

Kentucky Outdoor Recreation Plan

2020-2025



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Department for Local Government
Federal Grants Division

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Introduction/Executive Summary.....	5
1. SETTING.....	7
Population and Growth.....	7
Geography.....	7
Water Resources.....	10
Plant and Animal Life.....	12
2. DEMAND FOR RECREATION FACILITIES AND RESOURCES.....	16
Reasons for Participation.....	16
Recreation Participation.....	16
Location of Participation.....	17
Frequency of Outdoor Activity.....	18
Average Time Traveled From Home.....	19
Greatest Obstacles to Participation.....	19
Importance of Park System.....	20
Importance of Public Funding to Acquire and Develop Land.....	21
Alternative Funding Sources.....	22
Satisfaction by Household.....	22
Difficulty Obtaining Funds.....	23
Difficulty Preserving Land.....	24
Difficulty Managing Issues.....	24
3. SUPPLY OF OUTDOOR RECREATION RESOURCES.....	26
Federal Agencies.....	26
State Agencies.....	39
Local Governments.....	61
4. TRAILS.....	66
5. KENTUCKY WETLANDS.....	70
6. STATEWIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION GOALS.....	78

INTRODUCTION

Kentucky is truly unique in its location and topography. The six geographic regions of the state demonstrate incredible variety, from the Appalachian mountains of the East, to the rolling hills and horse farms of the Bluegrass, and finally flattening out in the wetlands of the West; part of what makes Kentucky beautiful is its diversity. Kentucky's entire Northern and Western borders are formed by the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and numerous other lakes, rivers, and streams dot the landscape. These varied geographic features and ecosystems allow for a plethora of plant and animal life. These factors make Kentucky a prime location for outdoor recreation and make it easy to understand why Daniel Boone said "Heaven must be a Kentucky kind of place."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 requires states once every five years to submit a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) in order to obtain Land and Water Conservation (LWC) funding. The SCORP:

- directs the state's usage of LWC funds
- assesses public usage of parks and trails
- identifies areas of concern regarding the maintenance of local, state and federal parks
- identifies Kentucky's important natural, scenic, historical, and cultural resources that require maintenance and protection
- provides a mechanism for coordinating various governmental and private roles and responsibilities
- provides Congress, the Governor, executive agencies, the state legislature, local governments, and citizens a central source of information on legislative, budgetary, and planning processes related to outdoor recreation

The guidelines of the LWCF ACT of 1965 (Public Law 88-578) state that the SCORP must: include ample opportunity for public participation; must be comprehensive; evaluates demand regarding public outdoor recreation preferences; evaluates the supply of outdoor recreation resources and facilities; have an implementation program that identifies the State's strategies, priorities, and actions for the obligation of its LWCF apportionment; and contain a wetlands component. The Kentucky plan is written to address these requirements.

Goal Statement: To utilize federal grant funds (LWCF and RTP) to help local governments, state and federal agencies acquire, develop, and maintain outdoor recreation throughout the Commonwealth.

Supply of Recreational land and facilities:

Demand: The 2010 census indicated that population in Kentucky grew to 4,339,367, an increase of almost 300,000 persons from the 2000 census. The United States Census Bureau estimates that Kentucky's growth rate slowed from 7.4% in 2000-2010, to 3% in 2010-2018. Despite the slowing of

population growth, it will be important to continue maintenance on existing parks and to account for a growth of nearly 500,000 people from 2000-2018.

Chapter 1: Setting

This chapter will discuss the current setting for outdoor recreational activities in Kentucky. Painting this picture is important in order to understand Kentucky's strategic plan and challenges going forward.

POPULATION AND GROWTH

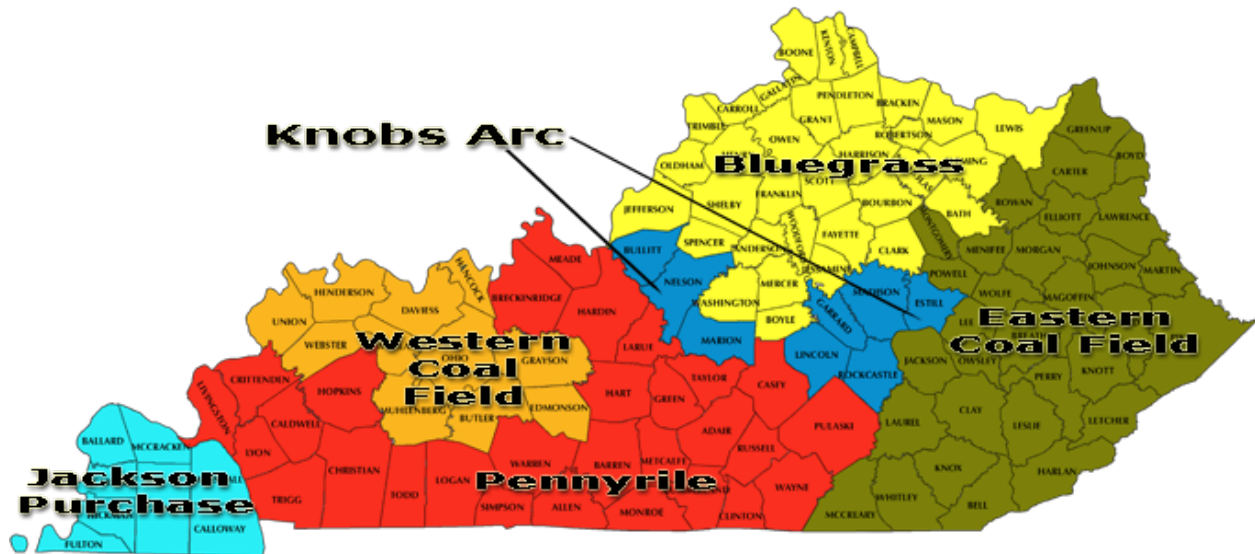
Kentucky's population, while steadily growing, has grown at a slower rate than much of the country. From 2000-2010 Kentucky's population increased from 4,401,769 to 4,339,367. The projected population for 2018 was 4,468,402. Counties that experienced growth tended to be in or around urban areas. In the midst of the downturn in the coal industry, some counties in Eastern Kentucky have experienced minimal growth or even a decrease in population.

The Census Bureau estimated Kentucky's 2018 population as about 51% female and 49% male with a median age of 38.9 years. The 2010 census lists Kentucky's population as 89 percent white, 8 percent black or African American, 2 percent Hispanic, 1 percent Asian, less than 0.5 percent American Indian/Alaska Native, less than 0.5 percent Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, and 1 percent some other race.

Median household income in Kentucky for 2013-2017 was \$46,535. The Kentucky unemployment rate as of May 2019 was 4%, down from 10.6% ten years prior. In comparison the national unemployment rate in May 2019 was 3.6%, down from 9.4% in 2009.

GEOGRAPHY

Kentucky is divided into six geographic regions: the Jackson Purchase, Western Coal Field, Pennyriple, Knobs and Escarpment, Bluegrass, and the Cumberland Plateau. Kentucky is 40,408 square miles and is 379 miles long by 170 miles wide. Kentucky is the 37th largest state in the United States.



Jackson Purchase

The Jackson Purchase region sits at a confluence of rivers. Its northern border is formed by the Ohio River and its western border is formed by the Mississippi River. The Cumberland and Tennessee rivers are also partially located in the area. The area is also home to smaller waterways such as the Clarks River and two large man-made lakes, Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley. Its low elevation and proximity to water make the area a floodplain filled with sandy soil. This area is home to Kentucky's wetlands such as Clark's River Wildlife Refuge.

Western Coal Field

The Western Coalfield region is a part of the Illinois Basin, a broad down-folding of bedrock. This underlying geologic structure extends northward into Illinois. The topography of the region ranges from moderately steep upland areas to broad, nearly flat floodplains that have been carved by the Green and other rivers. The underlying geology consists mainly of sandstone and shale. The presence of major coal seams has resulted in considerable mining, principally in the region's southern salient. Coal has been mined by both underground and large surface mine operations, the latter significantly altering the surface.

Pennyrile

The gently rolling Pennyrile region forms a rough crescent bounded on the north by the Ohio River and the Western Coal Region and extending south into Tennessee. This topography is broken by the deep stream cuts and gorges of the Green, Nolin, Barren, and Cumberland Rivers. The soft limestone-based geology is easily eroded and dissolved by water, resulting in the characteristic "karst" topography with many caves, underground streams, and sinkholes. Mammoth Cave, the largest known cave system in the world, is found in this region, along with other significant caverns. The economy of the cave region relies to a significant extent on tourism generated by its geologic features.



Knobs and Escarpment

The Knobs and Escarpment region forms a belt around the Bluegrass. The traveler across this landscape is struck by its abrupt break from neighboring regions, and also by its characteristic isolated conical shale hills, which are remnants of erosion. These “knobs” typically exhibit a band of vertical cliffs near their summit, which marks the presence of a stratum of harder, more erosion-resistant material. These serene and silent sentinels stand guard over a region that has also been referred to as the “Oil Shale Belt” because of shale’s high hydrocarbon content, which are exposed at the surface.

Bluegrass

Likely Kentucky’s most famous region, the Bluegrass is what many picture when they think of Kentucky. The rolling hills and rich farmland are perfect for raising horses and also create a magnificent landscape. Underneath the rich grass is bedrock and limestone.



Cumberland Plateau

Also known as the Eastern Coal Field, the geology includes jumbled vertical sequences of sandstone, shale, siltstone, and occasional limestone. Many coal seams exist in the region and coal mining has long been a major economic activity. Notable geologic features include Harlan County's 4,125-foot Big Black Mountain, the state's highest point; the nationally famous Natural Bridge and Red River Gorge in Powell County; and the Pine Mountain thrust fault, a large tectonic displacement that spans some 280 miles across southeastern Kentucky.



Water Resources

Water features probably exert a greater influence on physical diversity, scenic quality, and recreation potential than any other single characteristic of the natural environment. Kentucky exhibits an unusual variety of physical terrain, and the water, which occupies its lowest elevations, is thereby shaped into

many forms including small streams, rivers, natural lakes, large reservoirs, ponds, and wetlands. The flow of rivulets, creeks, streams, and mighty rivers has sculpted Kentucky's landscape. Deep valleys, impressive rock-walled gorges, whitewater channels, and waterfalls bear witness to the cutting power of running water.



Water bodies and streams, along with their adjacent shorelines; provide another dimension to the aesthetic qualities of the landscape. Water increases an area's ability to support a variety of plant life and animal species. The aesthetic value of water make nearby land areas ideal for camping, picnicking, hiking, and similar activities. More direct recreational uses of Kentucky's water resources include swimming, various types of boating, canoeing, kayaking, rafting, wind-surfing, waterskiing, and fishing. However, a number of factors affect the ability of a water body to support passive and active forms of recreation. These factors include water quantity, water quality, and water temperature, all of which can vary seasonally or in response to natural or man-induced environmental changes.

River Basins Described in terms of its river systems, Kentucky is conventionally divided into seven major basins, each defined by the major river into which its smaller rivers and streams ultimately flow. The basins include the Kentucky, Cumberland, Green, Tennessee, Salt, Licking, and Big Sandy. All drain into the Ohio River, which forms approximately 672 miles of the northern boundary of Kentucky.

- The Kentucky River Basin drains an area of 6,940 square miles running from the mountains of southeastern Kentucky through a large portion of the Bluegrass Region into the Ohio River near Carrollton.

- Draining an area of over 18,000 square miles, the Cumberland River Basin holds half of its water in Kentucky and the other half in Tennessee. Scenic rivers, pristine streams, and beautiful man-made lakes such as Barkley Lake make up this unique river basin.
- The Green River Basin drains over 9,000 square miles beginning in Casey County and flowing west, then northwesterly to enter the Ohio River upstream from Henderson. Much of the basin exhibits karst topography with its characteristic underground streams.
- The Tennessee River Basin drains only about 1,000 square miles of western Kentucky and houses the large and well-known Kentucky Lake. Between Kentucky Lake and Barkley Lake is the site of the interior area known as Land Between the Lakes.
- The Salt River Basin drains 2,890 square miles of central Kentucky, including parts of the Bluegrass, Knobs, and Pennyryle regions and the mountains of eastern Kentucky through the Knobs and Bluegrass Region to the Ohio River near Newport.
- The portion of Big Sandy River Basin within Kentucky occupies 2,280 square miles at the eastern end of the state. Many of the streams within the basin have cut deep valleys by the power derived from their steep gradients.

Plant and Animal Life

As might be expected from its topography and climate, Kentucky's vegetation is also quite diverse. Man has, of course, profoundly altered it. The forests and savannahs that covered much of the state when the earliest settlers arrived retain little of their character today; while many new species, some of them now quite dominant, have been introduced. In spite of these changes, and also because of them, the plant species of the state represent an interesting mix, and include those with northern affinities as well as those more characteristic of southern regions.



Approximately 47% of the state, over eleven million acres, remains under forest cover. Wise forest management is consequently of great importance. Forests prevent soil erosion, manufacture oxygen, provide scenery, shelter animals, and in other ways counterbalance human modifications of the environment. The recreational values of forested areas are many and easily appreciated, and forest products are an engine of considerable economic vitality.

For these and other reasons, Kentucky is fortunate to still have abundant forests. The Division of Forestry in the Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet currently manages 39,946 acres within seven separate state forests. In addition, the U.S. Forest Service manages Daniel Boone National Forest and Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area.

Some 375 species of fish, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals are known to occur in the state. Kentucky's natural fauna has been considerably altered from its presettlement composition. Many larger mammals such as bison, elk, wolves, bear, and panther were eliminated or severely reduced in numbers in the colonial period. Many birds including the Carolina parakeet, prairie chicken and passenger pigeon were similarly affected. More recently, the state has seen significant declines or

potential extirpation of populations of different species such as the redcockaded woodpecker, butterflies, and freshwater mussels. In spite of the continuing human impact, however, many areas retain important segments of the natural fauna that provide a resource for those interested in observing wildlife.

“New” faunal species still sometimes find niches in the state’s ecological communities. The western coyote has extended its range over the entire state in recent years, while the zebra mussel, a recent immigrant from the north, has spread to an increasing number of Kentucky’s lakes and streams.

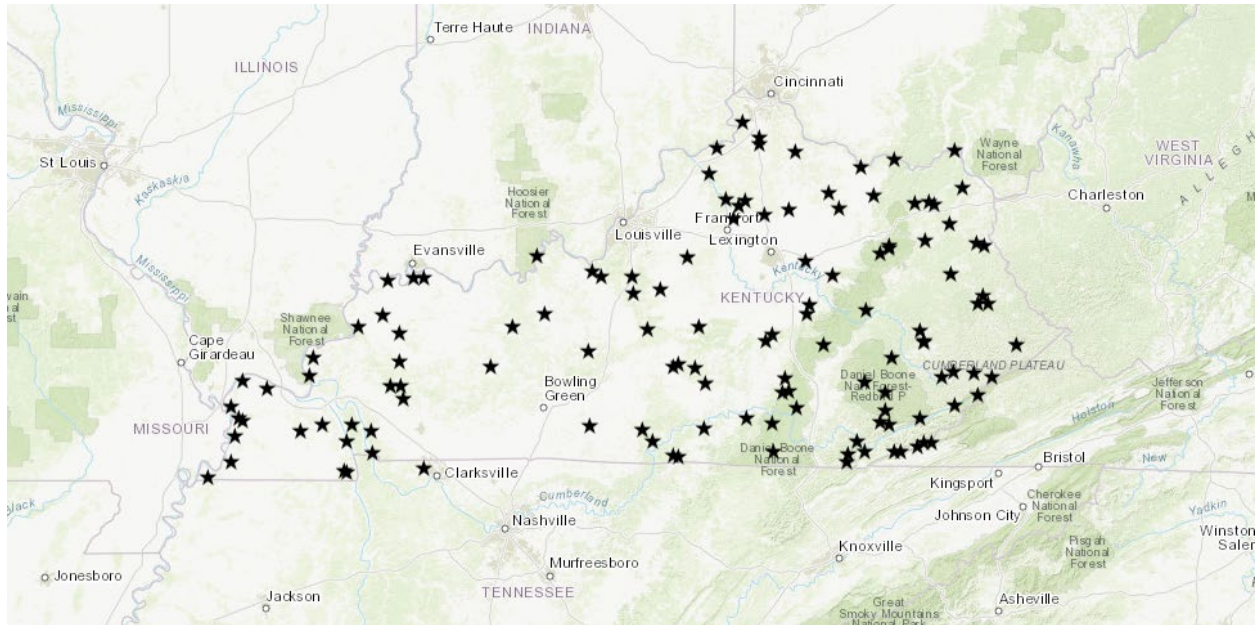
Endangered Species Public awareness and concern have stimulated cooperation between a variety of organizations and agencies in many states, resulting in numerous programs to identify species in need of protection. Increased concern for the environment has led to a new awareness of endangered, threatened, and rare species of plants and animals. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources produces a list of species that are federally threatened or endangered in the state.

Fish and Game Species Kentucky’s streams and lakes provide fishermen with a wide range of fishing opportunities. Species including bass, crappie, catfish, trout, walleye, rockfish, white bass, bluegill, and musky are popular. Stocking programs conducted by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) supplement native populations and establish new species.



With its variety of terrain and wildlife habitat, Kentucky provides a corresponding variety of wildlife species for hunters and outdoor re-creators. Eastern mountains with wooded hills and cleared valley farmland abound with ruffed grouse, gray squirrel, deer, elk, and other non-game species. Wild turkey has also been successfully restored after a near disappearance from the state. Central Kentucky’s farmland, pastures, and woodlands provide habitats for rabbit, quail, doves, deer, fox, raccoon, and

squirrel. Along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, duck and goose hunters find ample game, as do endangered bald eagles. The farmlands of western Kentucky support quail, dove, and rabbits while forested tracts contain significant deer populations. Even before white settlers arrived in Kentucky, Native Americans favored the region as a hunting ground. In more recent times the state has attempted to preserve its legacy of wildlife resources and supporting habitats through management by state agencies. In particular, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is responsible for managing wildlife species and licensing hunters. Kentucky's public-use lands total over 9.6 million acres (6.3% of the state). All managed areas are open at least part of the year to hunting, as well as for hiking, picnicking, and other passive recreation. In addition, many private landowners open their land to responsible hunters. There are 80 wildlife management areas (WMA's) for public use.



Chapter 2

Demand for Recreation Facilities and Resources

Kentucky chose to use a quantitative statewide survey to meet this SCORP requirement and to formulate a plan that will effectively address the needs and preferences of Kentucky’s citizens. The Commonwealth of Kentucky hired Hunden Strategic Partners (HSP) to create, compile, and analyze the survey results. HSP randomly emailed surveys to 3,813 residents and mailed random physical surveys to 250 residents. HSP received 907 responses back, 44.1% of which came from the main population centers of Central Kentucky.

The survey asked questions regarding types of activity residents participate in, location of participation in outdoor activities, frequency of visits to parks, drive time, and issues facing recreation providers.

Reasons for Participation in Outdoor Recreation

When evaluating people’s outdoor recreation habits and future needs, it is beneficial to understand why they choose outdoor recreational activities. The top three answers were: to be outdoors (80.4%), to spend time with family and friends (77.2%), and recreation/to have fun (76.8%). The next most popular tier of answers included: visit/see new places and things (56.9%), relaxation/meditation/reflection (54.4%), and exercise or physical fitness (54.2%). (See Figure. 2.1)

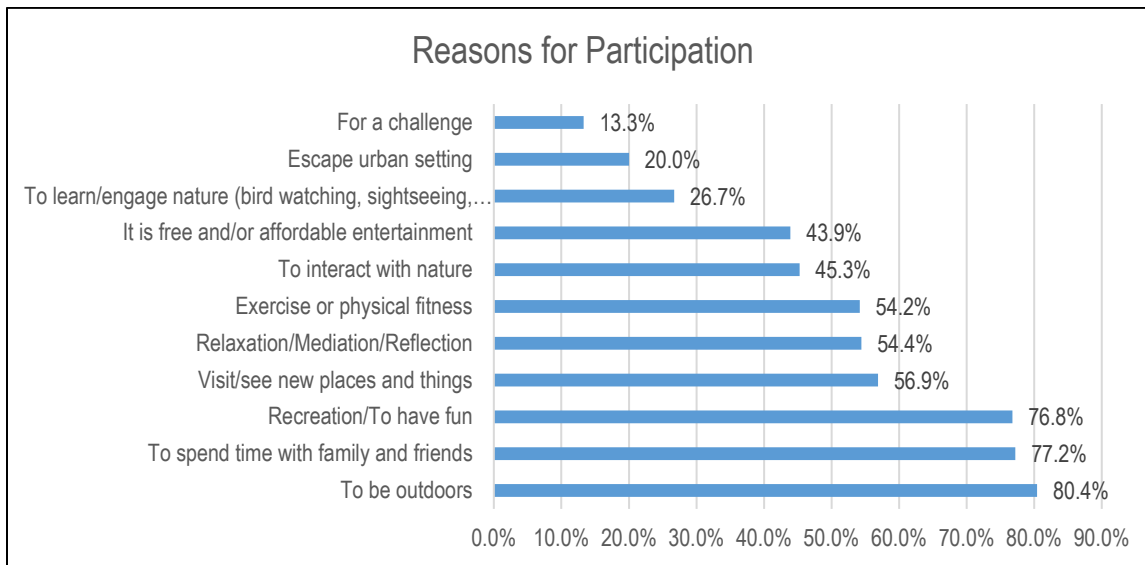


Figure 2.1 Reasons for Participation

Types of Activities Kentuckians Participate In

Participation by Activity - 2019 Kentucky SCORP Survey		Participation by Activity - 2019 Kentucky SCORP Survey	
Answers	Percentage of Responses	Answers	Percentage of Responses
Visiting a beach or a lake or river	89.3%	Utility Terrain Vehicle, Modified golf cart	13.0%
Walking for pleasure or exercise or leisure	84.3%	Soccer	13.0%
Visiting parks or historical sites as an individual or as a group	80.1%	Water skiing, Jet skiing	12.5%
Viewing scenery	67.5%	Collecting (flowers, insects, rocks)	12.5%
Outdoor fairs or festivals	62.7%	Shooting, Skeet	12.1%
Swimming	58.5%	Boating – Power, Saltwater	10.9%
Hiking, Trails	56.0%	Volleyball, Badminton	10.8%
Driving for pleasure	49.5%	Backpacking	10.5%
Fishing – Freshwater, bank or pier	47.8%	Fishing – Saltwater, on-shore or pier	10.5%
Gardening	46.4%	Horseback riding, Trails	10.4%
Nature observation	44.5%	Football (playing touch or tackle or flag, etc.)	9.7%
Picnicking	43.5%	Fishing – Saltwater, boat	9.3%
Visiting Zoos	41.2%	Frisbee, Disc golf, Kite Flying	9.1%
Boating – Power, Freshwater	35.9%	Bicycling, BMX or Off Road	9.0%
Fishing – Freshwater, boat	34.4%	SCUBA/Snorkeling	8.1%
Camping, Developed site	32.8%	Tennis	7.9%
Water Parks	31.6%	Horseback riding, General	7.2%
Canoeing, Kayaking	31.6%	Geocaching	6.0%
Playground activities	30.7%	Spelunking (Caves)	5.8%
Open Space Park, Relaxing	30.0%	CrossFit Training	5.6%
Hunting, Gun	29.7%	Skiing, Down hill	5.2%
Golf, 18-hole, 9-hole, driving range	29.5%	Rappelling or Rock climbing	5.2%
Bicycling	29.2%	Radio, Remote Control Models	4.1%
Shooting, Target Firing Range	28.8%	Swimming (Competitive)	3.9%
Golf, miniature	28.1%	MotORIZED Trail Biking, Dirt Biking	3.6%
Spectator activities	26.9%	Ice Skating, outside	3.4%
Jogging, Running for exercise (on and off-road)	24.7%	Skiing, Cross Country, Snow Shoeing	2.8%
Baseball, Softball	24.0%	Orienteering	2.2%
Splash Pool or Wave Pool	23.3%	Sailing, Freshwater	2.2%
Nature Photography	20.8%	Skateboarding	2.1%
Basketball, Outdoor	19.5%	Sailing, Saltwater	2.1%
Dog park	17.1%	Shuffleboard	2.0%
Camping, Primitive	17.0%	Rollerblading, Inline skating	1.7%
Bird watching	16.5%	Surfing	1.0%
Quad or All Terrain Vehicle Driving	16.3%	Triathlon	1.0%
Tubing	15.3%	Lacrosse	1.0%
4WD, Other high clearance vehicles	14.4%	Windsurfing, Kitesurfing	1.0%
Hunting, Bow	13.9%	Rugby	0.6%
Archery	13.2%	Cricket	0.6%

Figure 2.2 Recreation Participation

As shown above (Figure 2.2), most respondents responded that over the last five years they or members of their household had visited a beach, lake or river (89.3%); walked for pleasure, exercise, or leisure (84.3%); and visited parks or historical sites (80.1%). The majority of respondents also said they had

viewed scenery (67.5%), attended outdoor fairs or festivals (62.7%), went swimming (58.5%), and hiked or used trails (56%).

Location of Participation in Outdoor Activities

This survey asked participant to identify the types of facilities they had visited over the past year. Most respondents indicated that they attended local (87.5%) and state (81.4%) parks. Nearly half (47.3%) responded that they had attended a national park or national forest. Approximately one-third (33.6%) attended a mixed-public or private club such as the YMCA or Boys and Girls Club. (See Figure 2.3 below)

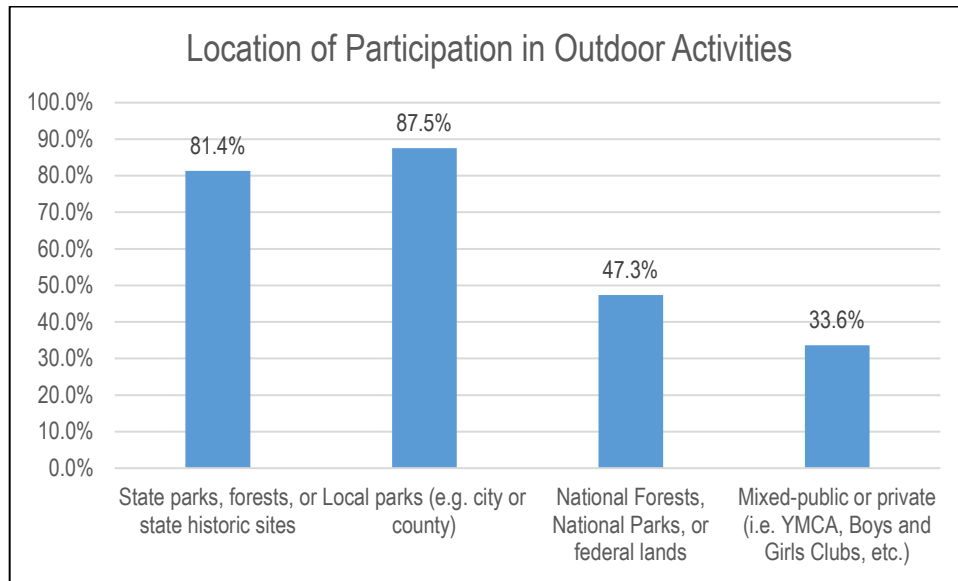


Figure 2.3 Location of Participation

Frequency of Outdoor Activity

When determining the demand for outdoor recreation facilities it is essential to consider how frequently residents use existing facilities. According to the survey, respondents visited local parks at a much higher frequency than state and national parks. This statistic most likely reflects the shorter travel time from their place of residence. The survey asked participants how frequently they visited local, state, and national parks over the past five years. (See Figure 2.4)

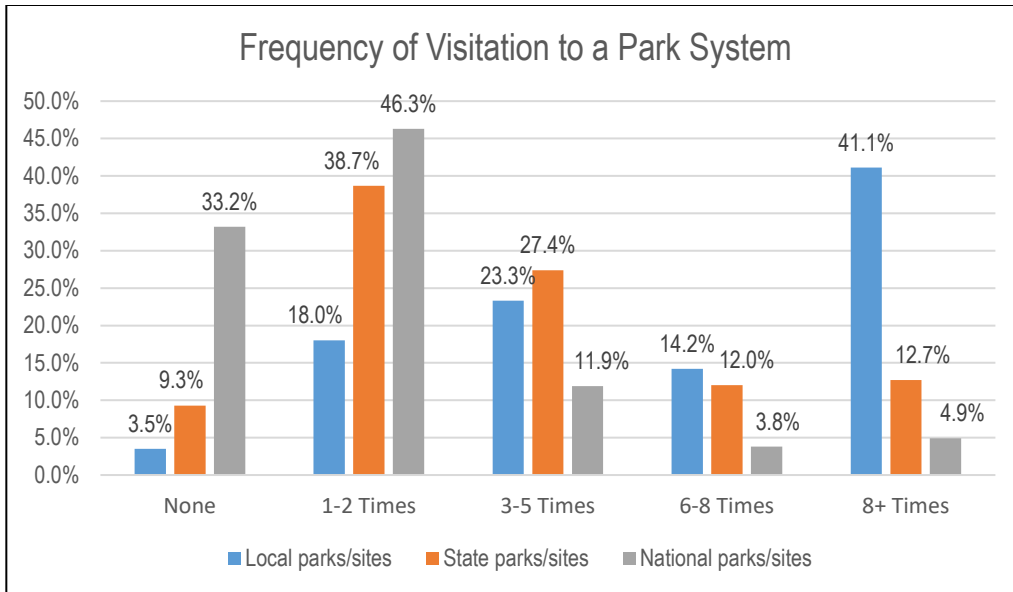


Figure 2.4 Frequency of Visits

In connection with the frequency of visits is the travel time from respondents' place of residence.

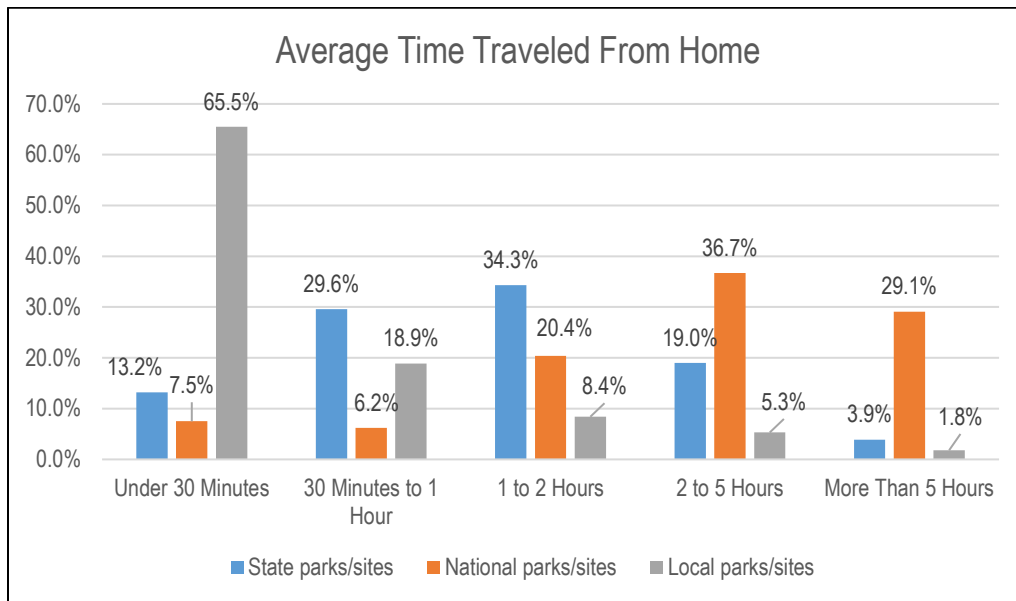


Figure 2.5 Average Time Traveled From Home

Greatest Obstacles to Participation

Understanding what residents view as obstacles to outdoor recreation can help to address those obstacle and increase participation. The survey found that lack of time was overwhelmingly the most common answer as an obstacle to participation (78.2%). Other top responses were lack of available

facilities (24.7%), physical or health limitation (19.5%), and cost (16.7%). Although unable to assist with the primary obstacle, steps can be taken to address the lack of available facilities. Additional recreational facilities and parks could be constructed and accommodations could be made to make recreational facilities and programs more accessible for residents with disabilities.

