



Hampton Beach State Park



Chapter 2: Supply, Usage Patterns, and Expressed Demand

SUPPLY: NEW HAMPSHIRE'S OUTDOOR RECREATION SERVICE PROVIDERS

New Hampshire is fortunate to have a variety of outdoor recreation providers – local municipalities, state and federal land management agencies, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and private landowners and businesses. It is imperative for local, state, and federal governments to work collaboratively with private and quasi-public sector organizations to secure a future where New Hampshire residents live healthier lifestyles, the economic well-being of communities is sustained, and wildlife and natural resources are conserved. These agencies are responsible for providing for both the outdoor recreation needs of the state's 1.3 million residents as well as for the protection and preservation of land and water resources for future generations.

New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation (NHDPR)

A division of the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development, NHDPR oversees 92 properties, including 38 parks, 22 beaches, 2 ski areas, 1,300 campsites, and approximately 8,000 miles of snowmobile and OHRV trails, and manages over 12,000 acres designated as recreation land, not including water surface area. These figures include historic sites.

New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands (NHDFL)

The NHDFL, a division of DRED, protects and promotes the values provided by the states forested resources. Reservations (the term for public lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Resources and Economic Development) total 186,072 acres consisting of 220 properties in 145 towns distributed throughout the state. Reservation sizes range from 0.1 acre for Endicott Rock Historic Site at Weirs Beach in Laconia to 39,600 acres in Nash Stream Forest located in Columbia, Odell, Stark, and Stratford. The Division is also responsible for monitoring state-owned conservation easements totaling 222,572 acres.

New Hampshire Lands - Of New Hampshire's 9,000 square miles, 29 percent is conservation land, most of which is owned and managed by Federal, State, and local governments.

New Hampshire Bureau of Trails (NHBOT)

The NHBOT, a bureau of NHDPR, administers multiple-use trails on state, federal, and private lands. The Bureau of Trails assists organizations, municipalities, and trail clubs with the development of trails on both public and private lands. Included in the bureau's management are 850 miles of wheeled off-highway recreational vehicle trails, over 300 miles of state-owned rail-trails, and 7,300 miles of snowmobile trails.

NH Bureau of Historic Sites (NHBOHS)

The NHBOHS, a bureau of NHDPR, preserves, protects, and promotes the historic resources under the management of the Department of Resources and Economic Development. The bureau operates six seasonal house museums with guided tours and eleven passive use historic sites. The bureau also maintains project review oversight for all historic resources under the management of DRED. All state historic sites maintain some kind of passive recreational use ranging from salt water fishing to hiking and walking trails. Many of the state historic sites operate in cooperation with a community, volunteer advocacy group, or friends group.



Weeks State Park

New Hampshire Department of Fish & Game (NHFG)

The NHFG carries out its mission through the work of seven divisions: Business, Facilities and Lands, Inland Fisheries, Law Enforcement, Marine Fisheries, Public Affairs, and Wildlife. Of particular importance to the SCORP are:

- **Facilities and Lands Division** – Responsible for the management and maintenance of all Fish and Game properties statewide, including approximately 160 buildings, 140 boat ramps, 130 dams, and more than 72,100 acres of Wildlife Management Areas and conservation easements. The division also provides the design and construction of boating access facilities, fabrication of information kiosks, and portable sanitary facilities. The lands side of the division negotiates land and habitat acquisitions and manages conservation easement areas.
- **Public Affairs Division** – Informs and educates, building public support for conservation and encouraging participation in hunting, angling, and other activities.
- **Wildlife Division** – Manages and maintains the state’s game and nongame species at levels consistent with available habitat and public desires. Wildlife biologists conduct surveys to monitor populations; promulgate hunting regulations to balance competing interests; oversee applied research; and conduct intensive restoration efforts.

The NHFG facilitates numerous programs to educate and engage citizens and visitors in outdoor recreation and wildlife conservation. The New Hampshire Children in Nature Coalition is dedicated to fostering experiences in nature that improve physical and emotional health, increase understanding of the natural world, and promote stronger connections to community and landscape. A multi-sector collaboration, representatives from health, education, community planning, and environmental education came together at a series of events to launch a New Hampshire initiative to reconnect children with nature and encourage children and families to get outside and be active in the natural world.

Saving America's Treasures in Littleton - In 2005, the National Register-listed Littleton Town Building (built in 1894) was closed for life safety and code violations. The resulting rehabilitation, funded in part with a \$500,000 Save America's Treasures grant, involved many structural repairs that removed the majority of an already compromised floor plan but saved the pristine theater that once hosted Bette Davis and the world premiere of her movie *The Great Lie*.

The final plan preserved historic wainscot and the character-defining ceiling height, created new finishes and details on new walls that complemented existing historic fabric, and reused doors and woodwork salvaged from razed interior walls. The end result is a wonderful space with historic charm that serves both the visitors and residents of Littleton.

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES)

NHDES manages many public access sites in collaboration with other state agencies, municipalities, user groups and private landowners. Most facilities provide canoe/car-top access, and fishing, swimming, and snowmobiling among other uses.

New Hampshire Department of Cultural Resources (NHDCR)

NHDCR includes the State Council on the Arts, the Film and Television Office, the Division of Historical Resources, the State Library and the Commission on Native American Affairs. The Division of Historical Resources Five Year Preservation Plan (2011-2015) advocates for the preservation of historical resources as a sound investment that can create new jobs, revitalize downtowns, provide affordable housing, and support heritage tourism. The Division oversees grant funding allocations for restoration and preservation of covered bridges, cellar holes, stone walls, barns, and architecturally, archaeologically, and historically significant sites and structures. The Commission on Native American Affairs and the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts Folklife program both celebrate the Native American Abenaki heritage in New Hampshire, including translations of place names originating with these early residents such as Ammonusuc ("fishing place") Kearsage ("rough mountain") and Umbagog ("to the clear water lake").

National Park Service (NPS)

The National Park Service manages two national parks (St. Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish and the Appalachian Trail), one National Heritage Area, 11 National Natural Landmarks, and 22 National Historic Landmarks, with over 31,000 visitors annually.

