

Appendix F – Results of the 2005 Park Professional Survey

In 2005, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) conducted a Park Professional Survey to gather information from trail managers to assess the needs and issues facing them.

The 2005 survey was sent to every municipal government in NYS targeted to the local government recreation provider as well as all State Park managers. Questions ranged from ranking recreational facility needs to recreational funding and planning efforts and to specific questions related to trails. Over 500 completed surveys were received back from municipalities and 132 State Park managers responded. Highlights from the results are shown below.

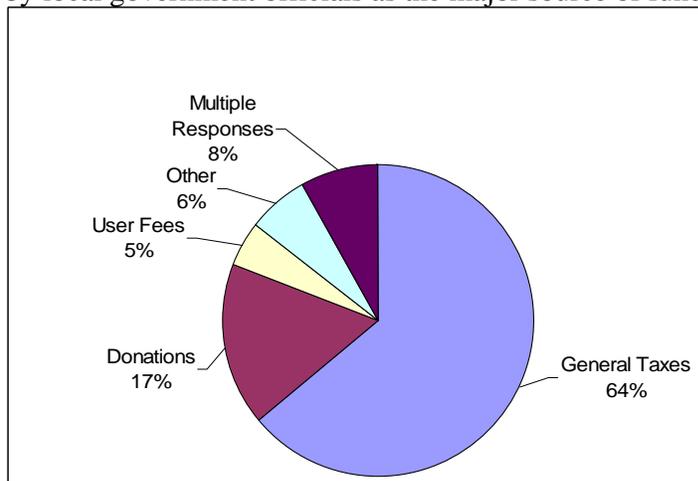
Results from the survey indicated that hiking trails, bicycle paths and nature/interpretive trails were the top three trail facility types needed by both local government officials and park managers.

- | Local Government Officials | State Park Managers |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ▪ Hiking Trails | ▪ Nature/Interpretive Trails |
| ▪ Bicycle Paths | ▪ Hiking Trails |
| ▪ Nature/Interpretive Trails | ▪ Bicycle Paths |
| ▪ Equestrian Trails | ▪ Mountain Bike Trails |
| ▪ ATV Trails | ▪ Equestrian Trails |

The following lists depict the top five trail issues rated according to importance by each group.

- | Local Government Officials | State Park Managers |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| ▪ Sources of funding | ▪ Maintenance |
| ▪ Landowner concerns | ▪ Sources of funding |
| ▪ Maintenance | ▪ Trail Signage |
| ▪ Developing new trails | ▪ Safety/Law Enforcement |
| ▪ Safety/Law Enforcement | ▪ Accessibility for persons with disabilities |

Sources mentioned by local government officials as the major source of funds for trails maintenance:



New York Statewide Trails Plan: Appendix F

State Park managers and local government officials agreed on priority of importance of trail needs:

1. Trails linked to other trails
2. Trails in rural areas
3. Trails connecting residential areas to schools, parks, etc.
4. Trails linked to population centers
5. Trails connecting residential areas to commercial areas

When asked about the most important physical issues related to trails, both groups ranked weather damage to trail structures, treadway maintenance, and uncontrolled undergrowth and weeds as the top three issues.

Local Government Officials

- Weather damage to trail structures
- Treadway maintenance
- Undergrowth and weeds uncontrolled
- Poor design
- Invasive Species
- Overuse

State Park Managers

- Treadway maintenance
- Weather damage to trail structures
- Undergrowth and weeds uncontrolled
- Invasive Species
- Poor design
- Overuse

The following lists depict the rankings by importance of social issues related to trails:

Local Government Officials

- Conflicts between different types of users
- User/landowner conflicts
- Trail vandalism
- Illegal use of trails
- Crowding/Overuse

State Park Managers

- Illegal use of trails
- Conflicts between different types of users
- Trail vandalism
- User/landowner conflicts
- Crowding/Overuse



George E. Pataki, Governor
Bernadette Castro, Commissioner

Park Professional Survey

Dear Park Professional:

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation thanks you for your help in gathering information on recreation needs in your community. While we are interested in all aspects of recreation, this year we are placing a special emphasis on trail-based recreation.

Again, thank you for your help. If you have any questions, please call Wesley Bartlett at (518) 474-8410.

1) Please rate the need for the following in your community on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being most needed and 1 being not needed at all:

Most needed			Not Needed			
5	4	3	2	1		
					Trails	
					Picnicking / Day Use Areas	
					Swimming Pools	
					Beaches	
					Golf Courses	
					Tennis / Handball / Racquetball Courts	
					Basketball Courts	
					Sports Fields (Baseball, Soccer, etc.)	
					Hunting Areas	
					Campgrounds	
					Fishing Access / Piers	
					Boat Launches / Docks	
					Ice Skating Rinks	
					Downhill Ski Facilities	
					Nature Study Areas	
					Other (specify) _____	

2) Does your community have a recreation or open space master plan? Yes ___ No ___

9a. **If yes**, is this plan more than 5 years old? Yes ___ No ___
When will your next revision of this plan be? _____ (Year)

9b. **If No**, do you intend to develop a plan? Yes ___ No ___
Why _____

3) Does your department/agency plan to develop a park or recreation facility within the next five years? Yes ___ No ___

4) Is the aging of the population considered in your recreation plan? Yes ___ No ___

5) Does your department/agency plan to acquire additional open space within the next five years? Yes ___ No ___

6) What is the dollar value of needed facilities in your community?

Acquisition \$ _____ New Development \$ _____ Rehabilitation \$ _____

7) Are you aware of the following grants programs that the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation administers?

