

New York Statewide Trails Plan: Appendix D

Appendix D - 2004 General Public Recreation Survey Report

2004 General Public Recreation Survey



Allegany State Park



June 2007

State of New York
Eliot Spitzer, Governor

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Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Section I: Questions 1 through 4 and 14,15 (General Recreation)	4
Section II: Questions 5 through 13 (New York State Parks)	10
Section III: Question 16 (Issues)	18

Appendices

A. The 2004 General Public Recreation Survey Form	28
B. Pre-analysis summary of survey responses	34
C. Highlights from the 2004 General Public Recreation Survey	38
D. New York State Recreation Analysis Zones	39
E. Recreational Activity List Summary	40

Introduction

Background

The 2004 General Public Outdoor Recreation Survey was done to assess the recreation trends of the citizens of New York State. The General Public Survey is conducted approximately every five years by the Planning Bureau of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) as part of its ongoing statewide planning effort. The survey benefits the agency by affording the opportunity to hear from a constituency that generally goes unnoticed, in particular, individuals who neither visit the State Park system nor belong to special interest groups. The format and content of the current survey is similar to previous surveys, going back to 1975. In January 2005, approximately ten thousand surveys were mailed to New York State residents. Satisfactorily completed survey forms were received from 1,103 households, detailing the recreational activities of 2,327 individuals. A copy of the survey instrument used and an overview of the process and some of the early results are described in Appendices A and B.

Content

The survey covered four areas of importance to the planning process. The first section, questions 1 through 4, and questions 14 and 15 focused on recreation participation. Question 1 queried individuals and two members of each of their households on the types of activities they had participated in during the previous calendar year (2004). Questions 14 and 15 asked about recreation needs near home and visitation to local parks, state parks and historic sites, and national parks. The second section, questions 5 through 13 asked about the experiences with OPRHP facilities. The third section, question 16, had nine parts asking opinions on important recreation and environmental issues. A number of the questions in this section are similar enough to the questions asked in the 1998 survey that direct comparison is possible. In the fourth and final section, the survey concluded with questions that collected demographic data on the respondents' households.

Conclusions

Overall results of this survey are consistent with findings of previous surveys. Activities that in the past were among the most popular, e.g. picnicking/relaxing in the park, swimming, walking/jogging, bicycling remain among the most popular. For the more physically demanding activities, age continues to be a negative force in an individual's ability to recreate. For example, the 65 and over age group has the lowest percent participation rate for biking and court games among others. As the state's population ages, it can be expected that activities like these will be a smaller percentage of the total recreation taking place in New York State. Other important factors are income and urban/rural residence. Examples of these early findings can be seen in the first section of this report. Although a more thorough analysis remains to be done on the current survey to confirm these findings, the preliminary data do not reveal any marked change in recreational behavior over the past 25 years.

Section I: General Recreation

1. Please complete the activity lists below for you and any two other household members above age 12. Indicate the approximate number of days the activity was done during calendar year 2004 (January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004), regardless of where the activity took place, whether at a state park, local park, private facility or anywhere else.

The first question gathered data on recreation participation for up to three members of the household receiving the survey. This made it possible to have information on the recreation preferences of over 2,300 people from the 1,103 completed survey forms. A brief summary of the results are shown below. Further analysis of this question will explain the relationship between activity participation and socio-economic parameters such as age, income, etc. Of the 47 activities queried about, the following rankings are limited to the 20 most popular summer and 5 most popular winter activities.

Activities ranked by percent of the population that participated at least once during 2004:

<u>Summer Activities</u>	
Picnicking/Relaxing in the Park	74.3%
Walking/Jogging	63.4
Visiting Historic Sites/Museums	57.8
Swimming	47.7
Visiting Nature Areas/Formal Gardens	45.1
Visiting Zoos	40.3
Outdoor Theater/Concerts	37.4
Using Playgrounds	30.8
Camping	30.4
Biking	30.4
Boating	29.7
Bird Watching	22.7
Court Games (Basketball, Handball, etc.)	22.3
Fishing	21.0
Hiking/Backpacking	19.5
Field Sports (Baseball, Soccer, Volleyball)	18.7
Golf	14.3
Hunting	7.3
Horseback Riding	5.4
Rock Climbing	5.3

Winter Activities

Sledding	19.0
Ice Skating	16.3
Downhill Skiing	8.8
Snowmobiling	5.5
Cross Country Skiing	5.5

Activities ranked by days of activity per participant during 2004:

