIPATION in outdoor recreation in northwest Ohio?

Multi-purpose access to Lake Erie, busy schedules, facility size/parking availability, money and weather were the prominent barriers to public participation listed by the participants in this region.

Specific barriers that were discussed included:

- Busy schedules (time constraints, commute time)
- Facility size/parking availability (facilities too crowded, proximity of parking)
- Lake Erie access (for boating, fishing, trail and beach use)
- Money
- Weather (decrease in visitation during hot spells, except at pools)

What OBSTACLES do outdoor RECREATION PROVIDERS face in this region?

Lack of money and staffing are the greatest obstacles reported by providers of outdoor recreation.

These obstacles were also identified:

- Money (to maintain existing facilities and front funds for reimbursement grants)
- Staffing (it is difficult to attract applicants; extensive training is required; pay scale is low)

What are the most pressing NEEDS of outdoor RECREATION PROVIDERS in northwest Ohio?

Recreation providers in this region identified the following as pressing needs:

Additional needs that were discussed included:

- ATV facility(s) (Areas for ATVs and snowmobiles)
- Nature centers (for field trips)
- Skate/Bike Park (Rollerblading and BMX)
- Trails (Bicycle)

What are important PLANNING ISSUES for outdoor recreation providers in this region?

How to handle development in relation to outdoor recreation was a planning concern of the participants in this region. Concerns were expressed in relation to saving greenspace and preventing development in scenic areas.

Specific planning issues mentioned:

- Developers are buying public marinas and converting to private use.
- Developers have to donate land when they build, but obtaining funds to develop that land is difficult.

- Housing developments spring up across from existing lighted ball fields, then the new residents want ball field lights turned off earlier in the evening.
- Municipalities have undeveloped land, but turning it into recreation land reduces the tax base.
- Need to partner with developers to find areas of common interest.
- Not enough centralized park or open space in new subdivisions.
- Buildings should not be constructed along water's edge, blocking scenic views.

How do outdoor recreation providers rank the need for PASSIVE outdoor recreation opportunities?

Participants indicated a strong interest in improving passive recreation opportunities in this region although no specific needs related to passive recreation emerged as themes.

What methods of obtaining FUNDS have been successful in southwest Ohio?

Outdoor recreation providers in this region deemed various partnerships and grants as the most successful funding methods.

Specific comments:

- Grant money is always welcome (even if a match is required) because this provides an incentive for the community to raise funds.
- Grants (local grants for ball diamonds, playgrounds, shelters, restrooms)
- ODNR (Clean Ohio Trail Fund, Ohio NatureWorks, recycled materials grants and Recreational Trails Program)
- Partnerships (with community organizations, local citizens and businesses)
- Clean Ohio and Wetland mitigation grants are very helpful

Comments about outdoor recreation and special populations.

Some participants indicated that special populations are typically only given attention when complaints are received. A desire to be more proactive in adapting facilities and programs was noted.

Specific comments:

- Complaints dictate what is changed.
- Providers need to be more proactive and ask people about their needs rather than waiting for complaints.
- Restroom accessibility is the biggest complaint from the public.

SCORP Focus Group Report: Northeast Ohio

Focus Group Locations: Coshocton, Cleveland and Ravenna



Figure 20 - Northeast Region Map

What are the most POPULAR outdoor recreation activities in this region?

Outdoor recreation providers in the northeast region of the state noted that boating (including canoeing) is popular. Fishing is also a popular activity, often enjoyed in conjunction with boating. All types of motorized recreation reportedly have significant participation in this area of the state. Personal watercraft are popular in the summer and snowmobiles are popular in the winter. All-terrain vehicle riding is a popular activity as well. Multi-purpose trails get a lot of use. Bicycling (including mountain biking) is an activity many enjoy. Walking, hiking, cross-country skiing and camping were all mentioned as well. Public pools are consistently popular in the summer.

Outdoor recreation providers in this region identified the following as being INCREASINGLY popular with the public:

- Bicycling/mountain biking
- Bird watching
- Boating/canoeing
- Camping (especially camping with full utility hookup)
- Cross-country skiing
- Dog park use/dog walking

- Fishing (also in conjunction with boating or with a club)
- Hiking in nature
- Motorized recreation (jet skiing, snowmobiling, ATV riding, etc.)
- Multi-purpose trail use
- Outdoor festivals (fall festivals, apple butter festivals)
- Water parks/pools with play features
- Skateboarding/skate parks
- Walking
- Geo-caching

Attendance at beaches and lake swimming has DECLINED. Picnicking (except when enjoyed in large groups) and tennis also appear to be declining activities.

What are BARRIERS TO public PARTICIPATION in outdoor recreation in northeast Ohio?

Money and time were identified as the two most common barriers. Insufficient money is a problem not only for the general public, but also for outdoor recreation providers. Funding for park naturalists is problematic. Many diverse activities, both indoor and outdoor, consume already limited leisure time.

The following barriers were also identified:

- Commute times
- Competing, organized activities (playing on a sports team, indoor lessons, etc.)
- Electronic use (computers, television, video games, etc.)
- Fear of being outside/squeamishness (parents safety concerns and children uncomfortable with the natural world)
- Health/obesity
- Lack of awareness of outdoor recreation opportunities
- Money (personal financial challenges and school budgets that don't stretch for field trips and environmental education)
- Lack of time
- Long work hours



What OBSTACLES do outdoor RECREATION PROVIDERS face in this region?

Lack of funds was the most significant barrier identified by most outdoor recreation providers. Some felt that constituents make demands without a willingness to support levies. Other recreation providers expressed frustration with the time it takes to raise funds to satisfy public demand for a trend. Often, by the time funds are acquired and a facility or program is offered, the trend has passed.

A lack of public land and lack of communication were also listed as obstacles. Poor communication and cooperation between governing entities and recreation providers, as well as between multiple groups trying to use the same resource – such as groups trying to use Lake Erie for different recreation opportunities – is a problem.

Specific obstacles mentioned:

- Funding
- Lack of communication/cooperation
- Lack of public land, “not-in-my-back-yard” sentiments, land use decisions

What are the most pressing NEEDS of outdoor RECREATION PROVIDERS in northeast Ohio?

Outdoor recreation providers in this region stressed the need for more land. Land or corridors for multi-purpose trails and ATV areas is in great demand. Land is also needed for more hunting opportunities and for nature preservation.

Specific needs mentioned:

- ATV areas/trails
- Corridors (along waterways and other corridors)
- Hunting land
- Land for preserving nature
- Public land

What are important PLANNING ISSUES for outdoor recreation providers in this region?

Participants in northeast Ohio expressed concern about the lack of open or greenspace in trust for future generations. However, this topic was not discussed at length.

How do outdoor recreation providers rank the need for PASSIVE outdoor recreation opportunities?

A high priority is placed on the need for more “passive and quiet” nature-based recreation opportunities in this region. Most participants felt this was very important and mentioned specific activities/facilities such as birding and trails. While there is a pressing need for more passive recreation opportunities, there is also a real need for more active recreation opportunities.

Specific comments:

- Active and passive should not be mutually exclusive; there is a need for both.
- Many people have several acres of their own that serve as their passive recreation land (this opinion was expressed by just a few).
- Trails are needed

What methods of obtaining FUNDS have been successful in northeast Ohio?

Partnerships were the most frequently mentioned successful funding methods, followed by grants administered by ODNR, private contributions and volunteer/friends groups.

Specific comments:

- Grants (Clean Ohio, Recreation Trails Program, Ohio Nature Works, recycled materials grants, wetland grants)
- Partnerships
- Private contributions
- Volunteer/friends groups

Comments about outdoor recreation and special populations.

Accommodating special populations is considered a fairly high need. Participants stated that compliance with the American’s with Disabilities Act (ADA) is important. There was some discussion about the need to accommodate elderly and Spanish-speaking people, as these two populations are growing.

Other comments:

- ADA can’t be ignored
- Need to consider elderly
- Need to make signage and literature bilingual

SCORP Focus Group Report: Central Ohio

Focus Group Locations: Marion and Alum Creek State Park



Figure 21 - Central Region Map

What are the most POPULAR outdoor recreation activities in this region?

Outdoor recreation providers identified trail use, birding, ATV riding, biking and nature observation as the most popular activities in this region.

These activities were also cited as being quite popular:

- Skateboarding
- Fishing
- Street hockey
- Power boating, canoeing and kayaking

Participation in the following activities appears to be INCREASING:

- Disc golf
- League sports such as soccer, lacrosse and softball
- Dog park use
- Dodge ball
- Corn-hole
- Rugby
- Water trail use
- Horseback riding
- Golf

- Pick-up football
- Paintball

Some participants identified the following activities as DECLINING in popularity:

- Picnicking
- Softball
- Tennis

What are BARRIERS to public PARTICIPATION in outdoor recreation in central Ohio?

Time/distance, cost and concerns about safety were listed as the primary obstacles to public participation by the outdoor recreation providers.

Participants also cited these barriers:

- Distractions / too many choices
- Technology (cell phones, iPods, video games)
- Accessibility for special populations
- Lack of knowledge or information about recreational opportunities



What OBSTACLES do outdoor RECREATION PROVIDERS face in this region?

The increasingly high cost of land in urban areas and the lack of available land are major barriers to providing outdoor recreation opportunities. Another obstacle is convincing the public that participation in outdoor recreation is a community and health benefit. Many felt the public lacks information about what is available.

Other barriers include:

- Funding
- Lack of communication between agencies



What are the most pressing NEEDS of outdoor RECREATION PROVIDERS in central Ohio?

Land acquisition for new facilities and additional funding are major needs. Additional multi-purpose trails and ball fields were identified as the primary facility needs.

These facility needs were also identified:

- Dog parks
- Passive, quiet facilities
- Need for more birding areas
- More boat docks to eliminate crowding
- Paved trails for skateboarding
- Playgrounds for those with disabilities
- Facilities/equipment for adaptive sailing, fishing, rock climbing, etc.

- Adaptive/ADA-compliant facilities and trails that meet the needs of the physically challenged, including the elderly and disabled
- More leadership, more partnerships

What are important PLANNING ISSUES for outdoor recreation providers in this region?

A pressing need to promote the value of recreation and protect open spaces and riparian corridors was identified. Other issues mentioned were:

- Lack of communication between agencies
- Need to aggressively promote parks & recreation districts
- Park districts in cities feel pressure from small communities to provide recreational facilities that the small communities cannot afford
- There is a need to work with a wide range of people to determine demands
- Accessibility education
- Need to make greenspace concepts attractive to the public, versus selling out to a developer
- Need to better educate those with funds about local needs
- Need for recognition of the additional costs associated with providing ADA-accessible facilities

How do outdoor recreation providers rank the need for PASSIVE outdoor recreation opportunities?

Outdoor recreation providers in central Ohio placed a very high priority on passive and quiet recreation, enjoying unstructured nature, and cautioned that there are very few pristine wetlands left. Birding is considered a high-priority passive activity.

What methods of obtaining FUNDS have been successful in central Ohio?

The most successful methods of obtaining funds are through levies, grant assistance, donations and capital earmarks. Grassroots groups and Friends of the Park groups are regarded as extremely helpful.

Comments about outdoor recreation and special populations.

Outdoor recreation providers in this region placed a high priority on making facilities user friendly for all. There is a concerted effort to provide adaptive facilities and programming for the disabled, aging and special needs children. A need to recognize the comfort level of special populations was discussed.

SCORP Focus Group Report: Southeast Ohio

Focus Group Locations: Athens
and Cambridge



Figure 22 - Southeast Region Map

What are the most POPULAR outdoor recreation activities in this region?

According to outdoor recreation providers in this region, trail use (hiking, walking, trail running and biking) is one of the most popular forms of recreation. Outdoor recreation events such as group picnicking, family reunions, weddings, graduation parties, historical re-enactments, special events and festivals are also well attended.

Participation in the following activities appears to be INCREASING.

- Mountain biking
- Kayaking
- ATV use
- Horseback riding
- Geo-caching
- Camping
- Hunting
- Fishing
- Skateboarding
- Rock climbing
- Bird watching



Participation in the following activities appears to be DECLINING:

- Swimming in lakes
- Hunting (however, hunting from boats appears to be increasing in popularity)
- Tent camping (RV camping appears to be increasing in popularity)

What are BARRIERS to public PARTICIPATION in outdoor recreation in southeast Ohio?

The terrain in southeastern Ohio is mostly hilly. Flat land is in great demand; facilities that require level terrain (for example: ball fields) tend to be overcrowded. Lack of information about what recreation activities are available is also a barrier to public participation. A lack of transportation to outdoor recreation facilities is seen as a barrier as well.

Other barriers:

- Lack of time
- Costs / user fees
- Discomfort with nature

What OBSTACLES do outdoor RECREATION PROVIDERS face in this region?

Lack of adequate funding and difficulty in obtaining funds to match grants are primary barriers.

Maintaining existing facilities is also problematic due to insufficient funding.

Other obstacles include:

- Development that is negatively affecting existing open spaces
- Specification requirements of certain grants
- Attitudes of park departments and other agencies
- Lack of access to hunting & fishing

What are the most pressing NEEDS of outdoor RECREATION PROVIDERS in southeast Ohio?

All agreed that the primary need is for increased funding for everything from land acquisition and new facilities to marketing tools such as maps and brochures. Acquisition of lands for hunting, open space preservation, watershed protection and trail connections ranked high on the list of priorities. Also mentioned was the need for high-quality Websites that inform the public about recreational offerings. Another need often mentioned was for multi-use trails; trails that connect to each other, trails that connect parks within communities, connections from communities to municipal outskirts and corridors that connect sections of the Wayne National Forest. Partnerships and networking were considered important needs by outdoor recreation providers who often require assistance from other agencies.

Other facility type needs were:

- Multi-use long distance trails
- Ball fields
- Parking for trails
- Boat ramps on the Ohio River
- Campgrounds associated with trails
- Soccer fields
- Outfitters for ATV, rock climbing, canoeing and kayaking
- Naturalists, especially as tour guides
- ATV campgrounds
- Facilities for organized youth sports
- Well-designed trailheads with complete amenities – water, signage, etc.

What are important PLANNING ISSUES for outdoor recreation providers in this region?

The need for new amenities on the Ohio River and the use of land in the Wayne National Forest are primary planning issues. A very high priority is placed on public land acquisition and planning for corridors and connectivity. Determining public need and outdoor recreation preferences as well as finding solutions to major user conflicts are all challenges.

Other planning issues and concerns:

- Combining schools into consolidated districts is perceived as a negative due to the loss of public play spaces that existed at the local level; townships can't afford to maintain existing facilities.
- Parks and recreation departments often lose when in competition with police, fire, etc. for public funds.
- There is a need to package public outdoor recreation information so that this area becomes more of a destination, attracting visitors drawn by a diversity of outdoor activities
- Need to plan workshops on value of grants and grant writing
- Need to network to determine a secure source of funding outside of grants

How do outdoor recreation providers rank the need for PASSIVE outdoor recreation opportunities?

Outdoor recreation providers put a high priority on passive forms of recreation, but recognized the need for more ATV areas in this region. There is a concern that the needs of those seeking quiet areas to walk, bird watch, and bike be accommodated, as well as those seeking ATV riding areas. Also of concern is that the demand for passive, quiet areas is not evident because people are unaware of the region's natural assets.



Other comments were:

- There is a need for balance between quiet and active outdoor recreation
- The physical character of this region provides tremendous opportunities for the quiet trail experience.
- The Athens trail system is heavily used and highly appreciated
- Getting youth out into nature is a high priority.
- There is a need to assess the market for quiet and passive versus active and motorized outdoor recreation.

What methods of obtaining FUNDS have been successful in southeast Ohio?

Securing grant funds is one of the most successful ways to obtain funding. Levies, taxes, donations and user fees are also primary sources of funding.

Other comments:

- NatureWorks, LWCF, COTF and the Division of Natural Areas & Preserves have been instrumental in helping to fund acquisitions in the southeastern Ohio counties
- User fees, block grants, UPARR and Healthy Ohioans Grants are also useful forms of funding
- When it comes to trail building and ball field maintenance, volunteers are an excellent substitute for funding.

Comments about outdoor recreation and special populations.

Outdoor recreation providers placed a very high priority on the needs of special populations. They were particularly interested in providing programming for the economically disadvantaged, but were concerned about the costs involved. They were also concerned about the cost of providing for the physically disabled and the growing elderly population. They felt that bilingual and universal signage could go a long way to assist the non-English speaking population.

Other relevant comments included:

- Cost benefit ratio studies on such facilities would be useful
- Larger recreation events targeted to the physically challenged and economically disadvantaged are becoming more prevalent (special turkey hunts and 3-day hikes, as well as busing urban kids to the region's hills to experience nature)
- There is a growing need to provide outdoor activities for aging baby boomers

SCORP Focus Group Report: Southwest Ohio

Focus Group Locations: Cincinnati,
Wilmington and Tipp City



Figure 23 - Southwest Region Map

What are the most POPULAR outdoor recreation activities in this region?

Outdoor recreation providers indicated that walking, biking and hiking/backpacking on trails are very popular in this region. In fact, trails were mentioned multiple times.

The following outdoor recreation activities seem to be INCREASING in popularity:

- Kayaking and canoeing
- Youth sports (softball, basketball, baseball, soccer, t-ball and lacrosse)
- Dog park visitation
- Geo-caching
- Nature observation and programming

Activities that seem to be DECLINING in popularity are:

- Sailing
- Golf
- Tennis
- Lake swimming
- Hunting

Fishing participation was reported to be both increasing and decreasing, depending upon type of fish and fishing location.

What are BARRIERS to public PARTICIPATION in outdoor recreation in southwest Ohio?

Outdoor recreation providers said that overcrowding at facilities that host popular activities is a barrier to public participation. Ball fields, campsites, league sports and playgrounds were all identified as often being quite overcrowded.

Other barriers that were identified:

- Lack of time
- Distance to travel
- Expense
- Lifestyle issues (busyness, technology, cell phones, portable electronic devices, video games, etc.)
- Safety concerns & discomfort with nature

What OBSTACLES do outdoor RECREATION PROVIDERS face in this region?

Outdoor recreation providers cited the lack of available land as a primary barrier. Acquisition of land in urban areas is increasingly costly. The difficulty of convincing the public that outdoor recreation is both a community and health benefit was also discussed. The public seems to lack information about available opportunities.

Outdoor recreation providers discussed other obstacles including:

- Lack of funding for staff and maintenance
- Lack of facilities
- Older, failing infrastructure
- Political barriers
- Recreation is often a low priority, and as such is the first to receive funding cuts



What are the most pressing NEEDS of outdoor RECREATION PROVIDERS in southwest Ohio?

Better facilities, new facilities and maintenance issues are high priority needs. Providers unanimously stated that a dedicated source of funding is a primary need - for planning, expanding opportunities, programming and acquiring easements.

Other outdoor recreation facility needs that were identified included:

- Multipurpose trails
- Green space
- Campgrounds
- Pocket parks, shelters, swings and playing fields

Outdoor recreation providers also expressed a need for better communication, leadership and agency commitment at all levels.

What are important PLANNING ISSUES for outdoor recreation providers in this region?

Providers place a very high priority on planning for urban communities, educating the public and acquiring and protecting green space, riparian corridors and natural habitat.

Other important planning issues that were identified include:

- Safe routes to school
- Access for kayaks, canoes and john boats
- Communication and partnerships to promote environmental education and recreation as a health benefit
- Zoning to prevent development and sprawl
- Control of invasive plants such as honeysuckle
- Need for safe recreational areas for children and teens
- Increasing the level of public support for recreation development

How do outdoor recreation providers rank the need for PASSIVE outdoor recreation opportunities?

Passive recreation activities, concerns and issues ranked extremely high among outdoor recreation providers in the southwest region.

They stressed the need for specific activities:

- Bird-watching
- Hiking
- Photography
- Tai Chi (a mind and body relaxation exercise)
- A balance between quiet & active outdoor recreation pursuits

What methods of obtaining FUNDS have been successful in southwest Ohio?

Grants were reported to be one of the most successful forms of funding. Many outdoor recreation providers also cited levies, taxes, donations and user fees as primary sources of funding.

Outdoor recreation providers also had the following comments about funding for outdoor recreation:

- Current mind set and culture deter charging entrance fees to park facilities
- User fees for shelters, outdoor workshops and events can bring in funds
- Niche groups often raise funds for their own preferred facility development or maintenance (for example: dog parks)
- Volunteer labor can be worth many thousands of dollars
- Community groups and non-profits (for example: Rotary) can provide funds for community development
- There is an increasing need to obtain non-traditional funding

Comments about outdoor recreation and special populations.