U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

The U.S. Forest Service manages almost 800,000 acres of New Hampshire's most ecologically diverse lands, largely in the White Mountain National Forest. The Forest provides many recreation opportunities with 1,200 miles of non-motorized trails, 21 campgrounds, 40 day use areas, 6 ski touring areas and 400 miles of snowmobile trails. Some of the activities within the Forest include bicycling, camping, climbing, fishing, hiking, hunting, nature viewing, outdoor learning, picnicking, rocks and minerals (rock hounding), scenic driving, water activities and winter sports.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages five National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) that are open for wildlife viewing, hiking, water sports, fishing, and snow sports – Great Bay, John Hay, Umbagog, Silvio O. Conte, and Wapack.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages six recreational flood control dam sites in New Hampshire which are valuable as outdoor recreation sites – Blackwater, Edward McDowell Lake, Franklin Falls, Hopkinton Lake, Otter Brook Lake, and Surry Mountain Lake – and used for boating access, picnicking, swimming, fishing, and hiking.

Local Government (Municipalities/Public Schools)

While many New Hampshire residents travel to enjoy the vast opportunities of the state's public lands on the weekends, local government agencies also provide daily accessible outdoor recreation opportunities in the form of parks, fields, courts, skating rinks, ski areas, river access, pools, picnic areas, playgrounds, and trails.

New Hampshire Conservation Organizations, both non-profit and community based, are actively involved in managing, acquiring, and protecting greenspace, water resources, and lands with unique natural resources. It is vital to coordinate efforts among New Hampshire's many conservation organizations to preserve the quality of life in New Hampshire.

Quasi-public recreation providers include a wide diversity of partners and services, including local and statewide user groups, hospital recreation therapy programs, charitable social organizations, such as YMCA/YWCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs, Boy and Girl Scouts, and churches.

Private recreation providers include dozens of for-profit entities that support a wide range of services and facilities for outdoor recreation: golf courses, ski areas, marine activities and water sports, campgrounds, hunting preserves, guide services, adventure playgrounds, and shuttle services. While the SCORP assesses and guides provision of public recreation opportunities, it is important that governmental entities consider the financial and geographic accessibility to private service providers when expressed public need overlaps with private provision opportunities.

Non-Profits Making a Difference - The Wildlife Heritage Foundation of New Hampshire, the Department of Fish and Game's official non-profit partner, is a charitable organization dedicated to enhancing critical conservation programs with private financial support.

The many initiatives that Foundation grants have funded include extensive improvements at Fish and Game's Owl Brook Hunter Education Center and the Great Bay Discovery Center, support for Discover Wild New Hampshire Day and National Hunting and Fishing Day Expo activities, publication of Discover Wild Times for Kids, and support for programs such as Operation Land Share, Barry Conservation Camp, the aerial stocking of remote trout ponds, and Fish and Game Law Enforcement Division's K-9 conservation corps.

SUPPLY: OPEN SPACE, CONSERVATION, AND RECREATIONAL LANDS

County-level divisions provide a starting point for understanding regional variations that may exist beyond a reported statewide average. The needs of the state’s regional populations require different access accommodations and different approaches to managing outdoor activities that will occur due to differences in geography, resources, population, and economics and potential barriers to outdoor recreation participation. *Figure 9* shows a map of New Hampshire’s 10 counties.

FIGURE 9:

Counties of New Hampshire



Conservation Lands

The New Hampshire Geographically Referenced Analysis and Information Transfer System (GRANIT) maintains a comprehensive statewide database of geographic-related information. The statewide conservation lands layer provides acreage and ownership information about both publicly and privately held conservation land holdings with either permanent, fee simple acquisitions, or limited protection through conservation easements. This database is also available on-line through the GRANIT Conservation Lands Viewer (<http://granitview.unh.edu>).

New Hampshire’s Changing Landscape - Based on the 2010 report by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire’s Forests, *New Hampshire’s Changing Landscape*, the state remains the second-most forested state in the nation, after neighboring Maine. However, our forestlands continue to decline from a high of 87% in 1960 to about 82% today, a loss of nearly 450 square miles of forest.

Table 2 provides a summary of the public and private fee and easement holdings by acreage across the state. The large increase in “State Easements” between 2002 and 2006 is due to the conservation acquisition of the 171,500-acre Connecticut Lakes Headwaters area in northern Coos County (25,000 acres purchased by the Fish & Game Department; 100 acres purchased by the Division of Parks & Recreation; and 146,400 acres conserved by easement).

