



# OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

Berkshire County 2020

Funding and Support provided by  
**MILLTOWN**



**BRPC**  
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission



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# Acknowledgements

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Cover photo credit: *Nicholas Russo*

This Outdoor Recreation Plan for Berkshire County was accomplished through the willing and active participation of communities, individuals, and organizations throughout the process. A wide range of stakeholders were interviewed and surveyed for this project, and their input was crucial in developing recommendations for the future of the Berkshire County outdoor recreation economy.

1Berkshire  
Action Sports and Travel  
Adams Sno-Drifters  
Appalachian Mountain Club Berkshire Chapter  
Appalachian Trail Conservancy  
Arcadian Shop  
Becket Land Trust  
Berkshire Aviation Enterprises LLC  
Berkshire Bike and Board  
Berkshire Community Rowing  
Berkshire Eagle  
Berkshire Knapsackers  
Berkshire Natural Resources Council  
Berkshire Rivers Fly Fishing  
Berkshire Running Center  
Berkshire Trail Riders Association  
Berkshire Volleyball  
Camp Timber Trails  
Canterbury Farm  
Canyon Ranch  
City of Pittsfield  
Dept. of Conservation and Recreation  
Donnybrook Country Club  
Fernwood Forest Campground, Inc.  
Florida Mountaineers Snowmobile Club.  
Greylock Glen  
Housatonic Valley Association  
International Mountain Bicycling Association  
Jiminy Peak  
Josh Billings Triathlon

Kenver Ltd  
Laurel Hill Association  
Lenox Sportsmen Club  
Mass Audubon - Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries  
Mill Town  
Mohawk Trail Association  
Mount Greylock Campsite Park  
NEMBA  
New Boston Crane Service and Sleds  
New England Trail Rider Association (NETRA)  
Onota Boat Livery, Inc.  
Patriots All Terrain Club  
Pinnacle Trail Design and Construction  
Ramblewild  
Savoy Kanary Kats Snowmobile Club, Inc.  
Sheffield Land Trust  
Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts (SAM)  
Stockbridge Sportsmen's Club  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Spoke  
Thunderbolt Ski Runners  
Trustees of Reservations - Notchview  
Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area  
Village Bike Rentals, Inc.  
Western Mass Hilltown Hikers  
Western Massachusetts Climbers Coalition  
Williams College Outing Club  
Williamstown Rural Land Foundation

## Executive Summary

Outdoor recreation has the potential to be a strong economic development tool for the Berkshires. Our natural scenic beauty is already a strong draw for visitors and cited by residents as a key reason to make the Berkshires their home. In order to leverage this regional strength responsibly, our community must determine what steps to take in order to maintain and expand existing outdoor recreation amenities and develop new assets which will further position our region as a true outdoor recreation destination.

The literal and figurative connection between all elements of this Outdoor Recreation Plan are the trail systems within Berkshire County. More than 850 total miles are currently mapped. Investing in trails for a wide range of uses - while not expecting all trails to accommodate all uses - by improving user experience with expanded parking, better signage, increased wayfinding, and more connections between towns and trails, is the single most important step we can take - from which should follow a robust marketing effort properly backed by public and private funding partners.

Berkshire County has a strong reputation for quality outdoor experiences worth building upon. Land managers and user groups are beginning to form stronger relationships. These ongoing conversations hold the potential to become durable partnerships if stakeholders remain committed to convening and seeking common ground. This solid footing will in turn make it possible for the outdoor recreation economy in Berkshire County to evolve and flourish.



Photo: Gabrielle K. Murphy

### Parsons Marsh Reserve, Lenox

Each activity area covered within this plan - Biking, Camping, Hiking, Hunting/Fishing, Outdoor Athletics, Skiing, Water Sports, and Motorized Activity - has been examined for strengths, challenges, and opportunities for growth. While these areas capture most of the more popular activities conducted in the Berkshires, we have also included a "Misc./Other" category which encompasses a range of emerging and niche activities.

Additionally, the overarching themes of Infrastructure, Communications, and Legislative/Regulatory allow us to explore overlapping solutions which could positively affect multiple activity areas. From within these themes, the importance of improving accessibility for all ages and ability levels, developing stronger outdoor recreation-focused marketing, and securing increased funding for both asset maintenance and development stand out as the most vital next steps for outdoor recreation in Berkshire County.

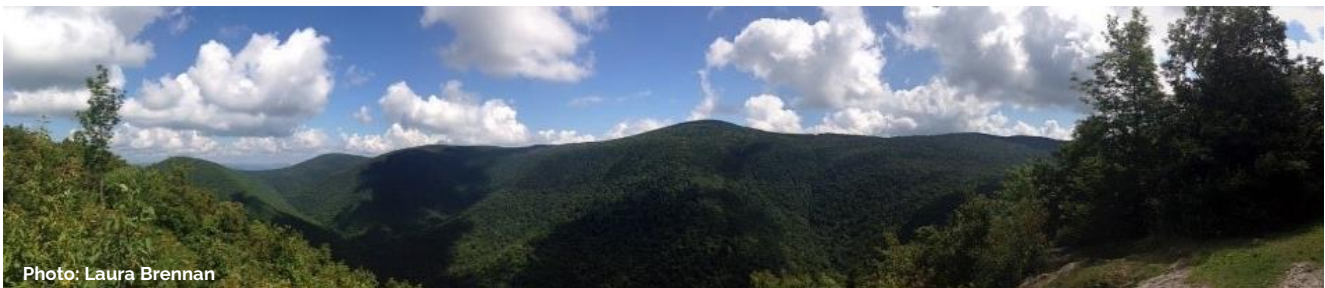


Photo: Laura Brennan

### Mount Greylock from Hopper Trail

## Background & Process

At the request of Mill Town Capital, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) developed an outdoor recreation plan for the benefit of the region and to assist in guiding investment in, and development of, outdoor recreation amenities in the Berkshires. This Plan is the first of its kind for Berkshire County, where very few towns have current Open Space and Recreation Plans of their own.

Contributors include stakeholders in a broadly defined outdoor recreation economy: land stewards, equipment retail & rental, and clubs and associations. Intended audiences are philanthropic organizations, entrepreneurs, economic development & marketing agencies, state and local governments, and outdoor enthusiasts. Public engagement followed an informal process aimed at gathering meaningful input and included a public forum as well as online surveying. Individual interviews with key stakeholders contribute to the overall understanding of current circumstances. Finally, brief comparisons with similar regions also helped to inform recommendations.

Overarching recommendations are presented within the categories of Infrastructure,

*"We need balance between resource utilization and ecosystem services. There are many ways to recreate, but some have significant environmental footprints."*

Communications, and Legislative/Regulatory. Recommendations within these areas affect multiple activity types and would impact a wide range of outdoor recreation participants and stakeholders within the outdoor recreation economy.

Major activities are divided into categories of: biking (including road and mountain biking), camping, hiking (including hiking, walking and



snowshoeing), hunting/fishing, outdoor athletics (including court and field sports and golf) skiing/snowboarding, water sports, motorized activity, and "other/additional", which encompasses niche and emerging activity with lower participation rates but potential for growth. This plan presents primary and secondary recommendations, based upon the frequency with which topics were mentioned in interviews or surveys, as well as follow-up discussions.

It is important to note that recommendations among various activity types may be difficult to reconcile with one another – conflict among user groups is a concern in the Berkshires as it is in most regions with an abundance of activity occurring within a defined and limited area. BRPC does not necessarily endorse specific recommendations but rather presents a full range of options, any of which would help grow participation in, and economic benefit from, a given activity *if* the community were to pursue its expansion.



## Overview

Outdoor recreation opportunities are abundant in Berkshire County and, as heard numerous times during the public engagement process for this plan, activities are available in all seasons and many are suitable for a range of ability levels. Though the Berkshires are primarily known for arts and cultural offerings, our outdoor recreation assets have long been enjoyed by residents and visitors alike, without having the reputation of being crowded or over-utilized as is the case with many destinations. In a county totaling 605,637 acres, 221,205 acres are protected land, and 179,009 of those protected acres are publicly accessible. An additional 15,335 acres are utilized for recreation but are not in protected status and may have fee-based access (ski resorts, summer camps, sportsman's clubs, etc.) It is widely agreed that those seeking group or guided outings have plenty of options, though awareness of those organized activities would benefit from better promotion. It is also important to note both handicapped accessibility and all-ages activity were often identified as lacking by plan participants.

Over sixty stakeholders – outdoor businesses, land managers, clubs, municipalities, and non-profits – took part in interviews and surveys in order to share what they believe to be our greatest assets as well as their concerns about what needs improvement. Strengths included the range of options, the availability of companions and instruction, and the lack of overcrowding at most, if not all, of our outdoor recreation sites. Challenges ranged from insufficient equipment rental and transportation options and the lack of centralized information and infrastructure, to conflicts among user groups and concerns about cultivating future generations of outdoor enthusiasts. This group identified increased marketing, a more family friendly and handicapped accessible approach, improved maintenance of facilities, and more collaboration overall as the most important elements for the success of the outdoor recreation economy in the Berkshires. By and large, this group does not feel that outdoor recreation is receiving adequate promotion, nor



do they feel connected with their peers in the outdoor recreation economy.

An online survey for the general public garnered over 2,000 responses, thanks to enthusiastic support by stakeholder organizations that shared the survey link via social media, websites, and e-newsletters. Full-time residents were the largest group of respondents, with participation from every municipality in the county. The majority were between the ages of 30 and 60 and were highly likely to participate in outdoor recreation in all seasons. At least 25% participate in the following: Hiking, Walking, Bicycling (road), Snowshoeing, ATV/ORV riding, Paddling, Wildlife Viewing, Swimming, Camping, Mountain Biking, Alpine Skiing, Picnicking, or XC Skiing. Non-resident visitors were more likely to participate in Camping and ATV/ORV riding than full- or part-time residents.



Having fun, connecting with nature, and keeping fit were the top three reasons for participating in outdoor recreation. Visitors felt that escaping crowds was very important (43%), but so did 31% of full-time residents. Friends were the most common companions, with family a close second. Few respondents said they recreate alone, though residents were much more likely than visitors to do so. The majority (68%) felt that outdoor recreation areas are properly regulated/restricted. However, even higher percentages agreed that more opportunities for children and youth, as well as older adults and people with disabilities are needed.

*"A lot of our recreation areas are old and have been 12 different things before...if you have not spent years recreating in these woods, it is very easy to get lost."*

Part-time residents travel the farthest within the county to participate in outdoor recreation (perhaps due to more available leisure time while they're here) but full-time residents also move about the county: nearly half typically travel more than 10 miles.

About half would like to start a new activity or participate more often – citing better facilities and more time in their personal schedules as the key elements needed to allow these activities to occur. Better gear or the ability to rent were often mentioned as well. Only 10% indicated a concern about not being able to afford outdoor recreation activities, and 12% lack companions.

The most common elements identified when asked, "What could your household benefit from increased access to?" were: Nature Trails, ATV/ORV Trails, Paved Biking Trails, Mountain Biking Trails, and Designated Swimming Areas. The most common areas for improvement were Restrooms and Maintenance, Equipment Rentals, Signage, Maps & Wayfinding, Trail Maintenance, and the creation of Additional Campsites.

## Significant Assets

The **Appalachian Trail**, completed in 1937 and designated as the country's first National Scenic Trail in 1968, runs 2,190 miles from Maine to Georgia. The Massachusetts section includes 90.2 miles of trail, most of which were complete by 1931 and all of which are within Berkshire County. Official Trail Communities within the county include (from North to South) North Adams, Clarksburg, Cheshire, Dalton, and Great Barrington, though the trail also passes through portions of Adams, New Ashford, Hinsdale, Washington, Becket, Tyringham, Monterey, Sheffield, Egremont, and Mount Washington, with 15 shelters and campsites maintained by volunteers from the AMC Berkshire Chapter, and 38 "A.T. Vistas" along the Berkshire County segment, many of which have no official name but offer scenic views of the Berkshire and Taconic ranges.



**Appalachian Trail**



Photo: Renee Royal

### Mount Greylock, Adams

The Appalachian Trail climbs Massachusetts' highest peak, **Mount Greylock**, located within the 12,500-acre Mount Greylock State Reservation. Mount Greylock's summit reaches 3,491 feet, and features views to five states and the only taiga-boreal forest in the state. A recently restored Veterans War Memorial Tower and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) constructed Bascom Lodge serve as key attractions for hikers, bikers, and those using the seasonal automobile road from Lanesborough. Mount Greylock also has an illustrious skiing history, including the construction of the Thunderbolt Ski Trail by the CCC in 1934, which hosted the USEASA Championship Races in 1938 and 1940 and served as training ground for 19 members of the U.S. Army's 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division in World War II.

## Major Projects

The Berkshire County region stands to benefit from a number of major projects currently in planning stages, all of which will contribute substantially to quality of life for residents and serve as anchors for outdoor recreation enthusiasts visiting the region. While a number of smaller projects are also pending at the time of this report, the following represent transformational initiatives with the potential to

significantly raise the profile of the Berkshires as an outdoor recreation destination.

The **Berkshire Bike Path**, when complete, will traverse Berkshire County from north to south over approximately 75 miles, extending from the Vermont border in Williamstown to the Connecticut border via Sheffield. Currently, a 12-mile section of the path is complete, with 5 additional contiguous sections aligned and in planning stages. These will extend from the current southern terminus in Lanesborough south into Pittsfield, and from the current northern terminus in Adams into North Adams. Secondary connections from the central north-south spine will connect the Berkshire Bike Path with adjacent downtowns and other recreational opportunities.

The 2009 Berkshire Bike Path Implementation Plan acknowledges a range of benefits related to a bicycle and pedestrian path extending the entire length of the county, including increased quality of life for residents through promotion of active lifestyles, positive impact on the local economy through increased tourism spending, and the creation of an alternative mode of transportation to alleviate congestion and air pollution and reduce vehicular accidents. Updates to the plan include routing southern portions of the path adjacent to the Housatonic rail line (now owned by Mass DOT) or alongside Route 7 in order to align with "Rail-with-Trail" and sidepath approaches. The Western New England Greenway, a route from Montreal to New York City by way of Berkshire County



### Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, Cheshire



which currently utilizes almost all motorized roadways with the exception of the Ashuwillticook segment, would also be rerouted to follow the non-motorized Berkshire Bike Path. A map of the current status of the Berkshire Bike Path can be found in Appendix A.

**Greylock Glen**, located directly to the east of the Mount Greylock State Reservation, encompasses 1,063 acres with 56 acres designated as a development area for the future Greylock Glen Resort. The Town of Adams serves as master developer for this public-private partnership, a project which will include a lodge and conference center with up to 170 rooms, a 140-site campground, and a 10,000 SF Outdoor Center to include café space, classroom facilities, and an outdoor outfitter/retailer. An updated master plan also calls for a performing arts amphitheater and outdoor sculpture art garden. The site currently offers visitors free access to over 18 miles of trails for hiking, snowshoeing, skiing and biking, with limited through traffic of snowmobiles accessing adjacent state land.

Economic impact analysis for this project indicates that the fully realized project will

support 331 full-time positions while generating \$15.9 million in direct spending and \$3.1 million in state and local tax revenue annually. Necessary roadway improvements, major utility and infrastructure work, MEPA certification and special permits for resort development are complete. The Greylock Glen Outdoor Center, anticipated to be the first phase of construction, is designed as a Net-Zero energy facility and will serve as base camp for youth programs, multi-generational wildlife study, and a field work station for area high school and college environmental science courses. A map of the Greylock Glen Resort development plan is included as Appendix B.

Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC), the Berkshire's regional land trust, is working to realize a vision for **The High Road**, a trail network to connect towns and trails together for a walkable Berkshire experience. Modeled on long-distance walking networks in Europe and the US, it will encompass a range of quick walks from town centers to multi-day excursions. BNRC is strategically purchasing land and easements in association with the long-term project and is engaging with landowners, municipalities, conservation partners, and other stakeholders to realize the vision.

A symbolic map of the proposed vision for The High Road can be found in Appendix C. Routes will include a variety of existing trail, new trail, and roads. The organization is working toward opening the first section in 2020, and establishing sections in north, central and south Berkshire County by 2025. Priorities include connecting well-used hiking networks to active town centers, using BNRC Reserves as major nodes wherever possible.



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## Related Initiatives

Regional and statewide policies and plans informing and supporting this report include efforts based not only in outdoor recreation but also economic development, land use, and transportation:

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts generates a **Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan** every five years, the most recent edition being from 2017.

The 2014 **Sustainable Berkshires** regional plan's Conservation and Recreation vision anticipated many of the themes of this current plan including the need for more readily available orientation, organized stewardship, retention of biodiversity, and incorporation of access in the context of downtowns, neighborhoods and communities rather than only parks and reserves.

Berkshire County's 2017-2022 **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)** identifies priority projects that enhance the region through physical or programmatic development. Greylock Glen, along with other projects with outdoor recreation implications, are listed as current priorities.

The 2020-2024 **Transportation Improvement Program** specifically names five segments of the Berkshire Bike Path, and also includes bike and or pedestrian safety upgrades such as bike lanes or sidewalks in any major reconstruction projects, as appropriate to the roadway.

The **Resilient Lands Initiative** of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs aims to update the 2001 statewide Land Conservation Plan and focuses on eight primary land use themes, including Outdoor Recreation.

A 2019 **Rural Policy Plan** for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts recognizes landscapes conducive to outdoor recreation as a key asset and recommends the creation of an Office of Outdoor Recreation.

The **Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership** project seeks to increase natural resource based economic development, forest conservation on private lands, use of sustainable forestry practices, and fiscal stability and sustainability of the 21 municipalities within the MTWP region.



# Themes

Primary recommendations that affect a range of activities are presented below, divided into the categories of Infrastructure, Communications, and Legislative/ Regulatory. Secondary recommendations may be found in the Appendix.

## Infrastructure

Surveys and interviews revealed that user experience at outdoor recreation sites was generally positive, but facilities are in need of expansions or upgrades in order to properly accommodate the volume of visitors and a wider range of ages, skill levels, or capabilities. An expansion of facilities was by far the most cited improvement needed in order to begin participating in a new activity or participate in something more often.

*“Consistent paths (sidewalks and crosswalks in towns/villages) suitable for wheelchairs and strollers [are needed]. Even the simplest of outdoor recreation (walking) should be a priority.”*

More than 38% of all respondents agreed that outdoor recreation sites lacked proper amenities. Primary recommendations in the

category of infrastructure are intended to ensure safety and substantially improve user experience.

## PRIMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

### Infrastructure

- Develop trail **connections** from recreational venues and along waterways **to downtowns**.
- Decrease user conflicts through **dedicated trails** for mountain biking, ORV, hiking, etc.
- **Improve facilities** at outdoor recreation sites: maintenance, parking areas, all-season restrooms with changing tables, signage, lighting, winter plowing, etc.
- Support **major outdoor recreation development projects** and facilitate redevelopment efforts aimed at maintaining or introducing public access at dormant recreation properties.
- Provide **welcome/orientation centers** in Northern, Central and Southern Berkshire County with knowledgeable staff to direct outdoor recreation users to appropriate sites and educate them on difficulty levels, nearby amenities, safety information.



Natural Bridge State Park, North Adams

## Communications

Berkshire County currently has a substantial inventory of outdoor recreation sites and a wide range of opportunities available, and improved communication about existing assets will benefit the region's economy and its residents' quality of life. Infrastructure improvements such as those listed above will elevate the outdoor experience and will require efficient communication about what is offered. Stakeholders and general public participants alike highlighted better communication as a key element to realizing an overall improvement in outdoor recreation in the Berkshires, leading to the primary recommendations regarding communications shown here.



Photo: Brenda Petell

Russell Field, Adams

## PRIMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

### Communications

- Create a **comprehensive trail system map**, encompassing all uses, online and in print.
- **Improve signage** at trailhead locations with maps, allowed uses, difficulty levels, hunting info, flora/fauna and history, emergency contact info; increase trail markers on trails.
- Build the outdoor recreation brand of the Berkshires through a **centralized source of information** on trails, guides, outfitters, and events.
- **Convene** key outdoor recreation stakeholders on a regular basis.
- Create a mechanism to **track monthly visitation** at outdoor recreation facilities for ongoing assessment purposes.

*"I would love to see an innovative and exciting NATURAL playground (logs, sand, stones, water, etc.) ... A creative, nature-based play area would fit well with our image as a cultured, rural haven."*



## Legislative/Regulatory

Priorities listed above will be difficult to achieve without increased support at a state level. Legislation filed by Senator Adam G. Hinds in 2019 ([S. 484](#)) proposes the establishment of an Office of Outdoor Recreation within the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, with duties including promotion and marketing, development of outdoor recreation management strategies, data collection and analysis, policy and initiative implementation, as well as administration of an Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund of grants and loans to projects which support the mission of the office. States with Offices of Outdoor Recreation include Colorado, Maine, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Prior to establishment of an Office of Outdoor Recreation in Massachusetts, additional resources to support promotion, staffing, maintenance and enforcement of regulations related to outdoor recreation activity are needed in the near term.

## PRIMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

### Legislative/Regulatory

- Pursue the creation of a Massachusetts **"Office of Outdoor Recreation"**.
- Advocate for **additional funding to promote outdoor recreation** through the Regional Tourism Council (1Berkshire), and other public or private groups.
- Work with state to allow **economic development funds** to be spent on outdoor recreation that doesn't meet the job creation requirement.
- Advocate for additional funding to support **staffing, maintenance and enforcement** on state lands.

Photo: Jeanne Laurin Schnackenberg



McLennan Reservation, Tyringham

## Activities

For the purposes of this plan, activities are divided into the following categories: biking (including road and mountain biking), camping, hiking (including walking and snowshoeing), hunting/fishing, outdoor athletics, skiing/snowboarding (including xc- and alpine skiing), water sports, motorized activity, and "other", which encompasses niche and emerging activities with lower participation rates but potential for growth. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission does not necessarily endorse specific recommendations but rather presents a range of options, any of which could help grow participation in, and economic benefit from, a given activity *if* the community pursues its expansion.

## Biking

Bicycling ranked third among outdoor recreation activities by survey participants, behind hiking and walking. More than 20% of all respondents indicated it was among their three most frequent activities. Various types of biking were often named as something respondents would like to do more often, but bicycling paths and/or lanes were the number one aspect cited as needing improvement.

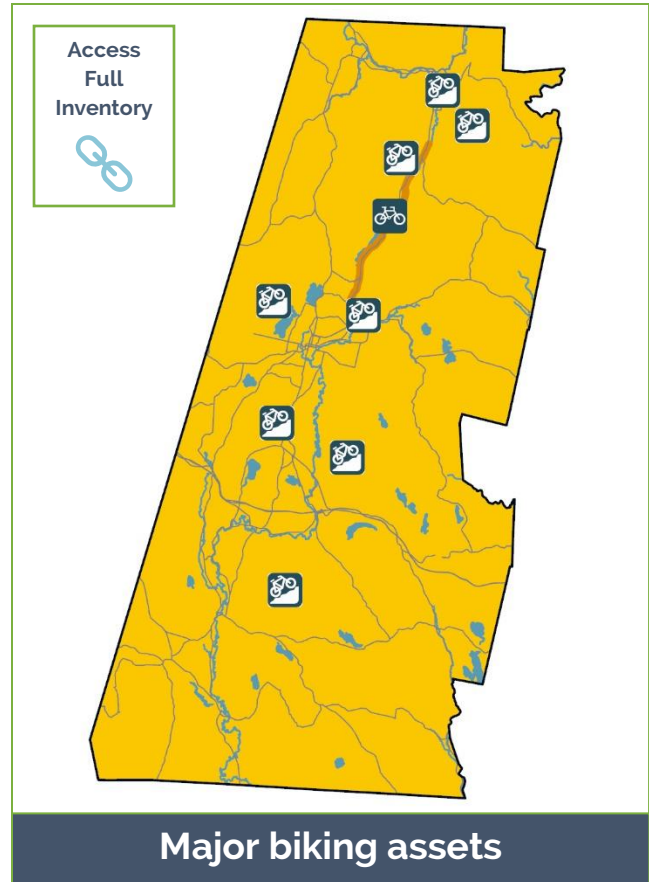
The 12-mile Ashuwillticook Rail Trail serves as a key asset for cyclists as well as those on foot, used by more than 60% of survey respondents and identified by multiple participants as the single biggest outdoor recreation asset in Berkshire County. The expansion of this multi-use, non-motorized trail in northern and southern directions is a high priority for outdoor enthusiasts in Berkshire County, who emphasized the trail as a safe alternative to roads for leisure biking and a potential commuting route once expanded.

Some participants point to what they consider to be the inappropriate categorization of e-bikes as motorized vehicles, leading to their prohibition on otherwise bikeable trails and relegation to routes shared with OHVs. As pedal assist/e-bikes do help to address some accessibility concerns, and also travel at a far lower speed than other "motorized" vehicles, review and revision of these regulations should be considered.



Photo: Laura Brennan

**Ashuwillticook Rail Trail**



Road biking participants are also enthusiastic but express strong concerns around safety. Open-ended comments about road cycling safety far outnumbered any other topic in the public survey in response to the questions, "What aspect of outdoor recreation needs the most improvement," and "What about this aspect should be improved?" These concerns need to be addressed in order to allow this activity to be viable throughout the county.

*"There should be such a thick network of paved paths that everyone can get to one from their home, without having to load their bike on a rack and drive there."*

Currently, just over 25% of the county's 687 miles of arterial and collector roads include a shoulder on at least one side that is 4 feet wide





Photo: Roger Kohler

### Greylock Glen, Adams

or more, a reasonable width for bike accommodation. Taking into account all 2,401 miles of roads of any type (with the exception of private roads or interstate highway) in the county, this equates to only 7.6%. In order to properly accommodate road bikers and ensure safety, an incorporation of Complete Streets principles by individual municipalities is needed. Implementing dedicated bike lanes where possible and expanding shoulder width of roads wherever possible could serve to reduce reliance on motor vehicles. Cycling within and between towns could see dramatic increases with these improvements and would contribute to the quality of life for residents and improve visitor experience.

*"Mountain biking trails need to be built and well maintained to be sustainable, safe, and to minimize negative impacts on the environment."*

While not yet a destination for mountain biking, Berkshire County is maturing as a mountain biking community and refining its approach to trail construction, maintenance, and promotion. Currently, mountain biking trails exist in both sanctioned and unsanctioned locations and are often poorly marked and/or mapped. Relatively small trail systems are isolated from one another and are located in areas that do not allow for the modern mountain bike-optimized features that riders seek. Tensions between land managers and riders have been difficult to overcome despite recognition from both

parties that improved communication and cooperation is needed. Incremental steps toward formal partnerships could allow these tensions to be overcome, leading to improved experiences for riders of and the resolution of safety and environmental impact concerns expressed by land managers.

Ample evidence exists that mountain biking can be utilized as an economic development tool, and the economic impacts of mountain bike activity on a local economy can be significant. It may not be possible (or even advisable) to attempt replicating scenarios as they have played out in Bentonville, Arkansas, or the Kingdom Trails network in Vermont, as in these locales, substantial private funding and large tracts of private land played a factor. Rather, Berkshire County's abundance of conserved public land combined with a professional, methodical approach to constructing well designed, quality trails will serve to transition the region's mountain biking experience from its current haphazard and disjointed state to one worthy of destination status.

## PRIMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

### Biking

- Develop a longer system or systems of authorized **mountain bike-optimized trails** serving a variety of skill levels, rerouting or closing unauthorized trails as needed to protect wetlands, habitats, etc.
- Increase the length of **paved bike trails** by expanding county-wide and creating connections to downtowns and recreational areas.
- Increase the availability and use of protected and dedicated **bike lanes**, increasing the width of shoulders on roads that do not have bike lanes.

## Camping

There are 23 camping facilities across the county, 11 of which are located within Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) state forests, one owned by the City of North Adams and 11 privately owned. A potential increase in overnight camping options was announced in January of 2020 by DCR, which will reopen the decade-long shuttered facility at Windsor State Forest, initially for day-use only.

*"[There are] not enough primitive tent sites."*

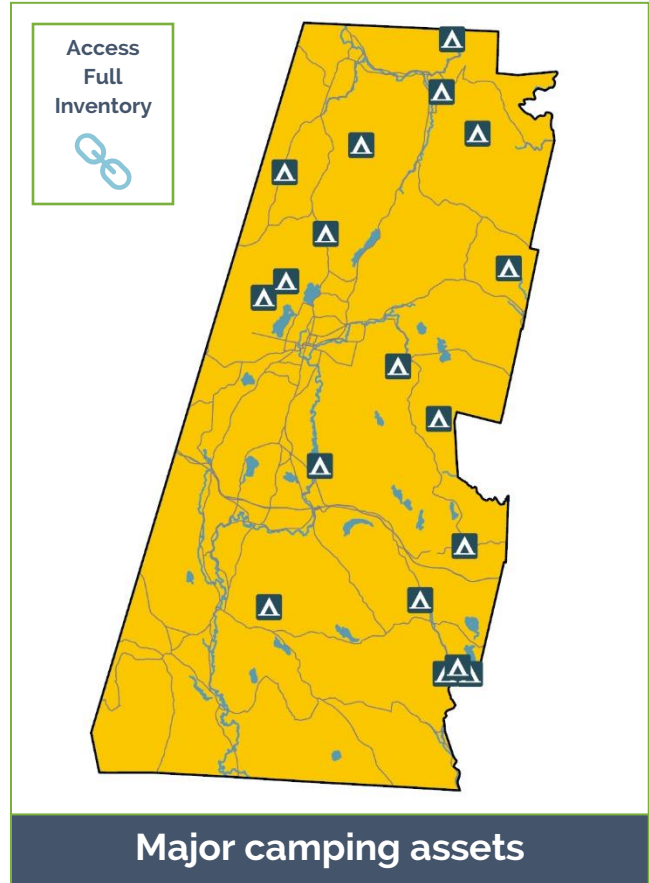
Managers of both private and public campgrounds report strong occupancy rates, with a growing customer base and a modest increase in revenue over the last five years, and little concern around financial sustainability in the near term. Concerns were expressed, however, regarding a perceived lack of overall promotion, or an overshadowing of outdoor recreation messages by arts and culture. The majority of camping facilities did not report having plans for expansion, and those that do generally indicate an intention to expand common area facilities and trails rather than adding additional sites.

On the other hand, individuals responding to the general public survey frequently indicated a desire to see more and varied camping options



Photo: Laura Brennan

**Pittsfield State Forest**



made available. Among camping enthusiasts, the expansion of facilities was identified by 33% as something that would help them participate more often. Despite a seemingly large number of camping locations indicated on the map above, many of the marked facilities are primarily occupied by RVs on a semi-permanent basis and have minimal room for tents or short-term RV site rentals.

*"We need more facilities to offer year-round camping especially involving cabins and yurts."*

There are currently a limited number of designated sites for backcountry camping on state land, with no dispersed camping permitted. Following successful examples of dispersed camping in other regions would expand options and could attract a wider range of camping and backpacking enthusiasts to the region.



Nearly 30% of respondents indicate that they camp in Berkshire County, and approximately 34% of non-resident visitors currently do. Only 11% included camping in their top three outdoor recreation activities. The limited season for most campgrounds, along with a generally low number of available campsites for the volume of visitors the Berkshires welcomes annually, are factors in the current rate of participation. Camping and backpacking were among the activities people would like to participate in more often.

*"State campgrounds should be open at least 9 months each year."*

Campers typically engage in a variety of outdoor activities while visiting, often hiking, biking, and kayaking when not at their campsite. They also patronize shops, restaurants, and cultural venues. Respondents who camp in the Berkshires also travel farther within the county than other respondents, with 55% typically going more than 10 miles for the purposes of outdoor recreation.

The expansion of camping options, both in quantity and site type, has the potential to impact visitor spending by extending visits to the region. With the exception of summer camps, few camping facilities have sites on or near water, which is at a premium in Berkshire County. Accessible camping is offered at Clarksburg and Mohawk Trail State Forests, but is currently unavailable at other public sites,

reinforcing an overall concern about limited accessible outdoor recreation options in the region.

The Berkshires are also home to many summer camps, generally located with access to a lake or pond. While these properties are not permanently protected from development, they do contribute to the rural character of the region. Summer Camps, like campgrounds, are direct examples of recreation-based economic activity in the region, often providing substantial revenue to local businesses in the rural town in which they are located, as well as to lodging and restaurant properties during parents' and alumni weekends.

Summer camps also impact the economy by encouraging alumni to return for vacations with family and contribute to a familiarity and fondness for the region which may influence decisions about purchasing a second home or relocating to the region.

## PRIMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

### Camping

- Develop **additional camping facilities** with a variety of site options including tent, trailer, cabin, yurt, etc.
- Allow **more backcountry** and dispersed camping in the state forests and at lakeside locations.
- Improve **restrooms and maintenance** of existing public and private campgrounds.
- **Expand information available** online about winter camping, novice options, Leave No Trace™ principles, etc.



## Hiking

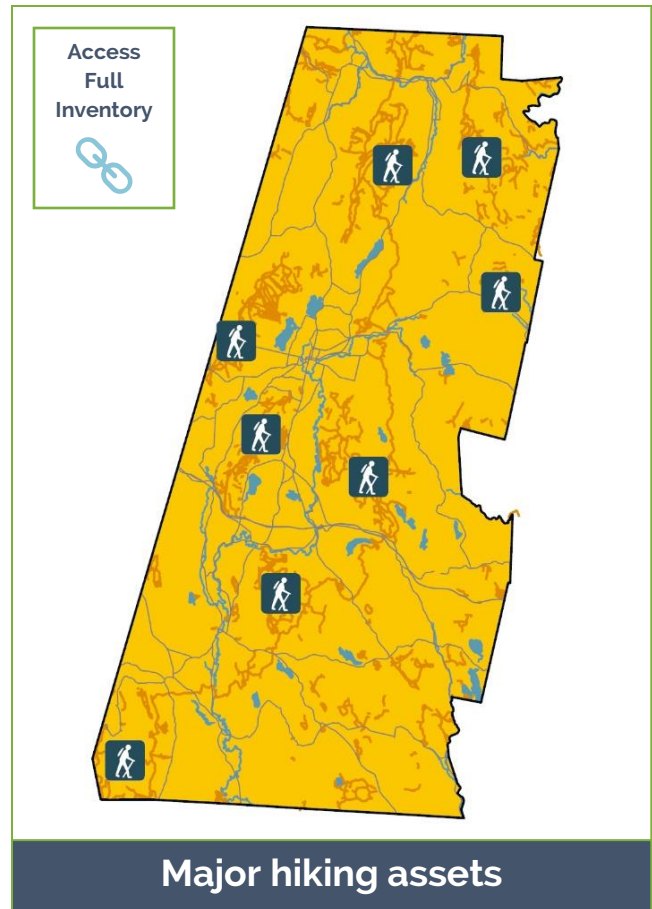
Hiking is the number one most often identified outdoor recreation activity, with over 70% of survey respondents participating. It was first among all activities for frequency, and 80% of respondents selected hiking or walking among their top three most frequent activities. Hiking enthusiasts are also likely to snowshoe, bicycle, swim, paddle, and participate in wildlife viewing or nature study.

Hiking trails are found throughout the region in all DCR properties and many of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) properties. Trail systems also abound in public properties owned by municipalities, non-profit conservation organizations and land trusts. The region's topography offers a wide range of trails with varying levels of difficulty. There are currently 850 miles of mapped trails in Berkshire County, the vast majority of which are suitable for hiking. Unsurprisingly, respondents who selected hiking as a favorite activity were less likely than the full pool of survey participants to indicate that an expansion of facilities was needed. Rather, improvements of amenities such as parking, signage, restrooms, overall maintenance, and maps/materials were requested, along with improved facilities for other activities including swimming and biking.



Photo: Sara Hathaway

**Alander Mountain, Mount Washington**



Many of the trail systems are also shared with other activity types, and hikers do express concerns around trail damage and erosion.

*"Clear signage and more parking if you plan to attract more people. Maybe shuttles from visitor centers similar to Acadia."*

More than 70% of hiking enthusiasts felt that outdoor recreation areas in the Berkshires are properly restricted, despite some concerns about posting of regulations and a lack of staff to monitor activity, as well as safety issues caused by unauthorized motorized vehicles and unsanctioned mountain bike trails leading hikers astray. Vandalism, off-leash dogs and dog owners neglecting to clean up waste left on or near the trail were also mentioned.





While the Appalachian Trail is the most well-known long-distance hiking trail in the area, both the Mahican-Mohawk and Taconic Crest trails provide approximately 35 miles of designated pathways intended to honor the history of Native American tribes of the region. Both extend outside of Massachusetts into neighboring states, and on some segments are appropriate for a variety of uses including cycling, snowmobiling, horseback riding, and in the case of the Mahican-Mohawk Trail, paddling.

*“Parking areas should be cleared during winter for safer use of trails.”*

Hikers have multiple options for joining organized outings in Berkshire County, including those offered by area clubs or through land trusts, cultural organizations with expansive campuses, and other non-profit organizations. With the availability of easy to moderate hiking trails, and a relatively low barrier to entry in terms of cost for equipment, hiking is considered readily available and affordable. However, land managers report that users from out of the area are often intimidated

by the prospect of hiking in the Berkshires, expressing concern over the prospect of getting lost and being apprehensive about encountering a difficulty level they do not feel prepared for. Some arrive unprepared lacking snowshoes, micro spikes, or hiking poles when the weather or terrain may call for them, and these items are not readily available for rent or loan in many locations.

Efforts by land managers to create accessible paths have expanded the range of choices for persons with disabilities, but both stakeholders and general public participating in surveys and interviews for this report placed an emphasis on the need for additional options. These concerns were expressed in regard to both hiking trails and sidewalks and paths in towns, which are often absent from roadways or in disrepair. Where possible, the region should seek to install nature trails which meet or exceed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

## PRIMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

### Hiking

- Improve signage, parking, restrooms, waste management and map supplies at **trailheads**.
- Develop additional **accessible** or **all-person trails**.
- Connect **trail networks** to one another and improve access to trails from town centers and neighborhoods.
- Encourage new trails and major trail rehabilitation projects to follow **sustainable trail design and building practices**.

## Hunting/Fishing

Hunting is a long-standing tradition in Berkshire County, with a total of 21 game species available including white-tailed deer, bear, turkey, pheasant and various waterfowl. While hunting for different game species is open in all four seasons, the fall shotgun deer season is the most popular. Hunting is allowed on all state-owned conservation lands except for certain designated areas. Pheasants are stocked in seven Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), two state forests, and 14 other sites across the county.

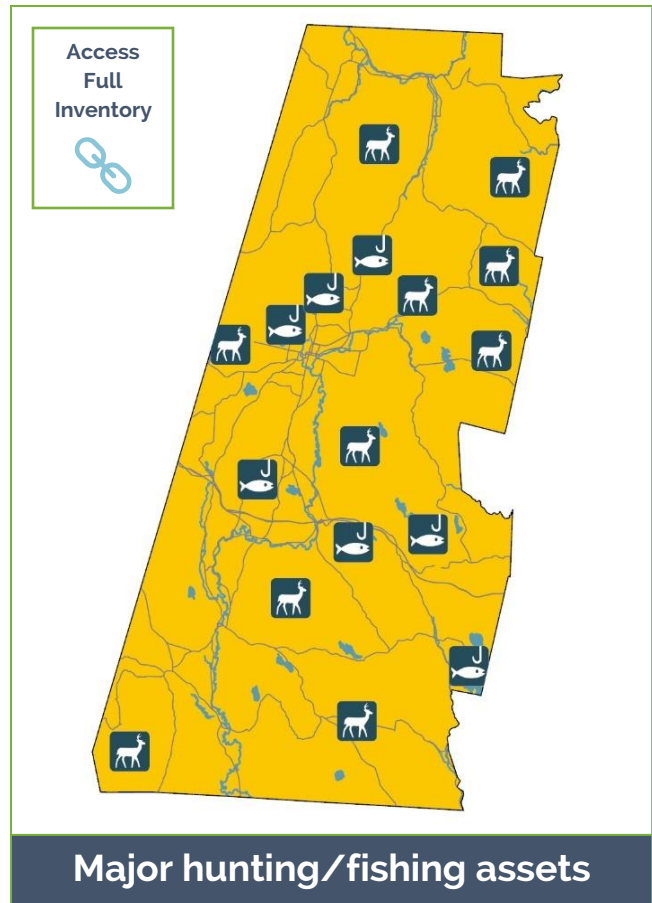
A conservative estimate of land within Berkshire County open to hunting places total acreage at approximately 107,000 acres. This includes state land (excluding the Mount Greylock State Reservation), properties managed by Berkshire Natural Resources Council, some land managed by The Trustees of Reservations, as well as a portion of private lands known to permit hunting. Many sportsmen and women participate through local rod and gun or sporting clubs. Eight Berkshire towns (Cheshire, Great Barrington, Lenox, Lee, Pittsfield, Sheffield, Stockbridge and Williamstown) have membership-driven clubs which often own property and facilities. The clubs serve sportsmen and women by providing shooting ranges, hosting fishing derbies, and sponsoring education and youth programs.

As is typical of rural areas, there are numerous informal access points or arrangements



Photo: Harry Desmond

Great Barrington



whereby landowners allow public to cross through their property in order to reach a conservation property or water resource. For example, woodlot owners and farmers have a tradition of allowing the public to access their land, historically to hunt or fish. Many landowners still honor this tradition, but use is often through word of mouth. As development occurs or properties change hands, these arrangements can be lost, reducing public access to outdoor recreation options.

*"We have beautiful lakes with little to no area to stand for fishing."*

Conservation partners and municipalities can work to formally retain important access to land and water resources to ensure that future generations are able to readily access recreation opportunities.



Photo: Erik Hoffner

## Mount Washington

According to a 2006 study by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 40% of Massachusetts residents engage in wildlife-associated recreation, contributing \$1.6 billion to the state economy. As a single group, anglers generated \$770 million in revenue. Of those who fished, 64% of time was spent in freshwaters, with bass (lakes and ponds) and trout (streams and rivers) being most pursued.

*"Public ranges would be cool, maybe even just archery targets open to the public with bow rentals on site."*

Fishing is allowed year-round in Berkshire waters. Trout are stocked in dozens of streams and rivers throughout the region in spring and during a short season in select waterways in the autumn. There are catch-and-release areas in Lee and Glendale. Broodstock salmon are stocked in Goose Pond, Onota Lake and Stockbridge Bowl. Ice fishing is a major winter activity, as our frozen lakes and ponds often support ice not found in eastern Mass. or southern New England. Several fishing derbies are held throughout the county, often sponsored by area sporting clubs. Fly fishing is also a popular option and guided trips are offered by private companies.

However, the numbers of hunters and anglers is on the decline. According to DFW, the number of resident hunters in Massachusetts declined by 49% between 1958 and 2008. According to the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, between 1996 and 2006 the number of anglers declined 29%.

Aging hunters are retiring from the sport and fewer young people are taking it up. A major source of revenue for purchasing and managing state conservation land has traditionally come from hunting and fishing licenses. If the number of licenses continues to decline, the state will need to identify new revenue sources to close the financing gap. Hunters also help wildlife management by keeping populations in balance. A lack of hunting activity could result in overpopulation of certain species and cause an increase in human-wildlife conflicts in yards or roadways. High population numbers can also result in food or range scarcity harmful to animals.

## PRIMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

### Hunting/Fishing

- Improve **wildlife habitat management** through forest management and invasive species removal.
- Expand shooting ranges, including archery, ensuring the availability of at least one **public range**.
- Work with public and private partners to **expand land available** for hunting through provisions requiring publicly funded APR land and conservation easements on private land to allow public access.

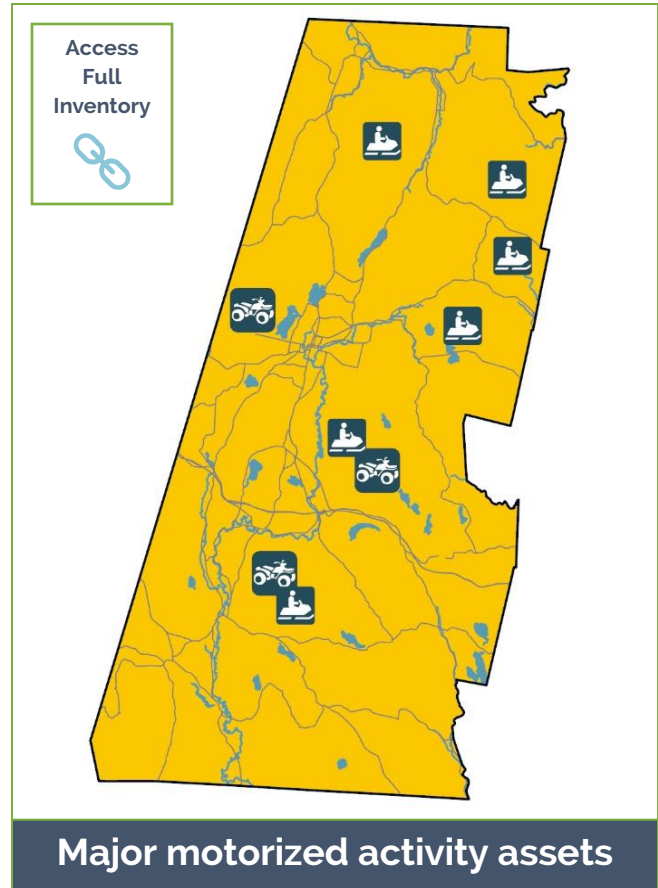


## Motorized Activity

As seen in the map of major motorized activity assets, authorized areas for ATV, OHV, dirt bike riding or snowmobiling are limited in Berkshire County. Trail mileage on public land for motorized activity is significantly less than for any other outdoor recreation activity. The general public survey reflected a high level of interest in expanding both the available land and permitted seasons for motorized riding. This interest was particularly high among survey participants from outside of the area, who visit but do not live full- or part-time in Berkshire County. Indeed, only 10% of full-time residents indicated any participation in ATV/ORV riding.

The Berkshires hosts four state forests that allow ORVs: October Mountain (30 miles of trails), Beartown (25 miles of trails), Tolland (15 miles of trails) and Pittsfield (14 miles of trails). These are the only state forests in Massachusetts that allow ATVs, others located in southeastern Massachusetts containing a total of 33 miles of single-track trails restricted to motorcycles.

Open ended responses to questions about what most needs improvement in the region included many indications that trails allowing motorized vehicles are insufficient, have been reduced in recent years, and do not currently allow a wide enough range of vehicle types. Another frequent concern is that existing trail



systems do not connect to towns, thus limiting access to fuel and food and suppressing the potential positive economic impact of ATV/ORV or snowmobile users.

*“There is a need for more motorized ATV/ORV and snowmobile accessible trails, that can also connect to amenities (restaurants, taverns, gas stations) in or near town centers.”*



Through informal surveys, DCR estimates that the majority of ORV users in Pittsfield State Forest are Massachusetts residents. This is in contrast to October Mountain and Beartown State Forests, where the majority of visitors are out-of-state residents. The state of Connecticut does not allow motorized vehicles in their state



Photo: anonymous

### Beartown State Forest, Monterey

parks, so these southern forests are popular with riders from out of state.

The Berkshires host a large portion of the Statewide Snowmobile Trail System (SSTS). This 2,000-plus mile system is unique in that it is comprised of both public and private lands that crisscross the state, reaching into nearby counties and other states. This trail system exists only seasonally, and private property access arrangements are structured accordingly. The statewide trail system is operated and maintained by the 30 local clubs that form the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts (SAM) which works closely with the Massachusetts DCR. Trail passes are required to access the private land portions of the Statewide Snowmobile Trail System.

*"I offroad motorcycle, but I recognize the desire for families to have access to trails they can use 4-wheel ATVs. Some counties in other states embrace it and its excellent for their economy."*

The Berkshire region hosts approximately 30% of the snowmobile trails in the state, but only accounts 18% of the registered snowmobiles in the state. This suggests a net import of riders visiting the region to access this trail system.

Indeed, a high percentage of non-resident respondents to the public survey for this report indicated that motorized activity is their most frequent outdoor activity.

According to SAM, 17,000 registered snowmobiles generate \$65 million dollars annually to the state's economy. The Economic Impact Assessment of Snowmobiling was originally performed in 2003 by the Human Dimensions Research Unit of the Department of Natural Resources Conservation at the University of Massachusetts, with figures updated in 2010.