Most of the outdoor recreation providers in this southwest region place a high priority on special populations and their needs. Participants have experience providing outdoor recreation opportunities to physically handicapped, non-English speaking, elderly and economically disadvantaged populations. Their concerns include:

- There is a need for programming for elderly and disabled individuals.
- The issue of bilingual public outdoor recreation websites and signage was discussed. There were a variety of opinions.



- There is a need to educate urban children about nature and the benefits of outdoor recreation.
- There is a need to balance ADA sites with those that challenge the rest of the population.
- Signage systems should be designed to accommodate special needs and should provide for the visually-impaired whenever possible.
- Additional research, information and education are needed to determine how best to meet ADA requirements.

Highlights of the 2006 Statewide Mail Survey

In early 2007, a randomly selected sample of 6000 Ohio households received the *2006 Statewide Outdoor Recreation Participation and Satisfaction Survey* in their mailboxes. The survey instrument was developed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Real Estate and Land Management (ODNR), a survey workgroup made up of ODNR staff and other recreation providers from non state agencies and the Ohio University George Voinovich School for Leadership and Public Affairs (GVS). The GVS then administered this statewide household survey, the purpose of which was to investigate Ohio household's outdoor recreation preferences, analyzed the results and provided a summary report. The following pages contain highlights of the survey results and the analysis prepared by the GVS. The complete survey report, including a more in depth regional analysis, is contained within the 2006 Ohio Outdoor Recreation Participation and Satisfaction Survey Report, a companion document to the 2008 SCORP.

The survey asked households about their actual participation levels in outdoor recreation activities on public and private lands and waters during 2006. Topics covered in the survey included favored recreational activities, barriers to participation in recreational activities, satisfaction levels with

recreation experiences and distances traveled for recreation. In addition, the survey investigated expenditure levels for various recreation activities and preferences for the use of taxpayer money for public outdoor recreation. The large sample size (6000) was chosen to allow investigation of recreation issues at the regional level. A total of 1,580 completed surveys were returned. These survey results provide important information on regional and statewide recreation participation, investment preferences and expenditure levels.

Respondents were asked several questions about the location and frequency of their participation in outdoor recreation. On average, respondents report that 55.4 percent of their household's total outdoor recreation participation takes place on Ohio lands and waters owned or controlled by local, county, state or federal governments or park districts, and 22.7 percent takes place in other states. Respondents were not asked to account for the percentage of their outdoor recreation that takes place on private lands. This may account for the slightly lower numbers of recreation on Ohio public lands and waters in the more rural Northwest and Southeast regions.

Respondents were also asked to select when their household typically participates in outdoor recreation activities and how many hours per week they devote to outdoor recreation. Households in Ohio devote an average of 8.9 hours per week to outdoor recreation.

Table 13: Statewide Patterns of Outdoor Recreation

	Northwest	Southwest	Central	Northeast	Southeast	Ohio ¹
Mean % of Total Outdoor Recreation in Ohio and Other States						
Ohio Public Lands and Waters	51.2%	54.7%	55.6%	58.2%	50.1%	55.4%
Other States	22.4%	24.6%	18.6%	23.7%	21.7%	22.7%
Time Spent Participating in Outdoor Recreation Activities						
Rarely	13.7%	12.9%	13.3%	9.5%	15.8%	11.2%
Some weekends	46.8%	51.3%	49.7%	43.9%	48.8%	44.2%
Most weekends	29.8%	26.8%	27.6%	36.1%	29.5%	29.0%
Some weekdays	39.8%	41.1%	42.3%	41.8%	41.8%	38.7%
Most weekdays	10.0%	7.0%	9.1%	11.6%	7.0%	8.9%
Every day	6.4%	4.3%	5.6%	4.1%	8.1%	4.6%
Hours Spent Participating in Outdoor Recreation Activities	8.9	7.6	8.8	9.3	10.4	8.9

¹State results are for weighted sample.

Participation in Outdoor Recreation Activities

Respondents were asked to identify the number of times their household participated in 57 outdoor recreation activities on public and private lands and waters in Ohio during 2006. These 57 outdoor recreation activities have been combined into 17 general categories in Table 14. The number of times each household participated in related activities was summed to create the household's total participation for each general category. Table 14 presents the average or mean number of times that households participated in each outdoor recreation category and the percentage of households reporting participation. Rankings of the most popular activities change when categories of activities

are used instead of individual activities. Information on specific activities may be found in the *2006 Statewide Outdoor Recreation Participation and Satisfaction Survey Report* by the GVS.

The category *other outdoor recreation activities*, reported by 70.8 percent of households, included ten choices of activities and a fill in the blank. Scenic drives on public lands (52 percent) and corn toss/hoop (18.9 percent) were reported most often.

Table 14: Statewide Participation in Outdoor Recreation Categories

Activity (categories)	Mean	% of Households
Wildlife observation or photography in PUBLIC area	31.7	61.1%
Trail activities	29.8	68.2%
Field and court sports	19.6	45.7%
Other outdoor recreation activities	17.0	70.8%
Outdoor swimming and beach	10.9	55.1%
Golf	10.7	45.8%
Playground	8.0	52.9%
Bicycling for transportation	4.8	15.5%
Picnicking	4.3	59.7%
Fishing	3.4	26.4%
Boating	3.4	31.3%
Camping	2.9	34.6%
Winter sports	2.5	33.1%
Hunting	1.8	9.9%
Motorized trail activities on PRIVATE Lands	1.8	7.5%
Shooting sports	1.4	9.2%
Motorized trail activities on PUBLIC Lands	0.2	2.9%

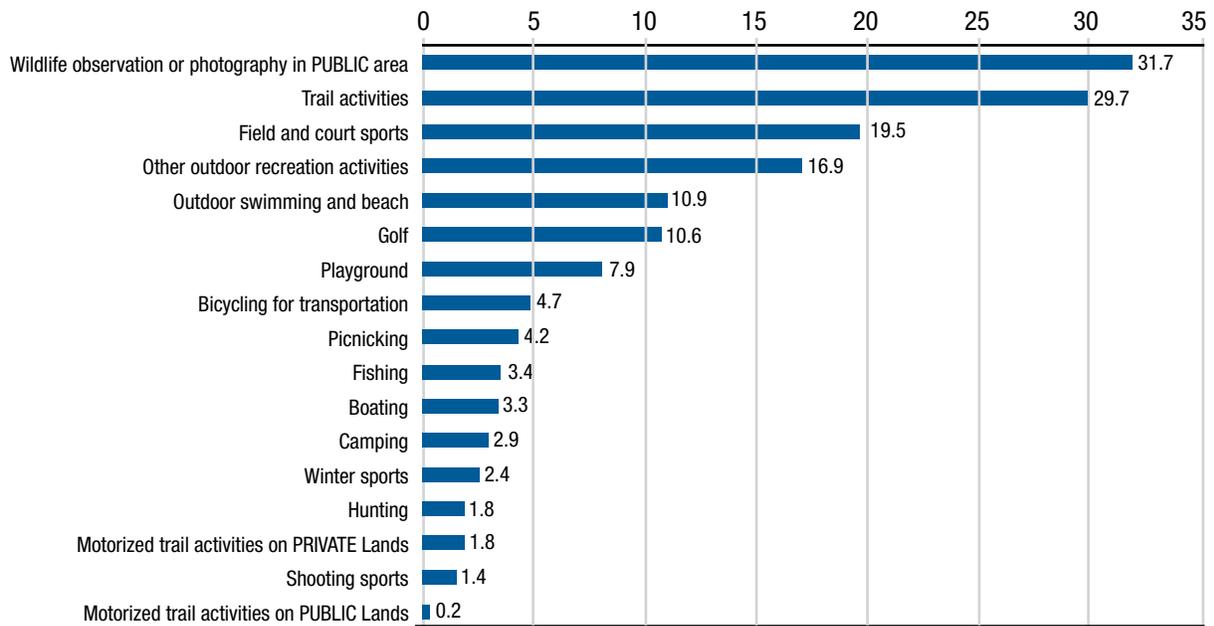


Figure 24: Statewide Participation in Outdoor Recreation Categories

Barriers to Outdoor Recreation Participation

Respondents were asked to identify factors or barriers that limited their household's participation in outdoor recreation during 2006. The two selected most frequently were job responsibilities and family responsibilities, both related to time constraints. While a slight decline in identification of job responsibilities as a barrier is noted from SCORP survey results from 1997 (54.6% versus 51% in 2006), a

larger change, and an increase, is seen in family responsibilities as a barrier (30.8% in 1997 versus 39.8% in 2006). A barrier not related to time constraints, lack of information about recreation sites, was selected by 29.7 percent of respondents. Problems related to actual recreation sites (sites seem unsafe, etc) do not appear to be the most important factors limiting households' participation.

Reason	% of Households
Job responsibilities	51.0%
Family responsibilities	39.8%
Lack of information about recreation sites	29.7%
Sites are too far away	21.2%
Gas prices too high	20.6%
Not interested	15.1%
Friends do not participate	14.4%
Poor health	12.3%
Participation costs too much	12.0%
Sites are too crowded	11.2%
Desired facilities are not available	10.2%
Lack of recreation skills	8.3%
Sites are poorly maintained	7.5%
Sites seem unsafe	5.3%
Inadequate parking at sites	5.1%
Sites are often inaccessible to physically challenged	4.3%
User conflict	4.1%
Lack of transportation	3.3%
Not comfortable outdoors	3.3%

Table 15: Statewide Barriers to Outdoor Recreation Participation

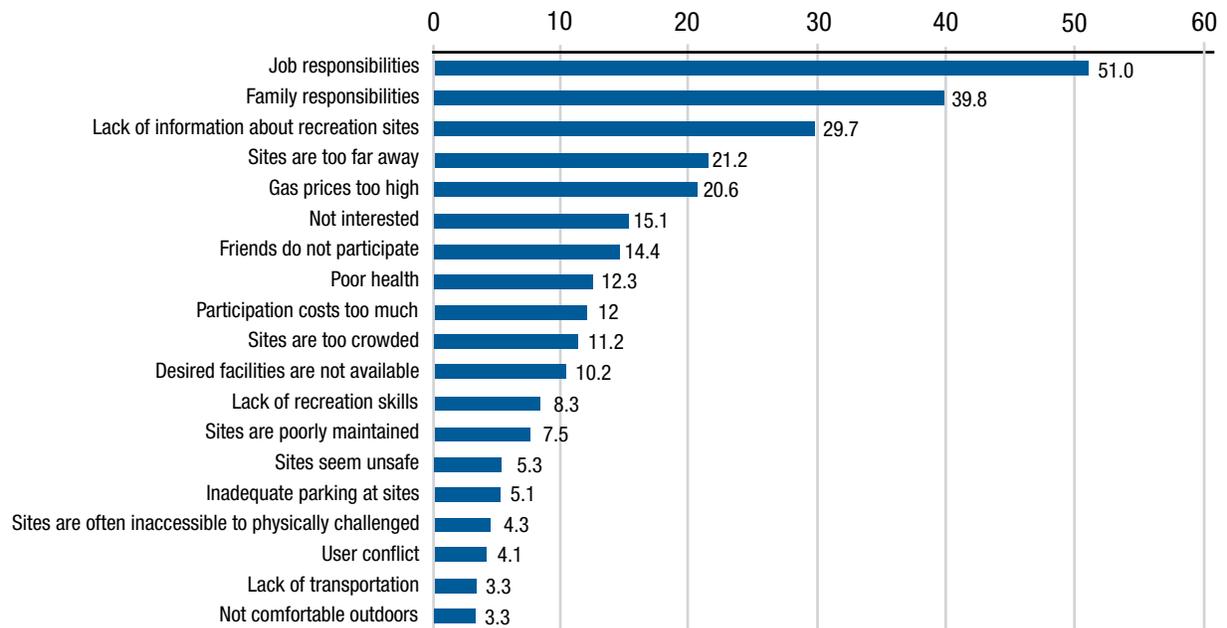


Figure 25: Statewide Barriers to Outdoor Recreation Participation

Satisfaction with Outdoor Recreation Experiences

Respondents were asked to indicate level of satisfaction with 17 outdoor recreation activity categories, however, only if they participated in the activity. For 16 of the 17 categories, over 50 percent of participants report being satisfied with their experience. However, 21.6 percent of participants did report that they were dissatisfied with the

experience of bicycling for transportation and 16.2 percent reported dissatisfaction with their experience(s) at an outdoor swimming area and beach. It is important to note that outdoor swimming and beach is one of the more popular activities and has the second highest level of dissatisfaction. Highest average levels of satisfaction were for picnicking, golf, wildlife observation/photography and trail activities. Lowest average levels of satisfaction were for bicycling for transportation and motorized trail riding on public lands.

Table 16: Statewide Satisfaction with Outdoor Recreation Experience

Activity	% Dissatisfied	% Neither Dissatisfied Nor Satisfied	% Satisfied	Mean (1-3)	% Did Not Participate
	1	2	3		
Picnicking	1.4%	11.6%	87.0%	2.86	31.7%
Golf	1.4%	14.2%	84.4%	2.83	58.4%
Wildlife observation/photography	2.1%	13.3%	84.6%	2.82	42.2%
Trail activities	2.8%	13.8%	83.5%	2.81	36.3%
Playground activities in a park	3.6%	14.7%	81.8%	2.78	38.2%
Other outdoor recreation activities	3.7%	19.5%	76.8%	2.73	46.5%
Camping	6.2%	16.8%	77.0%	2.71	63.1%
Field and court sports	3.9%	22.9%	73.3%	2.69	56.2%
Boating	7.3%	17.1%	75.6%	2.68	64.0%
Fishing	5.1%	21.7%	73.2%	2.68	64.1%
Hunting	9.8%	24.3%	65.9%	2.56	84.0%
Shooting sports	9.6%	25.9%	64.6%	2.55	84.5%
Motorized trail riding in PRIVATE lands	6.5%	32.0%	61.4%	2.55	88.8%
Outdoor swimming and beach	16.2%	19.0%	64.8%	2.49	42.0%
Winter sports	13.5%	27.7%	58.9%	2.45	63.0%
Motorized trail riding in PUBLIC lands	8.5%	44.8%	46.7%	2.38	92.9%
Bicycling for transportation	21.6%	27.9%	50.6%	2.29	73.9%

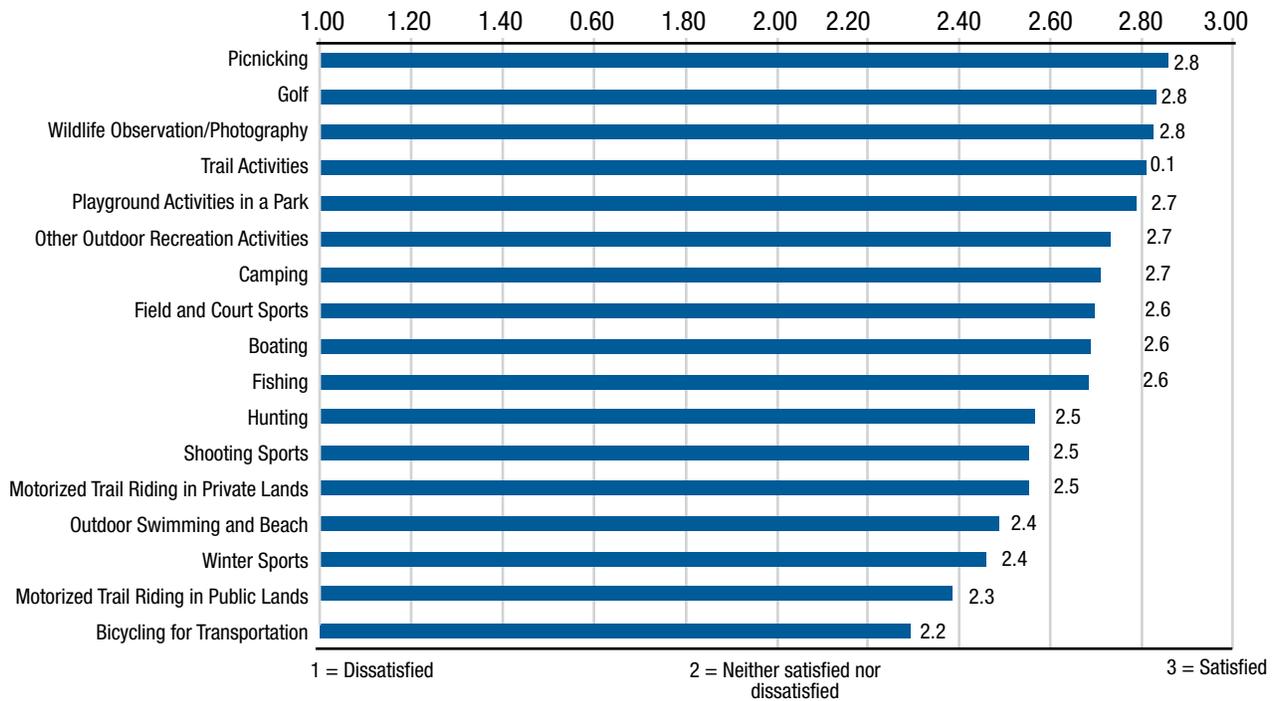


Figure 26: Mean Statewide Satisfaction with Outdoor Recreation Experience

Important Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Respondents were asked to select the three recreation facilities most important to their household from a list of sixteen possibilities. At 40.5 percent, the facility selected most often was trails. More than a quarter of respondents also selected outdoor swimming and beach areas, picnic areas, wildlife observation/photography areas and playgrounds in parks. These findings are generally consistent with the level of participation in these outdoor recreation activities.

Table 17: Statewide Important Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Types of recreation areas/facilities	% of Households
Trails	40.5%
Outdoor swimming and beach areas	27.9%
Picnic areas	26.2%
Wildlife observation/photography areas	26.1%
Playground in a park	25.7%
Golf	18.6%
Campsites	16.5%
Fields and courts	13.5%
Fishing access	13.0%
Bicycle routes for transportation	11.5%
Boat access	9.1%
Winter sport areas	9.0%
Other outdoor facilities	7.3%
Hunting areas	6.0%
Shooting sports areas	3.9%
Motorized trails	1.9%

State results are for weighted sample.

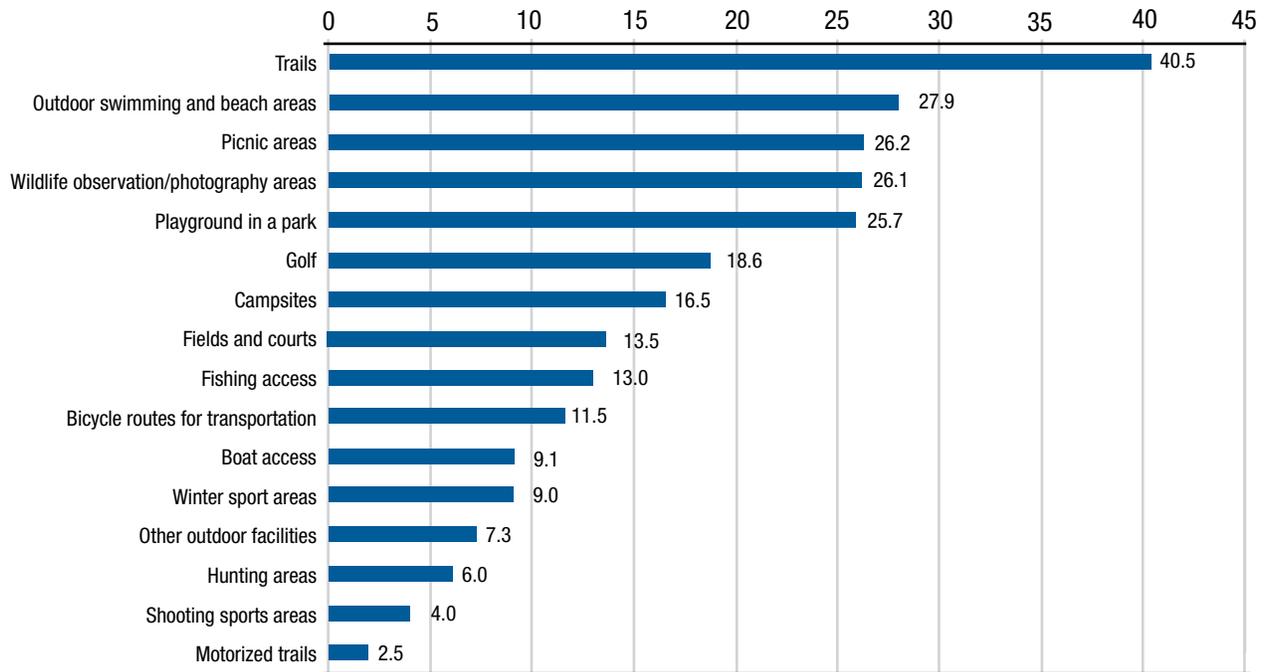


Figure 27: Statewide Important Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Time and Distance to Preferred Recreation Sites

Respondents estimated the one-way time and distance to their three most preferred outdoor recreation sites (each for a different activity) visited in 2006. A list of 15 activities was provided. Most of the preferred sites were near the respondent's home. For eleven of the fifteen outdoor recreation activities, respondents travel less than 30 miles and less than 40 minutes to a favorite site. Respondents travel farthest for camping sites and motorized trail sites, followed by hunting and boating sites. Many other favorite activity sites are close to home and require little travel.

