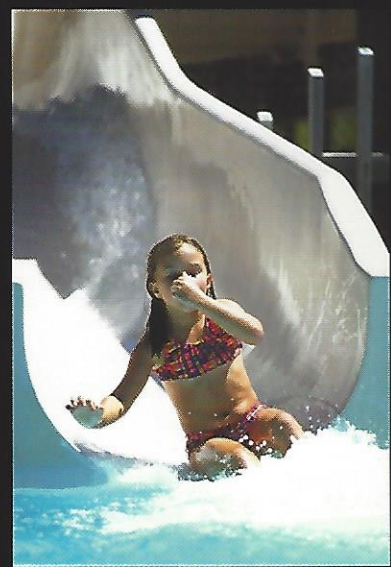
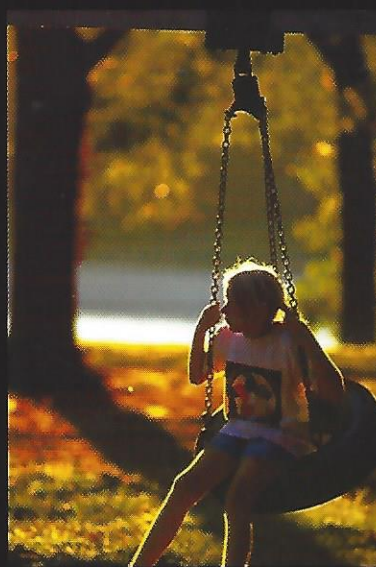
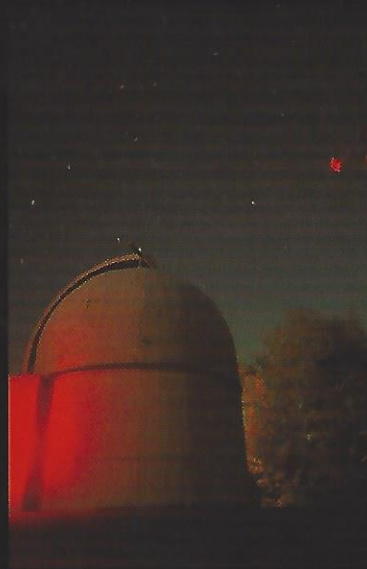
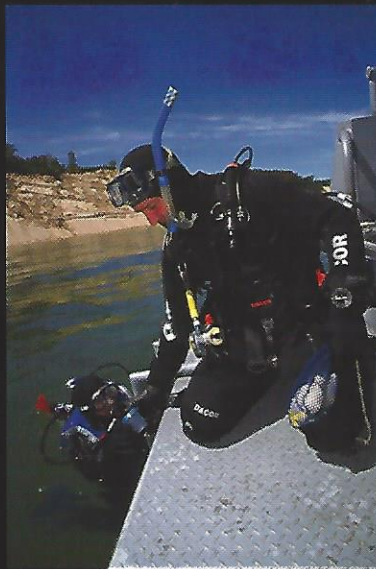


Indiana Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan 2006-2010

Hoosiers Moving Forward





STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State House, Second Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

December, 2006

Dear Outdoor Recreation Enthusiasts:

Indiana has made great strides since the last Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) was published. Through the Indiana Heritage Trust and the Land and Water Conservation Fund, we have purchased many acres that have been developed as recreational sites at the state, county and local levels. These sites are being made available for public use for Hoosiers throughout our state.

This edition of our outdoor recreation plan highlights important public input and provides valuable resources available to meet community needs for direction and growth. Being active in outdoor recreation will help improve the health, well-being and quality of life for all Hoosiers.

I hope that our local communities will use this plan and these priorities developed in concert with your fellow Hoosiers as a planning guide.

Providing quality outdoor recreation opportunities is a great service to Indiana's citizens. This effort benefits the state and its citizens through improved physical and mental health, increased revenues and interaction among our diverse population.

Let us work together to build a better and healthier future for our state!

Sincerely,

Mitch Daniels

Dear Fellow Hoosiers,

I am pleased to present the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2006-10. This document outlines the myriad recreational opportunities and activities that can be enjoyed in Indiana, not only by Hoosiers, but also by visitors. Hunting, fishing, walking, horseback riding, boating, snowmobiling, four-wheeling, fairs, festivals and camping are just a few examples. Sites for these pursuits abound, from the shores of Lake Michigan to the Ohio River banks, from the Illinois line to the Ohio state border. The destinations vary in size and feeling, from quaint community parks to acre upon acre of Hoosier National Forest.

As we continue into the 21st Century, the diversity of our recreational opportunities continues to grow, in large part, because of the strong partnerships we have developed between state, federal and local levels of government, as well as, with private owners. The willingness of Hoosiers to complete surveys and participate in focus groups that provide the information necessary for the completion of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is another reason for the increasing diversity.

These partnerships have been no accident. The embodiment of cooperation has been the SCORP that is completed by the DNR's Division of Outdoor Recreation every five years.

This document is a handbook for outdoor recreation providers. From private owners and providers to managers of federally owned lands, the SCORP puts forth solid, detailed guidelines to help meet community needs and preferences.

The SCORP provides a framework for local communities to apply for federal grants and recreation programs. So far Hoosier communities have received nearly \$100 million for recreation programs that benefit each of us. Whether it has been through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Recreation Trails Program, Indiana Waters or the Hometown Indiana, the SCORP has been the starting place for projects that keep Hoosiers in touch with our natural resources.

So explore this SCORP. Employ its recommendations. Let us always seek to find new opportunities to improve the quality of life for all Hoosiers, enhance the economic development of our communities and promote the natural beauty of our State.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Carter, Jr.

Indiana Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan 2006-2010

HOOSIERS MOVING FORWARD

Prepared by

*Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of Outdoor Recreation
402 West Washington Street, Room 271
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2785*

January 2007

The preparation of this plan was financed in part through a planning grant from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, under the provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (Public Law 88-578, as amended).

PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Division of Outdoor Recreation would like to thank the original members of the Plan Advisory Committee for their advice, support, expertise, time, and talent. These people give direction to the SCORP 2006-10 and ensure the priorities and contents are in line with the State's vision, mission, and goals for outdoor recreation and the Department of Natural Resources.

Gary Armstrong
Susanna Arvin
John Bacone
Chuck Beard
Phil Bennett
Dale Brier
Wendy Dant-Chesser
Jodi Dickey
Dan Downey
Janet Fawley
Dave Griffith
Ben Hubbard
William C.. Koehler
Casey McIntire
Dr. Dan McLean
Suzanne Mathis
Vicki Mayes
Mike Mettler
Jamie Palmer
Jim Ray
Dr. Amy Schaffer
Jon Smith
Dr. Jim Watson

DIVISION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION STAFF

Emily Kress, Director
Carman Jackson, Planning, State and Community Outdoor Recreation Planner
Greg Beilfuss, Planning, State and Community Outdoor Recreation Planner
Bob Bronson, Grants, Section Chief
Jay Keith II, Grants, State and Community Outdoor Recreation Planner
Susan Ostby, Grants, State and Community Outdoor Recreation Planner
Steve Morris, Streams & Trails, Section Chief
Nila Armstrong, Streams & Trails, Trails Specialist
Dale Brier, Streams & Trails, Trails Specialist

