

Oregon Resident Outdoor Recreation Demand Analysis – Clackamas County Summary

2013-2017 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Supporting
Documentation

Randall Rosenberger
Kreg Lindberg

Oregon State University College of Forestry

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Background

In preparation for the 2013-2017 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) contracted with Oregon State University (OSU) to conduct a statewide survey of Oregon residents regarding their 2011 outdoor recreation participation in Oregon, as well as their opinions about parks and recreation management. This report summarizes key findings of the survey for Clackamas County. For review of statewide survey results, please see the full survey report, Oregon Resident Outdoor Recreation Demand Analysis, online at: http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PLANS/docs/scorp/2013-2018_SCORP/Demand_Analysis.pdf

Survey Methodology

The survey was conducted using a random sample of Oregon households. In order to generate sufficient responses for each county, the sample was stratified by county. Separate random samples were drawn from each county. Surveying Oregonians consisted of 50,150 mail outs, with 46,348 of the surveys deliverable (92%). Of those delivered, 8,860 completed surveys were obtained, for an overall response rate of 19%. This response rate is typical of statewide, general population surveys that are long and do not include token financial incentives. Sample data were weighted to represent county-level population proportions and statewide age-related proportions. For a detailed description of the survey methodology, please see the full survey report at the web link provided above.

Outdoor Recreation Activities

Based on previous SCORP outdoor recreation activity lists and input from the SCORP steering committee comprised of parks and recreation managers across Oregon, seventy (70) recreation activities were identified as important recreation activity types. These activities were grouped into eight (8) categories, including Non-motorized Trail Activities, Motorized Activities, Non-motorized Snow Activities, Outdoor Leisure / Sporting Activities, Nature Study Activities, Vehicle-based Camping Activities, Fishing / Hunting / Shooting Activities, and Non-motorized Water-based and Beach Activities.

User Occasions and Participation in Outdoor Recreation

User occasions (number of times people engage in an activity) and percent of the population that participates in an activity are presented for Clackamas County in the following tables. The top activities for Clackamas County both user occasions (based on where the activity occurred) and proportion of Clackamas County residents are included in Table 1. County totals for all seventy recreation activities are included in Table 2.

Table 1. Top Ten Activities in Clackamas County, 2011

User Occasions Where Activity Occurred		% Population Participating	
Activity	User Occasions	Activity	% Population Participating
Walking on local streets / sidewalks	29,253,655	Walking on local streets / sidewalks	58.0
Dog walking / going to dog parks / off-leash areas	8,837,299	Walking on local trails / paths	56.3
Walking on local trails / paths	7,148,333	Sightseeing / driving or motorcycling for pleasure	52.9
Relaxing, hanging out, escaping heat / noise, etc.	6,891,721	Beach activities – ocean	51.4
General play at a neighborhood park / playground	6,731,166	Attending outdoor concerts, fairs, festivals.	49.0
Jogging / running on streets / sidewalks	4,755,087	Picnicking	46.1
Walking / day hiking on non-local trails / paths	3,963,481	Walking / day hiking on non-local trails / paths	45.0
Sightseeing / driving or motorcycling for pleasure	2,893,600	Relaxing, hanging out, escaping heat / noise, etc.	44.9
Bicycling on roads, streets /sidewalks	2,848,907	Visiting historic sites / history-themed parks	42.0
Picnicking	2,621,670	General play at a neighborhood park / playground	39.2

Table 2. User Occasions and Participation in Outdoor Recreation Activities, Clackamas County Residents, 2011