Table 18: Statewide Minutes and Miles Traveled to Three Most Preferred Recreation Sites

Favorite Recreation Site	Minutes to site (mean)	Miles to site (mean)
Camping	71.1	55.9
Motorized trail	59.6	49.9
Hunting	54.1	44.5
Boating sites	49.3	38.1
Winter sports site	38.8	28.1
Other outdoor recreation site	35.3	25.8
Fishing sites	33.6	23.1
Shooting sports area	32.5	23.4
Outdoor swimming and beach area	26.8	18.9
Wildlife observation/photography site	24.6	15.5
Trail	23.2	15.4
Golf	21.0	13.3
Picnicking	18.4	12.7
Field and court sites	12.4	6.5
Playground in park	11.0	5.6

State results are for weighted sample.

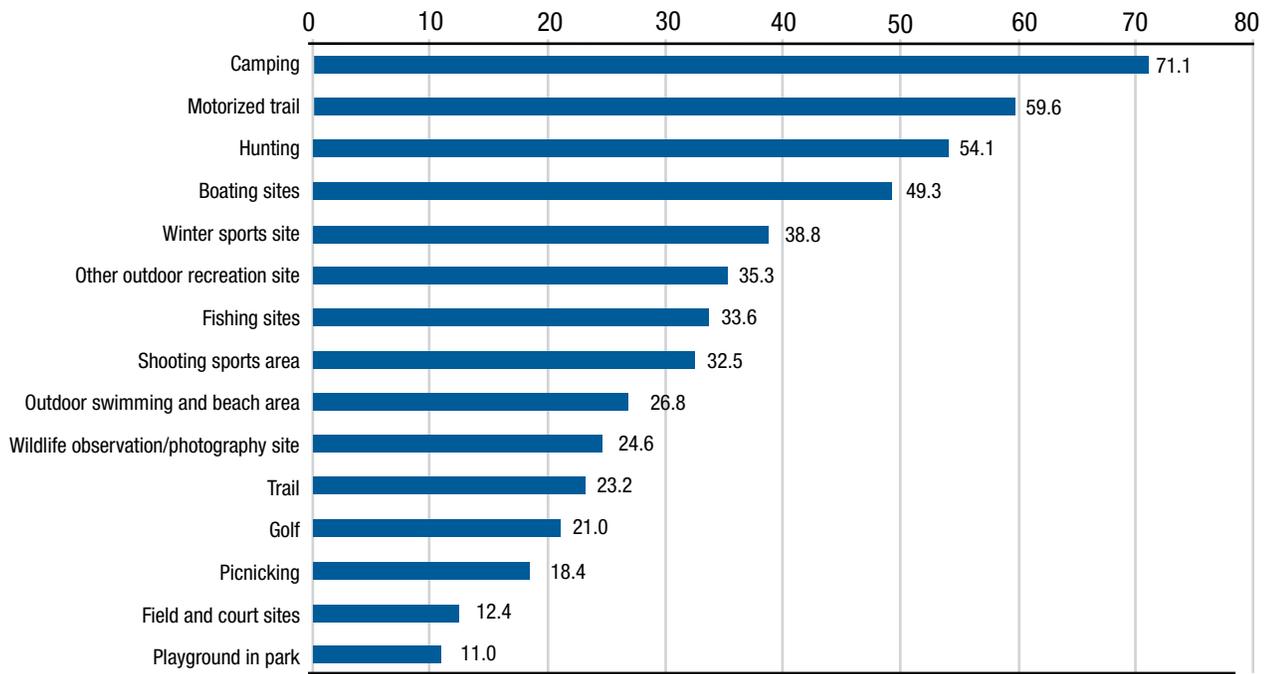


Figure 28: Mean Statewide Minutes Traveled

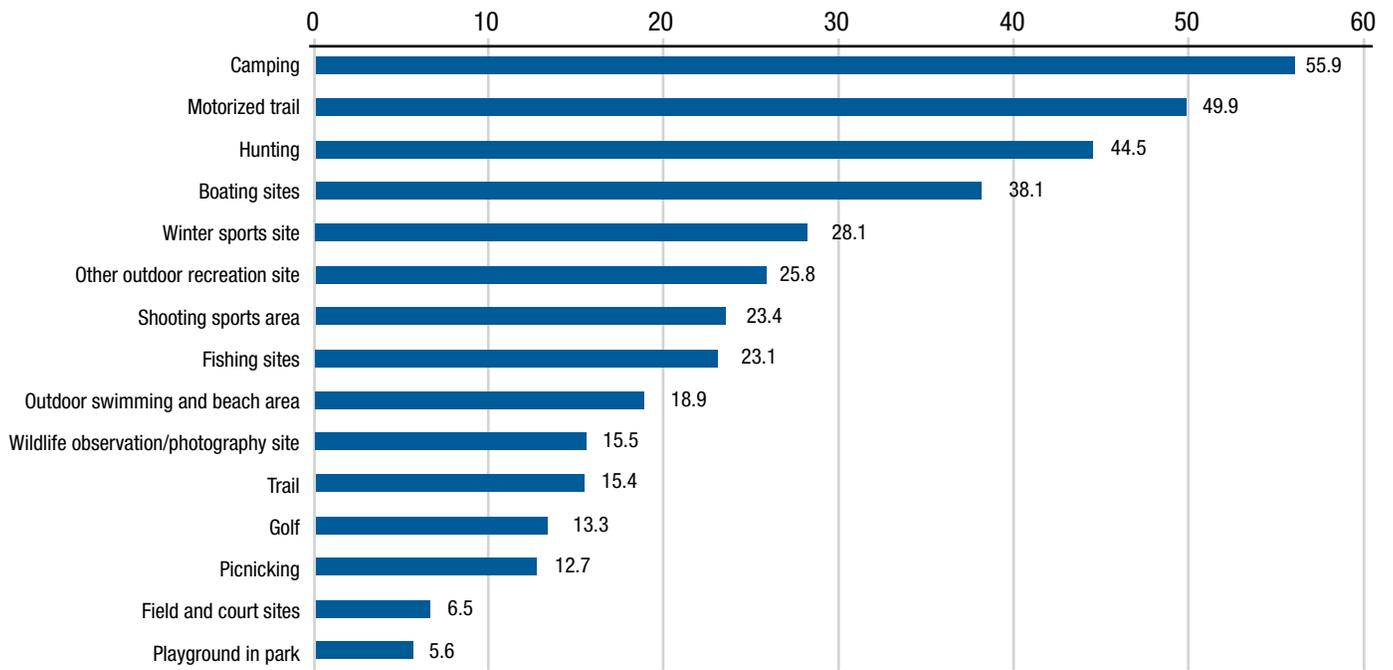


Figure 29: Mean Statewide Miles Traveled to Three Most Preferred Recreation Sites

County Location of Preferred Recreation Sites

Respondents were also asked to list the county location of these three preferred outdoor recreation sites. Respondents reported visiting favorite recreation sites in 84 of the 88 counties in Ohio. Franklin County is listed most frequently as the location of a favorite site for wildlife observation/ photography, fishing, picnicking, visiting a playground in a park, golfing, trails, field and court sports, swimming or other outdoor recreation. Hocking County is the top

location for motorized trails and camping sites. Erie County is the favorite location for boating. Cuyahoga County is listed most often for winter sports sites. Muskingum and Guernsey Counties tied for location of favorite hunting sites. Delaware, Lucas, Warren and Washington Counties are listed most often for shooting sport sites. The counties selected most frequently as favorite recreation sites for all activities combined are Franklin, Cuyahoga, Hamilton and Lucas.

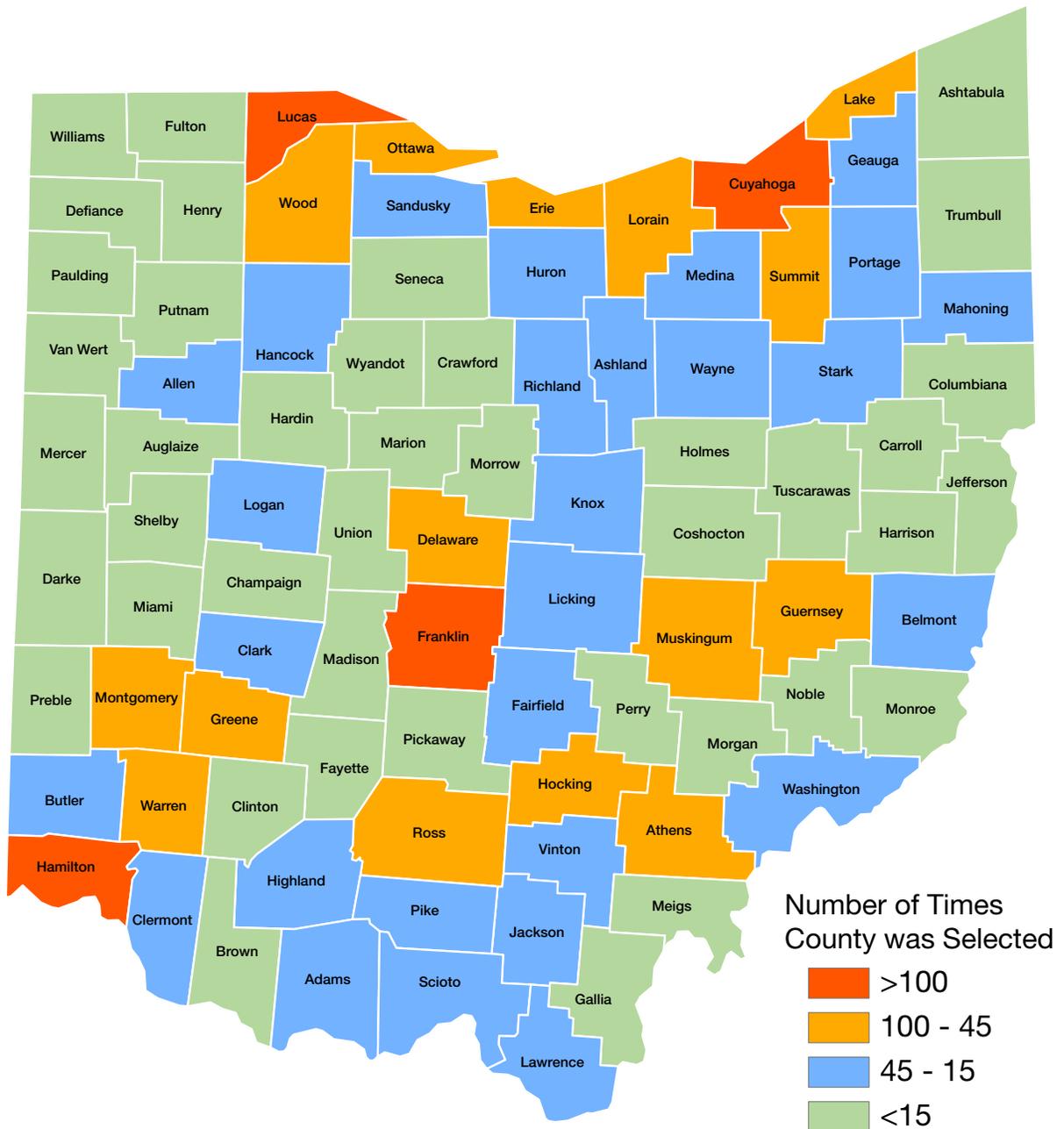


Figure 30: County Location of Three Most Preferred Recreation Sites

Investment Priorities for Taxpayer Money in Outdoor Recreation

Respondents were asked to indicate their preferences for ways in which the State of Ohio should spend taxpayer money to improve public outdoor recreation opportunities. Respondents were provided nine recreation investment options and asked to choose *reduce investment*, *invest about the same* or *invest more* for each option. For all nine options most respondents selected invest about the same or

invest more. On average respondents preferred to invest more in the maintenance of existing facilities at state parks, forest and nature preserves; the purchase of land for passive, quiet nature-based recreation opportunities; and to develop additional facilities at existing state parks, forests and nature preserves. The investment option with the highest level of support (54.8%) for increased investment, is the maintenance of existing facilities at state parks, forests and nature preserves.

Table 19: Statewide Preferences for Public Investment in Outdoor Recreation

Ways to Invest Taxpayer Money	Reduce Investment	Invest About Same	Invest More
Focus on maintenance of existing state facilities	1.1%	44.1%	54.8%
Purchase land for passive, quiet nature-based recreation opportunities	10.6%	40.8%	48.7%
Develop additional facilities at existing state parks, forest or nature preserves	6.6%	46.0%	47.4%
Improve outdoor recreation opportunities in urban areas	9.5%	45.8%	44.7%
Improve access to other Ohio lakes and rivers	6.2%	57.4%	36.4%
Improve access to outdoor recreation areas for disabled or elderly	5.4%	60.9%	33.7%
Purchase land for active or sport-based recreation opportunities	18.7%	48.1%	33.2%
Improve public access to Lake Erie	11.4%	57.8%	30.7%
Improve public access to the Ohio River	14.5%	65.2%	20.3%

State results are for weighted sample.

Expenditures for Outdoor Recreation Activities

Table 20: Statewide Expenditures for Outdoor Recreation

Goods or Services Purchased	Expenditure Mean	% of Households
Motorized recreation vehicles and equipment	\$1,866	5.1%
Equine expenses	\$1,112	4.7%
Boating equipment (boat, sails, etc.)	\$902	10.6%
User fees (golf, camping, docking, etc)	\$522	31.5%
Hunting and shooting equipment	\$485	10.9%
Observation equipment (cameras, etc.)	\$394	20.1%
Camping equipment	\$379	18.2%
Trail equipment (bikes, backpacks, etc.)	\$350	19.4%
Lodging (cabin, campsite, etc.)	\$347	27.7%
Golf equipment	\$343	19.2%
Meals	\$319	47.6%
Winter sports equipment	\$287	12.3%
Guide, charter and outfitter fees	\$275	2.8%
Transportation	\$241	52.8%
Fitness equipment	\$235	18.1%
Fishing equipment	\$214	18.8%
Field sport equipment (bats, balls, etc.)	\$189	19.6%
Swimming/beach equipment (suits, towels, etc.)	\$164	33.4%
Court sport equipment (rackets, balls, etc.)	\$101	13.2%
Information (charts, field guides, etc.)	\$61	9.7%
Mean Total Recreation Expenditures for HHs	\$1,775	76.8%

State results are for weighted sample.

Respondents were asked to estimate total household expenditures during 2006 to participate in outdoor recreation activities. The survey design allowed up to \$9,999 for each category. Households spent on average a total of \$1,775 on goods and services for outdoor recreation activities, while the median amount spent was \$822. The difference between these two numbers is explained by the few respondents who reported spending very large amounts on outdoor activities such as boating, equestrian and motorized recreation.

Although most households (76.8%) reported expenditures on outdoor recreation, when the individual expense categories are considered, the percentages are much smaller. Less than a quarter of respondents reported expenditures for 15 of the 20 categories. The highest mean expenditure was \$1,866 for motorized recreation vehicles and equipment.¹ Other high expenditures were \$14,112 for equine expenses and \$902 for boating equipment.

¹ Regarding the results for expenditures for motorized recreation vehicles and equipment, respondents may have included expenditures on RVs or travel trailers in this category in addition to ATVs or other motorized recreation vehicles.

2008 Statewide Issues and Recommended Strategies

Introduction

Providing quality outdoor recreational opportunities often involves overcoming a complex mix of problems and issues that impede efforts to make lands, facilities and programs available in Ohio. The purpose of this chapter is to focus attention on statewide issues and to recommend strategies for addressing these challenges. Most of these issues have been identified in previous Ohio SCORP plans, during the public input phase of Ohio's 2008 SCORP, or in individual planning efforts undertaken by various ODNR divisions.

Statewide issues presented in this chapter are the result of an extensive participation program that solicited input from the general public, Ohio's park and recreation professionals, user groups, independent organizations and public interest groups. Regional differences are occasionally noted, but it should be emphasized that issues presented here represent statewide concerns. Although these issues identify statewide topics of concern, the problems are certainly not universal among park and recreation providers. Rather, issues should be regarded as statewide indicators of important trends and current situations.

Recommendations contained in this chapter are the result of assessments of many options and alternatives identified throughout the development of this plan. The 2008 Ohio SCORP offers ideas and recommendations for government leaders and others to improve the existing recreational delivery system in the state. Implementing these recommendations will help ensure

that quality recreational opportunities are available for present and future generations.

Many of these issues are of ongoing concern. A number that were identified in the 2003 SCORP also were identified by current research, although in some cases there has been a focus shift

within an issue. Appendix B contains updates on progress made since 2003 on several of the issues and recommendations identified in the most recent SCORP. These updates pertain primarily to those 2003 recommendations that were especially germane to ODNR.

2008 SCORP ISSUES

- Recreational Resource Protection
- Recreational Resource Use
- Recreational Resource Financing
- Land Acquisition
- Recreational Corridors/Greenways
- Water-Based Recreation
- Wildlife Recreation
- Partnerships
- Recreational Planning
- Diverse Needs of Outdoor Recreation Participants
- Maintenance and Rehabilitation
- Public Information
- Youth and Technology

Recreational Resource Protection

Protecting outdoor recreational resources continues to be a top priority. Participation in natural resource-supported outdoor recreation remains strong. Clean lakes, streams, wildlife habitat and preservation of land are needed to support popular activities such as boating, lake swimming, camping,



hiking, fishing and hunting, to name a few.

Preservation of open space is becoming a more critical issue as many of Ohio's urban areas continue to sprawl. At the same time, the desire for more

passive, quiet, nature-based recreational opportunities is expressed by many Ohioans. During the SCORP planning process recreation providers also conveyed a strong need for public environmental education.

Implementation Recommendations

- Invasive species and emerging diseases increasingly affect Ohio's aquatic and terrestrial plant and animal communities in a negative way. Conservation practices and land acquisitions are essential to protecting Ohio's natural systems, native habitats and recreational resources.
- Ohio's leaders should continue to implement existing successful programs and design new ones to protect Ohio's water resources, including streams and riparian corridors and lakes/watersheds.
- Recreation providers should continue to present nature education programs to promote a general resource stewardship ethic. Environmental education messages should address those critical environmental issues that threaten the future quality of outdoor recreation in Ohio.
- As a public service to Ohio's outdoor recreation providers and stakeholders, ODNR should serve as a clearinghouse for reliable sources of technical assistance and information. This assistance and information should follow best management practices for the preservation and protection of sensitive land and water resources.

Recreational Resource Use

Ohio is the nation's seventh largest state in terms of population, yet ranks thirty-third in terms of land and water base. It is no wonder that the effects of public use on Ohio outdoor recreation sites continues to be a primary issue of concern for providers and participants.

Results of the 2006 Ohio Outdoor Recreation Participation and Satisfaction Survey reveal that the following issues are of particular concern to Ohioans who participate in outdoor recreation activities:

- Overcrowding
- Wear and tear on public facilities resulting in a backlog of maintenance needs
- Personal safety for those who participate in outdoor recreation
- User conflict

However, a comparison of 2006 Ohio Outdoor Recreation Participation and Satisfaction Survey results and 1997 SCORP survey results shows a noticeable decline in concern about overcrowding at outdoor recreation sites (20 percent in 1997 versus 11 percent in 2006). Whether this reflects a growing public acceptance of crowded facilities, or an actual decline in visitation is difficult to gauge. One possible contributing factor is the increasing prevalence of outdoor recreational facilities that cater to niche activities. These facilities may reduce user conflict and the associated perception of overcrowding at other all-purpose sites.

