

# 2013 SCORP Highlights

One of the main tools State Parks uses to gauge public demand for recreation activities and facilities is the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), a document prepared by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) every five years. In developing SCORP, RCO led a multi-pronged public engagement process to analyze demographic trends, recreation participation levels, constraints to recreation participation, and recreation equity.

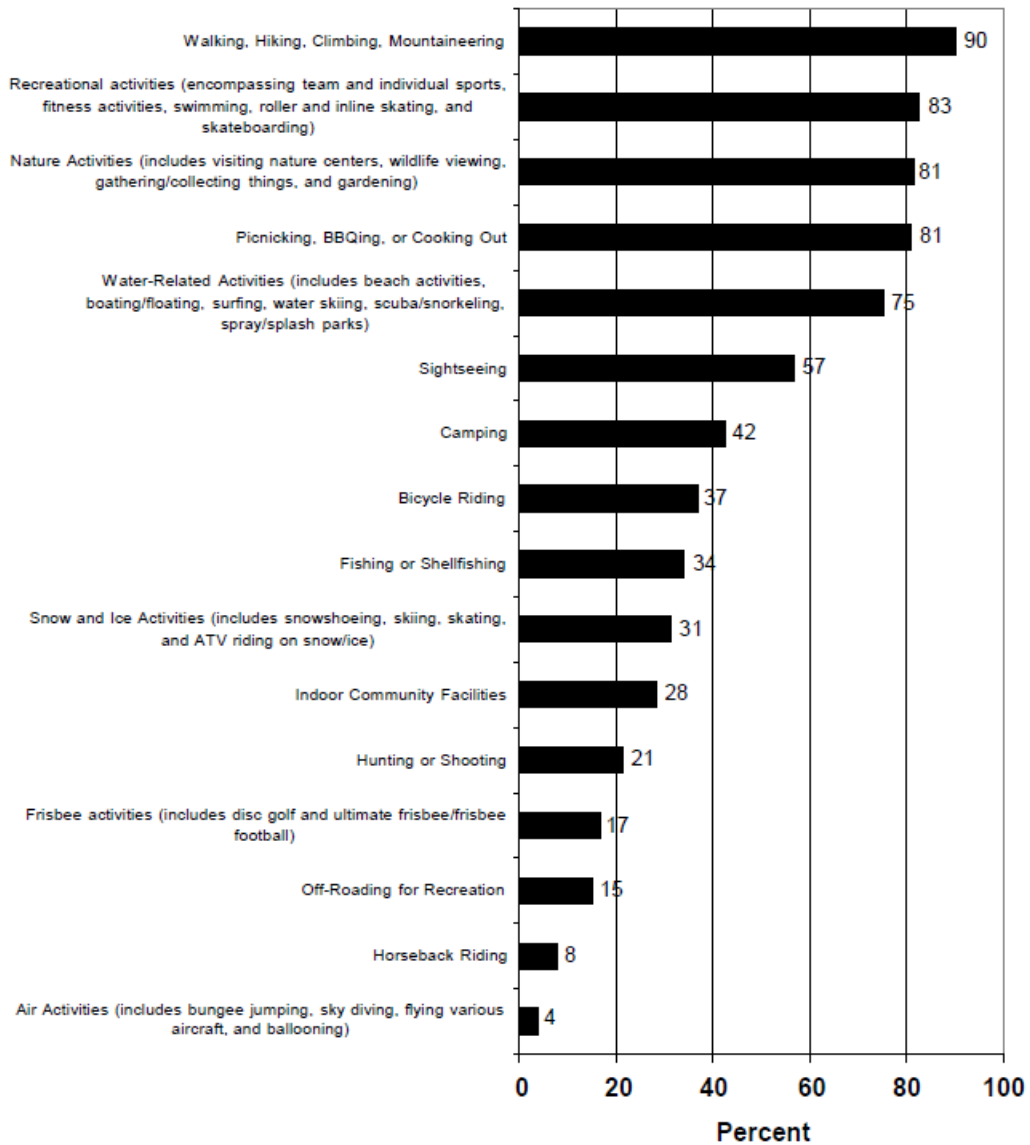
The 2013 SCORP identified three major demographic trends that will need to be considered by State Parks in outdoor recreation planning:

1. Urbanization. With more people in Washington living in urban areas, it becomes more important for State Parks to focus on its urban gateway parks , which are better positioned to serve more of the state’s population.
2. Increases in minority populations. As the state’s minority populations increase, State Parks will need to better tailor its recreational offerings to those populations.
3. Aging population. The state’s population is aging, so State Parks should consider providing recreation opportunities that are accessible to and popular among older people, including less strenuous nature-based activities.