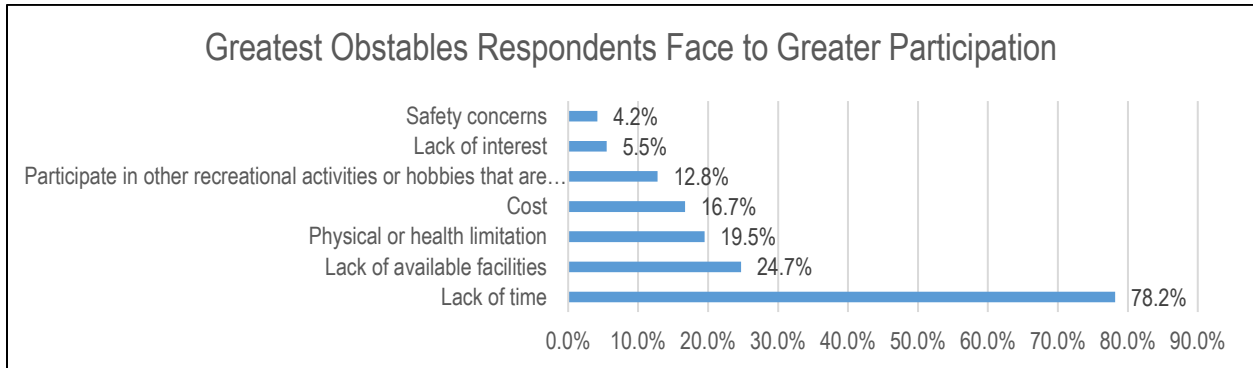


Figure 2.6 Greatest Obstacles to Outdoor Recreation

Importance of Park System

It is beneficial to gauge public interest in parks when formulating a strategy. If residents do not see parks as important, then they are unlikely to support expansion of the parks system. According to the survey, that is not the case in Kentucky as residents view parks as extremely important. Respondents view local parks as most important, followed by state and then national parks. (See Figure 2.7)

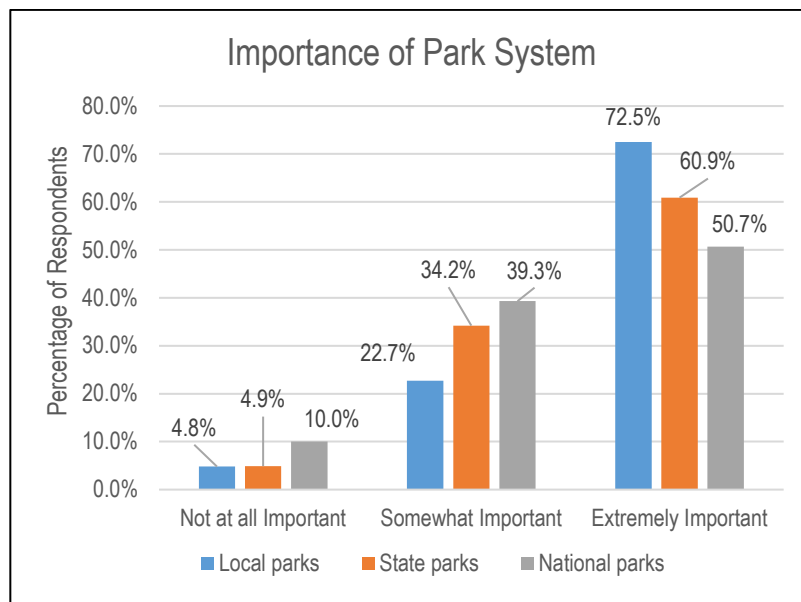


Figure 2.7 Importance of Park System

Importance of Government Spending Public Funds to Acquire and Develop Land

Not only do Kentucky residents think that the park system is important, they also think it is important for the government to spend public funds to acquire more land and further develop recreational facilities.

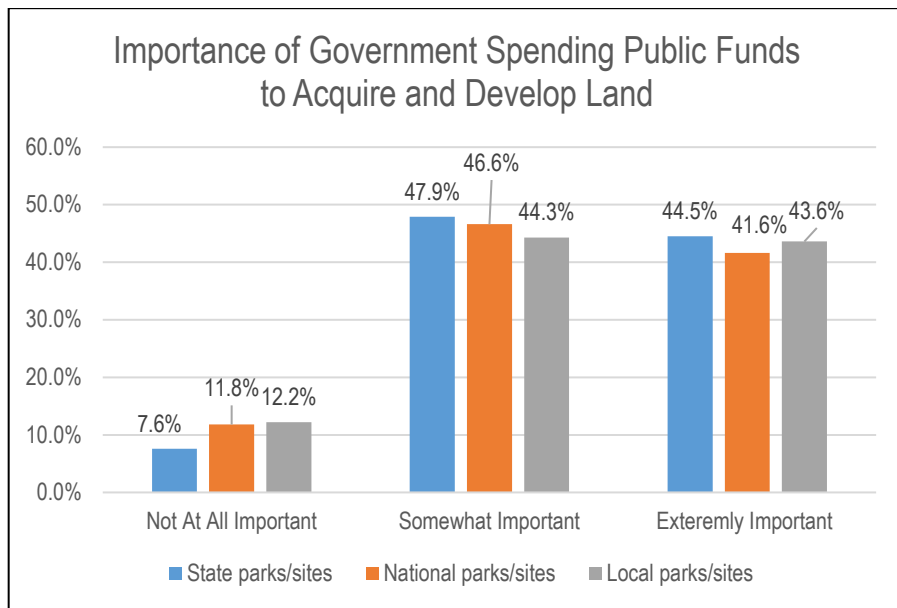


Figure 2.9 Public Funding

It is important to note however, that while respondents did say they thought the government should spend funds to develop land that did not mean they approved of additional taxes as a source of funding. It is possible that respondents were not directly associating taxes with public funds and were operating under the assumption that the government has funding apart from taxes. This could indicate that residents would rather reallocate funds toward recreational facilities from other areas. When asked about alternative funding sources, it seems respondents prefer private and voluntary funding to actual public funding in the form of taxes with 66.5% in favor of donations or outside contributions as a source of funding compared to only 24.4% in favor of taxes. (See Figure 2.10)

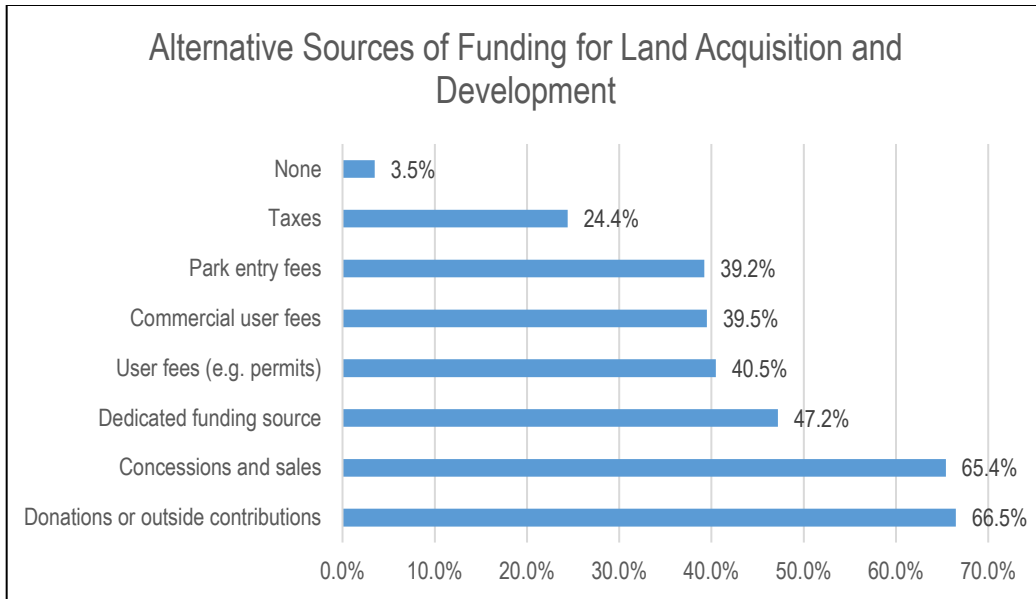


Figure 2.10 Alternative Funding Sources

Satisfaction of Household

Before moving forward, it is important to assess how current recreation facilities are meeting residents' expectations. Most respondents said that parks somewhat met their needs while approximately one-third of participants indicated that parks completely met their needs. Less than 10% of respondents said that their needs were not at all met. While there is room for improvement, the survey indicates that Kentuckians are largely satisfied with their parks.

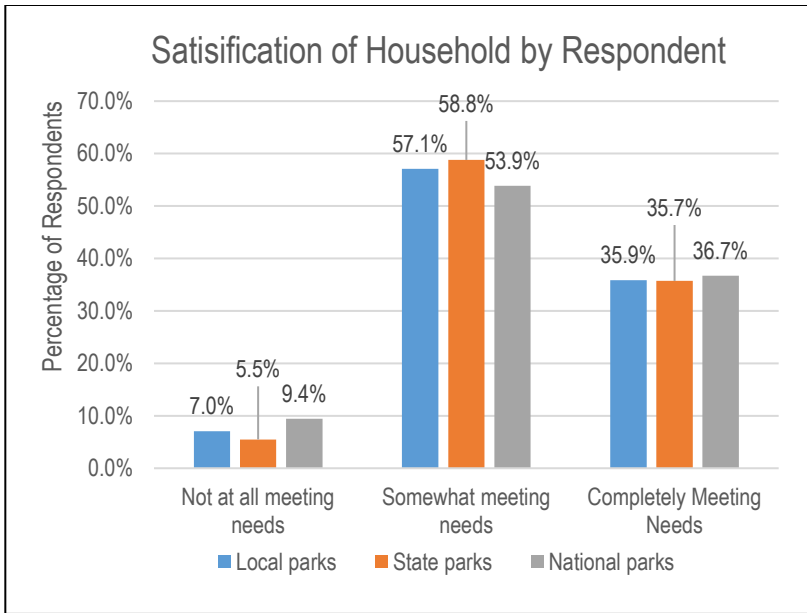


Figure 2.11 Satisfaction by Household

Recreation Provider Feedback

Approximately half of respondents said they had experienced difficulty obtaining funds. Utilizing other funding opportunities previously indicated could help to alleviate these issues.

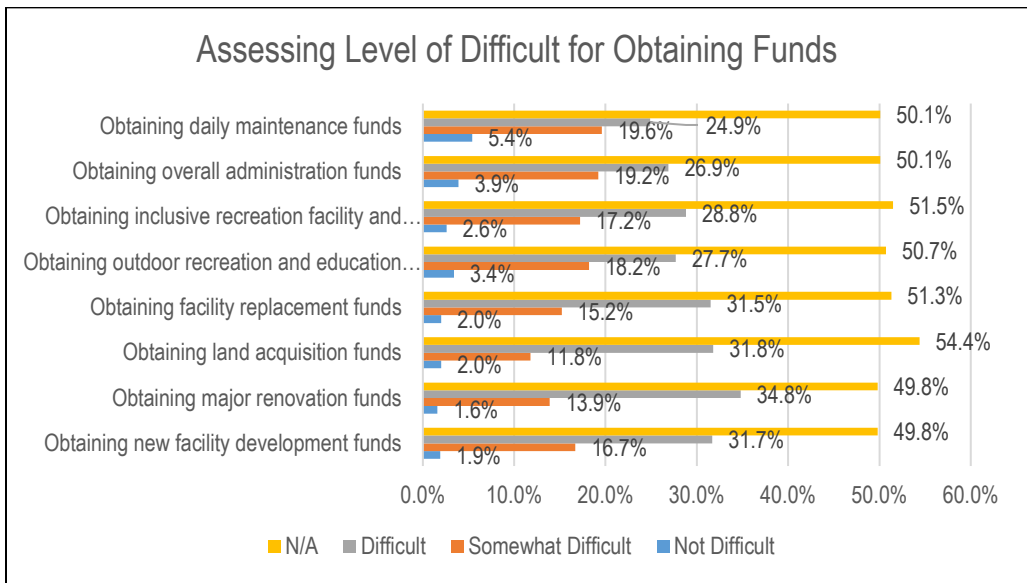


Figure 2.12 Difficulty Obtaining Funds

Respondents did not indicate that they are having difficulty preserving land.

Level of Difficulty Facing Land Protection Issues				
Answers	Not Difficult	Somewhat Difficult	Difficult	N/A
Preserving land for future recreational development	12.1%	20.7%	12.7%	54.6%
Preserving significant natural resource areas	11.4%	21.8%	11.8%	55.0%
Preserving open space lands	11.4%	21.0%	12.7%	54.9%
Preserving land for cultural resources	11.3%	20.9%	10.7%	57.2%
Preserving land for historical resources	10.1%	20.9%	13.0%	56.1%

Source: 2019 KY SCORP Survey

Figure 2.13 Difficulty Preserving Land

Respondents did experience some difficulty regarding management issues. A relatively small percentage indicated they had difficulty providing adequate staffing (18.1%) and maintaining existing recreation infrastructure and resources (17.3%).

Level of Difficulty Facing Management Issues				
Answers	Not Difficult	Somewhat Difficult	Difficult	N/A
Providing adequate staffing levels	6.7%	21.4%	18.1%	53.9%
Maintaining existing recreation infrastructure and resources	6.2%	25.7%	17.3%	50.8%
Enforcing rules and regulations	13.9%	25.2%	10.4%	50.5%
Alleviating visitor impacts on natural resources	13.8%	25.9%	7.3%	53.1%
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	21.4%	21.4%	6.0%	51.2%
Alleviating user conflicts	19.5%	22.5%	5.7%	52.3%
Setting fees so that costs do not hinder participation	15.5%	18.1%	8.2%	58.2%
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	20.0%	17.3%	5.7%	57.0%

Source: 2019 KY SCORP Survey

Figure 2.14 Difficulty Managing Issues

Paved trails were reported as the most urgent need facing recreational facilities (19.2%) with playgrounds (17.2%), and picnic shelters (15.8%) following.

Level of Difficulty Facing Management Issues

Answers	Not Urgent	Somewhat Urgent	Urgent	N/A
Paved trails for walking, hiking, skating or biking	10.2%	21.6%	19.2%	49.0%
Playground	12.4%	21.6%	17.6%	48.4%
Picnic Shelters	13.8%	22.1%	15.8%	48.4%
Multi-use fields	11.4%	23.5%	14.7%	50.4%
Unpaved trails for walking, hiking, skating or biking	13.6%	22.0%	14.5%	49.9%
Picnic area	15.0%	22.4%	14.4%	48.2%
Swimming pools	17.0%	15.9%	13.8%	53.3%
Non-swimming water activities (spalshpad, sprayground)	14.4%	20.4%	13.1%	52.1%
Soccer fields	16.9%	18.9%	12.2%	52.1%
Camping facilities	15.0%	18.7%	11.6%	54.7%
Non-motorized boating access (canoe, kayak)	15.8%	17.0%	11.6%	55.6%
Water parks	16.7%	18.1%	10.7%	54.6%
Baseball fields	19.5%	18.4%	10.5%	51.6%
Basketball courts	16.5%	22.4%	10.5%	50.5%
Softball fields	19.3%	18.7%	10.4%	51.6%
Fishing piers	15.5%	16.5%	10.4%	57.7%
Mountain bike trails	17.9%	16.9%	8.4%	56.9%
Shore/bank fishing	19.9%	15.6%	8.2%	56.3%
Dog parks	21.6%	19.6%	8.0%	50.7%
Volleyball courts	18.7%	20.1%	7.7%	53.5%
Motorized, off-highway vehicle trails	22.3%	12.7%	7.3%	57.8%
Wildlife/nature observation site	20.1%	19.9%	7.1%	52.9%
Motorized, boat launching ramps	22.4%	12.1%	7.1%	58.4%
Natural park area/open space	18.2%	21.8%	6.7%	53.3%
Tennis courts	22.4%	18.4%	6.7%	52.6%
Nature/intepretative trails	16.7%	24.0%	6.3%	53.0%
Football fields	25.5%	12.9%	6.2%	55.4%
Horseback riding trails	21.8%	14.8%	6.2%	57.7%
Golf courses	25.4%	10.8%	6.2%	57.7%
Skate parks	26.0%	14.7%	6.0%	53.3%
Nature/intepretative centers	22.9%	18.4%	5.6%	53.2%

Source: 2019 KY SCORP Survey

Chapter 3

Supply of Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities

by Agencies and Programs

There are many Federal, State, and Local agencies that administer programs promoting outdoor recreation. This chapter will list and briefly describe these agencies and programs.

FEDERAL AGENCIES

U.S. Department of the Interior

The Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities.

www.doi.gov



National Park Service

The National Park Service operates three park facilities (65,345 acres) and one national recreation area in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Kentucky's portion of the national recreation area is approximately 31,000 acres.

www.nps.gov/index.htm



Mammoth Cave National Park

Mammoth Cave National Park, which covers 52,830 acres, preserves the longest cave in the world, rugged hills, and scenic rivers. Woven slippers and burnt cane found inside the cave are clues to the lives of people who explored it 4,000 years ago. Year-round ranger-led cave tours guide visitors to underground canyons, crawlways, and large rooms. Seventy miles of woodland trails and 31 miles of river ways await those seeking adventure and solitude.

www.nps.gov/macaca

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park

The story of the first doorway to the west is commemorated at Cumberland Gap National Park, located where the borders of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia meet. In addition to the opportunity to journey back into history and trace the footsteps of notables such as Daniel Boone, the park also offers spectacular vistas and incredible scenery, including the Pinnacle Overlook that provides a spectacular view into all three states. There is also a visitor center and a scenic skyline road to accommodate the park's visitors, who in recent years have numbered over a million each year (see accompanying table). Authorized by Congress in 1940, this National Park is unique in that it contains acreage in three states – Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee. The 10,800 acres in Kentucky make up slightly more than half of the Park's total 20,171 acres. Cumberland Gap National Historical Park is associated with the Wilderness Road, Daniel Boone, and related elements of the national mythology. Traces of this main artery of the great trans-Allegheny migration are still visible. Recreational opportunities now available include camping, hiking, picnicking, and horseback riding. Interpreted Civil War sites and the authentic turn-of-the-century Hensley Settlement provide additional historical context.

www.nps.gov/cuga

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (BSF)

The Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (125,000 acres) was created in 1974 to protect and develop the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area for healthful outdoor recreation and benefit to the regional economy, while preserving the free-flowing condition of the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River. The outstanding scenic, natural, and cultural values of the area and the essentially primitive condition of the gorge make it unique. Recreational opportunities include hiking, camping, fishing, horseback riding, backpacking, swimming, canoeing, hunting, and much more.

The BSF is one of the first attempts to combine the concept of a National River with that of a National Recreation Area. The combining of the two concepts in the BSF reflects a decision that preservation, recreational enhancement, and economic development can all coexist as goals for the area. BSF has taken a relatively proactive stance having encouraged the birth of the Big South Fork Regional Association and continuing to work with that agency toward economic development of the area. The BSF has permitted activities such as mountain bike races, competitive horse trail rides, and marathons, and cooperates closely with both state and county tourism offices.

www.nps.gov/biso

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site

Almost 100 years after Thomas Lincoln moved from Sinking Spring Farm, a log cabin originally accepted as the birthplace cabin was placed in the Memorial Building. The rough cabin within the memorial dramatizes the basic values that sustained Lincoln as he led the nation through its darkest period. The memorial and a portion of Sinking Spring Farm were established as a national park in 1916 and designated Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site in 1959. Park activities available include self-guided tours of the park features, picnicking and two miles of hiking trails.

www.nps.gov/abli

National Registry of Natural Landmarks

Kentucky possesses six National Natural Landmarks: Lilly Cornett Woods, Ohio Coral Reef, Henderson Sloughs, Red River Gorge, Creelsboro Natural Bridge, and Rock Creek Research Natural Area.

- The 500-acre Lilly Cornett Woods in Letcher County is probably the only surviving virgin tract of any size in the Cumberland Mountains section of the mixed mesospheric forest, which is characterized by a great variety of tree species. Administered by Eastern Kentucky University primarily for educational and research purposes, the wood also has an interpretive area and public trails.
- Henderson Sloughs is a 4,300-acre wetland located in Henderson and Union Counties, owned and administered by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. One of the largest wetlands remaining in the state, the site represents a diminishing wetland ecosystem that was once prevalent along the Ohio River. It is an important habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife. It is a stopping place for snow geese migration where birdwatchers can see tens of thousands of geese. John James Audubon observed and sketched birds here. Hunting and birdwatching are the primary public activities at Henderson Sloughs.
- The Ohio Coral Reef (725 acres) is located on the Ohio River between Louisville, Kentucky and Jeffersonville, Indiana. Special legislation has directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a park and to preserve the falls, which represent one of the few exposed fossilized Devonian coral reefs in the world.
- Red River Gorge, located in Wolf, Menifee, and Powell Counties, contains outstanding examples of many geological formations including 41 natural bridges. The area covers around 29,000 acres. The forest communities are second growth but in good condition and representative of the mixed mesospheric forest. The area supports an extremely diverse flora including species that are endemic, rare, relict, or at the edges of their range. Ninety percent of the native fauna of eastern Kentucky are still present. The scenic value of the area is spectacular, and is easily accessible from many urban areas. A segment of the Red River within the gorge became Kentucky's first National Wild and Scenic River in 1993. Approximately two-thirds of the area is federally owned, the remainder is mostly private. Hiking,

kayaking, trail riding, and fishing are available activities. Private companies provide opportunities for rock climbing and zip lining.

- Creelsboro Natural Bridge, 14 miles southwest of Jamestown in Russell County, is notable for its size and for being constructed of Ordovician limestone, whereas most other natural bridges and arches in Kentucky are of sandstone. The bridge spans 75 feet over a tunnel 100 feet long with a height of 15 feet on the upstream side and about 40 feet on the downstream side. The stream drops about 20 feet in its passage through the tunnel. The occasional diversion of Jim Creek through the tunnel into the adjacent Cumberland River is an outstanding illustration of subterranean stream diversion, the process that formed the bridge and still continues today. In addition, the occasional reverse flow of Cumberland River floodwaters back through the tunnel into the Jim Creek valley is highly unusual. The eight-acre site is in private ownership but hikers and tourists are permitted to visit the area.
- Laurel County's 189-acre Rock Creek Research Natural Acres is located within the Daniel Boone National Forest, approximately two miles west of Baldrock. It includes a deep, narrow gorge, which extends from sheer cliffs on the east to Rock Creek's confluence with the Rock castle River on the west, a distance of about 1 1/4 miles. The forest in the gorge is one of the few essentially virgin hemlock-hardwood forests remaining in the state. The site has a highly scenic and somewhat primeval appearance with its sheer sandstone cliffs and numerous small waterfalls. The landmark is federally owned.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Reelfoot NWR was created in 1941 as a sanctuary for migratory birds to conserve fish, wildlife, and plants, which are listed as endangered species; and to provide suitable fish and wildlife-oriented recreational development and protection of natural resources. The mission of Reelfoot NWR is to protect, restore, and manage the bottomland hardwood forest, wetlands, and croplands for the maximum benefit of waterfowl and other migratory birds; protect endangered and threatened species and their habitats; protect the only remaining unspoiled portion of Reelfoot Lake; and provide increased opportunities for outdoor recreation and environmental education. The refuge occupies 10,428 acres in Kentucky and Tennessee, of which about 2,000 acres are in the Commonwealth. An observation tower is located near the refuge's largest natural food area, where visitors have an excellent opportunity to watch over 400,000 wintering waterfowl and the largest concentration of wintering bald eagles in the southeast. Approximately 30,000 visitors take advantage of the self-guided wildlife observation opportunities each year. The refuge also has excellent raccoon and squirrel hunting, a quota gun hunt for deer and turkey, and an archery hunt for deer. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's largest watchable-wildlife facility in the southeast is located near the refuge headquarters which includes a handicapped-accessible, backyard watchable-wildlife habitat showcase, complete with hiking trails, designed to demonstrate techniques for attracting wildlife to one's own backyard.

www.fws.gov

Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge

Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1997 and is a proposed refuge on approximately 18,000 acres of bottomland hardwoods, related wetlands, and associated open-land buffer areas along the East Fork of the Clarks River in western Kentucky. The Service proposes to protect approximately 18,000 acres of wetlands, bottomland hardwoods, and buffer areas through fee title purchases, conservation easements, and/or cooperative agreements. All lands acquired would be managed to provide habitat for a natural diversity of wildlife associated with Clarks River floodplain. Clarks is the only National Wildlife refuge in the state of Kentucky.

Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery

Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery is located in the scenic rolling hills of south-central Kentucky. The hatchery is located at the base of Wolf Creek Dam, which impounds Lake Cumberland. This station annually produces approximately 800,000 rainbow and brown trout in cooperation with state fish and wildlife agencies. Fish are stocked into over 90 public fishing waters in the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Georgia. The hatchery creek is handicapped accessible for fishing and is randomly stocked two or three times a week. The fish hatchery will not close during the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Wolf Creek Dam Seepage Rehabilitation Project.

U.S Department of Agriculture

Mission: To provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on sound public policy, the best available science, and efficient management.

www.usda.gov/

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is responsible for developing and carrying out soil, water, and resource conservation programs in Kentucky and assists in agricultural pollution control, environmental improvement, and rural community development. In the area of outdoor recreation, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to sponsors of Resource Conservation and Development Projects and small watershed projects. Technical assistance is given only to landowners and operators of recreation facilities. Local governments use county soil surveys prepared by NRCS in conjunction with the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station, the State Division of Conservation, and others to arrive at sound land use decisions, sometimes involving issues of recreational development. Soil surveys can help to determine which lands are suitable for such recreational uses as wetland refuges for waterfowl; wildlife management areas; open space; or nature study areas, parks, athletic fields, golf courses, campsites, hiking trails, or picnic areas. Soil surveys are also useful in planning for other land treatments including cropland, woodland, grassland, pond, and small lake construction. Kentucky has approximately 250,000 ponds "on the land" totaling about 26,000 water surface acres. These ponds and small lakes are often utilized by farmers as recreational enterprises, and nearly all of them are stocked with fish. Although their average size is only about ¼ acre, when considered in total they play an

important part in providing outdoor recreational opportunities in rural areas of the Commonwealth. Other types of assistance provided by NRCS relating to outdoor recreation include:

- Appraisals of the suitability of various sites for development of outdoor recreation facilities such as hiking or riding trails, camping and picnicking areas, playgrounds, wildlife habitats, and shooting preserves.
- Information on plants and their suitability as protective cover on playgrounds, fields, roadsides, dams, and as wildlife food and cover.
- Assistance to conservation districts and other local groups in determining area recreational potentials.

www.nrcs.usda.gov

U.S. Forest Service

Mission Statement: "Work with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people." We manage the 150 million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System of more than 551 National Wildlife Refuges and thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. Under the Fisheries program we also operate 70 National Fish Hatcheries, 65 fishery resource offices and 86 ecological services field stations.

The vast majority of fish and wildlife habitat is on non-Federal lands. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Partners in Flight, Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council, and other partnership activities are the main ways we foster aquatic conservation and assist voluntary habitat conservation and restoration. The Service employs approximately 9,000 people at facilities across the U.S. The Service is a decentralized organization with a headquarters office in Washington, D.C., with regional and field offices across the country. Our organizational chart shows structure and also provides information on senior management.

www.fs.fed.us

Daniel Boone National Forest

One of the most heavily used forests in the South with over 5 million visitors annually; Daniel Boone Forest has become a popular destination for people to backpack, camp, picnic, rock climb, and enjoy the tranquility. From cool, clear streams and hardwood forests, to rocky ledges and windswept cliffs, to tranquil lakes and challenging whitewater rivers, the forest provides a source of clean water, wildlife, and a place for all to relax and enjoy the outdoors. Recreational offerings include backpacking and camping both remote and developed areas, over 500 miles of trails, including two National Recreation Trails, fishing, canoeing, hunting at the Pioneer Weapons Area, and historical sites such as Gladie Cabin and Tater Knob Fire Tower. Seasonal activities include viewing wildflowers in the spring and spectacular

foliage in the fall. In winter many Forest Service roads are closed to vehicles but are available for skiing and hiking. Fourteen wildlife game species are commonly found in the Forest and a number of non-game species are present for viewing, studying, and photographing. Both cold water and warm water fishing opportunities are also available.

Wilderness The Daniel Boone National Forest contains two specially designated Wilderness areas: the 4,791-acre Beaver Creek Wilderness in McCreary County, and the 13,300 acre Clifty Wilderness in Menifee and Wolfe Counties. Both are specially managed for preservation and protection in their natural condition, with the aim of ensuring that the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by mankind. People are visitors who do not remain, and the areas appear to be primarily affected by the forces of nature. These areas provide opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Rivers Six of Kentucky's nine state-designated Wild Rivers flow through or alongside the Daniel Boone National Forest. In 1993, a 19.4-mile stretch of the Red River in Wolfe, Menifee and Powell Counties became the first Kentucky river to be included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and in 1994 the Forest Service proposed that four additional river segments, totaling more than 60 miles, for inclusion into the system.



Lakes The Forest Service is responsible for the management of recreation on Cave Run Lake, Laurel River Lake, and part of Lake Cumberland.



Trails The Daniel Boone National Forest contains some 500 miles of trails. Many of these trails will accommodate hikers, horseback riders, and motorcycle or ATV riders. Horseback riding and motorcycle/ATV riding are prohibited only in areas where special conditions such as fragile soils, sensitive plants or animals, or special area designations exist. The trails allow a wide variety of users to enjoy the Forest's beauty and challenges. Especially notable within the DBNF trail system is the Sheltowee Trace National Recreation Trail, which extends 337 miles from the north end of the Daniel Boone National Forest to the Pickett State Park in Tennessee; the Red River Gorge National Recreation Trail, which is a 41- mile system of loop trails in the Red River Gorge area.

www.fs.fed.us/r8/boone

Red River Gorge This area of Menifee County is listed in the National Registry of Natural Landmarks. It is noted for its remarkable geological formations, including 41 natural stone arches, and supports an extremely diverse flora including many species that are endemic, rare, relict, or at the edge of their range. The area's wild and elegant scenery and its reasonably easy accessibility from population centers have made it a renowned and popular destination for hiking, camping and canoeing excursions.

General Forest Area The Daniel Boone National Forest provides 670,000 acres of land for general public use. Recreation activities such as hiking, hunting, wildlife, photography, gathering mushrooms and berries, viewing spring and fall color, and seeking solitude traditionally occur throughout the area. In addition, some 115 developed recreation sites, typically including facilities for picnicking, camping and boat launching in some combination, are scattered throughout the Forest. Currently nine of the Forest's campsites are managed by private companies under special use permits.

Public Use Trends Over the past years, forest managers have observed a significant increase in public interest and participation in some recreation activities. The overall tendency seems to be greater numbers of people recreating in the Forest, but for shorter periods of time. Some 5,000,000 people visit the Forest each fiscal year. The increase in demand for certain recreation uses must coexist with a parallel emphasis on improving and maintaining healthy ecosystems. As more information becomes available concerning the ecosystems of the Forest and man's effect on those ecosystems, there will be an increasing need for careful management, including adjustments to the recreation opportunities available when necessary, to maintain the long-term quality of these areas.

Management Issues and Initiatives In response to emerging trends in use patterns and intensity combined with information about resource quality, the managers of the Forest are addressing several current issues with specific policies, actions, and programs. These include:

- Adaptations to the use of forest trails by off-highway vehicles through the identification, design, and maintenance of appropriate trails for their use.
- Relocation of trails from roads to forests.
- The development of primitive horseback rider camps to accommodate the increase in horseback riding.
- The development of a rock-climbing management policy that will protect the Forest's natural and cultural resources ecosystem and still provide opportunities for a climbing experience.
- The need to protect fragile cave ecosystems while still providing opportunities for spelunking. As a result, caves are being inventoried, and in some cases, gated, to permit the cave ecosystem to recover from excessive user impacts.
- Increasing public shooting ranges.

- Interpretive service and special events are occurring at the Gladie Creek site in the Red River Gorge Geological Area; and the Morehead and London Ranger Districts are presenting interpretive programs and resource conservation education programs.

Jefferson National Forest

In 1995, the George Washington National Forest and the Jefferson National Forest administratively combined. Though the majority of the forest holdings lie in Virginia, the southeast border of Kentucky claims 961 acres of Jefferson National Forest. An area of the Forest available for hunting includes the Pine Mountain Wildlife Management Area. No recreational facilities are located in Kentucky's portion of the Forest.

www.fs.fed.us/gwj

Land Between the Lakes U.S. Forest Service Area

Located in western Kentucky and Tennessee, Land Between the Lakes offers rolling hills, oak forests, and 300 miles of undeveloped shoreline, surrounded by nearly a quarter million acres of water. LBL's forests, fields, and coves support abundant native wildlife. Several popular programs featuring eagles are held during the winter, giving visitors an unusual chance to see them in the wild. LBL is a wildlife management area. Regulations ensure that existing wildlife populations in the area are carefully managed. Careful resource management accommodates the disparate needs of hunters, anglers, photographers, artists, bird watchers, hikers, horseback riders, campers, educators, and other visitors. Cooperative agreements with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources enable USFS to manage fish and wildlife in LBL. Forest fire control is provided under contract with the Kentucky Division of Forestry. Recreational offerings include camping, horseback trails, an off-highway-vehicle area, mountain biking, and a total of 200 miles of winding trails. The 300 miles of shoreline includes many secluded bays and virtually limitless opportunities for all kinds of water-based recreation. Other attractions include a nature station, the Golden Pond Planetarium, the Elk and Bison Prairie, a working 19th century farm known as the Homeplace 1850, The Great Western Iron Furnace, and Center Furnace—the latter two relics of a once-flourishing local industry. The Brandon Spring Resident Center is a focal point for environmental education programs serving students from grammar school to undergraduate and graduate college students. Located on the Lake Barkley shoreline, it offers six dormitories, a dining hall, and an activity building. The facility features many of LBL's natural and cultural attractions in its programming.

www.lbl.org

U.S. Department of Defense

The Department of Defense is America's oldest and largest government agency. With our military tracing its roots back to pre-Revolutionary times, the Department of Defense has grown and evolved with our nation.