Activity	User Occasions	% Population Participating
Non-motorized Trail Activities		
Walking on local streets / sidewalks	29,253,655	58.0
Walking on local trails / paths	7,148,333	56.3
Walking / day hiking on non-local trails / paths	3,963,481	45.0
Long-distance hiking (back packing)	403,243	7.9
Jogging / running on streets / sidewalks	4,755,087	15.8
Jogging / running on trails / paths	1,521,214	9.3
Horseback riding	1,114,532	5.7
Bicycling on unpaved trails	426,078	6.6
Bicycling on paved trails	862,654	20.9
Bicycling on roads, streets / sidewalks	2,848,907	22.3
Bicycle touring on paved roads / paths (long day / multi-day rides)*		14.6
Motorized Activities^{22.3}		
Class I – All-terrain vehicle riding (3 & 4 wheel ATVs, straddle seat and handle bars)	744,803	8.8
Class II – Off-road 4-wheel driving (jeeps, pick-ups, dune buggies, SUVs)	336,916	8.4
Class III – Off-road motorcycling	247,187	4.1
Class IV – Riding UTVs / side-by-side ATVs (non-straddle seat, driver and passenger sit side-by-side in the vehicle, steering wheel for steering control)	25,022	1.2
Snowmobiling	6,009	1.5
Personal water craft – jet ski	61,778	3.3
Power boating (cruising / water skiing)	487,034	16.2
Non-motorized Snow Activities		
Downhill (alpine) skiing / snowboarding	1,774,887	14.7
Cross-country / Nordic skiing / skijoring on groomed trails	115,702	4.3
Cross-country / Nordic skiing / skijoring on ungroomed trails / off designated trails	106,901	2.1
Snowshoeing	196,685	5.5
Sledding, tubing, or general snow play	551,123	24.6
Outdoor Leisure / Sporting Activities		
Sightseeing / driving or motorcycling for pleasure	2,893,600	52.9
Picnicking	2,621,670	46.1
General play at a neighborhood park / playground	6,731,166	39.2
Dog walking / going to dog parks / off-leash areas	8,837,299	27.4
Relaxing, hanging out, escaping heat / noise, etc.	6,891,721	44.9
Attending outdoor concerts, fairs, festivals	687,999	49.0
Tennis (played outdoors)	128,563	4.6
Outdoor court games other than tennis (basketball, beach volleyball, badminton, etc.)	561,372	10.0
Baseball / softball	614,296	6.7
Football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby, ultimate frisbee	849,694	7.8

Activity	User Occasions	% Population Participating
Golf	499,100	14.6
Disc golf	153,757	6.5
Skateboarding, inline skating, roller skating, roller skiing	159,260	3.0
Rock climbing, bouldering, mountaineering	38,403	1.7
Orienteering, geocaching	225,023	4.0
Hang gliding, sky diving, paragliding	7,919	<1.0
Visiting historic sites / history-themed parks (history-oriented museums, outdoor displays, visitor centers, etc.)	443,659	42.0
Nature Study Activities		
Bird watching	1,297,761	9.7
Whale watching	-	12.0
Exploring tidepools	-	27.7
Other nature / wildlife / forest / wildflower observation	1,636,015	22.3
Visiting botanical gardens	17,437	9.4
Visiting nature centers	170,857	12.1
Outdoor photography, painting, drawing	1,074,764	13.6
Collecting (rocks, plants, mushrooms, berries)	853,904	13.0
Vehicle-based Camping Activities		
RV / motorhome / trailer camping	357,732	17.4
Car camping with a tent	595,934	31.2
Motorcycle camping with a tent	128,179	1.5
Yurts / camper cabins	62,837	6.5
Fishing, Hunting, Shooting Activities		
Fly fishing	63,725	3.2
Fishing from a boat (other than fly fishing)	195,652	14.6
Fishing from a bank or shore (other than fly fishing)	635,862	12.4
Crabbing	-	11.3
Shellfishing / clamming	-	6.9
Big game hunting with a gun	51,705	7.1
Big game hunting with a bow	6,421	1.9
Waterfowl hunting	152,488	2.0
Upland bird or small game hunting	3,373	2.9
Target / skeet shooting / archery	539,843	7.1
Non-motorized Water-based and Beach Activities		
White-water canoeing, kayaking, rafting	260,848	11.1
Flat-water canoeing, sea kayaking, rowing, stand-up paddling, tubing / floating	344,994	11.2
Surfing / ocean stand-up paddling	-	<1.0
Windsurfing / kiteboarding	<1,000	<1.0
Sailing	1,467	2.8
Beach activities – ocean	-	51.4
Beach activities – lakes, reservoirs, rivers	1,469,374	29.0
Swimming / playing in outdoor pools / spray parks	1,078,274	18.9
Snorkeling / SCUBA diving	420,281	<1.0

*Bicycle touring was asked as a separate question regarding participation only.

Camping Likelihood and Priority Needs

This set of questions asked people to rate various camping types using 5-point Likert scales according to the likelihood of using a type of camping when or if the individual went camping at an Oregon State Park campground (1 = Not at all likely to 5 = Very likely), and to rate their perceived need for more of each type of camping near the individual's community (1 = Lowest priority need to 5 = Highest priority need).

For Clackamas County residents, drive-in tent sites had the highest likelihood of use, while hiker-biker sites had the lowest likelihood of use (Table 3). Drive-in tent sites had the highest priority need, while RV sites had the lowest priority need.