<u>Summer Activities</u>	
Walking/Jogging	67.2
Field Sports (Baseball, Soccer, Volleyball)	28.3
Court Games (Basketball, Handball, etc.)	26.7
Picnicking/Relaxing in the Park	26.6
Biking	26.0
Using Playgrounds	23.7
ATV/Off Road Vehicle	23.1
Horseback Riding	22.0
Bird Watching	21.9
Golfing	20.8
Hunting	20.4
Swimming	18.5
Fishing	16.8
Geocaching	15.0
Boating	14.1
Surfing	14.0
Hiking/Backpacking	12.9
Camping	10.9
Visiting Nature Areas/Formal Gardens	9.4
Visiting Historic Sites/Museums	9.0

Winter Activities

Downhill Skiing	10.0
Snowmobiling	9.8
Snow Boarding	9.6
Snow Shoeing	8.3
Cross Country Skiing	7.0

2. What 2 activities would you most like to participate in, but can't for any reason?

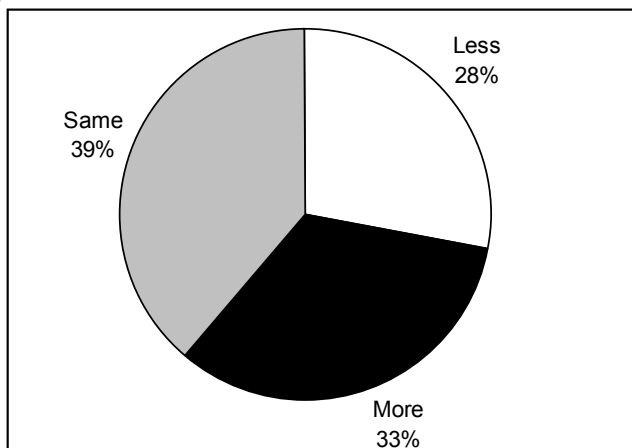
Rather than restricting the respondent to a collection of activities, this open-ended question allowed the household being surveyed to list up to 2 activities for up to 3 members of the household. Since there were a variety of responses for what could be considered the same activity (e.g. hiking, hiking in the country, hiking mountains), the responses were classified as best as possible into more general categories. Of all the surveys received, 45.3% indicated at least one activity. The top 10 non-winter activities are listed below, as are the top 5 winter activities, along with a percentage which is the total number of responses for the activity divided by the number of households surveyed (more than one member in a household mentioning an activity will increase the percentage):

<u>Non-winter activities</u>		<u>Winter activities</u>	
1. Boating	10.9%	1. Downhill Skiing	5.3%
2. Swimming	9.1%	2. Ice Skating	4.7%
3. Camping	8.0%	3. Snowmobiling	3.4%
4. Hiking/Walking	7.9%	4. Cross Country Ski	2.6%
5. Tennis	5.9%	5. Showshoeing	0.9%
6. Outdoor Theater, etc.	4.5%		
7. Horseback Riding	4.3%		
8. Field Games	4.3%		
9. Golfing	4.2%		
10. Biking	4.1%		

The absence of some popular activities from this list, such as gardening, bird watching, etc. may indicate that the activity is not difficult to participate in, and therefore would not be listed by the respondent. There were a large number of non-winter activities not included in the above list.

3. Compared to 5 years ago, are you participating in more, less or about the same amount of physical activities?

As was the case in the above question, each of up to three individuals in the household could respond to this question. One might expect that, except for possibly the very youngest of the people completing the survey,



