

STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN COMPARISON REPORT



CONFLUENCE
OF STATES



OUTDOOR
RECREATION
ROUNDTABLE

**OUTDOOR
INDUSTRY.**
ASSOCIATION



SOCIETY OF OUTDOOR
RECREATION PROFESSIONALS



THE VF FOUNDATION



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HISTORY OF THE STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANS

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) process was established in the 1960s as a tool to guide the development and management of outdoor recreation resources by state to receive funding under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act. States must update their SCORP every five years. This allows states, tribes, and local governments, to apply for and receive LWCF matching grant funding for the acquisition and development of public parks and other outdoor recreation sites.

Over the years, some SCORPs have evolved to include a greater focus on public participation, stewardship, and equitable access to outdoor recreation opportunities.

The Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP) helps SCORP planners and consultants stay up-to-date on the latest trends and best practices in the field. Together, SCORP and SORP play an important role in enhancing access to the outdoors for each state's residents and visitors.



The Confluence of States is a bipartisan network of 16 state offices of outdoor recreation guided by four pillars: conservation and stewardship; education and workforce training; economic development; and public health and wellness.



SOCIETY OF OUTDOOR RECREATION PROFESSIONALS

Message From SORP's Executive Director & Confluence of States Chair

Since its founding in 1983, the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals has supported SCORP planners with training, best practices, and a learning community.

The SCORP Comparison Report is a new resource for planners and others interested in the value of outdoor recreation in their state to quickly and easily compare SCORPs across each state, district, or territory.

It is more clear than ever that outdoor recreation is essential for the physical, mental, and spiritual health of individuals and communities. SCORPs will continue to be an important tool for identifying key opportunities for enhancing access to the outdoors.



Rachel Franchina

SORP Executive Director



Brad Garmon

Confluence of States Chair



Expanding traditional definitions and approaches in the outdoor recreation community is essential for achieving larger goals. Collaboration enables us to share knowledge, resources, and ideas to get better outcomes. It has been an honor to work on this SCORP Comparison Report with SORP.

In my home state of Michigan, we just finalized our most recent SCORP update, and I was grateful to lead the team as we explored innovative data, new health partnerships and learned from state and national partners. My hope is this SCORP Comparison Report helps others do the same.

I am proud of the hard work that went into this report, and I am excited to see the positive impact it will have for people and communities across the country.

Why this report was developed.

We developed this report to compare SCORPs to each other, share differences and/or similarities, and raise the visibility of each plan's impact on a community. SCORPs are critical for ensuring the availability and sustainability of outdoor recreation resources.

Who this comparison report is for.

This report is for members of the outdoor recreation community including SCORP leaders who want to learn what other states are doing.