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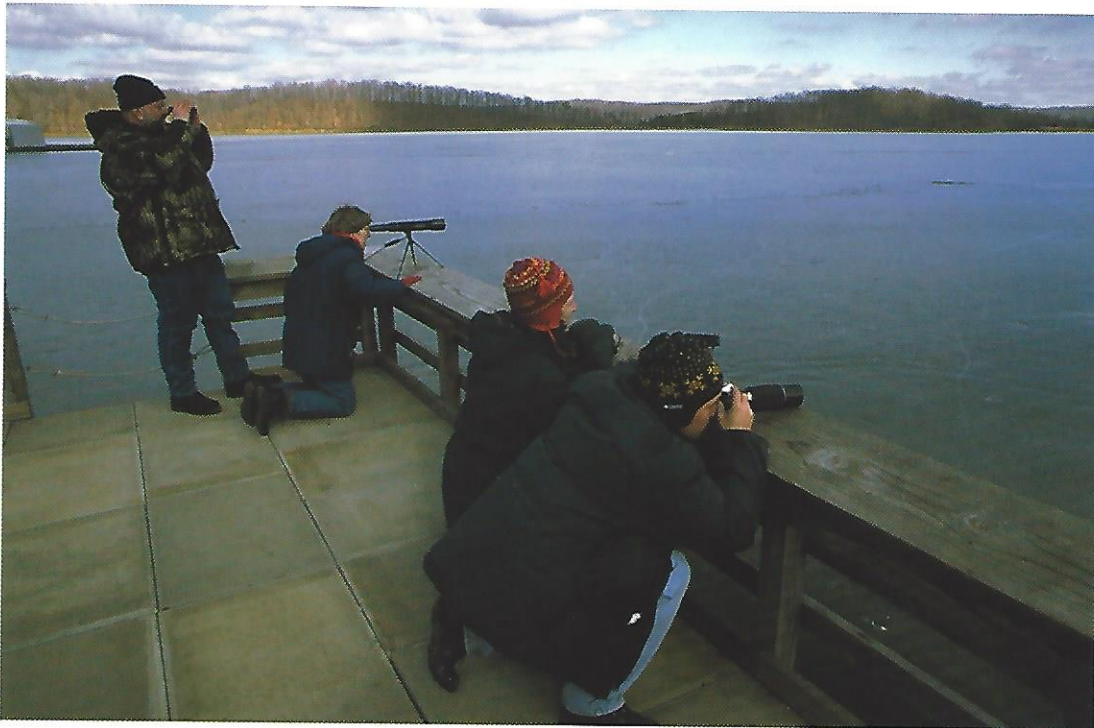
SCORP VISION STATEMENT

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan examines Indiana's recreation resources for the social, physical and economic benefit of the State's citizens through evaluation of the status of outdoor recreation in Indiana.

We envision that readers will use the SCORP as an informational resource that promotes research, cooperation and partnerships for effective guidance and planning in recreation decision-making.

THIS SCORP'S GOALS ARE TO:

- Qualify Indiana for Land and Water Conservation Funds.
- Establish outdoor recreation funding priorities, including those for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Recreational Trails Program, and any existing and/or future funds available through the State budget process.
- Conduct an investigation of recreation supply and demand.
- Help improve the provision of outdoor recreation for all users.



LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (L&WCF)

The SCORP ensures Indiana's eligibility to receive L&WCF grant monies. The purpose of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (78 Stat. 897) is:

"The purposes of this act are to assist in preserving, developing, and assuring accessibility to all the citizens of the United States of America of present and future generations and visitors who are lawfully present within the boundaries of the United States of America such quality and quantity of outdoor recreation resources as may be available and are necessary and desirable for individual active participation in such recreation and to strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States by: (1) providing funds for and 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."

(U.S. Department of the Interior, n.d.)

The main objectives of outdoor recreation have remained the same since 1965. They include land acquisition, preservation, provision, development, accessibility, and strengthening the health and vitality of our nation. This SCORP shows that Indiana's focus is still directly in line with the L&WCF.

One way Indiana ensures smaller entities (e.g., counties, townships, municipalities) can provide outdoor recreation opportunities to their citizens is through the appropriation of L&WCF grants. These grants are administered by the IDNR, Division of Outdoor Recreation. Sixteen projects were funded between 2004 and current (11/2006). The majority of the projects included land acquisition, 13 projects incorporated trail development, and three integrated new aquatic features. Other amenities were:

- Wildlife observation/ photography decks
- Wetlands observation decks
- Picnic areas
- Interpretive/education facilities
- Playgrounds
- 3-D archery range
- Native landscape/prairie development

Total cost of these projects was an estimated \$8,202,876. Nearly 44% (\$3,578,285) was covered by L&WCF grants. These funds are vitally important as outdoor recreation providers struggle with increasing budget constraints. Unfortunately grants cannot include every project in the State; therefore, alternative funding methods will be discussed.





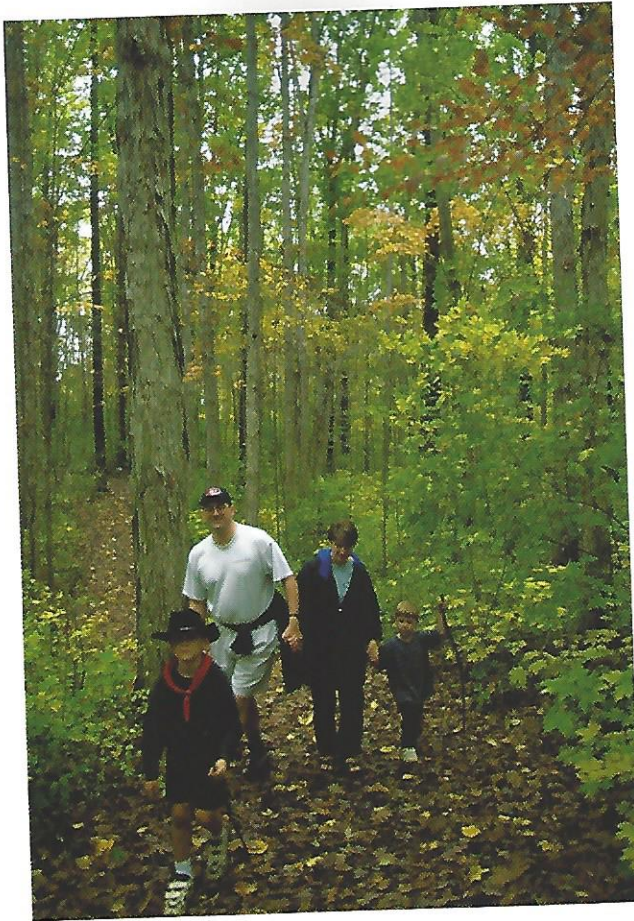
INTRODUCTION

The State of Indiana uses the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to qualify for funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF) and to apply for other federal funding. Additionally, the SCORP has been developed to assist municipalities and organizations throughout Indiana in assessing needs, presenting facility and program development plans for grants and other outside funding, and following those plans to achieve improvements on the local level.

The SCORP is based on data collected throughout the State. The data-collection process ensures a comprehensive and representative sample. The SCORP Plan Advisory Committee and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Division of Outdoor Recreation (DOR) hold that the information presented validly represents the citizens of Indiana. Additional information gathered by the U.S.

Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service specific to Indiana has been used to supplement and offset possible weaknesses. For example, combining State- and federally collected data represented racial and ethnic groups better.

The data from surveys and studies for this SCORP, former SCORPs and tangential fields has been analyzed to determine both snapshots and broad trends in outdoor recreation. Some of the items identified include population preferences, trends in the general population, and issues faced by parks and municipalities within the outdoor recreation arena. Each of these items can potentially affect needs, demands and supplies. One example of "conflicting" identifiable trends is the constant popularity of walking. Walking has been the users' preferred outdoor activity since 1993. This indicates a preference toward an increase in trail systems. One barrier for park managers and boards is finding funding for capital projects, which could include the addition of



a walking trail to the local park system. Another more important major issue for parks is funding the maintenance, improvement, or upgrading of current facilities. This apparent conflict of interests can prevent the further compromise and agreement necessary for assembling the master plans that are essential for obtaining grant funding.