Mission: The mission of the Department of Defense is to provide the military forces needed to deter war and to protect the security of our country. The department's headquarters is at the Pentagon.

www.defense.gov

Army Corps of Engineers

<u>Army Corps Of Engineers Recreational Areas</u>	Camping	Lodging	Showers	Boat Ramps	Marina	Gas	Picnic Area/Shelter	Playground	Swimming Area	Fishing	Trails	Golf Courses	Amphitheater	Grocery/Snack Bar
1. Barkley Lake	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*
2. Barren River Lake	*		*	*	*		*	*	*		*	*	*	
3. Buckhorn Lake	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*			
4. Carr Creek Lake	*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*			
5. Cave Run Lake				*			*	*		*	*			
6. Lake Cumberland	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
7. Dale Hollow Lake	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*
8. Dewey Lake	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*	*
9. Fishtrap Lake	*		*	*	*		*	*		*	*			*
10. Grayson Lake	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*
11. Green River Lake	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*		*	
12. Green River + 2 Locks														
13. Kentucky River														
14. Laurel River Lake							*	*	*	*	*			
15. Martins Fork Lake				*			*	*	*	*				*
16. Nolin River Lake	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*
17. Ohio River - Cannelton							*							
18. Ohio River – Greenup				*	*	*	*	*		*			*	
19. Ohio River – John T. Myers Lock and Dam							*							
20. Ohio River – Markland Pool	*			*	*		*							

21. Ohio River - McAlpine Pool														
22. Ohio River – Newburgh Pool						*	*							
23. Paintsville Lake	*			*	*		*	*		*	*		*	
24. Rough River Lake	*		*	*	*			*	*					
25. Taylorsville Lake	*			*	*	*	*	*			*			
26. Yatesville Lake	*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers builds, maintains, and operates river and harbor projects designed to improve navigation for both commercial and recreational purposes. The Corps also works in the area of flood damage reduction and flood plain management, and with related issues such as water supply, water quality, and stream management. Flood damage reduction objectives are accomplished with lakes, local protection works, or combinations of the two. Lakes constructed for flood control often include additional storage capacity for other purposes such as water storage, navigation, irrigation, development of hydroelectric power, conservation of fish and wildlife, and recreation. Through the management of these lakes and their surrounding lands, the Corps has become the nation’s number one provider of outdoor recreation opportunities among federal agencies. Recreation facilities located on Corps lakes in Kentucky include campsites, picnic areas, beaches, launching ramps, trails, restrooms, and drinking water. Popular activities include boating, fishing, hunting, swimming, camping, picnicking, hiking, bicycling, bird watching, and sightseeing. All facilities on Corps lakes are carefully planned to provide recreational opportunities while protecting the natural resources on which they are based. In addition to recreation management, the Corps natural resource management program includes forestry, fish and wildlife conservation, and other ecological disciplines. Many areas are maintained as nearly in their natural state as possible, consistent with mission purposes.

www.usace.army.mil

U.S. Army Armor Center: Fort Knox

Fort Knox contains 109,054 acres within its installation, of which about 59,000 acres are available for outdoor recreation within the limitations imposed by training and safety requirements. While most of this acreage is open to the general public, military personnel and civilian employees of the base enjoy preferential use privileges. The Camp Carlson Outdoor Recreation Center contains a concentration of developed facilities, and other parks of various sizes offer a variety of recreation experiences including two 18-hole golf courses. The golf courses are available for general public use, but some other facilities such as ball fields and tennis courts are restricted to military personnel, civilian employees, and their families and guests. However, Fort Knox also features many recreational facilities that are open to the general public, including:

- A campground with RV sites and cabins
- Two 24-lane bowling centers, including Cosmic Bowling

- An Olympic-sized indoor swimming pool
- A rifle, pistol, skeet, trap, and archery range
- A variety of restaurants, lounges, and meeting facilities by equestrians, hikers, mountain bikers, and motorcyclists. Some of the trails are used almost exclusively for horseback riding. Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops often make use of the hiking opportunities. A particularly challenging one-mile motor cross trail has been established, and approximately 2,480 acres are open to off-road vehicles. Finally, of special scenic value is the two-mile long Tioga Falls Historical Nature Trail, which features 33 interpretive stations along its length. Other primary attractions include the U.S. Gold Depository and the Patton Museum of Armor and Cavalry. Although there are no tours of the Gold Vault, tourists can stop for photos within 100 yards of the facility. The Patton Museum, named after army General George S. Patton, traces the history of Armor and Cavalry and features Armor vehicles from World War I through the Gulf War. There are also many natural areas that can support dispersed recreational activities such as hunting, bird-watching, diving for pleasure, hiking, sightseeing, climbing, and riding. The base's annual deer hunt, designed to manage the size of the resident deer herd, has become one of the largest organized hunts in the United States. Much of the base is crisscrossed by hundreds of miles of trails, which are variously used.

www.knox.army.mil

Fort Campbell

Fort Campbell provides recreation opportunities for its military and civilian base personnel with two golf courses and several parks offering a variety of developed facilities. The fort's 106,000 acres also include various areas open to the general public. These include two lakes totaling 75 acres, riding stables, two camping areas, 65 controlled acres for off-road vehicles, and 80,000 acres for hunting. Base personnel have preferential rights to these facilities and resources.

www.campbell.army.mil/

Tennessee Valley Authority

The Tennessee Valley Authority is best known for its network of dams that provide hydroelectric power, flood control, and navigable waterways in a multi-state region that includes parts of western Kentucky. The agency's lands and waters have been managed to provide significant benefits for wildlife, recreation, and environmental education. TVA's Kentucky Reservoir is the largest man-made lake in the eastern United States. Located on its shores are the Land Between the Lakes, four state parks, the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, 48 public access areas, and two state wildlife management areas, plus resorts and other privately operated facilities. The recreation opportunities created by Kentucky Lake are diverse and regionally significant. The Kentucky Dam Visitor Center is open to the public Monday through Friday.

www.tva.gov/index.htm

STATE AGENCIES

State agencies that provide recreational opportunities to Kentuckians are as numerous and diverse as the federal sector. Prominent among them is the Kentucky Department of Parks, which operates and maintains the well-known State Resort Park system. The Energy and Environment Cabinet, through its numerous sub-agencies, exerts great influence over the quality of the natural resources from which many outdoor recreation activities derive their value. The Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is the state's custodian of game (and, increasingly, non- game) species. The Department for Local Government publishes the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, and also administers the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreational Trails Program Fund that make possible the development of many local recreation facilities and trails. The following section discusses the roles of these and other state agencies.

Governor's Office for Policy and Management

In addition to the functions of budget preparation and budget execution, the Governor's Office for Policy and Management (GOPM), located in the office of the State Budget Director, and is also responsible for a number of other policy management activities, including:

- Staff the policy planning activities of the Governor's Executive Cabinet.
- Staff for federal-state relations issues including federal legislation review, federal-state relations policy and National Governor's Association staff work.
- Staff for state plan review activities to ensure that federally mandated state plans reflect overall gubernatorial policy.
- Staff for statewide management review activities including organizational analysis, technical assistance to state agencies, and ad hoc analytic studies.
- Act as the primary executive-branch liaison with the Capitol Projects and Bond Oversight Committee as well as the House and Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committees of the Kentucky General Assembly.

www.osbd.ky.gov/contactus/gopm.htm

Department for Local Government

The Department for Local Government (DLG) is organized as an independent agency attached to the Office of the Governor. DLG functions as a technical support and service agency for local units of government. It provides a gateway for many kinds of information and assistance, financial and otherwise, useful to local agencies and officials. DLG serves in a liaison capacity among various units and levels of government in the coordination of policy and public resources. It also monitors the financial status of local governments, and administers and coordinates various state and federal funding programs that local governments utilize. Among the most significant of these are Community Development Block Grants, Appalachian Regional Commission, KY State Coal Severance Funds, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Recreational Trails Program and DLG work closely with the state's 15 Area Development Districts to implement many of its programs.

<https://kydlgweb.ky.gov/>

Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet

www.commerce.ky.gov

www.kentuckytourism.com/

Tourism, the arts and Kentucky heritage are the focus of this cabinet. Tourism development includes new attractions, new accommodations, and expansion of existing tourism venues, convention/conference marketing, and sports venues. They encourage and provide support in market development for KY artists, historic downtown redevelopment, film opportunities, equine headquarters expansion, expanding recreation opportunities, attracting international trade shows or sporting events, and expanding museums and special exhibits. All these activities contribute to Kentucky's economic success. Tourism is nearly a \$12.5 billion a year industry in Kentucky. The arts are an essential part of quality life in the Commonwealth and a major component in everything we do including educating our children. Heritage preserves our traditions and tells our life stories. Kentucky places a high value on tourism, arts and heritage. Tourism was responsible for 175,746 jobs in Kentucky in 2013. These jobs generated more than \$2.8 billion in wages for Kentucky workers.

The Cabinet includes the following agencies: Department of Travel, Department of Parks, Office of Adventure Tourism, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Kentucky Historical Society, Humanities Council, State Fair Board, Kentucky Sports Authority, Heritage Council, Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts, Frankfort Convention Complex, Governor's School for the Arts, Kentucky Artisans Center in Berea, Kentucky Arts Council, Kentucky Horse Park, the Kentucky Film Office and Office of Creative Services.

Department of Travel

The Department of Travel is the primary agency responsible for marketing Kentucky as a travel destination. Its functions are to develop a comprehensive advertising campaign for prospective travelers, implement travel promotion decisions, and provide public relations for the tourism industry.

www.kentuckytourism.com/

Kentucky Department of Parks

Kentucky state parks have everything from underground caves to the shores of lakes and rivers to the highest peaks of the Appalachians, Kentucky state parks are considered by many to be the nation's finest. Maintained by the Kentucky Department of Parks, Kentucky boasts a total of 45 state parks.

www.parks.ky.gov/

State Parks

Visitors to the Kentucky State Park systems can utilize camping, fishing, boating, swimming, caving, hiking, horseback riding, birding and so much more. Kentucky's 20 recreation state parks cater to outdoor enthusiasts who want to take in all that Kentucky's natural environment has to offer. Recreation parks also offer a number of Kentucky state park cabins and cottages, delicately tucked away in the wooded surroundings.

1. Big Bone Lick State Park:
 - 2 woodland orienteering courses
 - The Discovery Trail
 - Big Bone Creek Trail (best location for birding)
 - 62 campsites with utility hookups, showers, rest rooms, laundry facilities, campground grocery store, swimming pool, and playground
 - 5 hiking trails
 - Miniature golf course
 - Nearly 40 acres of picnic grounds with tables, grills, and a playground area. 2 picnic shelters have tables, grills, water, and electric
 - Tennis courts
2. Carr Creek State Park
 - Pontoon and fishing boat rentals
 - 39-site campground with water and electric hook-ups
 - 750-acre lake available to boaters and anglers
 - Picnic facilities
 - Beach open for swimming
3. Columbus-Belmont State Park
 - Boat ramps
 - 38-site campground with utility hookups and grills, rest rooms, showers, and laundry facilities, Wi-Fi available, 2 rental camping trailers, 1 log cabin rental.
 - 2.5 mile hiking trail
 - Miniature golf course
 - Museum
 - Picnic tables, grills, playground, and four picnic shelters

- Overlooks good for birding
4. E.P. "Tom" Sawyer State Park
 - Approximately 6-acre dog park
 - Astronomy center
 - Orienteering course
 - Archery range
 - Badminton/pickleball courts
 - Full outdoor basketball court
 - Gymnasium available for rent
 - Brushy fields good for birding
 - BMX track
 - 155 community garden plots
 - 1 mile fitness trail with 10 exercise stations
 - 1.25 mile hiking trail
 - Trail to the vernal pond
 - Radio-controlled airfield for model airplane flying
 - Picnic shelter 1- sand volleyball court, horse shoe pits, 2 attached restrooms, grill, and space to accommodate 100 people
 - Picnic shelter 2- grill, portable restrooms, sand volleyball court, horse shoe pits, and space to accommodate 80-100 people
 - Picnic shelter 3- indoor restrooms and space to accommodate up to 50 people
 - 14 soccer fields
 - Softball
 - 12 tennis courts
 5. Fort Boonesboro State Park
 - Boat launching ramps
 - 167-site campground with electricity and water hookups, activities building that can accommodate 150 people, showers, rest rooms, laundry facilities
 - Fishing, fishing pole rental
 - Over a half mile of walking trails
 - Miniature golf course
 - Museum
 - 3 picnic shelters (1 with restrooms), tables, grills, playground
 - Swimming pool and baby pool
 - Tours of the reconstructed fort
 - Craft demonstrations
 6. General Burnside Island State Park
 - A marina featuring rental slips, rental fishing boats, ski boats, pontoon boats, and houseboats. A six-lane launching ramp provides access to the lake
 - 94-site campground with utility hookups, showers, restrooms, and a dump station
 - Fishing
 - 18-hole golf course with pro shop, pull carts, riding carts, and rental clubs
 - Picnic tables, grills, and a playground. 2 picnic shelters (1 with rest rooms)

7. Grayson Lake State Park
 - Boat launching ramp and marina with rental fishing boats and pontoon boats, bait, grocery, and restrooms
 - 71-site campground with utility hookups, dump station, restrooms, showers, and laundry facilities
 - Lake good for canoeing and kayaking
 - Fishing
 - Golf course
 - Hiking trails
 - Picnic area, 3 playgrounds, 2 picnic shelters
8. Green River Lake State Park
 - Basketball and volleyball courts
 - 28 miles of hiking and biking trails
 - Marina with 200 covered slips, rental houseboats, fishing boats, ski boats, jet skis, and pontoon boats
 - 157-site campground, available Wi-Fi, grocery, showers, rest rooms, laundry facility, and dump station
 - Horseback riding on some trails
 - Miniature golf
 - 1 picnic shelter, 2 playgrounds, picnic tables, and grills
 - Beach with sand volleyball court
 - Check out sports equipment
9. Jefferson Davis State Park
 - Museum
 - 2 picnic shelters, playground
10. John James Audubon State Park
 - Co-hosts the Ohio Valley Birding festival, nest boxes
 - Rental canoes, fishing boats, and kayaks
 - 69-site campground, showers, restrooms, picnic tables, grills, playground, Wi-Fi available
 - 28-acre lake and free fishing gear available to check out
 - Nine-hole golf course. Pro shop with rental clubs, riding carts, and pull carts
 - 6.5 miles of hiking trails
 - Museum
 - Nature center
 - 4 picnic shelters (1 with restrooms), tables, grills, and a playground
 - 4 playgrounds
 - Tennis court
11. Kincaid Lake State Park
 - Basketball court and sports equipment available for check out
 - Boat rentals for row boats, motor boats, pedal boats, and pontoon boats. Bait and tackle for sale. Marina

- 84-site campground with electric and water hookups, grocery, playground, restrooms, and showers
 - 2.25 miles of hiking trails
 - Miniature golf
 - Picnic shelter with restrooms, tables, grills, and a playground
 - Swimming pool
 - Tennis, sports equipment
 - Sand volleyball court
12. Kingdom Come State Park
- Bike trail/road
 - Fishing
 - 14 hiking trails
 - Horseshoes, rental equipment available
 - Miniature golf
 - Outdoor theater
 - Pedal boat rental
 - 2 picnic shelters, grills, restroom facilities
13. Lake Malone State Park
- Boat ramp
 - 30 primitive campsites, 25 campsites equipped with electric and water hookups, showers, restrooms, laundry, grills, picnic tables
 - Fishing, check out free equipment
 - One-half mile and quarter mile hiking trails
 - Beach with bathhouse, showers, restrooms, and a vending area
14. Levi Jackson Wilderness Road State Park
- Tree Top Adventure park featuring zip lines, rope bridges, suspended tunnels, and more
 - McHargue's Mill
 - Basketball courts
 - 136-site campground, utility hookups, grocery store, activities room, showers, restrooms, laundry facilities, dumping stations
 - 8.5 miles of hiking trails
 - Horseshoe pits with sports equipment
 - Miniature golf
 - Outdoor theater
 - Picnic tables, grills, playgrounds, 4 picnic shelters
 - Swimming pool
 - Volleyball courts, sports equipment available for check-out
15. Lincoln Homestead State Park
- Disc golf course, pavilion with bathrooms, discs available to rent or purchase
 - Fishing
 - Golf course

- Museum
 - Picnic tables, grills, restrooms, playground, 1 picnic shelter
16. Mineral Mound State Park
- Bluebird boxes
 - Boat launching ramp
 - Fishing from the pier
 - Golf course
 - Picnic area
17. My Old Kentucky Home State Park
- 39-site campground, utility hookups, showers, restrooms, and a dumping station
 - A grocery store and a laundry are located across the street from the park
 - Golf course
 - Museum
 - Outdoor theater
 - Picnic area, grills, playground, restrooms, 1 picnic shelter
 - 2 tennis courts
 - Tour the Federal Hill Mansion
18. Nolin Lake State Park
- Approximately 9.2 miles of biking and hiking trails
 - Launching ramp
 - 32 campsites with water and electricity, 27 primitive sites, restroom/shower building, laundry facilities, dump station, nearby playground
 - Picnic tables and grills, 1 picnic shelter
 - Beach
19. Old Fort Harrod State Park
- Museum
20. Rough River Dam State Park
- Orienteering course
 - Basketball courts
 - Lady of the Lake II tour is good for seeing Bald Eagles and Great Blue Herons
 - Marina with 120 open slips, 31 houseboat slips, 48 covered slips, and rental pontoon boats, launching ramp
 - Disc golf course
 - Fishing, fishing loaner program
 - 1 mile and 0.7 mile hiking trails
 - Miniature golf
 - Tables, grills, and playgrounds throughout the park, a picnic shelter near the beach
 - Shuffleboard courts, equipment available for check out
 - Swimming pool
 - Tennis courts and volleyball court, equipment available

State Resort Parks

Beyond the natural beauty and scenic views of the Kentucky landscape, Kentucky Resort Parks offer full-service lodges that include guest rooms and dining. Examples Cumberland Falls State Park, home of the rare “moon bow;” Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park, located near the famous “Land Between the Lakes;” and 17 state parks featuring 9-hole and 18-hole golf courses.

1. Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park
 - Boat access, guided canoe trips
 - 51 campsites with utility hookups, a dump stations, showers, restrooms
 - Hiking trails
 - Miniature golf course
 - Museum
 - 2 picnic shelters, tables, grills, playgrounds throughout the park
 - Playgrounds
 - Swimming pool
 - Wildflower viewing
2. Barren River Lake State Resort Park
 - Basketball court
 - 2 tennis courts
 - Shuffleboard
 - Volleyball courts
 - Sports equipment available
 - 2 hiking/biking trails
 - Marina with 100 open slips, 40 covered slips, a launching ramp, boat rentals
 - 99-site campground, utility hookups, some sewer hookups and wooden decks, dump station, showers, restrooms
 - Fishing
 - Cardio training machines and weight training
 - Golf course
 - Guided horseback riding
 - Orienteering
 - 2 picnic areas, picnic tables, grills, shelters, restrooms
 - Playgrounds
 - Shuffleboard court
 - Beach
 - Tennis courts
 - Volleyball courts
3. Breaks Interstate Park
 - Bike trail
 - Pedal boat, canoe, and 1 Johnboat available for rental. Boat dock
 - 138-site campground, some with full RV hookups. Playgrounds, a basketball court, store, and laundry facility are available
 - Fishing

- More than 60 geocaches hidden in and around the Breaks Park area
 - Partnership with a private golf course
 - More than 25 miles of hiking trails
 - Outdoor theater
 - Whitewater rafting
 - Swimming pool, water park, in-pool basketball and volleyball areas
4. Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park
- Basketball goal, sports equipment available for check out
 - Marina with 95 open slips, 2 launching ramps, rental pontoon boats, and fishing boats
 - Hiking trail
 - Horseshoe pits and equipment
 - Miniature golf
 - Picnic areas across the park; 2 shelters with tables, grills, and restrooms
 - Playgrounds
 - Swimming pool for lodge and cottage guests, public beach
5. Carter Caves State Resort Park
- Gemstone mining flume
 - 89 campsites with utilities, 8 equestrian campsites with utilities, 30 sites without utilities, 2 bunkhouses with electric, a dump station, restrooms, and showers
 - Guided cave tours
 - Fishing loaner program
 - Hiking trails
 - Guided horseback riding
 - Miniature golf
 - Picnic tables, grills, and playgrounds are located throughout the park; 2 shelters
 - Playgrounds throughout the park
 - Swimming pool for lodge and cottage guests
 - 2 tennis courts, equipment check out
6. Cumberland Falls State Park
- Gem mining flume
 - 50 campsites with electric and water hookups. Showers, restrooms, grocery, and a dump station
 - 17 miles of hiking trails
 - Guided horseback riding
 - Picnic area with tables, grills, and playgrounds. 1 picnic shelter with tables, grills, water, and electric
 - Guided rafting trips
 - Tennis courts, equipment check out
7. Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park
- Basketball courts, equipment check out
 - Mountain bike trails
 - Birding trail and overlook

- Marina with 200 slips, ship's store, and fuel dock. Launching ramp
 - 145-site campground with utility hookups available, 24 of the campsites are for campers with horses. Country store. 6 cabins
 - Guided cave tours
 - Fishing loaner program
 - Golf course with pro shop, driving range, rental riding carts, pull carts, and clubs
 - 15 miles of multi-purpose trails open for hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking
 - Miniature golf course
 - Picnic shelter with restrooms. Tables and grills
 - Playgrounds
 - Lodge swimming pool and community pool
8. General Butler State Park
- 4.5 mile bike trail
 - Boat dock, no motorized boats allowed
 - 111 campsites with utility hookups and grills. Showers, restrooms, laundry facility. Wi-Fi available
 - Rental canoes and rowboats available
 - Stocked 30-acre lake, fishing loaner program
 - Game room
 - 2 nature trails
 - Miniature golf
 - Museum
 - Rental pedal boats
 - Picnic area, shelter house
 - 3 Tennis courts
 - Basketball courts
 - Lodge swimming pool for lodge and cottage guests
9. Greenbo Lake State Resort Park
- Basketball court, 2 basketball goals at pool parking lot, check out basketballs
 - 25 miles of trails, some for multi-use
 - Marina with 25 open slips, rental pontoon boats, pedal boating, row boats, kayaks, canoes, and motor boats. Fishing pier and boat ramp
 - 79 campsites with utility hookups and 24 primitive sites, 3 dumping stations, showers, restrooms, grocery store, available Wi-Fi
 - Fishing loaner program
 - Miniature golf
 - Outdoor theater
 - Picnic shelter with restrooms, 2 picnic areas
 - Playgrounds
 - Lodge and community pools
10. Jenny Wiley State Park
- 3 mountain biking trails

- Boat dock with 153 open slips, 4 launching ramps, and pontoon boat rental
 - 121-site campground, utility hookups. Showers, restrooms, grocery store, and a dump station
 - Canoe rental
 - Elk tours
 - Fishing loaner program
 - Hiking trails
 - Outdoor theater
 - Picnic tables, grills, playgrounds, and picnic shelters
 - Lodge pool for overnight guests
11. Kenlake State Park
- 2 blue bird trails and eagle tours
 - Marina equipped with 16 open slips, 169 covered slips, 890 feet of transient dockage, launching ramp, marina store with gas and diesel, restaurant
 - 90-site campground, utility hookups, dump station, showers, restrooms
 - Fishing loaner program
 - 2 nature trails
 - Outdoor theater
 - Picnic and playground facilities
 - Swimming pool available for lodge and cottage guests
 - 4 indoor tennis courts, locker room facilities, lounge/viewing area, 4 outdoor courts
12. Kentucky Dam Village State Park
- Boat dock with rental fishing boats, pontoon boats, and ski boats; marina
 - 219 paved campsites with water and electricity hookups, grocery store, 2 dump stations, showers, restrooms, air camp for aviators
 - Eagle watching weekends and yacht excursions
 - Golf course
 - Located near Land Between the Lakes where there are more than 200 miles of trails and roads available for hiking
 - Guided horseback ride
 - Swimming pool for lodge and cottage guests
 - Tennis courts, equipment check out
13. Lake Barkley State Park
- 7 miles of trails open for mountain biking
 - 60 bluebird nest boxes
 - Marina with 112 covered slips, 60 open slips, and launching ramp. Rental fishing boats, pontoon boats, and ski boats
 - 78 campsites with utility hookups, dump station, showers, restrooms
 - Eagle watching events
 - Fishing loaner program
 - Fitness center including: nautilus machines, fitness cycles, free weight room, leverage equipment, aerobic classes, glass racquetball court, sauna, wet-steam room, whirlpool, heated indoor wellness pool, and locker rooms

- Game room
 - Golf course with pro shop, rental riding carts, pull carts, and golf clubs
 - 9 miles of trails open for hiking
 - Riding stables
 - Swimming pool for lodge and cottage guests
 - Beach with a volleyball court, bathhouse
 - 2 tennis courts
 - Trap range with shotguns and clays included
14. Lake Cumberland State Park
- Marina offers 100 open slips, rental fishing boats, pontoon boats, houseboats, and ski boats
 - 129-site campground with utility hookups, showers, restrooms, laundry facilities, 2 dump stations, grocery
 - Disc golf
 - Check out fishing equipment
 - Geocaching
 - 2 hiking trails
 - Miniature golf
 - Picnic grounds, tables, grills, playgrounds, shelter with electric
 - Playgrounds
 - Indoor pool and hot tub
 - Game room
 - Tennis courts
15. Natural Bridge State Park
- Natural Bridge hoedown
 - 2 campgrounds, 87 sites with utilities, tent camping available, dump stations, restrooms, and showers
 - Canoes and kayaks available for rental
 - Launch ramp
 - Fishing loaner program
 - Hiking trails
 - Miniature golf
 - 4 picnic shelters with rest rooms, tables, grills, and a playground
 - Sky lift
 - Pool, bathhouse, zero-depth pool, wading pool
16. Pennyrile Forest State Resort Park
- Basketball/tennis court
 - Birdfeeders
 - Boat dock; rental pedal and row boats, canoes, kayaks, and trolling motors
 - 36-site campground, utility hookups, dump station, showers, restrooms, laundry
 - 8 equine campsites with electric, water, and sewer hookups. Each site has hitching posts, picnic table, lantern hanger & fire ring/grill combo
 - Horse trails

- Fishing gear loan
 - Golf course
 - 7 hiking trails
 - Horseshoe pit and equipment
 - Miniature golf
 - Playgrounds
 - Lodge pool, public beach
17. Pine Mountain State Resort Park
- Golf course
 - 12 miles of hiking trails
 - Miniature golf
 - Outdoor theater
 - Picnic areas across the park; tables grills, restrooms, and a covered shelter near Laurel Cove, Dogwood Shelter
 - Lodge pool

State Historic Site Parks

Discover Kentucky's unique history and heritage in Kentucky's Historic Parks. Explore frontier-style Kentucky state park cabins, family gravesites and Civil War trails. Comb through the artifacts of an excavated mound museum and travel down historic Native American trails.

1. Dr. Thomas Walker State Historic Site
 - Basketball court
 - Horseshoes
 - Miniature golf
 - 2 picnic shelters with playground close by, 100 picnic tables and numerous grills, one shelter has restrooms
 - Cabin and surrounding grounds can be toured
2. Old Mulkey Meeting House State Historic Site
 - Basketball court and 4-square
 - Over 2 dozen birdhouses with nearby benches and picnic tables
 - Horseshoe pits
 - Museum
 - Picnic areas, shelter
 - Playgrounds, corn hole boards and bags
 - Quest
 - Meeting house and grounds can be seen free of charge, self-guided tours have recorded audio interpretation, guided tours by appointment
3. Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site
 - School of the Soldier interactive learning experience
 - Bird trail
 - Hiking trails

- Museum
 - Picnic shelter with restrooms, tables, grills, and a playground
4. Waveland State Historic Site
 - Gardens
 - .25 mile trail
 - Museum
 - Picnic tables, 2 grills, playground
 - Tours
 5. White Hall State Historic Site
 - Museum
 - Picnic area
 - Tours
 6. William Whitley House State Historic Site
 - Sportsman’s Hill Trail educates hikers about the beginning of horse racing in Kentucky
 - Nature trail
 - 2 picnic shelters and a playground
 - Tours of the House Museum

Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

The Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is mandated by statute to “protect and conserve wildlife of this Commonwealth so as to ensure a permanent and continued supply” of this important resource. The Department’s mission is “To conserve and enhance fish and wildlife resources and provide opportunity for hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, and other wildlife-related activities.” The Department receives no general revenue funds. Over ninety percent of its income is derived from the sale of hunting and fish licenses, boat registrations, and from federal excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment and motorboat fuels. A nine-member Fish and Wildlife Resources Commission directs the Department. In a process that promotes the involvement of Kentucky sportsmen, the sportsmen of each of Kentucky’s nine Wildlife Districts nominate a Commission member for appointment by the Governor. The Commission selects the Department’s administrative Commissioner, establishes Department policy and objectives, and adopts regulations necessary to carry out the purpose of the State Fish and Wildlife Code. One of the most highly recognized Department initiatives in recent history is the restoration of native elk to eastern Kentucky. This initiative has created a new “watchable wildlife” opportunity in Kentucky, and has made possible such promotions as annual Elk Festivals and Elk Bugle Tours. Kentucky now has the largest elk herd east of the Rockies (estimated 10,000 elk). Restocking began in the late ‘90s and concluded in 2002, with 1,550 wild elk translocated from five western states. Elk viewing and hunting are just a part of the \$5 billion plus annual economic impact that hunting, fishing, boating, and wildlife watching has on the Commonwealth; some 60,000 people are employed as a result of these activities. The Fish and Wildlife Resources Department operates the Salato Wildlife Education center in Frankfort, plus other educational nature trails, wildlife viewing areas, and self-guided tours on other Department lands. It operates three summer youth camps with programs for future teachers, at-risk youths, businesses, and families.

There are increasing expectations from both the public and other government agencies that the Department should manage its lands and waters to sustain species diversity and ecosystem health. The Department monitors wildlife diversity and ecosystem functions on its lands and waters, addresses related problems such as exotic/invasive species and diseases, and protects and seeks to restore imperiled species. The Fish and Wildlife Department partners with a wide variety of public and private interests to address large-scale conservation and recreation issues. One example is development of public access agreements with private landowners for access to tens of thousands of acres for wildlife-related recreation in return for assistance with law enforcement and technical assistance with other conservation activities. Another example is partnership with federal conservation agencies to meet mutual conservation goals and deliver tens of millions of dollars in federal conservation assistance to farmers and other landowners. Publicly accessible lands and waters are increasingly valued by the public for recreational uses. Boating in its myriad forms is increasingly popular, as are trails uses ranging from trail running to horseback riding. Many Department lands afford opportunities for these and other types of recreation, where compatible. The Department continually updates information available to the public electronically at fw.ky.gov. The Department owns or manages over 80 Wildlife Management Areas and Public Hunting Areas, which encompass hundreds of thousands of acres statewide and vary widely in size and management intensity. All are operated to optimize a balance between conservation priorities and public opportunities for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Some wildlife areas offer public shooting ranges and specialized sporting activities. Specific tracts are designated for Mobility-impaired Hunter Access. The Department also operates Fishing and Boating Access Sites that afford a variety of opportunities and access types.

www.fw.ky.gov

Kentucky Heritage Council

Since its creation in 1966, Kentucky Heritage Council has been to identify, preserve, and protect the cultural resources of Kentucky. The Heritage Council also maintains continually updated inventories of historic structures and archaeological sites. By working with other state and federal agencies, local communities and interested citizens, the Heritage Council seeks to build a greater awareness of Kentucky's past and to encourage the long-term preservation of significant cultural resources. Archaeology Kentucky has a rich and varied archaeological record that is worthy of protection and study. Hundreds of important prehistoric and historic archaeological sites are located on state lands. The prehistoric sites document more than 12,000 years of Native American settlement, while the historic sites are associated with Kentucky's early history, industries, and the Civil War. The Heritage Council encourages local, state, and federal agencies, as well as private nonprofit groups, to develop public parks around historic sites and structures as a means of preserving and displaying Kentucky's history for public edification and enjoyment. This not only preserves important historic resources, but also helps stimulate the state's economy by encouraging heritage-related tourism. In many instances preservation, interpretation, and utilization can occur simultaneously, often saving money by avoiding the need for construction of new facilities within a given park.