In partnership with local clubs, SAM maintains several hundred miles of trail throughout the county, with a few extending into Vermont. Pending legislation ([S.1670](#)) seeks to establish a Snowmobile Trail Maintenance Fund, set aside for the grooming, maintenance, and repair of publicly owned trails marked and designated for use by snow vehicles. Such a fund would be administered by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

## PRIMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

### Motorized Activity

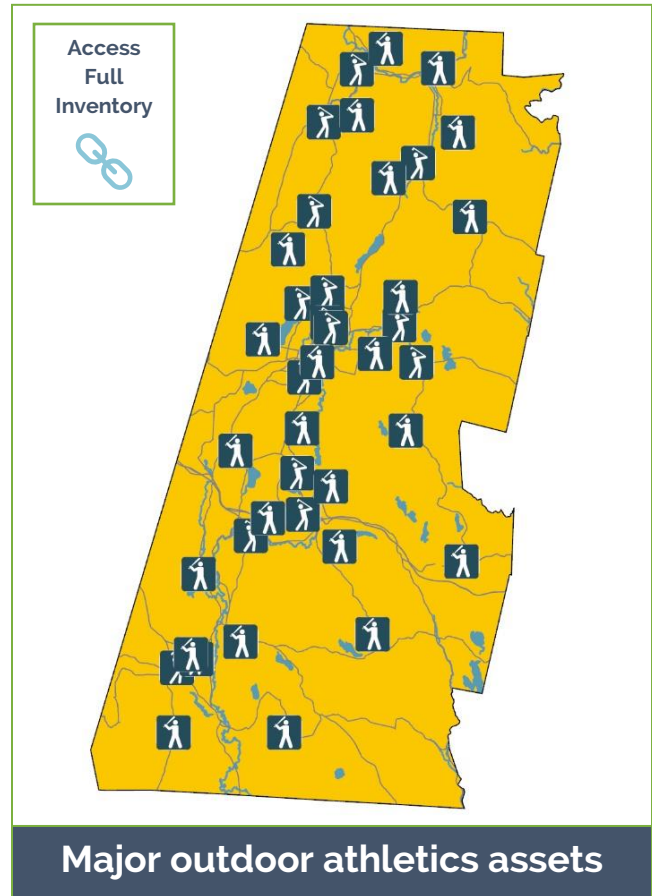
- Work with public and private landowners to develop an **expanded, connected trail system**.
- Advocate for **legislation** to expand types of uses (UTVs, side-by-side, 4x4s) and seasonality of allowed trail use (ATVs in winter).
- Improve maintenance of trails through a **formal relationship** between clubs, DCR, and private landowners.

## Outdoor Athletics

The category of outdoor athletics encompasses a wide range of activity on fields, courts, or golf courses. Locations abound for most outdoor sports, though the facilities are often outdated or in disrepair. Input from survey respondents indicates that amenities such as restroom facilities, lighting, and waste management are often lacking.

There are dozens of municipally owned parks that provide outdoor recreation opportunities across the county, with the city of Pittsfield alone owning 29 of these. The parks are typically located within the more developed areas of towns or cities and have improvements such as ball fields, playgrounds, and other facilities. Sometimes overlooked are the public school grounds with playing fields, and which can be used by the public when not being used specifically for sports events or during school hours. Some Berkshire County municipalities have recognized shifts in outdoor athletic preferences and are investing specialized facilities for skateboarding or modernizing courts to include pickleball.

While less than 10% of respondents indicated regular participation in court sports (tennis, basketball, etc.) or field sports (soccer, baseball, football, etc.), 25% of all respondents state that they do use outdoor athletic facilities in the county, and the number of open-ended responses focused on the need for improved conditions indicates that more people would



participate if facilities were upgraded. The vast majority of this filtered group are full-time residents and the group skews younger than survey respondents overall, indicating that this activity area will continue to be important to future audiences.

*"Athletic courts and fields need to be modernized and maintained."*



Photo: Spohn Ranch Skateparks

**Skate Park, North Adams**

Very few expressed concerns about the affordability of outdoor recreation activities or any lack of companions with which to participate – amenities were the top issue for athletic and sports enthusiasts. As with trailheads and boat launches, many outdoor athletic sites lack adequate parking, along with other amenities such as lighting, restrooms, and water fountains. Increased seating and shaded areas for spectators are needed for outdoor athletics to remain a multi-generational experience.





Photo: Jahda Martin Classic Facebook

### Dorothy Amos Park, Pittsfield

Stakeholders in many activities express concerns about attracting young participants, citing difficulty cultivating new audiences for everything from bicycling to hunting and fishing. Organized sports allow for outdoor recreation incorporating both formal instruction and social interaction. Athletic leagues offer safe and healthy options after school and during summer vacations and can increase the comfort level that young people have with recreating outdoors. Investing in improvements to facilities contributes to the overall wellbeing of a community but is often seen as a low funding priority.

*"Sadly, because taxpayers only think of themselves and kids don't pay taxes, the facilities most used by kids are in the poorest repair."*

With an abundance of existing facilities, many located within neighborhoods and thus not requiring transportation to access, outdoor athletics have the potential to attract underserved and next generation participants without the barriers to participation that many activities pose. Increased funding for equipment, uniforms, tournament entry fees, and travel could help to fully realize the potential of supporting growth in this activity area. Preparing local facilities for hosting

tournaments could be an area of growth for the visitor economy and introduce the region to potential new residents with quality of life for young families in mind.

Modern facilities with upgraded amenities also positively impact older audiences, providing spaces for adult athletic leagues. In a region where outmigration of young adults is a perennial concern, such improvements stand to positively impact population trends through resident satisfaction.

Included within this category is golf, an activity for 12% of respondents and among the top three activities in frequency for 5%. The Conservation and Recreation chapter of the 2014 Sustainable Berkshires regional plan lists twelve 18-hole and five 9-hole courses. Since then, some 18-hole courses have converted to 9-hole facilities, and many formerly private clubs have become semi-public. Both of these shifts are responsive to trends of golf enthusiasts having less available time and/or funds to spend on leisure activity, in an effort to retain participants.

## PRIMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

### Outdoor Athletics

- Improve and maintain **amenities** at outdoor athletic facilities: parking, lighting, restrooms, water fountains, and maintenance.
- Develop more **specialized facilities**, specifically skateparks and pickleball courts.
- Provide improved areas for **spectators**, including seating and shaded areas.

## Skiing/Snowboarding

The region hosts five alpine ski areas – Bousquet, Butternut, Catamount, Jiminy Peak, and Otis Ridge – and is a popular east coast destination for downhill skiing. In addition to skiing, the owners have diversified their offerings over the years and now include summer options such as tubing, zip lines, adventure parks, outdoor concerts, and conferences to help balance out the seasonality of the skiing industry.

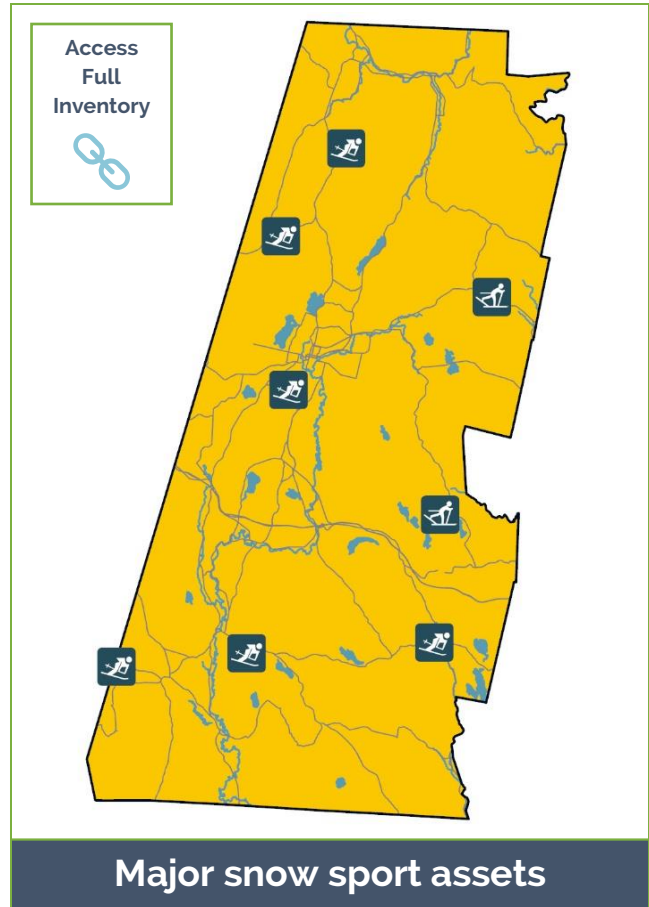
There are several non-profit and private properties across the region, most notably Canterbury Farm and The Trustees of Reservations' Notchview facility that offer groomed trails for cross-country skiing, while DCR lists 12 state forests that also offer winter trail systems. Although most of the trails on state land are not groomed, many trails do get packed down through use and are easily accessed. Some area golf courses also permit xc-skiing in the off season.

Backcountry skiing is an important feature offered within the region, with the Thunderbolt Ski Trail on Mount Greylock being the most well-known location. An increase in the availability of and information about backcountry skiing could serve to attract new



Photo: Berkshire Natural Resources Council

### Alford Springs



audiences to the region seeking adventure and less crowded experiences. An overarching infrastructure recommendation listed earlier in the report includes snowplowing of parking lots at trailheads as needed, and this also could provide additional options for backcountry skiing experiences currently difficult to reach.

*"We need more access to backcountry runs as it is growing fast and it's a way to get away from crowds."*

Many former ski areas are now closed, the former Brodie Mountain site in New Ashford being the largest and most developed, along with many smaller sites outfitted with rope tows and minimal indoor facilities or concessions. Many locations formerly offering xc-skiing have



**Jiminy Peak, Hancock**

also discontinued service, an indication of the considerable expenses related to grooming.

Both downhill and xc-skiing were identified by about 26% of those surveyed as an activity they participate in. Downhill skiing was selected as among the top three activities by 11% of respondents, and xc-skiing by 8%. Skiing was the most popular non-motorized activity respondents would like to participate in more often, with most specifically naming xc-skiing. Cost was the number one identified hindrance to increased participation, with a lack of companions being cited nearly as often.

*"Ski Areas are the biggest outdoor recreation asset in our region."*

Skiing prompted a relatively low number of comments and concerns from either stakeholders interviewed or general public respondents to surveys. Few recommendations related to skiing were generated through public input, though there are some potential ties to other activities, such winter camping, and to economic development opportunities through the creation of more packaged travel to attract visitors for longer stays.

Skiing is perhaps the most vulnerable of outdoor recreation activities in the Berkshires to the impacts of climate change. Conditions are affected negatively through alternating temperatures which allow snow to melt and ice over repeatedly, making it difficult for skiers to maintain control and increasing the severity of injuries. Extended periods without fresh snow, or warm weather with or without rain, lead to poor conditions and low participation which in turn threatens the economic sustainability of ski facilities.

Across the United States, ski seasons are starting later and ending earlier, and visitors cannot reliably schedule stays on either end with confidence. In mid-winter, they may still be unwilling to schedule travel for uncertain conditions. Considering the impacts of climate change on core ski activities, as well as the shifting expectations of tourism audiences to a wider range of options, facilities choosing to diversify their range of options can best prepare for the next generation of visitors.

## PRIMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

### Skiing/Snowboarding

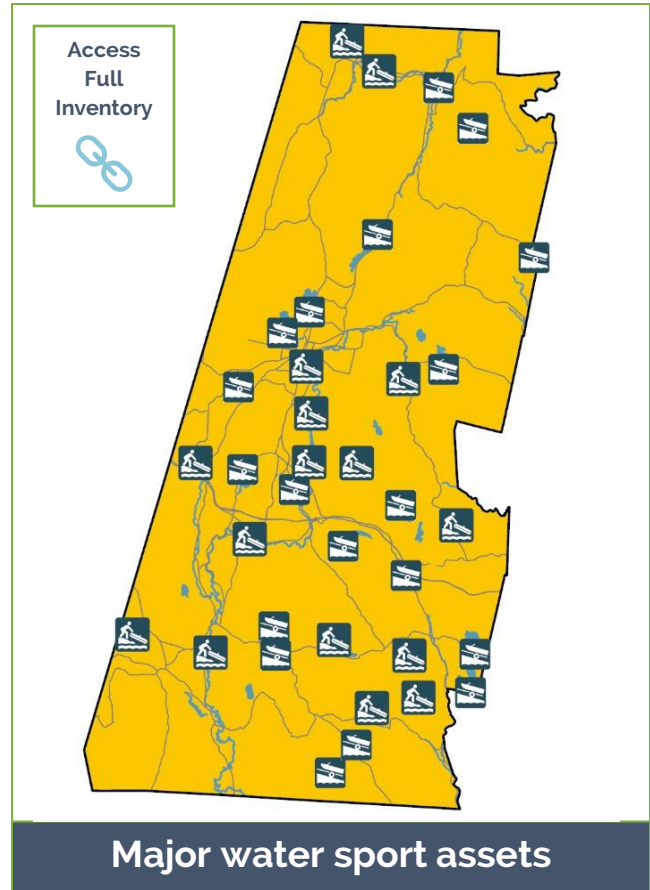
- Increase the number and length of **connected and dedicated xc-skiing trails**, without hiking, snowshoeing or snowmobiling.
- Ensure that alpine skiing and snowboarding are more **affordable to residents**, including the availability of quality rentals.



## Water Sports

Berkshire County contains more than 30 lakes and ponds that are open to the public, twenty of which have public boat launches. This equates to 10,347 acres of lakes and ponds, of which 5,660 acres are accessible via public boat launches. These figures do not include either the Hoosic or Housatonic Rivers or any other river that may be navigable by boat. Sections of the Housatonic and Hoosic rivers can be paddled much of the year. Throughout the county, there are 35 formal boat launches, 19 of which accommodate motorboats. Only 7.5% of survey participants indicated that they participate in motor boating, and less than 3% cited motor boating was among their top three most frequent activities. It was rarely mentioned in open-ended comments with the exception of swimmers or paddlers expressing concern regarding safety risks posed by proximity to motorized boat activity.

On the other hand, 32% participate in non-motorized boating including canoeing, kayaking or stand up paddleboards (SUPs). More than 11% include this paddling among their top three activities. Many cite this as an activity they would like to participate in more often, on par with responses regarding hiking and snowshoeing. Most specifically named kayaking, though some indicated a desire to canoe or sail more often. Those who expressed an interest in non-motorized boating indicated that a lack of time in their schedule was the



primary hindrance, followed by a lack of companions with which to participate and a need for expanded facilities. Poor conditions and siting of public boat launches were identified as a key issue for boating enthusiasts. Stakeholders also acknowledged a limited number of boat rental outfitters, with those available not conveniently located near waterways and having limited options in terms of drop-off locations.

*"Many of the lovely lakes and ponds are unswimmable because of weeds and algae blooms."*

When stakeholders were asked what their audiences indicate a desire to see more of, more boat rental options, better river access at formal launches and campsites alongside waterways were all mentioned, though not as frequently as improved mountain biking trails or more readily available information about outdoor recreation options in general.



Photo: Gabrielle K. Murphy

**Clam River, Sandisfield**



Stakeholders also indicated that the region is lacking in available guided excursions for kayaking or canoeing. These activities are of interest to visitors who may be more comfortable participating with assistance from expert guides familiar with the area and who can instruct participants on boating safety.

*"If one does not have a vehicle that can transport boating equipment, or the money to rent canoes, or the knowledge of how to get to entry points along waterways, one can spend a lifetime here not accessing water."*

Swimming saw participation and frequency rates nearly as high as non-motorized boating. Stakeholders managing land report swimming among the top ten most popular activities permitted on their property. Many of the county's municipalities host swimming areas with beaches. While some municipal beaches are open to the public at large, most are only

open to town residents. Eleven DCR state forests host public swimming beaches, although there may be a parking fee associated with their use. There are no outdoor pools open to the general public in the county without a fee. The need for additional swimming facilities has been cited in several open space plans throughout the region and was mentioned frequently in open-ended responses from public survey participants as an area in need of improvement.

Exotic aquatic plant species are changing the ecology and recreational use of many of our lakes and ponds. Invasive plants crowd out native plant communities, and can restrict swimming, boating and fishing. Many of the lakes and ponds in the county are infested by non-native plants, the most widespread of which is Eurasian water milfoil. Lake drawdown is a widely used plant control method, exposing plants along shallow shoreline areas to winter freezing. Improved signage at beaches and boat launch sites can help to reduce the spread of invasive species by educating users about remediation practices.

## PRIMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

### Water Sports

- Formalize and improve **boat launch sites** with better parking, portable bathrooms and signage that includes maps, flora/fauna info, rules and emergency contact info.
- Make **equipment rentals** more accessible through affordable rates at recreation sites.
- Expand **access to swimming** at lakes and ponds, including allowing non-residents at town beaches.



## Other/Additional Activities

During the course of surveying and interviewing general public and key stakeholders in the outdoor recreation realm of Berkshire County, a number of additional activity types were discussed. Often, they were areas with relatively low current participation, but respondents indicated a high degree of interest in participating in these activities should facilities be expanded.

*"Each community needs its own dedicated dog park of some size, with areas for large and small dogs."*

### Dog Parks

Survey participants most often recreate with friends and family members, but many shared that they also often include their dog on excursions. The region offers few designated dog parks, and concerns are expressed regarding off-leash dogs in areas not set apart for pets, as well as issues related to pet waste. An increase in dog-friendly facilities well equipped for waste collection would benefit all users.



Photo: Sarina Tracy

**Brattle Brook Park, Pittsfield**



Photo: Beth Timlege

**Solstice Farm, Monterey**

### Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is available at a small handful of private facilities within Berkshire County offering lessons and training and is also permitted on some public and private properties either abutting locations with stables or accessible by trailer. Access to equestrian lessons may also be available by way of summer camp programs. Few conflicts were specifically mentioned between equestrians and other trail users during the course of surveying the general public. Some respondents indicated a desire to participate in equestrian activity more often, and increased promotion would encourage visitors to the region to take advantage of this opportunity.

### Ice Skating

Nearly 10% of public survey participants indicated that they currently participate in ice skating. About 1% chose this as among their top three activities. However, when they were asked what activity they would most like to begin participating in or participate in more often, multiple respondents listed ice skating. Asked what would help, all responses were related to availability of and proximity to facilities. With the recent addition of an outdoor ice rink at MASS MoCA in North Adams, this activity will be more readily available to many residents and visitors.





Canterbury Farm, Becket

*"Please designate a pond...for ice skating, establish hours and safety protocols, and keep it clear of snow."*

## Playgrounds

Playgrounds, utilized by 14% of respondents, and splash parks (6%), were popular with those interested in a wider range of activities for people of all ages, or in more activities for children and youth. Common concerns were poorly maintained equipment, the lack of nearby shaded areas, as well as inadequate bathroom facilities.



Photo: Chris Beauchamp

Hanging Mountain, Sandisfield

## Rock Climbing

Another activity frequently cited as something people would like increased access to is rock climbing/bouldering. Few areas are officially open for this activity, though a recent purchase of Hanging Mountain in Sandisfield by the Western Mass Climbers Coalition in partnership with the Ragged Mountain Foundation and Access Fund will open 150-200 routes on 14 acres, with some open as early as summer 2020.

## PRIMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

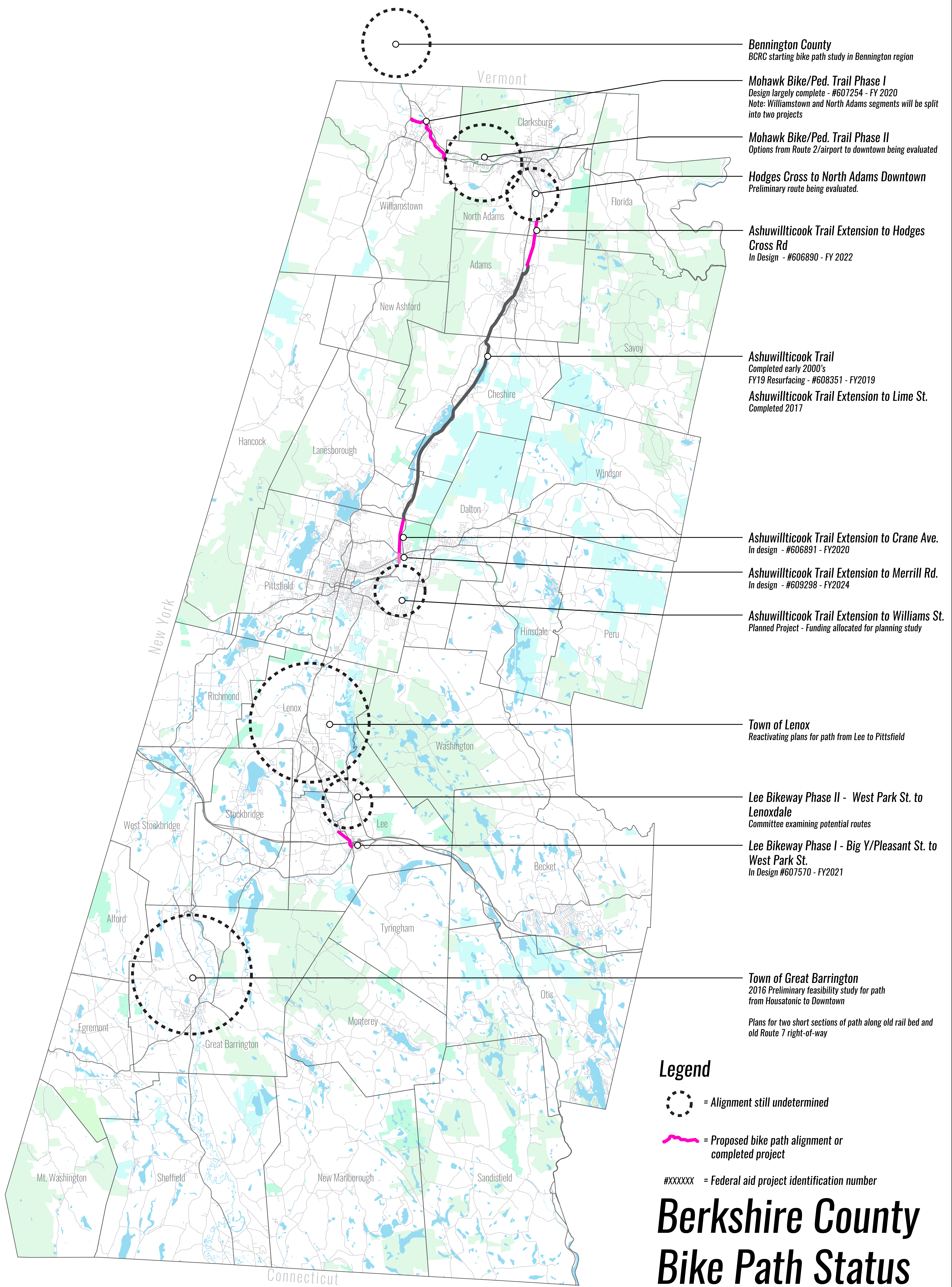
### Other/Additional Activities

- Develop more **dog parks**, with improved waste collection systems at all dog-friendly facilities.
- Designate formal **climbing and bouldering** locations on public and private land, working with landowners to offer ice climbing.
- Develop fitness parks, obstacle courses, outdoor ice skating rinks, and expanded/upgraded playground and splashpad facilities to accommodate many ages and ability levels.

# Appendix A

## **Berkshire Bike Path**





For general planning and informational purposes only. Data compiled from multiple sources. Inclusion of various proposed routes and path alignments on this map does not constitute endorsement by any entity and may change without notification.



# Appendix B

## **Greylock Glen Development Plans**







# Appendix C

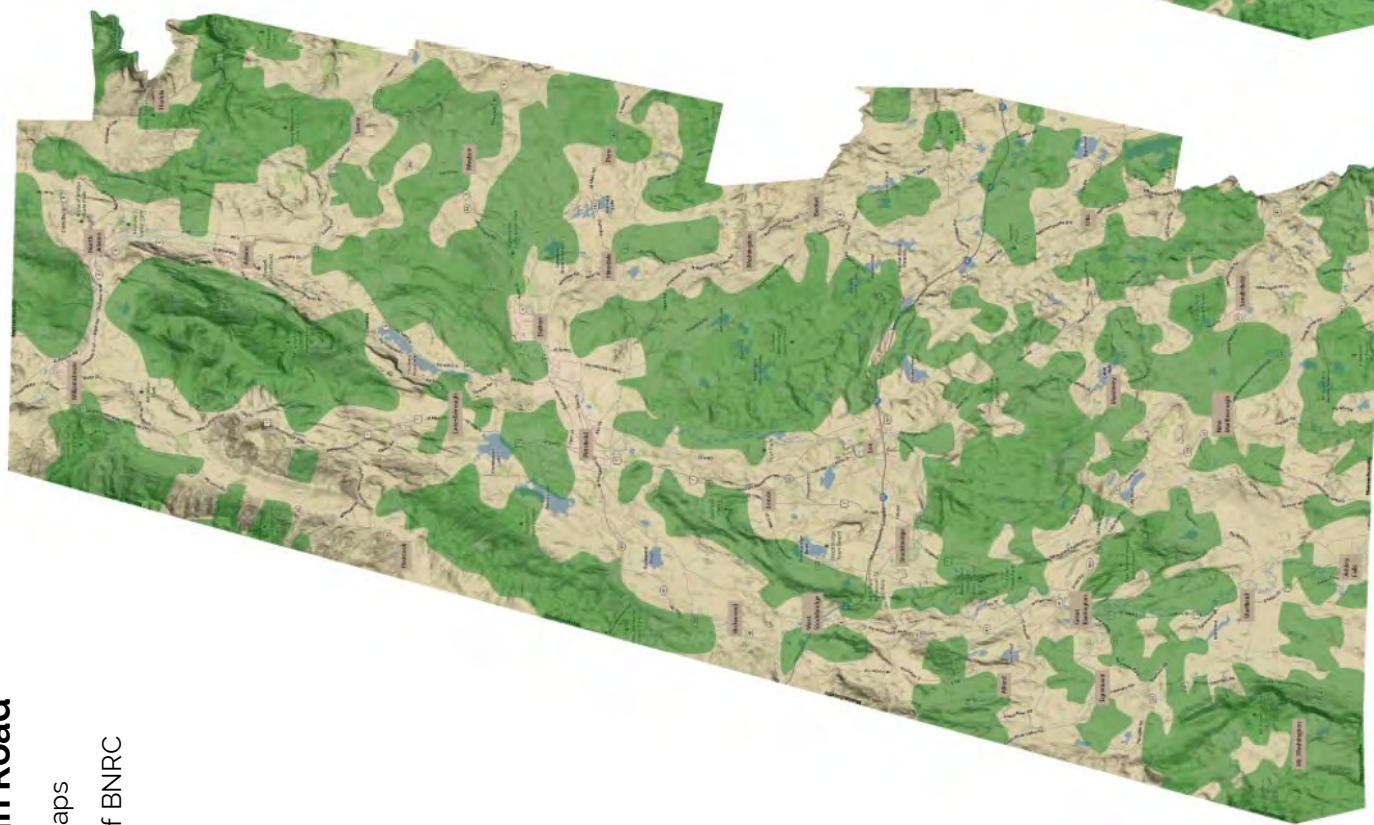
## **The High Road Concept**



## The High Road

Concept Maps

Courtesy of BNRC



Berkshire County with approximate conserved land shown in green



Berkshire County with possible trail connections shown in white

# Appendix D

## **Recommendations**

# Recommendations

## Infrastructure

Primary:

- Develop trail **connections** from recreational venues and along waterways **to downtowns** of the cities and towns of Berkshire County.
- Decrease user conflicts through **dedicated trails** for mountain biking, ORV, hiking, etc.
- **Improve facilities** at outdoor recreation sites (maintenance, parking areas, all-season restrooms with changing tables, signs, lighting, winter snowplowing, etc.).
- Support **major outdoor recreation development projects** and facilitate redevelopment efforts aimed at maintaining or introducing public access at dormant recreation properties.
- Provide **welcome/orientation centers** in Northern, Central and Southern Berkshire County with knowledgeable staff to direct outdoor recreation users to appropriate sites and educate them difficulty levels, nearby amenities, safety information.

Secondary:

- Work with user groups on trail cleanups and ongoing maintenance.
- Continue to preserve land and keep some undeveloped to outdoor recreation.
- Review new development and transportation projects for recreation synergies and needs.
- Continue to develop and expand number of FSTAG (Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines) compliant accessible trails.
- Consider shuttles for paddlers, hikers and bikers for one-way trips.
- Develop more events, races and festivals focused on outdoor recreation.
- Establish a local fund to support outdoor recreation event, race, and festival production costs.
- Investigate potential for previously developed recreation sites for new outdoor recreation endeavors.
- Make tracking devices available at points of rental or orientation for interested users.
- Develop "voluntourism" structure to allow region's outdoor recreation assets to benefit from service-minded visitors.
- Work with municipalities to incorporate Complete Street principles into future infrastructure improvements.

## Communications

Primary:

- Create a **comprehensive trail system map**, encompassing all uses, online, mobile application, and in print.
- **Improve signage at trailhead locations** with maps, allowed uses, difficulty levels, hunting info, flora/fauna and history, emergency contacts; increase trail markers on trails.
- Build the outdoor recreation brand of the Berkshires through a **centralized source of information** in trails, guides, outfitters, events.
- **Convene** key outdoor recreation stakeholders on a regular basis.
- Create a mechanism to **track monthly visitation** at outdoor recreation facilities for ongoing assessment purposes.



## Secondary:

- Partner with hospitality entities to make available: materials/maps, rental equipment, and connections with guides and events.
- Expand and promote outdoor recreation options at major cultural venues.
- Support public/private financial collaborations to augment regional marketing campaigns.
- Look outside of our county borders for partners in programming and promotion.
- Promote a diversity of recreational opportunities, including multiple activities and skill levels.
- Offer free and low-cost clinics to help users get involved with new recreational activities.
- Develop an outdoor recreation major at a local college.
- Support colleges in developing outing clubs and outdoor recreation activities for students.
- Work with individual municipalities to create/update Open Space and Recreation Plans.

## Legislative/Regulatory

- Pursue the creation of a Massachusetts **"Office of Outdoor Recreation"**.
- Advocate for **additional funding to promote outdoor recreation** through Regional Tourism Council (1Berkshire).
- Work with state to allow **economic development funds** to be spent on outdoor recreation that doesn't meet the job creation requirement.
- Advocate for additional funding for **staffing, maintenance, and enforcement** on state lands.

## Biking

### Primary:

- Develop a longer system or systems of authorized, **mountain bike optimized trails** serving a variety of skill levels, rerouting or closing unauthorized trails as needed to protect wetlands, habitats, etc.
- Increase the length of **paved bike trails** by expanding county-wide and creating connections to downtowns and recreational areas.
- Increase the availability and use of protected and dedicated **bike lanes**, increasing the width of shoulders on roads that do not have bike lanes.

### Secondary:

- Increase enforcement of trail regulations and discourage riding on unauthorized trails.
- Formalize relationship between clubs/associations and state to develop & maintain trails.
- Work to allow e-bikes on some non-motorized mountain biking trails.
- Build pump tracks and bike parks.
- Increase the availability of mountain bike rentals and leasing programs.
- Install bike repair stations at lodging properties, coffee shops and other partners.
- Develop cue cards and make available online and in print, distribute widely.
- Work with private and public landowners on development of additional trails.
- Increase the availability of bike rack locations.
- Introduce local youth to biking through organized programs and free or affordable bicycles.
- Expand the availability of bathroom facilities along the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail.

## Camping

### Primary:

- Develop **additional camping facilities** with a variety of site options including tent, trailer, cabin, yurt, etc.
- Allow **more backcountry** and dispersed camping in the state forests and at lakeside locations.
- Improve **restrooms and maintenance** of existing public and private campgrounds.
- **Expand information available** online about winter camping, novice options, [Leave No Trace™ principles](#), etc.

### Secondary:

- Encourage participation in tentrr.com, similar programs to expand camping in the region.
- Improve hookups and grading at campgrounds for RVs.
- Increase the length of season campgrounds are open.
- Develop separate areas within campgrounds for tents & non-tents.
- Develop more accessible campsites.
- Decrease the density of camping sites at campgrounds.
- Provide secure food storage at backcountry sites.
- Install composting toilets for winter use and to reduce overall plumbing maintenance.

## Hiking

### Primary:

- Improve signage, parking, restrooms, waste management and map supplies at **trailheads**.
- Develop additional **accessible or all-person trails**.
- Connect **trail networks** to one another and improve access to trails from town centers and neighborhoods.
- Encourage new trails and major trail rehabilitation projects to follow **sustainable trail design and building practices**.

### Secondary:

- Support and grow volunteer work groups to help with maintenance of existing trail systems.
- Provide safety information on trailhead signage, re: proper attire and gear, invasive insects and plants, difficulty levels, directions to easier (more accessible) trails.
- Engage new hikers through targeted outreach and guided hikes, increasing promotion of existing efforts and launching new programs.
- Provide hiking and backpacking gear rental.
- Work with private landowners on access for long distance and connecting trails (camps, golf courses, farms, etc.).
- Improve walking areas in and around commercial areas.
- Expand walking path and track locations.
- Improve winter enforcement of sidewalk clearing.

## Hunting/Fishing

Primary:

- Improve **wildlife habitat management** through forest management and invasive species removal.
- Expand shooting ranges, including archery, ensuring the availability of at least one **public range**.
- Work with public and private partners to **expand land available** for hunting through provisions requiring publicly funded APR land and conservation easements on private land to allow public access.

Secondary:

- Install additional accessible fishing sites along Ashuwillticook Trail on Cheshire Reservoir shoreline.
- Improve education and public understanding of responsible hunting and fishing practices.
- Allow hunting on Sunday, which is currently banned in only three states (PA, MA, ME).
- Support passage of the Crossbow Bill which would allow for use of crossbows in MA (special permit is currently available for disabled individuals).

## Motorized Activity (ATV/UTV/ORV/4x4/Dirt Bikes/snowmobiles)

Primary:

- Work with public and private landowners to develop an **expanded, connected trail system**.
- Advocate for **legislation** to expand types of uses (UTVs, side-by-side, 4x4s) and seasonality of allowed trail use (ATVs in winter).
- Improve maintenance of trails through a **formal relationship** between clubs, DCR, and private landowners.

Secondary:

- Develop connections between trails and towns for food and gas.
- Improve promotion and marking of legal trails, while increasing enforcement of trail regulations and discouraging riding on illegal trails.
- Work with regulators to allow an easier registrations process.
- Advocate for legislation to allow snowmobile rentals.
- Develop trails specifically for dirt bikes.
- Allow access for motorized vehicles to campgrounds.
- Develop connections between systems of groomed snowmobile trails throughout the county.
- Develop a Motocross track for a wide range of vehicle types.
- Publicize access to snowmobile clubs in and around the region.



## Outdoor Athletics

### Primary:

- Improve and maintain **amenities** at outdoor athletic facilities: parking, lighting, restrooms, water fountains, and maintenance.
- Develop more **specialized facilities**, specifically skateparks and pickleball courts.
- Provide improved areas for **spectators**, including seating and shaded areas.

### Secondary:

- Improve overall conditions of tennis and basketball courts, sports fields and playgrounds.
- Support organized leagues and clubs currently offering outdoor athletic opportunities.
- Increase the hours of operation for athletic spaces through improvements such as lighting and increased security.
- Improve safety through tools such as emergency call boxes and AEDs.
- Improve accessibility at athletic facilities.
- Develop more picnicking sites adjacent to outdoor athletic facilities.
- Prepare to invite and accommodate youth sports tournaments through improved facilities and coordinated services for visitors.

## Skiing/Snowboarding

### Primary:

- Increase the number and length of **connected and dedicated xc-skiing trails**, without hiking, snowshoeing or snowmobiling.
- Ensure that alpine skiing and snowboarding are more **affordable to residents**, including the availability of quality rentals.

### Secondary:

- Coordinate access of snowmobile clubs' trails to ski on.
- Further develop backcountry skiing opportunities.
- Promote skiing on Florida Mountain, which gets more snow and has a longer season.
- Analyze cost/benefit of snowmaking for xc-skiing.
- Develop on-trail accommodations to facilitate multi-day xc-skiing experiences.

## Water Sports

### Primary:

- Formalize and improve **boat launch sites** with better parking, portable bathrooms and signage that includes maps, flora/fauna info, rules and emergency contact info.
- Make **equipment rentals** more accessible through affordable rates at recreation sites.
- Expand **access to swimming** at lakes and ponds, including allowing non-residents at town beaches.

### Secondary:

- Continue work to eradicate invasive species in the lakes and rivers.
- Develop rowing facilities at more lakes.
- Develop paid storage for canoes, kayaks, SUPs at waterfronts.
- Develop municipally owned marinas.
- Improve maintenance with a volunteer system modeled after trail crews.
- Develop more formal picnic areas at boat launches.
- Ensure boat launches are on the GoPaddling app with correct information.
- Alleviate safety concerns about paddling on the Housatonic and improve access within Pittsfield.
- Develop consistency around public beach rules regarding launching of craft.
- Provide more outdoor public swimming pools.

### Other/Additional Activities

- Develop more **dog parks**, with improved waste collection systems at all dog-friendly facilities.
- Designate formal **climbing and bouldering locations** on public and private land, working with landowners to offer ice climbing.
- Develop fitness parks, obstacle courses, outdoor ice rinks, and expanded/upgraded playgrounds.

# Appendix E

## **Funding Sources**



# Funding Sources

## Federal

U.S. Dept. of the Interior

[Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program](#) provides technical and financial assistance to landowners interested in restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat on their land.

[Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program](#) supports community-led natural resources conservation and outdoor recreation projects by improving access to outdoor recreation and park amenities, strengthening conservation and stewardship of public lands, waterways, and wildlife habitat, and connecting young people to the outdoors.

[North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants Program](#) conserves wetlands and wetlands dependent fish and wildlife through acquisition (including easements and land title donations), restoration, enhancement, and/or wetland establishment.

[Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program](#) grants specifically to help create and improve state and local parks and other outdoor recreation areas particularly in underserved communities in Census-delineated urbanized areas with a population of 50,000 or more (Pittsfield and surrounding area). Up to 4 applications per state can be submitted in each funding round, which currently has a minimum of \$300,000 and maximum of \$1,000,000 per project.

[Sport Fish Restoration Grant Program](#) provides funding to restore, conserve, manage, or enhance sport fish populations and the public use and benefits from these resources; to educate the public about aquatic resources; and to provide boating access to public waters.

[Wildlife Restoration Grant Program](#) provides funding for the selection, restoration, rehabilitation, and improvement of wildlife habitat, wildlife management research, wildlife population surveys and inventories, land acquisition, hunter education and safety programs, coordination, development of facilities, facilities and services for conducting a hunter education and safety programs, and provisions for public use of wildlife resources.

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

[Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program](#) provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas (towns with no more than 20,000 residents) to purchase, construct and or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment and pay related project expenses including for street improvements and/or community support services such as community centers, fairgrounds, etc.

[Rural Small Business Development Grants](#) provide technical assistance and training for small rural businesses, via rural public entities including towns, nonprofits, and institutions of higher education for a wide range of projects including rural transportation improvement, community economic development, acquisition or development of land, easements, or rights of way.

## State

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs:

[Conservation Assistance for Small Communities Grant Program](#) provides funding for towns with 6,000 people or less for Open Space and Recreation Plans (OSRPs) and other planning in support of land conservation.

[Conservation Partnership Grant Program](#) funds the acquisition of land by non-profit entities for conservation or recreation purposes.

[Gateway City Parks Program](#) funds the creation and restoration of parks and recreational facilities in underserved urban neighborhoods. The City of Pittsfield is currently eligible for this program, with an average grant size of \$500,000.

[Landscape Partnership Grant Program](#) seeks to protect large blocks of conservation land (500 acres or more). Government agencies at the local, state and federal level, as well as non-profits, are eligible to apply for maximum award of \$1,250,000. Towns with less than 6,000 residents can also receive a grant to build a park or playground.

[Massachusetts Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program](#) provides up to 50% of the total project cost for the acquisition, development, and renovation of Parks, Trails and Conservation Areas.

[MassTrails](#) provides matching grants for the design, creation, and maintenance of trails, trail systems, and trail experiences. Eligible activities include project development, design, engineering, permitting, construction and maintenance of recreational trails, shared use pathways, and supporting amenities.

[Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities \(PARC\) Grant Program](#) can be used by municipalities to acquire parkland, build a new park, or renovate an existing park.

[Shooting Range Maintenance and Enhancement Projects](#) grant program provides funds to public target and shooting ranges for facility maintenance and enhancement.

## Foundations & Non-Profits

[Amelia Peabody Foundation](#) grants up to \$50,000 to Massachusetts non-profits for projects and programs that benefit disadvantaged youth.

[National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's](#) Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration grant program seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations focused on improving water quality, watersheds and the species and habitats they support.

[International Mountain Bicycling Association](#) trail accelerator grants program focuses on trail planning and development.

[National Forests Foundation](#) - Although they are technically eligible for funding, the NFF currently funds very few projects that do not physically take place on National Forest System lands.

[Paddle Nation Grants](#) via Outdoor Foundation

[The Stanton Foundation](#) supports the development of enclosed dog parks in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the form of a series of grants to support park design, construction, and capital improvements.

## Corporate

[Bogs Footwear](#) programs include the Bogs Impact Fund, which provides grants to outdoor education program that provide lower income youth with opportunities to get outside. Eligible non-profits can apply for \$10k per year over 3-year periods.

[Greenfields Outdoor Fitness](#) program to expand recreational opportunities for youth, underserved communities, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities. 1:1 match for equipment purchases. \$20-100k (archived program on Grantwatch.com).

[Keen Footwear](#) program to reconnect kids to nature through outdoor education and environmental stewardship, particularly through engaging underserved communities with innovative and creative programming. \$2500-10k per grant from pool of \$100k.

[The North Face](#) program to increase participation in the outdoors and reinforce stewardship practices through 5-25k grants to non-profits in two categories: Enabling Exploration and Loving Wild Places. One-year term, total annual pool of \$500k.

[Nutro](#) offers a Room to Run grant program to support public, non-profit dog parks and off leash areas, including landscaping, trees and other shade structures, benches, agility equipment, and signage.

[PetSafe](#) offers a Bark for Your Park program awarding grants to build, maintain and enhance dog parks in communities across the U.S.

[Santa Cruz Bicycles' Paydirt Fund](#) supports trail projects, local organizations, events and programs that are geared toward creating and strengthening trail opportunities.

[Yamaha Motor Corporation's Outdoor Access Initiative](#) program to promote safe and responsible usage of off-highway vehicles through trail construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation, improving staging areas, OHV safety education, bridge construction, etc.

[Cabela's Outdoor Fund](#) raises funds to support conservation, supporting initiatives inspiring

[Waste Management](#) supports programs that conserve and maintain wetlands, wildlife habitats, and green spaces for people's enjoyment, as well as environmental education programs targeted at middle and high school students.



# Appendix F

## **Case Studies**

## Case Studies

Research on geographic regions known for their outdoor recreation offerings was conducted as part of the scope of work for this plan. While many of the selected areas are also known for other aspects, including cultural, artisanal, or agricultural activity, none have the density of cultural and historical offerings of the Berkshires. We also note that regions further afield were considered during the research phase of this plan and have helped to inform our understanding of specific activities and their economic impact. Stakeholder interviewees consistently identified the locations listed below as direct competition to Berkshire County as it pertains to outdoor recreation and therefore were selected as case studies.

Selected areas for comparison include:

*Adirondacks, New York State*

*Catskills, New York State*

*Finger Lakes Region, New York State*

*Kingdom Trails, Vermont*

*White Mountains, New Hampshire*

Summaries of each comparison region are contained within this section of the Appendix. While each region has some unique features and may offer specific activity types not available in the Berkshires, the key distinctions tend to be related to available public funding for promotion, or proximity to major metropolitan areas from which to draw visitors.

### **Adirondacks (New York)**

The Adirondack Park is the largest publicly protected area in the contiguous United States covering 9,375 square miles, about ten times the size of Berkshire County. While the size of the Adirondacks is much larger than Berkshire County, they have a similar population size of around 130,000. When taking into consideration seasonal residents, Adirondack's population increases by about 200,000. In 2010 the median income of the park towns was \$49,681 and the median age was 45.7. The Adirondack region is made up of 101 towns and villages but has no defined urban area within its borders. The Adirondack Mountains are unlike many other mountain ranges nearby as they form a circular dome of mountains instead of a long strip.

Made up of twelve distinct regions, the Adirondacks have a lot to offer visitors. With 60 million people living within a day's drive, it is not a surprise that annually the Adirondacks welcome between 7 and 10 million visitors. Around 70% of these visitors come between the months of May and October. This mirrors the increased visitation that is seen in the Berkshires during the warmer months. To accommodate the large number of visitors there are around 11,000 rental rooms in motels, hotels, inns and cottages and around 12,000 different campsites.

Similar to Berkshire County, there are many ways to appreciate and partake in the arts, from galleries and museums to various venues that host live bands. One significant difference is that the Berkshires has a large, now all-season venue in Tanglewood while the Adirondacks have smaller

music venues along with bars and restaurants that host live music. Theaters and historical locations are also sprinkled throughout the Adirondacks, with far less density than is found in the Berkshires.

During the winter the Adirondacks boasts 12 ski resorts offering some of the best skiing in the Northeast. They have about 1,800 miles of an interconnecting trails for snowmobiling that allow riders to travel throughout the area and have access to accommodations, fuel, and dining. Like the Berkshires, there are also ample opportunities for snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and ice fishing.

The Adirondacks also have various winter carnivals throughout the area with the biggest one being Saranac Lake Winter Carnival that goes on for two weeks. These carnivals host various competitions, parades, shows, and other events. Many towns in the Adirondacks also host other winter inspired events like the Brew-Ski and ice golf tournament in Tupper Lake where there is a 1 ½ mile groomed cross-country ski and snowshoe trail with local breweries along it passing out samples and an ice golf tournament consisting of 5 holes. The Adirondacks also promotes winter hiking and winter camping, providing tips and advice on their visit Adirondack's webpage.

In the warmer months there is ample hiking, biking, boating, and more to enjoy, to a larger scale than is possible in Berkshire County. With around 2,000 miles of hiking available, it is no surprise that the Adirondacks are a destination for hiking. There is also plenty of camping with developed campgrounds and backcountry camping allowed in New York State, something less available in Massachusetts.

There are various networks of mountain bike-specific trails. Ausable Chasm has 15 miles of mountain biking trails for beginners to advanced riders. The Warren County Bikeway provides another 12 miles in a network of trails that connects Glens Falls to Lake George Village. The Moose Rivers Plains located in Indian Lake provides another 27 miles of trails for biking. Two trails called the Speculator "Loop" Trails, one loop on the outside and another within, offer another 14 and 7 miles of trails to enjoy.

The Adirondacks also offer many places to enjoy various types of water-based recreation. With 3,000 lakes and ponds and 30,000 miles of rivers and streams, boating and paddling are extremely popular activities in the Adirondacks. Many enjoy paddling with their kayak, canoe, or stand up paddle boards on the various water ways. These waters also allow people to motorboat and partake in water skiing, tubing, and wakeboarding. The region also offers whitewater rafting, especially on the Hudson River, considered one of the top ten whitewater rafting areas in the United States. The water also lends itself to activities like swimming, scuba diving, and fishing, along with ice skating, ice fishing, cross-country skiing, and snow shoeing when lakes and ponds are frozen over.

Rock climbing and ice climbing are also activities that a person can partake in while in the Adirondacks, with many climbing routes throughout the region. Long Pond Cliff offers a slab of rock 80-150ft tall for climbing. Echo Cliff and Poke-O-Moonshine offer some more difficult climbs, and the best-known area for climbing is Cascade Lake. McKenzie Pond in Ray Brook provides climbing that is suitable for beginners as well as some moderate difficulty routes. For those that are not



experienced or comfortable going rock or ice climbing alone there are multiple guiding services that serve climbers of all ability levels.

Guide services are also readily available for a wide range of activities including fishing, hiking, camping, hunting, paddling, boating, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, white water rafting, and more. The guide services are easy to find through the Adirondacks website and the various other websites that highlight specific areas within the Adirondacks.

Figuring out what to do and where to do it in the Adirondacks is easy - there are ample resources to help with trip planning. The Adirondacks have both a website and a smartphone app. The website features an interactive map and is stocked with information on all recreation options along with lodging, dining, arts, museums, and more. There are many print publications, books, newsletters, and magazines on outdoor recreation in the Adirondacks. The NYS Department of Economic Development provides marketing funds through the "I Love New York" campaign. The ILOVENY.com website and app also provide information on all areas of New York and help direct people to the specific areas of interest.

## **Catskills (New York)**

The Catskill Mountains, ("the Catskills") in New York State, form the northernmost part of the Appalachian chain running up through the eastern U.S., covering an area of 5,892 square miles (6x the size of the Berkshires.)

The heavily forested landscape includes Catskill Park – a permanent conservation area that, besides providing tourists with a place to play, houses drinking water reservoirs and aquifers serving New York City. The region has long been a favored vacation spot and weekend getaway for urban residents, due to its close proximity to both New York City (100 miles south/southeast) and Albany (40 miles north.) The region is directly connected to those cities by the N.Y. State Thruway system (I-87) and served by bus and the Metro-North Hudson Rail Line from Grand Central Station (stops in New Paltz) and Amtrak, that runs from NYC via Poughkeepsie and north to Albany.

Like the Berkshires, the region attracts a large influx of 2<sup>nd</sup> homeowners in the warmer months, and skiing enthusiasts in winter. Both regions have quaint, historic towns and villages that hold much appeal for those seeking a step into the past, to get close to nature, or to enjoy a rural lifestyle. Located only 35 miles apart, both regions also share a similar climate, and each has famous spas and resorts and serve as havens for artists, film makers, musicians, and writers.