SCORPS
BY THE
NUMBERS

52

Plans including
Washington D.C.
and Puerto Rico

\$4B

Funds provided

6,000+

Pages

SCORP Directory

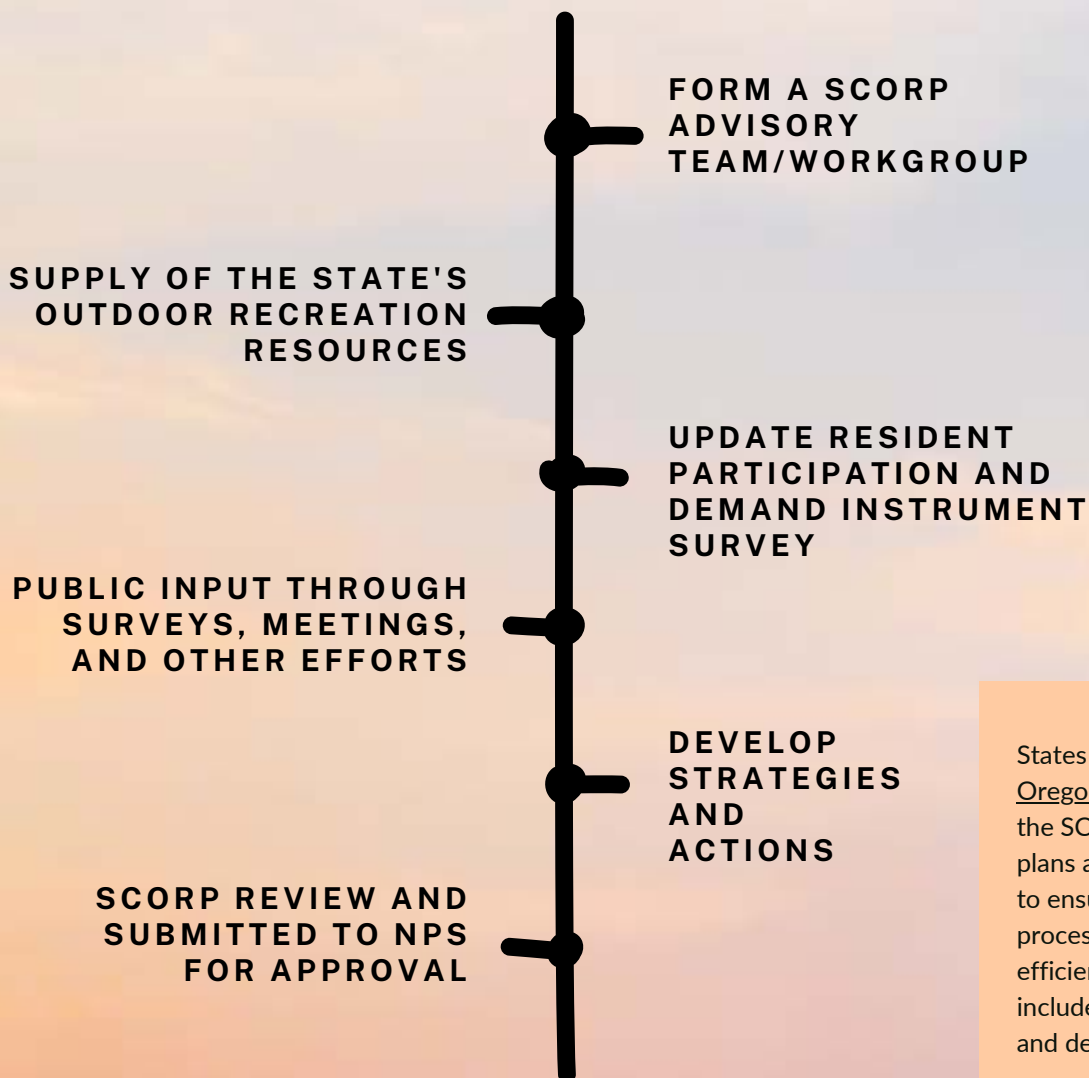
1. [Alabama](#)
2. [Alaska](#)
3. [Arizona](#)
4. [Arkansas](#)
5. [California](#)
6. [Colorado](#)
7. [Connecticut](#)
8. [Delaware](#)
9. [Florida](#)
10. [Georgia](#)
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12. [Idaho](#)
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24. [Mississippi](#)
25. [Missouri](#)
26. [Montana](#)
27. [Nebraska](#)
28. [Nevada](#)
29. [New Hampshire](#)
30. [New Jersey](#)
31. [New Mexico](#)
32. [New York](#)
33. [North Carolina](#)
34. [North Dakota](#)
35. [Ohio](#)
36. [Oklahoma](#)
37. [Oregon](#)
38. [Pennsylvania](#)
39. [Rhode Island](#)
40. [South Carolina](#)
41. [South Dakota](#)
42. [Tennessee](#)
43. [Texas](#)
44. [Utah](#)
45. [Vermont](#)
46. [Virginia](#)
47. [Washington](#)
48. [West Virginia](#)
49. [Wisconsin](#)
50. [Wyoming](#)

District and Territories

- [District of Columbia](#)
- [Puerto Rico](#)

SCORP Timeline

The SCORP timeline involves several steps often beginning two years before it is due to National Park Service. First, a group of stakeholders are brought together to form a SCORP Advisory Team. After, a thorough assessment of the state's outdoor recreation resources is conducted. Next, public input is gathered through surveys, meetings, and other outreach efforts. Based on this input, goals and objectives are established for the plan. Then, strategies and actions are developed to achieve these goals. The plan is drafted and reviewed by stakeholders, and any necessary revisions are made.



States like [Arizona](#) and [Oregon](#) include timelines of the SCORP process in their plans and on their websites to ensure that the planning process is transparent and efficient. These timelines include important milestones and deadlines.

SCORP Table of Contents

A table of contents is an essential component of any comprehensive report, including a SCORP. This plan serves as a blueprint for the development and management of outdoor recreational opportunities across a state. As such, it is likely to be a lengthy report with many sections and sub-sections.

A table of contents helps readers navigate the document easily and allows them to quickly locate the information they need. It also provides an overview of the report's structure and organization, allowing readers to gain a better understanding of the document's scope and purpose. Therefore, a well-constructed table of contents is crucial for ensuring the success of a SCORP.

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Statewide Outdoor Recreation Vision and Goals
- Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Development Process
- Public Input and Participation
- Demographics and Trends
- Statewide Inventory and Assessment of Outdoor Recreation Resources
- Statewide Needs and Demand Analysis
- Statewide Goals, Objectives, and Strategies
- Implementation and Action Plan
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Appendices (e.g. surveys, maps, etc.)



SCORP Executive Summaries

Executive summaries can be important to SCORPs as they provide a brief overview of the plan's goals, objectives, and recommendations. They enable decision-makers, stakeholders, and the general public to quickly understand the plan's key points and potential impacts. This can help to build support and facilitate the implementation of the plan's recommendations. Additionally, executive summaries can serve as a useful communication tool for promoting the plan to a wider audience. States like [Pennsylvania](#) and [Virginia](#) have created summaries for their SCORPs.