The late Suzanne Mathis (d. 2005), executive director of the Indiana Park and Recreation Association, wrote the following specifically for this SCORP. We use her paraphrased words to begin our course toward discovering the strengths, weaknesses and future of outdoor recreation in Indiana:

***Parks and Recreation:
An Essential Service***

Parks and recreation is fun and enjoyment ... but it goes beyond just the fun.

It is fundamental to the quality of life for all people, communities and our environment. The value of parks and recreation has been identified many times as a factor in determining the "good life."

With the obesity epidemic and the fight against a sedentary lifestyle, the value of recreation both inside and out of doors is even more important to our citizens today. In a recent report from the Trust for America's Health, Indiana is the ninth most obese state, 26 % of adults do not participate in regular exercise. The direct connection between the health of our communities and the opportunities provided for an active, healthy lifestyle is a basic human need.

When considering outdoor recreation, whether you look at the economic benefits of increased property values or the enhanced self esteem gained by an individual from participating in a special event or through becoming active and healthier. Or you look at the community awareness strengthened by a festival, or gain better understanding of the stewardship of land, we are now more than ever an essential service.

We must continue to form positive, active partnerships and collaborations to meet these needs, both now and in the future. We must complement the other services and focus on a common goal to create a quality of life in our communities that everyone wants and deserves.

A grassroots effort to promote public awareness of the existence and provision of parks and recreation activities is essential. Some simple suggestions to help with this effort:

- Write opinion pieces for your local newspaper, cable TV and other community bulletin boards.
- Make sure that your facility is well represented on your municipal, county or State Web site.
- Make sure your brown signs with your park names and arrows with directions are posted and visible.
- Keep your services in the minds of



communities by using banners, radio ads, etc.

- Provide strong customer service and quality management at our parks and facilities.
- Visit www.inpra.org for IPRA's "An Essential Service" presentation prepared by Steve Doniger, Director, Valparaiso Parks and Recreation and Chuck Lehman, President, Lehman and Lehman.

There are many parks and recreation opportunities available throughout the State of Indiana. Whether referring to a bike trail, walking trail, pristine pond at a state park or an elaborate aquatics facility, you see what Joseph Lee ("Father of the Playground Movement" and National Recreation Association president 1910-37) means in the quote: "Play for adults is recreation ... the renewal of life; for children it is growth ... the gaining of life."

While no one can reasonably deny the benefits of parks, recreation and the environment, we still must understand the attitudes and opinions of the users of parks and recreation facilities to help us wisely direct our future economic and advocacy efforts using the informa-

tion provided in this SCORP.

Let's continue to invest in the future and fulfill the dreams of the families in our Indiana communities. Services provided through parks and recreation are essential, appreciated and limitless.

(Mathis, 2005)

Since the printing of Mathis's original letter, Indiana has moved into a tie with South Carolina for eighth in nation-

al obesity ranking. Additionally, Indiana ranks 13th for adult diabetes and 20th for hypertension (Trust for America's Health, 2006). Each of these conditions can be prevented or delayed by making healthy lifestyle choices. As providers of outdoor recreation opportunities, we are prime players in the fight against the increase of disabling chronic conditions that could cost individuals and taxpayers millions of dollars to control and treat. By providing opportunities for individuals to meet essential physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual needs, facilitators of outdoor recreation also play an important role in the long-term economy of their communities.

Although we must include all age groups in our plans, we need to pay special attention to serving our aging population. Admittedly, the prevalence of chronic diseases and conditions increases as a population ages, participation in outdoor recreation can contribute to a healthier lifestyle, which can help prevent or delay many conditions associated with aging. These include heart disease, cancer and stroke (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2004). When addressing the needs of older adults, we need

INTRODUCTION



THE INDIANA STATEWIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2006-10

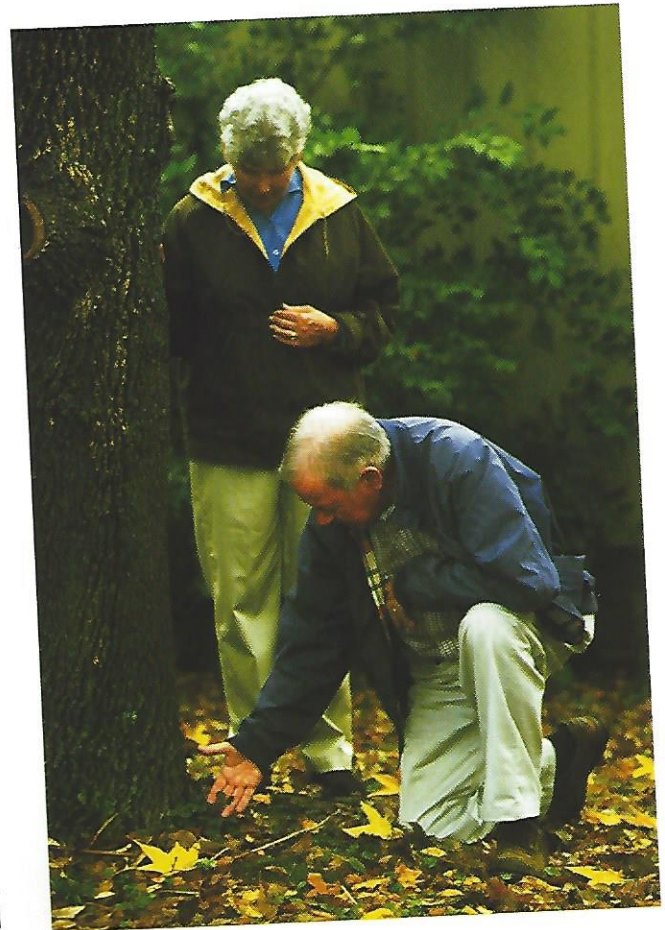
to consider challenges associated with balance, mobility, hearing and vision loss, and greater propensity for injury. According to 2005 U.S. Census Bureau statistics, the median age in Indiana is 36.1 years old, 11.9% of Hoosiers are 65 or older, and 1.3% are 85 and older. The percentage of people 65 and older has remained steady for at least two years; however, the portion 85 and older has increased slightly. These statistics show the importance of considering the State's significant senior and aging mid-range populations when planning for and making decisions about future recreational opportunities.

Fortunately, accessibility and universal design are already high priority issues in our State. Indiana offices promote exceeding the federally mandated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines and considering the use of universal design, both for future improvements and alterations to current buildings and for new construction. "Universal design is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without adaptation or specialized design" (Center for Universal Design, 2006). Universal design includes but is not limited to accessibility; it is a performance- or usability-based design that promotes a product or environment that can be used by a broad spectrum of people (children, elderly, vision or mobility impaired, etc.) (National Center on Accessibility, Universal Design Education On-line, 2004). The benefits of universal design will extend beyond the older population into the realm of citizens with physical or cognitive disabilities. More than 13 percent (13.4%) of Indiana residents 21 to 64 years old reported having a disability in 2005 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2006). Park and trails professionals in Indiana have expressed a keen desire to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities and limitations by implementing universal

design at their properties. Communities should address the needs of the entire user population and strive to include as many representatives as possible in the planning of a proposed facility, activity, or program. Effective planning that includes universal design will pave the way for individuals of all ages and abilities to be actively involved in outdoor recreation throughout our State.

