

Vermont Outdoor Recreation Public Survey

Introduction

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation is soliciting citizen input via this online survey to help understand resident views on outdoor recreation in Vermont, and for use in developing Vermont's next Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The survey is designed to measure current participation in a variety of outdoor recreation activities, current use of existing recreation facilities, reasons for recreating, and barriers to outdoor recreation, as well as demographic information.

This study is being conducted by the Center for Rural Studies (CRS) at the University of Vermont and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation. We welcome citizen input; please share yours.

Study Procedures

If you take part in the study, you will be asked to complete the 21 question survey that follows. The survey should take 15 minutes or less to complete.

Benefits

As a participant in this research study, there may not be any direct benefit for you; however, information from this study may benefit others involved in outdoor recreation in Vermont now or in the future.

Risks

We will do our best to protect the information we collect from you during this study. We will not collect any information that will identify you to further protect your confidentiality and avoid any potential risk for an accidental breach of confidentiality.

Costs & Compensation

There will be no costs to you for participation in this research study. You will not be paid for taking part in this study.

Confidentiality

All information collected about you during the course of this study will be stored without any identifiers. No one will be able to match you to your answers. Only researchers will have access to the data. Information will be saved on the password protected UVM server. Any paper copies will be kept in a locked filing cabinet in Morrill Hall on the UVM campus.

Voluntary Participation/Withdrawal

Taking part in this study is voluntary. You are free to not answer any questions or withdraw at any time. You may choose not to take part in this study, and you may refuse to participate without penalty or discrimination at any time.

Questions

If you have any questions about this study now or in the future, you may contact Amy Kelsey, Research Specialist at CRS, at (802) 598-4551. If you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research participant, then you may contact the Director of the UVM Research Protections Office at (802) 656-5040. This research has been reviewed according to UVM IRB procedures for research involving human subjects.

Vermont SCORP Resident Survey

Survey Purpose: To understand experiences, priorities, and challenges in outdoor recreation as experienced by Vermont residents. “**Outdoor recreation**” is defined for the purposes of this survey as any form of outdoor activity pursued within the state Vermont during your leisure time that provides personal enjoyment, satisfaction, or wellbeing.

Background: This survey is being conducted by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation in partnership with the Center for Rural Studies at the University of Vermont to gather input from all Vermonters regarding outdoor recreation. Even if you do not regularly recreate outdoors, your voice is still needed!

Your input will be used to develop the next Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The SCORP is important for Vermont because it:

1. Allows Vermont to qualify for federal funds for municipal and state recreation and conservation projects;
2. Provides an opportunity to assess recreation supply and demand; and,
3. Helps to guide strategy for local governments, state government and other outdoor recreation providers.

For more information about the SCORP or for assistance with the survey, please visit:
fpr.vermont.gov/SCORP

Consent: Your participation in this survey is voluntary. This survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Your responses will be confidential and will never be associated with your name, nor will any identifying information will be collected. The survey questions will be about your experiences, priorities, and barriers to participation in outdoor recreation activities. The results of this survey will be used to develop the Vermont Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

By completing this survey you agree that:

1. You have read the above information
2. You have voluntarily agree to participate
3. You are at least 18 years of age
4. You have not previously completed this survey

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT!

Your Outdoor Recreation Participation

1. In your household, would you say outdoor recreation is... *Please circle the most appropriate answer.*

Not important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Essential
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2. On average, how often did you recreate outdoors in **Vermont** during the previous 12 months? *Please circle the most appropriate answer.*

Never	Less than 1 time per week	2-4 times per week	5 or more times per week	Not sure
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3. If you recreated outdoors in Vermont during the previous 12 months, on average, do you recreate outdoors in Vermont during... *Please circle all that apply.*

- a. Weekdays
- b. Weeknights
- c. Weekends

4. On average, how often do you use the parks, open space, or trails in your **local or regional community** during each season? *Please check the appropriate box for each season.*

	Never	Less than 1 time per week	1 time per week	2-4 times per week	Over 4 times per week	Not sure
Spring						
Summer						
Fall						
Winter						

5. On average, how often did you **leave the state** for an outdoor recreation trip during each season? *Please check the appropriate box for each season.*

	Never	1 time	2-4 times	5 or more times	Not sure
Spring					
Summer					
Fall					
Winter					

6. Please tell us your favorite outdoor recreation activity? *If Not Applicable, check the box below.*

Favorite Recreation Activity: _____

Not Applicable

If you indicated a favorite activity in Question 6, please answers questions a, b, and c. Otherwise, skip to Question 7.

- a. On average, approximately how many roundtrip miles do you have to travel (by car) to participate in your favorite activity? *Please circle the most appropriate answer.*
- i. Less than 1 mile
 - ii. 1-5 miles
 - iii. 5-25 miles
 - iv. 25-50 miles
 - v. 50-100 miles
 - vi. Over 100 miles
 - vii. I do not travel by car to participate in my favorite activity

- b. On average, approximately how often do you participate in your favorite activity? *Please circle the most appropriate answer.*
- i. Less than once per week
 - ii. Once per week
 - iii. 2-4 times per week
 - iv. Over 4 times per week
 - v. Not sure

- c. On average, approximately how much do you spend annually to participate in your favorite activity for each category listed below?

Expense Category	Dollar Amount
Licenses or registrations	\$
Membership	\$
Use Fees (Trail Pass, Greens Fees, Parking, etc.)	\$
Equipment	\$
Instruction or guide services	\$
Other (please describe):	\$

7. Please look at the following activities listed in the table below. Did you or any member of your household participate in any of these activities in Vermont during the past 12 months?

Activity Type	Activity	<i>Check if you participated during the past year</i>	<i>Check if someone UNDER 18 in your household participated during the past year</i>
Trail/Street/Road Activities	Walking		
	Interpretive Walking/Hiking		
	Jogging/Running		
	Trail running		
	Day Hiking		
	Off Trail Hiking/Bushwhacking		
	Backpacking		
	Horseback Riding		
	Road or Gravel Biking		
	Mountain Biking		
	Downhill mountain biking		
	E-Biking		
	ATV Riding		
	Other Off-Highway Vehicle Riding		
	Scenic Driving		
	Inline/Roller Skate, Skateboarding		
Other: _____			
Water-based Activities	Swimming (outdoors, natural area)		
	Swimming (outdoors, pool facility)		
	Motor Boating (including related activities, e.g. water skiing)		
	Canoeing/Kayaking/Row Boating		
	Diving/Snorkeling		
	Sailing		
	Stand Up Paddle boarding		
	Visit Lakes/Rivers/Pond		
	Fly Fishing		
	Lake/River/Pond Fishing		
	Other: _____		

Winter Activities	Downhill skiing/ snowboarding		
	Sledding/tubing		
	Cross-country skiing (on groomed trails)		
	Snowshoeing		
	Backcountry/AT skiing/snowboarding		
	Ice skating (outdoors)		
	Snowmobiling		
	Ice climbing		
	Fat Biking		
	Ice fishing		
	Other: _____		
Wildlife-related Activities	Hunting (big & small game)		
	Waterfowl Hunting		
	Trapping		
	Bird Watching		
	Tracking		
	Wildlife Watching		
	Other: _____		
Sports	Adaptive sports		
	Shooting Sports (target, skeet, etc.)		
	Golf		
	Baseball/Softball		
	Basketball (outdoors)		
	Lacrosse/Soccer/Football		
	Volleyball (outdoors)		
	Ultimate Frisbee		
	Disc Golf		
	Other: _____		
Other Outdoor Activities	Tent Camping		
	RV Camping		
	Picnicking		
	Playground		

Visiting nature centers		
Outdoor photography		
Night sky viewing		
Attending outdoor education program/activity (e.g. campfire program, guided hike)		
Caving/Spelunking		
Foraging/collecting (e.g. berries, plants)		
Rock climbing		
Nature Study		
Orienteering, geocaching		
Community gardening		
Other: _____		

Reasons to Recreate

8. How important to you are each of the following potential benefits of outdoor recreation in Vermont? *Please check the box that most accurately reflects your opinion.*

	Not important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Essential	Not Applicable
Physical health & wellness						
Mental health & wellness						
Quiet/solitude/contemplation						
Connection to nature						
Safe places for youth and families to play						
Ecological conservation and protection						
Historical and cultural heritage preservation						
Outdoor and nature education						
Sense of adventure/exploration						
Sense of accomplishment/achievement						
Community and social networks and interaction						
Community livability and sense of place						
Community economic development						
Alternative transportation opportunities						

Other: _____

Barriers to Recreation

9. Please indicate the frequency with which the following potential barriers prevent you from participating in outdoor recreation in Vermont. *Please check the box that most accurately reflects your opinion.*

	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	Always	Not Applicable
Cleanliness and condition of recreation facilities						
Lack of knowledge/skills						
Safety & security of recreation areas						
Time and distance required to travel to recreate						
Lack of transportation						
Time constraints due to work, family, or other obligations						
Availability of facilities or programs						
Cost of equipment/gear needed to participate						
Accessibility for people living with disabilities						
Accessibility for older adults (65+)						
Costs associated with entrance, parking, or other user fees						
Don't feel welcome or included based on identity						
Don't feel welcome based on skill or ability						
Availability of cell phone/Wi-Fi coverage						
Inability to bring pets						
No one to go with						
General lack of interest or other priorities						
Other: _____						

Services and Types of Recreation Opportunities

10. Overall, how would you rate outdoor recreation opportunities in Vermont? *Please check the box that most accurately reflects your opinion.*

	Poor	Fair	Average	Good	Excellent
Quality of opportunities					
Quantity of opportunities					
Diversity of opportunities					

11. To what extent does the following recreational infrastructure meet your recreational needs? *Please check the box that most accurately reflects your opinion.*

	Not at all	Very Little	Somewhat	To a great extent	I do not use these facilities
Hiking Trails					
Cross country ski/snowshoeing trails					
Fitness/bicycle paths					
Snowmobile trails					
OHV/ATV trails					
Picnic areas, shelters					
Playgrounds					
Sport fields (e.g. baseball, soccer, etc.)					
Outdoor sport courts (e.g. tennis, basketball, etc.)					
Outdoor swimming pools					
Natural swimming areas (e.g. lakes, swimming holes)					
Community garden sites					
Skiing/snowboarding areas					
Sledding areas					
Outdoor skating/hockey areas					
Boating access - Motorized					
Boating access – Non-motorized					
Stocked fishing areas					
Hunting/trapping areas					
State wildlife management areas					
National forests					

State parks					
Wilderness areas					
National wildlife refuges					
Local/state waterways (e.g. lakes, ponds)					
Other: _____					

12. Outdoor recreation providers often need to prioritize their efforts. How do you think that recreation providers should prioritize the following activities at recreation areas in Vermont?
Please check the box that most accurately reflects your opinion.

	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Essential
Expanding the amount of back country open space available for outdoor recreation					
Developing neighborhood, community, or special use parks (e.g. playgrounds, dog parks, pump tracks, etc.)					
Obtaining permanent access easements or rights of way to secure long-term access					
Developing team sports facilities					
Expanding opportunities for water-based recreation					
Expanding opportunities for hunting or fishing					
Expanding opportunities for trail-based recreation					
Stewarding existing outdoor recreational activities					
Connecting local and regional trail systems					
Improving outdoor interpretative/educational facilities or programs					

Reflecting on Key Themes

13. Stewardship, Communication, Participation, Community Connections, and Economic Vitality have emerged as key outdoor recreation objectives through a variety of public input activities since the last SCORP was completed in 2014.

How important is each objective for outdoor recreation in Vermont over the next five years?
Please check the box that most accurately reflects your opinion.

	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Essential
<i>Stewardship</i>					
Manage increasing use/overuse of recreational areas and resources					
Incorporate climate change adaptation and resiliency strategies in recreation planning and management					
Support ecological and conservation goals in recreation planning and management					
Identify and pursue new funds available to organizations and management agencies that directly benefits outdoor recreation and conservation of natural resources.					
<i>Communication/Coordination/Engagement</i>					
Ensure clear and transparent processes concerning policies, permitting and regulations					
Facilitate clear communication between the public and recreation managers					
<i>Participation</i>					
Implement diversity and equity strategies to meet the needs of all Vermonters and visitors					
Engage new and underserved audiences in outdoor recreation activities					
<i>Community Connections</i>					
Enhance opportunities for community health and wellness through outdoor recreation					
Strengthen livability of communities through outdoor recreation					
<i>Economic Vitality</i>					
Promote outdoor recreation activities as a driver of economic vitality					
Support outdoor recreation-related businesses					

About You

Please circle the most appropriate answer.

14. What is your age?
- a. 18-24
 - b. 25-34
 - c. 35-44
 - d. 45-54
 - e. 55-64
 - f. 65-74
 - g. 75 and older
 - h. Prefer not to answer
15. With which gender do you most identify?
- a. Man
 - b. Woman
 - c. Transgender
 - d. Non-binary
 - e. Other: _____
 - f. Prefer not to answer
16. What is your highest level of educational attainment?
- a. Less than high school
 - b. High school graduate or GED
 - c. Some college or vocational
 - d. Associates degree or equivalent
 - e. Bachelor's degree or equivalent
 - f. Master's degree or equivalent
 - g. Doctoral degree or equivalent
 - h. Prefer not to answer
17. What is your current employment status?
- a. Employed, full-time
 - b. Employed, part-time
 - c. Not employed, looking for work
 - d. Not employed, not looking for work
 - e. Retired
 - f. Disabled, not able to work
 - g. Prefer not to answer
18. Approximately how many years have you resided in Vermont?
- a. Less than 5
 - b. 5-15
 - c. 16-30
 - d. Over 30

- e. Part-time resident
- f. Not a resident
- g. Prefer not to answer

19. If you are a Vermont resident, in which Vermont county do you currently live?

- a. If you are not a Vermont resident, in what state, country, or province do you reside?

