Appendix A: Status of Recommendations: 2009-2013 Maryland Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan – Volume II

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Status of Recommendations
2009-2013 Maryland Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan – Volume II

Area of Focus	2009-2013 Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Status		
Programmatic Activities			**Complete**	**Ongoing**	**Incomplete**
Education and Interpretation	Work with the Forest Service, MPS, and other appropriate units to develop, or complete, and publish educational materials describing each land unit's important natural and cultural features (geology, landscape types, flora and fauna both rare and common, historical structures, or archaeological sites), why they are important, and how they can be viewed by visitors.	Land Acquisition and Planning		Natural Areas have been identified and other significant habitats like Brook Trout streams.	
	Identify opportunities to connect schools and communities to natural areas using trails	DNR		Created a Trails Development Office.	
	Implement a program package with school systems to utilize high school volunteers for construction and maintenance projects as a means to fulfill community service requirements	DNR MCC CJC		Programs have expanded, but travel time is limiting factor.	
	Expand partnerships with local school systems, colleges, and universities to use DNR properties as laboratories for conservation education initiatives	DNR CIN		✓	
Funding			**Complete**	**Ongoing**	**Incomplete**
	Develop and implement a market-based fee structure for non-DNR related uses of DNR lands	DNR			✓
	Adjust budget procedures as necessary to ensure that all revenue enhancements are allocated to operation and maintenance of forests, parks, and wildlife areas	DNR with finance and budget staff		Enhancements have been included in the budget for park and forest maintenance and the development of trails.	
	Develop and implement policy with respect to private development and/or operation of particular types of recreational facilities or services on DNR properties	LAP MPS		MPS has developed a strategic plan.	
	Develop a marketing approach for increasing park visitation in off-peak periods	MPS with state/local tourism officials			
	Review leases or other use arrangements and make adjustments as necessary to reflect market value of the property rights utilized while maintaining compatibility with wildlife habitat and recreation requirements	DNR			✓

Area of Focus	2009-2013 Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Status		
Technical Assistance and Other Partnerships			Complete	Ongoing	Incomplete
	Provide technical assistance to local governments in developing local parks or greenways where DNR does not have an ownership presence	LAP and Program Open Space (POS)		Addressed through our local-side program.	
	Continue and expand partnership arrangements with the Maryland Environmental Trust, private land trusts, counties and municipalities, and other state agencies to: 1) expedite the acquisition of lands and easements, 2) leverage private, local, and other state funds for land conservation, 3) improve public outreach and communications with local communities, 4) maximize the benefits of combined use of POS state and local funds, and 5) minimize management burdens of additional protected land on DNR land management units, when private or local ownership of land can protect the State's interest	LAP with Maryland Environmental Trust, private land trusts, local jurisdictions, and other state agencies		Part of our land acquisition process.	
	Clarify ambiguity in providing local recreational opportunities beyond assisting financially in local government's land acquisition and recreational development through POS	DNR		Trying to clarify thru the collaboration with the counties during the LPRP planning process.	
	Identify and promote joint DNR-local construction and operation of recreational facilities serving a local need while helping to forward DNR purposes	DNR		✓	
	Provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions to purchase and lease abandoned rail lines into local trails	DNR with local jurisdictions		✓	
	Work with counties in Mid-Shore Region on potential rail-to-trail project, with Tuckahoe State Park as a destination	LAP, POS with Denton, Easton, Ridgely, Greensboro, Queenstown, and Stevensville		✓	

Area of Focus	2009-2013 Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Status		
Research and Planning			**Complete**	**Ongoing**	**Incomplete**
	Cooperate with the Maryland Office of Planning to conduct a new statewide survey of outdoor recreation participation and preferences	LAP MDP	✓		
	Assist MPS to initiate regular and consistent monitoring of State Park visitors to be able to profile who uses facilities, where they come from and why, and what they do while they visit	MPS with DNR		✓	
	Give high priority to field verifying mapped or other data on DNR units used as basis for 2009 plan, and made available to the public	DNR		Trail maps are being updated and shared downloadable files	
	Identify natural plant communities throughout the State which are rare or threatened and to identify highest quality examples in common communities, with priority on DNR properties	Natural Heritage Program with DNR		Natural Areas have been identified and inventories of new acquisitions continue.	
	Lead a study of opportunities to consolidate existing office and shop facilities (vehicle, woodworking, sign, etc.) to support operations statewide	Engineering and Construction Program	✓		
	Survey, verify, and mark existing state land boundaries in order to avoid encroachments and optimize use of existing lands, as well as resolve existing intrusions onto DNR land	LAP and land management units (MPS, FS, and WHS)		Boundary recovery is part of the land management units annual work plan.	
Land Acquisition -Targeted & Ranking- Land Conservation			**Complete**	**Ongoing**	**Incomplete**
	Target land conservation based on ecological priorities and creates a more transparent process based on science. Develop an Ecological Screening system to select "Targeted Ecological Areas (TEA)"	DNR		A scoring system has been developed and all potential acquisitions are reviewed by an interdisciplinary team to identify resource values.	
	Continue to update databases, identify focus areas and prepare a flexible system of analysis to enable programmatic adjustments which reflect the most current project data	DNR		✓	

Area of Focus	2009-2013 Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Status		
Statewide Principles and Values			**Complete**	**Ongoing**	**Incomplete**
	Connect existing DNR land units to one another and to other protected lands where there is a functional or operational purpose for such connections	DNR		Potential acquisitions that are in-holding and/or adjoin existing land units are scored higher.	
	Direct land acquisition activities to stream valleys, mountain ridges, and other sensitive areas such as rare species habitats and high quality examples of natural communities	DNR		These areas are identified as part of the review process (Stewardship) for potential acquisitions.	
	Evaluate proposed major acquisitions of land for DNR ownership for Wildland designation	DNR		✓	
	Complete interim use plans or management recommendations, including what should be done with existing structures, historic or otherwise, prior to acquisition for lands acquired outside of existing boundaries of parks or land units where there is no master plan	DNR		Part of the acquisition review process.	
	Expand existing conservation areas or focus efforts on large areas identified by the targeting protocol as the conservation strategy	DNR		✓	
Historical Sites			**Complete**	**Ongoing**	**Incomplete**
	Develop cooperative working relationships with historic preservation groups throughout the state, in much the same way that they have with environmental organizations	DNR		DNR continues to collaboration with MHT Preservation Maryland & other non-profit preservation groups.	
	Develop a policy that discourages DNR ownership whenever possible	DNR		As part of the acquisition review process, unless a clear use of a historic structure can be identified, it is not acquired.	
	Develop additional opportunities to highlight African-American History and the experience of enslaved people, as well as work to protect the landscapes and open spaces around important African-American sites	DNR		The creation of Harriett Tubman State Park and the protection of the surrounding landscape is a good example.	

Area of Focus	2009-2013 Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Status		
Historical Sites (Continued)			Complete	Ongoing	Incomplete
	Develop a stable funding source for the care and long-term maintenance of historic properties along with a long-term plan to address deferred maintenance	DNR			There is not a dedicated fund source.
	Continue to fund the Resident-Curatorship Program	DNR		Currently, the program is at capacity given the resources available.	
	Continue to work with the Maryland Historical Trust to enhance the DNR's caretaking of historic and archaeological resources on its properties	DNR and Maryland Historical Trust		Collaboration continues and MHT staff was involved in the planning process and are part of the acquisition review process.	
	Complete an updated inventory of existing historic structures, and evaluate eligibility on the National Register of Historic Places	DNR and Maryland Historical Trust			Although started, the financial resources have not been available to complete.
	Determine future uses and operation needs for properties where life tenancies and curatorships will expire	DNR		Each property is evaluated by an interdisciplinary team at the time of its "return."	

Area of Focus	2009-2013 Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Status		
Conservation Practices			**Complete**	**Ongoing**	**Incomplete**
	Provide technical assistance for land use and habitat manipulation decisions on all DNR lands	Specialists in DNR's Wildlife Heritage, Fisheries & Forestry Divisions		✓	
	Incorporate a landscape view to protect and enhance species diversity, density, and richness through an ecosystem-based approach to land management decisions and individual land unit plans	DNR		A system has been developed to identify ecological & cultural landscapes and to consider them in management decisions. DNR's decision to certify forest management as sustainable by two independent third party programs is a good example.	
	Set an example in habitat protection through effective implementation of existing regulations and the application of the state-of-the-art conservation and green building techniques	DNR		DNR is "leading by example" through our tree planting, wetland, and stream restoration efforts.	
Regional Opportunities			**Complete**	**Ongoing**	**Incomplete**
	Inventory State Parks to identify habitat restoration opportunities	DNR		✓	
	Restore and manage the serpentine barrens of Soldiers Delight NEA in a manner that will protect the unusual serpentine ecosystem	DNR		The Natural Heritage Program is currently restoring the serpentine ecosystem by removing encroaching trees.	
	Use Hart-Miller Island to demonstrate habitat creation on dredged material	DNR		✓	

Area of Focus	2009-2013 Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Status		
Recreation on DNR Lands Units -General Statewide Objectives			Complete	Ongoing	Incomplete
	Promote hunting and other wildlife recreation opportunities on all DNR lands	DNR		Each new acquisition is evaluated for any hunting opportunities.	
	Evaluate the long term sustainability of resources and usage and take measures to ensure that future generations will enjoy the same opportunities	DNR		Good examples are the Department's focus on sustainable forest management and the development of sustainable trails.	
	Expand low-intensity, resource-based recreational development at existing State park units as the first priority, with capability for increased development, completing master plan updates or site plans as necessary			✓	
	Create and enhance a statewide trail system on land and in water that connects communities, parks, waterways, and schools, as well as develop and implement a comprehensive program that connects children and families, particularly those that are unserved, to natural areas	DNR		The Department has created a Statewide Trails Development Office. This office is working with DNR Staff, other state agencies and local governments to create a Statewide Trail System that is "second to none."	
	Examine Wildlife Management Areas for opportunities to provide recreation development such as low-amenity camping, fishing/canoeing access and walking trails which are compatible with primary wildlife management purposes	DNR		This is being accomplished as plans are completed for the individual WMA's.	

Area of Focus	2009-2013 Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Status		
Water-Based Recreation			Complete	Ongoing	Incomplete
	Identify potential fishing and boating access sites in the state, based on recreation demand, methods for operation and funding, and environmentally suitable areas	DNR and local governments		This is conducted by our Boating Administration, Fisheries and the Water Trails Program.	
	Master Plans for both Point Lookout and Smallwood State Parks in the Southern Region will recommend recreational enhancements that complement existing infrastructure and will focus on improved use of local natural resources including beaches, navigable water and/or fisheries	DNR		✓	
	Enhance Myrtle Grove Lake and Saint Mary's River fishing lake	DNR		✓	
	Study Martinak, Janes Island State Parks and Sassafras River NRMA for Bay bathing beaches in the Eastern Region	DNR		✓	
	Give preference to providing assistance to local governments to establish bathing beaches and pond swimming areas to meet local needs for swimming opportunism	DNR and local jurisdictions		Once again, this is part of DNR's collaboration during the development of the County Recreation Plans.	
	Evaluate public access at Isle of Wight, Fairmount and Nanticoke River WMAs; Martinak State Park; Wye Island NRMA; and Smithville Lake, Wye Mills and Unicorn Lake FMAs in the Eastern Region where land units cannot be reached by small craft from county ramps	DNR		✓	

Area of Focus	2009-2013 Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Status		
Hunting, Shooting and Wildlife-Related Recreation			Complete	Ongoing	Incomplete
-Statewide					
	The Wildlife and Heritage Service will continue to write and implement WMA plans which will guide the service in all aspects of management including balancing the needs of diverse user groups over the next 5 years	Wildlife and Heritage Service		WHS has completed seven WMA 15-year plans & is currently developing plans for 3 additional WMA's.	
	The Wildlife and Heritage Service will review and update regulations governing the use of all WMA's over the next 5 years	Wildlife and Heritage Service	✓		
	The Wildlife and Heritage Service will, in consultation with the Maryland State Parks Service, will continue to review and update standardization of criteria and regulation for managed hunts in all DNR lands during the next 5 years	Wildlife and Heritage Service with State Parks		This is done on a yearly basis with both the Park Service and the Forest Service.	
-Regional					
	Explore expanded hunting opportunities within the State Park System, particularly at units most easily accessible to the State's urban population	DNR with State Parks		WHS continually works with our land managers to identify new hunting opportunities.	
	Continue to monitor target shooting operations at existing shooting ranges to allow for the continued support of this activity in the local community and to provide adequate opportunity for target shooting in support of hunter safety programs and hunting generally	DNR		✓	

Area of Focus	2009-2013 Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Status		
Heritage Tourism			**Complete**	**Ongoing**	**Incomplete**
	Move forward as programmed to support expanded interpretation activities at Fort Frederick State Park	DNR and State Parks		Numerous reenactment programs are held on an annual basis.	
	Work with the Maryland Historical Trust local Heritage Area partners, and other preservation and natural resources conservation groups to develop on central repository for heritage tourism information, including information on visiting site of historic and environmental interest	DNR with Maryland Historical Trust local Heritage Area partner		DNR is a member of the Maryland Heritage Area Authority and also participates as a member of the technical advisory committee.	
	A park service associate with the requisite education and experience should be designated as the resident historic site interpreter in each park	DNR			Incomplete due to the lack of staff.
	Appropriate signage in each park that interprets important historic places, events, or people	DNR		An interpretative exhibit is being developed at North Point State Park to educate visitors about the Battle of Baltimore, which occurred during the War of 1812.	
	A website that is comprehensive and easy to navigate should list historical sites owned by DNR and incorporate that list into a statewide site of heritage tourism areas	DNR			Incomplete, we do not have an inventory of all the sites.
	Continue to participate and assist in the efforts to create and develop the National Historical Trails (Star-Spangled Banner and Captain John Smith), and the Harriet Tubman State Park	DNR		✓	
Resource-Based Day Use Recreation			**Complete**	**Ongoing**	**Incomplete**
	Explore the potential for further expansion of resource-based day use recreation at a number of land units		✓		

Area of Focus	2009-2013 Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Status		
Overnight Accommodation			**Complete**	**Ongoing**	**Incomplete**
	Evaluate the potential expansion of primitive or unimproved camping	DNR		✓	
	Evaluate improved camping opportunities throughout the Regions	DNR		✓	
	Pursue the potential for expansion in the near future as part of efforts in support of Civil Justice Corps	DNR		This program has grown every year.	
	Undertake a feasibility/marketing study to determine possible sites for the construction of additional cabins	DNR			✓
Trails			**Complete**	**Ongoing**	**Incomplete**
-Statewide					
	Develop a statewide policy with respect to multiple use of trails, standard signage, and appropriate protocols for design, maintenance, and other management concerns within the next 5 years			Being developed by the Trails office in collaboration with the DNR land managers.	
-Regional					
	Continue to place the highest priority on working with the National Park Service in the Western Region to extend the Western Maryland rail-trail and linking the Catoctin Trail to the Appalachian Trail, and expanding the northern portion of the Green Ridge State Forest trail into Pennsylvania	DNR and NPS		✓	
	Develop a sustainable trail plan in the Central Region for the Patapsco Valley to deal with overuse and to develop connection to the BWI trail and other local trails, with consideration to the development of a multi-use trail system	DNR		Trails are being developed & constructed using sustainable design techniques as resources allow.	
	Development of a trail system to link areas of public ownership in the Seneca Creek Valley in a cooperative effort with Montgomery County	DNR and Montgomery County		DNR is working with mountain biking groups (IMBA & MORE) to create trail links.	
	Consider the acquisition of active rail lines with POS for future trail use, potentially using the CSX line that runs through Patapsco Valley State Park as a pilot project	DNR		✓	
	Place a high priority on trails as a connection between communities, schools, employment centers, and natural areas	DNR		DNR's goal is to create a MD Trails network that connects people where they live, work, and play.	

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Appendix B: Technical Advisory Committee Notes

Recreation Component of the Land Preservation and Recreation Plan
Roger "Pip" Moyer Community Recreation Center, 273 Hilltop Lane, Annapolis 21403
November 28, 2012

Technical Advisory Committee #1
Meeting Notes

1. What mechanisms do you suggest we use to solicit input from the public?

1. MD should bench mark other state plans (example - Virginia); replace the word needs with demand
2. NRPA's (National Recreation and Parks Association) Proragis (Parks and Recreation Operating Ratio and GIS) PRORAGIS is a national database that allows park and recreation agencies to benchmark with others. NRPA is collecting data through PRORAGIS for the purpose of measuring the economic benefit of the ecological aspect of parks.
3. Technology such as Facebook, Twitter, QR codes, etc., should be utilized to the fullest extent
4. Community centers, libraries, and community colleges could host a meeting for survey participation for those folks who do not have electronic access
5. PlanMD used prizes for survey participation, great idea. DNR should offer prizes for incentive – gets folks out in nature
6. Option to mail or online participation (ask a question "how much do you use recreation facilities in other places; what do you like and what do you dislike)
7. PlanMD survey media setup check what was successful or not; contact John Coleman
8. MHT (Maryland Historical Trust) is doing a statewide electronic survey that is planned for spring; coordinate mutually interests' questions; include MDOT (MD Department of Transportation) update on bike plan – coordinate similar survey materials. Concern is survey fatigue.
9. We need to get out of our silos, make sure this incorporates all recreational needs (local, state, fed). Public often doesn't distinguish who owns a park. Survey will focus on DNR lands and regional significant areas as well as state leased areas for local recreation
10. Resource based recreation – state; active recreation – local; define
11. Make delivery as a system – "lands system" is important to local, state, national stakeholders i.e. trails
12. Could utilize a mapping tool for the survey to help people focus on the facilities they use; include pins for "park locations needed". – (NPS can share their tools)
13. Public input – offer prizes to stimulate outdoor participation
14. Use Park equity analysis to target special outreach
15. Questions could address local food movement – community gardens; id green spaces; where do you think we need parks, what parks are being under utilized
16. Cross promote survey through agencies, libraries, posters, parks visitor/welcome centers, casinos
17. Demographic data is important, example 40-65 year old demographic is voting and economic contributors

18. Students at community colleges; continuing Ed classes would volunteer to setup a computer lab to promote survey – offer coffee… (Ages 40-65 responded more to survey in Virginia)
19. Socio-economic groups be surveyed; surveys should be in Spanish, maybe use the ethnic commission and English for Speakers Of Languages classes in schools to target minority populations.
20. Strategic plans for parks and recreation were reviewed by– leadership, non profit, general public meetings and specific user groups
21. Poster – have a logo that can be scanned by phone to do survey later
22. Identify other compatible use – other things to do outdoors
23. Keep survey short no more than 4 pages…
24. Query focus groups?
25. Clearly define purpose of survey – public outreach – open space and recreation demand
26. Define 2009 goals that have been met – identify what goals have not been met – continue forward and define success
27. Use demographics survey to target populations
28. Use multiple languages and for those that cannot read work with community organizations and advocacy groups
29. Advocacy groups to address Latino and others
30. Demand for facilities for non geographic/geographic areas; what do you like?
31. Random questions for different groups – survey have sequence numbers
32. Identify benefits – hiking, biking, kayaking; schools and retirement facilities are good places to distribute surveys
33. Utilize REI and other outdoor recreation businesses, Dept of Aging, health improvement coalitions, disability groups - DHMH – has contacts regarding ageing and school age for local health improvement organizations, CIN (Children In Nature) partnerships, human health
34. Forest Service did a study with land trusts using census survey; info and partnerships available
35. School systems can assist
36. Outdoor education conferences
37. People with disabilities be included in the survey
38. Greater Baltimore Children and Nature contact
39. Baltimore County & City are conducting surveys on forest patches
40. Healthy business registry
41. Be careful public input not skewed by loudest voices

2. What land conservation/recreation topics should be covered in the plan?

1. Incorporate environmental literacy requirements; environmental education and interpretation
2. Emphasize CIN initiatives; intergenerational programming include teachers and caregivers
3. County outdoor school programs – day trips – how to engage children, parents, caregivers
4. Fisheries has “travelling classroom program” which is successful – participants learn life cycle, environment issues, backyard fishing program, fishing challenge
5. Identify barriers to access (i.e. school administration, transportation)
6. Fracking
7. Water access – trails; Disabled access
8. MDP/DNR conservation – page 2-37 volume I – stability analysis/land at risk; (threat of development update)
9. Context Americas Great Outdoors federal level – great outdoors; farming why important and what is next, MD/National initiatives
10. Make connection between land conservation & access to recreation

11. Land protection vs. economics – appreciation of protected lands
12. Land conservation through easements does not allow public access – it's not just about number of acres protected; use of easements, public access needed
13. Some hunting is an allowable use on some farms that have easements
14. Fishing access easements in New York (liability is limited in MD if the property owner does not charge a fee to use the property for access)
15. Climate change impacts to recreational/cultural resources
16. Educational component – need for public service announcements to communicate to the public conservation ethics – ecological systems information
17. Services, land, facilities are part of the plan – plan will be general and cover major initiatives
18. How to change attitudes of being outdoors is a good thing (CIN) – appendix will include details of work accomplished
19. Raise the issues – document and reinforce
20. Heritage Areas – strengthen natural resources component – reference; Show trends & emphasis for next 5 years with realistic plans (not just wish-list) and an annual review of implementation. Perhaps link to Smart Growth subcabinet.
21. County parks and recreation component – trends – counties can help address local issues of children to parks; CIN issues, childhood obesity – plan to reference
22. Contextual section, frame why this is important, include recent federal initiatives
23. where have we come in five years; where are we going in five years; document points to address – funding available (CIN, health, gangs) is it a working living document or reality
24. How broad is the scope (#10?) – Use MHT, Economic Surveys, health and obesity trends – use focus groups, park equity analysis, and climate change
25. Policy level recommendations – 2009 LPPRP – what other states recommend; work backwards from table of contents – Colorado had different tasks, PA won SCORP Award

3. How would you suggest we divide Maryland into sub-regions?

1. Tourism uses the following regions:
Western: Washington, Allegany, and Garrett Counties
Capital Region: Prince George's, Montgomery, Frederick Counties
Central Region: Anne Arundel, Howard, Carroll, Baltimore and Harford Counties, Baltimore City
Eastern Region: Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Caroline, Talbot, Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset Counties
Southern Region: Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties
2. Survey by population density: urban, suburban, rural
3. Separate lower and upper eastern shore

4. Other

1. LPPRP "identifying needs" – do not use as an example into the LPRP; the needs analysis is not accurate; method of multiplication for identifying facilities is unbalanced; not a good example
2. Let counties develop their own system to identify recreation needs
3. Heritage Areas have to report their work plan, tasks and have an annual review to smart growth cabinet
4. Land protection – public access – reporting – how to tract implementation (is # of acres the answer)

Recreation Component of the Land Preservation and Recreation Plan
Roger "Pip" Moyer Community Recreation Center, 273 Hilltop Lane, Annapolis 21403
February 4, 2013, 1 – 3 pm

Technical Advisory Committee #2
Meeting Notes

1. Welcome and Introductions

John Wilson from the Land Acquisition and Planning Division of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources welcomed the Technical Advisory Council members and introduced Anne Miller the project manager from GreenPlay for the Recreation Component of the State Land Preservation and Outdoor Recreation Plan project.

2. Project Overview

Anne Miller introduced the consultant team that included Cindy Heath from GreenPlay and Dave Peterson from Design Concepts, who will be responsible for the inventory update and mapping. RRC Associates (not present) will conduct the statistically-valid phone survey and the open link online survey. Anne provided a brief overview of the project scope and schedule that includes: Phase 1 – information gathering (February-April), Phase 2 – findings/visioning (May-June), and Phase 3 – plan development (July-November).

3. Project Vision and Critical Success Factors Discussion

TAC members were invited to introduce themselves and share their thoughts about the project vision and critical success factors. A summary of the comments follows.

- **Paul Dial**, P & R Director Frederick County – have a document that can support a common vision and be consistent between state goals & county plans. Politics can create conflicts and a common vision is desirable; use data to guide decision making on facilities and programs
- **Kate Sylvester**, MDOT, updating State Transportation & Bike/Ped Plan; trails inventory needs work; make connections between plans
- **Stephanie Oberle**, M-NCPPC, Governor's Partnership for Children in Nature (CIN); integrate goals of CIN to encourage connectivity
- **Marilyn Smith**, Coordinator of Chronic Disease Program, MDH, integrate public health and include health data (will provide)
- **Tom Donlin**, MRPA, would like to see results of survey validate the work of jurisdictions in preparing local plans; reinforce trends in programming and facility provision; determine need, what are the standards? Supports growing trend for children in nature; trails component information
- **Charlie Gougeon**, MD Fisheries; integration of state and county resources; has a GIS access map to ID fishing access points; survey – who is exposed to fishing and what are their needs

- **John Purdue**, MD DNR Forest Service; 200,000 acres managed for multiple use; timber management, forest products, recreation; pressure from users including Off-Road Vehicles, access has been shut down because of overuse; mountain bikers; internal pressures for access – state parks want to use forests for visitor access; not much data on how people access land; most lands attached to state parks
- **Matt Jagunic**, NPS; would like to reach audiences historically not included; NPS has public access goal to increase to 300 public access points to Chesapeake Bay; has a grant program to develop access projects; wants to develop partnerships; Bay Access Plan just released
- **Jared Parks**, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, education, public access focus; would like plan to support easy and fair access for all; landscape, natural resources, agriculture acquisition, a need for DNR to lead by example
- **Alfred Sunara**, MD Dept. of Planning; demographic projections; identify future needs as population and diversity increases
- **Jane Trenham**, MD Dept. of Planning, census data collection
- **Daniel Rosen**, MD Dept. of Planning, reviews all local LPRP's, wants plan to adhere to Smart Growth vision; use parks as amenities in growth areas; for farms and forests to be used for passive recreation; DNR is doing a good job of reaching out to unserved areas and people without cars
- **John Papagni**, HUD, provide opportunities in existing unserved areas
- **Elizabeth Hughes**, Maryland Historical Trust, Dept. of Planning; include discussion of cultural landscapes as part of DNR; currently updating State Historic Preservation Plan; hopes DNR survey will inform their plan; owns one 560 acre property on the water; how survey results will influence programming so public will recognize archeological & natural resources
- **Marci Ross**, MD Office of Tourism & Dev./ Tourism Dev. Unit; recreation is a pillar of their work
- **Sue Simmons**, Caroline County Recreation & Parks Dept.; what is the elevator speech? Will convene focus group ; wants the local voice to be meaningful

4. Key Outdoor Recreation Issues, Values, Vision

Values & Vision

- Connecting People To Nature
- Water Recreation
- Connecting Local, County & State Plans
- Trails Connectivity

Issues

- Decreased funding to DNR; What are the opportunities to restore funding?
- Community Parks and Playgrounds Program is at half funding
- Stormwater issues and recreation access goals in conflict
- Transportation funding for trails cut; set up for projects that have multi-purpose impact, multi-use
- Consider human ecology; how do we create livable, walkable communities including trails and other routes?
- County plans themes – how to improve service in new growth areas; improvements to existing properties

- Understand how diverse cultures use and appreciate nature; how do you respectfully encourage appropriate use; ex: harvesting mushrooms & fish; resource based etiquette before environmental literacy
- Communication with new immigrants on regulations
- Important to have inventory of resources coordinated

Trends

- Planting parks with edible landscapes and community gardens
- Inconsistency in best management practices among state lands compared with education practices for private land owners; buffers, cover crops; would like to see DNR showcase best practices (e.g., cover crop compliance in agricultural lands) – reinforce this in Land Preservation section
- Hispanic community users are increasing

5. Regional Stakeholder Meetings (4 – Central, Western, Southern, and Eastern)

TAC members were asked to help publicize the upcoming March 5-6 regional stakeholder sessions. They were also encouraged to help promote the open online survey (in March). Additional outreach efforts were encouraged, especially efforts by TAC members to reach out to unserved communities.

Schedule

- 1st meeting, Feb. 5, 6-8 pm, 6600 Kenilworth Ave, Riverdale, 20737
- Remaining meetings – March 5-6
    - 2nd meeting, Western Region, March 5, *(note: changed time and location),* 4-6 pm at Allegany College, 12401 Willowbrook Rd., Cumberland, MD
    - 3rd meeting, Eastern Region, Wednesday, March 6, 10- 12 pm, Talbot County Community Recreation Center, 10028 Ocean Gateway, Easton 21601
    - 4th meeting, Central Region, Wednesday, March 6, 6-8 pm, Howard County Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia 21044

Communication & Outreach Strategy Discussion

- DNR Trails Committee
- Visitor & constituent newsletters
- Email posters to libraries
- DOT Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan Stakeholder Meetings – late Feb thru April; will share info
- Education System – share information with MD PTA
- Communications Division – distribute flyer via email with all info including survey info
- Use Social Media – Facebook pages, Twitter – most agencies have them

6. Survey

Following are discussion comments from the draft phone survey questionnaire.

- Responses will be muddled because respondents don't know who owns parks
- Questions with many choices requesting ranking will be difficult to answer
- #8, #5, simplify – too complex
- Shorten survey overall; have longer online survey
- "Have you visited a state park in the past year? If yes, what did you do? If not, why not?"

- "Do you want more access to outdoor recreation?"
- Hook people at the beginning of the survey – "Would you like to have an influence on how outdoor recreation facilities are planned?"
- Design questions to be conversational
- Keep phone survey short, then invite people to go online and fill out longer survey (provide incentive)
- Explore possibility of Morgan State intern doing onsite interviews in parks
- Make sure survey is available in Spanish
- Broaden questions to ask what gaps there are in activities and whether demand is met, rather than ask about specific state parks
- Consider using SSC interns to conduct surveys on site (CJC, MCC)
- Consider oversampling in communities with a high concentration of minority populations

7. Facility Inventory Update

- Approach – Focused on DNR lands and other regionally significant public open space/park lands (federal and county)
- Discussion
    - County includes state lands as part of their threshold of acres per population
    - Use trailfinder.org, landscope.org (inventory of lands and uses) from the NPA
    - Are programs being inventoried as well as DNR lands and facilities? No.

8. Summary & Next Steps

- Finalize survey questionnaire
- Regional stakeholder meetings, March 5-6 (see meeting times and locations under section V. above)
- Findings/visioning session, Tues. June 18 for TAC meeting
- Other comments – consider using human interest stories or case studies for inclusion as side bars in plans

Recreation Component of the Land Preservation and Recreation Plan
Roger "Pip" Moyer Community Recreation Center, 273 Hilltop Lane, Annapolis 21403
June 18, 2013

Technical Advisory Committee #3
Meeting Notes

1. Welcome and Introductions

John Wilson from the Land Acquisition and Planning Division of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources welcomed the Technical Advisory Committee members and introduced Cindy Heath, Project Manager for GreenPlay for the Recreation Component of the State Land Preservation and Outdoor Recreation Plan project.

2. Project Overview

Cindy Heath introduced the consultant team that included Kristin Caborn from GreenPlay and Carter Marshall from Design Concepts. The team presented the Findings Powerpoint and facilitated a Visioning Session following focused on key findings.

3. Findings and Visioning Discussion

- **GIS coordination with local governments**
  - Long range goal for every county and municipality to provide GIS mapping trails, natural resources and picnic amenities
  - DNR could provide a list of identified data layers to counties and municipalities – natural resources, trails, water access, picnic areas

- **Alignment between local jurisdictions and DNR**
  - Outfitters – could provide information that's not widely available about little known destinations
  - Corporate partners- REI (grants for employees to work on specific projects related to orienteering, outdoor projects, GIS)

- **Partners**
  - Identify non-profits that share a common vision
  - Higher education institutions can accomplish specific projects
  - Appalachian Environmental Lab
  - GIS lab at Washington College
  - Salisbury University
  - Urban Resources Initiative
  - Outward Bound Baltimore
  - Appalachian Trail conference - Potomac Trail Club (across border)

- Baltimore Ecosystem Study
- Baltimore has been selected as a pilot community for Urban Waters Initiative
- America's Great Outdoors Report
- Adventure Sports Institute in Garrett County - National Whitewater Hall of Fame
- Maryland Recreation & Park Association
- Maryland Association of Counties
- Baltimore Metropolitan Planning Authority
- Regional planning organizations
- Maryland Association for Outdoor and Environmental Education
- 1000 Friends of Maryland

- **Messaging and Branding**
  - YouTube – produce short 'how to' video clips (access information, educational ie, how to load a canoe)
  - Social media on trails - encourage users to Tweet, Facebook, and upload to DNR website or blog
  - QR code readers on signage, brochures (what does poison ivy look like), could link to DNR website
  - Consider a focus on health and wellness
  - What's the message the department wants to get across? What's available in state parks, local education, where are the deficits?
  - Coordinate with environmental educators in each county, encourage use of DNR lands as outdoor classrooms
  - PSAs (reference to 15 second infomercials during Orioles games such as how to fertilize lawn - partnered with CBS)
  - Consider a DNR app, sponsors to develop. Internal barriers at DNR to developing apps - too many platforms to support, changes too frequently
  - DNR is creating PDF trail maps that are downloadable from the website
  - Consider mobile phone version of DNR website
  - Create links from local sites to DNR website (schools, cafes, local government community centers)
  - Docs in the park (info to doctor's offices, easily conveyable to patients who need to be prescribed nature)
  - County fairs, state fairs DNR booth

- **Water Recreation Access**
  - Barriers to participation:
    - Ownership - More county access than state access
    - Time
    - Information on sites is not out there; have enough but people don't know where they are or where the physical "holes" are, where to acquire new sites
    - NPS bay access, MD acquired 300 new sites
  - Provide information on what type of access is provided: flat water paddlers, fishing, crabbing, swimming, etc.
  - Consider a joint publication (local government, DNR, private entities)
  - Consider soft launch areas, kiosk for money collection, with day use sticker
  - Reassess the gaps after DNR and county facility data is combined, then collaboratively identify priorities

- **Trail Connectivity, Connecting People to Nature Across the Age Span**
    - DOT has a new bicycle plan coming out in 2013
    - Reluctance to use trails because of safety issues (natural predator or crime)
        - Trail partners, walking partners
        - Power of storytelling, testimonials about experiences
        - Use emergency locator numbering, integrating technology for safety
        - Incorporate emergency personnel into planning
        - "Friends of" groups to help with vigilance
    - Better access from front door. Starts at local planning level. Plan connections early during development, then look at state level planning for connections to points of interest, schools, etc.
    - Sidewalks are an important part of the connection, starting at the neighborhood level.
- Connect not just physically to the Chesapeake Bay, but identify it as part of "their state".
- Schools, user groups? Get teachers to use parks as outdoor classrooms (identify who's in charge of environmental education in each county)
- Need fishing access link on DNR website, coordinate with county access opportunities
- Other plans:
    - Heritage area plans - will be covered in land conservation
    - Forest plans- camping associated
    - Children and nature plan - will be covered in land conservation

4. Conclusions and Next Steps

John Wilson thanked the group for their participation, and encouraged everyone to promote the online survey to their constituents in advance of the June 30 closing date.

Attendees:

Rob Feldt	MD DNR - Forestry
Charlie Gougeon	MD DNR - Fisheries
Pat Goucher	MD DNR – Parks
Dan Rosen	MD DNR – Parks
Paul Dial	Frederick County Recreation and Parks
Jackie Carrera	Non-Profit, Parks and People
Jared Parks	Non-Profit, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
Maureen Dougherty	Academic Rep, Frostburg State University
John Wilson	MD DNR – Land Acquisition, Project Manager
Sandi Trent	MD DNR - Administrator

Recreation Component of the Land Preservation and Recreation Plan
Roger "Pip" Moyer Community Recreation Center, 273 Hilltop Lane, Annapolis 21403
October 1, 2013

Technical Advisory Committee #4
Meeting Notes

1. Welcome and Introductions

John Wilson from the Land Acquisition and Planning Division of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources welcomed the Technical Advisory Committee members, and representatives of the Maryland Association of Counties and Maryland Recreation and Park Association, and introduced Cindy Heath, Project Manager for GreenPlay for the Recreation Component of the State Land Preservation and Outdoor Recreation Plan project.

2. Draft Plan Presentation

Cindy Heath introduced the consultant team that included Kristin Caborn from GreenPlay and Carter Marshall from Design Concepts. The team presented the Draft Plan Powerpoint and facilitated a feedback discussion following focused on key findings.

3. Draft Plan Questions & Discussion

Why is Dorchester County showing such a low participation in natural area visitation?

- County data was not included in planning process
- Work with Counties will present a more accurate reflection of what's happening in MD
- Plan to make a "GreenPrint" type map for the entire state that overlays all of the amenities
- This will be a recommendation of the plan, need to work towards all GIS data for cities/counties

Discussion notes

- Highlight tie between walking and visiting historic sites, map not created because of focus on outdoor recreation facilities, and lack of GIS data for historic sites
- Executive Summary, add an "E" connection between outdoor recreation and heritage tourism, i.e., Harriet Tubman byway and parks along "necklace" that offer interpretive opportunities
- Connecting people and places section, tell the story of how the sense of place is created along the way
- Missing capacity of facility to handle people (carrying capacity). Not generally a part of a broad-based SCORP planning process, add to recommendation
- Demographics included, but no "analysis" of action associated with it. High level of detail that is an "action item" in the recommendations to determine gaps that will be helpful with integration of county-level GIS information

- Connecting people to places- can you elevate that section in the draft, add cultural info. More examples (starting on page 65). Park equity analysis tool in chapter 5 might provide opportunity for enhancement
- Intro/Executive summary themes:
    - Complementary nature of land preservation and recreation
    - State land acquisition priorities depend on local land use decisions
- Chapter 5 also linked to cultural (historic landscapes, ie, civil war battlegrounds)
- Action #2, Promote: No actions refer to economic impact; no explanation of diversity or what to do to connect with diverse populations; (e.g. kids in nature, school influence, etc)
- Term "access" as confusing ADA reference and level of service reference (vs. proximity)
- Font size of document too small (especially maps)
- A lot of physical dimension of park system, missing quality dimension (deferred maintenance, etc). Mention having a quality system is something that's valued, especially when discussing federal funding. Also addressed in survey.
- Stewardship model, teach people about it, get them to care about it, resulting in them doing something about it. "Call to action"
    - Strategy: look at programming and training (IEEIA?). Want people to be more than passive participants
- Mapping would be significantly different after local info is integrated, "call to action" for local parks and rec department to help make this happen. Need disclaimers that are obvious to the reader that local data will be worked on with DNR to update
- Interesting to see how much income is generated from outside of MD and/or from a different region of the state (hunting, fishing), i.e., Blackwater's impact on Dorchester County
    - Economic development/impact - overnight stay vs. day trippers
    - Purposes and priorities when spending money to serve local residents vs. out of state
- Good foundation for local level to get plans together and help locals focus on where to fill in the gaps
    - State and local level work together moving forward to fill deficiencies
    - Tool for collaboration
    - Next first step: local levels look at gap analysis to see where LOS is high
- Need statewide LOS analysis that takes state and local data together
    - 5 mile catchment may not be applicable to local level detail

4. Conclusions and Next Steps

John Wilson thanked the group for their participation, and encouraged everyone to deliver any remaining comments to the GreenPlay, LLC team by October 15.

Attendees Representing Maryland Association of Counties:
John Byrd, Raul Delerme, Brenda Mercado, Jeff Degitz, Ken Alban, John Nissel, Stacey Clough, Paul Magness, Preston Peper, Chuck Montrie, Chip Price, Mary Bradford, Brooke Farquhar, Mark Wallis

Attendees Representing Technical Advisory Committee:
Mary Owens, MPS; Jack Perdue, Forestry; Charlie Gougeon, Fisheries; Karina Stonesifer, WHS; Pat Goucher, MDP; Dan Rosen, MDP; Elizabeth Hughes, MHT; Kevin Baynes, DHCD; Stephanie Oberle, Education, CIN; Erica Smith, Dept. of Health; Marci Ross, Tourism; Terry Maxwell, DOT Tom Donlin, MRPA; Paul Dial, MACO; Susan Simmons, MACO; Joe McNeal, MML Rep; Jackie Carrera, Parks and People Non-profit; Jared Parks, Non Profit conservation group; Jim Rapp, Recreational Industry (Delmarva Low Impact Tourism Experience); Maureen Dougherty, Academic Rep; Jonathan Doherty, NPS; John Papagni, DHCD; Matt Jagunic, RLA, LEED AP BD+C; Gary Burnett, MPS; Matt Tingstrom, MDOT

Project Team: John Wilson, DNR; Sandi Trent, DNR

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Appendix C: Regional Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Land Preservation and Recreation Plan
Southern Maryland Stakeholder Meeting
February 5, 2013, 6 – 8 pm

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome & Project Overview

John Wilson, Associate Director of the Land Acquisition and Planning Division of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources welcomed the group. He described the purpose of the Land Preservation and Recreation Plan – to identify open space and outdoor recreation trends, needs, and issues for Maryland and provide a strategic plan to sustain recreation opportunities. Anne Miller, Project Manager from GreenPlay, LLC provided an overview of the project scope and schedule. Cindy Health from GreenPlay facilitated discussion of a series of questions. Following is a summary of input from the **20 participants** at the meeting.

2. Discussion / Input – Large Group

General

- Water Access – a need more waterfront access
    - Public Beach access
    - Public Boat Ramp access
- Other users groups that want access to public lands
    - ATV's, mountain bikes, snowmobiles
    - User based recreation
- ADA access
    - Hiking trails available to disabled
    - Insufficient quality access to views or features
- Trails – need a comprehensive trail guide; include trail features and difficulty ratings
- State could sponsor different parks for different activities at different times
    - Spearhead events
    - Adventure sports

- Equestrian – safety of surfaces for horses and handicap users on bridges
- Need a balance of outdoor recreation activities (other than organized sports – there are too many soccer fields), like equestrian uses
- Work on partnerships with user groups to develop facilities
- Off Road Vehicles – ORV (motocross, etc.)
    - Go out of state to ride
    - It's not green to drive out of state to ride

    - Economic benefits of keeping users in state
    - Off road users – Indiana has 2 parks paid for by groups
    - Economic benefits
    - Stewardship among users
    - Need access in Maryland
    - Provides access to users that can't walk, provides access to new areas
- ORV access – doesn't have to be open all the time, could be limited times
- Youth access is extremely important
    - Available areas for youth to do activities outside of sports
    - Expose youth to the outdoors
    - How to get kids to unplug and go outside
    - Find healthy activities for kids
- Provide a variety of recreation opportunities in Maryland so people don't have to go to other states (Casino example)
- Small game hunting in addition to southern areas
- How do we get access without a car?
- Open areas for passive use and multiple users
- Non conflicting uses

<u>Strengths of System</u>

- Green Ridge worked really well –consolidated aspect of facility worked well
    - Camping
    - ORV access
- Set boundaries seem to work
- From beach to mountains – play up the all types of recreation opportunities
- Incredible financing opportunities
- Trail maintenance is a strength
- Camping and hiking
- Well situated parks with open space
- Excellent job of educating users
- Free passive use opportunities

<u>Improvements</u>

- Publicity – toot your horn
- Put land to use – acquired land should be open to the public
- Label lands as state parks and provide public access
- DNR should keep up with technology and marketing
- Have to pay to go into parking lot
- Don't overbuild facilities
- Identify all the state lands so I know where they are
    - Internet
    - On a map
    - State should look beyond DNR for recreation opportunities
- List of what is available and where things are – include ratings (easy/difficult trail, etc.)
- Improve mapping
- Take leadership for outdoor recreation
- Make lands accessible for use

- Relax barriers to use (e.g., environmental regulations)

3. Break Out Discussions Notes

Equestrian/Multi-Use Trails

Define the Problem

- Marked better, identification
  - Who, where
  - What's available and where
- Mapping
  - Clearing house for GPS
  - Shared online among friends
- Equity
  - Southern areas served by trails
  - Riding trails but capturing all facets of equestrian users
- Facilities- large scale- regional facilities
  - Permanent stables

Barriers

- Available lands or facilities
- Cost
  - User fees
  - Partnership with groups to develop
  - Sweat equity/Volunteer groups
  - Sustain over time (total ownership cost)
- Patrol / liaison
  - How do we get our voice heard
- Models facilities after like Kentucky Horse Park
- Not capturing demographics of users

Solutions

- Regional facilities
- Figure out users/empower users
- Clearinghouse for mapping trails

Hunting

Define the Problem

- Limited public shooting ranges, target shooting – a place to practice to become proficient – cannot get new users; shooting or bow-hunting; there is a range in Mrytle Grove in Charles County; Green Ridge has a public shooting range; need range safety officers – many would be willing to volunteer
- Sunday – limited hunting allowed
- Wildlife management concerns

Barriers

- State of Maryland is not pro-gun (e.g., legislation is being proposed to limit gun use)
- Stigmatism and fear of firearms
- Not issuing any more indoor shooting ranges – concerns about filtration of air

Solutions

- Public education – seminars with DNR officers to discuss wildlife management, safety, heritage; hunter safety classes
- Add more shooting ranges – pubic range that is self-supporting, rent to private and public groups (Gilberts Guns – private facility, is rented by government agencies for training police)
- Hap Baker – outdoor shooting range run by Carroll County at the dump

<u>Water Access</u>

Define the Problem

- Inadequate public water access
    - Example – 14,000 registered boats for two ramps at one site
    - Over 100 publically-owned properties that could be developed

Barriers

- Immediate neighbors resist public access

Solutions

- Boaters, fisherman, etc. paying through fees to maintain existing properties; these fees should be utilized to develop additional ramps
- Change land acquisition financing plans to require robust public access
- Access does <u>not</u> need to be developed and patrolled to the highest standard (i.e., gavel road/parking and ramp is adequate)

<u>Off Road Vehicles (ORV)</u>

Define the Problem

- Lack of access to facilities
- No place to ride
- Lack of status in facilities planning process
- Everybody hates motorcycle riders – noisy, environmental degradation
- NIMBY attitude of landowners adjacent to ORV use areas

Barriers

- Government red tape
- Tree huggers
- Lack of equity in land use
- Land closures to ORV – formerly 14 motocross tracks; regulations and land development forced closures (NIMBY); environmental issues; dust; zoning
- Land use pressures and land closures, as well as distance difficulties are having a negative effect on family recreation and the various motocross sports

Solutions

- Model Parks
    - Croome ATV/Motorcycle Parks (FL) – world renowned park; camp ground, state forest
    - Breezewood Proving Grounds (PA)
    - Tower City – Lebanon, PA
    - Hatfield McCoy (WV) – state run; private land
    - Rock Run – Patton, PA
    - Budds Creek – Mechanicsville, MD (St Mary's County)
- Reclaimed mines
- Camping facilities not necessary but RV access okay; self-sufficient camping works
- User preferences – motocross = day use; camping on weekends
- Combine the user group clubs – separate the use (Hancock); American Motorcycle Association supports the initiative
- Understand economic impact – Fox Racing reference; $5.4 million – Alleghany County economic impact loss from closing ORV trails at Green Ridge
- Have clubs adopt riding areas and do maintenance; rotate usage of trails to reduce impact
- Higher level of coordination within DNR ORV Stakeholders Workgroup – users want to understand use of lands (reference made to Hood's Mill)
- Use money from registrations to give access to ORV users (reference made to 1976 law)

4. Summary & Next Steps

John Wilson from DNR thanked participants for their input. The three additional regional stakeholder sessions were announced for March 5-6. Details will be posted on the DNR website - http://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2013/02/06/marylanders-asked-to-provide-recreation-information/.