Table 2: Conservation Lands by Owner and Protection Type

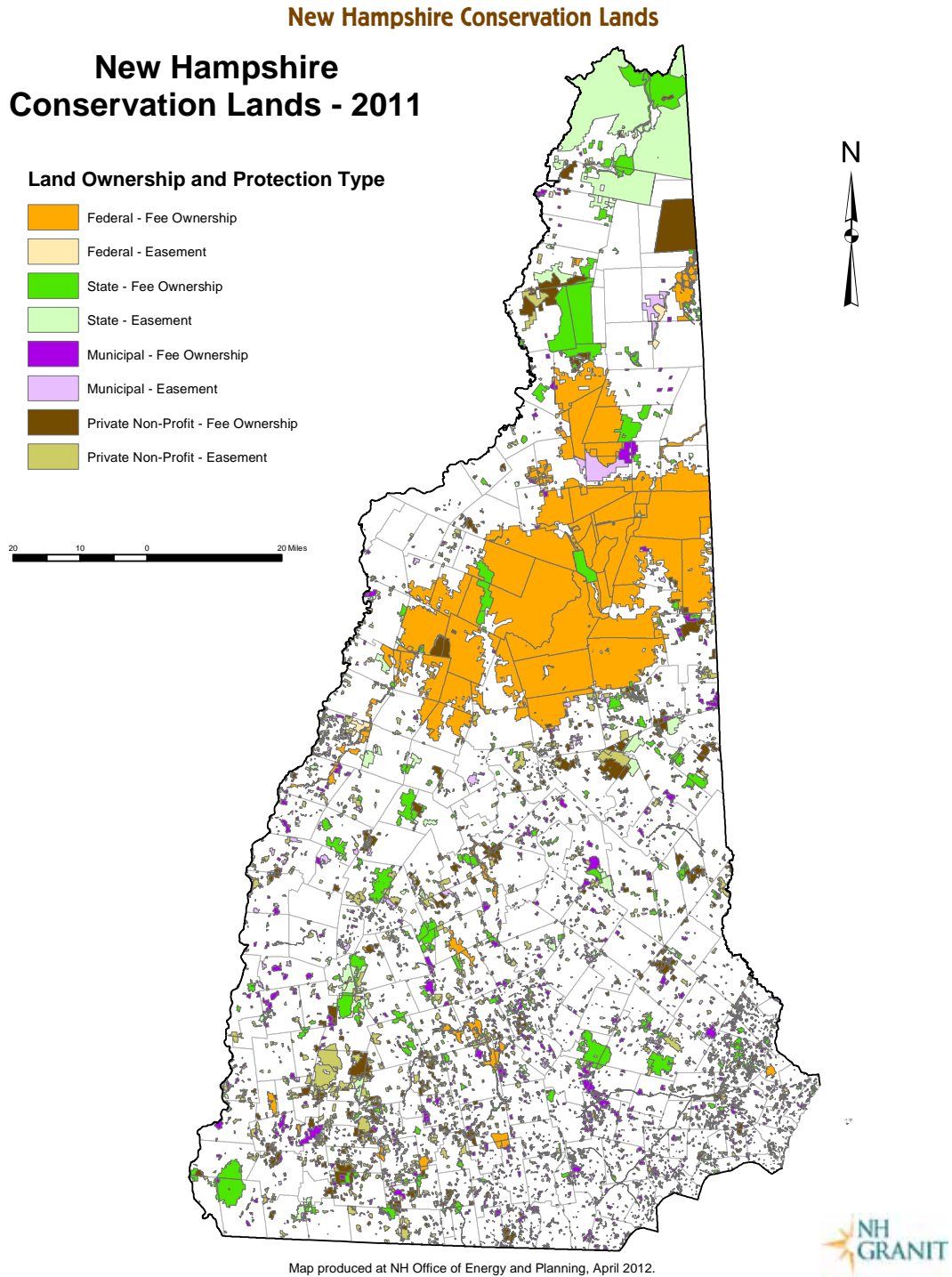
Ownership/Protection Type	Number of Acres		
	2002	2006	2011
Federal Fee	762,535	767,830	787,147
Federal Easement	3,808	5,739	9,657
State Fee	189,602	215,428	228,331
State Easement	32,854	189,611	204,075
Municipal Fee	101,413	109,304	114,450
Municipal Easement	34,361	50,627	63,791
Private Non-Profit/Other Fee	130,991	145,910	164,002
Private Non-Profit/Other Easement	94,724	115,871	174,502
Totals	1,350,288	1,600,320	1,745,955

Source: GRANIT, 2011

Open space and conservation lands provide opportunities for many different recreational activities ranging from developed, intensively used parks to remote wilderness experiences. Access varies and it is important to know and respect the landowner’s wishes before entering into either public or privately held conservation lands. *Figure 10* shows the distribution of New Hampshire’s conserved lands.

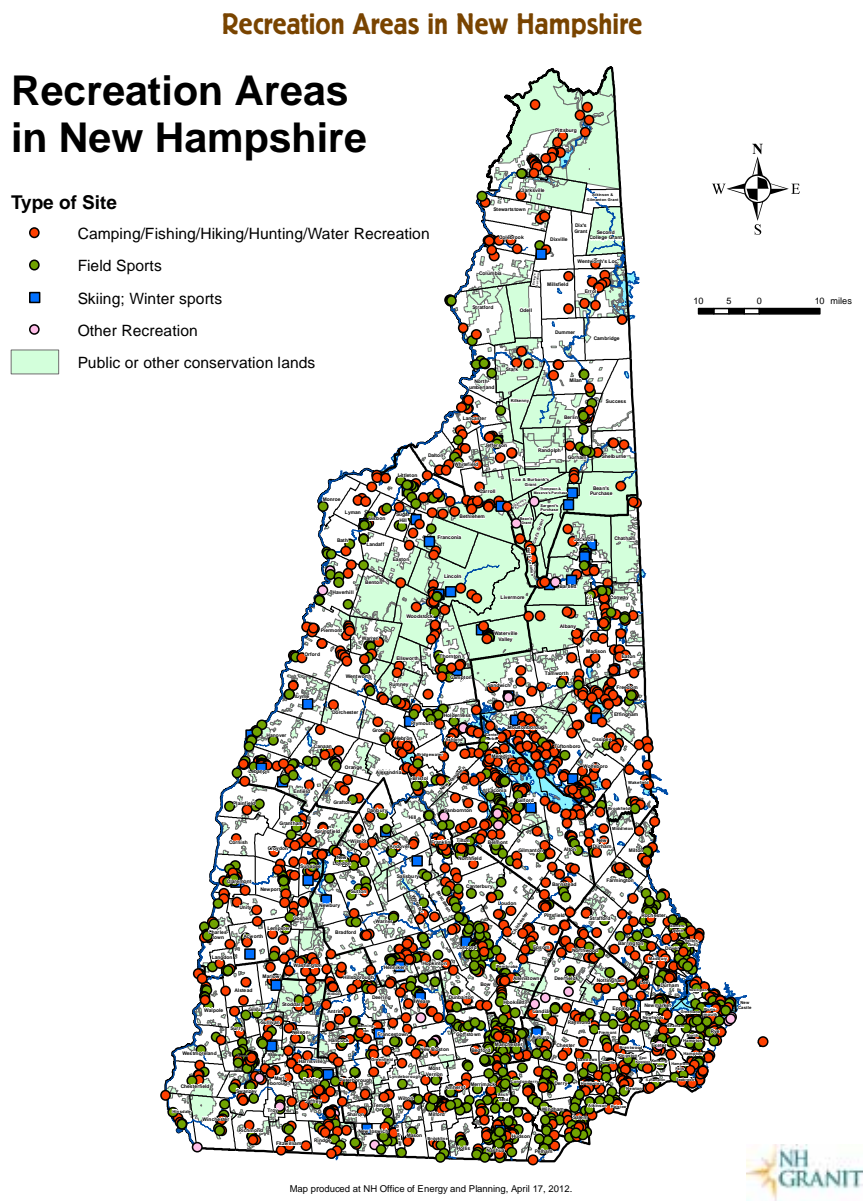
Preserving Wildlife Habitat, Protecting Water Quality - While some parcels of land are managed expressly for recreation, a majority of conserved lands in New Hampshire are managed with the broader goals of preserving wildlife habitat, maintaining productive forest and agricultural lands, and protecting water quality or rare and endangered species.