20. With which race/ethnic background do you most identify? *Please select all that apply to you.*

- a. African American/Black
- b. American Indian/Alaska Native
- c. Asian/Pacific Islander
- d. White/Caucasian
- e. Hispanic/Latinx
- f. Other (*Please Specify*): _____
- g. Prefer not to answer

21. What category best represents your total annual household income before taxes:

- a. Less than \$25,000
- b. Between \$25,000 and \$50,000
- c. Between \$50,000 and \$75,000
- d. Between \$75,000 and \$100,000
- e. Between \$100,000 and \$150,000
- f. Between \$150,000 and \$200,000
- g. Greater than \$200,000
- h. Prefer not to answer

22. How many adults and children reside in your household? A household consists of one or more people who live in the same dwelling and also share meals or living accommodations. It may consist of a single family or some other grouping of people.

Adults (18 and over)	
Children (under 18)	

Remaining Thoughts

Please elaborate on any responses or share other thoughts related to Vermont's outdoor recreation opportunities in the space below.

Thank you for your input!

To return this survey, please scan and email to amy.kelsey@uvm.edu, or mail to:

Amy Kelsey
Center for Rural Studies
Room 206 Morrill Hall
The University of Vermont
85 South Prospect Street
Burlington, VT 05401

Contact Amy Kelsey at UVM's Center for Rural Studies, amy.kelsey@uvm.edu or 802-598-4551, or Jessica Savage, Recreation Program Manager at Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Jessica.savage@vermont.gov or 802-249-1230 with questions about the SCORP or this research.

2019 SCORP Public Survey Results

Q1. In your household, would you say outdoor recreation is:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Essential	2840	61.20%
Very Important	1513	32.60%
Moderately Important	243	5.20%
Slightly Important	33	0.70%
Not Important	9	0.20%
Total	4638	100

Q2. On average, how often did you recreate outdoors in Vermont during the previous 12 months?	Frequency	Valid Percent
2-4 times per week	2189	47.3
5 or more times per week	2097	45.3
Less than 1 time per week	286	6.2
Not sure	48	1
Never	12	0.3
Total	4632	100
Missing	23	
Total	4655	

Q3. On average, do you recreate outdoors in Vermont during:						
	Weekdays		Weeknights		Weekends	
	Count	Valid Percent	Count	Valid Percent	Count	Valid Percent
Yes	3358	72.1	2442	52.5	4272	91.8
No	1297	27.9	2213	47.5	383	8.2
Total	4655	100	4655	100	4655	100

Q4. On average, how often do you use the parks, open space, or trails in your local or regional community during each season:	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Never	4.1	2.6	2.2	6.7
Less than 1 time per week	13.7	9.3	7.9	16.9
1 time per week	19.5	11.5	11.3	19.6
2-4 times per week	39.9	40.6	43.1	34.3
Over 4 times per week	21.2	34.9	34.4	20.9
Not sure	1.7	1.1	1.1	1.7
Total	100	100	100	100

Q5. On average, how often do you leave the state for an outdoor recreation trip during each season:	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Never	31.7	18.6	26	33.5

1 time	37.5	31.2	35.8	34
2-4 times	21.8	36.8	26.5	21.9
5 or more times	4.9	10.8	8.1	6.6
Not sure	4	2.5	3.5	4
Total	100	100	100	100

Q6. Please tell us your favorite outdoor recreation activity (open-ended)	Count	Valid Percent
Hiking-all	728	16.97%
Hunting (includes bird, bow, deer, etc.)	655	15.26%
Mountain Biking	493	11.49%
Walking - all (includes Dog Walking & Nature/Forest/Woods Walks)	385	8.97%
Downhill Skiing	253	5.90%
Fishing	249	5.80%
Biking & Bike Touring	192	4.47%
ATV	160	3.73%
Bird Watching	112	2.61%
XC & Nordic Skiing	106	2.47%
Snowmobiling	101	2.35%
Backcountry Ski/Snowboard	94	2.19%
Running & Trail Running	88	2.05%
Kayak	73	1.70%
Camping-all	73	1.70%
Swimming	70	1.63%
Horseback Riding	45	1.05%
Snowshoeing	28	0.65%
Boating	23	0.54%
Nature & Wildlife Observation	22	0.51%
Shooting Sports	21	0.49%
Canoe	18	0.42%
Rockclimbing	18	0.42%
OHV (Dirt Bike, Jeeping, Motorcycle Trail Riding, Mudding)	18	0.42%
Paddling	15	0.35%
Water Activities (General, Water sports, water skiing)	15	0.35%
Backpacking	12	0.28%
Rowing	2	0.05%
Beach	2	0.05%
Bouldering	1	0.02%
Snowboarding	33	0.77%
Golf	10	0.23%
Gardening/work	10	0.23%

Q7. On average, approximately how many roundtrip miles do you have to travel (by car) to participate in your favorite activity?	Frequency	Valid Percent
Less than 1 mile	421	10
1-5 miles	691	16.4
5-25 miles	1614	38.3
25-50 miles	671	15.9
50-100 miles	282	6.7
Over 100 miles	200	4.7
I do not travel by car to participate in my favorite activity	334	7.9
Total	4213	100
Missing	442	
Total	4655	

Q8. On average, approximately how often do you participate in your favorite activity?	Frequency	Valid Percent
Less than once per week	412	9.8
Once per week	816	19.4
2-4 times per week	1863	44.2
Over 4 times per week	1043	24.7
Not sure	81	1.9
Total	4215	100
Missing	440	
Total	4655	

Q9-Q14. Please look at all the activities in the table below. Did you or any member of your household participate in any of these activities in Vermont during the past 12 months?	percentage who participated during the past year	percentage reporting someone UNDER 18 in household participated during the past year
Walking	87.6	25.5
Visit Lakes/Rivers/Pond	78.9	22.9
Day Hiking	75.3	20.5
Swimming (outdoors, natural area)	72.1	24.3
Canoeing/Kayaking/Row Boating	64.1	17.7
Scenic Driving	62.7	12.8
Wildlife Watching	60.9	13.6
Picnicking	57.4	17.1
Night sky viewing	57	13.1
Snowshoeing	56.5	11.3
Outdoor photography	49.1	8.7

Visiting nature centers	47	14.6
Off Trail Hiking/Bushwhacking	46.6	9.3
Road or Gravel Biking	45.8	12.8
Interpretive Walking/Hiking	45.4	12.7
Tent Camping	45.2	15.9
Bird Watching	44.2	7.6
Foraging/collecting (e.g. berries, plants)	44	11.3
Lake/River/Pond Fishing	40.9	14.4
Downhill skiing/ snowboarding	39.5	15.5
Cross-country skiing (on groomed trails)	35.2	8.3
Sledding/tubing	35	19.7
Jogging/Running	34.8	11.1
Hunting (big & small game)	33.7	7.3
Swimming (outdoors, pool facility)	32.4	16.9
Motor Boating (including related activities, e.g. water skiing)	32.1	10.8
Mountain Biking	31.7	10.4
Shooting Sports (target, skeet, etc.)	30.4	7.2
Backcountry/AT skiing/snowboarding	29.2	5
Playground	25.7	17.6
Backpacking	25.5	5.8
Trail running	25.4	7
Tracking	24.9	5.8
Nature Study	24.4	5.4
ATV Riding	21.5	6.6
Attending outdoor education program/activity (e.g. campfire program, guided hike)	20	6.8
Ice fishing	19.2	6.5
Ice skating (outdoors)	18	9.1
Fly Fishing	17.5	3.7
Stand Up Paddle boarding	17.1	6.4
Golf	16.2	3.6
Other Off-Highway Vehicle Riding	14.4	4.1
Snowmobiling	14.3	4.5
RV Camping	14	4.6
Downhill mountain biking	12.9	3.8
Sailing	10.4	2.7
Fat Biking	9.9	1.3
Community gardening	9.4	2.2
Diving/Snorkeling	9	3.3
Waterfowl Hunting	8.7	2.3
Disc Golf	8.3	2.6
Baseball/Softball	8	6.9
Rock climbing	7.3	2.9

Horseback Riding	6.9	4
Orienteering, geocaching	6.9	2
Lacrosse/Soccer/Football	6.7	9.7
Basketball (outdoors)	5.2	5.9
Ultimate Frisbee	4.7	2.6
Inline/Roller Skate, Skateboarding	4.4	3.4
E-Biking	4.3	0.5
Trapping	3.9	1.3
Volleyball (outdoors)	3.8	1.8
Adaptive sports	2.7	1.1
Ice climbing	2.5	0.2
Caving/Spelunking	2.3	1.1

Q15. How important to you are each of the following potential benefits of outdoor recreation in Vermont?	% of people responding very important or essential
Mental health & wellness	93.12
Connection to nature	89.00
Physical health & wellness	88.43
Quiet/solitude/contemplation	84.71
Ecological conservation and protection	83.96
Sense of adventure/exploration	77.98
Safe places for youth and families to play	74.90
Outdoor and nature education	72.08
Sense of accomplishment/achievement	69.83
Historical and cultural heritage preservation	66.00
Community livability and sense of place	63.24
Community economic development	51.85
Community and social networks and interaction	45.01
Alternative transportation opportunities	37.84

Q16. Please indicate the frequency with which the following potential barriers prevent you from participating in outdoor recreation in Vermont.	% of people responding occasionally, frequently, or always
Time constraints due to work, family, or other obligations	67.5
Time and distance required to travel to recreate	52.3
Cost of equipment/gear needed to participate	37.9
Availability of facilities or programs	30.2
Lack of knowledge/skills	27.6
No one to go with	25.4
Inability to bring pets	23.6

Costs associated with entrance, parking, or other user fees	22.9
Cleanliness and condition of recreation facilities	21.1
Safety & security of recreation areas	18.5
Availability of cell phone/Wi-Fi coverage	16.1
General lack of interest or other priorities	13.1
Accessibility for older adults (65+)	12.6
Accessibility for people living with disabilities	10.4
Lack of transportation	8.8
Don't feel welcome based on skill or ability	8.6
Don't feel welcome or included based on identity	5.2

Q17. Overall, how would you rate outdoor recreation opportunities in Vermont? [Quality of opportunities]	Frequency	Valid Percent
Poor	38	0.95%
Fair	186	4.63%
Average	464	11.55%
Good	1643	40.91%
Excellent	1685	41.96%
Total	4016	100.00%
Missing	639	
Total	4655	

Q17. Overall, how would you rate outdoor recreation opportunities in Vermont? [Quantity of opportunities]	Frequency	Valid Percent
Poor	64	1.60%
Fair	264	6.58%
Average	614	15.30%
Good	1574	39.23%
Excellent	1496	37.29%
Total	4012	100.00%
Missing	643	
Total	4655	

Q17. Overall, how would you rate outdoor recreation opportunities in Vermont? [Diversity of opportunities]	Frequency	Valid Percent
Poor	79	1.97%
Fair	270	6.74%
Average	725	18.10%
Good	1661	41.47%
Excellent	1270	31.71%
Total	4005	100.00%

Missing	650	
Total	4655	

Q18. To what extent does the following recreational infrastructure meet your recreational needs?	% who say "I do not use"	% of people whose needs are somewhat, very little, or not at all met	% of people saying infrastructure meets there needs to a great extent
Local/state waterways (e.g. lakes, ponds)	4.7	36.1	59.2
State parks	4.7	37.8	57.5
Hiking Trails	5.9	26.8	67.3
National forests	8.1	39.9	52
Wilderness areas	8.8	41.1	50.1
Natural swimming areas (e.g. lakes, swimming holes)	9.9	38.2	51.9
National wildlife refuges	18.9	43	38.1
Picnic areas, shelters	21.2	46.1	32.7
State wildlife management areas	25.3	38.2	36.5
Fitness/bicycle paths	25.9	45.4	28.7
Boating access – Non-motorized	26.9	36	37.1
Cross country ski/snowshoeing trails	28.8	30.6	40.6
Skiing/snowboarding areas	43.4	15.3	41.3
Sledding areas	46.3	35.9	17.8
Playgrounds	51.3	31.4	17.3
Outdoor swimming pools	54.6	36.6	8.8
Stocked fishing areas	55.1	27.9	17
Sport fields (e.g. baseball, soccer, etc.)	55.6	27.7	16.7
Boating access - Motorized	57.6	22.5	19.9
Hunting/trapping areas	58.5	22.3	19.2
Outdoor skating/hockey areas	58.7	31.5	9.8
Outdoor sport courts (e.g. tennis, basketball, etc.)	59.3	29	11.7
Snowmobile trails	67.9	17.6	14.5
Community garden sites	68.4	24.3	7.3
OHV/ATV trails	69	22.8	8.2

Q19. Outdoor recreation providers often need to prioritize their efforts. How do you think that recreation providers should prioritize the following activities at recreation areas in Vermont?	% of people responding very important or essential
Stewarding existing outdoor recreational activities	66.47