Land Preservation and Recreation Plan
Western Maryland Stakeholder Meeting
March 5, 2013, 4 – 6 pm

Meeting Notes

5. Welcome & Project Overview

John Wilson, Associate Director of the Land Acquisition and Planning Division of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources welcomed the group. He described the purpose of the Land Preservation and Recreation Plan – to identify open space and outdoor recreation trends, needs, and issues for Maryland and provide a strategic plan to sustain recreation opportunities. Anne Miller, Project Manager from GreenPlay, LLC provided an overview of the project scope and schedule. Cindy Health from GreenPlay facilitated discussion of a series of questions. Following is a summary of input from the **54 participants** at the meeting.

6. Discussion / Input – Large Group

General

- Education on different users
- Elderly are least likely to use state parks – mobility issues
- Look and feel – un-crowded, beautiful landscapes
- Don't want overdeveloped areas – too wide of trails, natural but accessible
- Cultural and historical resources (i.e., stone circle)
- Historical interpretation
- Off-Road Vehicles (ORV) – go to West Virginia, learn about history of the area, follow policy of "tread lightly", provide economic benefits to the area
    - People with disabilities can have access to natural areas
    - Need closer riding opportunities in Western Maryland
- Unmet demand for residential and day camps in Western Maryland
- Needs to be more youth riding/ATV areas – give youth a legal place to ride
- More events for youth, seniors
- Hunting, fishing, walking as a youth – kids are watching TV, playing electronic games
- Offer family-friendly hikes
- Need to give kids an incentive, teach them to come out
- Geocaching could help engage youth
- Willing to pay to ORV, but want it applied to this use; have to pay in PA (out of state) and Hatfield McCoy, would like to be able to stay in Maryland; trails are there, but cannot legally ride on them; people are buying $10,000 machines
- Would pay more to use the state forests – love them quiet
- State regulations are barriers
- Seems like the County officials don't care about the local resident needs for ORV
- Snowmobiles are allowed on frozen lake like Deep Creek but ORV's are not an allowed use

- State could work with County to partner (like public/private partnership in Rock Run, PA); Yamaha and other makers are helping fund ATV parks
- Horseback riding – multi-use trails that are compatible for different uses, e.g., need pull off areas for horses, need to be longer than one-mile

Strengths of System / What's Working

- Have a wealth of public lands – not every place has these assets
- Diverse lands and recreational uses
- Trail system (e.g., Swallow Falls trails)
- Helpful staff – "greeted with open arms"
- Small state but have wonderful forests and habitat for birds

Improvements

- Great Eastern trail – parallel to Appalachian trail – better promotion needed
- Will Mountain State Park – serve special populations, need better road access
- Public education – proper use of forest lands, etc.
- More equestrian trail riding access
- Need more support for public/private local partnerships and more leadership

7. Break Out Discussion Notes

ORV

Define the Problem

- Limited access

Barriers

- Liability concerns of private land owners
- Perception that State is opposed to ORV
- Restrictive regulations
- Double standards – permit to cut wood, but cannot take ATV to collect
- ATV – want some access from the trail to town to get services (i.e., food, gas)

Solutions

- Build sustainable trails
- Develop user group coalitions to work with land owners
- Use timber sale sites for access
- Use reclaimed mine sites
- Restructure State regulations
- Volunteer trail patrols – self policing
- Educate public on the economic impacts

Trails

Define the Problem

- Not adequate trails, not enough, not clearly marked, use conflicts

Barriers

- Trails not marked clearly – unclear of allowed uses
- Not enough personnel and funds for maintenance
- Not a place for ORV use so they are on trails that result in use conflicts

Solutions

- Need designated ORV trails
- Better signage
- More education and rangers
- Soliciting partnerships for volunteers, funding
- Include adequate parking for trailers at any designated ORV trail

<u>Education & Interpretation</u>

Define the Problem

- Will Mountain State Park – cannot access it easily, need to open up gate; need some interpretation and education about the resources; need to promote the park and views
- Green Ridge – need to promote research and preservation of stone rings and interpret for the public

Barriers

- Lack of access and information

Solutions

- Need to promote valuable unique cultural resources – example given of the rings of rock (American Unearthed program)
- More staff and tours, written materials, research

<u>Input from Individuals</u>

Water Recreation:

- Written comments submitted regarding Savage River dam white water releases before the end of the spawn, want to keep water in longer
- Open up fishing for all types of fishing (not just fly fishing)

Hunting:

Define the Problem

- Deer, turkey and bear – 3 main game species
- Deer population has dropped – down 17% from previous year, 15% year before; more predators – coyotes and bear
- No problem with turkey population
- Could be conflicts if there are multiple uses during hunting season – hunters and ATV's, etc.

Barriers

- Hunters are aging – need vehicle access

Solutions

- Curb doe kill
- Want more access to Wildlife Management areas – now have gates on roads

8. Summary & Next Steps

John Wilson from DNR made closing remarks and thanked participants for their input that would help inform the planning for the Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan.

Land Preservation and Recreation Plan
Eastern Maryland Stakeholder Meeting
March 6, 2013, 10 am – 12 pm

Meeting Notes

9. Welcome & Project Overview

John Wilson, Associate Director of the Land Acquisition and Planning Division of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources welcomed the group. He described the purpose of the Land Preservation and Recreation Plan – to identify open space and outdoor recreation trends, needs, and issues for Maryland and provide a strategic plan to sustain recreation opportunities. Anne Miller, Project Manager from GreenPlay, LLC provided an overview of the project scope and schedule. Cindy Health from GreenPlay facilitated discussion of a series of questions. Following is a summary of input from the **16 participants** at the meeting.

10. Discussion / Input – Large Group

General

- Looking for ways to promote sport of ATV and dirt biking – especially for youth recreational riding
- Hunting and equestrian use conflicts – looking at trying to modify the hunting season to allow more use year-round
- Partnerships for equal access to outdoor recreational opportunities – Maryland Orthnological Society, Mountain-bikers, equestrians
- Equestrian trails as important – multi-use, sustainable trails (represent close to 80,000 people)
- Hatfield-McCoy does allow multi-use, horses
- ORV
    - Getting youth out on ORV trails – concern that Pocomoke trail was closed;
    - Would be willing to pay (e.g., Hatfield-McCoy)
    - Local for-profit ATV park was closed (apparently zoning issues); sales of dirt bikes have gone down, no place to ride
    - ATV's being driven out of state
    - Need more riding areas
    - People go for the weekend, need camping nearby; losing money in the state
    - Family activity – also do other activities while outdoors (walking on a trail, etc.), travel out of state now, can do some riding on private land locally; would like places to ride in Maryland
- Appreciate opportunity to comment – website, meetings, etc.
- Mountain bicycling
    - Looking at adding more single-track trails; IMBA is helping build trails
    - Multi-use conflicts do occur

    - Would like foot bridge at Pocomoke River State Park and Forest from Shad Landing (Chandler track) and camping area to connect to Hudson tract– needs to upgrade the amphitheater and camping area; slow moving pace of improvements and some resistance of Counties
    - Algonquin trail is a key opportunity to make trail connections in the area
    - Access issues for youth and seniors to outdoor recreation; some youth do not have bikes
    - Engaging youth and families through special events and races has been successful; also providing youth volunteer opportunities for trail building
- Fear of Lymes disease is a barrier for people going into the woods
- Access to water is very important – most of waterfront is in private ownership, need to maximize public land and multi-uses; need to get more people to enjoy and appreciate water resources
- Can co-exist together on trails
- Parks are underutilized by some groups – seniors, lower income groups – need more publicity of opportunities
- Access issues – is hard to get to some of the places, how do we improve transportation?
- Need to manage multiple uses – bird watching, cross country skiing, hunting, ATV, etc.; old rail beds are opportunities for trails
- Youth birding education through the schools; engage youth in outdoor recreation and environmental education
- Broaden use of Program Open Space (POS) beyond athletic fields
- Public education on shared trail use is important
- Connections – what connections can we make with DNR resources in a rural community? Do we do this with trail connections or between organizations? Public lands are integral parts of these communities. Need to leverage resources. People need to value these resources and make human connections to these lands. Programmatic and physical connections/improvements are needed.
- Rails to trails
- Tuckahoe State Park – trail improvements
- Youth service learning hours and opportunities for personal development
- Don't think redirecting POS funds from acquisitions to maintenance is a good idea
- User conflicts – Sept. to May stay out of public lands for birding, etc. due to hunting season; Utah – have system set up for equestrian users and bikers – odd and even days for different uses; would like groups to share access; need to balance uses; hunting – six days a week – limits other uses
- Monetary value of open space and outdoor recreation

11. Managing Multiple Uses – Discussion Notes

Define the Problem

- Compatibility of multi-use trails
- Trail cutting

Barriers

- Managing the "bad apple" – renegade users that don't follow trail etiquette/rules
- Bureaucratic issues – policy framework needed for cooperative planning between local and state planning, e.g., transportation planning
- Not every property can have every use – rare and endangered plants, etc.; need to understand the best uses based on the property characteristics and what are appropriate uses
- Political and legislative barriers – legislative process is not citizen-friendly
- Public perception of trail conditions – need sustainable trail design
- Transportation design not inclusive of all modes

Solutions

- Public education – trail safety guide published by equestrian group, IMBA, etc.; trailhead signage, brochures, volunteer patrols; cross-training between the different trail user groups; multi-use trail guide and possible certification or training classes; publicity – "give a hoot, don't pollute"
- Unified user approach to legislative policy process
- Complete Street design approaches – multi-modal transportation planning; pedestrian safety; policies at local, regional and state levels
- Sustainable trail design and maintenance (IMBA is teaching)
- "Adopt-a-trail" programs – post contact information for people to call in trail maintenance concerns
- Consolidate yield signs from all user groups

12. Summary & Next Steps

John Wilson from DNR made closing remarks and thanked participants for their input that would help inform the planning for the Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan.

Land Preservation and Recreation Plan - Central Maryland Stakeholder Meeting
June 19, 2013, 6 pm – 8 pm

Meeting Notes

Welcome & Project Overview

John Wilson, Associate Director of the Land Acquisition and Planning Division of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources welcomed the group. He described the purpose of the Land Preservation and Recreation Plan – to identify open space and outdoor recreation trends, needs, and issues for Maryland and provide a strategic plan to sustain recreation opportunities. Cindy Heath, Project Manager from GreenPlay, LLC provided an overview of the project scope and schedule. Kristin Caborn from GreenPlay facilitated discussion of a series of questions. Following is a summary of input from the **34 participants** of the meeting.

Discussion / Input – Large Group

How can our outdoor recreation areas become the best places for everyone to experience the natural beauty of Maryland?

- Southern MD Dirt Riders (dirt bikes): Insure that user groups have access to open space, trails
- Manage resources for all
- More trails (connecting trails, trails within parks)
- Definition of a trail – opportunity to enter the forest, meander through the woods, allowing for hiking, bicycling, other uses, natural surface
- Rehabilitating trails
- Shared use
- "Bulldoze paved trails," restore natural habitat, restrict to users who appreciate natural beauty
- Include trails along meadows, natural areas

How can different uses of outdoor recreation areas be managed to assure equal access and enjoyment (e.g., hiking or hunting, bird watching or off-road vehicle use?)

- Gathering like user groups on the same trails
- Consider rotational/seasonal use by different user groups
- Reutilize logging trails for ORV activities
- ORV use incompatible with mission point of preserving natural state of DNR lands
- Multi-use parks for different uses
- Develop special use area for ORV activities separate from natural resources and neighborhoods

- Managed hunting areas help preserve natural resources; consider this model for other uses (ORVs)
- Self-policing and rules enforced by club membership
- Increase enforcement of users abusing the resources

How can people who don't often use our outdoor recreation areas be encouraged to take advantage of them?

- Utilize technology to encourage new users (Facebook, apps, AOL groups sharing information)
- Continue to provide a wide breadth of activities
- Instill tolerance for different users
- DNR start grass roots efforts - ORV work days, scout rider trail days
- Increase advertising of parks, including emphasis on safety (how safe parks are)
- Promote parks in schools
- Signage, television, faith groups
- Facilitate user group activities in specific parks, highlighting the park's special features
- Improve map labels

What groups of people seem to you to be least likely to use outdoor recreation areas including state parks? Why?

- People who fear environmental risks
- People with disabilities, those with mobility issues, youth, low income

Think of a park or recreation area that you have especially enjoyed. What was it about that place that should be copied in other parks and outdoor recreation areas?

- Schooley Mill Park - a model for multi-use, adequate facilities for equestrian users and most others (Howard County park), trails connect to adjacent neighborhoods (except motocross)
- Building at every park (Howard County) for classes & interpretation
- Bud's Creek - appropriate for motorized use, well established, safe, regulated, enough space for motocross use
- Little Bennett - maps a good model, difficult to find on Google (MNCPPC), horse trailer parking; signage a bit unclear
- Simplify DNR website for easier access activities

What do you think are the most important parts of outdoor recreation areas to preserve?

- Increase hunting where possible to support natural resource preservation
- Quiet recreation areas; regulate noise
- Wildlife habitat
- Trails, water quality
- Land acquisition
- Preserve Program Open Space in perpetuity
- Understory in natural areas

How can outdoor recreation areas be designed to serve specific groups such as people with disabilities, youth, seniors, and low-income families?

- Increase funding allocation for special use areas
- Site parks in proximity to where people live; utilize abandoned lots & convert to parks
- Disc golf is a gateway activity to the outdoors; expand disc golf facilities
- Design trails to facilitate long distance travel to access remote areas
- Trams
- Programs – design to include all users

How should we encourage Maryland's youth to explore the outdoors?

- Use rangers on site at parks to develop interpretive programs for school groups
- Utilize close proximity County & State Parks for environmental/outdoor education
- Tie state funding to outdoor education curriculum
- Sponsor contests for getting outdoors with incentive rewards
- Promote geo-caching; reach out to special groups (scouts) to promote parks
- Curriculum neglects natural history
- Explore strategies for affordable transportation and program fees
- Integrate housing developments with natural areas to enhance accessibility
- Youth clean-up activities coordinated by friends and faith organizations
- Educate parents

What kinds of services or facilities would you be willing to pay (more) for, and what would you not pay (more) for?

- Would not pay more for - construction of more bathrooms; consider user groups paying for facilities, access to trails
- Would pay more for - 'rest facilities' most economical (composting, other designs); pavilion rental for a family reunion; habitat restoration from invasive species; trail maintenance; rounds of disc golf (volunteer for trash pick-up); horse trails; isolation in a 'true' wilderness; permits to ride motorized vehicles; maintenance

What are your thoughts about compatible outdoor recreation on state public lands? Are there any outdoor recreation uses that are *not* compatible with the DNR mission and other uses? Why?

- Segregate incompatible uses – hunting, ORV use, developed recreation noise from hiking, birding, quiet recreation; consider that hunting is not necessarily incompatible with quiet recreation activities

What are the strengths of Maryland's outdoor recreation resources? What works?

- Varied terrain – mountains to oceans
- Preservation of open space
- Number of outdoor spaces and their accessibility to urban and rural areas
- All four seasons
- 1-5 parks in each County except Wicomico

- Near adequate funding
- Passionate user groups
- Volunteer support groups
- Land acquisition – means to acquire land
- DNR staff efforts for land acquisition despite fiscal constraints

What improvements could be made to enhance outdoor recreation experiences? For youth? Unserved? Special populations?

- Preservation of funds for open space – becomes a resource for other programs (political issue)

Key Issues Break Out Group Summaries

- **Youth access to the outdoors**

Problem: "screen time" and getting them to the outdoors

Barriers: parent permission, not tied to curriculum, teacher awareness (uncomfortable with curriculum)

Solutions:

- Education – parents, educators, leaders
- Funding - foundations
- Volunteer development – advocacy groups

- **User conflicts – quiet and motorized (2 groups)**

Problem: Incompatible uses

Barriers: space, funding, regulation that identifies allowed uses, hunting and safety.

Solutions:

- Use areas that are already noisy
- DNR facilitate public private land acquisition
- Utilize lands that are already degraded
- Consider using impacted lands (disturbed, degraded)
- Make specific lands available for exclusive use by ORV
- Design trails for multi-use
- Identify hunting seasons and make users aware of seasonal hunting uses

- **Connectivity of lands & trails**

Problem: Create spine connecting parks

Barriers: lack of coordination between development, recreation, and transportation planning, different priorities for stakeholders, interaction between providers of trails (state and county), infill opportunities for land connections for low income areas, pro-active partnerships between agencies, utility right-of-ways currently prevent use for trails, and mapping of all trails to recognize assets and opportunities.

Solutions:

- Connect people to parks
- Begin dialogue with County Park/Planning Departments for collaboration on connectivity
- Explore utility easements for trail development
- Evaluate social trails across private lands to determine additional opportunities
- Coordinate among local, county, state – quarterly meetings with Steve Carr

13. Summary & Next Steps

John Wilson from DNR made closing remarks and thanked participants for their input that would help inform the planning for the Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan.

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Appendix D: DNR Trails Committee: Supplemental Recommendations

DNR TRAILS COMMITTEE – SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS

General Statewide Objectives

Develop and implement a comprehensive program that connects children and families, particularly those who are unserved, to natural areas. T**hese connections are invariably located on state, county, or municipal roadways, making their improvement as a bikeway the responsibility of the administering entity. A key ingredient in achieving the mission will be to utilize the existing network of sidewalks throughout the state to provide critical connections.**

Work with the Maryland Department of Transportation, the Maryland State Highway Administration, the Maryland Office of Tourism, the Maryland Office of Planning, and other sister state agencies, along with federal and local governments and private trail advocacy groups to achieve DNR's trails mission of *connecting our public lands to the places where people live, work, shop & play.*

Close the gaps between our DNR lands. A few examples include: BWI Trail to Patapsco State Park and from Patapsco to Ellicott City; Torrey C. Brown Trail to Baltimore City; Gunpowder Valleys trails to the Torrey C. Brown Trail and MA & PA Rail Trail; Appalachian Trail to Catoctin Mountain Park.

Participate and assist in the efforts to create and develop National Historic Trails.

Trail Design

Parking lots should have clear signage and enlarged to accommodate allowed uses. Ecological signs pointing out interesting habitats and natural features should be placed where appropriate.

County LPRP's

The potential connector trails to towns and private camp sites held by organizations like the Girl and Boy Scouts, YM/YWCA, Smithsonian Land, National Greenway Trails, Patuxent Watershed, and other public and private park and open-space should be a part of County and DNR LPRP Trail mapping system.

Research and Planning

Monitor trails on DNR lands to better understand recreational demands and impacts to natural resources.

Native Americans

Sometimes, the public will briefly access a state park from the water and be met by a ranger who wants them to pay an entrance fee. Pennsylvania has produced an excellent map showing how roads and trails follow old Native American trails. There should be an "End of the Trail" story program to educate the public about the Native Americans who once inhabited that area.

Americans With Disabilities (ADA)
Identify which trails, and the connections between trails, are crucial to the network and need to be built and maintained to accessible standards. Consult with makers of navigational tools for blind pedestrians so that they can get the information they need to use the trail system.

Rails-to-Trails
While DNR has purchased and leased abandoned rail lines and worked to develop some of them into regional trails, others are more local in character and offer an opportunity for the Department to provide technical and financial assistance to local project sponsors.
Develop an operations and maintenance plan for each rail trail on DNR lands.

Children in Nature
Implement a program package with school systems to utilize high school volunteers for construction and maintenance trail projects on DNR properties as a means for students to fulfill community service requirements, in cooperation with ongoing program development of the Maryland Conservation Corps, Justice Corps and Maryland Department of Planning.

Equestrian
An easy communications loop needs to be established where all users can give feedback on trail conditions (fallen tree blocking trail) and management can notify equestrians of changes to the trail (too wet to ride). Friends-of-the-Park groups should be formed and equestrians who frequent the park should be encouraged to join.

DNR should be a cooperative partner with local governments, heritage areas, and the Maryland Horse industry as it maps and develops a statewide horse history heritage trail for visitors accessible by car or bike or foot.

Off Road Vehicles (ORV)
The State should facilitate the establishment of dedicated Off-Highway Vehicle (ORV) recreation areas. These areas should be a combination of State-owned property (regardless of managing unit) and public/private partnerships. ORV Parks on State-owned property should not be limited to DNR managed land, but embrace all State lands suitable for user-oriented recreation.
Where State land adjoins land owned or managed by other Governmental units (both State and County) or that adjoins private land where the landowner wishes to enter into a public/private partnership, the State should pursue conjoined use where a large ORV park can be established utilizing contiguous properties.

Hikers
An example of connecting different trail systems is the proposed Appalachian Trail – Catoctin Mountain Park connector in Frederick and Washington counties.

Acquiring more land for State parks provides greater recreational opportunities for park visitors now and in the future.

Build, maintain, and renovate trails to create a sustainable system on DNR land that provides a quality and diverse user experience and promotes environmental stewardship. Local park management should encourage positive interaction and partnerships among different trail users, such as hikers, bikers, and equestrians, both on and off the trail. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways, such as sponsoring joint trail-building or maintenance projects and forming trail advisory councils. Issues regarding multi-use trails are best addressed at the local level by trail users familiar with a particular trail system. Cooperation among trail users helps to reduce conflicts on multi-use trails.

Friends of Groups

Linking art and science is a good way to enhance the trail users' experience and tell important natural and cultural resource stories.

Utilize volunteer groups to initiate a wide range of activities to promote the trails: concerts, the themed walks and rides, and Living Legacy benches.

Trails are an important economic generator and friends of groups should be assisted in developing partnerships with businesses, promoting health and good eating, like the Trail Passport contest with local businesses.

Mountain Bikes

Trail systems on DNR land should be constructed, re built and maintained in a sustainable manner.

DNR and land managers should actively reach out to invested user groups to build "friends –type" organizations that will have input into the design and construction of trails. These invested user groups should be counted on towards contributing resources to ongoing health of the trail systems

Land managers should actively engage with groups who bring young folks onto trail systems. As younger users learn to care for trails and the natural environment in which they exist, we ensure future stewardship of our trail systems.

Trails Groups & Bike Business

We should designate trail priority areas based on proximity to towns, like connecting Oakland to Swallow Falls State Park.

Develop an on-road signage program in order to close the gaps and make key connections between public lands and the places where people live, work, shop & play.

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Appendix E: Simple Guidelines to Create a "Friends of Trails Organization"

INTRODUCTION
A Friends Group is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to assist the local, state, or federal government with promoting, protecting, and enhancing the trails. This is also a great way to organize volunteers and get the public involved.

STEPS TO CONSIDER
1. Assemble a group of people interested in trails. This group should have some organizational skills, time, energy and enthusiasm, a positive attitude toward the government agency, and the ability to work with many personalities.
2. Discuss ideas at several meetings with someone taking notes.
3. Elect a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.
4. Discuss and select a mission, set goals, and purpose.
5. Write the By-laws including committee chairmanships.
6. Enlist the help of an attorney, hopefully gratis, maybe even on the board.
7. Apply for 501(c)(3) status.
8. Set up a web site.
9. MOST IMPORTANT TO HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE GOVERNMENT AGENCY AT ALL MEETINGS

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE BY-LAWS
Meetings to be monthly for Board of Directors, yearly for general membership with a key note speaker.
Set up ways for public to become members and also to donate funds and volunteer time, example lasting gift program.

TO OPERATE
Require all board members to have a specific directorship and to report activities of the previous month and also to log in volunteer hours (helpful when you apply for grants).
Meetings begin and end on time.
Meet with an agenda and keep to it.
Use Roberts Rules as a guide. Be sure motions are made and approved before actions are carried out
Work with your government agency as a FRIEND……Remember Civility.

WAYS TO RAISE FUNDS
1. Memberships
2. Lasting Gifts….benches, picnic tables, engraved bricks, trees, drinking fountains
3. Grants
4. Special project donations

A VERY REWARDING AND ENJOYABLE WAY TO GIVE OF YOUR VOLUNTEER TIME. A FAVORITE QUOTE…..”It is not how much you gather, but how much you scatter that tells what kind of life you lived.”

HAPPY TRAILS

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Appendix F: Inventory and Level of Service Analysis Methodology

Inventory data for amenities was gathered from Maryland DNR web pages and NPS websites. This data was then provided to points of contact within the DNR for verification. These included DNR staff affiliated with state parks, state forests, wildlife management areas, fisheries, as well as other types of assets. Any gaps in the data were addressed at this time, with a worksheet to be populated and edited by DNR staff to the best of their knowledge.

A table of all locations and amenities is included in ***Appendix G: Inventory Tables.***

Once complete, this data was entered into GIS as attribute data based on inventory location provided by Maryland DNR. In this way, each location in the inventory had an associated list of all amenities available on site. This made it possible to isolate particular types of amenities for analysis. For example, one such amenity examined was picnicking. Each inventory location with picnicking available was included in a customized analysis of picnicking in the State of Maryland. Such custom analyses were also run for natural areas, water access, hunting, fishing, and trails.

This study, though it does indicate level of service and service gaps based on analysis, is not able to address capacities of facilities, activities, or resources. A particular part of the state may have proximity to several instances of an amenity, for example picnicking, at various inventory locations. Yet if capacity for use of these picnic areas is limited whereas they are unable to support the volume of users the level of service for these amenities is compromised. Such capacity considerations are beyond the scope of this project and should be noted as limitations to the analyses discussed herein.

It should be strongly noted that this level of service analysis focuses exclusively on Maryland DNR and National Park Service sites. Many types of amenities included in this analysis are also provided by other entities such as counties, municipalities, districts, and private organizations. A complete picture of level of service for the state is not possible unless data for these alternative providers is included in analysis.

Final inventory tables and GIS shapefiles for both inventory and analysis will be provided as final project deliverables.

Proximity Analysis

Visitation of historical sites tied with walking as the most common activities in which survey respondents participate (75% of all respondents indicated participation in both). It was decided that an analysis on such cultural resources would be better conducted by other state agencies. Thus cultural resources were excluded from all level of service analysis for this study.

Survey results indicate that nearly 75 percent of respondents drive up to one hour to reach a recreation destination. For the purposes of this plan, this distance was equated with a 30-mile drive. Early analyses in this study used such a 30-mile radius to determine proximity to recreation. However, it was determined that the results of these analyses, though they provide good context, were not as revealing as the other proximity distance of 5 miles. Findings discussed in this plan therefore refer to a 5-mile catchment area for all proximity analyses.

Findings Preparation

As the statistically-valid survey provided data with reference to drive times to reach outdoor recreation destinations, the consultant team attempted to determine corresponding catchment distances for use in analysis. To do so drive times were mapped for each region of the State of Maryland using ESRI Business Analyst Online. For example, a location polygon for Gunpowder Falls State Park was uploaded to this online service. A map was then generated that displayed how far in any direction a driver could reach in one hour time based on road networks and speed limits. These maps were printed to scale, and various drive distances measured randomly in several locations. These distances were averaged to produce an average distance for a one hour drive for that region. An overall state average distance was determined by averaging these distances for each region, and then rounded up or down. In this manner an hour drive was determined to be equivalent to a 30-mile drive and a fifteen minute drive as equivalent to a 5-mile drive. These two catchment distances were then used for proximity analysis. (Note: The statistically valid survey only referred to drive times of under thirty minutes, over thirty minutes, or over one hour. A fifteen minute drive time was determined by the consultant team to reflect a travel time more indicative of a casual visit. This shorter drive time was then "translated" to the 5-mile catchment ultimately used for all final analyses.)

GIS data for unserved areas as identified in the 2010 MDOT Strategic Trail Implementation Plan was generously provided by Robert Patten of the Toole Design Group, the consulting office that authored the study.

Appendix G: Inventory Tables

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MAPID	LUNAME	OTHER NAME	PUBLIC ACCESS? Y/N	DNRNAME	MANAGEDBY	Beach	Biking Trails	Boat Ramp	Boat Rentals	Cabins	Camper Cabins	Camping	Camping-Primitive	Camping-Youth	Canoeing-Flatwater	Dump Station	Equestrian Trails	Exhibit or Interpretive	Fishing	Food	Hiking	Historic Site or Museu	Hunting	Lodging	Mountain Biking Trails	Park Store	Pet Loop	Picnic Tables	Playground	Restrooms	RV Sites	Shelters	Shelter (Picnic)	Shooting Range	Snowmobiles	Snowshoeing or X-Cou	Swimming	Visitor Center	Wheelchair Accessible
SP01	ASSATEAGUE SP		Y	ASSATEAGUE SP	Maryland Park Service	X	X	X				X		X	X	X		X	X	X			X					X		X	X	X						X	X	X
SP02	BIG RUN SP		Y	BIG RUN SP	Maryland Park Service							X	X	X	X				X		X	X					X	X				X								
SP03	BILL BURTON SP		Y	BILL BURTON SP	Maryland Park Service														X									X												
SP04	CALVERT CLIFFS SP		Y	CALVERT CLIFFS SP	Maryland Park Service									X					X		X		X					X	X			X								
SP05	CASSELMAN BRIDGE SP		Y	CASSELMAN BRIDGE SP	Maryland Park Service														X			X						X												
SP06	CHAPEL POINT SP		Y	CHAPEL POINT SP	Maryland Park Service										X				X				X																	
SP07	CHAPMAN SP		Y	CHAPMAN SP	Maryland Park Service														X			X	X																	
SP08	CUNNINGHAM FALLS SP		Y	CUNNINGHAM FALLS SP	Maryland Park Service			X	X		X	X			X	X			X	X	X	X						X				X				X	X		X
SP09	DANS MOUNTAIN SP		Y	DANS MOUNTAIN SP	Maryland Park Service														X	X	X	X						X				X	X				x			
SP10	DEEP CREEK LAKE SP		Y	DEEP CREEK LAKE SP	Maryland Park Service	x		X			x	X				X			X		X		X		X		X	X		X					X	X	X	X	
SP11	ELK NECK SP		Y	ELK NECK SP	Maryland Park Service	x		X	X		X	X		X	X	X			X		X	X			X	X	X	X				X					X		X
SP12	FORT FREDERICK SP		Y	FORT FREDERICK SP	Maryland Park Service			X	X			X		X	X			X	X		X	X				X		X				X						X	X
SP13	FORT TONOLOWAY SP	NO AMENITIES		FORT TONOLOWAY SP	Maryland Park Service																																		
SP14	FRANKLIN POINT SP	NO AMENITIES		FRANKLIN POINT SP	Maryland Park Service																																		
SP15	GAMBRILL SP		Y	GAMBRILL SP	Maryland Park Service						X	X				X					X	X			X		X	X				X							
SP16	GATHLAND SP		Y	GATHLAND SP	Maryland Park Service																X	X						X				X						X	
SP17	GREENBRIER SP		Y	GREENBRIER SP	Maryland Park Service	X		X	X			X			X	X			X		X		X		X	X		X				X				X			X
SP18	GREENWELL SP		Y	GREENWELL SP	Maryland Park Service		X								X		X		X		X		X					X				X					X		X
SP19	GUNPOWDER FALLS SP		Y	GUNPOWDER FALLS SP	Maryland Park Service	X	X	X	X		X	X		X			X		X	X	X	X	X				X	X				X							X
SP20	HAMMERMAN AREA																																						
SP21	HARRIET TUBMAN STATE PARK		Y	HARRIET TUBMAN STATE	Maryland Park Service																X	X						X		X		X						X	
SP22	HART, MILLER AND PLEASURE ISLANDS SP		Y	HART, MILLER AND PLEAS	Maryland Park Service								X						X		X							X											
SP23	HERRINGTON MANOR SP		Y	HERRINGTON MANOR SP	Maryland Park Service	X		X	X	X		X			X				X	X	X	X			X			X				X			X	X			X
SP24	JANES ISLAND SP		Y	JANES ISLAND SP	Maryland Park Service	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X				X			X		X	X								X		X
SP25	JONAS GREEN SP			JONAS GREEN SP	ANNE ARUNDEL CO.																																		
SP26	LOVE POINT STATE PARK	NO AMENITIES		LOVE POINT STATE PARK	Maryland Park Service																																		
SP27	MARTINAK SP		Y	MARTINAK SP	Maryland Park Service		X	X		X		X			X	X		X	X									X	X	X		X							X
SP28	MATTHEW HENSON SP	NO AMENITIES		MATTHEW HENSON SP	Maryland Park Service																																		
SP29	NEW GERMANY SP		Y	NEW GERMANY SP	Maryland Park Service	X		X	X	X		X			X	X			X		X	X			X	X		X				X				X	X		X
SP30	NEW TOWNE NECK SP		Y	NEW TOWNE NECK SP	Maryland Park Service										X				X		X	X	X					X											
SP31	NORTH POINT SP		Y	NORTH POINT SP	Maryland Park Service		X								X			X	X		X	X						X				X							X
SP32	PALMER SP		Y	PALMER SP	Maryland Park Service														X		X																		
SP33	PATAPSCO VALLEY SP		Y	PATAPSCO VALLEY SP	Maryland Park Service		X				X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X	X		X								X
SP34	PATUXENT RIVER SP		Y	PATUXENT RIVER SP	Maryland Park Service												X				X				X														
SP35	MILBURN LANDING AREA		Y	POCOMOKE RIVER SP	Maryland Park Service							X	X	X					X		X							X	X	X									X
SP36	SHAD LANDING AREA		Y	POCOMOKE RIVER SP	Maryland Park Service				X			X	X	X		X			X		X					X		X	X								X	X	X
SP37	POINT LOOKOUT SP		Y	POINT LOOKOUT SP	Maryland Park Service	X	X	X	X		X	X			X	X			X		X	X	X				X	X									X	X	X
SP38	PURSE AREA		Y	PURSE SP	Maryland Park Service														X		X		X																
SP39	ROCKS SP		Y	ROCKS SP	Maryland Park Service														X		X	X	X					X	X	X		X							
SP40	ROCKY GAP SP		Y	ROCKY GAP SP	Maryland Park Service	X	X	X	X		X	X			X	X			X		X				X	X	X	X				X							X
SP41	ROSARYVILLE SP		Y	ROSARYVILLE SP	Maryland Park Service												X				X	X	X		X			X				X							
SP42	SANDY POINT SP		Y	SANDY POINT SP	Maryland Park Service	X		X	X					X					X		X					X		X		X		X					X		X
SP43	SENECA CREEK SP		Y	SENECA CREEK SP	Maryland Park Service				X						X		X		X		X	X	X		X			X				X		X		X		X	X
SP44	SMALLWOOD SP		Y	SMALLWOOD SP	Maryland Park Service			X	X		X	X		X	X				X		X	X				X		X				X							X
SP45	SOUTH MOUNTAIN SP		Y	SOUTH MOUNTAIN SP	Maryland Park Service								X								X	X														X			
SP46	ST MARYS RIVER SP		Y	ST MARYS RIVER SP	Maryland Park Service			X							X		X		X		X		X		X			X	X										
SP47	ST. CLEMENTS ISLAND SP		Y	ST. CLEMENTS ISLAND SP	Maryland Park Service														X		X	X	X					X											
SP48	SUSQUEHANNA SP		Y	SUSQUEHANNA SP	Maryland Park Service		X	X	X		X	X				X	X		X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
SP49	SWALLOW FALLS SP		Y	SWALLOW FALLS SP	Maryland Park Service							X		X		X			X		X	X					X	X		X		X				X			X
SP50	TUCKAHOE SP		Y	TUCKAHOE SP	Maryland Park Service		X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X		X		X		X		X		X	X	X			X							X
SP51	WASHINGTON MONUMENT SP		Y	WASHINGTON MONUME	Maryland Park Service									X							X	X						X				X							
SP52	WILLS MOUNTAIN SP	NO AMENITIES		WILLS MOUNTAIN SP	Maryland Park Service																																		
SP53	WYE OAK SP		Y	WYE OAK SP	Maryland Park Service																	X						X											X

MAPID	LUNAME	OTHER NAME	PUBLIC ACCESS? Y/N	DNRNAME	MANAGEDBY	Beach	Biking Trails	Boat Ramp	Boat Rentals	Cabins	Camper Cabins	Camping	Camping-Primitive	Camping-Youth	Canoeing-Flatwater	Dump Station	Equestrian Trails	Exhibit or Interpretive Center	Fishing	Food	Hiking	Historic Site or Museum	Hunting	Lodging	Mountain Biking Trails	Park Store	Pet Loop	Picnic Tables	Playground	Restrooms	RV Sites	Shelters	Shelter (Picnic)	Shooting Range	Snowmobiles	Snowshoeing or X-Country Skiing	Swimming	Visitor Center	Wheelchair Accessible
RT01	TORREY C BROWN RAIL TRAIL		Y	TORREY C BROWN RAIL TRAIL	Maryland Park Service		X											X	X		X	X						X		X						X		X	X
RT02	WESTERN MARYLAND RAIL TRAIL		Y	WESTERN MARYLAND RAIL TRAIL	Maryland Park Service		X														X							X								X			X
RT03	WEVERTON ROXBURY CORRIDOR RAIL TRAIL			WEVERTON ROXBURY CORRIDOR RAIL TRAIL	Maryland Park Service																																		

MAPID	LUNAME	OTHER NAME	PUBLIC ACCESS? Y/N	DNRNAME	MANAGEDBY	Beach	Biking Trails	Boat Ramp	Boat Rentals	Cabins	Camper Cabins	Camping	Camping-Primitive	Camping-Youth	Canoeing-Flatwater	Dump Station	Equestrian Trails	Exhibit or Interpretive Center	Fishing	Food	Hiking	Historic Site or Museum	Hunting	Lodging	Mountain Biking Trails	Park Store	Pet Loop	Picnic Tables	Playground	Restrooms	RV Sites	Shelters	Shelter (Picnic)	Shooting Range	Snowmobiles	Snowshoeing or X-Country Skiing	Swimming	Visitor Center	Wheelchair Accessible
NRMA01	BEN DOANE AREA			NANJEMOY NRMA	Maryland Park Service																																		
NRMA02	BILLINGSLEY NRMA			BILLINGSLEY NRMA	Maryland Park Service																																		
NRMA03	BLACK WALNUT POINT NRMA			BLACK WALNUT POINT NRMA	Maryland Park Service																																		
NRMA04	BUSH DECLARATION NRMA			BUSH DECLARATION NRMA	Maryland Park Service																																		
NRMA05	CHANEY NRMA			CHANEY NRMA	Maryland Park Service																																		
NRMA06	CROOM NRMA			CROOM NRMA	Maryland Park Service																																		
NRMA07	DEEP CREEK LAKE NRMA			DEEP CREEK LAKE NRMA	Maryland Park Service			x							x				x						x														
NRMA08	DOUGLAS POINT AREA			NANJEMOY NRMA	Maryland Park Service																																		
NRMA09	FAIR HILL NRMA			FAIR HILL NRMA	Maryland Park Service		x										x		x		x		x		x											x			
NRMA10	FULL MILL BRANCH NRMA			FULL MILL BRANCH NRMA	Maryland Park Service																																		
NRMA11	HALL CREEK NRMA			HALL CREEK NRMA	Maryland Park Service																																		
NRMA12	HONEY BRANCH NRMA			HONEY BRANCH NRMA	Maryland Park Service																																		
NRMA13	HOUSE CREEK NRMA			HOUSE CREEK NRMA	Maryland Park Service																																		
NRMA14	INDIAN CREEK NRMA			INDIAN CREEK NRMA	Maryland Park Service																																		
NRMA15	KINGS LANDING NRMA			KINGS LANDING NRMA	Maryland Park Service																																		
NRMA16	MAXWELL HALL NRMA			MAXWELL HALL NRMA	Maryland Park Service																																		
NRMA17	MERKLE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY NRMA			MERKLE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY NRMA	Maryland Park Service														X		X							X										X	
NRMA18	MILLTOWN LANDING NRMA			MILLTOWN LANDING NRMA	Maryland Park Service																																		
NRMA19	MONOCACY NRMA			MONOCACY NRMA	Maryland Park Service												X		X		X		X																
NRMA20	NANJEMOY NRMA			NANJEMOY NRMA	Maryland Park Service																																		
NRMA21	PRIDE FINANCE NRMA			PRIDE FINANCE NRMA	Maryland Park Service																																		
NRMA22	SASSAFRASS NRMA			SASSAFRASS NRMA	Maryland Park Service												X		X		X		X																
NRMA23	SPICE CREEK NRMA			SPICE CREEK NRMA	Maryland Park Service																		X																
NRMA24	UHLER NRMA			UHLER NRMA	Maryland Park Service																																		
NRMA25	WILSON FARM AREA			NANJEMOY NRMA	Maryland Park Service																																		
NRMA26	WOODMONT NRMA			WOODMONT NRMA	Maryland Park Service																X	X	X																
NRMA27	WYE ISLAND NRMA			WYE ISLAND NRMA	Maryland Park Service		X							X	X		X		X		X		X					X				X							X
		gray highlight = not listed in acreage report but located in GIS																																					

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MCF1	CALVERT MARINE POLICE RADIO TOWER		N	CALVERT MARINE POLICE RADIO TOWER	Natural Resources Police																																		
MCF4	HALLOWING POINT BOAT RAMP		Y	HALLOWING POINT BOAT RAMP	Natural Resources Police			X																															
MCF6	KENT STILL POND MARINE POLICE RADIO TOWER		N	KENT STILL POND MARINE POLICE RADIO TOWER	Natural Resources Police																																		
MCF7	MARINE POLICE BOAT HOUSE	Ocean City Boat House	N	MARINE POLICE BOAT HOUSE	Natural Resources Police																																		
MCF8	MATAPEAKE		N	MATAPEAKE	Natural Resources Police																																		
MCF10	SOMERS COVE MARINA		Y	SOMERS COVE MARINA	Natural Resources Police			X																					X										X

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NEA1	BELT WOODS NEA			BELT WOODS NEA	Maryland Park Service																																		
NEA2	MATTAWOMAN NEA		Y	MATTAWOMAN NEA	Maryland Park Service																X																		
NEA3	MORGAN RUN NEA		Y	MORGAN RUN NEA	Maryland Park Service												X		X		X		X													X			
NEA4	SEVERN RUN NEA		Y	SEVERN RUN NEA	Maryland Park Service																X																		
NEA5	SOLDIERS DELIGHT NEA		Y	SOLDIERS DELIGHT NEA	Maryland Park Service													X			X	X								X								X	
NEA6	YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER NEA		Y	YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER NEA	Maryland Park Service														X		X																		
NEA7	ZEKIAH SWAMP NEA		Y	ZEKIAH SWAMP NEA	Maryland Park Service																X																		