Implementation Recommendations

- When developing outdoor recreational facilities and public access locations providers are wise to base their planning and decision making on opportunities and constraints inherent within the natural resource. A 'something for everyone' approach to planning, especially where fragile ecosystems exist, should usually be avoided.
- Greater use of reservation systems and public information outreach is recommended. This will distribute the use of popular facilities and encourage use of less-crowded alternative facilities.
- A businesslike approach to providing outdoor recreation to the public may be advisable. New opportunities should be provided in response to public demand. When public demand lags significantly, a temporary reduction in access opportunities can allow the resource to recover.
- Recreation providers should periodically research state-of-the-art design methodology to minimize environmental degradation while providing public access to sensitive sites.

- Wherever practical, develop specialty sites for certain outdoor recreational activities that are not interdependent with other activities. Skate parks are a good example of this concept.
- Strive to offer a broad spectrum of publicly desired recreational activity opportunities across the state through the use of innovative approaches and partnerships.
- Maintain outdoor recreational sites to a standard that will discourage vandalism and other anti-social behavior. Provide and maintain adequate lighting in potential problem areas.
- Strictly enforce all rules, regulations and laws with appropriately trained staff (in sufficient numbers) to provide adequate patrol coverage at outdoor recreational sites.
- When feasible, train and equip volunteer patrols to educate outdoor recreation participants about land and water use, ethics and safety. These volunteers also can provide first aid assistance if necessary.
- Maintain GIS data on law enforcement violations (locations and time of incident) to better target activities.
- Survey and engage park users through focus groups and other means to identify site-specific safety and conflict concerns. Implement solution strategies based on this input.
- Where user conflict situations persist, providing information through public outreach about the ways in which various groups perceive and utilize the resource can result in a better mutual understanding among these groups. Newsletters, signage, Websites and group get-togethers are all good tools for improving empathy, understanding and tolerance.
- Recognize that a persistent recreational use currently not accommodated (or even discouraged) can provide opportunities for a valid new trend.



Recreation Resource Financing

Current SCORP research indicates that Ohioans are satisfied with the relatively low cost of outdoor recreation in the state. In the 2006 Ohio Outdoor Recreation Participation and Satisfaction Survey results only 12 percent of Ohio households indicated that cost is a barrier to outdoor recreation participation. This number is somewhat higher in the southeast region (17 percent) and somewhat lower in the central region (9 percent). Additionally, Ohioans indicate they are not only comfortable with the level of public investment in outdoor recreational opportunities, but favor greater investment. However, considering the state's current flat economy, finding adequate funding for outdoor recreation will continue to be a challenge for Ohio providers.

A number of funding challenges and opportunities were identified through the SCORP planning process. These are summarized as follows:

Challenges to Recreation Resource Financing:

- There is a great need for more funding to maintain and develop new outdoor recreational facilities.
- School budgets do not allow for field trips to outdoor sites. Environmental education is often a casualty of scarce financial resources.
- The current public mind-set in Ohio seems to be generally against user fees for traditional forms of park-based outdoor recreation. There are exceptions to this. For example, motorized trail user groups currently support higher registration fees on equipment or use permits, if these monies go for improved motorized recreational opportunities in the state.
- The pay for jobs in outdoor recreation is low, making it difficult for outdoor recreation providers to attract good staff.
- Outdoor recreation providers experience difficulty finding 'upfront' funds for reimbursement grants.

- Undeveloped park land in public ownership reduces the local tax base. This is sometimes viewed negatively by local officials.

Opportunities for Recreational Resource Financing:

- When grant funds are successfully obtained, it can be an exciting and productive incentive to raise additional monies within the community.
- Economic partnerships between community organizations, private contributors, businesses and friends groups often work quite successfully.
- Friends groups are often indispensable partners to outdoor recreation providers.
- Levies, when successful, are a great source of funding for park districts and metroparks.
- Recreation providers are often able to successfully generate revenues through user fees for shelters, workshops and special events.
- Recreation niche groups frequently raise funds for special interest facilities.
- Services provided by volunteers are extremely valuable and should not be underestimated.
- Marketing research and locally targeted marketing techniques can potentially educate voters about the benefits of outdoor recreation.
- The development of new partnerships with local businesses, foundations, non-profits, universities, clubs and organizations can be quite beneficial to outdoor recreation providers. Such partnership should be cultivated.
- Based on input derived from customer satisfaction surveys, recreation providers should improve and expand appropriate rentable facilities and fee-based activities as appropriate.
- Providers and stakeholders should conduct and support research into the regional and statewide economic impact of various forms of outdoor recreation.
- Partnerships between providers and private industry in the business of outdoor recreation can be mutually beneficial. For instance, recreational products can be showcased through pilot programs or special events, allowing potential enthusiasts to try out an activity without significant financial investment.
- Greater financial partnerships between Ohio's outdoor recreation providers and Ohio's recreation business enterprises should be encouraged. Successful business models currently exist that provide financial benefits to environmental preservation efforts. Similar models should be considered by Ohio businesses.

Implementation Recommendations

- Grants are often the cornerstone of funding for outdoor recreational opportunities. Congress should continue to support responsible levels for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), provide funding for the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery program and continue to reauthorize funding for the Recreational Trails Program, Transportation Enhancements, Scenic Byways and other programs that benefit outdoor recreation projects.
- Legislators should recognize the many benefits of outdoor recreation to local economies and overall physical and mental health of citizens when considering the cost of maintaining recreational infrastructure.
- The Ohio General Assembly should continue to appropriate reasonable funding levels for NatureWorks.
- The Ohio General Assembly should support continuation of the Clean Ohio Program.
- Growing numbers of baby boomers are retiring. This demographic group is predicted to seek volunteer opportunities in record numbers. Proactively designing programs that are highly rewarding to volunteers may prove to be an excellent investment of time and energy.

Land Acquisition

A pressing need for additional land to support outdoor recreation exists throughout the state. SCORP planning participants repeatedly spoke of a need for more land to support hiking, hunting, team sports activities and ATV riding, as well as natural areas, open spaces and watershed protection areas. Regional variations in needs were noted. In hilly, southeast Ohio flat land can be difficult to locate and acquire and is often quite pricey. Yet, such land is always needed for outdoor recreation that requires a level playing field. In areas of Ohio where urban and suburban sprawl is occurring, open space acquisition is also becoming increasingly costly.

Survey results indicate strong support for the acquisition of lands for passive, nature-based recreation (48.7 percent of Ohioans selected “invest more” in the 2006 Ohio Outdoor Recreation Participation and Satisfaction Survey). Ohioans report “trails” as being the most important type of outdoor recreation facility for their household, followed by outdoor swimming areas, picnic areas, wildlife observation areas and park playgrounds. All these valued activities require a land base, which must be deliberately set aside for recreational purposes.

One in five Ohioans considers the distance to an outdoor recreation site to be a barrier to participation. Central Ohioans travel the farthest (about 30 minutes) to use a trail or observe wildlife, while Ohioans in the southeast region drive the farthest to picnic. These are all activities that are highly valued by Ohioans. Additionally, current gas prices are of greatest concern in the Southeast region, which may negatively affect participation. In order to improve recreational opportunities at the local level, acquisition of recreational lands “close to home” is certainly indicated as a pressing need in Ohio.

Implementation Recommendations

- As land-use planning processes are undertaken, acquisition of lands that will support outdoor recreational activities that are both important to Ohioans *and* close to home should be a priority for providers and political subdivisions at all levels of government.
- Acquisition of lands suitable for wildlife habitat and passive, nature-based recreation should be a priority for outdoor recreation providers. Partnerships between providers and non-profit organizations such as local land trusts have the potential to expand available opportunities for nature-based, passive recreational programming and pursuits.
- Numerous partners can work together to accomplish important public land acquisitions. In today’s world, partners contributing to such an effort can number from five to 50 or more.
- As Ohio becomes increasingly developed, ODNR should continue to expand state parks, state forests, state wildlife areas and state nature preserves where acquisitions will enhance recreational opportunities, facilitate better resource management, protect environmentally significant natural areas and buffer existing areas.
- ODNR divisions should explore new opportunities for partnerships with the common goal of enhancing outdoor recreational opportunities for Ohioans.
- Recreation providers should encourage donations of land from individuals, the private sector and governments with surplus property.
- When fee-simple acquisition is not feasible, recreation providers should utilize all available techniques, including conservation easements, long-term leases, licenses and other methods of acquisition that are less than full ownership to make more land available for public use.



- Partnerships between recreational providers and real estate developers can result in win-win situations. Enhanced lifestyle amenities and solid real estate values for residents and developers can provide increased opportunities for outdoor recreation services to the public.
- Real estate developers can be required to provide recreational land and corridors or “in lieu of” payments to local governments to meet the recreational needs generated by their development activities.

Recreational Corridors/Greenways

The 2006 Ohio Outdoor Recreation Participation and Satisfaction Survey revealed that 68 percent of households enjoyed an Ohio trail in 2006. More than 40 percent of Ohio households consider trails to be the type of recreational facility that is most important. No other category of outdoor recreation scored higher in participation or perceived importance in this survey.

In 2001, while the 2003 SCORP planning process was underway, a parallel planning process related to trails and greenways was initiated. Ten regional input meetings were held, a Recreation Trails Participation Survey was conducted, and written comments were submitted by trail users and agency/organization representatives. Through this process, a number of issues were identified specifically related to developing a statewide system of trails. These issues were identified in the 2003 SCORP, and subsequently published *Trails for Ohioans, a Plan for the Future* in April 2005.

Trails for Ohioans, a Plan for the Future will serve as an official addendum to the 2008 Ohio SCORP. Copies of this plan are available through ODNR, and the entire document can be downloaded from the ODNR Website at ohiodnr.com



Water-Based Recreation

Ohio's abundance of water resources continues to provide a first-rate environment for many diverse water-based recreational activities, from boating and fishing in Ohio's lakes and streams to swimming and sunbathing at lakes and swimming pools. Results from the 2006 Ohio Outdoor Recreation Participation and Satisfaction Survey show that water-based recreational activities are very popular in Ohio; 26 percent of households enjoy fishing in Ohio waters, 31 percent go boating, and 55 percent of households enjoy swimming outdoors.



Satisfaction with these water-based activities, as well as all outdoor recreational activities in Ohio is generally good. However, it is important to note that while Ohioans by and large are not dissatisfied with outdoor swimming and beaches, satisfaction with this activity ranks near the bottom of all surveyed activities. Twenty-eight

percent of Ohioans say that outdoor swimming and beach areas are the type of facilities that are most important to their household – only trails are more important. As more than half of Ohio households participate in this activity, and more than one in four consider it very important, it is imperative that the reasons behind lagging satisfaction with outdoor swimming opportunities be further investigated and addressed.

Satisfaction with boating in Ohio is somewhat better, and is on par with fishing satisfaction. Issues associated with boating are researched on an ongoing basis by the ODNR Division of Watercraft. In 2004, the division completed both the *Boating on Ohio Waterways Plan* and *A Strategic Plan for Ohio Boating*. These recent plans, along with the division's *Direction 2007* update, will serve as official addendums to the 2008 Ohio SCORP. Copies of these plans are available through the ODNR Division of Watercraft. The documents can be downloaded from the ODNR Website:

- <http://www.ohiodnr.com/default/tabid/11864/Default.aspx>
- <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/watercraft/about/stratplan/tabid/2087/Default.aspx>

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), fishing continues to be one of the most popular outdoor

activities for Ohioans. Preliminary results of the USFWS's 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation reports that 14 percent (approx. 1.3 million) of Ohio's population (age 16 and older) participated in fishing in 2006. Also, Ohio's 2006 Outdoor Recreation Participation and Satisfaction Survey showed that 26.4 percent of Ohio households participated in fishing. Ohio anglers (both residents and non-residents) not only enjoyed their sport, but also spent more than \$1 billion related to fishing, averaging \$991 per person in 2006.

Preliminary fishing-related findings of the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation can be found at:

- http://library.fws.gov/nat_survey2006.pdf
- http://library.fws.gov/nat_survey2006_state.pdf

Implementation Recommendations

- Recommendations contained within the *Boating on Ohio Waterways Plan* provide a blueprint for improving the boating experience in Ohio.
- Recreation providers should conduct outreach efforts (focus groups, surveys, etc.) to local populations that will help determine user satisfaction with existing outdoor swimming facilities, and identify desired new types of facilities, programming and other outdoor swimming issues.
- The ODNR Division of Wildlife should continue to aggressively address issues associated with emerging aquatic wildlife diseases and invasive species in Ohio waters.

Wildlife Recreation

Ohioans continue to enjoy a number of wildlife-associated recreational activities throughout the state. These activities include fishing, hunting, trapping and wildlife watching, as well as wildlife photography and wildlife feeding. In fact, wildlife observation or wildlife photography in a public area was the most popular activity in terms of the most annual activity occasions as measured in the 2006 Ohio Outdoor Recreation Participation and Satisfaction Survey.





Participants in these activities annually contribute billions of dollars to the state's economy; Ohio ranks as one of the best fishing, hunting and bird watching destinations in North America. Lake Erie is regularly cited as one of the country's premiere walleye fishing destinations. Magee Marsh Wildlife Area near Sandusky has been named one of the top birding spots in North America and hunters from across the country come to Ohio to enjoy trophy white-tailed deer and wild turkey hunting.

Hunting continues to be a popular outdoor pursuit for Ohioans, with approximately five percent (482,000) of the state's population (age 16 and older) hunting during 2006. Hunters in Ohio (both residents and non-residents) spent approximately \$747 million related to hunting, averaging \$1,422 per person in 2006.

Wildlife watching is the fastest growing segment of wildlife-associated recreation, with approximately 30 percent (3.3 million) of Ohioans participating in 2006. Wildlife watchers in Ohio (age 16 and older) spent approximately \$1.1 billion for wildlife-watching related expenses in 2006, averaging \$402 per person.

The 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation is conducted every five years to help agency managers and the public understand the importance of fishing, hunting and wildlife related recreation. Preliminary findings are currently available online.

The ODNR Division of Wildlife is responsible for the protection, propagation, preservation and management of Ohio's fish and wildlife resources, including vertebrates and invertebrates. To meet this challenge, and to keep fish and wildlife management and conservation practices up to date with research and current needs, the division has utilized a comprehensive management system since 1990. This system has resulted in three strategic plans, the first two for five years each, and the most recent for 10 years. These plans were developed with extensive input from more than 800 constituents, employees, governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and other parties interested in natu-

ral resources conservation. As a result, the division's current strategic plan is a shared vision of the future of Ohio's fish and wildlife resources that includes issues, threats, opportunities and program areas.

Recognizing many changes in a number of wildlife related issues, the division will begin planning for development of its next strategic plan in 2008. In addition to the issues and programs identified in the 2001 strategic plan, new issues and concerns that will affect wildlife conservation over the next decade include, but are not limited to: emerging wildlife diseases, captive wildlife, invasive species and expanding human-wildlife conflicts.

The major strategic issues are highlighted below. For more information or to receive a copy of this strategic plan, contact the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, 2045 Morse Rd. Building G, Columbus, OH 43229

- **Access** – The current amount of public land for wildlife recreation is not meeting public demand. The insufficient amount of space results in user conflicts on land and bodies of water.
- **Public Understanding of Wildlife** – Many Ohioans do not understand the importance of wildlife management, the role of habitat in conserving wildlife and providing wildlife recreational opportunities.
- **Habitat** – The trend toward habitat loss is expected to continue in the 21st Century. The loss and degradation of wildlife habitat limits wildlife populations and diversity.
- **Human-Wildlife Conflict** – Changing land use, increased populations of some wildlife species, invasive species, captive wildlife and emerging wildlife diseases

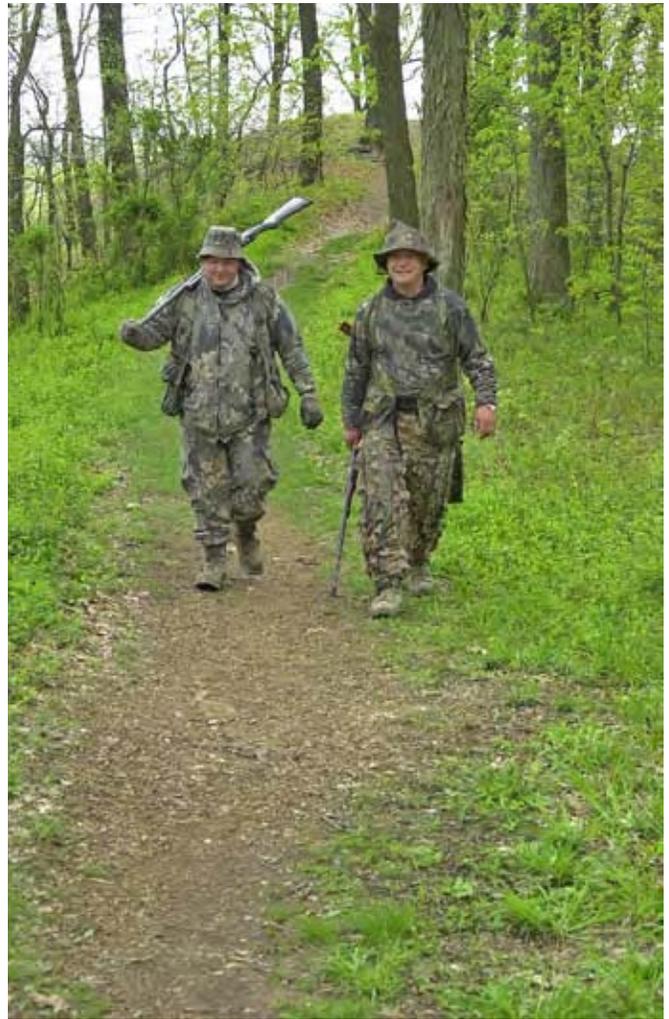


have contributed to increased conflicts between humans and wild animals in Ohio and throughout the U.S.

- **Wildlife Diversity** – A rich diversity of wild animals is a valuable asset for Ohio. Unfortunately, many wildlife populations have been reduced or eliminated by a variety of factors, including environmental degradation, utilization and development.
- **Recruitment and Retention** – The number of Ohioans participating in fishing, hunting and trapping has declined significantly in recent years. The existence of a core group of people who have a passion for wildlife resources is vital for the future of wildlife conservation and Ohio’s outdoor heritage.
- **Preserving the Tradition** – Ohio has a rich tradition of hunting, fishing and trapping which are wise uses of the state’s renewable natural resources. Restrictions on firearm ownership, hunting, trapping and shooting erode the rights of sportsmen and women to participate in these activities.
- **Funding** – While the number of hunting and fishing licenses sold peaked in 1987, demand for services continues to grow. License revenue, adjusted for inflation was highest in 1995. Meeting the increasing demand by traditional and non-traditional groups is difficult given the decrease in license sales.

Implementation Recommendations

- The ODNR Division of Wildlife will provide more access on public land and encourage more access on private lands.
 - The ODNR Division of Wildlife will institute programs and projects to increase the public’s understanding of wildlife, its habitats and the division’s management role.
 - The ODNR Division of Wildlife will identify how it can realistically influence habitat loss trends, identify which habitats are most critical to accomplishing their mission and will develop programs to protect and enhance critical wildlife habitats in Ohio.
 - The ODNR Division of Wildlife will find ways to help people and wildlife coexist by providing the tools to minimize conflict situations.
 - The ODNR Division of Wildlife will continue to develop projects to identify and address the changing recreational interests of wildlife enthusiasts and to increase their awareness of the opportunities that are available to them.
- The ODNR Division of Wildlife will integrate wildlife diversity strategies within all of its organizational units, striving to restore extirpated wildlife and enhance populations that have been reduced in abundance and distribution, while and protecting those that remain healthy and viable.
 - The ODNR Division of Wildlife will institute programs and projects designed to both increase the number of new anglers, hunters and trappers, and retain those who currently enjoy these outdoor pursuits.
 - The ODNR Division of Wildlife will continue to support the traditional activities of hunting, trapping and fishing and the shooting sports such as skeet, trap and target shooting.
 - The ODNR Division of Wildlife will increase revenues through innovative licensing and new funding sources.
 - The ODNR Division of Wildlife will develop strategic initiatives to address wildlife diseases, captive wildlife and invasive species.