FIGURE 10:



New Hampshire's vast outdoor recreation assets such as hiking trails, camping areas, fishing, hunting and water recreation, field sports, and snow sports are identified online at the GranitView GIS mapping website. Detailed maps allow users to locate outdoor recreation sites, learn about approved uses, ownership, and accessibility. *Figure 11* shows recreation areas in New Hampshire.

FIGURE 11:



Outdoor Recreation Lands and Facilities

The Office of Energy and Planning maintains a statewide inventory of outdoor recreation lands and facilities in New Hampshire, providing information about ownership, acreage, and types of recreational activities available at over 4,000 sites across the State.

Table 3: NH Population, Acreage, and Outdoor Recreation Lands Supply by County

County	2010 Population	Recreation Acreage	Number of Sites	Percentage of County Acreage (rounded)
Belknap	60,088	21,356	246	2%
Carroll	47,818	200,035	307	15%
Cheshire	77,117	65,905	324	5%
Coos	33,055	351,576	250	27%
Grafton	89,118	412,507	465	32%
Hillsborough	400,721	51,646	635	4%
Merrimack	146,445	66,529	420	5%
Rockingham	295,223	37,417	600	3%
Strafford	123,143	15,249	235	1%
Sullivan	43,742	75,562	181	6%
Statewide	1,316,470	1,297,782	3,663	

Sources: US Bureau of the Census, 2010 NH Census; OEP, 2011 NH Outdoor Recreation Inventory

The northern part of the State has a few large individual recreational areas – most notably the White Mountain National Forest. The southern, more populated part of the state contains a larger number of smaller recreation sites. The activity types presented in *Table 4* are broad classifications, and individual sites may provide opportunities beyond the classifications listed.

Table 4: Recreation Sites by Selected Activity by County

County	Camp-grounds	Field Sport Areas	Golf Courses	Historic Areas	Natural/Passive Recreation Areas	Parks, Picnic, Playgrounds	Water Access Sports	Winter Sports
Belknap	35	42	6	1	52	26	60	2
Carroll	72	34	10	7	96	21	57	12
Cheshire	26	65	7	4	122	34	42	3
Coos	36	34	4	1	74	33	36	6
Grafton	65	71	14	8	108	38	53	17
Hillsborough	31	202	22	15	193	102	51	8
Merrimack	23	104	12	19	142	49	53	7
Rockingham	36	185	25	19	172	59	65	5
Strafford	17	71	8	5	97	27	19	3
Sullivan	12	33	4	7	42	36	27	3
Statewide	353	841	112	86	1,098	425	463	66

Source: 2011 Office of Energy and Planning Recreation Inventory

Public access rights to lands conserved by easement such as the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Easement increase access for so called “traditional uses” including hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking, and walking, as well as other uses such as ATV use and mountain biking and Nordic skiing.

Hillsborough and Rockingham Counties have the largest populations and are also home to the largest number of field sport areas, park/picnic areas, and golf courses. Rockingham County has the highest number of water sports and fishing areas. It is important that a higher proportion of these sites be located near the larger population bases, given the national trend of individuals choosing to recreate closer to home.

Public lands comprise the majority of identified recreational acreage in New Hampshire (about 82 percent), followed by private non-profit organizations (about 12 percent), as shown in *Table 5*.

Table 5: Recreational Land Acreage by Owner Type*

County	Total Recreation Acres	Federal Acres	State Acres	Municipal Acres	School Acres	Private Non-Profit Acres	For-Profit Recreational Businesses Acres
Belknap	21,356	1,235	5,660	6,488	768	4,853	2,352
Carroll	199,884	155,459	17,113	5,083	429	8,247	13,553
Cheshire	65,703	2,605	21,754	5,184	1,049	31,535	3,576
Coos	497,935	227,190	204,497	5,730	474	30,256	29,788
Grafton	411,965	348,919	26,915	5,493	1,473	13,718	15,447
Hillsborough	51,147	2,826	10,457	13,320	2,583	14,498	7,463
Merrimack	66,498	11,483	26,159	12,459	2,921	5,857	7,619
Rockingham	37,417	1,057	12,554	13,666	1,467	2,741	5,932
Strafford	15,169	0	4,120	3,985	432	4,892	1,740
Sullivan	75,494	139	17,086	4,240	465	51,330	2,234
Statewide	1,442,568	750,913	346,315	75,648	12,061	167,927	89,704

Source: 2011 Office of Energy and Planning Recreation Inventory

***Note:** *Table 5* includes **identified** recreational acreage and does not include **unidentified** recreational acres provided and owned by private landowners. The lands measured in *Table 5* are identified in the recreational lands layer in NH GRANIT.

SUPPLY: PUBLIC ACCESS TO WATER RESOURCES

The Office of Energy and Planning maintains an inventory of “public” and “other” water access sites in New Hampshire, available on-line through the Office of Energy and Planning web site, <http://www.nh.gov/oep/programs/SCORP/index.htm>. This inventory provides information about 915 water access sites on 494 different lakes, ponds, and rivers including ownership, types of facilities, accessibility, and activity types (*Figure 12*). Almost half of the sites have been evaluated for accessibility, with data available to the public through the GRANITView mapping application online at <http://granitview.unh.edu>. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, the lead agency for public water access, maintains an up-to-date inventory of its guaranteed public access sites.