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HCF1	AARON STRAUS HCF			AARON STRAUS HCF	Maryland Park Service														X		X																		
HCF2	ANDOVER FLATWOODS HCF			ANDOVER FLATWOODS HCF	Maryland Park Service																X																		
HCF3	BEAR PEN HEADWATERS HCF			BEAR PEN HEADWATERS HCF	Maryland Park Service																X		X																
HCF4	BELT WOODS HCF			BELT WOODS HCF	Maryland Park Service																X																		
HCF5	BOYD MOUNTAIN POND HCF			BOYD MOUNTAIN POND HCF	Maryland Park Service																X		X																
HCF6	BRIDGETOWN PONDS HCF			BRIDGETOWN PONDS HCF	Maryland Park Service																X		X																
HCF7	CHICONE CREEK HCF			CHICONE CREEK HCF	Maryland Park Service														X		X																		
HCF8	FORT HILL HCF			FORT HILL HCF	Maryland Park Service																X																		
HCF9	GOLTS PONDS HCF			GOLTS PONDS HCF	Maryland Park Service																X																		
HCF10	GRAVEL HILL SWAMP HCF			GRAVEL HILL SWAMP HCF	Maryland Park Service																X		X																
HCF11	HANGING PRAIRIE SHALE BARREN HCF			HANGING PRAIRIE SHALE BARREN HCF	Maryland Park Service														X		X		X																
HCF12	HICKORY POINT HCF			HICKORY POINT HCF	Maryland Park Service														X		X		X																
HCF13	HOLLINSWORTH POND HCF			HOLLINSWORTH POND HCF	Maryland Park Service																X																		
HCF14	LOWER DEEP CREEK HCF			LOWER DEEP CREEK HCF	Maryland Park Service										X				X		X																		
HCF15	LOWER MARSHYHOPE SWAMP HCF			LOWER MARSHYHOPE SWAMP HCF	Maryland Park Service										X						X		X																
HCF16	MARSHYHOPE CREEK NORTH HCF			MARSHYHOPE CREEK NORTH HCF	Maryland Park Service										X						X		X																
HCF17	MASSEY POND HCF			MASSEY POND HCF	Maryland Park Service																X		X																
HCF18	NANTICOKE CORRIDOR HCF			NANTICOKE CORRIDOR HCF	Maryland Park Service										X						X		X																
HCF19	PARKER CREEK HCF			PARKER CREEK HCF	Maryland Park Service										X						X		X																
HCF20	PATUXENT OXBOW HCF			PATUXENT OXBOW HCF	Maryland Park Service										X						X																		
HCF21	PINEY BRANCH BOG HCF			PINEY BRANCH BOG HCF	Maryland Park Service																X																		
HCF22	PRATHERS NECK HCF			PRATHERS NECK HCF	Maryland Park Service			X											X		X		X																
HCF23	RIDENOUR SWAMP HCF			RIDENOUR SWAMP HCF	Maryland Park Service																X		X																
HCF24	ROUND TOP HILL HCF			ROUND TOP HILL HCF	Maryland Park Service																X		X																
HCF25	SAVANNAH LAKE (ADKINS) HCF			SAVANNAH LAKE - ADKINS HCF	Maryland Park Service																X		X																
HCF26	SAVANNAH LAKE LODGE HCF			SAVANNAH LAKE LODGE HCF	Maryland Park Service																X		X																
HCF27	SHARPTOWN DUNES (AKA PLUM CREEK) HCF			SHARPTOWN DUNES - AKA PLUM CREEK HCF	Maryland Park Service																X		X																
HCF28	SOLDIERS DELIGHT HCF			SOLDIERS DELIGHT HCF	Maryland Park Service																X		X																
HCF29	SUGAR HOLLOW HCF			SUGAR HOLLOW HCF	Maryland Park Service																X		X																
HCF30	TURKEY CAMP SHALE BARREN HCF			TURKEY CAMP SHALE BARREN HCF	Maryland Park Service																X		X																
HCF31	VAN DE GRAFF WOODS HCF			VAN DE GRAFF WOODS HCF	Maryland Park Service																X		X																

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FMA1	A.M. POWELL HATCHERY FMA		N	A.M. POWELL HATCHERY FMA	Fisheries Service																																		
FMA2	BEAR CREEK HATCHERY FMA		N	BEAR CREEK HATCHERY FMA	Fisheries Service																																		
FMA3	BIG MILL POND FMA		Y	BIG MILL POND FMA	Fisheries Service														X																				
FMA4	BROWNSVILLE POND FMA		Y	BROWNSVILLE POND FMA	Fisheries Service														X									X											
FMA5	BRUNSWICK POND FMA		Y	BRUNSWICK POND FMA	Fisheries Service														X									X	X										
FMA6	BYNUM RUN POND FMA		Y	BYNUM RUN POND FMA	Fisheries Service														X									x											x
FMA7	EVITTS CREEK POND FMA		Y	EVITTS CREEK POND FMA	Fisheries Service														X																				
FMA8	FOREST HILL LAKE FMA		Y	FOREST HILL LAKE FMA	Fisheries Service														X									x	x	x			x						x
FMA9	FRANK BENTZ POND FMA		Y	FRANK BENTZ POND FMA	Fisheries Service														X																				
FMA10	GARY A YODER FMA		Y	GARY A YODER FMA	Fisheries Service			X											X																				
FMA11	HUGHSVILLE POND FMA		Y	HUGHSVILLE POND FMA	Fisheries Service														X																				
FMA12	LEWISTOWN HATCHERY FMA		N	LEWISTOWN HATCHERY FMA	Fisheries Service																																		
FMA13	MANNING HATCHERY FMA		N	MANNING HATCHERY FMA	Fisheries Service																																		
FMA14	MCCOOLE FMA		Y	MCCOOLE FMA	Fisheries Service			X											X																				
FMA15	NORTH BRANCH POTOMAC FMA		Y	NORTH BRANCH POTOMAC FMA	Fisheries Service														X																				
FMA16	RISING SUN POND FMA		Y	RISING SUN POND FMA	Fisheries Service														X																				
FMA17	SMITHVILLE LAKE FMA		Y	SMITHVILLE LAKE FMA	Fisheries Service			X											X																				
FMA18	UNICORN LAKE FMA		Y	UNICORN LAKE FMA	Fisheries Service			X											X									X											
FMA19	URBANA LAKE FMA		Y	URBANA LAKE FMA	Fisheries Service														X																				
FMA20	URIEVILLE LAKE FMA		Y	URIEVILLE LAKE FMA	Fisheries Service			X											X									X											
FMA21	WYE MILLS FMA		Y	WYE MILLS FMA	Fisheries Service			X											X									X											

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FT1	Approximate Location		N	SHILOH LOOKOUT TOWER	Maryland Forest Service																	X																	Rte. 14, Dorchester County	FT	DORC	EASTERN	924	924	OWN	1
FT2	CHURCH CREEK FT		Y	CHURCH CREEK FT	Maryland Forest Service																	X																	Adjacent to Forest Service Church Creek Office, Dorchester County	FT	DORC	EASTERN	901	901	OWN	1
FT3	CUB HILL FT		N	CUB HILL FT	Maryland Forest Service																	X																	2 acres adjacent to Forest Service Baltimore County Office	FT	BACO	CENTRAL	902	902	OWN	1
FT4	DANS ROCK FT		N	DANS ROCK FT	Maryland Forest Service																	X																	Tower structure, the step structure and cabin are all in disrepair.	FT	ALLE	WESTERN	921	921	OWN	1
FT5	ELDER HILL FT		N	ELDER HILL FT	Maryland Forest Service																X	X																	Foot access only. The State no longer has legal access to the property.	FT	GARR	WESTERN	903	903	OWN	1
FT6	FOXVILLE LOOKOUT TOWER		N	FOXVILLE LOOKOUT TOWER																		X																		FT	FRED	WESTERN	925	925	FORMER-U	97
FT7	GREEN HILL FT		Y	GREEN HILL FT	Maryland Forest Service																	X																	Structure is in good shape. The wooden steps and cab are in bad condition. The first 20 feet of steps have been removed for safety reasons.	FT	SOME	EASTERN	905	905	OWN	1
FT8	INTERSTATE FT		N	INTERSTATE FT	Maryland Forest Service																	X																	Structure is in good shape. The wooden steps and cab are in disrepair. The first 20 feet of steps have been removed for safety reasons.	FT	CARO	EASTERN	906	906	OWN	1
FT9	LAMBS KNOLL FT		N	LAMBS KNOLL FT	Maryland Forest Service																	X																	REMOVED. Site overlooks national battlefields and is within meters of the Appalachian Trail (AT)	FT	WASH	WESTERN	907	907	OWN	1
FT10	LONGHILL FT		N	LONGHILL FT	Maryland Forest Service																	X																	Tower is in need of repairs, new guy wires and fencing.	FT	ANNE	SOUTHERN	908	908	OWN	1
FT11	MADONNA FT		N	MADONNA FT	Maryland Forest Service																	X																	REMOVED.	FT	HARF	CENTRAL	910	910	OWN	1
FT12	MCCLELLANS LOOKOUT FT		N	MCCLELLANS LOOKOUT FT	Maryland Forest Service																	X																	REMOVED. Property has excellent view of valley and South Mountain to the e	FT	WASH	WESTERN	909	909	OWN	1
FT13	NASSAWANGO FT		Y	NASSAWANGO FT	Maryland Forest Service																	X																	The steel structure is in good shape. Wooden steps were replaced around 1996. The cab was also replaced at that time with a wooden deck.	FT	WORC	EASTERN	911	911	OWN	1
FT14	PLEASANT HILL FT		N	PLEASANT HILL FT	Maryland Forest Service																	X																	REMOVED. Unimproved Property	FT	CECI	CENTRAL	912	912	OWN	1
FT15	POWELLVILLE FT		Y	POWELLVILLE FT	Maryland Forest Service																	X																	The steel structure is in good shape. Wooden steps were replaced around 1996. The cab was also replaced at that time with a wooden deck.	FT	WICO	EASTERN	913	913	OWN	1
FT16	TOWN HILL FT		N	TOWN HILL FT	Maryland Forest Service																	X																	Tower is structurally sound with recently repaired cabin windows. The cab, the stairs and the equipment buildings are in good repair.	FT	ALLE	WESTERN	919	919	OWN	1
FT17	WELCOME FT		N	WELCOME FT	Maryland Forest Service																	X																	Disrepair.	FT	CHAR	SOUTHERN	916	916	OWN	1

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WMA1	AVONDALE WMA		Y	AVONDALE WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	544																X		X																	WMA	CARR	CENTRAL	544	544	OWN	1
WMA2	BELLE GROVE WMA		Y	BELLE GROVE WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	500																X		X																X		WMA	ALLE	WESTERN	500	500	OWN	1
WMA3	BILLMEYER WMA		Y	BILLMEYER WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	501																X		X																		WMA	ALLE	WESTERN	501	501	OWN	1
WMA4	BOWEN WMA		Y	BOWEN WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	502										X				X				X																		WMA	PRIN	SOUTHERN	502	502	OWN	1
WMA5	CEDAR ISLAND WMA		Y	CEDAR ISLAND WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	503														X				X																		WMA	SOME	EASTERN	503	503	OWN	1
WMA6	CEDAR POINT WMA		Y	CEDAR POINT WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	549										X				X		X		X																		WMA	CHAR	SOUTHERN	549	549	OWN	1
WMA7	CHELTENHAM WMA		Y	CHELTENHAM WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	504																X		X											X							WMA	PRIN	SOUTHERN	504	504	OWN	1
WMA8	CHICAMUXEN WMA		Y	CHICAMUXEN WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	505								X		X				X		X		X																		WMA	CHAR	SOUTHERN	505	505	OWN	1
WMA9	DANS MOUNTAIN WMA		Y	DANS MOUNTAIN WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	506														X		X		X																		WMA	ALLE	WESTERN	506	506	OWN	1
WMA10	DEAL ISLAND WMA		Y	DEAL ISLAND WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	507			X					X		X				X		X		X																		WMA	SOME	EASTERN	507	507	OWN	1
WMA11	DIERRSEN WMA		Y	DIERRSEN WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	508																X																				WMA	MONT	CENTRAL	508	508	OWN	1
WMA12	E.A. VAUGHN WMA		Y	E.A. VAUGHN WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	510								X						X		X		X																		WMA	WORC	EASTERN	510	510	OWN	1
WMA13	EARLEVILLE WMA		Y	EARLEVILLE WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	509																X		X																		WMA	CECI	CENTRAL	509	509	OWN	1
WMA14	ELLIS BAY WMA		Y	ELLIS BAY WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	511			X											X		X		X																		WMA	WICO	EASTERN	511	511	OWN	1
WMA15	FAIRMOUNT WMA		Y	FAIRMOUNT WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	512														X		X		X																		WMA	SOME	EASTERN	512	512	OWN	1
WMA16	FISHING BAY WMA		Y	FISHING BAY WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	513			X											X		X		X																		WMA	DORC	EASTERN	513	513	OWN	1
WMA17	~~GLOBE COMM WMA~~		~~N~~	~~GLOBE COMM WMA~~	~~Wildlife and Heritage Service~~	~~514~~																																		Land-locked parcel with no public access; Delete from listing.	~~WMA~~	~~ANNE~~	~~SOUTHERN~~	~~514~~	~~514~~	~~OWN~~	~~1~~
WMA18	GROVE FARM WMA		Y	GROVE FARM WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	736																X		X																		WMA	CECI	CENTRAL	736	736	OWN	1
WMA19	GWYNNBROOK WMA		Y	GWYNNBROOK WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	515														X				X																		WMA	BACO	CENTRAL	515	515	OWN	1
WMA20	L-1 MPT		Y	GWYNNBROOK WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	515																																				WMA	BACO	CENTRAL	515	515	OWN	1
WMA21	HUGG-THOMAS WMA		Y	HUGG-THOMAS WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	517																X		X																		WMA	HOWA	CENTRAL	517	517	OWN	1
WMA22	IDYLWILD WMA		Y	IDYLWILD WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	518														X		X		X																		WMA	CARO	EASTERN	518	518	OWN	1
WMA23	INDIAN SPRINGS WMA		Y	INDIAN SPRINGS WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	519			X							X				X		X		X							X											WMA	WASH	WESTERN	519	519	OWN	1
WMA24	ISLANDS OF THE POTOMAC WMA		Y	ISLANDS OF THE POTOMAC WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	516										X				X																						WMA	MONT	CENTRAL	516	516	OWN	1
WMA25	ISLE OF WIGHT WMA		Y	ISLE OF WIGHT WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	520														X				X																		WMA	WORC	EASTERN	520	520	OWN	1
WMA26	JOHNSON WMA		Y	JOHNSON WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	522																		X																		WMA	WICO	EASTERN	522	522	OWN	1
WMA27	~~KENT ISLAND RESEARCH WMA~~		Y	~~KENT ISLAND RESEARCH WMA~~	~~Wildlife and Heritage Service~~	~~523~~																																		Not in Regs as WMA; Delete ref from listing entirely	~~WMA~~	~~QUEE~~	~~EASTERN~~	~~523~~	~~523~~	~~OWN~~	~~1~~
WMA28	LECOMPTE WMA		Y	LECOMPTE WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	524																X		X																		WMA	DORC	EASTERN	524	524	OWN	1
WMA29	LINKWOOD WMA		Y	LINKWOOD WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	525																X		X																		WMA	DORC	EASTERN	525	525	OWN	1
WMA30	MARYLAND MARINE PROPERTIES WMA		Y	MARYLAND MARINE PROPERTIES WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	548																X		X																		WMA	SOME	EASTERN	548	548	OWN	1
WMA31	MCKEE BESHERS WMA		Y	MCKEE BESHERS WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	526		X	X													X		X																		WMA	MONT	CENTRAL	526	526	OWN	1
WMA32	MILLINGTON WMA		Y	MILLINGTON WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	528														X		X		X																		WMA	KENT	EASTERN	528	528	OWN	1
WMA33	MT. NEBO WMA		Y	MT. NEBO WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	529														X		X		X																		WMA	GARR	WESTERN	529	529	OWN	1
WMA34	MYRTLE GROVE WMA		Y	MYRTLE GROVE WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	530			X											X		X		X											X							WMA	CHAR	SOUTHERN	530	530	OWN	1
WMA35	NANTICOKE RIVER WMA		Y	NANTICOKE RIVER WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	531														X		X		X																	Seems to included Wetipquin WMA and all amenties	WMA	WICO	EASTERN	531	531	OWN	1
WMA36	OLD BOHEMIA WMA		Y	OLD BOHEMIA WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	550																X		X																		WMA	CECI	CENTRAL	550	550	OWN	1
WMA37	POCOMOKE RIVER WMA		Y	POCOMOKE RIVER WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	532																X		X																		WMA	WORC	EASTERN	532	532	OWN	1
WMA38	POCOMOKE SOUND WMA		Y	POCOMOKE SOUND WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	533														X				X																		WMA	SOME	EASTERN	533	533	OWN	2
WMA39	RIVERSIDE WMA		Y	RIVERSIDE WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	551																X		X																		WMA	CHAR	SOUTHERN	551	551	OWN	1
WMA40	SIDELING HILL WMA		Y	SIDELING HILL WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	534														X		X		X																		WMA	ALLE	WESTERN	534	534	OWN	1
WMA41	SINEPUXENT BAY WMA		Y	SINEPUXENT BAY WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	535														X				X																		WMA	WORC	EASTERN	535	535	OWN	1
WMA42	SOUTH MARSH ISLAND WMA		Y	SOUTH MARSH ISLAND WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	536														X				X																		WMA	DORC	EASTERN	536	536	OWN	1
WMA43	STRIDER WMA		Y	STRIDER WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	537																X		X																		WMA	MONT	CENTRAL	537	537	OWN	1
WMA44	TAR BAY WMA		Y	TAR BAY WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	538														X				X																		WMA	DORC	EASTERN	538	538	OWN	1
WMA45	TAYLORS ISLAND WMA		Y	TAYLORS ISLAND WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	539														X				X																		WMA	DORC	EASTERN	539	539	OWN	2
WMA46	WARRIOR MOUNTAIN WMA		Y	WARRIOR MOUNTAIN WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	540								X								X		X																		WMA	ALLE	WESTERN	540	540	OWN	1
WMA47	WELLINGTION WMA		Y	WELLINGTION WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service	541																X		X																		WMA	SOME	EASTERN	541	541	OWN	1
WMA48	WETIPQUIN WMA		Y	WETIPQUIN WMA	Wildlife and Heritage Service															X		X		X																		WMA						

MAPID	LUNAME	OTHER NAME	PUBLIC ACCESS? Y/N	DNRNAME	MANAGEDBY	Beach	Biking Trails	Boat Ramp	Canoe\Kayak Launch	Boat Rentals	Cabins	Camper Cabins	Camping	Camping-Primitive	Camping-Youth	Canoeing-Flatwater	Dump Station	Equestrian Trails	Exhibit or Interpretive Center	Fishing	Food	Hiking	Geocaching	Historic Site or Museum	Hunting	Lodging	Mountain Biking Trails	Park Store	Pet Loop	Picnic Tables	Playground	Restrooms	RV Sites	Shelters	Shelter (Picnic)	Shooting Range	Snowmobiles	Snowshoeing or X-Country Skiing	Swimming	Visitor Center	Wheelchair Accessible	COMMENTS	DESIG	COUNTY	REGION	CODE	BASECODE	LandIntere	LABEL
SF1	CEDARVILLE SF			CEDARVILLE SF	Maryland Forest Service									X	X					X		X			X		X			X											X								
SF2	DONCASTER DEMONSTRATION SF			DONCASTER DEMONSTRATION SF	Maryland Forest Service													X				X			X		X																SF	CHAR	SOUTHERN	202	202	OWN	1
SF3	ELK NECK SF			ELK NECK SF	Maryland Forest Service													X				X			X		X					X				X						Shooting ranges and the restrooms are handicap accessible	SF	CECI	CENTRAL	203	203	OWN	1
SF4	GARRETT SF			GARRETT SF	Maryland Forest Service									X				X		X		X		X	X		X										X	X			X		SF	GARR	WESTERN	204	204	OWN	1
SF5	GREEN RIDGE SF			GREEN RIDGE SF	Maryland Forest Service			x						X		X		X		X		X			X		X			X						X					X		SF	ALLE	WESTERN	205	205	OWN	1
SF6	JOHN S. AYTON TREE NURSERY			JOHN S. AYTON TREE NURSERY	Maryland Forest Service																																					SF	CARO	EASTERN	206	206	OWN	1
SF7	POCOMOKE RIVER SF			POCOMOKE RIVER SF	Maryland Forest Service				X							X		X		X		X	X		X		X														X		SF	WORC	EASTERN	207	207	OWN	1
SF8	POTOMAC SF			POTOMAC SF	Maryland Forest Service								X					X		X		X			X					X				X		X	X	X			X		SF	GARR	WESTERN	208	208	OWN	1
SF9	SALEM STATE FOREST			SALEM STATE FOREST	Maryland Forest Service																																					SF	STMA	SOUTHERN	214	214	OWN	1
SF10	SAVAGE RIVER SF			SAVAGE RIVER SF	Maryland Forest Service		x	X					X			X		X		X		X		X	X		X			X				X		X	X	X			X		SF	GARR	WESTERN	209	209	OWN	1
SF11	ST INIGOES SF			ST INIGOES SF	Maryland Forest Service			X																	X																		SF	STMA	SOUTHERN	215	215	OWN	1
SF12	STONEY DEMONSTRATION SF			STONEY DEMONSTRATION SF	Maryland Forest Service													X							X																		SF	HARF	CENTRAL	211	211	OWN	1
	Chesapeake Forest Lands			Chesapeake Forest Lands	Maryland Forest Service				x							X		X		X		X	X		X		X														X								

PROPERTY NAME	OTHER NAME	MANAGEDBY	Beach	Biking Trails	Boat Ramp	Boat Rentals	Cabins	Camper Cabins	Camping	Camping-Primitive	Camping-Youth	Canoeing-Flatwater	Dump Station	Equestrian Trails	Exhibit or Interpretive Center	Fishing	Food	Hiking	Historic Site or Museum	Hunting	Lodging	Mountain Biking Trails	Park Store	Pet Loop	Picnic Tables	Playground	Restrooms	RV Sites	Shelters	Shelter (Picnic)	Shooting Range	Snowmobiles	Snowshoeing or X-Country Skiing	Swimming	Visitor Center	Wheelchair Accessible	COMMENTS
Antietam National Battlefield				X					X					X		X		X	X						X		X		X	X					X	X	Camping is for groups only and requires a permit, Boating or Tubing in the Antietam Creek is permittec
Appalachian National Scenic Trail									x									X																			
Assateague Island National Seashore			X	X	X				X	X		X				X		X																X	X		Nature Center, off-road vehicle paths (on beach), surfing, shellfishing, adjacent to Virginia State Park
Baltimore-Washington Parkway									X										x						X												NASA visitor center, Greenbelt Museum, National Wildlife Center, Scenic Drive
Catoctin Mountain Park									X							X		X			X												X				Wildlife Viewing, Scenic Driving
Cheasapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park				X	x	X			X			X		X		X		X									X						X			X	Backpacking, historic homes, climbing, ice skating, nature walks, mule driven boats
Clara Barton National Historic Site																			X																		
Fort Foote Park																X			X						X												
Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine																																			X		Daily Flag Change Events
Fort Washington Park															X	X		X	X				X		X	X	X								X		Wildlife Viewing, Group picnics require permits, summer monthly artillery demos
George Washington Memorial Parkway				X								X					X	X							X												Kayaking, Wildlife Viewing
Glen Echo Park																									X	X											Dentzel Carousel
Greenbelt Park				X					X				X														X	X									
Hampton National Historic Site																			X																	X	
Harmony Hall																																					Wildlife Viewing
Monocacy National Battlefield																																			X		Walking Tours
Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm				X											X			X							X												Group Reservations required for programs, Self Guided Walking tours
Piscataway Park					X										X	X		X				X			X		X								X		Bird Watching, National Colonial Farm
Suitland Parkway																																					
Thomas Stone National Historic Site																									X										X		Tours of historic houses and buildings

Appendix H: Survey Report

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Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan Survey 2013 Final Report

July 2013

Prepared for:

Maryland - Department of Natural Resources

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INTRODUCTION / METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this study was to gather public feedback on the outdoor recreation demands in the State of Maryland. This feedback and subsequent analysis was designed to assist the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in the creation of its 2014 Land Preservation and Recreation Plan.

The survey was conducted using two methods: 1) a random telephone survey and 2) an online open link survey for members of the public who did not receive a randomly selected telephone survey. Unless stated otherwise, the analysis herein focuses primarily on the surveys conducted via the random telephone survey.

A total of 2,800 Maryland residents were surveyed in the random telephone survey. To better reflect the population of Maryland, the sample for the telephone survey was distributed across the state based on county population and a 50/50 quota of males and females was also attained. The data from this survey was then weighted for age and race/ethnicity based on US Census data.

As responses to the open link version of the survey are "self-selected" and not a part of the randomly selected sample of residents, results from the open link questionnaire are kept separate from the phone version of the survey for the overall analysis. The majority of the discussion that follows focuses primarily on results from the randomly selected sample of residents; however, the final section of the report exclusively evaluates the results of the open link survey and includes graphs comparing the phone and open link survey results.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In general, responses towards the job and mission of the DNR, as well as to the benefits of land conservation and preservation, are extremely favorable. Satisfaction ratings of the DNR are very strong and residents recognize and value the importance of having parks, trails, and outdoor recreation opportunities available to them. Most all of these findings were consistent across all four sub-regions within the state. Specific key findings from the random telephone survey are listed below:

- The majority of respondents indicate that a member of their household participates in outdoor recreation activities (82 percent). The most popular outdoor recreation activities are walking (75 percent), visiting historical sites (75 percent), picnicking (65 percent), and visiting natural areas (59 percent). Participation in outdoor special events (57 percent), visiting playgrounds (56 percent), and swimming outdoors (55 percent) are also frequent activities.

- Almost two-thirds of the respondents participate in outdoor recreation activities in state parks, forest, or wildlife areas. The majority of these respondents indicate that their visitation to state parks, forest, or wildlife areas over the past year has either remained the same or increased in frequency over the past five years. Overall these respondents indicate a net increase in the frequency of visitation.
- Over half of the respondents indicate that the availability of parks, trails, outdoor recreation facilities, and outdoor education programs is extremely important to their household.
- Only one-third of the respondents indicate that the parks, trails, outdoor recreation facilities, and outdoor recreation programs are "completely" meeting the needs of their household. Whereas, only 2 percent of responders indicate that the needs of their household are not currently being met "at all" by these facilities.
- The vast majority of respondents (over 90 percent) rate the following benefits of land conservation and outdoor recreation as having the most importance: "promoting healthy active lifestyles", "protecting the environment", and "improving quality of life". The attribute of "providing an economic benefit to the State" is viewed as being the least important of the benefits; however, it still is rated as important by 71 percent of the respondents.
- Ratings of satisfaction with the DNR are exceptionally high overall. Respondents are most satisfied with the department's ability to provide active outdoor recreation opportunities (73 percent satisfied). On the lower end of the spectrum, respondents are slightly less satisfied overall with the department's ability to provide adequate educational opportunities (59 percent satisfied).
- The majority of residents (78 percent) would like to see the DNR pursue an emphasis that focuses on a balance between natural resource preservation/protection and providing outdoor recreation in natural settings (as opposed to one or the other directions solely).
- Two-thirds of respondents feel that the current fee structure of the DNR is acceptable for the value received. Fifty percent of the respondents believe that the department is currently underfunded, while another 32 percent believe the department is adequately funded (only 5 percent believe it is overfunded). Over half of the respondents place extreme importance on spending public funds to acquire land to prevent development.

RESPONDENT PROFILE

Household Characteristics

- Over half of the households in the random sample were households with children (57 percent), with another 24 percent as empty nesters (children grown and no longer at home). Eleven percent of respondents were single with no children and 8 percent were couples with no children.
- The average household size in the random sample was 3.1 persons.
- Household income was relatively evenly distributed. While 10 percent earned less than $25,000 per year, 15 percent earned between $25,000 and $49,999 per year; 19 percent earned between $50,000 and $75,000 per year; 19 percent earned between $75,000 and $100,000; 20 percent earned between $100,000 and $150,000; 9 percent earned between $150,000 and $200,000; and 7 percent earned more than $200,000 annually.
- Twelve percent of households reported having a need for ADA facilities or services for a household member.

Figure 1
Household Characteristics (Part I)

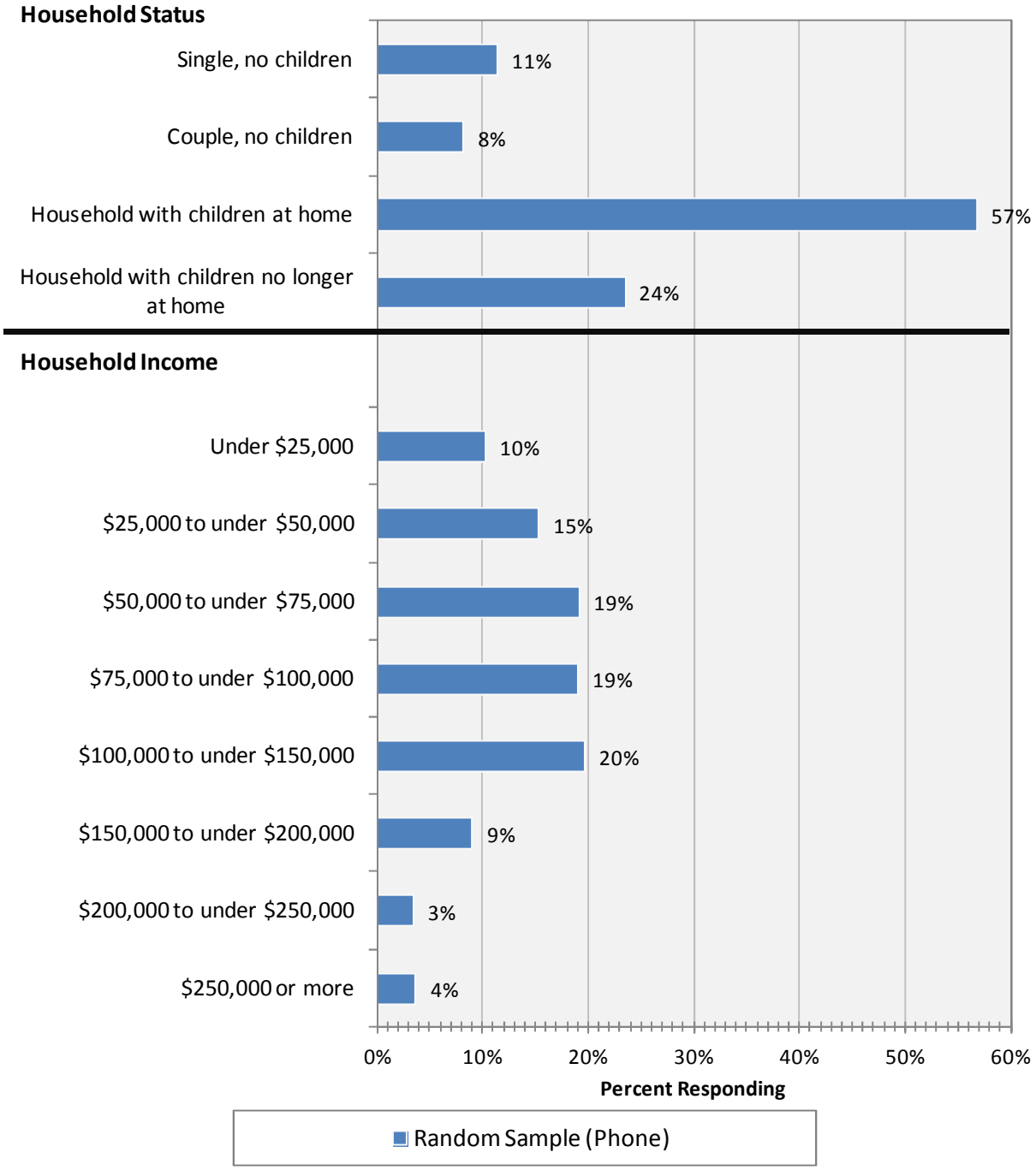
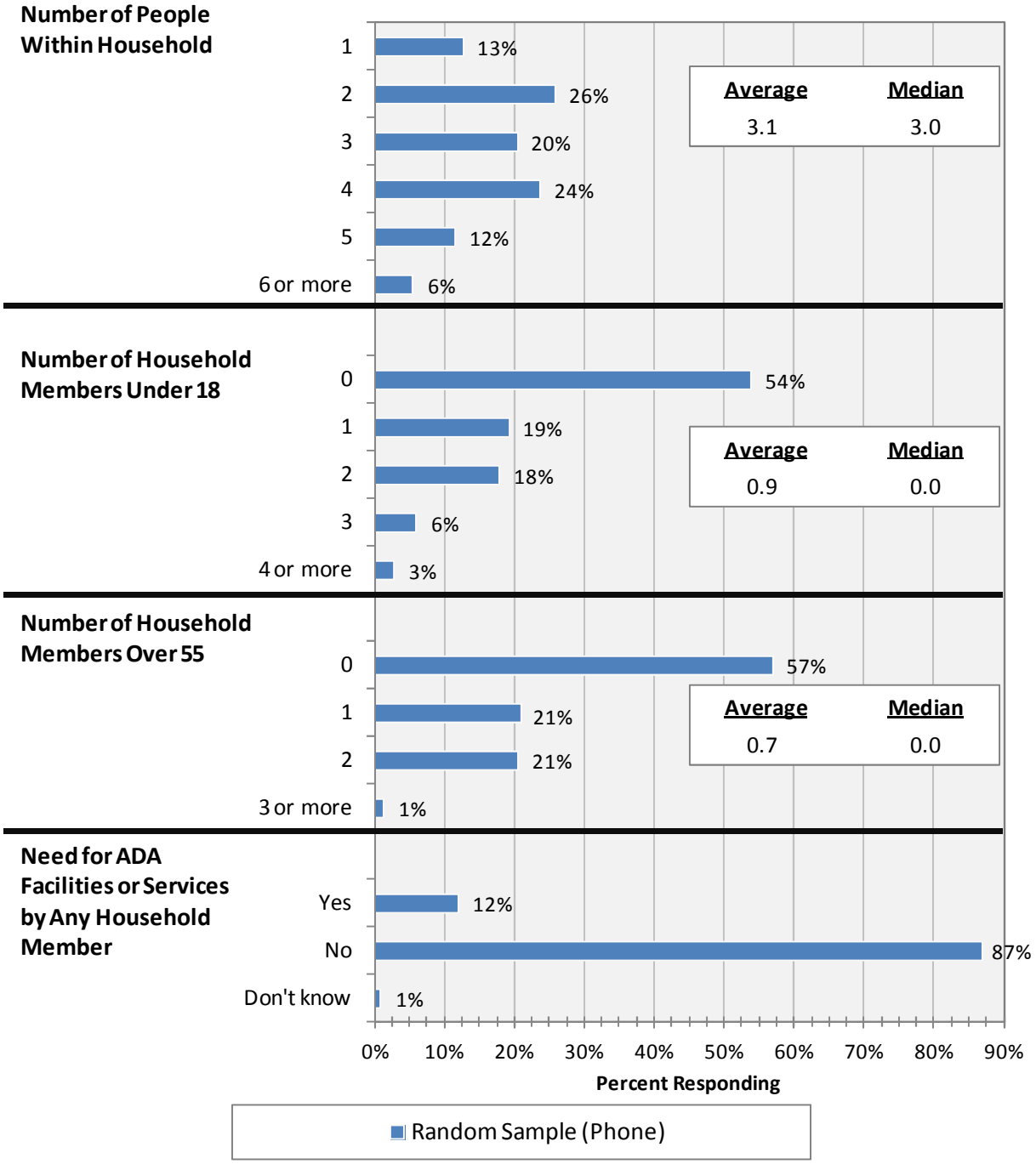


Figure 2
Household Characteristics (Part II)



Respondent Characteristics

- The average age of respondents was 46.6 years.
- The respondents were relatively diverse, with 59 percent white or Caucasian, 29 percent black or African American, and 8 percent Hispanic.
- On average, respondents have resided at their current residence for 12.3 years. Approximately 60 percent of respondents have resided at their current residence for 10 or fewer years.

Figure 3
Respondent Characteristics (Part I)

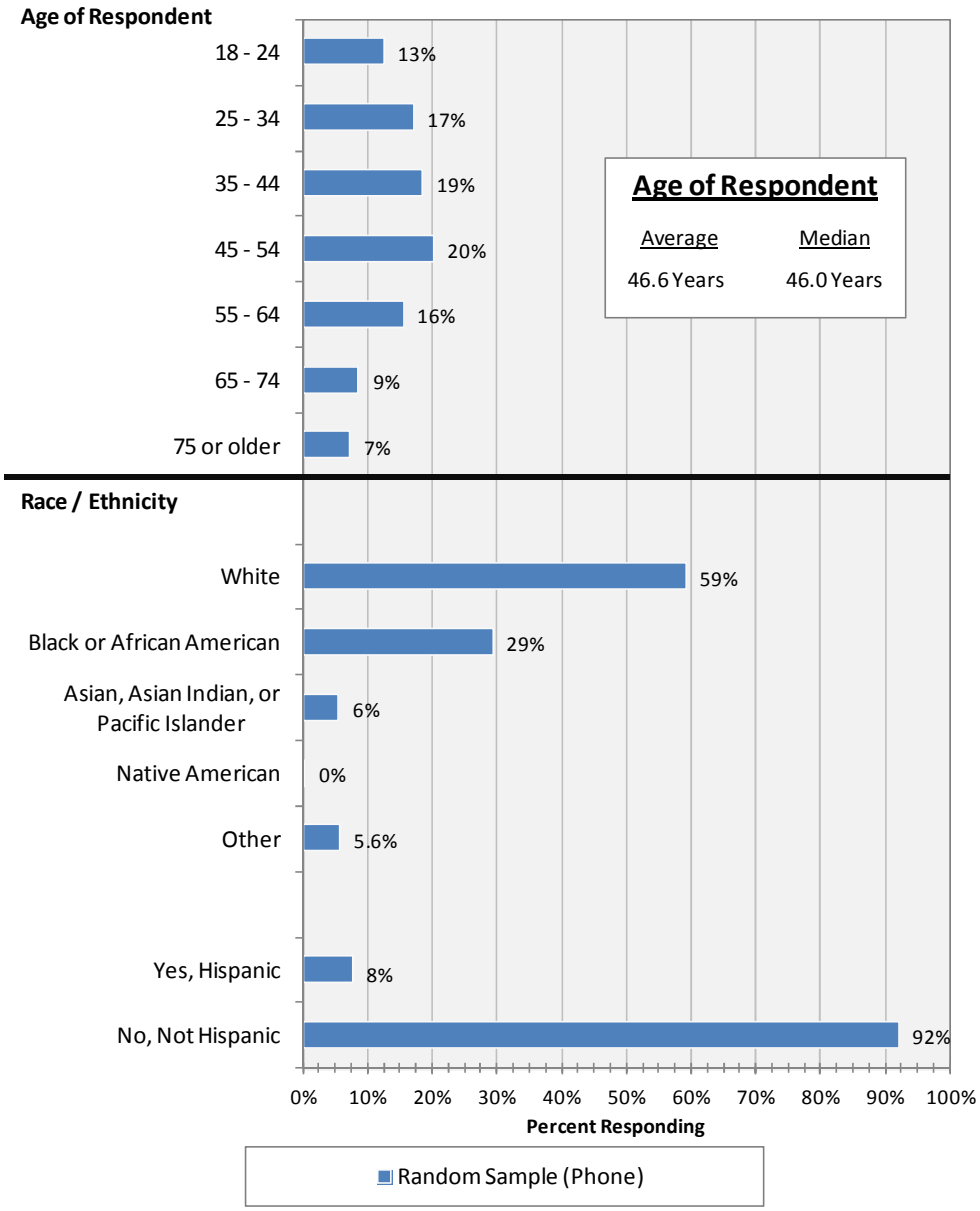
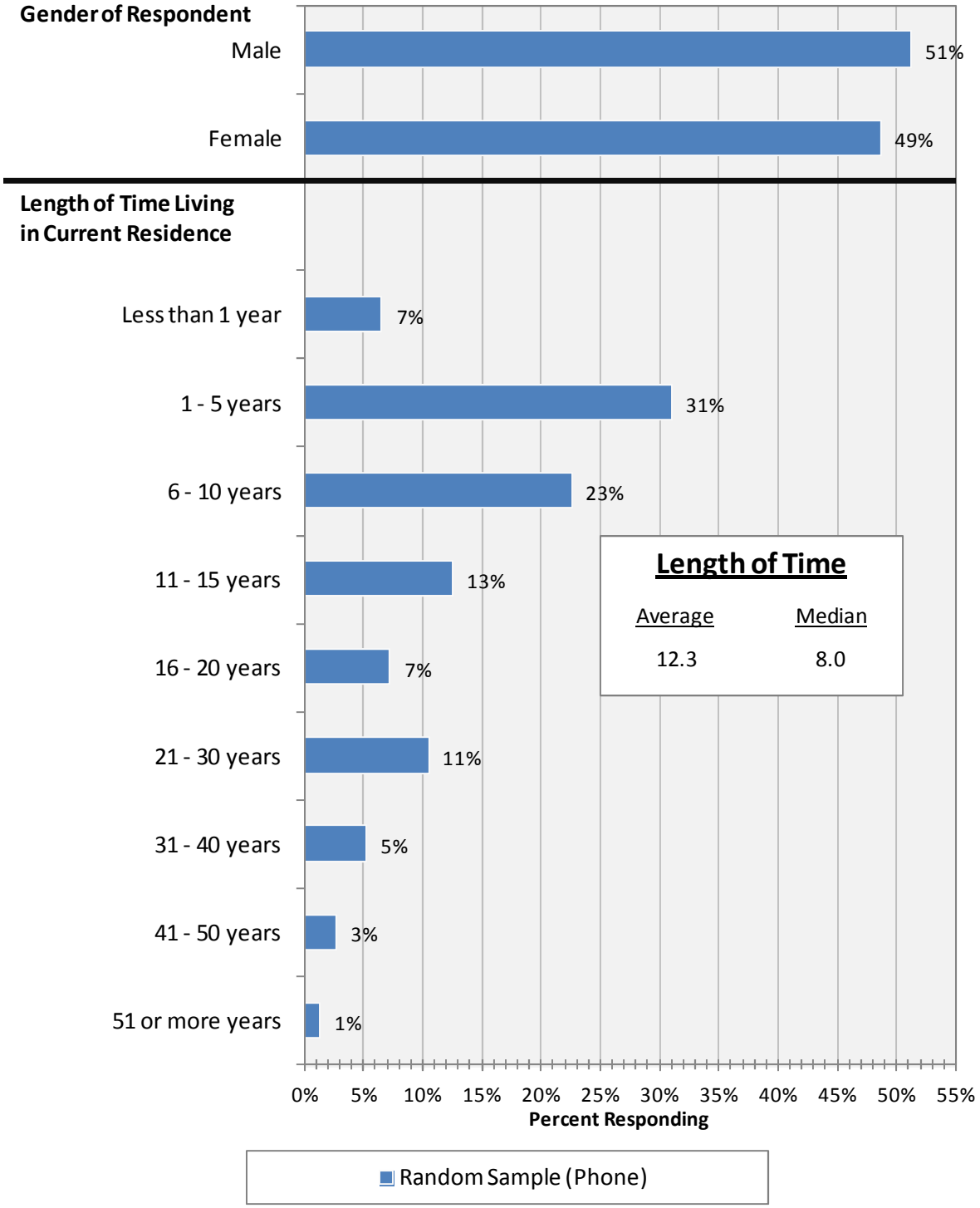


Figure 4
Respondent Characteristics (Part II)



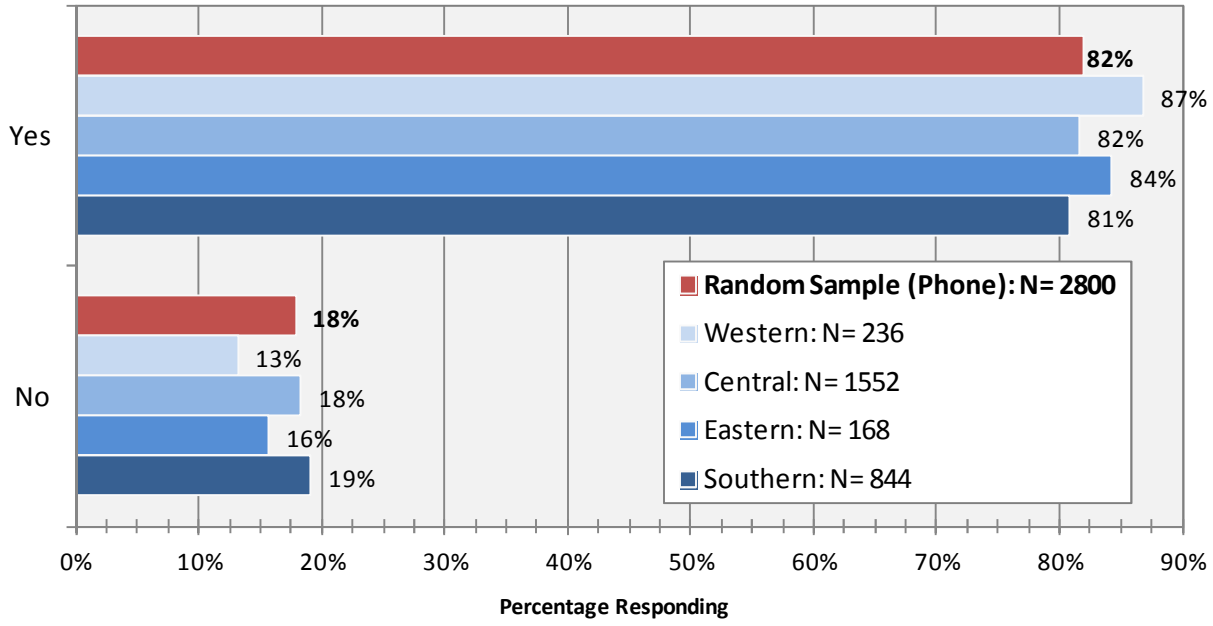
OUTDOOR RECREATION CHARACTERISTICS

Outdoor Recreation Participation

The majority of respondents indicate that they or someone in their household participate in outdoor recreation activities. Overall, 82 percent of respondents indicate that their household had an outdoor recreation activity participant.

The high outdoor recreation participant rate was maintained when examined by region. The Western Region had the highest level of participation, with 87 percent of respondents indicating that they have an outdoor recreation participant in the household. The Southern Region had the lowest participation rate of 81 percent of respondents.