Comprised of five counties - Delaware, Greene, Schoharie, Sullivan and Ulster, with a combined population of about 253,000 – it is twice as large as Berkshire County in resident count. Like the Berkshires, the population of the Catskills is predicted to decline within the next decades, due to declining birth rates and an aging baby boomer generation. This area too, is having some difficulty retaining young talent, for the same reasons that exist in Berkshire County.

However, The Catskills outpace the Berkshires in terms of visitation impact. Nearly 12 million people visited the Catskills in 2017 - 268,000 more visitors than in 2016, and an 18 percent increase since

2011. Regional tourism generates more than \$1.3 billion in direct visitor spending, including \$161 million in State and local taxes, and supports more than 18,500 jobs across four counties.

Cultural attractions in the Catskills, as in the Berkshires, are plentiful, and spotlight America's first major art movement with the Hudson River School Art Trail, divided across several large geographic areas, and the outdoor scenic vistas, galleries and museums featured in the works and lives of the movement's founder, Thomas Cole. The area also features home sites and historic museums of the major art patrons and philanthropists of the day, including the Vanderbilts and Roosevelts.

In addition, the arts colony located at Woodstock, NY (Ulster County.), has events all year long, as well as 3-season performances and programs for all ages offered at *the other Woodstock* – Bethel Woods Center for the Arts (Sullivan County), comparable to Lenox's Tanglewood, home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Theaters too are active all summer to round out the Catskills arts and entertainment profile.

As in the Berkshires, farm-to-table restaurants, café's, artisanal breweries and cideries featuring local specialties attract visitors to the region. Bed & Breakfasts, Airbnb's, RV and traditional campsites, historic inns, and so-called "glampsites" (fully outfitted tents, tepees, geodesic domes, tiny houses, cabins or yurts) are available for weekenders to stay and explore. Travel guides for each NY county are available at [VisittheCatskills.com](http://VisittheCatskills.com), and county sites like: Greene County's [www.greatnortherncatskills.com](http://www.greatnortherncatskills.com); [ulstercountyalive.com](http://ulstercountyalive.com); [Sullivancatskills.com](http://Sullivancatskills.com) and Delaware County's [greatwesterncatskills.com](http://greatwesterncatskills.com).

The Catskills outdoor recreational offerings are vast, including everything from rock climbing, ultrarunning, ice festivals, golf, whitewater rafting, biking, camping, horseback riding and skiing to zip lining, hunting, fly fishing, boating and hiking. The original winter downhill and cross-country ski areas, first developed back in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century at Belleayre, Hunter and Windham Mountains, have been upgraded and expanded to include year-round fun – gondola rides, ziplines, waterslides and build-your-own hike/bike adventures. New "outdoors centers" have recently opened, to appeal to a broad range of outdoors-loving millennials, young families and aging boomers, e.g. the new Bearpen Mountain Sports near Windham and The Windham Path, offer activities for each demographic: fat tire biking, snowmobiling, snow shoeing, ice skating, snow tubing and winter hikes.

Companies and organizations that strengthen tourism and attract visitors to New York State by promoting destinations, attractions, and special events may be eligible for grants via Market New York, a Matching Funds program to Tourism Promotion Agencies in each region, as well as tax-based incentives, operational support, trainings, loans, university partnerships for research and innovation and marketing resources for new or expanded tourist-based businesses.

The Matching Funds Grant Program requires a 1:1 spending match by counties. The 2017 program results show that for every \$1 of tax dollar spent results in a return of some \$6.81 worth of tourism promotion for the state – a 681% ROI. In the Catskills five counties, a total investment from the program of over \$529,000 was made to promote the region during 2017.

## Finger Lakes Region (New York)

The Finger Lakes of New York State is a 9-county region (Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates) set against a backdrop of waterfalls, gorges, forest and farmlands that dot rolling hills, along miles of scenic lakeshore on 11 glacial lakes and one Great Lake (Ontario.) With a combined population of 1.2 million people (6% of the State's population), disbursed across 4676 square miles – the region outsizes the Berkshires population-wise by a factor of 10 and in physical size by a factor of 5. However, both regions do possess some similar characteristics, in terms of demographics and mix of urban/rural character.

Located in north-central New York and accessible by the NYS Thruway (I-90) and Amtrak trains stations and 2 regional airports at the Cities of Rochester and Syracuse, the Finger Lakes region's economy is supported by a healthy mix of high tech industries centered around the two main cities and agriculture - including apples, dairy farming and grapes for viticulture. World class academic institutions as well as service-based businesses, including tourism and outdoor recreation, round out the economic base.

The Finger Lakes region has become the center of a growing winemaking industry, with Winery Trails surrounding four of the lakes. Known for award-winning Rieslings, the industry is maturing and branching out to include other varietals. Paired with the wines, myriad boutique and specialty food producers and restaurants have sprung up, including farm-to-table stops, cheese producers, ice cream emporia, artisanal breweries, cideries and distilleries to satisfy any hungry or thirsty traveler.

The Finger Lakes region is defined by its historic cities and towns - Seneca Falls, the home of Women's Rights National Historical Park, the City of Rochester, home to world-class medical research at the University of Rochester and the George Eastman Museum and Ithaca, NY, home of Cornell University, the Corning Glass Museum and the Rockwell Museum of Western Art.

In addition to food and cultural amenities, outdoor recreational opportunities including sailing and watersports, fishing, biking along the Erie Canal and Genesee River trails, hiking through hills, waterfalls and gorges, plus zip lining, horseback riding, camping, snowmobiling, sledding, cross country and downhill skiing, all attracted 5.56 million visitors to the Finger Lakes region during 2017-2018.

Like the Berkshires, the Finger Lakes is challenged to retain it's young, educated workforce. Also, like the Berkshires, there are pockets of lower skilled laborers living in urban and rural areas still in poverty. Countering these challenges, the Finger Lakes region has relatively low housing costs and taxes, compared to the Berkshires. Both regions currently have a fairly low unemployment rate, but job growth outside the tech sector tends to be lower-wage, lower skilled labor and service-based and seasonal work is prevalent.

The Finger Lakes too, benefits from state marketing dollars, via the NYS Dept. of Economic Development's famous brand, I Love NY.com. The ILNY website and app offer easy-to-navigate tools that divides the state by geographic region/category of experience sought, and directing traffic to each regions' websites, as well as to featured venues, with links to large travel aggregator



sites, like Trip Advisor, Lonely Planet and TravelZoo. The trip planning tool at the site makes it easy to plan a short or longer stay.

There are many listed venues of wooded & open trails for off-road bikes, ATVs, UTVs, dirt bikes & 3-wheelers scattered across the region, including private venues like Finger Lakes Trail, Letchworth, Tall Pines ATV Park, Andover and Demon Run ATV Trails in Bath NY, as well as many State parks. Most are open year-round.

Snowmobiling is also allowed on the state's 10,000-mile trail network. Trails are administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. As in most areas, local snowmobile clubs (sometimes also in conjunction with hiking clubs) do much of the trail maintenance, funded in part by snowmobile registration fees.

### **Kingdom Trails (Vermont)**

Kingdom Trails is an area that spans four towns in two counties of Vermont, located within the area referred to as the Northeast Kingdom. Managed by the non-profit Kingdom Trails Association (KTA), the trails are not a state park or forest, but a 100+ mile system of non-motorized, multi-use trails. While these trails were built with mountain biking in mind, they are also used for fat biking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, and horseback riding.

Nearly 100 private landowners have given permission for trails to be maintained on their land as part of Kingdom Trails. KTA provides landowners with a certificate of liability insurance naming them as additionally insured. Vermont also has a statute that safeguards private landowners that allow public access to their lands for recreational uses.

KTA monitors the economic impact of the Kingdom Trails as well as statistics on who is visiting, where they are from, and the average length of stay. In terms of visitors to the area, 84% are from out of state and 34% are from Canada. The average stay of these out of state visitors is 2.75 days, and each day an average of \$115 is spent per visitor. An overall economic impact or direct spending is estimated to be \$10 million.

In the winter, KTA does do some snowmobile grooming so that there are 9 trails totaling 15km for cross-country skiing. They also groom a total of 20 miles for winter fat biking on 33 trails. Snowshoeing is allowed on all trails that are open in the winter, with 42 trails to choose from.

The small towns in the area that Kingdom Trails encompasses offer visitors a rural and quaint setting with microbreweries, country stores, cafes, and more. There are also ample cultural activities to partake in while visiting, including Catamount Arts which brings film, live performances, music, and visual arts to the area for people to enjoy. Live music and entertainment can also be found in the many bars, pubs, and ski resorts within the Kingdom Trails area.

Outside of the trails' direct vicinity there is plenty of outdoor recreation to enjoy. Being close to major lakes such as Lake Willoughby, there are plenty of places to boat, fish, paddle, and swim, and when the lakes freeze over ice skating, ice hockey, ice fishing, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing may be enjoyed.

With Groton State Forest, Burke Mountain, Jay Peak and Willoughby State Forest, there is wide range of hiking opportunities for visitors, along with camping options. Within the area of the Kingdom trails themselves there are 8 campgrounds advertised on the Kingdom Trails website. Outside of the trail zone there are additional campsites catering to varying preferences for more services or a more rugged camping experience. Vermont is well known as a skiing destination, with many miles for Nordic and cross-country skiing on both groomed and backcountry trails. Burke Mountain, which is part of the Kingdom Trails Association, offers downhill skiing and snowboarding. For a more extreme activity there is also rock/ice climbing. The cliffs that overlook Lake Willoughby are popular climbing spots for both rock and ice climbing. Kingdom Adventure Mountain Guides are there to help people find and guide them in rock or ice climbing in the area.

There are also a number of festivals and events to partake in. A Winterbike Fatbike Festival welcomes fat biking enthusiasts as well as those trying it out for the first time on one of the demo bikes. Mountain bikers can race in the Rasputitsa Spring Classic, and various other organized events like polar plunges, winter swim races, kayak races, and the Kingdom Games which hosts events in all seasons, occur throughout the year.

## **White Mountains (New Hampshire)**

The White Mountains span across New Hampshire and into Maine covering 1,225 square miles, nearly 300 square miles larger than Berkshire County. They are located in three counties in New Hampshire (Grafton, Coos, and Carroll) and one in Maine (Oxford). The towns within the White Mountains are small and quaint much like the towns that make up Berkshire County.

The White Mountains welcome upwards of 6 million visitors annually. Located 122 miles from Boston and 83 miles from Portland, Maine, day trips or weekend trips to the area are possible from major urban areas.

There are 6 skiing resorts, 6 ski touring areas, and 4 alpine ski areas that allow for ample winter recreation. There are 400 miles of trails for snowmobiling, considerably more than what is available in Berkshire County. Though skiing may be the most popular winter activity in the White Mountains, there is also plenty of snowshoeing, winter hiking, winter camping, ice skating, and ice fishing.

Dog sledding businesses offer unique experiences such as guided tours, classes, and meet and greets with the sled dogs. Additional unique winter activities in the White Mountains include winter ziplines and aerial adventure parks such as Alpine Adventures in Lincoln. There is also the Ice Castle, a structure made from ice to resemble a castle.

In the warmer months, outdoor recreation staples like hiking, boating, biking, camping, and golf are all available in the White Mountains. Offering 1,200 miles of hiking trails and notable locations such as Mount Washington (New England's tallest mountain), Arethusa Falls, and Franconia Ridge, it comes as no surprise many visit the White Mountains specifically to hike.

Mountain biking is also popular within the White Mountain region with biking being allowed on all trails, roads, and travel corridors unless otherwise posted. Many of the ski resorts offer mountain

biking in the warmer months like Loon Mountain, Attitash Mountain, and Bretton Woods. Other locations like Great Glen Trails, Sport Thoma, and Rodgers Ski and Sport provide riding either through their own trails or through shuttles services to trails. Most of the locations also offer bike rentals and events like group bike rides and race series. There are also multiple trail systems in and around the area of the White Mountains like Coos Trails, PRKR MTN, and Profile Trails, all of which are part of a group of Northeast trail systems called The Border Lands.

Water based recreation is popular in this region with 4,750 miles of streams and 67 lakes. There is plenty of opportunity to go fishing and many guides that are around the area to help visitors. There are whitewater rafting guides for those looking for some thrills, with one location offering a "Paws and Paddles" experience that includes a rolling dog sled ride along with the whitewater rafting. There is also tubing on the Saco River. Boating tours, kayaking, paddle boarding, and canoeing are all popular within the White Mountains as well.

While there are many hotels and inns in the White Mountains, many visitors opt for camping instead. There are over 20 developed campgrounds for people to choose from with each having different amenities to offer guests. There is also dispersed, or backcountry camping, throughout the White Mountains with over 40 designated sites.

Rock climbing is also popular in the White Mountains. There are plenty of locations but the most notable is in Rumney, NH, a premier location for sports climbing which draws visitors from all over the globe.

For a completely different type of recreation the White Mountains have two amusement parks and a waterpark located within them. There is Story Land which is geared toward children with a fairytale theme. The other amusement park is Santa's Village which also has a water park that is holiday themed with Santa, elves, and reindeer. Then there's Whale's Tale Water Park that offers an array of pools and waterslides but also has a simulated wave machine for people to try out boogie boarding and surfing.

The White Mountains' website provides information on activities and locations, as well as lodging and dining. The website also offers free travel planners and brochures for those that are interested. Links to the various chamber of commerce, information services, and visitor centers within the White Mountains can also be found on the website for those looking for more detail about a specific town within the White mountains.



# Appendix G

## **Asset Inventory**

# Asset Inventory

Outdoor recreation assets within each of the 32 municipalities of Berkshire County were inventoried and categorized by usage type, ownership, location, and size. Inventories include not only physical properties with access to outdoor activities but built elements, applicable for- and non-profit businesses, and pertinent special events. The inventory of outdoor recreation properties is included within this section. The full inventory, which includes clubs and associations, retailers and outdoor outfitters, as well as outdoor guide services, is available online at: [https://bit.ly/BRK\\_outdoor\\_inventory](https://bit.ly/BRK_outdoor_inventory)

**NOTE – Please refer to the key below when reading the inventory of outdoor recreation properties:**

Key	Camping	Biking	Boating	Swimming	Snow Skiing	Athletic	Skating	Golf
1	Developed Campground	Mountain	non motorized	Allowed	Down hill	Baseball/Softball	Ice skating	18-hole
2	Camping allowed	Road	Small motor	Developed Beach	Cross Country	Soccer	Skateboarding	9-hole
3	Designated camping spots	E-bike	Motor Boats	Has life Guard	Sledding	Lacrosse/Field Hockey	Rollar skating/blading	mini
4	Glamping			Pool		Football		driving range
5						Basketball		Disc
6						Volley Ball		
7						Hockey		
8						Track		







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# Appendix H

## **Public Survey Results**

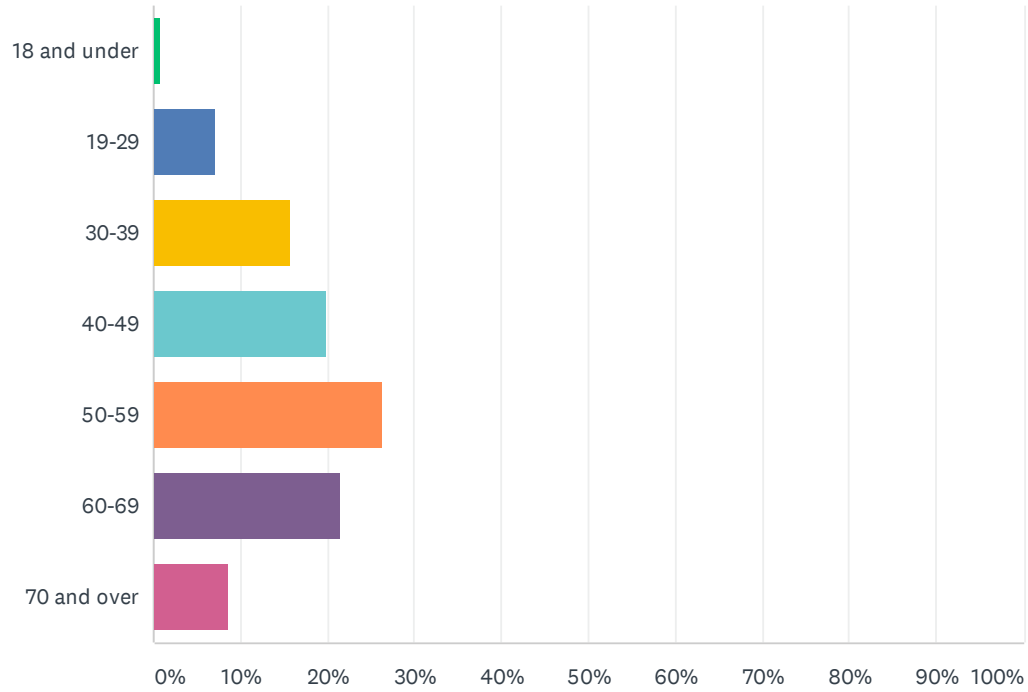


## Public Survey Results

Over 2,000 individual responses were submitted to the public survey on outdoor recreation in Berkshire County. Participants were asked to identify as part of 10-year age cohorts, and to categorize themselves as either full-time residents, part-time residents, or visitors. Full- and part-time residents were asked to select their town of residence. This basic demographic data allows for sorting of responses to more fully understand the interests, concerns, and priorities of various groups. Summary results of the public survey are included within this section.

## Q1 What is your age?

Answered: 2,026 Skipped: 6

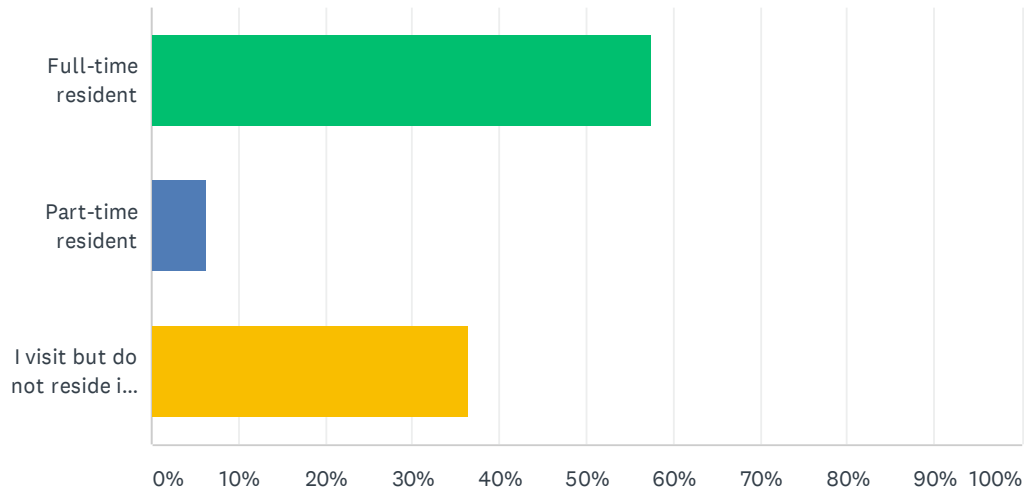


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
18 and under	0.89%	18
19-29	7.01%	142
30-39	15.75%	319
40-49	19.89%	403
50-59	26.41%	535
60-69	21.47%	435
70 and over	8.59%	174
TOTAL		2,026



## Q2 How much of the year do you reside in Berkshire County?

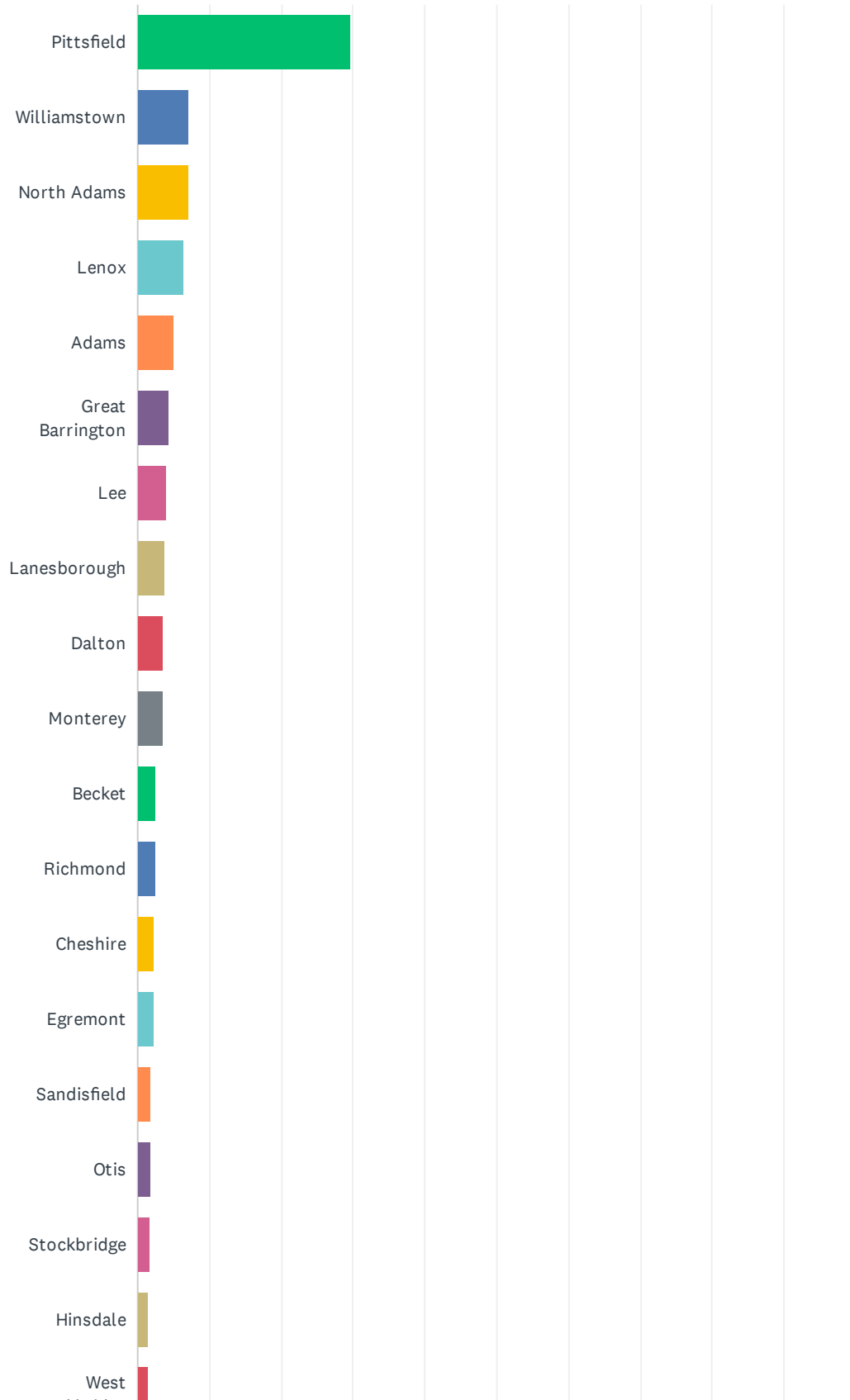
Answered: 2,032 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Full-time resident	57.43%	1,167
Part-time resident	6.20%	126
I visit but do not reside in Berkshire County	36.37%	739
TOTAL		2,032

### Q3 In which town is your residence located? (either full- or part-time)

Answered: 1,221 Skipped: 811





# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 68



# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 69

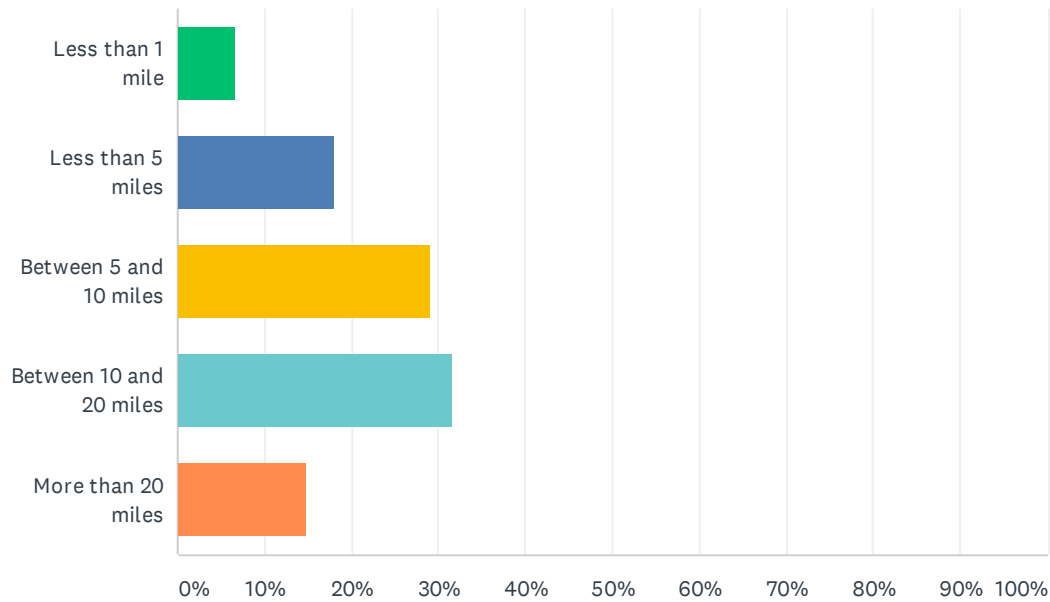
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Pittsfield	29.65%	362
Williamstown	7.21%	88
North Adams	7.13%	87
Lenox	6.39%	78
Adams	5.08%	62
Great Barrington	4.42%	54
Lee	3.93%	48
Lanesborough	3.77%	46
Dalton	3.60%	44
Monterey	3.60%	44
Becket	2.54%	31
Richmond	2.46%	30
Cheshire	2.29%	28
Egremont	2.29%	28
Sandisfield	1.97%	24
Otis	1.80%	22
Stockbridge	1.64%	20
Hinsdale	1.47%	18
West Stockbridge	1.39%	17
Sheffield	1.23%	15
Windsor	1.15%	14
Clarksburg	0.90%	11
Savoy	0.82%	10
New Marlborough	0.66%	8
Tyringham	0.57%	7
Hancock	0.49%	6
Washington	0.41%	5
Peru	0.33%	4
Alford	0.25%	3
Mount Washington	0.25%	3
Florida	0.16%	2
New Ashford	0.16%	2
TOTAL		1,221





## Q4 How far do you typically travel within Berkshire County for the purposes of outdoor recreation?

Answered: 1,234 Skipped: 798

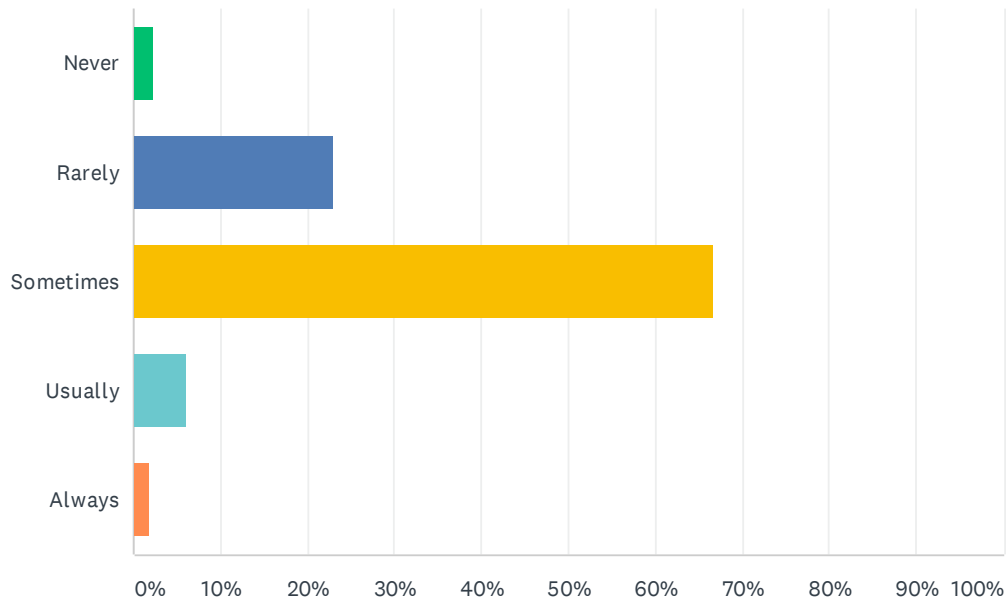


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 1 mile	6.65%	82
Less than 5 miles	17.91%	221
Between 5 and 10 miles	29.01%	358
Between 10 and 20 miles	31.60%	390
More than 20 miles	14.83%	183
TOTAL		1,234



## Q5 Do you travel outside of Berkshire County for the purpose of outdoor recreation?

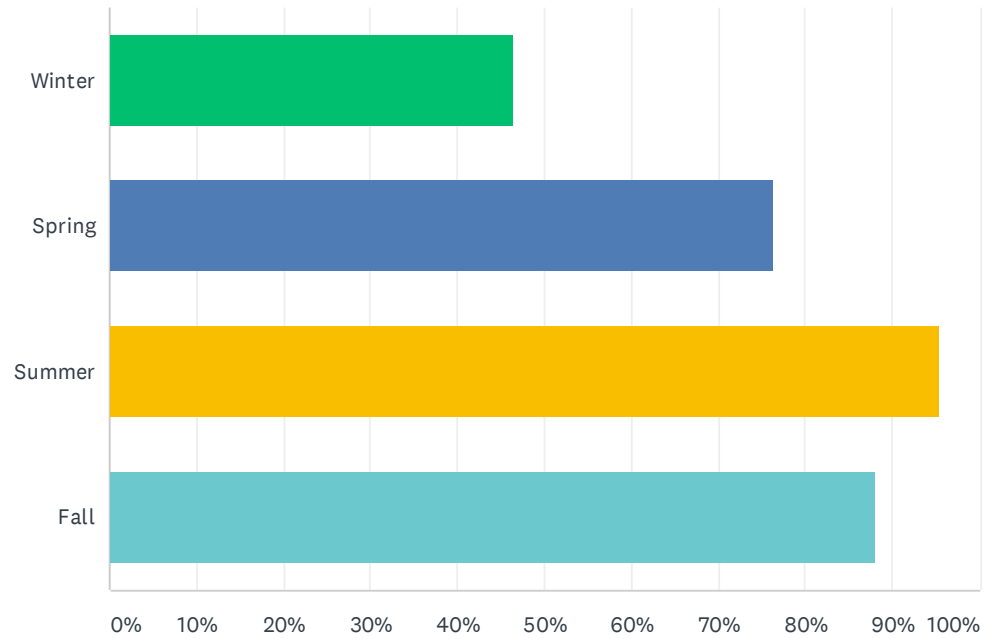
Answered: 1,237 Skipped: 795



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Never	2.34%	29
Rarely	22.96%	284
Sometimes	66.77%	826
Usually	5.98%	74
Always	1.94%	24
TOTAL		1,237

## Q6 In which season(s) do you visit the Berkshires?

Answered: 729 Skipped: 1,303

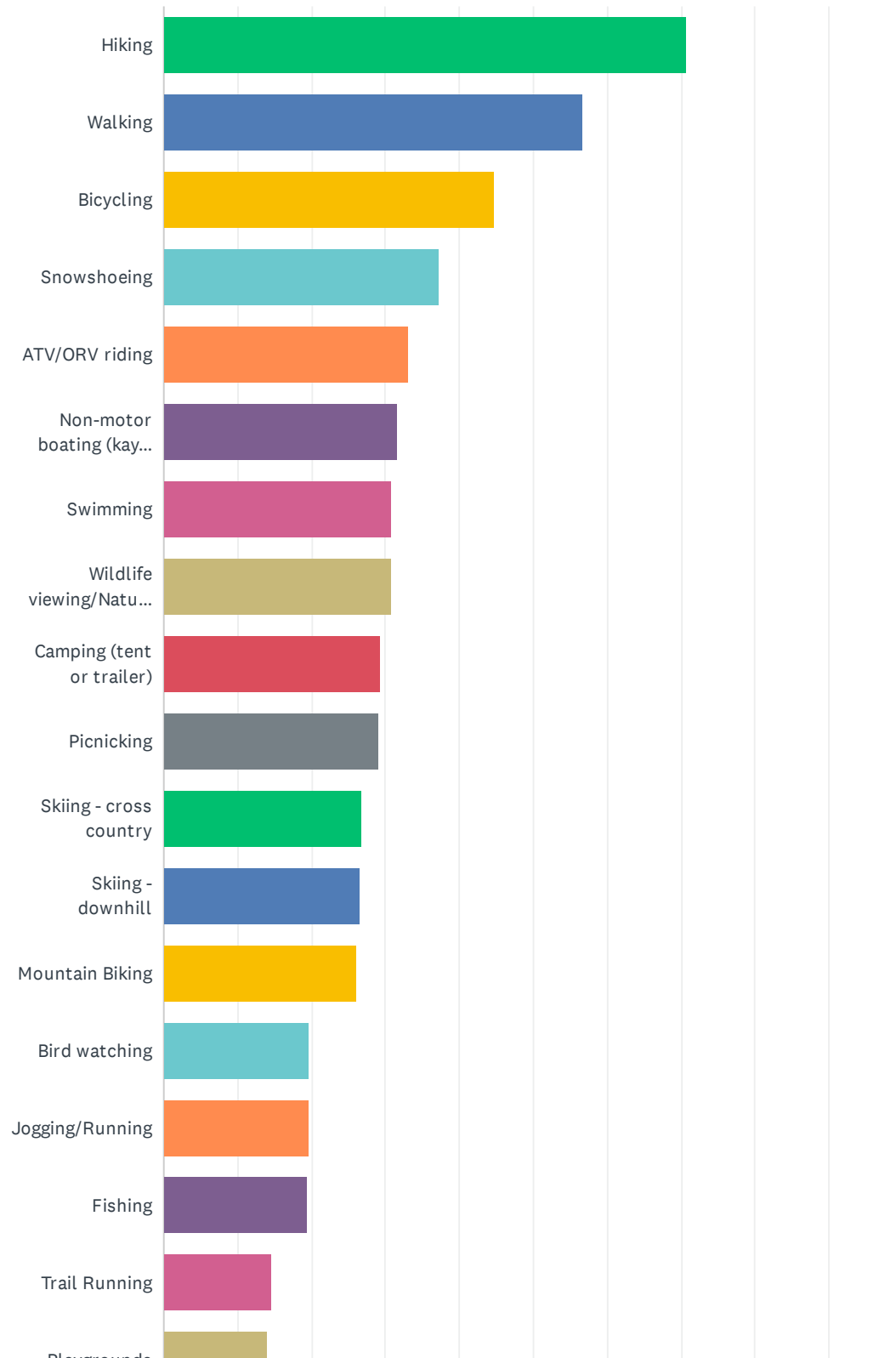


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Winter	46.50%	339
Spring	76.27%	556
Summer	95.34%	695
Fall	88.07%	642
Total Respondents: 729		



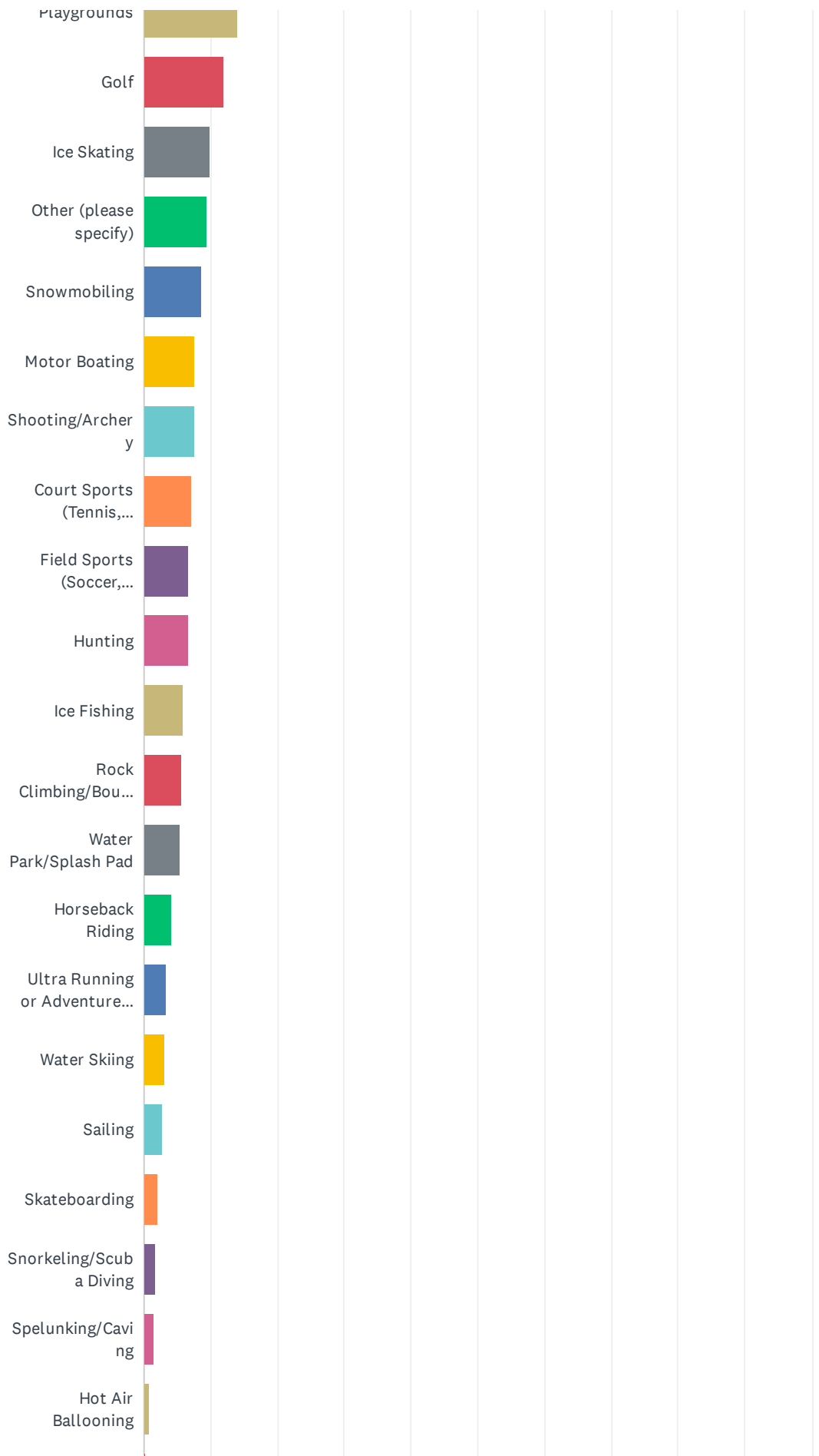
Q7 Please indicate which of the following outdoor recreation activities you personally participate in while in Berkshires County (please ask others in your household to complete this survey separately):

Answered: 1,804 Skipped: 228



# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

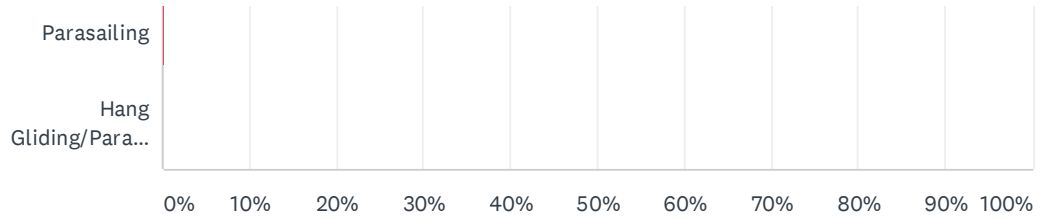
Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 75





# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 76



# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 77

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Hiking	70.79%	1,277
Walking	56.65%	1,022
Bicycling	44.79%	808
Snowshoeing	37.25%	672
ATV/ORV riding	33.09%	597
Non-motor boating (kayak, canoe, SUP, etc.)	31.54%	569
Swimming	30.76%	555
Wildlife viewing/Nature study	30.76%	555
Camping (tent or trailer)	29.21%	527
Picnicking	28.99%	523
Skiing - cross country	26.72%	482
Skiing - downhill	26.55%	479
Mountain Biking	26.11%	471
Bird watching	19.68%	355
Jogging/Running	19.62%	354
Fishing	19.40%	350
Trail Running	14.63%	264
Playgrounds	14.08%	254
Golf	11.86%	214
Ice Skating	9.81%	177
Other (please specify)	9.31%	168
Snowmobiling	8.59%	155
Motor Boating	7.48%	135
Shooting/Archery	7.48%	135
Court Sports (Tennis, Basketball, etc.)	7.15%	129
Field Sports (Soccer, Baseball, Football, etc.)	6.76%	122
Hunting	6.71%	121
Ice Fishing	5.93%	107
Rock Climbing/Bouldering	5.71%	103
Water Park/Splash Pad	5.54%	100
Horseback Riding	4.27%	77
Ultra Running or Adventure Racing (triathlons, rangar, etc.)	3.44%	62



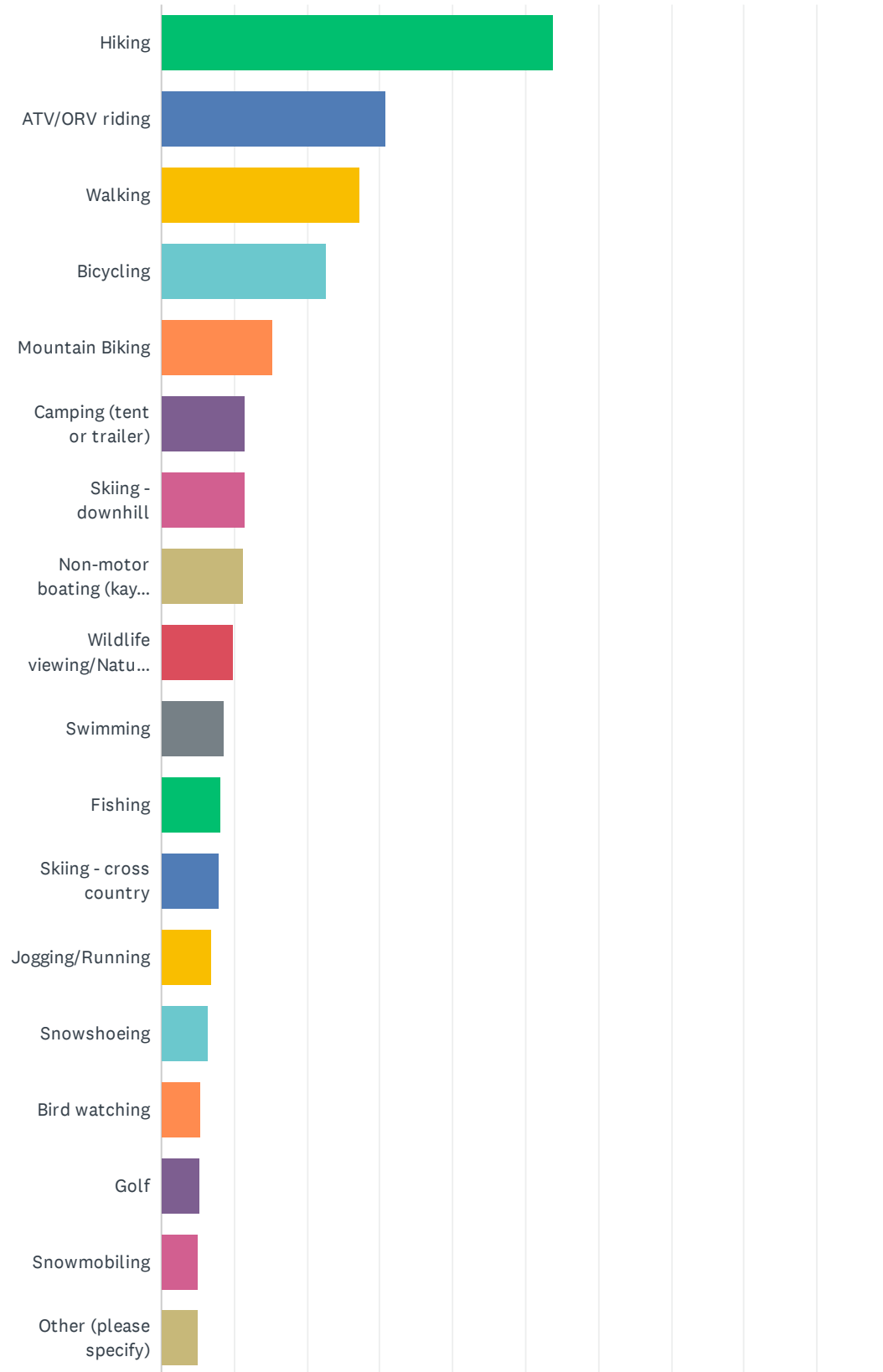
# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 78

Water Skiing	3.10%	56
Sailing	2.77%	50
Skateboarding	2.00%	36
Snorkeling/Scuba Diving	1.61%	29
Spelunking/Caving	1.55%	28
Hot Air Ballooning	0.78%	14
Parasailing	0.17%	3
Hang Gliding/Paragliding	0.06%	1
Total Respondents: 1,804		

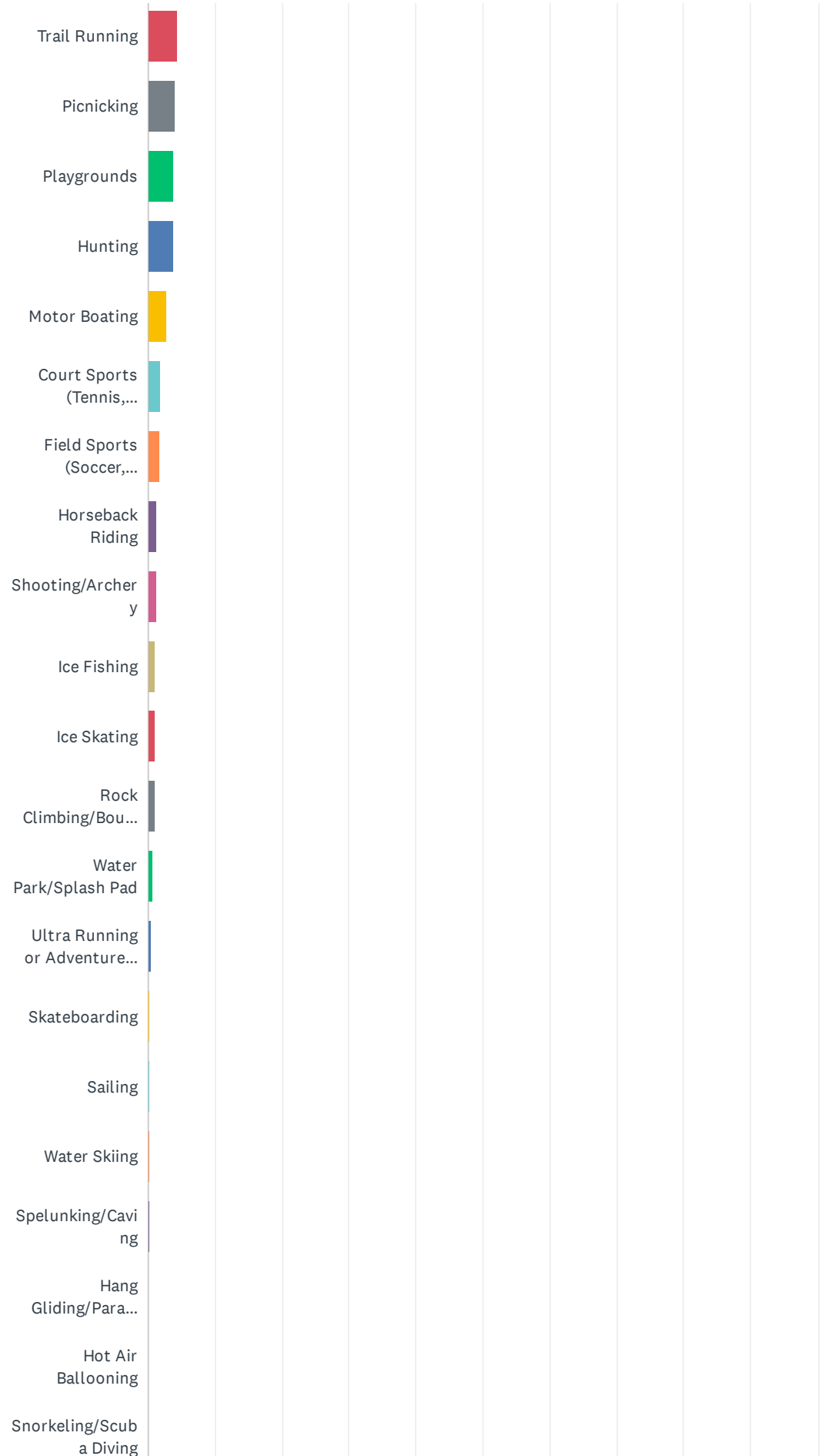
## Q8 What are your top three most frequent outdoor recreation activities in Berkshire County?