<http://heritage.ky.gov/>

Kentucky Historical Society

The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) was formed in 1836 by a group of prominent Kentuckians intent on preserving the history of the commonwealth. It was chartered as the state society in 1838 and began to collect books and printed materials. KHS became an agency of Kentucky state government in the early 1950's. An agency of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, KHS has more than 3,300 members to whom it provides support and educational services. Outreach programs collaborate with more than 430 local historical organizations. KHS is administered by an executive committee and supported by the KHS Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization. KHS collects, preserves, conserves, interprets and shares information, memories and materials from Kentucky's past to assist those interested in exploring and preserving that heritage. The KHC mission is served through:

- Museum collections, housing more than 120,000 artifacts
- Oral History collection, containing 8,000 oral history interviews
- Libraries and Special Collections housing more than 90,000 published works, 16,000 reels of microfilm, 200,000 historic photographs, 1,900 cubic feet of manuscripts and 2,000 maps.

<http://history.ky.gov/>

Kentucky Sports Authority

Created in 2005, the Kentucky Sports Authority is the statewide agency responsible for working with individuals, communities, and other entities in the Commonwealth to attract, retain, create, and promote professional and amateur sporting events, conventions, franchises, and organizational headquarters for Kentucky. Its purpose is to generate tourism, economic development, jobs, and positive media exposure, as well as, promote exercise and wellness through sports activities. Its 14-member board, actively pursue any and all athletic events with the goal of bringing them to the Commonwealth—resulting in jobs, tourism, and economic development. The Sports Authority is also a marketing agency, leading a coordinated effort of Kentucky's communities, and the state as a whole, to build the Commonwealth's image in the sports industry. In 2006 the Sports Authority created "Team Kentucky", a collection of communities from around the Commonwealth that serves as a marketing arm to the sports industry. Over a five year period, Kentucky hosts 14 international sporting events including the Ryder Cup in 2008, the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in 2010, and the Kentucky Derby every year.

www.teamky.com

Kentucky Horse Park

The Kentucky Horse Park is the only park of its kind in the world dedicated exclusively to horses. The 1,224 acre park is located on the former Walnut Hall Stud Farm near Lexington in the heart of the famed bluegrass horse-farm landscape. Designed to distill and display the essence of the cultural relationship between human and horse in general and the Kentucky thoroughbred in particular, the park includes as its main attractions the Man O'War Memorial, the International Museum of the

Horse, the Hall of Champions, and working exhibits. The park hosts a variety of equine events throughout the year including steeplechasing, polo, three-day events, and horse shows for every breed. A 260-site campground offers tennis, swimming, and tournament horseshoe courts. The 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games were held at the Kentucky Horse Park. This was the sixth edition of the games, which are held every four years and run by the International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI). For the first time Para-Equestrian events were added in the program.
www.kyhorsepark.com

Kentucky Artisans Center in Berea

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea is a state agency in the Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. It was established to celebrate Kentucky's artisan heritage and to encourage Kentuckians and those traveling in Kentucky to enjoy Kentucky artisan products and activities. The development of the Center and oversight of its activity is provided by a 13-member board, the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea Advisory Board, and assisted by numerous partnerships among cabinets of state government, with city and county government, with colleges, with other organizations and agencies, and with individuals interested in the Center's mission and goals.

Other Tourism, Arts and Heritage Offices

Kentucky Humanities Council

Kentucky State Fair

Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts

Frankfort Convention Center

Governor's School for the Arts

Kentucky Film Office

Office of Creative Services

Kentucky Museums

Muhammad Ali Center

Kentucky Fairs and Festivals

Kentucky has a wide range of sporting venues including College sports, golf, A and AAA baseball, indoor arena football and many other sporting events.

Sampling of Tourist Activities for Kentucky

Kentucky Derby

<http://www.kentuckyderby.com/>

Since 1875, the Kentucky Derby has been held annually in Louisville, Kentucky on the first Saturday in May. Also known as the "Run for the Roses", the Kentucky Derby draws in more than 150,000 people and is the state's signature event. This race of three-year-old thoroughbreds ends a two week long

ceremony known as the Kentucky Derby Festival in which various events take place including the Derby Marathon, mini-Marathon, and the nation's largest fireworks display, Thunder Over Louisville.

Kentucky Speedway

Kentucky Speedway is a 1.5-mile (2.4 km) speedway located in north-central Kentucky, near the community of Sparta, Kentucky; approximately halfway between Louisville, Kentucky and Cincinnati, Ohio, and is additionally 70 miles (113 km) from another fairly sizable market, Lexington, Kentucky. www.kentuckyspeedway.com

Keeneland Racing

Each April and October, the nation's best Thoroughbred owners, trainers and jockeys converge at Keeneland to compete for some of North America's richest purse money. The Spring Meet meeting is anchored by the Toyota Blue Grass and Central Bank Ashland Stakes, Grade 1 prep races for the Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks, respectively. Keeneland is expected to host the 2015 Breeder's Cup World Championships.

www.keeneland.com/

Bluegrass State Games

The Bluegrass State Games are designed to provide Kentuckians of all ages and skill levels to promote and develop amateur athletics and to provide the amateur athlete an opportunity to showcase their talent and receive statewide recognition. The Bluegrass State Games are sponsored by the Kentucky Sports Authority inside the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet. This statewide amateur athletic competition has been held annually since 1985, and has seen steady growth in athletes competing.

www.bsgs.org/

Energy and Environment Cabinet

Energy and the environment – two parts of our daily lives that seem at first glance to be counter to each other. Yet, in Kentucky, we firmly believe these two areas can and should be part of the same discussion.

<http://eec.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Division of Forestry

The Division of Forestry housed within the Department for Natural Resources inside the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet, implements many programs to ensure the health and sustainability of the Commonwealth's 11.9 million acres of valuable forestland. It oversees and maintains six state forests for demonstration and recreation though eighty-nine percent of the forestland in Kentucky is privately owned. Through the Forest Stewardship Program, private forest landowners are provided assistance with preparing and implementing forest stewardship and management plans for their property.

Division of Conservation

The Division of Conservation housed within the Department of Natural Resources, is responsible for providing Kentucky's 121 Conservation Districts and 45 active Watershed Conservancy Districts with the financial, promotional, and administrative assistance needed to maintain a statewide natural resources conservation program. The Division acts in cooperation with numerous federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as private organizations and individuals. With respect to recreational development, the Division provides the 121 county-level conservation districts with planning, technical, and limited financial assistance. It also serves as a liaison between the districts and other agencies that offer recreational-related funding and assistance. The local conservation district offices, in turn, are a source of on-request technical assistance to local communities and private landowners in planning and developing recreational facilities and opportunities. The Division, the Commission, and the districts continue to place a high priority on the programs that support outdoor education and recreation. For example, the Watershed Conservancy District Program organizes Watershed Conservancy Districts that provide flood protection for environmentally sensitive farmland while supplying water and recreation areas in many communities. They participate in federal-state land-retirement conservation programs such as the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), which has restored riparian areas and other vital natural habitats to help protect the unique resources of Mammoth Cave and the Green River area. Improving and protecting such resources serves to support fishing, hunting, and other recreational opportunities throughout the state. The Division also helps protect agriculture lands through the Agricultural District Program and by providing technical assistance to the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) program. By protecting productive agricultural land against conversion, these initiatives ensure that fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, and other recreation opportunities will also be preserved. The districts are also heavily involved in environmental education and technical assistance in the development of outdoor classrooms, fish and wildlife habitats, community trails and paths, community parks, and public access to streams, rivers, and lakes. Districts initiate, coordinate, and provide limited funding (environmental cost-share grants) for programs to protect recreational opportunities in streams, forests, rivers, and lakes through community environmental cleanup projects and recycling programs. They work with other projects such as Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment (PRIDE) involving straight-pipe and other solid waste initiatives.

www.conservation.ky.gov

Division of Abandoned Mine Lands

The Division of Abandoned Mine Lands housed within the Department for Natural Resources derives its funds from two sources: (1) Kentucky's Bond Forfeiture Program for active surface mining operations and (2) a federal abandoned mined land reclamation fund. The Federal Surface Mining Reclamation Act of 1977 created the latter fund. The act allows states that develop a regulatory program to fund state reclamation projects from the reclamation fees. These regulations control surface effects of strip and

deep coal mining, and must be approved by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The reclamation of abandoned coal mined lands affects state recreational resources in two distinct ways. Generally, unreclaimed lands pose a threat to both the general public and the environment. In conjunction with elimination of safety problems and mitigating environmental problems associated with mined lands, reclamation can provide recreational opportunities such as hunting and fishing. In addition, specific post reclamation land use plans can be developed to support recreational facilities. Site improvements generally include grading, draining, and re-vegetation. In some cases, access roads to reclamation sites are required and may be left as one feature of the reclaimed land. Reclamation funds cannot be used for purchase of lands or the development of facilities. However, some recreation projects have benefited from the Division of Abandoned Lands Reclamation Program. For example, Rock Creek—once damaged by acid mine drainage—is now a beautiful stream that flows through southwestern McCreary County. It has been designated a Kentucky Wild River and may become a viable fishery. Separately, the largest reclamation project ever conducted by Kentucky is Pleasant View Mine, which was once a stripped wasteland but is now dedicated for public use.

www.aml.ky.gov

Transportation Cabinet

The Transportation Cabinet is responsible for planning, designing, and implementing statewide transportation programs. One of the Cabinet's more traditional functions is design, construction, and maintenance of Kentucky's extensive highway system. Improved roadways have contributed to expanded recreational opportunities for citizens by promoting mobility and providing practical accessibility to recreation facilities, parks, and natural areas that are farther from home. A well-developed system of interstates and parkways makes the state's attractions more inviting to tourists, as well. By the synergy of federal, state, and county road systems, Kentuckians and non-residents alike have exceptional entry to the state's recreational resources. Kentucky is crossed by the TransAmerica Bike Centennial Trail, which since 1986 has provided a 4,450-mile, 90-day coast-to-coast bicycle route through ten states. Kentucky participated in the planning of the route, which enters the state near Louisville, proceeds southeast to Berea, and then southward to Breaks Interstate Park on the Virginia border. The Cabinet is cooperating with local governments to improve recreational and historic sites within the Great River Road Corridor in Western Kentucky. Also, the Cabinet cooperates with the Department of Parks to ensure that adequate access is available to the traveling public for recreational opportunities at Kentucky state parks. In conjunction with its operation of the automotive transportation network, the Cabinet has historically been instrumental in providing a variety of related facilities and services. Among these are roadside rest areas with picnic grounds; boat launching facilities at bridges; and bikeways, pedestrian overpasses, and scenic highways. Each of these efforts, though peripheral to traditional road building activities of a highway and transportation department, has complemented the transportation system by providing additional opportunities and facilities. The current federally-inspired emphasis on "multimodal" transportation, as expressed by the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, has provided an opportunity, and to some extent a mandate, for greater involvement in some of these areas.

www.transportation.ky.gov

Scenic Highways and Byways Program

A provision of the 1991 ISTEA established an advisory committee to develop a national scenic byways program, and further encouraged individual states to develop their own programs. In 2012, the federal government changed the legislation that governs federal transportation dollars invested in local communities. The new legislation is Map-21, and includes the Scenic Byways Program. In Kentucky this program is entitled the Scenic Highways and Byways Program and is administered by the Office of Local Programs in the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. Criteria and procedures have been established for local governments and groups to sponsor routes for possible State scenic designation. There are currently over 1,500 miles of State and National Scenic Highways and Byways designated in Kentucky. Scenic highways are state maintained roads, which meet the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials guidelines for highways, and possess one or more of the following intrinsic qualities: archaeological, cultural, historical, natural, recreational, scenic. Nominations for State designation are accepted at any time throughout the year.

Bicycle and Bikeways Program

In 1992, the Kentucky General Assembly enacted legislation directing the Transportation Cabinet to “develop and coordinate a statewide bicycle and bikeways program” as the focal point for state and local efforts to plan and promote bikeways and bicycling. The overall goal of the programs is to maximize the use of roads, streets, parks, and other publicly owned lands, abandoned roadbeds, and other resources for the development of bikeways as an adjunct to other transportation facilities. The Cabinet is directed to:

- Assist and cooperate with local governments and other agencies in the development and construction of local and regional bikeway projects;
- Develop and publish policies, procedures, and standards for planning, designing, constructing, maintaining, marking, and operating bikeways in the state, and for the safety of bicyclists, motorists, and the public;
- Develop bikeway demonstration projects and safety training programs; and
- Develop and construct a state bikeway system.

Kentucky Bicycle and Bikeways Commission

The KY Bicycle and Bikeways Commission is set up by a commission is made up of part time volunteers and they only meeting 4 times a year. These are what the commission handles at the meetings. Plan

quarterly KBBC meetings. All quarterly meeting will be planned, agendas confirmed and all associated information posted on the web site. Prepare agenda before each KBBC meeting and minutes after each KBBC meeting. Agendas will be prepared, posted on the web site, sent to the public information contacts and associated meeting notes added for each agenda. The KBBC will be using a web based video link for future meetings (Go to Meetings). This will be organized, tested, and the information shared with all Commissioners and associated persons. Assist KBBC on communications and technical matters. The bike/ped team created a welcome packet/booklet for new KBBC members. The information contained in the booklet has contact information, ethics statements, current KRS and KAR's associated with the KBBC and the bike/ped program, the last 12 months of KBBC agendas with meeting notes, video location information, and associated forms for travel/reimbursement and travel policy. The bike/ped team will also coordinate all email and phone call inquiries for the KBBC. Assist in facilitating the Paula Nye Education Grant program. The team acts as the secretary for the Paula Nye Grant program. The team receives the new grant applications, the 6 month reports for current applicants, and keeps accounting records for all funds used for the awarded programs. The team created a simple 6 month reporting document and accounting template. These documents have been sent to all programs that have unexpended Paula Nye Grant funds and will be sent to all future awardees. The team also submits documentation to the Secretary's office of the KBBC recommended Paula Nye Grant awardees. The team coordinated with the KBBC in updating the Paula Nye information and brochure currently on the bike/walk portion of the web site.

<http://transportation.ky.gov/Bike-Walk/Pages/Kentucky-Bicycle-and-Bikeway-Commission.aspx>

Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund

Established in 1994, KHLCF provides funding for preserving and conserving natural areas that possess unique features such as:

- Areas that are a habitat for rare and endangered species.
- Areas important to migratory birds.
- Areas that perform important natural functions that are subject to alteration or loss.
- Areas to be preserved in their natural state for public use, outdoor recreation and education.

The Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board gives special consideration to funding agencies working together to meet these goals. Revenue for the fund comes from the nature license plate, the state portion of the unmined minerals tax and environmental fines. The Environmental Education Council receives \$150,000 of environmental fines each year for environmental education programs.

<http://heritageland.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Nature Preserves Commission

The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) is located within the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet. KSNPC and its staff work to secure for present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of natural areas protected in perpetuity as state nature preserves. This is the highest level of protection available for a natural area under Kentucky law. The Commission's fundamental task is to inventory the state's natural areas and to protect the best of them within a statewide Nature Preserves System. Such a process requires constant revision as more is learned about Kentucky's natural features and ecological communities through an ongoing Natural Areas Inventory process and rare-species surveys. The preservation of natural areas is vitally important for many reasons. They are laboratories for scientific research; reservoirs of natural materials; critical habitat for plants, animals, and biotic communities; living museums of the native landscape where people may observe nature's web of life and our natural heritage; settings for teaching natural history sciences; places of historic and natural interest and scenic beauty; and reminders of human dependence upon our natural environment. Nature preserves offer opportunities for outdoor recreation, for inspiration, and relaxation, providing a beneficial contrast and balance to man's artificially-made environment –as well as protecting the native plants, animals, and ecological systems which are the natural heritage of Kentucky. As the increasing population of Kentucky places more pressure on more-developed recreation areas, nature preserves can offer additional opportunities for many types of low-impact recreation. Blanton Forest State Nature Preserve and Bad Branch State Nature Preserve, located in southeast Kentucky, offer visitors a chance to enjoy pristine areas with some of Kentucky's most beautiful scenery. Hiking, wildlife watching, nature photography, canoeing, and other non-consumptive outdoor activities are typically allowed on nature preserves. They supplement the quantity, and especially the variety, of outdoor recreational experiences available in Kentucky.

<https://eec.ky.gov/Nature-Preserves/Pages/default.aspx>

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Much recreation activity takes place close to home. Local parks, playgrounds, or open spaces are the first in an array of resources which people encounter when they venture out to recreate. These familiar, convenient, and informal spaces undoubtedly serve to meet a very large proportion of our public recreational needs.

Kentucky's local governments, 120 counties and more than 435 cities, bear the primary public responsibility for acquiring, developing, and operating local parks and recreation facilities. Their ability to do so varies considerably. The more populous cities and counties are more likely to have the tax base and organizational resources to support a comprehensive parks and recreation program. Conversely, rural communities have more limited resources for recreation facilities and programs.

The most complete source of information about the status and operation of local recreation programs is the Kentucky Recreation and Park Services Study, conducted annually since 1972 by Western Kentucky University. The study compiles information on the financing and expenditures of local park and recreation departments across the state.

Sources of Funding

The primary source of local governments' recreation budgets is their general fund, followed by other funding. A few communities have taken advantage of a three-percent hotel/motel tax that can be levied for acquisition, construction, operation, and maintenance of recreation facilities related to the attraction and promotion of tourist and convention business. Kentucky's local governments also have the authority to levy an ad valorem tax or issue revenue bonds to develop park and recreation facilities. Finally, "transportation enhancement" funds authorized by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act have assisted certain types of projects.

Kentucky Association of Counties

Since its creation in 1974, the Kentucky Association of Counties (KACO) has been representing the needs of county government in legislative matters and offering a variety of services to promote the progress of county government. KACO's mission is to be "dedicated to serving all Kentucky counties by providing the highest quality programs/services and advocating legislative solutions for Kentucky's counties both today and tomorrow". All 120 counties of the Commonwealth are served by KACO.

www.kaco.org

Kentucky League of Cities

Since its creation in 1927, the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) has been providing resources, advocacy, and assistance to help make cities across the Commonwealth more livable. Currently, KLC is an association of 400 Kentucky cities and municipalities with the mission to "serve as the united voice of cities by supporting community innovation, effective leadership, and quality governance". KLC is overseen by a board of directors representing communities of all sizes and is recognized as one of the nation's most innovative and successful leagues of its kind.

www.klc.org

Nonprofit Organizations

Nonprofit organizations affect recreation opportunities in ways that are significant although sometimes overlooked. While their budgets, staff, and recognition may not compare with those of large public agencies, they are well established in a variety of areas. Occupying more specialized niches than do public agencies, they often represent a constituent group oriented toward a single activity or purpose. Their size and impact vary greatly. In the context of recreation, nonprofits have been particularly active in the arena of natural-resource preservation and protection, where they both influence and supplement public policy. Some nonprofits seek to develop and sustain close working relationships with major sources of recreation development funds, both in furtherance of their own organizational identity, and more importantly, to ensure that the special interests they represent are afforded maximum consideration in the allocation and prioritization of public funds. For a public agency, such relationships can be a source of information about program needs and a channel of desired public input. Following are descriptions of several nonprofit groups that are actively involved in recreation-related issues.

The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy has one job: to save unspoiled land and the species that live there. Their strategy involves identifying the areas and species that must be saved; protecting these remarkable places through direct acquisition—purchase, gift, or bequest and other cost-effective techniques; managing these natural treasures to ensure their survival; and permitting appropriate recreational, educational, and scientific use. Since 1951, The Nature Conservancy has protected over 117 million acres of land and 5,000 miles of rivers worldwide and also operates more than 100 marine conservation projects globally. With the support of more than one million members, The Nature Conservancy addresses threats to conservation involving climate change, fire, fresh water, forests, invasive species, and marine ecosystems. The Conservancy has built and now manages the largest private system of nature sanctuaries in the world. Since 1975, the Kentucky Chapter of The Nature Conservancy has worked to save some of Kentucky's finest natural lands. With the help of landowners, corporations, foundations, and the public at large, they have succeeded in protecting thousands of acres of Kentucky's priceless heritage. Currently, the Kentucky Chapter of The Nature Conservancy protects over 40,000 acres of the Commonwealth's land.

www.nature.org

National Audubon Society

The National Audubon Society is a national organization that provides passive recreation opportunities on its wildlife sanctuaries. The primary management consideration is the protection of wildlife resources, especially threatened and endangered species. Public use is to revolve primarily around nature study and education. While other non-consumptive uses are allowed, other forms of recreation are a low priority. Audubon develops nature centers on selected properties. These tracts generally experience higher and more diverse usage than other areas. They are designed, where possible, for access and use by the handicapped. The best-known Audubon property in Kentucky is Buckley Hills Wildlife Sanctuary in Woodford County. This 275-acre sanctuary features nature trails, slide presentations, and the Emma E. Buckley visitor center. Workshops and events are offered throughout the year.

www.audubon.org

Bernheim Forest Foundation

The Isaac W. Bernheim Foundation owns and operates the 10,000-acre Bernheim Forest Preserve and Arboretum in Bullitt County and the 4,000-acre Knobs Forest in Nelson County. Bernheim Forest has 2,000 acres open seasonally for passive recreation. These include a 285-acre landscape arboretum with over 4,000 species of trees and shrubs, gardens, lakes, an education center with a nature museum, native woodlands with picnic areas, and 40 miles of hiking trails. Other features include a canopy tree walk and an award winning environmentally green visitor center. The Bernheim Foundation does not compete with nearby federal, state, county, or city parks, which aim to entertain the visitor. Rather, the goals and objectives established by founder Isaac Wolfe Bernheim aim at offering a place for people to commune with nature. Bernheim gates are open daily to the public, except December 25 and January 1, from 7 a.m. until sunset.

www.bernheim.org

Kentucky Recreation and Park Society

“Serving the public and its pursuit of a meaningful leisure experience through the promotion of parks, trails, and recreation programs”, it was organized in 1954, the Kentucky Recreation and Park Society (KRPS) is a nonprofit professional association for Kentucky’s parks and recreation professionals with the mission to further the growth and development of recreation and park services in Kentucky. KRPS assumes a leadership role in the progressive development and wise administration of physical, human, natural, and financial resources to serve its membership and the public. KRPS provides conferences, workshops, technical assistance, advocacy, and other exchanges of information that enable each professional to become effective in improving the quality of life in Kentucky communities. KRPS is an affiliate member of the National Recreation and Park Association headquartered in Ashburn, Virginia.

www.kyrec.org

Other Nonprofit Organizations

Numerous other national nonprofit organizations operate facilities that provide recreational opportunities in Kentucky. Several are oriented to youth, including Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs of America, Young Men’s Christian Association, and various church and religious organizations that operate summer programs and extracurricular school programs. Others are oriented toward operation of locally owned historic and architecturally significant houses, local museums, and other attractions that cater to the interest of the touring public, both resident and nonresident.

The Private Sector

Private recreation interests play an important role in not only providing outdoor recreational opportunities, but also in protecting and preserving open spaces throughout the state.

In addition, there is a growing awareness that private management of recreation lands can be an effective means of augmenting public investments while supporting local economies and tax bases. As a consequence of the strained public revenue and expenditure situation during the past several years, increasing attention has been directed to the private sector’s role as a means of promoting expanded leisure services, economic activity, and environmental conservation.

In Kentucky, the private sector has always been a substantial provider of opportunities such as hunting, fishing, and horseback riding, for which private landowners control a very large part of the resource base that can potentially be utilized. Thus, the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has long emphasized the importance of good relations between outdoorsmen and the landowners whose good will is so important.

While the private sector undoubtedly creates greater diversity of recreational opportunities, most of these opportunities are more restricted than those provided by public facilities. Restrictions range from simple user fees designed to recover the cost of operation plus profit, to the exclusive facilities provided by apartment complexes to their residents and private clubs to their members. There is, perhaps, an

unavoidable tradeoff between the elaborateness of the opportunities thus provided and the number of people to whom they are available.

The trend since the 1970's was the forging of commercial relationships between traditional public sector providers and private operators. The state Department of Parks contracted with the private sector to "lease, construct and operate" facilities at several parks, including marinas at Taylorsville Lake State Park, Paintsville Lake State Park, and Barren River State Resort Park; and sky lifts at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park and Natural Bridge State Resort Park.

Federal agencies such as the Corps of Engineers and the Forest Service have amassed considerable experience with concessionaire operations of campgrounds and other facilities. However, experience has shown that the public is not always pleased with such arrangements; and their feasibility is, of course, always contingent upon the profit-making potential of the facility in question. With such limitations becoming more widely realized and the best niches already occupied, the overall trend toward public-private lease arrangements may have reached or passed its apogee.

Among the various efforts by local governments to encourage private recreation development, an early successful example was a country club-quality golf course privately constructed, but was open to the general public, on leased land at McNeely Park in Jefferson County. The initial success of the course (called Quail Chase Golf Club) has led to expansion of the original nine holes into Louisville's only 27-hole championship regulation golf course. The trend continues into the new century.

Chapter 4

Trails

Walking, hiking, jogging, bicycling, horseback riding, and motorized ATV usage are among some of the most popular forms of outdoor recreation for Kentuckians, and all of these growing forms of recreation result in more frequent trail use. Trails are created and managed throughout Kentucky by all levels of government and also through the volunteers of various non-profit organizations. Funding for trails comes mainly from the Federal Highway Administration through the Recreational Trails Program, as well as additional funding provided by the National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Kentucky Transportation Department's Transportation Enhancement funds, and the Kentucky Office of State Grants through coal severance monies and projects earmarked by the state legislature in the budget.



Kentucky Rails to Trails Program

Formed in 1994 and fully staffed by volunteers, KRTC's mission is to enhance the quality of life in our communities by developing a Kentucky rail-trail program. www.kyrailtrail.org/

National Recreation Trails

The efforts of a number of different trail sponsors have been focused and publicized under the National Recreation Trails designation program. The resulting favorable publicity has brought attention to communities, improved recreation opportunities, and provided for some protection to the trail itself. www.americantrails.org

National Historic Trails

Established under the provisions of the 1968 National Trails System Act, National Historic Trails recognized prominent past routes of exploration, migration, and military action. They generally consist of remnant sites and trail segments, and thus are not necessarily continuous. Land ownership may be in public or private hands. In Kentucky, the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail was established in 1987 to commemorate the forced migration of 16,000 Cherokee Indians from the southeast to lands west of the Mississippi River in the late 1830's. Today, the designated trail follows two of the principal routes: a water trail along the Tennessee, Ohio, Mississippi, and Arkansas rivers; and an overland trail from Chattanooga, Tennessee to Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Both trails cross western Kentucky.

www.nps.gov/trtc

Kentucky State Park Trails

The Kentucky State Park System manages over 250 miles of hiking, multi-use, and self-guided interpretive trails. The Department of Parks has established design, construction, and maintenance guidelines for the management of its trail system. To meet the increasing public demand for extensive trail opportunities, the Parks Department will continue assessing parklands to expand an already extensive trail system. Existing hiking trails will continue to be assessed for non-motorized, multi-use compatibility, where feasible. Currently, approximately one-third of the department's trail system is designated for multi-use.



Recreational Trails Program

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is administered in the Federal Grants Division of the Department for Local Government. RTP is a federal-aid assistance program to help provide assistance for acquisition of easements, development, and/or maintenance of recreational trails and trailhead facilities for both motorized and non-motorized use. It is authorized by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (MAP), and administered at the federal level by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). That agency retains final review—and- approval authority over state-approved projects.

DLG operates the state program with the input of a 12-member Kentucky Trails Advisory Board. Established in 1992, the Board brings together representatives of the respective state agencies for parks, forests and highways; the U.S. Forest Service; local park and recreation departments; and a variety of private trail interests and organizations. Through this program, funds are made available to develop urban trail linkages near homes and workplaces; maintain existing recreational trails; restore areas damaged by usage of recreational trails; develop trailside and trailhead facilities; improve trail access for persons with disabilities; acquire land or easements for trails or trail corridors; and construct new trails on federal, state, county, municipal, or private lands. By federal requirement, the state must earmark at least 30 percent of the monies received for uses relating to motorized recreation, and at least another 30 percent for uses relating to non-motorized recreation. The remainder of the state's allocation is used to provide the greatest number of compatible recreational uses.

City and county governments, state and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations are all eligible to apply for a RTP grant. The minimum grant request is \$5,000 and the maximum is \$100,000. A 50/50 match is required for all applicants. All trail projects funded by FHWA require an ecology survey or a clearance letter from USFW prior to the construction of the proposed project. All trails that have received FHWA funding must remain open to the public and maintained for perpetuity.

www.dlg.ky.gov/grants/federal/rtp.htm

Kentucky Trail Towns

Trail Towns are communities along long distance trails, an extensive trail system or a river used for canoeing and kayaking. As of summer 2014 there are two certified trail towns: Dawson Springs and Livingston. There are five more that will be certified Trail Towns by the end of the summer 2014: Morehead, Olive Hill, Stearns, Elkhorn city and Evarts. There also are 38 other applicants which should accomplish the task in the next few years. The Kentucky Trail Town how-to-guide can be found at Trail Town How-to-Guide. Dawson Springs was the first city to be designated a Trail town in 2013. There have been more than 30 cities that have either received this designation or have applied for such. The application for the Trail Town can be found at Trail Town Application.

www.kentuckytourism.com/

Chapter 5

Kentucky Wetlands

Kentucky's identification of wetlands and the establishment of wetlands protection as a priority component is consistent with Section 303 of the Emergency Wetlands Resource Act of 1986 and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "National Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan." Each of the identified wetland types meets one or more of the criterion established in the "National Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan" and are a priority for acquisition across the Commonwealth, especially for the LWCF program.

By protecting these types of wetlands, the Commonwealth can help to ensure the continuation of these unique ecosystems and their numerous flora and fauna species. From an outdoor recreation perspective, safeguarding these wetland types provide opportunities for high-demand recreation such as camping, wildlife viewing, canoeing/kayaking, and nature walks.

Status of Kentucky's Wetlands Resources

Kentucky possesses an estimated 300,000 acres of fresh-water wetlands. These occur disproportionately in the western half of the state, although examples are distributed throughout the Commonwealth. An estimated twenty percent, or roughly 60,000 acres, is forested. The historical extent of these lands is not known, although various estimates of losses have been made.

For example, the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission found in 1982 that approximately 929,000 of the estimated 1,566,000 original acres of "wet soils" had been drained for cropland, with another 20 percent devoted to pastureland. Bottomland hardwood forests in the far- western portion of the state are known to have declined dramatically during the past few decades (Mathis 1982). From 1957 to 1974, the average of bottomland hardwoods in Ballard, Carlisle, Fulton, and Hickman Counties decreased by 52 percent from 55,000 to 26,300 acres (MacDonald et al. 1979). Overall, it is estimated that some 3,600 acres of wetlands are lost each year in Kentucky.

These continued losses have stemmed, in part, from a lack of basic knowledge about Kentucky's wetlands. However, several reports over the years have provided limited information. The Ohio River Basin Commission sponsored a 1977 survey and mapping of wetlands along the Ohio River. Subsequently, the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission conducted survey, classification, and mapping projects for wetlands in selected areas of the state. Further information on these and other relevant studies is provided in the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission's 1986 report, "Wetland Protection Strategies for Kentucky".



Kentucky Wetlands Information System

To supplement existing data, the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) conducted a project to provide information about location, size, ownership, values, and threats for wetlands in areas of Kentucky not previously surveyed or inventoried. The project area included the Mississippi Alluvial Plain and part of the East Gulf Coastal Plain of the Gulf Coastal Plain Province, and the Bluegrass Section and parts of the Highland Rim Section of the Interior Low Plateaus Province. This information, combined with existing studies, provided the initial framework for a statewide wetland management program.

Of the 309 United States Geological Survey topographic quadrangles within the study area, 167 included identified existing and/or potential wetlands. The identified wetland sites numbered 1,517 and had a combined acreage of approximately 103,961 acres. Sites between 10 and 100 acres in size numbered 946. There were 454 wetlands smaller than 10 acres in size, and only 117 larger than 100 acres. The 345 potential wetland sites totaled approximately 10,410 acres.

All of the 142 quadrangles in which no wetlands were identified were located in the central Kentucky portion of the project area. The 1,321 identified and potential sites in central Kentucky included 39,951 acres, whereas the 196 western Kentucky sites comprised a total of 64,010 acres. Wetlands in western Kentucky counties (Ballard, Carlisle, Fulton, and Hickman) are more extensive and contiguous, and therefore fewer in number than those in central Kentucky counties where the sites are generally small. Likewise, the three drainage basins in the western Kentucky portion of the study area (Mississippi River Tributaries, Mississippi Alluvial Plain, and Lower Ohio River) have both fewer sites and greater acreage than do the basins of central Kentucky (Salt River, Green River, Cumberland River, Kentucky River, Licking River, and Upper Ohio River).