Mount Sunapee State Park

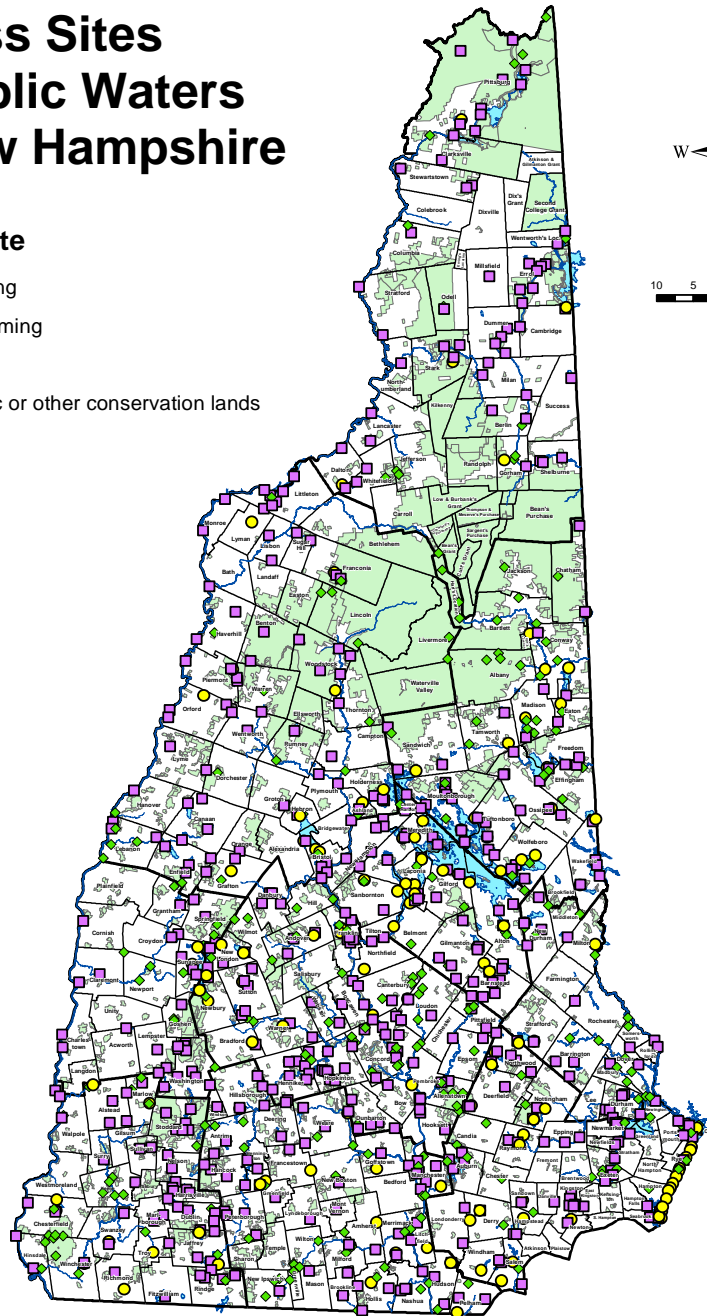
FIGURE 12:

Access Sites to Public Waters in New Hampshire

Access Sites to Public Waters in New Hampshire

Type of Site

- Boating
- Swimming
- ◆ Other
- Public or other conservation lands



Map produced at NH Office of Energy and Planning, April 17, 2012.



In New Hampshire, distinction is made for water access depending upon whether it is state owned or maintained.

- **“Public”** or state access sites are defined under RSA 233-A: 1,III as “... legal passage to any of the public waters of the state by way of designated contiguous land owned or controlled by a state agency, assuring that all members of the public shall have access to and use of the public waters for recreational purposes.”
- **“Other”** access is defined in the *Public Access Plan for New Hampshire’s Lakes, Ponds and Rivers* (OEP, 1991) as “...legal passage by way of designated land owned or controlled by a public entity (e.g. federal, municipal) or private entity (e.g. commercial, private nonprofit, individual landowner) for the purpose of providing active or passive recreational opportunities and/or use of the public waters of the state, and where such legal passage may or may not involve a fee.”

Table 6: NH Public and Other Water Access Sites by County

County	Sites Listed	Trailer Parking	Canoe/Car-top Parking	Shore-bank or Roadside Parking	Swimming or other access
Belknap	76	23	24	8	21
Carroll	100	27	19	36	18
Cheshire	94	36	23	23	12
Coos	76	33	26	13	4
Grafton	107	40	31	22	14
Hillsborough	111	34	29	23	25
Merrimack	151	51	38	48	14
Rockingham	118	32	27	18	41
Strafford	43	12	11	16	4
Sullivan	39	20	9	9	1
Statewide	915	308	237	216	154

Source: NH Public Access Sites, NHOEP (2011)

Table 7 shows that, on average, New Hampshire has one public water access site per 6.4 miles of shoreline. Coos County, by far, has the fewest number of public access sites available per mile of shoreline/riverfront. Merrimack and Rockingham counties have the highest density of access sites.

Table 7: Miles of Shoreline and Public Access Sites to Water by County

County	Public and Private Sites Listed	Miles of Shoreline and Riverbank	Miles of Shoreline Per Site
Belknap	76	420.6	5.53
Carroll	100	711.4	7.11
Cheshire	94	531.2	5.65
Coos	76	817.4	10.76
Grafton	107	820	7.66
Hillsborough	111	688.5	6.20
Merrimack	151	691.1	4.58
Rockingham	118	549.3	4.66
Strafford	43	354.4	8.24
Sullivan	39	302.6	7.76
Statewide	915	5,887	6.43

Sources: Office of Energy and Planning Public Access Inventory (2011) and GRANIT

SUPPLY: CURRENT USE LANDS

Owners of privately held lands offer various levels of traditional public access for hunting, fishing, Nordic skiing, hiking, and snowmobiling by special permit, verbal agreement, or under New Hampshire’s Current Use Taxation Program.

