



Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan

2021 Addendum

Funding and Support provided by
MILL TOWN



BRPC
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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Acknowledgements

Funding and support for this update to the Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan provided by **MILLTOWN**

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Cover photo credit: Nick Russo

This 2021 Update to the Outdoor Recreation Plan for Berkshire County was accomplished through the active participation of individuals, communities, and organizations both during the initial planning process and afterwards. A wide range of stakeholders were interviewed and surveyed for the initial project conducted during 2019 and 2020, and their input was crucial in developing recommendations for the future of the Berkshire County outdoor recreation economy. Special thanks to the following people and organizations which contributed additional input for this publication:

1Berkshire
Berkshire Camino
Berkshire Family Hikes
Berkshire Greenleaf
Berkshire Natural Resources Council
Berkshire NEMBA
City of Pittsfield
Dept. of Conservation and Recreation
EforAll Berkshire County
Greylock Glen

Jiminy Peak
Josh Billings Triathlon
Laurel Hill Association
Mass Audubon - Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries
Mill Town
Pinnacle Trail Design and Construction
Trustees of Reservations
Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area
Western Massachusetts Climbers Coalition
Williamstown Rural Land Foundation

Overview

2020 Outdoor Recreation Plan

With funding and support from Mill Town Capital, BRPC developed a regional 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, published in June of 2020, was the first of its kind for Berkshire County.

Contributors from a broadly defined outdoor recreation economy included public and private land stewards, retail and rental businesses, clubs and affinity groups, and individual outdoor enthusiasts. Input was gathered through a public forum, online surveying, and interviews with key stakeholders. The resulting report contains primary and secondary recommendations related to the themes of Infrastructure, Communications, and Legislative or Regulatory, as well as the activity areas of biking, camping, hiking, hunting/fishing, outdoor athletics, skiing/snowboarding, water sports, motorized activity, and “other”, encompassing niche and emerging activity.

In many cases, report recommendations are difficult to reconcile with one another – conflicts among user groups and an abundance of activity within a limited area remains a concern in the Berkshires. BRPC 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.

2021 Outdoor Recreation Update

In the past year, Berkshire County has grown its reputation for quality outdoor experiences. Stakeholders are forming stronger and more meaningful relationships through ongoing conversations such as those hosted by Mill Town over the past year in the form of online “summits”. These forums have allowed land

managers and business owners to share updates on their work, and sparked conversations around potential collaboration.

Each activity area covered within the original plan has been revisited here to capture updates regarding expansion, evolution, and sometimes setbacks due to the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following the publication of the 2020 Outdoor Recreation Plan for Berkshire County, community members were invited to share their responses to the findings of the plan and express their level of support for the various recommendations contained within. Over 150 responses were received between November 2020 and April 2021.

The vast majority were from residents of the county, but over 20% indicated that they do not have a primary or secondary home in the Berkshires. Visitors spent time in the region during all seasons, with the least frequent time of year being winter (58%). Age ranges closely reflected those of earlier surveys, with the largest group of respondents being between 60-69, followed closely by those in the 40-49 and 50-59 ranges. Over 70% indicated that they had also participated in the online survey offered during the initial planning process (which had over 2000 respondents). Approximately half had read all or portions of the published plan.

“In order to have a successful plan, all the themes must work together and be in balance.”

-feedback survey participant

The feedback received since publication of the 2020 Outdoor Recreation Plan confirms that outdoor recreation opportunities are abundant in Berkshire County and activities are available in all seasons and many are suitable for a range of ability levels. Our outdoor recreation assets have long been enjoyed by residents and visitors alike and

were greatly appreciated as a means for safely socializing during the pandemic.

Improvements to the trail systems within Berkshire County remain a key to addressing a range of concerns from overcrowding to lack of wayfinding or clearly marked authorized uses. By improving user experience with expanded parking, better signage, increased wayfinding, and more connections between towns and trails, we are taking important steps towards a more inclusive, safe, and enjoyable experience.

Outdoor recreation has the potential to be a strong economic development and economic

recovery 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. Access to nature also contributed to an influx of new primary and secondary homeowners during the migration of urban dwellers to more rural areas in 2020 and 2021.

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.



