



# 2013-2017 North Dakota State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

## RESEARCH

This is an excerpt from the  
Final Report for the  
North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD)

### **“SCORP Household Survey”** conducted in spring 2012.

This survey was completed by  
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as part of the development of the  
*2013-2017 North Dakota  
State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)*.

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## Section

# 2

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

When reviewing the executive summary, the findings and conclusions will be more thoroughly understood if several other sections of the report are also reviewed. First, the questionnaire in Section 4 provides the actual phrasing for each question. A solid understanding of the context in which each question was asked will enable you to more accurately interpret the findings. Second, the contingency tables in Section 5 provide detailed results for many different sample segments. Since the condensed nature of this summary report format does not allow us to address all of these findings, we strongly recommend that you review the contingency tables and use them to facilitate any major decisions you make.

#### Assess interest in general outdoor activities

- More than one of every two respondents (54.9%) said they feel outdoor recreation is “very important” and 92.6% of the respondents feel it is “at least important” (“very important” or “important”).
- The activity categories for which the largest proportion of respondents said they are “at least interested” include:
  - Going to a park, natural area, or green space just to play, have fun, use a playground, enjoy nature, or relax (62.7%)
  - Using designated trails for walking, running, bicycling, or horse riding (57.5%)
  - Going to or having a picnic at a park or recreation area (56.8%)
  - Going camping (54.9%)
  - Exercising or playing a sport outdoors at a park or sports complex – other than for a school team (48.0%)
  - Swimming outdoors (47.9%)
  - Skiing, ice skating, sledding, or doing similar outdoor winter activities (44.8%)

#### Determine the distances residents are willing to travel to participate in general outdoor activities

- The largest proportion of “interested” respondents said they are willing to travel 51 miles or more to:
  - Go camping (72.0%)
  - Canoe or kayak (59.5%)
  - Use designated trails for riding snowmobiles (49.7%)
  - Golf (34.9%)

- On the other hand, the largest proportion of “interested” respondents said they are willing to travel only two miles or less to:
  - Use a dog park or a pet exercise area at a park (30.6%)
  - Use an outdoor skateboard park (21.5%)
  - Use an outdoor disc or Frisbee golf course (17.7%)
  - Using designated trails for walking, running, bicycling, or horse riding (17.2%)
  - Exercise or play a sport outdoors at a park or sports complex – other than for a school team (15.0%)
  - Swim outdoors (14.3%)

### Measure interest in specific outdoor activities

- The activities for which the largest proportion of respondents said they are “at least interested” include:
  - Visiting a modern park or natural area (52.6%)
  - Going to a park area or green space to play games, toss Frisbee, or just relax (49.5%)
  - Having a picnic at a smaller family site (49.3%)
  - Camping in a modern campground (47.5%)
  - Using a designated paved walking, jogging, or bicycling trail (46.9%)
  - Using a modern trail (44.8%)
  - Having a picnic in a group shelter (42.4%)
  - Playing at an outdoor playground (41.2%)

### Identify the perceived quantity and quality of specific outdoor activities

- The activities for which the largest proportion of these respondents who feel the number and quality of facilities for that activity is either “excellent” or “very good” include the following:
  - Golf courses (56.0%)
  - Baseball fields (50.6%)
  - Park areas or green spaces to play games, toss Frisbee, or just relax (49.6%)
  - Softball fields (47.1%)
  - Outdoor playgrounds (46.2%)
  - Group picnic shelters (44.4%)
  - Natural areas to bird watch or simply enjoy nature and the outdoors (39.7%)
  - Paved walking, jogging, or bicycling trails (39.4%)

- Outdoor golf driving or practice ranges (38.2%)
- Outdoor soccer fields (38.0%)
- Smaller family picnic sites (37.9%)
- Modern parks or natural areas with electricity, running water, and restrooms (35.6%)
- In contrast, the activities for which the largest proportion of these respondents who feel the number and quality of facilities for that activity is either "fair" or "poor" include the following:
  - Designated downhill skiing or snowboarding areas (60.6%)
  - Designated paddling trails for canoeing or kayaking (59.1%)
  - Outdoor spray pools, wave pools, or other types of specialty pools (59.1%)
  - Pet exercise areas within a park (58.8%)
  - Exercise trails with exercise machines or equipment at stations (56.2%)
  - Designated swimming beaches on a lake or river (52.8%)
  - Designated sledding or tubing areas (51.5%)
  - Rental cabins at a campground or park (51.4%)
- By combining the "interest" and "quantity-quality" ratings provided by respondents, we can develop a "strengths-opportunities grid" for the State and each region. As one would expect, strengths and weaknesses vary between regions.

### **Solicit comments as to outdoor activities or facilities that should be offered or expanded**

- When asked what outdoor activities or facilities they would like to see offered or expanded at parks, recreational areas, and outdoor sports complexes in North Dakota, the largest number of comments related to:
  - Trails for non-motorized use (*paved/unpaved trails for walking, jogging, and biking, hiking trails, horse riding trails, etc.*)
  - Camping (*more/better campgrounds, modern campgrounds, tent sites, etc.*)
  - Miscellaneous others (*docks/piers or other fishing access, boat ramps/canoe launches, hunting access, etc.*)
  - Parks and green space (*playgrounds, natural areas, etc.*)
  - Outdoor swimming (*pools, specialty pools, beaches, etc.*)
  - Outdoor sports (*basketball/tennis/volleyball courts, soccer fields, etc.*)