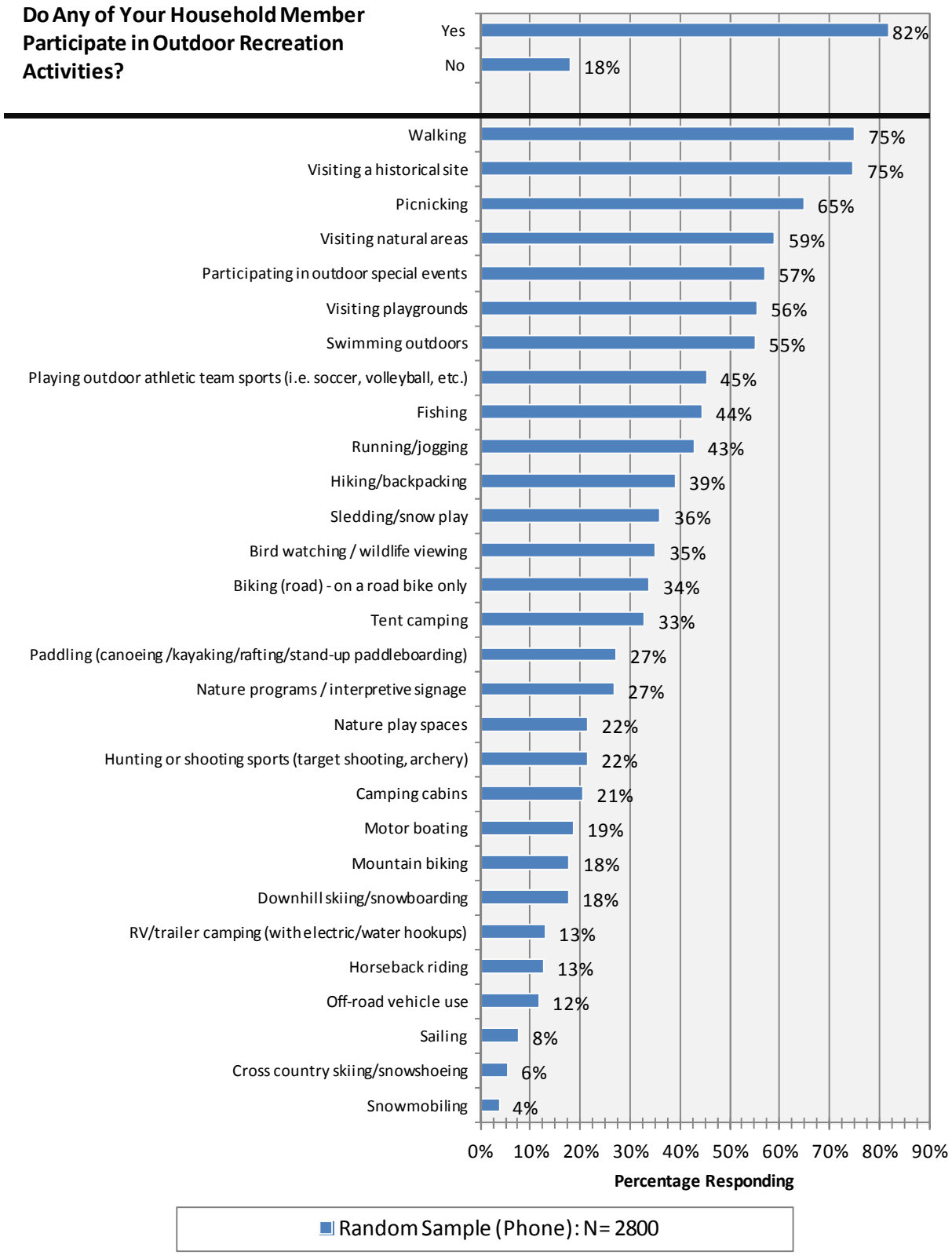
Figure 5
Households with at Least One Member Who Participates in Outdoor Recreation Activities – By Sub-Region



Outdoor Recreation Activities

Respondents participate in a myriad of outdoor recreation activities. The most popular activities overall are: walking (75 percent), visiting a historical site (75 percent), picnicking (65 percent), visiting natural areas (59 percent), participating in outdoor special events (57 percent), visiting playgrounds (56 percent), and swimming outdoors (55 percent). The next most popular set of outdoor recreation activities include: playing outdoor athletic team sports (45 percent), fishing (44 percent), running/jogging (43 percent), hiking/backpacking (39 percent), sledding/snow play (36 percent) and bird watching / wildlife viewing (35 percent).

Figure 6
Outdoor Recreation Activities Participation – Total Random Sample



The outdoor recreation activities selected varied by region. Not surprisingly, the activities that were most popular in each of the regions reflected their unique characteristics. For example, water sports are more popular in the Eastern Region than in the state overall. Respondents from the Eastern Region were more likely to participate in fishing (63 percent), paddle sports (37 percent), motor boating (38 percent), and sailing (15 percent) than respondents in the other three regions. Conversely, respondents in the Western Region are more likely to participate in hiking/backpacking (51 percent), fishing (55 percent), hunting (36 percent), tent camping (47 percent), or sledding/snow play (44 percent) than the average Marylander.

Figure 7
Outdoor Recreation Activities – Top Ten Activities Overall – By Sub-Region

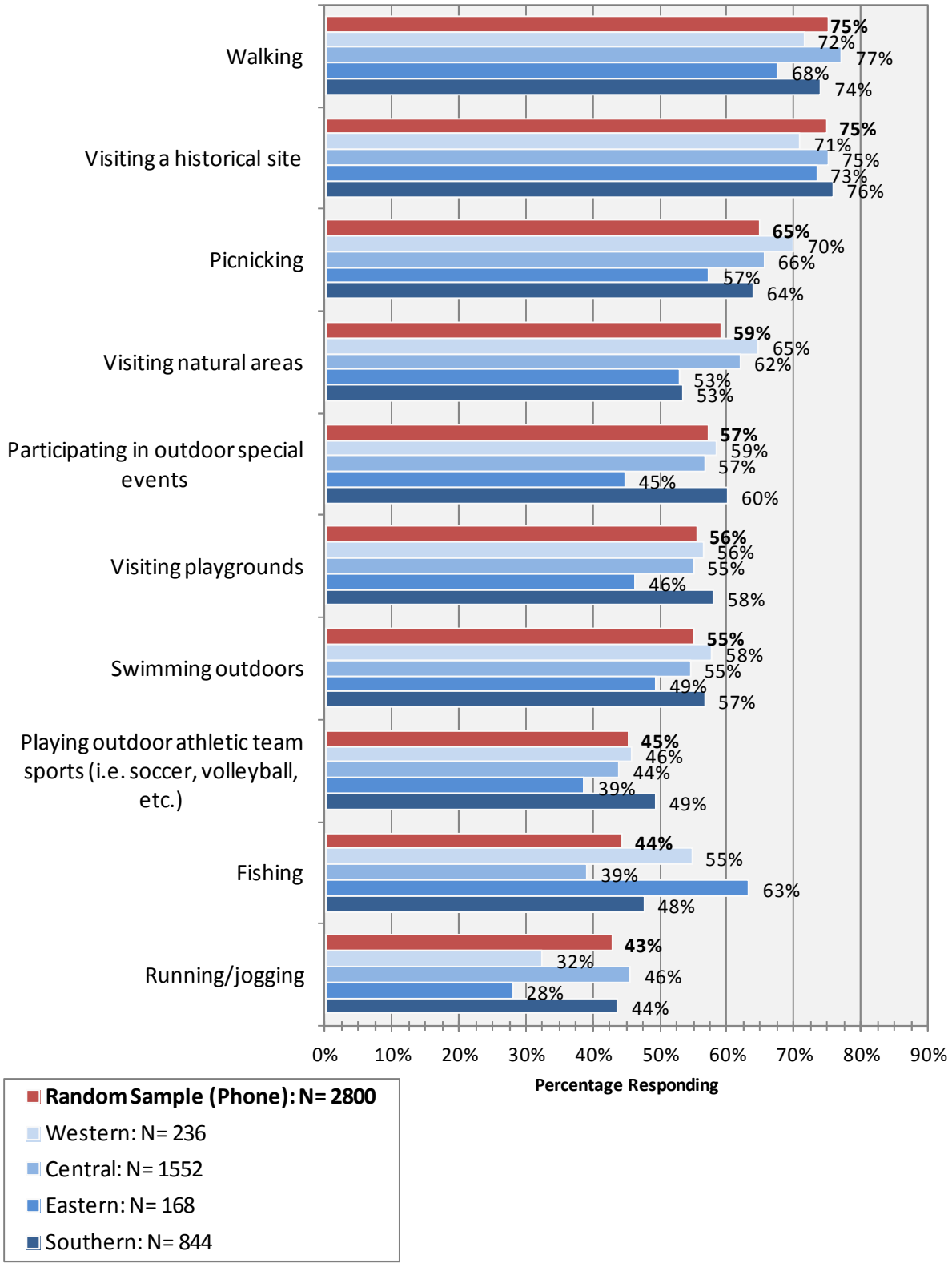


Figure 8
Outdoor Recreation Activities – Middle Ten Activities Overall – By Sub-Region

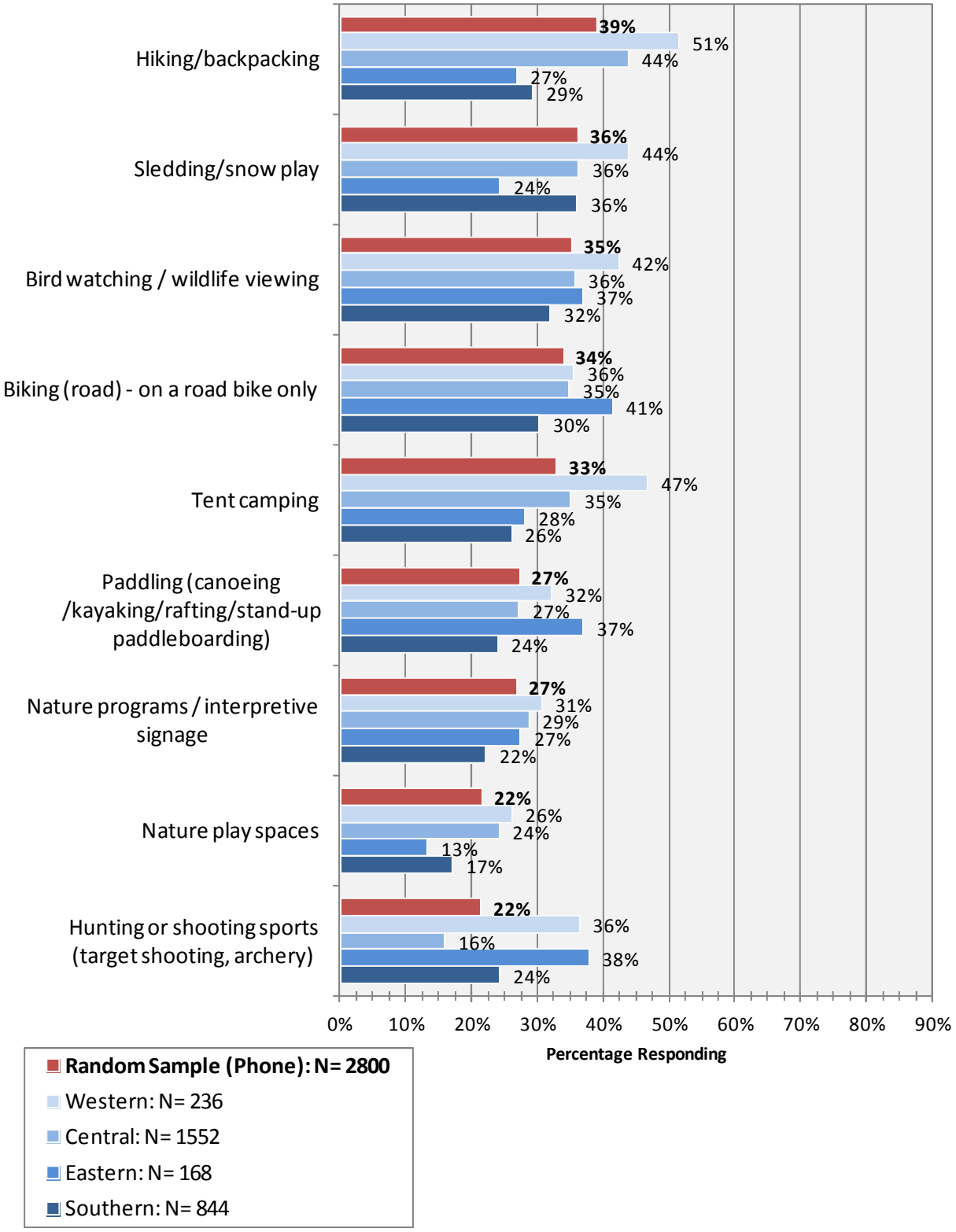
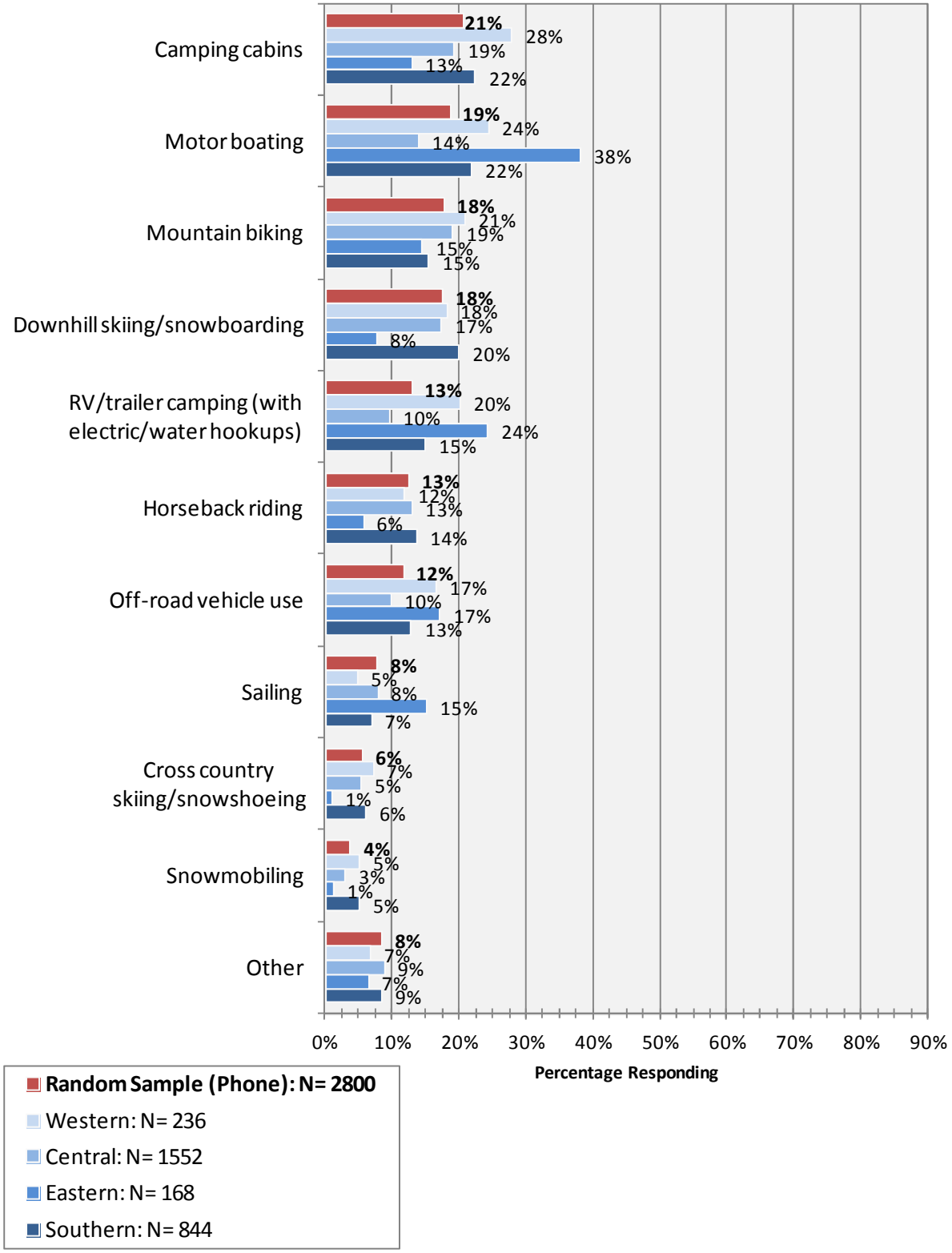


Figure 9
Outdoor Recreation Activities – Bottom Ten Activities Overall – By Sub-Region



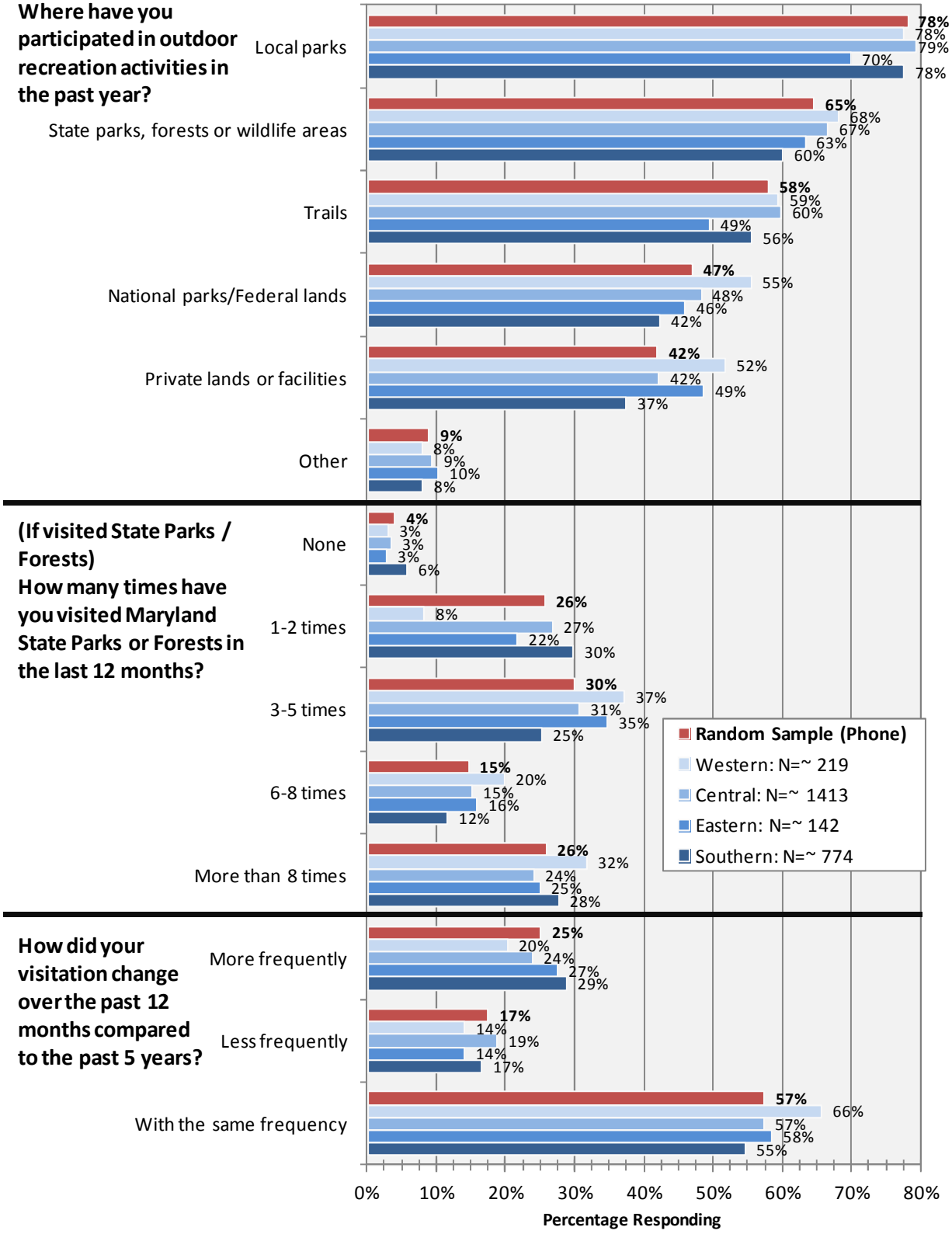
Outdoor Recreation Frequency and Location of Participation

Overall the majority of respondents participate in outdoor recreation activities at their local parks (78 percent). State parks, forest or wildlife areas were the second most frequented location (65 percent) followed by trails (58 percent), National Parks/federal lands (47 percent), and private lands or facilities (42 percent). Respondents in the Western Region were most likely to have visited state parks, forests or wildlife areas (68 percent) than respondents in the other regions.

Of those respondents that visited state parks, forests or wildlife areas, the median respondent visited between 3 and 5 times in the last twelve months. The respondents from the Western Region are among the most frequent visitors of state parks, forests or wildlife areas, with 52 percent visiting more than 6 times in the past twelve months.

The majority of responders indicate that they visited state parks, forest, or wildlife areas with either the same frequency (57 percent) or increased frequency (27 percent) in the past year.

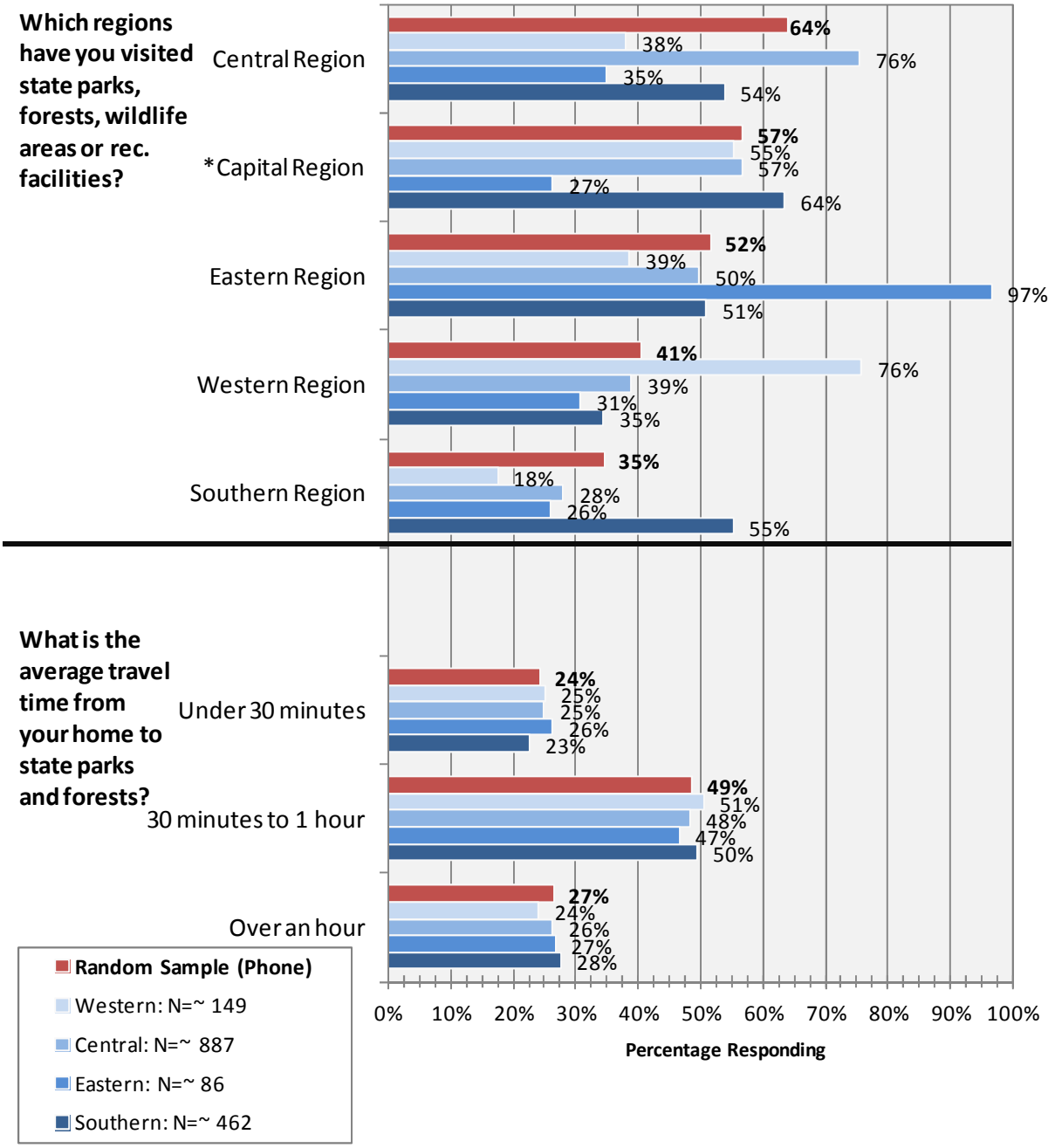
Figure 10
Type of Facility Participation Location / Frequency / Change in Frequency – By Sub-Region



Respondents tend to visit state parks, forests or wildlife areas in their home regions at a higher rate than facilities in other regions. Over half of all respondents indicate that they have visited a state park in the Central Region (64 percent), the Capital Region (57 percent), and the Eastern Region (52 percent). Respondents from the Eastern Region were most likely to have visited a state park in the Eastern Region (97 percent); respondents from the Western Region were most likely to have visited a state park in the Western Region (76 percent); respondents from the Central Region were most likely to have visited state parks in the Central Region (76 percent) and respondents from the Southern Region were most likely to have visited a state park in the Southern Region (55 percent). Respondents from the Southern Region were also most likely to have visited a state park in the Capital Region (64 percent). State parks, forests, or wildlife areas in the Capital Region were the second most popular facilities among respondents from the Western Region (55 percent) and the Central Region (57 percent).

On average, the majority of respondents indicate that they travel more than 30 minutes from their home to visit a state park or forest (76 percent). Only 24 percent of respondents indicate that they travel an average of less than 30 minutes.

Figure 11
Visitation Location / Travel Time to Location – By Sub-Region

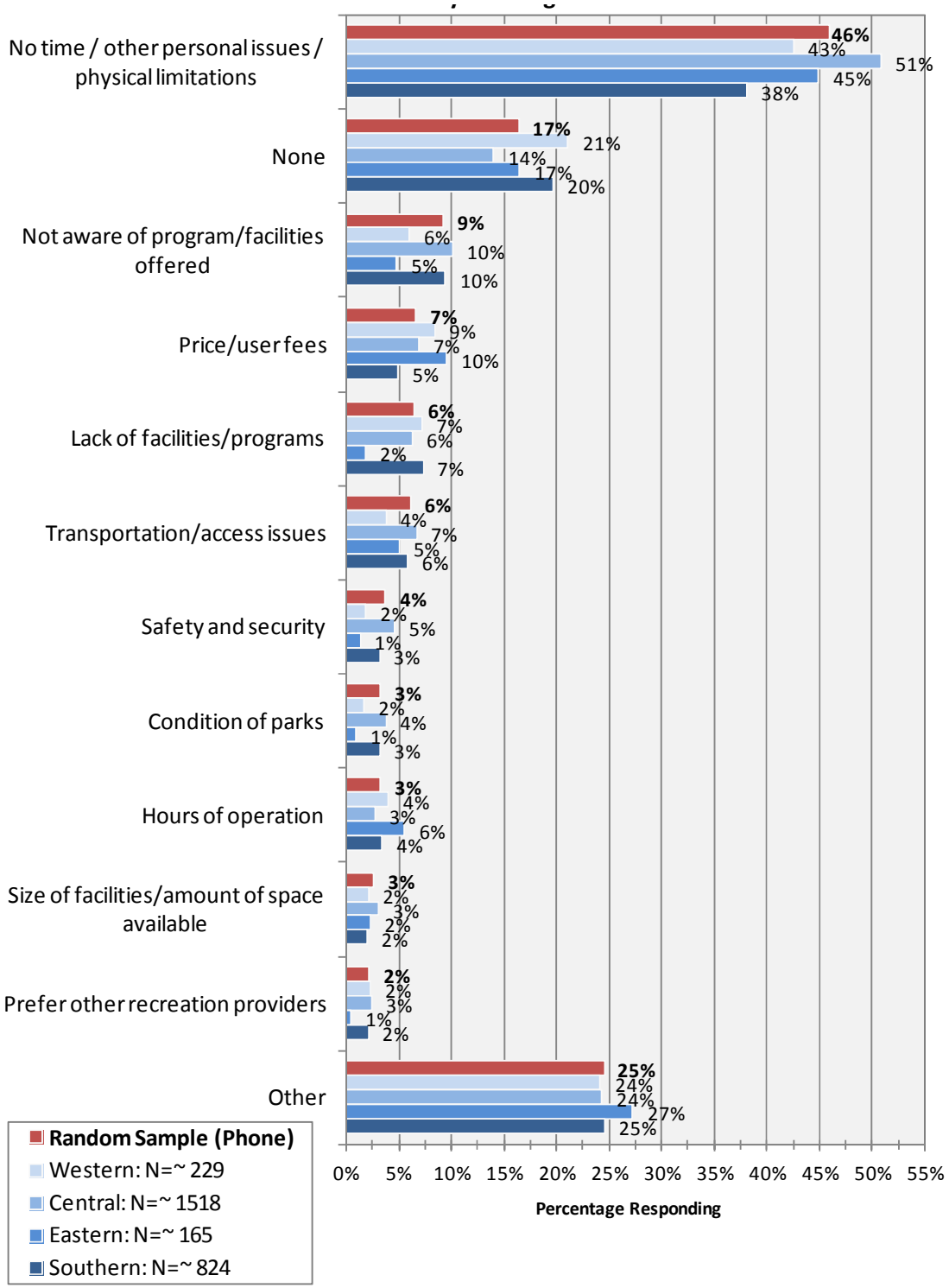


** Note that the four DNR sub-regions used for analysis and reporting throughout this document differ slightly from the five sub-regions used by Tourism and Planning, which includes a separate "Capital Region." After the survey had been fielded, it was decided that the four DNR regions would be the primary geography used for comparisons since the DNR is already largely organized around these four sub-regions for many other purposes. Since the survey had already fielded, however, it was not possible to revise the question above to remove the Capital Region as a choice as to which regions respondents had visited. In any case, this question is a "multiple response" choice question, meaning respondents could have visited any or all of the five sub-regions in question. As such, the inclusion of a fifth region in this question does not affect any potential response patterns.*

Barriers to Participating in Outdoor Recreation

The most frequently given reason for not participating more frequently in outdoor recreation was that respondents had “no time, other personal issues, or physical limitations “(46 percent). The next most common barriers were: “not aware of program/facilities offered” (9 percent), “price/user fees” (7 percent), “lack of facilities/programs” (6 percent), “transportation access issues” (6 percent), “safety and security”, “conditions or parks”, “hours of operation”, and “size of facilities/amount of space available” (3 percent). Only 17 percent of responders indicated that they did not have any barriers to participation.

Figure 12
Barriers to Participating in Outdoor Rec. More Frequently – By Sub-Region



IMPORTANCE AND NEEDS

Importance of Outdoor Recreation

Over half of all respondents indicated that the availability of parks, trails, outdoor recreation facilities and outdoor education programs is "extremely important" to their household (55 percent rating of 5 on a scale from 1-5). Another 25 percent gave a rating of "4" on the 1-5 scale (80 percent ratings of 4 or 5 altogether). Only 5 percent of all respondents feel that it is not important (ratings of 1 and 2 on a scale from 1-5). Overall average score on the 1-5 scale is 4.3.

Degree to Which Needs Are Being Met

Only one-third of respondents (33 percent) indicate that the parks, trails, outdoor recreation facilities, and outdoor recreation programs are "completely" meeting their or their household's needs (rating of 5 on a scale from 1-5). Another 36 percent gave a rating of "4" on the 1-5 scale (69 percent ratings of 4 or 5 altogether). Five percent reported that their or their household needs are not being met.

Benefits of Land Conservation and Outdoor Recreation

The vast majority of respondents (over 90 percent) rate the following benefits of land conservation and outdoor recreation as having the most importance: "promoting healthy active lifestyles", "protecting the environment", and "improving quality of life". The attribute of "providing an economic benefit to the State" is viewed as being the least important of the benefits; however, it still is rated as important by 71 percent of the respondents.

The average ratings for the attributes of the benefits of land conservation and outdoor recreation did not vary much when broken out by region. Respondents from the Central Region place a slightly higher importance on "protecting the environment" than the average (4.7 vs. 4.6), while respondents from the Western Region place a slightly higher importance on "connecting people with nature" than the overall average (4.5 vs. 4.4).

Figure 13
Importance and Level of Needs Being Met for Parks, Trails, Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Education Programs

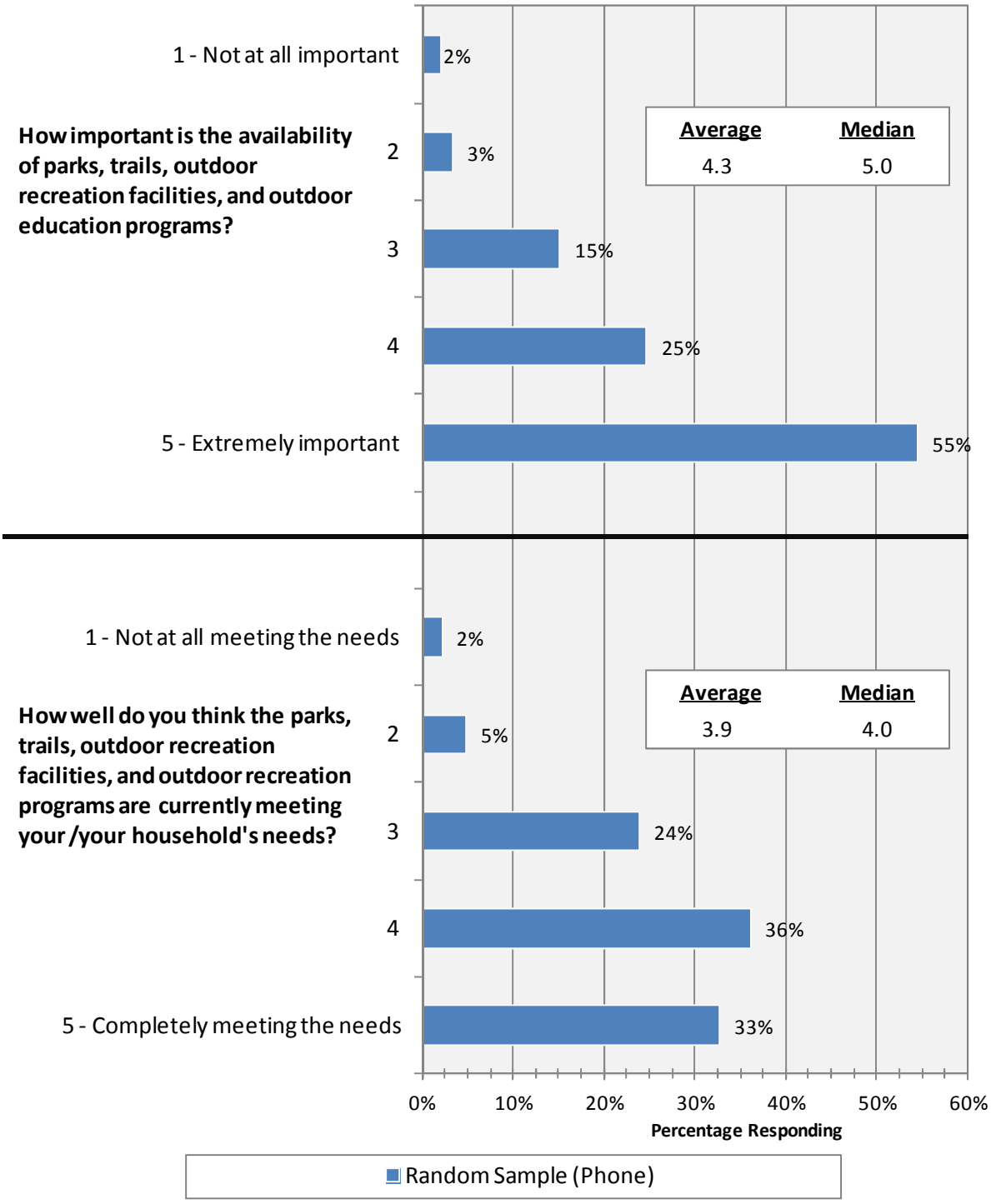


Figure 14
Importance of Land Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Benefits – By Sub-Region

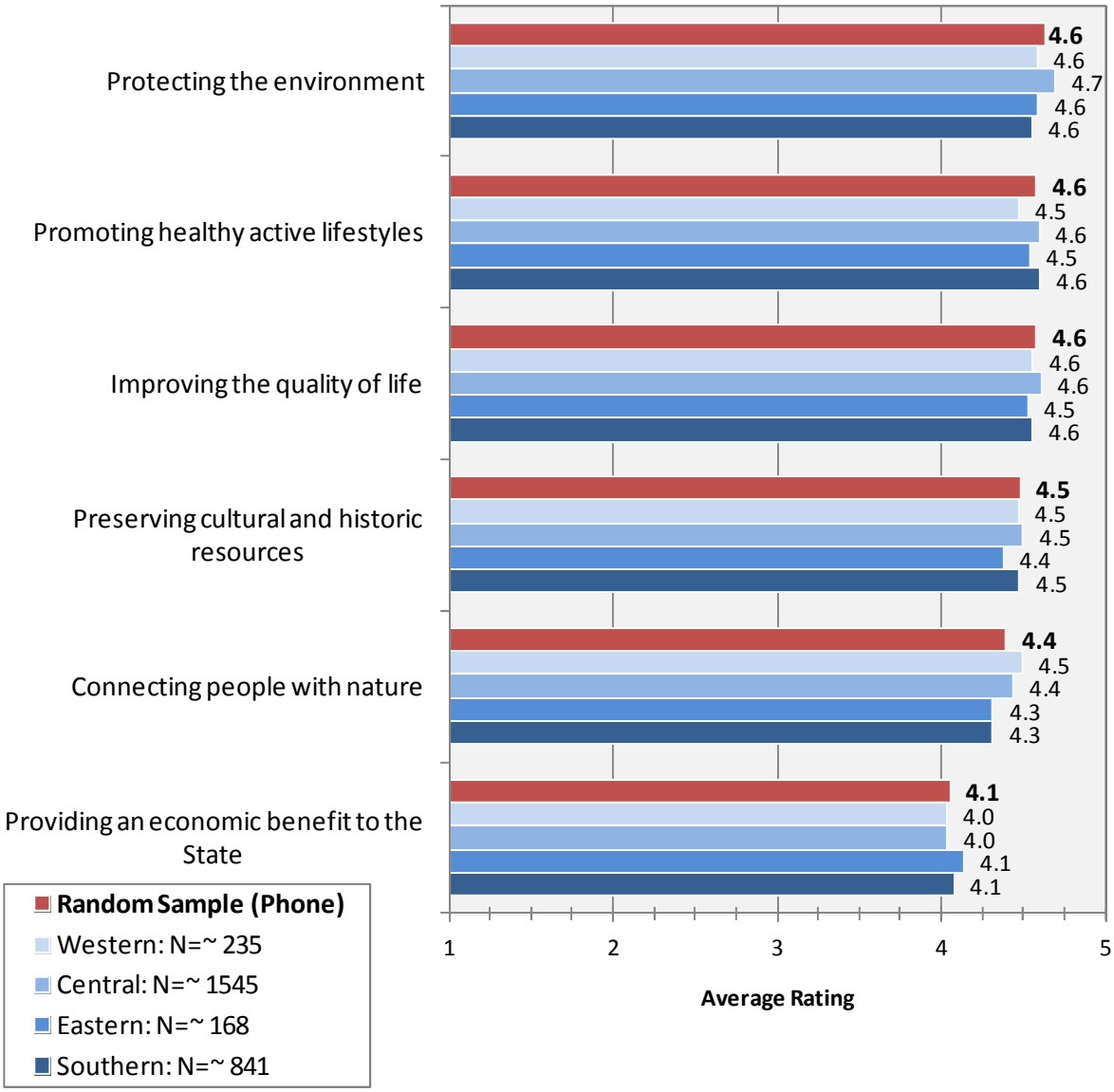
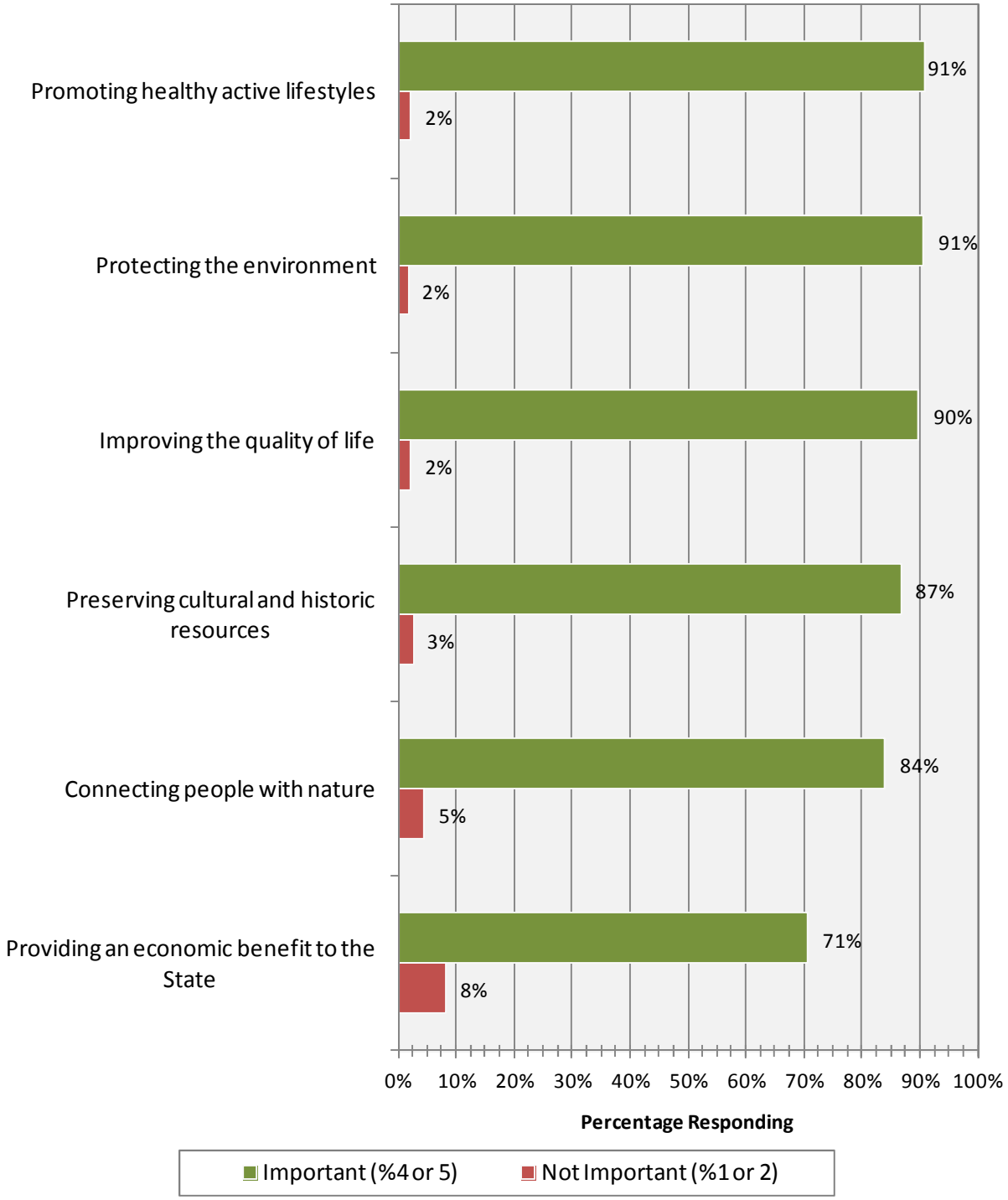


Figure 15
Importance of Land Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Benefits – Percent Important vs. Not Important



DNR SPECIFIC RATINGS & FINANCIAL CHOICES

Overall Satisfaction with the DNR

Ratings of satisfaction with the DNR are exceptionally high overall. Respondents are most satisfied with the department's ability to provide active outdoor recreation opportunities (73 percent satisfied). On the lower end of the scale, respondents are satisfied less with the department's ability to provide adequate educational opportunities (59 percent satisfied).

When examined by region, respondents from the Western Region are more satisfied with the DNR for all attributes than their counterparts in other regions. Respondents from the Eastern and Southern regions tend to have slightly lower ratings of the DNR for all attributes.