Photo: Laura Brennan

Mount Greylock, Adams

Themes

The feedback survey asked participants to rate the importance of major themes identified in the 2020 Plan: Infrastructure, Communications, and Legislative & Regulatory. All were deemed "important" or "very important" by over 90% of respondents.

While Communications ranked slightly higher than Infrastructure, comments were dominated by infrastructure-related concerns about safety, access, and user experience. Comments also indicated a desire by many participants to see more attention paid to ecological impacts of outdoor recreation, both at existing sites and in future development.

Infrastructure

Initial research revealed that user experience was generally positive, but facilities are in need of upgrades in order to properly accommodate the volume of visitors (even pre-pandemic) and a wider range of ages, skill levels, or capabilities. An expansion of facilities was the most cited improvement needed for participation in a new activity or to participate in something more often.

Primary Recommendations – Representative Activity

- Develop trail **connections** from recreational venues and along waterways **to downtowns**.
A renewed focus on walkability has helped prioritize spurs in trail development. The Lee Bikeway will include offshoots to other amenities, and expansion of the Ashuwillticook south prioritizes access to shopping and dining. The City of North Adams received a \$240,000 MassTrails grant for 10% design of Phase I of the Adventure Trail, which begins at the Williamstown border and extends to Protection Avenue via the TOURISTS hotel campus.
- Decrease user conflicts through **dedicated trails** for mountain biking, ORV, hiking, etc.
Completed construction of beginner-level mountain biking trails designed by Pinnacle Trail Design at Greylock Glen will expand the availability of dedicated trails, while easing user conflicts on other trails at the site.
- **Improve facilities** at outdoor recreation sites: maintenance, parking areas, all-season restrooms with changing tables, signage, lighting, winter plowing, etc.
In October of 2021, Trustees of Reservations announced acquisition of the Historic Quarry and Forest in Becket, along with plans to improve the trail system at the property. Phase 1 of renovations at Windsor Jamb's State Park finished in July of 2021, with accessible pathways, new restrooms, and revamped picnic areas. Mass Audubon opened an accessible visitor lobby and restrooms at Pleasant Valley, open year round.
- Support **major outdoor recreation development projects** and facilitate redevelopment efforts aimed at maintaining or introducing public access at dormant recreation properties.
A partnership of the Western Mass. Climbers' Coalition and the Ragged Mountain Foundation purchased the 14-acre Hanging Mountain parcel in Sandisfield. After construction of an access road and parking area, as well as the development of approximately 70 rock climbs, the site (Phase 1) opened in October of 2021. Phase 2 is expected in 2022. A Mass Trails grant supported expansion of the facility's parking lot.
- 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.
In July of 2021, the Commonwealth released \$6.5 Million for the Outdoor Center at Greylock Glen. Construction of the Outdoor Center will help to address the need for improved orientation to outdoor recreation sites in the northern Berkshires.

Communications

Improved communication about existing assets and opportunities will benefit the region's economy and its residents' quality of life. 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.

Primary Recommendations – Representative Activity

- Create a **comprehensive trail system map**, encompassing all uses, online and in print.
Mapping in northern Berkshire County has improved due to a Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership grant focused on mountain biking. Funding is pending for more widespread trail mapping and asset inventory work throughout the county through the Massachusetts Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDO) program administered by MOBD.
- **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.
Many private land managers/stewards have invested in improved signage during the past 12 to 18 months, assisting especially with the influx of new visitors during the pandemic, including Berkshire Natural Resources Council's installations along Yokun Ridge.
- Build the outdoor recreation brand of the Berkshires through a **centralized source of information** on trails, guides, outfitters, and events.
Regional partners continue to pursue funding for an outdoor recreation website covering major assets in all activity areas throughout Berkshire County, prioritizing GIS accuracy, safety and conditions information, and guidance regarding difficulty levels.
- **Convene** key outdoor recreation stakeholders on a regular basis.
Mill Town and BRPC have convened stakeholders in thematic, virtual summits since the publication of the 2020 plan. An in-person outdoor recreation festival is planned for 2022.