Table 3. Likelihood and Priority Need for Camping Type, Clackamas County

Camping Type	How likely to use camping type in state park*	Level of priority need for camping type near your community*
RV sites	2.2	2.1
Cabins or yurts w/ heat, lights	3.1	2.8
Cabins or yurts w/ heat, lights, bathroom, kitchen	3.1	2.9
Drive-in tent sites	3.8	3.2
Hike-in tent sites	2.6	2.6
Hiker-biker sites	1.9	2.2
Other type	2.5	2.8

* Means scores for 5-point Likert Scale (1 = "Not at all likely" or "Lowest priority need" to 5 = "Very likely" or "Highest priority need")

Priorities for the Future

Survey participants were asked about their opinions on priorities for the future in and near their community. Respondents were asked to rate several items for investment by park and forest agencies using a 5-point Likert scale (1 = Lowest priority need to 5 = Highest priority need). Items were developed by the steering committee, representing several municipal-type areas and beyond.

Table 4 reports Clackamas County results, with items listed in descending order by mean priority ratings. The top priority needs for Clackamas County residents are soft surface walking trails, access to waterways, picnic areas for small groups and playgrounds with natural materials (Natural Play Areas). Off-street bicycle trails, nature and wildlife viewing areas and paved walking trails rated high as well. Tennis and basketball courts, baseball / softball fields and off-highway vehicle trails / areas rated the lowest on priority investments.

Table 4. Priorities for the Future, What Park and Forest Agencies Should Invest In, Clackamas County—Mean For 5-Point Likert (1 = “Lowest priority need” to 5 = “Highest priority need”)

Item	Mean
Dirt / other soft surface walking trails and paths	3.8
Public access sites to waterways	3.5
Picnic areas and shelters for <u>small</u> visitor groups	3.4
Children’s playgrounds and play areas made of natural materials (logs, water, sand, boulders, hills, trees)	3.3
Off-street bicycle trails and pathways	3.2
Nature and wildlife viewing areas	3.2
Paved / hard surface walking trails and paths	3.1
Off-leash dog areas	3.0
Picnic areas and shelters for <u>large</u> visitor groups	2.9
Designated paddling routes for canoes, kayaks, rafts, driftboats	2.9
Children’s playgrounds and play areas built with manufactured structures like swing sets, slides, and climbing apparatuses	2.8
Community gardens	2.8
Multi-use fields for soccer, football, lacrosse, etc.	2.8
Baseball / softball fields	2.6
Off-highway vehicle trails / areas	2.6
Basketball courts	2.4
Outdoor tennis courts	2.2

Value and Delivery for Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services

Clackamas County residents that participated in outdoor recreation activities were also asked their opinions related to the benefits provided by park and recreation agencies. First, respondents were asked to rate each benefit type based on how valued it is using a 5-point Likert scale (1 = Least valued to 5 = Most valued). Next, they were asked to rate how well park and recreation agencies are currently delivering each benefit type using a similar scale (1 = Currently does not deliver at all to 5 = Currently delivers extremely well).

Ranging from a mean score of 2.9 to 4.4 on the 5-point scale, improving physical health, preserve open space and community desirability rated the highest valued in Clackamas County. Lowest valued benefits in Clackamas County included promote tourism, help attract new residents / businesses and provide opportunities for social interaction. Delivery of benefits ranged from a mean score of 2.8 to 3.4, with community desirability, improve physical health, preserve open space and preserve historical features rated the highest delivered in Clackamas County. Lowest delivered benefits in Clackamas County included promote tourism, help attract new residents / businesses, increase property values and help reduce crime.

Table 5. Value and Delivery for Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services, Clackamas County

Value For Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services—Mean for 5-point Likert (1 = "Least valued" to 5 = "Most valued")		Delivery of Benefits of Parks and Recreation Services—Mean for 5-point Likert (1 = "Currently does not deliver at all" to 5 = "Currently delivers extremely well")	
Benefit	Value Mean	Benefit	Delivery Mean
Improve physical health and fitness	4.4	Make your community a more desirable place to live	3.4
Preserve open space and the environment	4.4	Improve physical health and fitness	3.3
Make your community a more desirable place to live	4.2	Preserve open space and the environment	3.3
Improve mental health and reduce stress	4.1	Preserve historical features in your community	3.2
Help reduce crime	3.9	Provide opportunities for social interaction	3.1
Preserve historical features in your community	3.8	Enhance a sense of place and community	3.1
Enhance a sense of place and community	3.8	Improve mental health and reduce stress	3.0
Increase property values in your community	3.6	Help reduce crime	2.9
Provide opportunities for social interaction	3.4	Increase property values in your community	2.9
Help attract new residents and businesses	2.9	Help attract new residents and businesses	2.9
Promote tourism	2.9	Promote tourism	2.8