Obtaining permanent access easements or rights of way to secure long-term access	65.90
Connecting local and regional trail systems	62.15
Expanding opportunities for trail-based recreation	54.06
Expanding the amount of backcountry open space available for outdoor recreation	48.62
Expanding opportunities for hunting or fishing	35.08
Developing neighborhood, community, or special use parks (e.g. playgrounds, dog parks, pump tracks, etc.	30.81
Improving outdoor interpretative/educational facilities or programs	29.27
Expanding opportunities for water-based recreation	26.55
Developing team sports facilities	10.12

Q20. How important is each objective for outdoor recreation in Vermont over the next five years?	% of people responding very important or essential
Stewardship: Identify and pursue new funds available to organizations and management agencies that directly benefits outdoor recreation and conservation of natural resources.	74.28
Stewardship: Manage increasing use/overuse of recreational areas and resources]	72.01
Stewardship: Support ecological and conservation goals in recreation planning and management	69.86
Communication: Facilitate clear communication between the public and recreation managers	67.62
Communication: Ensure clear and transparent processes concerning policies, permitting and regulations	67.56
Economic Vitality: Promote outdoor recreation activities as a driver of economic vitality	62.65
Stewardship: Incorporate climate change adaptation and resiliency strategies in recreation planning and management	60.14
Economic Vitality: Support outdoor recreation-related businesses	60.01
Community Connections: Strengthen livability of communities through outdoor recreation	59.67
Community Connections: Enhance opportunities for community health and wellness through outdoor recreation]	57.22
Participation: Implement diversity and equity strategies to meet the needs of all Vermonters and visitors	55.14
Participation: Engage new and underserved audiences in outdoor recreation activities	54.43

DEMOGRAPHICS

What is your age?	Frequency	Valid Percent
18-24	52	1.4

25-34	428	11.2
35-44	628	16.5
45-54	722	18.9
55-64	984	25.8
65-74	825	21.6
75 and older	177	4.6
Total	3816	100
Missing	839	
Total	4655	

With which gender do you identify?	Frequency	Valid Percent
other, with comment	27	0.7
Man	2238	58.7
Woman	1527	40.1
Transgender	3	0.1
Non-binary	15	0.4
Total	3810	100
Missing	845	
Total	4655	

What is your highest level of educational attainment?	Frequency	Valid Percent
Less than high school	14	0.4
High school or GED	303	8
Some college or vocational	525	13.8
Associates degree or equivalent	314	8.2
Bachelors degree or equivalent	1363	35.8
Masters degree or equivalent	1001	26.3
Doctoral degree or equivalent	288	7.6
Total	3808	100
Missing	847	
Total	4655	

What is your current employment status?	Frequency	Valid Percent
Employed, full-time	2264	59.5
Employed, part-time	374	9.8
Not employed, looking for work	40	1.1
Not employed, not looking for work	77	2
Retired	981	25.8
Disabled, not able to work	67	1.8
Total	3803	100
Missing	852	

Total	4655	
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Approximately how many years have you resided in Vermont?	Frequency	Valid Percent
Less than 5	283	7.4
5-15	635	16.6
16-30	796	20.9
Over 30	1916	50.2
Part-time resident	90	2.4
Not a resident	95	2.5
Total	3815	100
Missing	840	
Total	4655	

County of Residence				
Vermont County	County Population	Percent of VT population	Frequency of SCORP responses from each county	Percent of SCORP responses from each county
Addison	36825	5.90%	299	8.04%
Bennington	36054	5.77%	148	3.98%
Caledonia	30576	4.90%	174	4.68%
Chittenden	160985	25.77%	795	21.39%
Essex	6203	0.99%	45	1.21%
Franklin	48816	7.82%	234	6.30%
Grand Isle	6950	1.11%	49	1.32%
Lamoille	25191	4.03%	269	7.24%
Orange	28901	4.63%	174	4.68%
Orleans	26951	4.31%	179	4.82%
Rutland	59676	9.55%	232	6.24%
Washington	58691	9.40%	654	17.59%
Windham	43332	6.94%	212	5.70%
Windsor	55485	8.88%	253	6.81%
Total	624636	100.00%	3717	100.00%

Nonresident respondents	
State/Country	Frequency
MA	30
NY	21
CT	13
NH	8
PA	3
RI	2

QC	2
VA	2
CA	1
DE	1
FL	1
IN	1
ME	1
MI	1
NC	1
NJ	1
OH	1
Peru	1
TN	1
TX	1
Total	93

With which race/ethnic background do you most identify?	Frequency	Valid Percent
other, with comment	126	3.3
African American/Black	4	0.1
American Indian/Alaska Native	25	0.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	9	0.2
White/Caucasian	3593	95.2
Hispanic/Latinx	19	0.5
Total	3776	100
Missing	879	
Total	4655	

What category best represents your total annual household income before taxes:	Frequency	Valid Percent
Less than \$25,000	188	5.2
Between \$25,000 and \$50,000	591	16.3
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000	725	20
Between \$75,000 and \$100,000	802	22.1
Between \$100,000 and \$150,000	775	21.4
Between \$150,000 and \$200,000	304	8.4
Greater than \$200,000	240	6.6
Total	3625	100
Missing	1030	
Total	4655	

How many children under 18 reside in your household?	Frequency	Valid Percent
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1	418	40.7
2	462	45
3	111	10.8
4	24	2.3
5	7	0.7
6	4	0.4
10	1	0.1
Total	1027	100
Missing	3628	
Total	4655	

Resident Survey Open-Ended Responses

Several questions on the resident survey offered the opportunity to write in a response. Do to the volume of responses noted in the table below, they are not included here. To receive a copy of open ended responses, please contact Jessica Savage, Recreation Program Manager at Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Jessica.savage@vermont.gov.

Question with Open-Ended Response	Frequency of Write-in Responses
Q9-14: Other activities you or any member of your household participated in during the past 12 months (over 18)	718
Q9-14: Other activities you or any member of your household participated in during the past 12 months (under 18)	202
Q15: How important to you are each of the following potential benefits of outdoor recreation in Vermont? (Other)	601
Q16. Please indicate the frequency with which the following potential barriers prevent you from participating in outdoor recreation in Vermont.	711
Q22. Please elaborate on any responses or share other thoughts related to Vermont's outdoor recreation opportunities in the space below.	1537

Vermont SCORP: Recreation Provider Survey

A survey hosted by the Vermont Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation to gather input on the next Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

Survey Purpose

To understand experiences, priorities, and challenges in outdoor recreation as experienced by Vermont's public and private land managers, outdoor recreation providers (non-profit, municipal, and private) outdoor recreation private enterprises, and other key stakeholders. "**Outdoor recreation**" is defined for the purposes of this survey as any form of outdoor activity pursued within the state Vermont during your leisure time that provides personal enjoyment, satisfaction, or wellbeing.

Background

This survey is being conducted by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation in partnership with the Center for Rural Studies at the University of Vermont to gather input from outdoor recreation providers.

Your input will be used to develop the next Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The SCORP is important for Vermont because it:

1. Allows Vermont to qualify for federal funds for municipal and state recreation and conservation projects;
2. Provides an opportunity to assess recreation supply and demand; and,
3. Helps to guide strategy for local governments, state government and other outdoor recreation providers.

For more information about the SCORP or for assistance with the survey, please visit: <https://fpr.vermont.gov/SCORP> (<https://fpr.vermont.gov/SCORP>) and review the [survey information sheet](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ilCcr3MM1_VCD6Fwqcwph6xb9_p4lo6q/view?usp=sharing) (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ilCcr3MM1_VCD6Fwqcwph6xb9_p4lo6q/view?usp=sharing).

Consent

Your participation in this survey is voluntary. This online survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. The survey questions will be about your experiences, your priorities, and barriers to participation in outdoor recreation activities. The results of this survey will be used to develop the Vermont Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

By completing this survey you agree that:

1. You have read the above information
2. You have voluntarily agreed to participate
3. You are at least 18 years of age
4. You have not previously completed this survey

Thank you for your input!

There are 39 questions in this survey

Organization Background and Characteristics

[] Please indicate which description best represents the entity for which you are responding:

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Federal Agency
- State Agency
- City/Town
- Regional Planning Commission
- Land Trust
- Private Business
- Private Institution
- Nonprofit/Membership Organization
- Other

[] Please indicate which best represents your current job title:

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Executive Director
- Program Director
- Program Coordinator
- Lands Manager
- Planner
- Owner-Operator
- Volunteer
- Other

[] Please provide the name of the organization for which you are responding.

Please write your answer here:

[] How many of the following employee types are employed at your organization in a typical year? Please only include those with outdoor recreation related duties.

Please write your answer(s) here:

Full-time, 12-month staff members

Full-time, seasonal staff members

Part-time, 12-month staff members

Part-time, seasonal staff members

[] Does your organization use volunteers?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

Yes

No

[] Approximately how many volunteers support your organization in a typical year?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '5 [Q4Volunteer]' (Does your organization use volunteers?)

Only numbers may be entered in this field.

Please write your answer here:

[] Does your organization track volunteer hours?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '5 [Q4Volunteer]' (Does your organization use volunteers?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

Yes

No

[] How many hours of volunteer time does your organization account for in a typical year?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes' at question '7 [Q4VolunteerHours]' (Does your organization track volunteer hours?)

Only numbers may be entered in this field.

Please write your answer here:

[] Please indicate all of the funding sources that currently support your organization:

Check all that apply

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Federal budget/taxes
- State budget/taxes
- Municipal budget/taxes
- Federal grants
- State or regional grants
- Private foundation grants
- Program fees
- Membership fees
- License, permit, special use, or event fees
- Payment for goods and services (including entrance fees)
- Sponsorship
- Donations
- Other:

[] Is your organization responsible for outdoor recreation activities occurring on any of the following types of land:

Check all that apply

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Public federal lands
- Public state lands
- Public municipal lands
- Private lands
- Private lands with public access agreements
- Trail or path networks on private lands
- Trail or path networks on public lands
- Public waterways
- Other:

[] Please select the types of land, park, open space, etc. your agency/organization is responsible for managing:

Check all that apply

Please choose **all** that apply:

- Neighborhood or community parks
- Special use parks (dog parks, skate or bike parks, playgrounds, etc.)
- State parks
- Wildlife management areas
- Open lands (open space, natural areas, mountain areas)
- Conservation or access easements
- Federal lands (national forests, national parks, national wildlife refuges, etc.)
- Regional or local trails and/or greenways
- Outdoor sports facilities (baseball fields, soccer fields, pools, etc.)
- Beaches/Outdoor swim areas
- Boating/fishing access points
- Other:

Outdoor Recreation Activities

[] Please select the trail/street/road activities that your organization currently provides and/or supports.

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

Check if provided/supported by your organization in the past year

Walking	<input type="radio"/>
Interpretive walking/hiking	<input type="radio"/>
Jogging/Running	<input type="radio"/>
Trail running	<input type="radio"/>
Day hiking	<input type="radio"/>
Off trail hiking/bushwhacking	<input type="radio"/>
Backpacking	<input type="radio"/>
Horseback riding	<input type="radio"/>
Road or gravel biking	<input type="radio"/>
Mountain biking	<input type="radio"/>
Downhill mountain biking	<input type="radio"/>
E-Biking	<input type="radio"/>
ATV riding	<input type="radio"/>
Other Off-Highway Vehicle riding	<input type="radio"/>

Check if provided/supported by your organization in the past year

Scenic driving	<input type="radio"/>
Inline/Roller skate, skateboarding	<input type="radio"/>

[]

Please select the water-based activities your organization currently provides and/or supports.

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

Check if provided/supported by your organization in the past year

Swimming (outdoors, natural area)	<input type="radio"/>
Swimming (outdoors, pool facility)	<input type="radio"/>
Motor boating (including related activities, e.g. water skiing)	<input type="radio"/>
Canoeing/Kayaking/Row Boating	<input type="radio"/>
Diving/Snorkeling	<input type="radio"/>
Sailing	<input type="radio"/>
Stand Up Paddle Boarding	<input type="radio"/>
Visit Lakes/Rivers/Ponds	<input type="radio"/>
Fly Fishing	<input type="radio"/>
Spin/Bait Fishing	<input type="radio"/>

[]

Please select the winter activities your organization currently provides and/or supports.

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

Check if provided/supported by your organization in the past year

Downhill Skiing/Snowboarding	<input type="radio"/>
Sledding/Tubing	<input type="radio"/>
Cross-country Skiing (on groomed trails)	<input type="radio"/>
Snowshoeing	<input type="radio"/>
Backcountry Skiing/Snowboarding	<input type="radio"/>
Ice skating (outdoors)	<input type="radio"/>
Snowmobiling	<input type="radio"/>
Ice climbing	<input type="radio"/>
Fat biking	<input type="radio"/>
Ice fishing	<input type="radio"/>

[]

Please select the wildlife-related activities your organization currently provides and/or supports.

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

Check if provided/supported by your organization in the past year

Hunting (big & small game)	<input type="radio"/>
Waterfowl Hunting	<input type="radio"/>
Trapping	<input type="radio"/>
Bird Watching	<input type="radio"/>
Tracking	<input type="radio"/>
Wildlife Watching	<input type="radio"/>

[]

Please select the sport activities your organization currently provides and/or supports.

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

Check if provided/supported by your organization in the past year

Adaptive Sports	<input type="radio"/>
Shooting Sports (target, skeet, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>
Golf	<input type="radio"/>
Baseball/Softball	<input type="radio"/>
Basketball (outdoors)	<input type="radio"/>
Lacrosse/Soccer/Football	<input type="radio"/>
Volleyball (outdoors)	<input type="radio"/>
Ultimate Frisbee	<input type="radio"/>
Disc Golf	<input type="radio"/>

[]

Please select the outdoor activities your organization currently provides and/or supports.