Parcels of land (10 acre minimum) may be taxed based on their current use value as open space rather than on their potential value for development purposes.

NH RSA 79-A, the Current Use Taxation Program, was established in 1972 to: “...encourage the preservation of open space, thus providing a healthful and attractive outdoor environment for work and recreation, maintaining the character of the state’s landscape, and conserving the land, water, forest, agricultural and wildlife resources.”

Table 8 provides statistics about the percentage of total land acres in each county that are in Current Use. Roughly 51 percent of New Hampshire land acres were enrolled in Current Use in 2010.



Winslow State Park

Table 8: Current Use Lands by County – 2005, 2010

County	Total Land Acres		Acres in Current Use		Percentage of Land in Current Use	
	2005	2010	2005	2010	2005	2010
Belknap	257,726.30	257,726.24	136,535.67	138,422.19	53.0	53.8
Carroll	598,386.75	598,386.69	217,825.62	225,832.05	36.4	37.8
Cheshire	452,910.78	452,910.70	290,161.07	291,840.01	64.1	64.7
Coos	1,153,614.25	1,152,946.70	707,135.48	705,646.47	61.3	61.2
Grafton	1,096,323.54	1,096,323.46	497,473.39	494,038.9	45.4	45.1
Hillsborough	561,351.43	561,351.39	265,373.37	257,727.48	47.3	46.0
Merrimack	597,481.35	597,481.33	329,236.11	334,486.75	55.1	56.0
Rockingham	446,221.19	446,221.01	156,315.42	149,668.22	35.0	33.6
Strafford	235,092.87	235,092.84	115,517.79	114,198.14	49.1	48.6
Sullivan	344,219.13	334,219.09	231,863.62	236,050.65	67.4	68.6
Statewide	5,743,327.59	5,742,659.45	2,947,437.54	2,948,910.86	51.3	51.4

Source: Department of Revenue Administration, Current Use Report 2005, 2010

Public access to private lands increases with the “recreation adjustment,” which lowers a landowner’s tax burden by an additional 20 percent if the land is kept open to the public for traditional forms of recreation (Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, fishing, hunting, hiking, and nature observation). Access must be available year-round unless the recreational activities are detrimental to crops on agricultural lands or active forestry operations. Nearly 49 percent of Current Use Lands received the recreational adjustment in 2010.

SUPPLY: CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

In New Hampshire most of our natural landscapes are also cultural landscapes. Ten thousand years of human activity has affected virtually all of our lands, from tidal estuaries to the summits of our highest peaks. Many areas were burned or cleared and harvested by the early indigenous populations. Much later, the immense effort of settlers during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries to harvest the timber resources and bring as much of our soils under cultivation resulted in New Hampshire's land being 80 percent cleared by 1830.

In our forests, along streams, lakes, and river margins, wherever plant and animal species have reclaimed sites that once supported human activity, natural and cultural resources coexist. Sometimes, the cultural resource predominates, as in our cities and villages, with their built environment. Sometimes, natural and cultural resources balance one another, as on working farms that include standing structures, sites of former structures, old wells and dams, stone walls, cultivated fields, grasslands, managed woodlots, and re-established forests. Sometimes, natural resources predominate, as in land that was once farmed but has long been abandoned for farming. Here, the forest hides most of what remains of human culture in the form of archaeological resources.

Because cultural resources add value to our sense of place and our understanding of history, these resources require identification and protection.



Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion Historic Site



Bear Brook State Park

USAGE PATTERNS: NATIONAL AND STATE PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR RECREATION

National Participation in Outdoor Recreation

Three out of every four Americans participate in active outdoor recreation each year. Americans spend money, generate jobs, and support local communities when they get outdoors.

Nationwide, outdoor participation continues to be solid, even during the challenging economic times of the last few years. According to a 2012 report by the Outdoor Foundation, *“Nearly half of Americans ages 6 and older, or 141.1 million individuals, participated in at least one outdoor activity in 2011, totaling 11.5 billion outings.”*

Outdoor Foundation research also shows significant increases in adventure sports such as recreational kayaking, bow hunting, freestyle skiing, stand up paddling and downhill telemarking as well as increases in youth participation among young boys and female teenagers, with most participants choosing to recreate close to home.

Reasons for Participating in Outdoor Recreation - A 2010 NH Fish & Game Department Survey conducted by Responsive Management identified the most important reasons New Hampshire residents participate in outdoor recreation:

1. Fun and enjoyment
2. Exercise and health benefits
3. To be out in nature

Statewide Participation in Outdoor Recreation

A summary of statewide recreational usage patterns shows a New Hampshire citizenry actively participating in outdoor recreation activities:

- Of the 6 million visitors per year to New Hampshire's State Parks, 56 percent are from New Hampshire, 22 percent are from Massachusetts, and the remaining visitors are primarily from throughout New England and the Mid-Atlantic states.
- State park users are predominantly middle-aged, well educated, with annual incomes over \$50,000.
- Ninety-two percent (92%) of survey respondents to the 2009 NH State Park Survey visited a state park within the last 12 months.
- While boating registrations showed significant increases in the 80s and 90s, the number of licenses has decreased slightly between 2005 and 2010, peaking in 2005 at more than 100,000 registrations annually.
- Participation levels among nine responding New Hampshire equine clubs (there are approximately 21 clubs total) informally surveyed in 2012 recorded 630 members throughout the State, concentrated in the southern counties, with total event participation by members and spectators at approximately 2,054 individuals each year.
- New Hampshire has 32 ski areas, according to Ski New Hampshire, Inc. (SkiNH). Resort-based snow sports participation is weather dependent, but remains a strong economic driver in the state. For the 2011-2012 season, Ski New Hampshire, Inc., calculated more than 1.8 million alpine skier and snowboarder visits, over 96,000 Nordic skier visits, and approximately 91,600 snowtubing visits.
- According to the New Hampshire State Parks Ten-Year Strategic Development and Capital Improvement Plan, the most popular outdoor activities for New Hampshire residents include wildlife observation, driving for pleasure, sightseeing, and jogging/running/walking. Day hiking tends to be more popular in New Hampshire than the national average.