SCORP Advisory Teams

SCORP advisory teams are an important part of the process. Building a diverse and representative team is helpful to provide feedback during the planning process. Representatives from all regions of states often include those from the following interest areas:

- agriculture
- businesses
- communities
- conservation
- education
- recreation
- fishing
- health
- hunting
- industry
- recreation
- stewardship
- transportation
- tourism



COLORADO'S OUTDOOR PARTNERSHIP

The formation of the Colorado Outdoor Partnership (CO-OP), offers an opportunity to bring lasting leadership to Colorado's SCORP. The CO-OP, comprised of outdoor recreation, conservation and agricultural interests, believes leaders across the state must collaborate and innovate to ensure private and public lands and water remain healthy to support Colorado's diverse wildlife, outdoor and agricultural heritage, and economic wellbeing.

The CO-OP provided leadership in drafting and reviewing the strategic direction presented in the SCORP and plays a pivotal role in ensuring its success.



State by State Outdoor Recreation Goals/Priorities



ALABAMA

- Promote the conservation and stewardship of natural and cultural resources.
- Increase physical accessibility to outdoor recreation facilities through universal design.
- Increase and sustain funding resources for outdoor recreation facility maintenance and development, particularly for underserved communities.
- Enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion of outdoor recreation facilities and programs.
- Enhance public awareness of and engagement in outdoor recreation.
- Connect outdoor recreation assets and communities
- Improve the effectiveness of partnerships to develop and maintain outdoor recreation facilities



ALASKA

- Increase Participation in Outdoor Recreation
- Maintain Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure
- Ensure Future Funding and Support for Outdoor Recreation



ARIZONA

- Priority: Conservation and Environmental Stewardship
- Priority: Sustainable Outdoor Recreation
- Priority: Connection, Community and Economic Vitality
- Priority: Pathways to Health and Wellness



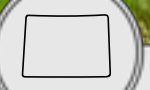
ARKANSAS

- Connections: making connections to communities and facilities that are currently disconnected.
- Community: Fostering community interaction through projects that fit into the rhythms of everyday life.
- Innovation: Maximizing resources and creating new experiences by re-purposing neglected facilities.
- Accommodation: Adapting to changing demographics and recognizing marginalized populations.
- Stewardship: Preserving and re-purposing the built environment while conserving and protecting the natural one.



CALIFORNIA

- Use geospatial technology to identify park access priorities
- Design parks using public planning methods learned from California's
- New Park Access
- Multi-Use Parks Designed for All Age Groups in New or Existing Parks
- Health Design Goals for New or Existing Parks
- Safety and Beautification for New or Existing Parks
- Preservation
- Encourage Health Partnerships.
- Restore Wetlands.
- Achieve State Agency LWCF priorities through annual allocations.



COLORADO

- Sustainable Access and Opportunity: More Coloradans and visitors benefit from outdoor recreation and conservation
- Stewardship: Coloradans and visitors enjoy and care for natural and cultural resources and commit to stewarding them for future generations.
- Land, Water and Wildlife Conservation: Private and public lands and waters are conserved to support sustainable outdoor recreation, the environment and wildlife habitat.
- Funding the Future: Coloradans and visitors contribute to diverse funding sources that are dedicated to support outdoor recreation and conservation. Existing sources of funds are preserved.



CONNECTICUT

- Protect, conserve, and manage Connecticut’s natural, cultural, and historical resources as they support outdoor recreation.
- Provide clean, safe, well-maintained outdoor recreation areas and facilities.
- Ensure that all residents and visitors can locate and access all outdoor recreation areas and facilities.
- Promote healthy lifestyles through increased participation in outdoor recreation.



DELAWARE

- Partnerships for Conservation, Recreation and Tourism: Provide responsible access to natural and historical spaces while conserving the environment and improving local economies.
- Protecting Lands for Conservation and Recreation: To maintain and enhance the interconnected network of natural areas, open spaces, parks, and conservation lands



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Resilience & Sustainability
- Access, Connectivity & Diversity of Recreational Experiences
- Accessibility & Inclusion
- Health & Equity
- Identity & Culture
- Enhancement & Maintenance
- Collaboration & Administration



FLORIDA

- Health and Well-being
- Public Access, Accessibility and Connectivity
- Economic Opportunities and Ecotourism
- Resource Management and Stewardship



GEORGIA

- Conserve Natural Resources: Conserve and protect Georgia’s natural resources by capitalizing on the current support for conservation while building a new community committed to natural stewardship and outdoor recreation.
- Enhance Economic Vitality: Support and cultivate Georgia’s outdoor recreation resources to remain attractive to new residents, businesses, and industries.
- Promote Health, Fitness and Livability of Communities: Promote the importance of physically active lifestyles and spending time outdoors to reinforce the connection between health, quality of life, and outdoor recreation.
- Improve Awareness, Accessibility and Inclusion: Ensure Georgians of all ages, backgrounds, means, and abilities have access to and are aware of all Georgia’s outdoor recreation areas and opportunities