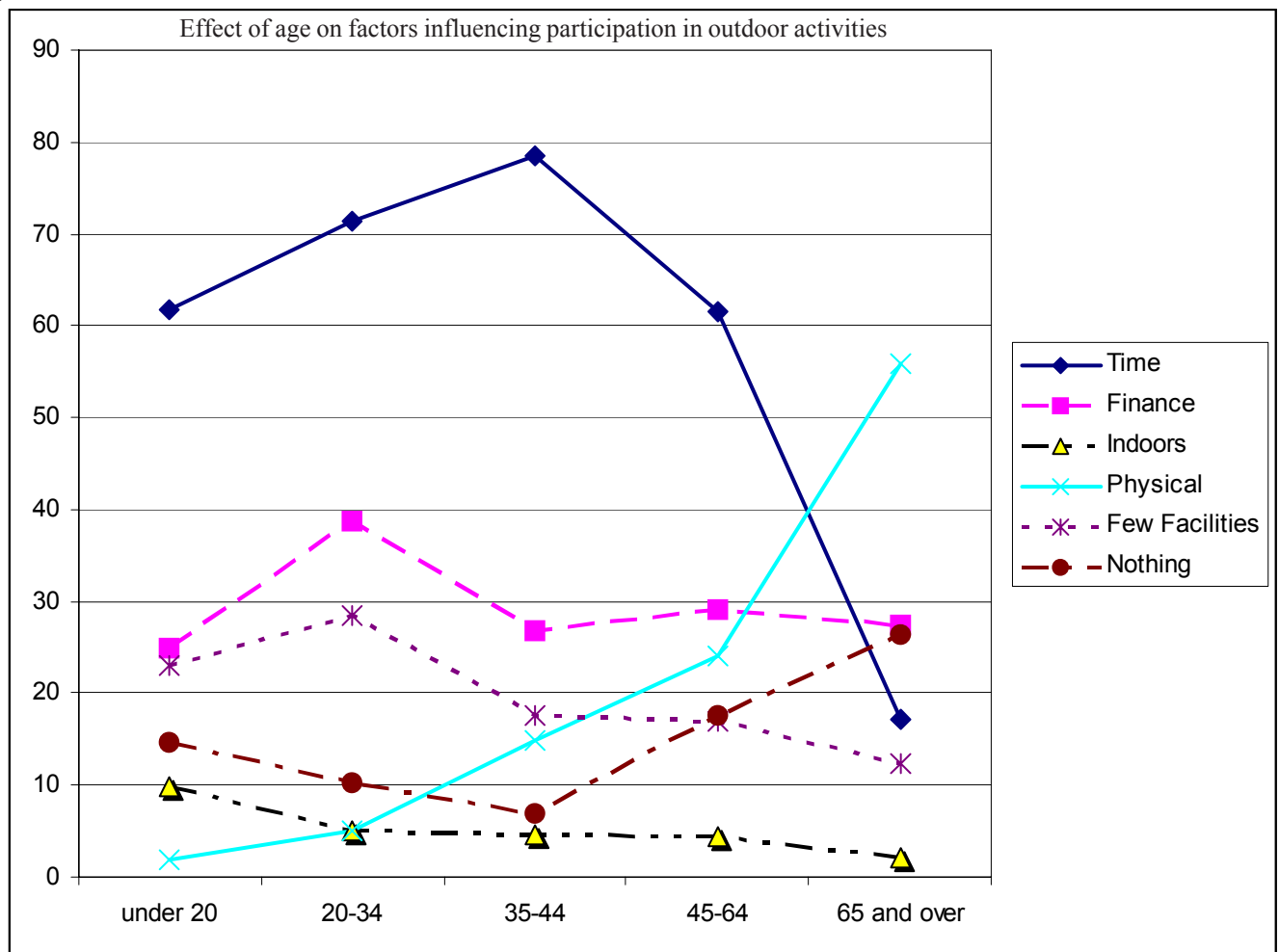
most people select less active simply because they are now 5 years older. This did not turn out to be the case. There is an age component involved in the responses to this question, with the average age of each group as follows:

<u>Activity Level</u>	<u>Avg. Age</u>
Less active	46.2
About the same	41.1
More active	35.6

4. What prevents you from participating in more outdoor recreation? (Please check as many as are applicable).

Work/Housework/School takes too much time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial Limitations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I prefer indoor activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical Limitations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are few facilities available in my area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nothing, I participate in as much outdoor recreation as I wish.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The most selected response to this question was “time”, followed by financial limitations, few facilities in my area, physical limitations and prefer indoor activities, in that order. A moderate number of people (<6%) misinterpreted this question, checking the “Nothing, I participate in as much outdoor recreation as I wish” option along with one of the five choices above it. The chart below shows how, over the course of a lifetime, differing factors prevent people from participating in outdoor recreation.



While there may be other factors that prevent participation in outdoor recreation, the five studied in this report are time, financial limitations, physical limitations, few facilities in my area and I prefer indoor activities. The interaction between age and these factors is shown in the graphic on the previous page. Here another look is taken at these impediments to recreation.

