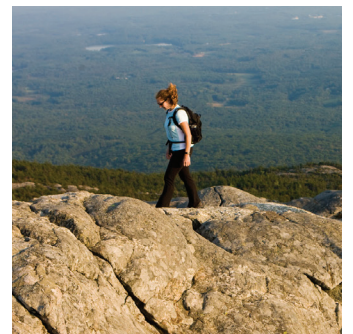




New Hampshire Outdoors

2019 – 2023 NH Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources



New Hampshire 2019-2023 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Christopher T. Sununu, Governor
State of New Hampshire

Sarah L. Stewart, Commissioner
New Hampshire Department of Natural and
Cultural Resources

For more information or to download the complete New Hampshire Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2019-2023 visit: nhstateparks.org

Or contact us:

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I am pleased to present the 2019 – 2023 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). This plan is an update from the previous SCORP and was developed through the collaborative efforts of The NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) and the University of New Hampshire. Data and mapping was provided by the Office of Strategic Initiative. The purpose of the SCORP is to refresh the outlook for outdoor recreation needs in our state and to meet the eligibility requirements allowing New Hampshire to apply for grant funds through the National Park Service (NPS) Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

New Hampshire is well-known for its active outdoor lifestyle. Tourists come from around the world to enjoy the state's mountains, lakes, trails, historic sites, coastline, and parks. All four seasons have something to offer with foliage tours, winter sports, summer beaches, and spring openings all across the state. Its historic heritage combined with its "Live Free" spirit give New Hampshire a unique identity for people looking to enjoy a wide variety of outdoor recreation experiences.

Likewise, New Hampshire's residents are enthusiastic users of the state and local parks, trails, historic sites, and community recreation activities. Safe places to explore with families, friends, and pets create valuable opportunities to get outside and meet neighbors, enjoy sporting events, and make memories that last lifetimes. Besides supporting the health of our people, outdoor recreation areas also measurably support the health of our economy and our communities.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund, established over half a century ago by the U.S. Congress, is administered in New Hampshire by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, in partnership with the National Park Service. Over 650 projects and \$40 million have been awarded to projects at the local and state level that help our state preserve, protect, and provide the best possible recreation experience for residents and guests. As we plan for future outdoor recreation opportunities in New Hampshire, this SCORP will help guide our planning and focus our efforts on those activities that best meet the needs of our communities.

Sincerely,
Christopher T. Sununu
Governor



The NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, is pleased to present this updated edition of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for 2019 – 2023. Every five years our planning teams work together to determine the current state of outdoor recreation facilities and trends in New Hampshire. The SCORP is then revised to reflect the changing demographics and recreation preferences of our state's residents and visitors.

To attract and keep the workforce needed to power New Hampshire's economy, a full, four-season recreation plan will include expanded trails, sports facilities, water-based activities, playgrounds, and campgrounds. For those citizens preferring to "age in place", there is an ongoing need for safe walking paths, pet play areas, and park benches to provide connectivity between homes and community centers.

What is clear is that the people of New Hampshire want to be active in the outdoors. With our state's extraordinary and nationally recognized State Parks, Trails, Beaches, and Historic Sites, there are endless opportunities for recreation with families, friends, and visitors to enjoy and explore from the south to the north and from the east to the west across this state.

Also important to the mission of the Division of Parks and Recreation is to provide recreation opportunity that supports the economic vitality of our communities. It has been well-documented that parks and trails add substantial value not only to the health of our citizens, but to the properties located nearby, and to the events and activities that support the quality of life so cherished in New Hampshire.

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan focuses the state's efforts to provide outdoor recreation opportunity throughout New Hampshire while also assuring that the state remains eligible to apply for a federal grant program known as the Land and Water Conservation Fund administered through the NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in partnership with the National Park Service. All across this state, from pocket parks to ski areas to campgrounds, picnic sites, and local school sporting facilities, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has provided much-needed funding for both state and local outdoor recreation facilities and landscapes.

This SCORP will continue to provide the helpful reference needed as communities plan for future recreation needs. My thanks to all those who participated in producing this plan to guide our efforts in assuring that outdoor recreation opportunities in New Hampshire are available long into the future for those generations yet to come.

Sincerely,
Sarah L. Stewart
Commissioner



NEW HAMPSHIRE SCORP EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S OUTDOORS

With just over 9,000 square miles of land area and 5,900 miles of shoreline and riverfront, New Hampshire's natural and cultural landscape provides an ideal setting for residents and visitors from around the world to participate in a stunning array of four season outdoor recreation activities.

Recreation opportunities include the popular White Mountain National Forest (WMNF), which is almost 800,000 acres, state lands and waterways, municipal outdoor recreation providers, and over one million acres of private forest and agricultural land. These places offer scenic beauty as well as vast opportunities for outdoor experiences, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, OHRV, hiking, camping, rock climbing, bicycling, snowmobiling, paddling, surfing, swimming, winter sports, and boating. New Hampshire's pristine viewsheds, spectacular mountain tops and fragile alpine zones can be counted among the most unique natural and geologic features in the world.



Umbagog Lake State Park

“We, who promote the outdoors as an indispensable element of our well-being, also must stress that the outdoors must be healthy as well.”

-Jon Jarvis, National Parks Service Director, April 6, 2011

Promoting and encouraging the enjoyment of New Hampshire’s outdoors builds the tourism industry, which contributes heavily to the state’s economy, and supports the health and well-being of New Hampshire residents and visitors. Wise stewardship, protection, and management of these valuable natural and cultural resources are vital to New Hampshire’s continued prosperity.

STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN: A MANDATE

Under the terms of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF) of 1965, which established the LWCF State Assistance Program, each state is required to develop a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) at least every five years. The SCORP is filed with the National Park Service (NPS) and enables New Hampshire to participate in the LWCF program, guiding the use of LWCF funding.

In addition, the 2019-2023 SCORP:

- Fulfills New Hampshire’s statutory requirement (RSA 12-A:18) for an outdoor recreation planning program.
- Provides guidance on outdoor recreation planning that is focused on coordinating resources and efforts within the outdoor recreation community and the broader decision-making process throughout the state.

2019-2023 SCORP Goals

The goal and intent of the 2019-2023 SCORP is to use contemporary planning resources to secure a future where New Hampshire residents and visitors live healthier lifestyles; wildlife, water, and natural resources are conserved; and the economic vitality of communities is sustained.

Plan Purpose

The intent of this plan is to justify state and federal expenditures for outdoor recreation using the following planning criteria:

1. Identify major issues and challenges facing the state's outdoor recreation and natural resources using public, provider, and user feedback, including those who may not be active participants in outdoor recreation activities.
2. Assess the existing supply of, and demand for, outdoor recreation opportunities.
3. Evaluate recreation trends, deficiencies, under-served areas, and desired improvements.
4. Conduct an inventory of current outdoor recreation facilities, trails, and wetlands.
5. Establish priorities based on outreach efforts, data research, and previous plans.
6. Ensure accountability in measuring success using publicly issued annual benchmark reports.

Vision

Public outreach efforts to determine a vision for outdoor recreation in New Hampshire and identify SCORP objectives consisted of the following initiatives:

- The University of New Hampshire (UNH) Department of Recreation Management and Policy surveyed municipal stakeholders (i.e., elected officials, town administrators, recreation directors, and appointed committee members) in New Hampshire.
- Review of the 2015 New Hampshire Fish and Game Department Wildlife Action Plan.
- Review of the 2017 Outdoor Industry Association Outdoor Recreation Participation Report.
- Review of the 2018 Bureau of Economic Analysis Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account.

New Hampshire SCORP 2019-2023 Vision Statement: "Outdoor recreation in New Hampshire serves diverse populations throughout the state, has a strong, positive impact on the economy, and improves the quality of life for New Hampshire residents and visitors. Strong partnerships among community organizations, the business community and the public sector facilitate diverse outdoor recreation opportunities for a variety of users. A well-connected and maintained system of trails and quality educational resources insure that outdoor recreation continues to be a vital part of New Hampshire."

THE IMPORTANCE AND RELEVANCE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

Outdoor recreation is a vital contributor to local, regional, and state economies, natural and cultural resource conservation efforts, and public health. The New Hampshire 2019-2023 SCORP identifies priorities and actions that support a healthy citizenry by creating access to the outdoors for all, wise stewardship of the natural environment, and community and statewide economic vitality for the next five years.

HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

The 2019-2023 SCORP provides specific guidance to communities, school districts, planning jurisdictions, and their partners about how statewide LWCF monies for communities will be targeted in the upcoming five-year period. In this context, the plan may also serve as a:

- **Policy Guide** for local, regional, and state outdoor recreation planning initiatives.
- **Data Source** for demographic trends in the context of recreational trends, supply and demand for recreational programs and facilities.
- **Information Resource** for recreation-related issues in the state and recommendations for addressing them.
- **List of Performance Goals** that will allow the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and others to assess progress on meeting the recommendations in this SCORP.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

To create a comprehensive analysis of parks and outdoor recreation facilities for the 2019-2023 SCORP update:

- The University of New Hampshire Department of Recreation Management and Policy conducted a survey of municipal stakeholders.
- The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources conducted a review of the 2019-2023 SCORP.

NEW HAMPSHIRE SCORP PRIORITIES AND FINDINGS

It is vital that local, state, and federal government agencies work in partnership with private sector and non-profit organizations to address the priorities of the 2019-2023 New Hampshire SCORP, which are derived from the community engagement process, statewide data collection, current and previous plans, and regional, state, and national trends:

1. Connect People to the Outdoors

Understanding the changing demographics of NH is essential to outdoor recreation planning. More specifically, offering services desired by constituents may increase participation in and support for outdoor recreation. Shifts in demographics including age and diversity will result in changes in outdoor recreation preferences relative to types of activities, frequency, style, and location. Understanding the barriers or constraints to recreation participation, such as perception of safety, income/age/ethnicity diversity, and language barriers, is vital as New Hampshire's demographics continue to shift.

Considering these trends to offer services which are suitable for multiple user groups is essential to connecting NH residents to the outdoors. A focus should be placed especially on underserved user groups and underutilized resources. For example, geographic disparities exist in terms of access and proximity to sites for outdoor recreation such that larger public lands are more concentrated in the northern part of the state given its more rural environment while many of the developed sites are in the southern part of the state. Regional and municipal recreation providers should consider these micro and macro demographic trends in delivering services.

2. Consistent Stewardship and Conservation

Within NH, there is a need to protect natural amenities for the purposes of preservation as well as conservation. Community engagement, particularly which occurs through stewardship planning, may be valuable for the longevity of resources and facilities.

Many communities receive monetary support from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for projects; however, these funds are not available for the purposes of maintenance or facility upkeep. Communities need to plan for this when building or acquiring new spaces. Engagement of community volunteers as well as utilization of public and private partnerships may help address this need.



Franconia Notch State Park

3. Economic Vitality

With such valuable natural resources, managers and stakeholders alike within New Hampshire recognize the importance of providing credible economic data to policy makers, non-users, and constituents to promote the awareness of outdoor recreation's economic significance.

Outdoor recreation has a strong economic impact in New Hampshire, with the Outdoor Industry Association reporting \$528 million in annual state tax revenue and \$8.7 billion in annual consumer spending attributed to this sector of the state's economic activity. Moreover, in 2017, outdoor recreation supported 79,000 jobs in New Hampshire.

4. Education, Ethics, and Benefits

Through educational initiatives which promote the benefits of outdoor recreation, individuals and communities may become aware of outdoor recreation opportunities in New Hampshire. One of many ways to achieve this outcome is through interpretive programming which encourages preservation of cultural and natural resources.

Focusing on educational programming that appeals to multigenerational user groups will aid in gaining support for outdoor recreation among a variety of demographics.

NEW HAMPSHIRE SCORP MANAGING AGENCIES

The following agencies play a role in preparing and administering the SCORP.

National Park Service (NPS)

New Hampshire receives LWCF funds from the U.S. Department of the Interior managed through the National Parks Service, which is the corresponding federal agency that reviews the statewide plan. Upon approval, the NPS authorizes the release of funds to the state if funds are available.

New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NHDNCR)

Following approval by the NPS, the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is responsible for the oversight, management, and allocation of the LWCF monies through a competitive grant process. NHDNCR is the state agency acting as liaison with the federal government for the purposes of preparing the SCORP.

New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI)

The New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives partners with DNCR on the development of the statewide plan and assists in its implementation.

ROLE OF SCORP IN ALLOCATING LWCF FUNDS

Funds for LWCF projects are provided through the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service. The allocation of LWCF funds may be conducted through a competitive statewide grant application process, and requires a 50 percent federal and 50 percent local matching grant. A number of criteria guide the allocation of funds, including:

- Compliance with the SCORP.
- Demonstration of a link between the proposed project and an analysis of New Hampshire's outdoor recreation supply, demand, and need.
- Compatibility with the priorities expressed in the public involvement process.

Who Are The Partners In Implementing The SCORP?

Implementing the 2019-2023 SCORP will only be successful by taking a new approach to creating sustainable partnerships with the numerous public, private, and non-profit outdoor recreation providers throughout New Hampshire. These include:

- Municipalities, state agencies, federal land managers.
- Private and quasi-public outdoor recreation providers.
- Non-profit and health organizations.
- Residents and visitors participating in outdoor recreation.



PREFACE: NEW HAMPSHIRE SCORP AND LWCF FUNDING

NH SCORP AND LWCF FUNDING

The following describes the guiding principles for outdoor recreation in the state of New Hampshire and addresses the connection to LWCF funding.

Connection to America's Great Outdoors Priorities

A 2011 Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP) report, *Reframing the Role and Relevancy of SCORP Plans for the Next 50 Years*, suggests examples of connections to America's Great Outdoors priorities (a 2011 White House Report on protecting our lands and waters and connecting all Americans to their natural and cultural heritage). These include developing urban parks and community green spaces; landscape-scale conservation; recreational blueways; children, youth, and special populations; connections of local, state and federal outdoor recreation assets; community collaboration, multi-agency cooperation; improved public access; natural and cultural resource conservation; special designations (e.g., scenic byways, heritage areas, national trails); wildlife corridors and habitat protection; linkages to healthcare, K-12 education, transportation, economic development, and tourism industries; identification of priority state and federal land acquisition needs; use of spatial analysis tools for recreation supply and gap analysis.

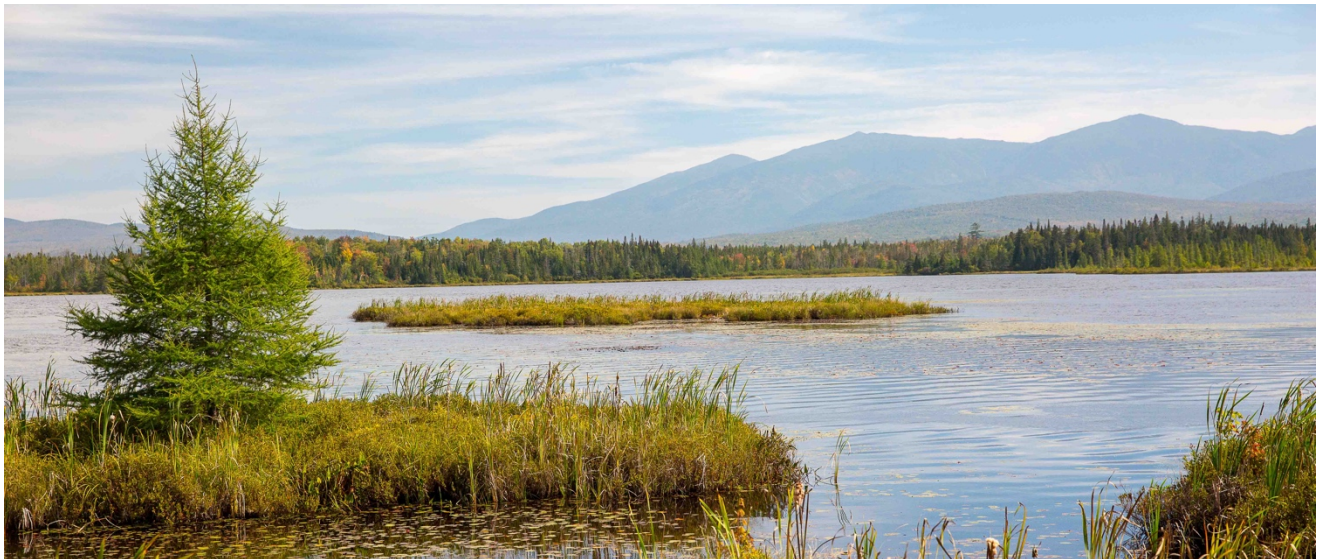
America's Great Outdoors Vision Statement: All children, regardless of where they live, have access to clean, safe outdoor places within a short walk of their homes or schools, where they can play, dream, discover, and recreate.

- Americans participate in the shared responsibility to protect and care for our unique natural and cultural heritage for the use and enjoyment of future generations.
- Rural lands - our working farms, ranches, and forests - are conserved and restored through incentives and local partnerships.
- Our national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests, and other public lands and waters are managed with a renewed commitment to sound stewardship and resilience.
- Our natural areas and waterways, whether publicly or privately owned, are reconnected, healthy, and resilient; and support both human needs and the wildlife that depend on them.
- Communities work together to restore and protect healthy rivers and lakes to provide recreational opportunities and to contribute significantly to a vibrant economy.

Funding

Support for state and federal funding for outdoor recreation land acquisition, development, rehabilitation, operations, and maintenance can be justified through accountability for implementing actions and systematic data collection demonstrating the economic, social, and environmental benefits of outdoor recreation activities, parks, and facilities.

2012-2017 capital investments in New Hampshire State Parks, Forests, and Lands, as well as Cannon Mountain, Mount Washington, and Hampton Beach Seawall totaled \$14,678,000. However, existing state and federal funding levels are not sufficient to address New Hampshire's long-term outdoor recreation needs. **Figure P.1** shows community locations of LWCF projects in New Hampshire from 2012-2017 that were funded and not funded.