HAWAII

- Increase Outdoor Recreation Opportunities for All
- Improve the Outdoor Recreation Experience
- Perpetuate Cultural and Natural Resources that Support Outdoor Recreation
- Support Agency Initiatives that Promote Community Wellness
- Participate in Inter-Agency Planning Initiatives that Support Sustainable and Resilient Outdoor Recreation Programs and Places



IDAHO

- Access: Refers to the overall availability of a recreational opportunity.
- Experience: By offering programs, classes and educational opportunities, providers can better connect people to parks and public lands and instill life-long skills to allow for continued participation.
- Stewardship: In order to ensure the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities, those entrusted with maintaining Idaho’s public lands must continue to care for these important resources. At the same time, it is important that current and future generations understand the value and benefits of the state’s natural, cultural and historic resources.



ILLINOIS

- Water Stewardship/Access
- Improving Health and Wellness
- Access to Parks and Recreation
- Natural Resources and Conservation Management
- Funding for Conservation and Outdoor Recreation



INDIANA

- Develop more trails and bicycle/pedestrian facilities.
- Encourage and promote outdoor recreation participation
- Continue emphasizing Indiana's aquatic resources, both natural and man-made.
- Protect and enhance Indiana's natural and outdoor recreation resources.
- Provide funding for outdoor recreation development at the state and local levels.



IOWA

- Availability and Diversity of Natural Resources, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Opportunities Enhance the Quality of Life of Iowans.
- Natural Resources, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Opportunities are available to all Iowans.
- The Right Opportunities. In the Right Place. Done the Right Way.



KANSAS

- Connectivity
- Diversifying the Recreation Portfolio of Kansas
- Health and Fitness
- Enhance, Connect, and Promote Community Recreation



KENTUCKY

- Expand and improve the quantity and variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, with emphasis on areas and population segments where these are most lacking.
- Develop and promote the recreational opportunities that are associated with tourism.
- Implement an integrated strategy of trail development utilizing the funding resources and selection criteria of the Recreational Trails Program Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Transportation Enhancement funds, and other sources.
- Preserve the state's natural, environmental, historical, and cultural assets.
- Promote the use of SCORP as a planning tool and the progressive implementation of its identified objectives.



LOUISIANA

- Outdoor Connectivity: Expand trail networks and connect facilities.
- Engage With Nature: Preserve natural areas and create engaging recreation opportunities.
- Fishing and Water Access: Increase access and incorporate more use at the water's edge.
- Picnicking, Gathering and Creating Memories: Incorporate interactive moments for groups of all sizes.
- Embrace Regional Distinctions: Tailor your solution to your region's needs.



MAINE

- Support Active, Engaged Communities
- Address Workforce Attraction through Outdoor Recreation
- Sustain and Grow Tourism
- Promote Ecological and Environmental Resilience
- Invest in Maintenance and Stewardship



MARYLAND

- Coordination and Collaboration: Strengthen coordination and collaboration between federal, state, and local government agencies and other key stakeholders in planning for the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities and land conservation initiatives.
- Promote the Benefits of Outdoor Recreation and Conservation of Natural Lands
- Increase Access to Open Spaces and Waterfronts
- Improve What's Already Available: Improve the overall quality of outdoor recreation infrastructure at public parks and outdoor areas across the state.
- Develop an Informed Stewardship Culture: Promote environmental education and use of parks and outdoor areas as teaching tools to foster a positive stewardship ethos among children, youth, and their families.



MASSACHUSETTS

- Access for Underserved Populations
- Support the Statewide Trails Initiative
- Increase the Availability of Water-based Recreation
- Support the Creation and Renovation of Neighborhood Parks



MICHIGAN

- **Improve collaboration:** Outdoor recreation stakeholders collaborate and cooperate to ensure that Michigan's recreation system meets the needs of residents and visitors.
- **Improve and expand recreational access:** Recreation opportunities are connected and accessible to residents and visitors of all backgrounds, abilities, means and geographic locations.
- **Enhance health benefits:** Outdoor recreation increases the physical activity and health of Michigan's residents and visitors.
- **Enhance prosperity:** Outdoor recreation advances economic prosperity and supports a high quality of life as well as talent retention in Michigan's communities.



MINNESOTA

- **Connect People and the Outdoors:** develop Minnesota's stewards of tomorrow through efforts to increase life-long participation in outdoor recreation and appreciation for our natural heritage.
- **Acquire Land, Create Opportunities:** expand and create new park and trail opportunities to satisfy current customers as well as to reach out to new ones.
- **Take Care of What We Have:** provide safe, high-quality park and trail experiences by regular reinvestment in park and trail infrastructure, and natural resource management.
- **Coordinate Among Partners:** enhance coordination across the large and complex network of public, private and nonprofit partners that support Minnesota's parks and trails to ensure seamless, enjoyable park and trail experiences for Minnesotans.