Preference for indoor activities

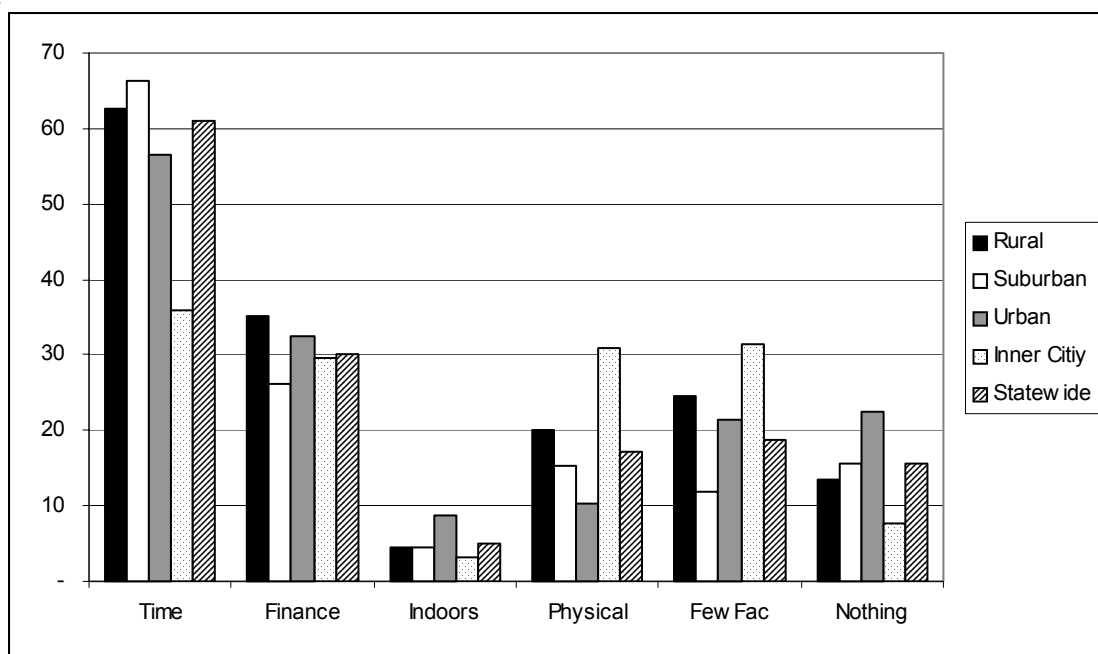
Much has been made in the media in recent years of the fact that youngsters today are spending less time on physical activities outdoors and are consequently more out-of-shape than previous generations at the same age. It is therefore particularly disturbing to see that the youngest group surveyed has the highest preference for indoor activities. What remains to be seen over future decades is whether this preference for indoor activity will continue through their lifetimes or change as this cohort group becomes older.

Geographic factors

All the factors were also looked at from a geographic perspective, and there was little variation between the SCORP zones (see Appendix D for a listing of the counties in each zone). Though not presented here, the data showed the most notable differences occurred for “Financial Limitations” between the Southern Zone (25.5%) and the Central Zone (42.2%) and for “Physical Limitations” between the Southern Zone (15.0%) and the Western Zone (26.2%). However, when survey respondents were asked to self-classify themselves as to the type of their community, a number of interesting facts appear.

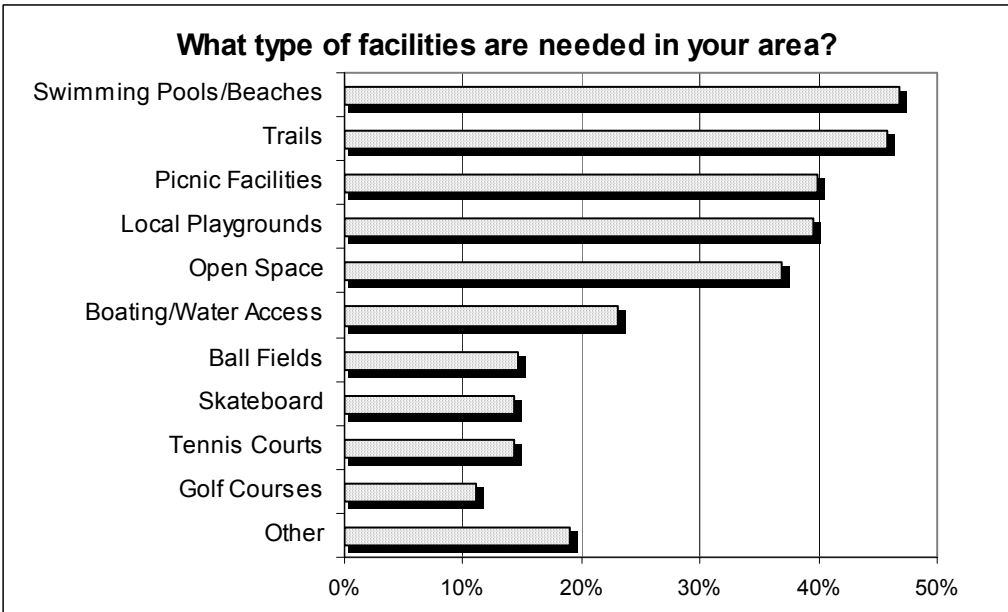
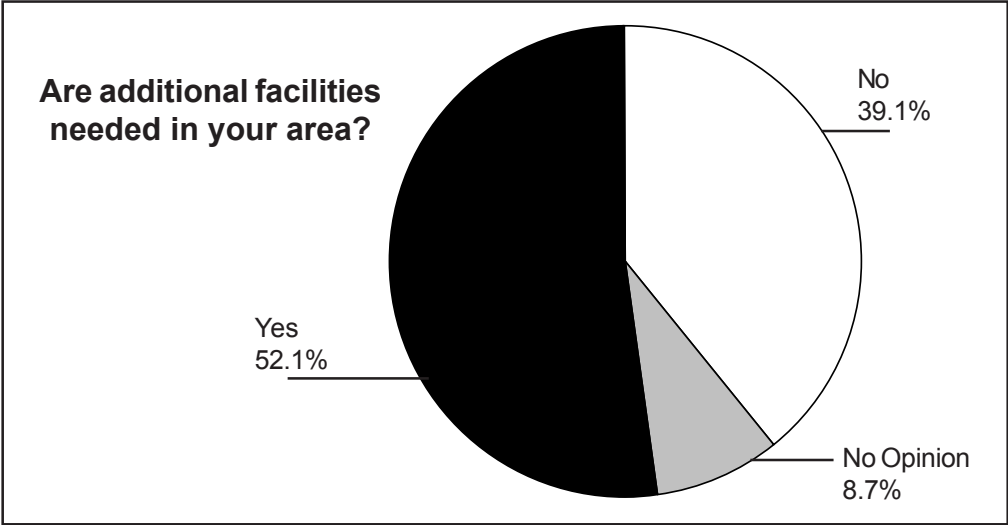
Inner city residents are less likely to claim that they do not have enough time for outdoor recreation and they are less likely to prefer indoor recreation. They do state that they have few facilities in their areas and they are more likely to have physical limitations that limits their ability to participate in outdoor recreation.