Another issue faced by communities and facilities managers is how to pay for planned improvements. Grants are one way. Several are administered by IDNR:

- Indiana Heritage Trust
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF)
- Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
- Hometown Indiana (unfunded at this time)
- Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund (unfunded at this time)
- Shooting Range Program





- Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) Program
- Hoosier Riverwatch Water Monitoring Equipment Grants
- Lake and River Enhancement
- Lake Michigan Coastal Program
- Community Forestry Grant Programs

To learn more about grant programs administered by IDNR go to <http://www.IN.gov/dnr/assistance/grantresources.html>.

IDNR and the Division of Outdoor Recreation continuously assess the needs and desires of users and facility managers. Empirical data are collected through statewide surveys, national surveys, focus groups, planning committees, interviews with natural resources experts and professional publications. Goals or priorities are established to direct the State, regions, counties, municipalities, townships, and private owners to satisfactory compromises that will benefit as many people as possible.

We hope that the information present-

ed in this document will help community members and outdoor recreation facilitators bridge the gaps between differing needs and reach the best solutions for all. Remember, outdoor recreation includes a myriad of activities from walking through quiet neighborhoods to enjoying the rich aromas of farmers markets, festivals and fairs, to mountain biking at a State-owned recreation facility or enjoying a game of wheelchair basketball. The outdoor recreation possibilities in Indiana are as endless as your imagination.

Outdoor Recreation Priorities for Providers and Stakeholders

The following priorities have been established based on the survey data analysis, focus group discussions, and interviews with park and outdoor recreation professionals discussed in Chapters 1 and 2 of this document.



1) Promote long-term planning, budgeting and evaluation for recreation sites, facilities, and equipment maintenance and replacement.

Consider:

- Life cycle
 - Preventive maintenance
 - Projected increased upkeep costs as sites, facilities or equipment age
 - Renovation/replacement for changing user needs
 - Demolition, removal or recycling
 - Replacement costs for end of life cycle
- Changing demographics
 - Universal design
 - Adaptability for changing trends
 - Cultural diversity
- Increasing or decreasing user/server populations
 - Decreases in user travel time
 - Fluctuations in tourism

- Local population variations

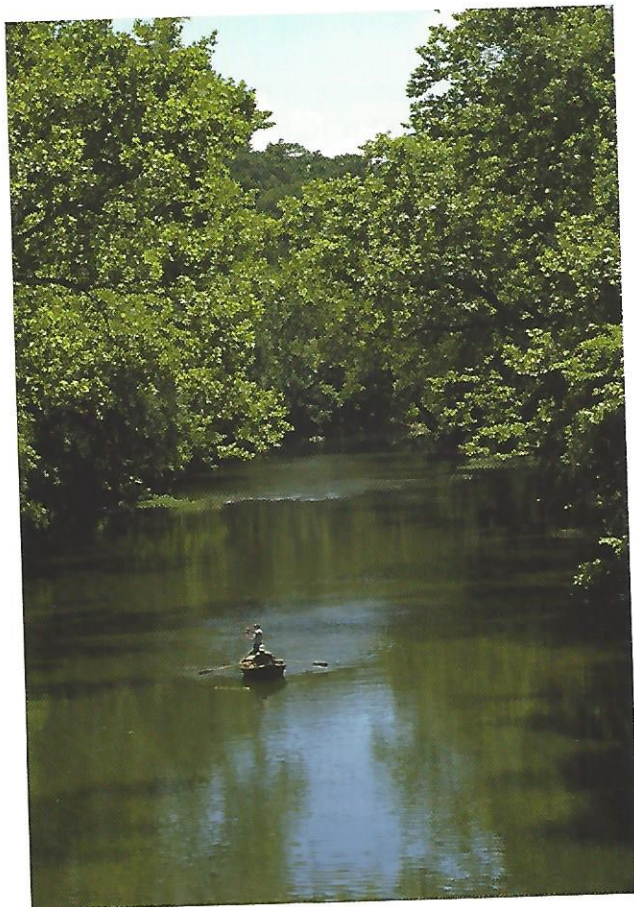
2) Investigate non-traditional methods of funding and cost reduction. Consider:

- Not-for-profit organizations
- Private groups/"Friends of ..." groups
- Sponsorships
- Naming rights
- Donations/In kind
 - Monetary
 - Services
 - Products
 - Land
 - Buildings
 - Equipment
- Bequests
- Endowments
- Volunteers
- Partnering

3) Improve marketing of current and proposed recreation opportunities to local communities, tourists, marginal consumers and prospective stakeholders to increase site awareness, user population and revenues.

Consider:

- Product, planning, promotion, and price
- Targeted audiences
- Multi-media sources
- Effective outreach to the target population
 - Benefits to consumer and economy
 - Public presentations
 - In-house presentations
 - Public education and awareness of current or proposed outdoor recreation opportunities
- Sharing ownership
- Networking with outdoor recreational specialists
- Networking with professionals in tangential fields (e.g., health and wellness, engineering and education)



4) Research, develop and implement capital projects that are pertinent to the community and mesh effectively with existing facilities.



- Develop and submit a five-year master plan to the Division of Outdoor Recreation
 - Advocate public participation in the planning process
 - Assess local community needs
 - Stakeholder surveys and focus groups
 - User and non-user surveys and focus groups
 - Community diversity discussions
 - Remain aware of grant availability, criteria, and application process to ensure grant submissions are complete, accurate and meet mandated guidelines
 - Avoid duplicating facilities or programs in surrounding area
 - Include land acquisition as often as possible
 - Review and parallel national, regional and local initiatives and trends, following benchmark examples
- 5) Increase multi-use trails systems.
Consider:
 - Extremely high demand for pedestrian-friendly facilities
 - Connections to desirable locations, such as parks, schools, existing trails, historic attractions, business districts and residential areas
- Including multiple natural settings (e.g., woodlands, wetlands, prairies, streams)
- Signs, safety, maps/guides (hard copy and Internet), and future maintenance
- Universal design
- 6) Facilitate meeting consumer needs for low-cost, close-to-home, minimal equipment expenditure, and natural-talent-oriented outdoor activities and opportunities.
Consider:
 - Facilities/programs designed for
 - People seeking social interaction
 - Low socioeconomic-status individuals
 - Persons with disabilities or limitations
 - Overweight/obese population
 - Aging population, particularly those with increased chronic conditions and their related limitations
 - Passive and extreme recreation opportunities







CHAPTER 1

Outdoor Recreation Assessments

The most tedious and technical portion of the SCORP is data analysis and reporting. Without this background, our recommendations would be based solely on opinion and hearsay. Indiana's tradition of listening to both the general and professional population, then finding middle ground has created a solid foundation that allows us to look objectively at the past, compare it to the present and foresee trends. This information allows us to provide solutions and recommendations that are ahead of their time, save taxpayer dollars, and offer facilities and programs that will suit the desires of many for years.

In this chapter we report the facts and our interpretations of them. This is the foundation we use to form our recommendations and plans. This section is the voice of the people, it shows that we listen, both to the general population and

to the professionals, as we mentioned in the introduction.

Assessing the Needs

The Division of Outdoor Recreation (DOR) contracted with reliable data-collection agencies to develop statistically sound, well-written surveys. These surveys are administered throughout the State via touch-screen computers, paper intercept, telephone and mail. This method allows for thousands of respondents to record their activities, preferences, dislikes and hopes for future direction of outdoor recreation. The DOR charts and analyzes the responses, then uses the information to help guide State projects and funding.