Cherry Pond

Figure P.1: LWCF Projects 2012-2017

LWCF Projects in New Hampshire, 2012-2017

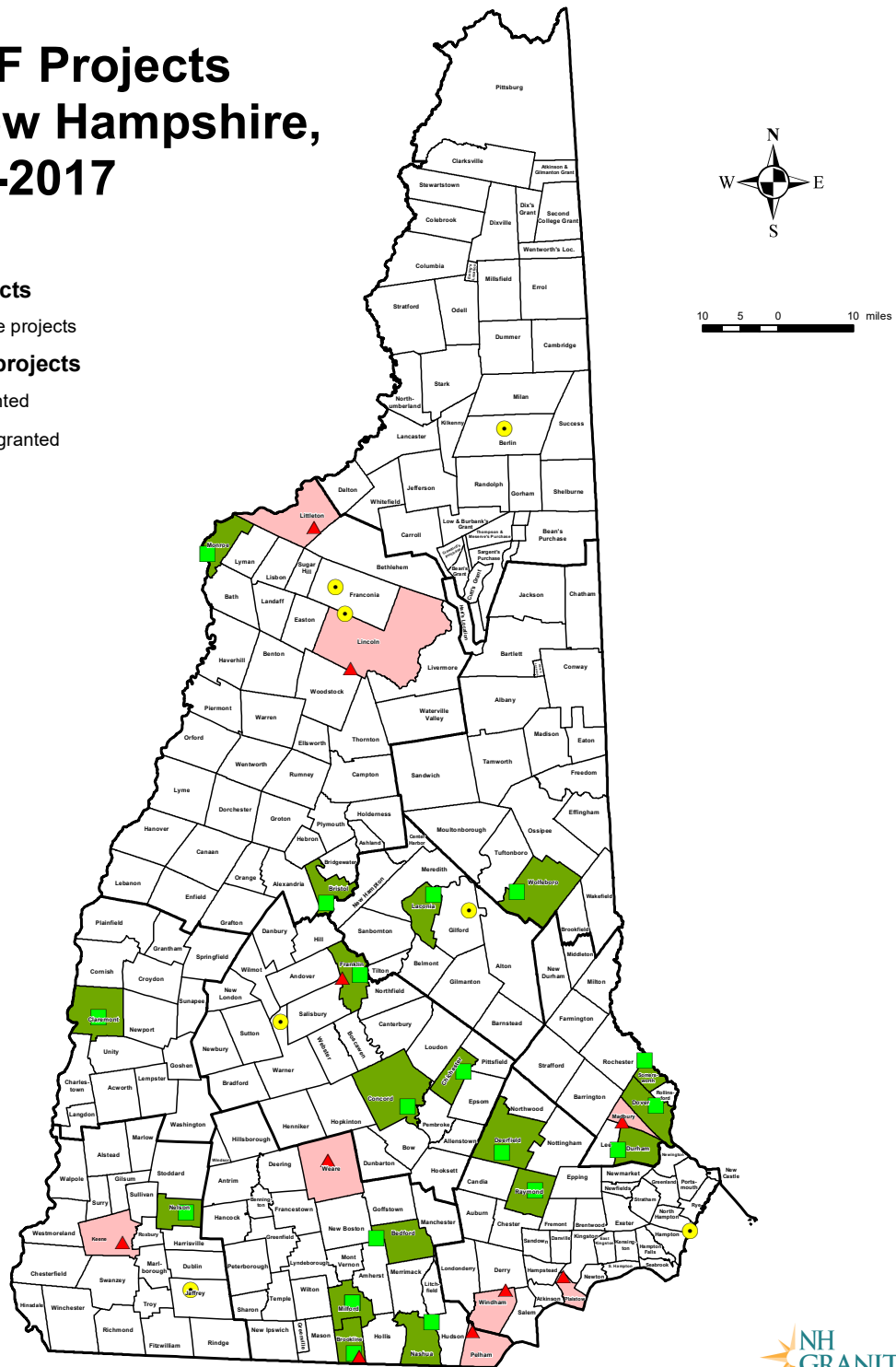
State projects

● State projects

Municipal projects

■ Granted

▲ Not granted



Source: NH OSI, 2018

Alignment with SCORP Priorities, Goals, and Actions

The 2019-2023 SCORP must be completed for New Hampshire to be eligible for continued federal Land and Water Conservation Fund funding. The allocation of funds to communities is conducted through a statewide competitive process. Project applicants are required to demonstrate a link between the proposed project and the analysis of New Hampshire’s outdoor recreation supply, demand, and needs contained in the current SCORP and should be in alignment with the priorities and goals (Chapter 3) expressed in the public involvement process. The following priorities and goals shown in **Figure P.2** have a direct correlation to the LWCF funding process, and will be used to develop criteria for scoring applications and ultimately awarding grants.

Figure P.2: Alignment with SCORP Priorities and Goals



Technical Planning Assistance

As recommended in the 2011 SORP report, *Reframing the Role and Relevancy of SCORP Plans for the Next 50 Years*, technical planning assistance is necessary for states and communities to fully benefit from statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation planning.

Technical Assistance Options for SCORP Efforts

- National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program.
- USDA Cooperative Extension Service.
- State and Private Forestry, U.S. Forest Service.
- Professional Outsourcing.

Accountability for Implementation

A commitment to providing annual progress reports available to the public on implementing New Hampshire SCORP Priorities and Actions is essential.



Monadnock State Park



CHAPTER 1: TRENDS IMPACTING OUTDOOR RECREATION

NEW HAMPSHIRE: A LOOK AT THE TRENDS

Demographic and Population Trends

Demographics shape our communities, institutions, and social interactions on a daily basis; facilitate an understanding of recreational supply as well as current and projected needs; and help policy makers implement informed decisions. The 2019-2023 SCORP includes statewide maps, located throughout this document, which highlight regional demographic differences around the state. Recognizing these differences and responding to the unique characteristics of each region is critically important to the overall success of long-term outdoor recreation planning.

Socio-Demographic Trends

New Hampshire residents are middle-aged, well educated, and less racially diverse when compared to the nation as a whole, and are most often born someplace else and migrate into the state. A summary of demographic trends is as follows:

- In the past years, 2010-2016, New Hampshire's growth rate increased to 2.0%, one of highest rates in the Northeast, but below the national rate.
- The 2010 Census indicates that 39.7 percent of the NH population lives in rural areas while 60.3 percent lives in urban areas.

Demographic and Housing Trends: 2016 U.S. Census Update

- According to 2016 Census estimates, in New Hampshire, 93.8 percent of the population is white, compared to the national average of 76.9 percent.
- Ten percent of New Hampshire's housing stock is for recreational or seasonal use, compared to 3 percent nationwide.
- Racially and ethnically diverse populations represented 6.2 percent of New Hampshire's population in 2016 compared to 23.1 percent nationwide (U.S. Census, 2016).
- Three and a half percent of NH's population is of Hispanic origin compared to 17.8 percent nationwide (U.S. Census, 2016).

Diverse Populations

The University of New Hampshire Carsey Institute 2012 report, *NH Demographic Trends in the Twenty-First Century*, describes New Hampshire’s racial and ethnic diverse populations:

“Although [racial and ethnic diverse] populations are growing, they remain spatially concentrated in just a few areas. [Diverse racial and ethnic populations] represent a significant part of the population in the Concord-Manchester-Nashua urban corridor, as well as in the Hanover-Lebanon region and in a few areas of the Seacoast.”



Umbagog Lake State Park

“Because the diversity of the [youth] population is increasing much more rapidly than that of the adult population, areas where [racially and ethnically diverse youth] represent a significant proportion of all [youth] are more numerous. This is particularly evident in the Concord-Manchester-Nashua corridor, where [populations of racially and ethnically diverse youth] exceeding 40 percent can be found in a number of places. Concentrations of racially and ethnically diverse [youth] are largest in the City of Manchester, where 30 percent of [youth] [have a racially and ethnically diverse background]. In a state where diversity historically has been unusual, such large concentrations of [racially and ethnically diverse youth] represent a challenge to school districts, health care providers, and communities that must meet the needs of these diverse groups. It also presents an opportunity for these communities to embrace and celebrate diversity, as well as to use it to foster mutual understanding and acceptance.” **Figure 1.1** demonstrates the ethnically and racially diverse youth concentrations in New Hampshire.

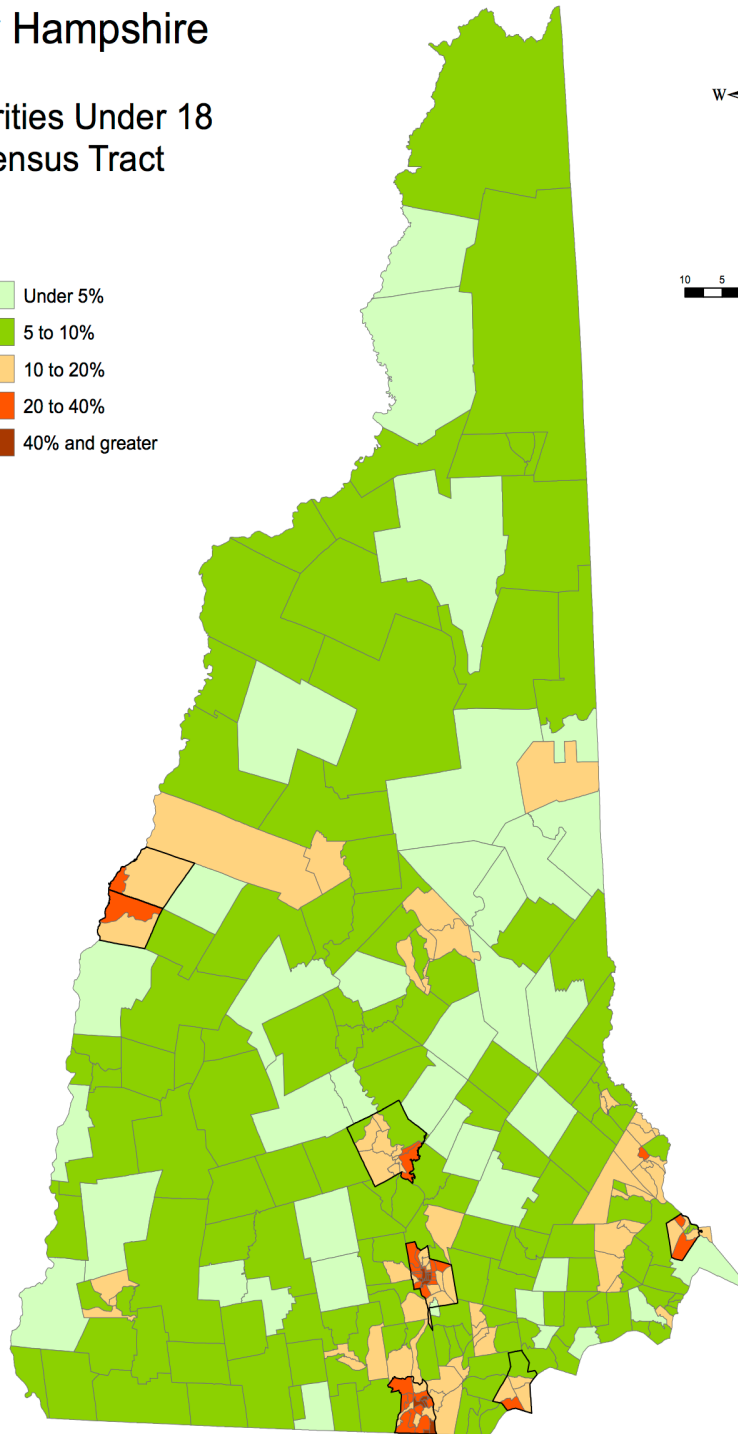
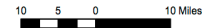
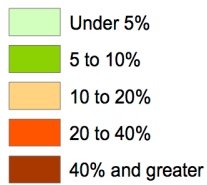


City of Manchester

Figure 1.1: Racially and Ethnically Diverse Populations under 18 by Census Tract 2010

New Hampshire

Minorities Under 18 by Census Tract 2010



Map produced at NH Office of Strategic Initiatives, March 2018.

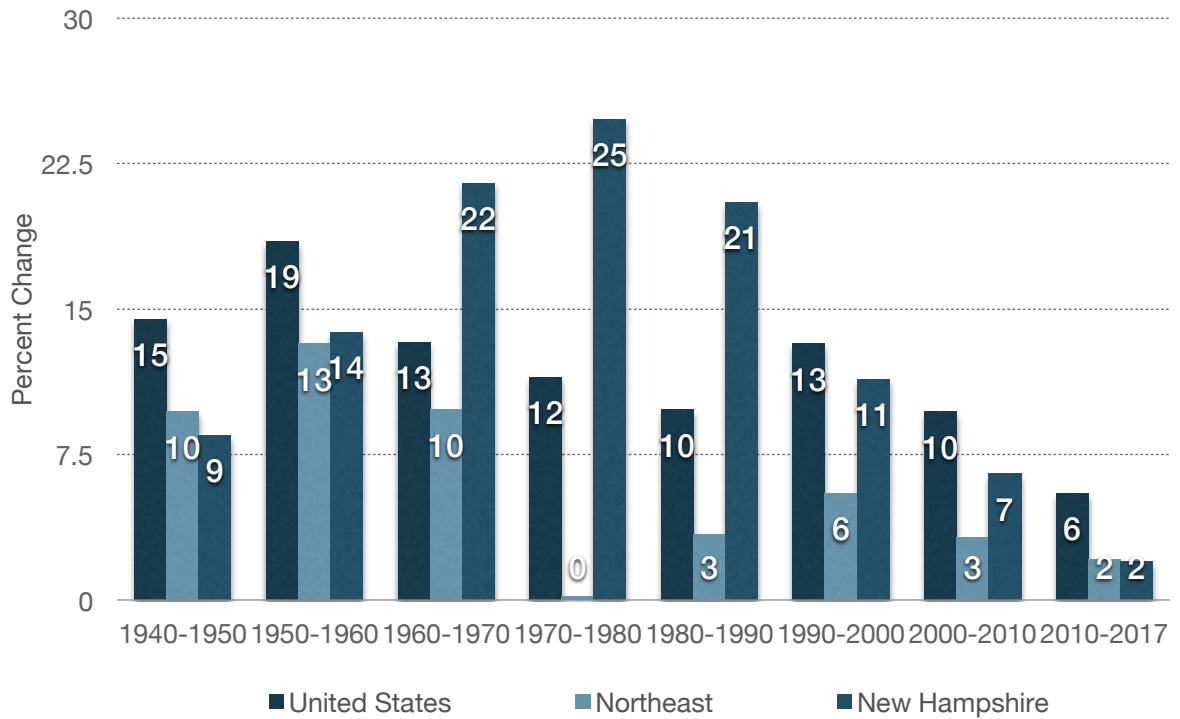
Source: NH OSI, 2018



State Population Trends

New Hampshire’s population growth patterns show a steady decline. **Figure 1.2** shows long-term population comparisons.

Figure 1.2: Long-term Population Changes for the State of New Hampshire



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

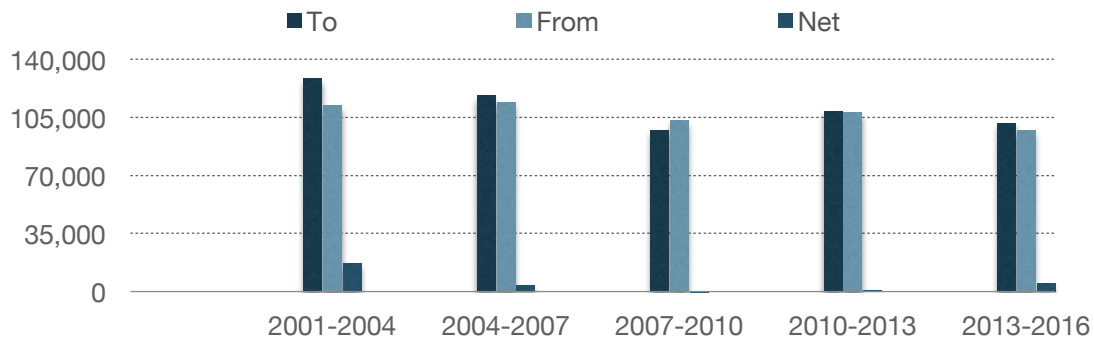
Regional Population Trends from 2010-2016

Considering New Hampshire’s regions, growth has remained concentrated in the southern part of the state. Since 2010, estimates show that Rockingham County has gained the most residents, close to 7,000, for a population increase of 2.4 percent, the highest rate in the state. Hillsborough County added 5,000 residents, and Strafford County added over 2,600. Counties north and west of the center of the state grew slowly, or in the case of Sullivan County, lost population (U.S. Census, 2016).

Migrating Trends

Migration into and out of New Hampshire is a key trend to consider when planning future outdoor recreation resources. **Figure 1.3** shows net migration in New Hampshire.

Figure 1.3: Net Migration in New Hampshire



Source: NH OSI, 2017

In New England, migration patterns have shown a consistent trend of migration into every New England state. **Table 1.1** shows the migration patterns for New England.

Table 1.1: New England State Migration 2014-2015 (Includes State to State and Foreign)

State	In-Migration	Out-Migration	Net Migration
CT	67,699	60,493	7,206
MA	111,669	89,799	21,870
ME	25,404	17,712	7,692
NH	37,034	25,366	11,668
RI	23,129	19,457	3,672
VT	15,169	11,479	3,690
Totals	280,104	224,306	55,798

Source: NH OSI- IRS Migration Data, 2014-2015

Population Migration

“...recreational and scenic amenities will attract additional older migrants, and this stream will likely swell as the large baby boom cohorts now in their late 40s to early 60s begin to retire. The combined effect of residents aging in place and senior migration is a likely doubling of the [NH] population aged 65 to 74 in the next twenty years.”

- NH Demographic Trends in the Twenty-First Century, 2012 UNH Carsey Institute

Aging Population and Income Trends

The statewide median age was 42.2 years in 2015, an increase from age 41.1 in 2010.

Many demographers have concluded that the declining number of young adults is not due to migration out of the state, but rather the result of fewer children being born 20-30 years ago.

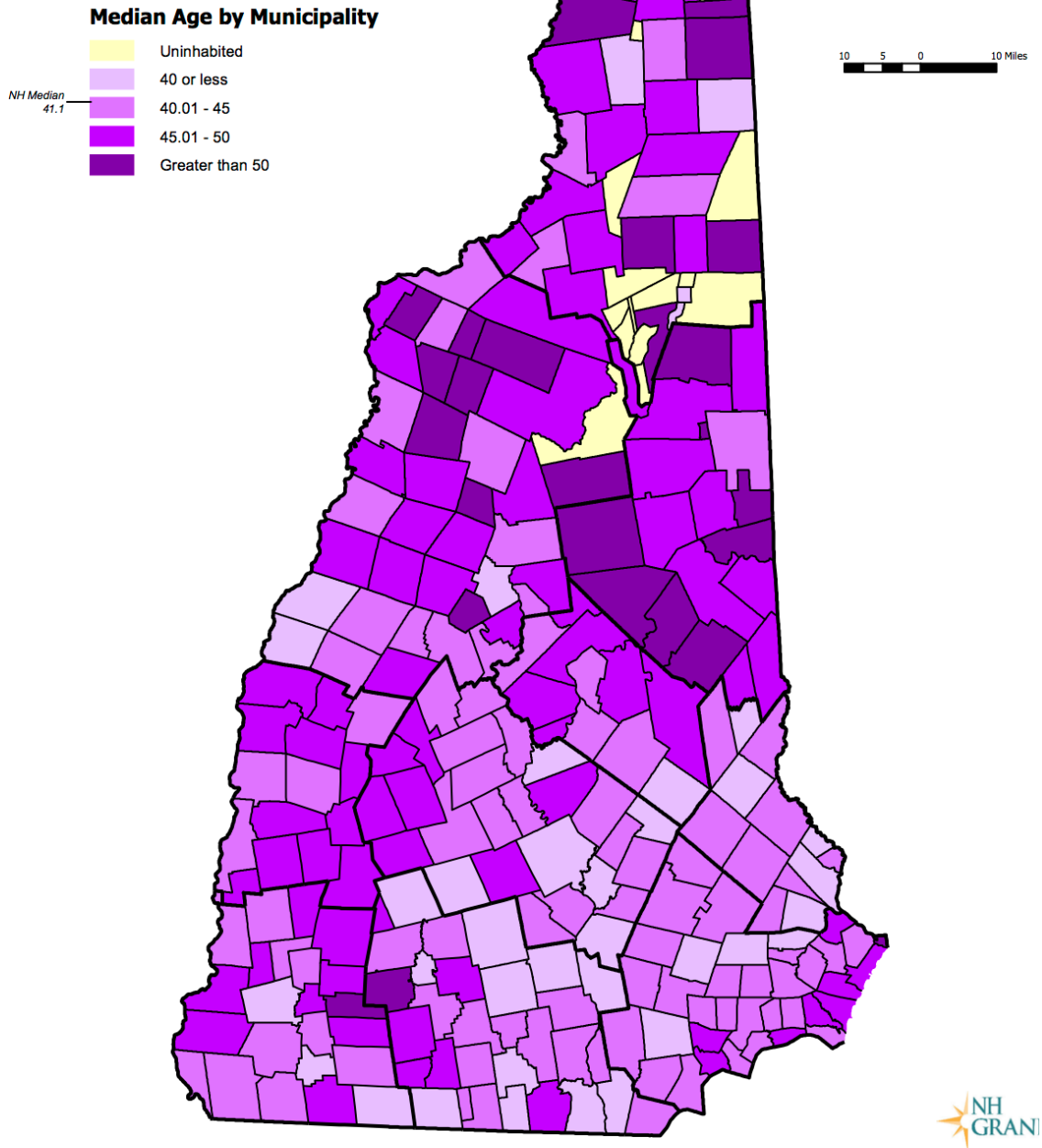
Retirees are attracted to the amenity communities, such as those in the Lakes Region and the North Country, which may result in an increasingly older population.