SCORP identified the most popular recreation activities in the state, many of which can be done in state parks. The graph below shows that walking, hiking, climbing, and mountaineering had the highest levels of participation, but breaking that category down further shows that walking without a pet is enjoyed by 71% of the state’s residents, while hiking is enjoyed by 54%, walking with a pet by 52%, and climbing or mountaineering by 10%.

Similarly, 81% of Washington residents report participating in nature-based activities. That is made up of wildlife viewing and photography (59%), gardening (57%), visiting nature interpretive centers (29%), and gathering or collecting things in a nature setting (27%).

**Percent of residents participating in any of the activities in the category.**



The table below shows participation rates in all 71 individual activities that SCORP analyzed. Eight of the top ten recreational activities in the state are commonly found in state parks.

**Table 3.1a: Participation Rates in Outdoor Recreation in Washington.**

Activity	Activity Category	Percent of Washington State Residents Participating in Activity
Picnicking, BBQing, or cooking out	Picnicking, BBQing, or cooking out	80.9
Walking without a pet	Walking, hiking, climbing, mountaineering	71.3
Wildlife viewing/photographing	Nature activities	59.0
Sightseeing	Sightseeing	56.8
Gardening, flowers or vegetables	Nature activities	56.7
Hiking	Walking, hiking, climbing, mountaineering	53.9
Walking with a pet	Walking, hiking, climbing, mountaineering	51.6
Camping	Camping	42.4
Swimming or wading at beach	Water-related activities	38.8
Swimming in pool	Recreational activities	38.2
Aerobics or fitness activities, but not weights	Recreational activities	37.8
Bicycle riding	Bicycle riding	36.9
Playground use	Recreational activities	36.9
Jogging or running	Recreational activities	36.2
Swimming in natural waters	Recreational activities	35.7
Fishing or shellfishing	Fishing or Shellfishing	34.1
Beachcombing	Water-related activities	32.6
Visiting nature interpretive center	Nature activities	29.2
Indoor community facilities	Indoor community facilities	28.4
Weight conditioning	Recreational activities	27.6
Gathering/collecting things in nature setting	Nature activities	27.2
Boating—motorboating other than personal watercraft	Water-related activities	24.8
Shooting	Hunting or shooting	17.4
Inner tubing or floating	Water-related activities	17.1
Basketball	Recreational activities	16.8
Sledding, inner tubing, or other snow play	Snow and ice activities	15.5
Golf	Recreational activities	15.5
Off-Roading for Recreation	Off-roading for recreation	15.3
Boating—canoeing, kayaking, rowing, manual craft	Water-related activities	11.1
Skiing, downhill	Snow and ice activities	10.4
Volleyball	Recreational activities	10.3
Tennis	Recreational activities	10.1
Climbing or mountaineering	Walking, hiking, climbing, mountaineering	10.0
Hunting	Hunting or shooting	9.4
Using a splash park	Water-related activities	8.1
Softball	Recreational activities	7.8
Horseback riding	Horseback riding	7.7
Water skiing	Water-related activities	7.4
Snowboarding	Snow and ice activities	7.1
Soccer	Recreational activities	7.0
Snowshoeing	Snow and ice activities	6.7
Using a spray park	Water-related activities	6.4
Badminton	Recreational activities	6.0

**Table 3.1b: Participation Rates in Outdoor Recreation in Washington (continued).**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Activity Category</b>	<b>Percent of Washington State Residents Participating in Activity</b>
Baseball	Recreational activities	5.4
Football	Recreational activities	5.3
Boating—using personal watercraft	Water-related activities	5.2
Roller or inline skating	Recreational activities	4.7
Skiing, cross country	Snow and ice activities	4.5
Frisbee—disc golf (also called frisbee golf)	Frisbee activities	4.5
Handball, racquetball, or squash	Recreational activities	4.2
Snorkeling	Water-related activities	3.7
Boating—sail boating	Water-related activities	3.5
Ice skating	Snow and ice activities	3.3
Frisbee—ultimate frisbee or frisbee football	Frisbee activities	3.0
Skateboarding	Recreational activities	2.9
Boating—whitewater rafting	Water-related activities	2.8
Snowmobiling	Snow and ice activities	2.7
ATV riding on snow or ice	Snow and ice activities	2.4
Surfboarding	Water-related activities	2.1
Scuba or skin diving	Water-related activities	1.6
Flying gliders, ultralights, or other aircraft	Air activities	1.5
Wind surfing	Water-related activities	1.0
Sky diving/parachuting from plane/glider	Air activities	0.8
Bungee jumping	Air activities	0.6
Ice hockey	Snow and ice activities	0.5
Lacrosse	Recreational activities	0.4
Paragliding or hang gliding	Air activities	0.2
Hot air ballooning	Air activities	0.2
Taking chartered sightseeing flight	Air activities	0.2
Rugby	Recreational activities	0.2
Base jumping	Air activities	0.0