The data is shown graphically below.



14. Do you feel that more recreation facilities are needed within approximately 30 minutes of your home?
 Yes; No; No Opinion; If yes, which do you think are most needed?
 Playgrounds Golf Courses Swimming Pools
 Tennis Courts Ball Fields Boating and other Water Access
 Trails Open Space Skateboard Parks
 Picnic Facilities Other, Please describe: _____

This question asked people about the recreation opportunities within a thirty minute radius of where they lived. If people felt that existing facilities were inadequate in their immediate area, they were given a chance to specify what types of facilities were needed. To the first part of this question 52.1% of the respondents replied “yes”. The lower chart shows the diversity of the types of facilities requested by those answering “yes”, with the largest number of requests being made for swimming facilities, trails and picnic facilities.



% of Respondents indicating that additional facilities were needed in their area

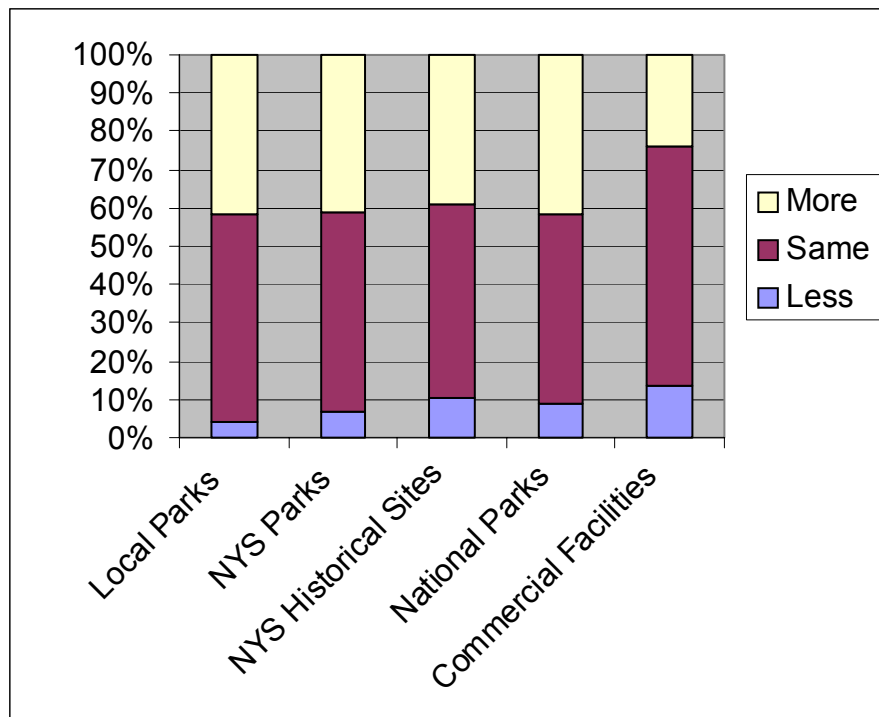
15. During 2004, approximately how many days did you visit the recreation facility types listed below? Do you plan on visiting these facilities more, less, or about the same number of times during 2005?

Days		More /	Less /	Same
_____	Local parks (county,town,city)	M	L	S
_____	New York State Parks	M	L	S
_____	New York State Historic Sites	M	L	S
_____	National Parks	M	L	S

The most frequently visited parks were operated locally, the responses indicating that these parks were visited an average of 22.0 days during 2004. This was followed by New York State operated parks (9.6 days), commercial facilities (2.9 days), National Parks (2.1 days) and finally New York State Historic Sites (1.8 days).