- NH's population is more dense the further south one travels. Population density ranges from fewer than 20 people per square mile in the Great North Woods to over 2,500 people per square mile in the Greater Nashua area.
- Not all of New Hampshire's communities and regions are aging at the same rate. **Figure 1.4** shows New Hampshire's median age for 2010, as well as the different age group distributions throughout the state.
- The impact of an older population on outdoor recreation includes the issue of community connectivity, particularly as middle-aged populations may choose to “age in place,” and opportunities for recreation close to home become more important.
- Median income, illustrated in **Figure 1.5** is also an indicator of regional differences. NH residents, as a whole, are wealthy compared to national averages; however, there are areas within the state where median income is much lower than the state average.

Figure 1.4: Median Age for New Hampshire, 2010

New Hampshire: Median Age

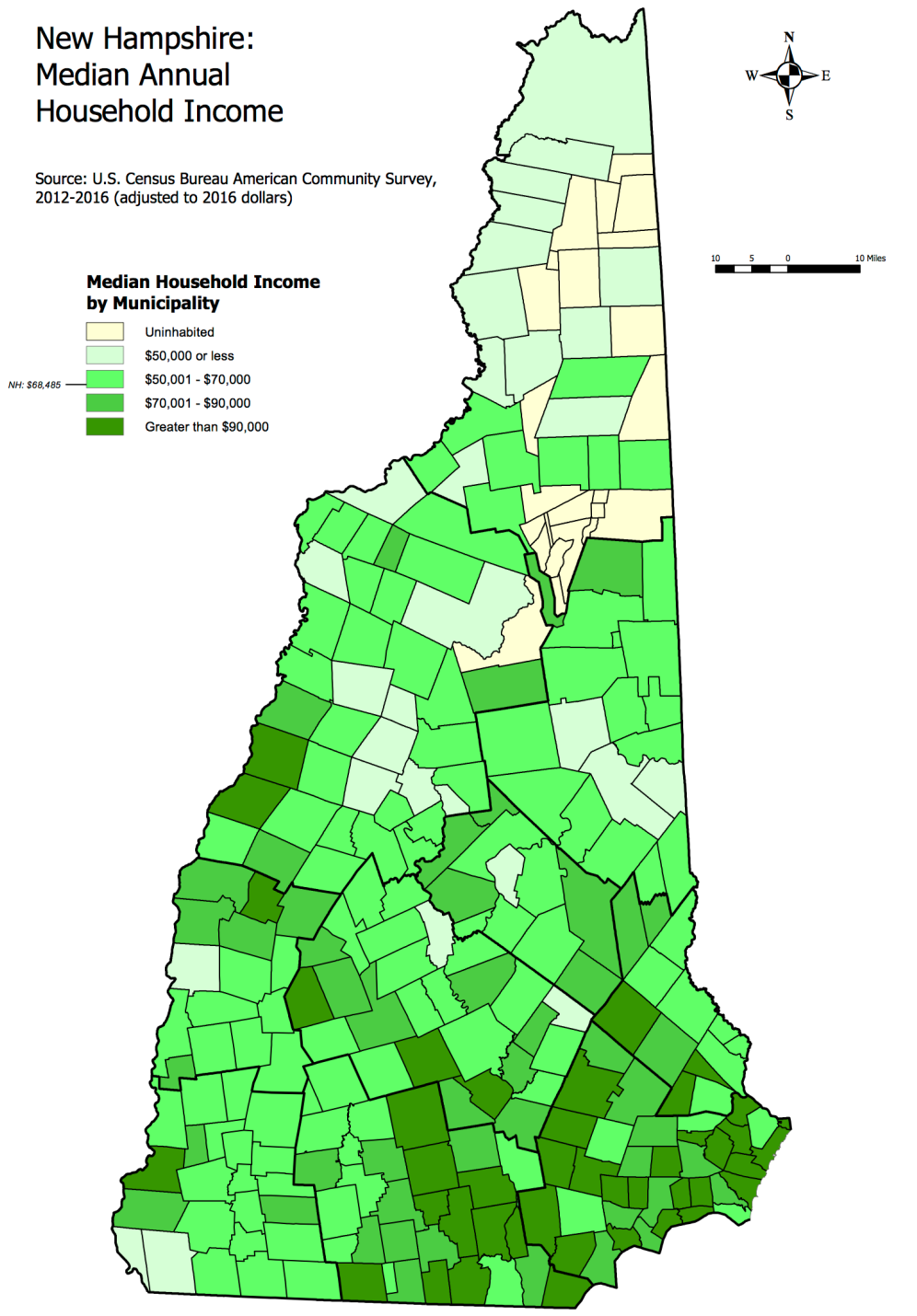
Source: 2010 U.S. Census



Source: NH OSI, 2012



Figure 1.5: New Hampshire Median Annual Household Income, 2016



Source: NH OSI, 2018



HEALTH AND WELLNESS TRENDS

Overweight and obesity rates among youth and adults continue to receive attention nationally and in New Hampshire. Overweight is defined as having a body mass index of greater than or equal to 25 but less than 30 percent of total body weight, whereas obesity is defined as having a body mass index of greater than or equal to 30 percent of total body weight. Obesity and overweight increase the risk of developing chronic diseases, such as heart disease, diabetes, stroke, high blood pressure, and cancer.

National Trends

The National Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports that 63.6 percent of adults were overweight or obese as measured in the 2016 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). Nationally, youth overweight and obesity rates have tripled since 1980. Obesity now affects 14 percent of all adolescents in the United States.

State Trends

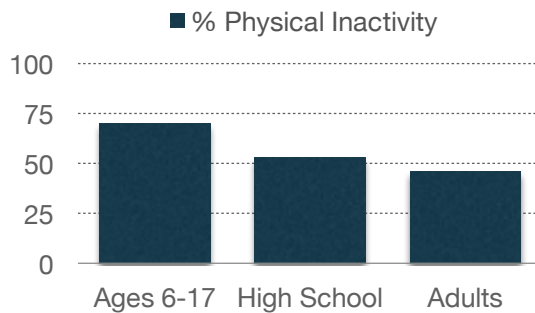
According to the New Hampshire Obesity Data Book 2010, “Contributing factors to obesity include a social environment that supports physical inactivity.” Data collected in 2015 from various sources, including the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) reported:

- Low-income youth 2 to 4 years old have a 14.1 percent obesity rate.
- Third grade public school students have an obesity rate of 12.6 percent.
- High school males have an obesity rate of 12.2 percent.
- New Hampshire adults have an obesity rate of 26.4 percent.
- New Hampshire’s adult obesity rate is lower than the national rate of 38%, but has climbed steadily since 2001.
- Inadequate physical activity is one of three Obesity Risk Factors, according to the DHHS’ NH Obesity Data Book.

According to the NH Obesity Data Book, physical activity recommendations for adults include 30 minutes or more of moderate physical activity five or more days a week or vigorous physical activity for 20 or more minutes three or more days a week. Recent guidelines developed by the US Department of Health and Human Services recommend that youth (children and adolescents) be active for at least 60 minutes a day.

Among NH adults, overweight and obesity increase with age, and obesity rates are higher among adults with lower incomes and less education. Overweight is more prevalent among adults with higher incomes. Younger adults with higher incomes are more likely to meet recommended physical activity levels. **Figure 1.6** shows the levels of physical inactivity (failure to meet recommended federal guidelines for physical activity) in NH.

Figure 1.6: Physical Inactivity in New Hampshire

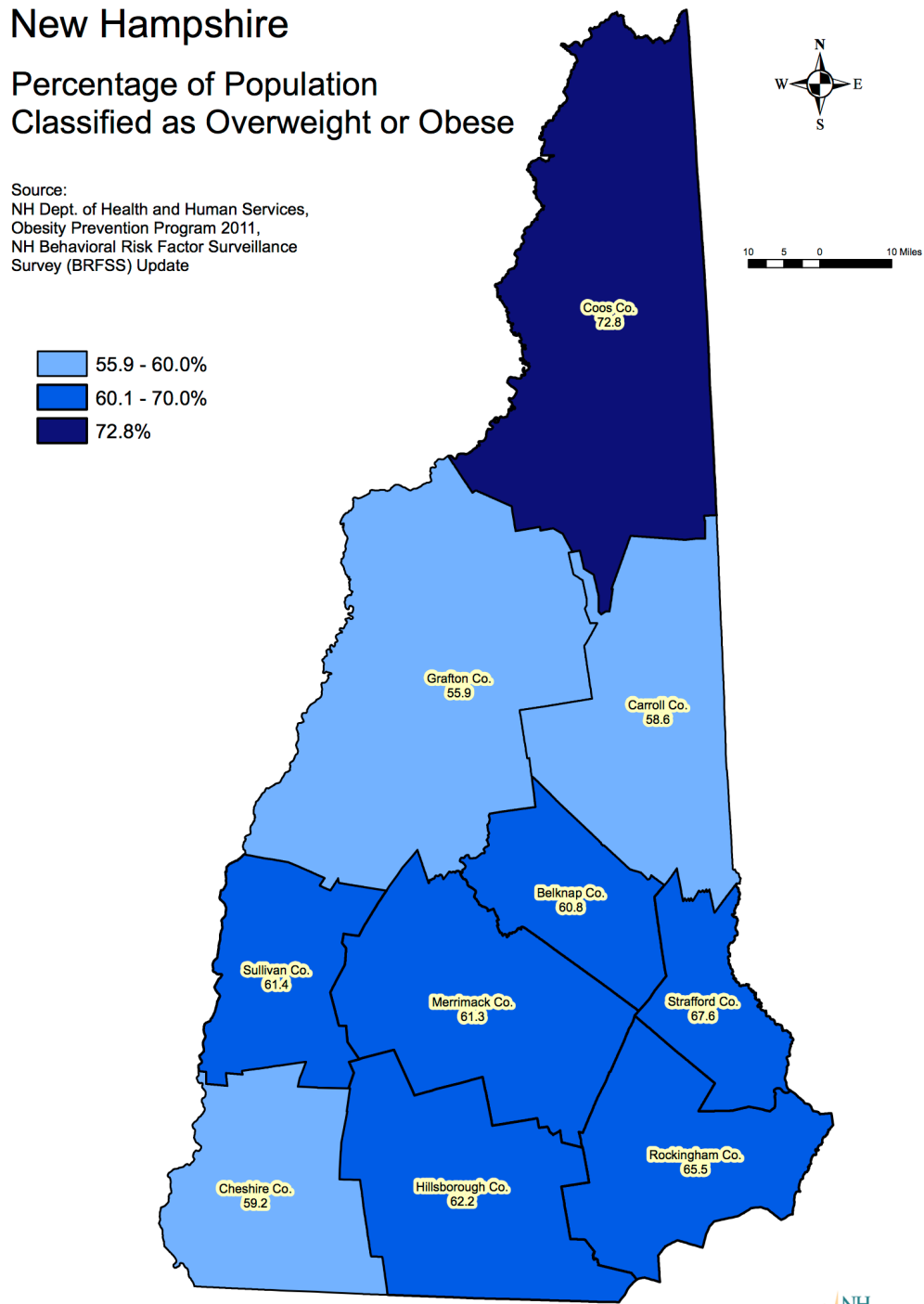


As of 2011, Strafford and Coos Counties have higher proportions of obese adults than other NH counties. The map in **Figure 1.7** demonstrates New Hampshire’s obesity rates by county.



Presidential Range, Mt. Washington

Figure 1.7: Percentage of Population Classified as Overweight or Obese, 2011



Source: NH OSI, 2012

THE BENEFITS OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

In a report published by the Trust for Public Land, “The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space,” the following observations about the health, economic, environmental, and social benefits of parks and open space emerged:

- Physical activity makes people healthier and increases with access to parks.
- Contact with the natural world improves physical and psychological health.
- Residential and commercial property values increase.
- Value is added to community and economic development sustainability.
- Benefits of tourism are enhanced.
- Trees are effective in improving air quality and act as natural air conditioners.
- Trees and greenspace assist with storm water control and erosion.
- Crime and juvenile delinquency are reduced.
- Recreational opportunities for all ages are provided.
- Stable neighborhoods and strong communities are created.



White Lake State Park

Within New Hampshire, municipal officials were surveyed about their opinions regarding outdoor recreation, including perception of benefits, funding for recreation, and areas of need within their community. **Figure 1.8** shows the breakdown of survey respondents in the following stakeholder categories: town administration, conservation commissions, elected officials, and recreation departments.

Figure 1.8: Percentage of Stakeholder Groups

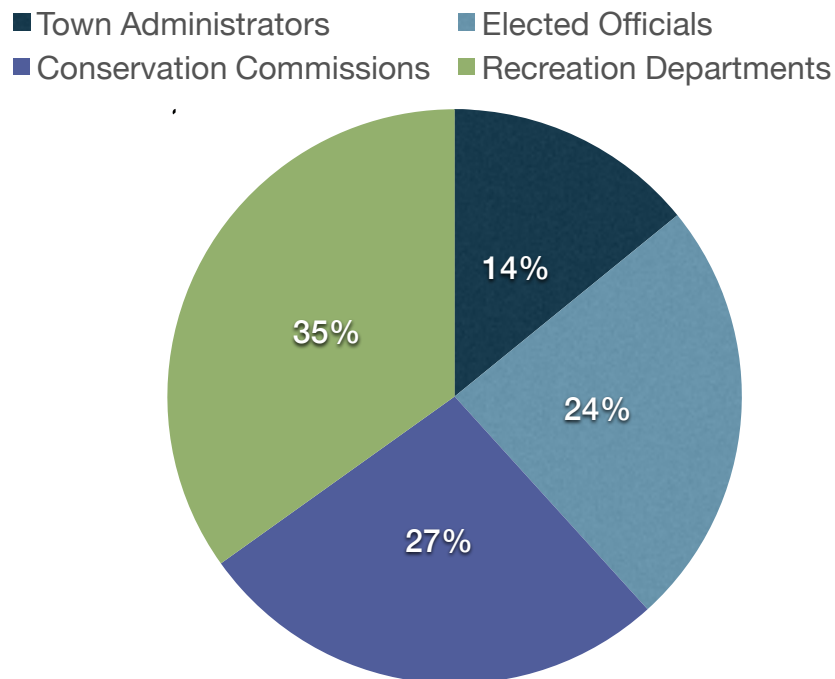
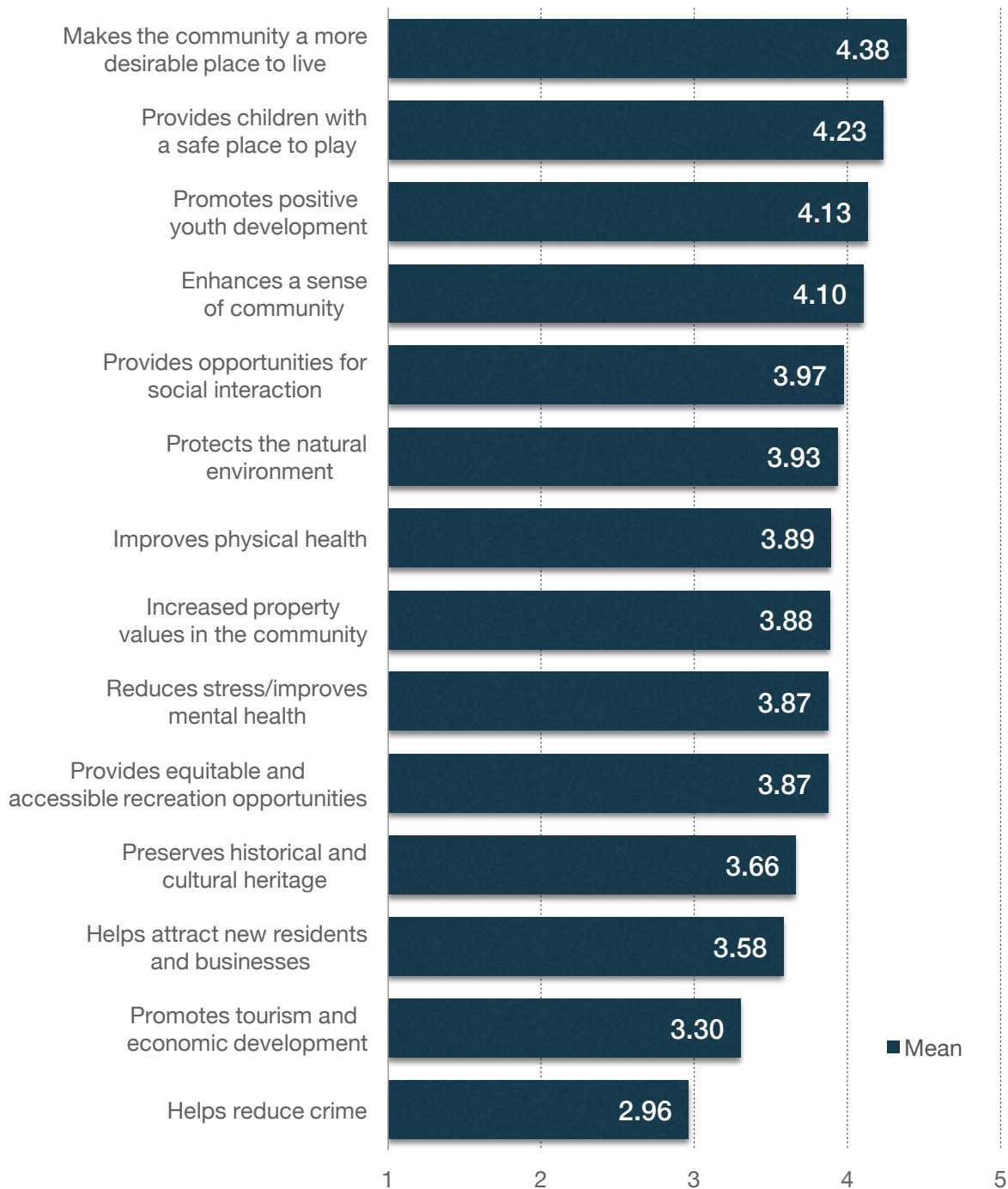


Figure 1.9 shows the extent to which stakeholder groups believe outdoor recreation benefits a variety of outcomes within their community. Responses were measured on a scale of 1= “not at all” to 5= “a great deal.” Among the highest perceived benefits were increased property values, providing safe places for children to play, promoting positive youth development, and enhancing a sense of community.

Figure 1.9: Municipal Perceived Benefits of Outdoor Recreation



OUTDOOR RECREATION TRENDS

National Trends

In 2017, The Outdoor Foundation (OF) released its “Outdoor Recreation Participation Report.” The report highlights growth in nature-based outdoor activities and a continued decline in youth outdoor participation. Industry trends show the beginning of adjustments in American lifestyles brought about by a challenging economy and shifting demographics.

Their research highlighted the following key findings:

- Nearly 50 percent of Americans ages six and older participated in outdoor recreation in 2016, a slight increase from 2015, equating to a total of 144.4 million Americans.
- Activities with the highest percentage of first time participants in 2015 included stand up paddling, traditional/road triathlons, kayak fishing, and non-traditional /off road triathlon.
- Forty-two percent (42%) of outdoor participants said the economy impacted how often they participated in outdoor activities in 2009.
- Outdoor participants rate their fitness level at 6.4 on a 10-point scale. In terms of health, outdoor participants rate their health level at 7.6 on a 10-point scale.
- Among youth ages 6 to17, bicycling is the most popular outdoor activity.