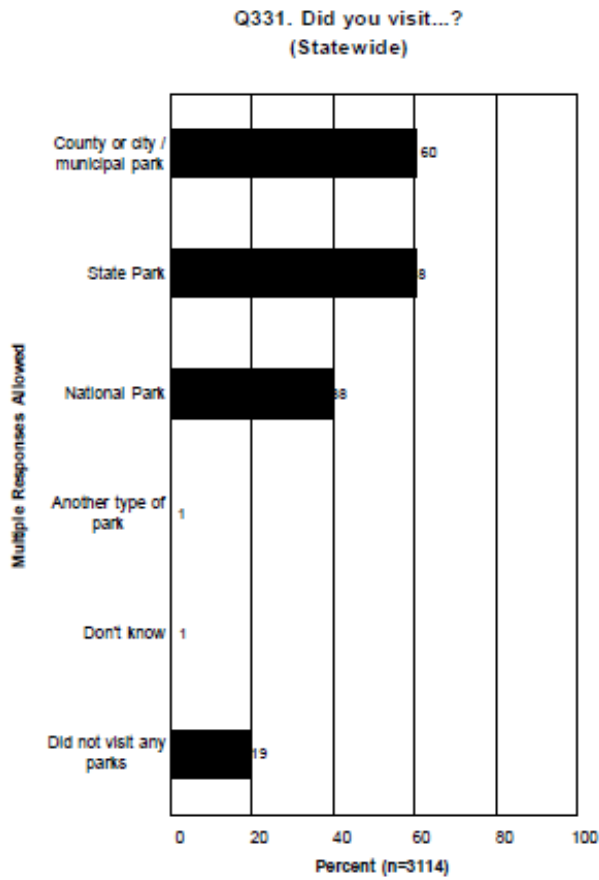
SCORP also analyzed children’s recreational participation rates by surveying parents about the activities their children did outside of school. All of the top ten children’s activities are commonly done in state parks.

**Table 3.3a: Children's Participation in Outdoor Recreation in Washington.**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Percent of Residents With Children Whose Children Participate in the Activity</b>
Picnicking, BBQing, or cooking out	45
Walking	43
Hiking	41
Playground use	39
Sightseeing	39
Camping	38
Swimming	37
Bicycle riding	29
Boating	27
Nature activities	25
Fishing or shellfishing	22
Jogging or running	21
Beachcombing	20
Gardening, flower or vegetable	17
Sledding, inner tubing, or other snow play	16
Basketball	16
Soccer	14
Indoor community facility use	13
Frisbee activities	12
Aerobics or fitness activities, but not weights	12
Using a splash or spray park	12
Baseball	11
Skiing or snowboarding	10
Dog park use	9
Off-roading for recreation	9
Hunting or shooting	8
Horseback riding	8
Skateboarding	7
Football	7
Tennis	7
Volleyball	6
Climbing or mountaineering	6
Roller or inline skating	5
Golf	5
Skiing, cross country	5
Weight conditioning	5
Ice skating	5
Softball	4
Badminton	4
Water skiing	3
Snowmobiling or ATV riding on snow or ice	3
Snorkeling	3

The SCORP survey asked Washington residents about park use, regardless of the particular activities the respondents participated in. 80% of residents had visited a park in the year prior to the survey, and 58% of residents reported visiting a state park. State parks were nearly as popular as county or city parks in the survey.

**Figure 3.14: Residents' Visitation to Parks in Washington.**



SCORP also analyzed participation rates among people of different demographics. The table below shows which activities are significantly more popular among either younger or older Washington residents. This is important information because, as mentioned earlier, the state's population is aging. This table shows that the majority of people older than the mean age of 46 still enjoy walking, but hiking is much more popular with younger people than with older people.