Answered: 1,804 Skipped: 228



# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

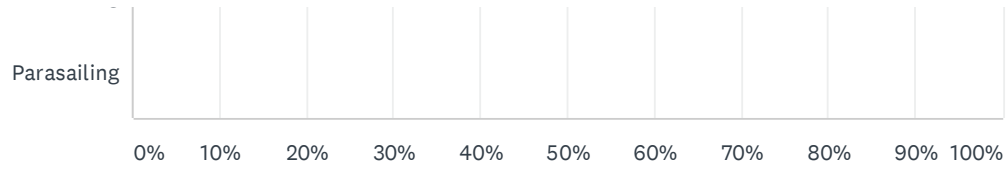
Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 80





# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 81



# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 82

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Hiking	53.77%	970
ATV/ORV riding	30.82%	556
Walking	27.16%	490
Bicycling	22.51%	406
Mountain Biking	15.35%	277
Camping (tent or trailer)	11.47%	207
Skiing - downhill	11.47%	207
Non-motor boating (kayak, canoe, SUP, etc.)	11.31%	204
Wildlife viewing/Nature study	9.81%	177
Swimming	8.65%	156
Fishing	8.26%	149
Skiing - cross country	7.93%	143
Jogging/Running	6.93%	125
Snowshoeing	6.54%	118
Bird watching	5.49%	99
Golf	5.27%	95
Snowmobiling	5.10%	92
Other (please specify)	4.93%	89
Trail Running	4.43%	80
Picnicking	3.99%	72
Playgrounds	3.82%	69
Hunting	3.71%	67
Motor Boating	2.72%	49
Court Sports (Tennis, Basketball, etc.)	1.88%	34
Field Sports (Soccer, Baseball, Football, etc.)	1.61%	29
Horseback Riding	1.33%	24
Shooting/Archery	1.33%	24
Ice Fishing	1.11%	20
Ice Skating	0.94%	17
Rock Climbing/Bouldering	0.94%	17
Water Park/Splash Pad	0.72%	13
Ultra Running or Adventure Racing (triathlons, rangar, etc.)	0.50%	9

# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

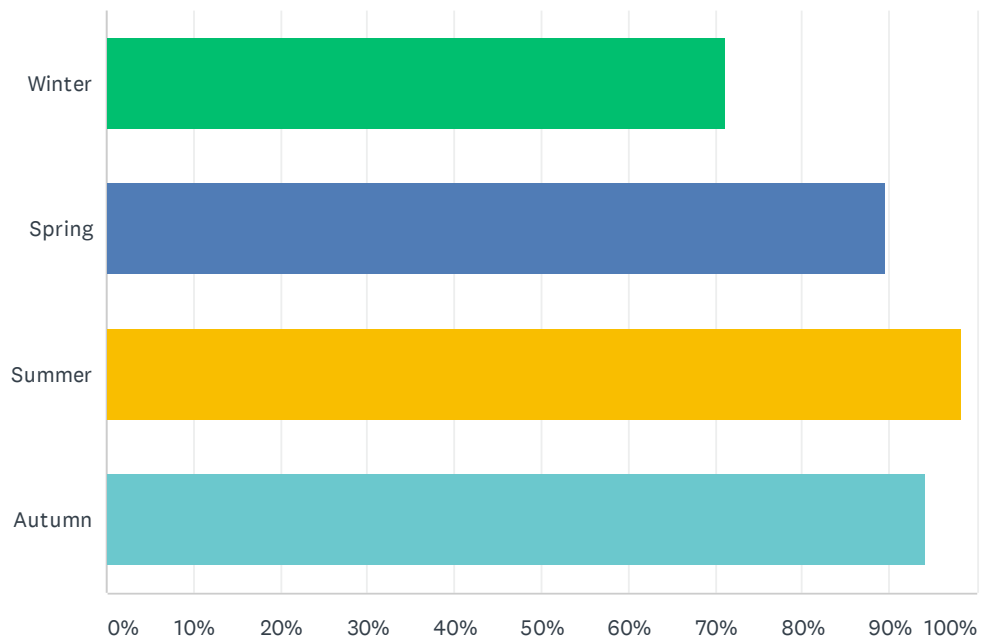
Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 83

Skateboarding	0.28%	5
Sailing	0.22%	4
Water Skiing	0.22%	4
Spelunking/Caving	0.11%	2
Hang Gliding/Paragliding	0.06%	1
Hot Air Ballooning	0.06%	1
Snorkeling/Scuba Diving	0.06%	1
Parasailing	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 1,804		



## Q9 In which season(s) do you participate in outdoor recreation in Berkshire County? (choose all that apply)

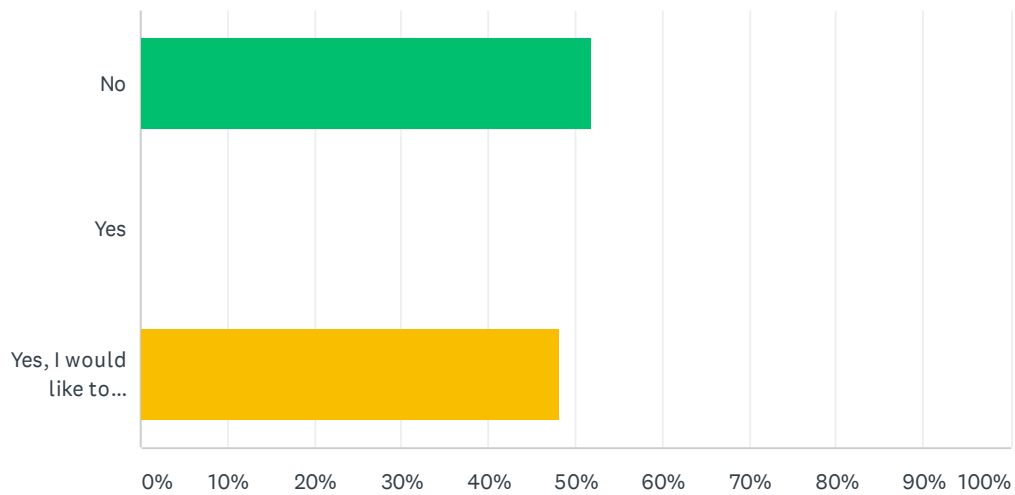
Answered: 1,794 Skipped: 238



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Winter	71.07%	1,275
Spring	89.58%	1,607
Summer	98.27%	1,763
Autumn	94.20%	1,690
Total Respondents: 1,794		

## Q10 Is there an outdoor recreation activity you would like to start doing - or do more often?

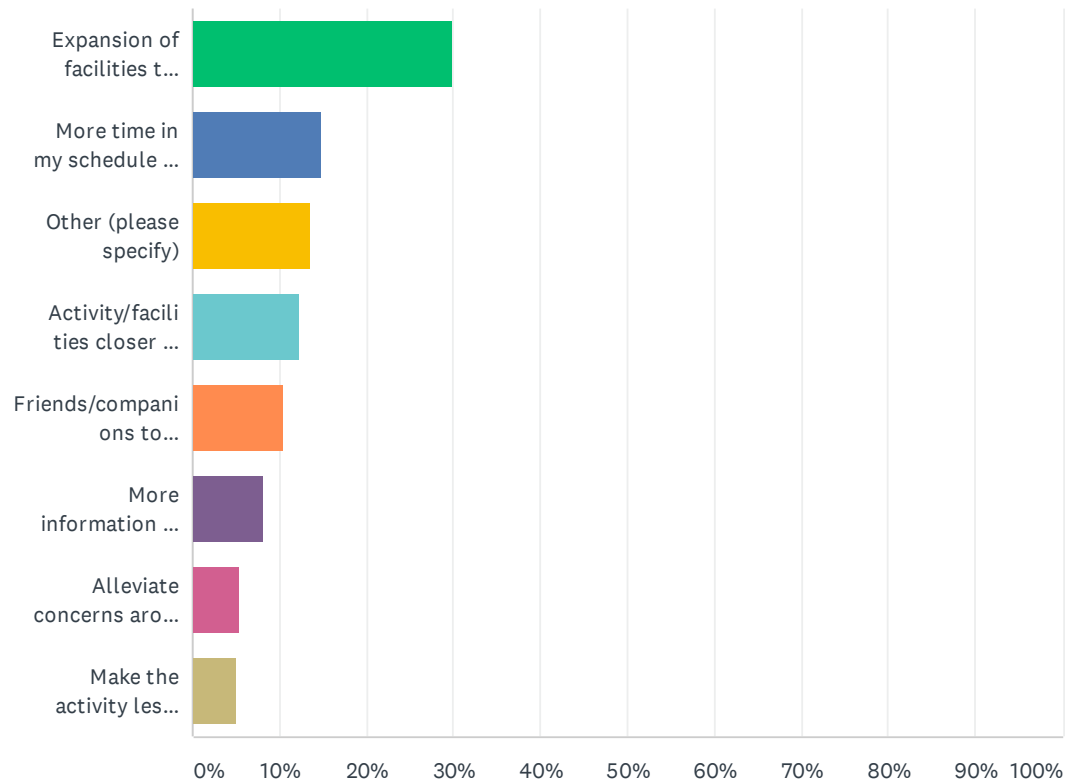
Answered: 1,721 Skipped: 311



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	51.95%	894
Yes	0.00%	0
Yes, I would like to begin/get more involved with:	48.05%	827
TOTAL		1,721

## Q11 If you answered yes to the previous question, what would help you to begin participating in this activity, or participate more often?

Answered: 837 Skipped: 1,195

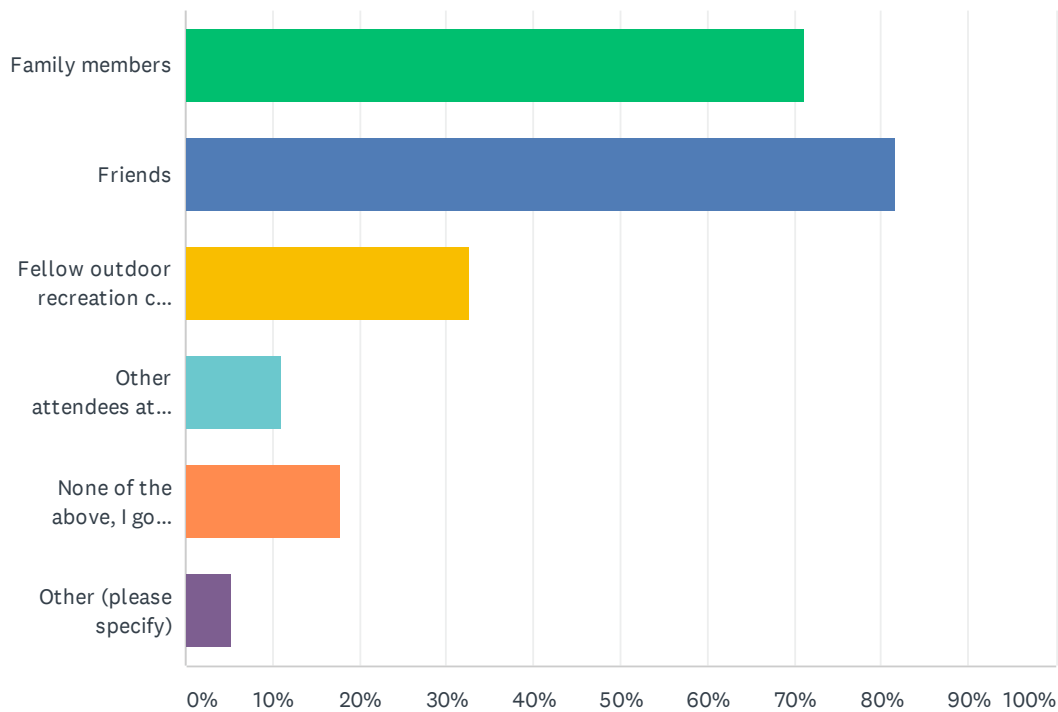


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Expansion of facilities to accommodate this activity	29.99%	251
More time in my schedule to participate in this activity	14.81%	124
Other (please specify)	13.62%	114
Activity/facilities closer to my home	12.31%	103
Friends/companions to participate in this activity with	10.51%	88
More information or instruction made available	8.24%	69
Alleviate concerns around safety	5.50%	46
Make the activity less expensive	5.02%	42
TOTAL		837



## Q12 With whom do you typically participate in outdoor recreation activities? (check all that apply)

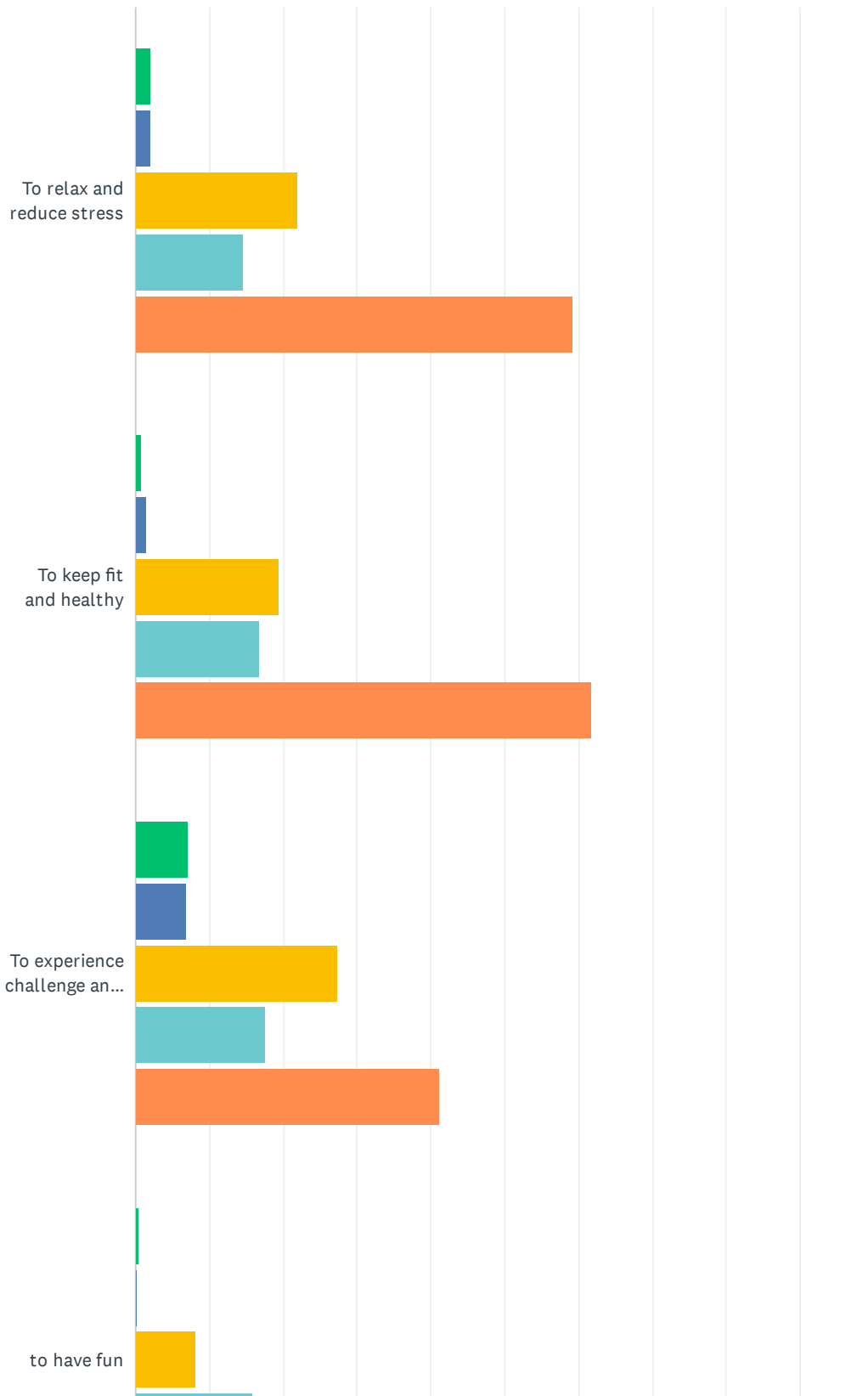
Answered: 1,735 Skipped: 297



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Family members	71.18%	1,235
Friends	81.56%	1,415
Fellow outdoor recreation club members	32.56%	565
Other attendees at guided activities, lessons	11.12%	193
None of the above, I go alone	17.69%	307
Other (please specify)	5.19%	90
Total Respondents: 1,735		

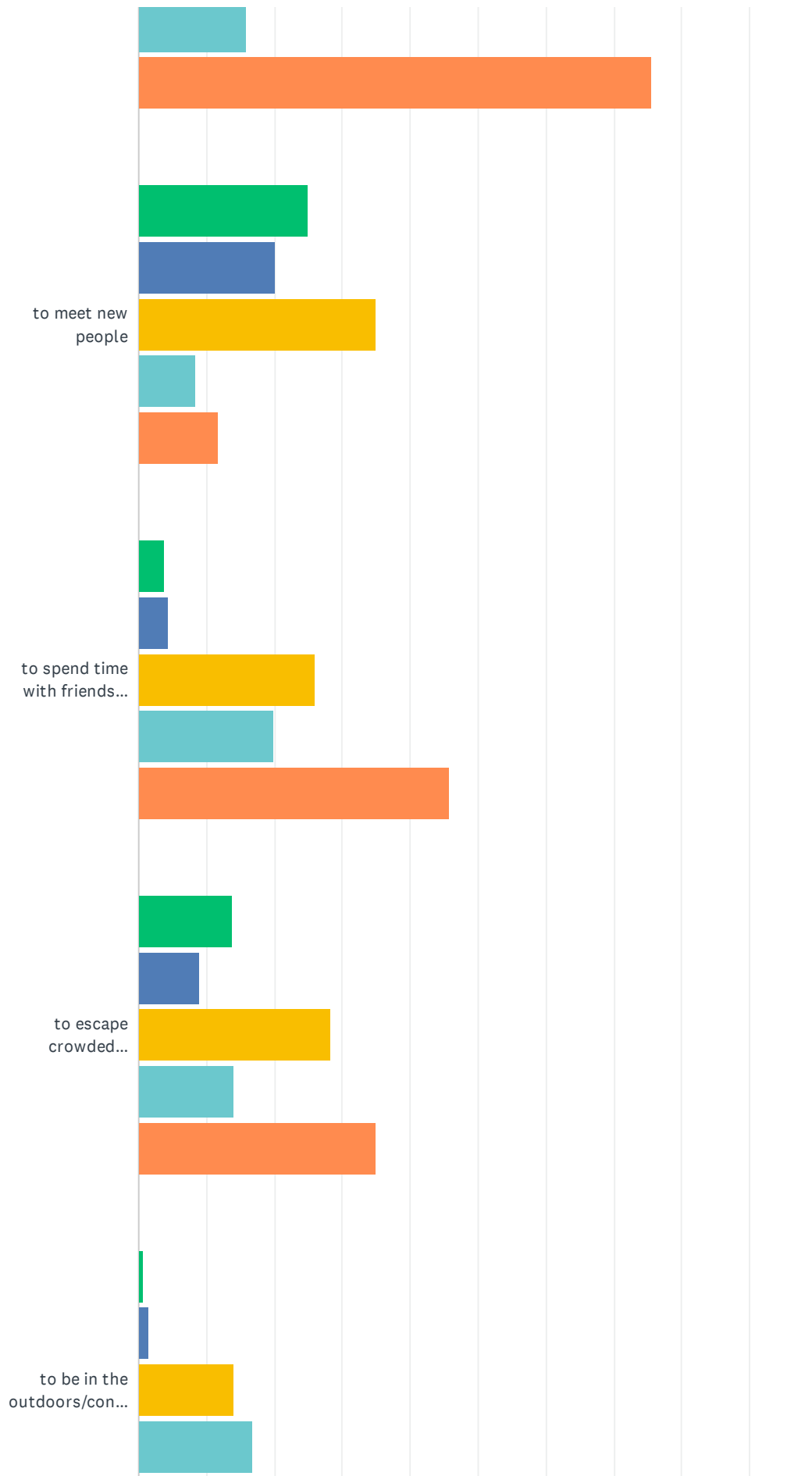
# Q13 For your favorite outdoor recreation activities, how important are each of the following to you as reasons to participate?

Answered: 1,735 Skipped: 297



# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

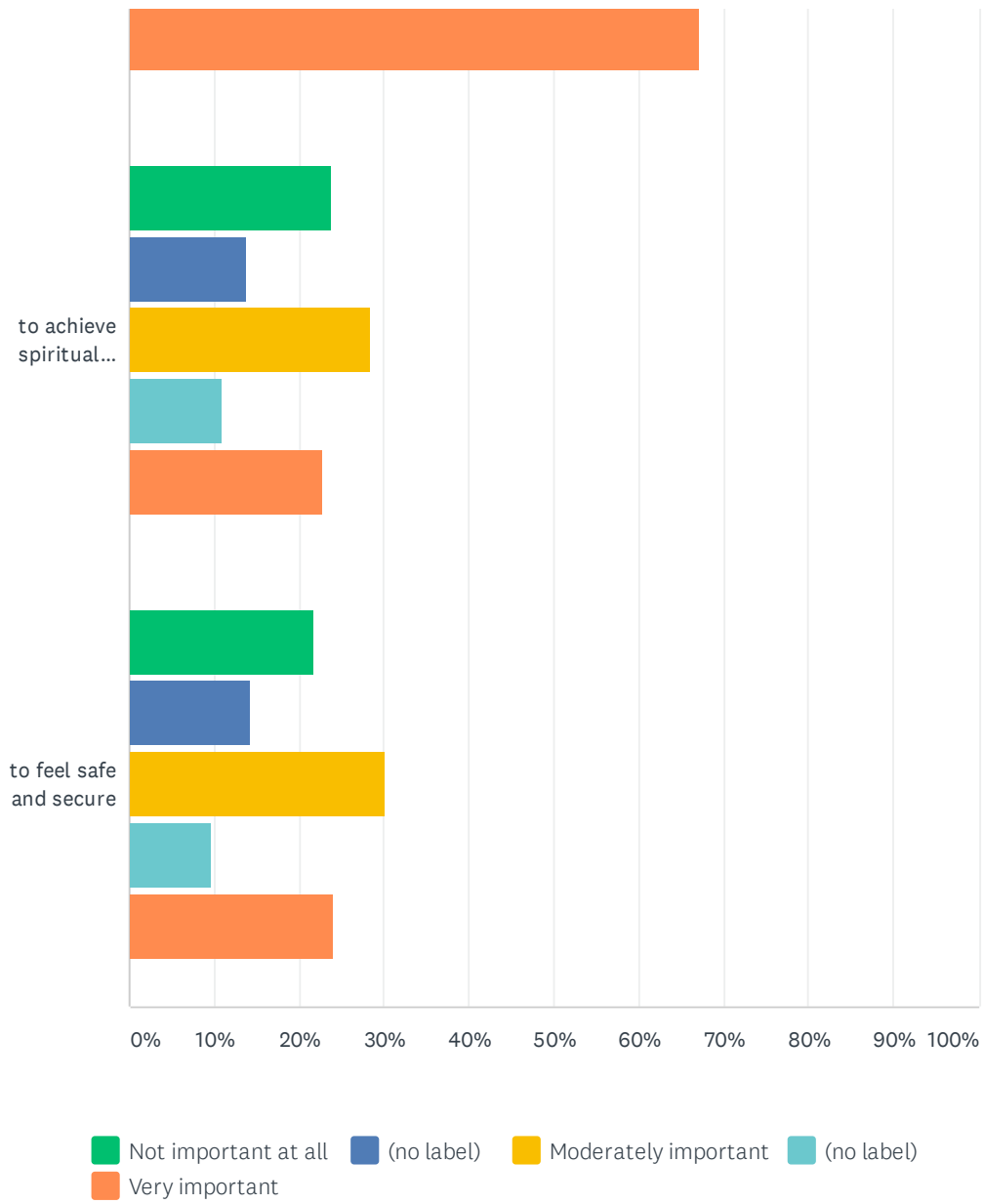
Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 89





# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 90



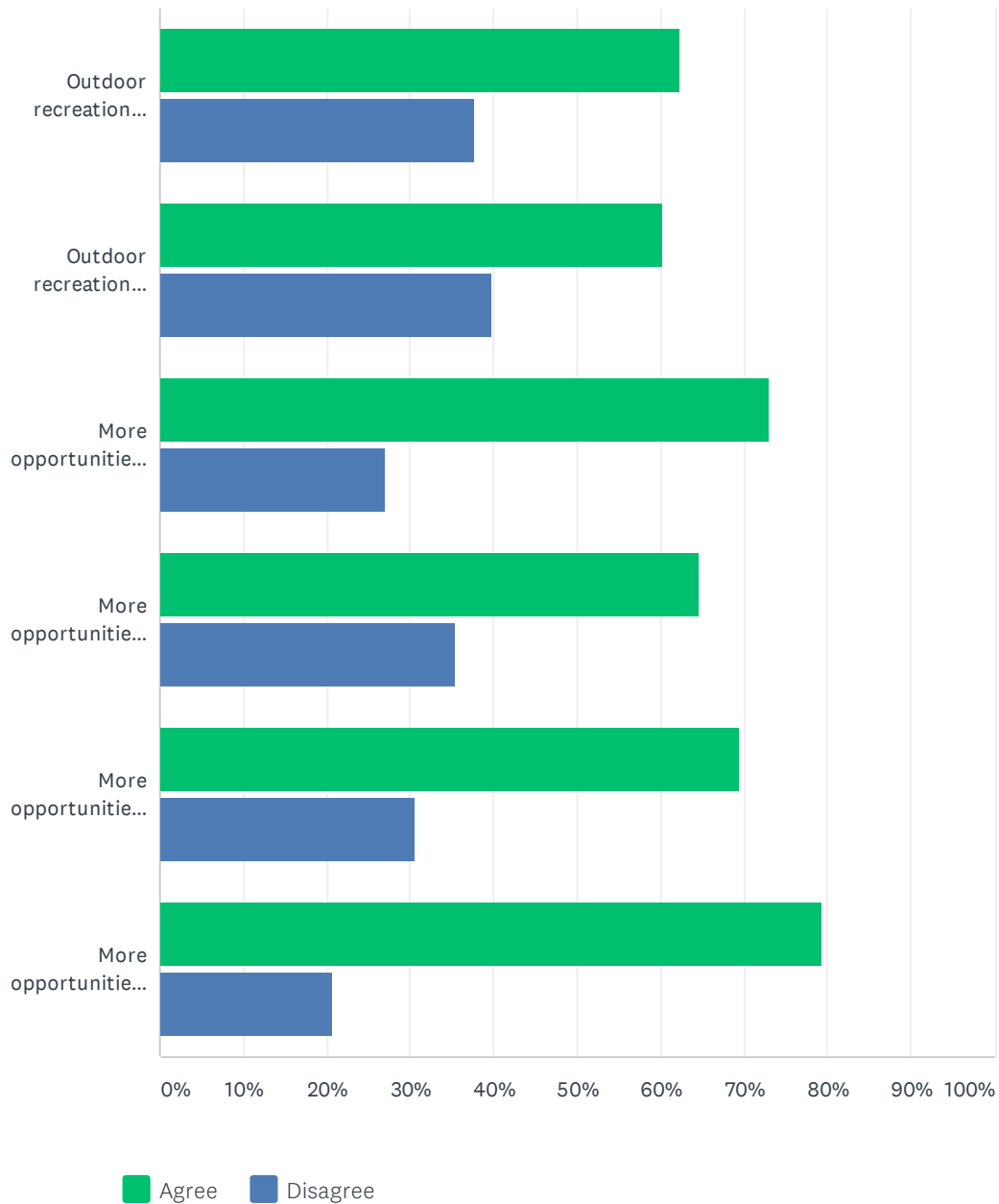
# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 91

	NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL	(NO LABEL)	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	(NO LABEL)	VERY IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
To relax and reduce stress	2.04% 35	2.10% 36	22.02% 378	14.62% 251	59.23% 1,017	1,717	4.27
To keep fit and healthy	0.87% 15	1.40% 24	19.38% 333	16.71% 287	61.64% 1,059	1,718	4.37
To experience challenge and excitement	7.03% 120	6.86% 117	27.32% 466	17.53% 299	41.27% 704	1,706	3.79
to have fun	0.35% 6	0.29% 5	8.08% 139	15.86% 273	75.42% 1,298	1,721	4.66
to meet new people	24.97% 422	20.00% 338	34.97% 591	8.34% 141	11.72% 198	1,690	2.62
to spend time with friends and family	3.86% 66	4.45% 76	25.94% 443	19.85% 339	45.90% 784	1,708	3.99
to escape crowded situations	13.72% 232	9.05% 153	28.27% 478	14.02% 237	34.95% 591	1,691	3.47
to be in the outdoors/connect with nature	0.58% 10	1.57% 27	14.06% 242	16.68% 287	67.11% 1,155	1,721	4.48
to achieve spiritual fulfillment	23.88% 404	13.89% 235	28.55% 483	10.93% 185	22.75% 385	1,692	2.95
to feel safe and secure	21.80% 365	14.16% 237	30.23% 506	9.68% 162	24.13% 404	1,674	3.00

## Q14 Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about outdoor recreation in Berkshire County?

Answered: 1,456 Skipped: 576





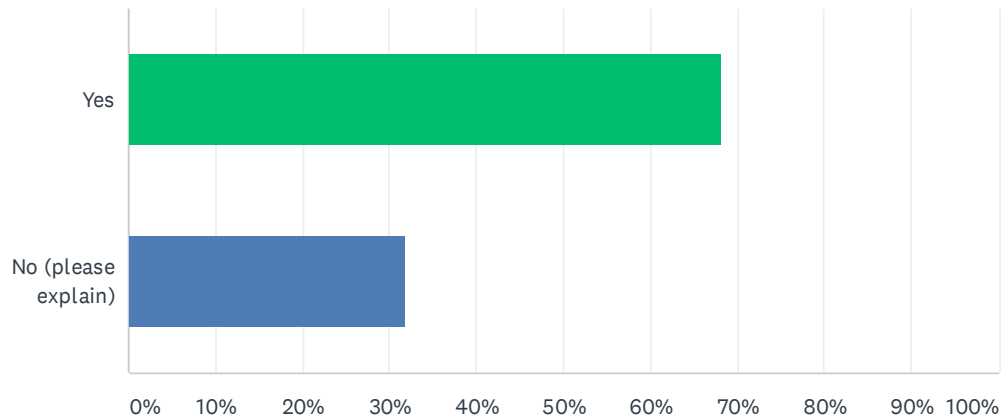
# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

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	AGREE	DISAGREE	TOTAL
Outdoor recreation opportunities are adequate for all ages.	62.25% 892	37.75% 541	1,433
Outdoor recreation opportunities are adequate for all ability levels.	60.34% 861	39.66% 566	1,427
More opportunities for children and youth are needed.	72.95% 1,003	27.05% 372	1,375
More opportunities for adults are needed.	64.62% 895	35.38% 490	1,385
More opportunities for older adults are needed.	69.55% 948	30.45% 415	1,363
More opportunities for people with disabilities are needed.	79.39% 1,067	20.61% 277	1,344

## Q15 Do you feel outdoor recreation areas in Berkshire County are properly regulated/restricted (monitoring of permitted activities)?

Answered: 1,402 Skipped: 630



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	68.12%	955
No (please explain)	31.88%	447
TOTAL		1,402

## Q16 In your opinion, what is the single biggest outdoor recreation asset in Berkshire County?

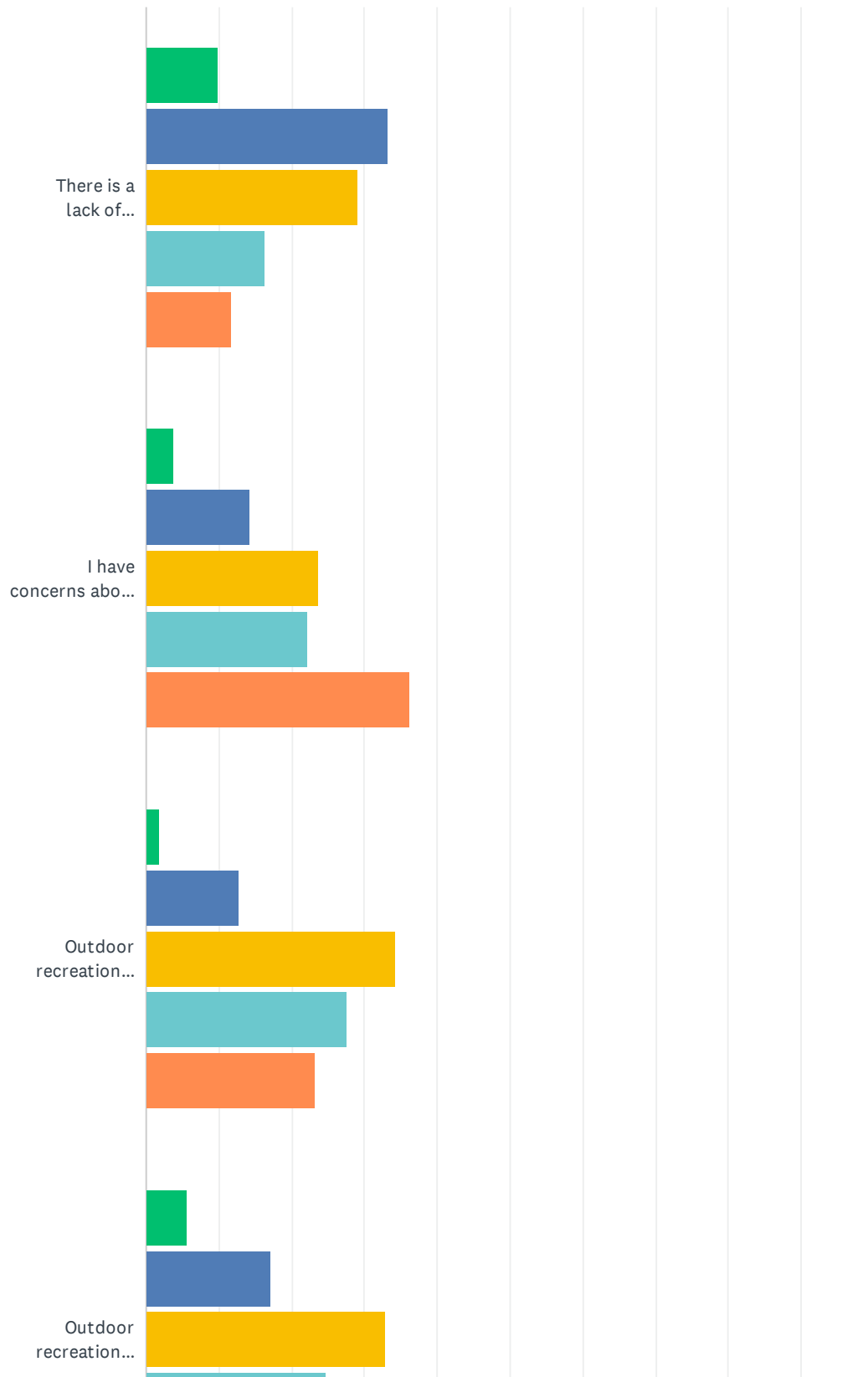
Answered: 1,324   Skipped: 708

**Please note:** this was an open ended question with varied answer lengths. Full responses are available by contacting Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.



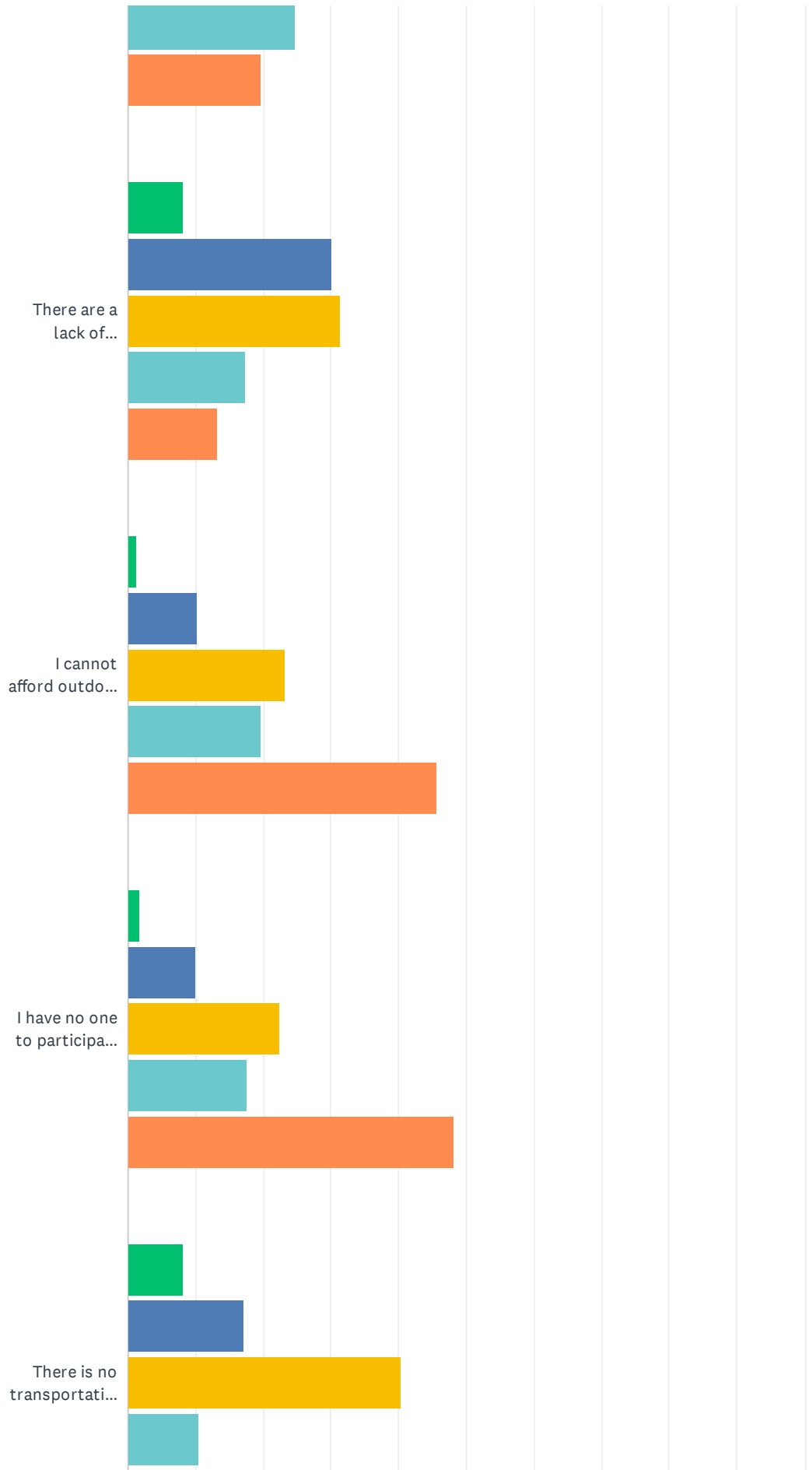
## Q17 Please indicate to what degree the following factors limit your participation in outdoor recreation within Berkshire County:

Answered: 1,461 Skipped: 571



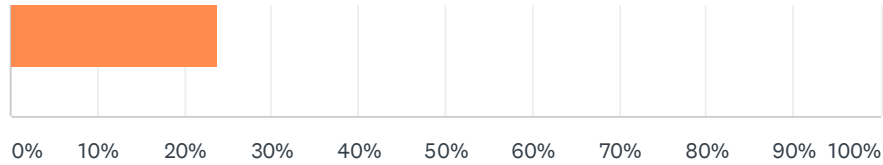
# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 97



# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 98



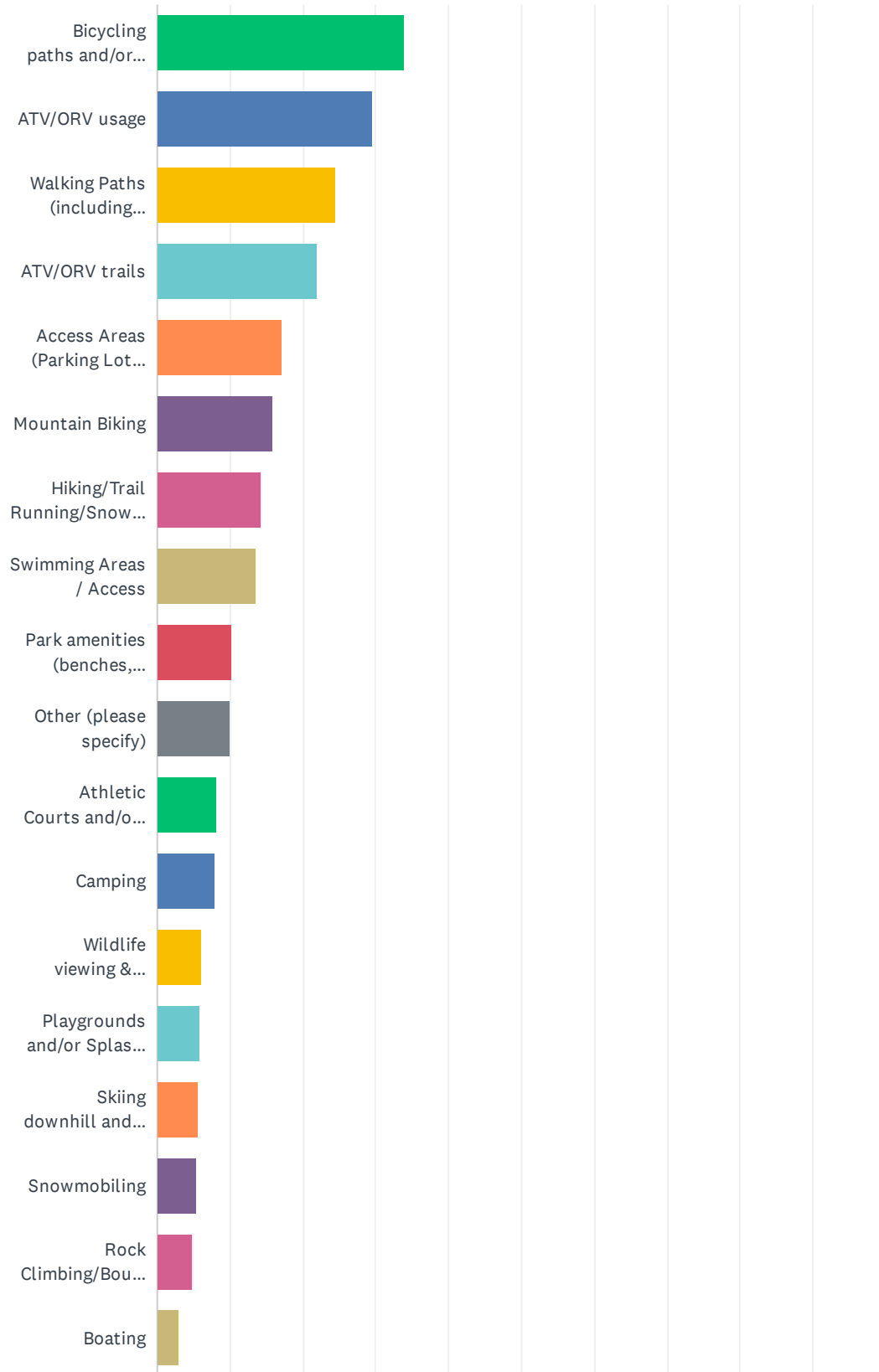
■ Totally agree   
 ■ Agree somewhat   
 ■ Neither agree nor disagree  
■ Disagree somewhat   
 ■ Totally disagree

	TOTALLY AGREE	AGREE SOMEWHAT	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	DISAGREE SOMEWHAT	TOTALLY DISAGREE	TOTAL
There is a lack of information on outdoor recreation	9.75% 142	33.24% 484	29.05% 423	16.28% 237	11.68% 170	1,456
I have concerns about safety during outdoor recreation	3.85% 56	14.30% 208	23.57% 343	22.13% 322	36.15% 526	1,455
Outdoor recreation sites are too crowded	1.86% 27	12.85% 187	34.36% 500	27.63% 402	23.30% 339	1,455
Outdoor recreation sites are not accessible	5.60% 81	17.14% 248	32.90% 476	24.60% 356	19.77% 286	1,447
There are a lack of amenities at outdoor recreation sites	8.13% 118	30.03% 436	31.40% 456	17.29% 251	13.15% 191	1,452
I cannot afford outdoor recreation activities	1.24% 18	10.29% 149	23.20% 336	19.68% 285	45.58% 660	1,448
I have no one to participate in outdoor recreation with	1.67% 24	10.14% 146	22.43% 323	17.57% 253	48.19% 694	1,440
There is no transportation to outdoor recreation sites	8.09% 116	17.09% 245	40.45% 580	10.46% 150	23.92% 343	1,434



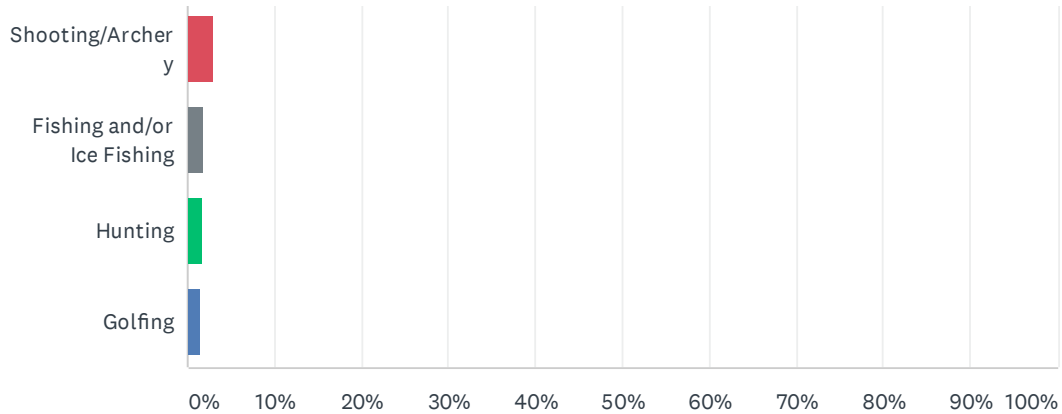
## Q18 Which aspects of outdoor recreation in Berkshire County need improvement? Please choose up to 3.