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

Check if provided/supported by your organization in the past year

Tent camping	<input type="radio"/>
RV camping	<input type="radio"/>
Picnicking	<input type="radio"/>
Playground	<input type="radio"/>
Visiting Nature Centers	<input type="radio"/>
Visiting scenic Viewpoints	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor Photography	<input type="radio"/>
Night Sky Viewing	<input type="radio"/>
Attending Outdoor Education Program/Activity (e.g. campfire program, guided hike)	<input type="radio"/>
Caving/Spelunking	<input type="radio"/>
Foraging/Gathering (e.g. berries, plants)	<input type="radio"/>
Rock climbing	<input type="radio"/>

Check if provided/supported by your organization in the past year

Nature study	<input type="radio"/>
Orienteering, Geocaching	<input type="radio"/>
Community Gardening	<input type="radio"/>

[] Please list any other outdoor recreational activities your organization provided/supported during the past 12 months in Vermont:

Please write your answer here:

[] Does your organization track visitation or participation data for any of your users, clients, or members?

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes, for all recreation activities
- Yes, for some recreation activities
- No
- Not applicable to my organization

[] What metrics does your organization collect to track visitation/participation?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes, for all recreation activities' or 'Yes, for some recreation activities' at question '19 [Q15Participation]' (Does your organization track visitation or participation data for any of your users, clients, or members?)

Please write your answer here:

Examples of metrics include (but are not limited to) annual members, trail or path counts, day use visits, event participants, registrations, licenses or permits sold, etc.

[] Could the visitation or participation data that your organization collects be made available to the SCORP Team?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Yes, for all recreation activities' or 'Yes, for some recreation activities' at question '19 [Q15Participation]' (Does your organization track visitation or participation data for any of your users, clients, or members?)

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
- No

Benefits & Challenges of Providing Outdoor Recreation

[]

How much do you agree that the outdoor recreation opportunities your organization provides or supports deliver the following benefits to the public?

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Not applicable
Physical health & wellness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mental health & wellness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quiet/solitude/contemplation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Safe places for youth and families to play	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ecological conservation and protection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historical and cultural heritage preservation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor and nature education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sense of adventure/exploration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sense of accomplishment/achievement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community, social networks, and social interaction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community livability and sense of place	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community economic development and vitality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

[]

If there are other public benefits your organization provides or supports via outdoor recreation, please explain:

Please write your answer here:

[]
How significant are the following management challenges to your organization's ability to provide or support access to outdoor recreation?

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Not significant	Slightly significant	Moderately significant	Very significant	Not applicable
Year-to-year stability of organization's budget	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Limited resources to fund organization's budget	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Liability and risk management concerns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Managing conflicts between user groups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintaining facilities and infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coordination with other recreation entities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Limited capacity to serve increased demand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vandalism or damage to infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Limited access to public lands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Difficulty navigating policies and regulations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

[]

If there are other management challenges that impact your organization's ability to provide or support access to outdoor recreation, please explain:

Please write your answer here:

[] How significant are the following challenges to your organization's ability to provide or support access to outdoor recreation?

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Not Significant	Slightly Significant	Moderately Significant	Very Significant	No applicable
Limited ability to offer interpretive/outdoor recreation programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Limited ability to access facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Limited ability to access public lands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Limited ability to access private lands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Limited ability to offer access to recreation opportunities for people of all physical and cognitive abilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of capacity to maintain visitor/recreator safety	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of capacity to enforce responsible use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Not Significant	Slightly Significant	Moderately Significant	Very Significant	No applicable
Lack of resources to provide public information about facilities and programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of resources to provide adequate trail and interpretative signage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of capacity to address trail connectivity issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of capacity to assess visitor experiences and usage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If there are other challenges to your organization's ability to provide or support access to outdoor recreation, please explain:

Please write your answer here:

Does your organization have a formal inclusion policy that ensures community members and visitors of all backgrounds and abilities can access and enjoy outdoor recreation activities?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Yes
 No

Does your organization provide or support access to outdoor recreation to any of the following groups?

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Yes	Uncertain	No
Youth (under 18 years of age)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Older adults (65+ years of age)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Not Applicable
Conservation of natural resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Private-public partnerships and collaboration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Supporting community, non-profit organizations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Supporting the organizations that build/maintain much of VT's outdoor recreation infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Connecting my employees to the stewardship/maintenance of VT's outdoor recreation infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

[] Which of the following best describes your business?

Only answer this question if the following conditions are met:

Answer was 'Private Business' at question '1 [Q1Org]' (Please indicate which description best represents the entity for which you are responding:)

Choose one of the following answers

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- Guide services provider
- Retail gear supplier
- Rental gear supplier
- Recreation facility owner/operator
- Other

Priorities & Needs

[]
Over the next five years, how important are each of the following priorities to your organization?

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Essential
Increasing funding available for organizational capacity building	<input type="radio"/>				

	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Essential
Expanding the amount of local parks available for outdoor recreation	<input type="radio"/>				
Expanding the amount of backcountry available for outdoor recreation	<input type="radio"/>				
Expanding the amount of neighborhood, community, or special use parks (playgrounds, dog parks, pump tracks, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>				
Obtaining access easements, trail easements, or rights of way	<input type="radio"/>				
Developing team sports facilities	<input type="radio"/>				
Expanding opportunities for water-based recreation	<input type="radio"/>				
Expanding opportunities for hunting or fishing	<input type="radio"/>				
Expanding access to local and regional trail systems	<input type="radio"/>				
Developing local agriculture (community gardens)	<input type="radio"/>				
Improving outdoor interpretative/educational facilities or programs	<input type="radio"/>				
Developing local services to support tourism/expanded recreation opportunities	<input type="radio"/>				
Advocating for policy to promote and steward outdoor recreation	<input type="radio"/>				
Supporting ecological & conservation goals (e.g. water quality)	<input type="radio"/>				

[]

Drawing on the priorities you identified above, which are your **top three** outdoor recreation priorities for the next five years?

All your answers must be different and you must rank in order.

Please select at most 3 answers

Please number each box in order of preference from 1 to 14

Please choose no more than 3 items.

Increasing funding available for organizational capacity building

Expanding the amount of local parks available for outdoor recreation

Expanding the amount of backcountry open space available for outdoor recreation

Expanding the amount of neighborhood, community, or special use parks (playgrounds, dog parks, pump tracks, etc.)

Obtaining access easements, trail easements, or rights of way

Developing team sports facilities

Expanding opportunities for water-based recreation

Expanding opportunities for hunting or fishing

Expanding access to local and regional trail systems

Developing local agriculture (community gardens)

Improving outdoor interpretative/educational facilities or programs

Developing local services to support tourism/expanded recreation opportunities

Advocating for policy to promote and steward outdoor recreational resources

Supporting ecological & conservation goals (e.g. water quality)

Reflecting on Key Themes

[] Stewardship, Communication, Participation, Community Connections, and Economic Vitality have emerged as key outdoor recreation objectives through a variety of public input activities since the last SCORP

was completed in 2014. How important is each objective for your organization over the next five years?

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Not Important	Slightly Important	Moderately Important	Very Important	Essential
Stewardship: Explore options to manage increasing use/overuse	<input type="radio"/>				
Stewardship: Incorporate climate change adaptation and resiliency strategies in recreation planning and management	<input type="radio"/>				
Stewardship: Support ecological and conservation goals in recreation planning and management	<input type="radio"/>				
Stewardship: Identify and pursue new funds available to organizations and management agencies that directly benefits outdoor recreation and conservation of natural resources.	<input type="radio"/>				
Communication: Ensure clear and transparent processes concerning policies, permitting, and regulations	<input type="radio"/>				

Not Important Slightly Important Moderately Important Very Important Essential

Communication: Facilitate clear and consistent two-way communication between non-profits and public land managers	<input type="radio"/>				
Communication: Provide current and accurate information about public outdoor recreation assets (maps, access, policies, trip planning tools, best management practices, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>				
Participation: Implement diversity and equity strategies to meet the needs of all Vermonters and visitors	<input type="radio"/>				
Participation: Engage new and underserved audiences in outdoor recreation activities	<input type="radio"/>				
Community Connections: Enhance opportunities for community health and wellness through outdoor recreation	<input type="radio"/>				
Community Connections: Strengthen livability of communities through outdoor recreation	<input type="radio"/>				

Not Important Slightly Important Moderately Important Very Important Essential

Economic Vitality: Promote outdoor recreation activities as a driver of economic vitality	<input type="radio"/>				
Economic Vitality: Support outdoor recreation-related businesses	<input type="radio"/>				

[] Are there other, high level outdoor recreation themes or issues not captured in this survey that should be? Please share your thoughts here.

Please write your answer here:

Remaining Thoughts

[] Please share with us a key success from your organization's experience in providing or supporting outdoor recreation.

Please write your answer here:

[]

Please share your vision for the future of your organization as part of Vermont's outdoor recreation sector.

Please write your answer here:

[]

Please elaborate on any responses or share other thoughts related to Vermont's outdoor recreation opportunities.

Please write your answer here:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT!

Contact Amy Kelsey at UVM's Center for Rural Studies, amy.kelsey@uvm.edu (<mailto:amy.kelsey@uvm.edu?subject=SCORP>) or 802-598-4551, or Jessica Savage, Recreation Program Manager at Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Jessica.savage@vermont.gov (<mailto:Jessica.savage@vermont.gov?subject=SCORP>) or 802-249-1230 with questions about the SCORP or this research.

10-21-2019 – 00:00

Submit your survey.

Thank you for completing this survey.

2019 SCORP Provider Survey Results

Q1. Please indicate which description best represents the entity for which you are responding:		
	Frequency	Valid Percent
Nonprofit/Membership Organization	34	47.2
Private Business	10	13.9
City/Town	9	12.5
State Agency	8	11.1
Federal Agency	3	4.2
Regional Planning Commission	3	4.2
Other	2	2.8
Land Trust	2	2.8
Private Institution	1	1.4
Total	72	100

Q2. Please indicate which best represents your current job title:		
	Frequency	Valid Percent
Executive Director	18	25
Other	12	16.7
Program Director	9	12.5
Lands Manager	8	11.1
Owner-Operator	8	11.1
Volunteer	8	11.1
Program Coordinator	7	9.7
Planner	2	2.8
Total	72	100

Q2. Please indicate which best represents your current job title: [Other]
Board member
Board Member
Board President
Chair
Chair of the Board
Chief Finance and Operations Officer
Executive
Parks & Recreation Director
President (Volunteer)
teacher naturalist
Vice President of the Board

Q2. Please provide the name of the organization for which you are responding.	
	Frequency
Missing	3
Audubon Vermont	1
Bird Diva Consulting	2
Brewster River Mtn Bike Club	1
Burlington Parks, Recreation & Waterfront	1
Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront	1
Burton	1
Catamount Trail Association	3
Cedar Ridge Farm	1
Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission	1
Craftsbury Outdoor Center	1
Cross Vermont Trail Association	1
Dummerston Conservation Commission	1
Fellowship of the Wheel	1
FGI RISEVT	1
Figure 8 Riding at Vermont Firefly Farm	1
Friends of Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge	1
Grafton Trails & Outdoor Center	1
Green Mountain Club	2
Green Mountain Draft Horse Association	1
Green Mountain Club, NEK Section And Friends of the Willoughby State forest.	1
Green Mt Appaloosa Horse Club	1
Hinesburg Recreation Department	1
Hinesburg Trails Committee	1
Kingdom Trail Association	1
Lake Champlain Basin Program/Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership	1
Lake Champlain Byway	1
Mad River Path	1
Mad River Riders - Vermont Mountain Bike Association	1
Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge	1
Montpelier Area Mountain Bike Association	1
Newport Parks & Recreation	1
Northern Forest Canoe Trail	1
Northshire area trail systems	1
Revitalizing Waterbury	1
St. Albans Recreation Department	1
Stowe Trails Partnership	1
Strafford Saddlery	1
SWCRPC	1
The Bunkhouse	1
The Nature Conservancy	1
The Trust for Public Land	1

Town of Waterbury	1
TRORC	1
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	1
U.S. Forest Service	1
Umiak Outdoor Outfitters	1
Upper Valley Trails Alliance	1
Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sport	1
Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports	1
Vermont Bikepackers	1
Vermont Department of Forests, parks and Recreation	1
Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department	1
Vermont Fish and Wildlife Conservation Group	1
Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department	1
Vermont Housing & Conservation Board	1
Vermont River Conservancy	1
Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, Inc.	1
VMBA	1
VT Fish & Wildlife Department	1
VT FPR	2
VT FPR District 2	1
Waterbury Area Trails Alliance	2
Windham County Trails Alliance	1
Total	72

Q3. How many of the following employee types are employed at your organization in a typical year? Please only include those with outdoor recreation related duties.		Full-time, 12-month staff members	Full-time, seasonal staff members	Part-time, 12-month staff members	Part-time, seasonal staff members
	Valid	55	40	41	34
	Missing	17	32	31	38
Mean		12.518	14.75	1.329	4.18
Median		2	2.5	1	1
Std. Deviation		53.9278	33.545	1.9862	10.752
Range		400	200	12	60
Minimum		0	0	0	0
Maximum		400	200	12	60