Town of Bartlett

NH Fish & Game Department's Wildlife Action Plan 2015

During the public engagement process for developing the Wildlife Action Plan, participants were asked to identify the top issues for wildlife conservation in New Hampshire.

Respondents identified the following in **Table 1.2**:

Table 1.2: Priorities for Wildlife Conservation in New Hampshire, 2015

Prevent habitat loss	86%
Educate citizens about wildlife management	52%
Improve land use planning	40%
Encourage stewardship	36%

Source: Wildlife Action Plan, 2015

The Outdoor Recreation Economy

The Outdoor Industry Association (2017) reports the following economic impact of the outdoor recreation economy:

- Accounts for \$887 billion in annual U.S. consumer spending (OIA, 2017).
- Supports nearly 7.6 million jobs across the U.S.
- Generates \$124.5 billion in annual federal, state and local tax revenue.
- Adds \$524.8 billion in active outdoor recreation trip and travel expenditures.
- Accounts for 2% of overall GDP contributing \$373.7 billion to economy (BEA, 2016).

According to U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), the outdoor recreation economy grew 3.8 percent in 2016 in comparison to the overall U.S. economy's 2.8 percent growth. BEA estimates that outdoor recreation accounted for 2 percent of the overall U.S. Gross Domestic Product in 2016, contributing \$373.7 billion to the economy.

New Hampshire's Outdoors: National Rankings

Nashua: “#16 Best Place to Live in the U.S.” - Monday Magazine, 2016

Concord: “#4 Best State Capital to Live in” - SmartAssest Third Annual Report, 2016

“#7 Best State Capital in which to Live” - WalletHub.com, 2017

“Concord Main Street: Best of New Hampshire” - New Hampshire Magazine, 2016

Lebanon: “#10 Best Place to Raise an Outdoor Kid,” - Backpacker Magazine, 2009

North Conway: “#23 The World's Best Ski Town” - National Geographic, 2017

Portsmouth: “#1 Best Town in New Hampshire” - Blue Water Mortgage Corporation, 2015

Hampton: “#1 Best Beach Boardwalk in America” - Coastal Living Magazine, 2018

Hampton Beach State Park: “#19 Best State Parks in America” - The Active Times, 2017

Pittsburg: “#10 Best Snowmobile Destination” - Snowmobile.com, 2015

Mountain Washington State Park: “#3 Top Park in New England” - The Guardian, 2015

Franconia Notch State Park: “#6 America's Best State Parks” - Fodor's Travel, 2017

“Views from The Top at Franconia Notch State Park, N.H., 10 Coolest Things in State Parks Across America” - The Weather Channel, 2016

Cannon Mountain: “Best Ski Area in New Hampshire” - WMUR Views Choice Award, 2018

New Hampshire:

- “Most Livable State” - CQ Press, 2011
- “America's Best States to Live In” - CNBC, 2012
- “Best Colleges for People Who Love the Great Outdoors” - Time, 2017
- “Best Places to Surf on the East Coast” - Outside, 2014



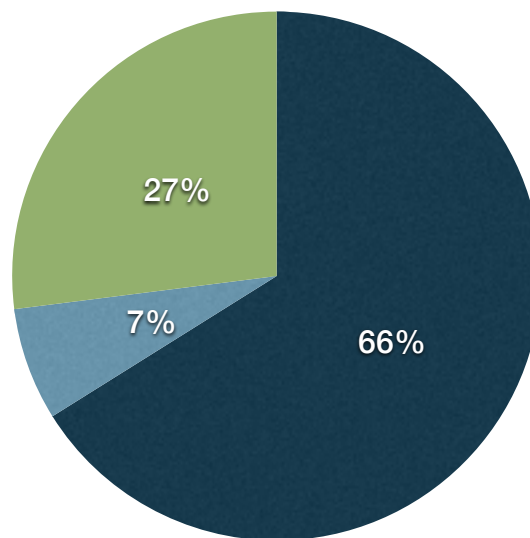
Jenness State Beach

Funding for Recreation in New Hampshire

Figure 1.10 shows the breakdown of changes in municipal funding for recreation in the past five years. A majority (66%) of NH outdoor recreation stakeholders reported municipal funding for recreation had stayed the same in the past 5 years. Twenty seven percent of stakeholders identified an increase in municipal funding for recreation, while 7% reported a decrease in funding.

Figure 1.10: Municipal Funding for Recreation in the Past 5 Years

■ Stayed the same ■ Decreased ■ Increased



ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE'S OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES

In New Hampshire, the active outdoor recreation economy contributes the following to the state's economic resilience, as reported by the Outdoor Foundation in 2017:

- Supports 79,000 jobs.
- Generates \$528 million in annual state tax revenue.
- Produces nearly \$8.7 billion in consumer spending annually.

The highlights below demonstrate the economic impacts of various state and local agencies providing outdoor recreation, areas of expressed demand identified in the public engagement process, and natural resource features.

Outdoor Recreation Activities Economic Contributions

New Hampshire's natural beauty and abundance of lakes and rivers, trails, and forested lands not only attract tourists who participate in a variety of active outdoor recreation pursuits, but also provide opportunities for close-to-home participation by residents. According to a 2017 report from the Outdoor Industry Association, 69 percent of NH residents participate in outdoor recreation each year. New Hampshire residents are more likely than the average American to participate in day hiking and kayaking. A variety of outdoor recreation pursuits including hunting, fishing, bicycling, camping, boating, snowmobiling, skiing, climbing, swimming, golfing, paddling, etc. contribute to the New Hampshire economy with additional revenues from lodging, restaurant, retail, and equipment sales.

State Parks Economic Contributions

In 2009, New Hampshire State Parks conducted a survey to determine park usage and found that 92 percent of respondents had visited a State Park within the last three years. Most recent estimates from DNCR's 2017 Annual Report indicate State Parks receive six million visitors each year, contributing more than \$500 million annually to New Hampshire's economy through spending and tax revenues in restaurants, accommodations, retail trade, services, and transportation. The Division of Parks and Recreation own two ski areas, Cannon Mountain and Mount Sunapee, which actively support the outdoor recreation economy, with Cannon contributing \$7.6 million in net revenues in Fiscal Year 2015.

Fishing and Hunting Economic Contributions

For 2016, N.H. Fish and Game reported 57,632 licensed hunters and 156,567 licensed anglers. These numbers account for paid licenses rather than total licenses sold and therefore does not include those with licenses issued free of charge or not required (i.e. under age 16). The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation identified tax revenues, employment, participation, and spending associated with wildlife related outdoor recreation in New Hampshire. Estimates in 2011 indicated approximately \$553,507,000 in expenditures for wildlife related recreation (fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching) in New Hampshire. Fishing (both freshwater and saltwater) and hunting expenditures accounted for \$341,541,000 of the total wildlife related expenditures in New Hampshire.

Equestrian Community Economic Contributions

Equestrian activities in New Hampshire generate a considerable amount of economic impact through jobs in the industry, competitions and events, retail sales, and tourism activities. There are approximately 21 equine related user groups in the state. The 2010 Census showed NH as having 975 farms with horses.

Mountain Biking Contributions

Mountain Biking has become very popular in recent years both in New Hampshire and throughout other areas of the country. In the Outdoor Foundation's 2017 Participation Report, biking (road, mountain, and BMX) was identified as the second most popular outdoor activity by frequency of participation for those age 6 and above.

While no economic impact data for mountain biking currently exists in New Hampshire, other New England states have measured this impact. For example, Vermont Trails and Greenways Council (2016) examined four trail networks in the state, estimating that these networks alone generated nearly \$30 million in economic impact from out-of-state visitors. Trail tourism is particularly beneficial for economic impact when it attracts non-local visitors. Kingdom Trails, one of the four trail networks examined in the Vermont Trails and Greenways study, is a prime example of destination trail tourism. According to the Global Mountain Bike Market Report (2017-2021), the global mountain bike market is projected to grow nearly 10% in the next five years.

Several dedicated mountain biking trails exist throughout the state of New Hampshire including Highland Park, Parker Mountain, and Stratham Hill Park. As these locations grow, it will be interesting to examine their economic contributions to the outdoor recreation economy within the state. New Hampshire is part of the New England Mountain Biking Association (NEMBA) and currently has six regional chapters within the state.



Town of Bartlett

Ski Industry

SkiNH commissioned a report by Plymouth State University for the 2012-2013 ski season, recording more than \$1.1 billion 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 zip lines, canopy tours, horseback riding, and Segway tours.

Off-Highway Recreation Vehicle (OHRV) Economic Contributions

Wheeled off-highway vehicle registrations, both in-state and out-of-state, have increased in recent years by about 1,000 registrations per year. In 2016-2017, 35,000 OHRVs were registered in New Hampshire as compared to 22,000 registrations back in 2008. Thirty five percent of OHRV registrations are non-resident and 65% are resident. The 2017 Annual Report from DNCR estimates OHRV use generates about \$572 million to the New Hampshire economy.

Snowmobile Activity Economic Contributions

New Hampshire has more than 7,000 miles of snowmobile trails. In Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017), more than 47,000 snowmobiles were registered in NH; this was an increase from the previous season which saw only 23,000 snowmobile registrations. According to NH Fish and Game, the average for snowmobile registrations in the past 5 years was 41,640, compared to a ten-year average of 45,000. This decrease in snowmobiling is thought to reflect a shift in recent years to OHRVs as well as changing weather conditions in the state and the cost of the modern snowmobile. Typically, 35% of snowmobile registrations are non-resident and 65% are resident.

According to the 2017 Annual Report from DNCR, snowmobiling has an economic impact of \$586 million in New Hampshire; however, changing climate conditions in the state have caused these numbers to vary. For example, during the winter of 2011-2012 (a winter of poor snow conditions) the Hubbard Brook Research Foundation estimated the economic impact of snowmobiling in NH as \$265 million. Snowmobile registrations as well as economic impact of the industry appear to relate closely with the weather conditions in the state.

Travel and Tourism Economic Contributions

In 2017, the Division of Travel and Tourism Development (DTTD) reported visitor spending at \$5.5 billion, representing approximately 6.8% of the overall gross domestic product of \$80.5 billion. Further, DTTD estimates the ROI for every dollar spent on media at \$146 and the tax ROI at \$8.50, both of which are just below the national industry averages.

Travel and Tourism Impacts

- According to 2017 data from the NH Division of Travel and Tourism Development, travel and tourism:
 - Supported 48,000 jobs.
 - Benefited from 2.23 million visitor trips.
 - Was responsible for \$5.5 billion in visitor spending.
 - Accounted for \$269 million in tax revenues.



Lake Wentworth

Local Parks and Recreation Economic Contribution

According to the National Recreation and Park Association, local public parks and recreation agencies generated more than \$154 billion in economic activity and supported more than 1.1 million jobs in 2015. In terms of GDP contributions, local park and recreation agency spending added \$81.05 billion in 2015. Within New Hampshire, local public parks and recreation agencies contribute \$155,240,141 in economic activity and employ more than 1,500 people.

Further, studies nationwide show that quality parks and recreation are cited as one of the top three factors businesses consider when making relocation decisions, and that real estate values are 10 to 30 percent higher on average for properties located near parks, trails, and recreational amenities.

OTHER TRENDS

Active Seniors and Youth Engagement

Outdoor recreation planners and providers will need to be responsive to a more active, older population that seeks adventure in its outdoor experiences, and focus on encouraging greater participation in the outdoors by youth. Key trends for advancing this public health related agenda include:

- Transportation programs, policy, and funding are getting more attention in communities across the country.
- Exercise walking, camping, and swimming are among the top ten athletic activities ranked by total participation.
- Trails, parks, and playgrounds are among the five most important community amenities considered when selecting a home.
- The majority of Americans agree that preserving undeveloped land for outdoor recreation is important, and that there should be more outdoor education activities during the school day.
- Adventure racing, slack lines in parks, mountain bicycling, rock and ice climbing, trail running, and kayaking are growing in popularity nationwide.
- Geocaching, letterboxing, Segways for access to recreation, and tree top zip lines are recognized outdoor recreation activities.

Statewide Land Use

Communities toward the northern part of the state tend to be dominated by large tracts of publicly owned lands, such as the White Mountain National Forest, and large tracts of un-fragmented privately held lands.

Tourism promotion, the impacts of recreational use, and the management decisions made on these lands are of great importance to local communities. Comparatively, there is much less publicly held conservation land in the southeastern part of the state, and the number of large un-fragmented parcels is dwindling. Communities in the southeast must increasingly deal with issues surrounding growth, including loss of open space, loss of community character, and increased development pressure.



Jericho Mountain State Park

Statewide Motorized Access

In 2001, the state of New Hampshire recognized that off highway recreational vehicle use (OHRV), a recognized recreational activity, was on the rise in the state. With registrations increasing 150 percent over the prior 10 years, finding a way to address the issues brought about by the legitimate use, and potential abuse, of these machines was paramount. One initiative was to increase registration fees, with a portion of those fees dedicated to buying land to develop OHRV trails.

A wide variety of opinions about wheeled OHRV management exist in New Hampshire. One view holds that existing trail and wheeled OHRV area access is insufficient given the growing demand and substantial registration fees paid by OHRV users, and that more state resources and wheeled OHRV fees should be directed to expanding and improving access for wheeled motorized vehicles. Another view relates to a growing statewide concern with the impact of OHRV use on the environment (wetlands, wildlife, air pollution) and trail conditions, as well as other trail users and abutters (trespass, litter, safety, noise, enforcement).

DNCR has begun to address this demand with the purchase of land and the development of Jericho Mountain State Park in Berlin as a destination park for OHRV use. The Bureau of Trails, in collaboration with more than 20 OHRV clubs across the state and the New Hampshire Off Highway Vehicle Association, have created an education program that informs riders of state laws, rider ethics, and responsible trail usage.

POTENTIAL CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Department of Environmental Services (DES), in collaboration with the New Hampshire Energy and Climate Change Collaborative, acknowledges that New Hampshire's social and economic health is predicated in large part upon the health of its lakes and rivers, oceans and beaches, mountains, scenic towns, and natural areas, and that global climate change will affect the climate of New Hampshire. Impacts to New Hampshire's outdoor recreation resources from global climate change may include the following:

Impacts on New Hampshire Forests

- Ecological collapse for several tree species, including beech, maple, and hemlock (an important species for deer during the winter).
- Widespread tree mortality; decreases in vegetation density of 25 to 75 percent, extensive wildfires, large increases in pest and pathogen outbreaks, and a lag in the establishment of new forests for several decades.

Impacts on New Hampshire Coasts

- Sea level rise of 12 to 20 inches, causing large scale alteration of Great Bay, reduction of coastal estuaries and flooding of rivers, as well as potentially large revenue losses from coastal tourism, a \$484 million generator for New Hampshire.
- A rise in coastal storms has resulted in more frequent damage to the seacoast areas.

Impacts on New Hampshire Foliage

- Dulling and browning of foliage season due to tree die-offs, species substitution, and "climate stressed" unhealthy trees. New Hampshire foliage travelers on average spend a total of \$292 million annually.

Impacts on New Hampshire Freshwater Fishing

- Loss of cold water fishing: 50 to 100 percent eradication of rainbow, brook, and brown trout fishing, a \$150 million New Hampshire industry.

Impacts on New Hampshire Ski Industry

- Loss of 10 to 20 percent of ski season days, representing a loss of \$42 million to \$84 million in direct and indirect spending in New Hampshire.

Impacts on New Hampshire's Recreation Trails

- Loss of use from downed trees, flooding and erosion caused by storm events and resulting in increased maintenance costs.
- Storms such as Tropical Storm Irene have wreaked havoc on roads, bridges, trails, and other recreation sites. In the White Mountain National Forest alone, Irene caused more than \$10 million of damage. It is estimated that the cost to repair snowmobile trails within the Forest was about \$130,000, and approximately \$400,000 in damage occurred to snowmobile trails outside of the Forest throughout New Hampshire. Severe single-event storms are causing major trail damage on New Hampshire's trail systems.
- According to a 2014 study from Hubbard Brook Research Foundation, the New Hampshire snowmobile industry has suffered a significant decline in recent years due to the changing environmental conditions including decline in overall snowfall, increase in temperature, and fewer days of ice/snow cover.
- The Hubbard Brook study also suggests that non-winter trail users also face changing conditions due to changes in water flow within the forests.

LOCAL OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS PLANNING

Many communities already identify, inventory, and plan for recreation needs such as ball fields, playgrounds, bicycle paths, open space, and trails through their master planning process.

An open space/trails plan consists of an inventory and maps of a town's existing conservation easements, public lands, rights-of-way, and privately conserved lands, with an inventory and maps of existing formal trails and informal trails. These plans can provide recommendations for changes to a municipality's site plan review regulations or subdivision regulations to align community interests in trails with development. The Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC, www.cnhrpc.org) has developed a manual to provide guidance in writing open space/trails plans.

RESPONSE TO TRENDS

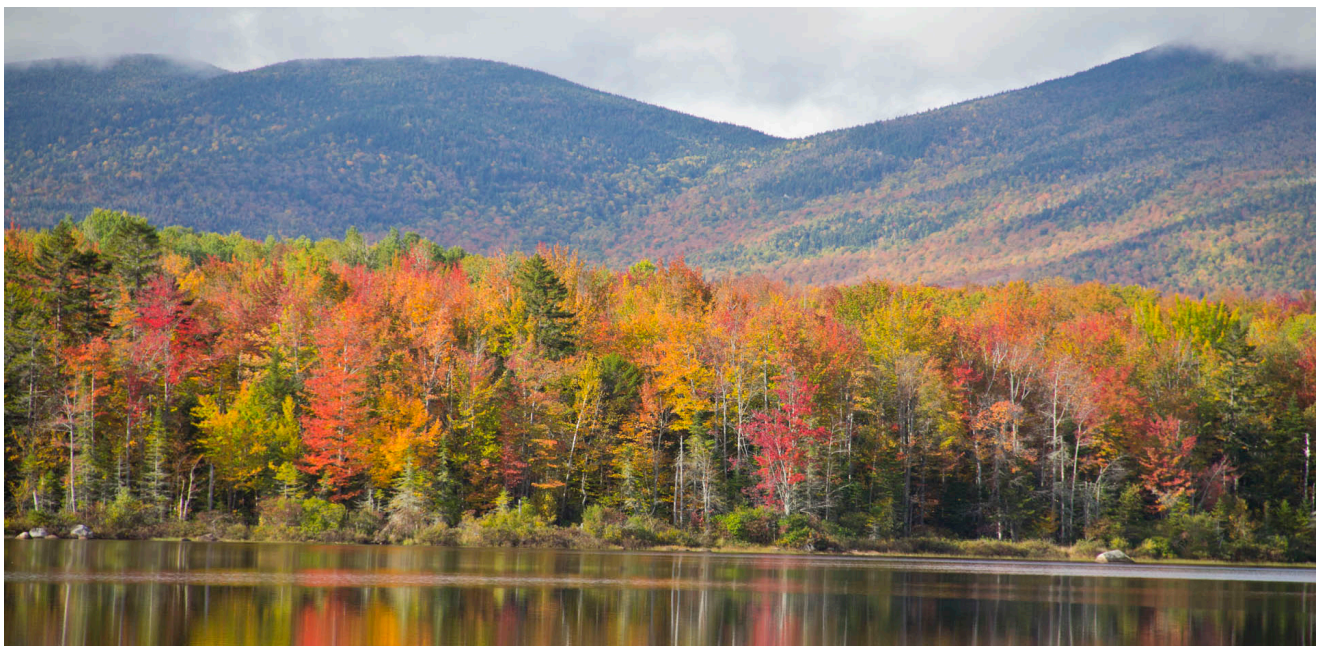
Changing demographics, the economic impacts of outdoor recreation, and participation trends are important to be aware of in planning long-term outdoor recreation improvements. A number of indicators apply to the SCORP planning process:

Changing Preferences

Shifts in ethnicity and age will result in changes in outdoor recreation preferences relative to types of activities, frequency, style, and location. Understanding the barriers or constraints to recreation participation, such as perception of safety, income/age/ethnicity diversity, and language barriers, is vital as New Hampshire's demographics continue to shift.

