
Appendix
Select Mercer County Results
from the
Recreation Needs in Pennsylvania: Resident Survey

**Select Mercer County Results from the
Recreation Needs in Pennsylvania: Resident Survey
Conducted in Conjunction with the Pennsylvania State Recreation Plan
Developed by PA DCNR**

2. During an average week, how many hours do you usually spend on recreational activities away from your home?

Indoor 2.17 hours
Outdoor 7.13 hours

3a. What percentage of your recreational activities away from home take place at the following facilities?

Local 35%
State 24%
Federal 8%
Private/Commercial 38%
Don't Know 1%

3b. With whom do you typically recreate away from home?

Alone 13%
Groups of 1 or 2 people 36%
Groups of 3 or more people 37%

4a. How many times have you or anyone in your household visited public recreation areas?

In PA in last three months 4.97 visits	Out of PA in last three months 1.87 visits
In PA in last twelve months 13.84 visits	Out of PA in last twelve months 3.01 visits

4b. How long does it take you to travel to the recreation area in Pennsylvania you visited most often?

Average/Mean Response 34.6 minutes

5. Over the next five years, do you think your recreational activity will increase, decrease, or remain about the same?

Indoor recreation	Outdoor recreation
Increase 18%	Increase 39%
Decrease 13%	Decrease 11%
About the same 57%	About the same 41%
No Response 12%	No Response 9%

6. The following problems often cause people not to recreate. Please check any that kept you or your family from participating in recreational activities in the past year:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| ▪ Facilities too far away 17% | ▪ Fees and charges 15% |
| ▪ Facilities too crowded 13% | ▪ Not comfortable with other users 5% |
| ▪ Facilities poorly maintained 15% | ▪ Personal health problems 15% |
| ▪ Lack of facilities 24% | ▪ Not enough time 39% |
| ▪ Areas not safe 7% | ▪ Not enough money 21% |
| ▪ Lack of information 18% | ▪ Don't have the skills 2% |
| ▪ Lack of access for disabled people 8% | ▪ No one to recreate with 3% |
| ▪ Insects or animal pests 10% | ▪ Other 4% |
| ▪ Pollution problems 2% | |

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8a. How important is outdoor recreation to you?

4.03/5.00 Somewhat Important-Very Important/ No Response 2%

8b. How important is indoor recreation to you?

3.25/5.00 Neutral- Somewhat Important /No Response 2%

8c. How important are public recreation areas and opportunities to you?

3.75/5.00 Neutral- Somewhat Important /No Response 2%

8d. How important were public recreation areas and opportunities in choosing where you live or work?

2.74/5.00 Somewhat Unimportant-Neutral / No Response 4%

Mercer County Greenways, Open Space and Rural Recreation Plan

9. From the following list of recreational areas, please check those near where you live that you think are adequate, should be increased, or should be improved:

	Adequate / Increased / Improved / No Response
<u>Trail/Street/Road Activities</u>	
Walking Paths (indoor and outdoor)	45% / 27% / 9% / 19%
Jogging and Fitness Trails	36% / 23% / 10% / 31%
Hiking and Backpacking Trails	28% / 25% / 4% / 44%
Equestrian Trails	16% / 8% / 7% / 66%
Bicycle Paths	22% / 28% / 8% / 42%
Mountain Bike Trails	8% / 20% / 10% / 62%
Off-Road Motorcycling Trails	14% / 18% / 8% / 60%
ATV Trails	19% / 21% / 8% / 52%
Four-Wheel Driving Trails	18% / 17% / 4% / 61%
Scenic Drives	23% / 20% / 8% / 48%
Greenways	20% / 8% / 6% / 65%
<u>Viewing/Learning Activities</u>	
Environmental Education Areas	28% / 32% / 9% / 30%
Heritage Parks/Historical Sites	32% / 25% / 7% / 35%
Outdoor Performance Areas	21% / 26% / 11% / 42%
Wildlife Areas	37% / 31% / 7% / 25%
Natural Areas	30% / 31% / 11% / 28%
Wilderness Areas	30% / 33% / 8% / 29%
<u>Group Sports</u>	
Baseball Fields	39% / 11% / 18% / 32%
Softball Fields	37% / 10% / 13% / 39%
Football Fields	39% / 15% / 9% / 36%
Soccer Fields	34% / 14% / 14% / 38%
Basketball Courts	22% / 22% / 9% / 47%
Volleyball Courts	18% / 23% / 12% / 47%
Lacrosse Fields	15% / 8% / 8% / 69%
<u>Individual Sports</u>	
Skateboarding and Rollerblading Areas	7% / 37% / 8% / 48%
Handball Courts	22% / 15% / 3% / 60%
Tennis Courts	28% / 15% / 6% / 51%
Archery Ranges	19% / 26% / 4% / 51%
Rifle and Handgun Ranges	15% / 25% / 9% / 52%
Horseshoe Pits	19% / 13% / 5% / 62%
Golf Courses	51% / 8% / 2% / 38%
Disc Golf Courses	17% / 8% / 75%
<u>Winter Sports</u>	
Downhill Skiing and Snowboarding Areas	22% / 23% / 6% / 48%
Sledding Areas	8% / 44% / 5% / 42%
Cross-Country Ski Areas	20% / 25% / 3% / 51%
Ice Skating Areas	13% / 37% / 5% / 45%
Ice Hockey Rinks	19% / 22% / 4% / 54%
Snowmobile Trails	23% / 17% / 5% / 54%
<u>Hunting% / Trapping Areas</u>	
Big Game	35% / 19% / 4% / 42%
Small Game	37% / 17% / 4% / 42%
Waterfowl	37% / 13% / 3% / 53%
<u>Swimming</u>	
Indoor Pools	20% / 33% / 10% / 37%
Outdoor Pools	31% / 18% / 15% / 36%
Lake and Stream Swimming Areas	26% / 20% / 15% / 39%
Snorkeling and Scuba Areas	10% / 15% / 8% / 67%