The extensive wetlands of western Kentucky result from a shallow water table, poorly drained soils, the highly alluvial nature of the floodplain, frequent flooding, and other factors. In central Kentucky,

wetlands are likely to be karst-associated or located on poorly drained floodplain and upland soils. In neither area is the historical extent of wetlands, nor the amount lost to human activity, known precisely. However, the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission estimated in 1982 that wet soils comprised 356,000 acres in the Gulf Coastal Plain Province and 431,000 acres in the Bluegrass and Highland Rim sections of Kentucky. Thus, the current distribution of wetlands throughout the state reflects a combination of natural conditions and human-induced alterations: conversion of wetlands primarily for agriculture and, to a lesser extent, mining and urban development.

The identified and functional values for wetlands and known threats to their integrity were not available for 1,017 of the 1,517 sites. Of the 500 sites for which identified values were documented, 406 contained Kentucky State Nature Preserves threatened or endangered species within or near (1.5 miles) their boundaries; 200 of these 406 sites contained species which were federally (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1984) listed. One hundred fifty-three sites had identified values other than, or in addition to, threatened and endangered species (e.g., Outstanding Resource Water, Ohio River Basin Commission wetlands, or state wildlife management area.) Specific functional values such as fish and wildlife habitat, recreation or aesthetics were listed for 40 sites, and specific threats were identified for only 14.

While little functional-value information existed, clearly most wetlands serve functionally in flood and erosion control and other commonly attributed values, and so the "General" category was applied to most of the sites identified. Similarly, nearly all wetlands in private hands are subject to the threats of drainage, dredging and channelization, filling, construction, discharges, and/or mining; and so the "General" threat category was also applied to identified wetland sites. The results of the KSNPC project clearly indicated a need for closer examination of the identified and potential wetlands.

The Geographic Information System presents a comprehensive series of overlays for the state, including fish and wildlife information, vegetation cover types; land use, river reach and county boundaries. The integration of wetland information into this database, with all the attendant advantages, was a major step forward in the ability of the state to evaluate, monitor, and protect its remaining wetland resources.

Comprehensive Wetlands Mapping

Initial mapping and assessment efforts conducted over the years by various agencies yielded a great deal of useful data but were somewhat piecemeal. Subsequent National Wetlands Inventory mapping and trend analysis now allow a more consistent and comprehensive assessment of the status of the wetlands resources of Kentucky.

In 1988, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources made a commitment to complete a comprehensive wetlands inventory of the state. The Department contracted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to map all Kentucky wetlands, based on information collected by the National Wetlands Inventory Team. Under a memorandum of agreement, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources provided funding to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet's Division of Water to digitize all the National Wetlands Inventory maps for Kentucky. This digitized information became part of Kentucky's Geographic Information System operated by the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet. This project was completed in June 1992. A map of Kentucky's wetlands can be found at <http://kygeonet.ky.gov/> The Geographic Information System presents a comprehensive series of overlays for the state, including fish and wildlife information, vegetation cover

types; land use, river reach and county boundaries. The integration of wetland information into this database, was a major step forward in the ability of the state to evaluate, monitor, and protect its remaining wetland resources.

Threats to Kentucky's Wetlands

The major factors resulting in the loss or degradation of wetlands in Kentucky are human-related. On a broad perspective, most wetland loss and degradation is attributed to one or more of four causes: draining, dredging, and filling of wetlands; hydrologic alterations; coal mining; or water pollution. On a different level from these specific physical threats detailed below, it must be noted also that recent federal court decisions related to commercial development adjacent to wetlands may pose the most serious long-term threat to Kentucky's wetlands.

Draining, Dredging and Filling

Studies have shown that the primary cause of wetland loss continues to be the draining, dredging, and filling of wetlands for agricultural purposes. According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates, 87 percent of wetland loss is due to the conversion of wetlands to agricultural use. It is reasonable to assume that Kentucky is no exception, since the majority of our wetland resources are situated in the agricultural western part of the state. Bottomland hardwoods are a critical wetland habitat type that is disappearing at a rapid rate in Kentucky. In the floodplains of western Kentucky, such hardwoods continue to be cleared and drained as farmers appropriate the fertile soil for soybeans and other crops.

Hydrologic Alterations

Wetland resources in Kentucky have also been affected by man-made modifications of the hydrologic regime, such as ditching through wetlands for flood control, highway construction, and industrial or commercial purposes.

Coal Mining

A significant portion of Kentucky's wetlands is found in the Western Kentucky Coal Field region. Here, there is a conflict of interest between the protection of wetlands and the surface extraction of coal, both of which are key interests on a regional and national scale. The coalfield encompasses an area of roughly 2.9 million acres, of which an estimated 4,000 acres are disturbed each year by surface mining. The region contains approximately 200,000 acres of wetlands, mostly bottomland hardwoods that could potentially be impacted by mining. The surface mining/wetland issue has received increased attention in Kentucky in recent years.

Water Pollution

Acid drainage from coal mines adjacent to wetlands is a common problem in the Western Kentucky Coal Field. The outstanding filtration ability of wetlands is well known. However, this ability can be exceeded; and water with a low pH and a high sulfur or iron content, as well as other types of pollution, has caused severe damage to the natural flora and fauna of wetlands in Kentucky.

Wild Rivers Program

Numerous outdoor recreation activities are dependent on or enhanced by free-flowing rivers. These include nature and wildlife observation and the aesthetic enjoyment of scenic features such as waterfalls, canoeing, kayaking, rafting, body surfing; and trout, muskellunge, and small-mouth bass fishing. The recreation values inherent in these resources are recognized and protected through a statewide Wild Rivers management plan, plus management plans for the individual rivers. The Division has promoted recreational use of the corridors by producing informational material such as corridor maps and brochures, and by installing identification signs at major bridge crossings. With respect to further development, there remains a recognized need for public canoe access facilities on several streams, both for the convenience and safety of recreational users, and to minimize the environmental effects of heavy use (such as bank erosion, soil compaction and trampling of vegetation in areas not specifically designed for such use. The availability of public access points would also help reduce the incidence of trespassing on private riverside lands by recreational users, and the resulting objections of landowners.

Department for Environmental Protection

Kentucky's remarkable natural resources have helped shape our economy, culture and history. Nevertheless, these resources also provide us with the responsibility of good stewardship. Kentucky's residents and businesses must work together to preserve the resource quality and diversity that make Kentucky a great place to live, work and play. The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (DEP) has been given the duty to lead this effort to protect and enhance Kentucky's environment. The department invites you to join us in this effort. By working together, we will successfully keep Kentucky's environment as one of our greatest treasures.

Division of Water

The Division of Water is found within the Department for Environmental Protection. Even a cursory perusal of the list of most popular outdoor activities reveals that outdoor recreation frequently revolves around water. This includes the water contact sports such as swimming and water skiing (so-called "primary contact" recreation), and also water-dependent "secondary contact" sports such as boating and fishing. The achievement and maintenance of the necessary water quality standards is critical to the viability of all these pursuits. The public agency that bears primary responsibility for water resources planning in the state, and for establishing stream flow needs for various stream uses, particularly as it pertains to the minimum flows needed to sustain the various communities of aquatic life.

- **Watershed Management:** Since "everyone lives in a watershed", watershed management affects all citizens of the state and touches on virtually all outdoor recreational activities. A high-quality outdoor recreational experience can be assured only by protection of the environment. Also, it is important for people engaged in outdoor recreational pursuits to understand several things: the status of their environment, what threats might be posed to their safety and well-being, how to find this information, what to do if problems are detected, and what resources are available to take action. Numerous agencies can provide answers to some of these questions. The Watershed Management program is there to help citizens and other agencies find this information and to help them address their concerns.

- **Health Advisories:** The Division, in conjunction with the Department for Public Health, issues swimming advisories on rivers and streams to alert the public about waters contaminated by fecal coliform bacteria. The Department for Public Health and the Department of Parks are responsible for issuing advisories and swim closures at beaches. Fish consumption advisories are also issued after consultation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the Department for Public Health.
- **Division of Water (DOW)** Through an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers (COE), the DOW is the “single point of contact” for the state-agency review process for Section 10 and Section 404 permits. The Division distributes permit applications to various other state agencies for review, compiles comments, and transmits a Coordinated State Response to COE. Through this process, each agency has the opportunity to comment on any proposal that falls within its particular area of expertise or regulatory oversight. The reviewing agencies include the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet’s Division of Conservation and Division of Air Pollution Control; The Department for Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement’s Division of Waste Management, Division of Water, Biological Analysis Section, Floodplain Management Section, and Permits Branch; the Department of Agriculture; the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources; the Department of Housing, Buildings, and Construction’s Division of Building Codes Enforcement and Division of Plumbing; the Department of Parks; Kentucky Heritage Council; Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission; Transportation Cabinet; and the State Archeologist. The DOW is authorized by KRS 224.033 to issue, continue in effect, revoke, modify, suspend or deny permits to discharge into the waters of the Commonwealth. KRS 224.034 empowers the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet to issue federal permits pursuant to 33 U.S.C. Section 1342 (b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1251 et seq.) subject to the conditions imposed in 33 U.S.C. Section 1342 (b) and (d). The DOW decides on the issuance of Section 404 COE permits, based partly upon comments received through the state agency review process. Before or concurrent with the issuance of a Section 404 permit an individual state water quality certification may be required. In 1988, The DOW reported on the “Feasibility of Kentucky Administration of the Dredge and Fill (404) Permit Program.” This report concluded that DOW did not have the necessary resources to assume the 404 program responsibilities. Also in 1988, the DOW initiated a field investigation, in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency, for an “Advanced Identification” study of wetlands in four western Kentucky coalfield counties. Fieldwork was completed in 1990. In 1991, the DOW received a State Wetland Protection Grant from EPA to develop biological criteria for wetlands.
- **Environmental Quality Commission** Under the aegis of the Commission, a Wetlands Advisory Committee was formed in 1987 to investigate issues and provide recommendations to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet. This 10-member, ad hoc group included representatives of the legislature, conservation groups, to the proposed operations...” including Section 404 permit applications. Section 24 (4)(i) of 405 KAR 8:030 and 8:040 requires all permit applicants to demonstrate how they will comply with provisions of the Clean Water Act and other pertinent water quality regulations. Effective February 1st, 2007, as per the Secretary’s order, the Department for Natural Resources will be reviewing applications for Clean

Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (401 WQC) associated with activities related to surface coal mining operations. Examples of such activities include, but are not limited to, surface coal mining operations, improvements to local roads for the purpose of hauling coal, restoration of abandoned mine lands, and off-site stream or wetland restoration activities intended solely to off-set impacts resulting from surface coal mine activities.

- **Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR)** The Environmental Section of KDFWR is responsible for reviewing development projects and developing strategies by which wetlands can be protected, and impacts either eliminated or mitigated, under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Clean Water Act, the River and Harbors Act and KRS 150.
- **Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission** Under the authority of KRS 146.410-146.535, the Commission purchases some ecologically significant and high quality wetlands for addition to the state's Nature Preserves System. These wetlands are managed to maintain or enhance their natural character and functions. As state nature preserves, they receive the highest perpetual legal protection available under state law.
- **Department for Health Services** The Department's on-site Sewage Disposal Systems Program (902 KAR 10:080 and 902 KAR 10:085) has regulations that directly affect wetland protection by prohibiting the installation of on-site systems within areas subject to frequent flooding or surface depressions; by mandating setbacks from streams and other water bodies; and by establishing minimum separation distances for subsurface treatment and disposal trenches from groundwater tables, bedrock, and restrictive horizons. These regulations indirectly implementation, are detailed in the above section "State Agencies".
- **Non-Regulatory Efforts** As a supplement to regulatory programs, non-regulatory protection efforts can provide other valuable tools for protecting and preserving existing wetlands. A variety of arrangements are possible through federal programs such as Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937, the Wetlands Loan Act of 1961, the Wetland Reserve Program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Water Bank Program, and sections of the United States Tax Code. Other state programs and private organizations (e.g., The Nature Conservancy) continue to play a role in wetland protection through acquisition or management. Conservation easements allow willing landowners to divest development rights of a wetland area to a federal, state, or local government agency in exchange for reduced property taxes. (However, it has been noted that the monitoring and enforcement of long-term easements can present a significant problem.) Similarly, KRS 146 allows the KSNPC to dedicate qualifying natural areas into the Nature Preserve System "in perpetuity" with the agreement of the landowner, who retains the title while enjoying a decrease in property taxes. The KSNPC also maintains a Natural Areas Registry Program, which encourages the preservation of important natural areas in private ownership. This non-binding, non-regulatory program awards plaques to landowners who voluntarily protect unique natural areas. Tax incentive programs provide another non-regulatory tool for wetland protection, and may be developed on a statewide or local basis as part of a state wetland program. A number of states authorize tax abatement for those landowners who

withdraw their wetlands from development or maintain them in their existing state; while other states have broad wildlife habitat or significant natural resource programs to give tax relief for wetland preservation (Glubiak, et al). Countywide planning and zoning can provide wetland protection. However, only a few of Kentucky's 120 counties have these ordinances, and they are traditionally looked upon with disfavor in rural areas. In the past decade, new residential and industrial development has propelled the issue onto the public agenda in several counties adjacent to the state's larger urban areas. On a broader scale, statewide planning and zoning could potentially help protect wetlands and other fragile areas.

- **Mitigation:** Mitigation is generally regarded as a less-preferred alternative among wetland protection strategies. However, in 1993 the principal agencies collaborated on a published set of mitigation guidelines. This document, Wetland Compensatory Mitigation and Monitoring Plan Guidelines for Kentucky, was jointly produced and adopted by the Environmental Protection Agency, Corps of Engineers Louisville District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Kentucky Division of Water. Its purpose is to help applicants develop compensatory mitigation and monitoring plans for projects requiring Department of the Army permits and Kentucky water quality certifications. The Kentucky Division of Water has also developed stream mitigation guidelines and is currently working to develop joint mitigation crediting with the Army Corps of Engineers. The Kentucky Wetland and Stream Mitigation Fund is housed within the Kentucky State Treasury "for the purpose of restoring, creating, enhancing or preserving the Commonwealth's wetlands or streams that may be damaged or destroyed due to any project, recovering costs associated with performing these projects, and administering these programs." It is administered by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. In 2002, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources signed an In-lieu-fee Mitigation (ILF) agreement with the Great Lakes and Ohio River Divisions of the Corps that allows the Kentucky Wetland and Stream Mitigation Fund to receive in-lieu-fees from Department of Army permittees. In 2003, state and federal agencies created local procedures and established a mitigation review team that defines the condition under which the Steam and Wetland Mitigation Fund may be used.
- **New Madrid Wetlands Project:** This four-state initiative was developed to further the goals of the North America Waterfowl Management Plan for the protection of important waterfowl habitat in the Lower Mississippi Valley. The project objectives include acquisition and development of new wetland tracts; development and improved management of existing tracts; enhancement of private lands through conservation efforts; and a technical guidance/conservation program. The NMWP identifies a need for acquisition of a total of 93,700 additional acres of habitat by the Fish and Wildlife Service, private entities, and the four cooperating states of Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, and Missouri. The protected acreages will complement the 197,000 acres of wetlands already protected in the project area. This multi-agency effort to replace the extensive losses of wetlands over the last 100 years is the first major step in addressing past and current wetlands losses in this region. In Kentucky, NMWP strategic plan calls for the acquisition by state, federal, and private agencies of seven high-priority areas totaling 39,000 acres at a projected cost of \$80 million. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources represents Kentucky in this important effort.

Prioritization

Although Kentucky possesses a diversity of wetland types, our knowledge of the extent and status of this resource has accrued over time as the result of the efforts of numerous agencies and individuals. A benchmark was achieved recently with the completion of National Wetlands Inventory mapping and its digital integration into the statewide geographic information system. The availability of this information provides a new basis for objectivity and confidence in management and decision-making processes. Information about endangered and threatened animals and plants occurring in Kentucky wetlands is maintained by the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission in the Kentucky Natural Heritage Program database, and is utilized in making decisions concerning the protection of these lands. That agency prioritized wetlands based on the following criteria:

- **Presence of threatened and endangered species:** The KSNPC Natural Heritage Program database was used to identify any such species listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission in each wetland identified. The state-assigned status for each species was recorded along with the USFWS status, and a numerical rating was generated for each site by list which appears at Column 1 of the following table. Since this priority list deals primarily with wetland systems, from one to several individual wetlands might be included within each system. In addition to the USFWS/KSNPC rating described above, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) utilizes its own land evaluation rating system for all lands considered for acquisition, designed to meet the needs and objectives of that program. Each tract of land is rated in 13 categories, which are combined to produce the final rating score. Possible ratings range from 68 to 281. Most of the priority tracts were evaluated using this system. The results are listed in Column 5 of the priority listing. This rating system serves to supplement the USFWS/KAS-KSNPC rating system in the interest of somewhat different program mandates. Where they occur, any significant differences in the ratings are the result of the occasionally divergent objectives of KDFWR and KSNPC. However, both agencies recognize the common interest of wetland protection and have demonstrated the ability to agree when the time comes to identify tracts to acquire. For the purpose of resolving any remaining priority ambiguities, alignment of objectives will continue to be accomplished through a project-specific consultative process involving representatives of the concerned agencies. The process will continue to emphasize the core criteria of wetland scarcity, vulnerability, and full consideration of all functional values.

Chapter 6

Statewide Outdoor Recreation Goals

Kentucky's 2014 SCORP contained ten strategic goals to be addressed over the following five years. Those goals included:

Goal 1: Expand and improve the quantity and variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, with emphasis on areas and population segments where these are most lacking.

Goal 2: Develop and promote the recreational opportunities that are associated with tourism.

Goal 3: Implement an integrated strategy of trail development utilizing the funding resources and selection criteria of the Recreational Trails Program Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Transportation Enhancement funds, and other sources.

Goal 4: Facilitate the public's awareness and Statewide Outdoor Recreation Goals/use of Kentucky's outdoor recreation resources, facilities, programs, and promote the social and health benefits of their use.

Goal 5: Preserve the state's natural, environmental, historical, and cultural assets.

Goal 6: Establish and maintain a strong element of public participation in the planning, development, and management of outdoor recreation facilities and programs.

Goal 7: Increase and promote coordination and definition of roles among the various federal, state, regional, local, and private agencies that are responsible for the planning, programming, and implementation of recreation facilities and opportunities.

Goal 8: Make the most efficient use of existing recreation facilities and resources.

Goal 9: Fully exploit all existing funding resources for recreation and seek to develop other funding possibilities.

Goal 10: Promote the use of SCORP as a planning tool and the progressive implementation of its identified objectives.

Kentucky continues to address these goals. Some examples of funded projects include:

Guthrie City Park – 21-1471 – City of Guthrie created a new park to expand outdoor recreation in the community.

Sebree Springs Park Playground 21-1475 – The City purchased and installed new playground equipment for the City Park.

Dawson Springs City Park Baseball Fields – 21-1479 expanded and improved ball fields.

Caseyville Boat Dock Recreational Area 21-1482 – Union County developed a Boat Dock to expand public access to waterways.

James Beville City Park Walking Trail – 21-1484. The City of Leitchfield Walking Trail project expanded and enhanced outdoor recreation in the existing Park.

Helechawa Park – 21-1490 – Wolfe County developed a new park for the community to enjoy in perpetuity.

Carrollton KY River Trail – 21-1494. The City of Carrollton expanded their river trail.

American Legion Park Splash Pad – 21-1495 The City of Lawrenceburg created a Splash Pad in the park. The City had no Swimming Facilities until LWCF funded the Splash Pad.

Jockey Park Shelter – 21-1499 Nicholas County built a new Shelter at the Jockey Park.

Whitley Co. Boat Ramp – 21-1502 – The Whitley Co. built a new Boat Ramp to provide public access to the waterways.

AJ Jolly Park – Campground Bathhouse 21-1513 – Campbell County constructed a new Bathhouse to accommodate the Campers in the AJ Jolly Park.

Winchester Kroger Youth Soccer Complex – 21-1497 – The City developed restrooms/concession area for the Soccer Complex.

Kentucky has decided to continue pursuing these goals over the next five years. These goals reflect Kentucky's long-term objective to provide recreational opportunities for its citizens.

New Strategic Goals

Strategic Goal 1: Expand and improve the quantity and variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, with emphasis on areas and population segments where these are most lacking.

1. Seek funding for additional acreage, facility development, and programs within the state parks system to serve regional needs. To continue maintain and enhancing the Kentucky State Park System. Meeting the growing recreational demands of the commonwealth of Kentucky.
2. Develop additional local park and recreation facilities that are based on a careful assessment of community needs. Through technical assistance and planning incentives from state and regional agencies, educate and encourage local park departments of techniques for conducting needs surveys, developing community recreation plans, and incorporating public input into the need assessment.
3. Improve recreation opportunities in those areas not currently served by organized park and recreation departments. Promote the organization of new local recreation departments through networking, technical assistance, and possible funding program incentives. Encourage cooperative multi-governmental efforts to support facilities and programs that cannot be sustained by a single jurisdiction.
4. Staying consistent with other management objectives, provide for the widest possible variety of compatible recreation activities in forests, preserves, and other natural areas under state management. While always looking ahead at new recreational endeavors and consider recreational values when identifying new natural areas proposed for acquisition.

5. Educate and encourage recreational facility managers to provide sufficient programming oriented toward the special needs of the elderly or the physically and mentally challenged. Recreation providers should strive to stay abreast of demographic trends and ensure that their programming offers recreation opportunities that are attractive to all demographic groups.

6. Continue to emphasize enforcement of all applicable codes and standards relating to architectural barriers in the construction of parks and recreation facilities. Seek out and utilize new and innovative designs for integrating accessibility into facility design.

7. Prioritize projects that preserve new, previously unprotected lands for outdoor recreation especially environmentally sensitive areas such as priority wetlands identified in the 2020 SCORP.

Strategic Goal 2: Develop and promote the recreational opportunities that are associated with tourism.

1. Market and promote the state of Kentucky as a premier national outdoor adventure recreation destination.

Strategic Goal 3: Implement an integrated strategy of trail development utilizing the funding resources and selection criteria of the Recreational Trails Program Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Transportation Enhancement funds, and other sources.

1. Seek funding and administrative commitment to develop a fully realized statewide plan and standards for the future development and maintenance of trails and parks.

Strategic Goal 4: Facilitate the public's awareness and Statewide Outdoor Recreation Goals/use of Kentucky's outdoor recreation resources, facilities, programs, and promote the social and health benefits of their use.

1. Foster a conservation and health ethic in Kentucky's children. Encourage increased use of parks, forests, and nature preserves for environmental and health education programs. Programs sponsored by the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, 4-H programs, Scouts, and religious youth camps should be components of a coordinated effort to instill an early and lifelong orientation toward environmental and personal health.

2. Educate Kentucky's citizens about the benefits of physical activity, and promote wider public understanding of the health consequences of a sedentary lifestyle. Encourage individuals to take part in the Get Healthy Kentucky initiative which challenges all Kentuckians to set and achieve physical activity goals.

3. Emphasize adult conservation and health education by resource agencies. Naturalists and interpretive programs at state and federal parks should be primary components of this effort.

4. Sponsor and promote special events as a proven means of securing the involvement of diverse segments of the public in outdoor activities. The Department of Parks should seek opportunities to expand its menu of special events at various state parks. The annual Bluegrass State Games should continue to receive public and private support as a high-profile venue for amateur athletic competition.

5. Continue to expand programs for outdoor safety, addressing the traditional topics of hunting and boating safety and also newer and emerging issues resulting from changing activity patterns and technology such as ATVs and personal watercraft.

6. Provider agencies should utilize all available communication channels to increase public familiarity with the agency mission, goals, and programs, and to promote public awareness of the health benefits of recreation. Agencies that have not already created Internet web sites for these purposes should do so. Traditional media such as brochures, maps, periodical publications, and television programs can still be utilized effectively.

Strategic Goal 5: Preserve the state’s natural, environmental, historical, and cultural assets.

1. Utilize receipts in the Heritage Land Conservation Fund to acquire and manage additional natural areas that possess unique features. They are important to migratory birds; perform important natural functions that are subject to alteration or loss; and merit preservation in their natural state for public use and outdoor recreation and education.

2. Continue wherever possible to supplement acquisition by other protection strategies such as designation, voluntary registration of significant natural areas, cooperative ventures with nonprofit conservation organizations, and environmental regulation.

3. The Kentucky River and its corridor constitutes a unique recreation, scenic, and historical resource of statewide significance. The Kentucky River Authority should ensure that recreational values retain a prominent place among other interests as it continues to plan and direct the future of this important resource.

4. Emphasize the importance of natural areas in the urban setting. Urban governments should always consider the environmental, social, and recreational values of natural areas when developing recreation and land-use plans. An effective “greenways” policy should be incorporated into the long-range planning and long strategies of urban communities.

5. Sustain and build upon the momentum that has been established in recent years in addressing environmental issues. This includes such programs as PRIDE (Personal Responsibility In a Desirable Environment) which mobilizes volunteers to clean illegal dumps, roadsides, and waterways in 38

counties; Bluegrass Pride, which provides environmental resources and information to schools, community groups, local governments, and citizens in Central Kentucky; the Transportation Cabinet's Adopt-A-Highway program; the annual springtime Commonwealth Cleanup Week; and continue to utilize the resources of the Kentucky Pride trust fund to support expanded efforts in cleanup, public involvement, and environmental education.

6. Continue and strengthen efforts to achieve and maintain high water quality standards for streams that can provide recreation opportunities. Take advantage of all opportunities to improve public access to streams for fishing, boating, canoeing, swimming, and other water-related activities.

7. Continue a coordinated effort to protect wetlands. State agencies should provide leadership through regulation, management, and acquisition. State and local governments should consider wetlands as an option for replacing Land and Water Conservation Fund-dedicated land that has been converted to other purposes. Local governments should provide for the protection of wetlands through zoning, subdivision regulation, and the dedication of open space easements.

8. Take advantage of opportunities to direct low- intensity recreation uses to such areas as flood plains, wooded areas, steep slopes, and other local natural features which are not appropriate for other types of use or development.

9. Continue all existing programs for the identification and preservation of areas, structures, and objects, which have significant historical, archaeological, architectural, and cultural value. Emphasize interpretive signs and programs to preserve the meaning as well as the physical existence of these sites.

10. Link historic and recreation values for purposes of project development wherever possible. Promote sensitivity to the historic, archeological, architectural, and cultural values of areas where acquisition or development of recreation facilities is proposed. Utilize historic sites and structures as focal points for recreation where feasible.

11. Develop projects that fully utilize the provisions of the federal Transportation Enhancement Program for funding activities that may include archaeological planning and research, acquisition of scenic or historic sites, historic preservation, scenic or historic highway programs, and rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities.

Strategic Goal 6: Establish and maintain a strong element of public participation in the planning, development, and management of outdoor recreation facilities and programs.

1. Strategic planning, currently popular among federal and state agencies, can be a useful tool for improving the responsiveness of an agency to its constituency. Recreation agencies at all levels should

consider conducting a strategic planning process as funding and/or technical expertise becomes available.

2. Encourage the 15 Area Development Districts to utilize their comprehensive regional planning programs (annually updated CEDS plans) as a mechanism to identify, prioritize, and address recreation issues and objectives of regional significance.
3. Ensure that special populations such as the physically challenged and senior citizens have input into recreation planning processes at all levels of government through awareness, outreach, and targeted publicity.
4. Consider public input in periodic revisions of the state's evaluation and selection process for Land and Water Conservation Fund projects, and ensure that project selection emphasizes community-based demonstration of need and public support within the service area of the project.

Strategic Goal 7: Increase and promote coordination and definition of roles among the various federal, state, regional, local, and private agencies that are responsible for the planning, programming, and implementation of recreation facilities and opportunities.

1. Strengthen recreation planning through better vertical integration of planning processes at all levels of government. Promote the full consideration of recreation issues and values in statewide strategic planning. Emphasize coordination among local governments, Area Development Districts, and state agencies in identifying and meeting recreation needs through the coordinated application of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and other state and federal grant funds. Promote the utilization of the SCORP by all agencies as an informational resource for decision-making.
2. Pursue a coordinated strategy among state agencies responsible for managing and protecting the state's natural resources. Continue a coordinated approach to land acquisition by those agencies receiving designated portions of Heritage Land Conservation Fund monies for acquisition of natural areas.
3. Continue to emphasize coordination of planning and development between and among the Department of Parks, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, and the Kentucky Heritage Council to identify opportunities for addressing multiple agency agendas in the development of state recreation areas, nature preserves, and the preservation of historic sites and structures.
4. Explore the possibility of developing additional state parks, as opportunity offers, on Corps of Engineers-owned reservoirs, that provide feasible sites in attractive settings. Expand upon existing models for developing cooperative projects that incorporate other governmental funding sources and leverage private investment for additional facility development at such sites.

5. Continue and expand efforts to promote better relationships among landowners, sportsmen, and others to maximize the amount of private land and water open to hunting, fishing, and other low-intensity recreation activities.

6. Promote coordination of effort by neighboring or overlapping local jurisdictions in providing services to their common region, thereby minimizing duplication and achieving economies of scale. Local recreation departments and school districts should work together in identifying and scheduling facilities that can be jointly used by the general public and the student population.

7. Improve the coordination of efforts by the Kentucky Recreation and Park Society, state universities, and state agencies to make technical assistance resources available to local governments.

8. Local park and recreation agencies and professionals are encouraged to support the Kentucky Recreation and Park Society in order to speak in a unified voice in support of recreation values and goals.

Strategic Goal 8: Make the most efficient use of existing recreation facilities and resources.

1. Support and strengthen the ability of local park and recreation departments to operate and maintain their existing facilities, emphasizing preventive maintenance, effective oversight, and efficient programming. Continue and strengthen training opportunities and professional certification programs for park and recreation directors and other leisure service professionals. Increase and publicize the availability of technical assistance from state agencies and universities. Promote the development of college student intern programs to provide staffing assistance.

2. Give appropriate consideration, through project development and evaluation processes, to the cost-effective renovation of existing facilities as an alternative to the development of new facilities.

3. Emphasize the criteria of durability and resistance to vandalism in the design and construction of new facilities. Consider the issues of effective monitoring and control of use when selecting sites for new development.

4. Promote joint-use strategies between local recreation departments, school districts, and other public and private entities to obtain maximum utility from available land, facilities, and equipment.

Strategic Goal 9: Fully exploit all existing funding resources for recreation and seek to develop other funding possibilities.

1. Actively publicize all potential funding programs to all eligible entities. Disseminate knowledge about the types of recreation-related projects that are eligible through the Transportation Programs and other programs that address recreation as an ancillary or secondary interest. Promote recreation values in the project selection procedures of such programs.
2. Research, publicize, and promote the use by recreation providers of alternative revenue sources for both capital expenditures and operations, such as ad valorem taxes, revenue bonds, the hotel/motel tax, user charges, donations, and private foundations.
3. Integrate the private sector into the provision of recreation opportunities. Solicit and encourage private investment in public recreation, and explore all opportunities for joint public-private facility development. Seek to increase the availability of private lands for such natural resource-based activities as hunting, fishing, and non-consumptive nature appreciation.
4. Encourage networking by local park and recreation officials to share information, organize support, and promote legislation. An example is the funding for the local government parks and recreational facilities fund, which was authorized by KRS 147A.028 to assist local park and recreation departments but remains unfunded.
5. Continue to utilize the priority rating system for Land and Water Conservation Fund grant project selection emphasizing the effective administration of previous Land and Water Conservation Fund grants by project applicants.

Strategic Goal 10: Promote the use of SCORP as a planning tool and the progressive implementation of its identified objectives.

1. Make the complete Assessment and Policy Plan available in electronic and print versions, and publicize its availability.
2. Disseminate the SCORP's Strategic Goals and Actions to the state's legislators, selected state agencies, area development districts, county judge executives, mayors, and local park and recreation directors.

3. Disseminate the SCORP's Strategic Goals and Actions to selected non-governmental organizations that have a present or potential role in outdoor recreation in Kentucky.

4. Through the LWCF project selection process and other means, encourage wide adoption of SCORP Strategic Goals and Actions by recreation providers throughout the State.

KENTUCKY OPEN PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

The Kentucky Department for Local Government (DLG) takes several steps to notify the public of LWCF opportunities including:

- Issuing a press release notifying the public of the opening of the application process
- Posting the opening of the application process on the Department for Local Government website
- Sending information to the fifteen Area Development Districts (ADDs) who then notify the local governments in their area
- Sending out email blasts to all the elected officials
- Announcing the opportunities at the conferences Department staff attends in order to promote the programs administered by DLG

Applications are available December 1st with a May or June deadline to submit the application. The application contains the scoring criteria enabling potential applicants to gauge how well their project would score and allows them to tailor their projects to meet scoring goals.

The Advisory Board meets each year between July and September to make funding recommendations. The Board is comprised of people from across the state, reflecting the interests and needs of the various regions and communities in the commonwealth. The Board recommends funding one or two projects in each Area Development District to ensure that projects are recommended statewide.

After the Advisory Board makes its recommendations, the Commissioner of the Department for Local Government and the Governor make funding selections from each ADD to make sure that no one area receives preferential treatment.