Accommodating Active Seniors

Outdoor recreation opportunities must also accommodate a growing active senior population, who will become more interested in individual health and wellness, easy and safe access to recreation opportunities, and an increase in social and family activity experiences. Connectivity using trails and green spaces is a low-cost solution to address the need for access to active recreation opportunities. The cost of building and maintaining trails equals about \$98 annually for each new person who uses them at least three times per week. (Wang G, 2004).



Jericho Mountain State Park

Collaborating with Multi-Sector Providers

The NH Department of Health and Human Services participates in HEAL (Healthy Eating, Active Living), a consortium of organizations supporting obesity prevention efforts. Seventy-one percent (71%) of respondents to the 2011 New Hampshire Recreation and Conservation Leaders Survey rank partnerships with organizations to foster connections between outdoor recreation and improved health and wellness as a medium to high priority.

Aligning with State and National Efforts

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services Obesity Prevention Program (OPP) receives funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The program focuses on six target areas for obesity prevention, including:

- Creating safe communities that support physical activity.
- Improving access to outdoor recreational facilities.
- Enhancing infrastructure that supports bicycling and walking.
- Enhancing personal safety and traffic safety in areas where people are or could be physically active.
- Encouraging communities to organize for change.
- Forming coalitions and partnerships that promote active living.



Monadnock State Park

TRENDS SUMMARY

Outdoor recreation is a vital component of local, state, and national efforts to promote individual health and wellness, environmental sustainability, and economic vitality.

Participation in outdoor recreation activities connects people to parks, trails, facilities, and water resources, and contributes to healthy lifestyles and the state's economy. The research is clear – changes in the built environment that support safe, active transportation and connectivity, and policy changes requiring inclusive transportation and recreation planning can help reverse the alarming trend toward increased rates of obesity and chronic disease while contributing to economic vitality.

Both at the community level in New Hampshire and on a national scale, there has been a focus on understanding demand and unmet needs in regards to recreation. Further, due to potential overcrowding and overuse issues at some New Hampshire State Parks, the state is moving towards completing carrying capacity and usage studies.



CHAPTER 2: SUPPLY, USAGE PATTERNS, AND 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 and numerous visitors as well as for the protection and preservation of land and water resources for future generations.

New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NHDNCR)

NHDNCR includes the Division of Parks and Recreation, the Division of Forests and Lands, the Division of Parks and Recreation, the State Council on the Arts, the Division of Historical Resources, the State Library, and the Commission on Native American Affairs. The Division of Historical Resources Five Year Preservation Plan (2016-2020) 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 Ammonoosuc ("fishing place") Kearsarge ("rough mountain") and Umbagog ("to the clear water lake").

- ***New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation (NHDPR)***

A Division of the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, NHDPR oversees 93 properties, including 38 parks, 22 beaches, 2 ski areas, 1,300 campsites, and approximately 7,000 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. NHDPR shares responsibility directly with NH Division of Forests and Lands (NHDFL) for more than 400,000 acres of state reservations.

- ***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 1,300 miles of wheeled off-highway recreational vehicle trails, over 300 miles of state-owned rail-trails, and 7,400 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 Natural and Cultural Resources. 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 DNCR. 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, support group, volunteer advocacy group, or friends group.

- ***New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands (NHDFL)***

The NHDFL, a Division of NHDNCR, protects and promotes the values provided by the state's forested resources. Reservations (the term for public lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources) total 201,513 acres consisting of 221 properties in 145 towns distributed throughout the state. The Division is also responsible for monitoring state-owned conservation easements totaling over 191,000 acres. Of New Hampshire's 9,351 square miles, 32.3 percent is conservation land, most of which is owned and managed by federal, state, and local governments.

- ***New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources***

New Hampshire's Division of Historical Resources, the State Historic Preservation Office, was established in 1974 and is part of the N.H. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. NHDHR's mission is to preserve and celebrate New Hampshire's irreplaceable historic resources through programs and services that provide education, stewardship, and protection. As the State Historic Preservation Office, the Division of Historical Resources consults with the National Park Service to review all Land and Water Conservation Fund grant projects in New Hampshire under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The office also closely partners with the Division of Parks and Recreation to steward historic resources located in the state's parks and reservations.

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 52,000 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 outdoor recreation activities.
- *Wildlife Division*: Manages and maintains the state's game and non-game 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 habitat 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 youth with nature and encourage youth and families to get outside and be active in the natural world.

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, as well as fishing, swimming, and snowmobiling among other uses.

National Park Service (NPS)

In NH, the National Park Service manages two national park properties (St. Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish and the Appalachian Trail), one National Heritage Area, 11 National Natural Landmarks, and 23 National Historic Landmarks, with over 42,400 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 located in the White Mountain National Forest. The Forest Service provides many recreation opportunities with 1,200 miles of non-motorized trails, 23 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.



Umbagog Lake State Park

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages five National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) in NH 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, Clough State Park, and Surry Mountain Lake: used for boating access, picnicking, swimming, fishing, hiking, and OHRV usage.

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 provides 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 religious organizations.

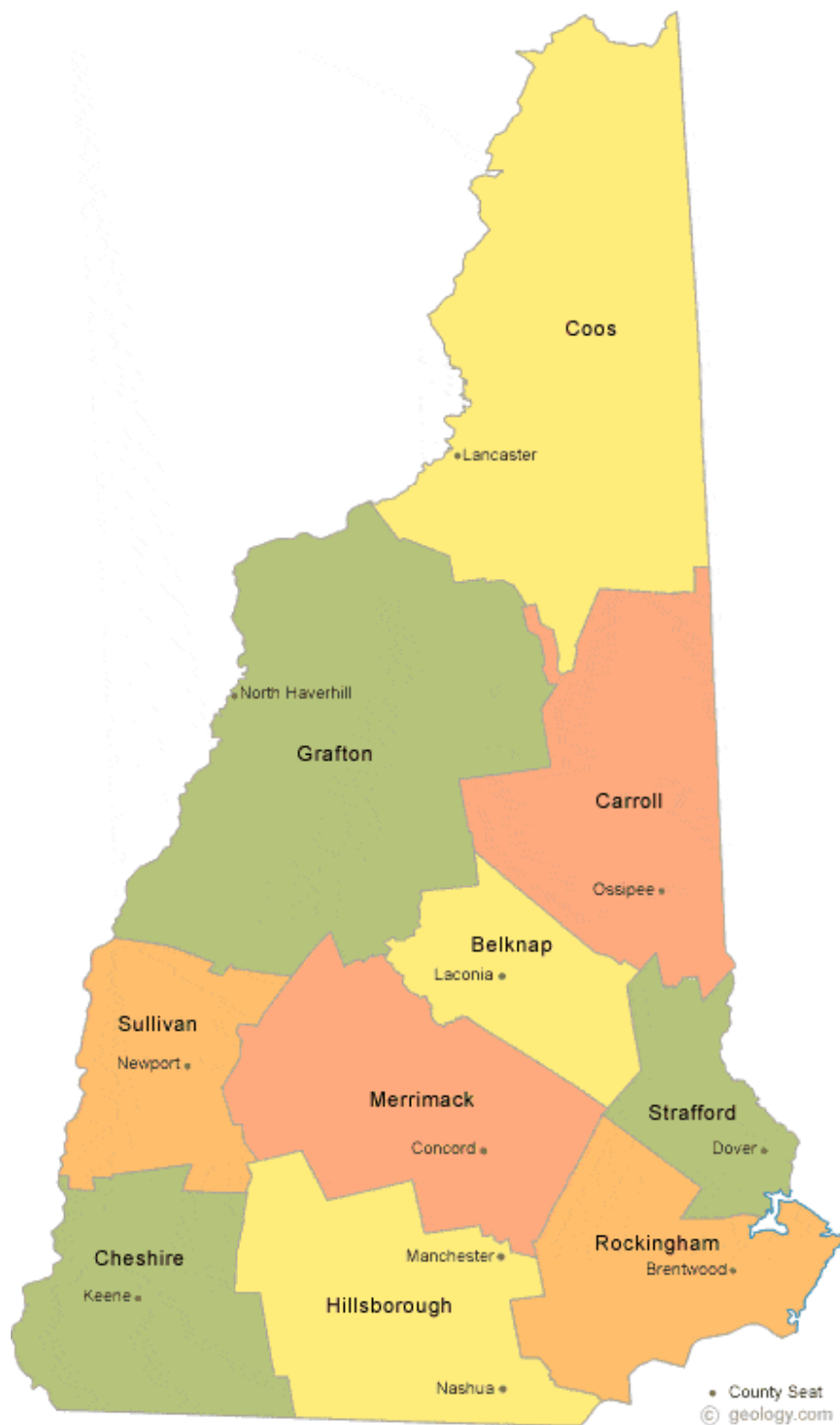
Private recreation providers include dozens of for-profit entities that support a wide range of services and facilities for outdoor recreation: golf courses, ski areas, marine activities and water sports, campgrounds, hunting preserves, guide services, adventure playgrounds, and shuttle services. While 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. Additional non-profits in New Hampshire related to outdoor recreation include the Appalachian Mountain Club, NH Audubon, Seacoast Science Center, and the Society for the Protection of NH Forests.

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 as well as potential barriers to outdoor recreation participation. **Figure 2.1** shows a map of New Hampshire's 10 counties.

Figure 2.1: 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 (granitview.unh.edu).

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 83% today, a loss of nearly 450 square miles of forest.

Table 2.1 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 Department of Resources and Economic Development, the predecessor to the current Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; and 146,400 acres conserved by easement).



Pawtuckaway State Park

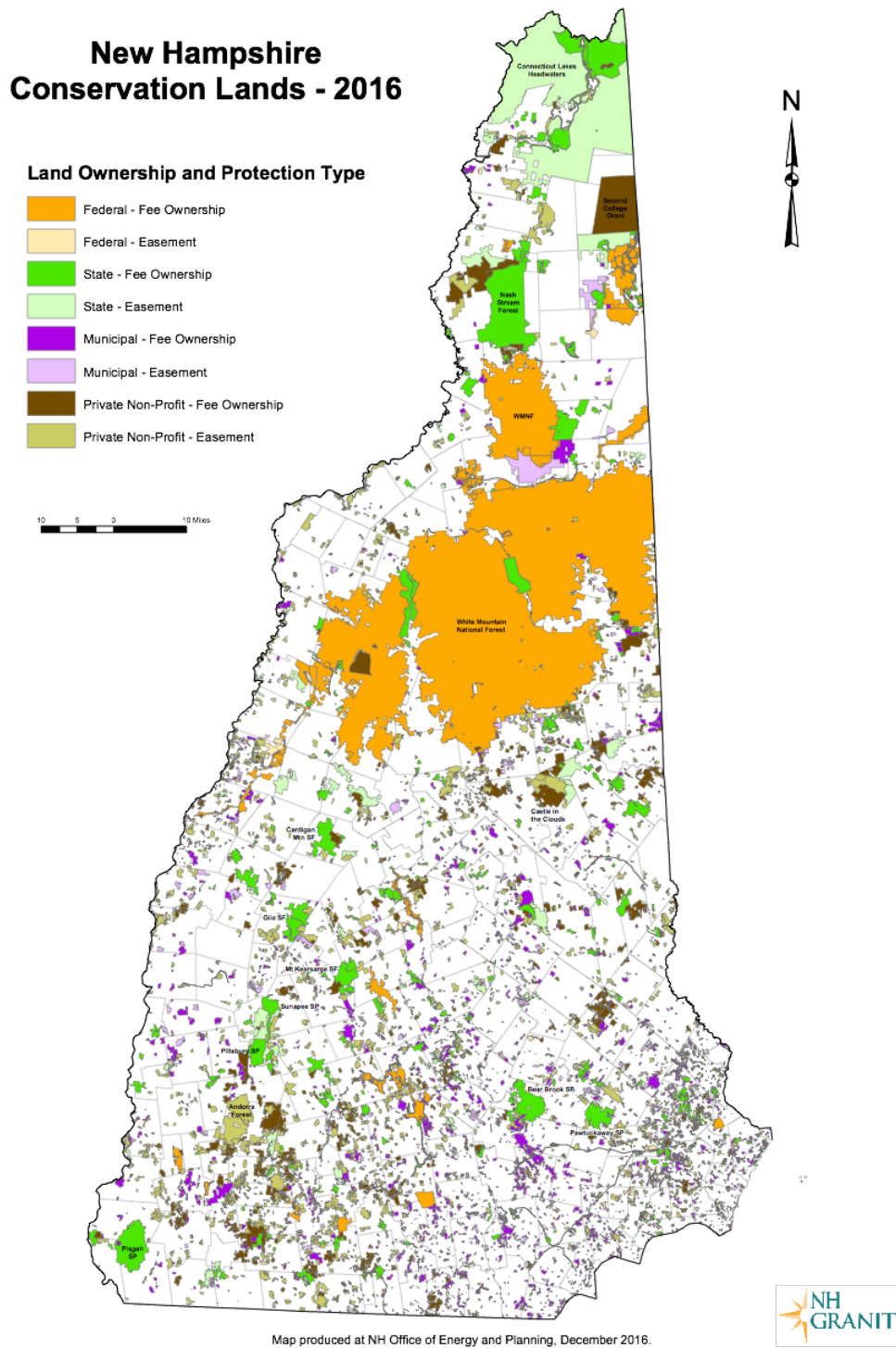
Table 2.1: Conservation Lands by Owner and Protection Type

Number of Acres				
Ownership/Protection Type	2002	2006	2011	2016
Federal Fee	762,535	767,830	787,147	806,031
Federal Easement	3,808	5,739	9,657	19,137
State Fee	189,602	215,428	228,331	237,830
State Easement	32,854	189,611	204,075	221,791
Municipal Fee	101,413	109,304	114,450	112,027
Municipal Easement	34,361	50,627	63,791	68,072
Private Non-Profit/Other Fee	130,991	145,910	164,002	181,455
Private Non-Profit/Other Easement	94,724	115,871	174,502	231,652
TOTALS	1,350,288	1,600,320	1,745,955	1,877,995

Source: NH OSI, 2016

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 2.2** shows the distribution of New Hampshire's conserved lands. 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, as well as protecting water quality or rare and endangered species.

Figure 2.2: New Hampshire Conservation Lands, 2016



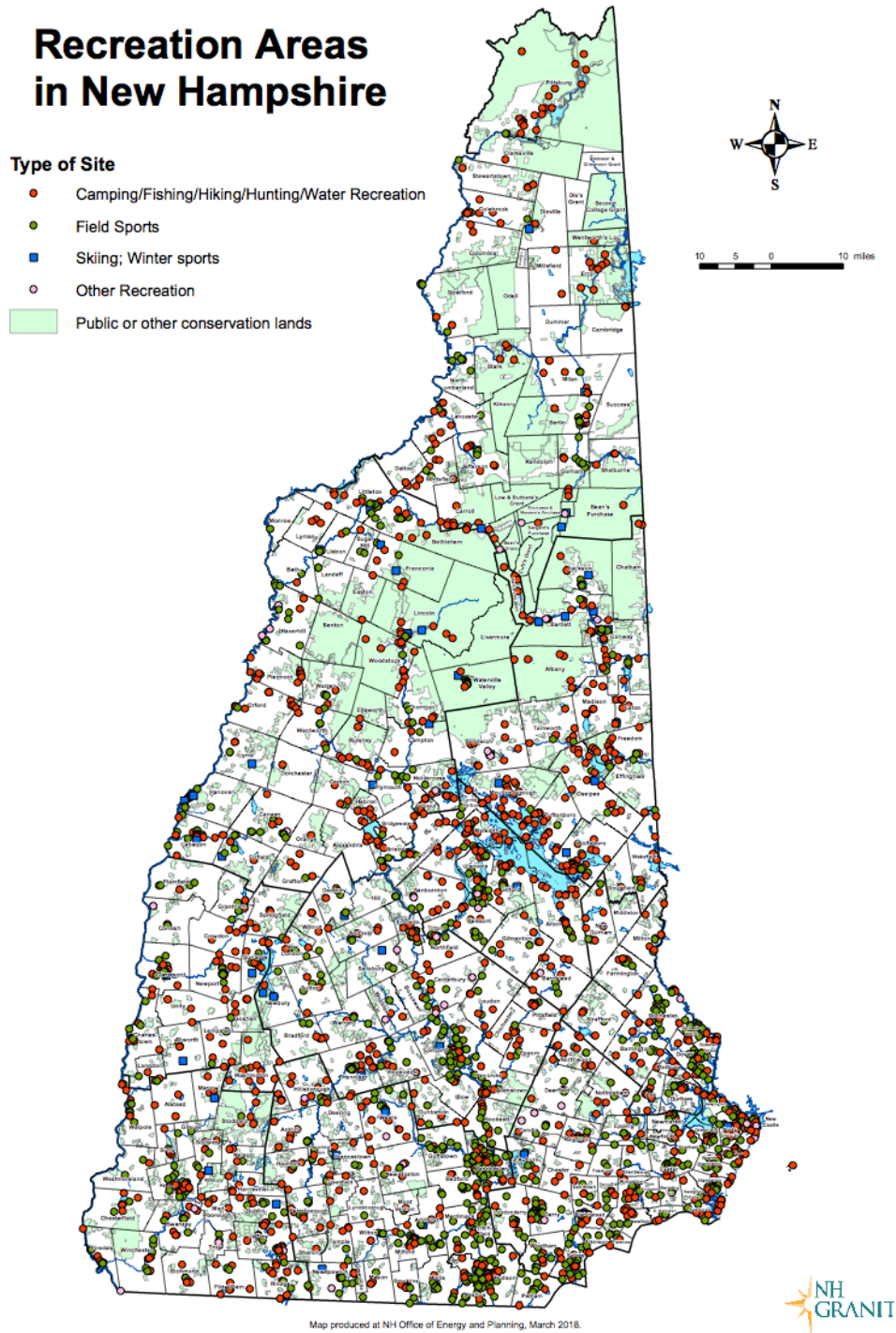
Source: NH OSI, 2016

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, and learn about approved uses, ownership, and accessibility. **Figure 2.3** shows recreation areas in New Hampshire.



Monadnock State Park

Figure 2.3: Recreation Areas in New Hampshire, 2016



Source: NH OSI, 2018

Outdoor Recreation Lands and Facilities

The Office of Strategic Initiatives 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 2.2](#)).

Table 2.2: NH Population, Acreage, and Outdoor Recreation Lands Supply by County

County	2016 Population Estimate	Recreation Acreage	Number of Sites	Percentage of Acreage Total (rounded)
Belknap	60,765	21,504	258	2%
Carroll	47,891	200,083	340	15%
Cheshire	77,227	66,797	352	5%
Coos	33,406	351,598	300	27%
Grafton	89,891	417,900	466	32%
Hillsborough	405,747	54,480	674	4%
Merrimack	147,985	67,998	454	5%
Rockingham	302,194	38,551	644	3%
Strafford	125,807	15,378	269	1%
Sullivan	43,678	75,562	190	6%
Statewide Total	1,334,591	1,309,851	3,947	100%

Source: NH OSI, 2016

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 2.3](#) are broad classifications, and individual sites may provide opportunities beyond the classifications listed. The Winter Sports Category includes both Winter: Skiing and Winter: Other, which is primarily ice skating.