The surveys that were used for this SCORP are:

- IDNR Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey (Appendix A)
- Indiana Boater Survey (Appendix B1 and B2)
- Designate Trails Survey (Appendix C)





- Recreation Issues - Professional Survey (Appendix D)
- Professional Trails - Provider Survey (Appendix E)

The following section gives an overview of each survey. Readers may view additional analysis at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/planning/index.html>. Later chapters discuss how the results can be used to help local communities, private owners, park boards and park managers make informed decisions about future improvements to their properties and programs. The discussions should also help consumers better understand the issues park personnel and advisory boards face.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey

This is the third time the DOR has used the Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey (Appendix A). Such repetition allows us to demonstrate the validity and reliability of the instrument, and track trends in outdoor recreation participation. Each time, the process has been administered by Survey America of Indiana, Inc. The survey for this SCORP was conducted from May 2003 to February 2004 using both touch-screen computers and paper. Data were collected at Wal-Marts, Kmart, county fairs, libraries in 58 counties, the 2003 State Fair, the 2003 Vincennes Rendezvous and at a Paoli grocery store. A total of 6,686 surveys were completed. People younger than 17 were not actively recruited but were permitted to complete the survey.

Respondent Demographics

The number of respondents proved representative of the State's population, as compared with U.S. Census numbers for Indiana.

- There was a nearly even distribution between genders, 51.2% male to

48.8% female, closer to an even distribution than the 2000 SCORP population.

- The average age was 39.8, just above the 2005 U.S. Census Bureau report of median age for Indiana (36.1).
- 57.9% were married, 26.7% were single, 11.2% were divorced.
- 49% had children younger than 18 living at home. No distinction was made between those married with children and singles with children.
- The racial/ethnic distribution was in line with the U.S. Census Bureau statistics, which are shown in parentheses. White respondents formed 84.8% of the sample (vs. 86.1%), African-American, 8.4% (vs. 8.6%), and Hispanic/Latino, 3.3% (vs. 2.4% "some other race").
- 13.4% reported having a disability that interferes with participating in outdoor recreation (the same percentage as U.S. Census statistics for "persons with disabilities").
- 60.2% of respondents had completed high school, trade/technical school, or up to three years of college (vs. U.S. Census statistics of 85.3% "completed high school"), 16.5% completed college (vs. 21.3%), 11.6% completed graduate work (vs. 7.7%).
- The average annual income for 2002 (for those older than 18) was \$49,600. The U.S. Census Bureau median income for families was \$54,077 and \$43,993 for households.
- 29.3% lived in rural areas; 21.1% in communities of 10,000 to 50,000; 15.4%, communities 5,000 to 10,000.
- 92% reported participating in some form of outdoor recreation within the past year.



Activities

The following question was asked to determine the importance of outdoor recreation to Hoosiers. These numbers indicate that outdoor recreation is important to 93.1% of the people, which is backed by 92% saying they were involved in an outdoor recreational activity during the previous year.

“How important is outdoor recreation to you?”

- Essential – 54.1%
- Desirable – 39.1%
- Don't care – 5.7%
- Undesirable – 1.1%

Fig. 1 shows a breakdown of the activities in which respondents participated regularly during the previous year.

Walking/hiking/jogging was ranked as the No. 1 activity in which respondents participated (84.9%). The significant spread between walking and the second most popular activity, fairs and festivals, indicates the tremendous need for trails and other linear activity opportunities. To follow the universal design concept, we must provide trails that accommodate people of various abilities. For more information about trail planning, go to <http://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/>.

Fairs and festivals were participated in by 68.4% of the sample, followed by swimming/SCUBA/snorkeling (60.7%), nature observation/photography

(59.8%), camping (53.5%), and fishing (52.3%). Note that, for the most part, these activities do not require expensive specialized equipment, recurring costs for equipment or specialized training. Additionally, they can provide excellent social interaction. Their popularity could be a natural response to the decrease in the degree of neighborhood interaction that was the norm for our forefathers.

Many recreation categories were broken down further for greater clarification. A brief synopsis follows. For a complete report, go to <http://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/planning/index.html>.

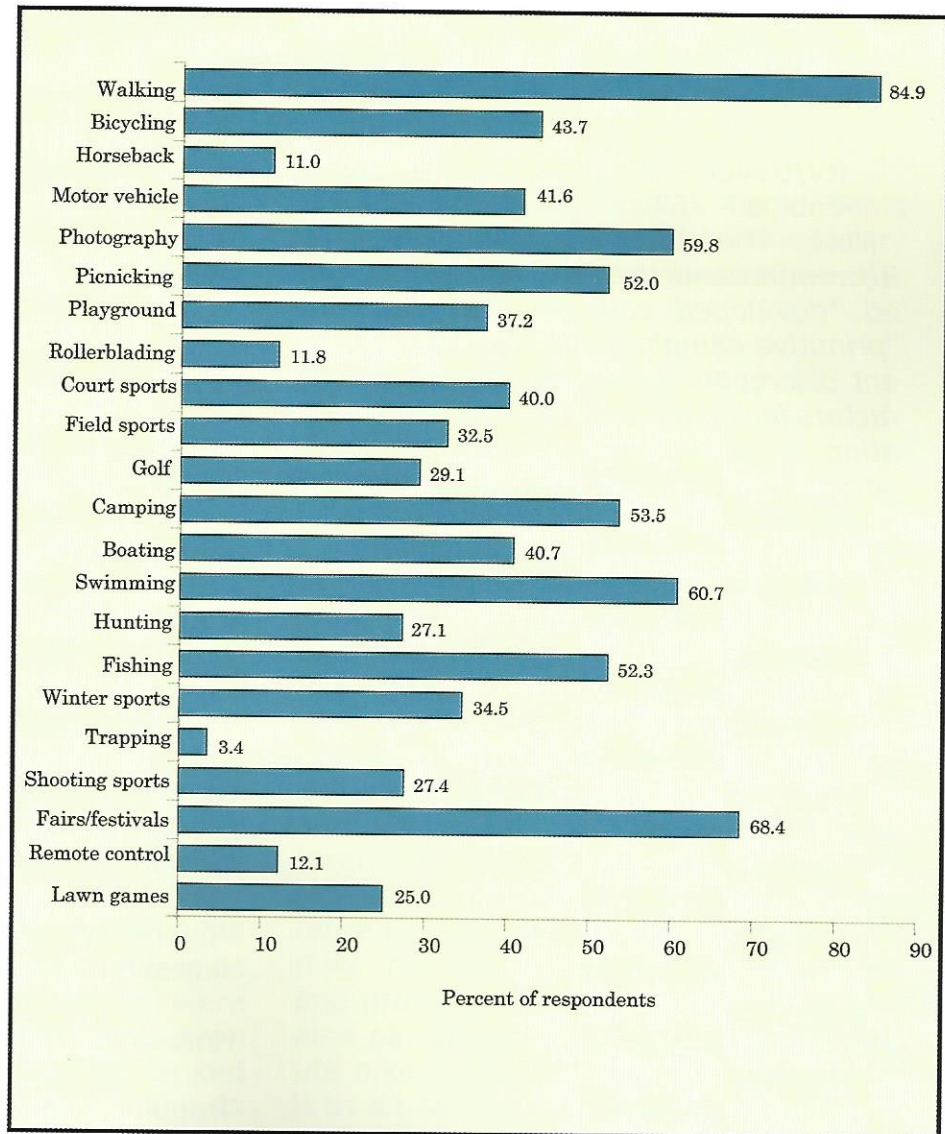


Figure 1. Participation percentages by activity (Survey America, 2005)



Walking/hiking/jogging - 84.9%
 Walking for pleasure - 77.8%,
 Hiking - 39.2%
 Fitness - 28.4%
 Jogging - 18.7%

Fairs and festivals - 68.4%

Swimming/SCUBA/snorkeling - 60.7%
 Pool swimming - 81.0%
 Lake swimming - 62.0 %
 SCUBA - 9.9%

Nature observation/photography - 59.8%
 Wildlife viewing - 55.1%
 Fall foliage - 53.2%
 Relaxation - 46.7%

Camping - 53.5%
 Tent - 63.2%
 RV/trailer - 33.5%
 Cabins - 26%

Note: The 2004 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment reported "developed camping," 26.8%, and "primitive camping," 16.4%. This apparent discrepancy could be due to several factors including, but not limited to, variation in survey methodology, different sample populations, or different wording of questions.