2011 Most Popular Outdoor Activities for Americans Ages 6 and Older

1. Running, jogging, and trail running
2. Freshwater, saltwater, and fly fishing
3. Road, mountain, and BMX bicycling
4. Car, backyard, and RV Camping
5. Hiking

The Outdoor Foundation tracks participation by state in major categories of outdoor recreation, including camping, fishing, bicycling, hunting, paddling, snow sports, and wildlife viewing. New Hampshire's most popular activity, enjoyed by 45 percent of the population, is wildlife viewing, followed by trail activities including hiking, rock climbing, trail running, and backpacking, as illustrated in *Figure 13*.

Economic Impact of New Hampshire's Ski Industry - SkiNH commissioned a report by Plymouth State University for the 2009-2010 ski season, recording more than \$910 million in direct (skiers and off season visitors) and indirect spending (taxes, capital investments, hotel, restaurant, electricity, salaries). Emerging off-season activities at New Hampshire ski areas, which also contribute additional economic value, include ziplines, canopy tours, horseback riding, and Segway tours.



Weeks State Park

FIGURE 13:

New Hampshire Outdoor Recreation Participation Report

NEW HAMPSHIRITES PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION

	ACTIVITY CATEGORY	# OF PARTICIPANTS*	% OF POPULATION*
	BICYCLING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paved-road bicycling Off-road bicycling 	241,100	24%
	CAMPING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RV camping at a campsite Tent camping at a campsite Rustic lodging 	238,895	24%
	FISHING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational fly Recreational non-fly 	142,149	13%
	HUNTING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shotgun Rifle Bow 	51,116	5%
	PADDLING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kayaking (recreational, sea, or whitewater) Rafting Canoeing 	225,662	22%
	SNOW SPORTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Downhill skiing, including telemark Snowboarding Cross-country or Nordic skiing Snowshoeing 	254,233	25%
	TRAIL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail running on an unpaved trail Day hiking on an unpaved trail Backpacking Rock climbing (natural rock or ice) 	349,570	35%
	WILDLIFE VIEWING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bird watching Other wildlife watching 	445,000	42%

*Wildlife-based participation is based on adult population 16 years of age and older living in New Hampshire in 2005: 1,063,065 (US Census). Non wildlife-based participation is based on adult population 18 years of age and older living in New Hampshire in 2005: 1,007,415 (US Census). Detailed activity definitions and participation calculations are available in the technical report.

New Hampshire not only attracts those from out-of-state to take part in active outdoor recreation but also, with exceptional close-to-home recreation, generates economic activity from active New Hampshire residents.

New Hampshire's landscape is an ideal setting for participation in adventure sports such as rock climbing, mountain biking, kayaking, and snow sports, considered to be "active recreation," as well as "passive recreation" pursuits such as wildlife viewing, reflection, and nature study.

Active or Passive Recreation: What's the Difference? - Recreation resource agencies often focus on the "extractive" element of outdoor recreation (hunting vs. walking), or on the "facilities" element (ball fields vs. wildlife areas), or on the "team sport" element (bird watching vs. baseball).

For the purposes of this plan:

- **Active Recreation** is based on physiology and refers to activities that result in a healthy increase in aerobic rate. Mountain biking, hiking, snowshoeing, and tennis are considered to be active recreation.
- **Passive Recreation** activities provide important benefits for mental health and stress reduction. Reflection, bird watching, and nature study are considered to be passive recreation.
- **Active Transportation** is any self-propelled, human-powered mode of transportation, such as walking or bicycling, which has the effect of improving cardiovascular fitness, and reducing the risk of cancer, overweight and obesity.

Issues That Potentially Impact Outdoor Recreation Participation

Issues related to outdoor recreation participation, as noted by the 2006 New Hampshire Fish and Game survey on outdoor recreation participation, include:

- Overcrowding/development/overuse
- Litter, proper upkeep
- Access-related
- Water quality
- Speeding by boaters/jet skiers
- Health of fish and wildlife

These issues may be considered to impact a resident or visitor's decision to participate in outdoor recreation activities, and inform land managers of resident concerns for future planning.

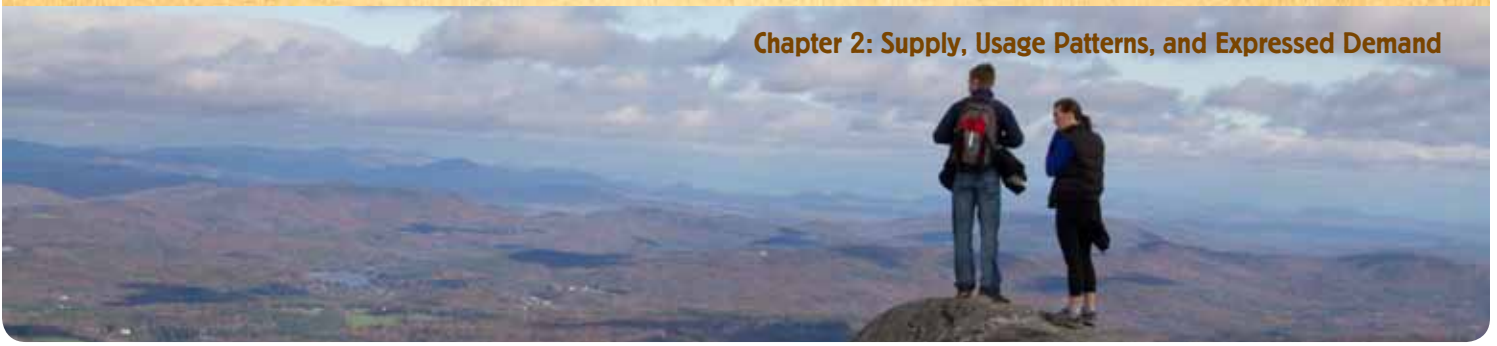
Federal Funding for Outdoor Recreation

After several years with no funding, New Hampshire began receiving federal LWCF funds in 2001. In the last two years, New Hampshire has distributed over \$450,000 in grants, funding seven projects. In this two-year period, there were 15 local proposals totaling more than \$4.4 million in requests. The significant difference between \$4.4 million in proposals and the amount of grants distributed, over \$450,000, shows that available grant funds are less than the demand, representing an unmet financial need.