Answered: 1,479 Skipped: 553



# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

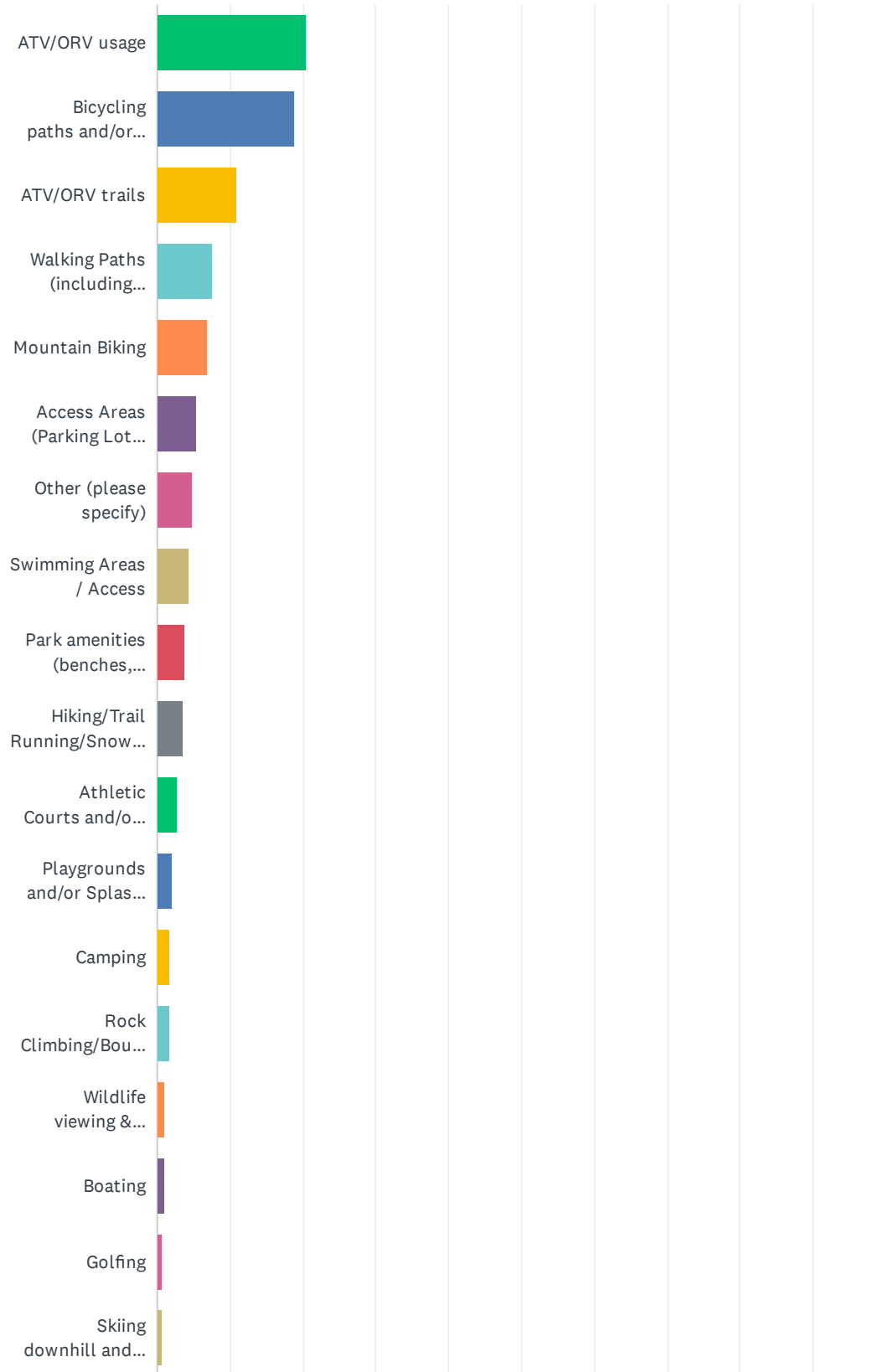
Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 100



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Bicycling paths and/or lanes	33.94%	502
ATV/ORV usage	29.55%	437
Walking Paths (including along roadways)	24.54%	363
ATV/ORV trails	22.04%	326
Access Areas (Parking Lots and Trailheads)	17.17%	254
Mountain Biking	15.82%	234
Hiking/Trail Running/Snowshoeing	14.20%	210
Swimming Areas / Access	13.59%	201
Park amenities (benches, grills, etc.)	10.34%	153
Other (please specify)	9.94%	147
Athletic Courts and/or Fields	8.11%	120
Camping	7.91%	117
Wildlife viewing & nature study	6.02%	89
Playgrounds and/or Splash Pads	5.81%	86
Skiing downhill and/or cross country	5.61%	83
Snowmobiling	5.34%	79
Rock Climbing/Bouldering	4.80%	71
Boating	2.97%	44
Shooting/Archery	2.91%	43
Fishing and/or Ice Fishing	1.96%	29
Hunting	1.76%	26
Golfing	1.49%	22
Total Respondents: 1,479		

## Q19 What aspect of outdoor recreation in Berkshire County needs the most improvement?

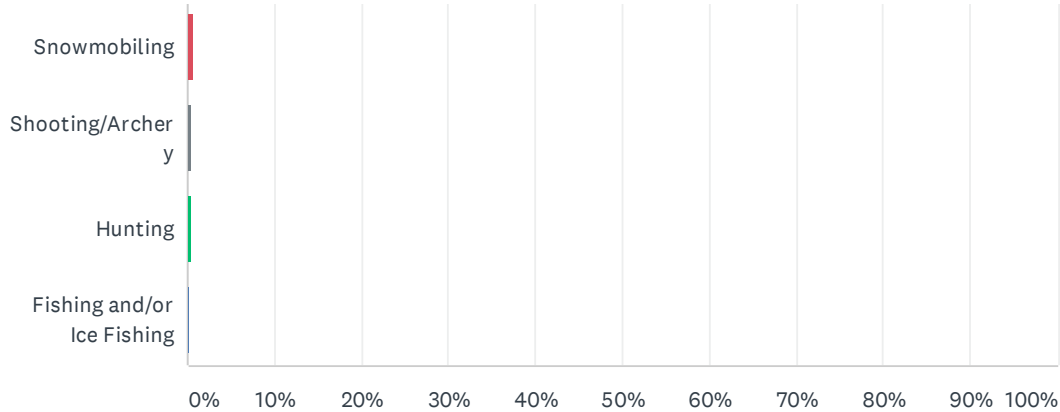
Answered: 1,285 Skipped: 747





# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 102



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
ATV/ORV usage	20.54%	264
Bicycling paths and/or lanes	18.91%	243
ATV/ORV trails	10.89%	140
Walking Paths (including along roadways)	7.55%	97
Mountain Biking	6.93%	89
Access Areas (Parking Lots and Trailheads)	5.53%	71
Other (please specify)	4.75%	61
Swimming Areas / Access	4.36%	56
Park amenities (benches, grills, etc.)	3.81%	49
Hiking/Trail Running/Snowshoeing	3.66%	47
Athletic Courts and/or Fields	2.80%	36
Playgrounds and/or Splash Pads	2.10%	27
Camping	1.71%	22
Rock Climbing/Bouldering	1.63%	21
Wildlife viewing & nature study	1.09%	14
Boating	1.01%	13
Golfing	0.54%	7
Skiing downhill and/or cross country	0.54%	7
Snowmobiling	0.54%	7
Shooting/Archery	0.47%	6
Hunting	0.39%	5
Fishing and/or Ice Fishing	0.23%	3
TOTAL		1,285

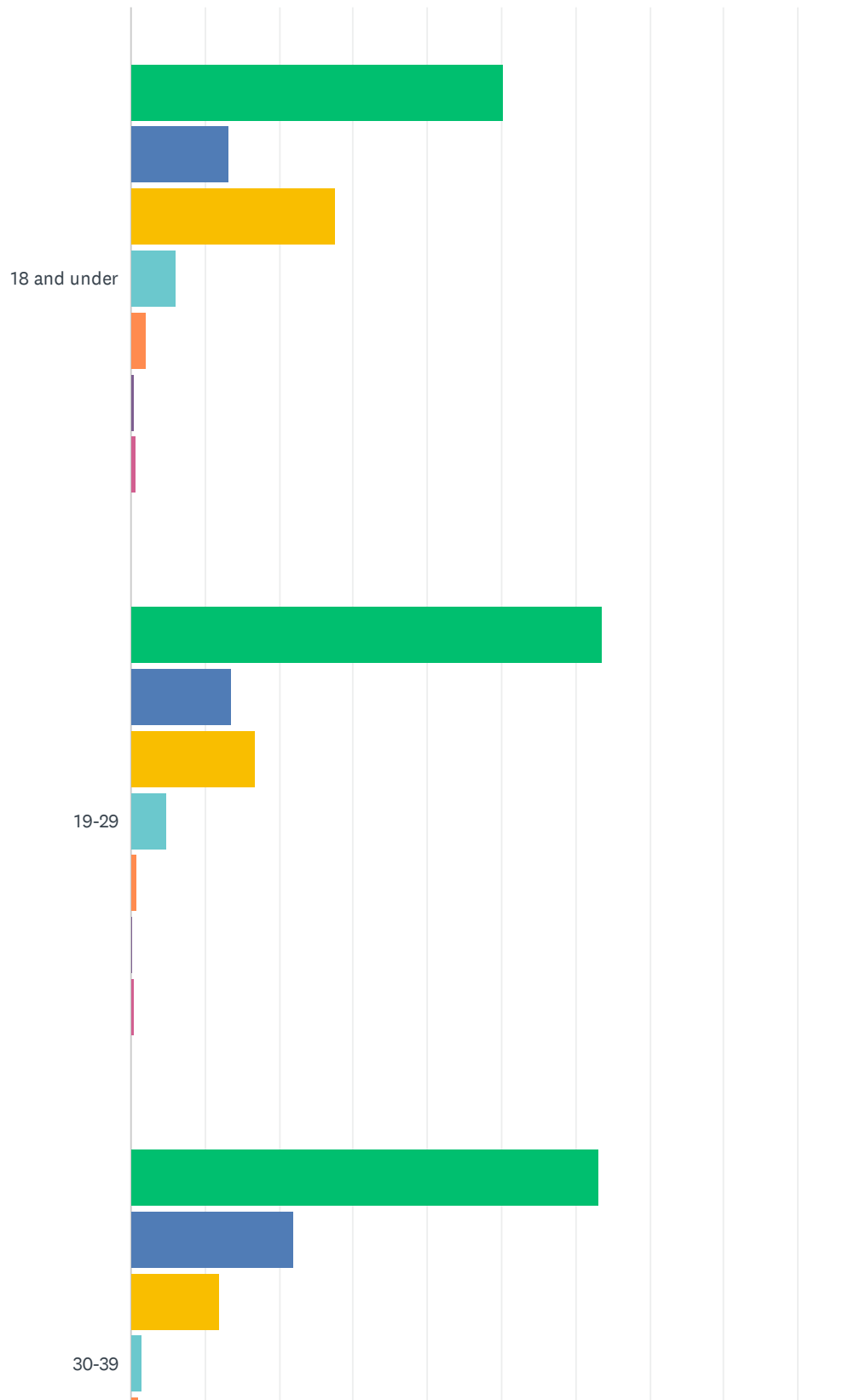
## Q20 What about this aspect should be improved?

Answered: 1,117   Skipped: 915

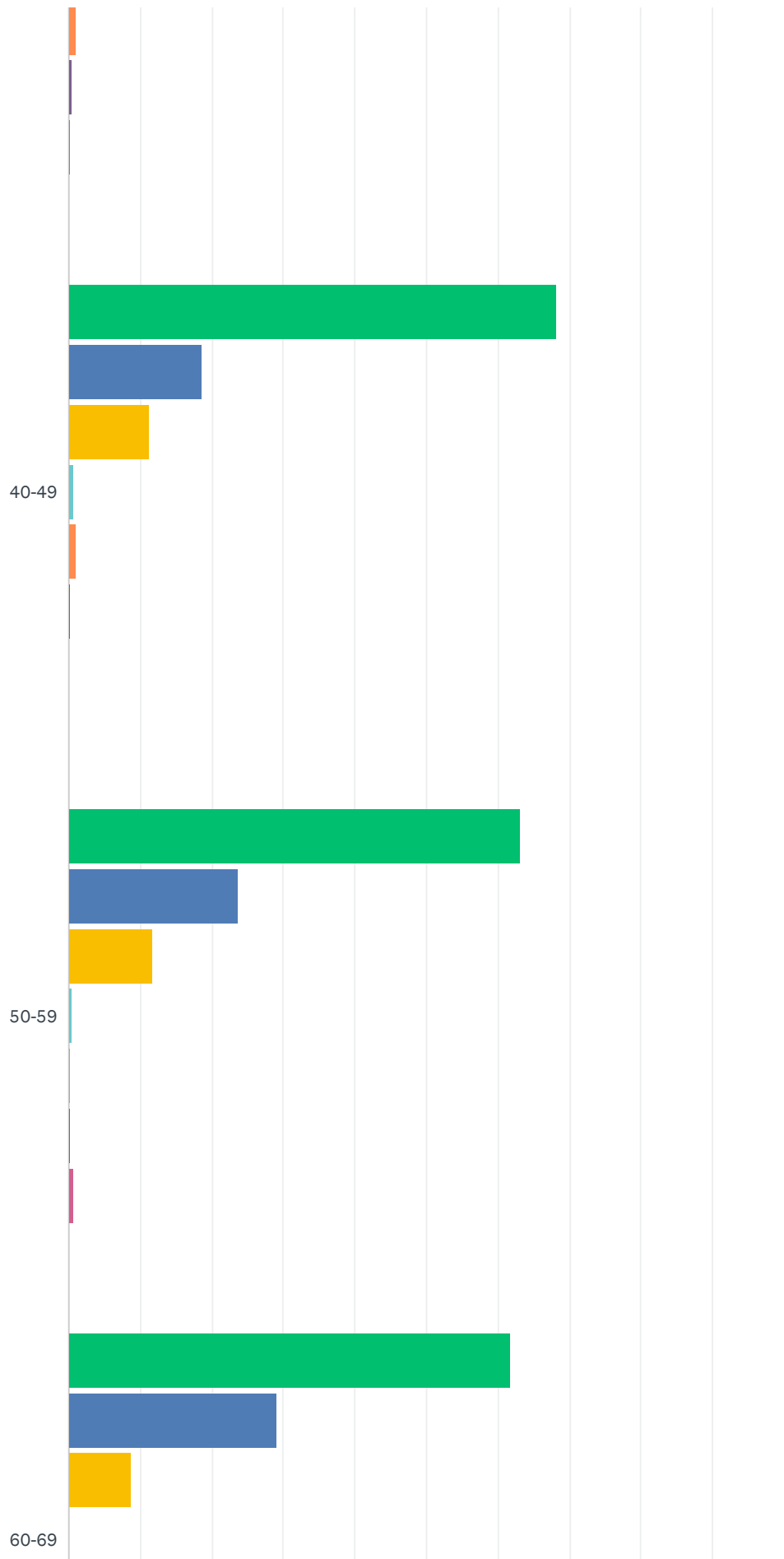
**Please note:** this was an open ended question with varied answer lengths.  
Full responses are available by contacting Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

## Q21 Other than yourself, please indicate the number of household members in the following age brackets:

Answered: 1,354 Skipped: 678

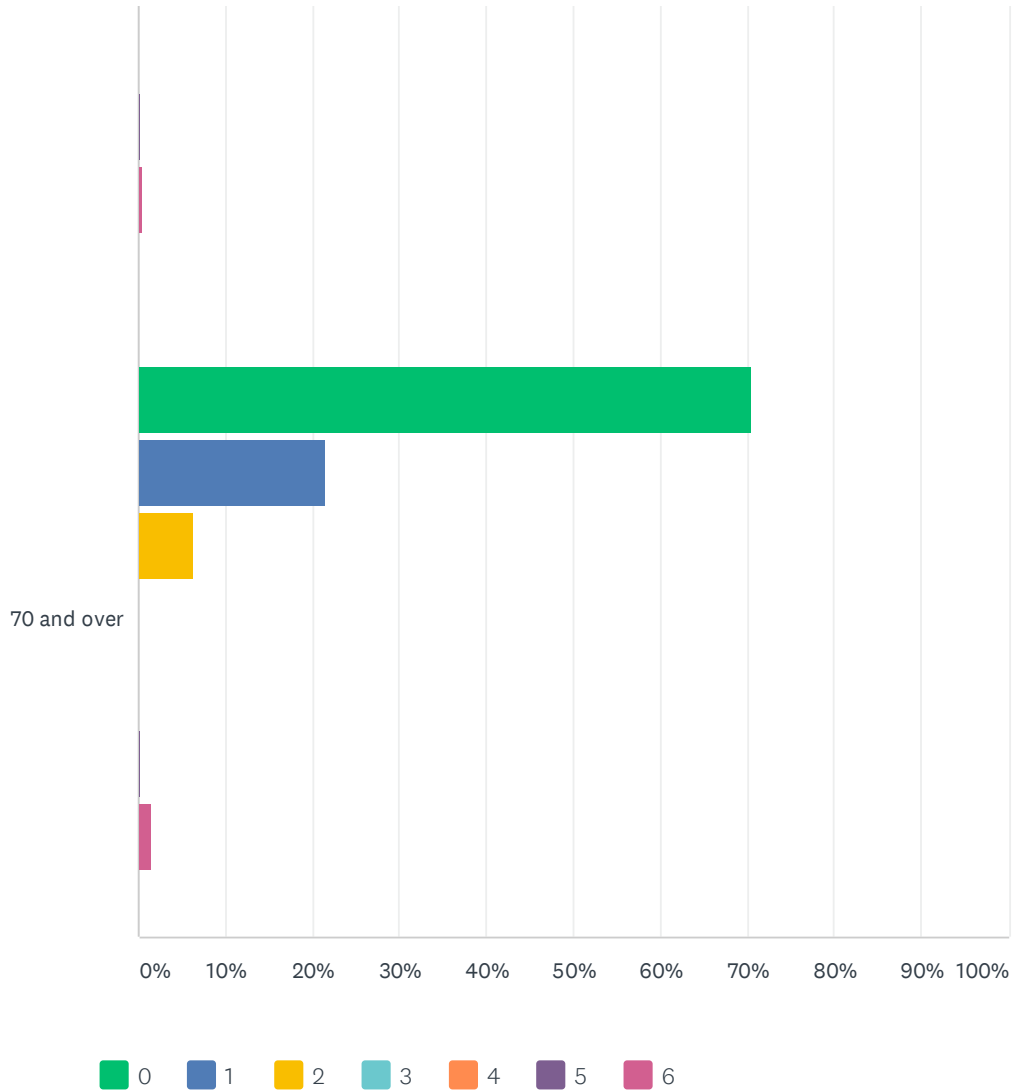






# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

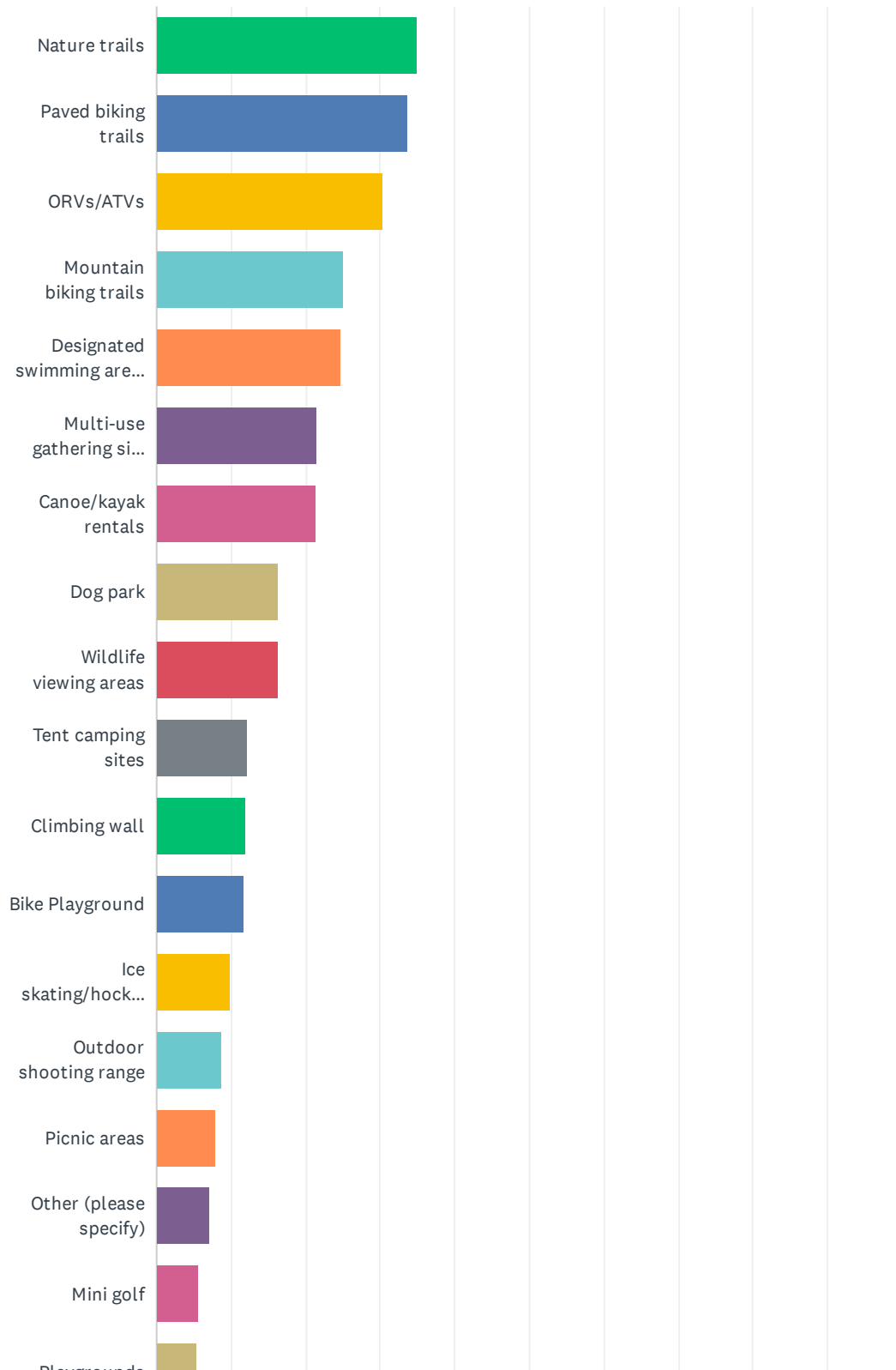
Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 106



	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
18 and under	50.14% 359	13.13% 94	27.65% 198	6.01% 43	2.09% 15	0.42% 3	0.56% 4	716
19-29	63.59% 351	13.59% 75	16.67% 92	4.71% 26	0.91% 5	0.18% 1	0.36% 2	552
30-39	63.14% 322	21.96% 112	11.96% 61	1.37% 7	0.98% 5	0.39% 2	0.20% 1	510
40-49	68.25% 344	18.65% 94	11.31% 57	0.60% 3	0.99% 5	0.20% 1	0.00% 0	504
50-59	63.09% 359	23.73% 135	11.78% 67	0.35% 2	0.18% 1	0.18% 1	0.70% 4	569
60-69	61.66% 312	29.05% 147	8.70% 44	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.20% 1	0.40% 2	506
70 and over	70.52% 256	21.49% 78	6.34% 23	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.28% 1	1.38% 5	363

## Q22 Which outdoor recreation facilities or activities would you and/or your household benefit from having increased access to? Please choose up to five.

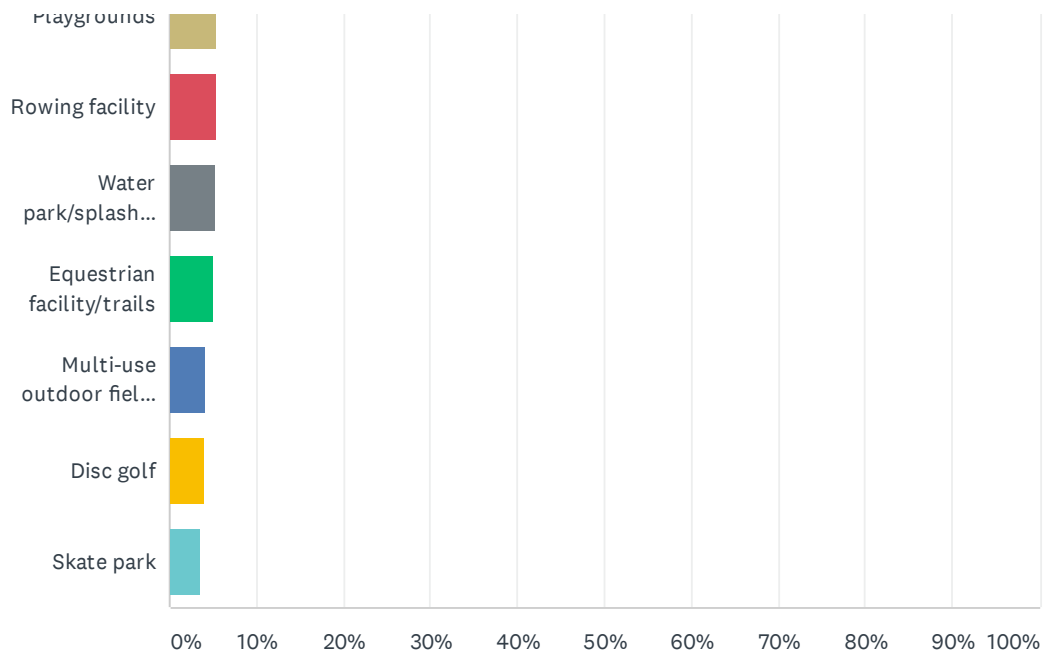
Answered: 1,439 Skipped: 593





## Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 108



# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 109

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Nature trails	35.02%	504
Paved biking trails	33.63%	484
ORVs/ATVs	30.44%	438
Mountain biking trails	25.16%	362
Designated swimming areas along rivers/lakes	24.74%	356
Multi-use gathering site for picnics, music, festivals, meetings, etc. (ex: amphitheater)	21.61%	311
Canoe/kayak rentals	21.40%	308
Dog park	16.40%	236
Wildlife viewing areas	16.40%	236
Tent camping sites	12.16%	175
Climbing wall	12.02%	173
Bike Playground	11.74%	169
Ice skating/hockey rink	9.80%	141
Outdoor shooting range	8.76%	126
Picnic areas	7.99%	115
Other (please specify)	7.16%	103
Mini golf	5.56%	80
Playgrounds	5.49%	79
Rowing facility	5.42%	78
Water park/splash park	5.14%	74
Equestrian facility/trails	5.07%	73
Multi-use outdoor fields for baseball/soccer or other sport participation	4.24%	61
Disc golf	4.03%	58
Skate park	3.47%	50
Total Respondents: 1,439		

## Q23 What improvement to outdoor recreation resources in Berkshire County would your household most like to see occur?

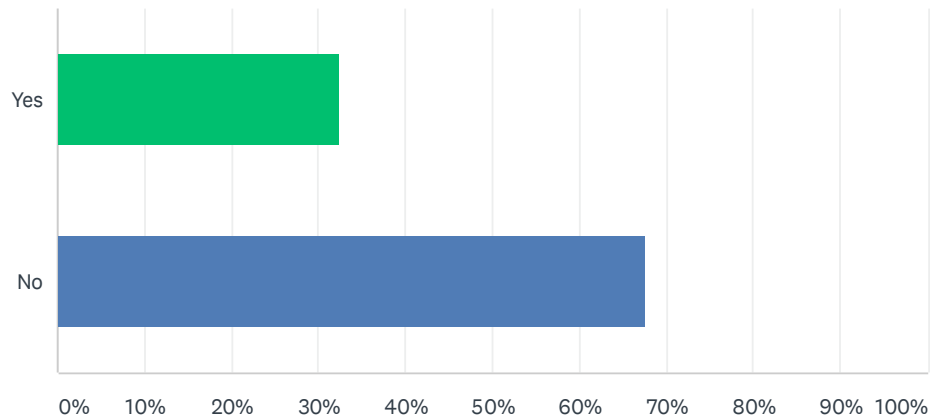
Answered: 978   Skipped: 1,054

**Please note:** this was an open ended question with varied answer lengths. Full responses are available by contacting Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.



## Q24 Do you use outdoor athletic facilities in Berkshire County? (sports fields/courts, tracks, pools, etc.)

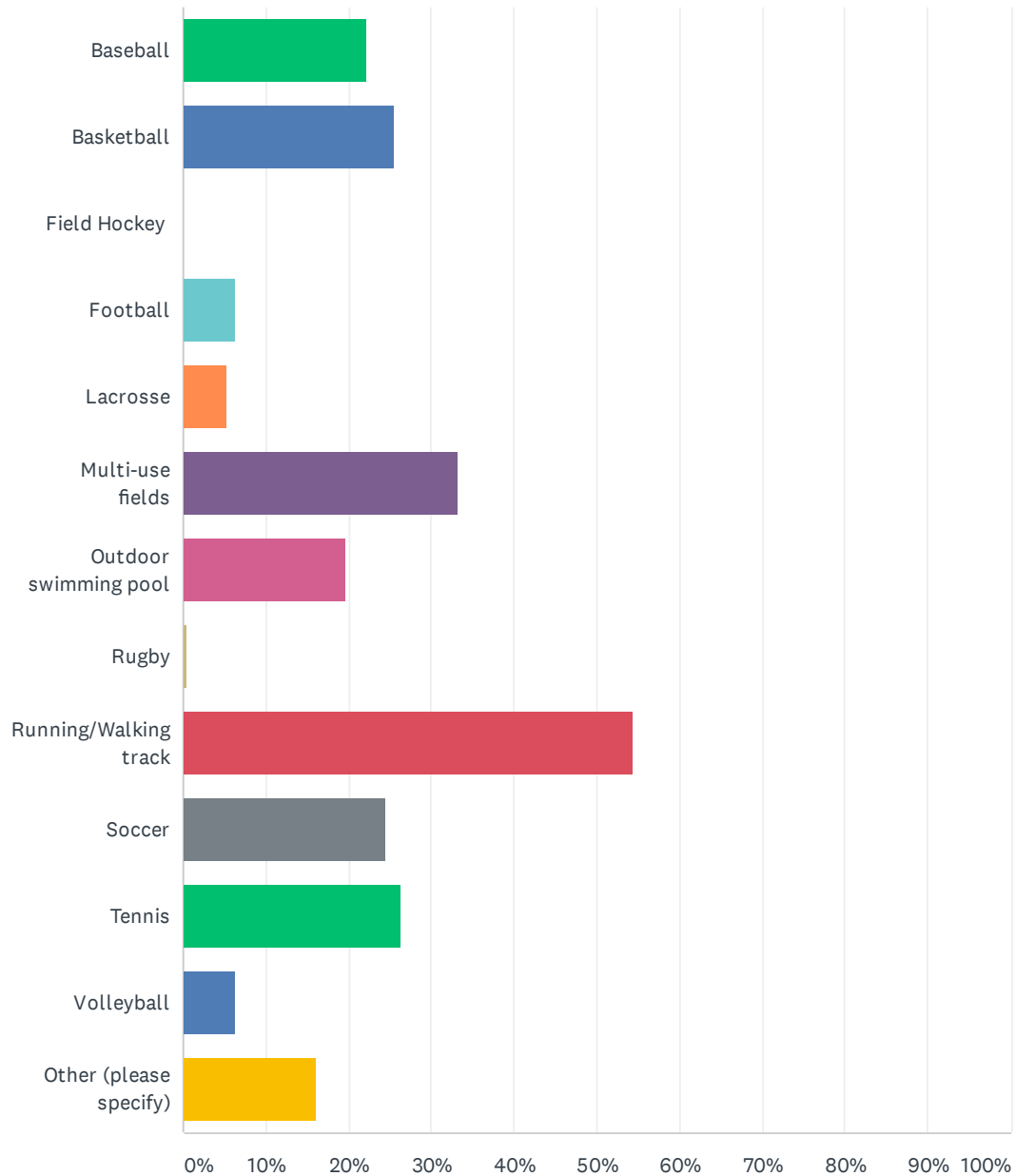
Answered: 1,430 Skipped: 602



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	32.45%	464
No	67.55%	966
TOTAL		1,430

## Q25 Which types of outdoor athletic facilities have you used?

Answered: 451 Skipped: 1,581



# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

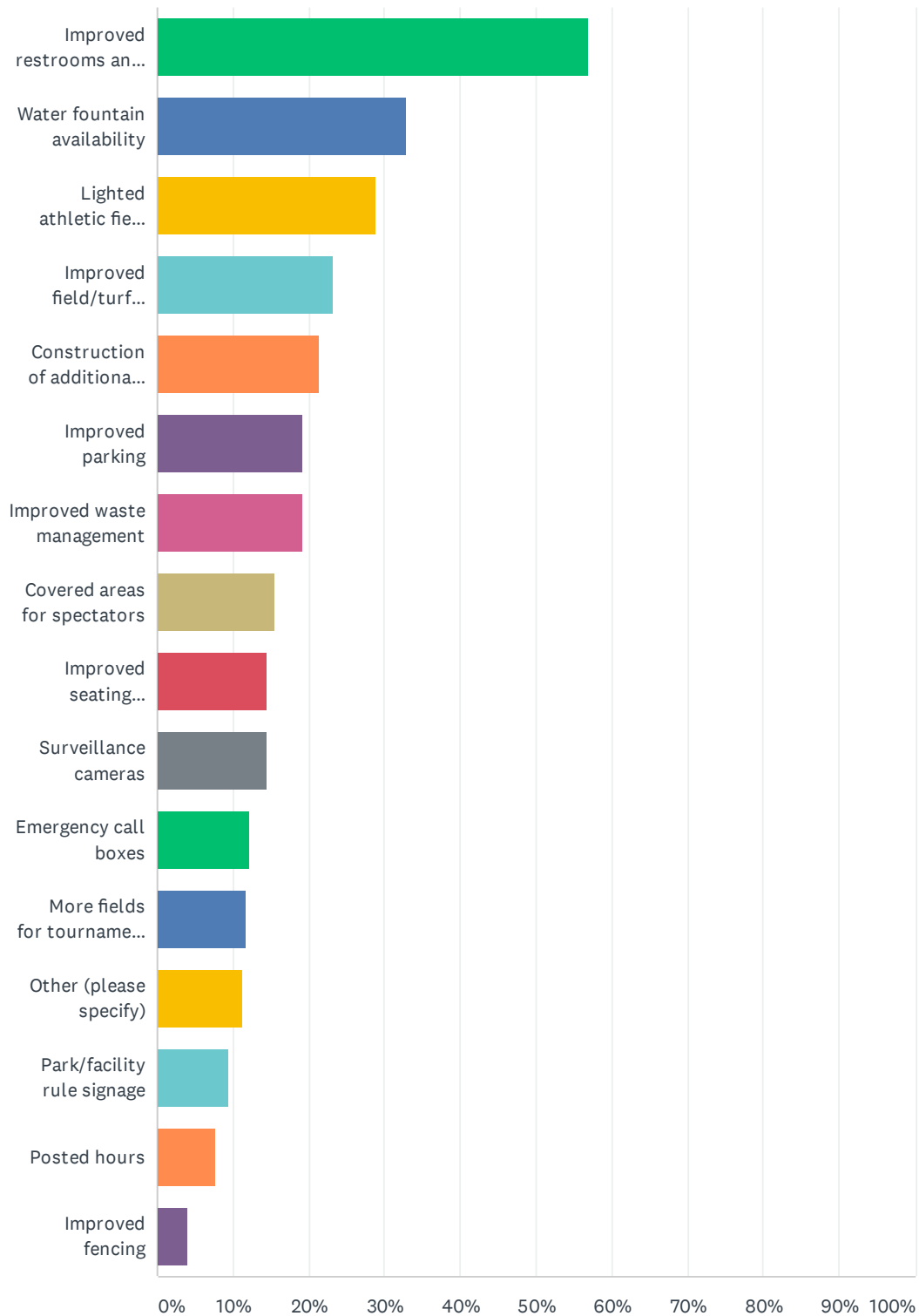
Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 113

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Baseball	22.17%	100
Basketball	25.50%	115
Field Hockey	0.00%	0
Football	6.21%	28
Lacrosse	5.32%	24
Multi-use fields	33.26%	150
Outdoor swimming pool	19.73%	89
Rugby	0.44%	2
Running/Walking track	54.32%	245
Soccer	24.39%	110
Tennis	26.39%	119
Volleyball	6.21%	28
Other (please specify)	16.19%	73
Total Respondents: 451		



## Q26 Which of the following improvements would you most like to see at outdoor athletic facilities?

Answered: 402 Skipped: 1,630



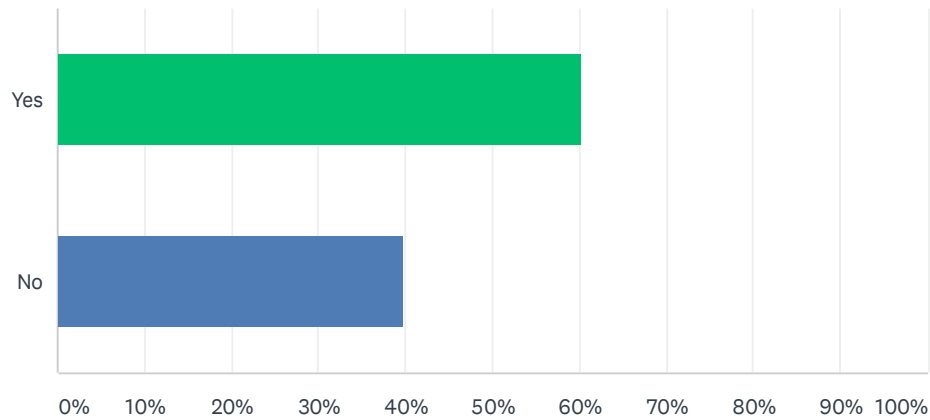
# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 115

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Improved restrooms and maintenance	56.97%	229
Water fountain availability	32.84%	132
Lighted athletic fields for nighttime play	28.86%	116
Improved field/turf maintenance	23.13%	93
Construction of additional fields/courts	21.39%	86
Improved parking	19.15%	77
Improved waste management	19.15%	77
Covered areas for spectators	15.42%	62
Improved seating (bleachers or benches)	14.43%	58
Surveillance cameras	14.43%	58
Emergency call boxes	12.19%	49
More fields for tournaments and intramural sports	11.69%	47
Other (please specify)	11.19%	45
Park/facility rule signage	9.45%	38
Posted hours	7.71%	31
Improved fencing	3.98%	16
Total Respondents: 402		

## Q27 Do you use community/municipal facilities in Berkshire County? (town parks, playgrounds, picnic areas, etc.)

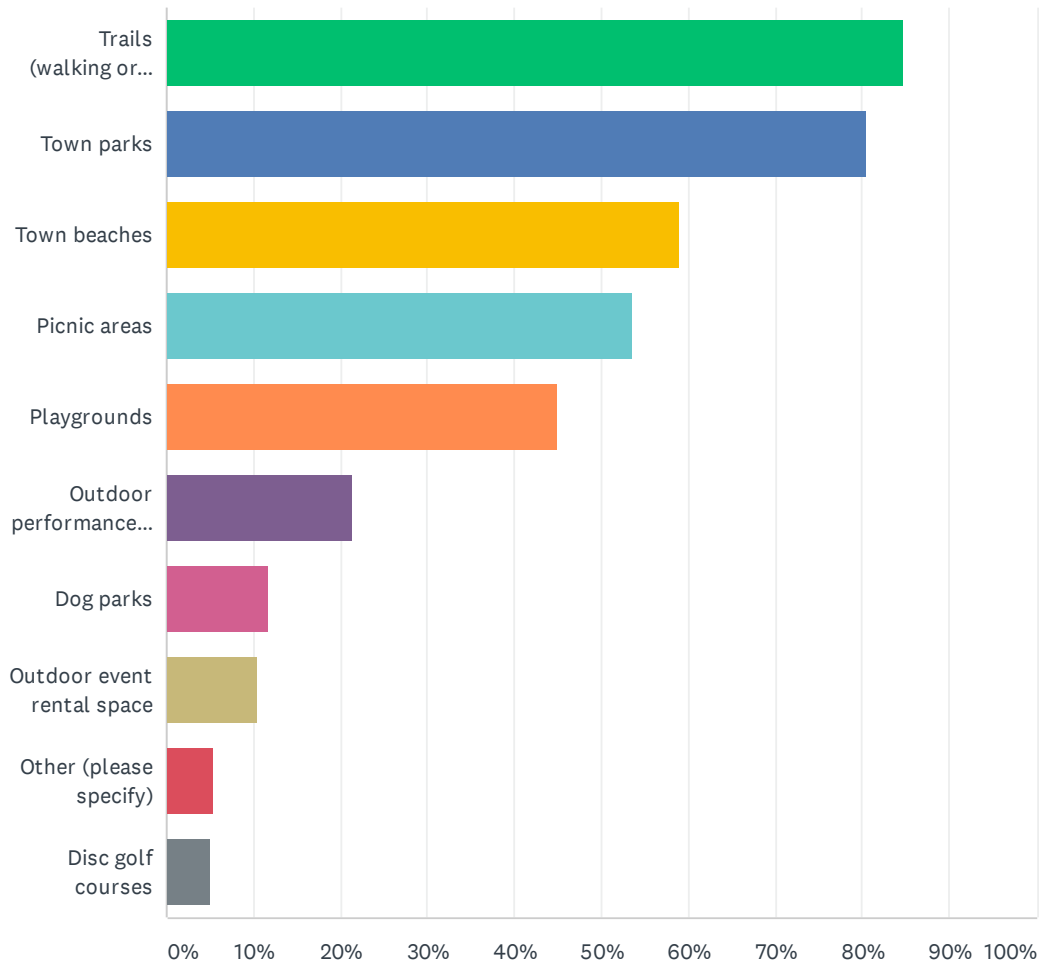
Answered: 1,412 Skipped: 620



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	60.20%	850
No	39.80%	562
TOTAL		1,412

## Q28 Which types of community/municipal facilities have you used?

Answered: 842 Skipped: 1,190

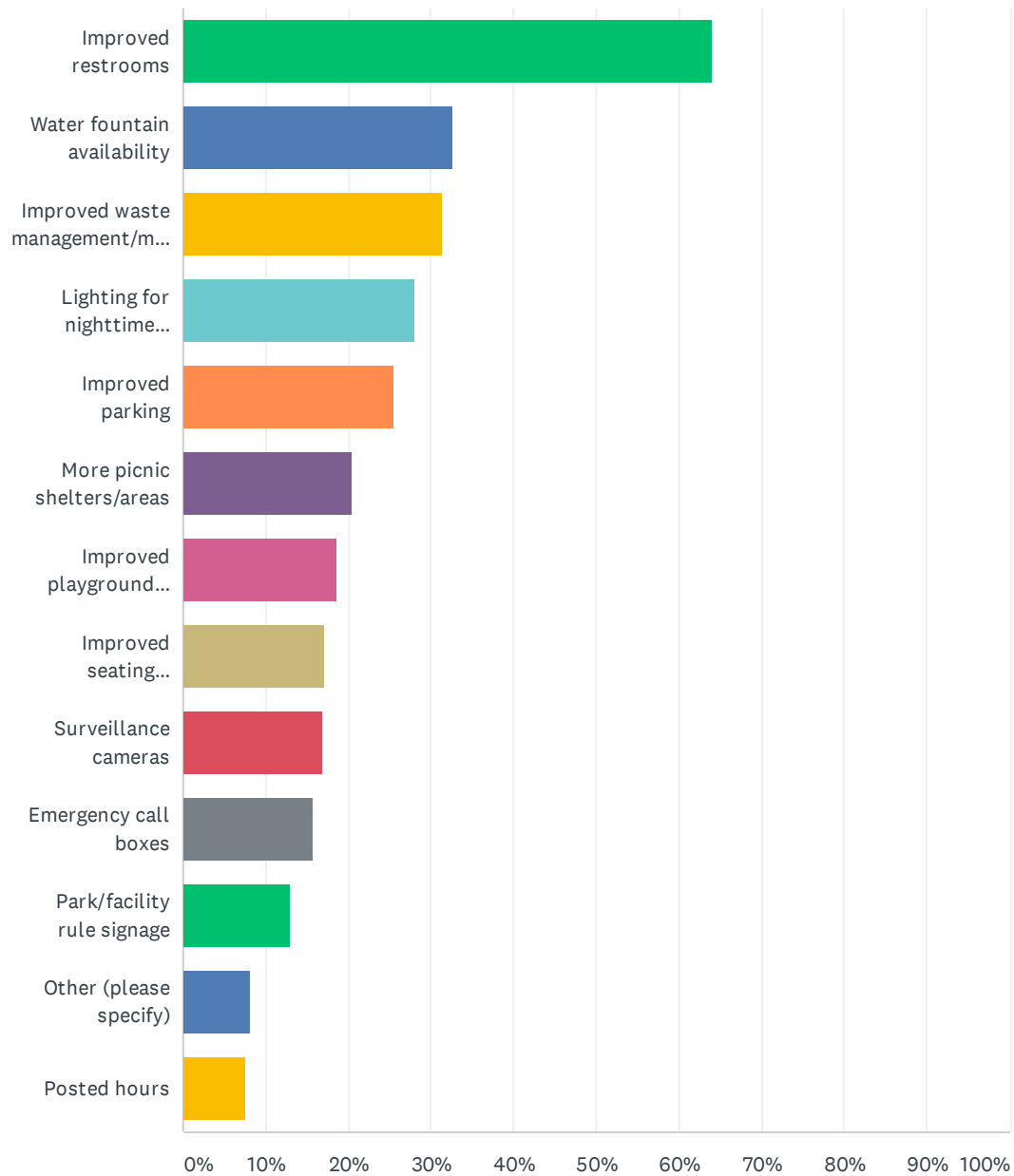


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Trails (walking or hiking)	84.68%	713
Town parks	80.52%	678
Town beaches	58.91%	496
Picnic areas	53.56%	451
Playgrounds	45.01%	379
Outdoor performance space	21.26%	179
Dog parks	11.76%	99
Outdoor event rental space	10.45%	88
Other (please specify)	5.34%	45
Disc golf courses	4.99%	42
Total Respondents: 842		



## Q29 Which of the following following improvements would you most like to see at community/municipal facilities?

Answered: 754 Skipped: 1,278



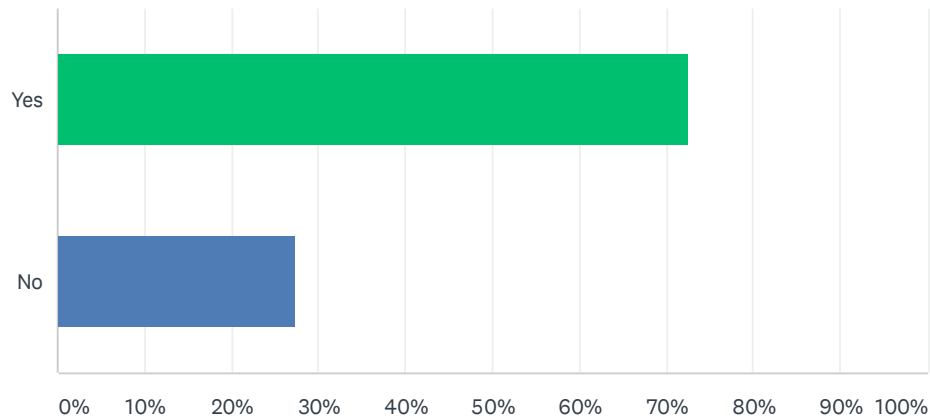
# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 119

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Improved restrooms	64.06%	483
Water fountain availability	32.63%	246
Improved waste management/maintenance	31.43%	237
Lighting for nighttime play/exercise	28.12%	212
Improved parking	25.46%	192
More picnic shelters/areas	20.42%	154
Improved playground equipment	18.70%	141
Improved seating (benches)	17.24%	130
Surveillance cameras	16.84%	127
Emergency call boxes	15.65%	118
Park/facility rule signage	13.00%	98
Other (please specify)	8.22%	62
Posted hours	7.43%	56
Total Respondents: 754		

### Q30 Do you use any water-based outdoor recreation areas in Berkshire County?(beaches, rivers, lakes, marinas, etc.)

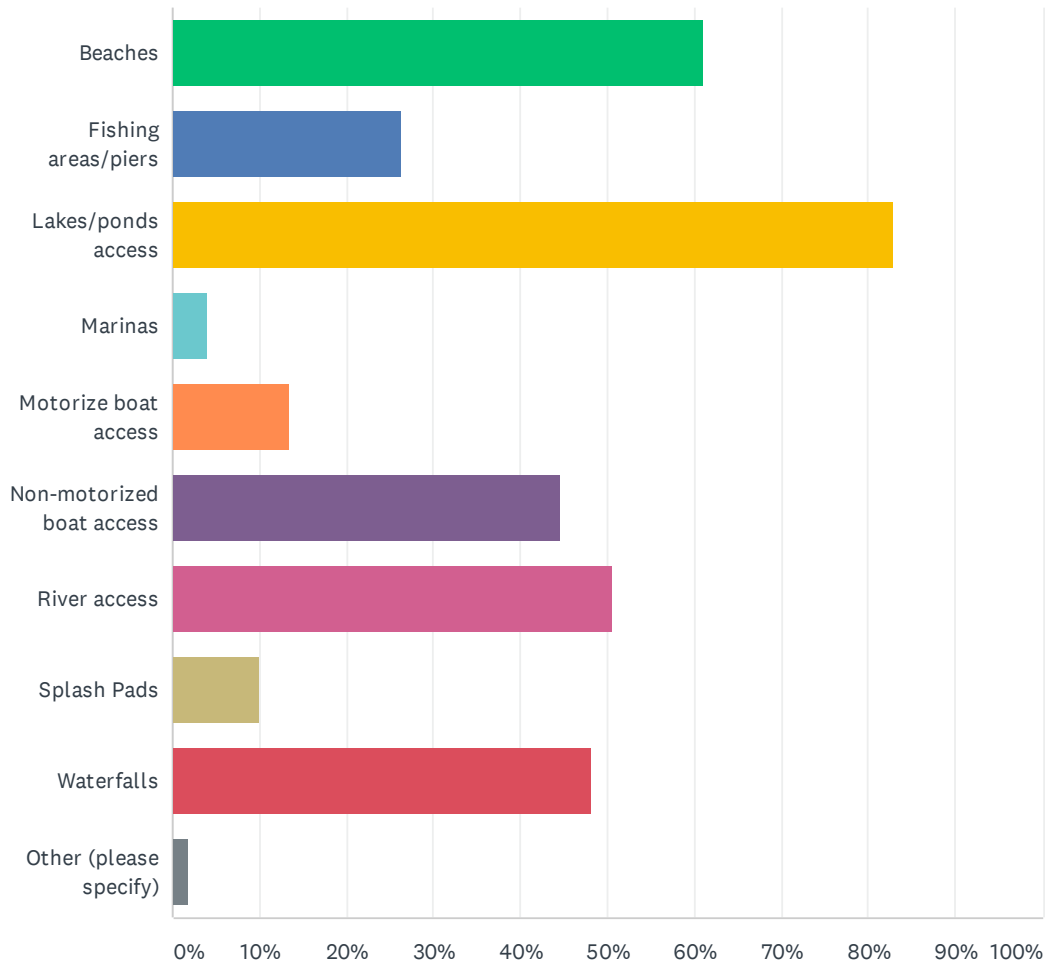
Answered: 1,403 Skipped: 629



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	72.63%	1,019
No	27.37%	384
TOTAL		1,403

