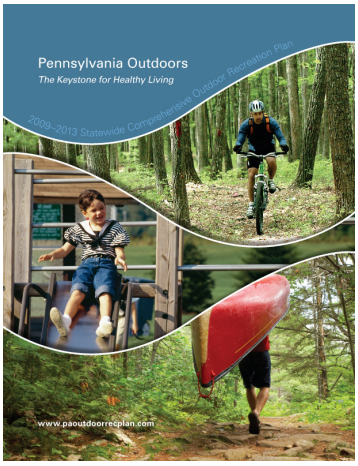
Pennsylvania Outdoors: The Keystone for Healthy Living



Pennsylvania has always been an outdoor state. Families here have experienced the state's remarkable scenic beauty by enjoying recreational pursuits like hunting, fishing, hiking and camping for generations. To ensure these public and community resources are protected and maintained, Pennsylvania completes a State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every five years. This planning process documents outdoor recreation participation and trends, and sets a course of action to support and improve Pennsylvania's natural and outdoor recreation heritage.

Outdoor Recreation is Important to Pennsylvanians

As part of the planning process, a survey of 1200 state residents was conducted.

- Walking is the most popular outdoor recreation activity in Pennsylvania, with 84% of Pennsylvanians reporting participation in the past year.
- Nearly three-fourths of Pennsylvanians surveyed indicated that they walk or ride a bike in their neighborhood.
- Three-fourths of Pennsylvanians indicated they would be more likely to use a trail if it was within easy walking distance from where they live.
- More bicycle lanes and paths were among the top rated recreation needs of the Pennsylvanians surveyed.
- Over 80% of the Pennsylvanians surveyed believe that the availability of local recreation programs reduces youth crime. Nearly all respondents also feel that trails, greenways, parks and natural areas increase the value of nearby properties.
- Areas managed by local and county government account for the largest portion (43%) of away-from-home outdoor activity.

State Parks are Important to Outdoor Recreation

Pennsylvania State Parks provide incredible opportunities for outdoor recreation. In 2008, a survey was conducted with visitors in six state parks.

- The majority of State Park visitors reported being physically active during their visit and almost half (49%) said that their State Park visits were more active than their day-to-day lives.
- The most popular activities in State Parks include: picnicking, swimming, relaxing, camping, fishing and hiking.
- Nine out of ten State Park visitors believed that their individual actions make a collective difference in conserving the natural environment.
- A majority of State Park visitors believed that building connective trails (within the parks and from parks to local communities) were important future priorities for State Parks.
- A majority of State Park visitors (67%) felt that State Parks should increase the number of facilities that promote more active use of parks (e.g., trails, canoe launches, playgrounds).

To learn more about the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and associated research findings, visit: www.paoutdoorrecplan.com