The survey also asked whether people planned to visit each type of facility more, less or the same during the upcoming 12 months. The responses were fairly close for the four government operated types of facilities. About 1/2 of those surveyed said they would visit about the same, about 40% said they planned on visiting more and the remainder planned on visiting less. Local parks came the closest to being outside this pattern with 54.1% planning to visit more and 4.2% visiting less. The figures for Commercial sites were as follows: 13.4% planned to visit less; 24.1% planned to visit more; and 62.5% planned to visit about the same.

Do you plan on visiting these facilities more, less or about the same number of times [in the future]?



Section II: New York State Parks

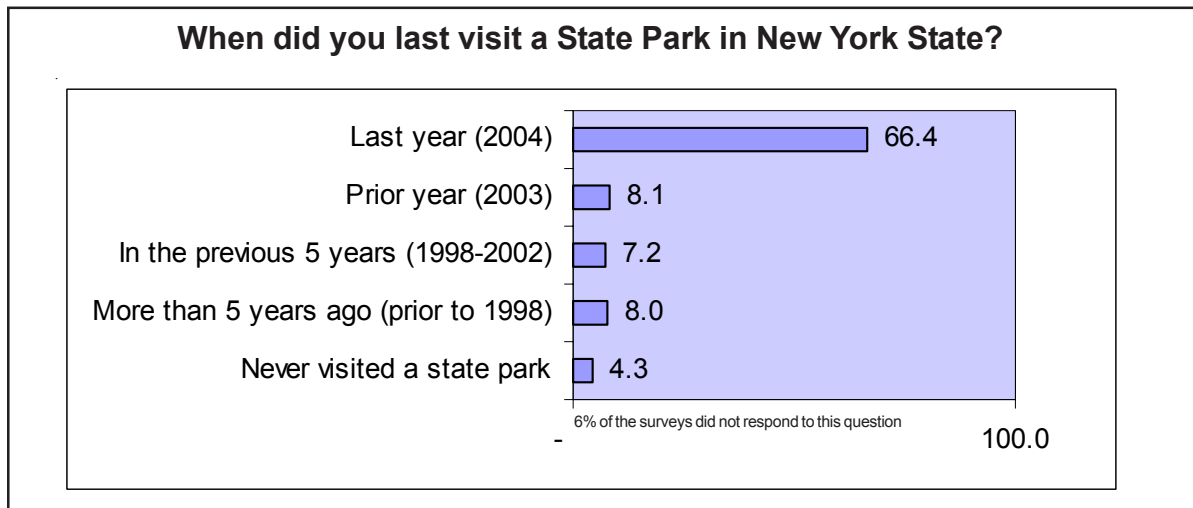
5. When did you last visit a State Park in New York State? (please check one box only)

Last Year (2004);
 Prior Year (2003);
 In the previous 5 years (1998-2002);
 More than 5 years ago (prior to 1998);
 I never visited a New York State Park or Historic Site.

5a. If you last visited a New York State Park prior to 1998 or never visited a state park, please indicate why:

I don't know where a State Park is.
 The State Parks in my area are over-crowded.
 I recently moved to New York State.
 I am too busy.
 State Parks are too far from my residence.
 Other, please specify: _____

Judging from the results to this question, there may have been a misunderstanding of the question because of inconsistencies between the answers to this question compared to question 15, which asked the number of days the respondent visited a NY State Park in 2004. Nonetheless, the responses to this and the following questions show a considerable interest by the public in parks, recreation and the outdoors.