## Q31 What type of water-based recreation areas have you used?

Answered: 1,012 Skipped: 1,020

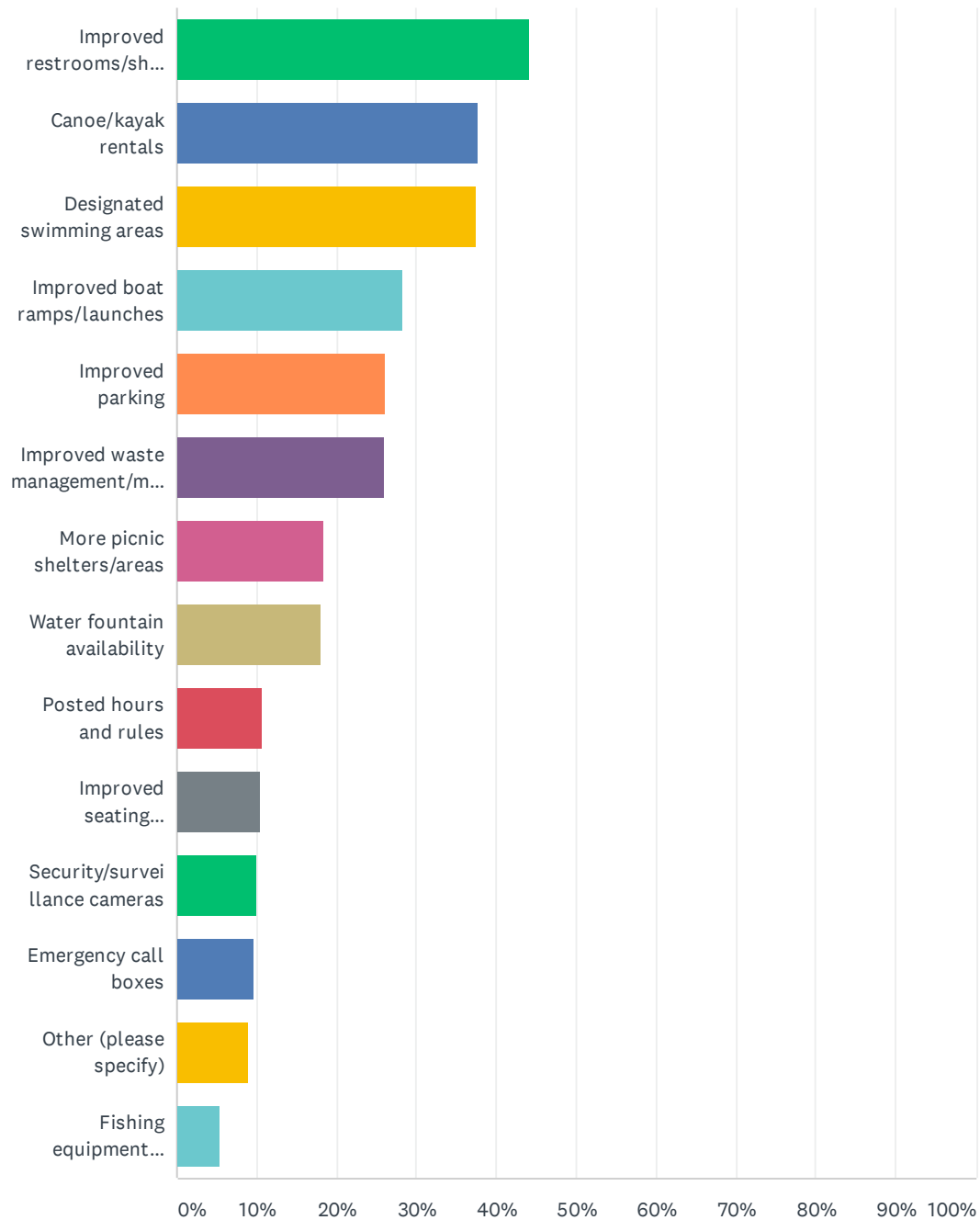


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Beaches	61.17%	619
Fishing areas/piers	26.38%	267
Lakes/ponds access	82.91%	839
Marinas	3.95%	40
Motorize boat access	13.44%	136
Non-motorized boat access	44.47%	450
River access	50.69%	513
Splash Pads	9.98%	101
Waterfalls	48.12%	487
Other (please specify)	1.88%	19
Total Respondents: 1,012		



## Q32 Which of the following improvements would you most like to see for water-based recreation?

Answered: 894 Skipped: 1,138



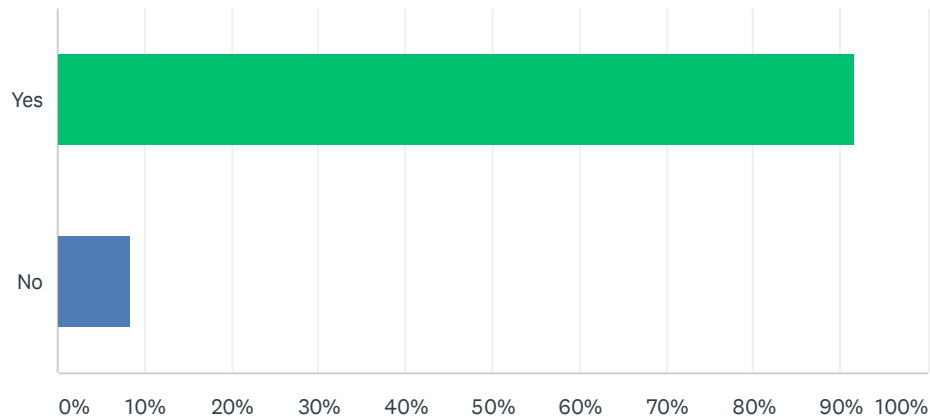
# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 123

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Improved restrooms/shower facilities	44.18%	395
Canoe/kayak rentals	37.70%	337
Designated swimming areas	37.36%	334
Improved boat ramps/launches	28.30%	253
Improved parking	26.06%	233
Improved waste management/maintenance	25.84%	231
More picnic shelters/areas	18.46%	165
Water fountain availability	17.90%	160
Posted hours and rules	10.63%	95
Improved seating (benches)	10.40%	93
Security/surveillance cameras	10.07%	90
Emergency call boxes	9.62%	86
Other (please specify)	9.06%	81
Fishing equipment rentals	5.48%	49
Total Respondents: 894		

### Q33 Do you use any trails, paths, or natural areas in Berkshire County? (hiking or biking trails, nature centers, sidewalks)

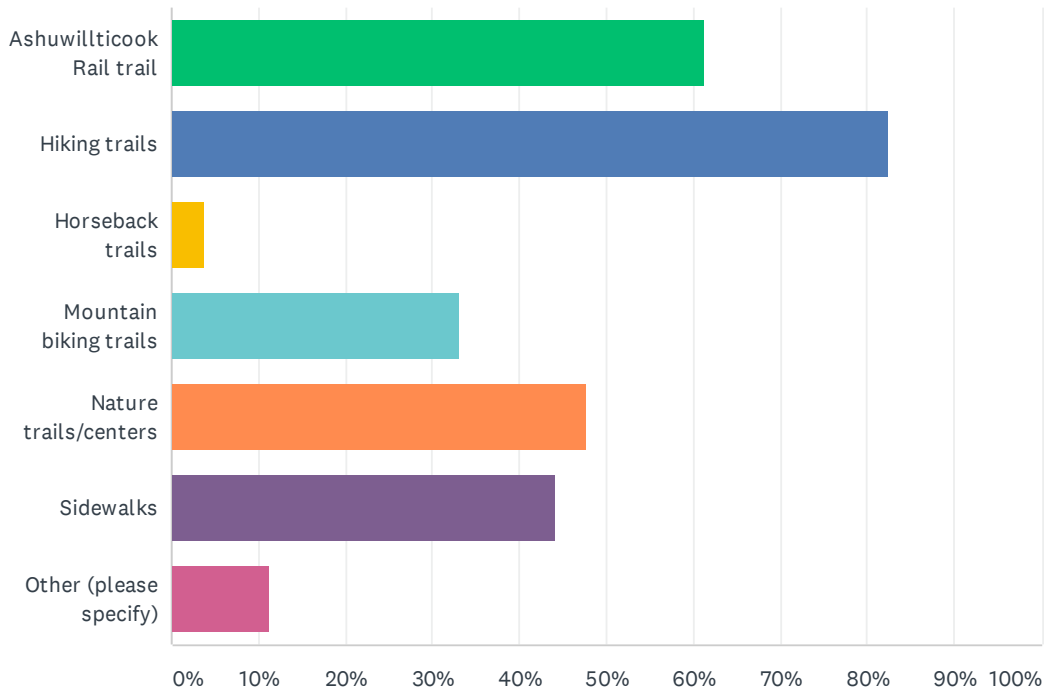
Answered: 1,395 Skipped: 637



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	91.61%	1,278
No	8.39%	117
TOTAL		1,395

## Q34 Which types of trails, paths, and/or natural areas have you used?

Answered: 1,258 Skipped: 774

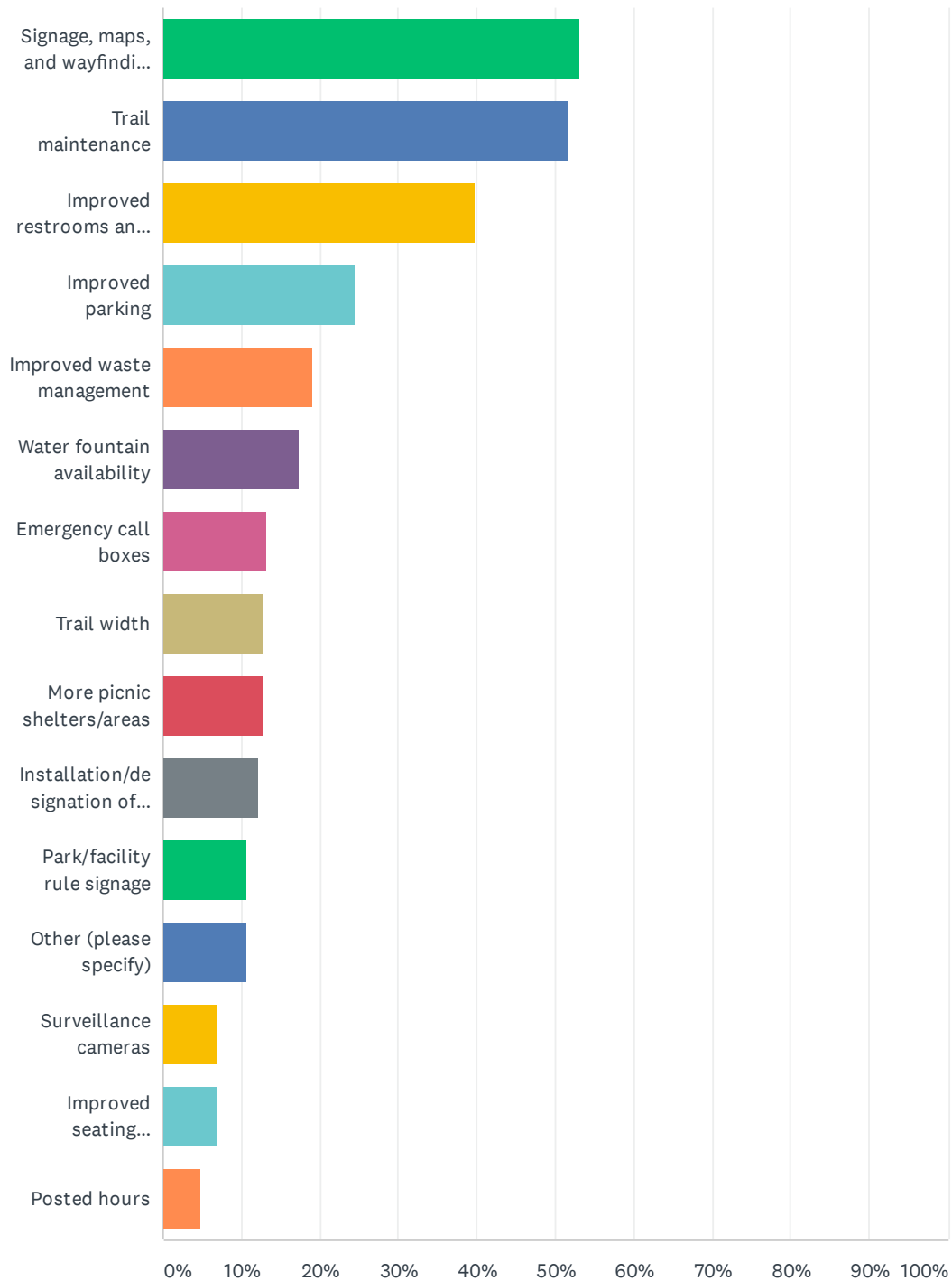


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Ashuwillticook Rail trail	61.29%	771
Hiking trails	82.43%	1,037
Horseback trails	3.74%	47
Mountain biking trails	32.99%	415
Nature trails/centers	47.69%	600
Sidewalks	44.12%	555
Other (please specify)	11.29%	142
Total Respondents: 1,258		



### Q35 Which of the following following improvements would you most like to see on trails, paths, and at natural areas?

Answered: 1,128 Skipped: 904



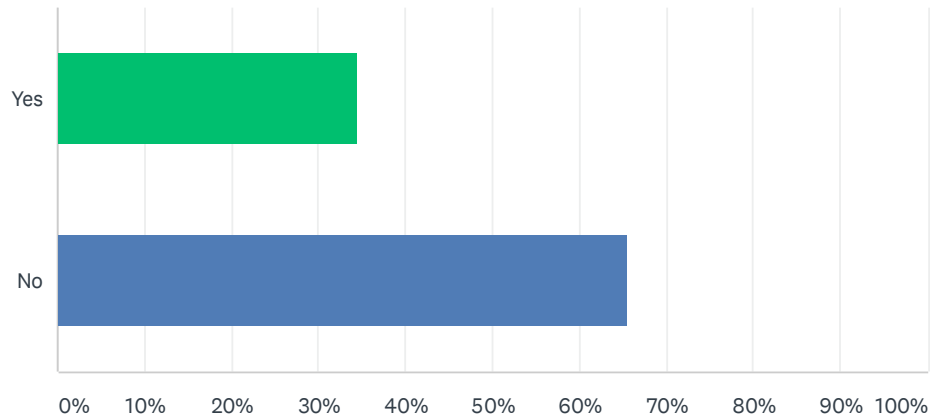
# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 127

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Signage, maps, and wayfinding on trails	53.19%	600
Trail maintenance	51.60%	582
Improved restrooms and maintenance	39.80%	449
Improved parking	24.47%	276
Improved waste management	18.97%	214
Water fountain availability	17.46%	197
Emergency call boxes	13.12%	148
Trail width	12.77%	144
More picnic shelters/areas	12.68%	143
Installation/designation of campsites	12.06%	136
Park/facility rule signage	10.64%	120
Other (please specify)	10.64%	120
Surveillance cameras	7.00%	79
Improved seating (benches)	6.83%	77
Posted hours	4.88%	55
Total Respondents: 1,128		

## Q36 Do you go camping in Berkshire County?

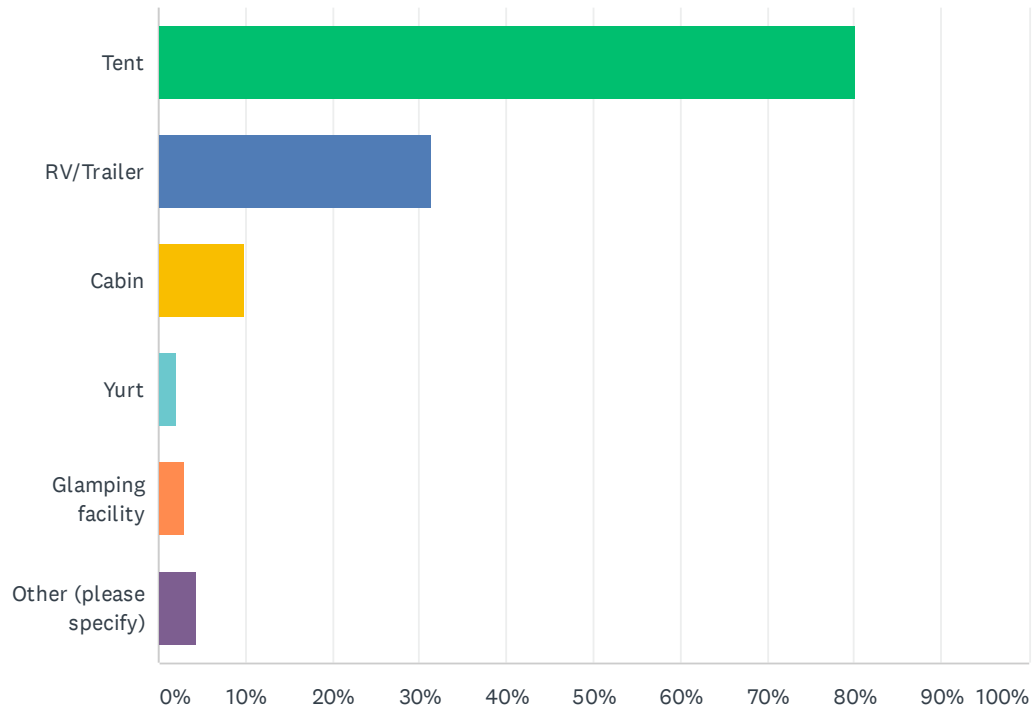
Answered: 1,380 Skipped: 652



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	34.57%	477
No	65.43%	903
TOTAL		1,380

## Q37 What type of camping do you do?

Answered: 478 Skipped: 1,554

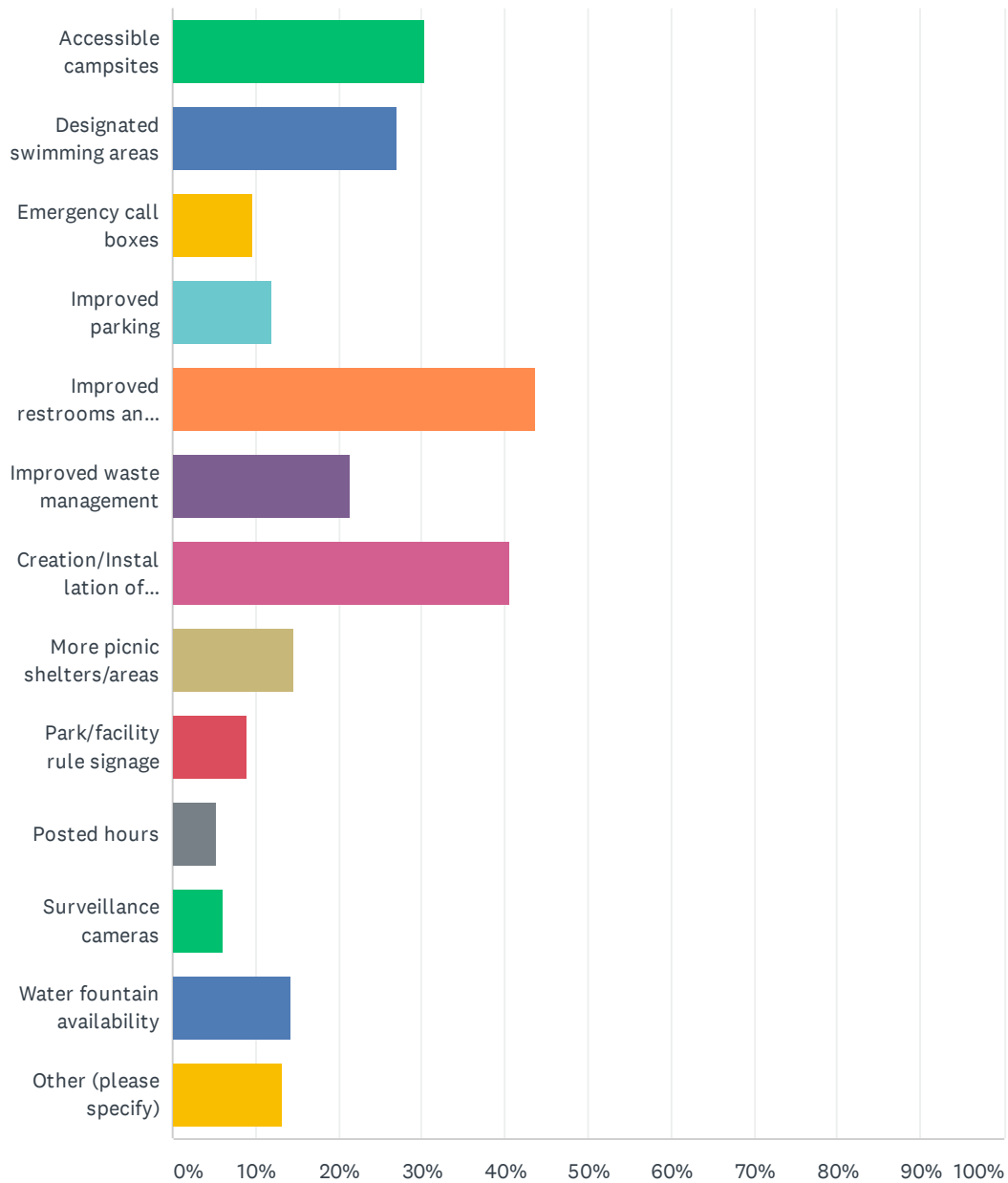


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Tent	80.13%	383
RV/Trailer	31.38%	150
Cabin	9.83%	47
Yurt	2.09%	10
Glamping facility	2.93%	14
Other (please specify)	4.39%	21
Total Respondents: 478		



## Q38 Which of the following following improvements would you most like to see at camping areas?

Answered: 385 Skipped: 1,647



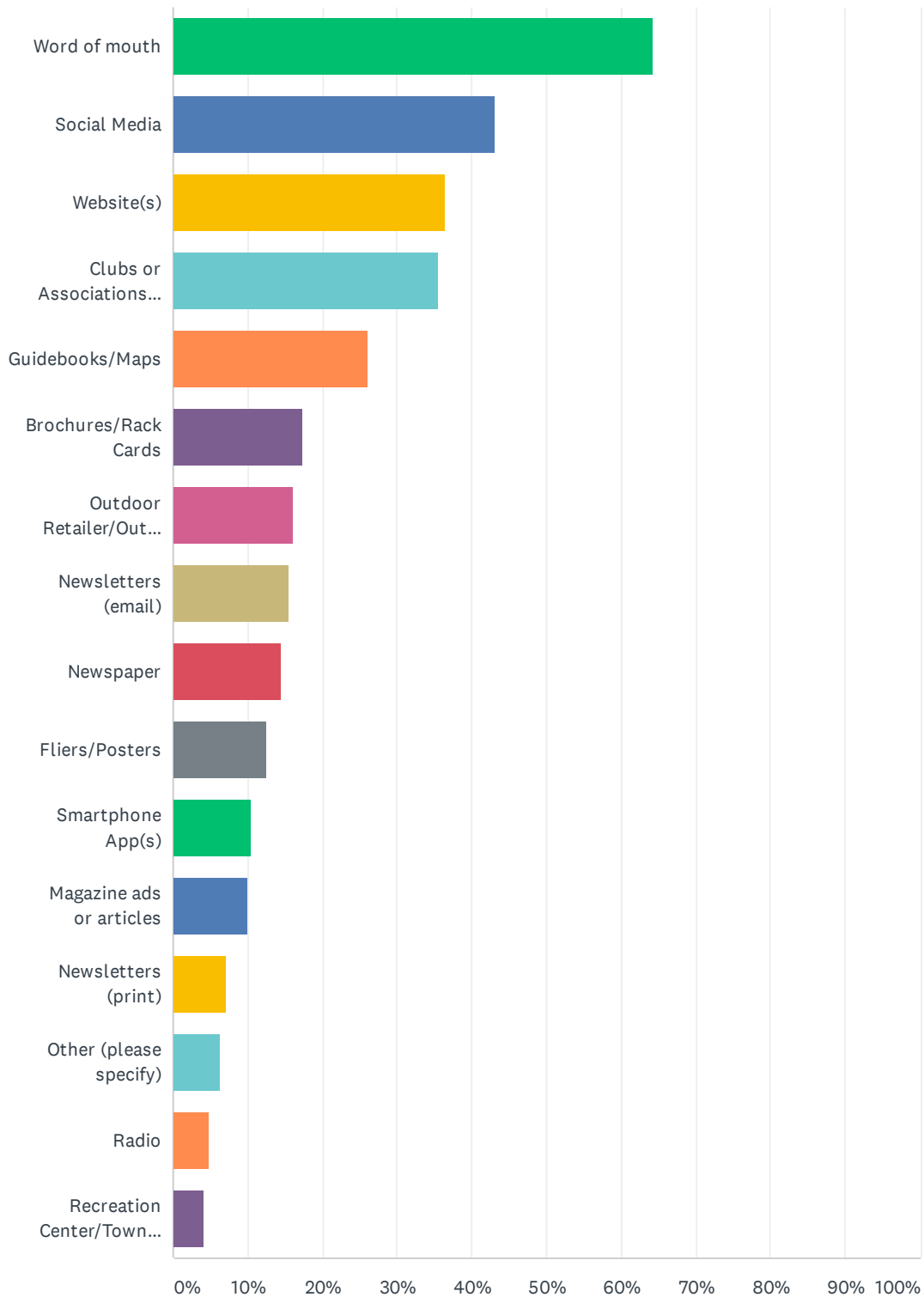
# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 131

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Accessible campsites	30.39%	117
Designated swimming areas	27.01%	104
Emergency call boxes	9.61%	37
Improved parking	11.95%	46
Improved restrooms and maintenance	43.64%	168
Improved waste management	21.30%	82
Creation/Installation of additional campsites	40.52%	156
More picnic shelters/areas	14.55%	56
Park/facility rule signage	9.09%	35
Posted hours	5.19%	20
Surveillance cameras	5.97%	23
Water fountain availability	14.29%	55
Other (please specify)	13.25%	51
Total Respondents: 385		

## Q39 How do you typically learn about outdoor recreation opportunities in Berkshire County?

Answered: 1,336 Skipped: 696



# Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Survey

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 133

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Word of mouth	64.15%	857
Social Media	43.11%	576
Website(s)	36.30%	485
Clubs or Associations (outdoor focused)	35.55%	475
Guidebooks/Maps	26.12%	349
Brochures/Rack Cards	17.29%	231
Outdoor Retailer/Outfitter staff	16.09%	215
Newsletters (email)	15.49%	207
Newspaper	14.45%	193
Fliers/Posters	12.50%	167
Smartphone App(s)	10.55%	141
Magazine ads or articles	9.96%	133
Newsletters (print)	7.19%	96
Other (please specify)	6.21%	83
Radio	4.79%	64
Recreation Center/Town Hall	4.12%	55
Total Respondents: 1,336		



# Appendix I

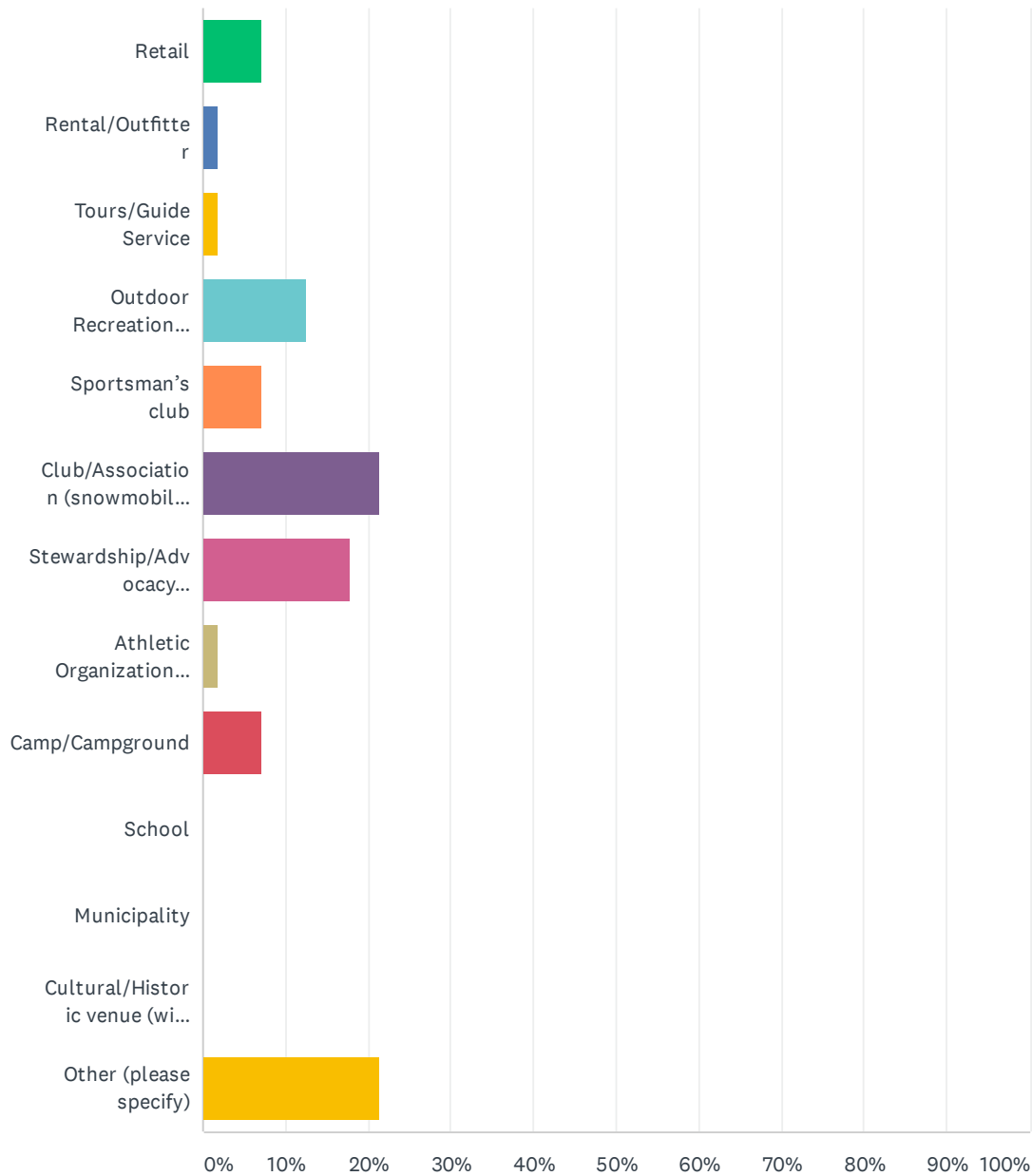
## **Stakeholder Survey Results**

## Stakeholder Surveys/Interviews

Over 50 regional stakeholders participated in the creation of this plan through interviews, surveys, and other interactions. Summary data from the online stakeholder survey is included in this section. In order to protect the privacy of participating businesses, organizational names have been omitted.

### Q3 Please select the category that most closely describes your business/organization:

Answered: 56 Skipped: 0



# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 137

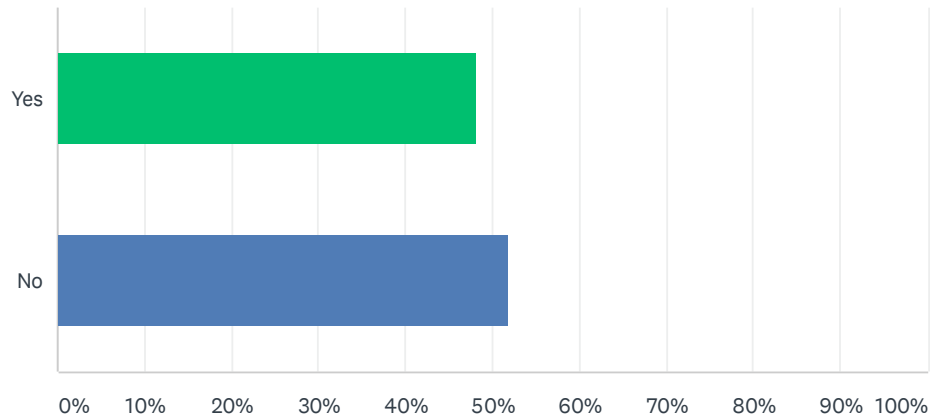
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Retail	7.14%	4
Rental/Outfitter	1.79%	1
Tours/Guide Service	1.79%	1
Outdoor Recreation business (ski resort, golf course, etc.)	12.50%	7
Sportsman's club	7.14%	4
Club/Association (snowmobile, hiking, etc.)	21.43%	12
Stewardship/Advocacy Non-profit (land trust, etc.)	17.86%	10
Athletic Organization/Instruction	1.79%	1
Camp/Campground	7.14%	4
School	0.00%	0
Municipality	0.00%	0
Cultural/Historic venue (with campus offering outdoor recreation)	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	21.43%	12
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>56</b>

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	NEMBA is a combination of a club and stewardship/advocacy group	1/3/2020 12:14 PM
2	Nature Writer	12/29/2019 2:46 PM
3	conservation, education and advocacy nonprofit	12/27/2019 8:54 PM
4	Video/Photography	12/27/2019 11:49 AM
5	State Parks with trails,camping and picnic areas	12/23/2019 8:20 AM
6	State Forest	12/12/2019 9:44 AM
7	Outdoor Recreation and Land Conservancy	12/6/2019 7:10 AM
8	Airport, Flight School, Aircraft Maintenance	12/5/2019 12:17 PM
9	resort development	11/26/2019 3:07 PM
10	Conservation and outdoor recreation	11/26/2019 2:04 PM
11	outdoor tourism promotion	11/25/2019 10:04 AM
12	retail training and event production	11/21/2019 1:31 PM



## Q4 Does your business/organization manage land?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	48.21%	27
No	51.79%	29
TOTAL		56

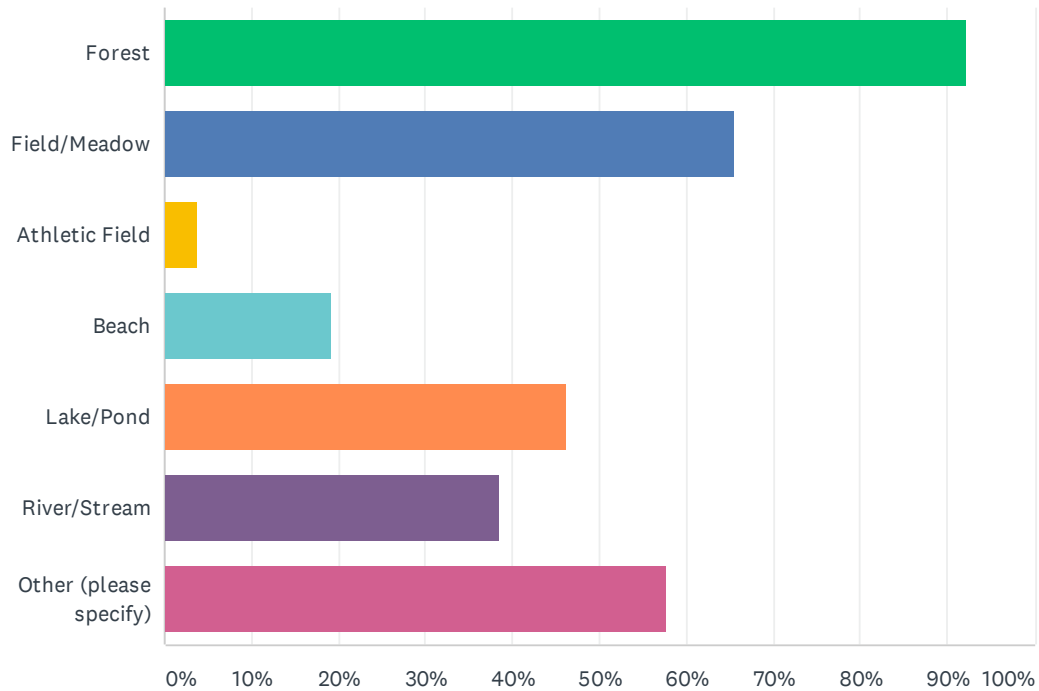
## Q5 Approximately how many total acres does your organization manage?

Answered: 23    Skipped: 33

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	26	1/11/2020 12:53 PM
2	460	1/9/2020 3:25 PM
3	1500	1/6/2020 11:18 AM
4	130	1/2/2020 4:05 PM
5	40	1/2/2020 10:30 AM
6	We our trail adopters and perform much maintenance on the many trails in North Berkshire County	1/1/2020 1:54 PM
7	Mass Audubon 38,000 (3400 in the Berkshires)	12/27/2019 9:02 PM
8	100	12/24/2019 4:14 PM
9	30,000+	12/23/2019 8:26 AM
10	30,000 throughout Mass/ 4000 within Berkshire County	12/19/2019 4:38 PM
11	330	12/19/2019 10:16 AM
12	7000	12/12/2019 12:01 PM
13	30,000	12/12/2019 9:47 AM
14	About 11,000	12/10/2019 1:37 PM
15	250,000 (from Georgia to Maine)	12/9/2019 1:56 PM
16	12	12/6/2019 7:15 AM
17	450	12/6/2019 5:54 AM
18	417	12/5/2019 6:27 PM
19	220	12/5/2019 2:05 PM
20	2100 miles of trails	12/5/2019 11:41 AM
21	200	12/4/2019 1:05 PM
22	130	11/26/2019 3:14 PM
23	24 acres owned	11/26/2019 2:07 PM

## Q6 What type(s) of land does your business/organization manage?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 30



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Forest	92.31%	24
Field/Meadow	65.38%	17
Athletic Field	3.85%	1
Beach	19.23%	5
Lake/Pond	46.15%	12
River/Stream	38.46%	10
Other (please specify)	57.69%	15
Total Respondents: 26		

# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

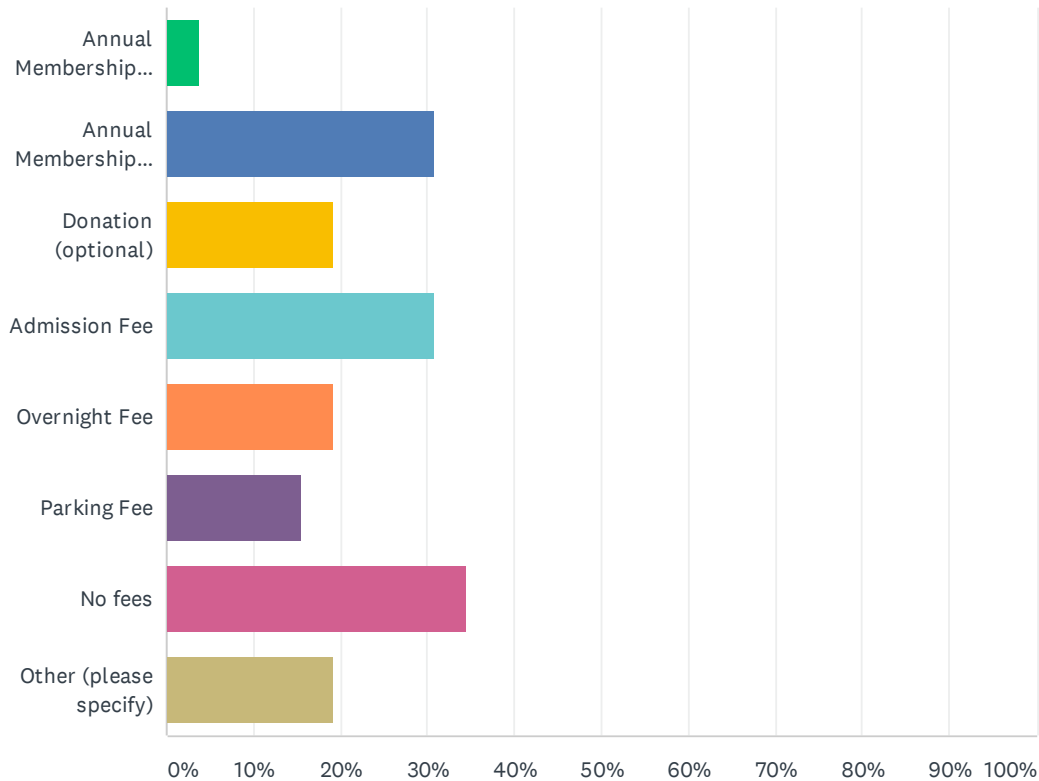
Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 141

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	wetland, American Chestnut preserve	1/9/2020 3:25 PM
2	wetlands, ridgetops/mountain, beaver ponds,	12/27/2019 9:02 PM
3	Appalachian Trail and New England Scenic Trail	12/24/2019 4:14 PM
4	campgrounds	12/23/2019 8:26 AM
5	historic landscapes and buildings	12/19/2019 4:38 PM
6	Historic granite quarry	12/19/2019 10:16 AM
7	Dam, boat access, OHV trails, appalachain trail, trails, campgrounds, ect	12/12/2019 9:47 AM
8	Plus about 11,000 in conservation restriction land	12/10/2019 1:37 PM
9	Golf Course	12/6/2019 5:54 AM
10	Shooting ranges	12/5/2019 2:05 PM
11	Various federal and state forests that host ORV recreation	12/5/2019 12:17 PM
12	agricultural	12/5/2019 11:41 AM
13	wetlands	11/26/2019 3:14 PM
14	Rock, cliffs	11/26/2019 2:07 PM
15	mountain summits	11/19/2019 2:04 PM



## Q7 Are there any fees for using your land?

Answered: 26   Skipped: 30



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Annual Membership (required)	3.85%	1
Annual Membership (optional)	30.77%	8
Donation (optional)	19.23%	5
Admission Fee	30.77%	8
Overnight Fee	19.23%	5
Parking Fee	15.38%	4
No fees	34.62%	9
Other (please specify)	19.23%	5
Total Respondents: 26		

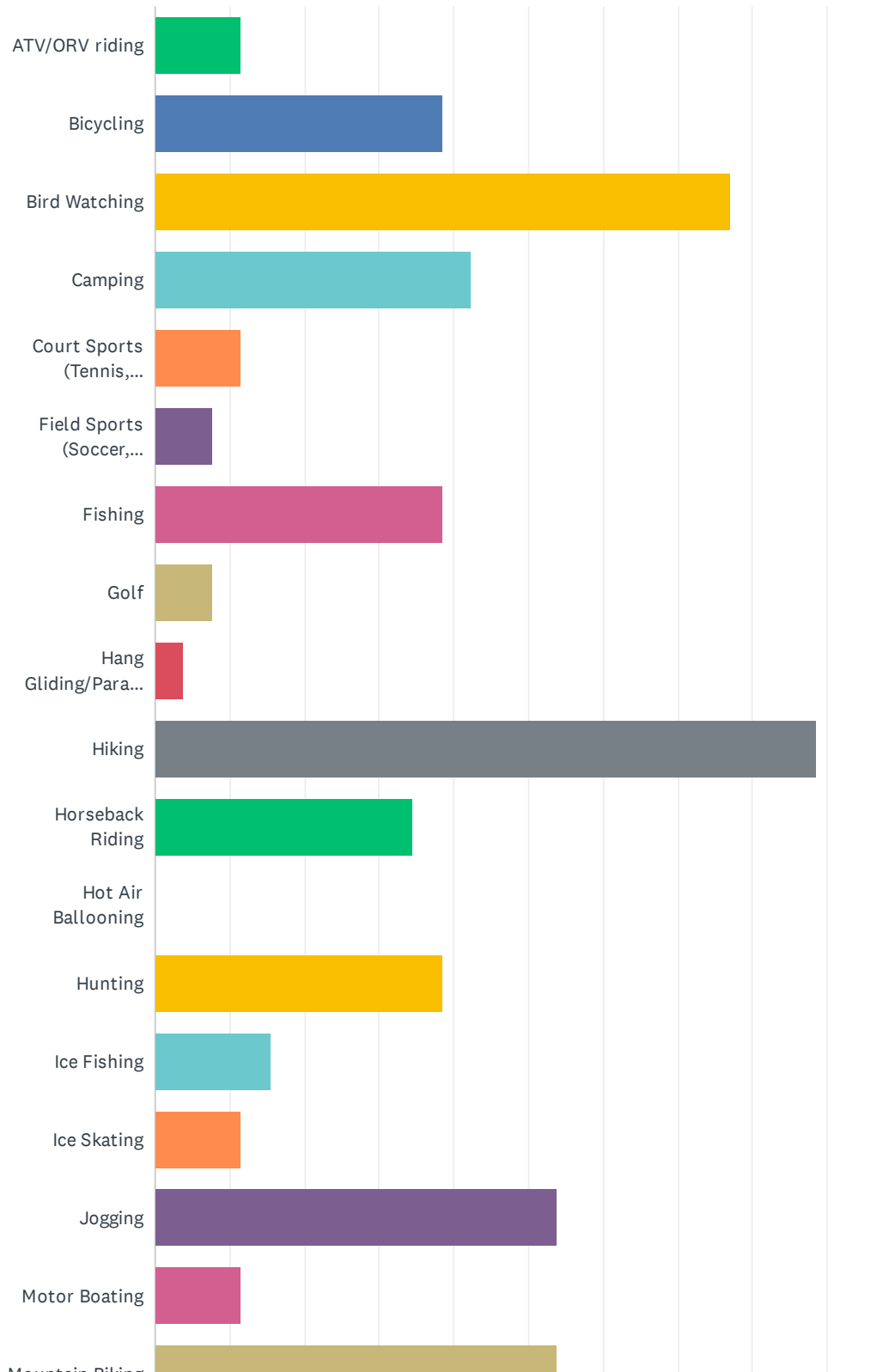
# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 143

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Fees are paid for activities/programming that utilize certain portions of the property.	1/6/2020 11:18 AM
2	Must be a guest of the resort.	1/2/2020 4:05 PM
3	all wildlife sanctuaries are free except Pleasant Valley which has a small fee; free for town residents, free certain days	12/27/2019 9:02 PM
4	Camping Fee, senior pass, instate annual pass, out of state annual pass	12/12/2019 9:47 AM
5	Snowmobile Trailpass Membership	12/5/2019 11:41 AM

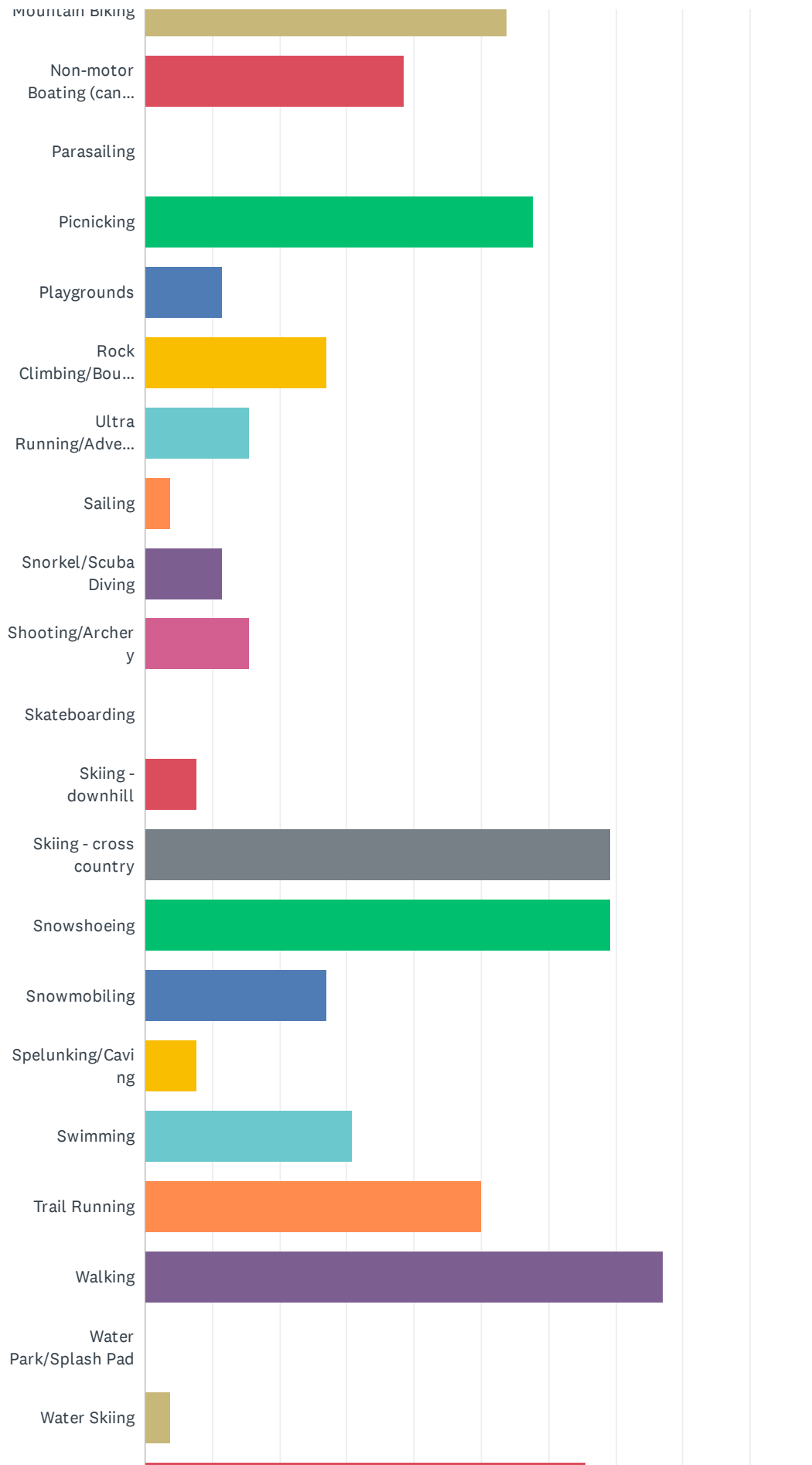
## Q8 What types of recreation are permitted on your land? (Check all that generally apply, even in only applicable to some of your organization's properties)