Table 2.3: Recreation Sites by Selected Activity by County

County	Camp-ground	Field Sport	Golf	Historic	Natural/ Passive Rec Areas	Parks, Picnic, Playground	Water Access	Winter Sports	Winter: Skiing	Winter: Other
Belknap	35	45	13	1	53	24	65	2	1	1
Carroll	70	36	14	7	99	22	58	11	9	2
Cheshire	27	65	11	4	124	38	45	3	2	1
Coos	42	34	6	1	76	38	42	7	4	3
Grafton	62	93	15	9	117	38	61	18	13	5
Hillsborough	30	208	21	16	197	111	52	9	3	6
Merrimack	21	109	14	23	144	47	58	8	4	4
Rockingham	39	188	26	22	160	67	75	5	0	5
Strafford	19	74	8	5	96	27	20	3	0	3
Sullivan	12	35	5	8	44	36	28	3	2	1
Totals	357	887	133	96	1110	448	504	69	38	31

Source: NH OSI, 2017

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 OHRV use, 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 2.4](#).

Table 2.4: Recreational Land Acreage by Owner Type

County	Total Recreation Areas	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: NH OSI, 2011

*Note: Table 2.4 includes identified recreational acreage and does not include unidentified recreational acres provided and owned by private landowners. The lands measured in Table 2.4 are identified in the recreational lands layer in NH GRANIT.

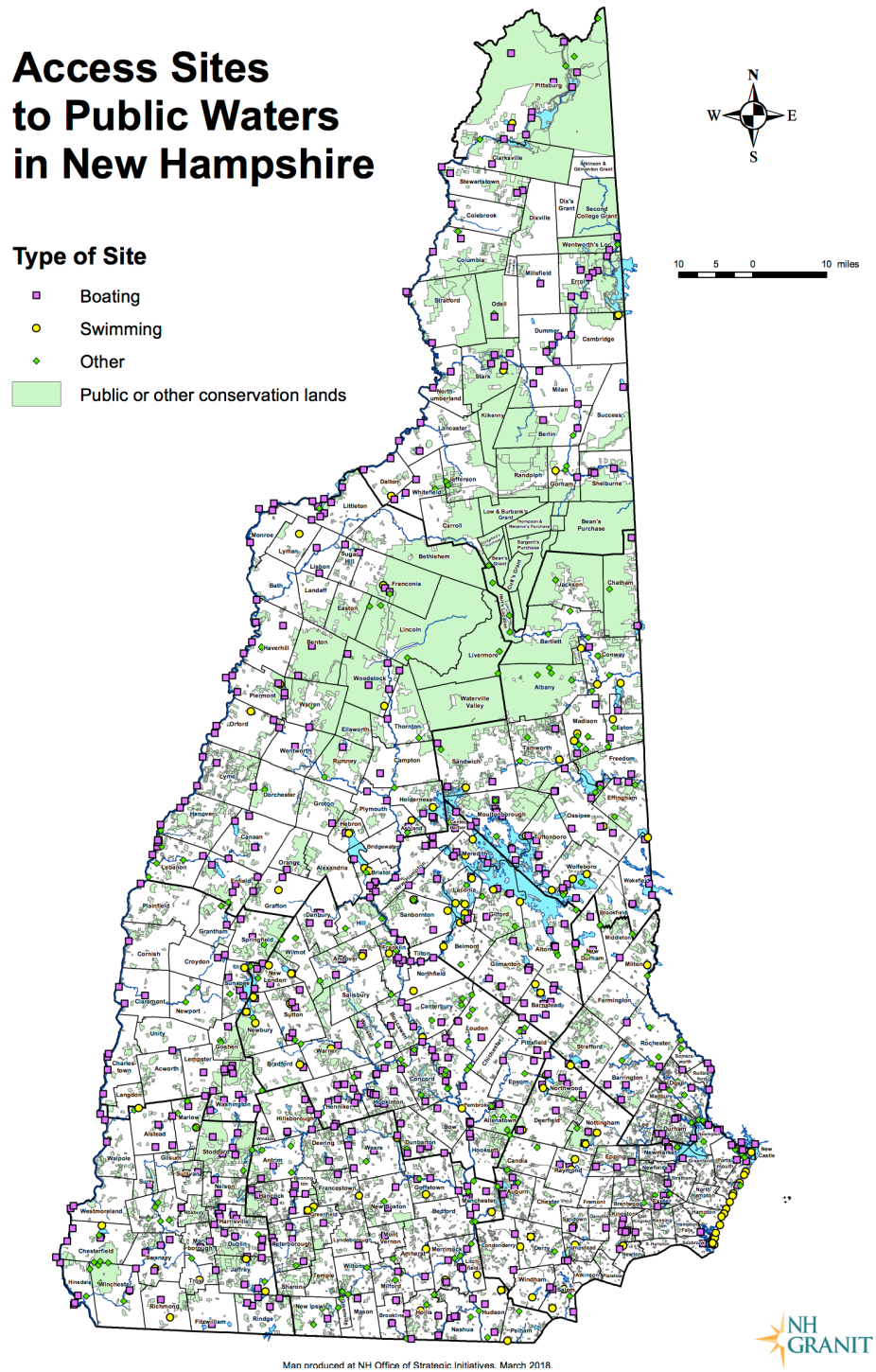
SUPPLY: PUBLIC ACCESS TO WATER RESOURCES

The Office of Strategic Initiatives maintains an inventory of “public” and “other” water access sites in New Hampshire, available on-line through the Office of Strategic Initiatives web site (<https://www.nh.gov/osi/>). 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 2.4**). 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 Department-managed public access sites (<https://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/>).



Echo Lake State Park

Figure 2.4: Access to Public Waters in New Hampshire



Source: NH OSI, 2018

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, 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 2.5 shows both public and other water access sites by county.



Jericho Mountain State Park

Table 2.5: New Hampshire Public and Other Water Access Sites by County

County	# Sites Listed	Trailer Parking	Canoe/Cartop Parking	Shorebank or Roadside Parking	Swimming or other access
Belknap	77	21	22	15	19
Carroll	101	16	19	43	23
Cheshire	95	32	18	34	11
Coos	79	26	32	16	5
Grafton	109	32	37	25	15
Hillsborough	116	27	33	46	10
Merrimack	152	46	34	55	17
Rockingham	117	29	22	28	38
Strafford	45	10	10	19	6
Sullivan	38	19	8	10	1
Statewide	929	258	235	291	145

Source: NH OSI, 2017

Table 2.6 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 2.6: Miles of Shoreline and Public Access Sites to Water by County

County	# Sites Listed	Miles of Shoreline and Riverbank	Miles of Shoreline per Site
Belknap	77	420.6	5.46
Carroll	101	711.4	7.04
Cheshire	95	531.2	5.59
Coos	79	817.4	10.35
Grafton	109	820	7.52
Hillsborough	116	688.5	5.94
Merrimack	152	691.1	4.55
Rockingham	117	549.3	4.69
Strafford	45	354.4	7.88
Sullivan	38	302.6	7.96
Statewide	929	5886.5	6.34

Sources: NH OSI, 2017

SUPPLY: WETLANDS

Wetlands and SCORP

Section 303 of the Federal Emergency Wetlands Act of 1986 requires that the SCORP address wetlands as an important outdoor recreation resource and that protection priorities be established. The priorities established in this SCORP satisfy that requirement.

Wetland and Wildlife: The correlation between wetlands preservation and wildlife conservation is important to understand. Landscape connectivity that supports critical features of wildlife migration, including foraging and colonization, help maintain ecological connectivity and wildlife diversity (NH SCORP 2013-2018).

Overview of New Hampshire's Wetlands

New Hampshire is fortunate to have numerous lakes, ponds, and rivers, as well as valuable groundwater. Wetlands provide a wide variety of benefits including maintaining clean water supplies, enhancing water quality, managing floodwaters, and erosion control, as well as providing recreation and wildlife viewing opportunities. The environmental savings related to clean water can be measured in terms of water pollution reduction and stormwater treatment cost reduction. Measures to control invasive species, plant kills, and algae blooms are important for the continued safe use and enjoyment of water based recreation and for maintaining sustainable rivers, lakes, and ponds.



Mount Chocorua

With an understanding of how recreational use and the number of visitors can affect watershed resources, community planners can make responsible choices when locating recreation activities and facilities. Once a recreation site is created, long-term maintenance is essential for maintaining landscape health as well as continued user satisfaction. In some instances, volunteer maintenance may be supplemented where public funding ends in determining resource capacity limitations. Watershed groups, whose efforts focus on education, monitoring, and rehabilitation, can also serve as a bridge between the public agencies and volunteer maintenance groups.

Wetlands have been shown to be used for various outdoor recreation purposes including fishing, boating, hiking, and wildlife observation.

Wetlands Protection

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES), Water Division conducts a variety of programs designed to ensure the protection of New Hampshire's waters with guidance from the New Hampshire Water Council and the New Hampshire Wetlands Council.

Public water supplies are protected by overseeing the operation of about 125 municipal systems, 500 residential systems (condominiums, apartment buildings, and mobile home parks), and over 1,100 systems that provide water for restaurants, lodging establishments, and campgrounds. Consistent with the criteria of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the Water Division conducts technical reviews of all proposals to develop or expand public water supplies. Additionally, it conducts regular water quality sampling, water facility inspections, facility operator licensing and educational programs, and provides technical assistance. It also administers a source water protection program that includes a grant program for protecting lands surrounding water supplies.

DES protects the state's surface water through its active lakes and rivers monitoring programs and its biological and chemical analyses of rivers and water bodies. Throughout the year, DES conducts thousands of water analyses on state waters, including those involving drinking water and industrial and municipal wastewater effluents. The Water Division also oversees lake and river volunteer monitoring programs, a public beach and swimming pool inspection program, and an acid rain monitoring program.

New Hampshire Wetlands Inventory and Regional Data

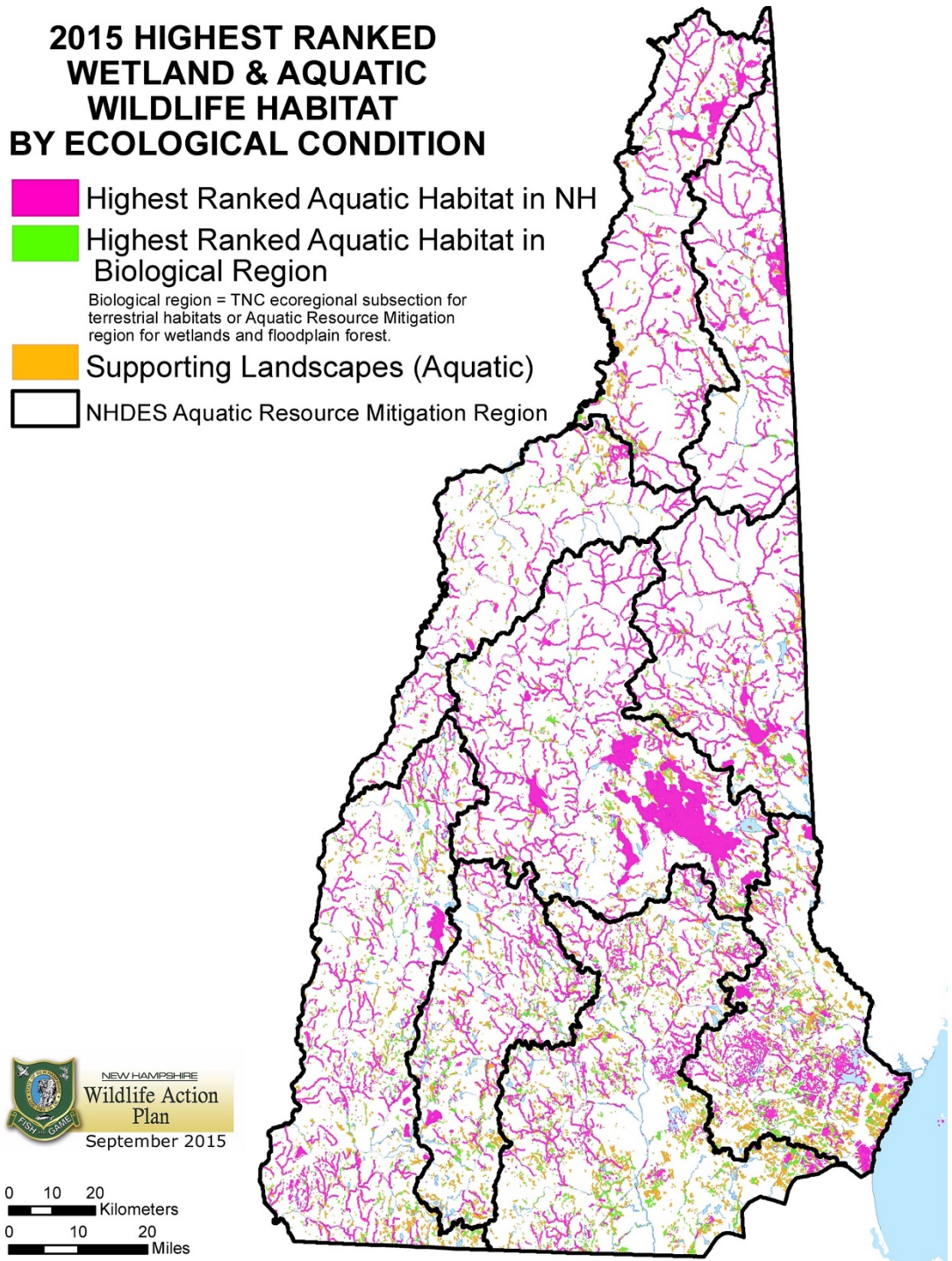
The estimated acreage of wetlands in New Hampshire ranges between 290,000 acres, estimates from the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and 576,386 acres, from soil surveys by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Tiner, 2007). Accordingly, wetlands occupy between five and ten percent of New Hampshire's landscape. An analysis of aerial photography by the New Hampshire DES indicates that there are approximately 7,500 acres of tidal wetlands, with the vast majority of New Hampshire's wetlands being nontidal (NHDES, 2002).



Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge

Figure 2.5 shows the distribution of wetlands throughout the state.

Figure 2.5: New Hampshire Wetlands Base



Source: NH Fish & Game Wildlife Action Plan, 2015

Economics of the Loss of Wetlands

Overall, perceived degradation to water clarity and purity will result in economic loss to New Hampshire. Perceived declines in water clarity and purity would result in about \$51 million of lost sales, \$18 million in lost income, and more than 800 lost jobs statewide. Upwards of 220 acres of wetlands has been restored or enhanced, and more than 12,500 acres of upland buffers have been preserved through the Aquatic Resources Mitigation program (NH R.S.A. 482-A:28-33).

The New Hampshire Wetland Program Plan states that:

- Wetland complexes of high ecological function and value are afforded adequate protection.
- Blocks of contiguous habitat are protected and/or connected to other habitats, protected land, or stream and wildlife corridors.
- Land development practices avoid and minimize cumulative and indirect impacts to wetland and aquatic resources.
- Natural stream flow regimes are maintained, and stream crossings allow aquatic resources to stay connected.

New Hampshire's Wetland Program Plan

According to the NH Department of Environmental Services 2011-2017 Wetlands Program Plan, New Hampshire's tidal and non-tidal wetlands are of great importance for flood control, water filtration, water storage, and recharge for both groundwater and surface waters. Wetlands also support the food chain, providing food and shelter for a variety of aquatic and upland plants and animals. Although New Hampshire has lost fewer wetlands to filling and dredging than many coastal states, landscape change poses a significant challenge to the protection of New Hampshire's wetlands. Given the important functions and values of wetlands, there have been a number of attempts to place an economic value on wetlands resources. For instance, a 2006 EPA funded study estimated that the economic benefits generated by a single acre of wetland amounts to \$150,000 to \$200,000 (NACO, 2006). The same study found that wetlands increase surrounding real estate values by an estimated 28 percent while enhancing the quality of life. In 2002, a study by the Clean Water Network estimated the economic value of New Hampshire's remaining wetlands to be approximately \$1.2 billion (CWN, 2002).

SUPPLY: CURRENT USE LANDS

Owners of privately held lands offer various levels of traditional public access, such as 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."



Crawford Notch State Park

Table 2.7 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.

Table 2.7: Current Use Lands by County - 2010, 2015

County	Total Land Acres		Acres in Current Use		Percentage of Land in Current Use	
	2010	2015	2010	2015	2010	2015
Belknap	257,726.24	257,725.94	138,422.19	142,701.19	53.8	55.3
Carroll	598,386.69	598,386.78	225,832.05	229,326.15	37.8	38.3
Cheshire	452,910.70	452,910.86	291,840.01	301,553.266	64.7	66.5
Coos	1,152,946.70	1,152,946.80	705,646.47	697,020.23	61.2	60.5
Grafton	1,096,323.46	1,096,322.99	494,038.9	510,242.44	45.1	46.5
Hillsborough	561,351.39	561,351.32	257,727.48	263,559.74	46.0	46.9
Merrimack	597,481.33	597,481.10	334,486.75	345,294.43	56.0	57.8
Rockingham	446,221.01	446,221.43	149,668.22	152,631.75	33.6	34.2
Strafford	235,092.84	235,092.92	114,198.14	116,657.01	48.6	49.6
Sullivan	334,219.09	344,219.04	236,050.65	244,313.61	68.6	70.9
Statewide	5,742,659.45	5,742,659.18	2,948,910.86	3,003,299.81	51.4	52.3

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 such as 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 2015.

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.



City of Manchester

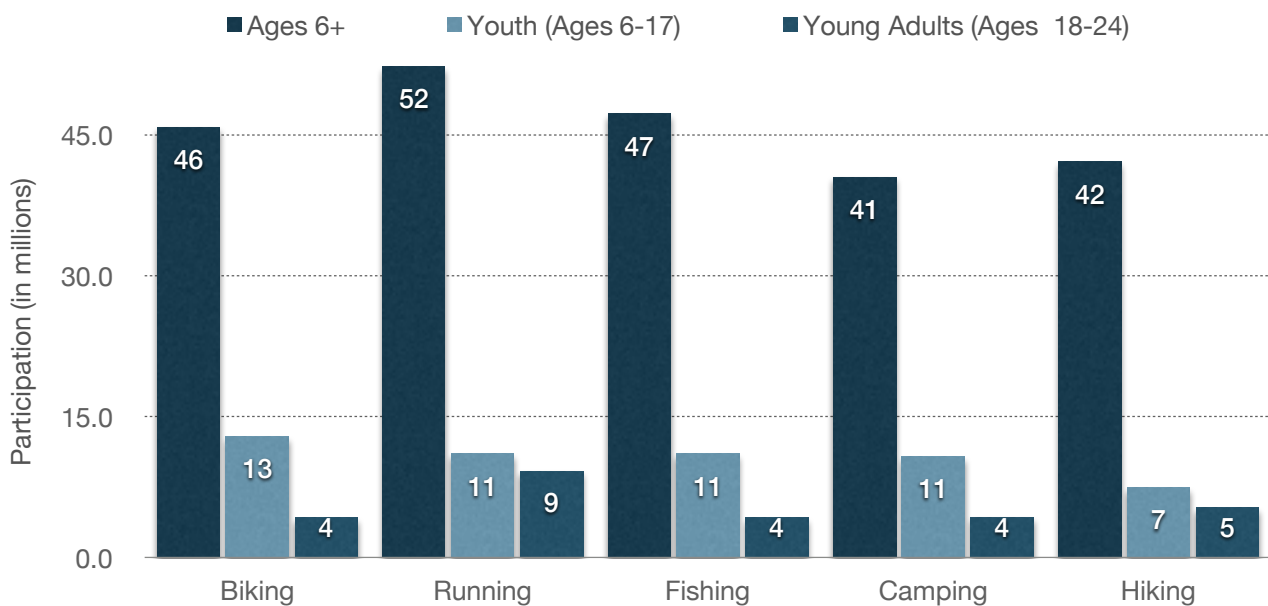
USAGE PATTERNS: NATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR RECREATION

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 strong, and continues to grow among diverse populations and locations. According to a 2017 report by the Outdoor Foundation, “Nearly half of Americans ages 6 and older, or 144.4 million individuals, participated in at least one outdoor activity in 2016- two million more people participated than in 2015.”