Fishing - 52.3%
 Lake/reservoir - 65.1%
 Ponds - 63.5%
 Bank fishing - 52.5%

Picnicking - 52.0%

Bicycling - 43.7%
 Casual - 72.9%
 Rail-trail - 17.1%
 Other - 15.8%
 Mountain - 15.1%

Motorized vehicle use - 41.6%
 Pleasure - 43.9%
 ATVs - 41.8%
 Four-wheel drive - 41.1%
 Motorcycles - 28.2%

Boating/water skiing/personal watercraft - 40.7%
 Power boating - 46.2%
 Canoe - 40.6%
 Water skiing - 36.4%

Court sports - 40.0%
 Basketball - 59.6%
 Volleyball - 35.8%
 Horseshoes - 30.4%

Playground use - 37.2%

Winter sports - 34.5%
 Sledding - 67.4%
 Ice skating - 24.4%
 Snowmobiling - 24.2%

Field sports - 32.5%
 Baseball - 66.4%
 Football - 35.6%
 Soccer - 24.9%

Golf - 29.1%
 Regulation - 52.2%
 Miniature - 48.8%
 Driving range - 36.7%

Shooting sports - 27.4%
 Rifles - 61.1%
 Handguns - 54.8%
 Clay targets - 42.1%

Hunting - 27.1%
 Deer - 72.3%
 Small game - 56.6%
 Furbearers- 29.7%

Lawn games - 25.0%

Remote control - 12.1%

Roller blading/roller skating/skateboarding - 11.8%

Horseback riding - 11.0%

Trapping - 3.4%



All of these activities may not be pertinent to every facility or community in the State but this is a good representation of the most popular. Such information could provide a feasible guideline for outdoor recreation planners when they assess the needs and desires of the population for which they work.

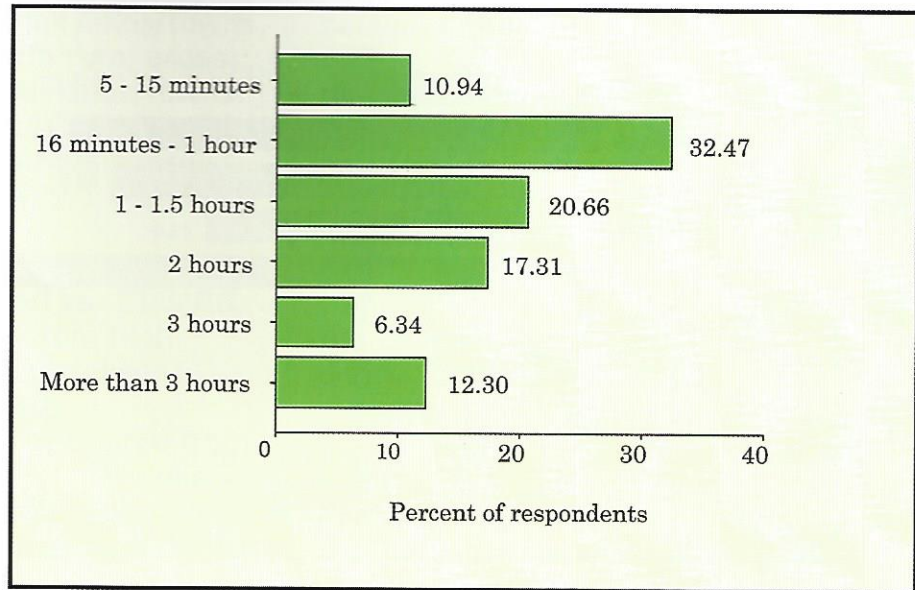


Figure 2. Time willing to travel to new or improved recreation facilities

Locations

The participation survey also assessed the locations most frequently used for outdoor recreation. The top five counties in which respondents were active were

- Lake - 5.5%
- Brown - 5.1%
- Monroe - 4.4%
- Vigo - 4.1%
- Allen - 4.0%

Note: These percentages do not correlate with the percentage of respondents who reside in those counties. For example, the number of respondents who reside in Allen County made up 5.0% of the total respondent population.

Note: 8.7% of the respondents did not participate in the recorded activities in Indiana. In other words, a small percent of Hoosiers reported being active in places outside of Indiana. No indications as to why they went elsewhere were recorded.

The highest percentage of respondents was active on privately owned properties (29.0%). State-owned properties were the second most frequently used type (22.9%). City/town properties ranked third (11.2%). The response to "Who do you think should provide facilities for ... activity?" contrasted with where people

actually are being active. Respondents said these sectors should be the facility providers (multiple responses allowed):

- State - 60.5%
- County - 43.9%
- City/town - 39.9%
- Federal - 39.0%

Time

Although 52.2% reported "lack of time" as their main reason for not participating in outdoor activities more often, the highest percentage (32.5%) reported being willing to travel 16 to 60 minutes to new or improved outdoor recreation facilities. This was followed by 20.7% who were willing to travel 60 to 90 minutes and 17.3% willing to travel two hours. Interestingly, 6.3% were willing to travel three hours versus 12.3% willing to travel more than three hours (see Fig. 2). This may indicate two different viewpoints, one group perceiving outdoor recreation as a partial-day activity (e.g., a 30-minute bike ride) and another group seeing it as an all-day pursuit (e.g., hunting).

No information was collected concerning the current amount of time respondents

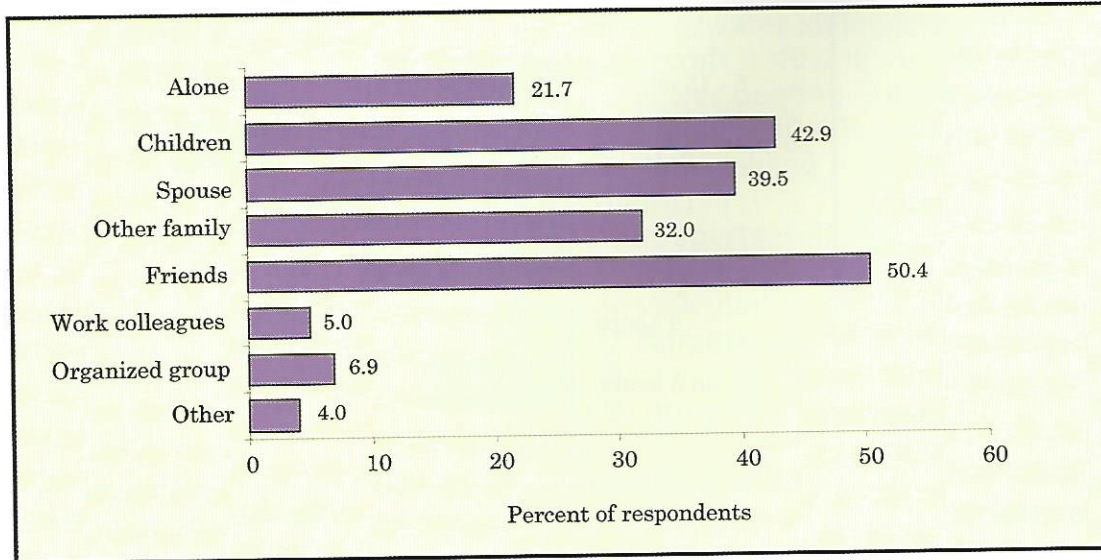


Figure 3. Who participated in activities with respondent

travel to participate in outdoor recreation.