MISSISSIPPI

- **Encourage residents to become active outdoors**
- **Attract more visitors, including seniors and youth, to parks statewide**
- **Increase universal access throughout state trails and outdoor recreation facilities**
- **Extend facilities with accessible, user-friendly, low maintenance infrastructure that allows for year-round visitor use**



MISSOURI

- **Expand recreational opportunities that serve multiple generations and users.**
- **Expand Missouri's trail system and promote trails as a critical component to engaging in an active and healthy lifestyle.**
- **Leverage Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant financing.**
- **Connect youth to the outdoor world through environmental education, stewardship opportunities, and project based learning.**
- **Promote the health and community benefits of the outdoors through partnerships, messaging, and programming.**
- **Promote and identify grant and other funding opportunities that expand outdoor recreation facilities and activities.**
- **Continue data collection, research efforts, and spatial analysis to identify areas of greatest recreation need.**



MONTANA

- **Promote Outdoor Recreation Opportunities for All Montanans**
- **Enhance Public Access to Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities**
- **Support Economic Vitality of Communities and State**
- **Improve Quality of Life Through Outdoor Recreation Experiences**
- **Adapt Outdoor Recreation for a Changing Environment**
- **Honor Montana's Outdoor Legacy**



NEBRASKA

- **Improve Quality of Life by Promoting Healthy Lifestyles through Outdoor Recreation**
- **Develop the Understanding, Appreciation, and Engagement of Nebraska's Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Opportunities**
- **Understand the Opportunities and Threats in Developing Urban Areas and Areas of Rapid Population Growth**
- **Provide and Manage Outdoor Recreation Education Opportunities that are Effective and Inclusive**
- **Provide Effective and Inclusive Outdoor Recreation Programming**
- **Provide and Manage Outdoor Recreation Opportunities that are Sustainable and Ensure Economic Vitality**



NEVADA

- **Sustainable Outdoor Recreation:** Create and expand upon a sustainable outdoor recreation system.
- **Community and Economic Vitality:** Leverage the strength of outdoor recreation as a driver of community and economic vitality.
- **Pathways to Health and Wellness:** Expand pathways to health and wellness through outdoor recreation.



NEW HAMPSHIRE

- **Connecting People to the Outdoors**
- **Consistent Stewardship and Conservation**
- **Economic Vitality**
- **Education, Ethics, and Benefits**



NEW JERSEY

- Land Preservation
- Recreation
- State Resource Areas
- Greenways and Trails
- Stewardship



NEW MEXICO

- Economic development
- Resource protection (including wetlands)
- Outdoor education
- Access and equity
- New Mexico's unique regional contexts



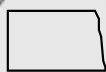
NEW YORK

- Connect children and adults with nature and recreation by improving access to outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Inform the public about outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Engage the public through programming.
- Reinvent and redesign the State's outdoor recreation system.
- Build a 21st century green and resilient outdoor recreation system; repair and green aging infrastructure and open new facilities.
- Expand and protect natural connections between parks and open space.
- Restore, conserve, and protect the State's biodiversity.
- Expand historic preservation efforts across the State, at the local and regional level, and cultivate pride of place.



NORTH CAROLINA

- Meet the needs of North Carolina's rapidly growing population by providing more recreation opportunities in areas of the state where growth is taking place.
- Protect and conserve North Carolina's high-quality natural resources and landscapes.
- Renovate, replace and revitalize existing park amenities across the State.
- Promote the economic benefits of the state's recreation opportunities for communities across North Carolina.
- Increase opportunities and public awareness of the state's natural resources and recreation opportunities for underserved populations.
- Support improvements in public health and fitness by increasing opportunities for physical activity.



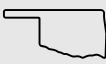
NORTH DAKOTA

- Enhance outdoor recreation across the state by educating and engaging North Dakotans to ensure diverse, affordable and accessible opportunities for citizens and visitors.
- Educate North Dakotans about outdoor recreation.
- Engage North Dakotans in outdoor recreation.
- Expand outdoor recreation opportunities in North Dakota.



OHIO

- Advance the trail network with the focus on completing long-distance trails, filling-in gaps, and building trail connections to community neighborhoods and assets.
- Improve and adapt recreational facilities to enhance existing recreational facilities to stay relevant into the future.
- Emphasize rivers, lakes, and wetlands
- Improve awareness and access to outdoor recreation opportunities and increase engagement and participation in outdoor recreation.
- Protect and sustain the natural environment to continue the legacy of conserving high quality natural resources and providing appropriate outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences in areas that can sustain use.



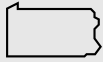
OKLAHOMA

- Water quality and quantity
- Loss of accessible public recreation space
- Education for a life of health and quality
- Funding and valuation of public recreation
- Collaboration, cooperation, and communication
- Statewide trails plan
- Open Project Selection Process



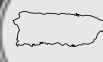
OREGON

- An aging population and outdoor recreation in Oregon.
- An increasingly diverse population and outdoor recreation in Oregon.
- Lack of youth engagement in outdoor recreation in Oregon.
- Low income and outdoor recreation in Oregon.
- Health benefits of physical activity in Oregon.