Q4. Does your organization use volunteers?		
	Frequency	Valid Percent
N	14	20
Y	56	80

Total	70	100
-------	----	-----

Q4. Does your organization track volunteer hours?		
	Frequency	Valid Percent
N	24	42.9
Y	32	57.1
Total	56	100

Q4. How many hours of volunteer time does your organization account for in a typical year?		
	Valid	28
	Missing	44
Mean		4725.79
Median		1800
Std. Deviation		7446.211
Range		29998
Minimum		2
Maximum		30000

Q5. Funding Sources	% reporting use
State or regional grants	54.2
Donations	54.2
Membership Fees	44.4
Private foundation grants	43.1
Federal grants	41.7
Payment for goods and services	36.1
Sponsorship	36.1
Program fees	34.7
License, Permit, special use, or event fees	30.6
Municipal budget/taxes	19.4
State budget/taxes	18.1
Federal budget/taxes	12.5

Other Funding Sources Listed (open-end)
Fundraising Events
RPC funds
NMC Hospital
sales

Q6. Land Type	% providing outdoor recreation on this land type
Private lands with public access agreement	59.7

Trail or path networks on public lands	59.7
Public State Lands	52.8
Trail or path networks on private lands	48.6
Public Municipal Lands	45.8
Private Lands	40.3
Public Federal Lands	30.6
Public waterways	25

Q6. Land Type- Other
fair grounds lands
GMHA
Land Trust
Promotion of byway sites
Ski areas
we are responsible for permanently conserving public and private land with excellent recreation

Q7. Type of Land Managed	% of respondents responsible for managing this type of land
Regional or local trails and/or greenways	38.9
Conservation or access easements	36.1
Open lands, open space, natural areas, mountain areas	25
Wildlife Management Areas	16.7
Boating/Fishing access points	15.3
Neighborhood or Community Park	12.5
State Parks	12.5
National forests, national parks, national wildlife refuges, etc.	12.5
Outdoor sports facilities (baseball fields, soccer fields, pools, etc.)	12.5
Beaches/Outdoor swim areas	12.5
Special use parks (dog parks, skate or bike parks, playgrounds, etc.)	11.1

Q7. Type of Land Managed - Other
Indoor riding arena
Mountain bike trails
Mountain biking
No direct mgt authority
none
Our towns operate a number of parks in most of these categories but we don't.

Pool and Cemeteries
state forests
State Forests
Trail networks
we only manage GPS data

Q8. Trail/Street/Road Activities	% of respondent organizations providing/supporting
Walking	66.7
Day Hiking	61.1
Interpretive walking/hiking	55.6
Trail Running	50.0
Mountain Biking	48.6
Jogging/Running	45.8
Road or Gravel Biking	36.1
Horseback Riding	29.2
Backpacking	26.4
Scenic Driving	22.2
Off Trail Hiking/Bushwhacking	20.8
E-Biking	13.9
Downhill Mountain Biking	12.5
Skating	6.9
ATV Riding	5.6
Other Off-Road Vehicle	5.6

Q9. Water-Based Activities	% of respondent organizations providing/supporting
Canoe/Kayak/Rowboat	44.4
Visiting Lakes/Rivers	43.1
Swimming (Natural Area)	36.1
Stand-up Paddle Boarding	27.8
Spin/Bait Fishing	27.8
Fly Fishing	26.4
Swimming (Pool Facility)	13.9
Motor Boating	13.9
Sailing	13.9
Diving/Snorkeling	5.6

Q10. Winter Activities	% of respondent organizations providing/supporting

Snowshoeing	61.1
XC Skiing	37.5
Backcountry Ski/Board	34.7
Fat Biking	34.7
Downhill Ski/Board	19.4
Sledding/Tubing	18.1
Ice Skating	18.1
Snowmobiling	18.1
Ice Fishing	15.3
Ice Climbing	11.1

Q11. Wildlife-Related Activities	% of respondent organizations providing/supporting
Bird Watching	52.8
Wildlife Watching	50.0
Hunting big and small game	31.9
Tracking	30.6
Waterfowl hunting	23.6
Trapping	19.4

Q12. Sport Activities	% of respondent organizations providing/supporting
Adaptive Sports	25
Baseball/Softball	9.7
Disc Golf	9.7
Shooting Sports	8.3
Lacrosse/Soccer/Football	8.3
Ultimate Frisbee	8.3
Volleyball	5.6
Golf	2.8

Q13. Outdoor Activities	% of respondent organizations providing/supporting
Outdoor Ed. Program	54.2
Visiting Scenic Viewpoints	50
Outdoor Photography	45.8
Picnicking	44.4
Nature Study	38.9
Tent Camping	33.3
Visiting Nature Centers	30.6
Night Sky Viewing	30.6

Foraging/Gathering	29.2
Playground	23.6
Orienteering	19.4
RV Camping	15.3
Rock Climbing	12.5
Community Gardening	9.7
Caving/Spelunking	1.4

Q14. Please list any other outdoor recreational activities your organization provided/supported during the past 12 months in Vermont:
accessible trails for persons with physical limitations/disabilities
anything related to horses
bikepacking
Citizen science projects related to the environment
Competitive races for Nordic skiing, mountain biking, fat biking, and trail running. Festivals celebrating fat biking and mountain biking.
Dog sledding and carting
equine events
Events, Tours on Trail and in Managed Zones, Youth Learn to Ski Programs
From May to September, the Mad River Riders host a free weekly guided ride for kids ages 2-16.
Horse ride and drive events, clinics, horse powered field work demos and clinics
I listed the activities that we are directly involved with. Most of these activities are probably provided by our towns, but I couldn't say for sure.
Mounted Archery, Summer Horsemanship Camps, Mounted Police Training, Mounted Parade support
Region Recreation Group in Franklin Grand Isle County meets 3 X year next Meeting Sept 25 2019 530pm Swanton Village Complex
Summer camp, youth sports (track, field hockey, tennis), adult sports (field hockey, pickle ball)
The Byway does not own any assets or lands. We merely promote the activities we noted in the above questions.
Ultra Running; Yoga;
youth track and field

Q15. What metrics does your organization collect to track visitation/participation?
1. # chapter memberships (fee-based, annual renewal.) 2. # website memberships (free, cumulative, required to download route data.) 3. number of riders registered for group ride, "campout ride," or bikepacking "grand depart."
Annual members, day use visits, event participants counts
annual members, day use visits, event participation and registration.
Annual membership, trail counts along Catamount Trail and at some managed backcountry zones.

Annual memberships Day use visits Event participation Volunteer service Youth served through programing
attendance counts at visitor education events, site counts as some back-country locations and trail access points, long distance hiker counts (voluntary), group use permits and counts, annual membership
Attendance for hikes, snowshoeing
Day use visits, event participants, registrations, permits, annual members.
Event participants Trail counts
Event participants, registrations for events, licenses sold
For some recreation programs participants must register online through Civic Rec, which tracks counts
Grant awardees must submit the amount of people participating in events in final reports.
In partnership with FPR we have a trail counter at the Perry Hill Trail Head. We also utilize Trail Forks Ride Logs which captures Strava data and merges it with our trail maps. This is useful to track what trails see the most use, track user trends including growth in ridership, busy times of day and year, average ride distance and times etc. Here is the overview for Waterbury: https://www.trailforks.com/region/waterbury/ridelogstats/
Membership, Tour Participation, Event Participation, Trail Counters
National Visitor Use Monitoring protocol available at https://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum/ Occasional trail counters in cooperation with partners
Our point of sale system to track purchases and geography. And surveys associated with raffles.
park visits - number of visitors trail counters - number of trail users
Per year: total number visitors 85,000 participants in outreach programs 1,400 participants in interpretation programs:200 participants in education programs: 550 Visitor/Nature Center attendance: 25,000 hunting visits 510 Fishing visits 40,000 Trail use: 25,000 Boating visits: 50,000
Registration
Registration (name, age, address, etc.) Sign-in/Sign-out
state park attendance and special use permit and license use information
Strava data, trail counters, trail sits, annual members, event participants.
Surveys - Sign-in sheets -
The Department conducts a variety of phone surveys mainly targeting hunting, fishing, and trapping license holders. I believe there are also non-license holders who are also surveyed.
Trail counters, sign-ins, event participation, membership, volunteer hours and projects
Trail counts along the Catamount Trail and at some managed backcountry zones.
trail or path counts
Trail sign in boxes, members, event participants
trailhead surveys and trailhead register sign-in sheets
Unique individuals Total activities by type and location Individuals by disability
Unique visitors Total activities Total activities by type Total activities by location total activities by disability
Vehicle visits (estimates), hunter and angler visits (estimates)
We have a membership list. We list all participants in our clinics and pass attendance sheets at most of our gatherings

We have limited trail counter data.
We have trail counters at several locations and sign-in logs at others.
We keep eBird lists with the number of participants

Q15. Could the visitation or participation data that your organization collects be made available to the SCORP Team?	Frequency	Valid Percent
Y	31	79.5
N	8	20.5
Total	39	100

Q15. Does your organization track visitation or participation data for any of your users, clients, or members?	Frequency	Valid Percent
Yes, for some recreation activities	28	40.6
No	18	26.1
Yes, for all recreation activities	12	17.4
Not applicable to my organization	11	15.9
Total	69	100
Missing	3	
Total	72	

Q16. How much do you agree that the outdoor recreation opportunities your organization provides or supports deliver the following benefits to the public?	% Providers Responding Strongly Agree
Physical Health and Wellness	84.4
Sense of Adventure/exploration	84.4
Mental Health and Wellness	82.8
Sense of Accomplishment/Achievement	76.6
Quiet, solitude, contemplation	74.6
Community livability and sense of place	71.4
Community, social networks, and social interaction	66.7
Safe places for youth and families to play	64.1
Community economic development and vitality	57.8
Outdoor and Nature Education	56.3
Ecological Conservation and Protection	54.7
Historical and Cultural Preservation	34.4

Q16. If there are other public benefits your organization provides or supports via outdoor recreation, please explain
--

Equitable/affordable access to outdoor recreation through free pedestrian access protected in every conservation easement. - Rural economic development due to compatibility between outdoor recreation and working landscape. - Preservation of Rural traditions/ sustainable acquisition of food/meat through hunting.
aesthetic benefits of undeveloped forestlands, mountains, waters, etc.
Contribution to citizen science focused on birds & biodiversity through eBird & iNaturalist. This data has the potential to benefit specific sites and communities. Support to landowners and communities about managing habitat for birds and other wildlife.
I'm not sure what questions will follow about the economy, but MTBing has been the catalyst for dozens of new outdoor-minded businesses in all parts of Vermont. VT's volunteer effort invested in trail building has become VT's great rural equalizer and will remain the bedrock of every outdoor economy discussion going forward. Riding also grows existing businesses. VMBA has a formal partnership with 20+ shops across VT and nearly all of them have added staff, in large part, due to increases in MTBing participation.
Inclusion and Diversity
Inclusion Social Inclusion Veteran support Human Services
Mental and physical therapy for schools. Education and vocational education in Equine science
Outdoor ethics
Outlets for personal growth (learning new skills both physical and social)
Regional Recreation meetings 3x a year gives them the opportunity to share resources, network, we bring in speakers on marketing, gardening, multi-generational activities, kayak and canoe sharing, adaptive recreation, Trail Hub -
Securing permanent access to the public, and permanent protection of land important for recreation.
sense of connection to outdoors/nature
Some of our recreation facilities provide alternatives (biking, walking) to single occupancy vehicle travel for commuting and other trips.
We have been building youth programs including, a weekly after school group and a day camp program offered on days that there is no school (in-service days). Both programs focus around outdoor recreation to provide more opportunities for involvement. In addition, we offer 6 weeks of Mountain Bike camps during the summer.

We strongly believe that WATA hits the trifecta: health and wellness, community/economic development and conservation. Over the past four years we have largely focused on transforming Perry Hill from a rogue network to one of the top networks in the state that serves a wide range of users. Our Pump Track, and Trails like S'mores and the Little River Network have provided opportunities for families and new riders to hone their skills. Reroutes on Disney land created a unique riding experience that helps riders transition from "flow trails" to more natural rooty and rocky trails. Our Trails Joes and Burning Spear are widely regarded as some of the top in the state and attract visitors from all over the east coast and Canada. Continuing to build upon this progression will be a major focus of WATA of the coming years. Not simply building the same machine built flow trail over and over again, but creating opportunities that serve all riders, whether they be new to the sport or top-level professionals. Beyond physical infrastructure, we promote stewardship by leading trail days every two weeks throughout the summer. At these trail days we teach people best practices and educate them on what goes into building and maintaining a thoughtful network. We have been consistently complemented that our trail days are some of the best run trail days in New England. With a focus on education, and skills development. This better connects users not only to the trail network but the surrounding forest and natural resources as they understand why a trail is laid out the way it is to protect resources. Through our community partnerships, we also aim to directly tie our world-class trails to our historic downtown. We work closely with local businesses throughout the year to host events in town to turn out trail users at local businesses. Our marquis event the Annual Gravel Grinder attracts 400 riders to town in the quiet spring season. It also raises roughly \$25,000 per year we are able to invest back into the trails.

When on an excursion, bikepackers spend \$15-50/day on food at general stores.