Figure 16
Level of Satisfaction with Attributes of DNR – Average Rating – By Sub-Region

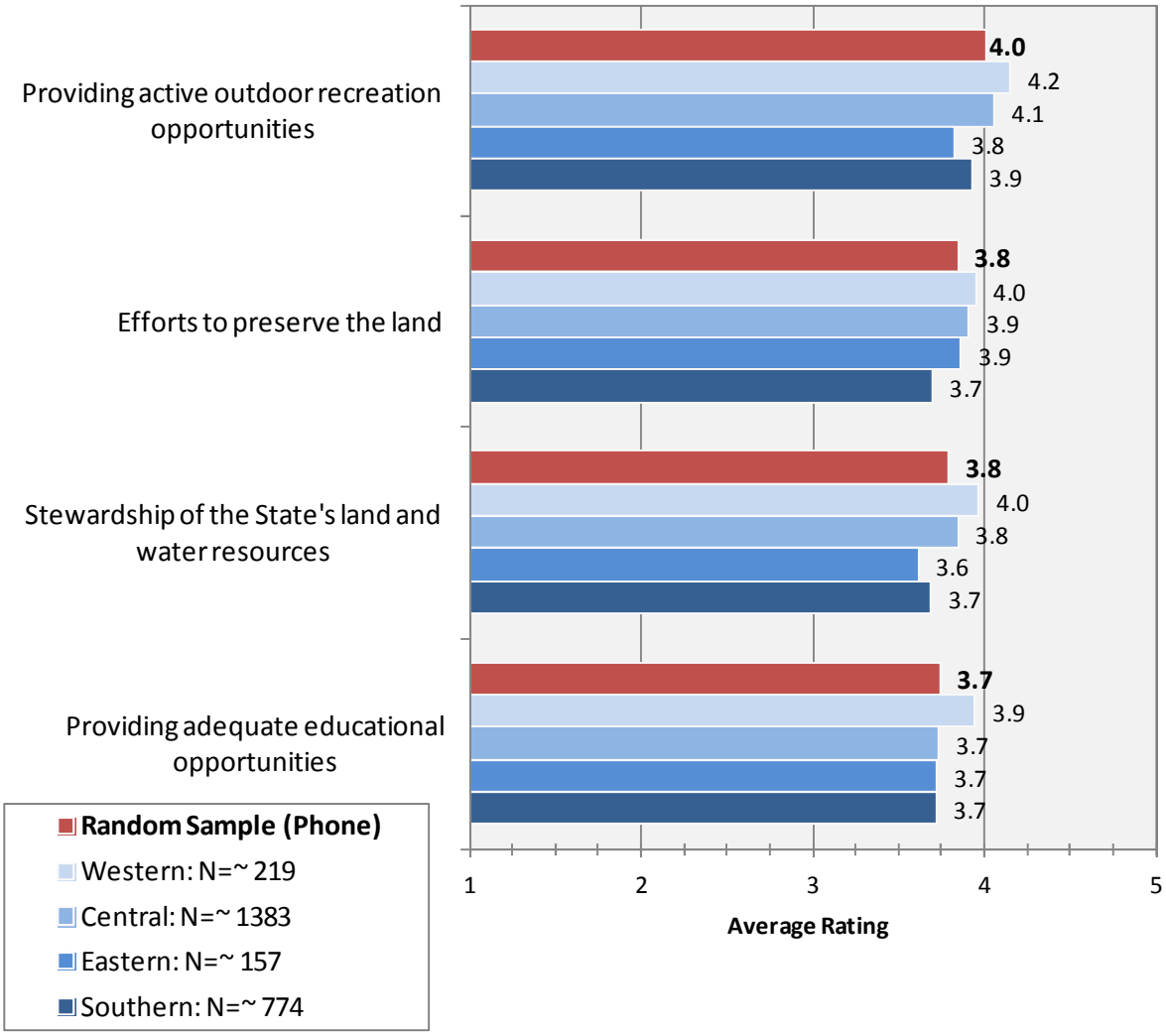
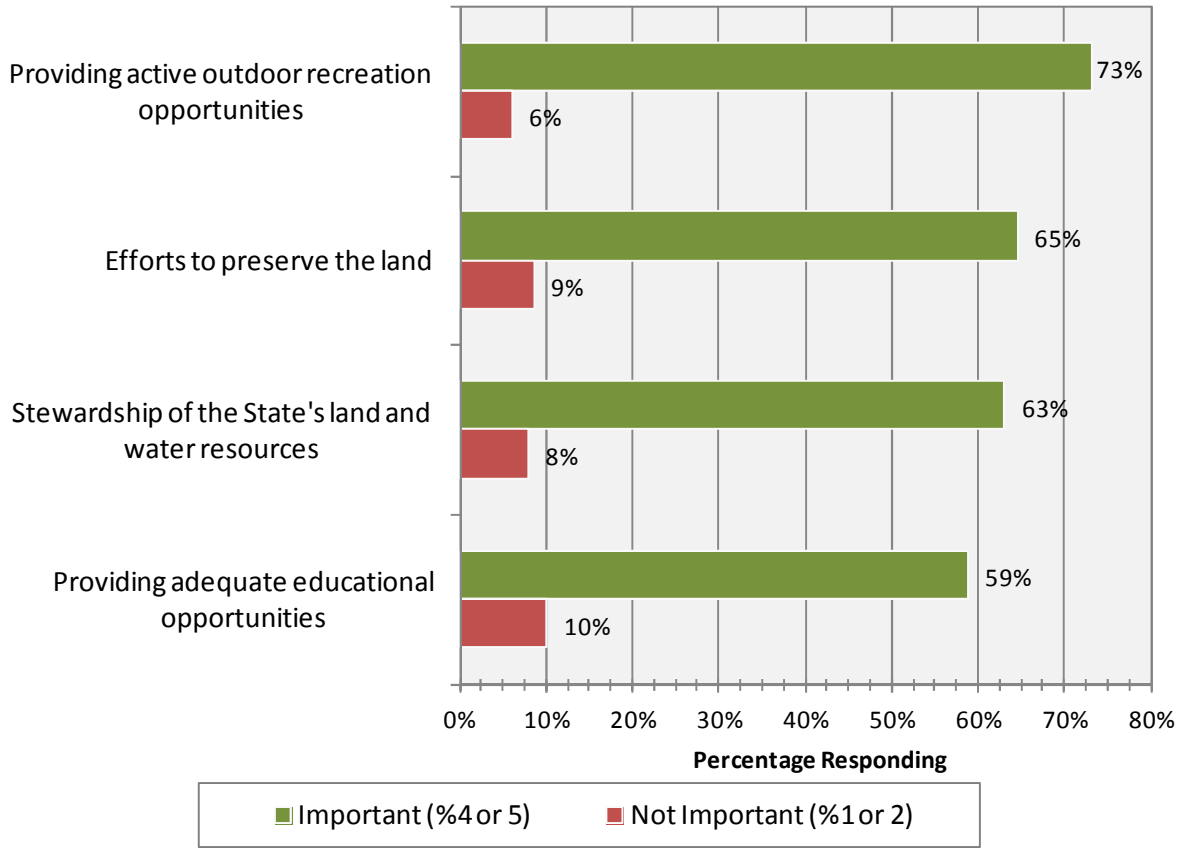


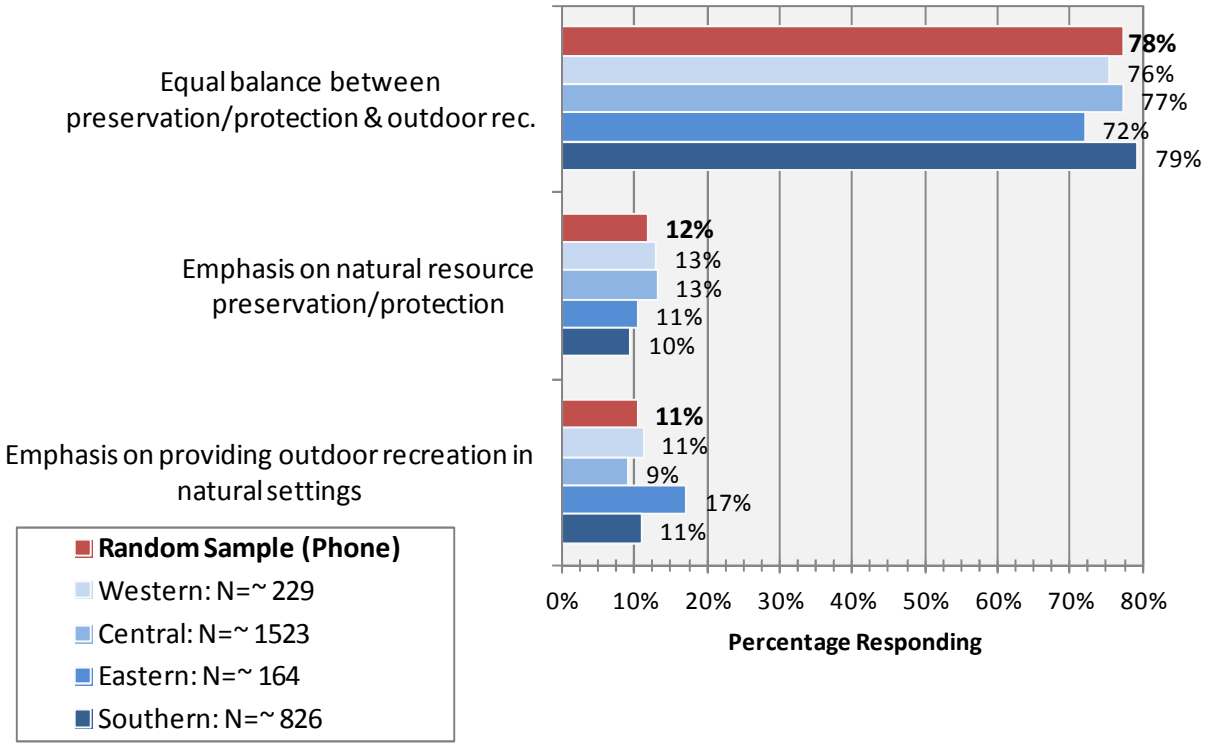
Figure 17
Level of Satisfaction with Attributes of DNR – Percent Satisfied vs. Not Satisfied



Emphasis of the DNR

The majority of respondents (78 percent) feel that the DNR should pursue an equal balance between natural resource preservation/protection and providing outdoor recreation in natural settings. The remaining respondents are equally split between the two directions (12 percent emphasis on preservation/protection and 11 percent on outdoor recreation). Although a clear majority still prefers a balanced approach, respondents from the Eastern Region place slightly higher emphasis on providing outdoor recreation than preservation/protection (17 percent and 11 percent respectively).

Figure 18
Emphasis DNR Should Pursue – By Sub-Region



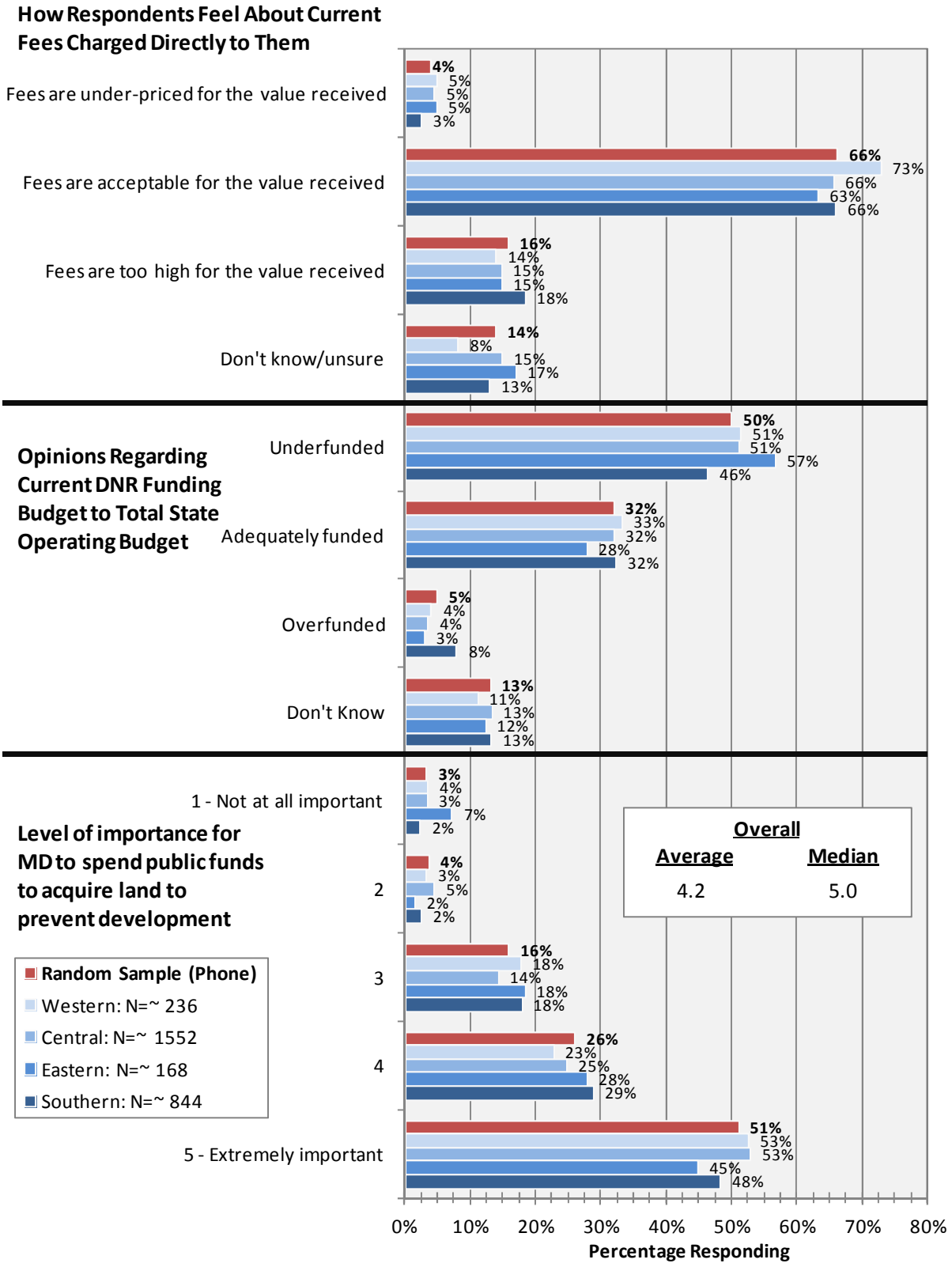
DNR Funding and Fees

Respondents were asked how they feel about the fees charged directly to them by the DNR. The majority feel that the fees are acceptable for the value received (66 percent), while 16 percent feel that the fees are too high for the value received and 4 percent feel that the fees are under-priced for the value received. Of the regions, respondents from the Western Region were most likely to feel that the fees are acceptable for the value received (73 percent), while responders from the Eastern Region were least likely (63 percent).

Half of the respondents felt that the DNR is underfunded in the state operation budget (50 percent). Responders from the Eastern Region are most likely to feel that the department is underfunded (57 percent). Thirty-two percent of the responders feel that the department is adequately funded, while only 5 percent of responders feel it is overfunded.

Over half of all responders indicate that it is “extremely important” that the State of Maryland spend public funds to acquire land to prevent development. Only 3 percent feel that it is “not at all important”.

Figure 19
Fees and Funding By Sub-Region



ENERGY RESOURCES ON PUBLIC LANDS

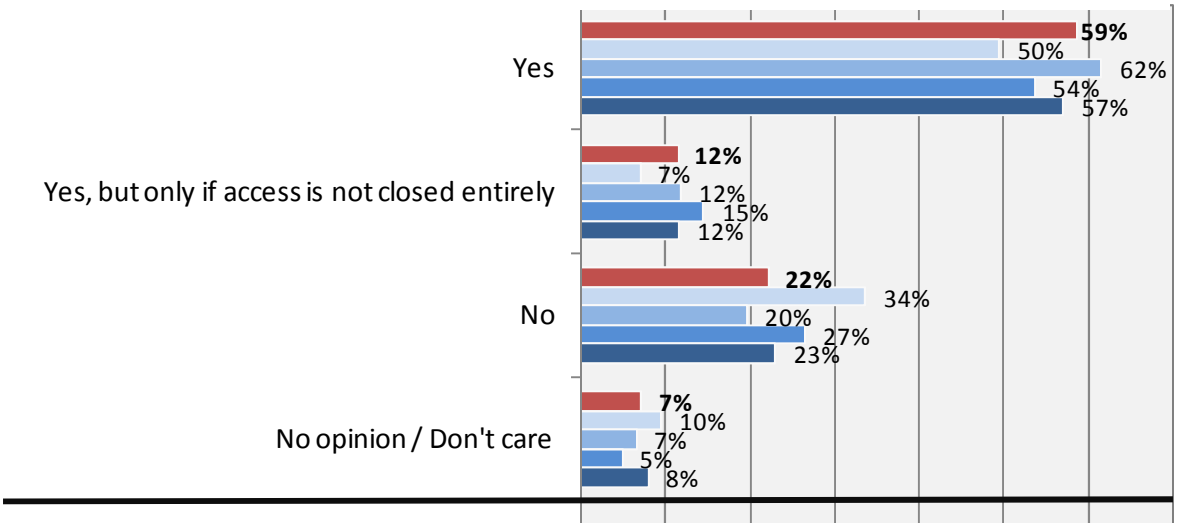
Respondents were asked to consider allowing both renewable and non-renewable energy resources on public lands. Renewable energy resources were defined as such things as wind farms and solar fields, while non-renewable resources were considered to be coal and natural gas.

Overall, respondents are more favorable towards allowing renewable energy resources on public lands even if access to some of the land is limited (71 percent favorable). Another twelve percent indicated that they are in favor of renewable energy resources as long as the access to the public lands was not closed entirely. Twenty-two percent of respondents are not in favor of allowing renewable resources on public lands. Respondents from the Western and Eastern Regions were not as likely to be in favor of allowing renewable resources on public lands as their counterparts in the Central and Southern Regions.

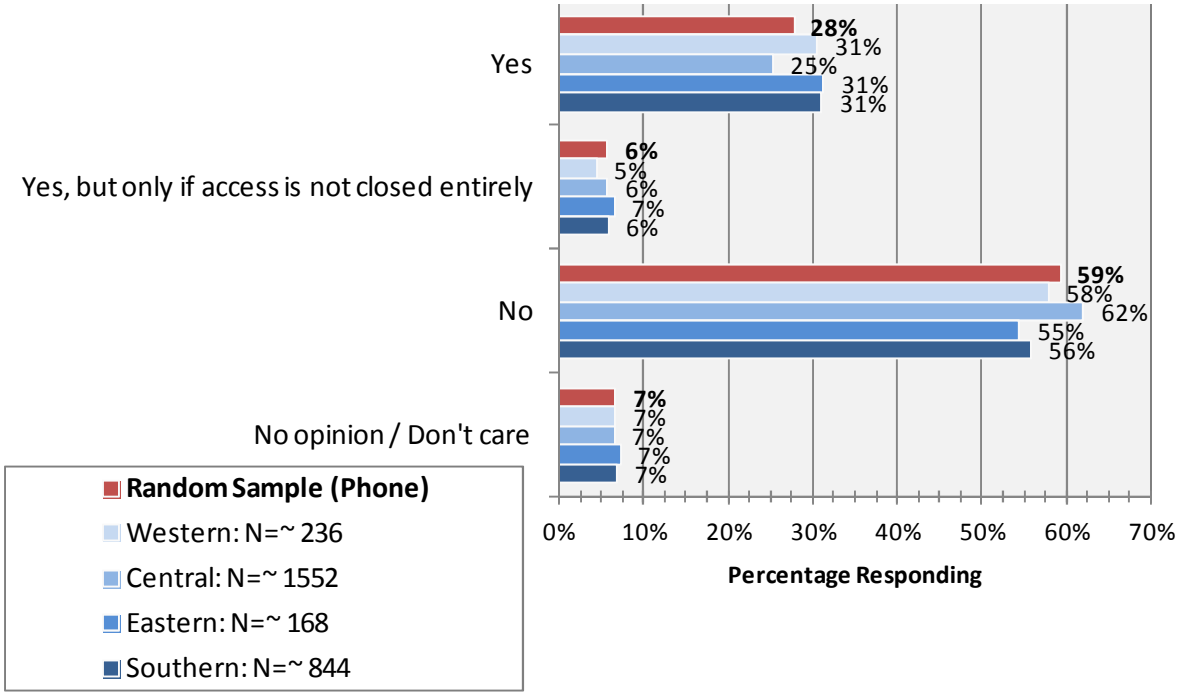
The majority of respondents are not in favor of allowing non-renewable resources on public lands (59 percent), although 34 percent are open to some level of activity. Respondents from the Central Region are more unfavorable with 62 percent than responders from the other regions.

Figure 20
Renewable and Non-Renewable Energy – By Sub-Region

Are respondents supportive of allowing renewable energy resources on public lands such as wind farms and solar fields, even if access to some parts are limited



Are respondents supportive of allowing non-renewable energy resources on public lands such as coal and natural gas, even if access to some parts are limited



OPEN ENDED COMMENTS

Respondents were asked if they had any had additional comments or suggestions regarding the land preservation and recreational opportunities provided by the DNR. Of those respondents that provided comments, no single dominant theme was apparent either overall or by region. Respondents offered broad and varied views on a myriad of issues. The full set of comments, which can be found in the appendix, should be viewed in order to understand the extent of issues covered and the specific topics and location of these issues.

In general, however, a few themes by region are discussed below regarding other benefits of land conservation and outdoor recreation and suggestions regarding land preservation and recreational opportunities provided by the DNR.

Are there any other benefits of land conservation and outdoor recreation you would like to mention?

Western Region

-Great for kids and the promotion of healthy, active lifestyles

> "GOOD FAMILY TIME AWAY FROM THE TV, GOOD FOR KIDS TO GET OUT AND BE ACTIVE"

-Concerns over obstacles to conservation

> "I THINK WE CUT TOO MUCH TIMBER. THE COUNTY COUNTS ON SIGHTSEEING & THEIR TAKING IT AWAY. PLUS I THINK WE'RE OVER POPULATED IN CERTAIN AREAS."

-Interest in protecting wildlife

> "TAKING CARE OF OUR WATER SO THAT THE FISH CAN LIVE & NOT GET SICK FROM POLLUTED WATER"

-Clean air and water

> "YOU CAN'T BEAT THE CLEAN AIR - NOT MANY PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY HAVE ASTHMA- ITS FRESH AIR AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO COUGH AFTER YOU BREATHE IN THE AIR"

Central Region

-Beauty/aesthetically pleasing/peaceful

> "EXERCISE, PEACEFULNESS, GETTING AWAY FROM WHAT CAN BE A HECTIC WORLD"

-Community/relationships

> "I THINK THERE IS A PSYCHOLOGICAL BENEFIT OF JUST BEING OUTDOORS - YOU CAN JUST SIT AND IT'S AN EMOTIONAL BENEFIT THAT'S VERY HIGH - IT STRENGTHENS FAMILIES"

-Conservation of land, water and animal habitats

> "PRESERVING FOR THE PEOPLE YET TO COME AND ALSO FOR THE WILDLIFE AND HEALTH BENEFITS OF THE PLANTS TO CLEAN THE AIR. IT'S A BENEFIT FOR MORE GREEN SPACES."
>
> "WATER QUALITY, PRESERVATION OF NATURAL DIVERSITY, REDUCTION IN THINGS LIKE AIR POLLUTION, PARKS PROVIDE SOUND BUFFERING FOR NEIGHBORHOODS,

RECONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE, PROVIDING SAFE PLACES FOR PEOPLE TO PLAY IN"

-Education/stewardship

"GOOD IF THERE WAS A PROGRAM TO EDUCATE THOSE WHO USE THE PARKS -TO BE CLEAN AND RESPECTFUL; AS WHEN WE FOUND IT-IF WE FOUND IT IN GOOD CONDITION WE WOULD LEAVE IT IN GOOD CONDITION"

-Farming preservation

"DO WHAT WE CAN TO HELP FARMERS-RECENTLY LIVE NEAR A RUN THAT WAS IMPROVED, FIXED THE BANKS, INCREASED THE SIZE SO IT DOESN'T FLOOD, IS BETTER FOR THE WILDLIFE AND CERTAINLY FOR THE GENERAL IMPROVEMENT FOR THE ENTIRE AREA-POSITIVE"

Eastern Region

-Land conservation

"LAND CONSERVATION IS VERY IMPORTANT THEY HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT FARMERS, AND INDUSTRIAL BUILDING IS RUINING FAMILIES AND THEY ARE BEING HURT BY THESE INDUSTRIAL PROGRAMS. FAMILIES ARE LOSING THEIR HOMES AND LANDS TO CORPORATE BUILDING AND POLLUTION."

-Clean water

" I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM REBUILD ISLANDS IN OUTER CHESAPEAKE BAY; PROTECT FROM DIRECT BEATING OF WIND AND SURF. NEED A FEW CHANGES AS TO DONATING FISH INTO CHESAPEAKE BAY. CATCH SIZES AND CATCHING METHODS SHOULD BE RENEWED AND TAKEN CARE OF."

"WE LIVE IN A WATER/MARSH COMMUNITY AND I THINK IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO KEEP FOR WATERFOWL AND LOCAL FAUNA/ANIMALS SO THEY HAVE TO HAVE A PLACE TO BREED AND RAISE YOUNG OR THEY ARE GOING TO DIE OFF."

Suggestions regarding land preservation and recreational opportunities provided by the DNR.

Western Region

-Concerns regarding energy infrastructures

"I JUST THINK THAT NON RENEWABLE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY CAN BE DONE WITHOUT EFFECTING THE PARKS"

-More advertising

"IT NEEDS TO BE MORE AVAILABLE THROUGH ADVERTISING SO MORE FAMILIES KNOW WHAT AND WHEN THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE. IN GENERAL, I THINK IT NEEDS TO BE AVAILABLE."

-More areas for hunting

"STATE PROPERTY LINES SHOULD BE MARKED MORE CLEARLY AND THERE ARE NO PUBLIC SHOOTING RANGES. THE FREE MAPS DON'T EXPLAIN THE ACTUAL PROPERTY BOUNDARIES"

-Protection of historical sites

"THINK THERE IS A LOT OF OLD HOMES THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN PRESERVED, FOR HISTORICAL SAKE"

Central Region

-Clean the Bay

"GET TO WORK ON GETTING POLLUTION OUT OF POTOMAC RIVER AND CHESAPEAKE BAY"

-More educational opportunities

"EDUCATION FOR THE YOUNG KIDS IS IMPORTANT, AND OYSTER REACH FOR THE BAY/FREE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES-KIDS CAN HELP OUT, THEY HAVE A BIGGER STAKE"

-Conserve the land and acquire more open space

"I BELIEVE IN LAND CONSERVATION. UP UNTIL 10 YEARS AGO CARROLL COUNTY HAD MORE LAND IN AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION THAN ANY STATE. I'M HAPPY WITH THE STATE PARK SITUATION"

"I DON'T WANT TO SEE HISTORICAL LANDMARKS DISAPPEAR. I'D RATHER THERE BE LESS COMMERCIALISM BECAUSE I ENJOY NATURAL PARKS."

"I THINK THEY NEED TO CONCENTRATE ON BUYING AND PRESERVING AREAS THAT HAVE THE GREATEST EFFECT ON THE WATERSHED. BUY UP REMAINING FARMS THAT GO TO FORECLOSURE INSTEAD OF LETTING DEVELOPERS BUY THEM. TURN THEM INTO PARKS INSTEAD OF DEVELOPMENTS."

"PRESERVATION & PROTECTION AGAINST ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT USE FROM THE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO GRAB IT, SAVE THE LAND FOR THE PEOPLE"

-Alternative energy: People strongly for and against it

"I REALLY DON'T WANT TO SEE THEM PUT THAT PIPELINE THROUGH. I REALLY WISH THEY WOULD STOP USING THE EXTRACTION METHOD FOR NATURAL GAS THAT THEY USE IN THE PENNSYLVANIA VALLEY. IT ENDANGERS LIFE LAND WATER AIR AND ALL THOSE THINGS. IT'S VERY DANGEROUS …"

"I THINK THAT LAND NEEDS TO BE USED TO HARVEST FOSSIL FUELS SO WE CAN TRY TO CONTINUE TO KEEP ENERGY COSTS DOWN. REGULATIONS NOT BE PUT IN PLACE TO LIMIT WHAT LANDOWNERS CAN DO WITH THEIR LAND."

-Increase staff members

"I KNOW THE BUDGET IS SMALL BUT A LOT OF THE PLACES THAT I HAVE GONE TO ARE UNDERSTAFFED. NEED MORE PEOPLE TO MONITOR VISITORS. I WOULD STRESS THAT THE STAFF THEY HAVE ARE INCREDIBLY DEVOTED AND EXCELLENT AT THEIR JOBS."

-A lot of people pleased with DNR

"KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!"

-Lower prices, particularly for low-income residents

"LOWER INCOMES SHOULD HAVE ACCESS EVEN IF THEY CANNOT AFFORD IT AT THE TIME"

-More advertising/clarification

"MORE OUTREACH TO SCHOOLS SO THEY KNOW ABOUT THE AREAS. MORE CLARIFICATION OF THE RELATION BETWEEN DNR AND THE PARKS SYSTEM"

"MORE PROMOTING WHAT'S OUT THERE, THE HEALTH BENEFITS, ENVIRONMENT. I DON'T THINK THERE'S ENOUGH PROMOTION OF WHAT WE HAVE & WHAT'S OUT THERE."

"THE DNR TO DO MORE PROMOTION TO YOUNGER PEOPLE AS WHAT THERE IS TO DO & WHAT THEY OFFER. I HOPE THEY ARE DOING A GOOD JOB OF GOING TO SCHOOLS & TELLING KIDS WHAT THEY DO & THAT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL FOR KIDS. I THINK IT'S A GOOD THING TO DO."

-Volunteering opportunities/community outreach

"WOULD LOVE TO SEE A LITTLE MORE EMPHASIS ON ORGANIZING VOLUNTEERS TO DO PARK CLEAN UPS AND STUFF, MAYBE A LITTLE MORE AGGRESSIVE IN COMMUNITY OUTREACH"

Eastern Region

-Protect the environment

"I'D LIKE TO SEE THE CONSERVANCY PROGRAMS STRENGTHENED AND EXPANDED. I'M VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT."

Southern Region

-Acquire more land now before it is developed for commercial use

"AS LONG AS THE MONEY IS GOING TOWARD THE PARKS AND RECREATION, IT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD FOR PRESERVING THE LAND, BUT I FORESEE THE LAND BEING TAKEN AWAY FROM THE PUBLIC IN THE FUTURE AND USED FOR PRIVATE INTERESTS."

-Clean the Bay

"DO SOMETHING ABOUT FARM RUNOFF AND GETTING THE BAY BACK TO GOOD HEALTH"

-Education/promotion

"I WISH THAT THERE WERE MORE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ABOUT LAND PRESERVATION AND KIDS IN CLASSROOMS SHOULD BE BETTER EDUCATED ABOUT LAND PRESERVATION"

"MAKING THESE PLACES MORE PUBLIC IN TERMS OF INFORMATION, BUT SOMETIMES IT'S ROUGH TO FIND PUBLIC LANDS AND NATURE SIGHTS. ADVERTISE MORE, PUBLISH MORE ABOUT THESE PLACES, AND MAKE THE KNOWLEDGE MORE AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE ABOUT WHERE IT IS."

-More trails, closer to urban areas

"NO SUGGESTIONS, MY BIGGEST COMPLAINT IS THAT MOST OF THESE PLACES ARE NOT CLOSE, THEY'RE KIND OF FAR AWAY."

"THEY COULD DO SO MUCH MORE; WE HAVE TO DRIVE A LONG TIME TO EXPERIENCE SOMETHING THAT IS REALLY NATURAL. THE BIKING TRAILS ARE REALLY FAR AWAY FROM US, IT SEEMS UNSAFE TO GET THERE, YOU HAVE TO GET IN YOUR CAR TO GET TO THESE BIKE TRAILS, IT'S A SHAME."

-More patrolling

"THEY NEED TO PUT MORE PEOPLE IN THE PARKS TO PATROL THE PARKS. SOMETIMES WE GO UP TO CEDARVILLE AND NOBODY WAS THERE FOR HOURS & HOURS"

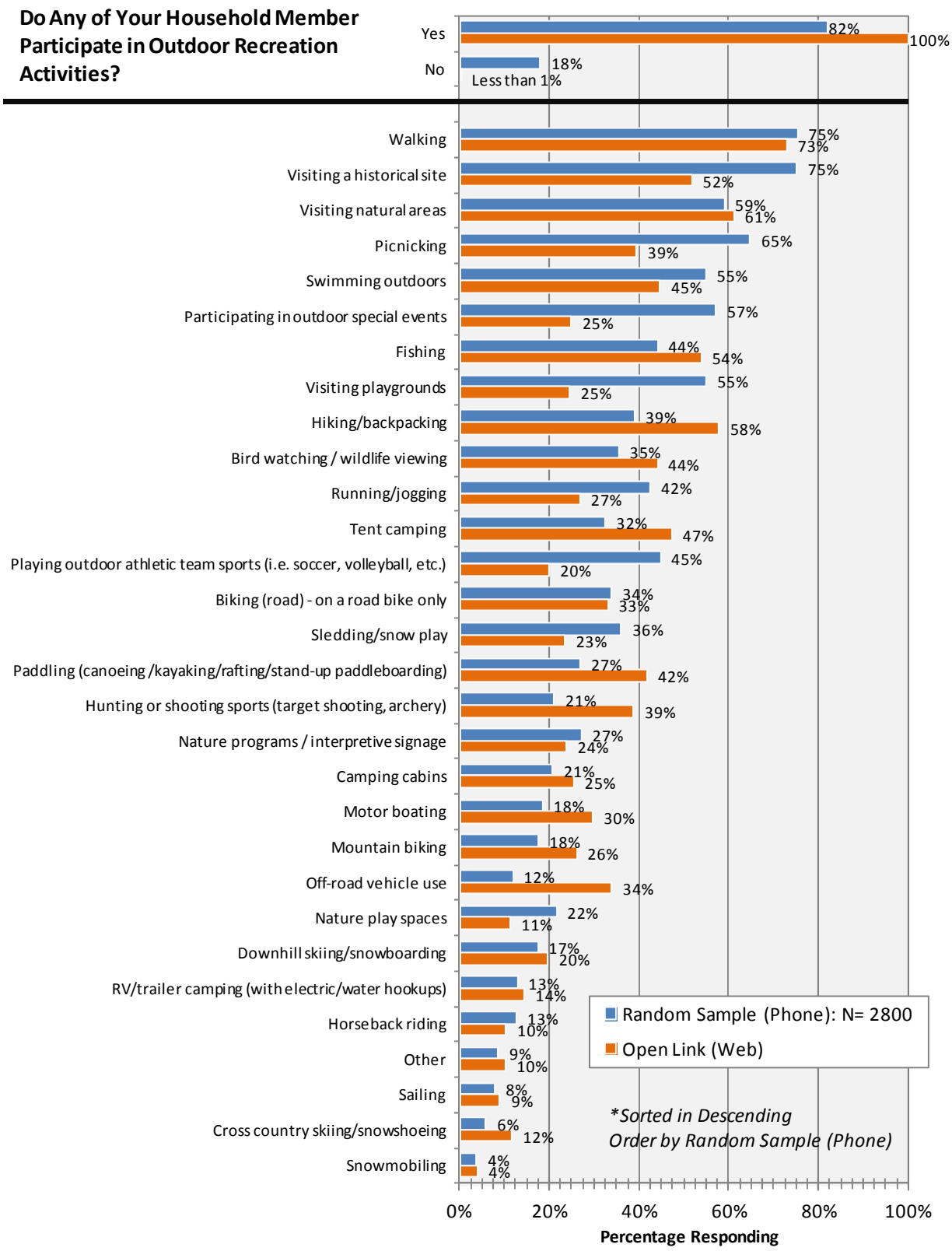
ONLINE OPEN LINK SURVEY ANALYSIS

As mentioned in the introduction, the responses to the online open link version of the survey are "self-selected" and thus not included in the above analysis. The survey received 2,475 responses. The highlights of this research are provided below.

Overall, the open link survey respondents are avid outdoor recreational enthusiasts. As such, they are prevalent users of the state parks, forests, and wildlife areas managed by the DNR. Approximately two-thirds of the respondents to the open link survey believe that the availability of parks, trails, outdoor recreation facilities, and outdoor education programs is extremely important. However, only 6 percent of the open link respondents feel that the parks, trails, outdoor recreation facilities, and outdoor recreation programs are completely meeting the needs of their household. The three most important aspects of outdoor recreation most in need of improvement are "number of trails available", "number of parks", and "connectivity of trails". Even though the open link respondents are avid users of the DNR facilities and feel that their needs are not completely being met, they also feel that the DNR is currently underfunded and are supportive of efforts to spend public funds to acquire land to prevent development.

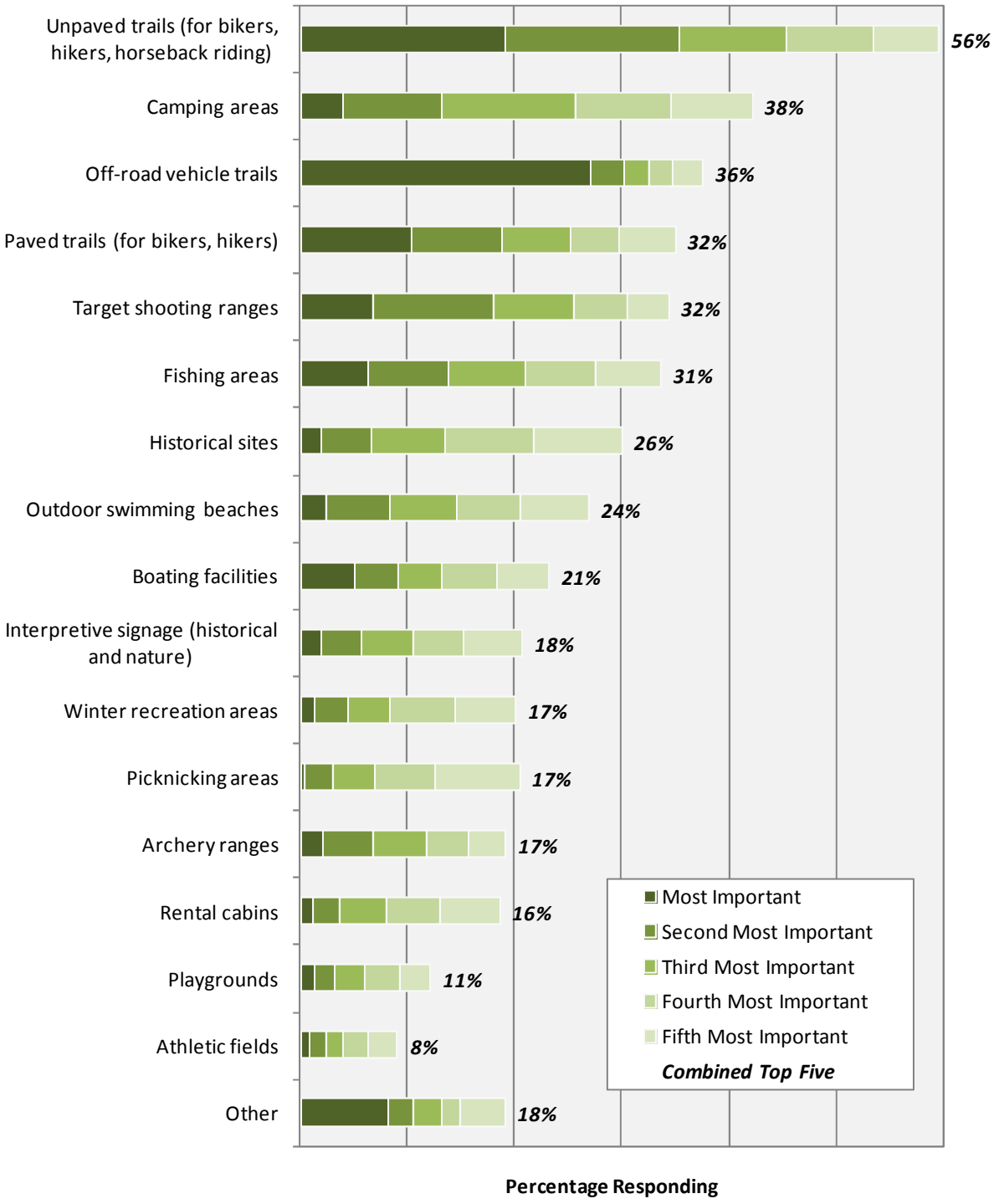
As seen in Figure 21, all of the respondents to the open link survey indicate that a member of their household participates in outdoor recreation. In particular, they are most likely to participate in walking (73 percent), visiting natural areas (61 percent), hiking/backpacking (58 percent), and fishing (54 percent).

Figure 21
Outdoor Recreation Activities Participated In – Random Sample vs. Open Link



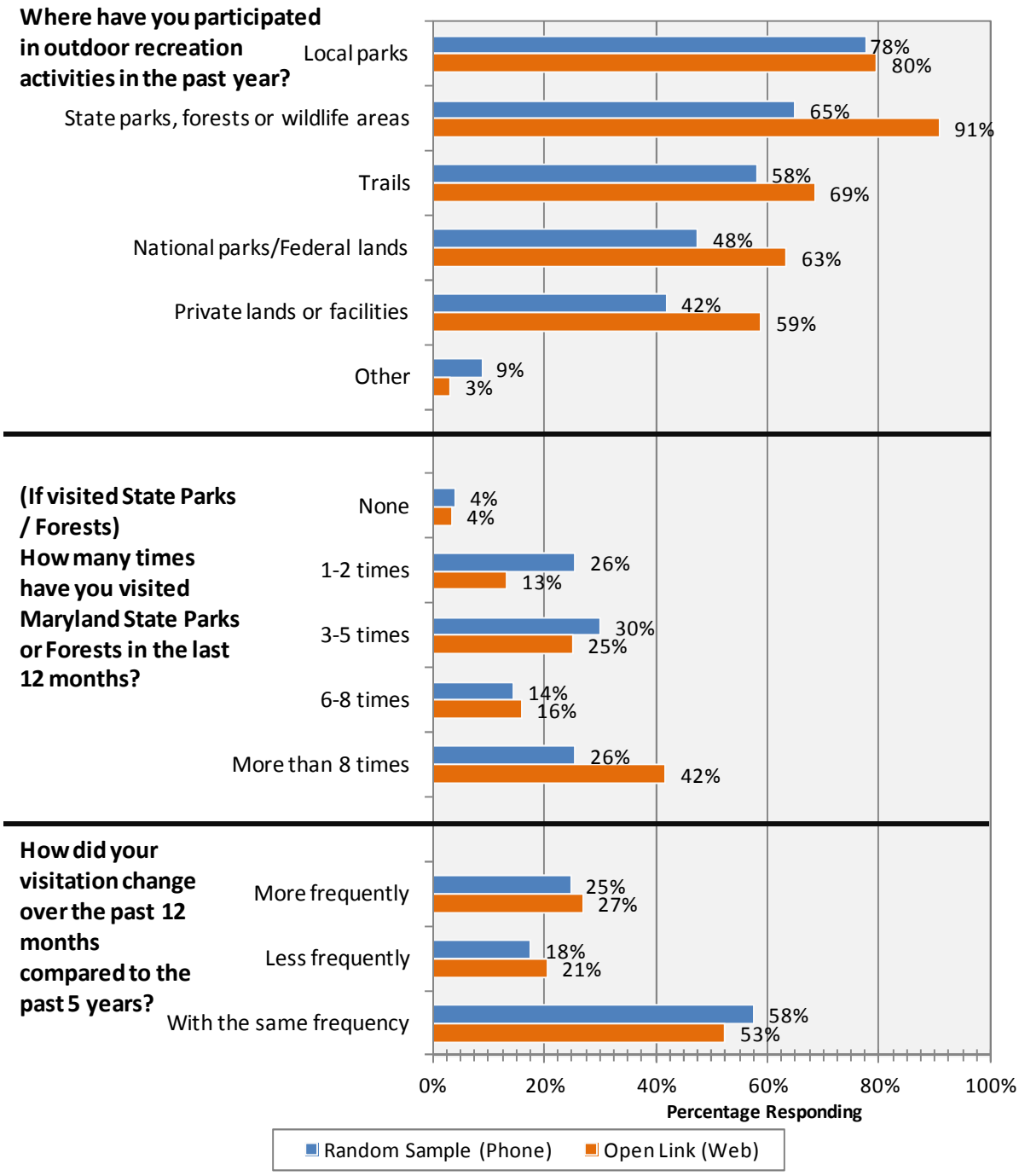
Open link survey respondents indicated that the five most important outdoor recreation facilities to be added, expanded, or improved included: unpaved trails (for bikers, hikers, horseback riding) (56 percent), camping areas (38 percent), off-road vehicle trails (36 percent), paved trails (for bikers, hikers) (32 percent), target shooting ranges (32 percent), and fishing areas (31 percent).