Outdoor Foundation (2017) also shows the top five most popular outdoor activities among those ages 6+ which include: running, jogging, and trail running; freshwater, saltwater, and fly fishing; road biking, mountain biking, and BMX; hiking; and car, backyard, backpacking, and RV camping. While the ranked order changes, these five activities are also the most popular activities for youth ages 6-17 and young adults ages 18-24. **Figure 2.6** shows participation (in millions) for youth, young adults, and ages 6 and up.

Figure 2.6: Most Popular Outdoor Activities by Participation Rate



Source: Outdoor Foundation, 2017

USAGE PATTERNS: STATEWIDE PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR RECREATION

A summary of statewide recreational usage patterns from the 2017 DNCR Annual Report shows a New Hampshire citizenry actively participating in outdoor recreation activities:

- More than 6 million people visit the NH State Parks each year.
- Visitation to NH State Parks contributes over \$500 million to the state's economy and supports 8,000 jobs.
- State Park users are predominantly middle-aged, well-educated and with annual incomes over \$50,000.
- A significant portion of State Park visitation is from out of state visitors. According to zip code surveys of 20 NH State Parks in 2015 and 2016, 54.7% of day-use visitors come from NH, while the other 45.3% are from out of state. Most out of state visitors are from Massachusetts (30% of all state park visitors).
- New Hampshire has 16 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, SkiNH, 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 2010 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.

2017 Most Popular Outdoor Activities by Participation Rate for Americans Ages 6 and Older (OIA, 2017)

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

New Hampshire's landscape is an ideal setting for participation in "active recreation" such as rock climbing, mountain biking, kayaking, and snow sports, 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. Self-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:

- Economic barriers (i.e. fees)
- Safety
- Overcrowding/development/overuse
- Litter, proper upkeep
- Access-related
- Water quality
- Speeding by boaters/jet skiers
- Health of fish and wildlife

These issues may impact a resident's or visitor's decision to participate in outdoor recreation activities, and can inform land managers of resident concerns when planning for further recreation development.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Since its inception, the LWCF program has led to over 650 outdoor acquisition and development projects throughout NH, totaling almost \$42 million in grant assistance. Over the last four years, New Hampshire has distributed over \$4,200,000 in grants, funding 32 projects. In this four-year period, there were 55 local proposals totaling more than \$6.3 million in requests. The significant difference between \$6.3 million in project requests and the \$4.2 million distributed shows that available grant funds were less than the demand and represent the unmet financial and recreational need identified in NH. See Figure P.1 on page 15 for a detailed map of funded and non-funded projects from the past four years.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

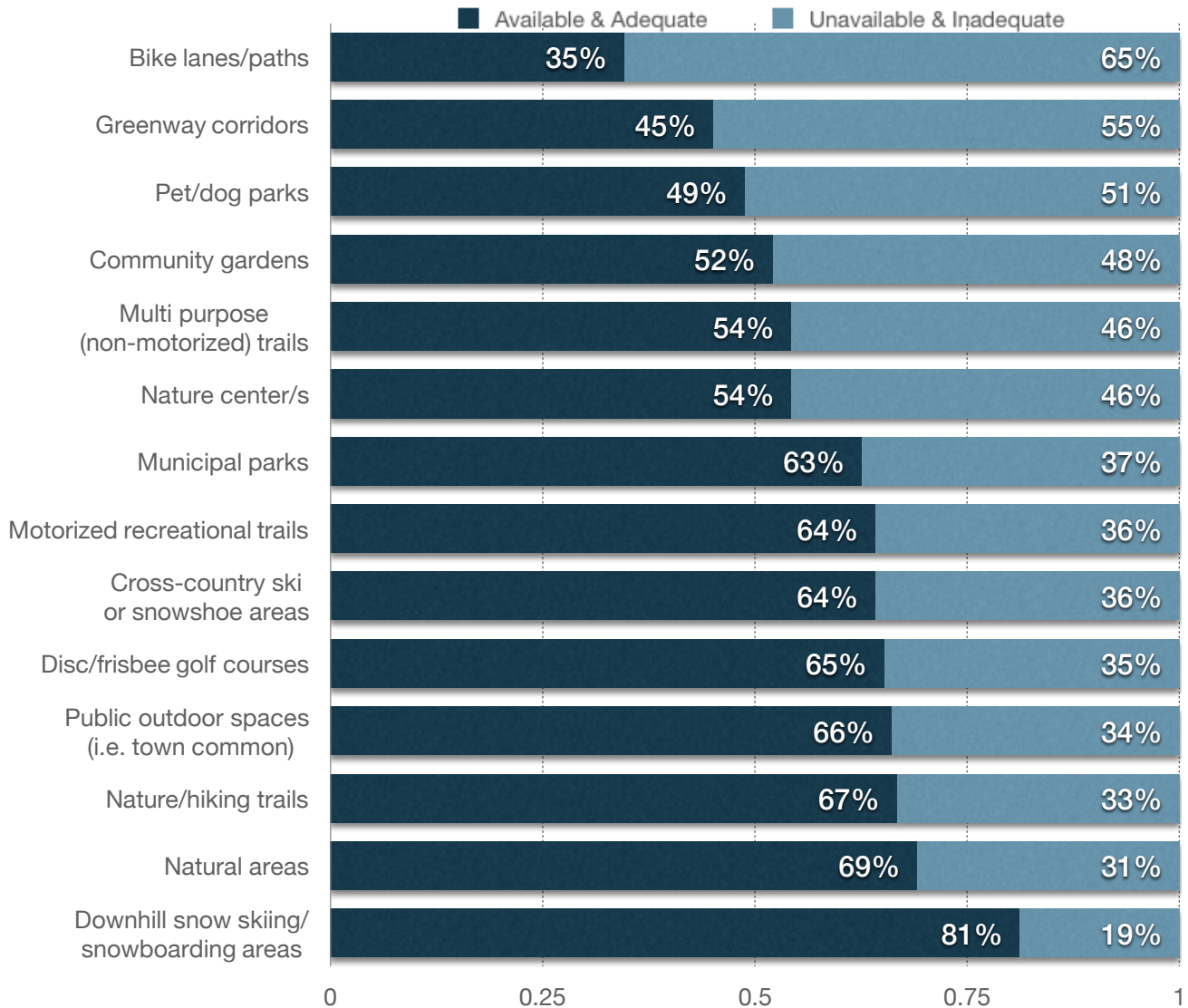
Since 1991, RTP has funded hundreds of motorized, non-motorized and diversified trails-related projects to organizations throughout the state. From 2014 to 2018, RTP has granted over \$3,620,000 to private organizations, non-profits, agencies and municipalities by funding 133 projects. In this five-year period, there were 224 community proposals totaling more than \$6.6 million in requests. The significant difference between \$6.6 million in project requests and the \$2.98 million distributed shows that available grant funds were substantially less than the demand and also represent additional unmet financial and recreational need.

EXPRESSED DEMAND FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Availability and Adequacy of Developed Recreation Facilities and Amenities

Municipal officials in NH identified the following developed recreation facilities or amenities as areas of need within their communities. **Figure 2.7** shows the need for outdoor facilities in order of greatest need, with the largest areas of need as bike lanes/paths, greenway corridors, and pet/dog parks.

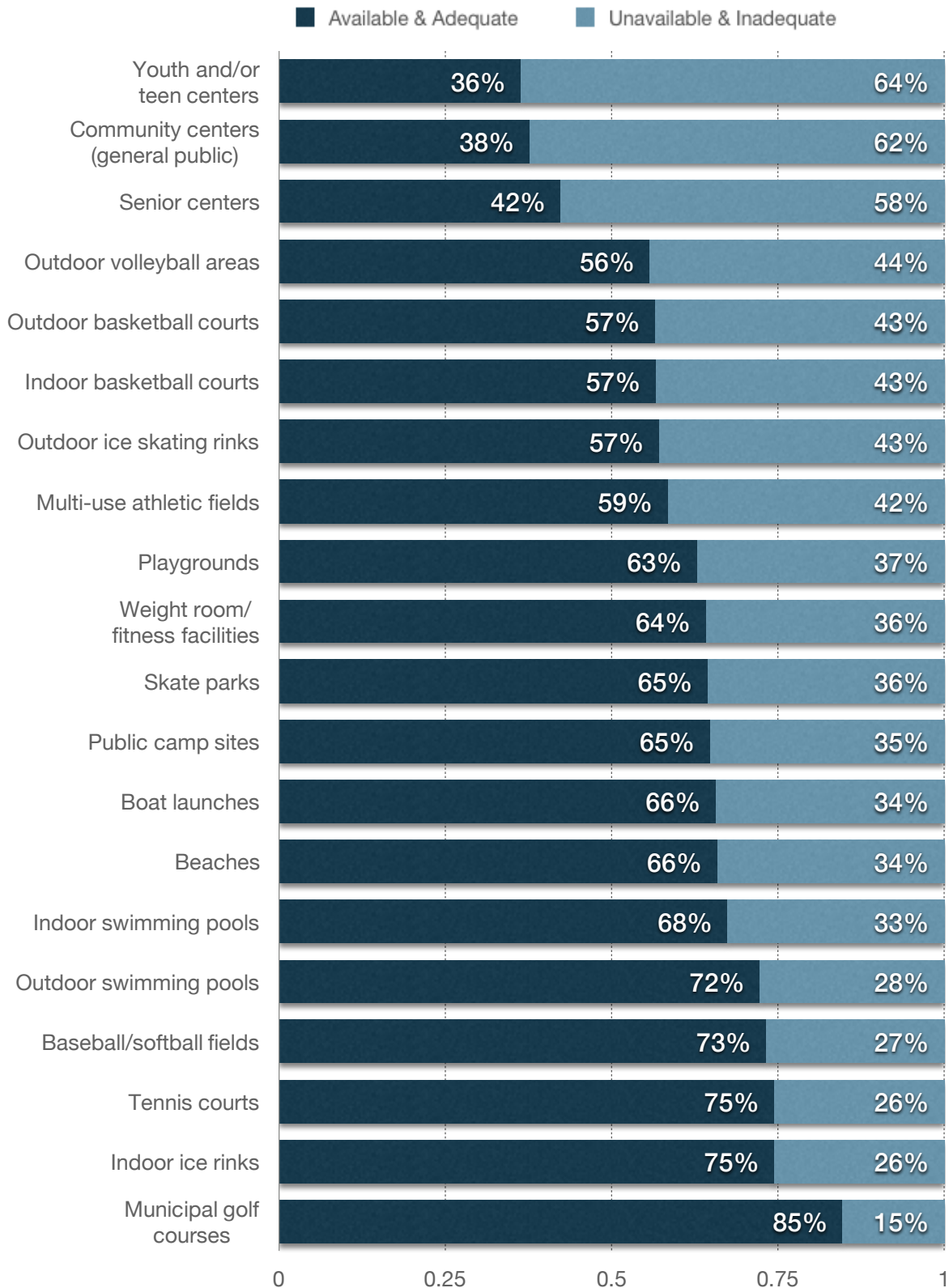
Figure 2.7: Availability and Adequacy of Outdoor Recreation Facilities/Amenities



Availability and Adequacy of Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Amenities

Municipal officials in NH identified the following outdoor recreation facilities or amenities as areas of need within their communities. **Figure 2.8** shows areas of need for developed facilities in order of greatest need with the largest areas of need as youth and/or teen center, community centers, and senior centers.

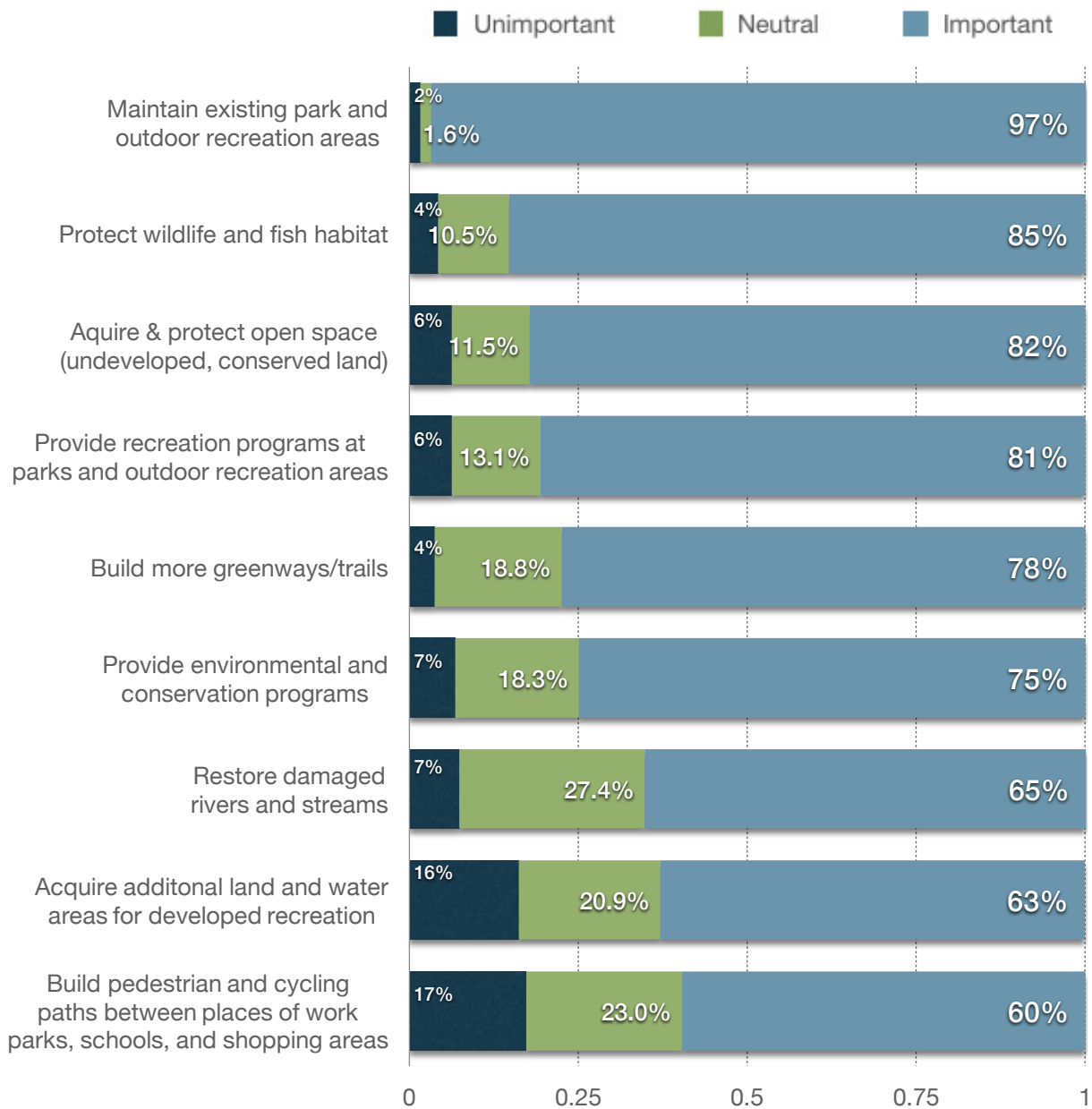
Figure 2.8: Availability and Adequacy of Developed Facilities/Amenities



Importance of Priorities for Funding Outdoor Recreation and Conservation in NH

In terms of priorities for funding outdoor recreation and conservation in NH, municipal officials identified the following priorities as shown in **Figure 2.9**. Top priorities included maintaining existing park and outdoor recreation areas, protecting wildlife and fish habitat, and acquiring and protecting open space.

Figure 2.9: Importance of Priorities for Funding Outdoor Recreation and Conservation



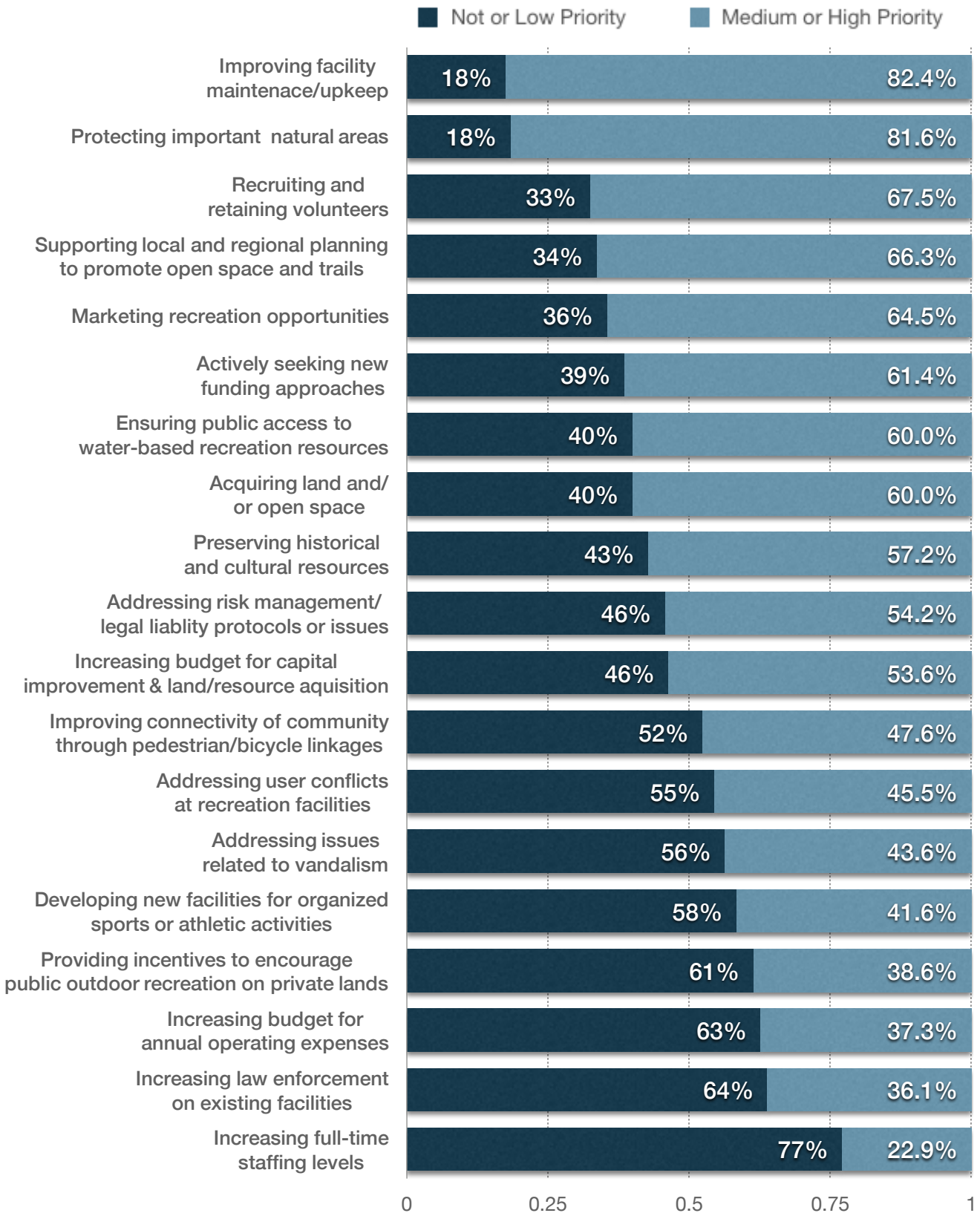
Management Priorities for Recreation Service Delivery in New Hampshire Communities

In terms of recreation service delivery, municipal officials in NH identified the following priorities. **Figure 2.10** shows the percentage of respondents which selected each service as a medium or high priority within their community. Highest reported priorities for service delivery included improving facility maintenance/upkeep, protecting important natural areas, and recruiting and maintaining volunteers.