Funding

Respondents said that funding for improvements to current outdoor recreation facilities and developing new facilities should come from sources other than State taxes (income or sales). Respondents listed lottery/gaming as the top source the government should use to raise more money to develop and improve outdoor recreation facilities. Special-use taxes rated second. Additional federal funds rated third.

Conclusions

This Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey is a valid indicator that outdoor recreation is important to many Hoosiers. In general, the most popular activities cost little and provide social opportunities (see Fig. 3) for the participants. Although most of the reported activities take place on private land, the majority of respondents say public lands should be the predominant locations for outdoor recreation opportunities, and (even though pressed for time) they were willing to travel to those properties. Respondents oppose additional State taxes being used to fund new proj-

ects. A significant number say revenue from lotteries/gaming should be used for outdoor recreation.

Indiana Boater Survey

The Indiana Boater Survey is an addition to the SCORP. Actually it is a boater study because it includes two surveys and three focus groups. Two separate statewide telephone surveys were conducted in January and February 2004, one for the general population, one for registered boaters. The focus groups were conducted in Michigan City, Evansville and Indianapolis in June 2004 as a follow-up to the telephone surveys. A total of 2,008 surveys were completed, 1,007 general population (including 300 registered boaters) and 1,001 registered boaters. Focus group participants were 50 registered boaters and canoeists who responded to the original surveys.

Respondent Demographics

The demographics between the general population and registered boaters varied slightly. Both are reported here for comparison. GPB equals "general population boaters" and RB equals "registered boaters".



- 42% GPB lived in small cities/towns, 18% lived in non-farm rural areas; 35% RB lived in small cities/towns, 25% lived in non-farm rural areas.
 - The average length of residency in Indiana for GPB was 39.1 years; RB averaged 41.4 years.
 - 61% GPB were married vs. 79% RB.
 - 23% GPB were retired vs. 21% RB.
 - 38% GPB graduated from high school, 23% had some college/school, 20% were college graduates; 42% RB graduated from high school, 22% had some college, 19% were college graduates.
 - 85% GPB were White, 5% were African-American, 1% were Hispanic; 91% RB were White, 1% were African American, and 0% were Hispanic.
 - 21% GPB were age 45-54, 20% were 60-plus, and 19% were 35-44; 28% RB were age 45-54, 14% were 60-plus, 23% were 35-44. Additionally, 20% RB were 55-64.
 - 47% GPB were male, 53% female; 89% RB were male, 11% female.
- Average income is not reported because of the respondents' high refusal rate.
- Note the difference in professions of GPB and RB. Although "retired" was the No. 1

category selected for both surveys, 7% GPB selected "construction/development" and 9% selected "industry," compared to 16% RB in "construction/development" and 16% in "industry." This may be a direct relation with the difference between the GPB and RB surveys in percentages of male and female respondents.

There was also a slight difference in the geographical location of the respondents. The top five counties that were represented in the general population survey were Marion, Lake, Allen, Elkhart and Porter. The top five in the registered boaters survey were Lake, Marion, Allen, Washington and Kosciusko.

Activities

It makes sense that 85% RB reported that outdoor recreation is "very important" to them and 13% rated outdoor recreation as "somewhat important." In comparison, 55% GPB responded that outdoor recreation was "very important" and 32% rated it as "somewhat important." When the two groups are combined, the percentage of respondents saying that outdoor recreation was "important" (92%) equals the number of respondents from the Outdoor Recreation

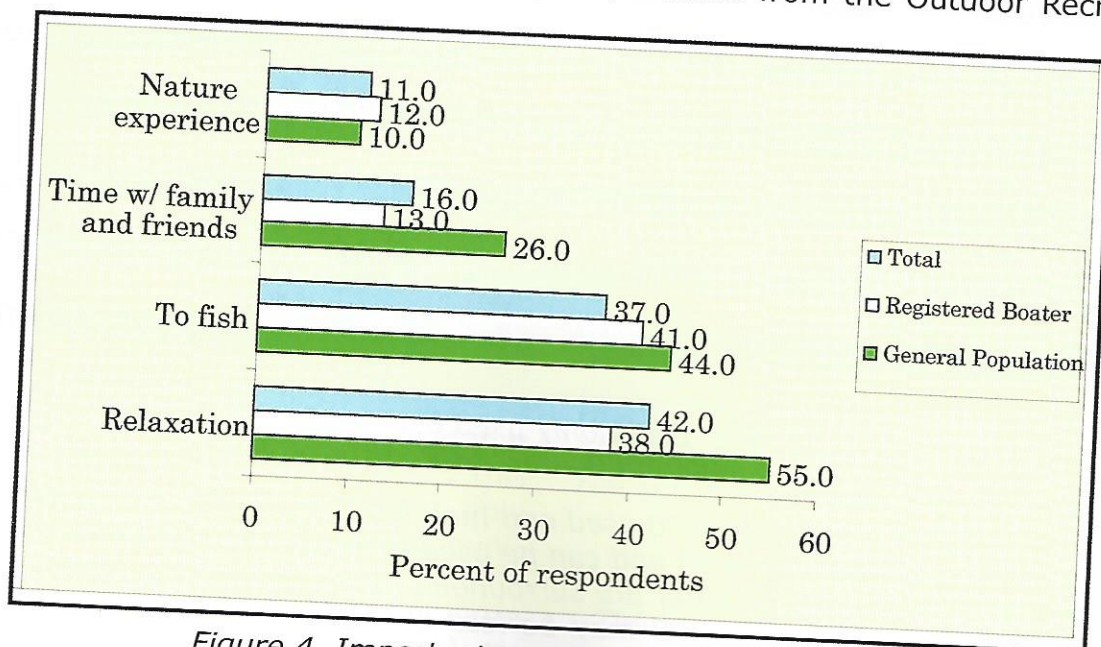


Figure 4. Important reasons respondents boat



Participation Survey.

The No. 1 reason all respondents said they boated was relaxation (42%), followed by fishing (37%), being with family and friends (16%), and being close to nature (11%). Fig. 4 shows the variation between GPB and RB responses to "What are the important reasons why you boat in Indiana?"

The responses to the surveys show that motorboating is the most popular type of boating. Motorboats were divided into two categories, 16-26 feet long and less than 16 feet. Forty-one percent of boaters from both surveys used a boat that was 16-26 feet long. Seventeen percent GPB and 18% RB used motorboats less than 16 feet long. Another consistency was the use of pontoon boats, with 16% GPB and 15% RB using them. One difference between populations was canoe use. Sixteen percent GPB used canoes, 0% RB.

Locations

Most boaters wanted to be close to the water they use. Few respondents wanted to travel more than two hours to boat. GPB were more willing to travel for a longer time to reach their destination, with 47% saying less than one hour, followed by 40%, one to two hours. RB wanted to travel the least amount of time: 59% less than one hour, 29% one to two hours. No respondents wanted to travel more than four hours. This information could correlate to most GPBs saying they either owned the watercraft used or that it was owned by a friend/acquaintance. Although no data were collected concerning distance from residence to closest body of water used, it may be possible that respondents were boaters because of their proximity to a boating location. Few respondents rented watercraft.