PENNSYLVANIA

- Health and Wellness
- Recreation for All
- Sustainable Systems
- Funding and Economic Development
- Technology



PUERTO RICO

- Restore, enhance, and maintain outdoor recreation facilities and places considering the social, environmental, and economic context
- Expand outdoor recreation opportunities for all Puerto Rico residents and visitors
- Increase participation and inclusion in outdoor recreation
- Increase intergovernmental and intersectoral collaboration to transform outdoor recreation into an important component of Puerto Rico's social and economic development



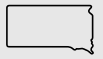
RHODE ISLAND

- Invest in new and improved opportunities for outdoor recreation to meet the public's needs, promote wellness and create economic benefits.
- Strengthen, expand and promote the statewide recreation network while protecting natural and cultural resources as well as adapting to a changing environment.
- Ensure sustainable operation, maintenance and management of the statewide outdoor recreation network.
- Improve access by removing barriers and enhancing information and communication systems.



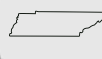
SOUTH CAROLINA

- Improving Access to Public Recreation Areas
- Promoting Stewardship of Resources
- Ensuring Sustainable Economic Benefits
- Adapting to Changes in Recreation Demand



SOUTH DAKOTA

- Provide and promote year around, diverse outdoor recreation opportunities for South Dakotans of all ages, interests, economic status and ability
- Maintain and improve existing park and recreation areas, open spaces and facilities for outdoor recreation opportunities
- Acquire and protect South Dakota's open space and natural resources for future outdoor recreation opportunities
- Protect and improve the state's fish and wildlife habitat for outdoor recreation opportunities
- Educate, promote and improve communications related to outdoor recreation opportunities
- Be a compelling voice for action when it comes to making outdoor recreation a priority in people's choices to improve their health and lifestyle



TENNESSEE

- Further enable citizens to understand, appreciate, and have access to the recreation resources available in Tennessee. Provide exposure to the benefits of outdoor recreation and tools to create sustained healthy habits and responsible enjoyment of the outdoors.
- Build strategic coalitions to maximize the economic impacts of outdoor recreation and parks in Tennessee
- Sustain and grow Tennessee's outdoor recreation and conservation legacy
- All Tennesseans will have access to and feel welcome at all local and state recreation facilities in which diversity is reflected in programs, operations, and staffing.



TEXAS

- Texas Wetlands
- Conservation



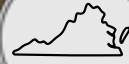
UTAH

- Provide funding and support for the development of new quality outdoor public recreation.
- Support and fund the renovation of existing public outdoor recreation facilities.
- Improve Utah's LWCF Program awareness and information sharing.



VERMONT

- Stewardship of Natural Resources and Recreational Areas
- Stakeholder Communication, Coordination, and Engagement
- Public Participation and Access for All
- Community Connections, Health, and Wellness
- Economic Vitality and Tourism



VIRGINIA

The Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP) provides an opportunity to meet regionally to discuss and prioritize parks and recreation and land conservation needs and goals. Increasingly, regional leadership recognizes that establishing recreation planning and land conservation strategies based on the detailed regional data is important to Virginians health and the long-term viability of the Commonwealth. The 2018 VOP divides the Commonwealth into 21 outdoor recreational planning regions.



WASHINGTON

- Provide meaningful access to outdoor recreation for all
- Protect natural and cultural resources while managing increasing demand
- Demonstrate the essential nature of parks, natural areas, and recreation infrastructure
- Support healthy, adaptable, and connected communities



WEST VIRGINIA

- Community Health and Wellness
- Educational and Community Programs
- Conservation and Stewardship
- Economic Vitality



WISCONSIN

- Increase Wisconsin residents' participation and frequency of participation in outdoor recreation.
- Continue to strengthen connections and partnerships across the spectrum of agencies, organizations, and businesses with a vested interest in outdoor recreation.
- Provide opportunities and settings – across the full range of public and private recreation lands – that, collectively, meet the state's recreational needs.
- On an ongoing basis, gather, analyze and distribute data on recreation participation in Wisconsin and associated economic, health and social benefits.
- Broaden and strengthen the funding sources for developing and managing outdoor recreation facilities and lands.



WYOMING

- Land Use Management
- Facilities
- Funding and Cost

Tennessee's 10-Year SCORP

Tennessee has developed a 10-year SCORP that differs from the typical 5-year plan. The plan aims to provide a long-term framework for developing and enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities across the state, including land and water trails, parks, and natural areas. The extended planning period allows for a more comprehensive and sustainable approach to recreation planning, taking into account changing population demographics and trends. Despite the longer timeline, the plan will still be updated every 5 years to comply with LWCF requirements.