Land & Water Conservation Fund Yes___ No___

Environmental Protection Fund Yes___ No___

Recreational Trails Program Yes___ No___

8) Does your municipality support the continued funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)? Yes___ No___

9) Please read each of the statements below very carefully and then indicate how you feel about them by circling a number to the left of the statement. If you feel very strongly circle -3 or +3. If you have no opinion, cannot decide or lack information necessary to give an opinion, circle 0. Circle -2, -1, +1 or +2 if you feel somewhat, but not very strongly negatively or positively.

Strongly Disagree							Strongly Agree	
-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3		
-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	More lands should be purchased by government to preserve more open space.	
-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	More lands should be purchased by government for recreation.	
-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	Easements should be considered whenever possible as an alternative to fee acquisition.	
-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	Government should purchase additional public access to water resources such as lakes, streams, beaches and oceanfronts.	
-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	Government should increase spending for outdoor recreation facilities, e.g. pools, marinas, trails, campgrounds, etc.	
-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	More money should be spent on public park maintenance and repair.	
-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	Federal financial assistance to support recreation development and land acquisition should be increased.	
-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	The quality and condition of programs and facilities are being adversely impacted by budget and staff reduction.	
-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	Public/private partnerships should be considered to expand and develop recreational facilities.	

10) Is information about recreation facilities and trails in your community available on the Internet?

Yes___ No___

If yes, please indicate the web address: _____

11) Are actions being taken in the planning and design of recreation programs and facilities in your community to address increased obesity within the population? Yes___ No___

Trail Facilities and Issues

T1) Please rate the need for the various types of trails in your community on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being most needed and 1 being not needed at all:

Most needed					Not Needed		
5	4	3	2	1		5	Walking / Jogging / Hiking Paths
5	4	3	2	1		5	Recreational Bicycle Paths
5	4	3	2	1		5	Bicycle Commuter Routes
5	4	3	2	1		5	Mountain Biking Trails
5	4	3	2	1		5	In-line Skating/Roller Blading Paths
5	4	3	2	1		5	ATV Trails
5	4	3	2	1		5	Off Road Vehicles (4WD Trucks,) Trails
5	4	3	2	1		5	Equestrian Trails
5	4	3	2	1		5	Nature/Interpretive Trails
5	4	3	2	1		5	Canoeing/kayaking Routes
5	4	3	2	1		5	Water Trails
5	4	3	2	1		5	Snowmobile Trails
5	4	3	2	1		5	Cross Country Skiing Trails
5	4	3	2	1		5	Snowshoe Trails
5	4	3	2	1		5	Other _____

T2) Please rate the importance of the following trail issues in your community and check the box next to the three with the highest priorities:

Most important					Least Important		
5	4	3	2	1		5	<input type="checkbox"/> Providing access to trails
5	4	3	2	1		5	<input type="checkbox"/> Obtaining liability insurance
5	4	3	2	1		5	<input type="checkbox"/> Accessibility for persons with disabilities
5	4	3	2	1		5	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety / Law enforcement
5	4	3	2	1		5	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquiring new land for trails
5	4	3	2	1		5	<input type="checkbox"/> Developing new trails
5	4	3	2	1		5	<input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance
5	4	3	2	1		5	<input type="checkbox"/> Trail signage
5	4	3	2	1		5	<input type="checkbox"/> Concerns of landowners
5	4	3	2	1		5	<input type="checkbox"/> Sources of funding
5	4	3	2	1		5	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

T3) Approximately how many miles of federal, state and locally designated trails are within your community? _____ miles

T4) What is the major source of financing for trail maintenance in your community?
 _____ General Taxes _____ Donations _____ User Fees _____ Other: _____

T5) Approximately what percentage of trail maintenance in your community is done by volunteer groups? _____ %

T6) Please rate the importance of the following trail needs in your community:

Most important

Least Important

5 4 3 2 1 Trails linked to population centers

5 4 3 2 1 Trails linked to other trails

5 4 3 2 1 Trails in rural areas

5 4 3 2 1 Trails connecting residential areas to schools, parks and other community resources

5 4 3 2 1 Trails connecting residential areas to commercial areas

T7) For the trails in your community, please number each one of the following physical issues in order from most serious(1) to least serious(7), using each number 1,2,3,4,5,6 and 7 only once:

___ Invasive Species

___ Weather damage to trail structures

___ Undergrowth and weeds are uncontrolled

___ Treadway maintenance

___ Poor Design

___ Overuse

___ Other _____

T8) For the trails in your community, please number each one of the following social issues in order from most serious(1) to least serious(6), using each number 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 only once:

___ Conflicts between different types of users

___ Trail vandalism

___ Conflicts between users and landowners

___ Crowding / Overuse

___ Illegal use of trails

___ Other _____

T9) Are you a member of a trail club or organization? ___ Yes ___ No, If yes, identify type:

___ Hiking ___ Equestrian ___ ATV

___ Running ___ Biking ___ ORV

___ Canoe ___ Snowmobile ___ Cross Country Skiing

T10) Is obtaining liability insurance for trails within your community a concern for:

Your local government: ___ Yes ___ No

Local trail organizations: ___ Yes ___ No

If yes, the primary issue is:

___ Availability ___ Cost ___ Extent of Coverage

___ Other, please specify _____

T11) We welcome any comments you have on trails usage / issues / problems in your area:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ NY

Zip: _____

Phone Number: (_____) _____ - _____

Email: _____