Partnerships

Outdoor recreation providers consider partnerships with other agencies and organizations to be very important and the many providers that operate with limited resources in Ohio consider partnerships absolutely critical to success.

The nature of partnerships is evolving. The partner of today can be quite non-traditional. Developers, local citizens, businesses and organizations that are not in the recreation business are all becoming increasingly important partners to the outdoor recreation provider. Current national and statewide concerns about obesity and stresses associated with today's multitasking, fast-paced lifestyle have led to partnerships between recreation agencies and public health organizations such as the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society. Likewise, partnerships now exist between recreation providers and "green" organizations such as the Ohio Office of Energy Efficiency. In today's lean fiscal environment, the successful provision of outdoor recreation to the public by political subdivisions and non-profit groups is almost never accomplished without partnerships.

Implementation Recommendations

- Recreation providers should develop and maintain partnerships to find solutions to mutual concerns through the provision of recreational opportunities.
- Recreation providers should seek common ground with new, non-traditional partners. Communication, cooperation and coordination with common goals in mind can be a blueprint for success.
- Ohio should seek partnerships with other states when common goals are at stake.
- Effective partnerships can be formed at the regional level by MPOs, NGOs, county governments and local political subdivisions.
- Community leaders who recognize the importance of outdoor recreational opportunities in their communities should seek partnerships with state and federal agencies involved in outdoor recreation.
- Federal, state and local funding partnerships such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund, NatureWorks Grant Program, Recreational Trails Program, Clean Ohio Program and Cooperative Boating Facility Grant Program should be maintained.

Recreation Planning

Planning, whether strategic, comprehensive or site related, is an essential component in the effective delivery of quality recreational opportunities. Evolving outdoor recreation preferences and needs of the public, coupled with tight budgets in many recreation agencies, make planning more important than ever. The planning process can truly help ensure that land acquisition, facility development and the provision of recreational programs are provided efficiently and cost effectively.

Many park and recreation agencies have completed strategic, comprehensive or master plans to guide their future actions. While these plans typically provide guidance towards long-range goals and objectives, it must be recognized that planning is a continuous process. Needs assessments should be conducted on a regular schedule, and this input should be used to periodically update strategic plans so that current trends and needs are incorporated. The need for facilities and programs requested by vocal special interest groups should be considered in the broader context of comprehensive community input.

The process of moving from recognition of a need(s) or identification of a problem(s) to a completed plan is often referred to as the planning process. There are several key components in a good and ultimately useful planning process. The most basic and essential planning component is extensive input by those who recreate in the target area. Decisions based on national trends or mere perceptions can become costly mistakes. Public input from probable end users should always serve as the foundation for planning. Providers can invite input through a wide array of methods. Possible techniques include:

- User surveys (via mail, telephone, Internet, on-site, etc.)
- Public hearings
- Town meetings
- Open houses
- Public meetings
- Advisory committees
- Focus groups
- Internet bulletin boards/discussion threads/blogs
- Brainstorming sessions

Not only is it essential to collect public input, but it is also very wise to keep stakeholders and the public updated, informed and involved during the entire planning process.

Another crucial step in the planning process is a thorough analysis of existing conditions. What were the successes and disappointments associated with the completed plan/facility/ etc? What resources are currently available that could meet identified need(s)? What constraints exist? What potential



opportunities exist? The analysis phase should be undertaken early in the planning process and resultant information should be thoroughly documented.

As the planning process proceeds, it is prudent to simultaneously consider several options at a conceptual level. There may be more than one good solution or plan; this is especially true in a site planning situation. The best components of differing concepts may combine into a vastly superior plan or solution. Discussion of various planning concepts and feedback from individuals and stakeholders with different perspectives is critical to a useful and successful plan. The planning process also provides an excellent opportunity to foster improved communication between local agencies and organizations.

As the final product or plan emerges, the astute recreation provider will promote the new plan in the community. Not only will this create local excitement and pride, but also will alert potential partners of the new opportunity to share in future success as the plan comes to fruition.

Implementation Recommendations

- ODNR should continue to assume an essential leadership role in providing statewide outdoor recreation planning and in assessing recreation participation patterns and trends in Ohio.
- Recreation providers should develop strategic and/or comprehensive plans and update these plans on a periodic basis. All such planning should include identification of needs or problems, public participation, analysis of existing conditions and conceptual alternatives.
- Local political subdivisions and, in some instances, non-profit organizations that apply for financial assistance through grant programs, should always seek to demonstrate that recreation needs have been clearly identified and proposed projects represent solutions.
- In terms of local support for a project or initiative, the value of a plan that is up to date and created through the use of a solid planning process should not be underestimated.

- ODNR should assemble and create a toolbox of outdoor recreation planning resources, and make this toolbox available to public agencies, non-profits and others.

Diverse Needs of Outdoor Recreation Participants

The fabric of Ohio's population is becoming increasingly diverse. Considerable racial diversity exists in Ohio; Caucasians, African-Americans, Hispanics and Latinos, Asians, American Indians, Pacific Islanders and a growing number of individuals who are of mixed ancestry all call Ohio home.

According to the latest US census:

- Two-thirds of Ohio households are families
- Thirty percent of Ohio households have children less than 18 years of age
- Twenty-eight percent of Ohioans live alone
- The median age of the average Ohioan is 37 years
- More than 1 million Ohioans, 25 years and older, have never finished high school
- Twelve percent of Ohioans live below poverty level; in Cleveland and Cincinnati more than 25 percent of residents lived below the poverty line in 2006.

The 2006 Ohio Outdoor Recreation Participation and Satisfaction Survey respondents report a median age of 49-52 years. About 5 percent report that English is not the primary language in their home. Inaccessibility of outdoor recreation sites is considered a barrier to participation by 4.3 percent of Ohio households.

What does this mean for the outdoor recreation provider? SCORP planning process participants expressed a desire to be more proactive in adapting facilities and programs to accommodate a wide range of interests and abilities. The



need to better accommodate both the elderly and Spanish speaking people was mentioned repeatedly. The need to better understand and accommodate the comfort levels of various people with differing abilities also was expressed.

Ohio's many economically disadvantaged individuals and families may need extra assistance with such things as transportation and equipment in order

to gain access to Ohio's outdoor recreational opportunities. This may be especially true in the state's low income urban areas. Planning process participants in southeast Ohio related that they are seeing an increasing number of large outdoor events specially designed for physically handicapped individuals and/or economically disadvantaged children from urban areas.

Implementation Recommendations

- Outdoor recreation structural facilities and public parking areas should be designed and built in compliance with federal and state statutes on accessibility, including, but not limited to, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- Recreation providers should try, whenever possible, to design new outdoor recreation areas such as trails, playgrounds, playing fields, etc. in accordance with a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Outdoor Developed Areas (current as of Summer 07). Unless the public area in question is under federal jurisdiction, these are currently guidelines and are not requirements. Additional information and updates are available at www.access-board.gov.
- Information on accessible recreational opportunities should be provided through publications, provider Websites and signage. Where the physical nature of the recreation development is not readily visible, as in a trailhead, it is highly recommended that there be signage posted at the entrance that describes site conditions ahead, thus allowing visitors to decide for themselves whether accessing the site is within their capabilities.
- Identification and research into various cultural heritages and customs of potential outdoor recreation participants should be conducted at the local level for optimum recreation programming and design usefulness.
- Outdoor recreation providers should investigate the attributes of local populations and use this information to design new methods of outreach to assure that all demographic segments have a realistic opportunity to participate in the public discussion.
- Recreation providers should increase efforts to accommodate economically disadvantaged Ohioans who are not being adequately served by existing park and recreation systems.
- Recreation providers should provide programs and opportunities for an ever-growing population of elderly Ohioans.
- Recreation providers should work in partnership with local teachers, activity therapists, ethnic organizations, senior centers and similar supportive groups to bring together available outdoor recreation resources and programs in a way that serves the needs of diverse groups of people.

Maintenance and Rehabilitation

Keeping pace with maintenance needs of outdoor recreation facilities not only extends the life of infrastructure purchased with public dollars, but also is essential for public safety and public enjoyment. If a facility is in poor repair, people will be less likely to use it. In this unfortunate situation there is a real reduction in the return on public investment. Studies show that a well maintained facility is less likely to be vandalized.

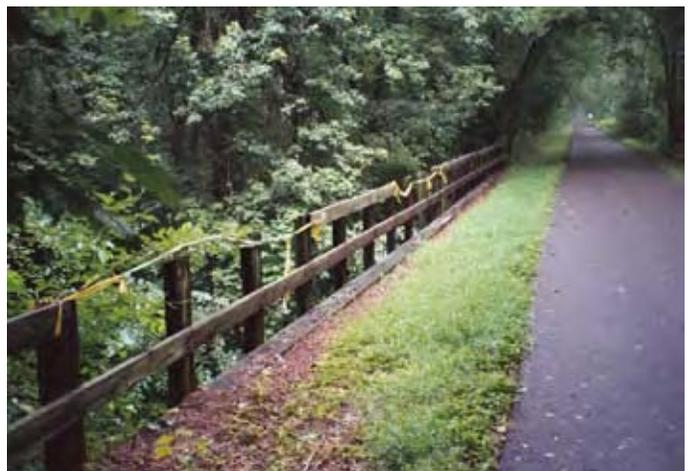
Concern over the significant shortage of funds to support not only facility maintenance and repair, but replacement of failing infrastructure, was expressed across the state during meetings held as a part of the SCORP planning process. Also, quite significantly, more than half (55 percent) of all 2006 Ohio Outdoor Recreation Participation and Satisfaction Survey respondents indicated that more public investment should be spent on maintenance of existing state facilities. No other proposed public spending category garnered more support. This “investment more” sentiment was most prevalent in the southeast region of the state, where more than 65 percent of respondents would like to see the state focus its financial resources on maintenance of existing state facilities.

ODNR continues to struggle to reduce a growing backlog of deferred capital maintenance projects. These include repairs and updates to lodges, cottages, campgrounds, restroom facilities, boating access facilities and other infrastructure that is necessary for public access in Ohio’s state parks. The cost of these deferred projects was estimated at \$300 million in 2005; in late 2007 the estimated cost was more than \$500 million. These increases are due to not only the continued decline of aging and failing infrastructure, but also increasing general inflationary costs, increasing cost of building materials and increasing environmental and public safety regulation.

Implementation Recommendations

- ODNR, and all public agencies that provide outdoor recreational opportunities, should establish a comprehensive maintenance plan for all outdoor recreation facilities.
- The Ohio General Assembly should support ODNR’s efforts to allocate sufficient resources to substantially address deferred maintenance at state facilities.
- A state funding mechanism for rehabilitation and renovation of outdoor recreation facilities should be established by the Ohio General Assembly.
- Ease of maintenance should be a primary consideration in the design of all new outdoor recreation facilities. Projected maintenance costs and a maintenance-funding plan should be an integral part of planning for any new or renovated facility.

- Planning for new outdoor recreation facilities and associated development should always include consideration of environmental, economic and social sustainability. Cost savings realized over time by utilizing a sustainable design can be used to fund maintenance needs.
- Innovative practices such as maintenance trust funds can offset spiraling maintenance costs.
- Recreation providers should exchange ideas on cost effective maintenance practices at conferences and other cooperative venues. In addition, the Web based listserve *opraeconnection*, a clearing house for the exchange of innovative and proven ideas, as well as maintenance ideas and methods, established by the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association, should be continued and expanded.
- Comprehensive maintenance management plans that identify priorities and make optimum use of available funds and staff can efficiently target limited resources. Taking a hard look at the cost-benefit ratios of existing maintenance operations and practices can result in an improved reallocation of limited funds and manpower.
- Where feasible, recreation providers should consider asking volunteers to perform some routine maintenance tasks. These tasks can be woven into a volunteer program along with more enjoyable activities.
- Where feasible, partnerships with local detention centers and court probation systems should be explored. Non-violent offenders with community service requirements might be utilized to perform routine maintenance tasks.
- Youth corps groups, where available, can be utilized to perform routine maintenance tasks.



Public Information

Lack of information about recreation locations ranks third among many reasons that Ohioans cite as a barrier to their participation in outdoor recreation; the first and second being job and family responsibilities respectively. While there is nothing that recreation providers can do to affect the job and family responsibilities of Ohioans, disseminating better information about available recreational opportunities is doable.

Traditional sources of such information include recreation providers, travel and convention bureaus, chambers of commerce, print media (primarily) and, more recently, the Internet. As nearly 30 percent of Ohioans indicate that lack of information is a barrier, apparently existing efforts through these venues is insufficient.

Surveyed Ohioans who indicated lack of information as a barrier to participation predominantly favored the following facilities as being most important to their households. In order of preference, the six most prevalent selections were:

- Campsites
- Outdoor swimming and beach
- Playgrounds in a park
- Picnic areas
- Wildlife observation/photography areas
- Trails

These households were somewhat more likely to live in a region of the state other than the southeast region, have slightly lower incomes, were a little more likely to speak a non-English language as the primary language in the home, and are on average slightly younger than the average survey respondent. However, analysis of the survey data does not reveal a truly significant profile of the Ohioan who reports being hindered from participation in outdoor recreational opportunities through a lack of information. Additional more in-depth studies may be warranted.

Implementation Recommendations

- The State of Ohio, in cooperation with local outdoor recreation providers, should serve as a data clearinghouse for outdoor recreation facility information. This information should be made available to the public via a Web link on the State of Ohio homepage as well as the ODNR Website.
- Recreational opportunities should be attractively, clearly and concisely described on Websites hosted by recreation providers. Links to photos and as much other descriptive information as possible should be built into Websites. Effective methods to differentiate recreational opportunities and create portals on the Web should be researched and adopted.

- Information-disseminating partnerships with local media, schools, libraries, sporting goods stores, etc, can be useful in providing information about available recreational opportunities.
- The unique nuances of the target recreation group should be carefully considered when designing an information strategy. Approaches may need to differ for different groups.
- Present information on outdoor opportunities in terms of the recreation experience offered in addition to the facilities available.
- Establish working partnerships with travel and tourism agencies and organizations. Derive benefits from the research done by these entities.

Youth and Technology

A decline in participation in outdoor recreation, especially by American youth, has been identified as a current trend all across the country. Studies show that if children do not establish a connection to nature in childhood, it is quite likely that they never will. The emerging outcome appears to be a pervasive lack of interest in outdoor recreation activities and, to some degree, a discomfort with the natural world. Visits are down at almost all of our national parks. This trend, which may closely correlate with a “nature deficit disorder,” described in the book *Last Child in the Woods* by Richard Louv, is cause for concern among a great many outdoor recreation advocates, providers, businesses and public officials. Many recent national and state efforts are underway to find a solution to this problem, including the following:

- The U.S. Forest Service recently launched a \$1.5 million “Kids in the Woods” grant program. In May 2007, forest service administrators announced the first round of grant recipients; 24 different programs around the country received funding awards from the forest service and their partners.
- U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander called for the creation of a new national commission on Americans outdoors. This commission will collect ideas and information; identify innovative programs at the local, state and federal levels that are protecting outdoor resources while delivering benefits to the nation and unify recreation and conservation interests. The National Wildlife Federation, American Hiking Society, National Association of State Park Directors and National Recreation and Park Association are all participants in this discussion. This group is currently discussing ways to use Great Outdoors Month (June) 2008 to increase awareness of recreation’s benefits among the nation’s leaders and the public, and includes the possibility of a “Take Your Child Outdoors Day” during that month.

- The National State Park Directors, National Park Service and the Department of the Interior signed a proclamation supporting the “No Child Left Inside” movement in September, 2007. This proclamation committed all three groups to developing programs to get children into the outdoors. Forty-eight of the 50 state park directors were in attendance at the meeting where the proclamation was signed; all voted unanimously in favor of the proclamation.
- In the spring of 2007, the Governor's Outdoors Conference in State College, Pennsylvania assembled public health officials, government agency directors, park managers, nature-related non-profit groups, researchers, retailers and outdoor enthusiasts from across the country to voice concerns and brainstorm for answers. The goal of this event was to evaluate the growing lack of interest in outdoor activities among children and young adults, and gauge the social and economic impact of this trend.



SCORP planning process participants across Ohio also expressed concern that Ohio’s young people are too focused on computers, television, cell phones and video games, and that available time outside of the classroom may be too highly structured. Ohio’s recreation providers unilaterally agreed that getting young people out into the natural world is a very high priority. Outdoor recreation is not only an inexpensive and effective way to maintain good health, both physical and mental, but participation also helps ensure the preservation of natural resource areas. When people become familiar with their local natural resources through outdoor activities they are far more likely to support the wise use and preservation of such valued areas. As Ohio is highly urbanized, the preservation of natural resources within the state is a very significant issue.

Implementation Recommendations

- Ohio’s outdoor recreation stakeholders must work together cooperatively and innovatively to identify and carry out statewide and regional strategies to reverse the current downward trend in outdoor recreation participation by Ohio’s youth.
- The Ohio Parks and Recreation Association, with a number of partners, hosted a series of Healthy Lifestyles Summit events during 2007 to establish well defined strategies and develop a plan of action to promote and increase physical activity among Ohioans. A similar

coordinated statewide strategy and event(s) to address the “nature deficit disorder” in Ohio is highly recommended. This issue has much in common with lifestyle practices addressed in the Healthy Lifestyles Summits.

- Outreach (focus groups, surveys, etc.) to local populations of young people and their parents – in order to gain knowledge about interests, motivational keys, and what introductory venues might attract families and youth to new outdoor recreation activities – may enable recreation providers to better address outdoor reluctant youth.
- Some Ohio parks and other outdoor recreation sites are installing wireless Internet access zones. Information about the success of these areas, and other similar special areas and events, particularly as that success relates to increased visitation by young Ohioans, should be shared among Ohio’s outdoor recreation providers via list serves, conference presentations, newsletters, etc.
- Affordable and easily accessible programming geared towards specific youth groups, including special events with loaner recreation equipment, should be developed and promoted at outdoor recreation sites.
- Sharing with and providing resources to those Ohio school districts that are underprivileged – with a goal of enabling young people to gain better access to Ohio’s natural resources and the outdoors – may result in a greater awareness of outdoor recreational opportunities among Ohio’s school aged children and their families.

Ohio Wetlands

An Ohio update of the National Wetlands Inventory is currently underway and expected to be completed by June 2009; it will serve as the first statewide update since the original inventory in 1974. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources is leading this project in partnership with Ducks Unlimited, Ohio EPA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Lake Erie Commission, The Nature Conservancy, Cleveland Metroparks, Cleveland Natural History Museum, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Ohio Department of Transportation.

The new inventory, used in tandem with the Ohio Wetland Restoration and Mitigation Strategy Blueprint, will provide access to precise wetland data and sound strategies for protection, and will serve as an official addendum to the 2008 SCORP. The location for accessing the information has not yet been finalized. It will be available online at www.fws.gov/nwi/ and ohiodnr.com through the GIS link.

National Wetlands Inventory

The goal of the inventory is to provide Ohioans with current geographically referenced information on the status, extent, characteristics and functions of wetland, riparian, deepwater and related aquatic habitats in priority areas in order to promote the understanding and conservation of these resources.

History

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service originally established the National Wetlands Inventory to develop and provide resource managers with information on the location, extent and types of wetlands and deepwater habitats. When it began, the principal focus of the inventory was to produce maps of wetlands in priority areas for the protection and management of fish and wildlife resources.

Categories

The Ohio EPA's regulatory program for wetlands is found in the wetland antidegradation rule. The wetland antidegradation rule categorizes wetlands based on their function, sensitivity to disturbance, rarity and irreplaceability. It scales the strictness of avoidance, minimization and mitigation to a wetland's category. Three categories were established:

Category 1: Wetlands with minimal wetland function and/or integrity.

Category 2: Wetlands with moderate wetland function and/or integrity.

Category 3: Wetlands with superior wetland function and/or integrity.

This information and more on the Ohio EPA's wetland assessment program can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/bawwg/case/oh1.html>.

Goals

Together the National Wetlands Inventory and the Mitigation Strategy Blueprint represent a multifaceted approach for identifying priority wetlands for acquisition and protection throughout the state. The following three goals will be accomplished through the new research:

- I. Updating of maps in areas of the state that have experienced substantial developmental pressure.
- II. Analyzing changes and trends to wetlands and other aquatic habitats at ecosystem, regional or local levels.
- III. The ability to better identify threats and risks to important wetland and aquatic habitats in order to promote sound decision making.