Legislative/Regulatory

Priorities listed above will be difficult to achieve without increased support at a state level. 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 – Representative Activity

- Pursue the creation of a Massachusetts **"Office of Outdoor Recreation"**.
Legislation filed by Senator Adam G. Hinds in 2019 proposing the establishment of an Office of Outdoor Recreation within the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs has evolved into Bill [S.560](#), in the 192nd General Court of the Commonwealth.
- Advocate for **additional funding to promote outdoor recreation** through the Regional Tourism Council (1Berkshire), and other public or private groups.
The 2021 MassTrails grant program awarded a total of over \$600,000 to Berkshire County projects. State legislators have included increased funding for the Mass Office of Travel & Tourism in proposed spending plans for state ARPA allocations and surplus revenue.
- Advocate for addl. funding to support **staffing, maintenance, and enforcement** on state lands.
State legislators have included increased funding for the Department of Conservation and Recreation in proposed spending plans for state ARPA allocations and surplus revenue. MGL Part I, Title II, Chapter 21, Section 17G also allows partnerships with non-profit organizations for fundraising and volunteer stewardship including maintenance and improvements.

Activities

Biking

Bicycling was rated highly in terms of regional importance in the feedback survey (second only to hiking), with 65% of respondents indicating that they or their families participated at least occasionally. Various types of biking were often named as something respondents in the earlier survey would like to do more often, but bicycling paths and/or lanes were the number one aspect cited as needing improvement.

“With the challenge of many rural roads or highways in the region, I'm strongly in favor of creating bike paths rather than on roads for safety of cyclists, vehicle drivers and pedestrians.”

-feedback survey participant

Representative Projects or Progress

- The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail is extending more than 1.5 miles south from the current terminus at Berkshire Mall to Crane Avenue, with construction wrapping up in early-to-mid 2022. Construction on an additional southward segment to reach Merrill Road is slated to begin in 2024. [Read More.](#)
- The City of North Adams has issued an RFP for project development and 10% design for the “Adventure Trail”, an off-road, shared-use path extending from Mohawk Bike Path in Williamstown to Protection Ave. in North Adams. [Read More.](#)
- Pinnacle Trail Design & Construction completed new beginner mountain bike trails at Greylock Glen in June of 2021.
- A skills park and pump track has been proposed by Berkshire NEMBA for Springside Park in Pittsfield, to be designed by Powderhorn Trail Company.

BIKING

Recommendation Reactions

Are you in favor of...

Developing 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.?

3.6★

average rating



Increasing the length of **paved bike trails** by expanding county-wide and creating connections to downtowns and recreational areas?

4.2★

average rating



Increasing the availability and use of protected and dedicated **bike lanes**, increasing the width of shoulders on roads that do not have bike lanes?

3.9★

average rating



Camping

Camping rated highly in the feedback survey, with over 96% of respondents indicating that they or their family participated to some extent, though about 46% of those participated only “occasionally”. Over 92% feel that it is regionally important as an outdoor recreation offering.

“More wilderness camping should be explored, but somehow monitored ... Fire risk is increased with dispersed camping.”

-feedback survey participant

In the initial planning process, few camping facilities had plans for expansion, and those that did indicated an expansion of common area facilities and trails rather than additional sites. However, individuals responding to the general public survey frequently asked for more and varied options to be made available.

Representative Projects or Progress

- DCR improved campsites at the Pittsfield State Forest, including installation of Bear Boxes and leveling with gravel
- A “glamping” project proposed for Notch Road in North Adams is under new management as of March 2021. Benjamin Crespi of Brooklyn, New York went before the Planning Board in May to request a reissuance and extension on the permit for a 48-site plan. [Read More.](#)
- The Cheshire Appalachian Trail Committee and town officials opened the “Father Tom Campsite”, a tent/hammock-only overnight site just off the AT. Amenities include running water, picnic table, portable toilet, trash bin, and electricity. [Read More.](#)
- Hinsdale officials are considering a special permit request to convert the former Camp Emerson to an RV park. [Read More.](#)
- Wigwam Woodlands in North Adams was named a finalist in Lever, Inc’s Mohawk Trail Entrepreneur Challenge. [Read More.](#)

CAMPING

Recommendation Reactions

Are you in favor of...

Developing **additional camping facilities** with a variety of site options including tent, trailer, cabin, yurt, etc?

3.7★

average rating



Allowing **more backcountry** and dispersed camping in the state forests and at lakeside locations?