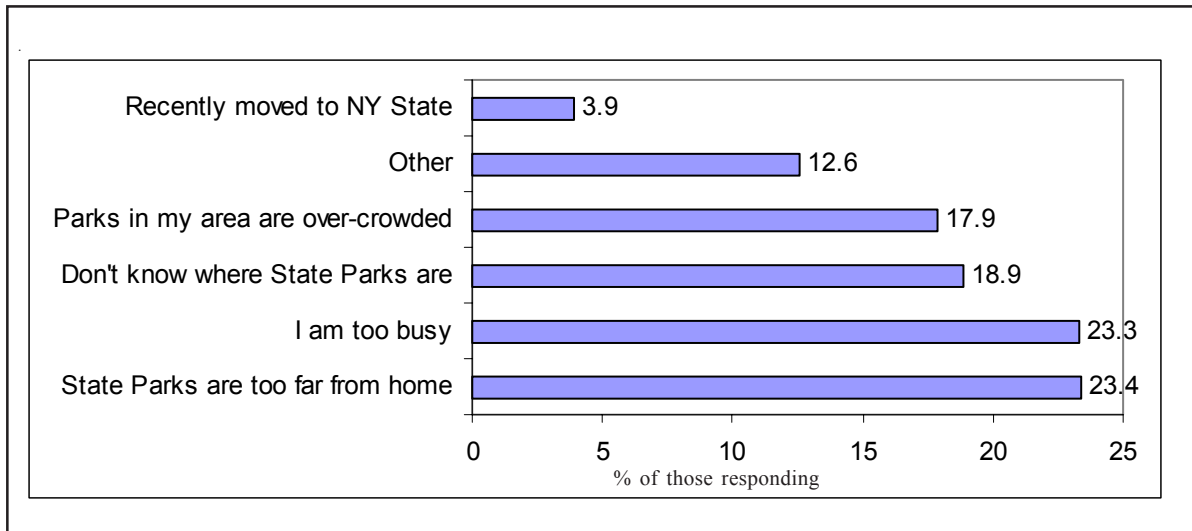


From the table above, it appears that almost three-quarters of New Yorkers surveyed indicated that they had visited a park within the previous two years. However, there appears to be some question as to the validity of the responses to this question:

1. Of those who said they visited a New York State Park in the previous year, almost 30% did not indicate a number of days for visiting OPRHP parks or historic sites in response to question 15.
2. From the same group, almost one out of six didn't answer the question "What state park is closest to your home?" and one out of twelve didn't answer the question "What state park have you visited most recently?"
3. Of those who said they visited a state park during 2004, a large number, when answering the two above referenced questions, incorrectly identified a facility as being operated by OPRHP. While some incorrect responses included well known facilities, e.g. Central Park, Vanderbilt Mansion, most named were lesser-known local facilities.

The second half of question 5 provides insight into the reasons why many people do not visit parks. The two most mentioned reasons - “I am too busy” and “State Parks are too far from my home” both are similar in that they are related to the time constraints of the individual, although distance also includes a monetary cost as gasoline prices continue to increase.

If you last visited a park prior to 1998, please indicate why:



A review of the above information provided additional insight into these responses. Using Geographic Information System software, distances were calculated between those who said that State Parks are too far from home and the nearest State Park. The average distance was 4.96 miles and the two parks located nearest to these respondents most often are Empire-Fulton Ferry and Riverbank. This reinforces two attributes of the parks in New York City - they are used more locally, i.e. within a smaller geographic area than most OPRHP parks and New York City residents, in general, are less aware of the State Parks in their own region. (See responses to questions 6 and 7 for further discussion of this).

The figure of 4.3% of those who indicated that they never visited a New York State Park is probably a low figure. A large proportion of this group indicated that they recently moved to New York State despite the fact that the mailing was restricted to those who have been at their present address for at least 2 years. Further, in New York State, most in-migration is from foreign countries to New York City. Language problems, coupled with the above mentioned lack of information in New York City about State Parks would seem to make a higher figure more likely.

There was consistency among those who said that they were too busy to visit New York State Parks. In response to question 4, “What prevents you from participating in more outdoor recreation?”, the most popular response was “Work/Housework/School takes too much time. (The next two responses were “Financial limitations” and “there are few facilities in my area”).

6. What was the name of the New York State Park or Historic Site you visited most recently? _____
7. What is the name of the New York State Park or Historic Site closest to your home? _____
How often do you visit this park/site? _____ days per year;

The ten most popular responses to question 6
(Park you visited most recently):

1. Jones Beach
2. Letchworth
3. Bear Mountain
4. Allegany
5. Harriman
6. Heckscher
7. F. D. Roosevelt
8. Niagara Falls
9. Bethpage
10. Grafton Lakes

The ten most popular responses to question 7 (Park
closest to your home):

1. Jones Beach
2. Letchworth
3. Bethpage
4. Bear Mountain (tie)
4. Allegany (tie)
6. F. D. Roosevelt
7. Heckscher
8. Hamlin Beach
9. Belmont
10. Niagara Falls

The responses to this question are perhaps an indication of what the public knows about which facilities are state parks and which aren't. Many surveys were returned with either the name of a local park or a Department of Environmental Conservation park named in response to either or both of these questions.

In particular, this question appears to have been poorly answered by the metropolitan New York City residents. Certainly a large number of New York State residents live closest to Roberto Clemente and Riverbank State Parks, but they may not appear here if people are not aware that they exist and are operated by OPRHP.