Summary

New strategic mapping will identify patterns of change in aquatic habitats and locate threatened wetlands. Using this mapping, grassroots organizations and conservation partners will have modern tools to address wetland conservation in Ohio. Once these new tools are in use, information will be available through a variety of formats, making communication of findings more efficient. To learn more about wetlands, visit www.ohiodnr.com/dnap/naturalfeatures

Outdoor Recreation Facility Database

Background Information

The SCORP planning process includes a supply-side component. This component is provided through the Outdoor Recreation Facility Database. The database information developed for the SCORP is composed of outdoor recreation facts, figures and numbers on individual sites throughout Ohio.

Database information was previously collected for earlier SCORPs through the use of student interns. Groups were dispatched throughout the state making site visits to recreational areas to compile recreation facility data. Data collected for use in the 2003 SCORP was compiled by an outside contractor.

Current Information Acquisition Process and Revisions

An ODNR workgroup reviewed the information collected for the 2003 SCORP and determined changes in the database structure were warranted and that data collection methodology should be modified. In order for this database to be adapted for the Web and easily queried; fields were added, further differentiated, combined or removed entirely. For example, detailed boating information is continuously collected by the ODNR Division of Watercraft, so a number of boating-related fields were deleted. Fields were added for facilities such as community gardens and rock-climbing areas. A comment box was also incorporated into the database and proved very helpful in providing information that would not otherwise be known. In this manner, the database was constructed to be more functional, accurate and efficient.



Table 21

List of Fields Within the Outdoor Recreation Facility Database

Site name	Number of miles of fitness trail use
Site address	Number of miles of mountain bike trail use
Site city	Number of miles of APV trail use
State	Number of miles of snowmobile trail use
Site zip code	Number of miles of cross country ski trail use
Site county location	Number of miles of bridle trail use
Site X coordinate	Number of miles of overnight backpack trail use
Site Y coordinate	Number of miles of trail for another use
Site telephone number	Is there an outdoor rock climbing / rappelling area? Y/N
Accessibility (All Areas, Most Areas, Some Areas, or Not Accessible)	Number of full size pools
Type of management agency	Number of wade/splash pools
Name of management agency	Number of other types of swimming pools
Address of management agency	Total number of pools
City of management agency	Number of sunning areas/non sand beaches
State of management agency	Number of sand beaches
Zip code for management agency	Number of acres of sand beach
Website for management agency	Are there community gardens? Y/N
Phone number for management agency	Is there an area for golf? Y/N
E-mail address for management agency	Number of golf holes
Contact name, title	Is there a golf practice area Y/N
Is area open to the public? Y/N	Is there another type of golf Y/N
Is a permit required? Y/N	Number of outdoor basketball courts
Is a fee required? Y/N	Number of soccer fields
Number of land acres within the site	Number of football fields
Number of wetland acres within the site	Number of Lacrosse fields
Total land and wetland acres	Number of field hockey fields
Is boating permitted? Y/N	Number of other athletic fields
Name of waterway where boating is permitted	Number of tennis courts
Is there a boat launch? Y/N	Number of volleyball courts
Is there a dock facility or marina? Y/N	Number of ball diamonds
Is there a waterway where boating is not permitted? Y/N	Number of other game fields or courts
How many acres in size is this 'no boating' waterway?	Is there a running track at the site? Y/N
Is fishing permitted? Y/N	Is there an outdoor equestrian ring at the site? Y/N
Number of fishing platforms	Is there an inline hockey area at the site? Y/N
Number of parking spaces	Is there an outdoor climbing wall at the site? Y/N
Are there lighted outdoor areas? Y/N	Is there any type of camping at the site? Y/N
Are there flush restrooms? Y/N	Number of campsites for backpacking (hike in)
Are there other restroom types? Y/N	Number of primitive campsites
Is there a shower house? Y/N	Number of campsites for tents only
Is there drinking water? Y/N	Number of campsites with no electric services
Number of playgrounds	Number of campsites with electric service only
Number of nature centers	Number of campsites with full utility service
Number of picnic tables	Number of horse camp sites
Number of picnic shelters	Number of group camp areas
Number of enclosed shelters	Is there a camp store at the site? Y/N
Does the site have grills? Y/N	Is there a laundromat at the site? Y/N
Does the site have a snack bar? Y/N	Is there a skate park at the site? Y/N
Is there an amphitheatre at the site? Y/N	Is there a BMX area at the site? Y/N
Are there horseshoe pits at the site? Y/N	Is there a sledding slope at the site? Y/N
Are there trails at the site? Y/N	Number of downhill ski runs
Number of miles of paved trail	Is there an outdoor ice rink at the site? Y/N
Number of miles of crushed fines trail	Is there an archery area at the site? Y/N
Number of miles of unpaved trail	Is there a clay target areas at the site? Y/N
Total number of miles of trail (all surfaces)	Is there a rifle pistol area at the site? Y/N
	Number of acres open to hunting

After the database was reformatted, the process to verify the outdoor recreation sites identified in earlier phases included the following:

- Through the use of Web sites or other resources, an attempt was made to verify all existing database information.
- Numerous checks were put in place. For example, the ODNR Division of Watercraft database was used as a resource to recheck existing water acres, launch ramp and dock information.
- Two large mailings were sent out. The first included a mailing to approximately 1,000 public agencies; and 1,600 to private outdoor clubs, campgrounds and other similar entities. More than 6,300 outdoor recreation sites were sent out to be verified by these 2,600 management agencies. The response rate was approximately 30-40 percent.
- A second mailing went out in 2007 to all agencies that did not respond to the initial mailing. The response rate increased to 60 percent. Telephone calls were also made to outdoor recreation providers that are open on a limited basis or seasonally. Based on the information that was returned, the number of management agencies increased by 55 and the number of actual sites increased by 1,100.

Presently there are a total of 7,500 outdoor recreation sites; 60 percent or 4,530 of them have been verified by a management agency. The approximately 2,952 remaining sites have not been verified at the time of this publication.

Utilization

The 2003 SCORP included the following priority:

Improved data and information on Ohio's recreation resources and facilities is needed. A significant percentage (30.2) of respondents to the 1997 Ohio Outdoor Recreation Participation Study lacked sufficient information about recreation opportunities in the state.

Likewise, 29.7 percent of those who responded to the 2006 ODNR Outdoor Recreation Participation and Satisfaction Survey reported that lack of information about recreation sites is a barrier to participation. This indicated that in spite of increased Internet access in Ohio homes, this situation has not appreciably improved.

While the accumulated data is presently a part of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the database eventually will be available through the ODNR Web site. Individuals and agencies with a customized database information request can contact the ODNR Division of Real Estate & Land Management Recreation Services Section at 614-265-6646.



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Appendix A:

2006 Ohio Outdoor Recreation Participation and Satisfaction Survey

2006 Ohio Outdoor Recreation Participation and Satisfaction Survey

	<p>As Ohio plans for the future, we must first assess the outdoor recreation participation needs of our most important customer, you, the Ohian. The questions below ask about activities that you and/or members of your household may have participated in during 2006. Please keep in mind that all questions pertain to OUTDOOR recreation activities only. By HOUSEHOLD we mean any or all of the adults and children who permanently lived in your residence in 2006. Please answer each question completely. All responses will be kept strictly confidential.</p>
---	---

A. Please tell us how often your household participated in each of the following activities in 2006 in OHIO. Enter the total number of times your household participated in each activity on PUBLIC and PRIVATE lands and waters in OHIO, even if it was for a short period of time. Leave the response area blank if your household did not participate in that activity in 2006.

- Number of times**
1. **Wildlife observation and/or wildlife photography in PUBLIC areas**
- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Birdwatching |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Other wildlife viewing |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Visited nature preserve |
2. **Boating**
- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Sail, powerboat, canoe, kayak, Jet Ski, etc. |
|----------------------|----------------------|--|
3. **Fishing**
- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | From shore or pier |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
4. **Camping**
- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Backpack camping |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Campsite without electric or water |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Campsite with electric and/or water |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Cabin |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Designated group camp |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Horse camp |
5. **Hunting**
- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Bow, shotgun, etc. |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
6. **Picnicking**
- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Picnicking |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Special event picnicking using a shelter |
7. **Playground**
- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Visited a playground in a park |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
8. **Winter sports**
- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Downhill skiing/snowboarding |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Cross country skiing |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Snow sledding |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Ice skating outdoors |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Snowmobiling |
9. **Bicycling for transportation**
- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Bicycling specifically for transportation |
|----------------------|----------------------|---|
10. **Golf**
- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | 9-18 hole course |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Driving/practice range |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Disc golf |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Miniature golf |

- Number of times**
11. **Trail activities**
- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Mountain biking |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Bicycling on bike trail for recreation |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Inline/roller-skating |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Hiking/walking/jogging on trail |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Exercising on fitness trail |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Horseback riding on trail |
12. **Motorized trail activities on PUBLIC lands**
- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | ATV riding at Wayne NF or ODNR Forest APV area |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Off road motorcycle at Wayne NF or ODNR Forest APV area |
13. **Motorized trail activities on PRIVATE lands**
- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | ATV riding/off road motorcycling |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Off road 4-wheel driving |
14. **Field and court sports**
- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Football/soccer/lacrosse and/or field hockey |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Track and field |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Baseball or softball |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Volleyball |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Tennis |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Basketball |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Other |
15. **Outdoor swimming and beach**
- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Public or club pool |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Lake/river/stream |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Wave pool/lazy river/spray park |
16. **Shooting sports**
- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Skeet, trap, archery, etc. |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
17. **Other outdoor recreation activities**
- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Scenic drive on public lands |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Visiting dog park |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Skateboard or BMX |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Rock climbing or outdoor climbing wall |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Orienteering or geo-caching |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | Horseback riding at outdoor arena |
- (Continued next page)

Number
of times

17. Other outdoor recreation activities (continued)

Gardening at community garden
Kite flying or remote control
Other (please specify)

Number
of times

Horseshoes
Corn toss/hole

B. Many things prevent people from participating more often in outdoor recreation. Please tell us why your household DID NOT participate more often in OHIO in 2006. Fill in the circle opposite all items that apply. Correct mark: ● Incorrect mark: ⊗

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Sites are too far away | <input type="radio"/> Lack of information about recreation sites | <input type="radio"/> Job responsibilities |
| <input type="radio"/> Sites are too crowded | <input type="radio"/> Friends do not participate | <input type="radio"/> Family responsibilities |
| <input type="radio"/> Sites seem unsafe | <input type="radio"/> Participation costs too much | <input type="radio"/> User conflict |
| <input type="radio"/> Sites are poorly maintained | <input type="radio"/> Sites are often inaccessible to physically challenged | <input type="radio"/> Poor health |
| <input type="radio"/> Inadequate parking at sites | <input type="radio"/> Desired facilities are not available | <input type="radio"/> Not comfortable outdoors |
| <input type="radio"/> Lack of transportation | <input type="radio"/> Lack of recreation skills | <input type="radio"/> Not interested |
| <input type="radio"/> Gas prices too high | | |

C. Fill in the circle that BEST represents how satisfied your household was with your outdoor recreation experiences in OHIO in 2006. If you did not participate, please mark Not Applicable. Correct mark: ● Incorrect mark: ⊗

	Dissatisfied	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Not Applicable
1. Wildlife observation/photography	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Boating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Fishing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Camping	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Hunting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Picnicking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Playground activities in a park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. Winter sports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. Bicycling for transportation purposes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. Golf	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11. Trail activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12. Motorized trail riding on PUBLIC lands (Wayne NF, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13. Motorized trail riding on PRIVATE lands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14. Field and court sports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15. Outdoor swimming and beach	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16. Shooting sports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17. Other outdoor recreation activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

D. Fill in the circle opposite the THREE outdoor recreation facilities that are most important to your household. Select only THREE.

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Wildlife observation/photography areas | <input type="radio"/> Fields and courts | <input type="radio"/> Playground in a park | <input type="radio"/> Motorized trails | <input type="radio"/> Trails |
| <input type="radio"/> Outdoor swimming and beach areas | <input type="radio"/> Hunting areas | <input type="radio"/> Winter sport areas | <input type="radio"/> Picnic areas | <input type="radio"/> Camp sites |
| <input type="radio"/> Bicycle routes for transportation | <input type="radio"/> Fishing access | <input type="radio"/> Shooting sports areas | <input type="radio"/> Boat access | <input type="radio"/> Golf |
| <input type="radio"/> Other outdoor facilities | | | | |

E. Please ESTIMATE the one-way time and distance for your THREE most preferred outdoor recreation sites in OHIO that your household visited in 2006. For example, if it takes 30 minutes to get to a site 20 miles away in Ross County, write 30 under the minutes column, 20 in the miles column, and Ross in the county column. Remember report on up to THREE activities only.

	Approximate minutes one-way to site	Approximate miles one-way to site	County where site is located														
1. Wildlife observation/photography site	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td></tr><tr><td></td></tr></table>		
2. Boating site	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td></tr><tr><td></td></tr></table>		
3. Fishing site	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td></tr><tr><td></td></tr></table>		
4. Camping site	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td></tr><tr><td></td></tr></table>		
5. Hunting area	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td></tr><tr><td></td></tr></table>		
6. Picnicking area	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td></tr><tr><td></td></tr></table>		
7. Playground in park	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td></tr><tr><td></td></tr></table>		
8. Winter sports site	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td></tr><tr><td></td></tr></table>		
9. Golf	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td></tr><tr><td></td></tr></table>		
10. Trail	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td></tr><tr><td></td></tr></table>		
11. Motorized trail	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td></tr><tr><td></td></tr></table>		
12. Field and court site	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td></tr><tr><td></td></tr></table>		
13. Outdoor swimming and beach area	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td></tr><tr><td></td></tr></table>		
14. Shooting sports area	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td></tr><tr><td></td></tr></table>		
15. Other outdoor recreation site	<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>							<table border="1"><tr><td></td></tr><tr><td></td></tr></table>		

F. Listed below are several ways in which the State of Ohio could SPEND TAXPAYER MONEY to improve public outdoor recreation opportunities. Please tell us how much the State of Ohio should invest in each, assuming these investments must be made from existing limited funds. Fill in the circle that best represents your opinion.

	Reduce Investment	Invest About Same	Invest More
1. Improve public access to Lake Erie	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Improve public access to the Ohio River	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Improve access to other Ohio lakes and rivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Purchase land for active and or sport based recreation opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Purchase land for passive, quiet nature-based recreation opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Develop additional facilities at existing state parks, forests, and nature preserves	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Focus on maintenance of existing state facilities (state parks, forests, and nature preserves)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. Improve outdoor recreation opportunities in urban areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. Improve access to outdoor recreation areas for disabled/elderly (when feasible)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



G. Please estimate the amount of money spent by your household during 2006 to participate in outdoor recreation activities in OHIO.

Amount (\$)	Activity	Amount (\$)	Activity
<input type="text"/>	1. Lodging (cabin, campsite, etc.)	<input type="text"/>	11. Motorized recreation vehicles and equipment
<input type="text"/>	2. Meals	<input type="text"/>	12. Field sport equipment (bats, balls, etc.)
<input type="text"/>	3. Transportation	<input type="text"/>	13. Court sport equipment (rackets, balls, etc.)
<input type="text"/>	4. Hunting and shooting equipment	<input type="text"/>	14. Golf equipment
<input type="text"/>	5. Fishing equipment	<input type="text"/>	15. Winter sports equipment
<input type="text"/>	6. Camping equipment	<input type="text"/>	16. Guide, charter, and outfitter fees
<input type="text"/>	7. Boating equipment (boat, sails, etc.)	<input type="text"/>	17. User fees (golf, camping, docking, etc.)
<input type="text"/>	8. Trail equipment (bikes, backpacks, etc.)	<input type="text"/>	18. Information (charts, field guides, etc.)
<input type="text"/>	9. Observation equipment (cameras, etc.)	<input type="text"/>	19. Swimming/beach equipment (suits, towels, etc.)
<input type="text"/>	10. Fitness equipment	<input type="text"/>	20. Equine expenses

H. Approximately what percentage of your household's TOTAL outdoor recreation participation takes place on OHIO lands and waters owned or controlled by local, county, state, or federal governments or parks districts? %

I. Approximately what percentage of your household's total outdoor recreation participation takes place in states OTHER than OHIO? %

J. When does your household typically participate in outdoor recreation activities? (Mark all that apply)
 Rarely Some weekends Most weekends Some weekdays Most weekdays Every day

K. In an average week, how many total hours does your household devote to outdoor recreation activities? Hours

L. For up to 2 adults in your household, please answer the following:

	Adult 1	Adult 2
What is the adult's age?	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Years
How long has this adult participated in outdoor recreation?	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Years	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Years

M. How many children under the age of 18 currently live in your household?

N. Is English the primary language in your household? Yes No

O. What was your TOTAL 2006 household income before taxes?
 \$0-\$20,000 \$20,001-\$40,000 \$40,001-\$60,000 \$60,001-\$100,000 \$100,001-\$150,000 Over \$150,000

P. Would you like to receive a coupon in the mail for one free night of camping at an Ohio State Park campground? Coupon must be used with one paid night and is good Sunday through Thursday. Yes No

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this survey!



Ohio Department of Natural Resources
 2045 Morse Rd.
 Columbus, OH 43229
 Ted Strickland, *Governor*
 Sean D. Logan, *Director*



An Equal Opportunity Employer

Appendix B:

2003 SCORP Issues and Updates

A number of issues and implementation recommendations were identified in Ohio's 2003 SCORP. Through a variety of programs and efforts, often involving multiple partnerships, significant progress has been made on many of these recommendations. The following partial list of summarized 2003 SCORP issues and recommendations includes updates provided by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and others – these selected issues and recommendations were particularly germane to ODNR.

2003 Issue: **Recreation Resource Protection**

The necessity of a high-quality, natural resource base to support popular outdoor activities such as wildlife-related activities, camping, hiking and boating was discussed in the 2003 SCORP. With Ohio's continued population growth, pressures on natural resources have become more intense. Habitat loss and degradation, development pressure, suburban sprawl and surrounding incompatible land uses, erosion, pollution and intensive farming were all identified as issues of concern.

The 2003 SCORP included the following implementation recommendations. Progress toward fulfilling these recommendations by ODNR and other agencies is discussed after each recommendation:

2003 Recommendation: Protect Ohio's natural systems, native habitats and recreational resources with conservation assistance and acquisition.

Progress made: Since its inception in 2001, the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund, administered by the Ohio Public Works Commission, has funded more than 500 projects, thus protecting nearly 26,000 acres of environmentally sensitive lands and open space in Ohio for future generations. In addition, between 2000 and 2005, the Trust for Public Land in Ohio conserved approximately 5,000 acres.

2003 Recommendation: ODNR should continue to update the Natural Heritage Database to increase visibility with government agencies, planners, engineers, developers, etc.

Progress made: The ODNR Division of Natural Areas & Preserves (DNAP) maintains the Natural Heritage Database. The division continues to partner with key government agencies to provide statistical information on the state's

flora and fauna for the database. These agencies include the Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio EPA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition, DNAP staff work closely with conservation groups such as The Nature Conservancy, the Western Reserve Conservancy, Cleveland Museum of Natural History and many county and local park systems. DNAP annually receives at least 1,300 requests for this data from consultants, developers, government agencies and researchers. More than 4,400 new records have been added to the Natural Heritage Database since January 2003.

2003 Recommendation: ODNR should implement a comprehensive program to identify point and non-point source pollution of watersheds and coordinate protection of water resources.

Progress made: Since 1997 watershed coordinators across Ohio have worked with a diverse partnership of stakeholders to develop and implement watershed action plans. These plans are reviewed and endorsed by the ODNR Division of Soil & Water Conservation and the Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water.

Through the Ohio Watershed Coordinator Grant Program ODNR and the Ohio EPA have endorsed 40 local watershed action plans to date. See Figure 3.

2003 Recommendation: ODNR should cooperate with political subdivisions and private landowners to preserve stream banks along riparian corridors.

In 2001, the ODNR Division of Wildlife (DOW) began operating under a new Strategic Plan 2001 – 2010. This new strategic plan focuses on habitat conservation (forest, wetland, streams) versus species conservation (deer, turkey, walleye). As a result of this new strategic plan, a streams program was started since this was a habitat type which had been largely overlooked. This new stream program is focused on stream restoration and protection via dam and levee removals, cattle fencing and riparian land conservation (easements & fee acquisitions) in Ohio's highest quality streams.