3.7★

average rating



Expanding information available online about winter camping, novice options, and Leave No Trace principles?

4.4★

average rating



Hiking

Hiking remained the most popular outdoor activity in the feedback survey, with almost all respondents participating at least occasionally. It was also rated as having the most regional importance in the estimation of these survey participants, with biking being a close second. Open-ended responses included numerous comments about the importance of prioritizing improvements to existing trails over the addition of any new ones.

"I'm not a huge proponent of new trails. I think we need to better promote existing ones."

-feedback survey participant

Although comments also reflected the sentiment that hiking is economically accessible to a large audience, physically accessible trails remain few in Berkshire County and could greatly benefit both residents and visitors. Where possible, the region should continue to seek to install nature trails which meet or exceed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

Representative Projects or Progress

- The Great Barrington Land Conservancy opened a new Riverfront Trail in September of 2020, appropriate for wheelchairs and strollers and offering views of the river which have been inaccessible for decades. [Read More.](#)
- Berkshire Natural Resources Council opened a new trail to Mahanna Cobble by way of Bousquet ski area. The conservation reserve is free and open to the public, and the new path incorporates sustainable trail features. [Read More.](#)

HIKING

Recommendation Reactions

Are you in favor of...

Improving signage, parking, restrooms, waste management and map supplies at **trailheads**?

4.5★

average rating



Developing additional **accessible or all-persons** trails?

4.2★

average rating



Connecting **trail networks** to one another and improving access to trails from town centers and neighborhoods?

4.3★

average rating



Encouraging new trails and major trail rehabilitation projects to follow **sustainable trail design and building practices**?

4.4★

average rating



Hunting/Fishing

Recommendations regarding expansions to hunting availability in Berkshire County were among the least popular during follow up surveying. While hunting for different game species is open in all four seasons, the fall shotgun deer season (late November through mid-December) remains the most popular. Hunting is allowed on all state-owned

"Let's be inclusive, everybody deserves to be able to use the land that best matches their desires."

-feedback survey participant

conservation lands except for certain designated areas, as well as on some Trustees of Reservations and Berkshire Natural Resources properties.

As described in the initial Outdoor Recreation Plan, revenue from sporting and hunting license sales have declined precipitously over the last few decades, threatening a primary source of revenue for MassWildlife while responsibilities and state-mandated costs have risen. Information and input sessions were held between February and June 2021, resulting in revisions to originally proposed increase schedules.

Representative Projects or Progress

- Mass Wildlife plans to increase its freshwater fishing, hunting, and trapping fees for the first time in 25 years, but will do so through a multiyear phased approach after public input (online comments close July 8, 2021) [Read More.](#)
- State legislators have included increased funding for the Department of Fish and Game in proposed spending plans for state ARPA allocations.
- Local retailers reported an increasing interest in fishing during the pandemic, particularly ice-fishing. [Read More.](#)

HUNTING/FISHING

Recommendation Reactions

Are you in favor of...

Improving **wildlife habitat management** through forest management and invasive species removal?

4.3★

average rating



Expanding shooting ranges, including archery, ensuring the availability of at least one **public range**?

2.8★

average rating



Working with public and private partners to **expand land available** for hunting through provisions requiring publicly funded APR land and conservation easements on private lands to allow public access?

2.8★

average rating



Motorized Activity

Authorized areas for ATV, OHV, dirt bike riding or snowmobiling remain limited in Berkshire County. Of the recommendations presented in the 2020 plan, the most popular involved improving maintenance of trails through formal relationships between clubs and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

"I know this is a hot topic, but if we create a place for motorized vehicles to recreate then that alleviates the illegal usage."

-feedback survey participant

As noted in the Legislative and Regulatory section above, such partnerships may now contribute to both fundraising and overall maintenance and improvement of state-owned land.

In follow up survey responses, advocating for legislation to expand types of uses and seasonality of allowed trail use was among the least popular recommendations from the original plan.

Representative Projects or Progress

- The Patriots All Terrain Club received a MassTrails grant for OHV trail improvement at October Mountain in Washington. Funds supported design, engineering, and permitting, and construction funding will be sought in a later grant cycle.
- The Savoy Kanary Kats Snowmobile Club received a \$10,000 MassTrails grant to support snow grooming as well as new emergency radios for the grooming fleet.
- The Adams Snow Drifters received over \$29,000 in MassTrails funding for fabrication and installation of four gates on the North-South snowmobile corridor of Greylock Glen and to repair grooming equipment.