Continued

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Social Activities

Picnic Areas	42% / 15% / 22% / 21%
Playgrounds	30% / 22% / 20% / 27%
Sitting and Passive Areas	34% / 22% / 10% / 34%
Senior Centers	33% / 25% / 13% / 29%
Community Recreation Centers	22% / 21% / 12% / 45%
Dog Parks	13% / 26% / 4% / 56%
Open Play Areas	23% / 21% / 13% / 43%

Camping

Campgrounds (with hookups)	23% / 21% / 15% / 41%
Campgrounds (without hookups)	32% / 12% / 12% / 45%
Cabin Rentals	23% / 30% / 8% / 39%

Boating and Floating

Boating Areas (non-motorized)	46% / 11% / 3% / 40%
Boating Areas (limited horsepower)	47% / 8% / 5% / 40%
Boating Areas (unlimited horsepower)	38% / 11% / 6% / 45%
Canoe and Kayak River Access	24% / 28% / 3% / 45%
Water Trails	22% / 17% / 6% / 55%

Fishing Areas

Warmwater	39% / 6% / 3% / 52%
Coldwater	36% / 5% / 4% / 55%
Ice	35% / 6% / 41% / 59%
Anadromous (e.g., Shad, Salmon)	19% / 6% / 2% / 73%
Special Regulation Areas	25% / 2% / 2% / 71%

10. Please check those recreational programs which should be expanded in your area:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| ▪ Arts and Crafts/Hobbies 26% | ▪ Fairs/Ethnic Cultural Events 19% |
| ▪ Athletics/Sports (tennis, golf, soccer, basketball, etc.) 22% | ▪ Fitness Programs 26% |
| ▪ Cultural Arts (theater, dance, music) 40% | ▪ Adult Education 10% |
| ▪ Environmental Education 18% | ▪ Senior Programs 30% |
| ▪ Before and After School Programs 34% | ▪ Preschool Programs 32% |
| ▪ Teen Programs 52% | ▪ Other 1% |

11. If you or someone you know is mentally or physically disabled, list the types of recreational resources near where you live that should be provided or expanded to meet their needs.

Facilities and equipment

- Fishing piers for wheelchairs, fishing areas
- Indoor sports, swimming
- Handicapped events
- Heated pools, health spa
- More in general
- Other
- Parking closer to trails
- Road side rest stops, bathrooms
- No Response 90%

Activities and programs

- Handicap accessibility
- More in general
- Support group, buddy system
- Sportsman activity, fish, hut
- Exercise program
- Horseback riding
- Other
- No response 88%

12. If you or someone you know is a senior citizen, list the types of recreational resources near where you live that should be provided or expanded to meet their needs.

Facilities and equipment

- Walking, hiking trails
- Benches, rail on trails
- Churches, public buildings
- Water sport, slides
- Affordable pools, swimming

- Senior programs
- Handicapped parking, ramps, access
- Equipment for the disabled
- Other
- No Response 88%

12. If you or someone you know is a senior citizen, list the types of recreational resources near where you live that should be provided or expanded to meet their needs.

Activities and programs

Lunches	Organized team sports
More in general	Exercise program, nutrition
Urban walking trails	No Response 91%
Public buildings	

13a. How satisfied are you with the recreation areas and opportunities available to you in Pennsylvania?