PRIORITY RATING SYSTEM

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicant must provide assurance of the availability of the required 50 percent of match. If force account or donations are to be all or part of the match, a detailed listing of these elements must be provided.
2. Applicant must hold a public meeting within its jurisdiction concerning the project proposal. Public meeting guidelines have been prepared which can be used to meet this requirement. Other public forums may be acceptable for meeting this requirement if adequate public notice about the proposal is given in advance of the meeting.
3. Applicant must provide assurance of compliance with all applicable federal and state laws, rules and regulations, especially Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990.
4. Applicant must provide assurance to operate and maintain proposed facility if a designated first party fails to do so. An example of this situation would be if a civic organization is given operation and maintenance responsibilities by the applicant
5. Applicant must provide brief narrative of how the project will be made accessible to the handicapped.
6. Any LWCF Grant request seeking funds for facilities rehabilitation must include a short explanation of the nature of the rehabilitation effort. This explanation should include an estimate as to the current age of the facility and what preventative maintenance procedures, if any, have been utilized in the past.
7. Applicant may submit a copy of a Master Plan or Recreation Assessment, if one has been done on the local level. If included in a regional plan by the Area Development District, please submit a copy.
8. The enclosed scoring criteria will be used to evaluate and score the projects. In #4, donations can account for all of the local match or partial match. No points will be awarded for an overmatch of local funds.

**LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND
SCORING CRITERIA**

1. Applicant’s administration of previous LWCF Grants. Considerations include effective coordination; sound development in accord with cost and time estimates; timely submittal of billing and closeout documentation; conformance with LWCF Manual Section 6 (f) provisions; and operation and maintenance of completed projects.

_____ (25 pts) Excellent - No problems requiring state-level administrative attention; or no previous grant.

_____ (20 pts) Good - Problems minimal, quickly corrected, or beyond the control of the applicant.

_____ (10 pts) Fair - Performance adequate, but marked by significant or persistent problems.

_____ (0 pts) Poor - Applicant has experienced serious difficulty in project administration or the operation and maintenance of completed facilities.

2. Project facility is located at a site which can be effectively used by user population.

_____ (15 pts) Project site is centrally located or within reasonable driving distance of user population.

_____ (10 pts) Project site is not located close to user population by virtue of facility type e.g., nature preserve or boat ramp, and must be accessed by car.

_____ (0 pts) Project site is in a remote location and is not easily accessible by car.

3. At least fifty (50%) percent of the grant request is directly attributable to the primary recreation facility being developed or renovated. A primary facility is defined as the single activity component which provides for the outdoor recreational needs of the planned user population i.e., tennis courts, softball field, skate park, swimming pool, etc. A support facility is an element i.e., restrooms, utilities, concession stands, lights, etc.

_____ (10 pts) 50% or greater

_____ (0 pts) Less than 50%

4. The applicant has the capability to operate and maintain the project once completed.

_____ (25 pts) The sponsor has a full-time park or recreation department capable of providing necessary facility maintenance and upkeep.

_____ (15 pts) The sponsor has demonstrated the ability to provide necessary facility maintenance and upkeep using other full-time personnel.

_____ (10pts) The sponsor has the ability to provide necessary facility maintenance and upkeep using part-time personnel.

_____ (5 pts) The sponsor has a designated group or organization that has the ability of providing necessary facility maintenance and upkeep.

5. The applicant currently has an open LWCF Project.

_____ (10 pts) No

_____ (0 pts) Yes

6. Special Populations – This project provides and/or improves outdoor recreation by persons with disabilities, older citizens, economically disadvantaged and other special populations or groups.

_____ (10 pts) This project provides and/or improves outdoor recreation for two or more special populations

_____ (5 pts) This project provides and/or improves outdoor recreation for one special population group.

_____ (0 pts) This project does not provide and/or improve outdoor recreation for special populations.

7. Alignment with SCORP goals- The project helps meet the goals contained in the Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan.

_____ This project meets 8-10 SCORP goals
(30 pts)

_____ This project meets 5-7 SCORP goals
(20 pts)

_____ This project meets 2-4 SCORP goals
(15 pts)

_____ This project meets 1 SCORP goal
(5 pts)

_____ Project does not meet SCORP goals and is ineligible for LWCF consideration
(0 pts)

Appendix A

Survey

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commonwealth of Kentucky, through an existing master agreement with the Kentucky Tourism Development Incentive Program, engaged Hunden Strategic Partners (HSP) to conduct a public input survey to evaluate the demand for, participation in, and perceptions of outdoor recreation in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. HSP carried out the survey on the behalf of the Department of Local Government (DLG) located in Frankfort, Kentucky.

The key elements examined in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) survey were aligned with the components necessary to properly assess the attitudes and opinions of outdoor activities in the Commonwealth. These items include barriers to participation, satisfaction with outdoor recreational opportunities, levels of recreation participation, motivation for participation, and attitudes about the recreation providers and their assessment of priorities.

Overall, HSP found that residents in the Commonwealth of Kentucky are generally pleased, engaged and active in a variety of outdoor activities.

The survey methodology and detailed results follow below.

Project Profile

As a condition of the Commonwealth's Land and Water Conservation Fund State Assistance Program grant through the National Park Service, the Commonwealth is required to create the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) once every five years. As a requirement for the SCORP, the Commonwealth must solicit community feedback regarding the outdoor recreation assets under its purview (parks, trails, etc.). The SCORP must address areas such as outdoor recreation participation, barriers on participation and attitudes about the recreation provider's priorities. Historically, this survey has been administered through a combination of online and physically mailed surveys to Commonwealth residents.

As indicated above, HSP was hired to create, administer and analyze the 2019 SCORP survey. As in past years, HSP utilized a combination of online and physically mailed surveys. The methodology of the survey process is detailed below.

The following sections examine the responses and findings of the 2019 SCORP survey for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

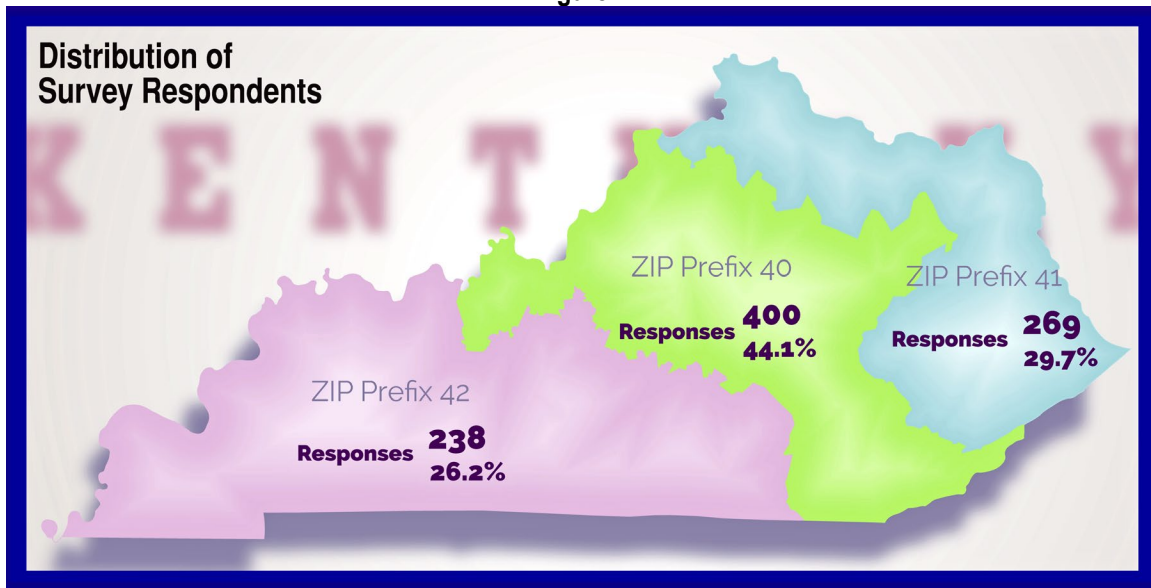
Demographic Insights

This section provides demographic insights provided to HSP through completed responses to 2019 SCORP survey.

Geographic Breakdown

The map below shows the distribution of responses across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. There are three regions illustrated in the map which correspond to the first two-digits of the respondent's ZIP code.

Figure 1



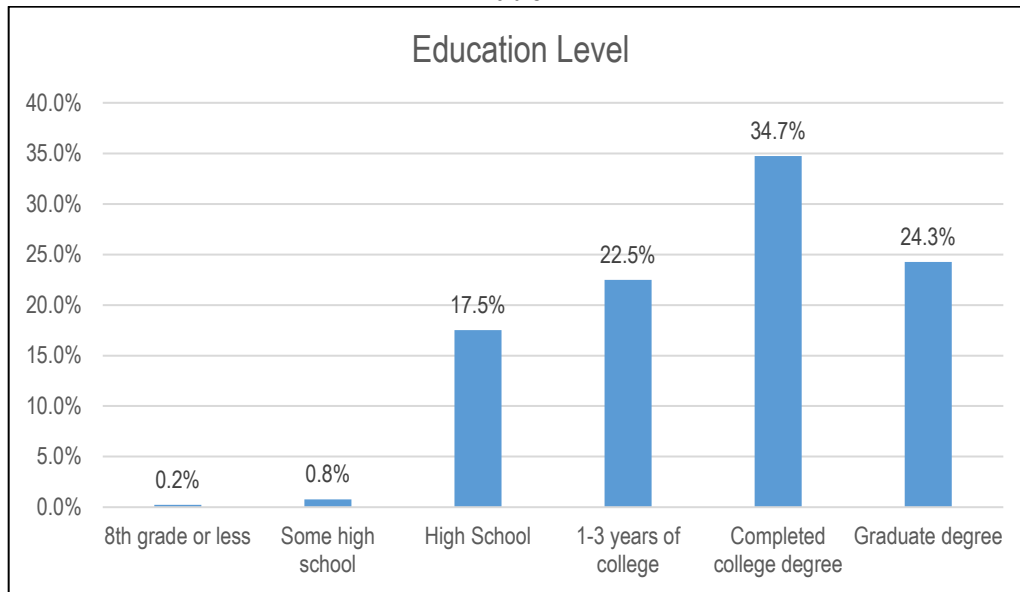
As the map above demonstrates, survey responses were compiled into three (3) areas of the Commonwealth. These areas were broken out by ZIP code prefix. The greatest number of completed responses (44.1 percent) were from the central region. This is likely due to the fact that this area is home to several of the Commonwealth's most populous counties including Jefferson County and Fayette County. The eastern area had the second greatest number of completed responses (29.7 percent), followed closely by the western area (26.2 percent).

Education

Survey respondents were asked to identify the highest level of education completed. The choices ranged from 8th grade or less, some high school, high school, one to three years of college, completed college degree and post-graduate degree.

The table below demonstrates the education breakdown provided by respondents.

Table 1



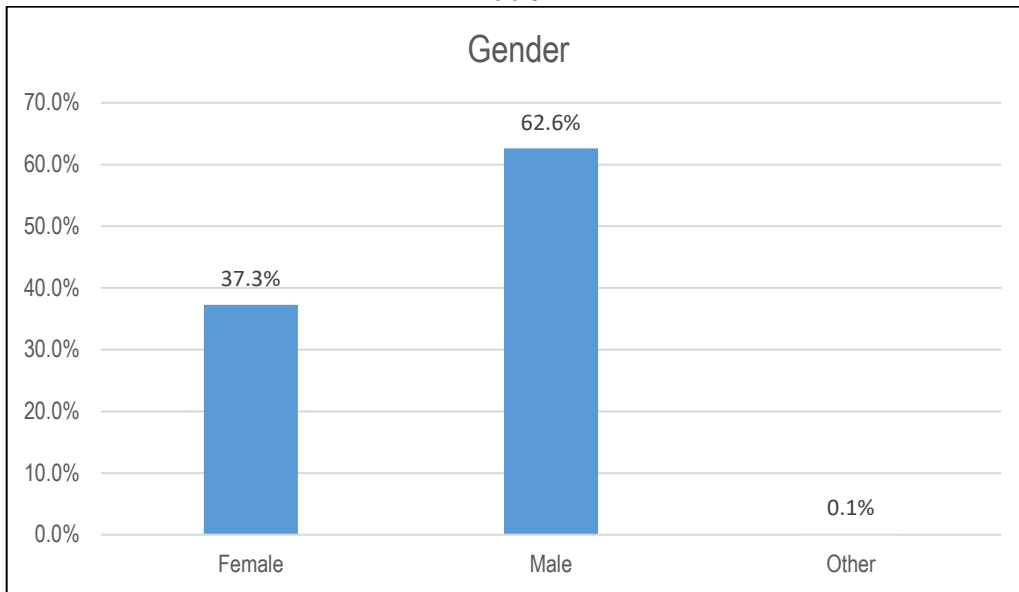
As demonstrated in the figure above, most at least completed college and about one in four went on to complete graduate work. Approximately 22.5 percent of respondents indicated that they had completed some college coursework. Approximately 34.7 percent indicated that they had completed college and 24.3 percent indicated that they had graduate degrees. These findings indicate that respondents generally had an education level of higher than high school and almost one quarter of respondents had advanced degrees representing an educated audience.

Gender

Of those who responded to the survey, 62.6 percent (568 respondents) were male, and 37.3 percent (338 respondents) were female. One respondent selected “Other” as gender.

The table below illustrates these results.

Table 2

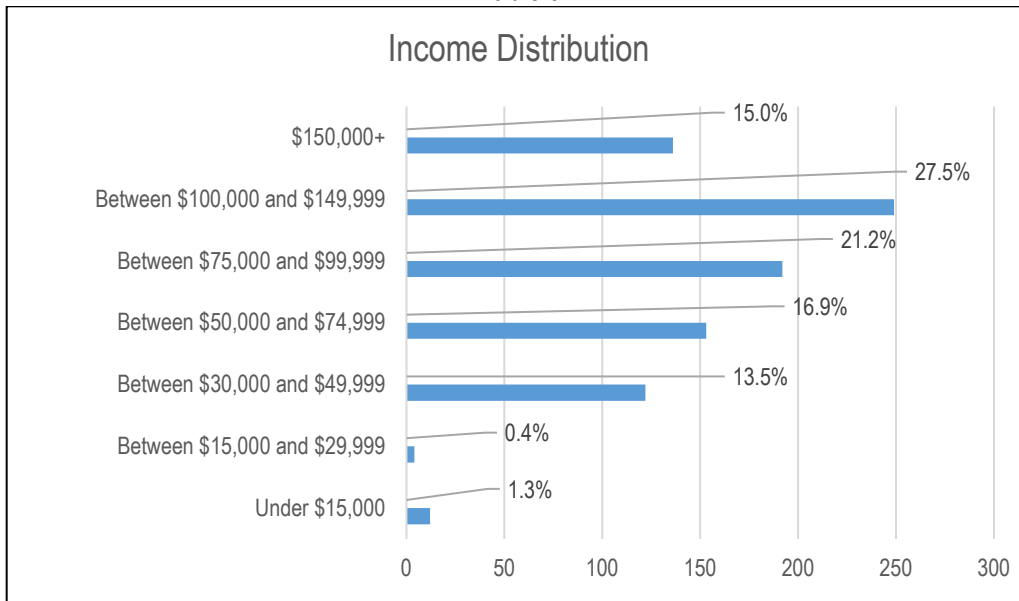


Income is also an important criterion to evaluate. The following section outlines the distribution of respondents' annual earnings.

Income

The table below illustrates the income distribution of respondents.

Table 3



As demonstrated above, about one percent of respondents earned less than \$15,000 annually. Roughly four and half percent earned between \$15,000 and \$29,999 annually. Approximately 13.5 percent of respondents said they earn between \$30,000 and \$49,999 and roughly 17 percent take home between \$50,000 and \$74,999 a year. Approximately 21.2 percent earn between \$75,000 and \$99,999 a year and

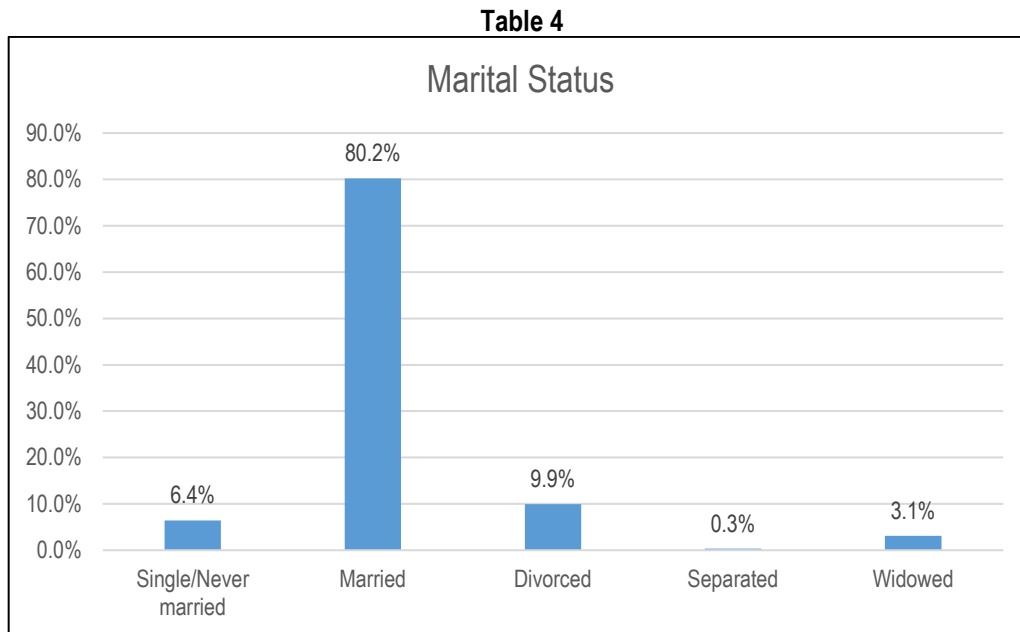
27.5 percent earn between \$100,000 and \$149,999 a year. Roughly 15 percent earn above \$150,000 a year.

This sample of respondents made more than the median household income in Kentucky which is reported as \$46,535 based on U.S. Census data from 2013 to 2017.

Marital Status

The majority of respondents (80.2 percent), indicated that they were married.

The table below reflects these findings.



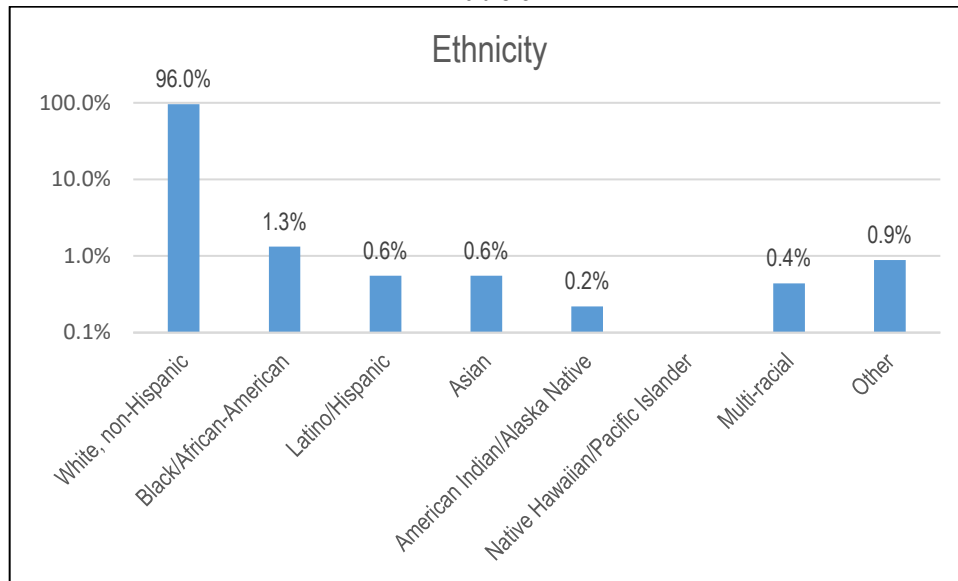
Approximately one out of every ten respondents indicated that they are divorced (9.9 percent). Approximately, 6.5 percent of the respondents indicated that they are single and the remaining respondents indicated that they are either widowed (3 percent) or currently separated (less than one percent). Since most of the respondents answered that they are married, it is not surprising that respondents heavily valued couples activities as seen later in the survey. Some of these activities include to spend time with friends and family and for exercise.

Race

The majority of survey respondents selected White, non-Hispanic as their race (96.0 percent).

The table below shows the breakdown of respondents by race.

Table 5



The remaining respondents indicated that they were either Black/African-American, Asian, Latino/Hispanic, American-Indian/Native Alaskan, Multi-cultural Background, or Other. These remaining respondent categories totaled the remaining four percent remaining with Black/African-Americans receiving a little more than one percent of the respondent pool.

Overall Findings Pertaining to Demographics

The majority of respondents were male, married and achieved a college education. Annual earnings were greater than the median income of residents in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, as well. More than 80 percent made more than \$50,000 a year. Most of the respondents came from the population centers across the Commonwealth as well, mostly from the two-digit ZIP code prefix of 40.

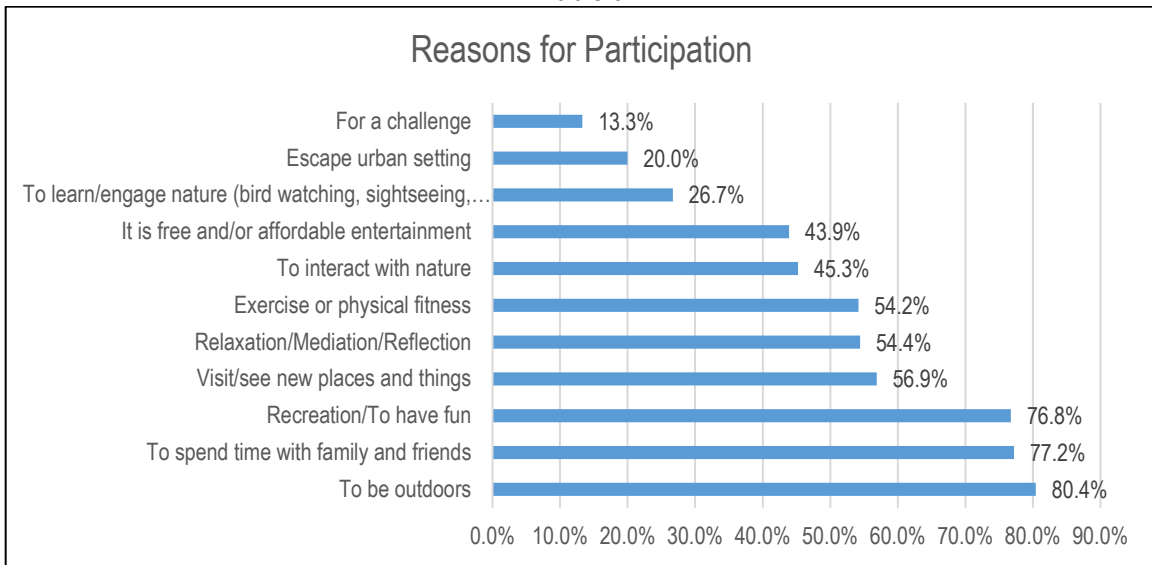
Survey Responses – 2019 SCORP Survey

Reasons for Participation

One of the key drivers of the study is the determination of why people use outdoor facilities and parks in the Commonwealth. As such, the survey included several questions that focused on determining the reason that Commonwealth residents participated in outdoor activities.

The table below illustrates the key reasons identified for participation by survey respondents.

Table 6



As detailed above, respondents indicated that they choose to participate in outdoor activities as an alternative to being inside (80.4 percent), to spend time with family or friends (77.2 percent), for recreation or to have fun (76.8 percent). The next cluster of popular choices involved visiting or seeing new places and things (56.9 percent), for relaxation or mediation (54.4 percent) or exercise or physical fitness (54.2 percent).

Based on these findings, Kentuckians look to outdoor activities as a way to find relaxation, to connect with friends and family and participate in recreational activities. For public entities and organizations looking to improve masterplans for parks, Kentuckians would benefit from improved or more options for outdoor activities aligned with these types of reasons for participation. Low cost opportunities might include dedicated yoga areas, or additional picnic tables and shelters to encourage group gatherings at a park.

In addition to understanding why individuals choose to participate in outdoor activities, it is important to understand which activities individuals choose for their participation. Respondents identified a wide range of outdoor activities that they or members of their households had participated in over the last five years.

Below is the complete list of activities respondents provided as activities that they or members in their household participated in over the last five years.

Table 7

Participation by Activity - 2019 Kentucky SCORP Survey		Participation by Activity - 2019 Kentucky SCORP Survey	
Answers	Percentage of Responses	Answers	Percentage of Responses
Visiting a beach or a lake or river	89.3%	Utility Terrain Vehicle, Modified golf cart	13.0%
Walking for pleasure or exercise or leisure	84.3%	Soccer	13.0%
Visiting parks or historical sites as an individual or as a group	80.1%	Waterskiing, Jet skiing	12.5%
Viewing scenery	67.5%	Collecting (flowers, insects, rocks)	12.5%
Outdoor fairs or festivals	62.7%	Shooting, Skeet	12.1%
Swimming	58.5%	Boating – Power, Saltwater	10.9%
Hiking, Trails	56.0%	Volleyball, Badminton	10.8%
Driving for pleasure	49.5%	Backpacking	10.5%
Fishing – Freshwater, bank or pier	47.8%	Fishing – Saltwater, on-shore or pier	10.5%
Gardening	46.4%	Horseback riding, Trails	10.4%
Nature observation	44.5%	Football (playing touch or tackle or flag, etc.)	9.7%
Picnicking	43.5%	Fishing – Saltwater, boat	9.3%
Visiting Zoos	41.2%	Frisbee, Disc golf, Kite Flying	9.1%
Boating – Power, Freshwater	35.9%	Bicycling, BMX or Off-Road	9.0%
Fishing – Freshwater, boat	34.4%	SCUBA/Snorkeling	8.1%
Camping, Developed site	32.8%	Tennis	7.9%
Water Parks	31.6%	Horseback riding, General	7.2%
Canoeing, Kayaking	31.6%	Geocaching	6.0%
Playground activities	30.7%	Spelunking (Caves)	5.8%
Open Space Park, Relaxing	30.0%	CrossFit Training	5.6%
Hunting, Gun	29.7%	Skiing, Down hill	5.5%
Golf, 18-hole, 9-hole, driving range	29.5%	Rappelling or Rock climbing	5.2%
Bicycling	29.2%	Radio, Remote Control Models	4.1%
Shooting, Target Firing Range	28.8%	Swimming (Competitive)	3.9%
Golf, miniature	28.1%	Motorized Trail Biking, Dirt Biking	3.6%
Spectator activities	26.9%	Ice Skating, outside	3.4%
Jogging, Running for exercise (on and off-road)	24.7%	Skiing, Cross Country, Snow Shoeing	2.8%
Baseball, Softball	24.0%	Orienteering	2.2%
Splash Pool or Wave Pool	23.3%	Sailing, Freshwater	2.2%
Nature Photography	20.8%	Skateboarding	2.1%
Basketball, Outdoor	19.5%	Sailing, Saltwater	2.1%
Dog park	17.1%	Shuffleboard	2.0%
Camping, Primitive	17.0%	Rollerblading, Inline skating	1.7%
Bird watching	16.5%	Surfing	1.0%
Quad or All Terrain Vehicle Driving	16.3%	Triathlon	1.0%
Tubing	15.3%	Lacrosse	1.0%
4WD, Other high-clearance vehicles	14.4%	Windsurfing, Kitesurfing	1.0%
Hunting, Bow	13.9%	Rugby	0.6%
Archery	13.2%	Cricket	0.6%

As detailed above, the majority of respondents indicated that they had visited a beach or lake or river (89.3 percent), walked for pleasure or exercised or leisurely enjoyed the outdoors (84.2 percent), visited parks or historical sites (80.1 percent). Roughly two out of every three respondents indicated that they viewed scenery (67.5 percent), attended an outdoor fair or festival (62.7 percent), went swimming, or

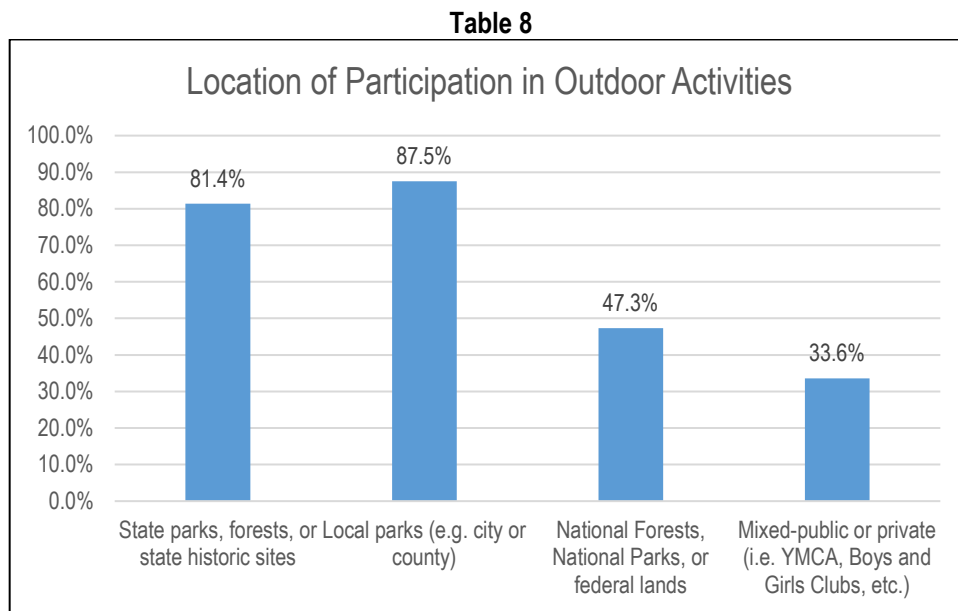
hiked on trails (56.0 percent). Other notable activities respondents listed included driving for pleasure (49.5 percent) and fishing in freshwater from the bank or off of the pier (47.8 percent).

Based on these results, respondents prefer outdoor activities for more leisurely activities to less competitive or intense types of sports or activities. Park systems can use this information when planning budget recommendations to aim funds to improve, revitalize or develop areas that speak to these activities first, as most respondents prefer these activities and thus will encourage continued visits at the parks.

Respondents Preference to Classification of Park

There are several different types of parks and park systems. In this survey, HSP asked respondents to identify the types of facilities that they had visited over the previous twelve months.

The table below reflects their responses.



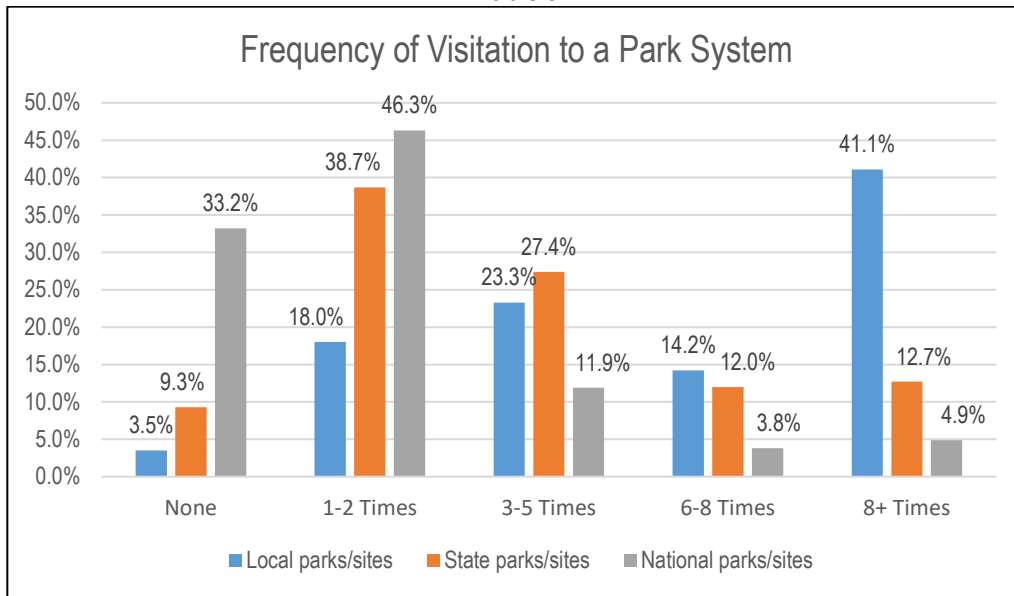
Kentuckians participated in outdoor activities in the last twelve months at a mix of local, state, national and mixed-public or private parks. The majority of respondents stated that local (87.5 percent) and state parks (81.4 percent) were their preference. Approximately 47 percent stated that they attended a national park or national forest and about one in three said they participated in an outdoor activity at a mixed-public or private club like a YMCA or Boys and Girls Club.