Q17. How significant are the following management challenges to your organization's ability to provide or support access to outdoor recreation?	% respondents reporting moderately or very significant
Limited resources to fund organization's budget	77.7
Year to year stability of organization's budget	67.7
Limited capacity to serve increased demand	64.5
Maintaining facilities and infrastructure	62.9
Liability and risk management concerns	47.6
Coordination with other recreation entities	42.8
Limited access to public lands	41.9
Difficulty navigating policies and regulations	37.1
Managing conflicts between user groups	33.9
Vandalism or damage to infrastructure	21.4

Q17. If there are other management challenges that impact your organization's ability to provide or support access to outdoor recreation, please explain:

To emphasize 'Difficulty navigating policies and regulations' - There needs to be an alternative oversight review process from trails that is not ACT250. The majority of trails in VT are on private land and private landowners do not want ACT250 jurisdiction on their property. This will deter outdoor recreation, trails, and the economic and health impacts that coincide with these in the state of Vermont.

The cost of managing the permitting process through the State is difficult for a volunteer run non-profit organization which is trying to build non-motorized recreational trails for public use.
Physical and sensory accessibility
Permitting process for use of state lands and wildlife management areas is a bit clunky & has the potential to limit access due to the cost. For a single guide like me, it would be great to pay an annual guide fee for access to these areas rather than applying each time I would like to guide a trip to a state-owned site.
Perhaps our biggest challenge is encouraging a low income population to become involved in recreation. It seems that the long-term cost of participation in many sports (mountain biking & skiing specifically) is expensive and therefore local families do not have the extra resources of time & money to be involved.
Not clear what types of permits, etc. I need as a bird guide in Vermont i.e. insurance, guide certification, permitting to use state/federal lands. I've received different information from different people in different state departments, none of it clear about what I need as a guide.
No clear timelines for decisions regarding trail planning from the State or FPR. This makes funding and land use planning very difficult, if not impossible.
Increasing costs to rent appropriate facilities in which to hold events that can turn a profit.
Increased recreational usage leading to greater demands and impacts on public lands and facilities
I think it's important to observe the nuanced intersection between "challenges with maintaining facilities and infrastructure" and groups' attempts to gain more access to public land as a means to disperse use. Please don't allow a response of "significant" as an indicator that groups can't "handle" more trails.
Hiring a seasonal workforce has been an increasing challenge.
Greatest challenge is that there are so many different organizations / land managers involved. Hard to provide a seamless program or cohesive identity to visiting traveler. Also, some towns and land management organizations promote their attractions/lands to tourists while others are a little more reticent.
Grant funding availability - our RPC works on on-the-ground outdoor recreation projects as funding allows although we support access consistently through municipal planning efforts.
Demand for funding for conservation easements exceeds available funds.
Accessibility and usability by diverse user groups and abilities
ability to manage type and volume of visitation in some popular locations

1) Clear Process for larger projects - We have a very clear process that helps to move forward smaller projects such as re-routes or single short trails. But it is difficult to move forward larger projects. Such as connectors, or expanding networks to meet user demand. We see WATA as a partner to help address to a problem the state faces. In a relatively short amount of time completely new user group as exploded. While Biking was once a fringe group, it now rivals that of hiking, or skiing as far as interest and how it is being marketed. The state currently doesn't have the infrastructure to meet the demand or the specialized expertise in what this new user group is looking for. We hope that we can develop a clear process that leverages both FPRs extensive knowledge on sound natural resource management, with our resources (money, volunteers + expertise on mountain biking specifically) to meet this growing demand. 2) Timber Harvesting - Mad River Valley to Stowe represent a massive recreation corridor. Between locals, regular visitors from Burlington, and out of state visitors, it is a huge destination. However, huge swaths of the Mount Mansfield State Forest and Camel's Hump State Forest have been closed off to new trail development due to timber harvesting. WATA strongly maintains that timber harvesting and mountain bike trails are ideal shared uses to make our working landscape more productive and keep trails out of environmentally sensitive areas. We don't have to look far to see the proof this works. Much of KingdomTrails network is on land that is actively managed for timber harvesting. Despite this, they have never once lost a trail to a harvest. WATA strongly advocates that land dedicated for timber harvesting be also opened up for recreation uses. We feel with thoughtful planning this is an ideal use of the land that is a win-win. 3) Winter Access - Perry Hill is used by hundreds of users per month who snowshoe, Nordic ski, run, dog walk, and even Fat Bike. It is a vital community resource. We strongly advocate it should be officially opened up for managed winter use after hunting season concludes until the spring thaw. This will greatly improve the user experience and safety as well as provide access to this vital community resource.

Q18. How significant are the following challenges to your organization's ability to provide or support access to outdoor recreation?

Challenge	% respondents reporting moderately or very significant
Limited ability to offer access to recreation opportunities for people of all physical and cognitive abilities	50.8
Lack of capacity to address trail connectivity issues	50.8
Limited ability to access private lands	44.3
Lack of resources to provide adequate trail and interpretive signage	44.3
Lack of capacity to assess visitor experiences and usage	44.3
Lack of capacity to enforce responsible use	40
Limited ability to access public lands	36.1
Lack of resources to provide public information about facilities and programs	33.9
Limited ability to offer interpretive/outdoor recreation programs	26.3
Limited ability to access facilities	25.4
Lack of capacity to maintain visitor/recreator safety	13.1

Q18. If there are other challenges to your organization's ability to provide or support access to outdoor recreation, please explain:
The sport of bikepacking is gaining popularity in the East. The single biggest barrier for riders to adopt the sport of bikepacking in Vermont is finding places to camp. A bikepacker camp is very low-impact. Often there is no fire. The current infrastructure of state parks seems favored towards car-camping, which is more resource-intensive than bikepacker camping.
Please see above - Connectivity is likely going to be something that you hear a lot of about. We are keen to address this, not only connecting networks, but connecting communities to networks. Particularly larger projects that cross different kinds of parcels (State Park, State forest, etc.) it is challenging to figure out the best process to move forward a project.
Parking access can sometimes be a challenge due to lack of space or because the lot is not plowed during the wintertime.
It's interesting - when on the TAC and helping with this survey, I didn't see the confusion that some may have regarding the word "capacity." VMBA has office capacity issues - not chapter capacity issues. The chapters have public land manager relationship and access issues. The 3rd item on the above list is a big deal for our most productive, organized and capable chapters. (<i>limited capacity to access public lands</i>)
It is possible that all of the above are issues for our Town's on their facilities but I don't know that for sure. I do know some of our town's lack the resources (money, staff, site control, etc.) to establish trail networks on private land for strictly recreational purposes and/or safe ways for people to get around without cars (examples include: kids biking to school in Westford, alternative ways for folks to get from Richmond Village to the Park and Ride without a car, alternative to biking on Route 7 in Milton, private land networks in Underhill, a way to bike from Essex to Burlington without being on Route 15, etc.). There seems to be great interest in expanding our off road trail networks for both in town, cross town and regional connections.
Historical and Conservation easements on our property are a barrier to offering more public access.
Federal Highway Administration ran the National Scenic Byway program from late 1990s through Federal Fiscal Year 2012. Good flurry of grants available for brochures, interp signage, portable toilet shelters, etc. Obama administration and Congress defunded NSB grant program (and also closed NS Byways Resource Center which used to organize trainings, conferences, etc.). Regional Planning Commissions still provide some admin support for VT's ten Byways, maintain byway websites (e.g. www.lakechamplainbyway.com) and FB pages but other than that there is no funding to update brochures or maintain or build new amenities to serve travelers.

PQ19. Does your organization have a formal inclusion policy that ensures community members and visitors of all backgrounds and abilities can access and enjoy outdoor recreation activities?	Frequency	Valid Percent
No	33	55.9
Yes	26	44.1
Total	59	100
Missing	13	
Total	72	

Q20. Does your organization provide or support access to outdoor recreation to:	Yes	Uncertain	No

Youth (under 18 years of age)	90.0	8.3	1.7
Older adults (65+ years of age)	88.3	6.7	5.0
Individuals with low-moderate incomes	83.3	11.7	5.0
Members of multicultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds	83.3	13.3	3.3
Members of LGBTQ communities	80.0	16.7	3.3
Members of New American communities	76.7	18.3	5.0
Individuals with physical disabilities	66.7	18.3	15.0
Individuals with cognitive disabilities	58.3	26.7	15.0

Q21. How significant are the following challenges to your organization in providing/supporting inclusive outdoor recreation opportunities for community members and visitors of all backgrounds and abilities?	% responding moderately or very significant
Insufficient funding resources	70.5
Inadequate staffing capacity	65.5
Lack of sufficient facilities	47.6
Lack of appropriate equipment	34.4
Lack of staff training	31.1

Q22. Private Enterprise Questions, directed only to respondents (n=8) engaged in private enterprise.

PQ22. As a private enterprise in Vermont's outdoor recreation business sector, how much do you agree that the following issues and concerns are important for your business? [Public access to public lands for recreation]	Frequency	Valid Percent
Neither agree nor disagree	1	12.5
Somewhat agree	2	25
Strongly agree	5	62.5
Total	8	100
Missing	64	
Total	72	

PQ22. As a private enterprise in Vermont's outdoor recreation business sector, how much do you agree that the following issues and concerns are important for your business? [Public access to private lands for recreation]	Frequency	Valid Percent
Somewhat disagree	1	12.5
Neither agree nor disagree	2	25
Strongly agree	5	62.5
Total	8	100
Missing	64	
Total	72	

PQ22. As a private enterprise in Vermont's outdoor recreation business sector, how much do you agree that the following issues and concerns are important for your business? [Visitor safety, liability and risk management]	Frequency	Valid Percent
Somewhat agree	4	50
Strongly agree	4	50
Total	8	100
Missing	64	
Total	72	

PQ22. As a private enterprise in Vermont's outdoor recreation business sector, how much do you agree that the following issues and concerns are important for your business? [Conservation of natural resources]	Frequency	Valid Percent
Somewhat agree	2	25
Strongly agree	6	75
Total	8	100
Missing	64	
Total	72	

PQ22. As a private enterprise in Vermont's outdoor recreation business sector, how much do you agree that the following issues and concerns are important for your business? [Private-public partnerships and collaboration]	Frequency	Valid Percent
Neither agree nor disagree	1	12.5
Somewhat agree	1	12.5
Strongly agree	6	75
Total	8	100
Missing	64	
Total	72	

PQ22. As a private enterprise in Vermont's outdoor recreation business sector, how much do you agree that the following issues and concerns are important for your business? [Supporting community, non-profit organizations]	Frequency	Valid Percent
Neither agree nor disagree	1	12.5
Somewhat agree	3	37.5
Strongly agree	4	50
Total	8	100
Missing	64	
Total	72	

PQ22. As a private enterprise in Vermont's outdoor recreation business sector, how much do you agree that the following issues and concerns are important for your business? [Supporting the organizations that build/maintain much of VT's outdoor recreation infrastructure]	Frequency	Valid Percent
Neither agree nor disagree	1	12.5
Somewhat agree	1	12.5
Strongly agree	6	75
Total	8	100
Missing	64	
Total	72	

PQ22. As a private enterprise in Vermont's outdoor recreation business sector, how much do you agree that the following issues and concerns are important for your business? [Connecting my employees to the stewardship/maintenance of VT's outdoor recreation infrastructure]	Frequency	Valid Percent
Neither agree nor disagree	2	25
Somewhat agree	3	37.5
Strongly agree	3	37.5
Total	8	100
Missing	64	
Total	72	

Q23. Over the next five years, how important are each of the following priorities to your organization?	% Providers responding Essential or Very Important
Increasing funding available for organizational capacity building	63.3
Supporting ecological and conservation goals (e.g. water quality)	62.1
Advocating for policy to promote and steward outdoor recreation	54.2
Expanding access to local and regional trail systems*	48.3
Obtaining access easements, trail easements, or rights of way	47.5
Developing local services to support tourism/expand recreation opportunities	32.2
Expanding the amount of backcountry available for outdoor recreation	28.1
Expanding the amount of local parks available for outdoor recreation	22.0
Improving outdoor interpretive/educational facilities or programs	19.0
Expanding the amount of neighborhood, community, or special use parks (playgrounds, dog parks, pump tracks, etc.)	15.3
Expanding opportunities for water-based recreation	15.3
Expanding opportunities for hunting or fishing	10.5
Developing local agriculture (community gardens)	3.4
Developing team sports facilities	3.3

Q23. Drawing on the priorities you identified above, which are your top three outdoor recreation priorities for the next five years?	Total count of respondents who ranked each item one of their top 3 priorities.	Valid Percent n=60
Increasing funding available for organizational capacity building	34	56.67%
Supporting ecological & conservation goals (e.g. water quality)	23	38.33%
Advocating for policy to promote and steward outdoor recreational resources	22	36.67%
Obtaining access easements, trail easements, or rights of way	22	36.67%
Expanding access to local and regional trail systems	20	33.33%
Developing local services to support tourism/expanded recreation opportunities	15	25.00%
Expanding the amount of backcountry open space available for outdoor recreation	14	23.33%
Expanding opportunities for water-based recreation	7	11.67%
Improving outdoor interpretative/educational facilities or programs	7	11.67%
Developing team sports facilities	6	10.00%
Expanding opportunities for hunting or fishing	5	8.33%
Developing local agriculture (community gardens)	2	3.33%
Expanding the amount of local parks available for outdoor recreation	2	3.33%
Expanding the amount of neighborhood, community, or special use parks (playgrounds, dog parks, pump tracks, etc.)	2	3.33%

Q24. Stewardship, Communication, Participation, Community Connections, and Economic Vitality have emerged as key outdoor recreation objectives through a variety of public input activities since the last SCORP was completed in 2014. How important is each objective for your organization over the next five years?	% of Providers Responding Essential or Very Important
Stewardship: Support ecological and conservation goals in recreation planning and management	72.4
Stewardship: Identify and pursue new funds available to organizations and management agencies that directly benefits outdoor recreation and conservation of natural resources	70.2
Participation: Engage new and underserved audiences in outdoor recreation activities	69.0
Economic Vitality: Promote outdoor recreation activities as a driver of economic vitality	67.2
Communication: Provide current and accurate information about public outdoor recreation assets (maps, access, policies, trip planning tools, best management practices, etc.)	66.7
Community Connections: Enhance opportunities for community health and wellness through outdoor recreation	65.5

Stewardship: Incorporate climate change adaptation and resiliency strategies in recreation planning and management]	64.9
Communication: Ensure clear and transparent processes concerning policies, permitting, and regulations	63.8
Community Connections: Strengthen livability of communities through outdoor recreation	63.8
Stewardship: Explore options to manage increasing use/overuse	62.1
Participation: Implement diversity and equity strategies to meet the needs of all Vermonters	57.9
Communication: Facilitate clear and consistent two-way communication between non-profits and public land managers	52.6
Economic Vitality: Support outdoor recreation-related businesses	51.7

Q24. Are there other, high level outdoor recreation themes or issues not captured in this survey that should be? Please share your thoughts here.

