

2021 Access to Outdoor Recreation Survey Results

1. How important is it to you and any other persons living in your household to have access to outdoor recreation opportunities? (Please choose one)

	Response Count	Response Percentage
Not Very Important	26	0%
Important	254	6%
Very Important	3501	92%
Total Responses	3781	

2. When do you and others in your household most often participate in outdoor recreation activities? (Please choose one)

	Response Count	Response Percentage
No one in my household participates in outdoor recreation activities	12	0%
Mostly on weekends	1595	42%
Mostly during the week	167	4%
About equally on weekends and during the week	2006	53%
Total Responses	3780	

3. Do you or anyone in your household face any of the following issues that limit or prevent you from visiting parks? (Please choose all that apply.)

	Response Count	Response Percentage
Health issues	233	8%
Physical mobility issues	335	11%
Lack of time	1625	57%
Lack of parks nearby	1140	40%
Transportation issues	156	5%
Lack of money to travel to or pay entry fees at parks	527	18%
Don't enjoy being outside	15	0%
Other	227	8%
Total Responses	2823	

4. What would improve you or your household members' ability to visit and use parks? (Please choose all that apply.)

	Response Count	Response Percentage
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Facilities	285	10%
Parking	1004	38%
Hours of operation	1007	38%
Signs	608	23%
Other	847	32%
Total Responses	2628	

5. Have you ever avoided visiting a trail or park because it was too crowded?

	Response Count	Response Percentage
Yes	2830	75%
No	929	24%
Total Responses	3759	

6. What do you consider a close-to-home park?

	Response Count	Response Percentage
Within a 5 - 10 minute walk	382	10%
Within a 10 - 20 minute walk	513	13%

Within a 10 - 20 minute bike ride	274	7%
Within a 20 - 30 minute bike ride	139	3%
Within a 15 – 30 minute drive	2454	65%
Total Responses	3762	

7. Do you have access to any of the following? (Please choose all that apply.)

	Response Count	Response Percentage
Community park within a 5-15 minute walk	1675	46%
Regional park within a 10-20 minute drive	2462	67%
State park within a 45-60 minute drive	3088	85%
Total Responses	3624	

8. What are the main reasons you participate in outdoor recreation? (Please select your top 3 choices.)

	Response Count	Response Percentage
I don't participate in outdoor recreation (Please feel free to skip to 9)	9	0%
Physical activity/exercise	2925	77%
Social aspects (being with family, friends, like-minded people, meeting new people)	1842	48%
Taking a break from the routine/reducing stress/improving mental health	2703	71%
Experiencing excitement or adventure	1645	43%
Experiencing nature	3202	84%
Personal development (develop skills and abilities, sense of accomplishment, self-confidence)	934	24%
Experiencing solitude	1543	40%
Doing competitive events	358	9%
Other	278	7%
Total Responses	3777	

9. How do you usually find out about outdoor recreation opportunities? (Please choose all that apply.)

	Response Count	Response Percentage
Internet	3095	82%
Bulletin boards at parks	484	12%
Printed travel guides, pamphlets, and brochures	706	18%
Magazine and newspaper articles	599	15%
Television ads	144	3%
Newspaper/magazine/print ads	351	9%
Radio ads	230	6%
Other advertisements	146	3%
Social media	2650	70%
Word of mouth	2597	69%
Other	138	3%
Total Responses	3748	

10. Please indicate which of the following outdoor recreation facilities you feel are MOST NEEDED in Virginia. (Please select your top 3 choices.) Access to:

	Response Count	Response Percentage
Historic areas	632	16%
Natural areas – passive recreation only (IE. hiking Trails, soft launch sites, minimal parking)	2162	57%
Parks – developed areas for active recreation (IE paved trails, larger accessible parking areas, hardened launch sites)	1452	38%
Playing fields, sports and golf facilities	255	6%
Scenic drives (driving for pleasure)	558	14%
Long-distance Trails (for a range of uses including equestrians, electric bikes, jogging, etc.)	1912	50%
Water access (for boating, wading, fishing)	1363	36%
Playgrounds	552	14%
Overnight facilities (campgrounds, cabins, yurts)	1460	38%
Swimming areas	909	24%

Other	600	15%
Total Responses	3767	

11. Has the COVID-19 pandemic affected how you recreate outside?

	Response Count	Response Percentage
I recreate outside more often	1563	41%
I recreate outside less often	286	7%
My recreation has not been impacted	1918	50%
Total Responses	3767	

12. Has COVID-19 made you want more local places to experience outdoor recreation?

	Response Count	Response Percentage
Yes	3074	82%
No	659	17%
Total Responses	3733	

13. Zipcode

Total Responses	3781
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14. Age (optional)

	Response Count	Response Percentage
18-24 years old	103	2%
25-34 years old	643	17%
35-44 years old	1293	35%
45-54 years old	586	15%
55-64 years old	592	16%
65-74 years old	384	10%
75 years old or older	85	2%
Total Responses	3686	

15. Race (optional)

	Response Count	Response Percentage
White	3131	91%
Black or African American	61	1%
Hispanic or Latino	70	2%
Native American or American Indian	19	0%
Asian / Pacific Islander	60	1%
Other	92	2%
Total Responses	3433	

16. Gender (optional)

	Response Count	Response Percentage
Female	2099	59%
Male	1370	39%
Other	38	1%
Total Responses	3507	