Frequency of Outdoor Activity

The survey included a number of questions geared toward determining the frequency of outdoor activity amongst Commonwealth residents.

The table below shows respondents' preference of park system based on frequency of visits over the last twelve months.

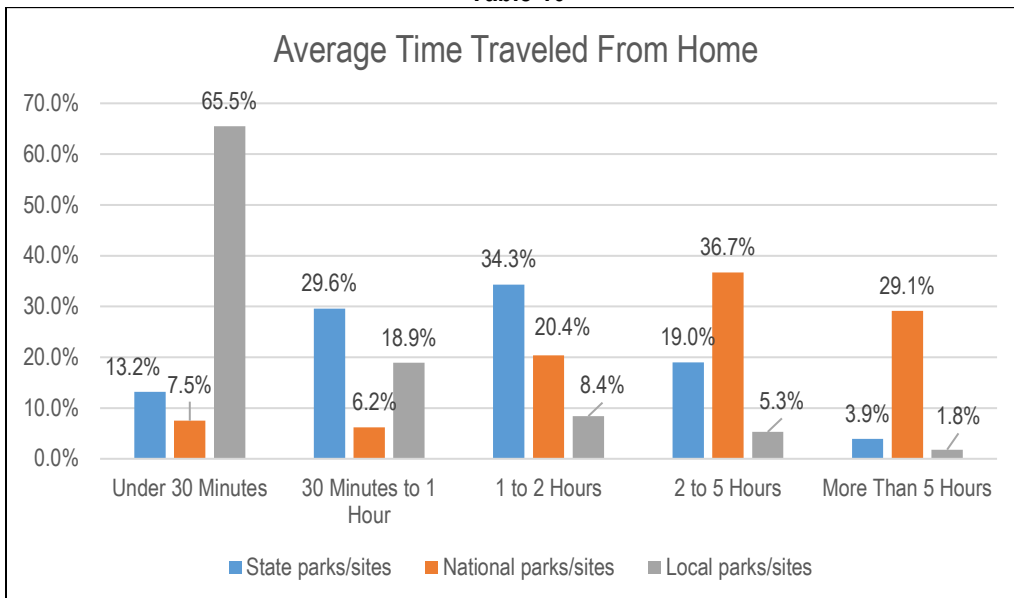
Table 9



Over the past five years, respondents indicated that they frequent local and state parks more often than national parks or national forests. Frequent users of the parks (eight times or more) tended to visit local parks than the state or national park systems. This pattern is most likely a function of proximity from their house, as most respondents stated that their average travel time to their preferred park is no more than an hour away (84.4 percent).

The table below reflects average time from the respondents' household.

Table 10

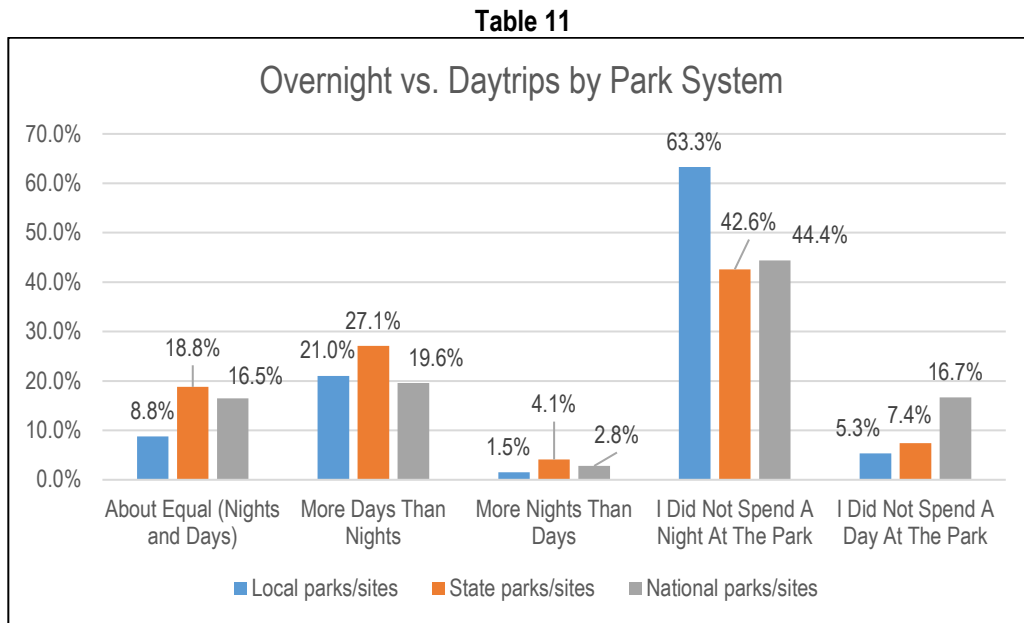


Continuing the examination on the frequency of visitation, approximately 41 percent of respondents indicated that they have visited a local park more than eight times in the past twelve months. Less than five percent of respondents indicated they had visited a national forest or national park more than eight

times in the past twelve months. Interestingly, the survey participants who reported having visited a park system once or twice in the past twelve months tended to stick with larger scale park systems like state or national parks.

In addition, results from the survey indicate that most respondents spent fewer nights at a local park (63.3 percent) than at a state park (42.6 percent) or a national park (44.4 percent). This is most likely due to fewer amenities at local parks to support overnight stays and local ordinances restricting overnight stays. Those who frequently spent more days than nights at the various parks chose to stay at state parks the most (27.1 percent) and then preferred local parks (21.0 percent) over national parks (19.6 percent).

The graph table below these results.

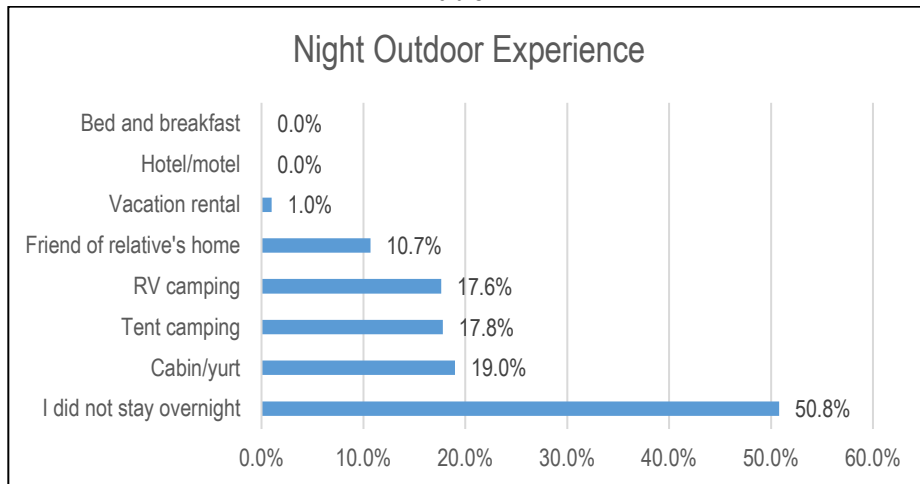


There are more state parks than national parks in the Commonwealth and those looking for overnight stays appear to prefer proximity to their home. The 2019 SCORP study found that lack of time is cited as the top reason why users do not participate in more outdoor activities. Approximately, 78.1 percent of respondents indicated that a lack of time was the greatest obstacle to participate more frequently in outdoor activities.

Those who chose to stay overnight were split between staying in a cabin or yurt (19.0 percent), tent camping (17.8 percent), RV camping (17.6 percent) or at friend’s or relative’s home (10.7 percent). Kentuckians choose a variety of opportunities when spending the night outdoors.

The table below illustrates these findings.

Table 12

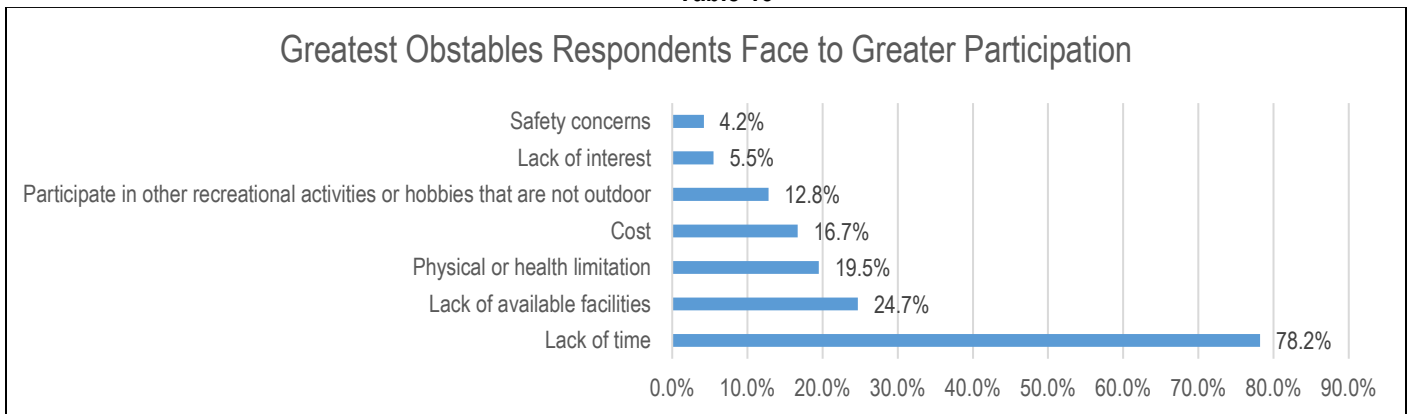


Often, individuals want to participate outdoors but there are personal circumstance which prohibit their activity. The following section examines these obstacles.

Obstacles to Outdoor Participation

The chart below shows the greatest obstacles that respondents or their families face when trying to participate in outdoor activities.

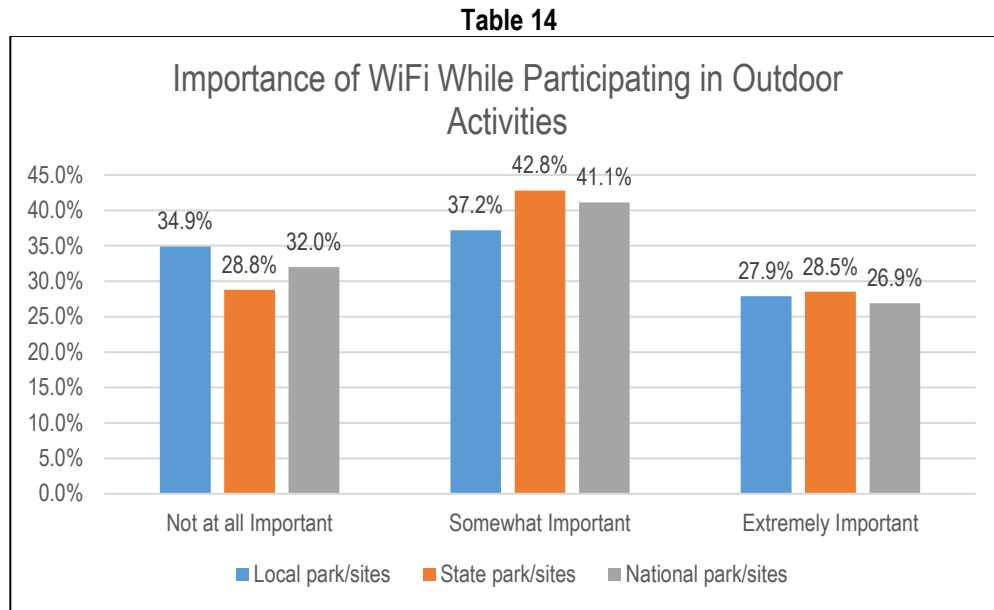
Table 13



While lack of time was the most cited obstacle, lack of available facilities (24.7 percent) and physical or health limitations rounded out the next two most popular choices. Park services, if interested in reducing these concerns, could incorporate for ADA accessible ramps, pathways or other accommodations to the residents troubled by a physical impairment. Lack of available facilities could range from an underserved amount of park staff to properly maintain the park or residents living too far away from an available park and would indicate an opportunity for the Commonwealth to acquire land for park development to cater to this desire.

Sometimes, connectivity is sighted as a concern for some participating in outdoor activities. While public WiFi options may be costly, sometimes, for those hiking in secluded areas offering WiFi could mean the difference between life and death as some guests in national parks have had encounters with wildlife or become suddenly stranded by rising waters or flash floods.

The table below reflects respondents' attitudes about the importance of WiFi while participating in outdoor activities.



The through line across all park systems is that respondents general see WiFi as important to their outdoor activities. Whether the use of WiFi is for pictures to upload directly to their preferred social network platform or to catch up on emails if participants are out camping in remote areas, WiFi is something park professionals might consider providing if costs are not prohibitive.

The next section will address attitudes of respondents about the various park systems.

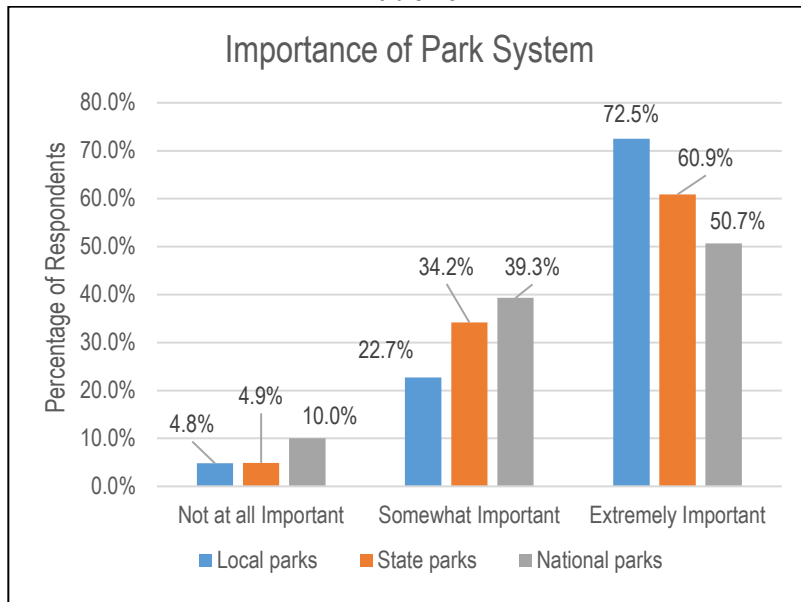
Attitudes of Park Systems

Local, state and national parks all serve the public in different ways. Some local parks are developed for group gatherings like BBQs, picnics or low scale outdoor activities. State and national parks offer developed trails, overnight camping accommodations and opportunities to for a full daytrip.

From the findings below, Kentuckians make it clear they value each type of park and overall, the residents of the Commonwealth view parks as extremely important.

The table below reflects basic attitudes about the various park systems in Kentucky.

Table 15



The results of the survey indicate that respondents place a premium on local parks over state and national parks in that order. Approximately, 72.5 percent indicated that local parks are extremely important and 60.9 percent indicated that state parks are extremely important. About one in every two respondents said national parks and national forests are extremely important.

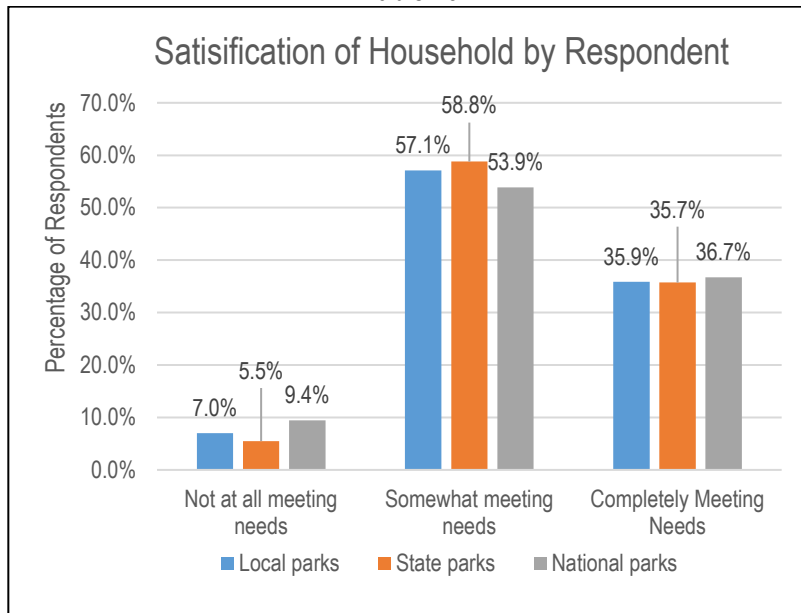
Overall, results from the survey suggest Kentuckians prefer to participate in outdoors activities at local parks, most likely due to the various amenities offered for outdoor pleasure, and the ability to participate in exercise and/or leisure activities without having to travel for a long period of time.

Satisfaction with Outdoor Opportunities

The survey included a series of questions regarding user satisfaction with outdoor opportunities available at the various park systems. Respondents were asked how well park services were meeting their needs, land use and preservation perceptions and how well managed the parks are maintained.

The table below shows respondents feelings based on each type of park.

Table 16



Respondents indicated that local parks (57.1 percent), state parks (58.8 percent) and national parks (53.9 percent) somewhat meet their household needs. Roughly one in three respondents indicated that all three categories completely meet their needs.

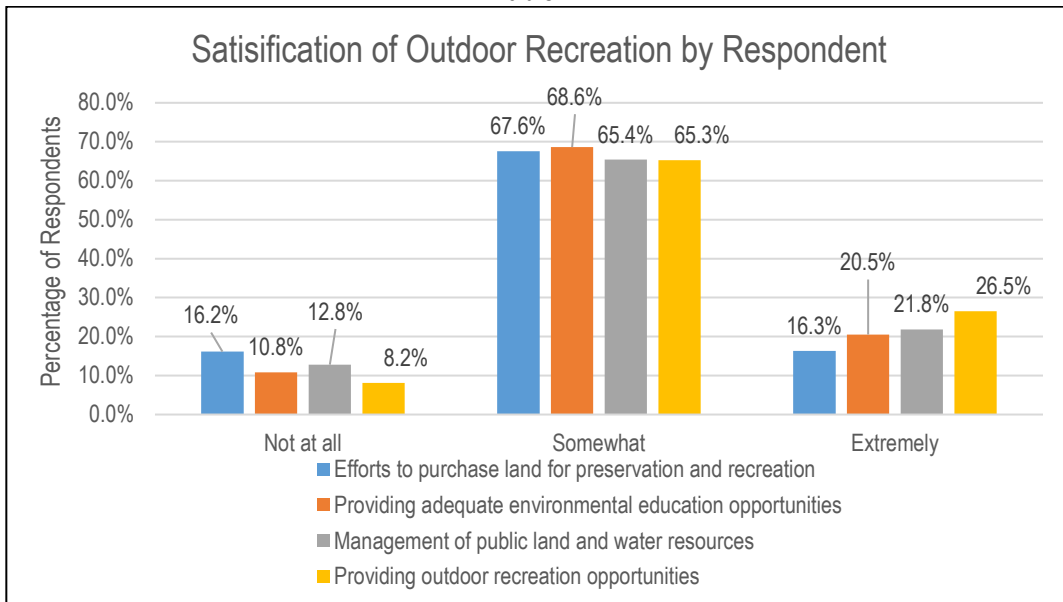
Overall, it appears Kentuckians are satisfied with their parks and their needs are sufficiently being met.

Land Use and Preservation Perceptions by Respondents

Land use and preservation perceptions by the public impact budget priorities and political projects when assessing the needs of local, state and national parks. The 2019 Kentucky SCORP survey asked respondents to rate their satisfaction with outdoor recreation in Kentucky across a few critical areas.

The table below reflects respondents' satisfaction of outdoor recreational priorities often discussed by governing bodies.

Table 17

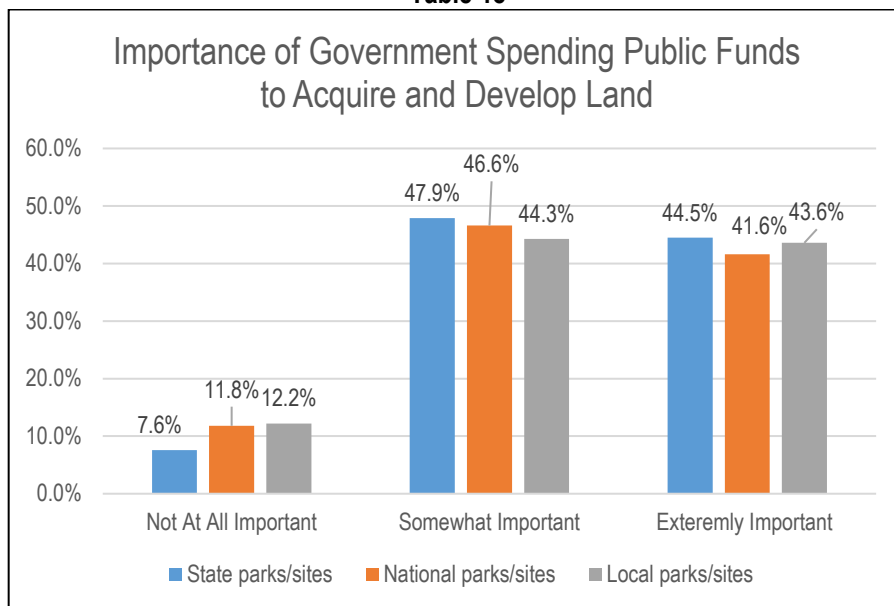


Roughly two out of every three respondents are at least somewhat satisfied with efforts to purchase land for preservation and recreation; provide adequate environmental education opportunities; the management of public land and water resources; and provision of outdoor recreation opportunities.

Respondents also believe that it is at least somewhat important that local (44.3 percent), state (47.9 percent) and federal government (46.6 percent) spend funds to acquire land to develop outdoor recreational areas in Kentucky.

The table below shows the responses by category.

Table 18



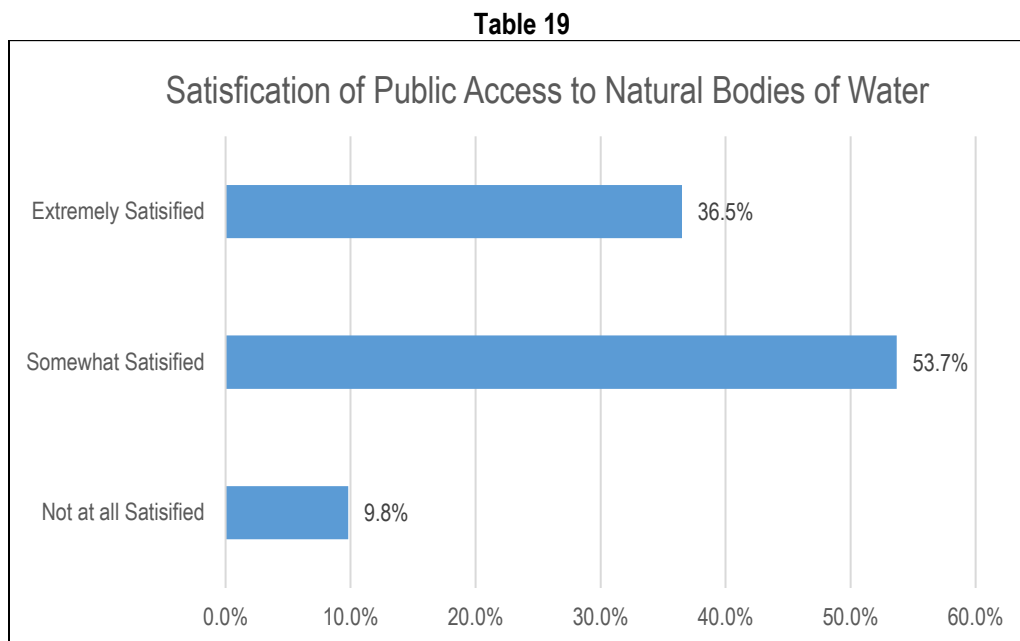
Further, four of every ten respondents said it is extremely important to spend funds to develop outdoor recreational areas in these park systems. These findings show that Kentuckians place a high value on the diversity of park systems and hold development and their existence in high and favorable regard.

The next section examines attitudes related to public access to natural bodies of water.

Attitudes about Public Access to Natural Bodies of Water

At least 53.7 percent are somewhat satisfied with the amount of public access to natural bodies of water near their home. HSP concludes that current efforts and funding priorities can be kept at the current levels addressing these types of concerns across the Commonwealth.

The table below shows responses by category.



Some areas in the Commonwealth, on a case by case basis might consider increasing some action around these criteria and concurrently communicating these improvements to the public to ensure proper awareness is raised to move the satisfaction level from somewhat satisfied to extremely satisfied.

Attitudes and Opinions of Outdoor Recreation Providers

The survey offered a number of questions regarding user attitude and opinions of the general public and professional recreation providers. Often times, recreation providers need to prioritize their efforts when improving opportunities for the public. In this survey, HSP asked respondents to rank six options by placing the most importance to least importance on the six options for improvements.

The graph below illustrates respondent rankings for each of the six options. One (1) reflects the highest or most important priority and six (6) is used to weigh the least important priority.

Table 20

Priority of Importance for New Improvements by Respondents						
Type of Priority	1	2	3	4	5	6
Acquisition of new parks and open space	15.9%	12.0%	13.4%	15.5%	14.8%	28.6%
Development of new facilities at existing recreation sites	18.4%	26.1%	20.1%	13.0%	13.9%	7.8%
Operation and maintenance of existing infrastructure and facilities	43.3%	22.1%	17.2%	9.0%	5.3%	3.0%
Transforming existing facilities to serve new purposes	8.2%	18.6%	21.1%	26.8%	14.0%	11.3%
Providing local, regional, and statewide trails	8.5%	13.0%	13.7%	18.9%	29.3%	16.6%
Providing educational programs and visitor services	5.9%	8.5%	13.8%	17.0%	22.5%	32.3%

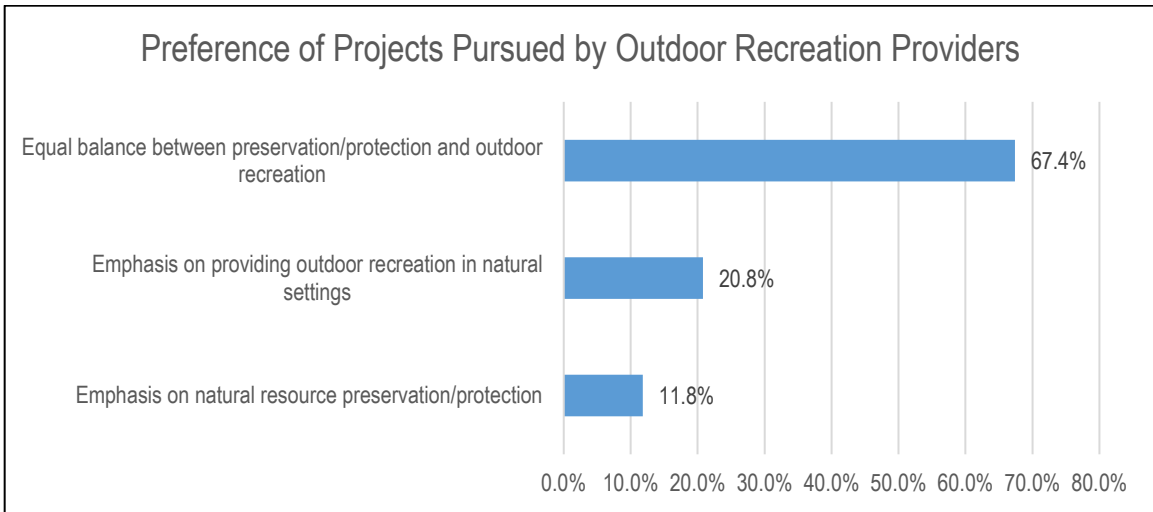
Source: 2019 KY SCORP Survey

Respondents believe (43.3 percent) that improving the operations and maintenance of existing infrastructure and facilities is the most important priority that should be addressed. Respondents said that providing educational programs and visitor services were the least important (32.3 percent). These findings indicate that recreational providers ought to consider prioritizing budgetary needs towards operation and maintenance of existing infrastructure and facilities as respondents stated that the development of new facilities is less important, thus reflecting less of a need for increased spending in the development of new facilities.

When asked about how much emphasis outdoor recreation providers in Kentucky should place on activities pursuant to existing development needs versus preservation needs, the majority of respondents indicated that they would like to see an equal balance between preservation and protection and providing outdoor recreational opportunities (67.4 percent).

The table below illustrates these findings.

Table 21



Providing services for preservation and protection requires funding that at times, grants and appropriations can not cover alone. The next section examines alternative sources for funding and attitudes around each type of funding mechanism.

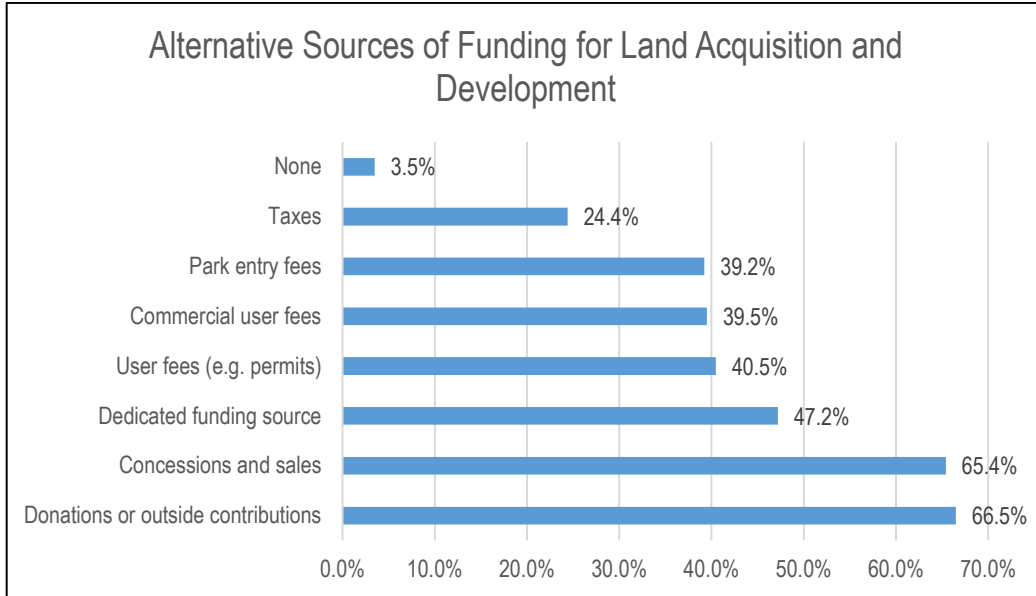
Alternative Sources of Funding for Land Acquisition or Development Needs

Funding is often cited as a hurdle that public entities face when addressing needs for development. This survey included several questions regarding funding priorities. Donations or outside contributions and

concessions and sales were the top two most-cited responses as preferred revenue streams. Respondents indicated that taxes were the least supported option.

The table below shows respondents’ priorities and preferred sources for alternative revenue streams.

Table 22

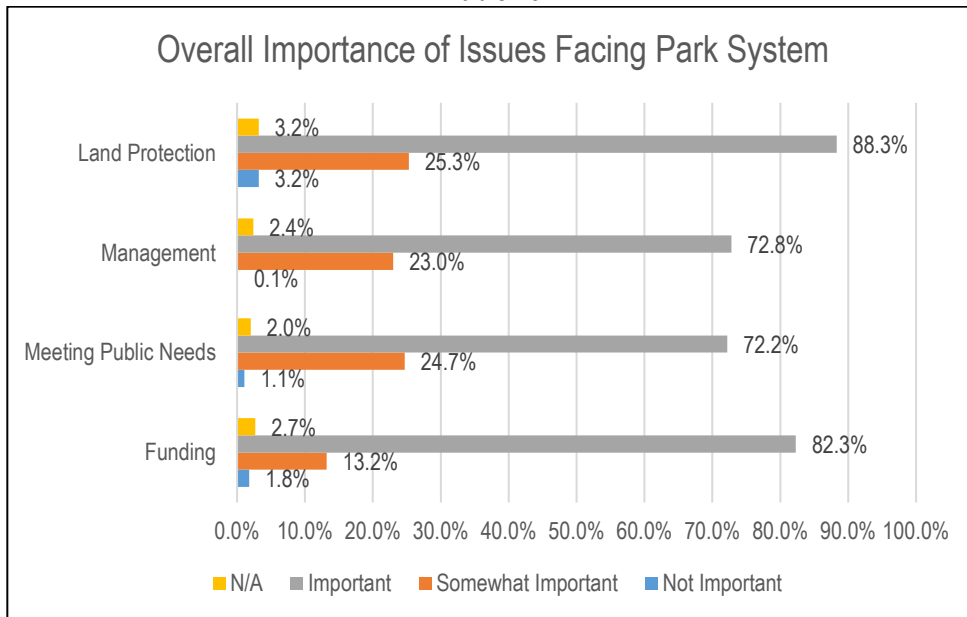


Additional investigation on attitudes about the most important issues facing parks was asked as well. Respondents said that while land protection (88.3 percent) and funding (82.32 percent) are the most important issues facing the park or park system, meeting public needs (72.23 percent), management (72.79 percent) received almost equally as much weight.