Answered: 26 Skipped: 30



# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

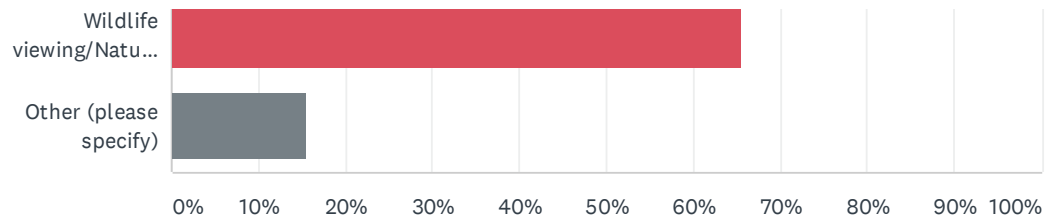
Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 145





# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 146



# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 147

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
ATV/ORV riding	11.54%	3
Bicycling	38.46%	10
Bird Watching	76.92%	20
Camping	42.31%	11
Court Sports (Tennis, Basketball, etc.)	11.54%	3
Field Sports (Soccer, Baseball, Football, etc.)	7.69%	2
Fishing	38.46%	10
Golf	7.69%	2
Hang Gliding/Paragliding	3.85%	1
Hiking	88.46%	23
Horseback Riding	34.62%	9
Hot Air Ballooning	0.00%	0
Hunting	38.46%	10
Ice Fishing	15.38%	4
Ice Skating	11.54%	3
Jogging	53.85%	14
Motor Boating	11.54%	3
Mountain Biking	53.85%	14
Non-motor Boating (canoe, kayak, SUP, etc.)	38.46%	10
Parasailing	0.00%	0
Picnicking	57.69%	15
Playgrounds	11.54%	3
Rock Climbing/Bouldering	26.92%	7
Ultra Running/Adventure Racing	15.38%	4
Sailing	3.85%	1
Snorkel/Scuba Diving	11.54%	3
Shooting/Archery	15.38%	4
Skateboarding	0.00%	0
Skiing - downhill	7.69%	2
Skiing - cross country	69.23%	18
Snowshoeing	69.23%	18
Snowmobiling	26.92%	7

# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

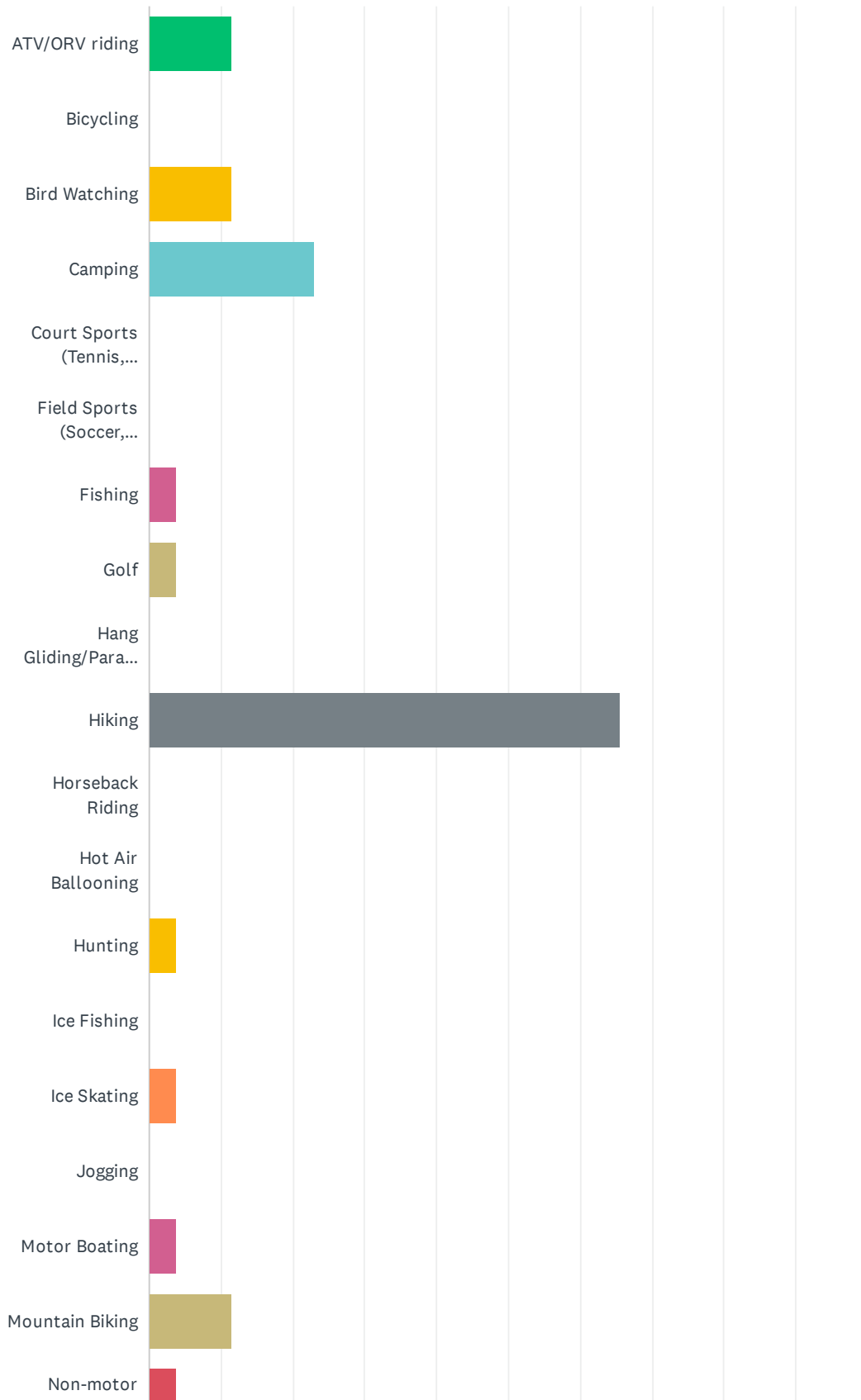
Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 148

Spelunking/Caving	7.69%	2
Swimming	30.77%	8
Trail Running	50.00%	13
Walking	76.92%	20
Water Park/Splash Pad	0.00%	0
Water Skiing	3.85%	1
Wildlife viewing/Nature study	65.38%	17
Other (please specify)	15.38%	4
Total Respondents: 26		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Aerial adventure park, low ropes course (team building), environmental education	1/6/2020 11:18 AM
2	nature play area; photography	12/27/2019 9:02 PM
3	Self-led historic quarry walk with interpretive signage and brochure	12/19/2019 10:16 AM
4	recreation hall with arcade games, pool table, etc.	11/18/2019 11:14 AM

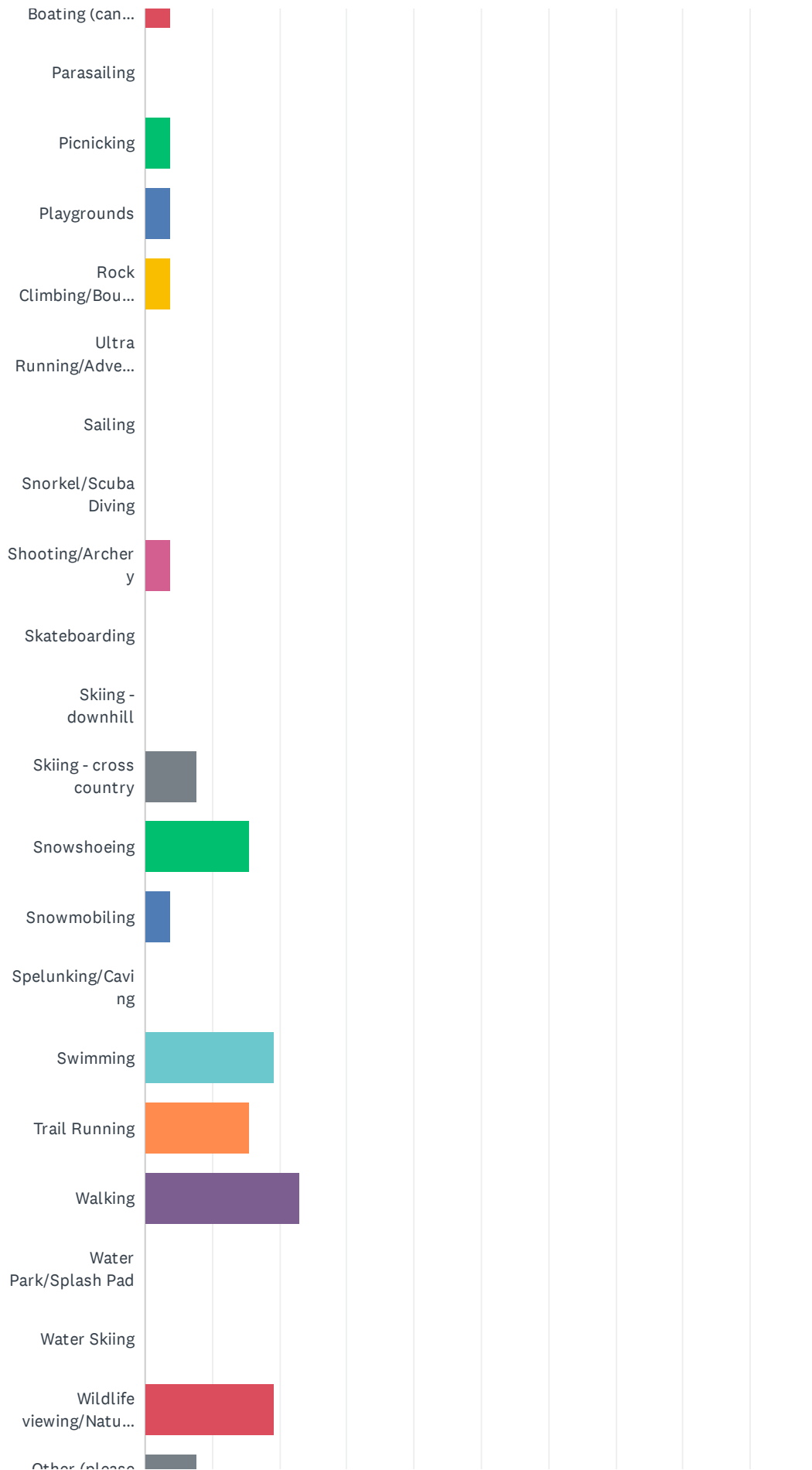
## Q9 What are the three most popular types of recreation on your land?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 30



# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

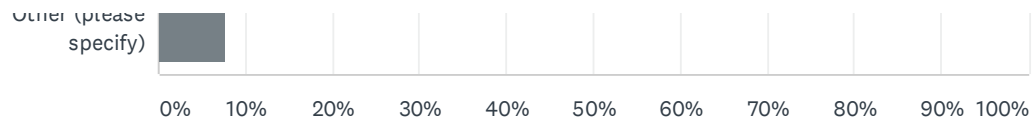
Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 150





# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 151



# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 152

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
ATV/ORV riding	11.54%	3
Bicycling	0.00%	0
Bird Watching	11.54%	3
Camping	23.08%	6
Court Sports (Tennis, Basketball, etc.)	0.00%	0
Field Sports (Soccer, Baseball, Football, etc.)	0.00%	0
Fishing	3.85%	1
Golf	3.85%	1
Hang Gliding/Paragliding	0.00%	0
Hiking	65.38%	17
Horseback Riding	0.00%	0
Hot Air Ballooning	0.00%	0
Hunting	3.85%	1
Ice Fishing	0.00%	0
Ice Skating	3.85%	1
Jogging	0.00%	0
Motor Boating	3.85%	1
Mountain Biking	11.54%	3
Non-motor Boating (canoe, kayak, SUP, etc.)	3.85%	1
Parasailing	0.00%	0
Picnicking	3.85%	1
Playgrounds	3.85%	1
Rock Climbing/Bouldering	3.85%	1
Ultra Running/Adventure Racing	0.00%	0
Sailing	0.00%	0
Snorkel/Scuba Diving	0.00%	0
Shooting/Archery	3.85%	1
Skateboarding	0.00%	0
Skiing - downhill	0.00%	0
Skiing - cross country	7.69%	2
Snowshoeing	15.38%	4
Snowmobiling	3.85%	1

# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

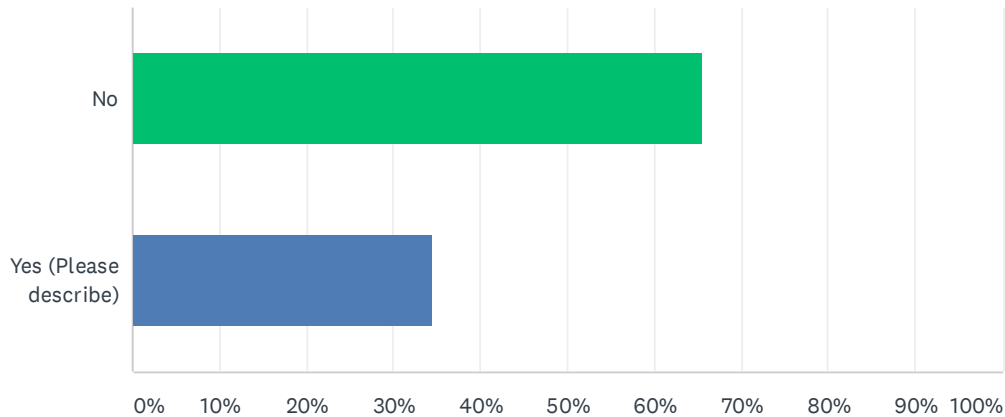
Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 153

Spelunking/Caving	0.00%	0
Swimming	19.23%	5
Trail Running	15.38%	4
Walking	23.08%	6
Water Park/Splash Pad	0.00%	0
Water Skiing	0.00%	0
Wildlife viewing/Nature study	19.23%	5
Other (please specify)	7.69%	2
Total Respondents: 26		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Aerial adventure park, low ropes course (team building), environmental education	1/6/2020 11:18 AM
2	walking with dogs	12/19/2019 4:38 PM

## Q10 Are there any performance spaces on your land?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 30

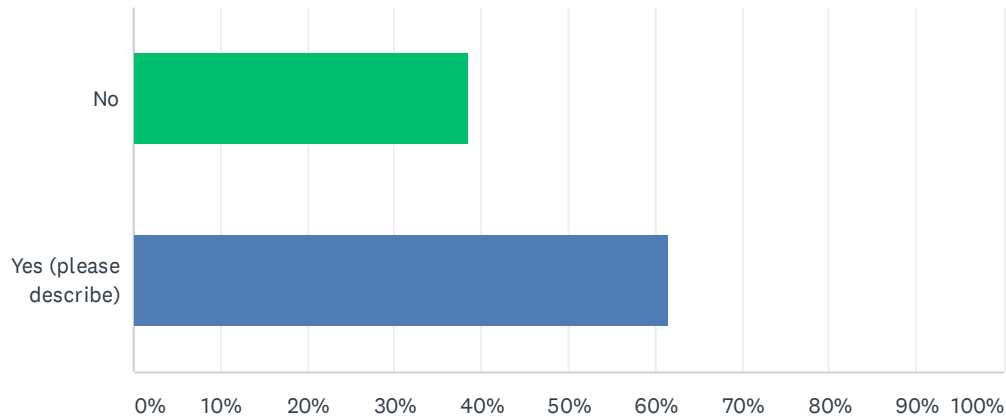


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	65.38%	17
Yes (Please describe)	34.62%	9
TOTAL		26

#	YES (PLEASE DESCRIBE)	DATE
1	The Laurel Hill rostrum and glen are being restored and can be used for performances. Policies have not yet been determined.	1/9/2020 3:25 PM
2	We have a lodge, lawn, picnic area, and stage that can be used for performances.	1/6/2020 11:18 AM
3	Bandstand in our field - used to host musical groups on weekends during the season.	1/2/2020 10:30 AM
4	historic barn at Pleasant Valley has hosted Tanglewood concerts, popular music, films, puppet shows numerous outdoor spaces with few amenities	12/27/2019 9:02 PM
5	outdoor venues for music: fields and lawns	12/19/2019 4:38 PM
6	Although not performance per se, we do have a permanent museum exhibit in a building we rent in town.	12/19/2019 10:16 AM
7	Outdoor amphitheater with bench style seating for 200. Barefoot Ballroom designed for dancing with sprung wooden dance floor for 400. Outdoor festival music stage area and field for 1,000+ attendees.	12/5/2019 6:27 PM
8	Referring to specific areas of use....clubs groom & maintain trails on private & public lands	12/5/2019 11:41 AM
9	two pavilions - one with picnic tables, another to host bingo or performances	11/18/2019 11:14 AM

## Q11 Are there any unique man-made features on your land?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 30



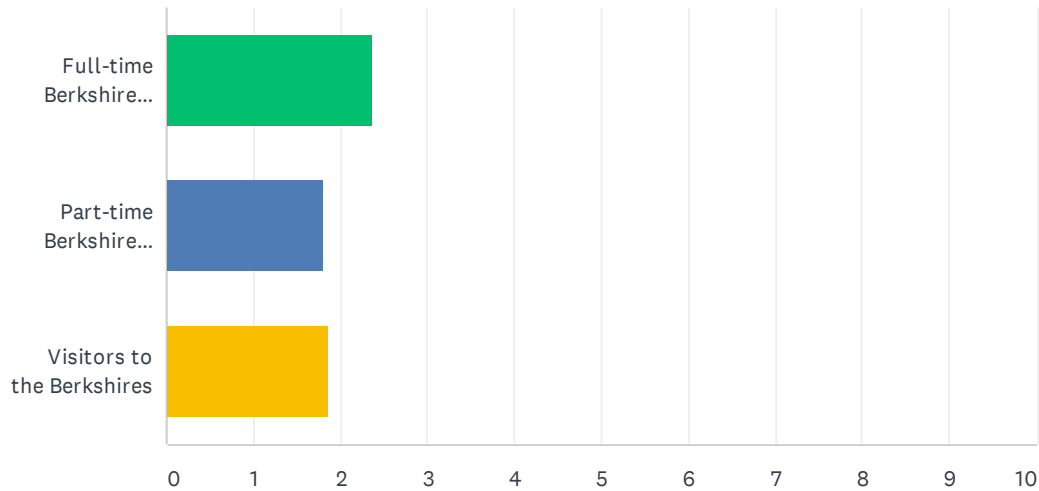
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	38.46%	10
Yes (please describe)	61.54%	16
TOTAL		26

#	YES (PLEASE DESCRIBE)	DATE
1	Laurel Hill Park's rostrum, Butler Seat, and stone benches. Laura's Tower	1/9/2020 3:25 PM
2	Aerial adventure park, low ropes course, lodge, 200 ft. suspension bridge, back-country campground, maple sugarbush	1/6/2020 11:18 AM
3	archery range, labyrinth, fountains, fitness area, bridges, man-made waterfall features, ropes course, climbing wall, outdoor pool, outdoor tennis courts, contemplative circle	1/2/2020 4:05 PM
4	Large fire pit for group campfires.	1/2/2020 10:30 AM
5	historic buildings; manmade pond (Pike's Pond); old Lime Kiln (two); old structural foundations; accessible boardwalk; solar panels;	12/27/2019 9:02 PM
6	historic houses at Field Farm	12/19/2019 4:38 PM
7	Historic quarry with antique quarrying equipment and a derrick.	12/19/2019 10:16 AM
8	Civilian Conservation Corps, structures still remaining	12/12/2019 9:47 AM
9	Stone walls, foundations, mill remains, etc.	12/10/2019 1:37 PM
10	Overnight shelters and campsites, bridges, other trail-related infrastructure	12/9/2019 1:56 PM
11	Town boundary stone cellar holes stonewalls	12/6/2019 7:15 AM
12	Golf course has many works of large stone walls and structures.	12/6/2019 5:54 AM
13	3D archery range, skeet fields, rifle range, pistol range.	12/5/2019 2:05 PM
14	Bridges and gates are used as necessary	12/5/2019 11:41 AM
15	ponds, foundation for a hotel, bases for downhill skiing lifts, lots of failed development	11/26/2019 3:14 PM
16	farm buildings, typical 19th and 20th century barns	11/19/2019 2:04 PM



**Q12 To the best of your knowledge, what is the makeup of your business/organization's audience? Rank from largest to smallest, selecting "1" for your largest segment, and "3" for the smallest:**

Answered: 51 Skipped: 5



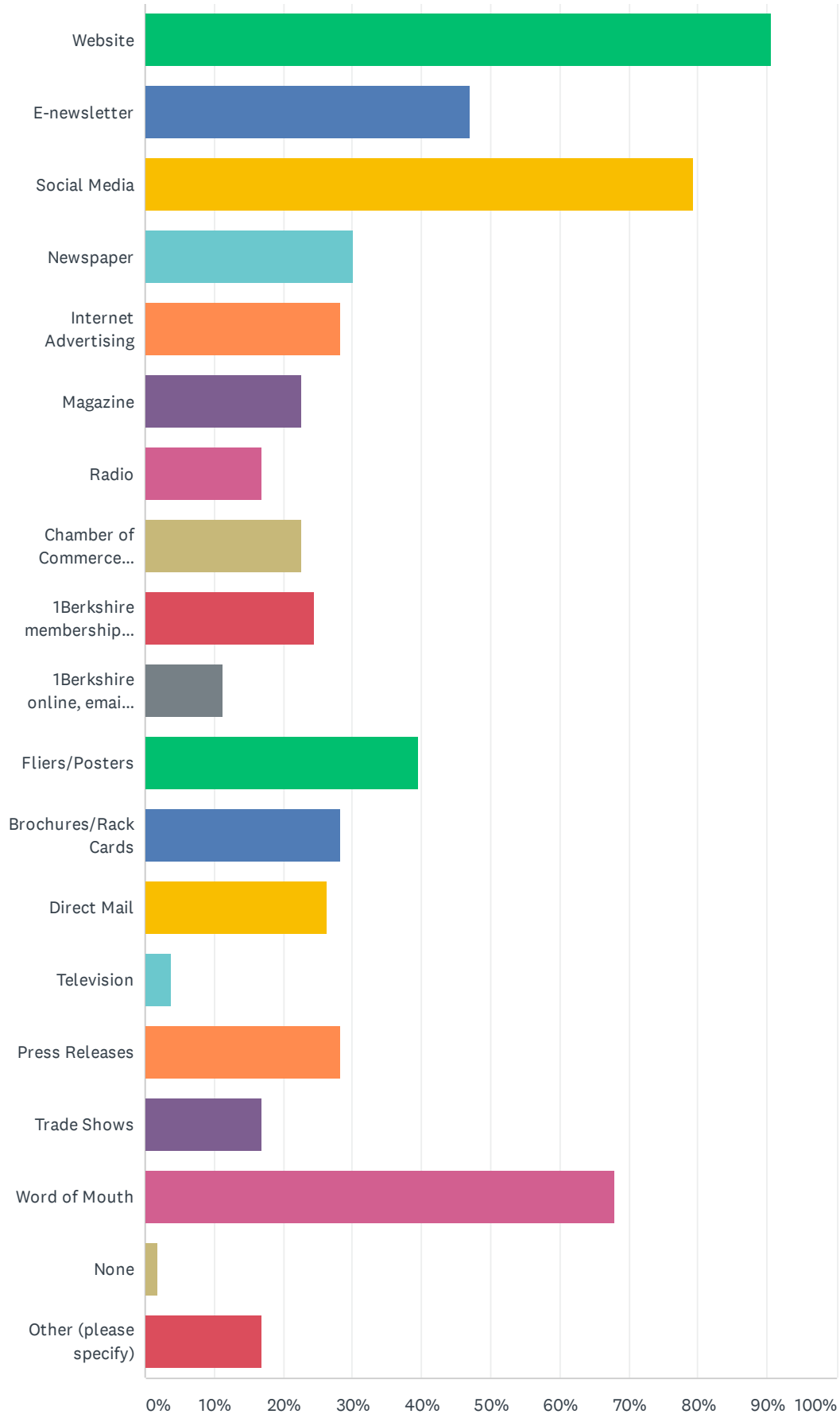
	1	2	3	TOTAL	SCORE
Full-time Berkshire residents	58.82% 30	19.61% 10	21.57% 11	51	2.37
Part-time Berkshire residents	10.00% 5	60.00% 30	30.00% 15	50	1.80
Visitors to the Berkshires	32.00% 16	22.00% 11	46.00% 23	50	1.86

## Q13 In what ways do you market your business/organization?

Answered: 53   Skipped: 3

# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 158



# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 159

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Website	90.57%	48
E-newsletter	47.17%	25
Social Media	79.25%	42
Newspaper	30.19%	16
Internet Advertising	28.30%	15
Magazine	22.64%	12
Radio	16.98%	9
Chamber of Commerce membership	22.64%	12
1Berkshire membership (Regional Tourism Council)	24.53%	13
1Berkshire online, email, or print ads	11.32%	6
Fliers/Posters	39.62%	21
Brochures/Rack Cards	28.30%	15
Direct Mail	26.42%	14
Television	3.77%	2
Press Releases	28.30%	15
Trade Shows	16.98%	9
Word of Mouth	67.92%	36
None	1.89%	1
Other (please specify)	16.98%	9
Total Respondents: 53		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Secretary Berkshire County League of Sportsmen	12/26/2019 4:30 PM
2	Through Our State Association (Snowmobile Association Of Massachusetts)	12/6/2019 5:41 AM
3	Berkshire Edge	12/5/2019 2:20 PM
4	Snow	12/4/2019 1:11 PM
5	outdoor and land conservation outlets, conferences	11/26/2019 2:11 PM
6	guidebook, billboards, AAA	11/25/2019 10:11 AM
7	State association	11/21/2019 3:34 PM
8	google reviews	11/21/2019 2:07 PM
9	local diner placemat menu (Ozzie's), MACO membership, website listing	11/18/2019 11:20 AM

**Q14 Please list any memberships in professional associations (outdoor recreation-related) that you or your organization have:**

Answered: 32   Skipped: 24



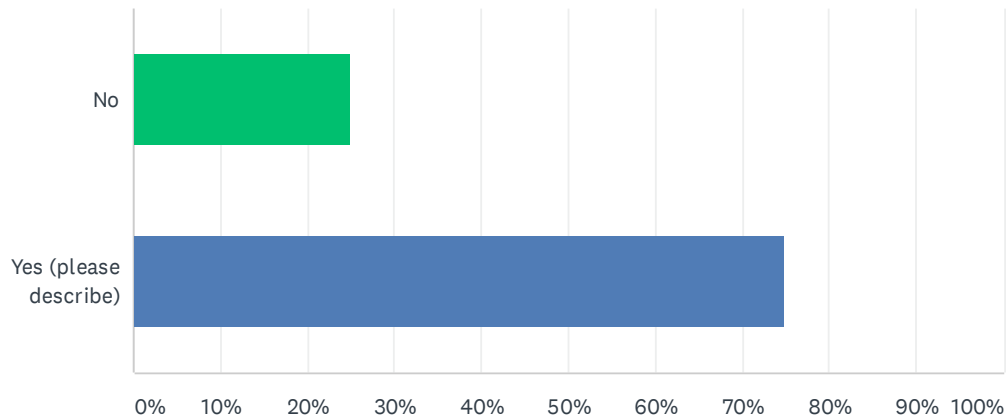
# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 161

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	maco , arvc	1/11/2020 12:56 PM
2	Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT), American Camp Association (ACA), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)	1/6/2020 11:29 AM
3	I am also a volunteer ambassador for SheJumps (a nonprofit to increase female participation in outdoor activities), and the program lead for the Berkshire Camp of Little Bellas (a girls' mountain bike/mentoring program)	1/3/2020 12:38 PM
4	Appalachian Mountain Club, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, & Community Partner with MassAudubon	1/2/2020 4:10 PM
5	National campground owners association, MA and NY campground owners associations	1/2/2020 10:39 AM
6	LOPA	1/1/2020 4:32 PM
7	Association of Experiential Education SOLO Wilderness Medicine American Red Cross American Canoe Association Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation Berkshire Natural Resources Mass Audubon Society	1/1/2020 2:01 PM
8	American Camping Association Association of Nature Center Administrators Land Trust Alliance	12/27/2019 9:21 PM
9	Berkshire County League of Sportsmen Trout Unlimited Berkshire Beagle Club	12/26/2019 4:30 PM
10	Cross-Country Ski Areas Association	12/19/2019 4:41 PM
11	American Alliance of Museums.	12/19/2019 10:17 AM
12	Berkshire Natural Resource Council, Massachusetts Outdoor Heritage Foundation	12/18/2019 3:39 PM
13	Snowmobile Association of Mass	12/16/2019 7:53 PM
14	Professional Trailbuilders Association	12/12/2019 8:56 AM
15	US Rowing	12/6/2019 7:55 AM
16	HOSA Hilltown Outdoor Space Alliance Jacobs Ladder Scenic Byway Jacob's Ladder Business Association	12/6/2019 7:19 AM
17	Berkshire Visitor's Bureau Mass. Golf Association	12/6/2019 5:57 AM
18	Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts	12/6/2019 5:41 AM
19	None	12/5/2019 6:29 PM
20	Gun Owners Action League	12/5/2019 2:11 PM
21	American Motorcyclist Association Blue Ribbon Coalition	12/5/2019 12:21 PM
22	Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts and 31 clubs throughout the Commonwealth. Many of which are in the Berkshires	12/5/2019 11:43 AM
23	Berkshire visitor bureau cross country associations	12/4/2019 1:11 PM
24	united states canoe association	11/26/2019 4:05 PM
25	Alliance of National Heritage Areas	11/25/2019 10:11 AM
26	new England trail riders association american motorcycle association	11/25/2019 9:26 AM
27	Ma state snowmobile national snowmobile alliance	11/21/2019 3:34 PM
28	NBMA Bike Coop PDMA	11/21/2019 2:07 PM
29	USTF members	11/21/2019 1:36 PM
30	Trout Unlimited	11/19/2019 7:29 PM
31	involved in Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, also BNRC for High Road initiative	11/19/2019 2:08 PM
32	Appalachian Mt. Club, Maine Island Trail Association	11/18/2019 6:34 PM

## Q15 Does your business/organization offer any outdoor recreation-related classes, tours, or organized activities?

Answered: 52 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	25.00%	13
Yes (please describe)	75.00%	39
TOTAL		52

# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 163

#	YES (PLEASE DESCRIBE)	DATE
1	Occasional guided walks and educational programs	1/9/2020 3:28 PM
2	Aerial adventure park, team building, environmental education programs/tours	1/6/2020 11:29 AM
3	NEMBA: Group rides, maintenance clinics, social events Little Bellas: week-long mountain bike coaching SheJumps: various organized activities including hikes, snowshoeing, skiing, mountain biking, fly fishing, paddle boarding, etc.	1/3/2020 12:38 PM
4	snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, tai chi/qi gong, hiking, biking, mountain biking, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, canoeing, climbing wall, ropes course, bird watching, outdoor photography, painting nature, archery	1/2/2020 4:10 PM
5	Weekend activities include concerts, kids science and crafts and evening family activities on weekends.	1/2/2020 10:39 AM
6	We offer a full compliment of outdoor recreation opportunities for the Williams College student and surrounding community. PE skill classes, speaker/movie events, climbing wall, traditional all campus annual events ie. Mountain Day and Winter carnival.	1/1/2020 2:01 PM
7	hiking, canoeing, bird-watching, wildlife viewing, summer camp, nature & mindfulness, trail running	12/27/2019 9:21 PM
8	Youth outreach fishing derbies	12/26/2019 4:30 PM
9	AMC Berkshire offers training in all outdoor recreation skills: hiking, climbing, paddling, biking, skiing.	12/24/2019 4:17 PM
10	Park Interpreter for the months of July and August. Various schedule with hikes and activities.	12/23/2019 9:22 AM
11	cross-country ski lessons, nature walks	12/19/2019 4:41 PM
12	Occasional led hikes include two annually for Housatonic Heritage.	12/19/2019 10:17 AM
13	Youth Archery programs, LTC Classes, Outdoor Archery Tournaments, First day hikes,	12/18/2019 3:39 PM
14	Scuba Certification and Continuing Education	12/18/2019 3:04 PM
15	Club snowmobile rides and related activities. In the off season trail work activities.	12/16/2019 7:53 PM
16	Once in a while we host public hikes and events	12/12/2019 9:50 AM
17	IMBA Trail Solutions offers many trail building courses. Trail Build Schools range from the simple basics, to advanced rock work, or mechanized trail building. IMBA Local provides advocacy clubs and organizations with strategic planning and organizational help.	12/12/2019 8:56 AM
18	Free, guided hikes (1-3/month)	12/10/2019 1:39 PM
19	Organized road and mountain bike rides	12/9/2019 12:31 PM
20	Rowing lessons, rentals and team partisipation	12/6/2019 7:55 AM
21	Guided group hikes	12/6/2019 7:19 AM
22	Organized rides, charity Rides, fundraisers.	12/6/2019 5:41 AM
23	Tour of Beartown state Forest and the history of the Stone House	12/5/2019 5:28 PM
24	Firearm safety courses, youth archery and rifle leagues, corporate outings, fishing derbies.	12/5/2019 2:11 PM
25	NETRA Sanctions and insures roughly 80 events per year. These are held on a variety of properties throughout New England.	12/5/2019 12:21 PM
26	Safety Courses	12/5/2019 11:43 AM
27	Volleyball League at park	12/5/2019 10:37 AM
28	ski lessons, demo days, skating lessons	12/4/2019 1:11 PM
29	paddle trips, some walks	11/26/2019 4:05 PM
30	trail building days and stewardship	11/26/2019 2:11 PM

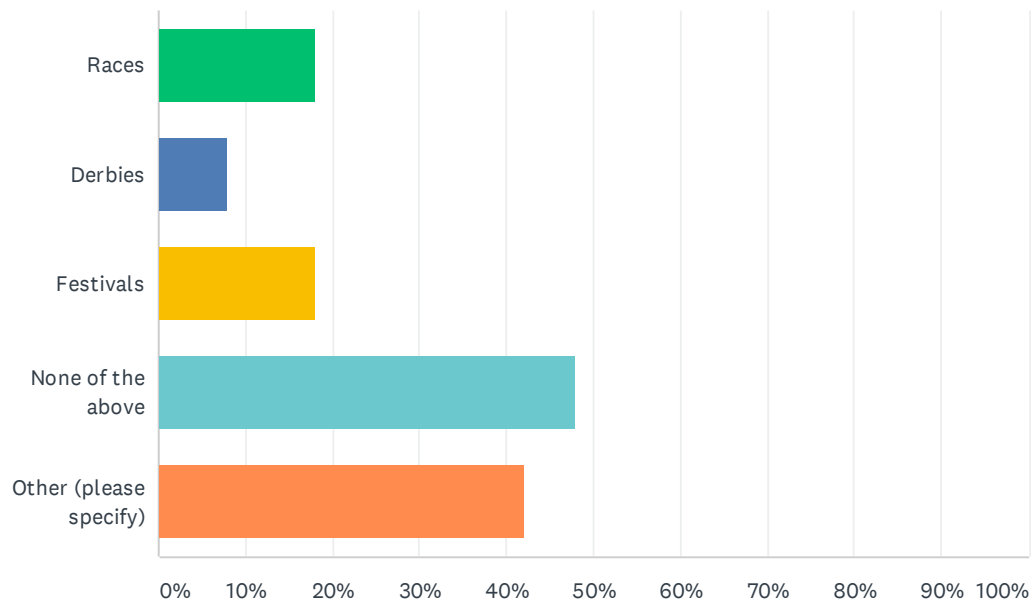
# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 164

31	Heritage Walks - free guided tours of historic, cultural and natural resource sites in the Upper Housatonic Valley. Housatonic Valley Association partnership offering free guided paddling trips on the Housatonic, 5-6 annually.	11/25/2019 10:11 AM
32	events, competitive events, closed course event, turkey run recreation, adventure ride (road), club rides	11/25/2019 9:26 AM
33	organized hikes, kayak canoeing, biking	11/21/2019 4:20 PM
34	organized rides, preseason trail clearing events, meetings, parties	11/21/2019 3:34 PM
35	winter: range of classes for entry level	11/21/2019 2:07 PM
36	Steel rail marathon, 20+ a year, outdoor run training programs, clinics for running, every wed in summer races, guidos grade A	11/21/2019 1:36 PM
37	That's basically the whole business model	11/19/2019 7:29 PM
38	10 or 11 guided hikes with leader and sweeper, sometimes geologist or naturalist, snowshoe hikes, full moon hike in Feb., also kid friendly firefly hikes; lectures on a variety of topics	11/19/2019 2:08 PM
39	craft and painting activities under the pavilion and using natural materials	11/18/2019 11:20 AM

## Q16 Does your business/organization host or organize any of the following outdoor recreation events?

Answered: 50 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Races	18.00%	9
Derbies	8.00%	4
Festivals	18.00%	9
None of the above	48.00%	24
Other (please specify)	42.00%	21
Total Respondents: 50		



# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

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#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Laurel Hill Day	1/9/2020 3:28 PM
2	We've done a 5k fun run in the past	1/6/2020 11:29 AM
3	Film festivals, Mountain Day, Winter Carnival	1/1/2020 2:01 PM
4	trail run outdoor music concerts	12/27/2019 9:21 PM
5	Banquet honoring outstanding sportsmen, conservationists	12/26/2019 4:30 PM
6	Archery Tournaments (average 3 per year.)	12/18/2019 3:39 PM
7	Lake Clean ups	12/18/2019 3:04 PM
8	Winter carnival to include snowmobile ride, food and Chinese auction.	12/16/2019 7:53 PM
9	Occasional larger events, site and purpose specific.	12/10/2019 1:39 PM
10	Help closely with Berkshire Mountain Bike Race series and The Hoopla Bike Festival	12/9/2019 12:31 PM
11	Free public introduction to rowing	12/6/2019 7:55 AM
12	Walking and Hiking Fundraisers	12/6/2019 7:19 AM
13	Golf Tournaments, Golf Outings, Family Golf Outings, Stag Golf Outings, Golf fundraisers, Wedding Golf Outings, Golf Leagues	12/6/2019 5:57 AM
14	Benefit Rides for Charity, Scholarships etc. (We have raised over \$50,000.00 dollars )	12/6/2019 5:41 AM
15	Recreational ORV rides	12/5/2019 12:21 PM
16	Ride in events	12/5/2019 11:43 AM
17	used to do festivals but not anymore	12/4/2019 1:11 PM
18	annual meetings, chamber nights, meet your neighbors for members	11/25/2019 10:11 AM
19	follow the leader rides, charity events	11/21/2019 3:34 PM
20	Group rides	11/21/2019 2:07 PM
21	Sheep to Shawl event for one day a year	11/19/2019 2:08 PM

**Q17 Anecdotally, what do you hear most often from your audience regarding what additional outdoor amenities they would like to see in the Berkshires?**

Answered: 41   Skipped: 15

# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 168

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	nothing	1/11/2020 12:56 PM
2	lodging/camping options, mtn. biking	1/6/2020 11:29 AM
3	More instructional options/opportunities to learn new skills, guided tours of region	1/3/2020 12:38 PM
4	bike trail - like the Ashuwillticook - in mid/south county	1/2/2020 4:10 PM
5	More low cost family activities, water park	1/2/2020 10:39 AM
6	More mt. bike trails and bicycle trails like the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail	1/1/2020 2:01 PM
7	more support facilities like restrooms and outdoor gathering facilities	12/27/2019 9:21 PM
8	More and better mountain bike trails.	12/27/2019 11:51 AM
9	Some kind of public shooting range to sight in their rifles	12/26/2019 4:30 PM
10	Campsites along the Connecticut River for paddlers.	12/24/2019 4:17 PM
11	more consistent snow for nordic skiing: a site with snow making	12/19/2019 4:41 PM
12	Expanded deer seasons, Sunday Hunting,	12/18/2019 3:39 PM
13	More trails, new trails	12/12/2019 9:50 AM
14	Improved trail infrastructure. This mainly applies to trails themselves. Many people are seeking high quality, user-specific trails. In our case this usually means bike optimized trails. The trails in the Berkshires, like most of New England, are largely traditional or social trails. Most trails were unplanned, with little design. Many of these trails are rogue, which means they may not be legally open to use and often were improperly built. Many of the trails in the area lack sustainable best management practices, such as proper drainage. Often the trails are rugged and difficult, which appeal to a small section of mountain bikers but does little to cultivate community and develop a destination; especially for new riders and kids. Beyond trail quality, things like signage are woefully lacking. Many people, especially visitors, note the lack of signage across New England. This is especially tough when trails are rogue or social, and have little prior planning, leading to a confusing mess of trails.	12/12/2019 8:56 AM
15	Bike paths, mountain bike trails.	12/10/2019 1:39 PM
16	More opportunities for loop hikes, especially in south Berkshire County.	12/9/2019 1:59 PM
17	Clear signage on MTB trails and cue sheets for the road.	12/9/2019 12:31 PM
18	A new boathouse	12/6/2019 7:55 AM
19	They want me to give more group guided hikes ie every weekend	12/6/2019 7:19 AM
20	?	12/6/2019 5:57 AM
21	Snowmobile Trails to Businesses, Hotels, restaurants, and gas stations.	12/6/2019 5:41 AM
22	N/A	12/5/2019 6:29 PM
23	Cabin rental access to stay longer and enjoy the outdoors	12/5/2019 5:28 PM
24	safer roads	12/5/2019 3:25 PM
25	more hiking, ice skating, cross country skiing/snowshoeing	12/5/2019 2:20 PM
26	ORVs have been closed out of or marginalized from key locations like Savoy and Pittsfield State Forests. This causes our members to drive further to recreate and concentrates ridership in a smaller number of locations.	12/5/2019 12:21 PM
27	Ability for snowmobile access on rail trail and services. Overnight accommodations for riding in MA	12/5/2019 11:43 AM
28	better access to the river	11/26/2019 4:05 PM
29	want the project done,	11/26/2019 3:20 PM
30	more climbing, more accessible climbing	11/26/2019 2:11 PM

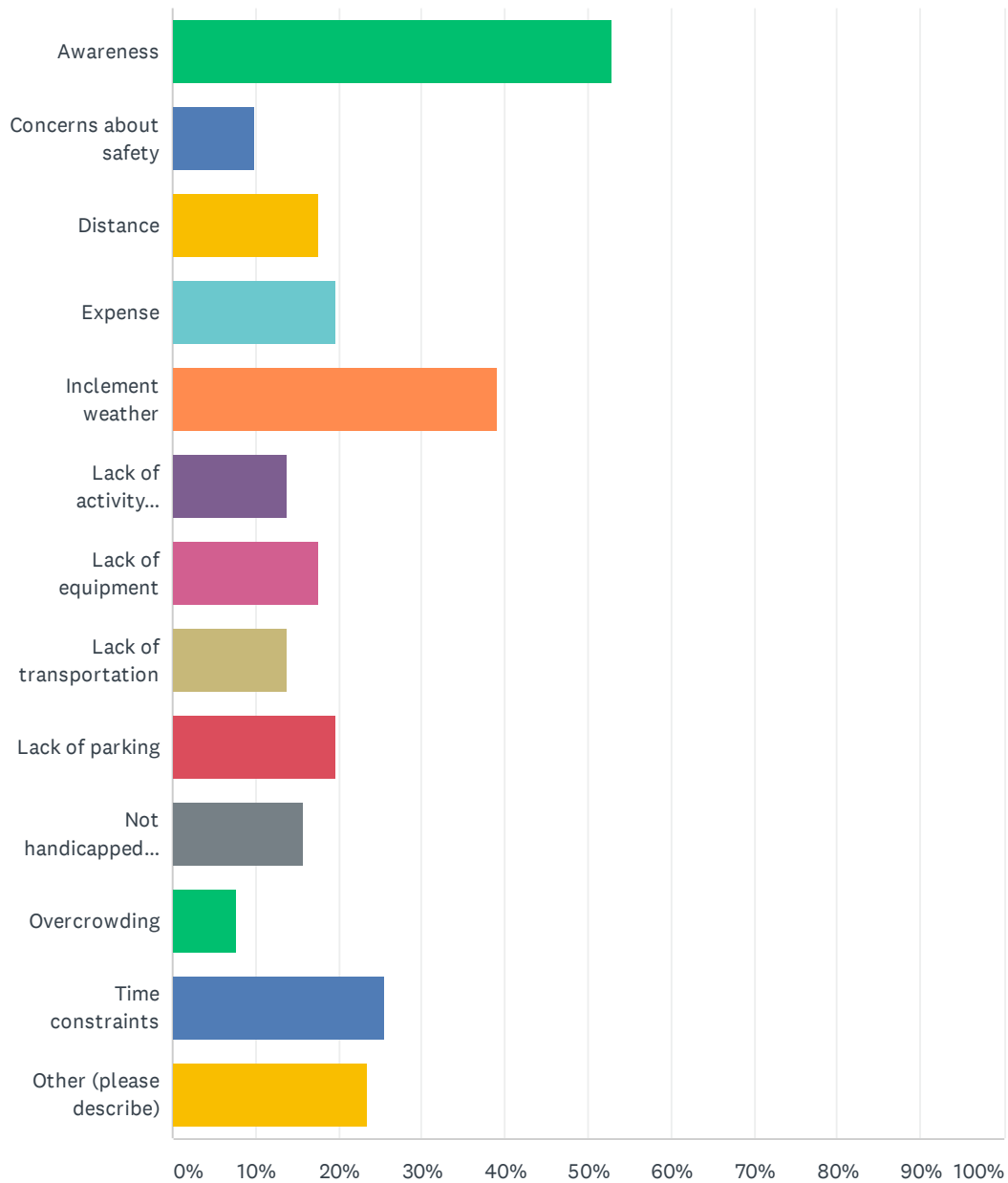
# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 169

31	complaints about DCR and their restrictions, bad signage, no bathrooms on rail trail as they close during winter, bad hours for greylock or natural bridges, no public transport (like to get to ski areas)	11/25/2019 10:11 AM
32	More river access, more information about the river. During heritage walks, what sites/walks are available when things are not being guided?	11/25/2019 10:11 AM
33	trails, access to trails	11/25/2019 9:26 AM
34	improve the club, nothing specific	11/21/2019 4:20 PM
35	better access to local establishments, gas, restaurant	11/21/2019 3:34 PM
36	condition of roads and places to ride curated trails, network of trails with signage	11/21/2019 2:07 PM
37	for runners is winter time running, no real safe place to run outside in winter. limited daylight and poor sidewalk conditions, about 5 months a year. tried to get part of rail trail cleared but nothing panned out	11/21/2019 1:36 PM
38	Where should we go hiking Mostly questions about what other things they can do: Seems hard for them to find information	11/19/2019 7:29 PM
39	expanded mountain biking opportunities with contiguous trails; hiking trail heads nearer to downtowns (Williamstown in particular)	11/19/2019 2:08 PM
40	Better signage on Mt. Greylock Trails and Trails on the east side of Mt. Greylock. Our club won a grant and installed many signs. But there needs to be more signage in the Greylock Glen proper. There are many trails but it is not an easy place to figure out the trails. The map is a lot of help.	11/18/2019 6:34 PM
41	water access, boat rentals (both motorized and non-motorized)	11/18/2019 11:20 AM

## Q18 What do you believe are barriers to more people using your site/services? (check all that apply)

Answered: 51 Skipped: 5





# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

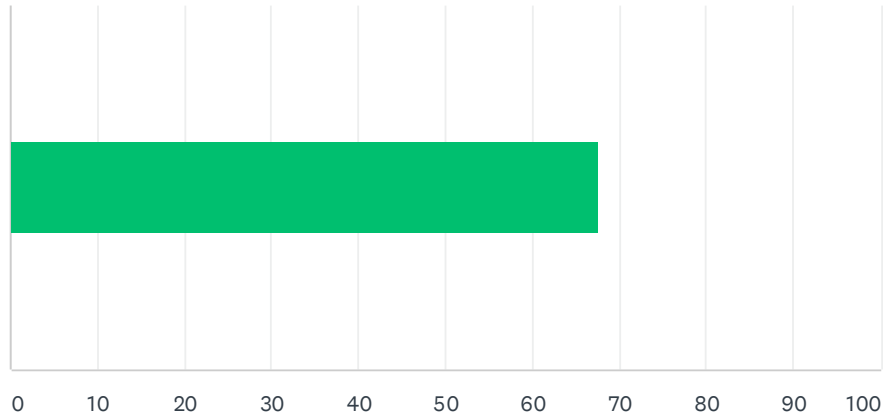
Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 171