In the 2011 Annual Report of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, State and Local Assistance Program, New Hampshire's reported unmet need was \$103,278,363. The National Park Service "annually requests that each state partner estimate the total cost of all desired outdoor recreation facility development and parklands acquisition projects that cannot be met with available levels of funding." New Hampshire's unmet funding needs identify the importance of the LWCF program and the benefits it brings to outdoor recreation.

Natural Disasters Impact Recreation Infrastructure - A common theme in expressing outdoor recreation need in recent years has been the issue of existing recreational infrastructure that is aging, worn, obsolete, or not universally accessible and thus requires repair, replacement, or other upgrades. However, some states have to confront a different problem in maintaining their outdoor recreation facilities: those damaged or destroyed by natural disasters such as hurricanes and flooding. Many communities across the U.S. have been affected, particularly in 2011.

-National Park Service, LWCF State & Local Assistance Program, 2011 Annual Report, www.nps.gov/lwcf



Monadnock State Park

EXPRESSED DEMAND: WHAT DO NEW HAMPSHIRE RESIDENTS WANT?

In order to create a comprehensive system of parks and outdoor recreation facilities for the 2013-2018 SCORP, The NH Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) and the NH Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) wanted to hear from a wide range of citizens—young and old, native Granite Staters and newcomers, city and rural residents, and those who come from all socio-economic levels. This approach extended opportunities for input beyond those who have previously been engaged in the SCORP development process – frequent users of our parks and recreation facilities such as hikers, hunters, ATV users, fishermen, skiers, and cyclists. Complete results are summarized in *Appendix A* and *Appendix B*.

- The Carsey Institute at UNH convened “NH Listens” community conversations at seven sites throughout the state, with 171 community members participating.
- UNH Cooperative Extension facilitated planning sessions with key stakeholder groups and conducted a web-based survey with 136 recreation and conservation leaders throughout New Hampshire responding.

Connecting Children and Youth to the Outdoors - A common theme when participants talked about their connection to outdoor recreation was a concern for getting children and youth to use the outdoors for recreation.

KEY FINDINGS – NH LISTENS

The public engagement process for the 2013-2018 NH SCORP yielded the following key findings:

Health and Quality of Life

- There is a growing appreciation for benefits of outdoor recreation
- Livable communities create reduced costs of health care and transportation
- Culture of fear as a barrier for some
- Ensure access for senior citizens, children, and people with disabilities
- Incorporate recreation into transportation corridors

New Hampshire Listens - For NH Listens, special emphasis was placed on hearing citizens' views about unmet needs and innovative approaches to meeting those needs.

Additional outreach was focused on those with limited use of outdoor recreation resources for reasons of access, age, income, or knowledge.

Economic Development & Funding

- Recreational opportunities contribute to economic vitality and attract business
- Enlist retailers to support outdoor recreation initiatives
- Set funds aside for facilities as well as lands
- Educate the public on how park entrance fees are used

Community Recreation, Children, and Youth

- How/where to recreate close to home
- Opportunities for the underserved (urban populations, immigrants, elderly, youth)
- Explore leadership development opportunities for young people
- Partner with school districts to develop outdoor recreation opportunities

New Hampshire Recreation and Conservation Leaders Survey: Seventy-one percent (71%) ranked partnerships with organizations to foster connections between outdoor recreation and improved health and wellness as a medium to high priority.

Connectivity – Places and People

- Connectivity of recreational sites, trails
- Increase access for all users, with a close evaluation of equestrian uses
- Address the environmental impact and safety concerns with multiple users

Communications and Outreach

- Importance of cultivating volunteerism with friends groups and service groups
- Education for children and youth, user groups, providers, private property owners
- Centralized source of information
- Develop partnerships to combine resources, talents, and knowledge
- Address the risk aversion of parents letting children play outdoors
- Implement a SCORP Advisory Council to support implementation

Stewardship

- Create a uniform state trail signage system
- Implement sustainability practices in stewardship plans
- Create endowments for stewardship of outdoor lands and facilities

KEY FINDINGS – UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION LEADERS SURVEY

To gather stakeholder input, an open-ended survey was launched via email and websites. The goal was to gather as much information as possible regarding outdoor recreation and land conservation planning needs and management priorities for communities throughout the State of New Hampshire. In concert with results from the NH Listens public outreach findings, the survey results are intended to inform and update the goals and objectives for the 2013-2018 SCORP and to frame the priorities and action items identified later in this document.

Those responding to the survey serve a varied number of constituents ranging from as few as 100 to over 100,000. The majority of respondents serve year-round users and a small number serve seasonal users, although most indicated they do not or are unable to track this data. The respondents had a mix of part-time, seasonal, and full time staff with volunteers representing a large number of “workers” to help recreation and conservation organizations accomplish their work.

Stakeholders included recreation department staff, municipal boards and commissions, non-profit organizations, and user groups.

Meeting the expressed demand for outdoor recreation now and for future generations requires close collaboration with other state agencies, local communities, businesses, non-profits, and educational institutions.

Key Findings - Recreation and Conservation Leaders Survey

- Outdoor recreation adds to the quality of life in New Hampshire and is a contributing factor in the economic health of the state.
- Funding outdoor recreation is the top challenge for recreation and conservation leaders.
- Leaders support a vision that includes increasing access to underserved populations, providing diverse opportunities and bringing in a new generation of users.
- Trail work and making connections between trails is a priority.
- There is strong support for keeping private lands open for outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Volunteers are important to outdoor recreation and conservation work, and there is a concern about developing a volunteer base for the future.
- Education is seen as an important component to outdoor recreation use and land conservation.



Bear Brook State Park