At-A-Glance Comparison

State	Reporting Years	Contract vs. In House*	Introduction Letter	Pages
Alabama	2021-2025	Contract	Governor	240
Alaska	2016-2021, 2023-2027 TBR	In House	N/A	144
Arizona	2023-2027	Contract	Governor & Executive Director of Arizona State Parks and Trails	124
Arkansas	2019-2023, 2024-2028 TBR	In House	Executive Director of Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism	55
California	2021-2025	In House	N/A	N/A
Colorado	2019-2023, 2024-2028 TBR	In House	Governor	83
Connecticut	2017-2022, 2023-2027	In House	N/A	173
Delaware	2018-2023, 2024-2029 TBR	In House	Governor & Foreword by Secretary of Department of Natural Resources	139
District of Columbia	2020-2025	In House	N/A	79
Florida	2019-2023, 2024-2028 TBR	Contract	Governor	138
Georgia	2022-2026	In House	Governor & Foreword by Commissioner of Department of Natural Resources	53
Hawaii	2021-2026	In House	Foreword by Kumu Ramsay Taum	265
Idaho	2023-2027	In House	N/A	66
Illinois	2021-2025	In House	N/A	64
Indiana	2021-2025	In House	Governor	158

*Contract vs. In House

Completing a SCORP in-house or within a state agency may offer more control and cost savings, while contracting out or hiring consultants may provide access to specialized expertise and resources. Some states also do a combination, often contracting out the data collection component of the plan. Colleges and universities also partner with state agencies to support the process.

State	Reporting Years	Contract vs. In House	Introduction Letter	Pages
Iowa	2018-2023, 2024-2029 TBR	In House	Governor	71
Kansas	2021-2025	Contract	Secretary of Department of Wildlife & Parks	84
Kentucky	2020-2025	In House	Governor	127
Louisiana	2020-2025	In House	Governor	82
Maine	2020-2024	In House	Governor & Foreword by SCORP Planning Team	147
Maryland	2019-2023, 2024-2028 TBR	In House	Governor & Secretary of Department of Natural Resources	307
Massachusetts	2017-2022, 2023-2028 TBR	In House	Governor	67
Michigan	2023-2027	In House	N/A	68
Minnesota	2020-2024	In House	N/A	41
Mississippi	2019-2024	Contract	Governor	139
Missouri	2018-2022, 2023-2027 TBR	In House	Governor	164
Montana	2020-2024	In House	Governor & Note from the Director of Fish, Wildlife & Parks	60
Nebraska	2021-2025	In House	Governor & State Liaison Officer	108
Nevada	2022-2026	In House	Governor	85
New Hampshire	2019-2023, 2024-2028 TBR	In House	Governor & Commissioner of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources	123
New Jersey	2018-2022, 2023-2027 TBR	In House	N/A	91
New Mexico	2022-2026	In House	N/A	121
New York	2020-2025	In House	N/A	159

State	Reporting Years	Contract vs. In House	Introduction Letter	Pages
North Carolina	2020-2025	In House	N/A	144
North Dakota	2023-2027 Draft	In House	N/A	16
Ohio	2018-2023	In House	Governor	208
Oklahoma	2018-2022, 2023-2027 TBR	In House	N/A	181
Oregon	2019-2023	In House	Foreword by Director of Parks and Recreation Department	236
Pennsylvania	2020-2024	In House	Governor	96
Puerto Rico	2020-2025	In House	N/A	159
Rhode Island	2019-2024	In House	N/A	69
South Carolina	2019-2024	In House	N/A	76
South Dakota	2023-2027 Draft	In House	Governor	
Tennessee	2022-2027	In House	Governor & Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Conservation	542
Texas	2018-2023	In House	Governor	149
Utah	2019-2023, 2024-2028 TBR	In House	Governor	89
Vermont	2019-2023, 2024-2028 TBR	In House	Governor & Commissioner of the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation	135
Virginia	2018-2023, 2024-2029 TBR	In House	N/A	211
Washington	2023-2027 Draft	In House	N/A	66
West Virginia	2021-2025	In House	Governor	66
Wisconsin	2019-2023, 2024-2028 TBR	In House	Foreword by Secretary of Department of Natural Resources	68
Wyoming	2019-2023, 2024-2028 TBR	In House	N/A	92

Data and Reporting

Qualitative and quantitative data is crucial for developing Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans that guide the development and management of outdoor recreation resources, programs, and facilities in a given state. How states gather data drives input then outcomes.

The data collected helps to identify the current and future needs, interests, and preferences of the state's residents and visitors. It also helps to assess the existing outdoor recreation infrastructure, and determine where new investments are needed.

This data provide valuable feedback from a diverse range of stakeholders, including individuals, families, and community organizations. This input helps to ensure that SCORPs reflect the needs and desires of the people who will be using these resources.

TYPES OF SURVEYS

- Resident
- Provider
- Trail User
- Youth

SURVEY PLATFORMS

- Qualtrics
- SurveyMonkey

Supporting Existing Plans

Louisiana and Washington D.C.

develop their SCORPs around existing local and statewide plans to allow for a cohesive and coordinated effort to outdoor recreation. This approach also promotes teamwork and partnership with existing plans.