MOTORIZED ACTIVITY

Recommendation Reactions

Are you in favor of...

Working with public and private landowners to develop and **expanded, connected trail system**?

3.0★
average rating



Advocating for **legislation** to expand types of uses (UTVs, side-by-side, 4x4s) and seasonality of allowed trail use (ATVs in winter)?

2.4★
average rating



Improving maintenance of trails through a **formal relationship** between clubs, DCR, and private landowners?

3.2★
average rating



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 continue to suffer from disrepair. Initial surveys revealed that amenities such as restroom facilities, lighting, and waste management are often lacking, and follow up survey results show strong support for improved maintenance and added amenities.

There are dozens of municipally owned parks across the county. The parks are typically located within the more developed areas of communities and feature ball fields, playgrounds, and other facilities. Sometimes overlooked are the public school grounds with playing fields, and which can be used by the general public outside of 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.

"A lot of these activities support our youth and getting them out to be physically active is important."

-feedback survey participant

Many enthusiastic supporters of improvements in this area 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. Upgrades and improvements to municipally owned facilities are not often publicized, so the list of representative progress is limited.

Representative Projects or Progress

- Tennis courts at the Lenox Community Center were resurfaced in fall of 2021.
- Upgrades to baseball field and walking track at Clapp Park in Pittsfield.

OUTDOOR ATHLETICS

Recommendation Reactions

Are you in favor of...

Improving and maintaining **amenities** at outdoor athletic facilities: parking, lighting, restrooms, water fountains, and maintenance?

3.8★
average rating



Developing more **specialized facilities**, specifically skateparks and pickleball courts?

3.4★
average rating



Providing improved areas for **spectators**, including seating and shaded areas?

3.3★
average rating



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. Owners have diversified their offerings 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. Affordable options for alpine skiing and snowboarding were among the more popular recommendations based on follow up survey responses.

“Supporting xc skiing makes sense, given the prognosis for climate change affecting old-fashioned downhill skiing and snowboarding.”

-feedback survey participant

Backcountry skiing is an important regional feature, 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 will serve to attract new audiences seeking adventure and less crowded experiences. An overarching infrastructure recommendation listed in the 2020 report includes snowplowing of parking lots at trailheads, and improved signage, online, and print communications about options would also have an impact.

Representative Projects or Progress

- The Berkshire Summit Pass program expanded to include Catamount, Berkshire East, and Bousquet for the 2021-2022 season.
- Season passes at Jiminy Peak are now available through a monthly payment plan.
- A new 15,000 square-foot lodge will open at Bousquet in December 2021, along with improved snowmaking, new trails, additional terrain park features, and the first full season for a new triple chair lift.

SKIING/ SNOWBOARDING

Recommendation Reactions

Are you in favor of...

Increasing the number and length of **connected and dedicated xc-skiing trails**, without hiking, snowshoeing, or snowmobiling?

3.6★

average rating



Ensuring that alpine skiing and snowboarding are more **affordable to residents**, including the availability of quality rentals?

3.9★

average rating



Water Sports

Only 7.5% of initial survey respondents participate in motor boating, and less than 3% cited motor boating was among their top three most frequent activities. On the other hand, 32% participate in canoeing, kayaking or stand-up paddleboards (SUPs). Many cite this as an activity they would like to participate in more often.

"I totally support all lakes having some kind of public access."

-feedback survey participant



Photo: Laura Brennan

Onota Lake, Pittsfield

Improvements to boat launches was among the more popular recommendations, based on responses to the follow-up survey which closed in June of 2021. Such improvements could include seasonally installed dock equipment, but would also focus on expanded parking, seasonal restroom facilities, and more information about safety and surroundings.

Representative Projects or Progress

- Canoe access to the West Branch of the Housatonic River has been added at the Westside Riverway Park in Pittsfield, opened in mid-2021. [Read More.](#)

WATER SPORTS

Recommendation Reactions

Are you in favor of...

Formalizing and improving **boat launch sites** with better parking, portable bathrooms, and signage that includes maps, flora/fauna info, rules, and emergency contact info?