Figure 22
Five Most Important Outdoor Rec. Facilities to be Added, Expanded, or Improved – Open Link



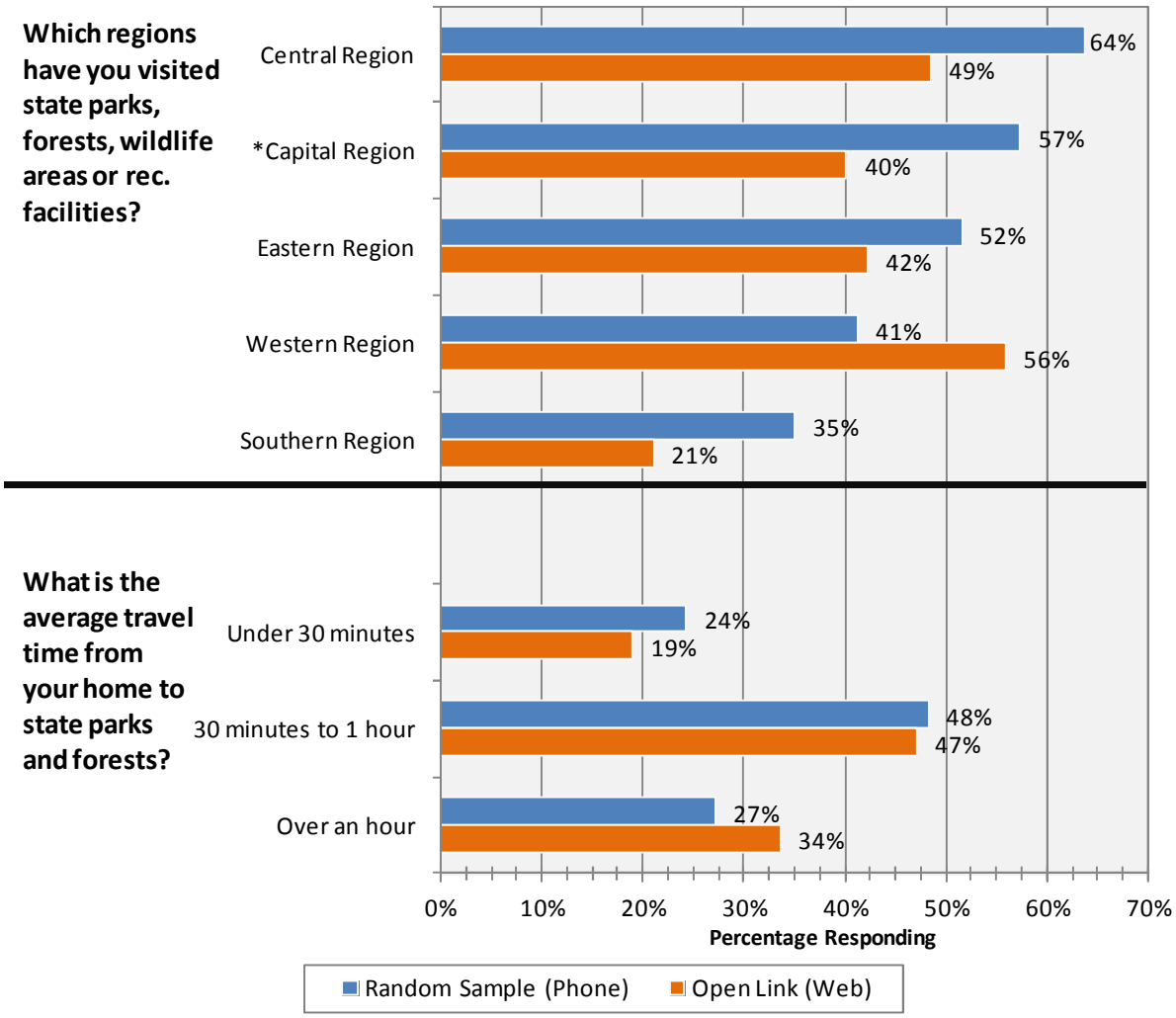
Over 90 percent of the open link respondents have used a state park, forest or wildlife area in the past 12 months. Over 40 percent of the open link respondents indicate that they have visited a state park, forest, or wildlife area more than 8 times in the past 12 months.

Figure 23
Type of Facility Participated At/ Frequency of Participation / Change in Frequency – Random Sample vs. Open Link



The majority of open link respondents visited a state park, forests, wildlife areas, or recreational facilities in the Western Region (56 percent), followed by the Central Region (49 percent), the Eastern Region (42 percent), the Capital Region (40 percent), and the Southern Region (21 percent). This correlates with the fact that the open link survey has more responders that either live or have second homes in the Western Region than the random sample survey.

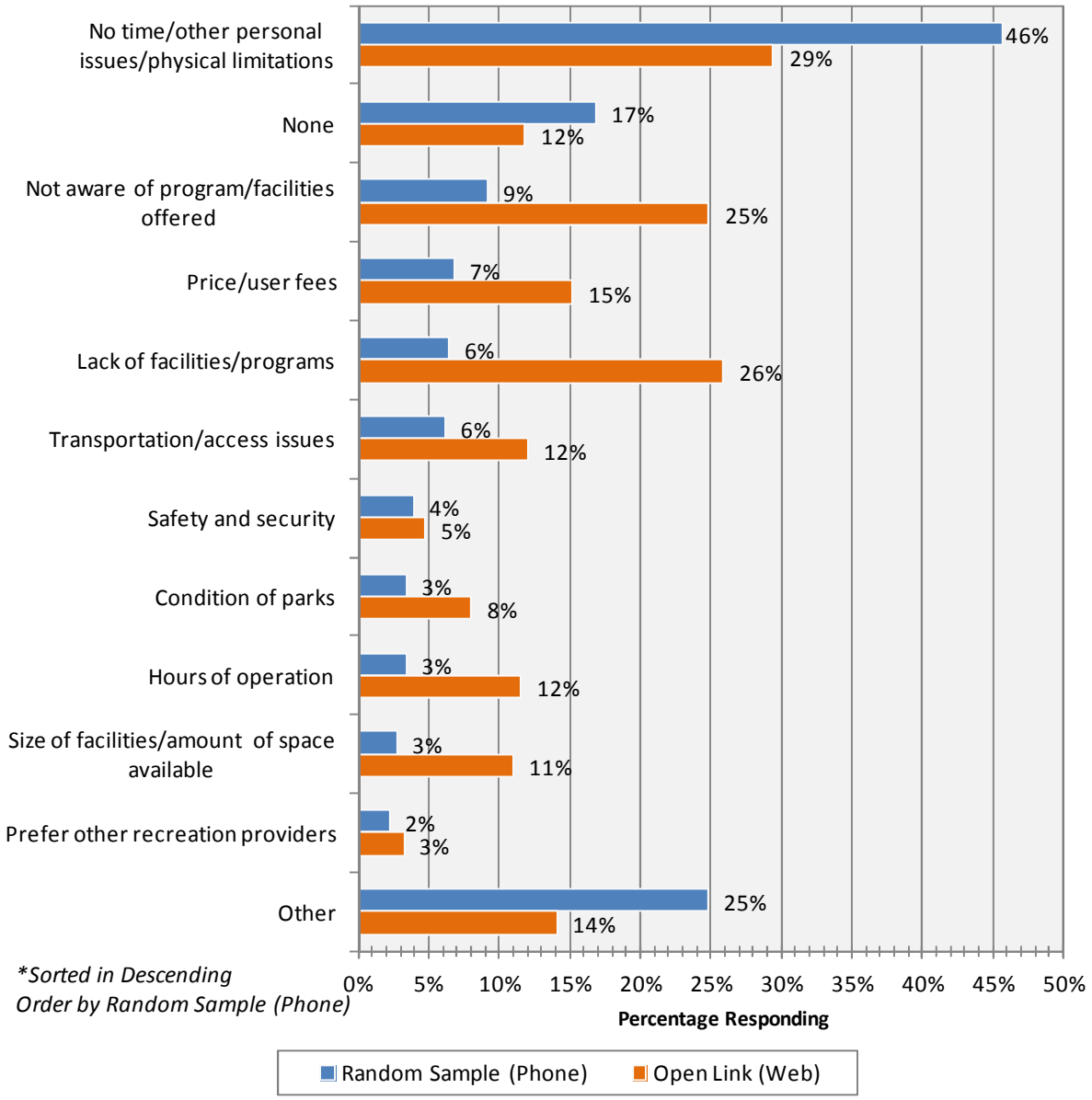
Figure 24
Location of Visitation / Travel Time to Location
– Random Sample vs. Open Link



** Note that the four DNR sub-regions used for analysis and reporting throughout this document differ slightly from the five sub-regions used by Tourism and Planning, which includes a separate "Capital Region." After the survey had been fielded, it was decided that the four DNR regions would be the primary geography used for comparisons since the DNR is already largely organized around these four sub-regions for many other purposes. Since the survey had already fielded, however, it was not possible to revise the question above to remove the Capital Region as a choice as to which regions respondents had visited. In any case, this question is a "multiple response" choice question, meaning respondents could have visited any or all of the five sub-regions in question. As such, the inclusion of a fifth region in this question does not affect any potential response patterns.*

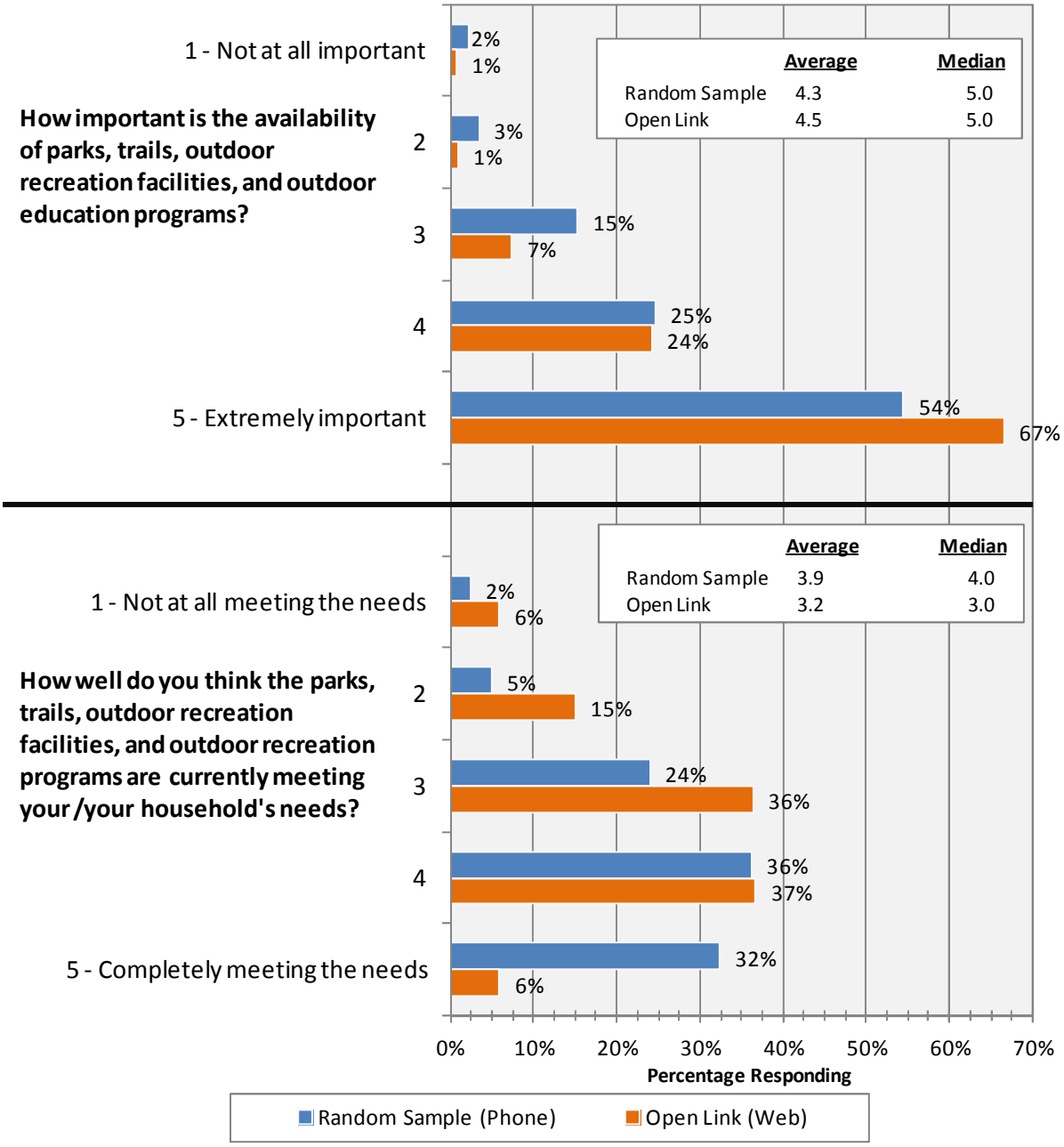
As seen in Figure 25, the most common barriers to participating in outdoor recreation more frequently among open link responders include: no time/other personal issues/physical limitations (29 percent), lack of facilities/programs (26 percent), and not aware of program facilities offered (25 percent).

Figure 25
Barriers to Participating in Outdoor Rec. More Frequently – Random Sample vs. Open Link



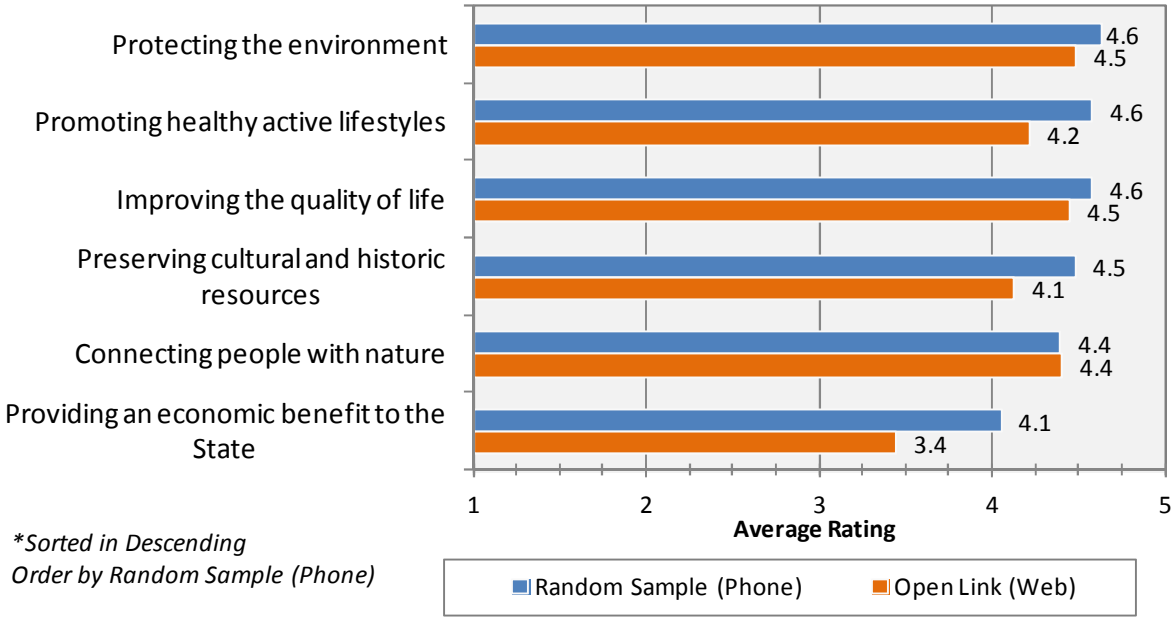
Two-thirds of the open link survey respondents feel that the availability of parks, trails, outdoor recreation facilities, and outdoor education programs are "extremely important". Only 6 percent of open link respondents feel that the parks, trails, outdoor recreation facilities and outdoor education programs are "completely meeting the needs" of their household, which is significantly less than the random sample responders.

Figure 26
Importance and Level of Needs Being Met for Parks, Trails, Outdoor Recreation Facilities, and Education Programs
– Random Sample vs. Open Link



The open link respondents feel that the attributes of "protecting the environment" and "improving the quality of life" are the most important benefits of land conservation and outdoor recreation. Each of these attributes received an average rating of 4.5 on a 1 to 5 scale, where 1=Not at all Important and 5=Extremely Important.

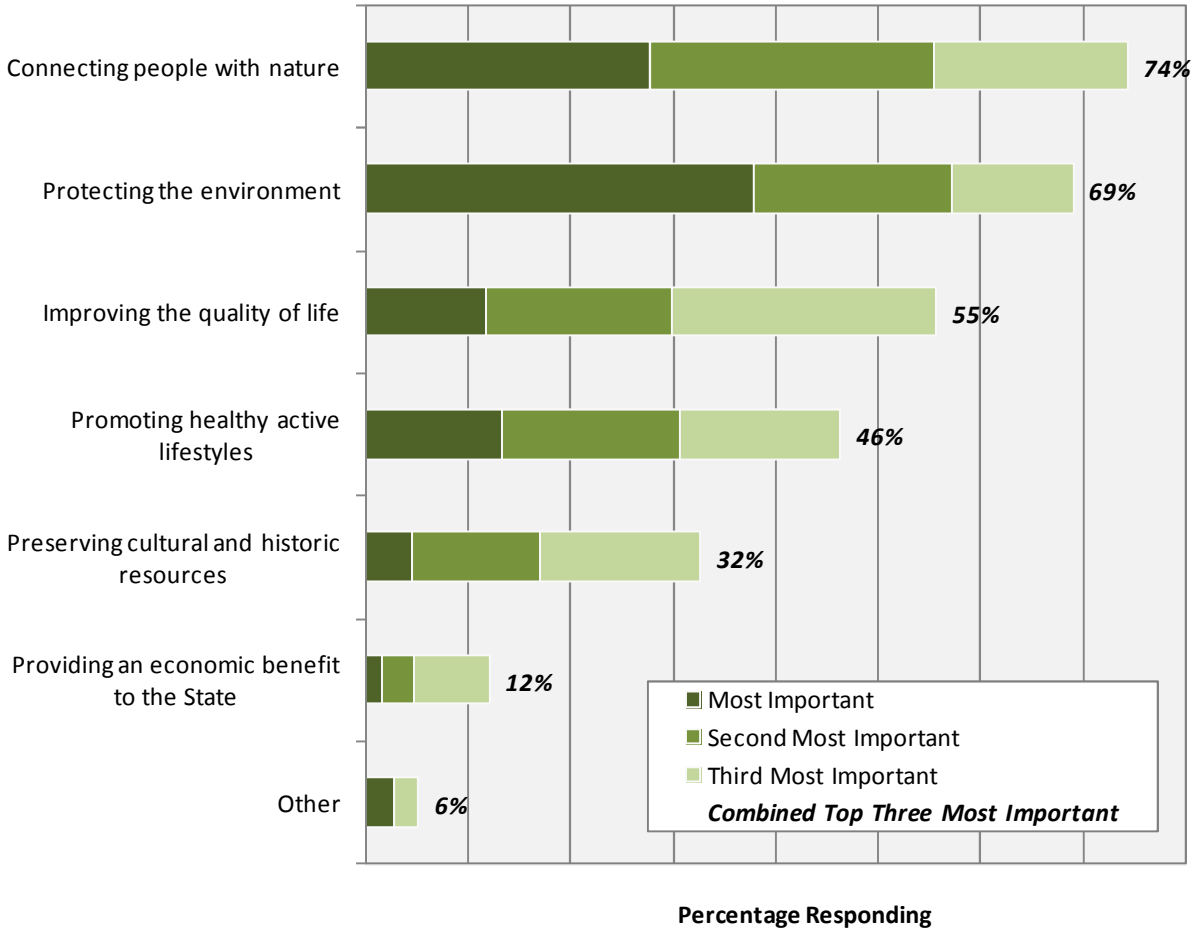
Figure 27
Importance of Benefits of Land Conservation and Outdoor Recreation – Average Rating – Random Sample vs. Open Link



**Sorted in Descending Order by Random Sample (Phone)*

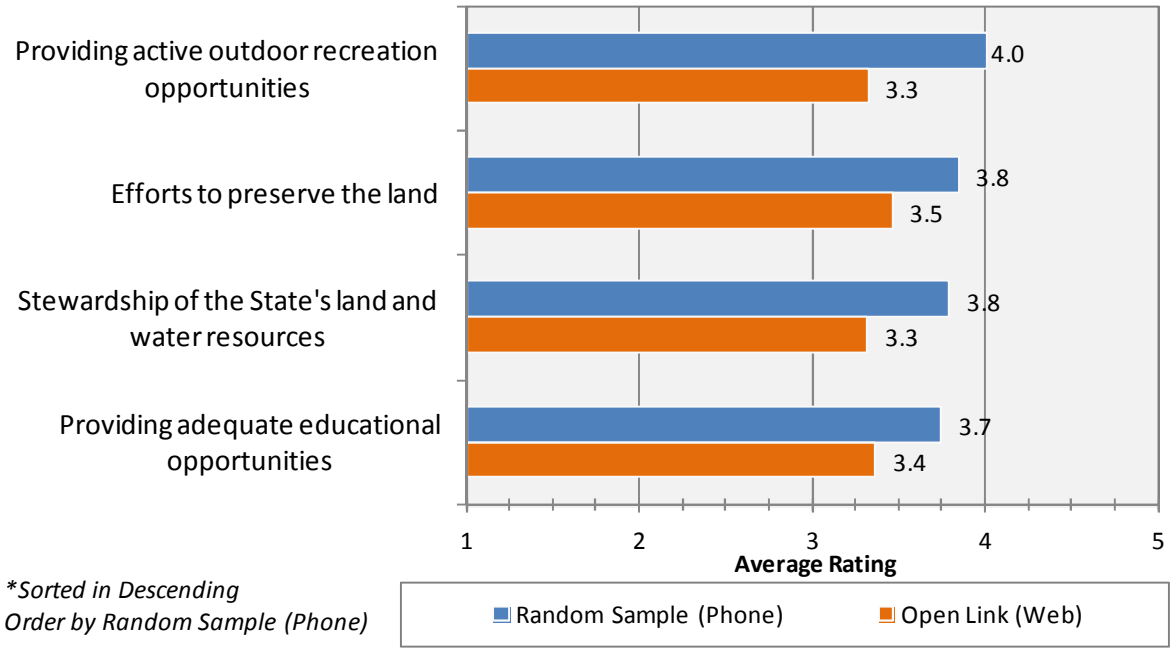
The open link respondents feel that the top three most important benefits of land conservation and outdoor recreation are: connecting people with nature (74 percent), protecting the environment (69 percent), and improving the quality of life (55 percent).

Figure 28
Three Most Important Benefits of Land Conservation and Outdoor Recreation – Open Link



The level of satisfaction with the DNR was lower for the open link respondents than for the random sample respondents. Among open link respondents, the attributes of "efforts to preserve the land" and "providing adequate educational opportunities" received an average rating of 3.5 and 3.4 respectively on a 1-5 scale, where 1=Not at all Satisfied and 5=Extremely Satisfied". "Stewardship of the State's land and water resources" and "providing active outdoor recreation opportunities" received an average rating of 3.3.

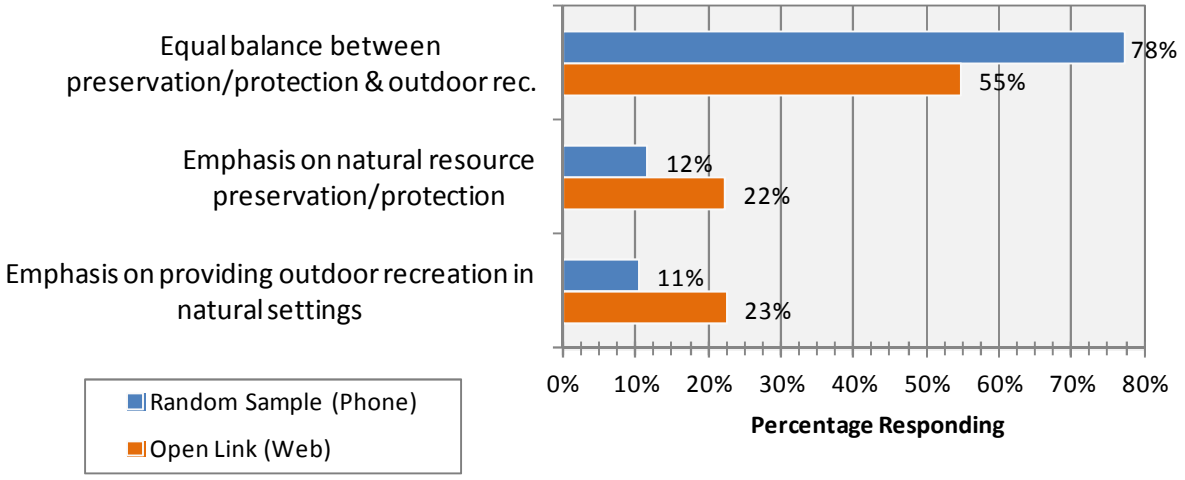
Figure 29
Level of Satisfaction with the Following Areas of DNR – Average Rating – Random Sample vs. Open Link



**Sorted in Descending Order by Random Sample (Phone)*

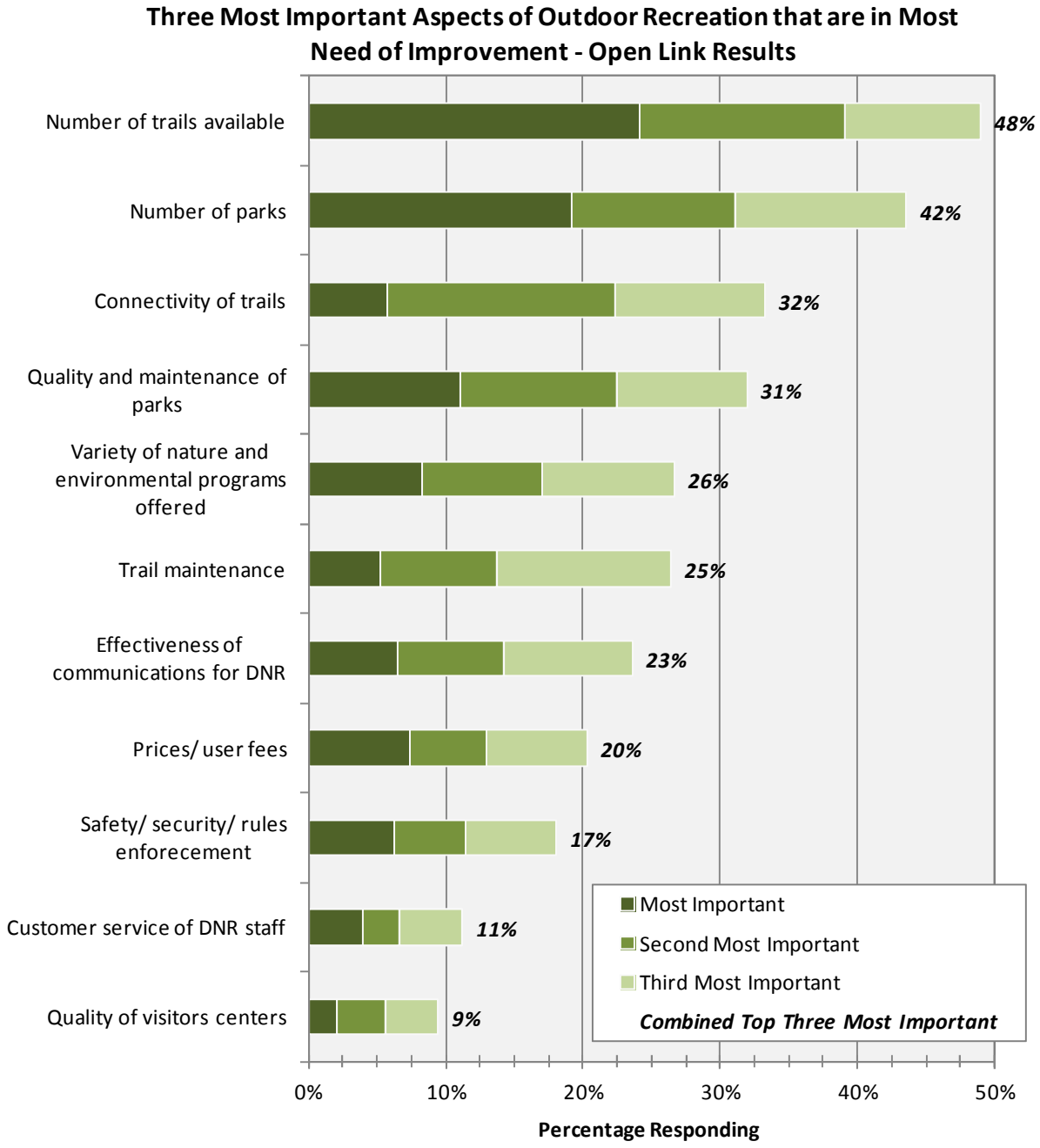
The majority of open link respondents (55 percent) feel that the DNR should pursue an equal balance between natural resource preservation/protection and providing outdoor recreation in natural settings. The remaining respondents are equally split between the two directions (22 percent emphasis on preservation/protection and 23 percent on outdoor recreation).

Figure 30
Emphasis Respondents Would Like to See the DNR to Pursue – Random Sample vs. Open Link



The open link respondents feel that the top three aspects of outdoor recreation most in need of improvement are: number of trails available (48 percent), number of parks (42 percent) and connectivity of trails (32 percent).

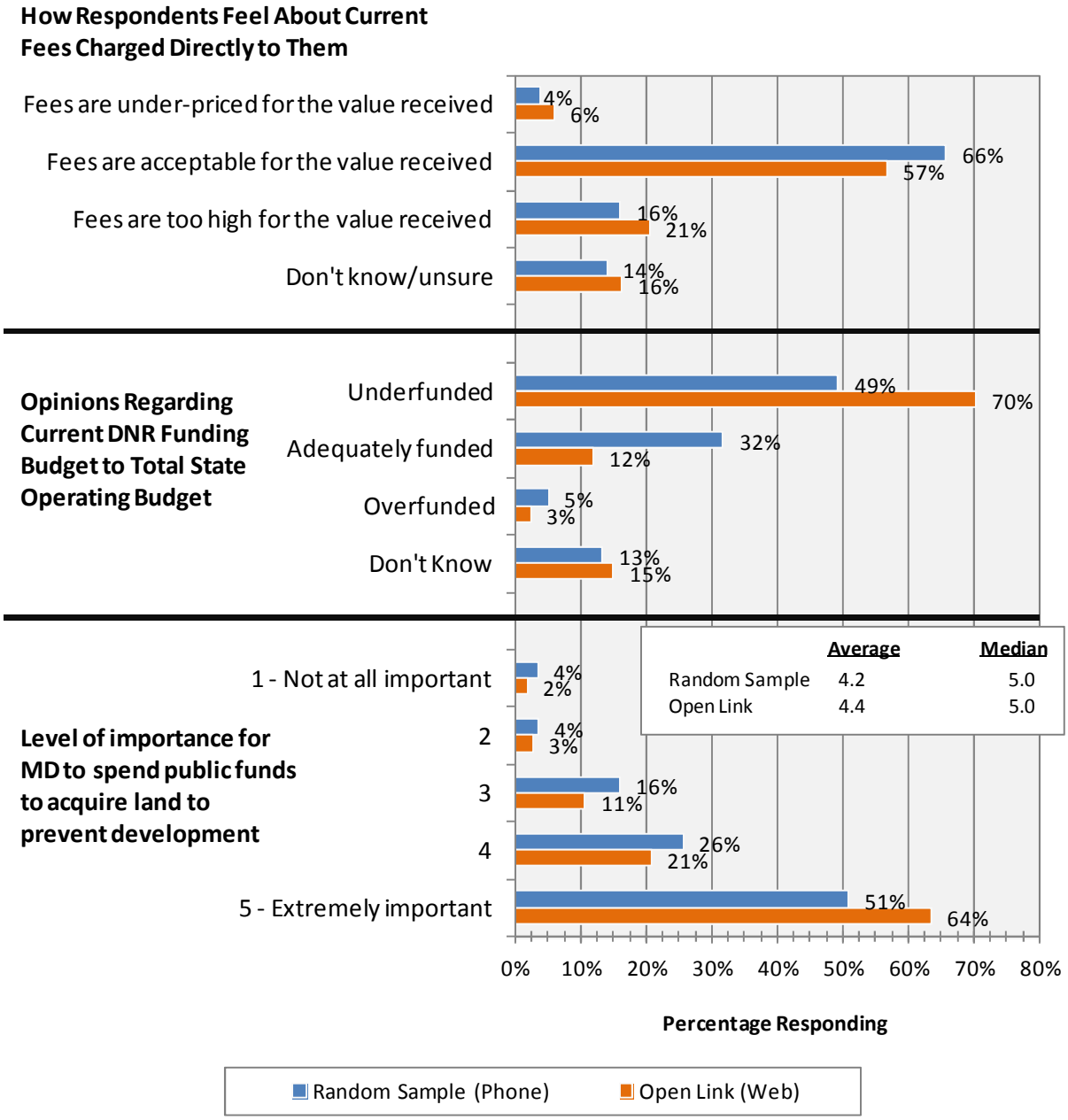
Figure 31
Three Most Important Aspects of Outdoor Recreation that are in Most Need of Improvement – Open Link



Seventy percent of open link respondents feel that the DNR is currently underfunded, while only 3 percent believe it is over funded. However, while the majority of respondents believe that the current fees are acceptable (57 percent) another 21 percent of the open link respondents feel that the current DNR fees are too high for the value received.

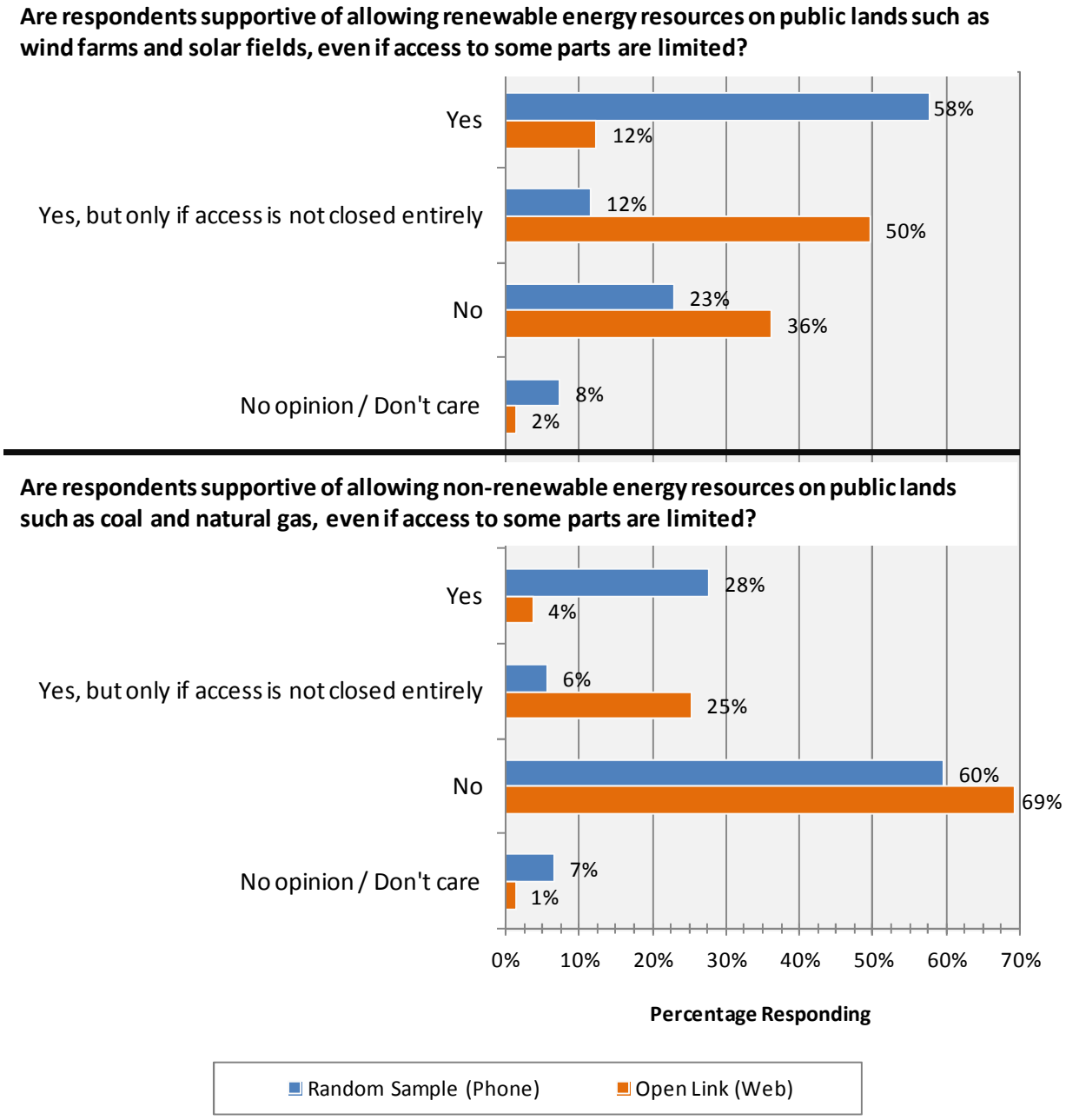
Sixty-four percent of the open link respondents to the open link survey also feel that it was "extremely important" for Maryland to spend public funds to acquire land to prevent development.

Figure 32
Fees and Funding
– Random Sample vs. Open Link



Overall, the respondents to the open link survey are more unfavorable towards allowing energy resources on public lands than respondents to the random sample survey. Thirty-six percent of the open link respondents are unfavorable towards renewable energy resources, while 69 percent are unfavorable towards non-renewable resources. Of those that are favorable towards this issue, the majority prefers the allowance of the resources as long as access to the public lands is not closed entirely (50 percent renewable resources and 25 percent non-renewable resources).

Figure 33
Renewable Energy vs. Non-Renewable Energy
– Random Sample vs. Open Link



Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan Survey 2013

Resident Name:
Telephone #:
Call Backs 1 2 3
Time of Start __:__
Time of Finish __:__
Length of Interview:
Survey #:

Good (morning, evening), I'm _____ and I'm calling on behalf of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. We are conducting a brief survey and would like your input to help plan for the land preservation and outdoor recreational needs of Maryland's residents. This is not a sales call. As a thank you for your time, you will be entered, if you wish, in a drawing for one of ten State Park day passes or camping passes.

SCREENER

1. Are you at least 18 years old or older?
    1. Yes (Continue with Q.3)
    2. No (Continue with Q.2)

2. Is there someone at this number who is at least 18 years old?
    1. Yes (Ask to speak with them and Repeat Introduction)
    2. No (Terminate)

3. Are you somewhat familiar with the recreational and leisure interests of the members of your household?
    1. Yes (Continue with Q.4)
    2. No

3a. Is there another adult member of the household who is familiar with the recreational interests of the household?
    1. Yes (Continue with Q.4)
    2. No (Terminate)

23. Sex: Do not Ask
    1. Male (N=1,400)
    2. Female (N = 1,400)

38. What county do you live in? (Read list if necessary)

	Quota
Allegany County	36
Anne Arundel County	261
Baltimore City	301
Baltimore County	390
Calvert County	43
Caroline County	16
Carroll County	81
Cecil County	49
Charles County	71
Dorchester County	16
Frederick County	113
Garrett County	15
Harford County	119

	Quota
Howard County	139
Kent County	10
Montgomery County	471
Prince George's County	419
Queen Anne's County	23
Somerset County	13
St. Mary's County	51
Talbot County	18
Washington County	71
Wicomico County	48
Worcester County	25
Other/DK/NS	TERM

4. Do you or members of your household participate in outdoor recreation activities?
    1. Yes (Continue with Q. 5)
    2. No (Continue with Q. 5)

5. In which of the following activities do you participate?
    a. Water Recreation

        Boating

        1. Motor boating
        2. Sailing
        3. Paddling (canoeing /kayaking/rafting/stand-up paddleboarding)
        4. Swimming outdoors
        5. Fishing

    b. Trail-based recreation

        6. Walking
        7. Running/jogging
        8. Hiking/backpacking
        9. Biking (road) – on a road bike only
        10. Mountain biking
        11. Horseback riding
        12. Off-road vehicle use

    c. Park outdoor activities

        13. Picnicking
        14. Visiting playgrounds
        15. Playing outdoor athletic team sports (i.e. soccer, volleyball, etc.)

d. Winter recreation
    16. Cross country skiing/snowshoeing
    17. Downhill skiing/snowboarding
    18. Snowmobiling
    19. Sledding/snow play

e. Camping
    20. RV/trailer camping (with electric/water hookups)
    21. Tent camping
    22. Camping cabins

f. Nature/wildlife related recreation
    23. Hunting or shooting sports (target shooting, archery)
    24. Bird watching / wildlife viewing
    25. Visiting natural areas
    26. Nature programs / interpretive signage
    27. Nature play spaces

g. Historical and Cultural
    28. Visiting a historical site
    29. Participating in outdoor special events

    30. Other:
    99. **(DNR)** Don't Know/Refuse

6. In the past year have you participated in outdoor recreation activities at:
    1. Local parks (Continue with Q.11)
    2. State parks, forests or wildlife areas (If yes continue with Q.7)
    3. National parks/Federal Lands (Continue with Q.11)
    4. Trails (Continue with Q.11)
    5. Private lands or facilities (Continue with Q.11)
    6. Other (Specify:_____)
    7. **(DNR)** Don't Know/Refuse

7. How many times have you or any member of your household visited Maryland State parks or forests in the last 12 months?
    1. 1-2 times
    2. 3-5 times
    3. 6-8 times
    4. More than 8 times
    5. None
    6. **(DNR)** Don't Know/Refuse

8. How did your visitation over the past twelve months compare to your visitation patterns over the past five years? In the past, do you think that you or any member of your household visited Maryland State parks or forests operated by the DNR:
    1. More frequently
    2. Less frequently
    3. With the same frequency
    4. **(DNR)** Don't Know/Refuse

9. In what regions have you visited state parks, forests, wildlife areas or recreational facilities?
    1. Western Region (Includes Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties)
    2. Capital Region (Includes Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties)
    3. Central Region (Includes Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard Counties as well as Baltimore City)
    4. Eastern Region (Includes Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties)
    5. Southern Region (Includes Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties)
    6. **(DNR)** Don't Know/Refuse

10. When visiting a state park or forest what is your average travel time from your home?
    1. Under 30 minutes
    2. 30 minutes to 1 hour
    3. Over an hour
    4. **(DNR)** Don't Know/Refuse

11. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "Not at all important" and 5 means "Extremely important", how important to you and your household is the availability of parks, trails, outdoor recreation facilities and outdoor education programs?
    1. Not at all important
    2.
    3.
    4.
    5. Extremely Important
    6. **(DNR)** Don't Know/Refuse

12. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "Not at all meeting the needs" and 5 means "Completely meeting the needs", overall, how well do you think the parks, trails, outdoor recreation facilities and outdoor education programs are currently meeting your/your household's needs?
    1. Not at all meeting the needs
    2.
    3.
    4.
    5. Completely meeting the needs
    6. **(DNR)** Don't Know/Refuse

13. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means “Not at all important” and 5 means “Extremely important”, please rate the importance of the following benefits of land conservation and outdoor recreation: [SHUFFLE]
    a. Connecting people with nature
    b. Protecting the environment
    c. Promoting healthy active lifestyles
    d. Preserving cultural and historic resources
    e. Providing an economic benefit to the State
    f. Improving the quality of life

        1. Not at all important
        2.
        3.
        4.
        5. Extremely Important
        6. **(DNR)** Don’t Know/Refuse

    13g. Are there any other benefits of land conservation and outdoor recreation you would like to mention?

        1. Specify
        2. **(DNR)** Don’t Know/Refuse

14. Using a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 means “Not at all satisfied” and 5 means “Extremely satisfied”, please rate your satisfaction with the DNR in the following areas:
    a. Efforts to preserve the land
    b. Providing active outdoor recreation opportunities
    c. Providing adequate educational opportunities
    d. Stewardship of the State’s land and water resources

        1. Not at all satisfied
        2.
        3.
        4.
        5. Extremely satisfied
        6. **(DNR)** Don’t Know/Refuse

15. Which of the following word phrases indicates what emphasis you would like to see the DNR pursue? [SHUFFLE]
    1. Emphasis on natural resource preservation/protection
    2. Emphasis on providing outdoor recreation in natural settings
    3. Equal balance between preservation/protection and outdoor recreation
    4. **(DNR)** Don’t Know/Refuse

16. What are the greatest barriers to your participating more frequently in outdoor activities, if any (Select all that apply):
    1. Not aware of program/facilities offered
    2. Size of facilities/amount of space available
    3. Lack of facilities/programs (Specify)
    4. Price/user fees
    5. Transportation/access issues
    6. Condition of parks
    7. Safety and security
    8. Hours of operation
    9. No time/other personal issues/physical limitations
    10. Prefer other recreation providers
    11. Other (Specify):
    12. None
    13. **(DNR)** Don't Know/Refuse

17. How do you feel about the current fees charged directly to you by the DNR:
    1. Fees are under-priced for the value received
    2. Fees are acceptable for the value received
    3. Fees are too high for the value received
    4. **(DNR)** Don't Know/Unsure

18. The State of Maryland currently allocates $229 million for the Department of Natural Resources, which amounts to 0.6% of the state's operating budget. When considering the operations of the DNR do you think the department is:
    1. Underfunded
    2. Adequately funded
    3. Overfunded
    4. **(DNR)** Don't Know

19. Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "Not at all Important" and 5 means "Extremely Important", how important is it to you that the State of Maryland spend public funds to acquire land to prevent the loss of exceptional natural areas to development?
    1. Not at all important
    2.
    3.
    4.
    5. Extremely Important
    6. **(DNR)** Don't Know/Refuse

20. Are you supportive of allowing renewable energy resources on public lands such as wind farms and solar fields, even if it closes or limits access to some parts of public lands?
    1. Yes
    2. Yes, but only if access is not closed entirely
    3. No
    4. No opinion / Don't care

21. Are you supportive of allowing non-renewable energy resource collection such as coal and natural gas, even if it closes or limits access to some parts of public lands?
    1. Yes
    2. Yes, but only if access is not closed entirely
    3. No
    4. No opinion / Don't care

22. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions that you would like to offer regarding land preservation and recreational opportunities provided by the DNR?
    1. Specify
    2. **(DNR)** Don't know/Refuse

Just a few more questions about yourself to assist in classifying your responses…

~~23. Please indicate your gender:~~
    ~~a. Male~~
    ~~b. Female~~

24. What is your home zip code? _____ 99999 = Don't know/Refuse

25. In what year were you born? _____ 9999 = Don't know/Refuse

26. Including yourself, how many people live in your household? _____ 99 = Don't Know/Refuse

27. How many members of your household are under age 18? _____ 99 = Don't Know/Refuse

28. How many members of your household are over age 55? _____ 99 = Don't Know/Refuse

29. Do you or any members of your household have any disabilities that would require a need for ADA-accessible facilities or services?
    1. Yes
    2. No
    3. Don't know

30. Which of these categories best applies to your household?
    1. Single, no children
    2. Couple, no children
    3. Household with children at home
    4. Household with children no longer at home
    5. **(DNR)** Don't Know/Refuse

31. How many years have you lived at your current residence? _____ 99 = Don't Know/Refuse

32. Do you own a second home in the State of Maryland?
    1. Yes
    2. No

33. (If Yes to Q. 35) What is your second home zip code? _____ 99999 = Don't know/Refuse

34. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?
    1. No
    2. Yes
    3. Refused

35. What race do you consider yourself to be?
    1. White
    2. Asian, Asian Indian, or Pacific Islander
    3. Native American
    4. Black or African American
    5. Other (Specify)

36. Which of these categories best describes the total gross annual income of your household (before taxes)?
    1. Under $25,000
    2. $25,000 to under $50,000
    3. $50,000 to under $75,000
    4. $75,000 to under $100,000
    5. $100,000 to under $150,000
    6. $150,000 to under $200,000
    7. $200,000 to under $250,000
    8. $250,000 or more
    9. Prefer not to answer

37. Would you like to be entered for the drawing to win one of 10 State Park day passes or camping passes?
    1. Yes (Verify phone number, collect name, email address)
    2. No

Thank you for your time, please feel free to visit www.dnr.state.md.us/land in May 2013 if you would like to review the results of this survey.