State Methodology



SCORPs require a comprehensive understanding of existing outdoor recreational resources, needs of the communities, and potential areas for development. Data provides the necessary information to identify gaps in outdoor recreation opportunities and to prioritize funding towards high-need areas.

These plans can differ significantly from state to state, both in terms of their methodology and process. Some states may rely heavily on surveys and other forms of direct data collection, while others may use more sophisticated modeling techniques. Additionally, the specific types of recreation that are prioritized and the level of community involvement in the planning process can vary widely.

Ultimately, the success of any outdoor recreation plan depends on its ability to accurately capture the needs and desires of the local community.

Considering Sample Size

Sample size is an important factor to consider when conducting SCORPs. A small sample size may not accurately represent the entire population, leading to biased results and unreliable conclusions. On the other hand, a large sample size can be time-consuming and resource-intensive. Therefore, choosing an appropriate sample size is crucial to ensure that the data collected is representative and trustworthy. Additionally, a larger sample size may increase the statistical power of the study, allowing for more precise estimates of population parameters and a better understanding of the recreational needs and preferences of the state's residents.

Public Input

Public input are intended to guide future investments and decisions related to outdoor recreation in the state. By soliciting feedback from the public, the plan can better reflect the needs and desires of the community.

This input can inform decisions about which recreational areas and facilities to prioritize, what types of activities should be supported, and how to address any existing gaps or issues.

Ultimately, public input questions help ensure that the plan reflects the diverse perspectives and interests of the state's residents and visitors, leading to a more effective and inclusive plan.

- What outdoor recreational activities do you participate in?
- What outdoor recreational activities do you wish were available in your community?
- How often do you participate in outdoor recreational activities?
- What types of outdoor recreational facilities do you use most frequently?
- What improvements would you like to see made to existing outdoor recreational facilities?
- What types of outdoor recreational facilities would you like to see added to your community?
- What types of outdoor recreational activities do you participate in during different seasons?
- What barriers, if any, prevent you from participating in outdoor recreational activities?
- How important is it for your community to have access to outdoor recreational activities?
- How would you rate the quality of outdoor recreational facilities in your community?

Recreation Provider Input

Recreation provider input helps identify the availability, accessibility, and quality of outdoor recreation facilities across the state. By asking questions such as the types of facilities available, their condition, and their location, planners can determine areas where there are gaps in the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities.

This information can then be used to prioritize investments in outdoor recreation infrastructure and to ensure that all residents have access to high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities.

Additionally, understanding the needs and preferences of outdoor recreation facility providers can help inform decisions about the types of facilities that should be developed or improved to meet the demands of residents.

- How frequently do visitors use your facility?
- How do you measure visitor satisfaction?
- How do you maintain and improve your facilities?
- How do you ensure visitor safety at your facility?
- How do you address the needs of visitors with disabilities?
- What is the current demand for outdoor recreation in the state?
- What are the most popular outdoor recreational activities in the state?



Communications and Outreach

Communications and outreach are important components of SCORPs as plans aim to improve access to outdoor recreation opportunities for all citizens. Effective communication and outreach ensure that stakeholders are aware of the planning process, have opportunities to provide input, and understand the benefits of the plan.

Public input is key to developing a good SCORP because it represents the needs and desires of the community. This input can help planners identify gaps in current outdoor recreation offerings, prioritize improvements and additions, and ensure that the plan is equitable and inclusive.

By engaging the public in the planning process, comprehensive outdoor recreation plans can better serve the diverse needs of all citizens.



OUTREACH METHODS

- E-mail
- Flyers
- Governor's Press Release
- Newspaper
- Postcards
- SCORP Website
- Social media
- Telephone
- Town Hall

SCORP Websites

States like [Alabama](#) and [Alaska](#) have created dedicated SCORP websites to share the process with the public. Residents can participate in surveys, provide comments, and learn about the state's priorities.

State Features



Arizona's List of Resources

Arizona State Parks collected a list of outdoor recreation resources as a result of participant suggestions during the SCORP process and public comment period.



Pennsylvania's Past Accomplishments

Because five years is often not enough time to fully implement ideas and programs that are becoming established and institutionalized, much of the ideas and work from previous plans is carried through in subsequent plans. Pennsylvania's current SCORP includes a list of notable accomplishments from their prior years.



LWCF at Work in New York State

New York's SCORP includes a list of available funding programs for projects that help to implement the goals of the SCORP and grant programs NY manages with LWCF funds. These grant programs are described and case studies are included to share the impact of the funds in a community.



We understand SCORPs are regularly being updated. For any updates to this report, [reach out](#) to us.



CONFLUENCE
OF STATES



OUTDOOR
RECREATION
ROUNDTABLE

**OUTDOOR
INDUSTRY**
ASSOCIATION



SOCIETY OF OUTDOOR
RECREATION PROFESSIONALS



THE VF FOUNDATION



JULY 2023