Making **equipment rentals** more accessible through affordable rates at recreation sites?



Expanding **access to swimming** at lakes and ponds, including allowing non-residents at town beaches?



Other/Additional Activities

Some areas of interest that fall within the "Other" category include dog parks, horseback riding, outdoor ice skating, fitness parks, rock climbing, and playgrounds/splash pads.



Photo: Laura Brennan

Pittsfield Dog Park

Representative Projects or Progress

- Phase Two of the East Street Skate Park in Pittsfield opened in late Spring of 2021.
- Pittsfield's Kirvin Park Disc Golf course fairways were widened and baskets painted and numbered. Additional improvements are planned for 2022.
- In September of 2021, the City of Pittsfield opened the newly constructed dog park to Burbank Park at the Valentine Road entrance, which includes two fenced areas – one for larger dogs and one for smaller. [Read More.](#)
- In October of 2021, Hanging Mountain opened to the public for climbing. Phase 1 of the project is complete, with Phase 2 expected to open in 2022. [Read More.](#)

OTHER/ ADDITIONAL

Recommendation Reactions

Are you in favor of...

Developing more **dog parks**, with improved waste collection systems at all dog-friendly facilities?

3.5★
average rating



Designating formal **climbing and bouldering** locations on public and private land, working with landowners to offer ice climbing?

3.3★
average rating



Developing fitness parks, obstacle courses, outdoor ice skating rinks, and expanded/upgraded playground and splashpad facilities to accommodate **many ages and ability levels?**

3.9★
average rating



Updated Funding Sources

Note: Funding sources listed in the 2020 Outdoor Recreation Plan are not repeated in this update document.

Federal

US Department of Agriculture (USDA):

[Strategic Economic and Community Development](#) program supports projects that promote and implement strategic community investment plans. These plans use the unique strengths of rural communities to advance prosperity.

US Economic Development Administration (EDA):

[Travel, Tourism & Outdoor Recreation \(ARPA\)](#) Notice of Funding Opportunity is focused on accelerating the recovery of communities that rely on the travel, tourism and outdoor recreation sectors. \$750 million of EDA's American Rescue Plan funds are allocated to support the following efforts:

- State Tourism Grants: \$510 million in non-competitive awards to help states quickly invest in marketing, infrastructure, workforce and other projects to rejuvenate safe leisure, business and international travel.
- Competitive Grants: \$240 million to help communities that have been hardest hit by challenges facing the travel, tourism and outdoor recreation sectors to invest in infrastructure, workforce or other projects to support the recovery of the industry and economic resilience of the community in the future.

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

[Recreation Economy for Rural Communities](#) provides technical assistance for communities interested in tying outdoor recreation amenities to downtown revitalization. This program is offered once every two years and does not include funding support.

State

Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism (MOTT):

[Destination Development Capital \(DDC\) Program](#) FY22 program had a deadline of May 21, 2021

[Travel and Tourism Recovery Grant Program](#) was offered in FY21

Non-competitive funding through EDA's ARPA Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation program resulted in approximately \$16MM for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In some cases, states may opt to use a portion of these allocations to subgrant within their jurisdictions.

Foundations & Non-Profits

[Berkshire Bank Foundation](#) (Pittsfield, MA) has funded community and economic development projects, youth programming, parks and playgrounds, with interests in community improvement.

[Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation](#) (Sheffield, MA) has funded parks, playgrounds, youth programming, cycling, and running, with interests in environment, and national resources.

[Berkshire Life Charitable Foundation](#) (Pittsfield, MA) has a history of funding parks, playgrounds, cycling and running, with interests in benefiting Berkshire County residents with disabilities, as well as health, sports, and youth development.

Coolidge Hill Foundation (Lee, MA) has a history of funding youth programming, public works, parks, playgrounds, cycling and running, with interests in community and economic development, health, and youth development.

[Lee Bank Foundation](#) (Lee, MA) offers grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000 in the areas of economic growth and development, as well as health and human services, with a primary focus on reducing the opportunity and wealth gap for at-risk youth and families in Berkshire County.

Asset Inventory

During development of the 2020 Plan, 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, 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

We welcome ongoing updates to this asset 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		