Progress made: Since 2003 the DOW has been involved with 19 riparian protection projects. These projects involved either the purchase of conservation easements from private landowners, fee-simple acquisitions by park districts, or land trusts and focused on riparian corridor protection versus upland habitat. These 19 projects include 3,522 acres of permanently

protected riparian corridor that cover 15 miles of river main stems (8-digit HUC code) as well as 19.3 miles of tributary streams (intermittent and perennial streams – blue lines on topographic maps). These stream projects were accomplished through partnership efforts with the following 12 entities:

- Ashtabula SWCD
- Cleveland Museum of Natural History
- Ducks Unlimited
- Fairfield Historical Park Preservation Commission
- Grand River Partners, Inc. (a land trust)
- Knox County Park District
- NOAA
- ODNR Division of Natural Areas & Preserves
- Ohio Valley Resource Conservation and Development
- Ross County Park District
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

These projects typically involved DOW providing full or partial funding for the easements or fee simple acquisitions. The division's funds were often critical as local match monies required by the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program. All easements and fee-simple acquisitions are held by these 12 partners.

Since 2003 a livestock exclusion fencing program also has been effective in several watersheds across the state, resulting in the protection of more than 22 miles of riparian habitat. Affected streams include Killbuck Creek, Eagle Creek, White Oak Creek, the East Fork of Little Miami River and Ohio Brush Creek. This program was accomplished via partnerships with various soil and water conservation districts in the watersheds of the referenced streams.

2003 Issue: Recreation Resource Financing

Financing all aspects of recreation services (planning, acquisition, development, programming and maintenance) was one of the most pressing problems facing recreation providers in 2003. SCORP public input indicated a need for more consistent and stable funding sources. Financing issues included greater pressure on resources, facilities and programs coupled with increased difficulty in obtaining funds to maintain existing infrastructure and meet new needs. Park, recreation and outdoor programs were often given a lower priority in budgeting decisions. Increased operating costs, deteriorating infrastructures and higher land acquisition costs often led to reduced programs, neglected maintenance and delayed land acquisition. Demand for assistance from state and federal grants seemed to always far exceed availability.

The 2003 SCORP included the following implementation recommendations. Progress towards fulfilling these recommendations is discussed after each recommendation:

2003 Recommendation: Encourage Congress to establish a national trust for outdoor recreation acquisition/development

Progress made: The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), with assistance from various organizations, helped to create an additional revenue source for stateside Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in 2006. The 109th Congress provided for some additional funding for LWCF through HR 6111.

This allowed expansion of offshore oil and gas drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico and provided for 12.5 percent of royalties to go stateside LWCF over a 10-year period (2007 – 2016).

Although Congress intended a long term, dedicated funding source for the LWCF stateside program, revenues from new leases that would be dedicated to LWCF are not expected to be significant for the first 10 years. It is estimated that revenues in the first 10 years will not begin until 2009 and will range from \$10 million per year to \$40 million per year, for a total of \$150 million anticipated over the ten year period from 2007-2016.

According to initial congressional analysis, royalty revenues are expected to grow after 2016 to approximately \$100 million per year or more, but would be capped at a maximum of \$125 million. This level of revenues to be dedicated to the program will not even begin until 2017, when a 10 year budget cap that restricts revenues generated during the first 10 years of the Act is lifted. A key provision of this legislation is that the 12.5 percent of lease revenues that are expected to be dedicated to LWCF will not be subject to further annual appropriations. This would be an historic precedent for funding this program. Thus, once revenues ramp up, the LWCF state-assistance program should have a reasonable expectation of sustainable funding that could eventually supplant most annual appropriations, and alleviate the annual appropriations fights and fluctuations in funding during lean federal budget years.

2003 Recommendation: Congress should continue to fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program, Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG P), Clean Vessel Act (CVA), and reauthorize the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), Transportation Enhancements (TE), Scenic Byways and other transportation programs that benefit bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Progress made: Although UPARR is not currently funded, Congress has continued to provide funding for the LWCF, BIG P and CVA grant programs. The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, passed by Congress in 2005, provided gradually increasing funding amounts for the National Scenic Byways, RTP and TE programs through federal fiscal year 2009.

2003 Recommendation: Ohio General Assembly should fund state outdoor recreation agencies, NatureWorks and Clean Ohio Conservation Fund.

Progress made: From 2003 to 2007 more than \$8 million dollars in grants were awarded to local communities through the NatureWorks program. Over the last four rounds the program averaged 173 applications and funded an average of 94 projects. On average, 71 Ohio counties were awarded grants each round. Also, the Clean Ohio program is widely considered to have been very successful; Ohio stakeholders are looking forward to the continuation of this important program.

2003 Recommendation: Congress should establish permanent federal funding program for wildlife diversity activities.

Progress made: To date, Congress has not created any permanent funding mechanisms for wildlife diversity activities, but has provided annual appropriations for the State Wildlife Grant Program. Efforts to create permanent funding are ongoing. In fact, legislation is currently before Congress to create permanent funding, but the outcome of this legislation was unknown at time of this publication's printing.

2003 Issue:
Land Acquisition

Participants in the SCORP 2003 public-input process expressed strong support for the acquisition of land for recreational use. The lack of available land for recreation was considered a serious problem by many agencies and citizens. In the 1997 SCORP survey, the *purchase (of) land for recreation* was the highest priority for investment of public resources for recreation development. The Clean Ohio ballot initiative in 2000 sought to address this. The need to preserve open space/outdoor recreation lands continued to be exacerbated by population growth and development.

The 2003 SCORP included the following implementation recommendations. Significant progress by ODNR and other

agencies towards fulfilling these recommendations is discussed after each recommendation:

2003 Recommendation: ODNR should expand all park, forest, wildlife areas and nature preserves where acquisition is available.

Progress made: For the period January 2003 through summer 2007 ODNR acquired the following lands for public outdoor recreation use:

- Division of Forestry 282 acres
- Div. of Parks and Recreation (N. Bass Island) 549 acres
- Division of Natural Areas & Preserves 789 acres
- Division of Wildlife 15,946 acres

Additionally, during the same time period, ODNR placed 16,271 acres under conservation easement for the public benefit. These acquisitions, both fee simple and easement, were funded through partnerships with the LWCF, USFWS and others.

2003 Recommendation: Ohio General Assembly should continue to fund Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program.

Progress made: Approximately \$37.5 million has been available each round of funding since the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program was created in 2001. To date, the program has funded more than 500 projects valued at more than \$297 million, thus protecting and enhancing nearly 26,000 acres. The next opportunity for an appropriation to the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund is the upcoming 2009-2010 Capital Biennium.

2003 Issue:
Recreation Corridors/Greenways

Many participants in the 2003 SCORP planning process requested that ODNR take a more proactive leadership role in Ohio's trail movement. ODNR subsequently undertook a comprehensive planning process to guide the development and expansion of a statewide system of recreation trails/corridors/greenways throughout Ohio. The ultimate vision of this effort was to link public lands, natural and scenic areas and communities with a multi-modal, accessible trail system.

The 2003 SCORP included the following implementation recommendations. Significant progress by ODNR and other agencies towards fulfilling these recommendations is discussed after each recommendation:

2003 Recommendation: ODNR should complete an updated statewide trails plan for Ohio.

Progress made: In April 2005 ODNR published *Trails for Ohioans, A Plan for the Future*. This plan is available at ohiodnr.com.

2003 Recommendation: ODNR and ODOT should give priority to projects that establish linkages and connections to statewide, regional and community trail systems and other places of interest when administering the Clean Ohio Trails Fund, federal Recreational Trails Program and the Transportation Enhancement Program.

Progress made: Scoring criteria for all three trail-grant programs - Clean Ohio Trails Fund, Recreational Trails Program and the Transportation Enhancement Program - include scoring points for projects that further the completion of missing links or extensions to existing trails and provide access to schools, workplaces, shopping and other major community destinations.

2003 Recommendation: ODNR should work to preserve remaining canal lands for recreational, environmental and historic uses.

Progress made: In the autumn of 2005 ODNR hosted the formation of a stakeholder canal lands policy advisory group. The advisory group, which met monthly for one year, consisted of representatives from Ohio Greenways, the City of Akron, National Park Service, Summit and Stark counties, the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition, Miami & Erie Canal Corridor Association and the Village of Minster. As a result, a set of criteria was established and is currently used whenever the sale of a canal land parcel is under consideration by ODNR.

The ODNR Division of Water maintains and operates the Miami & Erie and Ohio & Erie Canal systems, and actively works with local partners to preserve and develop the remnants of Ohio's canal system. A recent master plan for the Confluence Regional Conservation Area (about 2,300 acres of public and private lands in Summit County) was developed through a partnership between Metro Parks Serving Summit County, the City of Akron, ODNR Division of Water and the Ohio & Erie Canalway Corridor Coalition. This plan has resulted in multiple successes, including construction of multi-purpose trails on the canal towpath, and several land acquisitions and donations. The division also has collaborated with partners along the Miami & Erie Canal in western Ohio to produce a master plan for the Miami & Erie Canal Corridor from the City of Delphos south to the City of Piqua. Several local park districts

have received funds for the construction of a multi-purpose trail on the existing canal towpath. A Lease Management Agreement also is currently being prepared that will allow the Auglaize County Park District to develop and manage the canal within Auglaize County for recreational purposes. The division also is actively working with the City of St. Marys to preserve and develop Lock 13 located in its downtown.

2003 Recommendation: ODOT and local agencies should consider trail development when planning highway construction/renovation projects.

Progress made: Effective April 26, 2005, the ODOT policy on "Accommodating Bicycle and Pedestrian Travel on ODOT Owned or Maintained Facilities" (Policy No. 20-004 (P)) states the following:

When developing a transportation improvement project as part of the ODOT Project Development Process (PDP), ODOT will consider and analyze how, when and where to accommodate bicycle and / or pedestrian travel within the planning study area. Consideration should be based on three criteria: safety, feasibility and local desire and potential for use.

2003 Recommendation: Recreation providers should help promote "Safe Routes" programs where children walk and bicycle to school.

Progress made: The Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS), a federal program that provides limited funds to states to improve the ability of primary and middle school students to walk and bicycle to school safely, is now administered through ODOT.

2003 Issue: Water-Based Recreation

Ohio's abundance of water resources has long provided an excellent environment for many water-based recreational activities, including lake swimming, fishing in streams and lakes, boating, and swimming and sunbathing at pools and water parks, as well as numerous other activities. Research from the 2003 SCORP revealed that a number of factors were somewhat negatively influencing water-based recreation on and in Ohio's water resources.

At that time several planning efforts related to water-based recreation were ongoing within ODNR. These included a planning effort to improve recreational access to Ohio's streams and the Boating on Ohio Waterways Plan, not yet published in 2003.

The need to balance competing uses for water resources, including recreation, water sales and withdrawals, hydro-electric power generation and wastewater assimilation also was discussed and identified as a then-current water resource issue.

The 2003 SCORP included the following implementation recommendations. Significant progress by ODNR and other agencies towards fulfilling these recommendations is discussed after each recommendation:

2003 Recommendation: ODNR should complete the Boating on Ohio Waterways Plan (BOW Plan) that identifies strategies for improving boating opportunities in Ohio.

Progress made: The ODNR Division of Watercraft completed the BOW Plan in 2004 and is in the process of implementing various plan recommendations. These include focusing on specific types of boating facility development on Lake Erie, inland lakes and the Ohio River and providing more transient facilities on Lake Erie and the Ohio River. In addition, new ramps and marinas should be designed to accommodate larger boats, and boating facilities should be both well-maintained and highly functional, allowing for ease of access and minimization of user conflict.

2003 Recommendation: The ODNR Division of Watercraft will identify priority areas for transient boating facility development with an emphasis on Lake Erie.

Progress made: The ODNR Division of Watercraft has identified priority areas for transient boating. These include Cleveland, Port Clinton, Sandusky and the Lake Erie Islands. Second-priority areas include Toledo, Lorain, Fairport Harbor and Ashtabula/Conneaut.

2003 Recommendation: The ODNR Division of Watercraft will identify inland boating facility needs and recommendations for providing additional amenities for boaters.

Progress made: Launch facilities on unlimited horsepower lakes should be improved as warranted by poor facility conditions and boating access demand. These include, but are not limited to, the following improvements: expanded parking, additional ramps, improved traffic flow, restrooms, boarding docks, lighting and informational boards.

2003 Recommendation: The ODNR Division of Watercraft will distribute the publication, "Ohio Boating Facilities, Guidelines and Standards," to assist recreation providers in properly designing and constructing boating facilities.

Progress made: The ODNR Division of Watercraft will continue to distribute this publication to assist recreation providers in properly designing and constructing boating facilities. This publication is scheduled to be updated in 2008-09.

2003 Recommendation: ODNR should complete the "Discover Ohio's Water Trails Initiative," which identifies strategies for improving river/stream access sites in partnership with local communities, boating organizations and other interested agencies.

Progress made: ODNR has completed the "Discover Ohio's Water Trails Initiative." This initiative identified strategies for improving river/stream access sites in Ohio in partnership with local communities, boating organizations and other interested agencies. The Division of Watercraft is currently in the process of developing a statewide comprehensive water trails plan.

2003 Recommendation: Recreation providers should promote the marking, modification and/or removal of dams to enhance safety for water-based recreation users

Progress made: Since January 2003, nine dams have been removed from Ohio streams. These dams were located on the Huron River, Cuyahoga River (2), Mahoning River (2), Olentangy River, Ottawa River, Sandusky River and an unnamed river. Three additional dam removal projects are currently in process; these are on the Stillwater River, Buck Creek and the Mad River. Whitewater access projects will be developed as a part of the two latter dam removal projects.

2003 Recommendation: The ODNR Division of Watercraft will develop specific recommendations for new activity zones on waterways that are responsive to the needs of boaters and current use patterns.

Progress made: The ODNR Division of Watercraft will continue to maintain consistent rules and regulations on Ohio's waterways as a general practice. On a case-by-case basis, site-specific recommendations and rules for particular

waterways also will be developed, where appropriate, to reduce user conflict, thus maintaining a positive recreational boating experience.

2003 Recommendation: The ODNR should continue to implement educational programs and disseminate information to the public on boating opportunities in Ohio.

Progress made: The ODNR Division of Watercraft continuously implements educational programs and disseminates information to the boating public. *The Buckeye Boater*, available at ohiodnr.com/watercraft, is an online boating newsletter and a good example of recent innovative efforts.

2003 Recommendation: Within the constraints of the individual waterways, the ODNR should continually assess methods to increase boating access.

Progress made: In March 2006, the ODNR Division of Watercraft completed the Comprehensive Boating Facilities Plan. This plan identifies all public powerboat access locations in Ohio. As part of this effort, a condition assessment was completed at each inventoried facility. This data was analyzed and, as a result, facility development and/or improvements were recommended for a number of access points. In particular, the study revealed that launch and marina facilities on unlimited and high-horsepower waterways often warrant improvement due to poor existing conditions coupled with a high demand for boating access.

2003 Recommendation: The ODNR should continue to cooperate and coordinate with political subdivisions to preserve stream banks along scenic river corridors through management plans and recommendations, and should offer technical assistance, including model land use regulations.

Progress made: In 2005, the ODNR Division of Natural Areas & Preserves Scenic Rivers staff participated in the Big Darby Accord, an effort to develop a land-use plan for the western Franklin County portion of the Big Darby Watershed. This area is critical to the protection of the Big Darby stream as it is a rapidly urbanizing area and will be subject to a dramatic increase in impervious surfaces over the next 10 years. Scenic Rivers Program staff was instrumental in applying pressure to limit the total amount of impervious surface coverage of this area to less than 10 percent – a significant achievement given that a 10 percent or greater impervious surface coverage of a stream’s

watershed has been shown to lead to declines in biological diversity and the loss of sensitive species. Program staff also was instrumental in promoting the establishment of riparian buffer and floodplain protection, as well as enhanced levels of stormwater treatment. Scenic Rivers Program staff continued to participate in the implementation of the Big Darby Accord through 2006 and into 2007.

Also in 2005, DNAP designated 22 miles of the Conneaut Creek in Ashtabula County as wild and scenic. As the result of a \$1 million Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program grant based on a sponsorship agreement between the DNAP and the City of Conneaut, significant progress was made in protecting property along Conneaut Creek.

In 2006, a complicated conservation easement was purchased on the Picard tract of the Grand River. The 342.5-acre easement protects nearly two miles of river frontage on this state scenic river. The project had many partners including NOAA, The Nature Conservancy and the ODNR Divisions of Wildlife and Natural Areas & Preserves. The project cost nearly \$700,000.

A study to designate portions of the Clear Fork and main stem of the Mohican River in Ashland, Coshocton, Holmes and Knox Counties was completed in November 2006. On December 28, 2006, the Mohican River became Ohio’s 13th state scenic river with the addition of 32.3 miles to the Ohio Scenic Rivers program.

DNAP staff recently received a \$968,000 Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship Program grant for a project to purchase a 215-acre parcel on the Little Darby Creek State and National Scenic River in Madison County. This project was completed in October 2007. The Scenic Rivers Program also secured \$845,000 from various partners including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ODNR Division of Wildlife and Columbus and Franklin County Metropolitan Park District to purchase another 100-acre parcel along the Little Darby Creek in the Village of West Jefferson. This project should be completed in late 2007. The purchase of these properties will provide for the protection of sections of the Little Darby known to be inhabited by the state and federally endangered *Pleurobema clava* mussel.

2003 Issue: Wildlife Recreation

Despite a general trend of decreased fishing and hunting license sales, wildlife-associated recreation in Ohio - fishing, hunting, trapping, observing, photographing and feeding wildlife - continued to be popular. Both the 1997 Ohio Outdoor Recreation Participation Study and the 2006 *National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-related*

Recreation results show wildlife observation to be the most popular outdoor activity.

ODNR's Division of Wildlife (DOW) initiated a strategic planning process in early 1999, which focused on the identification of various strategic issues that would be of major significance over the next decade. The *Division of Wildlife Strategic Plan 2001-2010* was published early in 2001.

- **Access** – The current amount of public land for wildlife recreation is not meeting public demand. The insufficient amount of space results in user conflicts on lands and bodies of water.

- **Public Understanding of Wildlife** – Many Ohioans do not understand the importance of wildlife management and the role of habitat in conserving wildlife and providing wildlife recreational opportunities.

- **Habitat** – The trend toward habitat loss is expected to continue in the 21st Century. The loss and degradation of wildlife habitat limits wildlife populations and diversity.

- **Human-Wildlife Conflict** – Changing land use and increased population of some wildlife species has contributed to increased conflicts between humans and wild animals.

- **Wildlife Diversity** – A rich diversity of wild animals is a valuable asset for Ohio. Unfortunately, many wildlife populations have been reduced or eliminated by a variety of factors, including environmental degradation, utilization and development.

- **Recruitment and Retention** – The number of Ohioans participating in fishing, hunting and trapping has declined significantly in recent years. It is vital for the future of wildlife conservation and Ohio's outdoor heritage that there is a core of people who have a passion for wildlife resources.

- **Preserving the Tradition** – Ohio has a rich tradition of hunting, fishing and trapping, which are wise uses of the state's renewable natural resources. Restrictions on firearm ownership, hunting, trapping and shooting erode the rights of sportsmen and women to participate in these activities.

- **Funding** – While the number of hunting and fishing licenses sold peaked in 1987, demand for services continues to grow. License revenue, adjusted for inflation, was highest in 1995. Meeting the increasing demand by traditional and non-traditional groups is difficult given the decrease in license sales.

2003 Recommendation: The DOW will provide more access on public land and encourage increased access on private lands.

Progress made: The Division of Wildlife manages more than 185,000 acres of wildlife areas and has added new areas or property whenever possible. The amount of land that the Division of Wildlife manages has doubled in the last 20 years.

2003 Recommendation: The DOW will institute programs and projects to increase the public's understanding of wildlife and wildlife habitats and the division's management role.

Progress made: The Division of Wildlife partners with numerous governmental and non-governmental agencies that promote education and youth programming. Specific partnerships include the Columbus Zoo, Center for Science and Industry and The WILDS.

The Division hosts an annual Wildlife Diversity Conference in order to promote wildlife diversity and education. In 2007 more than 700 citizens from around Ohio participated in the conference.