Bretton Woods

Figure 2.10: Management Priorities for Recreation Service Delivery in NH



SUMMARY

New Hampshire has a diverse supply of outdoor recreation resources, both developed and undeveloped, which provide opportunity for outdoor activities and physical activity among both residents and non-residents of the state. New Hampshire’s mountains, lakes, trails, historic sites, coastline, and parks give the state its “Live Free” spirit and reputation as a place for an outdoor lifestyle.



Androscoggin River



CHAPTER 3: PRIORITIES AND GOALS OF NH SCORP

NEW HAMPSHIRE SCORP PRIORITIES:

The following represent priorities for outdoor recreation in the state of New Hampshire:

- Priority 1: Connecting People to the Outdoors
- Priority 2: Consistent Stewardship and Conservation
- Priority 3: Economic Vitality
- Priority 4: Education, Ethics, and Benefits

Priority 1: Connecting People to the Outdoors

Understanding the changing demographics of NH is essential to outdoor recreation planning. More specifically, offering services desired by constituents may increase participation in, and support for, outdoor recreation. Shifts in demographics, including age, ethnic, and economic diversity, will result in changes in outdoor recreation preferences relative to types of activities, frequency, style, and location. Understanding the barriers or constraints to recreation participation, such as perception of safety, income/age/ethnicity diversities, and language barriers, is vital as New Hampshire's demographics continue to shift. It is additionally important to consider regional trends, since non-resident visitors account for about 50% of NH State Park visitation.

Considering these trends to determine services which are suitable for multiple user groups is essential to connecting people to the NH outdoors. Additional focus should be placed on underserved user groups and underutilized resources. For example, geographic disparities exist in terms of access and proximity to sites for outdoor recreation such that larger public lands are more concentrated in the northern part of the state given its more rural environment while many of the developed sites are in the southern part of the state. As population is also more concentrated in the southern part of the state, there is a need to ensure recreational opportunity and infrastructure are available close to home.

It is additionally important to consider the two main types of use: day-use and extended trips. While one may visit a site close to home for day use, visitation to a site for an extended trip may include greater travel time. Regional and municipal recreation providers should consider these micro and macro demographic trends when planning outdoor recreation services.

Priority 2: Consistent Stewardship and Conservation

Within NH, there is a need to protect natural amenities for the purposes of preservation as well as conservation. According to the National Park Service, conservation refers to the proper use of natural resources while preservation refers to the protection from use. Community engagement particularly that which occurs through stewardship planning may be valuable for the longevity of resources, facilities and stewardship.

While many communities receive monetary support from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for projects, communities cannot apply for these funds for the purposes of maintenance or facility upkeep. Communities will need to plan for maintenance and upkeep when building new facilities or acquiring new lands. Engaging with community volunteers as well as utilization of public and private partnerships may help to address this need.

Priority 3: Economic Vitality

With such valuable natural resources, managers and stakeholders alike within New Hampshire recognize the importance of providing credible economic data to policy makers, non-users, and constituents to promote the awareness of outdoor recreation's economic significance.

While the economic impact of local parks, trails, and recreation activities has not been formally studied at the community level in New Hampshire, studies nationwide show that quality parks and recreation are cited as one of the top three factors businesses consider when making relocation decisions, and that real estate values are 10 to 30 percent higher on average for properties located near parks, trails, and recreational amenities.

Priority 4: Education, Ethics, and Benefits

Through educational outreach initiatives which promote the benefits of outdoor recreation, individuals and communities may become aware of outdoor recreation opportunities in the state. One of many ways to achieve this outcome is through interpretive programming which encourages preservation of cultural and natural resources. Focusing on educational programming that appeals to multigenerational user groups will aid in gaining support for outdoor recreation among a variety of demographics.

GOALS

Priority 1: Connecting People to the Outdoors

Goal 1.1: Understand the potential impact on outdoor recreation needs that might occur with changes in our state’s population, age, income, health, ethnicity, and culture.

- The statewide median age was 42.2 years in 2015, an increase from 41.1 in 2010. The impact of an older population on outdoor recreation includes the issue of community connectivity, particularly as middle-aged populations may choose to “age in place,” and opportunities for recreation close to home become more important.
- Racially and ethnically diverse populations represented 6.2 percent of New Hampshire’s population in 2016 as compared to 6.1% in 2010 and 3.96% in 2000 (U.S. Census, 2016; U.S. Census, 2010; U.S. Census, 2000).
 - More specifically, within the Concord-Manchester-Nashua corridor, racially and ethnically diverse populations represent over 40 percent of residents under 18.

Goal 1.2: Understand diversity of activity use and trends among visitors.

- In 2017, activities with the highest percentage of first time participants included stand up paddling, traditional/road triathlons, kayak fishing, and non-traditional /off road triathlon.
- New Hampshire residents are more likely than the average American to participate in day hiking and kayaking. Hunting, fishing, bicycling, camping, snow sports, and paddling contribute to the New Hampshire economy with additional revenues from lodging, restaurant, retail, and equipment sales.

Goal 1.3: Identify what populations are underserved, how they are underserved, and where they are located.

- There are differences geographically in the state between the North and South in terms of access barriers. While the southern part of the state experiences geographic barriers to outdoor recreation, much of the northern part of the state faces economic barriers.
- Adults and youth who experience economic and proximity access barriers are more likely to experience physical inactivity which is a risk factor for obesity.
- While median household income in New Hampshire is an average of \$68,485, income and socioeconomic status vary greatly in different regions of the state. For example, median household income in Rockingham County is over \$80,000, however in Coos County, median household income is approximately \$55,000, nearly \$10,000 below the national average.
- According to the New Hampshire Obesity Data Book 2010, “Contributing factors to obesity include a social environment that supports physical inactivity.” Many youth, low-income adults, and older adults experience higher obesity rates and physical inactivity.

Goal 1.4: Identify underutilized natural resources and areas.

- Two important issues that potentially impact participation in outdoor recreation include overcrowding and overuse.
- New Hampshire currently has over 1.8 million conservation acres, 1.4 million recreation acres, and 3,673 recreation sites. However, usage is not equal across sites and there is a need to identify which areas are most heavily used and likewise, which resources may be underutilized.
- Due to potential overcrowding and overuse, there may be a need for dispersion, acquisition of new sites, or changes in management to existing sites to handle overcrowding or overuse. An alternative to dispersion is hardening of popular sites to protect from overuse. Hardening involves improving the site to withstand greater use; for example, widening a trail or altering a trail surface.
- It is important to identify why some sites that are appropriate for increased use may be underused. For example, lack of a welcoming environment or modern facilities may be a barrier to use for some populations. A lack of awareness of available sites to visit is also a barrier.

Goal 1.5: Connect people to outdoor resources through community parks, trails, greenways, and waterways.

- There are numerous positive outcomes associated with connecting people to the outdoors including benefits related to health, social well-being, economic development, and community cohesion (Trust for Public Land).
 - Physical activity makes people healthier,
 - Physical activity increases with access to parks,
 - Recreational opportunities for all ages are provided,
 - Stable neighborhoods and strong communities are created.
- According to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), “Children today spend less time outdoors than any other generation, devoting only four to seven minutes to unstructured outdoor play per day while spending an average of seven and a half hours in front of electronic media. As a result, child obesity has reached unprecedented levels and continues to rise. Children are carrying this sedentary lifestyle and a disconnection with nature into adulthood which creates a troubling national trend for the future of conservation, our economy, and the health and wellness of our communities” (NRPA Children in Nature).
- Those who were introduced to outdoor recreation as children are more likely to participate in outdoor recreation activities as adults (OIA Outdoor Recreation Participation Report, 2017).
- A main contributing factor to obesity is an environment which supports physical inactivity. The importance of the built environment (e.g., access to parks and active recreation opportunities) is crucial given the state of obesity in NH and nationwide (New Hampshire Obesity Data Book, 2010).
- The impact of an older population on outdoor recreation includes the issue of community connectivity, particularly as middle-aged populations may choose to “age in place,” and opportunities for recreation close to home become more important.

Goal 1.6: Continue to maintain and update outdoor recreation areas.

- There is a need for adequate and modern facilities (e.g. bathrooms, bathhouses, parking lots, and maintained trails) to connect people to outdoor resources.
- Recognize the importance matching sit use to facility capacity.
- Focus not just on adding new facilities, but on updating or expanding existing ones to meet the needs of a diverse user group. For example, paving dirt parking lots or modernizing and expanding bathroom infrastructure.

Goal 1.7: Continue to expand and protect outdoor recreation areas.

- Expand recreation resources to meet the needs of a growing user base and create more available outdoor recreation opportunities.



Pillsbury State Park

Priority 2: Consistent Stewardship and Conservation

Goal 2.1: Protect natural resources including wildlife and fish habitats.

- In the 2015 Wildlife Action Plan by NH Fish & Game, NH residents identified the following priorities for wildlife conservation:
 - Prevent habitat loss (86%)
 - Educate citizens about wildlife management (52%)
 - Improve land use planning (40%)
 - Encourage stewardship (36%)
- 82% of municipal officials surveyed in NH believe protecting important natural areas is of medium or high priority.
- 85% of municipal officials surveyed in NH believe protecting wildlife and fish habitat is important.

Goal 2.2: Protect New Hampshire's wetlands.

DES has identified the following goals related to wetland resources in the state:

- Programmatic-based outcomes.
- Wetland permit processes will be integrated with other land resources permits.
- Wetland protection efforts will be well funded and wetland resources will be protected and maintained to provide improved ecosystem services (reduce flooding, improve water quality, provide habitat and recreation opportunities) and the economic benefits they provide.
- Development of a broad base of stewardship and public understanding of the multiple benefits of the functions and values of wetlands and aquatic resources.
- Wetland compliance and enforcement efforts are adequately funded, and actions are consistent and responsive.
- Wetland condition is assessed on a regular basis as part of NH Water Quality Monitoring Strategy and 305(b) reporting.
- Environmentally-based outcomes and measures are used for annual status and trends reporting and to influence proposed regulation, policy, and decision-making.
- Resource management decisions are based on sound science and balance competing interests.

Goal 2.3: Among municipalities, encourage facility maintenance and upkeep through long-term stewardship planning and engagement of community volunteers and public-private partnerships.

- 82% of municipal officials surveyed in NH identified improving facility maintenance/upkeep as a medium or high priority.
- 68% of municipal officials surveyed in NH identified recruiting and maintaining volunteers as a medium or high priority.
- A community stewardship and maintenance plan, particularly one that engages community residents and volunteers, may be most effective in the long-term.
- Recognize the importance of stewardship in fostering a community culture of support for recreation, including elected officials and decision makers.



Mt. Washington State Park

Goal 2.4: Improve connectivity networks within and among communities through strategic planning and public/private partnerships.

- 66% of municipal officials in NH identified supporting local and regional planning to promote open space and trails as a medium or high priority.
- According to the American Great Outdoors Listening Sessions (2010), conserving rural working farms, ranches, and public lands through partnerships and incentives may lead to increased connectivity among communities.
- The correlation between preservation and conservation is important to understand.
 - For instance, landscape connectivity that supports critical features of wildlife migration, including foraging and colonization, helps maintain ecological and human connectivity as well as wildlife diversity.

Goal 2.5: Identify and track community outdoor recreational needs and issues.

- There are various methods that can be implemented by state, regional, and municipal planning organizations to document and track recreational needs and issues (i.e. user conflicts, crowding).
 - Recreation master plans
 - Recreation chapters in municipal master plans
 - Recreation strategic plans
 - Recreation needs assessments
 - Identify user conflicts (i.e. motorized and non-motorized users).

Priority 3: Economic Vitality

Goal 3.1: Facilitate cooperative efforts among private and public entities to secure sustainable funding sources for existing and future resources.

- A majority (66%) of NH outdoor recreation stakeholders reported that municipal funding for recreation had stayed the same in the past 5 years. Twenty seven percent of stakeholders identified an increase in municipal funding for recreation, while 7% reported a decrease in funding.
- Alternative funding approaches may help to meet funding shortfalls. Sixty one percent of municipal officials surveyed in NH identified the need to actively seek new funding approaches as a medium or high priority.
- 2012-2017 capital investments in NH State Parks, Forests and Lands, as well as Cannon Mountain, Mount Washington, and Hampton Beach Seawall totaled \$14,678,000.
 - According to state officials and municipally managers, the existing state and federal funding levels are not sufficient to address New Hampshire's long-term outdoor recreation maintenance backlog.

Goal 3.2: Collaborate with recreation organizations and communities to foster and create business and program enterprises associated with outdoor recreation in the State of New Hampshire.

- In New Hampshire, the outdoor recreation economy contributes the following to the state's economic resilience, as reported by the Outdoor Foundation in 2017:
 - Supports 79,000 jobs
 - Generates \$528 million in annual state tax revenue
 - Produces nearly \$8.7 billion annually in consumer spending annually
- According to 2015 estimates from the Institute of New Hampshire Studies, the total estimated direct spending by tourists and travelers was \$5.3 billion, which represented about 12% of the estimated NH GDP. Travel and tourism supports 74,892 jobs.

Goal 3.3: Engage in dialogues with healthcare organizations and residents to further explore and explain the economic health benefits of an active community.

- The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services Obesity Prevention Program (OPP) receives funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The program focuses on six target areas for obesity prevention, including:
 - Creating safe communities that support physical activity
 - Improving access to outdoor recreational facilities
 - Enhancing infrastructure that supports bicycling and walking
 - Enhancing personal safety and traffic safety in areas where people are or could be physically active
 - Encouraging communities to organize positive change in recreational activity
 - Forming coalitions and partnerships that promote active living
 - Such as, Granite State 90 Day Challenge, NH Children in Nature, Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL), and New Hampshire Recreation and Parks Association (NHRPA).

Goal 3.4: Leverage the benefits of trails and other connectivity projects as they relate to social and economic vitality among local and non-local users.

- Trails connect communities and provide additional opportunities for healthy and active lifestyles.
- Connectivity through trails has the potential to stimulate economic development.
 - NH has more than 7,000 miles of snowmobile trails, which serve as a major connectivity asset for snowmobilers traveling between communities. Likewise, the importance of these trails can be seen through the economic impact of snowmobiling, as well as OHRVs.
- Seventy-eight percent of municipal officials surveyed in NH identified building more greenways/trails as an important priority.

Goal 3.5: Expand upon the “LIVE FREE” brand to emphasize the flexibility of economic opportunity and overall welcoming business culture of the state of New Hampshire.

- A majority (84%) of NH municipal officials surveyed agreed that outdoor recreation helps attract new residents and businesses.
- 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.
- Many visitors view NH as an outdoor recreation state.

Priority 4: Education, Ethics, and Benefits

Goal 4.1: Promote the benefits of outdoor recreation to encourage participation.

- Outdoor recreation provides a variety of benefits for individuals and communities including:
 - Reduction of crime and juvenile delinquency
 - Recreational opportunities for people of all ages
 - Creation of stable neighborhoods and strong communities
- 93% of municipal officials surveyed in NH agree that outdoor recreation enhances a sense of community.
- In terms of multigenerational participation, outdoor recreation planners and providers will need to be responsive to a more active, older population that seeks adventure in their outdoor experiences, and focus on encouraging greater participation in the outdoors by youth.

Goal 4.2: Collaborate with education professionals and institutions on the development of outdoor education programs for schools and communities that encourages preservation of minimally improved land.

- The New Hampshire Children in Nature Coalition is dedicated to fostering experiences in nature that improve physical and emotional health, increasing the understanding of the natural world, and promoting stronger connections to the 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 youth with nature and encourage youth and families to get outside and be active in the natural world.
- The majority of Americans agree that preserving minimally improved land for outdoor recreation is important, and that there should be more outdoor education activities during the school day.
 - For example, the Bureau of Trails, in collaboration with more than 20 OHRV clubs across the state and the New Hampshire Off Highway Vehicle Association, have created an education program that informs OHRV riders of state laws, rider ethics, and responsible trail usage.
 - The many initiatives funded by NH grants include extensive improvements at Fish and Game's Owl Brook Hunter Education Center and the Great Bay Discovery Center, the publication of Discover Wild Times for Kids, and support for programs such as Operation Land Share, Barry Conservation Camp, and Fish and Game Law Enforcement Division's K-9 conservation corp.

Goal 4.3: Create ease of access to an electronic, one-stop information resource listings comprehensive statewide recreation opportunities.

- It remains challenging to find a comprehensive source for outdoor recreation opportunities in the state.
 - This comprehensive resource should be used to educate residents and visitors alike on the diverse recreation opportunities that exist within the state of New Hampshire and the information they need to ensure a positive experience.
- Using this platform to highlight appropriate, less crowded and underutilized recreation areas, as well as available alternatives (i.e. shuttles, parking) could help to offset the challenges of overuse and crowding at current popular outdoor recreation sites.

CONCLUSION: IMPLEMENTING THE 2019-2023 NEW HAMPSHIRE SCORP

The 2019-2023 New Hampshire SCORP provides a five-year framework that will assist in addressing priority outdoor recreation issues and influences. The plan was developed and based on research of impacting trends, supply, usage patterns, and expressed demand that included the analysis of outdoor recreation issues and needs collected through the public outreach process. The plan includes priorities, goals, and supporting actions that will assist in addressing outdoor recreation issues and needs within the state of New Hampshire over the next five years.

Implementation of the SCORP will require, and benefit from, coordinated efforts and collaboration between federal, state, and local government agencies, outdoor recreation providers, non-profit interest groups, private industry, and policy makers. The intent of this plan is to guide and prioritize recreation planning that is thoughtful in design, consistent in purpose, and coordinated in effort among the diverse outdoor recreation entities throughout the state of New Hampshire. Also important to implementation of the SCORP, will be the efforts put forth to ensure accountability in measuring success. Publicly issued annual reports will provide a benchmark of progress for the identified goals and actions within the identified priorities.

To effectively implement the priorities, goals, and actions identified in the 2019-2023 New Hampshire SCORP, improving collaboration among state agencies, cities and towns, businesses, and non-profit recreation providers throughout the state is essential. Toward this end, the following initiatives have been identified by the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

- Ensure communities and governing bodies are aware of the value of the SCORP and the LWCF including Select Boards, Conservation Commissions, and Planning Boards.
- Distribute the SCORP online through posting on websites of DNCR and OSI.
- Continue to serve as a resource for municipal parks and recreation agencies and local recreation leaders to discuss the LWCF program and its requirements.
- Revise grant program criteria to reflect the priorities, goals, and actions of the 2019-2023 SCORP.
- Convene a meeting with the Open Project Selection Process Committee (OPSP) to finalize project selection criteria and grant round timetable.



Odiorne Point State Park

As planning and progress for outdoor recreation is an ongoing effort, it will be important to continue active participation among the Office of Strategic Initiatives, the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, and the Open Project Selection Process Committee to ensure its success.

The 2019-2023 New Hampshire SCORP provides guidance to accomplish goals and provides direction for local and state agencies, communities, and partners to enhance the outdoor experience for New Hampshire’s residents and visitors, while sustaining the state’s economic vitality and natural resources.



“There are no words that can tell the hidden spirit of the wilderness,
that can reveal its mystery, its melancholy, and its charm.

-Theodore Roosevelt

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State of New Hampshire
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
Division of Parks and Recreation
nhstateparks.org