Collect first name for verification

Appendix I: LPRP Local Plan Review Checklist

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LPRP LOCAL PLAN REVIEW CHECKLIST/ COMMENT SHEET FOR STATE PLAN

Jurisdiction Name:

Recreation and Parks Chapter	Guidelines Page	Local Plan Page
Identification of State and county goals for recreation and parks	8	III-1-2
Reviewer Comments: None		

Items for use/reference in State Plan:

County goals as referenced in the 2010 Comprehensive Plan:

- Support concentration of development through investment in and provision of public facilities.
- Concentrate development in suitable areas.

Supporting objectives and policies for recreation and parks are:

1. Create new and enhanced park and recreation facilities that link existing parks and communities, expand recreational opportunities and preserve environmental, aesthetic, and cultural quality.
2. Establish a county-wide system of recreational community facilities (including boat landings, waterfront parks, regional parks, neighborhood parks, and, in high-density areas, children's play lots), which meet year-round recreation desires. Provide additional public open space and recreation lands, particularly active parks, in and near development districts.
3. Accommodate and promote fishing, boating, sailing and other water-oriented recreational activities. Provide adequate public access to the waterfront, rivers, and bays through the purchase and maintenance of public landings as well as developed and natural waterfront parks
4. Acquire additional land to accommodate future facilities
5. Meet the existing and future demands for recreation and parks through state, local, and privately managed facilities
6. Promote quality public events for community enjoyment and tourism.
7. Preserve the County's natural, recreational, historical and cultural heritage in conjunction with economic and social well-being to maintain and enhance quality of life.
8. Maintain a countywide network of open space including large blocks of forest and wetlands. Make use of the greenways and open spaces for passive outdoor recreation and pedestrian connections to enhance quality of life in growth areas.

Implementing Programs		
a.) Description of principal implementing programs	8	III-2
b.) Description of how the implementing programs help to achieve the goals for parks and recreation	8	III-6
c.) Description of how goals are consistent with the Strategic Guidelines for Recreation and Parks	8	II-1-2; III-26-27

Reviewer Comments:

- None

Items for use/reference in State Plan:

- The Plan includes four acquisitions of approx. 300 acres. Three of them provide increased water access to the Patuxent River. The plan also includes 10 facility-development projects. Others are on the list but not priorities due to low levels of funding (page ES-1).
- "The St. Mary's County Board of Commissioners delegates oversight responsibility for planning, developing, and implementing the recreation and parks program to an appointed nine-member Recreation and Parks Board. The County Commissioners retain approval authority for plans and funding recommended by the Recreation and Parks Board" (page III-2).
- Due to the economic downturn, the County's capital budget has declined from $2.55 million in FY 2005 to $800,000 for each of the fiscal years of 2013 through 2017.

Data Elements: Inventory, Supply, and Demand		
Supply of Recreational Lands and Facilities		
Local inventory of parkland and associated parkland acreage needs analysis using the standard 30 acres per 1,000 population analysis method or approved alternative methodology (Appendix A of the *Guidelines*)	8	III-8-13

Reviewer Comments: None

Items for use/reference in State Plan

- Using the 30 acres/1,000 population standard, the County was short of its goal by 875 acres in 2011. "If no more land is acquired and the population increases as projected, the deficit will increase to over 1,700 acres by 2022" (page III-28).
- The County is expected to grow from 105,000 in 2010 to about 141,000 in 2025. The population of senior citizens will expand from 11% of the population in 2010 to 17% in 2025.
- "Between 2006 and 2011 St. Mary's County made significant progress towards implementing the 2005 LPPRP land and facility recommendations. The recreation inventory increased by over 3,000 acres (20%). Major additions by the county included the Hayden and Fenwick properties and, by the State, Newtowne Neck State Park, St. Inigoes State Forest, and Salem State Forest…. A notable element of the acquisitions was the increase in land available for hunting (from 7,413 acres in 2005 to 9,325 acres in 2011)" (page III-12). However, page II-29 notes that 9,600 acres of State land cannot be counted toward the County acreage goal, and none of the remaining 5,731 acres contribute toward the goal either, because they don't exceed the 60 acres per 1,000 threshhold above which State land can be counted.

Facility Inventory (Appendix B of the *Guidelines*)*	8	Appendices A and B
Reviewer Comments: None		
Items for use/reference in State Plan:		
Analysis of Facility Supply (Appendix B of the *Guidelines*)	8	Appendix C
Reviewer Comments: None		
Items for use/reference in State Plan:		
Analysis of Facility Demand (Appendix B of the *Guidelines*)	8	Pages III-14-16, Appendix C
Reviewer Comments: None		
Items for use/reference in State Plan: • The County supplemented the 2003 State survey for determining baseline demand with an internet survey, which generated 366 detailed responses, and the knowledge and experience of Recreation and Parks staff.		
Analysis of Facility Needs (Appendix B of the *Guidelines*)	8	III-16-18
Reviewer Comments: None		
Items for use/reference in State Plan:		
15-Year Capital Improvement Program for Land Acquisition, Facility Development, and Rehabilitation Priorities		
Identified for the Short-Term (2012-2016)	8	Table III-10 (page III-19) and pages III-18-25
Reviewer Comments: None		
Items for use/reference in State Plan:		
Identified for the Mid-Term (2017-2021)	8	Table III-10 (page III-19) and pages III-18-25
Reviewer Comments: None		
Items for use/reference in State Plan:		
Identified for the Long-Term (2022 and beyond)	8	Table III-10 (page III-19) and pages III-18-25
Reviewer Comments: None		
Items for use/reference in State Plan: • One ongoing project is the extension of the Three Notch Tail from 7 to 25 miles. Eleven miles are in the		

capital improvements plan, with the final 9.6 miles among the projects that do not show on the County's priority list through 2022.

*** The tables in Appendix B should address athletic fields, baseball diamonds, basketball courts, and tennis courts. In addition to these, the tables should address the top 10 needs identified by the County.**

Agriculture Chapter	Guidelines Page	Local Plan Page
Description of progress that has been made toward achievement of the agricultural land preservation goals and objectives identified in the 2009 State LPPRP and the most recently adopted County LPPRP.	3	IV-4
Reference to and summary of information from County Comprehensive plan and implementing ordinances/ programs (as appropriate) for agricultural land preservation programs	3	IV-5-17

Reviewer Comments:

The County's land preservation effort has six components: rural zoning, TDR, easement funding, a growth management policy, a right to farm law, and zoning incentives for new forms of agriculture.

Revisions needed to draft plan for agricultural land preservation.

- St. Mary's County's application to the agricultural certification program described a Priority Preservation Area (PPA) of about 80,000 acres, with 42,000 acres to be protected there in order for the County to meet the 80% protection goal. Page IV-7 of the draft LPPRP says that 78,130 acres need to be protected in the PPA. This discrepancy should be resolved in the final draft. Also, the LPPRP points to the clustering regulations as a means of permanently protecting agricultural land. This is true, but clustering is not a preferred method of land preservation because it puts a subdivision next to each preserved parcel, thereby fragmenting the resource base and introducing suburban neighbors with whom farmers will have to contend.
- In referring to children's lots available through the MALPF program, page IV-8 says, "Recently, the Program changed that policy for future easements to limit the number of lots to three, although they are not restricted for use by children of the grantee." Legislation to allow up to three unrestricted lot rights did not pass in 2011, so as of this moment the policy remains up to three family lots (one lot for the personal use of the owner and/or two or three for the personal use of the owner's children) or one unrestricted lot.
- On the map on page IV-9, does "All permanently protected lands" refer to "Publicly owned lands"? If so, the later description should be used because it is more precise than the former.
- The key for the map on page IV-20 is printed too small to read.

Items for use/reference in State Plan:

Comments related to land use and land preservation

- In 2005, the County reported that, given rates of development and land preservation, it would not be able to meet its 60,000-acre goal by 2022 because there wouldn't be enough undeveloped farmland left. The 2012 draft LPPRP notes that changes to zoning and the TDR program will enable the County to meet its goal. (The graph on page IV-18 doesn't show the point at which the land in farms and land preserved line cross, but the

trend through 2020 is definitely much better than it was.)

- 52,745 acres—23% of the County—are in agriculture. Developed land increased from 21% to 29% of the County between 2002 and 2009. This change is not as bad as it appears, however, because low density rural residential is now counted as development, whereas it was often counted as resource land in 2002 (page II-1).
- The 2007 Census of Agriculture counted 68,648 acres of land in farms, up 500 acres from 2002. The number of farms also rose, from 577 to 621, while the average farm size shrank from 118 to 111 acres. Almost 40,000 acres are dedicated to cropland. Sales value is highest for grains, followed by nursery products.
- 113,000 acres were assessed agricultural for tax purposes in 2010. The County identifies 19,076 acres preserved through MALPF, Rural Legacy, MET, MHT, and local TDR. MDP data show about 1,500 acres more.
- The County cites a preservation goal of 60,000 acres countywide; the goal within the Priority Preservation Area is 42,000 acres. The PPA and PPA plan were adopted in 2010. The PPA contains "all unprotected RPD parcels greater than 25 acres as of 2009…with a secondary focus on adjacent parcels 15 to 25 acres" (page IV-23).
- The purpose of the Rural Preservation Zoning District (RPD), in which most of the farms and preserved lands fall, is 'to foster agricultural, forestry, mineral resource extraction, and aquaculture uses and protect the land base necessary to support these activities'" (page IV-5).
- The County helps finance its land preservation effort through a recordation tax and a fee-in-lieu program that allows a developer to pay 120% of the value of an average TDR (page IV-11) instead of actually going through the process of purchasing one. The County uses the money in the fund for agriculture preservation. (Page IV-14 says the fee is 125%.) However, these funding sources "have been replacing general fund and local transfer tax contributions as well as bond funding rather than bolstering them" (page IV-17).
- Although MALPF is dissolving agricultural districts next year, the County will retain its own five-year districts so that landowners can qualify for a County tax break of "100 percent credit on the County portion of their tax bill for their agriculturally assessed land and for their farm buildings" (page IV-13).
- Base zoning in the 178,000-acre RPD is 1:5. Landowners need to use TDRs beyond the first right, and can use TDRs to achieve a maximum density of 1:3. Major subdivisions (greater than five lots) must cluster development on 50% or less of the site. Lots and roads are sited on the least productive part of the parcel.
- The County limits residential growth to 2% per year, and a maximum of 30% of that may occur in the rural zone.

Comments related to the business of agriculture

- The market value of production in St. Mary's was $15.947 million in 2007: up from $12.196 million in 2002 but below $20.230 million in 1997, when tobacco still featured prominently. St. Mary's County was more affected by the tobacco buyout than any other County, with 260 growers taking the buyout and 45,301 acres coming out of tobacco production. The County still lacks the infrastructure or critical mass of farmers to support other types of agriculture (page IV-15). The plan adopted by the Tri-County Council in 2003 supports agricultural development through targeted marketing programs, support for on-farm diversification, and information and education (page IV-16).

- St. Mary's also participates in the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission, which was established in 2000. SMADC's program includes grants to farmers for new enterprises; efforts to retain farmers and recruit new farmers; resources, networking, and education/training for farmers; access to fresh and local food; and educating the next generation (pages IV-16-17).
- The County has three farmers markets, with a fourth due to open soon. "The County assisted the Mennonite Community set up a wholesale produce auction that opened in Loveville in April 2005" (page IV-17).
- In 2010 the zoning code was amended to allow wineries, equestrian facilities, and more types of value-added production. A provision to allow distilleries is also being considered.

Agricultural Land Preservation Program, Program Development Strategy

- "Enact a local PDR program to be able to act more quickly and consistently than the MALPF Program. Ramp up spending dramatically at the local level by leveraging funds to buy easements while the land is still available. Consider another dedicated revenue source. Also establish an installment purchase agreements/zero coupon bonds. Direct these funds into the designated preservation area.
- "Explore the possibility of a local land trust acting as an intermediary with the Amish and Mennonite communities to conserve their lands without government action or participation. Research efforts of the Lancaster Land Trust in Pennsylvania which has been successful in working with these communities ….
- "An annual review of development in the Rural Preservation District (RPD) should be conducted and, if the preservation of agriculture and the farmland base is not succeeding, consider additional zoning ordinance revisions to further protect agricultural land and operations in the RPD.
- "Continue efforts to preserve the farmable land-base in areas outside the agricultural preservation area, especially through the creation of rural legacy areas and other land conservation measures (page IV-23)." [The complication with this strategy is that it could diminish the effort to preserve the PPA.]
- The state should increase funding for MALPF, as recommended in the "Final Report of the Task Force to Study the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation" (January 2005).
- Speed up the settlement time for MALPF easements. [The LPPRP also recommends an increase in the number of children's lots allowed. This is unlikely to occur, and is undesirable, in MDP's opinion.]
- "Once the County budget situation stabilizes, consider restoring County general fund revenues to the County's Agricultural and Land Preservation Program to bolster the recordation tax revenues, if revenues from the recordation tax begin to decrease again following their recent increase. Increase the general fund contribution in years of surplus.
- "Amend the Zoning Ordinance to designate an Agricultural/Cottage industry zone to allow auxiliary commercial enterprises on farms. This zone could be a part of or similar to the floating zone described above under Land Use. This would affirm existing valued elements of the rural economy. These types of businesses are an integral part of the Mennonite and Amish communities, which are, in turn, critical to St. Mary's County agriculture" (page IV-24).

- Landowners are discouraged from selling an easement to the MALPF program because the process can take up to two years. "During that time, land values have increased so rapidly that the landowners' original offering price is out of step with values 'on the ground'" (page IV-8). [This is a valid point, though the economic downturn may have reduced its immediacy.]

OPTIONAL: See Guidelines Appendix D for including a more detailed presentation of information on agricultural land preservation

Natural Resources Chapter	Guidelines Page	Local Plan Page
County Goals for Natural Resource Conservation		
What are the County's goals for Natural resource lands and conservation?	5	V-2/3

Reviewer Comments:

County goals are complementary to State Goals. Good identification of issues that need to be addressed in order to achieve environmental protection.

Items for use/reference in State Plan:

County natural resource conservation goal from the 2010 Comprehensive Plan: "Maintain a county wide network of open space including large blocks of forest and wetlands. Make use of the greenways and open spaces for passive outdoor recreation and pedestrian connections to enhance quality of life in growth areas."

The County visions for Environmental Protection and Resource Conservation are:

Environmental protection: land and water resources, including the Chesapeake and coastal bays, are carefully managed to restore and maintain healthy air and water, natural systems, and living resources.

- Land and natural features important to maintaining the environmental health of the county, which present constraints for development, and which are critical to reducing damage to the Chesapeake Bay, are preserved from disturbance and enhanced to increase the effectiveness of their benefits for erosion control, filtering of sediments and nutrients and provision of essential habitat for wildlife. In return, citizens receive benefits of reduced construction costs, minimization of erosion and flood events, improved water quality for drinking and recreation, and increased property values from a more scenic living environment.

Resource conservation: waterways, forests, agricultural areas, open space, natural systems, and scenic areas are conserved.

- Farms and forest resources are preserved from urban or suburban encroachment and the rural character and attributes of the county are maintained and enhanced. Landowner equity and property values have been enhanced by an active program of purchase and transfer of development rights.
- Protection of the rural countryside and traditional economies and activities -- fishing, farming, forestry -- are recognized as important components of the community and rural character. This rural character is worth maintaining not only for its scenic beauty, but because of its attraction as a setting for technology and service industries which are logically concentrated near the Patuxent River Naval Air Station.
- A coordinated cross-county network of greenways and scenic easements is established and waterfront access is enhanced to provide for passive and active recreation and an enhanced natural environment.
- Large contiguous tracts of sensitive areas are outside of designated growth areas and zoned for rural or resource protection. Specifically, the McIntosh Run natural heritage area is excluded from the Leonardtown development district, and the St. Mary's watershed natural area and lands westward thereof are excluded from the Lexington Park development district.
- Over 107,000 acres—47% of the County—were forested in 2007 (page II-1).
- The county has established a goal to retain St. Mary's County's rural character in the 80% of the county land area designated as rural.

- St. Mary's plan has a new focus for natural resource conservation by recognizing the important role conservation plays for the successful development and implementation of its Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan. The county recognizes that the most cost effective means to meet the TMDL and to prevent future water quality degradation is by conserving the natural filters that reduce pollution, such as forests, floodplains and wetlands, and by responsibly managing development.
- Identification and protection of sensitive areas are consistent with natural resource priorities identified in Maryland GreenPrint.
- The plan identifies several issues that need to be address to achieve environmental protection and natural resource conservation 1) continue to evaluate and adjust the Annual Growth Policy (AGP) which controls the annual percentage of new dwelling units in the Rural Preservation Zoning District in order to discourage further development of rural areas, 2) pursue acquisition of environmentally sensitive areas and properties that could then be used for passive recreational activities, 3) continue to identify and protect sensitive areas, 4) encourage consideration of hazard mitigation in early stages of development, 5) use full suite of regulatory programs, tax and funding incentive programs, TDR and installment purchase agreements, and planning programs to achieve natural resource goals, 6) improve understanding of watershed resources and impacts related to activities of those who live, work and recreate in the watershed, 7) continue to develop ordinances and programs to effectively protect sensitive areas, set and measure progress for preservation goals, set limits on allowable loss of resources and assure mitigation for impacts is the responsibility and duty of those who benefit from the impact.

Local Priorities for Natural Lands and Resources		
a.) Has the County established a priority preservation and conservation area for natural resources in its comp. plan?	5	V-9
b.) If so, do the boundaries of these areas differ from DNR's GreenPrint lands? Why? Please provide a map if possible	5	Need to compare with GreenPrint TEAs – good comparison with Green Infrastructure
c.) What are the principle implementing ordinances and programs to achieve County goals for conserving natural lands and resources?	5	V-4, Table V-2
d.) Description of which parts of the program development strategy from the natural resources element of the last County LPPRP have been implemented.	5	V-20
e.) Description of which parts of the program development strategy from the natural resources element of the last County LPPRP have NOT been implemented.	5	V-16-19 Good discussion of strengths and weaknesses
f.) Summary of changes (if any) in the County's intentions to conserve natural resources and priority land.	5	
g.) Reference to and summary of information from County Comprehensive plan and implementing ordinances/ programs (as appropriate) for natural resource land conservation	5	V-4/5

Reviewer Comments:

- Impressive goal for rural land conservation of 80%. Excellent integration of green infrastructure and other county and state-based resource assessments into natural resource planning, regulatory and policy procedures. This plan is a good model for other counties and demonstrates how natural resource conservation can be accomplished through a variety of approaches including planning, regulation, TDRs, acquisition/easement and collaborative partnerships.
- The LPPRP guidelines ask that the county compare its goals and designated areas for natural resource conservation with the State's GreenPrint conservation priorities. County designated areas should be compared with areas identified as "Targeted Ecological Areas" through Maryland's GreenPrint program. GreenPrint Targeted Ecological Areas are preferred for Stateside Program Open Space funding based on their high ecological value.
    1. Interactive and static maps are available at: http://www.greenprint.maryland.gov/. A GreenPrint map for Saint Mary's County has been provided, but may not reflect the most current status of protected lands.
    2. GIS data for Targeted Ecological Areas can be downloaded from the DNR Data Download site found at: http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/gis/data/
    3. Access the "Targeted Ecological Areas" shapefile under the "Focal Areas" folder.
- Please change the reference to Greenprint as a land conservation program (page V-18). That funding source has been discontinued, and land conservation funding comes from Stateside Program Open Space.

Items for use/reference in State Plan:

- The county has set an impressive goal for rural resource conservation which constitutes 80% of the land area in the county. Concerted efforts are being taken to focus growth into the remaining 20% of the county. Implementation strategy is multi-faceted and comprehensive and is a good model for other Maryland counties. Strategy elements include 1) Comprehensive Planning Context, 2) Use of resource data and inventories, 3) Designated conservation and other natural resource areas, 4) Planning, land use management authority, easements and funding
- St. Mary's County's designated conservation areas are the Huntersville Rural Legacy Area, the Mattapany Rural Legacy Area, the St. Mary's River Wildland, and the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area and a Natural Resources Focus Area (initially proposed in the 2005 LPPRP and adopted in the 2010 Comprehensive Plan). The Natural Resources Focus Area links the St Mary's River Wildland and State Park to the Huntersville Rural Legacy Area and encompasses large portions of the McIntosh Run subwatershed (which is noted as habitat for a number of rare, threatened and one federally endangered species and is one of the most heavily forested watershed in Southern Maryland).
- Implementing Ordinances/Programs: Critical Area Program, forest conservation regulations, stormwater regulations, requirements for open space conservation and clustering etc.), tax and funding incentive programs (Agricultural Districts, Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation Easements, a transfer of development rights program, installment purchase agreements, etc), and planning programs (Wicomico Scenic River Management Plan, Tributary Strategies for the Patuxent and Lower Potomac Rivers, Breton Bay and St. Mary's Watershed Restoration Action Strategy.
- The county has met its 2005 goal of expanding the Huntersville RLA and has added the Mattapany RLA. They have expressed an interest to expand Huntersville RLA and integrate Phase II WIP planning.
- In 2007 the County made significant changes to the TDR provisions, including eliminating the requirement to deduct acreage for sensitive natural resource lands from the TDR calculations. This resulted in TDRs being lifted from a number of environmentally constrained grandfathered lots.

Recreation and Parks Chapter	Guide-lines Page	Local Plan Page

- Feedback mechanisms in the RLA review process need improvement in order that local applicants (land trusts and the County) get direction regarding the status of applications. Prompt feedback is important so that the local community can use its resources to respond to evolving opportunities.
- Local funds for land preservation increased in 1999 and more dramatically in 2001 when the County dedicated a portion of its increased recordation tax to conserve and protect rural lands.
- There are also weaknesses in the County's ability to protect portions of green infrastructure using its planning authority. In the zoning and subdivision regulations, the County has linked protection of sensitive habitats, such as forest interior dwelling species (FIDS) habitat to green infrastructure, but the requirements are only one of several ways an applicant may meet the plan approval requirements. Green infrastructure needs to be better integrated into County laws and regulations, thereby giving staff more authority to work with site designers and engineers to integrate green infrastructure into subdivision and site plans.
- Environmental review needs to occur earlier in the plan review process before development applications advance beyond a point of accommodating reasonable changes.

Requested State Actions:

- Restore and increase State funding for natural resource conservation, in particular continue to fund acquisitions during period of reduced land prices such as has occurred in the past several years.
- Assist the County in developing measurable natural resource planning objectives as part of the development of Phase II Watershed Implementation Plans.
- Streamline the easement acquisition and Rural Legacy application process to make it more responsive to County and land trust needs.
- Increase access to the state's RTES inventory to improve and flag development sites for RTES habitat review.
- Increase the number of MDE inspectors for sediment and erosion control inspections and compliance.

Data Sharing		
Date that last County Preserved Lands GIS data layer was received by MDP	5	Oct. 2011
GIS maps of County Lands targeted for natural resource conservation received?	5	
Reviewer Comments: Please review the Guidelines pages 5 and 6 for more information on data sharing.		
Items for use/reference in State Plan:		

LPRP Local Plan Review Checklist/ Comment Sheet for State Plan

Jurisdiction Name: Caroline County

Identification of State and county goals for recreation and parks	8	III-1 thru III-3

Reviewer Comments:

- Chapter I (Introduction) mentions the Eight Visions of the Planning Act. Please note that the Visions were updated to 12 in 2009. See http://plan.maryland.gov/whatIsIt/12visions.shtml

Items for use/reference in State Plan:

- The plan recommends acquisition of 144 acres (the needs-based goal is 96). An acquisition of 75 acres would be for a new regional park in North County, the remainder for a community park near Denton, two community centers, a dredge disposal site, and a trail system to link State parks with towns (LPPRP executive summary).
- In addition to maintaining a professional parks and recreation department, the County has also established and wants to strengthen partnerships with the public schools, volunteers, nonprofit organizations, churches, and other recreation providers.

Implementing Programs	**Guide-lines Page**	**Local Plan Page**
a.) Description of principal implementing programs	8	III-4-6
b.) Description of how the implementing programs help to achieve the goals for parks and recreation	8	Table VII-1
c.) Description of how goals are consistent with the Strategic Guidelines for Recreation and Parks	8	III4-6

Reviewer Comments:

Trails comments:

- There should be some reference to the plans for operation & maintenance of the existing and proposed trails. Locating, constructing and maintaining sustainable trails should be spelled out as a key priority.
- There is only mention of trails in the south part of the county, but not the north, and the only trail specific enhancements listed seem to be trails through state or private lands.
- They mention 58 miles of trails throughout the county, but the only trail that is listed is the rail trail in Ridgely. There should be an overall trails map included in the LPPRP.
- There is no mention of how the county trail system will connect to trails in adjoining counties.
- They plan states that, "Consideration should be given to trail development in and around the towns where most of the parks and recreation facilities are and will be located." Have any specific trails been pinpointed?

Items for use/reference in State Plan:

- 40% of County recreation land lies within the towns, which do most of the maintenance on them..
- "General fund 'pay-go' appropriations for capital improvements at existing or new park facilties have been zero since FY2010" (page III-6).

Data Elements: Inventory, Supply, and Demand		
Supply of Recreational Lands and Facilities		
Local inventory of parkland and associated parkland acreage needs analysis using the standard 30 acres per 1,000 population analysis method or approved alternative methodology (Appendix A of the *Guidelines*)	8	III-23
Reviewer Comments: • The MEIRS system is currently inactive, so further updates are not necessary. Facility inventory and GIS data should be sent to DNR & MDP. • Please identify the towns shown on the enlarged map areas in Figure III-1A.		
Items for use/reference in State Plan: • Deficit as of 2010 20 acres of recreation land; based upon projected growth and no land acquisitions the deficit of recreation land would increase to 96 acres by 2025. • Based upon C. County and Town Priorities includes an aggressive acquisition program of approximately 144 acres towards the needs-based goal. The program allows for some of the separate facility needs being accommodated on the same site, thereby requiring less land than if each facility were on a standalone site.		
Facility Inventory (Appendix B of the *Guidelines*)*	8	III7-11
Reviewer Comments: p.ES-1 (and with more details in Table III-2, p.III-7): It appears the number of acres of recreation land in the County seemed to have decreased? In 2006, they reported 4,696 acres total; 466 acres County; 3,023 acres State; and 1,207 acres other; however, in this report, they reported 2,541 acres total; 456 acres County; 1,330 acres State; and 755 acres other. The report does discuss a loss of resource lands but it's not entirely clear why there is such a difference in recreation land. It would be good to know if this is due to recharacterization or loss thru disposal, etc.		
Items for use/reference in State Plan: "Under the County's subdivision regulations…certain subdivisions must provide recreational or open space area in the subdivision. The Planning Commission may require the dedication or reservation of a reasonable recreation or open space area beyond the minimum requirements based on the character of the site, surrounding area, or the nature of the proposed development…. The regulations have not resulted in significant contributions to public recreation in the County" (page III-19). A fee-in-lieu option is also available.		
Analysis of Facility Supply (Appendix B of the *Guidelines*)	8	III7-11
Reviewer Comments: Table III-1 (p.III-6): In terms of the POS apportionment figures, it looks like the County used the amounts net of the 2011 budget adjustments. If so, the 2006 and 2007 figures should be $212,378 and $554,796, respectively, with a total figure being $1,544,228. Alternatively, the County may consider just using the gross apportionments for each year and not factor in the budget decrease and subsequent payback numbers.		
Items for use/reference in State Plan:		
Analysis of Facility Demand (Appendix B of the *Guidelines*)	8	III11-12

Reviewer Comments:
None

Items for use/reference in State Plan:
The over-65 population is expected to increase by 4,000 from 2010 to 2030, or from 14% of County population to 20%. This virtually mirrors what is projected for Maryland as a whole.

Analysis of Facility Needs (Appendix B of the *Guidelines*)	8	III-12

Reviewer Comments:
- Primary deficits (existing or extensive in the future) include Multipurpose fields for team sports, indoor fitness facilities, baseball/softball diamonds, and trails.
- Secondary deficits (longer-term or lower-magnitude) are fishing, swimming, and skate parks.

15-Year Capital Improvement Program for Land Acquisition, Facility Development, and Rehabilitation Priorities	**Guide-lines Page**	**Local Plan Page**
Identified for the Short-Term (2012-2016)	8	III13-19

Reviewer Comments:
None

Items for use/reference in State Plan:
- For the short-term, the county estimates $689,000 for land acquisition, $705,000 for Capital Development, and $350,000 for Facility Rehab

Identified for the Mid-Term (2017-2021)	8	III13-19

Reviewer Comments:

None

Items for use/reference in State Plan:
For the mid-term, the county estimates $370,000 for land acquisition, $2,285,000 for Capital Development, and $630,000 for Facility Rehab.

Identified for the Long-Term (2022 and beyond)	8	III13-19

Reviewer Comments:

None

Items for use/reference in State Plan:
- For the long-term, the county estimates $250,000 for land acquisition, $8,023,000 for Capital Development, and $1,030,000 for Facility Rehab.
- In addition to 144 acres of recreation land, the County needs include the following:
  - Two regional parks
  - Multiple community and neighborhood parks
  - School recreation park improvement program
  - Three to four indoor fitness and community centers
  - New water access points and rehabilitation of existing [sic]

New trail development and existing trail enhancement.

* The tables in Appendix b should address athletic fields, baseball diamonds, basketball courts, and tennis courts. In addition to these, the tables should address the top 10 needs identified by the County.

Agriculture Chapter	Guide-lines Page	Local Plan Page
Description of progress that has been made toward achievement of the agricultural land preservation goals and objectives identified in the 2009 State LPPRP and the most recently adopted County LPPRP.	3	Ch. 4
Reference to and summary of information from County Comprehensive plan and implementing ordinances/ programs (as appropriate) for agricultural land preservation programs	3	Exec. Sum

Reviewer Comments

- Figure IV-2—the map following page IV-5—shows polygons identified as "TDR Sending" (yellow) and TDR "Sending/Ag Pres District." Does this mean that the parcels have been preserved by TDR? Acres preserved by TDR are not accounted for in Table IV-2 on page IV-5, but page IV-11 says that 3,500 acres have been preserved by TDR.
- What does the County rezoning entail and how does it improve upon or complement the rural zoning now in place?
- The County says that it can save 135,000 acres by 2040 but the 2007 Census of Agriculture already shows less than that in land in farms. Will the other acreage consist of forests, wetlands, and other resource land?

Items for use/reference in State Plan:

- Over 65% of the County's land lies in farms. The 2007 Census of Agriculture counted 131,277 acres on 574 farms. The acreage figure was up 18% from 2002. The number of farms increased by 68.
- The County reports 40,499 agricultural acres under easement to date. [MDP's total for land under easement of all types is over 45,000.] Another 9,500 acres are protected as recreation or conservation lands, bringing the preservation total to approximately 50,000. [MDP's data show about 53,000 acres total.]
- "With the help of the County's Rural Zoning and TDR Program, the current rate of preservation could be increased to 3,000 acres annually, meaning the County would reach its aggressive 135,000 acre preservation goal before 2040" (LPPRP executive summary).
- Recommendations for land preservation in the comprehensive plan include:
  - Comprehensive rezoning for the county.
  - TDR/PDR program refinements, including the following:
    - ✓ Design standards in TDR receiving areas;
    - ✓ Wastewater treatment for new development; and
    - ✓ Review of receiving area locations and regulations.
  - Targeting properties in the County's Priority Preservation Area (PPA) for preservation.
  - Proposal for low impact development regulations (including setbacks, buffers, and other standards for uses in rural zones).
  - County and municipal inter-governmental agreements.
  - Review Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance.
- County funds include a local agricultural excise tax. Currently at $750, the LPPRP recommends that the County "investigate the potential" to increase it to $5,000 (page IV-16).
- From 1997 through 2010, resource land cover in Caroline County declined by 10,837 acres or 6%.
- Although 63% of Caroline's 33,006 residents live in the unincorporated area, the population increase in towns

from 2000-2010 was 2,824 while the increase in the unincorporated area was just 870. These number show that recent development was channeled into growth areas.

- Caroline is the only County that appears to be making progress on interjurisdictional TDRs. The towns and the County agree in concept but they have not signed formal agreements.
- All municipal plans were updated in 2009 except for Federalsburg (2007) and Preston (2005). The County updated its comprehensive plan in 2010.

- Poultry is the leading agricultural product in Caroline: $126.7 million in 2007. Crops, including nursery and greenhouse, totaled $49 million in sales.
- Acreage in vegetables increased between 2002 and 2007, and accounted for $6.9 million in sales.
- In 2002, Caroline joined five of her neighboring Counties in signing the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy's land use agreement called *Eastern Shore 2010: A Regional Vision*. The goals include preserving 50% of land outside growth areas by 2010 and sending at least 50% of new development into locally-designated growth areas.
- Priority for easement acquisition is given to lands that can form a greenbelt around town growth areas.
- Major subdivisions are not allowed in the R zone except in designated TDR receiving zones. TDRs have preserved 3,500 acres.
- The County adopted a right-to-farm ordinance in 1997.
- The County does not have its own agricultural marketing specialist.
- Though a small County, Caroline contributed $1 million in general funds for land preservation in each of the Fiscal Years from 2006 through 2008

Natural Resources Chapter	**Guide-lines Page**	**Local Plan Page**
County Goals for Natural Resource Conservation		
What are the County's goals for Natural resource lands and conservation?	5	V-2
Reviewer Comments: None		
Items for use/reference in State Plan: Caroline County increased its conservation goal from 100,000 acres to 135,000 acres.		
Local Priorities for Natural Lands and Resources		
a.) Has the County established a priority preservation and conservation area for natural resources in its comp. plan?	5	V-3 Marshyhope and Tuckahoe Rural Legacy Areas, Critical Area, Priority Preservation Area
b.) If so, do the boundaries of these areas differ from DNR's GreenPrint lands? Why? Please provide a map if possible	5	V-4 and Figure V-1 Comparison not completed

c.) What are the principle implementing ordinances and programs to achieve County goals for conserving natural lands and resources?	5	V-6,7
d.) Description of which parts of the program development strategy from the natural resources element of the last County LPPRP have been implemented.	5	
e.) Description of which parts of the program development strategy from the natural resources element of the last County LPPRP have NOT been implemented.	5	
f.) Summary of changes (if any) in the County's intentions to conserve natural resources and priority land.	5	V-7, 8
g.) Reference to and summary of information from County Comprehensive plan and implementing ordinances/ programs (as appropriate) for natural resource land conservation	5	V-8 to V10

Reviewer Comments:

- The report is well constructed and there are general discussions as to accomplishments since the last report, but no direct itemized comparison of goals and strategies implemented.

- Many natural resource values can be protected through agricultural land preservation programs and fall within the areas identified for rural land preservation such as the Priority Preservation Area. There are many opportunities to enhance natural resource protection through agricultural land management plans and cooperative agreements with land owners.

- Geographic preservation priorities should be identified on a map – this would include the two Rural Legacy Areas, Critical Area and Priority Preservation Areas. Overlap with GreenPrint land conservation priorities should be evaluated to further natural resource conservation strategies. It is unclear where the Priority Preservation Area is – can a map be provided?

- Updated natural resource inventory data is available through DNR. This includes updates to existing data and new resource assessment data for coastal ecosystems, fisheries and streams. Please contact DNR (Christine Conn at cconn@dnr.state.md.us) for assistance in accessing this data.

- Page V-9 suggests focusing on ecologically rich watersheds. DNR's GreenPrint assessment identifies specific ecologically important resources from a statewide perspective that would be good candidates.

- The LPPRP guidelines ask that the county compare its goals and designated areas for natural resource conservation with the State's GreenPrint conservation priorities. This may have been confused with a comparison with State Green Infrastructure maps. GreenPrint and Green Infrastructure are related but represent separate resource designations. County designated areas should be compared with areas identified as "Targeted Ecological Areas" through Maryland's GreenPrint program. GreenPrint Targeted Ecological Areas are preferred for Stateside Program Open Space funding based on their high ecological value and include high priority green infrastructure hubs, biodiversity hotspots and other high priority natural resource values. The State will soon release the next version of the GreenPrint map which shows updated Targeted Ecological Areas. Access to this information will be provided to the counties shortly. In the meantime, the county can evaluate the first GreenPrint TEA version using the information provided below.

4. Interactive and static maps are available at: http://www.greenprint.maryland.gov/. A

GreenPrint map for Saint Mary's County has been provided, but may not reflect the most current status of protected lands.

5. GIS data for Targeted Ecological Areas can be downloaded from the DNR Data Download site found at: http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/gis/data/
6. Access the "Targeted Ecological Areas" shapefile under the "Focal Areas" folder.

Items for use/reference in State Plan:

- 1:20 protective zoning throughout most of county except for designated growth areas is impressive and shows a strong commitment to rural land preservation.
- County recognizes that agricultural and forested lands are intermingled and that plans for the preservation of these lands and the rural economy that they support need to be integrated and complementary.
- Plan points out potential for regional rural land conservation strategies with Delaware, referencing the Delaware Conservation Corridor concept.
- Overall, the plan seems to cover the bases in terms of considering natural resource conservation and it's a good sign that they increased their own conservation goal by 30,000 acres. The current zoning of 1-20 is good and they claim that they are re-zoning now in part to try and strengthen their TDR program. That is a good thing if it works out. They recognize the landscape value of trying to plan in the context of the GI which is good as well.

Data Sharing		
Date that last County Preserved Lands GIS data layer was received by MDP	5	
GIS maps of County Lands targeted for natural resource conservation received by MDP?	5	

Reviewer Comments:
Please refer to pages 5 & 6 of the Guidelines regarding data sharing.

Items for use/reference in State Plan:

LLPRP Local Plan Review Checklist/ Comment Sheet for State Plan

Jurisdiction Name: FREDERICK COUNTY

Recreation and Parks Chapter	Guide-lines Page	Local Plan Page
Identification of State and county goals for recreation and parks	8	7, 8, 14 and 22

Reviewer Comments:

- Laid out well and easily understandable.
- SC-P-20 should mention the "Children in Nature" connection.
- Has the TEP funding mentioned on page 24 resulted in any projects?

Items for use/reference in State Plan:

- Frederick County will be adopting the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan as a stand-alone functional plan to supplement their 2010 County Comprehensive Plan.
- School sites and existing school facilities are periodically used as park and recreational spaces by way of a cooperative agreement between the county government and the Board of Education.
- With the recent adoption of the 2010 County Comprehensive Plan the County will be implementing a new planning process. Rather than having a separate countywide plan, which was primarily a policy document, and eight individual regional plans, the 2010 County plan provides the goal and policy direction as well as the detailed land use plan for the entire county.
- Three major water features (Lake Linganore, the Monocacy River, and Potomac River) are cited as being either a recreational resource and a drinking water source or a recreational resource for a surrounding vacation home community.
- A map has been attached to: (1) highlight the community growth areas; (2) differentiate the municipal growth areas from the unincorporated growth areas; (3) and show the connection between the community growth areas, priority preservation areas, and the green infrastructure.
- Under the State standard the county exceeds the 30 acres/ per 1,000 population. Using the County's standard of 25 acres/1000 population, which focuses only on locally owned, municipal, and county parkland, the eligible parkland would be 19.7 acres/ 1,000 population.
- In the six-year Capital Improvements Plan (FYs 2012-2017), most County funding for acquiring parkland and developing new facilities comes from local sources: County Recordation Tax (45.9%), Recordation Tax Bonds (17.7%), and General Obligation Bonds (29.5%).

The following goals for parks and recreation come from the 2010 comprehensive plan:

- Provide for community services and facilities in an efficient and timely manner relative to the pace of growth.
- Maintain adequacy of public facilities and services relative to existing and projected targeted populations.

- Locate community services and facilities that maximize accessibility via transit, bicycle, and pedestrian modes of transportation.
- To the extent feasible, distribute public facilities and services throughout the County on a local, regional, or centralized basis.
- Ensure that County facilities serve all County residents equally by employing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.
- Develop the County's park system with a balance of active parks that focus on a variety of recreational uses and passive parks that focus on less intensive uses such as trails, picnicking, historic preservation or natural resource protection.
- County parkland acquisition is guided by the following thresholds:

  Neighborhood parks: 5-acres/1,000 population
  Community parks: 10-acres/1,000 population
  Regional parks: 10-acres/1,000 population

- Consider stream corridors within community growth areas for development as public linear parks to allow for greenway/trail linkages both within and between community growth areas.
- Development of parks in a manner that is sensitive to and protective of natural resource and environmentally sensitive features.
- Coordinate with the municipalities in the provision of park and recreation facilities.
- Develop parks in a manner that prioritizes the preservation of archaeological and historic sites and structures.
- Integrate community parks into community growth areas to maximize bicycle and pedestrian access, and enhance community identity.
- Prioritize funding to accommodate land acquisition for land banking of new sites, and for the expansion of existing parks.
- The park/school concept shall be given high priority in order to more efficiently meet local park and recreational needs. Joint use agreements between the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Board of Education and municipal officials (where appropriate) should continue to be established and refined to make all County schools available for recreational use.
- Promote the development and operation of revenue producing facilities.

Implementing Programs		
a.) Description of principal implementing programs	8	7
b.) Description of how the implementing programs help to achieve the goals for parks and recreation	8	8
c.) Description of how goals are consistent with the Strategic Guidelines for Recreation and Parks	8	9

Reviewer Comments:

- What are the trail goals for the next 5 years? What relationship does the Trails Plan have to the LPPRP? We would like a copy of the trails plan, and a copy of the proposed network map would be helpful in the LPPRP.

Items for use/reference in State Plan:		
Data Elements: Inventory, Supply, and Demand		
Supply of Recreational Lands and Facilities		
Local inventory of parkland and associated parkland acreage needs analysis using the standard 30 acres per 1,000 population analysis method or approved alternative methodology (Appendix A of the *Guidelines*)	8	27 and 28
Reviewer Comments: • How did the county determine the 25 per 1,000 acre locally adopted acreage standard? Why is state land not included?		
Items for use/reference in State Plan: • Since 2005 an additional 1,020 acres of public parkland has been acquired by the County, State, and municipal governments and school system.		
Facility Inventory (Appendix B of the *Guidelines*)*	8	26, 29, 30 and Appendix D
Reviewer Comments: • It appears that either a few of the pages in Appendix D are not numbered correctly or some of the pages are missing.		
Items for use/reference in State Plan:		
Analysis of Facility Supply (Appendix B of the *Guidelines*)	8	26, 27 and 28
Reviewer Comments: • None		
Items for use/reference in State Plan: • The County has adopted its own adequacy standard for park land to ensure that it can provide an ample amount of local park acreage and recreational facilities to meet the needs of residents and visitors.		
Analysis of Facility Demand (Appendix B of the *Guidelines*)	8	30
Reviewer Comments: • A copy of the survey results from the 1998 County survey would be a helpful appendix/		

Items for use/reference in State Plan: • By 2020, the County's population is projected to increase to 283,150 people and by 2030 to 328,550. • The county conducted a random survey which involved 1,500 county residents. The survey included questions about usage, adequacy and the preference of residents on spending priorities for parks and recreation facilities.		
Analysis of Facility Needs (Appendix B of the *Guidelines*)	8	30 and 31
Reviewer Comments: • Facility needs are calculated based on the 1998 Needs Assessment for participation and Frequency of use rates in conjunction with State Planning Guidelines.		
15-Year Capital Improvement Program for Land Acquisition, Facility Development, and Rehabilitation Priorities		
Identified for the Short-Term (2012-2016)	8	Appendix B (69)
Reviewer Comments: It seems the County takes municipalities into consideration for the parkland goals – would it make sense to include projects the municipalities have planned for the future (or is this already included)?		
Items for use/reference in State Plan: • The County's short-term goals include five capital development projects, two acquisition projects and one rehabilitation project.		
Identified for the Mid-Term (2017-2021)	8	Appendix B (70)
Reviewer Comments: None		
Items for use/reference in State Plan: • The County's mid-term goals include six capital development projects and two rehabilitation projects.		
Identified for the Long-Term (2022 and beyond)	8	Appendix B (71)
Reviewer Comments: None		
Items for use/reference in State Plan: • The County's long-term goals include twelve capital development projects and four acquisition projects.		
•		

*** The tables in Appendix b should address athletic fields, baseball diamonds, basketball courts, and tennis courts. In addition to these, the tables should address the top 10 needs identified by the County.**

Agriculture Chapter	Guide-lines Page	Local Plan Page
Description of progress that has been made toward achievement of the agricultural land preservation goals and objectives identified in the 2009 State LPPRP and the most recently adopted County LPPRP.	3	35-46
Reference to and summary of information from County Comprehensive plan and implementing ordinances/ programs (as appropriate) for agricultural land preservation programs	3	35-46

Reviewer Comments:

- For the final draft, please comment on the progress made to implement the recommended program improvements from the previous LPPRP, summarized at the bottom of this page.
- Page 43 mentions the subdivision remainder parcels that exist all over the county. A map of these parcels in the final LPPRP would be helpful, if such a map could be completed by then.