Municipal parks and recreation areas	3.63/5.00 Neutral-Agree
County parks and recreation areas	3.91/5.00 Neutral-Agree
State Parks	3.82/5.00 Neutral-Agree
State Forests	4.27/5.00 Agree-Strongly Agree
State Game Lands	4.47/5.00 Agree-Strongly Agree
Federal parks, forests, and recreation areas	4.38/5.00 Agree-Strongly Agree
Private recreation areas	4.26/5.00 Agree-Strongly Agree

13b. If you are unsatisfied, please help us understand by telling us why:

Municipal 21% / No Response 77%	State Forests 5% / No Response 95%
Offer more, very few	Need more in general
Unsafe conditions, unsupervised	Area not maintained
Offer more, very few	Allow ATV riding
Should be cleaned up, litter	State Game Lands 8% / No Response 92%
More for kids	Too much unused land
More funding	Area not maintained
Need walking, biking trails	Need more in general
Area not maintained	Need horse trails
Need more for adults, seniors	Federal 6% / No Response 94%
Need more parks and rec. areas	Improvements in general
Underuse of walking paths	Need more in general
County 14% / No Response 86%	Need more fishing
Area not maintained	Allegheny Forest too far away
Need more in general	Private 11% / No Response 89%
Access unavailable, not handicap accessible	Need more funding
Rec areas are being removed	Need general improvements
State Parks 11% / No Response 89%	Update play equipment
More in general	Not open at convenient times
Facilities not clean	Grove City College is not open to public
Area not maintained	Improve management, cleanliness
Need campgrounds	
Should allow pets	

14 - Open space and Greenways

- a. Open space near where I live is threatened by development
2.80/5.00 Disagree-Neutral / No Response 18%
- b. There is enough protected open space near where I live
3.21/5.00 Neutral-Agree / No Response 15%
- c. Public access to open space near where I live should be increased
3.06/5.00 Disagree-Neutral / No Response 18%
- d. Municipalities near where I live currently work together to protect and link park and open space resources
3.13 Disagree-Neutral /5.00 / No Response 16%
- e. It is important that greenways/trails connect neighborhoods and other elements of my community
3.46 Neutral-Agree /5.00 / No Response 15%
- f. It is important that greenways/trails connect municipalities and parks within Pennsylvania
3.63/5.00 Neutral-Agree / No Response 17%
- g. Streams and rivers are in good condition near where I live
2.83/5.00 Disagree-Neutral / No Response 14%

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- h. Streams and rivers are accessible near where I live
3.67/5.00 Neutral-Agree / No Response 13%

15 - Public recreation quality

- a. Public recreation areas near where I live are well maintained
3.44/5.00 Neutral-Agree / No Response 13%
- b. Public recreation areas near where I live are adequately policed
2.91/5.00 Disagree-Neutral / No Response 16%
- c. The environmental quality of public recreation areas near where I live is good
3.47 Neutral-Agree /5.00 / No Response 16%

16 - Public recreation availability

- a. There are enough public recreation areas close to where I live
3.28/5.00 Neutral-Agree / No Response 9%
- b. Public recreation areas near where I live are open at times convenient for me
3.54/5.00 Neutral-Agree / No Response 14%
- c. Public recreation areas and programs near where I live are accessible to people with physical and mental disabilities
3.51 /5.00 Neutral-Agree / No Response 17%
- d. Public transportation to recreation areas near where I live meets my needs
2.66/5.00 Disagree-Neutral / No Response 18%
- e. Maintaining the public recreation areas we now have is more important than adding new parks in Pennsylvania
3.56 Neutral-Agree /5.00 / No Response 13%
- f. Local government should do more to increase public awareness about the availability of recreation areas and opportunities
4.12 Agree-Strongly Agree /5.00 / No Response 14%
- g. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania should do more to increase awareness of recreation opportunities at State Parks and Forests
4.07/5.00 Agree-Strongly Agree / No Response 15%
- h. Municipalities in my area should join together to form a park and recreation department
3.55/5.00 Neutral-Agree / No Response 12%
- i. The availability of local recreation programs reduces youth crime
4.06/5.00 Agree-Strongly Agree / No Response 11%
- j. Parks and natural areas increase the value of nearby properties
4.20/5.00 Agree-Strongly Agree / No Response 13%
- k. Greenways and trails increase the value of nearby properties
3.88/5.00 Neutral-Agree / No Response 13%

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- 18a. My municipality should have a permanent source of funding based on general tax revenues for park and recreation opportunities
3.43/5.00 Neutral-Agree / No Response 12%

- 18b. The State should increase its permanent source of funding based on general tax revenues for park and recreation opportunities
3.41/5.00 Neutral-Agree / No Response 13%

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- 26. Do you use the internet?
56% Yes / 44% No / No Response 0%

- 27. Do you use the internet for information on your recreational pursuits?
48% Yes / 47% No / No Response 5%

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