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Awareness	52.94%	27
Concerns about safety	9.80%	5
Distance	17.65%	9
Expense	19.61%	10
Inclement weather	39.22%	20
Lack of activity companions	13.73%	7
Lack of equipment	17.65%	9
Lack of transportation	13.73%	7
Lack of parking	19.61%	10
Not handicapped accessible	15.69%	8
Overcrowding	7.84%	4
Time constraints	25.49%	13
Other (please describe)	23.53%	12
Total Respondents: 51		

#	OTHER (PLEASE DESCRIBE)	DATE
1	lack of mentors (hunting, fishing)	12/26/2019 4:33 PM
2	The largest barrier to more people riding mountain bikes in the Berkshires is the quality of the trails.	12/13/2019 11:08 AM
3	A Trail system into North Adams.	12/6/2019 5:45 AM
4	Ashuwillticook Trail shutting down for repaving during height of the tourist season	12/5/2019 3:28 PM
5	Too few areas of public land open to ORVs. Onerous registration requirements that apply unfairly only to ORVs and not other forms of recreation, i.e.: equestrian, mountain bike, etc.	12/5/2019 12:23 PM
6	Trail Access to services of restaurants, gas & hotels	12/5/2019 11:45 AM
7	doing other activities that they don't offer	12/4/2019 1:15 PM
8	lack of amount of events offered	11/26/2019 4:10 PM
9	been so long of a process	11/26/2019 3:24 PM
10	lack of marketing funds, places feel they should advertise for free	11/25/2019 10:22 AM
11	to get younger people involved	11/21/2019 4:23 PM
12	do not have sewer hookups, but do have dump station	11/18/2019 11:27 AM

## Q19 What are the trends in your visitation/customer base over the last 5 years?

Answered: 52 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
	67	3,509	52
Total Respondents: 52			

# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 173

#		DATE
1	90	1/11/2020 12:58 PM
2	70	1/9/2020 3:30 PM
3	51	1/6/2020 11:32 AM
4	87	1/3/2020 12:41 PM
5	67	1/2/2020 4:12 PM
6	100	1/2/2020 10:42 AM
7	64	1/1/2020 4:33 PM
8	43	1/1/2020 2:03 PM
9	99	12/27/2019 9:24 PM
10	51	12/27/2019 11:52 AM
11	22	12/26/2019 4:33 PM
12	51	12/24/2019 4:19 PM
13	65	12/23/2019 9:31 AM
14	59	12/19/2019 4:44 PM
15	98	12/19/2019 10:20 AM
16	100	12/18/2019 3:42 PM
17	50	12/18/2019 3:13 PM
18	26	12/16/2019 7:56 PM
19	66	12/13/2019 11:08 AM
20	50	12/12/2019 12:04 PM
21	68	12/12/2019 9:51 AM
22	91	12/10/2019 1:40 PM
23	80	12/9/2019 2:00 PM
24	49	12/9/2019 12:38 PM
25	89	12/6/2019 7:55 AM
26	97	12/6/2019 7:22 AM
27	95	12/6/2019 5:59 AM
28	58	12/6/2019 5:45 AM
29	87	12/5/2019 6:31 PM
30	65	12/5/2019 5:31 PM
31	68	12/5/2019 3:28 PM
32	49	12/5/2019 2:22 PM
33	96	12/5/2019 2:14 PM
34	64	12/5/2019 12:23 PM
35	55	12/5/2019 12:21 PM
36	35	12/5/2019 11:45 AM
37	100	12/5/2019 10:39 AM

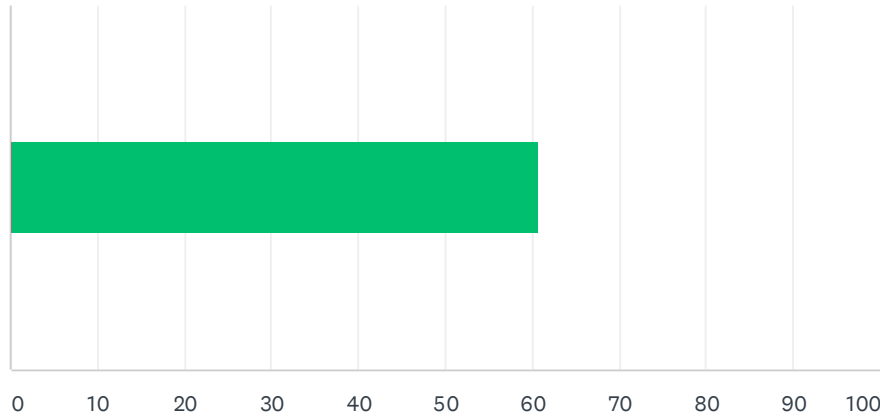
# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 174

38	16	12/4/2019 1:15 PM
39	50	11/26/2019 4:10 PM
40	100	11/26/2019 3:24 PM
41	100	11/26/2019 2:14 PM
42	84	11/25/2019 10:22 AM
43	89	11/25/2019 10:17 AM
44	49	11/25/2019 9:31 AM
45	59	11/21/2019 4:23 PM
46	27	11/21/2019 3:39 PM
47	4	11/21/2019 2:11 PM
48	96	11/21/2019 1:41 PM
49	100	11/19/2019 7:30 PM
50	40	11/19/2019 2:19 PM
51	79	11/19/2019 7:22 AM
52	61	11/18/2019 11:27 AM

## Q20 What are the trends in your funding/revenue over the last 5 years?

Answered: 46 Skipped: 10



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
	61	2,791	46
Total Respondents: 46			



# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 176

#		DATE
1	78	1/11/2020 12:58 PM
2	67	1/9/2020 3:30 PM
3	61	1/6/2020 11:32 AM
4	64	1/3/2020 12:41 PM
5	70	1/2/2020 4:12 PM
6	58	1/2/2020 10:42 AM
7	50	1/1/2020 4:33 PM
8	53	1/1/2020 2:03 PM
9	99	12/27/2019 9:24 PM
10	51	12/27/2019 11:52 AM
11	53	12/26/2019 4:33 PM
12	46	12/24/2019 4:19 PM
13	50	12/23/2019 9:31 AM
14	62	12/19/2019 4:44 PM
15	45	12/19/2019 10:20 AM
16	71	12/18/2019 3:42 PM
17	99	12/18/2019 3:13 PM
18	46	12/16/2019 7:56 PM
19	98	12/13/2019 11:08 AM
20	49	12/12/2019 12:04 PM
21	52	12/12/2019 9:51 AM
22	90	12/10/2019 1:40 PM
23	53	12/9/2019 2:00 PM
24	33	12/9/2019 12:38 PM
25	90	12/6/2019 7:55 AM
26	44	12/6/2019 7:22 AM
27	51	12/6/2019 5:59 AM
28	57	12/6/2019 5:45 AM
29	88	12/5/2019 6:31 PM
30	49	12/5/2019 3:28 PM
31	48	12/5/2019 2:22 PM
32	98	12/5/2019 2:14 PM
33	51	12/5/2019 12:23 PM
34	50	12/5/2019 12:21 PM
35	40	12/5/2019 11:45 AM
36	47	12/5/2019 10:39 AM
37	45	12/4/2019 1:15 PM

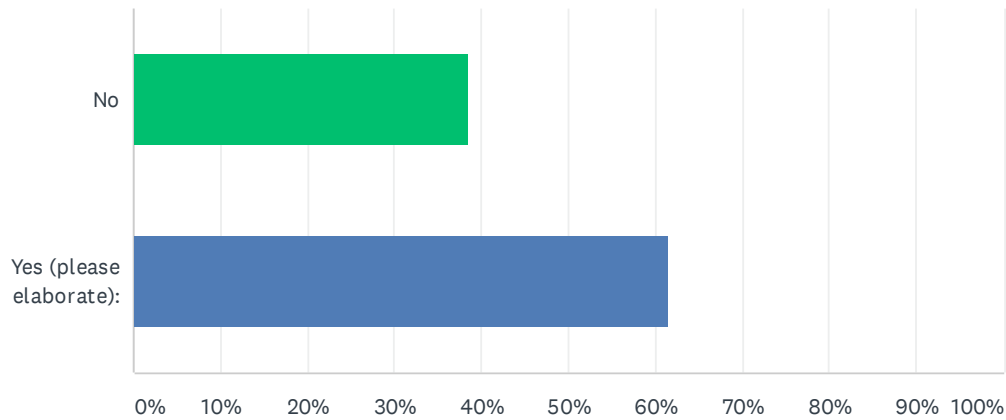
# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 177

38	79	11/26/2019 2:14 PM
39	18	11/25/2019 10:22 AM
40	51	11/25/2019 10:17 AM
41	48	11/21/2019 2:11 PM
42	95	11/21/2019 1:41 PM
43	100	11/19/2019 7:30 PM
44	49	11/19/2019 2:19 PM
45	34	11/19/2019 7:22 AM
46	61	11/18/2019 11:27 AM

## Q21 Does your business/organization have any plans to expand outdoor recreation offerings in the near future?

Answered: 52 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	38.46%	20
Yes (please elaborate):	61.54%	32
TOTAL		52

# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 179

#	YES (PLEASE ELABORATE):	DATE
1	offer more educational programs, add trails, add interpretive signs	1/9/2020 3:30 PM
2	Aerial park expansion - additional trails/activities	1/6/2020 11:32 AM
3	We are constantly working on developing and maintaining new mountain bike trails and opportunities, including some pump tracks. Little Bellas is creating a second camp in the area in the Pioneer Valley to supplement our Berkshire Camp (which sold out last year)	1/3/2020 12:41 PM
4	Cabins, deck on Rec Hall and Pavillion	1/2/2020 10:42 AM
5	Development of Berlin Mountain mountain biking trails	1/1/2020 2:03 PM
6	Our "Opening Doors to Nature" capital campaign will make our historic barn fully accessible and add family friendly accessible restrooms, visitor lobby, outdoor education spaces and caterers kitchen	12/27/2019 9:24 PM
7	would like to do more for handicapped people such as helping them to get to areas to fish	12/26/2019 4:33 PM
8	We seek to increase outdoor opportunities that are family friendly.	12/24/2019 4:19 PM
9	would like to concentrate more on the business of recreation; are hiring a statewide recreational enterprise leader	12/19/2019 4:44 PM
10	Currently in negotiations	12/18/2019 3:42 PM
11	We are training new instructors to offer a larger volume of courses	12/18/2019 3:13 PM
12	We continue to do work across the country. New England is a very small market, mainly due to the culture and bias that exists among trail users, land managers, and agencies. We continually pick and choose the professional destination or community trail projects we want as the market is growing greatly.	12/13/2019 11:08 AM
13	The High Road -- connecting trails to towns. We will continue to try and grow our property reserves and trail systems.	12/10/2019 1:40 PM
14	Hoping to expand our rental bike business .	12/9/2019 12:38 PM
15	We plan to promote rowing to the middle and high schools more aggressively	12/6/2019 7:55 AM
16	More frequent guided group hikes ie 4 to 6 per month and kayak events	12/6/2019 7:22 AM
17	Possibly.	12/6/2019 5:59 AM
18	Working with Local, and State Agency's to expand the Trail system state wide.	12/6/2019 5:45 AM
19	Became ASI ATV Instructor	12/5/2019 5:31 PM
20	pedal assist bikes	12/5/2019 3:28 PM
21	Shooting range upgrades	12/5/2019 2:14 PM
22	This is dependent upon MA government cooperation. There is a strong need for more legal riding opportunities.	12/5/2019 12:23 PM
23	We work diligently to open up more trails to services for tourism.	12/5/2019 11:45 AM
24	all	11/26/2019 3:24 PM
25	May add an additional weekend of Heritage Walks in the fall, or offering walks in the Spring.	11/25/2019 10:17 AM
26	looking to make new trails	11/25/2019 9:31 AM
27	trail system to restaurants	11/21/2019 3:39 PM
28	possible second store	11/21/2019 2:11 PM
29	Snowshoe	11/21/2019 1:41 PM
30	Better to explain	11/19/2019 7:30 PM
31	will add trails on a new property they have obtained, also will be hiring a trails coordinator	11/19/2019 2:19 PM

## Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 180

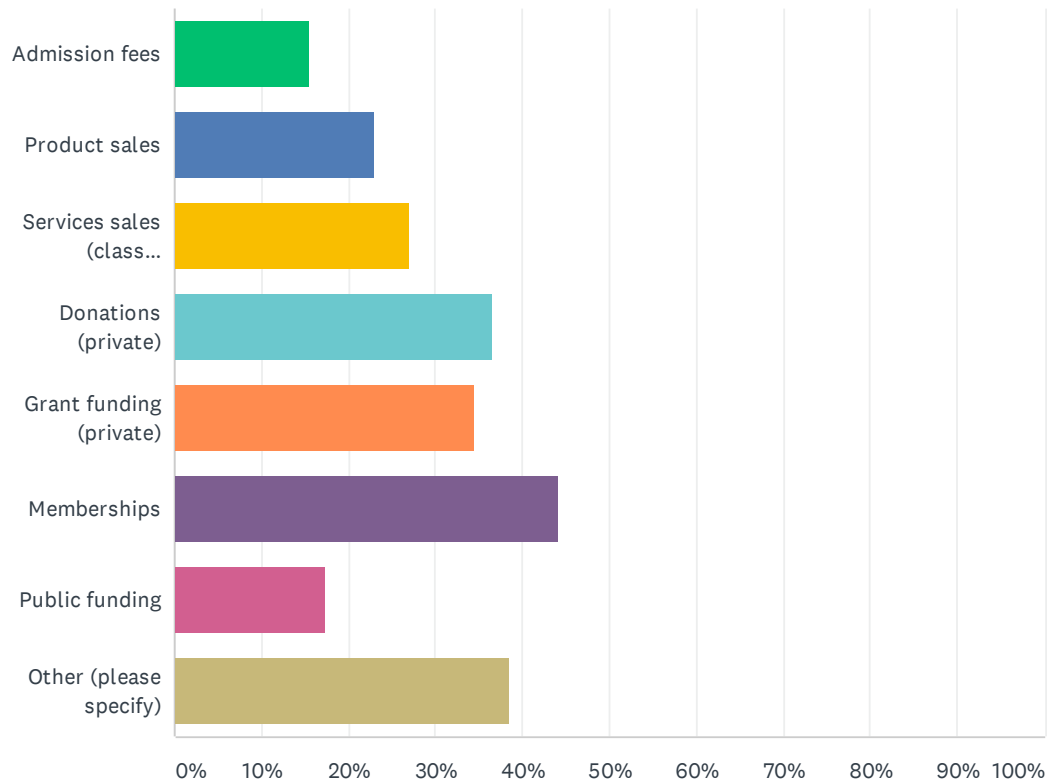
32	<p>Our club has changed from putting on a ski race to just for now maintaining the Thunderbolt Ski Trail. But on the Mt. bike side of things we are building new trails and have people coming from out of town who have heard of our trails. One person I met came from Croton on Hudson, NY. The word is getting out and with a \$46,000 grant we will be building 3 more miles of trail. So far our group has VOLUNTEERED and built about 6 miles of dedicated single track trails in the Greylock Glen that are stunningly beautiful, with water falls and beautiful features of the landscape there.</p>	11/19/2019 7:22 AM
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## Q22 What are the primary sources of funding for your business/organization? (check all that apply)

Answered: 52 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Admission fees	15.38%	8
Product sales	23.08%	12
Services sales (class enrollment, lessons, etc.)	26.92%	14
Donations (private)	36.54%	19
Grant funding (private)	34.62%	18
Memberships	44.23%	23
Public funding	17.31%	9
Other (please specify)	38.46%	20
Total Respondents: 52		

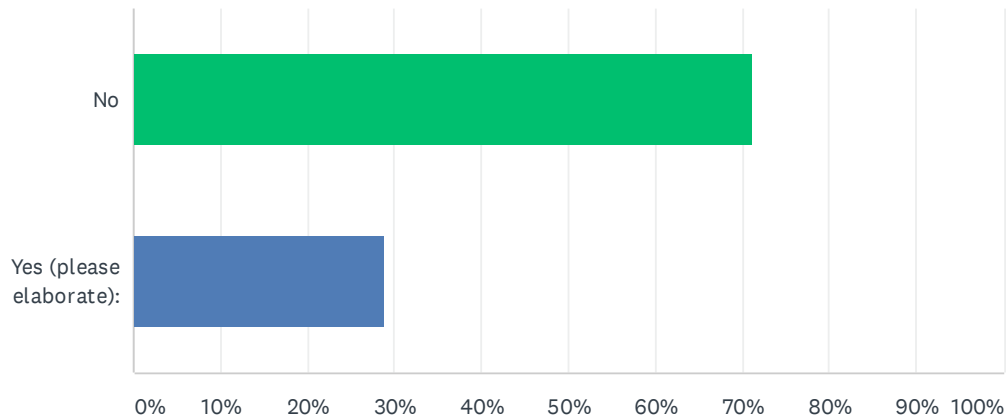
# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 182

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Land lease	1/6/2020 11:32 AM
2	Student/Faculty/Staff annual membership fee and student activity fees	1/1/2020 2:03 PM
3	endowment	12/27/2019 9:24 PM
4	Ad revenue	12/27/2019 11:52 AM
5	raffles	12/26/2019 4:33 PM
6	State Funding	12/23/2019 9:31 AM
7	parking fee	12/19/2019 10:20 AM
8	Range fees, social events	12/18/2019 3:42 PM
9	As a professional trail builder (albeit for a non-profit) all of my work is for a fee. As noted above we have copious amounts of work, most of this is in the southeast, central, and western states. The majority of funding for professional trail consulting and contracting is trending towards private investors seeking to improve their communities. Grants and public money still play a large role in trail development.	12/13/2019 11:08 AM
10	Mass Legislation determines how much our department gets	12/12/2019 9:51 AM
11	Earned income from investments	12/10/2019 1:40 PM
12	Rental bikes	12/9/2019 12:38 PM
13	Personal funds.	12/6/2019 5:59 AM
14	Grants from DCR.	12/6/2019 5:45 AM
15	personal funds and sales	12/5/2019 3:28 PM
16	Function hall events, cell tower lease, fundraising events	12/5/2019 2:14 PM
17	This is an adult league that is not funded besides team fees that cover costs. I am not a rep for Berkshire Volleyball just one of the players. I do run a youth volleyball club and I will fill this form out for that later.	12/5/2019 10:39 AM
18	town funds	11/26/2019 3:24 PM
19	state funding 40% of total revenue	11/25/2019 10:22 AM
20	volunteers, non profit	11/25/2019 9:31 AM

## Q23 Does your business/organization have concerns about financial sustainability in the near term?

Answered: 52 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	71.15%	37
Yes (please elaborate):	28.85%	15
TOTAL		52

# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 184

#	YES (PLEASE ELABORATE):	DATE
1	Depending on the magnitude of the projects we plan, funding can be challenging... but as long as we continue to grow membership and apply for grants when needed we should continue to be successful	1/3/2020 12:41 PM
2	State funding is different every year and trending lower. It needs to get better.	12/23/2019 9:31 AM
3	stable but always concerned	12/19/2019 4:44 PM
4	The management of the Quarry property has become too onerous for an all-volunteer board. We are seeking to develop a relationship with another and larger organization to either take over or assist us.	12/19/2019 10:20 AM
5	The ongoing popularity of online commerce has affected the retail portion of the Scuba industry. We can no longer rely on product margins to keep class prices low. Which means that the barrier to entry into Scuba is higher.	12/18/2019 3:13 PM
6	We have ample work across the states and it only looks to be growing. Personally, as a native and local to the region I'd love to see more work here so I didn't feel the pressure to move to a more up-and-coming place.	12/13/2019 11:08 AM
7	Each year is different funding....	12/12/2019 9:51 AM
8	Retail business is becoming harder to achieve the profit margin to be sustainable. We are looking to grow our rental and experience based activities such as mountain and road bike guiding.	12/9/2019 12:38 PM
9	We need to keep growing.	12/6/2019 5:59 AM
10	Continuing to grow the business to maintain operations	12/5/2019 6:31 PM
11	if trail closes we will too	12/5/2019 3:28 PM
12	Lack of access to trail services is #1 reason to not visit an area. And of course mother nature - we need snow	12/5/2019 11:45 AM
13	Struggle as a small business, everything goes to non profit, police for free but we have to pay for them	11/21/2019 1:41 PM
14	undergoing branding refresh; concerned about aging of current audience, younger audience less likely to "join" so funding model may adjust	11/19/2019 2:19 PM
15	We are a 501C3 and we need to build our membership.	11/19/2019 7:22 AM

**Q24 What do you see as Berkshire County's biggest strength(s) in terms of outdoor recreation?**

Answered: 49   Skipped: 7



# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 186

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	tanglewood	1/11/2020 1:00 PM
2	The beauty and diversity of our natural environment, and the variety of places and ways people can access it	1/9/2020 4:05 PM
3	natural resources, variety of activities, close proximity to Boston and NYC	1/6/2020 11:49 AM
4	Immense open spaces, proximity to other attractions (cultural/food), proximity to major cities, year round activities, and strong community	1/3/2020 12:46 PM
5	BNRC, Pleasant Valley, the Trustees, and Mount Greylock Reservation.	1/2/2020 4:17 PM
6	Beautiful landscape, variety of year-round activities	1/2/2020 11:02 AM
7	Many lakes, ponds, and State Parks. Easy access in most cases. Beautiful surroundings in all 4 seasons.	1/1/2020 4:41 PM
8	Amazing resources of wooded trails, open space, mountains, river AND overall beauty	1/1/2020 2:08 PM
9	large tracts of forested land and diverse habitats	12/27/2019 9:27 PM
10	Mountain Biking, Hiking, Paddling	12/27/2019 11:54 AM
11	Our scenery, mountains, waters and open space	12/26/2019 4:38 PM
12	Beauty of the landscape	12/24/2019 4:31 PM
13	proximity to population areas; significant amount of protected open space	12/19/2019 4:51 PM
14	Natural beauty	12/19/2019 10:20 AM
15	Open space allowing year round outdoor recreation	12/18/2019 3:47 PM
16	It's beauty, numerous lakes and ponds, public beaches	12/18/2019 3:26 PM
17	The beautiful country side it has to offer	12/16/2019 8:20 PM
18	Public land, and with that elevation, rocks, and trees.	12/13/2019 5:04 PM
19	Trails	12/12/2019 12:09 PM
20	Protected lands	12/12/2019 9:54 AM
21	Many options, well spread out through county. Already have major attractions -- AT, Mt. Greylock.	12/10/2019 1:43 PM
22	Accessibility - everyone that lives in the county is close to outdoor recreational opportunities of some sort	12/9/2019 2:10 PM
23	Location. 2 hours from Boston and NYC	12/9/2019 12:51 PM
24	Natural beauty, open space, ski areas and lakes	12/6/2019 7:55 AM
25	Hiking Trails open to the public	12/6/2019 7:26 AM
26	Golf, Skiing, Hiking, Nature Study, Birding, Cycling, Water Sports	12/6/2019 6:03 AM
27	Our Rural area's.	12/6/2019 5:54 AM
28	mountains, wild lands and rivers	12/5/2019 6:38 PM
29	Off Road recreation	12/5/2019 5:36 PM
30	open space	12/5/2019 3:30 PM
31	our natural surroundings	12/5/2019 2:24 PM
32	Volume of acreage available	12/5/2019 12:24 PM
33	Great volunteer SAM club activity	12/5/2019 11:47 AM
34	Abundance of options and public / protected lands	12/5/2019 10:45 AM

# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 187

35	natural beauty	12/4/2019 1:21 PM
36	environment, protected open space, natural resources to utilize	11/26/2019 4:18 PM
37	alot of land that is protected, lots of connectivity opportunities linking trails/towns together, link all outdoor rec resources, abundance of potential but lack funding	11/26/2019 3:30 PM
38	Diversity of landscape and offerings, natural beauty	11/26/2019 2:18 PM
39	have it all, hiking, biking, outdoor adventure, free hiking, x skiing, view, picnicking, something for every budget, 4 season adventure area	11/25/2019 10:42 AM
40	strong conservation ethic, willingness to conserve open spaces, woodland, etc.	11/25/2019 10:21 AM
41	state forest 4 in western mass that allow them to ride on trails	11/25/2019 9:37 AM
42	lots of trails, lakes and rivers, bike trails increasing, AT through	11/21/2019 4:30 PM
43	look of people travel to, get calls from visitors about greyloack and snow, intercnected trail system connecting different towns, GPS map app through state association	11/21/2019 3:50 PM
44	geography and topography, low population, high forested with hills and trails	11/21/2019 2:20 PM
45	Natural beauty, weather, less congested	11/21/2019 1:50 PM
46	Honestly fishing!	11/19/2019 7:37 PM
47	natural beauty, good base of conserved land	11/19/2019 2:26 PM
48	Acres of beautiful woods, Mt. Greylock miles of trails	11/19/2019 7:54 AM
49	Beauty of the mountains and lakes, skiing in the wintertime (Bousquet)	11/18/2019 11:31 AM

## Q25 What, if any, outdoor recreation amenities are lacking in Berkshire County?

Answered: 45   Skipped: 11

# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 189

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	more for outdoor rec	1/11/2020 1:00 PM
2	more handicapped accessible resources	1/9/2020 4:05 PM
3	N/A	1/6/2020 11:49 AM
4	Formal signage, mapping, guidance/resources for visitors that share accurate and full information	1/3/2020 12:46 PM
5	longer bike trail	1/2/2020 4:17 PM
6	Additional bike trails and public roads that have wide safe shoulders for cyclists.	1/2/2020 11:02 AM
7	Ice Skating areas on local lakes that are maintained and offer rentals & a warming house.	1/1/2020 4:41 PM
8	a full county bike or hiking connected trail system	1/1/2020 2:08 PM
9	facilities with knowledgeable staff for visitors to talk to about outdoor recreation; restrooms at trailheads; easy rentals	12/27/2019 9:27 PM
10	Good trail maps, trail signage, kiosks, etc...	12/27/2019 11:54 AM
11	We are losing more and more open space.	12/26/2019 4:38 PM
12	None	12/24/2019 4:31 PM
13	lacks a real center (jumping off spot) for outdoor recreation	12/19/2019 4:51 PM
14	Winter camping	12/18/2019 3:47 PM
15	maintenance of many of the old roads and trails in the state forests	12/16/2019 8:20 PM
16	High quality trails. Modern trails.	12/13/2019 5:04 PM
17	access to trails	12/12/2019 12:09 PM
18	Motorized sports are few	12/12/2019 9:54 AM
19	Bike paths and accessible trails. Riverside trail systems.	12/10/2019 1:43 PM
20	Developed cross-country skiing in south Berkshire County, similar to Notchview.	12/9/2019 2:10 PM
21	Legal Mountain bike trails with signage and good parking.	12/9/2019 12:51 PM
22	A state of the art boathouse	12/6/2019 7:55 AM
23	Outfitters for rental and purchase trailhead parking	12/6/2019 7:26 AM
24	The Berkshire's has a good mix.	12/6/2019 6:03 AM
25	Trails to businesses.	12/6/2019 5:54 AM
26	Unknown	12/5/2019 6:38 PM
27	UTV's	12/5/2019 5:36 PM
28	more hiking, camping, passive recreational	12/5/2019 2:24 PM
29	More multi-use trails (ORVs)	12/5/2019 12:24 PM
30	Access to trail services	12/5/2019 11:47 AM
31	In pittsfield it seems to be more politics than doing what is best for people but I don't live in pittsfield so that is just an observation.	12/5/2019 10:45 AM
32	ice skating	12/4/2019 1:21 PM
33	renting boats, kayaks, canoe, trips/guides	11/26/2019 4:18 PM
34	need visitor services and funding	11/26/2019 3:30 PM
35	N/A	11/26/2019 2:18 PM

# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 190

36	parking, access, different places offer discounts but it is not uniform across things	11/25/2019 10:42 AM
37	need to expand upon Ashuwillticook, make it more than a corridor but add hubs and spokes off of the spine.	11/25/2019 10:21 AM
38	Access to trails	11/25/2019 9:37 AM
39	N/A	11/21/2019 4:30 PM
40	access to fuel and lodging when on a snowmobile	11/21/2019 3:50 PM
41	intermediate and moderate mt biking trails, no network of trails for families and beginners	11/21/2019 2:20 PM
42	rail trail extension, indoor track, lack of having a winter running area	11/21/2019 1:50 PM
43	The biggest thing that is here and is not being capitalized on is the rock climbing in Great Barrington. I've met a bunch of younger folks who have moved here just because of it. There could be a whole culture here based around just that. South county could be the new shawgunks!	11/19/2019 7:37 PM
44	mountain biking, more access to water and ponds	11/19/2019 2:26 PM
45	The state has finally put some money into the parking lots at the Glen, which has given the place a destination. So before when people arrived at a trailhead it was a dirt parking lot with no signs. Now we have a nice map and some signs that tell people "you have arrived" at a trailhead and a place to start your hike. It would also be great to have a present in the Glen with a visitors center where people could get information and start off their hike.	11/19/2019 7:54 AM

**Q26 What region(s) do you believe present the most competition for Berkshire County when it comes to attracting outdoor recreation visitors?**

Answered: 41   Skipped: 15



# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 192

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	?	1/11/2020 1:00 PM
2	Adirondacks, Hudson Valley (Catskills), Southern Vermont	1/6/2020 11:49 AM
3	Vermont, possibly eastern NY	1/3/2020 12:46 PM
4	Adirondaks and Catskills	1/2/2020 4:17 PM
5	Catskills, Adirondacks	1/2/2020 11:02 AM
6	Hampshire County, New York	1/1/2020 4:41 PM
7	I don't see others as competitors!	1/1/2020 2:08 PM
8	Vermont	12/27/2019 9:27 PM
9	Vermont	12/27/2019 11:54 AM
10	Catskills, Adirondacks	12/26/2019 4:38 PM
11	Vermont, generally; White Mountain Region of NH	12/24/2019 4:31 PM
12	Vermont and teh Adirondacks	12/19/2019 4:51 PM
13	Adirondacks, Northern New England Ski areas	12/18/2019 3:47 PM
14	Saratoga Springs/Lake George, East Coast - Boston, Providence, Maine	12/18/2019 3:26 PM
15	Vermont, and to a lesser extent New Hampshire and Maine.	12/13/2019 5:04 PM
16	New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine	12/12/2019 9:54 AM
17	Southern VT and ME, Catskills, and ADKs to some degree.	12/10/2019 1:43 PM
18	The Green Mountains in VT, White Mountains in NH, and the Adirondacks in NY	12/9/2019 2:10 PM
19	New York and CT seem to embrace mountain bike trails more. We send a fair amount of riders to both states because of our location.	12/9/2019 12:51 PM
20	unknown	12/6/2019 7:55 AM
21	Catskills	12/6/2019 7:26 AM
22	Catskills, Adirondacks, Vermont	12/6/2019 6:03 AM
23	Vermont, and New York.	12/6/2019 5:54 AM
24	Eastern New York, Southern Vermont, Western CT	12/5/2019 6:38 PM
25	Vermont	12/5/2019 5:36 PM
26	VT	12/5/2019 3:30 PM
27	New Hampshire	12/5/2019 12:24 PM
28	All of the region - Pittsfield had the most significant down turn due to rail trail	12/5/2019 11:47 AM
29	NW CT. SW VT	12/5/2019 10:45 AM
30	NH, Adirondacks	12/4/2019 1:21 PM
31	Vermont, NH, Adirondacks, other rivers with better paddling	11/26/2019 4:18 PM
32	white mountains, Adirondacks	11/26/2019 3:30 PM
33	Maine and Vermont, NH, Michigan (depending on season)	11/25/2019 10:42 AM
34	Vermont (Kingdom Trails Network)	11/25/2019 10:21 AM
35	Adirondacks, Catskills, Vermont	11/21/2019 4:30 PM
36	Vermont, NH, Maine, NY	11/21/2019 3:50 PM
37	Vermont, managed to brand it	11/21/2019 2:20 PM

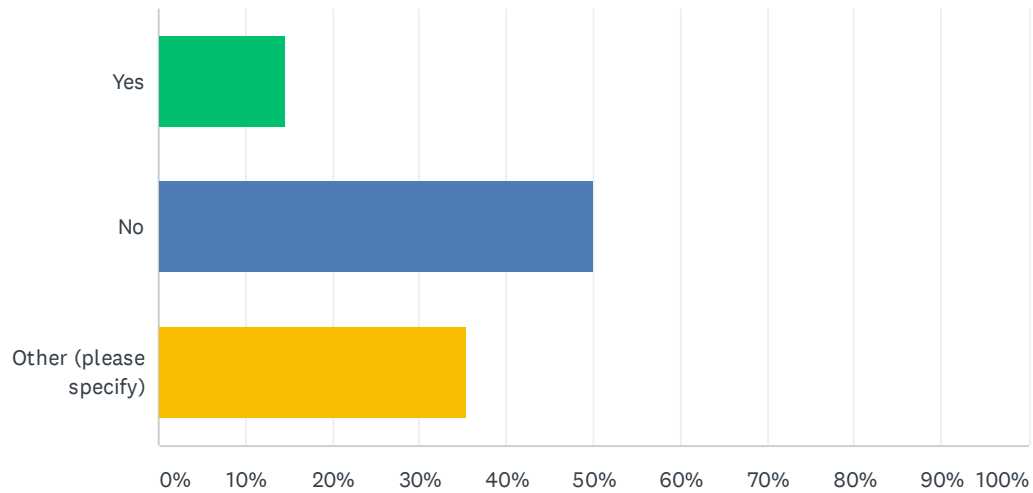
# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 193

38	the metro areas with the big races	11/21/2019 1:50 PM
39	Shawgunks, adirondacks	11/19/2019 7:37 PM
40	Green Mountains, Adirondacks, Catskills	11/19/2019 2:26 PM
41	Not sure	11/19/2019 7:54 AM

## Q27 Do you believe outdoor recreation in Berkshire County is being adequately promoted?

Answered: 48 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	14.58%	7
No	50.00%	24
Other (please specify)	35.42%	17
TOTAL		48

# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 195

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I don't know how it's being promoted	1/9/2020 4:05 PM
2	I think progress is being made, but it is not promoted consistently as a whole, rather by individual groups	1/3/2020 12:46 PM
3	Not yet. It seems like there is a push happening.	1/2/2020 4:17 PM
4	We could always do better! Increasing public/private partnerships in program development and marketing.	1/2/2020 11:02 AM
5	Could be featured more in papers and magazines	1/1/2020 2:08 PM
6	Prematurely promoted. By not having quality recreation or infrastructure, promotion could lead to bad reviews from visitors and put off community members. Instead of promotion investment should be made in updating infrastructure and then activation.	12/13/2019 5:04 PM
7	Somewhat	12/6/2019 7:26 AM
8	Unknown	12/5/2019 6:38 PM
9	need as much promo as possible	12/5/2019 3:30 PM
10	I think anyone who cares strongly about outdoor recreation will say no to this question no matter what is being done and it is hard to know what is being done - and the survey has been sent to people involved in outdoor recreation.	12/5/2019 10:45 AM
11	not as well as the cultural attractions, DCR does not advertise well	11/25/2019 10:42 AM
12	not yet, still geared towards cultural amenities so more needs to be done	11/25/2019 10:21 AM
13	could be more done, many things are unknown	11/21/2019 3:50 PM
14	the cultural is easier and takes less effort and taps into a deeper vein of money	11/21/2019 2:20 PM
15	no one helps with promotion, have to do it alone	11/21/2019 1:50 PM
16	not sure	11/19/2019 2:26 PM
17	I meet a lot of people in the Greylock Glen and more people seem to be going up there. Many people come to hike from NYC and Boston, Ct. eastern Mass. They are charmed with the area. I think improving trails, more money from the state to pay a DCR crew to maintain the trails over all in our state owned land here in the Berkshires. There are two huge population centers near us NYC and Boston. There are a lot of hiking groups that I have led from south country and the Appalachian Mt. Club. They have a large following. We need to reach out to those folks, AMC maybe put an ad in their magazine. The state needs to allocate more money for DCR out here in the Northern Berkshires and Mt. Greylock.	11/19/2019 7:54 AM

## Q28 What do you think could be done to improve outdoor recreation opportunities in Berkshire County?

Answered: 43   Skipped: 13

# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 197

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	not sure	1/11/2020 1:00 PM
2	increase handicapped accessible opportunities; increase collaboration among organizations so that we all get more exposure	1/9/2020 4:05 PM
3	Increased awareness, more collaboration/partnerships	1/6/2020 11:49 AM
4	Uniform planning, promotion of clubs/organizations by businesses/government/landowners, improved guides (digital and print)	1/3/2020 12:46 PM
5	More education initiatives in the local schools.	1/2/2020 4:17 PM
6	Market packages of public and private resources ie Mount Greylock hiking and Mt. Greylock Campsite Park or boating on Pontoosuc Lake and U Boat Rentals	1/2/2020 11:02 AM
7	Have more winter opportunities for people - ice skating, skiing, etc	1/1/2020 4:41 PM
8	a Web site of all opportunities available?	1/1/2020 2:08 PM
9	Better signage and better collaboration among organizations	12/27/2019 9:27 PM
10	Get the DCR on board with using and promoting their public lands for recreational opportunities.	12/27/2019 11:54 AM
11	Acquire more land and open space where hunting and fishing is permitted	12/26/2019 4:38 PM
12	Increase awareness in Boston metro area	12/24/2019 4:31 PM
13	it needs to be more inclusive of smaller sites and less traditional opportunities	12/19/2019 4:51 PM
14	Investing in self promotion Countywide.	12/18/2019 3:47 PM
15	Youth/School Programs	12/18/2019 3:26 PM
16	more accessible	12/16/2019 8:20 PM
17	First, change the bias. There is a large history and culture in New England against new ideas, and specifically, mountain biking. There is a strong culture of not asking for help, this needs to change. Trails and mountain biking specifically draw a lot of opinions. If the community, businesses, and land managers of the Berkshires want to address recreation concerns and create high quality opportunities for visitors and residents, they will need to look past the complainers and people who want to maintain status quo. For trail specifically, bringing in professionals with high quality destination trail experience is vital. Before movement is made in mapping, promoting, or implementing new trails; assessments and planning are needed. Trail by trail assessment and property planning are vital, but so is larger community trail planning. The Berkshires have the chance to outshine Kingdom Trails, who readily admit they were a happy accident and would've loved to plan from day 1; now they are playing catch up all the time. The Berkshires could be the showcase modern recreation region in New England, if they are willing to take the right steps.	12/13/2019 5:04 PM
18	A more cohesive approach to protected lands management. There are too many agencies and non profits managing land in different ways....	12/12/2019 9:54 AM
19	Coordinated sharing of information -- one stop shop for those looking for outdoor experiences.	12/10/2019 1:43 PM
20	more beginner mountain trails. More designated bike lanes and paths.ginners	12/9/2019 12:51 PM
21	Develop a lake front recreational center/boathouse in Burbank Park	12/6/2019 7:55 AM
22	A where to guide similar to Jacob's Ladder Business Association hiking Destinations map	12/6/2019 7:26 AM
23	Promote "Golf-And-Stay" and "Ski-And-Stay" packages, more county-wide events like Josh Billings.	12/6/2019 6:03 AM
24	Advertizing, and working collaboratively with other groups to promote Our areas and draw in visitors, and get the local people involved also.	12/6/2019 5:54 AM
25	More regional promotion	12/5/2019 6:38 PM
26	Open up Mount Greylock auto Road once a year to ATVs similar to the Mount Washington ride	12/5/2019 5:36 PM



# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 198

in New Hampshire.

27	more advertising, social media presence	12/5/2019 2:24 PM
28	Involve tourism with SAM and the local clubs	12/5/2019 11:47 AM
29	Promotion, business incentives, linking trails	12/4/2019 1:21 PM
30	better access to river, transportation to sites, signage for river access	11/26/2019 4:18 PM
31	state needs to be more involved, need to put more money in tourism, state rural policy	11/26/2019 3:30 PM
32	work with outdoor rec groups to help understand whats out there and how they help	11/26/2019 2:18 PM
33	funding stream to tourism council for outdoor activity marketing, get DCR site updated and user friendly	11/25/2019 10:42 AM
34	further development of High Road initiative, other inter-connectivity	11/25/2019 10:21 AM
35	Access to trails	11/25/2019 9:37 AM
36	tv ads about outdoor rec opportunities in berkshires	11/21/2019 4:30 PM
37	ammenities and access, parking, signage	11/21/2019 3:50 PM
38	the awareness is there, the sharing of land is needed no single use, planning and executing is important	11/21/2019 2:20 PM
39	ton of opportunities, need better advertising, no trail maps/signage in springside park and its close to downtown	11/21/2019 1:50 PM
40	Create the infrastructure to be used: rock climbing, the rail trail between west stockie and GB	11/19/2019 7:37 PM
41	increased signage, widespread use of BNRC's new app	11/19/2019 2:26 PM
42	see above	11/19/2019 7:54 AM
43	more locations for boat rentals at public beaches	11/18/2019 11:31 AM

## Q29 In general, what concerns do you have regarding outdoor recreation in the Berkshires?

Answered: 39   Skipped: 17

# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 200

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	none	1/11/2020 1:00 PM
2	That, as a region, outdoor recreation in the Berkshires is overshadowed by the arts and cultural opportunities available.	1/6/2020 11:49 AM
3	Recognition of the value of the entire area by the state (not just specific spots like Greylock), as well as communication and support for recreation opportunities from the state. I also worry about the splinter affect of many small groups working toward similar goals, especially when individuals or organizations are unaware of all of the efforts/opportunities.	1/3/2020 12:46 PM
4	lack of snow in the winter a need for a couple of dog parks to keep loose dogs off of trails	1/2/2020 4:17 PM
5	We need to protect land and water resources, including limiting development and monitoring random zoning regulations. Develop a cost effective county wide recycling/composting program.	1/2/2020 11:02 AM
6	Unnecessary development and the lack of funding to maintain the trail resources we have.	1/1/2020 2:08 PM
7	I see organizations operating in a vacuum without coordination. We must also carefully plan outdoor recreation because without proper placement it can have a negative impact on the environment	12/27/2019 9:27 PM
8	Closure of trails by the DCR.	12/27/2019 11:54 AM
9	For some areas such as hiking trails, etc all is fine. If you are a hunter, areas to hunt are shrinking.	12/26/2019 4:38 PM
10	Berkshire County is dominated by culture in the summer and downhill skiing in the winter and visitors have to scramble to find other things to enjoy. We get very little business, for example, from visitors who are staying in area lodging. There needs to be a better way to connect lodging spots to the recreational venues. We are too fragmented.	12/19/2019 4:51 PM
11	Urban Sprawl, fragmented corridors, lack of a master plan	12/18/2019 3:47 PM
12	Lake Health - Invasive Weeds, Toxic Algae	12/18/2019 3:26 PM
13	My concerns are those pushing outdoor recreation don't fully understand modern needs and wants of visitors, or have adequate knowledge and expertise to forecast into the future and plan accordingly. Furthermore I'm worried once folks realize they need help, they might pick the first thing they see. The outdoor industry is very young, there are many people making a quick buck who do not have the formal training or years of experience to deliver high quality recreation. The Berkshires have a huge potential, but if the group pushing this movement don't ask for outside help they are bound to make similar choices and mistakes without creating anything unique or different.	12/13/2019 5:04 PM
14	The ability to maintain it with such a small staff.	12/12/2019 12:09 PM
15	There is no single "one stop shop" for visitors to choose where they may want to travel to or where to engage in. It would be great if there was a single locations where all the out door recreation activities where listed/managed from.	12/12/2019 9:54 AM
16	Upkeep of state forests and somewhat the use restrictions on land.	12/10/2019 1:43 PM
17	On the Appalachian Trail in Massachusetts, overuse concerns have been cropping up lately - the facilities on the Trail can handle up to a certain level of use before they are over capacity and the increase in use over the past few years has had us wondering whether to build more infrastructure or try to manage visitor use in some other way. The answer is likely a combination of both of these.	12/9/2019 2:10 PM
18	Safety of recreational bike riders on the streets	12/9/2019 12:51 PM
19	None	12/6/2019 7:55 AM
20	None love to see it prosper	12/6/2019 7:26 AM
21	Trying to get motorized trail systems installed and maintained for both snowmobiling in the winter, and hiking in the summer. The Ashawillicot rail trail is a perfect example.	12/6/2019 5:54 AM
22	N/A	12/5/2019 6:38 PM

# Outdoor Recreation Survey for Stakeholders and Asset Managers

Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan pg 201

23	There is no access to UTVs a.k.a. side-by-side in any state forest.	12/5/2019 5:36 PM
24	lots of room for more promotion	12/5/2019 3:30 PM
25	we don't have enough of it. People want experiences outside.	12/5/2019 2:24 PM
26	Already noted.. R	12/5/2019 11:47 AM
27	It should not be setup to cater to out of town people and not be setup to only cater to our local population also. If economic development is the focus of outdoor recreation without a great deal of wisdom thrown in the greatest value of Berkshire County to out of town residents : the open space, protected land, nature, etc. will start to be lost.	12/5/2019 10:45 AM
28	climate change- less snow, ticks and mosquitoes, more days over 90 degrees, more invasive species	11/26/2019 4:18 PM
29	Adams is struggling with money, desperate to stimulate their economy	11/26/2019 3:30 PM
30	land owner liability concerns- not just Berkshires	11/26/2019 2:18 PM
31	lack of security and safety, lack of bathroom, maintenance of trails, no lights in parking areas, signage on trails	11/25/2019 10:42 AM
32	What is the big picture? What are we lacking as far as a plan to tie into?	11/25/2019 10:21 AM
33	State restrictions-too strict	11/25/2019 9:37 AM
34	no concerns	11/21/2019 4:30 PM
35	loss of access, whether the state or what not closes properties or personal property being sold.	11/21/2019 3:50 PM
36	no concerns, we know how great it is just need a more cohesive way to market it to get people here. Need to work together	11/21/2019 1:50 PM
37	Lack of infrastructure	11/19/2019 7:37 PM
38	less engagement from younger audiences	11/19/2019 2:26 PM
39	Too much wear and tear on the trails with out enough maintenance and signage on trails. The signage piece is in the Greylock Glen and we are working on that.	11/19/2019 7:54 AM

## Q33 Do you have any additional thoughts or comments to share, which were not captured in this survey?

Answered: 16 Skipped: 40

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Thanks for doing this. We'll send you some photos.	1/9/2020 4:09 PM
2	We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the project plan, thank you for the effort to raise awareness, and will continue to support this project as best we can.	1/6/2020 11:57 AM
3	Outdoor recreation plays such an important role in health child development... it is important to realize how big of an asset this is to our youth. In an area that is certainly impacted by poverty and violence, outdoor activities as much as cultural experiences will have a huge impact on turnaround opportunities for kids and families. It is also a very large draw for young professionals and should be used as a means for creating a more sustainable and attractive region for living.	1/3/2020 12:56 PM
4	Berkshire Community College is an under utilized institution. What about an developing an outdoor education degree? Thanks for the opportunity to participate! Let me know how I can help!	1/2/2020 11:06 AM
5	Thank you for putting this together and promoting outdoor recreation.. "in wildness is the preservation of life"	1/1/2020 2:10 PM
6	We have a photo library of people connecting with nature and participating in outdoor recreation but due to time limitations I cannot upload those now. I'm happy to share at a future time.	12/27/2019 9:29 PM
7	The DCR has been against (or extremely slow) to allow development of new trails on their land. Back in 2012 when I was the President of Berkshire NEMBA, I submitted a plan which you can read here: <a href="http://www.berkshiresports.org/files/PSF_RMP_PLAN_IDEAS.pdf">http://www.berkshiresports.org/files/PSF_RMP_PLAN_IDEAS.pdf</a> Part of the problem we have is many of the trails we have are on both state land and private property and the DCR refuses to recognize them because of that. I see two possible solutions: #1 - get permission (like the do up at the Kingdom Trails) from the land owners or #2 - replace all these trails with an equivalent amount of mileage (or more) entirely on state land.	12/27/2019 12:02 PM
8	As previously stated, the hunters are getting a bad wrap by school teachers who influence their students, by the press and by politicians who are constantly placing restraints. No hunting on Sunday on DFW Wildlife Management Areas is one example.	12/26/2019 4:43 PM
9	Thanks!	12/12/2019 9:54 AM
10	It is challenging for us to know just who is using our properties (questions about FT/PT/visitors), as we don't charge for entrance or collect information about users.	12/10/2019 1:44 PM
11	Thank you for reaching out to Berkshire Community Rowing as part of your survey	12/6/2019 7:56 AM
12	Would love to see outdoor recreation continue to prosper. I have many photos if needed. I have over 800 members who love outdoor recreation thank you for doing this! Liz	12/6/2019 7:34 AM
13	We are looking forward to working with You!	12/6/2019 5:54 AM
14	N/A	12/5/2019 6:39 PM
15	So glad you're tackling this.	12/5/2019 2:24 PM
16	Thank you for including the ORV community in your data gathering. For your reference, I am a Connecticut resident and I regularly drive over an hour to visit Berkshire state forest riding areas. While there, I visit restaurants, hotels, gas stations, etc.	12/5/2019 12:29 PM

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