Items for use/reference in State Plan:

- About 57% of Frederick County—243,500 acres—is zone agricultural.
- The County has well over 47,000 acres under easement, and its program ranks 10th in the entire nation, according to Farmland Preservation Report (2011).
- The agricultural support network of farm equipment sales/service, feed stores, and processing businesses is healthy in Frederick County.
- "The County ranks at the top, statewide, in a number of areas including number of farms (1,200+), equine facilities and horses, and dairy. Nationwide Frederick ranks among the top 75 counties for dairy production" (LPPRP, page 38).
- The County has done a good job of creating a greenbelt around Burkittsville and is using its Rural Legacy areas and other programs to create greenbelts around Walkersville and large parts of Myersville, Middletown, New Market, Woodsboro, Thurmont, and Emmittsburg. The Rural Legacy area also seeks to preserve the area between Frederick and Walkersville; other programs have preserved land there so far.
- The County Commissioners have expressed an interest in upzoning thousands of acres of agriculturally-zoned land, though no action has been taken yet.

The LPPRP does not have a specific section to discuss achievement of goals and objectives from the 2009. Our review of the 2009 plan said the following:

Recommended program improvements include an evaluation of critical farms funding, with an eye toward increasing it; creation of Priority Preservation Areas; easement purchase on properties lacking development rights if they are adjacent to easements (easements are already purchased on similar properties that are within 2,000 feet of a comprehensive plan growth area); evaluation of the rural residential option; and "[c]onsideration of maximum lot sizes in the agricultural zoning district…(LPPRP page 49).

As far as we can tell, only the PPA has been acted upon. The consideration of maximum lot sizes and a limit subdivision for large farm parcels (which are used for residences) is an action item again this year.
• The County's 2010 comprehensive plan includes the following goals and policies for agricultural land preservation: Goals: • Preserve the County's prime agricultural lands for continued production. • Encourage the growth of new, and the preservation of existing agricultural industries in Agricultural designated areas in order to support local farm operations. • Permanently preserve through various agricultural programs at least 100,000 acres of agricultural land by 2020 and protect a total agricultural base of 200,000 acres as a Rural Reserve to support a diversity of agricultural practices. • Maximize state funding and technical resources for a coordinated agricultural land preservation effort. Maintain compatibility and create a regional mass with agricultural preservation activity with adjoining counties. Policies: • Enhance the existing Agricultural Preservation Program by identifying Priority Preservation Areas, which will assist in the protection and retention of the County's agricultural industry resource base. • Minimize the development in areas of our best agricultural lands to preserve critical masses of farmland. Prohibit expansion of designated Rural Residential areas into surrounding lands designated Agricultural/Rural. • Support Frederick County's farming economy and farming communities and services necessary to sustain a viable agricultural industry. • Support land use initiatives to maintain and enhance Rural Communities to service the agricultural industry. • Prohibit the expansion of community growth areas for development into Priority Preservation Areas. Community water and sewer service will not be extended beyond Community Growth Planning for public water and sewer has support growth in municipal and unincorporated growth areas. • Areas into lands designated Agricultural/Rural. Other growth policies in the 2010 comprehensive plan support agricultural land preservation: • Size - and ultimately develop - Community Growth Areas in direct relationship to infrastructure capacity, green infrastructure elements, and the relationship to surrounding agricultural uses. • Community Growth Areas are not to be extended into Priority Preservation Areas. • Pursue redevelopment strategies as a way to minimize the need to expand existing Community Growth Areas or establish new Community Growth Areas.

- Further expansion of the designated Rural Residential areas into the surrounding Agricultural/Rural or Natural Resource designated areas is not permitted.

The County supports the business of agriculture in a number of ways:

- The County Office of Economic Development (OED) created a Frederick County Agricultural Strategic Plan in 2001 and updated it in 2008.
- An Business Development Specialist for agriculture is on the staff of the OED. Page 38 of the LPPFP says that the "Office provides the following support:
  - Assisting the Ag-Industry with the development of business plans to start or expand agricultural businesses.
  - Acting as an information source and liaison on behalf of the Ag-Industry
  - Promoting and educating the citizens of the county on the impact and benefits associated with a thriving Ag-Industry.
  - Encouraging the relocation of Ag-Industries into Frederick County and promoting the retention and expansion of the existing Ag-Industry.
  - Sponsor the Homegrown Here campaign to support the use of County farm products in local restaurants, stores, and farmers markets.
  - Supports and administers an Agricultural Business Council."
- The County has a right-to-farm ordinance and offer property tax credits of 100% of ag assessed land on properties under easement and also in districts. A credit is given on agricultural buildings regardless of the landowner's participation in the preservation program.
- County zoning supports activities on farms such as corn mazes and seasonal events. The county is home to four wineries, and ag zoning allows activities such as tasting rooms, tours, and events.
- Clustered lots must be placed on the least protective soils.
- "Remainder parcels that have no further subdivision rights exist throughout the County often times in tracts of 100 acres or more…. There is no permanent preservation easement placed on these parcels" (LPPRP page 43).
- Recommendations and action items for improving the County's land preservation program can be found in the report created for the Certification program and in MDP's review of that report.

OPTIONAL: See Guidelines Appendix D for including a more detailed presentation of information on agricultural land preservation

Natural Resources Chapter	Guide-lines Page	Local Plan Page
County Goals for Natural Resource Conservation		
What are the County's goals for Natural resource lands and conservation?	5	49
Reviewer Comments: None		
Items for use/reference in State Plan: County goals from the Comp Plan: NR-G-01 Protect natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas in Frederick County. NR-G-02 Encourage the use of local, non-polluting, renewable and recycled resources (water, energy, food, material resources). NR-G-03 Manage growth and land development in Frederick County in a manner that is in harmony with the conservation and protection of our natural environment. NR-G-04 Promote a reduction in per capita consumption of energy in Frederick County.		
Local Priorities for Natural Lands and Resources		
a.) Has the County established a priority preservation and conservation area for natural resources in its comp. plan?	5	54
b.) If so, do the boundaries of these areas differ from DNR's GreenPrint lands? Why? Please provide a map if possible	5	54
c.) What are the principle implementing ordinances and programs to achieve County goals for conserving natural lands and resources?	5	59-61
d.) Description of which parts of the program development strategy from the natural resources element of the last County LPPRP have been implemented.	5	52-56
e.) Description of which parts of the program development strategy from the natural resources element of the last County LPPRP have NOT been implemented.	5	
f.) Summary of changes (if any) in the County's intentions to conserve natural resources and priority land.	5	
g.) Reference to and summary of information from County Comprehensive plan and implementing ordinances/ programs (as appropriate) for natural resource land conservation	5	49-50
Reviewer Comments: • The County is to be commended for initiating and following through with a county led Green Infrastructure Assessment that will provide a comprehensive inventory of natural resource lands and their values, with the intent of moving this assessment into a functional Green		

Infrastructure Plan.

- The LPPRP guidelines ask that the county compare its goals and designated areas for natural resource conservation with the State's GreenPrint conservation priorities. County designated areas (such as the Green Infrastructure areas identified in the General Plan) should be compared with areas identified as "Targeted Ecological Areas" through Maryland's GreenPrint program. GreenPrint Targeted Ecological Areas are preferred for Stateside Program Open Space funding based on their high ecological value.
  - Interactive and static maps are available at: http://www.greenprint.maryland.gov/
  - GIS data for Targeted Ecological Areas can be downloaded from the DNR Data Download site found at: http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/gis/data/
  - Access the "Targeted Ecological Areas" shapefile under the "Focal Areas" folder.

- A map of protected lands within the county would also be helpful to the interpretation of this plan
- The county is working on a number of great Natural Resource Analyses.

<u>Items for use/reference in State Plan:</u>

- Green Infrastructure natural resource protection areas have been identified in the General Plan. County is in the process of developing a county specific Green Infrastructure Plan in partnership with MDNR and USEPA which will be more comprehensive and data rich than the existing designated Green Infrastructure areas already identified. The plan will identify specific natural resource areas valued for habitat, wildlife and additional ecosystem service benefits. This plan will complement and build off of the State Green Infrastructure Assessment.

- County demonstrates a comprehensive approach for preserving natural resource land including regulatory protection, mitigation banking, watershed planning and TMDP implementation, stewardship, land use controls and subdivision ordinances to protect endangered species habitats and forest resources.

- Recommendations for improving County ability to protect natural resources:

1. Support the efforts of private non-profit land trusts that operate within the County and focus on voluntary preservation easements.

2. Consider revisions to the Resource Conservation zoning district as part of the Zoning Ordinance update that may help to strengthen its resource protection component.

3. Look at ways to strengthen watershed planning as part of the region plan update process. This would foster continued support for participation in the Watershed Resource Action Strategy (WRAS) projects with the State Department of Natural Resources.

4. Establish an analysis process utilizing GIS data layers of natural resource features as part of the region plan update process.

- The County has developed a stand-alone Historic Preservation Plan (2007)

Data Sharing		
Date that last County Preserved Lands GIS data layer was	5	October

Recreation and Parks Chapter		Guide-lines Page	Local Plan Page
Identification of State and county goals for recreation and parks	5	8	III-1
Reviewer Comments: • None			
conservation received by MDP?			
Reviewer Comments: Please refer to the Guidelines pages 5 & 6 regarding data sharing.			
Items for use/reference in State Plan:			

LPRP LOCAL PLAN REVIEW CHECKLIST/ COMMENT SHEET FOR STATE PLAN

Jurisdiction Name: CECIL COUNTY

Items for use/reference in State Plan:

- POS funding for the County was $1,879,814 at the peak in 2007 but fell to $86,092 in FY 2010. The figure was $173,000 in FY 2011. Half the funds must be used for land acquisition because the County hasn't met its goal.

State goals:

- Make a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities readily accessible to all of its citizens, and thereby contribute to their physical and mental well-being.
- Recognize and strategically use parks and recreation facilities as amenities to make communities, counties, and the state more desirable places to live, work and visit.
- Use State investment in parks, recreation, and open space to complement and mutually support the broader goals and objectives of local comprehensive / master plans.
- To the greatest degree feasible, ensure that recreational land and facilities for local populations are conveniently located relative to population centers, are accessible without reliance on the automobile, and help to protect natural open spaces and resources.
- Complement infrastructure and other public investments and priorities in existing communities and areas planned for growth through investment in neighborhood and community parks and facilities.
- Continue to protect recreational open space and resource lands at a rate that equals or exceeds the rate that land is developed at a statewide level.

County goals:

- From comp plan: "'Acquire park land and develop recreation facilities for all major user groups'" (III-1).
- From 2005 and 2011 LPPRPs:
  -- Create a leadership role for the County in the overall organization of recreation in Cecil County.
  -- Improve methods by which information about recreation programs is gathered and disseminated in Cecil County.
  -- Provide adequate amounts of recreation land to serve residents throughout the County.
  -- Develop additional recreation facilities to meet specific demands.
  -- Improve the countywide coordination and provision of recreational programming.
  -- Provide adequate level recreation services while keeping government cost as low as possible.
- Policies to guide land acquisition, from the 2005 and 2001 LPPRPs:
  -- Ensure maximum use of existing facilities including school sites and existing recreation land.
  -- Add onto existing sites wherever possible.
  -- Locate new recreation facilities in or convenient to towns and the county's designated development district.
  -- Continue to meet existing unmet demand in suburban and rural areas provided this does not contribute to sprawl development.
  -- Increase cooperation with the Board of Education in incorporating joint uses of school sites and facilities, especially when renovating schools or building new facilities.
- Four POS projects are active in the County, totaling $250,293 (25% from local funds) (III-4).

Implementing Programs	**Guide-lines Page**	**Local Plan Page**
a.) Description of principal implementing programs	8	III-2,4
b.) Description of how the implementing programs help to achieve the goals for parks and recreation	8	III

c.) Description of how goals are consistent with the Strategic Guidelines for Recreation and Parks	8	III
Reviewer Comments: • Congratulations on the creation of the Parks and Recreation Department.		
Items for use/reference in State Plan: • Upon adoption, the LPPRP becomes part of the local comp plan. The LPPRP also serves as the guide for parks and recreation in the County's 8 municipalities. • The County Commissioners appoint an 8-member Board of Parks and Recreation. "The Board's primary function is to assist staff with implementing policies and procedures, CIP development, County project oversight and grass root advocacy" (page III-2,3). The Parks and Recreation Department was created in 2006. • The County is divided into 5 recreation service areas: Rising sun, Perryville, Northeast, Elkton, and Bohemia Manor. • Most of the funding comes from POS, with a small amount of County general funds. Parks and Rec projects are now a part of the County's CIP. The Dept. requested $288,061 in CIP funds for FY 2012, but the projects have not been approved (III-4).		

Data Elements: Inventory, Supply, and Demand		
Supply of Recreational Lands and Facilities		
Local inventory of parkland and associated parkland acreage needs analysis using the standard 30 acres per 1,000 population analysis method or approved alternative methodology (Appendix A of the *Guidelines*)	8	ES-2, III-6,
Reviewer Comments: • None		
Items for use/reference in State Plan: • As of 2011, County is 1,418 acres short of its land acquisition goal. Without acquisitions, the shortfall will reach 3,000 acres by 2030. • Parkland: County/municipal 1,500 acres; federal and state 13,576 (incl. 5,613 in Fair Hill Natural Resources management area and 5,718 in Elk Neck State Park and State Forest). County LPPRP serves the 8 municipalities of Cecilton, Charlestown, Chesapeake City, Elkton, North East, Perryville, Port Deposit, and Rising Sun.		
Facility Inventory (Appendix B of the *Guidelines*)*	8	Map III-7
Reviewer Comments: • Does Table III-2 need to be updated? Figures seem to be identical to 2005 plan.		
Items for use/reference in State Plan:		
Analysis of Facility Supply (Appendix B of the *Guidelines*)	8	III-6, III-10
Reviewer Comments: None		

Items for use/reference in State Plan:		
Analysis of Facility Demand (Appendix B of the *Guidelines*)	8	III-9-11
Reviewer Comments: None		
Items for use/reference in State Plan:		
Analysis of Facility Needs (Appendix B of the *Guidelines*)	8	ES-2, III-10
Reviewer Comments: None •		
Items for use/reference in State Plan: • Primary deficits are in regional parks, baseball/softball diamonds, turf fields/multi-purpose fields, fishing from piers, indoor recreation centers (basketball), hiker/biker trails. • Secondary deficits are boat ramps and public water access, playgrounds, and picnic pavilions. • Greatest future parkland need is in North East, Elkton, and Rising Sun service areas. • Through 2030: $12 million for acquisition, $23.5 million for new facility development, $500,000 for rehabilitation projects. -- 250-410 acres of park and recreation land -- Development of 100-acre regional park in North East/Rising Sun service areas -- 75-100 acre community park in Elkton or in Elkton Service area -- Two community parks of 25-50 acres in Rising Sun and North East recreation service areas -- Additional water access points Trails underway or planned: Elk Neck Trail, Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway trail, and the East Coast Greenway. Pursuing the informal Mason Dixon Trail is on wish list but not identified in comp plan (III-20).		
15-Year Capital Improvement Program for Land Acquisition, Facility Development, and Rehabilitation Priorities	**Guide-lines Page**	**Local Plan Page**
Identified for the Short-Term (2012-2016)	8	III 13-17
Reviewer Comments: None		
Items for use/reference in State Plan: • With decline in POS funds, "the County and other organizations need to begin a dialogue to consider new options for funding recreation and parks" (page ES-2). • Funding comes mostly from POS, with a little bit from County general funds. "With no dedicated CIP funds, the Parks and Recreation program is likely to remain substantially under-funded" (page III-21).		
Identified for the Mid-Term (2017-2021)	8	III 13-17
Reviewer Comments: None		
Items for use/reference in State Plan:		
Identified for the Long-Term (2022 and beyond)	8	III 13-17
Reviewer Comments: None		
Items for use/reference in State Plan:		

Agriculture Chapter	**Guide-lines Page**	**Local Plan Page**

Description of progress that has been made toward achievement of the agricultural land preservation goals and objectives identified in the 2009 State LPPRP and the most recently adopted County LPPRP.	3	ES-3
Reference to and summary of information from County Comprehensive plan and implementing ordinances/ programs (as appropriate) for agricultural land preservation programs	3	IV-5+

Reviewer Comments

- Please update 2004 total of 20,100 acres under easement. (MDP shows almost 27,000 acres of various easements as of Sept. 2011).

Items for use/reference in State Plan:

- With current funding levels, county will need 49 years to reach 55,000-acre preservation goal. For 1998-2002, there were 93 applicants to MALPF but only 29 accepted offers (page ES-3).
- Program development strategy:
  - -- Increase state funding for MALPF
  - -- State & County can help resource-based businesses with marketing, financing, business development, etc.

Since the last LPPRP, the County significantly downzoned the NAR and SAR zones and eliminated the bonus density for clustering (2007). It also adopted both PDR and TDR programs. On the other hand, "Based on current funding levels it would take the County 67.7 years to acquire easements" to reach the 55,000-acre goal (page IV-12). Page IV-13says that the County will run out of farmland before reaching the preservation goal if the 1997-2002 trend of land conversion continues; however, this trend is not likely to continue because of the downzoning and the new PDR and TDR programs.

In 2002, the County "joined five other Eastern Shore counties in signing *Eastern Shore 2010: A Regional Vision*…that sets four regional goals to protect the Eastern Shore:

- Strive to protect from development through the use of voluntary preservation programs 50 percent of Eastern Shore land outside of locally-designated growth areas by 2010.
- Recognize our resource-based economy as a key part of the Eastern Shore heritage and future by integrating agriculture, fisheries, and forestry into each county's economic development plan by 2005.
  Work with existing communities to guide at least 50 percent of new annual development into locally-designated growth areas by 2005.
- Develop a regional transportation plan that integrates the use of public transportation and alternative modes of transport within and among communities by 2010.37% of county land, 83,209 acres, is in ag use (page ES-1).
- 26% of the 2011 population of 103,800 lives in the 8 municipalities.
- Rural Conservation Districts (43% of Co. land area) north of C and D Canal and much of Elk Neck peninsula; Resource Protection District (28% of Co. land area) south of canal.
- Preservation goal of 30,000 acres by 2025 in southern Resource Protection District, and 25,000 in northern Rural Conservation District (ES-3). (However, this has been supplanted by the goal of preserving 79,000 acres in the 125,800-acre Priority Preservation Area. Of that goal, 53,600 acres are not yet protected.)
- Concentrations of easements in south, fewer in north (outside Fair Hill RLA).
- Program development strategy:
  - -- Create TDR program [done]
  - -- "Provide attractive development opportunities in designated growth areas" (ES-3)
  - -- Create county PDR program [done]
  - -- "Consider providing local incentives for donated easements" (ES-3)
  - -- Increase pace of easement acquisition
  - -- "Reconsider permitted rural residential development densities if other steps are not succeeding" (ES-3)

- The County recognizes its strategic location at the head of the 400,000-acre Agricultural Security Corridor (page IV-1), which includes portions of 5 Eastern Shore counties.
- From the 2002 to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, Cecil County gained about 8,000 acres of land in farms (11%) and 115 farms (468 to 583). The number of the smallest and largest farms increased.
- The market value of agricultural crops increased from $68.6 million to $95.8 million.

  The average age of County farmers in 2002 was 56.6.

Program Development Strategy

- Continue to support a TDR program.
- Provide attractive development opportunities in designated growth areas:
  - -- Adequate water and sewer infrastructure
  - -- Revise PUD regulations to make them easier to build in desired locations
  - -- Smart code ordinance (the county has drafted an implementing ordinance following a 2002 Smart Code Report)
  - -- Park, recreation areas, and trails
  - -- Attention to transportation planning, including public transportation
- Reconsider permitted rural residential development densities if other steps are not succeeding.
- Increase State funding for MALPF (State action)
- Revise PDR program to allow Installment Purchase Agreements. (Commissioners are currently reviewing.)
- Increase pace of easement acquisition (more funding plus outreach).

  Increase business development assistance, marketing capacity, and access to financing and capital for resource-based industries (along with the State).

OPTIONAL: See Guidelines Appendix D for including a more detailed presentation of information on agricultural land preservation

Natural Resources Chapter	Guide-lines Page	Local Plan Page
County Goals for Natural Resource Conservation		
What are the County's goals for Natural resource lands and conservation?	5	V-1
Reviewer Comments: None		

Items for use/reference in State Plan:

County goals:

• Protect environmentally sensitive resources and natural features in all areas of the County, comprising steep slopes, streams, wetlands, floodplains, and habitat including the habitats of threatened or endangered species;

• Encourage the conservation of agricultural and forested lands; encourage sustainable agribusiness and other natural resource based industries;

• Conserve agricultural and forest resource land, with special focus on the County's Priority Preservation Area;

• Develop a systematic approach to protect the County's green infrastructure resources; and

• Manage watersheds in ways that protect, conserve and restore their hydrologic and water quality functions.

- 13,576 acres are State and Federal natural resource lands. 36% of county land, 80,746 acres, is forested.
- The County needs better integration of green infrastructure concepts, greenways, and watershed protection goals and policies into the zoning and subdivision ordinances.
- The State can help the County develop measurable natural resource objectives by working with the County to translate qualitative concepts such as those contained in the Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement and the tributary strategies into county-specific and area-specific objectives. Such objectives could be incorporated into future Comprehensive Plans or the zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations. This strategy has the added benefit of helping facilitate coordinated efforts to restore the Bay.

Local Priorities for Natural Lands and Resources		
a.) Has the County established a priority preservation and conservation area for natural resources in its comp. plan?	5	V-4
b.) If so, do the boundaries of these areas differ from DNR's GreenPrint lands? Why? Please provide a map if possible	5	
c.) What are the principle implementing ordinances and programs to achieve County goals for conserving natural lands and resources?	5	Table V-1
d.) Description of which parts of the program development strategy from the natural resources element of the last County LPPRP have been implemented.	5	V11-13
e.) Description of which parts of the program development strategy from the natural resources element of the last County LPPRP have NOT been implemented.	5	V11-13
f.) Summary of changes (if any) in the County's intentions to conserve natural resources and priority land.	5	
g.) Reference to and summary of information from County Comprehensive plan and implementing ordinances/ programs (as appropriate) for natural resource land conservation	5	V-3

Reviewer Comments:

- Under section d. on page II-7 three specific areas are listed (two of which are NHA's). While it is true that those are important ecologically areas, they represent just a sub-set of all the important sites found there. From a sensitive species habitat perspective there are scores of sites across the county that have habitat which supports a large numbers of our Species of Greatest Conservation Need (as identified in the Maryland Wildlife Diversity Action Plan).
- The plan states that DNR's development review time for RTEs is not timely. DNR staff would be happy to discuss the review process and increased coordination opportunities. DNR staff contacts are Tim Larney tlarney@dnr.state.md.us and Greg Golden ggolden@dnr.state.md.us
- "Mineral extraction districts" are not necessarily compatible with natural resource conservation. It is not possible to conserve or protect an area that is going to be subjected to commercial mining. Those districts are large (see figure II-4) and are known to harbor rare and sensitive species. Most of those areas are forested and provide FIDS habitat. They are also part of the Green Infrastructure.
- Table V-2 doesn't seem to add up. Acreages have increased from 55,067 to 73,253, but the County total remains at 222,595.

The LPPRP guidelines ask that the county compare its goals and designated areas for natural resource conservation with the State's GreenPrint conservation priorities. County designated areas should be compared with areas identified as "Targeted Ecological Areas" through Maryland's GreenPrint program. GreenPrint Targeted Ecological Areas are preferred for Stateside Program Open Space funding based on their high ecological value.

- Interactive and static maps are available at: http://www.greenprint.maryland.gov/
- GIS data for Targeted Ecological Areas can be downloaded from the DNR Data Download site found at: http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/gis/data/
- Access the "Targeted Ecological Areas" shapefile under the "Focal Areas" folder.

Provide a map of GreenPrint TEAs and evaluate, by acreage if possible, the degree to which agricultural and natural resource conservation designated areas support the protection of TEAs.

- DNR encourages the use of the State or County developed Green Infrastructure assessment and other key resource assessment databases to enhance conservation planning for natural resource values, beyond those areas explicitly identified by GreenPrint Targeted Ecological Area maps. While these areas do constitute some of the most ecologically valuable lands in the State, there are many important natural resource areas that occur within Cecil county. The county is encouraged to continue developing natural resource conservation plans and to build on existing efforts to conserve and maintain connectivity of these resources through planning, zoning, acquisition, easement and other approaches.
- Please change references to the GreenPrint funding program (pg V-12). That funding program has been discontinued and State funding for land conservation is through Stateside Program Open Space.

Items for use/reference in State Plan:

- County's designated conservation areas are the Fair Hill and Sassafras Rural Legacy Areas and the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area.
- Three of the Comp Plan's eleven districts particularly emphasize land conservation and resource protection.
- RCD covers most of Elk Neck peninsula and rural areas north of the I-95/US 40 corridor. This district contains 43% of the county land area.
- RPD is located southof the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal and contains 28% of the county land area.
- MED is within the 95/40 corridor and contains 8,400 acres.
- Critical Area comprises 25,800 acres in the county.

Large hubs of Green Infrastructure in the county include:

- Elk Neck Peninsula including Elk Neck State Park, Elk Neck SF, and the Plum Creek Natural Heritage Area
- MED west and north of the Town of Charleston
- Fair Hill
- Ocotoraro Creek, Northeast Creek, and the Bohemia and Sassafras Rivers.
- The Mineral Extraction District?

- Cecil County's Comprehensive Plan provides the framework and foundation for the County's natural resource conservation goals and strategies. These goals inform the zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations, and regulations for wetlands floodplain protection, stormwater management and sediment and erosion control.
- Zoning ordinance includes 110 ft perennial stream buffer, 25 ft intermittent stream buffer. Subdivision policy clusters development and establishes a greenways policy of open space corridors. See Table V-1
- Designated growth areas contain 29% of County land. In 2000, the County adopted an Urban Growth Boundary Plan to encourage water and sewer infrastructure in designated areas.
- County completed a Sassafras River Watershed plan in 2008.

- The 2005 LPPRP recommended the County incorporate a leadership role in the overall organization of recreation in Cecil County. The County fulfilled this goal with the implementation of a Department of Parks and Recreation in 2006.

- To date, the County's approach to natural resource conservation has been largely site and area-specific – focused on protecting specific resources such as stream buffers. Through this LPPRP a broader strategy has been identified connecting the County's existing protected areas (state parks and forests, Critical Areas, wildlife management areas) into a broader, interconnected framework of protected land (RLAs, greenways, agricultural lands, and parks and recreation areas)
- The County has established a goal of protecting 80% of the remaining undeveloped land in its designated Priority Preservation Area.
- Most easements are to protect ag land due to the farmland preservation goals of 55,000 acres by 2025: 30,000 in the RPD and 25,000 in the RCD. Of 37,417 protected lands, approx. 22,987 are ag lands. Easements on natural resource lands include 854 acres of forest legacy and 5,148 by MET, ESLC, and others.

- The County's Comprehensive Plan Amendment Process can provide opportunities to incorporate new policies that can assist with natural resources conservation. Currently, there are no recommended revisions.
- The Comp Plan includes the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway Management Plan, which promotes heritage tourism and greenway development and suggests methods of pursuing land acquisitions.

Other

- No County funds dedicated for natural resource land easement acquisition
- The comprehensive planning program does not include more detailed small area planning efforts in which natural resource protection can be integrated into the broader planning scheme for development, agricultural preservation, and public facilities such as transportation, schools, and recreation. Presently, development proposals are only reviewed against existing zoning and subdivision regulations as they apply to individual properties, with little emphasis on tracking cumulative effects on a watershed or small area basis. Regulations and performance standards only apply to individual developmental submittals and do not facilitate comprehensive reviews based on area-wide objectives, such as tributary strategies or watershed impacts.
- The greenways designated in this plan are very conceptual in nature; essentially lines on the map

Recreation and Parks Chapter	Guide-lines Page	Local Plan Page

following the stream valleys. Policies need to be established regarding the proposed uses for these greenways (conservation versus recreation, for example) and more detailed maps need to be prepared showing areas already protected, and areas that should be targeted for protection.

- State funding for land conservation through programs such as Greenprint and Rural Legacy has been sharply reduced in recent years. Program Open Space (POS) funding has also been sharply reduced in recent years. Although the County would like to conserve natural resource lands through POS, it has primarily used these funds to acquire park land to meet the increasing demand for recreation.
- MD DNR is promoting Watershed Restoration Action Strategies (WRAS) as a state and local partnership planning to protect and restore water quality and habitat to help implement Maryland's Clean Water Action Plan and meet the Chesapeake Bay Agreement goals. Based on the Clean Water Action Plan, the primary candidate watershed in Cecil County would be the Upper Elk River which, as noted above in Section B.5, is both a Category 1 Priority (Restoration) watershed and a Selected Category 3 watershed. Other candidates would be Furnace Bay and Octoraro Creek.
- Land trusts have proven very effective in Cecil County with almost 6,000 acres of agricultural and natural resource land preserved by the MET, CLT, ESLC and others. Further, land trusts often protect land at little or zero cost, since easements are frequently donated.
- There is potential to create an extensive on-road and off-road recreational trail system serving much of the County and connecting many of the County's large blocks of protected lands. This system has the potential to be a major asset to the County, but again will take a significant effort to make real on the ground.

Data Sharing		
Date that last County Preserved Lands GIS data layer was received by MDP	5	January 2004
GIS maps of County Lands targeted for natural resource conservation received by MDP?	5	
Reviewer Comments: Please refer to page 5 & 6 of the guidelines.		
Items for use/reference in State Plan:		

Additional Comments
• The plan mentions the potential to create a recreational trail system throughout the county. DNR would be happy to work with Cecil County on any priority recreational trail connections. DNR staff contact is Steve Carr scar@dnr.state.md.us • Appendix E public meeting minutes are from the 2005 plan. • Please note that it is no longer a requirement to utilize MEIRS, but inventory data should be included with the next LPPRP update.

LPRP LOCAL PLAN REVIEW CHECKLIST/ COMMENT SHEET FOR STATE PLAN

Jurisdiction Name: ALLEGANY COUNTY

Identification of State and county goals for recreation and parks	8	20-21

Reviewer Comments:
DNR would be happy to work with the county on their "Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan." Please contact the Statewide Trails Planner, Steve Carr (scarr@dnr.state.md.us).

Items for use/reference in State Plan:

County goals:

- Provide 10 acres of locally owned recreation land for communities with a population of 500 or more residents.
- Continue to develop the Fairgrounds to its fullest potential, thus supporting its ability to host countywide recreation events such as the County Fair, meetings from clubs and other groups and other large scale events.
- Completing the Allegany County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. This may also provide for more opportunities to view other areas not accessible by bike at this time. Inherent within this plan should be more opportunities for interconnection with other "green spaces" within the county such as a greenway to access the central portion of the RLA along the Braddock Run.
- Update and or replace the amenities at the existing facilities and provide for additional amenities as the needs of the population of Allegany County changes.

Implementing Programs

a.) Description of principal implementing programs	8	7
b.) Description of how the implementing programs help to achieve the goals for parks and recreation	8	Throughout the Plan
c.) Description of how goals are consistent with the Strategic Guidelines for Recreation and Parks	8	County goals are listed under State goals on page 20, but the text does not make a connection

Reviewer Comments:

- There is no mention of how the County incorporates the Community Parks and Playground funding that the municipalities received into their over all plan.
- There is no mention of Frostburg State University and Allegany College of Maryland and how their facilities or staffs are used as part of the Recreation plans for the County**.**

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Items for use/reference in State Plan:

- Allegany County's planning efforts are now based on watersheds instead of election districts. Each of the 12 regional plans, which will add up to the comprehensive plan and be completed in three or four years, will contain a recreation element. "The elements will complete an in depth survey per region and determine the need of additional park land per area or region of the county" (page 7).
- The County does not have a parks and rec department. Other County staff coordinate "with the Municipalities and local sponsors of the county owned parks for the needs of each facility. The Coordinator then conveys the interests to the Board of County Commissioners on an annual basis to complete the plan for POS funding" (page 8).

Data Elements: Inventory, Supply, and Demand		
Supply of Recreational Lands and Facilities		
Local inventory of parkland and associated parkland acreage needs analysis using the standard 30 acres per 1,000 population analysis method or approved alternative methodology (Appendix A of the *Guidelines*)	8	21-24
Reviewer Comments: • None *Items for use/reference in State Plan:* • Even though its own goal is less, the County has exceeded the State's default recreational acreage goal of 30 acres per 1,000 acres. (The calculations are contained on pages 23 and 24.) • The County grew by 157 residents between 2000 and 2010. Some of the planning areas lost population, however, while others gained. • With over 71,000 acres of "State forests, Parks, Wildlife Management Areas and Federal parks…[t]he total amount of State and Federally owned land equals .95 acres per resident of Allegany County" (page 21).		
Facility Inventory (Appendix B of the *Guidelines*)*	8	26-28
Reviewer Comments: • We would like a further explanation of the tables, specifically the B-1 Table and the other B tables. For example, the 6 billion 7 million supply number under the Fishing from Shore bank and also the 38 million Total Supply for Hunting acres. • It was noted that the County found its GIS database incompatible with MEIRs. MEIRs is no longer in operation, but facility inventories and GIS data should be sent to DNR & MDP.		
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Items for use/reference in State Plan:

The following were the top twelve top facilities for the County:

- Trails of all types
- Picnic tables
- Tot lots/playgrounds
- Fishing access measured in feet
- Acres for hunting
- Holes for golf
- Basketball courts
- Horseshoe pits
- Campsites
- Ball diamonds
- Tennis courts
- Football/soccer fields

- The County's largest regional park is the Fairgrounds. "Since the 2005 plan, a boat launch has been added to the site and there are more ball-fields being added to the location," plus a new access road that "should be completed within the next 5 years" (page 21).

Analysis of Facility Supply (Appendix B of the *Guidelines*)	8	28-31

Reviewer Comments:

- References to the maps would be helpful, some maps are hard to read.

Items for use/reference in State Plan:

- The last plan noted that the county needed more horseshoe pits; those have since been provided.
- With 21 private hunting clubs in addition to state lands, the county has more than enough land for hunting.
- Frostburg is home to a dog park. The one park available for skateboarding is closed, though the county is encouraging the Cumberland YMCA to work with the city's parks and recreation department to find a new home for skateboards.
- BMX biking can be done on one track; the "city of Cumberland is exploring other options for more BMX type biking…" (page 29).
- Several county park sites are currently undeveloped.

Analysis of Facility Demand (Appendix B of the *Guidelines*)	8	25, 29, 32-33

Reviewer Comments:

- The results from the county survey seem to be missing from Appendix E.

Items for use/reference in State Plan:

- The analysis used the 2003 "Participation in Local Park and Recreation Activities in Maryland" survey, enhanced with population and demographic projections for the planning areas.
- The County posted a recreational survey on its website in the fall of 2011. "This survey is helping to address the need for additional activities per planning region…" and the results will be used to inform the recreation section of each regional plan (page 29).

Analysis of Facility Needs (Appendix B of the *Guidelines*)	8	28-29
Reviewer Comments: • With the recent addition of horseshoe pits, an oversupply of hunting acreage, and a slowly growing population, the County appears to have ample facilities for its top recreational activities. Deficiencies for a few other activities are noted above in the analysis of facility supply.		
15-Year Capital Improvement Program for Land Acquisition, Facility Development, and Rehabilitation Priorities		
Identified for the Short-Term (2012-2016)	8	
Reviewer Comments: • The draft LPPRP contains a spreadsheet of funding requirements for the FY 2012 annual program but does not list the capital improvement programs for the short-, mid-, and long-term.		
Items for use/reference in State Plan:		
Identified for the Mid-Term (2017-2021)	8	
Reviewer Comments: None		
Items for use/reference in State Plan: .		
Identified for the Long-Term (2022 and beyond)	8	
Reviewer Comments: None		
Items for use/reference in State Plan: .		

*** The tables in Appendix b should address athletic fields, baseball diamonds, basketball courts, and tennis courts. In addition to these, the tables should address the top 10 needs identified by the County.**

Agriculture Chapter	Guide-lines Page	Local Plan Page
Description of progress that has been made toward achievement of the agricultural land preservation goals and objectives identified in the 2009 State LPPRP and the most recently adopted County LPPRP.	3	
Reference to and summary of information from County Comprehensive plan and implementing ordinances/ programs (as appropriate) for agricultural land preservation programs	3	11

Reviewer Comments:

- None

Items for use/reference in State Plan:

- Allegany County has a right-to-farm statute.

The County's agricultural goals consist of the following (quoted from page 11 of the LPPRP):

- Establish a Priority Preservation Area.
- Continue to Submit applications to both…(MALPF) and Rural Legacy on an annual basis.
- Work to become a "Certified" County
  - This allows the County to keep more of the Agricultural Transfer taxes that are generated within Allegany County.
  - The County is currently working on the necessary items to apply for the certification.
- Continue to encourage voluntary submission into the MALPF and Rural Legacy Programs within Allegany County.
- Maximize Areas with increased agricultural value as shown by the Prime Agricultural Soils maps that are included within each Comprehensive Plan.

- The matter of compatibility between mineral rights easements and preservation easements "is a limiting factor for easement implementation that has come to the forefront in recent years" (page 12), especially regarding Marcellus shale.
- Allegany County created its first Rural Legacy Area in 2010 and acquired its first easement in 2012. The goal is to preserve 50% of the RLA (7,112 acres) in ten years, more if funding permits.
- [MDP data show that Allegany County has far fewer acres under easement than any other Maryland County. However, the County is home to more publicly owned land than any other County except for Garrett.]

OPTIONAL: See Guidelines Appendix D for including a more detailed presentation of information on agricultural land preservation

Natural Resources Chapter	Guidelines Page	Local Plan Page

County Goals for Natural Resource Conservation		
What are the County's goals for Natural resource lands and conservation?	5	16
Reviewer Comments: None		
Items for use/reference in State Plan: County goals: • Continue to Protect Steep Slopes, floodplains and Sensitive Areas. Steep Slopes are defined as any slope greater than 25%. • Maximize areas that have high forestry value as well as areas that have a high natural resource value. If these properties are within the Mountain Ridge RLA encourage participation within that program. • Continue to discourage development within the 100 year flood plain. Identify properties that are within the revised flood plain maps from USGS and target potential sites for flood buyouts through grant funding, and other Federal Emergency Management Programs (FEMA). • Continue to identify areas where Greenways could be used to link urban areas to parks within the county. • Implement a Viewshed Protection Overlay Zone. This would protect the Mountain Tops from development that would impact the view of the mountains and may disrupt the eco-tourism that is being established within the county. • Continue to encourage citizens to participate in the RLA, Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) Program as well as the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).		
Local Priorities for Natural Lands and Resources		
a.) Has the County established a priority preservation and conservation area for natural resources in its comp. plan?	5	
b.) If so, do the boundaries of these areas differ from DNR's GreenPrint lands? Why? Please provide a map if possible	5	
c.) What are the principle implementing ordinances and programs to achieve County goals for conserving natural lands and resources?	5	17-19
d.) Description of which parts of the program development strategy from the natural resources element of the last County LPPRP have been implemented.	5	
e.) Description of which parts of the program development strategy from the natural resources element of the last County LPPRP have NOT been implemented.	5	
f.) Summary of changes (if any) in the County's intentions to conserve natural resources and priority land.	5	

g.) Reference to and summary of information from County Comprehensive plan and implementing ordinances/ programs (as appropriate) for natural resource land conservation	5	16-19

Reviewer Comments:

The plan needs to address items a) and b), listed above

a) The plan needs to identify geographically specific areas for preservation/conservation based on natural resource values and the goals stated in the plan. The Mountain Ridge RLA is one area already identified as a conservation area. However, for completeness, the natural resource values within the RLA should be summarized, particularly as they relate to meeting State and county goals.

b) The RLA should also be compared to the State's GreenPrint Targeted Ecological Areas. The LPPRP guidelines ask that the county compare its goals and designated areas for natural resource conservation with the State's GreenPrint conservation priorities. County designated areas should be compared with areas identified as "Targeted Ecological Areas" through Maryland's GreenPrint program. GreenPrint Targeted Ecological Areas are preferred for Stateside Program Open Space funding based on their high ecological value.

7. Interactive and static maps are available at: http://www.greenprint.maryland.gov/. A GreenPrint map for Allegany County has been provided, but may not reflect the most current status of protected lands.

8. GIS data for Targeted Ecological Areas can be downloaded from the DNR Data Download site found at: http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/gis/data/
9. Access the "Targeted Ecological Areas" shapefile under the "Focal Areas" folder.

- Please provide a short description for those goals & objectives from the 2005 plan (pages 30-31) that have or have not been implemented as per required content d) & e) above.
- The county has done a good job of incorporating ESA's into their plans and trying to avoid impacts to them by reviewing development projects in those areas.

Items for use/reference in State Plan:

- The county has not yet established a PPA, this is a goal of the 2012 LPPRP. They do anticipate the boundaries will be smaller than those identified through GreenPrint.

Data Sharing		
Date that last County Preserved Lands GIS data layer was received by MDP	5	
GIS maps of County Lands targeted for natural resource conservation received by MDP?	5	

Reviewer Comments:

Please see the Guidelines pages 5 and 6 for information regarding data sharing.

Items for use/reference in State Plan:

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Appendix J: Key Issues Analysis Matrix

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Key Issues Analysis Matrix - Maryland LPRP

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Key Issue Legend

RED - minor concern
GOLD - opportunity to improve
BLUE - key issue/priority
WHITE - not applicable

	Service Areas				Qualitative Data				Quantitative Data			Consultant's Analysis and Professional Expertise
	Western Region	Central Regions	Eastern Region	Southern Region	Staff Interviews	Technical Advisory Committee	MACo/MRPA	2009 LPRP	Statistically Valid Survey	Online Survey	LOS Analysis	Best Practice or Possible Solutions
Statewide Land Use Planning												
Coordination with local CIP and POS projects												Initiate regular outreach to MACo and MRPA
Connect people safely to trails, complete trail gaps												Coordinate local GIS data layer alignment with DNR/DOT gap analyses
Expand quality and quantity of water access opportunities												Continue coordination with Chesapeake Bay Watershed Plan efforts
Pressure from ORV users, mountain bikers												Hold regional focus groups, collaborate with local agencies, non-profits
Seek opportunities to restore DNR funding												Collaborate with local agencies for broader message to policy makers
Balance natural resource protection and recreational uses												Coordinate LOS analysis and land acquisition policies
Explore partnerships with health, academic, non-profit org												
Use of DNR lands for non-renewable energy resources												Share survey results with relevant state agencies
Trail User Conflicts												Publish trail safety guide, improve signage, volunteer patrols
Land Acquisition/More Parks/Develop Existing DNR Assets												Continue DNR focus and legacy on land acquisition
DNR lead by example in sustainability practices												Collaborate with MDP, Sustainble Ag Research & Ed on best practices
Natural Resource and Outdoor Recreation Facilities												
Restrooms												Incomplete statewide data prohibits accurate level of service (LOS) analysis. Complete statewide inventory database in template provided. Add types of
Natural Surface Trails												Create comprehensive trail guide with uses and difficulty ratings
Paved Trails												
Historic and Cultural Resources												
Picnic Areas												Expand data set to include local providers of picnic areas
Multi-Lingual Interpretive Signage												Expand current efforts by State Parks to include all DNR divisions
Equestrian												Evaluate the development of regional equestrian facilities
Hunting/Target Shooting												GIS Analysis show adequate level of service statewide
Camping												
Multi-Use Water Access												Continue coordination with Chesapeake Bay Watershed Plan efforts
Mountain Bicycling												Explore statewide collaboration with IMBA & local clubs
ORV Parks and Trails												Continue public outreach, evaluate partnerships and disturbed areas
Access for people with disabilities												
Bird Watching / Wildlife Viewing												
Natural Resource and Outdoor Recreation Activities												
Walking/Hiking												Focus on trail development & statewide connectivity as first priority.
Visiting historic/cultural sites												Not addressed by LOS, except to deliberately exclude it as more appropriate topic for other agencies
Picnicking												
Environmental literacy programs												
Outdoor Classrooms/Field Trips/Children in Nature												Improve transportation opportunities
Equestrian												Improve signage on multi-use trails, user education to reduce conflicts
Water based recreation												
Visiting natural areas												Existing coverage is quite good, vast majority of state within five miles of a natural area-- could reach 100% coverage by filling few service gaps
Fishing												Gaps in Central Region around Baltimore and Washington D.C.
Off Road Vehicle Use												ORV community mobilized for the online survey
Bird Watching / Wildlife Viewing												
Camping												
Public Involvement / Communications / Marketing												
Public doesn't know what's out there												Cross promote with local agencies via social media, web links, events
Promote trails and connection to health/livability												Work with Communications Team to revamp messaging and brand
Cross marketing and promotions												Incorporate multi-disciplinary approach to promotion beyond DNR
Technology improvements needed												Coordinate local GIS data layer alignment with DNR gap analysis
Reinforce trends in recreation programming												Cross promote trends between MRPA and DNR publications
Lack of time for participating in outdoor activities												Explore "Take Time to Play" campaign or similar
Advocacy and volunteerism												Collaborate with local agencies for broader message to policy makers
Program and User Fees												
Expand access in underserved areas												