A top priority needs to be building a proactive partnership with Vermont's active Non-profits. The state is lucky to have such engaged user groups who are willing to take their nights weekends and even days off to help making our state a better place to live. This is something that is unique Vermont. These organizations could be a huge capacity boost in FPR's ability to serve growing user groups such as mountain bikers, and backcountry skiers if appropriately leveraged.

Accessibility.

As the population of Chittenden County and the number of people participating in mountain biking continue to increase, it is imperative that the state breaks down barriers for using both public (state) and private land for multi-use trails. The amount of private land available for multi-use trails continues to shrink in Chittenden County while the population grows. Our best option is to open state lands, such as the Camels Hump State Forest in Huntington, to outdoor recreation such as mountain biking. Furthermore, volunteer orgs such as Fellowship of the Wheel who maintain hundreds of miles of multi-use trails, make this a desirable and healthy place to live, and thereby attract talented workers and drive the economy, need to be considered in town and state budgets. We cannot sustain on our current model. We will run out of both land/trails and the money it takes to maintain those trails and our advocacy efforts. Thank you. Tom Kupfer, president of the Fellowship of the Wheel, a 1,300-member trail advocacy organization serving Chittenden County.

Because this study is driven by Forest Parks and Rec. Most of the survey is oriented towards land trail base recreation. Vermont needs to work harder on protecting and maintaining public access to Vermont's River Trail systems (as well as Lake Champlain).

Concerns over permitting for local pedestrian trails: Act 250 jurisdiction re trails is inconsistent across the state. For many local trails, Act 250 and much state permitting is inappropriate, daunting, and discouraging for those trying to create and maintain community trails. Local trails should be reviewed at the local level, probably by the Development Review Board if it exists in a municipality.

I encourage the FPR leadership team to consider the economy when it comes to outdoor-minded businesses. .COMS' of all types seek to hire and employ people that are recruited, or inspired to stay here, because of access to quality outdoor recreation. Most often - this translates into access to great trails. A local Country Store selling more sandwiches because a new trail was constructed nearby is every bit as much a part of the outdoor economy as Mammut selling another jacket at OGE.

Need to explore potential fees for users (who through no fault of their own) do not currently pay for use of trails, parks, etc. in offseason. E.g. we need a system like Washington-Oregon-Idaho snow park https://www.oregon.gov/odot/dmv/pages/vehicle/sno_park_permits.aspx or simple low-cost annual pass that enables you to park (in small designated areas) during off-season at State Parks or Simple Pass for paying for parking at State Fishing Access to capture fees from non-fishermen who use these Accesses
recruiting and maintaining a volunteer base post baby-boomer generation
Stewardship: develop guidance docs for municipal/non-profit owned lands about "best practices" for outdoor recreation planning that reduces the impact of outdoor recreation on sensitive natural resources and complements the ecological/conservation goals of Vermont Conservation Design.
Support deferred maintenance issues at the neighborhood, municipal level of parks. Many parks are aging and need additional funding to help bring them back to an acceptable level. It is important we don't lose sight of the importance of neighborhood parks in getting youth outdoors.
This could be captured in the climate change piece - acknowledgement of the ability for recreation facilities to help get people out of their cars for most trips which will greatly reduce our energy use (transportation is the biggest energy user in VT).
Vermont has a lot of emerging outdoor recreation opportunities and there is a need for businesses and qualified workers to support the emerging industry. I'd love to see focus on the state level to encourage school systems to integrate more trade-based curriculum at the high school level that include specialized training that is directly relevant to the emerging recreation industry to begin grooming students at the high school level to be prepared and inspired to pursue enterprise that is fueled by the outdoor recreation movement. Not all students are cut out for college, and with the rising cost of post-secondary school the popularity and need for qualified trade workers is rising. Giving students an outlet to explore these opportunities is a great way to fill the emerging need, not to mention reaching a variety of "undeserved audiences" by accessing them directly through the public school system. Programs and funding might go a long way to motivate schools to adjust high school curriculum in a creative and productive new direction... and will help keep students here after graduation if they can see the opportunities and feel they have the skills to take advantage of them.

PQ25. Please share with us a key success from your organization's experience in providing or supporting outdoor recreation.
Broad collaborative partnership between a multitude of recreational user groups
Completion of the Kingdom Heritage land, trail
Completion of a three field recreation area with little to no tax dollars.
Creating more inclusive programs in order to ensure everyone has a chance to participate.
Facilitating discussions among different recreation groups to develop common outdoor recreation goals
Getting hundreds of kids and adults into a healthy and life-changing sport -- mountain biking. Involving the community in healthy outdoor recreation by providing quality multi-use trails, hosting volunteer trail workdays, and free community events.
I am in a niche market, birding. I have had success by breaking down the barriers to participating in birding and bird watching in the state by offering outreach opportunities to build skills, to learn about where to bird in different parts of the state, and I've provided the needed basic equipment, binoculars, for folks to get into birding/bird watching on my trips.

Identifying and then breaking down the barriers to participation in enjoying birds. And this will be true I think for many recreational pursuits, a provider or organization needs the capacity to build relationships in order to change a behavior like getting people outside. Feeling comfortable outside is not natural to everyone so how do we take some of that fear away. Other barriers include the investment in equipment to pursue an outdoor activity. As a small business, I made it a priority to budget for binoculars that my clients can use on walks or other birding excursions. Libraries and conservation commissions are finding ways to provide gear like snowshoes or canoes & kayaks for folks to borrow in order to get them outside. I also talk about the power of place, how unique Vermont is in what it offers in terms of birding and birdwatching. So, an inspiring & empowering message that says this can be for anyone can be very effective when trying to encourage folks to try something new.

One of VHCB's foundational tenets for land conservation for outdoor recreation is that conservation of municipal/non-profit owned lands offer free pedestrian access. We are exploring how we may expand/modify this policy to promote equitable/affordable access for all, recognizing that we are using public funds for land conservation. This baseline tenet feels particularly rewarding as we see the cost of entry to certain types of gear-dependent outdoor recreation increase.

Our commission is dedicated to giving people the information they need to make good decisions about our natural resources into the future. To that end it sponsors monthly public environmental education programs that are popular and well-attended. We have these programs videotaped, they are shown repeatedly on our public TV station and are available through our website. We also have a twice monthly e-newsletter that advertises our programs with a list of 500 people and a website that is filled with information about natural resources in our community. We raise the funds to support intensive environmental education in our public school, provided by the Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center. In addition we provide stewardship for a state park, a town forest and trail system and a property owned by the Nature conservancy. .

Out Key successes following the CDC strategies to ensure we are meeting the needs of our communities

Partnerships have been a key to our success across Vermont, to permanent protection of important recreation resources, such as the recent protection of Catamount Community Forest, which engaged Vermont Land Trust, VHCB, VT ANR through LWCF-Stateside, Town of Williston, and many foundations, donors, outdoor businesses and recreation users.

Providing access to miles of remote trails for horseback riding has attracted guests from many states, including Vermont. Common feedback is that it is rare to find such nice riding in New England. Also using a GPS trail map app (for off-grid use) for Smart phones has helped.

Renovated bike path has increased use Supporting a conservation team in our parks division

Securing easements and purchasing property for greenway corridors to make links among local trails with the ultimate goal of a statewide, four season, interconnected trail network.

Seems that citizens and visitors in our area are eager to receive outdoor recreation as means of achieving economic development. It falls in alignment with what NEKers see as a sustainable method for development that values land stewardship and their rural way of life. In a word where everything seems to generate controversy, pursuing outdoor recreation as a community goal has been surprisingly well received. A relief and encouraging feeling to those of us who are working to pull the ship forward.

Supporting expanding use of Brown OBDS signs for more locations besides State Parks.

<p>The Hinesburg Trails Committee has developed and maintains a network of roughly 30 miles of pedestrian trails on public and private land. Our motto is: Adventures Close to Home. Collaboration with other entities (municipal planning and zoning office, local snowmobile club, local public library, VT Fish & Wildlife, Fellowship of the Wheel, various state and local land trusts).</p>
<p>The Mad River Riders have focused on building beginner and intermediate trails for the last 7 years, in order to increase the accessibility of our trail networks. We went from having 35 members in 2011 to nearly 500 in 2019. Our free weekly kid's rides attract 30-40 kids, plus parents, and would not have been possible without the new beginner and intermediate trails.</p>
<p>The Nature Conservancy has found success in providing recreation opportunities on our conserved lands. Conservation of Vermont's lands and waters is critically important for tourism and outdoor recreation.</p>
<p>This year we were able to invest over \$30,000 back into our trails. The response to the work has been tremendous. We exploded from 700 members to over 1100 members in one year, have been featured in national publications and international brands marketing campaigns. We have new sponsors jump on board, and existing sponsors increase their support. It's clear that when we are able to tackle significant projects the community responds positively. There is a ton of enthusiasm around mountain biking that extend beyond just our ridership in Waterbury. Let's do more!</p>
<p>Through my riding program many young people have developed skills and independence, responsibility and confidence to be successful in college and careers.</p>
<p>Vermont is only second to Alaska in participation rates of wildlife-based outdoor recreation.</p>
<p>We are currently in the beginning stages of creating a trail network in Bellows Falls and working to build community relations which will encourage outdoor recreational opportunities for the community which is mostly low income.</p>
<p>We are currently supporting efforts to study the economic impact of the proposed Vermont Trail and Hut to Hut Network.</p>
<p>We give back to local organizations within our community and support through in-kind contributions--both recreational, sport teams, and non-profits. We believe in these organizations and the benefits of the work they do and of course they are also part of our customer base and we hope to service and expand that customer base. It is very challenging to be an independent retailer in today's marketplace. We offer many programs and services that make it worthwhile to shop locally but we still cannot compete with on-line vendors that often sell the same product for less or can deliver it quickly. Local ties certainly help support the business and if we did more business we in turn could find innovative ways to work with local organizations.</p>
<p>We have 32 years of experience and success as Vermont's only year round provider of accessible outdoor recreation for people of any ability or disability.</p>
<p>We have always been a choice for local schools Winter Sports program. When I first started at the center Nordic skiing was the only sport offered to the schools. Throughout the program we had many students not engaged and lots of time sitting inside. The following year we changed the program and offered skiing, snowshoeing & tubing as options. This has resulted in an increase in individual participation and also an increase in the number of schools that participate in our program. By providing a variety of activities, students of varying athletic abilities have found a way to be active and enjoy themselves.</p>

We have been able to host events that empower Vermonters and bikepackers from out-of-state to use Vermont's existing infrastructure of ancient roads and Class 4 highways to stage multi-day adventures. This is a success because it capitalizes on a resource that the state already has. Last year we hosted a "campout ride" in Windham, VT, with ~16 riders. This year we are hosting a Grand Depart in Montpelier, with >20 riders. Riders will travel on Class 4 highways and dirt roads through Vermont for periods lasting up to 14 days. We have provided detailed maps and resource information to riders so that riders know where camping and resupply points are.

We have built and maintain over 8 miles of mountain bike trails in the Northshire area

We have gained significant support from local business owners while developing paths and trails that connect downtown businesses and link to greater trail networks.

We will soon complete the construction of a one mile long trail along the North Branch of the Winooski River in Elmore and Worcester. This is significant because most of the trail is universally accessible, a rarity along rivers in Vermont. Often, accessing a river requires a steep scramble down a bank. This trail will be accessible for wheelchairs and will have grades that will make it approachable for those with mobility concerns. There are seven cascading waterfalls and swimming holes along the trail, and there are benches and picnic tables.

Without a doubt, the CTA's biggest success has been the completion of the Catamount Trail itself. But it has also been rewarding to be a part of the further expansion of backcountry skiing in the state through the development of managed ski terrain via our chapters in the last five years.

Working with partners and volunteers enables us to have a sustainable recreation program that is responsive to shifting public demands. We could not do it alone!

Year after year, our membership has grown. Since 2013, when we first began, our membership has now tripled in size and we have more folks using the trails than ever before- mountain bikers, trail runners, walkers, hikers. Tourists are coming to our town specifically to utilize the trails and mountain bike, and local businesses are taking notice. Through mostly volunteer efforts, over 35 miles of trails have been built and maintained in our area for the general public to use without cost or fees associated to access.