Body of Water	General Population	Number of Boat Trips by GPB*	Registered Boaters	Number of Boat Trips by RB**
Brookville Reservoir	■	172	■	499
Clear Lake			■	394
Glendale Marsh	■	117		
Lake Freeman	■	96		
Lake James			■	479
Lake Michigan	■	214	■	604
Lake Wawasee	■	129	■	653
Long Lake			■	367
Monroe Reservoir	■	238	■	836
Morse Reservoir			■	523
Patoka Reservoir	■	104	■	996
Pine Lake	■	107		
Salamonie Reservoir			■	387
Tippecanoe Lake	■	86		
Waubee Lake	■	162		

Table 1. Comparison of 15 most commonly used bodies of water by user population
 * General Population Boater, ** Registered Boater

Notes:

- 1) A much higher percentage GPB used non-motorized boats that do not need to be registered (e.g., canoes, kayaks) and can be used in smaller bodies of water.
- 2) Several of the bodies of water are surrounded by privately owned land.
- 3) The chart indicates that GPB may be less likely to use DNR-owned/operated properties than RB.



The top 10 bodies of water used by GPB were:

- Monroe Reservoir
- Lake Michigan
- Brookville Reservoir
- Waubee Lake
- Lake Wawasee
- Glendale Marsh
- Pine Lake
- Patoka Reservoir
- Lake Freeman
- Tippecanoe Lake

The top 10 bodies of water used by RB were:

- Patoka Reservoir
- Monroe Reservoir
- Lake Wawasee
- Lake Michigan
- Morse Reservoir
- Brookville Reservoir
- Lake James
- Clear Lake
- Salamonie Reservoir
- Long Lake

Note the small degree of overlap between the bodies of water used by GPB and RB. See Table 1.

Time

The average number of days GPB spent boating in the 12 months before completing the survey was 21.5 days. Although the average number of days spent on the water by RB was somewhat higher (30.9 days) the former is still a significant amount of time. Most boaters spent from one to nine days on the water with RB having a slightly higher average number of hours (5.0 hours vs. 5.5).

A small percentage (4%) reported that they did not take day boating trips. This could indicate that these people only boat when they go for a weekend, mini- or full vacation.

The amount of boating activity of more than half of all respondents (59%) re-



mained the same through the past 12 months. Asked "What are the reasons you do not go boating more often?" 79% reported "lack of time." This response rate is even higher than participation survey responses to the same question. This may indicate that boating activities can require more time in general because of factors such as transporting a boat and finding adequate water access.

Although boaters reported "family obligations" as the second reason for lack of time for more boating, the main boating companions of GPB were spouse (50%) friends (50%) and/or children (40%). The main RB boating companions were spouse (52%), and/or children (48%) and friends (42%). The average number of companions on GPB boating outings was 4.2 people. For RB, it was 2.6 people. Typically, a GPB reported taking two people; RB reported taking one. Three percent of the total population reported that they did not take anyone with them. These data indicate that boating is a social activity for most boaters.

Funding

The survey responses indicate that boating is a fairly inexpensive activity



(excluding equipment purchases such as boat or trailer) on a trip-by-trip basis. GPB averaged spending \$126 per person per trip for their vehicle, travel, lodging, food and drink (alcoholic and non-alcoholic). Thirty percent GPB spent \$100 or more, 13% spent \$50-\$59, 12% spent \$20-\$29, and 18% spent \$0. The average amount spent by RB for the same items was \$44 per person per trip. Twenty-one percent spent \$100 or more, 9% spent \$50-\$59, 13% spent \$20-\$29, and 24% spent \$0. Forty-two percent GPB did not spend money on boat expenditures (e.g., fuel, equipment) and 24% spent less than \$30. Thirty-two percent RB did not spend money on boat expenditures, and 36% spent less than \$30. These data indicate that boaters prepared for

their trips before leaving home and carried much of their food and drink with them. Additionally, most boaters prefer to start their boating in the morning, so being prepared in advance would allow for an early start.

**Additional observations –
Satisfaction and safety**

Most said they are satisfied with the waterways, boating-access points, general boating safety, and the presence of conservation officers on the water. More than one-third said that the same amount of money should be spent on access points and ramps; approximately half said more should be spent. Of those who felt more should be spent, the high-

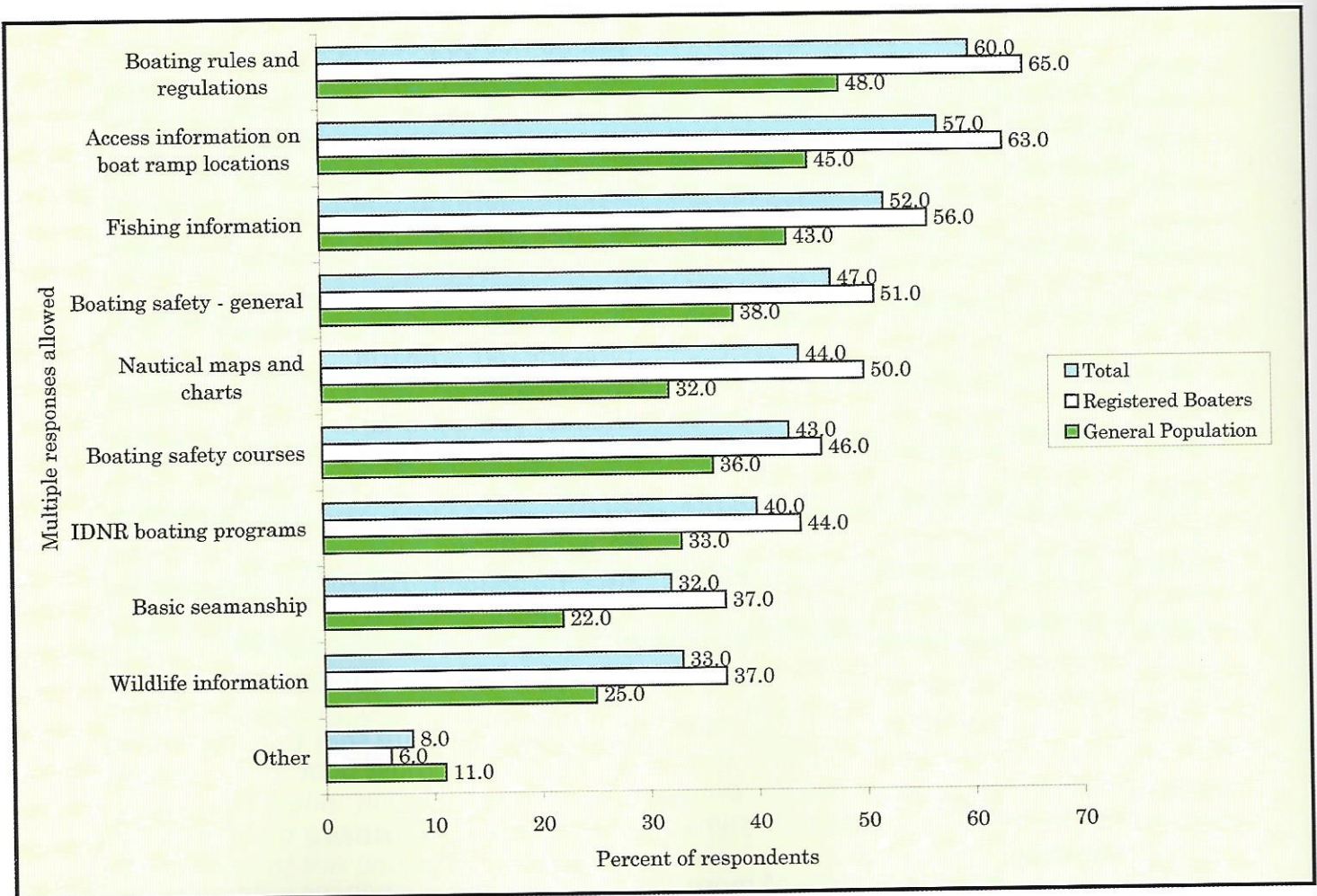


Figure 5. Topics boaters would like to receive information about