These answers reflect respondents’ values to ensure there is proper funding mechanisms in place to maintain, support and develop the quality of properly functioning public parks.

The following table illustrates attitudes on the importance of issues facing park systems.

Table 23



These answers reflect a clear understanding of respondents’ values to maintain the current parks, land and funding streams. It is fair to interpret these results as an indication of the high regard residents hold their parks as they feel all of these issues are important and critical to their success.

The next section examines barriers to participation in outdoor activities at various park systems.

Barriers to Participation

Respondents were asked to indicate their perception of barriers to participation. Perceptions were broken into three different categories: not a barrier, minor barrier, or major barrier.

The following chart organizes the survey responses.

Table 24

Barriers to Participation - 2019 Kentucky SCORP Survey				
Barriers	Not a Barrier	Minor Barrier	Major Barrier	N/A
Lack of time	7.2%	39.0%	50.8%	3.1%
Poor maintenance	19.7%	44.4%	31.9%	4.1%
Lack of knowledge of available facilities	12.5%	53.9%	29.8%	3.8%
Not interested	23.2%	41.9%	25.6%	9.4%
Poor health	18.7%	50.3%	25.4%	5.6%
Alcohol and drug use in parks	33.4%	37.4%	24.2%	5.1%
Lack of access to facilities	28.6%	46.1%	21.2%	4.1%
Lack of access to transportation	29.4%	45.4%	19.7%	5.6%
High user fees	36.6%	36.0%	19.5%	7.9%
Cost of travel	28.1%	48.9%	19.0%	4.1%
Travel distance	27.8%	51.2%	17.3%	3.8%
Lack of security	40.1%	42.3%	13.1%	4.5%
Anxiety about being in the outdoors with limited knowledge	43.8%	41.9%	7.6%	6.7%
Discrimination	66.7%	17.8%	6.0%	9.4%

Source: 2019 KY SCORP Survey

Not a Barrier. Kentuckians believe that discrimination, anxiety about being in the outdoors, limited knowledge, and lack of security are not a barrier when participating in outdoor activities. While this study does skew predominately toward married, white/non-Hispanic men, discrimination has been cited as a concern among other groups. Overall, it appears that Kentuckians feel safe, secure and informed when experiencing outdoor activities.

Minor Barrier. Lack of knowledge of available facilities, poor health and travel distance are the top three minor barriers holding respondents back slightly from experiencing outdoor activities.

Major Barrier. As seen previously in this survey, lack of time is cited as the top concern and as the biggest barrier for folks to experience outdoor activities.

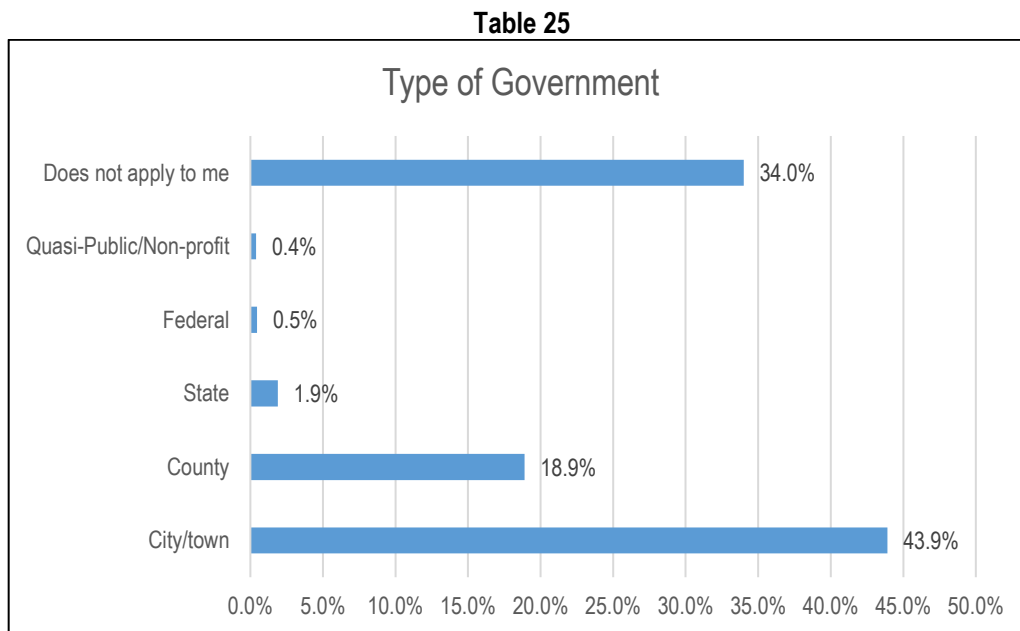
The next portion examines feedback from government and recreation providers, their attitudes, and their priorities.

Feedback from Recreation Providers and Their Priorities

One section of the survey was designed specifically for government and recreation providers. While information from the general public is vital, these questions were designed to provide the Client with information provided by individuals with specific familiarity and experience with recreation and outdoor activities in the Commonwealth.

Approximately 44 percent of the respondents indicated they were employed by city government and 19 percent of respondents indicated they were employed in county government. Approximately two percent of the respondents worked for the Commonwealth's government and less than one percent worked for either the federal government or a quasi-public/non-profit organization.

The table below illustrates these findings.



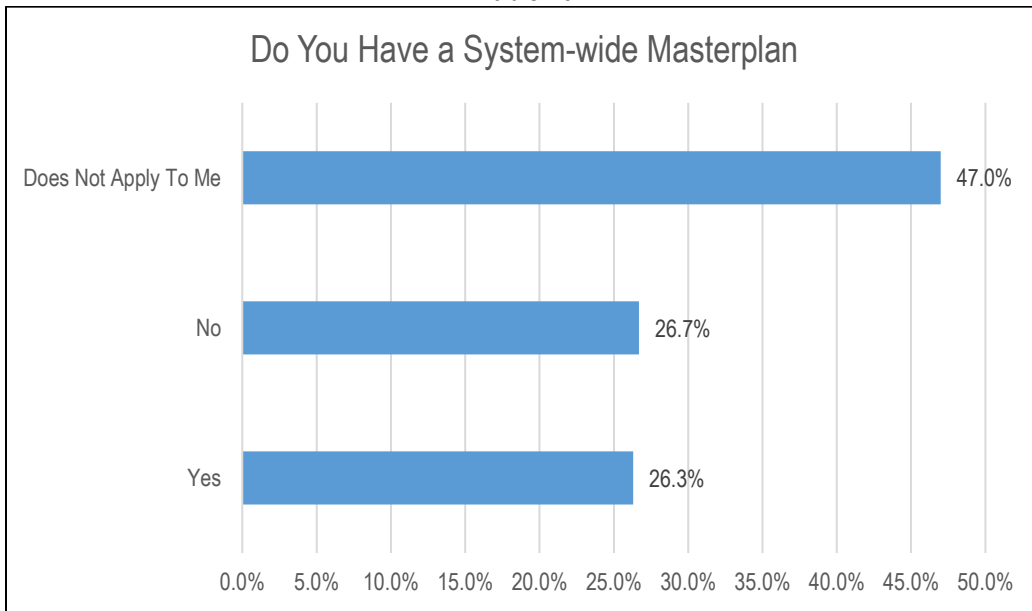
Based on the responses, there appears to be a skewed response toward respondents in cities, so the following findings should be viewed through this qualifier. The next section examines attitudes about masterplans.

Attitudes about Masterplans

Masterplans can be vital to creating a draw to a park or outdoor recreation site as they can offer other attractions and amenities that appeal to users. As such, questions were asked regarding masterplans for Commonwealth outdoor recreation.

The following table shows respondents' answers.

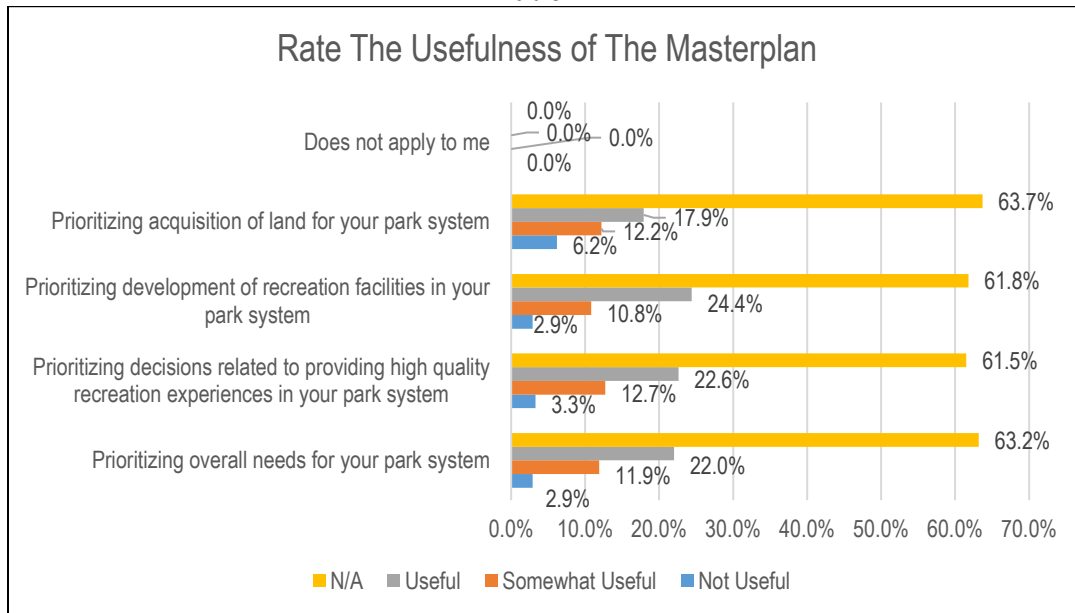
Table 26



Responses were almost equally divided among those who reported they have a masterplan for their parks and outdoor recreation sites, and those who do not have a plan. Those who do have a masterplan, believe it is somewhat useful or useful, so safe to conclude respondents view these as helpful.

The following table shows respondent responses on the usefulness of masterplans.

Table 27



The next section examines attitudes on obtaining new facility funds.

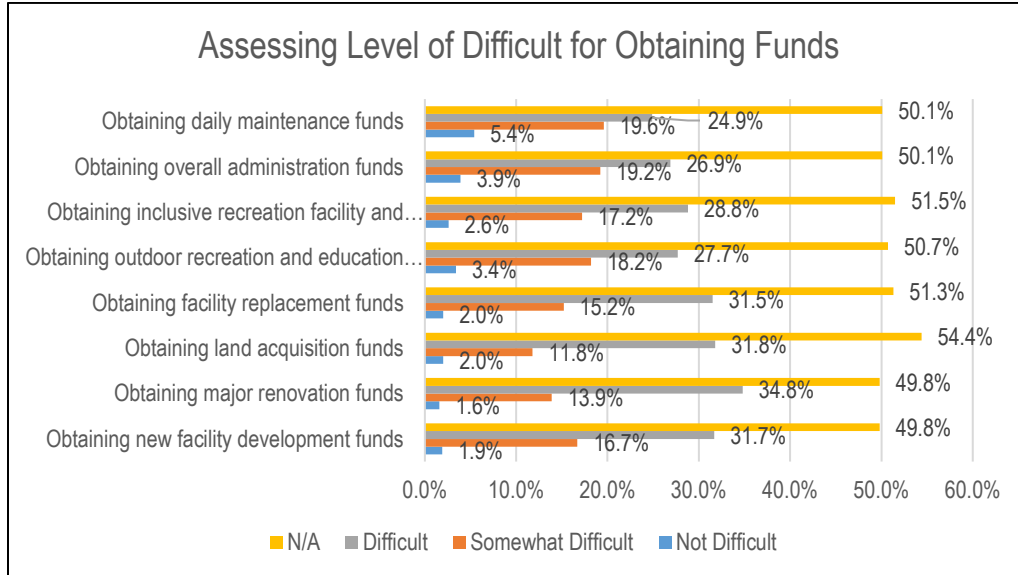
Attitudes on Obtaining New Facility Funds

Roughly one out of every two respondents expressed difficulty in obtaining new facility development funds, major renovation funds, facility replacement funds, outdoor recreation and education

programming funds, inclusive recreation facility and programming funds, and overall administration funds.

The table below outlines feelings on the difficulty of obtaining funds.

Table 28



These responses are more of a reflection of attitudes toward appropriators and legislators, capturing new facility funds are often times a reflection of budgetary priorities. The survey identified respondents recommending that concession sales and donations along with outside contributions could serve as alternative sources of revenue to offset any lack of funding for new facilities.

What is sometimes overlooked is that even though these additional streams of revenue may add some cash on hand, the overall capital need for facility improvements may not be enough through these proposed revenue streams alone.

Park services also aim to meet the public’s needs across all of the park systems. The next section investigates respondents’ attitudes on how park systems meet the public’s needs.

Attitudes on Meeting Public Needs in Park Systems

Respondents were asked to share their opinions regarding whether or not parks were currently able to meet the needs of the public. Based on the responses, park systems seem to have a solid grasp on the growing needs in their community.

Kentuckians said that there are several areas where park systems are meeting their needs.

The following table reflects this conclusion.

Table 29

Level of Difficulty Facing Land Protection Issues				
Answers	Not Difficult	Somewhat Difficult	Difficult	N/A
Preserving land for future recreational development	12.1%	20.7%	12.7%	54.6%
Preserving significant natural resource areas	11.4%	21.8%	11.8%	55.0%
Preserving open space lands	11.4%	21.0%	12.7%	54.9%
Preserving land for cultural resources	11.3%	20.9%	10.7%	57.2%
Preserving land for historical resources	10.1%	20.9%	13.0%	56.1%

Source: 2019 KY SCORP Survey

Meeting the demand from a growing population in servicing undeveloped public lands and meeting the needs for athletic fields or complexes, youth facilities, off-leash areas, biking paths, elderly needs, accessibility for residents with disability needs.

Also, Kentuckians said that parks are meeting their needs for public access to water for swimming, boating or fishing, providing a safe environment, meeting the needs of families and diverse cultures along with meeting the needs for adventure programs were either not difficult or only somewhat difficult.

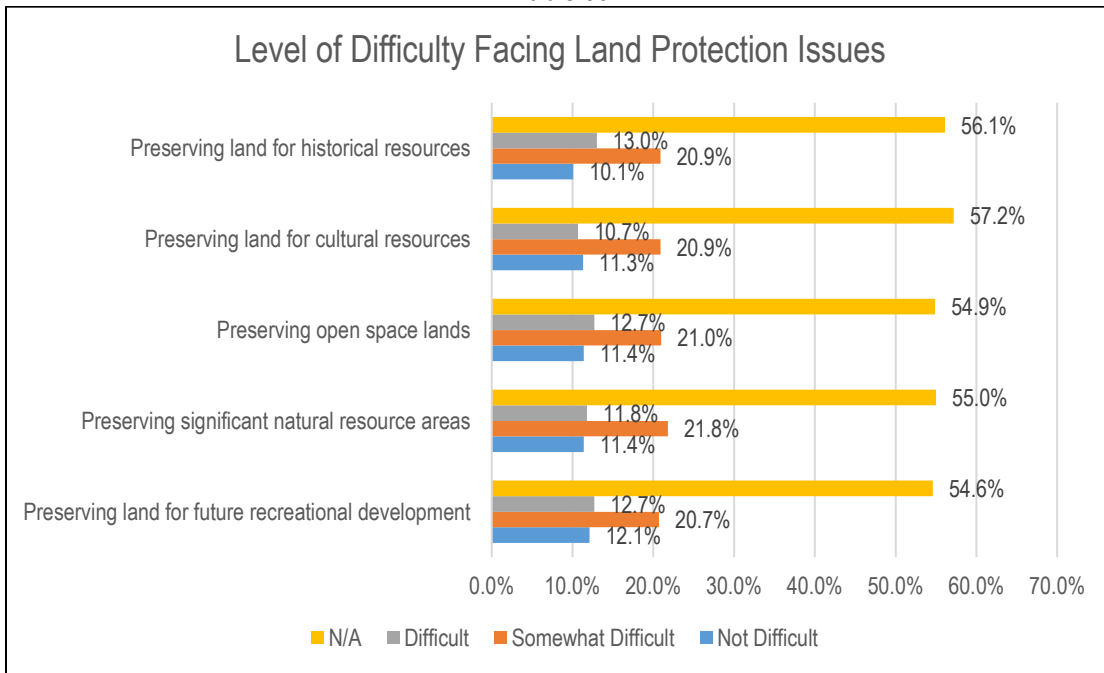
Opinions on issues facing land protection were also examined in the 2019 SCORP survey.

Opinions on Issues Facing Land Protection Uses

Most respondents said that preserving land for future recreational development, preserving significant natural resource areas, preserving land for cultural resources and preserving land for historical resources were either not difficult or somewhat difficult.

The following table reflects these findings.

Table 30



This might be because of current programs administered and executed by park professionals are satisfying these needs. The barrier to achieve these protection efforts also seem to be met with little resistance as most respondents found these actions not difficult or somewhat difficult, inviting the possibility that most park service professions' priorities are in-line with this type of objective.

Next, the report examines attitudes involving management issues.

Opinions on Attitudes Involving Management Issues

The survey also examined attitudes involving management issues facing parks and park systems. This seems to be the largest challenge for most of the respondents in this section.

The following table shows respondents' attitudes to the level of difficulty facing management issues, sorted by level of difficulty.

Table 31

Answers	Not Difficult	Somewhat Difficult	Difficult	N/A
Providing adequate staffing levels	6.7%	21.4%	18.1%	53.9%
Maintaining existing recreation infrastructure and resources	6.2%	25.7%	17.3%	50.8%
Enforcing rules and regulations	13.9%	25.2%	10.4%	50.5%
Alleviating visitor impacts on natural resources	13.8%	25.9%	7.3%	53.1%
Informing visitors of rules and regulations	21.4%	21.4%	6.0%	51.2%
Alleviating user conflicts	19.5%	22.5%	5.7%	52.3%
Setting fees so that costs do not hinder participation	15.5%	18.1%	8.2%	58.2%
Working with other outdoor recreation providers	20.0%	17.3%	5.7%	57.0%

Source: 2019 KY SCORP Survey

The two most difficult issues reported were providing adequate staffing levels and maintaining existing recreation infrastructure (18.1 percent) and resources (17.3 percent).

Enforcing rules and regulations, alleviating user conflicts, setting fees so that costs do not hinder participation, and working with other outdoor recreation providers appear to be easier tasks to handle as most users said these issues were mostly only somewhat difficult to handle.

The next portion examines opinions on what is needed now.

Opinions on What is Needed Now

Respondents were asked what is needed now and what is to rate their feelings on the urgency of facility needs.

The table below ranks of level of difficult facing management sorted by the most urgent to the least.

Table 32

Level of Difficulty Facing Management Issues				
Answers	Not Urgent	Somewhat Urgent	Urgent	NA
Paved trails for walking, hiking, skating or biking	10.2%	21.6%	19.2%	49.0%
Playground	12.4%	21.6%	17.6%	48.4%
Picnic Shelters	13.8%	22.1%	15.8%	48.4%
Multi-use fields	11.4%	23.5%	14.7%	50.4%
Unpaved trails for walking, hiking, skating or biking	13.6%	22.0%	14.5%	49.9%
Picnic area	15.0%	22.4%	14.4%	48.2%
Swimming pools	17.0%	15.9%	13.8%	53.3%
Non-swimming water activities (spalshpad, sprayground)	14.4%	20.4%	13.1%	52.1%
Soccer fields	16.9%	18.9%	12.2%	52.1%
Camping facilities	15.0%	18.7%	11.6%	54.7%
Non-motorized boating access (canoe, kayak)	15.8%	17.0%	11.6%	55.6%
Water parks	16.7%	18.1%	10.7%	54.6%
Baseball fields	19.5%	18.4%	10.5%	51.6%
Basketball courts	16.5%	22.4%	10.5%	50.5%
Softball fields	19.3%	18.7%	10.4%	51.6%
Fishing piers	15.5%	16.5%	10.4%	57.7%
Mountain bike trails	17.9%	16.9%	8.4%	56.9%
Shore/bank fishing	19.9%	15.6%	8.2%	56.3%
Dog parks	21.6%	19.6%	8.0%	50.7%
Volleyball courts	18.7%	20.1%	7.7%	53.5%
Motorized, off-highway vehicle trails	22.3%	12.7%	7.3%	57.8%
Wildlife/nature observation site	20.1%	19.9%	7.1%	52.9%
Motorized, boat launching ramps	22.4%	12.1%	7.1%	58.4%
Natural park area/open space	18.2%	21.8%	6.7%	53.3%
Tennis courts	22.4%	18.4%	6.7%	52.6%
Nature/interpretative trails	16.7%	24.0%	6.3%	53.0%
Football fields	25.5%	12.9%	6.2%	55.4%
Horseback riding trails	21.8%	14.8%	6.2%	57.7%
Golf courses	25.4%	10.8%	6.2%	57.7%
Skate parks	26.0%	14.7%	6.0%	53.3%
Nature/interpretative centers	22.9%	18.4%	5.6%	53.2%

Source: 2019 KY SCORP Survey

Respondents cited the most urgent need as a need for paved trails for walking, hiking, skating or biking (19.2 percent). The next most urgent need was playground development (17.6 percent) or

improvements along with picnic shelters (15.8 percent). While paved trails came in first as the most urgent request, respondents closely valued 15 other answer choices as urgent in double-digits as well.

Addressing these urgent needs requires some investigation into park systems ability to address management needs to be able to carry out the improvements necessary to increase outdoor participation by the public. The following portion illustrates perceptions of professionals based on the level of importance of management issues in park systems.

Table 33

Level of Importance Facing Management Issues				
Answers	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Important	N/A
Community Parks	4.2%	18.4%	28.3%	49.3%
Sports complexes	7.1%	18.1%	22.9%	51.9%
State parks	6.0%	15.8%	22.7%	55.5%
Specialty parks (dogs parks, skate parks, etc.)	7.0%	18.6%	22.0%	52.5%
Neighborhood/pocket parks	6.5%	20.1%	20.9%	52.6%
Linear parks - trail linkages within your park system	6.7%	17.9%	20.7%	54.7%
Nature/conservation parks	5.9%	20.7%	19.9%	53.5%
Camping areas	11.0%	15.9%	18.9%	54.3%
Linear parks - trail linkages to other jurisdictions	11.4%	13.9%	18.1%	56.6%
Water-front parks	8.5%	13.9%	17.9%	59.7%
Regional/district parks	7.1%	20.6%	15.6%	56.7%
Cultural/historic parks	7.6%	21.8%	15.5%	55.2%
Equestrian facilities	14.2%	17.6%	10.1%	58.1%

Source: 2019 KY SCORP Survey

Broadly, the responses suggest that park system professionals say addressing issues at community parks (28.3 percent), sports complexes (22.9 percent) and state parks (22.7 percent) are important because of the demand and use these facilities experience.

These responses reinforce previously seen themes from the general public about providing and developing more opportunities for outdoor activities involving gathering places and opportunities for relaxation, pleasure, exercise or leisure.

The next section wraps up the study’s findings in the conclusion.

Conclusion

The Commonwealth of Kentucky, through an existing master agreement with the Kentucky Tourism Development Incentive Program, engaged Hunden Strategic Partners (HSP) to conduct a public input survey. The purpose of the survey was to evaluate the demand for, participation in, and perceptions of outdoor recreation in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. HSP created, administered and analyzed the 2019 SCORP survey. As in past years, HSP utilized a combination of online and physically mailed survey materials. Surveys were emailed to a total of 3,813 Commonwealth residents and physical surveys were mailed via United States Postal Service to 250 Commonwealth residents. Geographically, respondents came primarily from the population centers of the Commonwealth. Demographically, the majority of

respondents were married, male, white, at least college educated, and earning incomes of at least \$75,000 a year.

Overall, the survey results indicate that residents feel that there is some work that still needs to be addressed in different parts of the Commonwealth, including improving operation and maintenance of existing infrastructure and facilities, efforts to purchase land for preservation and recreation. Most agree that parks at the local, state and national levels are extremely important, especially for outdoor activities. Trends in this report support a vigorous, enthusiastic attitude toward outdoor recreation opportunities as seen through their responses in participation and diversity in activity across the different park systems.

Residents view park performance positively as parks currently maintain and provide an adequate quality of life for the public to enjoy. While there are undoubtedly barriers to participation in any activity, this study found that most of the barriers listed are perceived as minor in the eyes of respondents.

When asked what the greatest deterrent to participation in these activities were, most respondents indicated lack of time. Lack of time was believed to be the only major barrier, at no fault of any park provider at a local, state or national park level. Since this study found strong signs of participation across the various levels of park systems, the Commonwealth of Kentucky should take confidence that there is sufficient evidence to warrant continued federal funding toward improvements, expanded land development, and future recreational opportunities for its residents.

The following section is the Appendix where all questions and answers from the 2019 SCORP survey can be found.

Appendix

Methodology

HSP worked with the Client to create a survey tool based on questions from previous surveys, similar surveys in other states, and industry best practices. HSP was provided with approximately 3,813 unique email addresses and 250 physical addresses of residents by the Commonwealth. HSP utilized the United States Postal Service (USPS) to mail physical copies of the survey to all of the addresses provided by the Client. For the online survey, HSP utilized the Survey Monkey online platform to contact the 3,813 email addresses provided by the Client. After the survey was initially sent, HSP sent reminder emails on nine separate occasions to individuals who had not yet completed the survey in order to maximize participation.

The 2019 SCORP survey reached 3,813 potential respondents via electronic solicitation and 250 potential physical recipients with a total response count of 907 respondents. Most (861) of these respondents came from the electronic survey instrument and the remaining (46) respondents came from physical survey sent via USPS. A total of 10 of the mailed surveys were returned due to: no mail receptacle (1), deceased (1), and time expired or no forwarding address (8).

The following table shows the distribution of respondents by county.

Table 34

Counties in Kentucky Where Respondents Reside		Counties in Kentucky Where Respondents Reside	
County Names	Percentages of Respondents	County Names	Percentages of Respondents
Adair	0.6%	Johnson	0.8%
Allen	0.3%	Kenton	5.5%
Anderson	0.6%	Knott	0.3%
Ballard	1.0%	Knox	1.1%
Barren	0.2%	LaRue	0.0%
Bath	0.3%	Laurel	0.8%
Bell	0.4%	Lawrence	0.1%
Boone	1.5%	Lee	1.0%
Bourbon	1.2%	Leslie	0.2%
Boyd	0.4%	Letcher	0.3%
Boyle	0.6%	Lewis	0.6%
Bracken	0.1%	Lincoln	0.3%
Breathitt	0.9%	Livingston	0.9%
Breckinridge	0.2%	Logan	1.3%
Bullitt	0.2%	Lyon	0.3%
Butler	1.2%	Madison	0.8%
Caldwell	1.1%	Magoffin	0.4%
Calloway	1.0%	Marion	0.1%
Campbell	4.1%	Marshall	1.2%
Carrise	0.1%	Martin	0.7%
Carroll	0.7%	Mason	0.6%
Carter	0.1%	McCracken	0.6%
Casey	0.4%	McCreary	0.3%
Christian	1.5%	McLean	0.2%
Clark	0.6%	Meade	0.1%
Clay	0.1%	Menifee	0.2%
Clinton	0.2%	Mercer	0.8%
Crittenden	0.2%	Metcalfe	0.4%
Cumberland	0.4%	Monroe	0.3%
Daviess	0.1%	Montgomery	1.1%
Edmonson	0.0%	Morgan	0.8%
Elliott	0.1%	Muhlenberg	0.9%
Estill	0.7%	Nelson	0.0%
Fayette	2.4%	Nicholas	0.3%
Fleming	0.9%	Ohio	0.8%
Floyd	1.3%	Oldham	2.3%
Franklin	0.9%	Owen	0.3%
Fulton	0.7%	Owsley	0.2%
Gallatin	0.7%	Pendleton	0.9%
Ganard	0.4%	Peru	1.1%
Grant	1.1%	Pike	0.6%
Graves	0.8%	Powell	0.7%
Grayson	0.1%	Pulaski	1.5%
Green	0.0%	Robertson	0.4%
Greenup	1.5%	Rockcastle	0.4%
Hancock	0.0%	Rowan	1.2%
Hardin	0.1%	Russell	0.7%
Harrison	0.7%	Scott	1.0%
Hart	0.9%	Shelby	0.6%
Henderson	0.2%	Simpson	0.4%
Henry	1.0%	Spencer	0.1%
Hickman	0.9%	Taylor	0.1%
Hopkins	0.4%	Todd	1.0%
Jackson	1.7%	Trigg	0.4%
Jefferson	0.6%	Trimble	0.6%
Jessamine	16.4%	Union	1.4%
Johnson	0.8%	Warren	0.2%
Kenton	5.5%	Washington	0.0%
Knott	0.3%	Wayne	0.6%
Knox	1.1%	Webster	0.8%
LaRue	0.0%	Whitley	1.1%
Laurel	0.8%	Wolfe	0.4%
		Woodford	1.1%

Source: 2019 KY SCORP Survey

Source: 2019 KY SCORP Survey

Appendix B

Endangered Species List

44 species are listed.

Scientific Name and Life History	Common Name and Pictures	Class	US Status	KY Status	WAP	List County	List Quad
<i>Chrosomus cumberlandensis</i>	Blackside Dace	Actinopterygii	T	T	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Etheostoma sagitta</i>	Cumberland Arrow Darter	Actinopterygii	C	S	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Etheostoma susanae</i>	Cumberland Darter	Actinopterygii	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Etheostoma spilotum</i>	Kentucky Arrow Darter	Actinopterygii	T	T	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Notropis albizonatus</i>	Palezone Shiner	Actinopterygii	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i>	Pallid Sturgeon	Actinopterygii	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Etheostoma chienense</i>	Relict Darter	Actinopterygii	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Scaphirhynchus platyrhynchus</i>	Shovelnose Sturgeon	Actinopterygii	T(S/A)	N		County	Quad
<i>Etheostoma lemniscatum</i>	Tuxedo Darter	Actinopterygii	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Sternula antillarum athalassos</i>	Interior Least Tern	Aves	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Piping Plover	Aves	T	N	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Red Knot	Aves	T	N		County	Quad
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Wood Stork	Aves	T	N		County	Quad
<i>Epioblasma obliquata</i>	Catspaw	Bivalvia	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Pleurobema clava</i>	Clubshell	Bivalvia	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Venustaconcha troostensis</i>	Cumberland Bean	Bivalvia	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Alasmidonta atropurpurea</i>	Cumberland Elktoe	Bivalvia	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Epioblasma brevidens</i>	Cumberlandian Combshell	Bivalvia	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Dromus dromas</i>	Dromedary Pearlymussel	Bivalvia	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Cyprogenia stegaria</i>	Fanshell	Bivalvia	E	E	Yes	County	Quad

<i>Potamilus capax</i>	Fat Pocketbook	Bivalvia	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Ptychobranhus subtentus</i>	Fluted Kidneyshell	Bivalvia	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Pegias fabula</i>	Littlewing Pearlymussel	Bivalvia	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Epioblasma rangiana</i>	Northern Riffleshell	Bivalvia	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Plethobasus cooperianus</i>	Orangefoot Pimpleback	Bivalvia	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Epioblasma capsaeformis</i>	Oyster Mussel	Bivalvia	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Lampsilis abrupta</i>	Pink Mucket	Bivalvia	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Obovaria retusa</i>	Ring Pink	Bivalvia	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Pleurobema plenum</i>	Rough Pigtoe	Bivalvia	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Plethobasus cyphus</i>	Sheepnose	Bivalvia	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Epioblasma triquetra</i>	Snuffbox	Bivalvia	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Margaritifera monodonta</i>	Spectaclecase	Bivalvia	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Epioblasma walkeri</i>	Tan Riffleshell	Bivalvia	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Pseudanophthalmus caecus</i>	Clifton Cave Beetle	Insecta	C	T		County	Quad
<i>Pseudanophthalmus frigidus</i>	Icebox Cave Beetle	Insecta	C	T		County	Quad
<i>Pseudanophthalmus troglodytes</i>	Louisville Cave Beetle	Insecta	C	T		County	Quad
<i>Papaipema eryngii</i>	Rattlesnake-master Borer Moth	Insecta	C	E		County	Quad
<i>Pseudanophthalmus parvus</i>	Tatum Cave Beetle	Insecta	C	T		County	Quad
<i>Cambarus callainus</i>	Big Sandy Crayfish	Malacostraca	T	S	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Palaemonias ganteri</i>	Mammoth Cave Shrimp	Malacostraca	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Myotis grisescens</i>	Gray Myotis	Mammalia	E	T	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Indiana Bat	Mammalia	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Northern Myotis	Mammalia	T	E		County	Quad

Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus	Virginia Big-eared Bat	Mammalia	E	E	Yes	County	Quad
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