2003 Recommendation: The DOW will find ways to help people and wildlife coexist.

Progress made: In cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Division of Wildlife partially funds 'Wildlife Specialist' positions in more than 20 counties. These Wildlife Specialists assist private landowners with wildlife issues, including crop damage and wildlife conflicts.

2003 Recommendation: The DOW will continue to develop projects to identify and address the changing recreational interests of wildlife enthusiasts and to increase their awareness of opportunities.

Progress made: The division co-hosts (with Environment for the Americas) the annual International Migratory Bird Day at Crane Creek State Park. The Lake Erie shore area, including Crane Creek State Park and adjacent Magee Marsh State Wildlife Area, is one of the top 10 bird watching locations in North America.

In cooperation with the National Wild Turkey Federation, each year the division co-hosts several 'Wheeling Sportsmen' events for mobility impaired hunters.

2003 Recommendation: The DOW will integrate wildlife diversity strategies within all of its organizational units, striving to restore extirpated wildlife and enhance populations that have been reduced in abundance and distribution, and protect those that remain healthy and viable.

Progress made: The Division of Wildlife has reintroduced or stabilized the populations of many endangered or threatened species, including river otters, bald eagles, peregrine falcons, trumpeter swans, osprey, Karner blue butterflies and shovelnose sturgeons. These efforts have been in cooperation with all division administrative groups and with partner organizations and agencies such as the Columbus Zoo, The WILDS, Metroparks Toledo, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, The Ohio Lepidopterists and many other organizations and individuals.

2003 Recommendation: The DOW will institute programs and projects to increase the number of new anglers, hunters and trappers while retaining current anglers and hunters.

Progress made: The Division of Wildlife established the Apprentice Hunting License program in 2005. This arrangement allows first time hunters to hunt with a seasoned hunting companion without first completing a hunter education course. However, first time hunters who participate in the program must complete a hunter education course before acquiring their first regular hunting license.

The division has received four grants from the National Shooting Sports Foundation Hunter Heritage Grant Program to promote hunter access on private lands and to study what incentives could be employed to increase hunting participation among lapsed hunters.

2003 Recommendation: The DOW will continue to support the traditional activities of hunting, trapping and fishing, and will continue to support and encourage the shooting sports.

Progress made: The division has partnered with the Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports program to promote shooting sports, hunting and fishing among Ohio's youth. Specific activities include funding for training 4-H shooting sports instructors, summer programs for youth and outreach activities.

The division has become a sponsor and promoter of the National Archery in the Schools Program. In 2007, the National Archery in the Schools Program held its inaugural state tournament at the Arnold Sports Festival with more than 450 youth from around Ohio participating.

2003 Recommendation: The DOW will increase revenues through innovative licensing and new funding sources.

Progress made: Additional funding for fish and wildlife conservation has been created by the national State Wildlife Grant program as administered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This program provides Ohio with approximately \$1.8 million annually for wildlife diversity programs, which includes non-game species, invertebrates and other species that are of greatest conservation need.

Appendix C:

A Grant Programs Resource

Although not a complete list, Table C1 contains a list of grant programs administered by Ohio and federal agencies that may be potential sources of funding for public outdoor recreation projects. Some of these grant programs have been mentioned in this SCORP. A number of private foundations and non-profit organizations also provide partnership funding for outdoor recreation projects. Additional information on federally funded grants may be found at www.grants.gov.

Table C1

GRANT	ADMINISTRATING AGENCY
Clean Ohio Trails Fund (COTF)	ODNR, Div of Real Estate and Land Management
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	ODNR, Div of Real Estate and Land Management
NatureWorks (NW)	ODNR, Div of Real Estate and Land Management
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	ODNR, Div of Real Estate and Land Management
Coastal Management Assistance Grant (CMAG)	ODNR, Office of Coastal Management
Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BigP)	ODNR, Div of Watercraft
Boating Safety Education Grant	ODNR, Div of Watercraft
Clean Vessel Act Grant (CVA)	ODNR, Div of Watercraft
Cooperative Boating Facility Grant	ODNR, Div of Watercraft
Marine Patrol Grants	ODNR, Div of Watercraft
Navigational Aids Grant Program	ODNR, Div of Watercraft
Recreational Harbor Evaluation Program	ODNR, Div of Watercraft
Recreation Marine Loan Program	ODNR, Div of Watercraft
Grassland Restoration: Pastures-To-Prairies	ODNR, Div of Wildlife
Step Outside Grant	ODNR, Div of Wildlife
Wetland Restoration Program	ODNR, Div of Wildlife
Wild School Sites	ODNR, Div of Wildlife
Aquatic Education Subsidy Grants	ODNR, Div of Wildlife
Conservation Enhancement Program - CREP	ODNR, Div of Soil and Water Conservation
Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund	Ohio Department of Development
Lake Erie Protection Fund (Lake Erie Watershed)	Ohio Lake Erie Commission
Five-Star Restoration Challenge Grants	US EPA
Great Lakes Program Funding	US EPA
Ohio EPA Nonpoint Source Management Program (Section 319 Funding)	Ohio EPA - Division of Surface Water
Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF)	Ohio EPA - Div of Environmental and Financial Assistance
Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP)	Ohio EPA - Div of Environmental and Financial Assistance
Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)	ODOT & Local Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)
National Scenic Byway Program (NSBP)	ODOT / FHWA
Transportation Enhancement Funding	ODOT & local Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)
Green Space Conservation Program	Ohio Public Works Commission
Community Development Block Grant Programs (CDBG)	US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR)	National Park Service
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)	USDA, The Natural Resources Conservation Service - NRCS
Visual Arts Project Support (Design Arts & Art in Public Places)	OAC - Ohio Arts Council

Appendix D:

An Acronyms Resource

The use of acronyms is quite prevalent in modern everyday life, and the field of planning for outdoor recreation in Ohio is no exception. Although not a complete list, Table D1 contains acronyms and associated definitions commonly used in some aspect of outdoor recreation planning. Some of these acronyms have been used in this SCORP, many have not.

Table D1

ACRONYM	TRANSLATION
ADA	Americans with Disability Act
AIA	The American Institute of Architects
ALAB	American League of Anglers and Boaters
AMA	American Motorcyclist Association
AMATS	Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study
APA	American Planning Association
ASCE	American Society of Civil Engineers
ASLA	American Society of Landscape Architects
AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
ATVA	All Terrain Vehicle Association
BASS	Bass Anglers Sportsman's Society
BHJTS	Brooke - Hancock - Jefferson Transportation Study Policy Committee
BIG P	Boating Infrastructure Grant Program
BOMTS	Bel - O - Mar Regional Council and Interstate Planning Commission
BTA	Buckeye Trail Association
CAD	Computer Aided Design
CARA	Conservation and Reinvestment Act
CAUV	Current Agricultural Use Value
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant
CCSTS	Clark County - Springfield Transportation Study
CE	Categorical Exclusion (as related to NEPA compliance)
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CIP	Capital Improvement Project(s)
COF	Clean Ohio Fund
COTF	Clean Ohio Trail Fund
CREP	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (through the USDA)
CVA	Clean Vessel Act
CVNP	Cuyahoga Valley National Park
DEM	Digital Elevation Model
DNAP	ODNR Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
DOQQ	Digital Ortho Quarter Quadrangle
DOW	ODNR Division of Wildlife
EA	Environmental Assessment
ECOG	Eastgate Regional Council of Governments

EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERPC	Erie Regional Planning Commission
ESRI	Environmental Systems Research Institute
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FONSI	Finding Of No Significant Impact (as related to an EA)
FY	Fiscal Year
GIMS	Geographic Information Management Systems
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLSM	Grand Lake Saint Mary's
GPS	Global Positioning System
IASA	International Association of Snowmobile Administrators
IMBA	International Mountain Biking Association
ISTEA	Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991
JCARR	Joint Committee on Administrative Rule Review
KYOVA	KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission
LACRPC	Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission
LCATS	Licking County Area Transportation Study
LMSP	Little Miami State Park
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund
MCD	Miami Conservancy District
MECCA	Miami Erie Canal Corridor Association
MORPC	Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
MWCD	Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District
MVRPC	Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission
NAWCA	North American Wetlands Conservation Act
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NIMBY	Not In MY Back Yard
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOACA	Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency
NPS	National Parks Service
NRAC	Natural Resource Assistance Council
NW	NatureWorks
OAC	Ohio Administrative Code
OAC	Ohio Arts Council
ODNR	The Ohio Department of Natural Resources
ODOT	Ohio Department of Transportation
OEPA	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
OHPO or SHPO	Ohio Historic Preservation Office or State Historic Preservation Office
OKI	Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments
OPRA	Ohio Parks and Recreation Association
ORC	Ohio Revised Code

PILT	Payment in Lieu of Taxes
RBFF	Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation
RCRPC	Richland County Regional Planning Commission
RE	Real Estate
REALM	ODNR Division of Real Estate and Land Management
REGIS	Real Estate Geographic Information System
REMA	Raccoon Ecological Management Area – recent very large ODNR land acquisition
RTC	Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
RTP	Recreational Trails Program
SAFETEA-LU	Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (current Transportation Bill)
SCATS	Stark County Area Transportation Study
SCORP	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SCS	Soil Conservation Service
SMSA	Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area
SOBA	State's Organization for Boating Access
SRTAB	State Recreational Trail Advisory Board
SRVF	State Recreational Vehicle Fund
STIP	Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District
TE	Transportation Enhancements
TEA-21	Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century
TIP	Turn in a Poacher Program
TMACOG	Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UPARR	Urban Park and Recreation Recovery
USACOE or 'The Corps'	US Army Corps of Engineers
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WNF or 'The Wayne'	Wayne National Forest
WRRSP	Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program

Appendix E: Ohio Statewide Land Cover Classification (1999 – 2003)

Source: Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

County	Acres	Deciduous Forest Acres	Evergreen Forest Acres	Pasture Acres	Cropland Acres	Open Water Acres	Residential Acres	Commercial, Industrial, Transportation Acres	Barren/Mines Acres	Urban, Recreational, Grasses Acres	Herbaceous Wetlands Acres	Woody Wetlands Acres	No Data Acres
Adams	375,226	214,614	11,965	45,004	95,133	2,323	2,766	924	1,820	149	0	0	527
Allen	260,439	21,196	58	11,055	171,932	2,682	38,575	5,582	193	2,112	0	7,054	
Ashland	273,242	91,322	1,968	32,089	136,248	1,015	5,921	1,156	0	260	819	2,445	
Ashtabula	454,826	173,016	2,067	19,469	143,733	7,471	24,464	5,223	108	1,364	2,969	74,413	527
Athens	325,487	249,490	4,021	51,616	7,892	2,468	5,632	2,383	1,287	666	0	0	30
Auglaize	257,360	24,800	28	19,728	188,726	3,393	15,914	1,841	113	805	0	2,012	
Belmont	346,764	237,169	1,505	65,258	28,510	3,545	5,706	3,976	0	335	0	0	759
Brown	315,717	113,062	1,177	53,917	133,776	3,362	6,891	2,131	370	908	0	0	123
Butler	300,751	78,853	1,858	38,682	107,612	4,319	41,872	17,910	1,307	8,338	0	0	
Carroll	255,435	167,802	3,826	29,295	47,747	2,734	2,152	585	157	370	0	766	
Champaign	275,222	44,021	251	21,739	183,462	1,422	19,048	1,234	0	1,157	0	2,888	
Clark	256,924	31,622	512	16,851	146,473	3,630	43,077	6,163	0	4,572	39	3,984	
Clermont	294,264	140,685	2,925	27,887	85,980	4,795	21,454	6,356	666	3,330	0	0	185
Clinton	263,945	35,948	351	35,220	180,508	1,294	5,604	3,475	758	788	0	0	
Columbiana	342,379	189,997	2,370	42,797	85,384	1,941	13,769	3,760	116	1,572	385	2	286
Coshocton	363,155	232,884	2,772	46,549	71,460	2,496	4,334	814	113	359	436	938	
Crawford	257,884	27,227	216	9,845	205,217	918	10,295	1,299	254	756	0	1,858	
Cuyahoga	294,307	90,247	732	91	2,885	1,806	132,303	55,618	505	8,558	233	843	486
Darke	363,750	23,307	0	22,381	313,679	607	17,414	1,610	122	1,433	0	3,195	
Defiance	265,363	31,033	0	12,369	201,727	2,443	6,335	1,300	0	378	0	9,779	
Delaware	292,820	66,413	373	10,530	155,534	7,460	40,845	6,216	880	4,469	0	101	
Erie	163,355	26,208	227	16,588	87,608	2,799	14,168	5,240	1,101	1,332	1,109	6,680	295
Fairfield	325,435	77,772	720	30,556	172,312	1,838	37,362	3,048	34	1,794	0	0	
Fayette	260,551	15,864	29	23,326	210,125	1,297	6,953	2,580	116	241	0	20	
Franklin	348,098	47,262	115	5,144	79,177	3,196	134,477	61,332	811	16,577	0	8	
Fulton	260,987	15,060	270	8,031	219,127	877	8,618	2,885	258	638	213	5,004	
Gallia	301,685	201,549	8,659	69,571	9,570	2,395	4,399	1,702	3,609	0	0	0	242
Geauga	261,738	154,813	2,133	6,691	53,828	4,149	23,266	2,142	564	2,841	2,804	8,506	
Greene	266,245	41,363	145	16,022	146,601	1,657	44,497	7,223	194	6,704	0	1,841	
Guernsey	338,148	243,304	2,207	32,561	48,751	4,948	3,378	2,715	47	238	0	0	
Hamilton	264,067	108,443	876	5,406	17,153	4,358	76,408	37,436	2,170	11,582	0	0	235

Hancock	341,835	22,461	0	16,766	274,873	2,357	15,528	5,205	0	1,952	0	2,692
Hardin	301,301	20,583	35	20,816	241,203	778	10,201	2,120	74	702	0	4,789
Harrison	262,876	184,726	3,861	36,031	30,757	5,114	1,623	402	165	197	0	0
Henry	268,895	13,728	154	8,585	236,392	2,472	5,161	1,825	0	420	140	18
Highland	356,919	103,700	2,060	51,555	188,748	4,285	4,281	1,610	340	342	0	0
Hocking	271,055	213,733	14,048	27,424	12,644	507	1,019	506	1,175	0	0	0
Holmes	271,491	123,412	1,107	55,001	86,839	599	1,855	93	0	0	436	2,150
Huron	317,761	51,737	128	25,582	225,243	2,374	10,779	1,198	15	262	0	442
Jackson	269,700	167,474	10,557	62,455	17,334	1,763	4,128	2,643	3,131	215	0	0
Jefferson	262,522	198,093	1,174	22,243	27,701	1,065	4,998	5,964	340	597	4	0
Knox	338,916	121,401	1,167	49,372	150,432	1,179	9,747	1,407	0	1,624	25	2,561
Lake	148,095	71,959	301	658	20,354	1,927	33,537	11,411	32	2,887	1,483	3,448
Lawrence	292,506	232,227	4,311	30,678	9,558	2,025	7,903	2,523	2,841	261	0	0
Licking	439,971	165,766	1,362	49,723	172,999	995	39,563	5,461	80	3,596	0	425
Logan	298,757	59,285	519	36,036	169,150	5,875	14,908	3,615	122	2,100	284	6,862
Lorain	316,566	70,937	750	22,107	121,021	3,262	67,986	12,020	0	4,586	0	13,709
Lucas	222,214	32,258	869	4,141	81,420	5,708	56,537	19,453	1,047	5,586	2,374	12,286
Madison	299,140	15,595	0	20,272	242,718	1,508	13,066	2,732	1	1,026	0	2,223
Mahoning	272,300	106,073	1,291	27,528	62,846	5,625	45,519	15,064	844	2,455	728	4,136
Marion	258,732	16,008	30	7,177	207,557	2,000	15,599	3,807	0	1,608	446	4,499
Medina	270,905	93,798	1,066	30,926	102,417	1,771	29,912	5,690	54	3,388	72	1,813
Meigs	276,418	207,124	3,053	45,616	13,067	2,216	3,175	1,121	519	111	0	0
Mercer	303,064	20,869	0	27,527	230,132	10,627	10,219	881	164	902	409	1,334
Miami	262,278	34,769	0	12,709	168,543	1,977	38,028	2,603	250	1,344	0	2,056
Monroe	292,655	245,226	2,831	21,880	18,891	686	1,314	1,241	0	0	0	0
Montgomery	297,272	53,699	689	11,789	96,893	3,245	96,712	22,376	733	10,080	0	1,057
Morgan	269,877	219,080	2,761	33,525	11,912	1,677	851	69	3	0	0	0
Morrow	260,616	63,154	176	12,980	172,528	424	10,005	630	0	559	87	74
Muskingum	430,413	270,787	3,085	88,558	46,151	4,096	12,870	3,039	622	1,174	0	30
Noble	258,930	209,928	1,609	13,710	27,773	3,036	881	1,063	302	628	0	0
Ottawa	167,341	12,504	18	18,458	103,404	8,878	10,870	1,955	1,244	836	3,123	5,647
Paulding	268,297	20,469	0	3,225	235,716	2,008	4,870	672	670	171	0	496
Perry	263,965	176,593	2,283	28,760	50,003	993	3,811	856	666	0	0	0
Pickaway	324,002	33,345	146	24,396	247,829	1,802	12,458	1,894	131	2,000	0	0
Pike	284,142	184,653	5,333	35,202	50,364	1,815	2,006	3,579	845	346	0	0
Portage	322,904	149,019	1,124	24,852	74,148	9,505	32,564	5,986	654	2,969	2,773	19,312
Preble	272,958	46,292	1,346	21,220	184,053	1,566	13,419	1,628	0	352	0	3,081
Putnam	310,123	9,839	0	14,789	272,924	2,373	8,239	962	0	296	0	703

County	Acres	Deciduous Forest Acres	Evergreen Forest Acres	Pasture Acres	Cropland Acres	Open Water Acres	Residential Acres	Commercial, Industrial, Transportation Acres	Barren/ Mines Acres	Urban, Recreational, Grasses Acres	Herbaceous Wetlands Acres	Woody Wetlands Acres	No Data Acres
Richland	320,244	106,830	1,385	25,782	139,697	1,623	28,343	6,385	0	2,772	501	6,927	
Ross	443,452	191,351	4,053	61,421	169,392	4,168	7,944	3,310	152	1,661	0	0	
Sandusky	263,221	17,159	0	27,471	189,451	3,076	11,530	2,982	1,121	548	1,775	8,106	
Scioto	394,380	279,102	5,711	54,967	36,305	3,474	10,392	3,157	653	202	0	0	416
Seneca	354,152	35,983	14	15,037	281,645	1,459	14,007	2,403	1,099	1,138	0	1,368	
Shelby	262,886	40,267	118	25,049	178,919	1,613	12,299	2,552	352	625	67	1,025	
Stark	371,528	112,898	813	43,006	108,958	3,332	70,791	20,825	1,380	5,232	402	3,890	
Summit	269,000	109,704	975	5,260	12,944	4,688	91,057	26,762	1,020	8,478	300	7,813	
Trumbull	407,413	171,075	1,329	13,769	115,646	10,988	50,981	12,249	373	3,721	1,878	25,288	
Tuscarawas	365,884	229,938	2,230	37,497	74,681	2,778	9,912	6,748	1,178	757	120	44	
Union	279,550	28,471	79	18,355	201,680	2,326	15,630	3,329	273	2,683	0	6,724	
Van Wert	262,805	10,466	0	5,612	229,185	846	7,828	1,673	126	787	0	6,281	
Vinton	265,605	209,413	7,487	27,647	14,935	1,612	1,434	204	2,874	0	0	0	
Warren	260,668	79,235	1,574	28,150	108,484	5,362	25,204	8,034	422	4,202	0	0	
Washington	409,408	306,752	3,453	49,462	28,545	4,033	10,327	5,114	692	359	0	0	671
Wayne	356,672	64,496	495	50,609	216,262	1,479	15,627	3,544	78	845	2,241	996	
Williams	271,137	30,389	0	9,077	202,938	1,540	11,082	2,732	0	557	0	12,821	
Wood	397,662	17,718	0	13,883	319,738	3,637	25,111	9,947	530	2,404	264	4,430	
Wyandot	260,956	23,282	0	9,832	208,171	3,003	5,632	1,882	1,020	409	1,739	5,987	
OHIO TOTAL	26,409,909	9,323,180	153,315	2,392,428	11,261,985	260,788	1,899,158	534,999	48,079	177,577	30,676	319,883	7,128