PQ26. Please share your vision for the future of your organization as part of Vermont's outdoor recreation sector.

A new trail, running east to west across north central Vermont. family friendly recreation for people of all ages and abilities safe travel to school and work for non-motorized commuters convenient location for daily exercise and healthy outdoor activity a permanent greenway for easy local access to the natural world The Cross Vermont Trail will be a 90 mile path connecting towns across the state from Lake Champlain to the Connecticut River - already 30 miles are built and open to the public. The Cross Vermont Trail Association is a formal organization of people who want to help make this trail complete. We are an incorporated nonprofit, 501(c)(3), member based and volunteer driven, with two part time staff members. Our mission is to assist municipalities, recreation groups, and landowners in the creation and management of a four-season, multi-use trail across the state of Vermont for public recreation, alternative transportation, and awareness of our natural and cultural heritage.

An essential partner in planning for outdoor recreation and the outdoor recreation-based economy for this region of the state

<p>Bikepacking is a growing sport across the world. I would like for Vermont Bikepackers to scale sustainably. My vision includes increased public awareness of ancient roads and class 4 highways so that landowners whose land abuts these rights-of-way understand and accept bikepackers as recreators who are adding value to the local economy, are traveling lightly and leaving no trace, and who are genuinely thrilled to be sharing in the natural resources that the landowners call home (or second-home, as the case may be). I would also like to see increased visibility at the ANR and FPR level of bikepacking and bikepacker-camping as legitimate forms of outdoor recreation. I would like to see designated low-maintenance camping areas where bikepackers can safely and securely camp. It means a lot to a bikepacker to have her experience validated by a posted sign, or some other physical marker that tells her that what she is doing (stopping to camp) is safe, permissible, and encouraged.</p>
<p>Continue to provide guests with miles of riding trails, and expanding and adding more trails. Also creating better maps and trail marking.</p>
<p>Creating an expanded. Network of trails that connect with other communities in the region</p>
<p>Economically and environmentally sustainable spaces within the community.</p>
<p>Formalizing the natural trails in our city to encourage more people to explore our parks. Re-introducing outdoor programming beyond sports Enhanced small boat access to Lake Champlain Focused efforts on improving the playgrounds in all of our neighborhood parks</p>
<p>From community paths, to adaptive trails to pro-line level riding our goal is to make Waterbury a premier recreation destination on the east coast. Our Top Three Priorities over the coming years are: 1. Velomont- Connect from the Mad River Valley to Stowe via Singletrack - Connect from Perry Hill to Little River State Park - Connect from Little River State Park to Stowe (In Partnership with Stowe Trails Partnership) 2. Increase options with a focus on sustainable hand-built trails at Perry Hill to disperse traffic and continue to elevate it as a marquis trail network in the region. 3. Work with Vermont State Parks on expanding options at Little River State Park. We view this as a key opportunity for more family-friendly riding, progression and adaptive riding.</p>
<p>The Missisquoi NWR provides outdoor recreation for a variety of interests - from waterfowl hunting to bird watching and just taking a quiet stroll on a walking trail. Whether you hunt, fish, paddle or hike you can find an outdoor recreational experience at Missisquoi NWR.</p>
<p>I am hoping to expand my Therapeutic Riding Program and develop a Vocational/Co-Op work program for school age Children for Equestrian Science</p>
<p>I would like to see birding tourism grow in Vermont and be a vital part of attracting new & return visitors to the state.</p>
<p>In the future, we see The Trust for Public Land as a vital partner to bring about permanent protection of the best areas for recreation, whether its backcountry skiing, mountain biking, and hiking in the Green Mountains, to Community Forests, to protecting the Catamount Trail and the last sections of the Long Trail.</p>
<p>Increase collaboration across town-state-federal boundaries to address recreation supply and demand holistically across public lands.</p>

Increases in user demand are putting a lot of pressure on not only our trails but all trails in the area and in Vermont. More trails are needed to help keep up with demand, decrease the pressure on the volunteers that maintain the trails and also to help drive the State's tourism ambitions. We hope to continue our partnership with FPR and better align our organizations to grow a culture of trail stewardship in Vermont. Our main vision is to connect all of our existing trail pods in our area, and also connect to surrounding towns and trail organizations. Based on our membership survey, connector trails are the main goal- longer rides and hikes and decreasing the usage of cars in the downtown area to deal with increased traffic. We also are planning on progression trail areas: beginner, intermediate, advanced and pro-line mountain bike trails. Tourists and locals alike are looking for diversity in their trail experiences and having only beginner trails will only get us so far in the outdoor recreation sector. Vermont is primed to offer a recreation destination for locals and out of state/out of country visitors. We hope to capture this momentum by creating a trail system that fits these needs.

Local Recreation - Our mission is to develop diverse, affordable, recreational programs and activities for the community, in a safe and welcoming environment. RiseVT is a community initiative to embrace healthy lifestyles. RiseVT motivates, inspires and works with individuals and families to help them make small changes in their lives that will have a big impact on their health. In addition, RiseVT has strategically placed Health Advocates around Franklin and Grand Isle to work with schools, businesses and municipalities to wrap around our residents to create an environment where the healthy choice is the easiest choice.

Newport City is working to promote itself as an outdoor recreation friendly community as a hub for residents of the towns that surround us AND to visitors as part of the NEK that's emerging as a regional destination. We believe that recreation is part of a healthy and positive lifestyle and our goal is to encourage family cohesiveness through engaging programs and beautiful places to play.

Our vision is to continue to support programs and outdoor recreational areas in our community that will insure that these resources are available to people now and in the future.

Our vision is to grow our organization and expand educational offerings in conjunction with other local organizations. We have a fantastic trail network connecting to a scenic town center and existing infrastructure to become a leader in outdoor recreation education opportunities.

The Byways (supported by RPCs) can provide good info about a lot of places that get overlooked. State Parks are great but there are lots of municipal parks and trails as well as lands managed by land trusts out there that need to be promoted.

The CTA is committed to working towards sustainable and equitable access to Vermont's backcountry through work on trails and terrain, conservation, and youth programs focused on introducing youth of all incomes and backgrounds to skiing and the backcountry.

The Green Mountain Club is founder and maintainer of Vermont's Long Trail, one of the first long-distance hiking trails in the country. The NEKGMC Section focuses on the mountains and trails of Northeast Kingdom region – leading hikes, maintaining trails and educating the public. Provide, and preserve hiking opportunities as well as support land and wildlife stewardship in the Northeast Kingdom.

The Long Trail system is a well maintained, sustainably built trail system; that provides a desirable hiking experience to all humans at no cost and is supported by a volunteer-driven professionally staffed organization that manages humans as part of the natural landscape. The organization is supported financially and through volunteerism by the trail using public. Every person that wants to use the trail system will be able to find a way for it to play a part in their life.

<p>The mission of the Hinesburg Trails Committee is to create an interconnected network of sidewalks, unpaved roads, and pedestrian trails throughout our town. Most of our existing trails are located on public land of one type or another. The challenge (and our vision) is to better connect the trail networks located on public land with trails crossing private land.</p>
<p>The Nature Conservancy plays a unique role in helping to conserve the lands and waters that recreation depends on in Vermont. We can provide walking, hiking, birdwatching and hunting opportunities for the public in some of these beautiful and important areas.</p>
<p>To continue to increase access and usability of our recreational assets.</p>
<p>To continue to maintain and advocate for trails, but to expand the number of trails, trail connectivity, and introduce more people of all backgrounds to the sport of mountain biking.</p>
<p>VRC will continue to protect special places along Vermont's rivers for fishing, swimming, boating, camping and more. VRC protects public access such that people from all economic backgrounds can enjoy all that our rivers have to offer.</p>
<p>We are an integral member of the VT trail community, with federal, state, town and private land access throughout the Mad River Valley, and plans to connect our network to our neighbor chapters. We are working to link the Mad River Valley's communities and special places with healthy, fun, sustainable, low impact, accessible trails for both recreation and commuting. We believe that excellent trails help make the Mad River Valley and Vermont a great place to live and to visit.</p>
<p>We hope to be able to expand our organizational capacity support and viability business planning services to outdoor recreation organizations; this expansion will depend on access to funds. We hope to further refine our outdoor recreation policies to provide clearer guidance to our conservation partners about how VHC's goals for outdoor recreation will be advanced through land conservation grants. This policy work will continue in parallel to SCORP planning efforts, with a hope to complete this work by the end of 2019.</p>
<p>We hope to grow our base of support and work with other local organizations to create and map trails to link together the trails throughout Windham County.</p>
<p>We plan to promote recreation and a healthy natural environment as regional assets, and to plan development in a way that will ensure that those assets are sustainable.</p>
<p>We want to continue to grow, build partnerships, provide access and develop two new adaptive recreation facilities.</p>
<p>We will become more inclusive of multiple outdoor recreation activities beyond those of hunting, fishing, and trapping. This is not to say that all lands will be open to all outdoor activities, but we need to become more inclusive and less exclusive.</p>
<p>While we continue to connect trails and conserve trail networks that engage people with the outdoors and the natural world, we will take it a step further to more actively connect with their surrounding ecosystem via programming and activities for all ages. We plan to collaborate with partners more than ever, and we will expand our toolbox to help accomplish our mission.</p>

PQ27. Please elaborate on any responses or share other thoughts related to Vermont's outdoor recreation opportunities.

A five-year SCORP process should include a commitment from the state to put the reflective number of miles of trail on state land. This will help keep trail expansion expectations in line with a representative plan and help trail groups keep their local communities involved in fundraising for new trail projects. Forestry and Recreation should go hand-in-hand in Vermont. There are hundreds of examples from around the world and in the US and Vermont where recreation and forestry goals are not at odds but work together. Vermont should do the same. The state needs to effectively advocate for legislative changes to Act 250 that encourage private landowners to partner with trail-based nonprofits, decrease the over regulatory, expensive and inappropriate permitting process. If we want an outdoor economy, then we need the support of private landowners.

As noted earlier, please don't forget our neighborhood parks. The focus seems to be on larger trail networks outside of municipalities. We need to be able to have safe, well-maintained places that people can be outdoors on public land within 10 minutes of their home.

Can't think of any...

Feedback on the survey: Some of the bullets earlier in the survey (re: activities that your organization provides/supports) wouldn't allow us to "unselect" the bullet if we accidentally chose something that was irrelevant.... so we learned not to be too trigger happy. :-)

Horse sports require land. Losing land is a threat to the future of some of the horse disciplines. We are also falling behind the level of other areas within select sports in terms of services and show quality and no longer draw competitors from the south. Years ago we did draw southern competitors in various sports in order to stay in Vermont during the summer months. That ability benefits the local economy.

I personally am a young-ish person who has recently found a job and moved to Vermont largely because of the strength of outdoor recreation infrastructure. Vermont is growing on me as a place I will very likely call home, and this is due in part to the sense of endless adventure I have living here due to the recreation opportunities. Please continue to prioritize responsible outdoor recreation. You will continue to build community and to attract people who will live here because they want to be here.

I would like to see the state identify niche recreation opportunities like birding/bird watching and look at ways to promote it to both residents and tourists. Then come up with strategies on how to connect guides with businesses. I think birding tourism is an untapped opportunity in Vermont, and yet, we're rich in bird species and wonderfully scenic places to see and experience birds.

In addition to providing clear access and wayfinding on the ground, we must ensure that digital wayfinding is accessible. If possible, we need to maintain online consistency for trails mapping. Additionally, we must promote a positive light on hunting and fishing as outdoors activities and combat the opposition that exists to the Vermont hunting tradition.

Our vision is to have Missisquoi NWR fully recognized as an important part of the state's recreational opportunities especially to communities in the northern part of the state. Visitors would come to understand the refuge's conservation goals and purposes and support them. Outdoor enthusiasts would come to the refuge to enjoy the unique habitat and abundant wildlife and see our trails and paddling as truly unique recreational opportunities in the state.

Please do not encumber trail making in the state with regulations like act 250

Please increase funding for multi-use trails and the Vermont Mountain Bike Association. We are already the best return on investment of any outdoor recreation opportunity in Vermont and a relatively small amount of additional support will go a long way to ensure the health and well-being of our citizens, visitors, economy and overall communities.

Thank you for all of your good work and taking the time to listen! Looking forward to continuing to grow our partnership!

Thanks for taking our thoughts into account.

The benefits of Therapeutic Riding are growing immensely but cost the main limiting factor. Federal and State funding are so needed

Through Hinesburg's subdivision regulations we have a mechanism that allows the town to acquire pedestrian easements across private land. Other communities may be interested in creating and taking advantage of a similar regulation if they are not already doing so.

VHCB continues to see a strong need for an outdoor recreation planning toolkit for municipal/non-profit projects to help guide outdoor recreation development that does not adversely impact sensitive natural resources or undermine the goals of Vermont Conservation Design. We see ANR as the appropriate venue for this work to be completed since it can draw on the expertise of both FPR and F&W staff, with the input and support of a technical advisory team. State expertise/guidance on these matters is more likely to be embraced than if the tool were to come from an independent entity. VHCB may be able to support this work, and is open to proposals for how this work could be completed.

We hope that the next SCORP will highlight the importance of conservation efforts to protecting the lands and waters that are critical for outdoor recreation in Vermont, as well as the importance of good stewardship of these resources. Dedicated capacity and funding to support stewardship of this recreation is critical.