**Table 3.16: Activities With Marked Differences in Participation Between Younger and Older Residents.**

	Activity	Percent Participation by Those Younger Than the Mean Age*	Percent Participation by Those Mean Age* or Older	Percentage Point Difference
More Older	Gardening, flowers or vegetables	49.96	64.90	14.94
	Visiting nature interpretive center	25.24	31.89	6.65
	Beachcombing	29.71	36.03	6.32
Excludes all activities with a difference of less than 5.00 percentage points				
More Younger	Walking without a pet	74.74	69.63	5.11
	Frisbee activities	19.73	14.60	5.12
	Boating—any boating	38.68	33.30	5.39
	Softball	10.78	5.19	5.60
	Aerobics or fitness activities, but not weights	41.12	35.35	5.77
	Baseball	8.45	2.52	5.93
	Fishing or shellfishing	38.09	31.77	6.33
	Roller or inline skating	7.94	1.57	6.37
	Boating—motorboating other than personal watercraft	28.66	21.98	6.69
	Climbing or mountaineering	13.75	6.96	6.80
	Weight conditioning	31.54	24.49	7.05
	Volleyball	14.81	6.78	8.03
	Using a spray park	10.98	2.65	8.33
	Hunting or shooting	26.74	18.05	8.69
	Off-roading for recreation	20.84	11.90	8.94
	Using a splash park	12.80	3.76	9.04
	Tennis	15.32	5.84	9.47
	Snowboarding	11.99	2.42	9.58
	Football	10.32	0.72	9.60
	Soccer	12.39	2.01	10.38
	Bicycle riding	42.65	31.95	10.70
	Inner tubing or floating	23.14	12.38	10.76
	Swimming or wading at beach	45.77	33.01	12.76
	Snow and ice activities	38.54	25.35	13.19
	Basketball	24.72	10.74	13.98
	Camping	50.21	35.98	14.22
Sledding, inner tubing, or other snow play	24.00	8.58	15.42	
Hiking	63.53	46.46	17.07	
Field sports	20.08	2.50	17.58	
Swimming in pool	48.18	29.01	19.17	
Swimming in natural waters	45.95	26.46	19.49	
Playground use	47.75	26.83	20.93	
Jogging or running	50.90	22.86	28.05	

\*The mean age in the survey is among residents 18 years old and older; for this reason, the mean age in the survey is older than the mean age overall, which includes children.

SCORP also found differences in participation rates among people of different ethnicities. Non-white people (black/African-American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, Asian, and other ethnicities) participate in fitness-related activities in higher numbers than white people do, while white people have higher participation rates in boating, beachcombing, and walking with a pet.



**Table 3.17: Activities With Marked Differences in Participation Between White and Non-White Residents.**

	Activity	Percent Participation by Those Identifying Themselves as White	Percent Participation by Those Identifying Themselves as Non-White	Percentage Point Difference
More Non-White	Jogging or running	34.44	46.22	11.77
	Aerobics or fitness activities, but not weights	36.86	46.94	10.09
	Tennis	9.95	15.82	5.87
	Swimming in pool	38.45	44.30	5.85
	Basketball	16.01	21.62	5.61
	Weight conditioning	26.71	32.28	5.57
	Surfboarding	1.67	6.75	5.08
Excludes all activities with a difference of less than 5.00 percentage points				
More White	Visiting nature interpretive center	29.13	23.55	5.59
	Skiing, downhill	10.82	4.21	6.61
	Inner tubing or floating	18.53	11.66	6.87
	Gardening, flowers or vegetables	58.12	51.09	7.02
	Boating—canoeing, kayaking, rowing, manual craft	12.08	4.20	7.88
	Hunting or shooting	23.01	14.88	8.13
	Swimming or wading at beach	40.36	32.18	8.19
	Wildlife viewing/photographing	61.25	52.29	8.96
	Snow and ice activities	33.29	23.91	9.38
	Walking with a pet	53.50	44.06	9.45
	Boating—motorboating other than personal watercraft	26.07	15.25	10.82
	Gathering/collecting things in nature setting	28.49	17.28	11.22
	Beachcombing	34.09	21.03	13.06
	Boating—any boating	37.36	21.69	15.67

SCORP identified five demographic groups that have lower participation rates than others, and thus may be underserved:

1. People with disabilities
2. Non-white people
3. People older than 46
4. Women
5. People who live in urban or suburban areas

It may be that there are fewer recreational facilities that appeal to or are accessible by these groups. For example, many recreational facilities are not barrier-free, which would limit the number of people with disabilities who could recreate. These underserved groups are particularly eye-opening, given the demographic trends mentioned earlier, toward a more urban, ethnically diverse, and older population. State Parks will need to focus more on these underserved groups.