

Press Release



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North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department Completes State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

BISMARCK, N.D., February 8, 2008 –Ninety-three percent of North Dakotans say outdoor recreation is very or somewhat important, according to a report recently released by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. The report also shows that a vast majority of North Dakotans, 85%, use their city and county parks.

The statistics are included in the 2008-2012 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), which was recently published by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. The SCORP identifies regional and statewide outdoor recreation needs, including a framework to guide decision makers in planning and protecting North Dakota's outdoor recreation resources. The document was a cooperative effort by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, the North Dakota Recreation and Parks Association and DH Research. Survey participants included 1,200 residents ages 18 years or older.

“North Dakota is blessed with an abundance of natural, cultural and recreational resources that enhance the quality of life for all of us,” said Gov. John Hoeven. “It is important for local, state and federal partners to continue to work together to further enhance outdoor recreation opportunities for all North Dakotans, as well as for future generations.”

Survey participants indicated walking, pleasure driving, picnicking, bicycling, swimming, camping, boating/water skiing, golf, basketball and OHV/snowmobiling are the top ten outdoor recreation activities in the state.

“The SCORP maintains North Dakota's eligibility for receipt of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program grant dollars,” said Doug Prchal, director of the North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department.

The LWCF provides 50/50 matching grants to political subdivisions for resource land acquisition and the development and renovation of outdoor recreation facilities. The LWCF was created by Congress in 1964 to provide federal funds for matching grant money for state and community open space and recreation projects. Funds for the program are derived from offshore oil and gas drilling royalties under a simple premise: revenues derived from the extraction of the nation's non-renewable oil and gas resources should be reinvested in the protection and restoration of renewable natural resources. To date, the Land & Water Conservation Fund has provided more than \$33 million in federal funds to North Dakota communities to help fund 1,279 outdoor recreation projects statewide.

To view the 2008 – 2012 SCORP, visit the North Dakota Parks and Recreation website at www.parkrec.nd.gov. For additional details contact Michelle Vetter at 701-328-5364.

Play in our backyard!