Using Geographic Information System (GIS) software, it was possible to determine the "correct" answer for each survey to question 7, what is the closest park to your home. The data on each completed survey had the household's zip code indicated. Point location data for each OPRHP owned property already existed. Using the GIS software, it was possible, using zipcode centroid to park centroid distance calculations, it was possible to locate the closest (straight line) facility for each survey. If the respondents had answered with these parks, instead of the above (right-side) list, the following would have been the list of parks closest to the homes of the respondents:

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Empire-Fulton Ferry | 5. Riverbank | 9. East River |
| 2. Gantry Plaza | 6. Valley Stream | 10. Highland Lakes |
| 3. Roberto Clemente | 7. South Beach | |
| 4. Hempstead Lake | 8. Bethpage | |

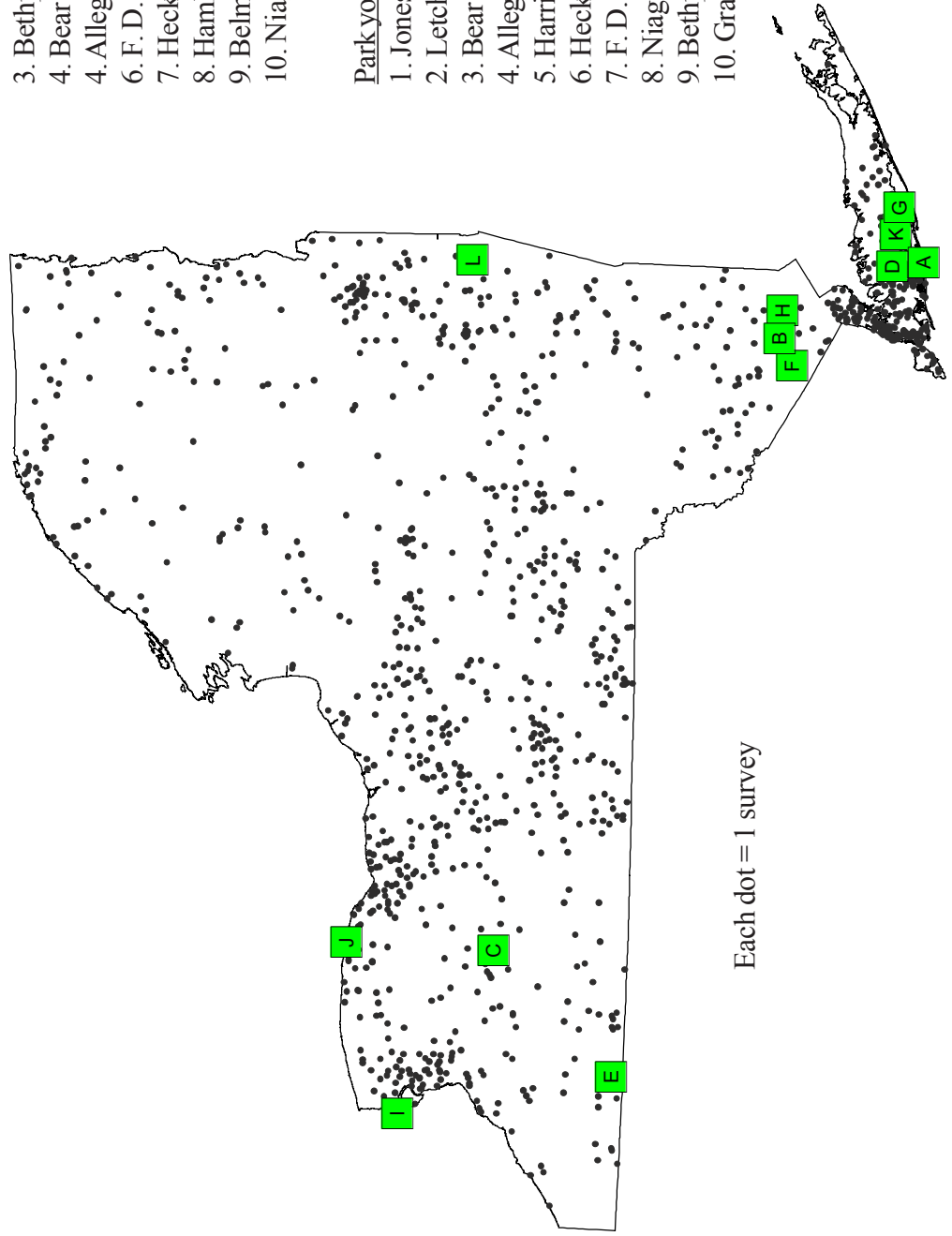
Finally, it may be inferred from the map on page 12 that the citizens who responded that Allegany or Letchworth State Parks are the closest state parks to their home may be unaware of the number of other, smaller state parks in their area.

When asked how often they visited the State Park closest to their home, respondents who answered the first part of this question (name of park) averaged 21.4 days per year visiting that park.

The ten most popular survey responses to:

Question 6, “Which New York State Park or Historic Site you visited most recently?”
and

Question 7, “Which New York State Park or Historic Site is closest to your home?”



Park closest to your home:

1. Jones Beach [A]
2. Letchworth [C]
3. Bethpage [D]
4. Bear Mountain (tie) [B]
4. Allegany (tie) [E]
6. F. D. Roosevelt [H]
7. Heckscher [G]
8. Hamlin Beach [J]
9. Belmont [K]
10. Niagara Falls [I]

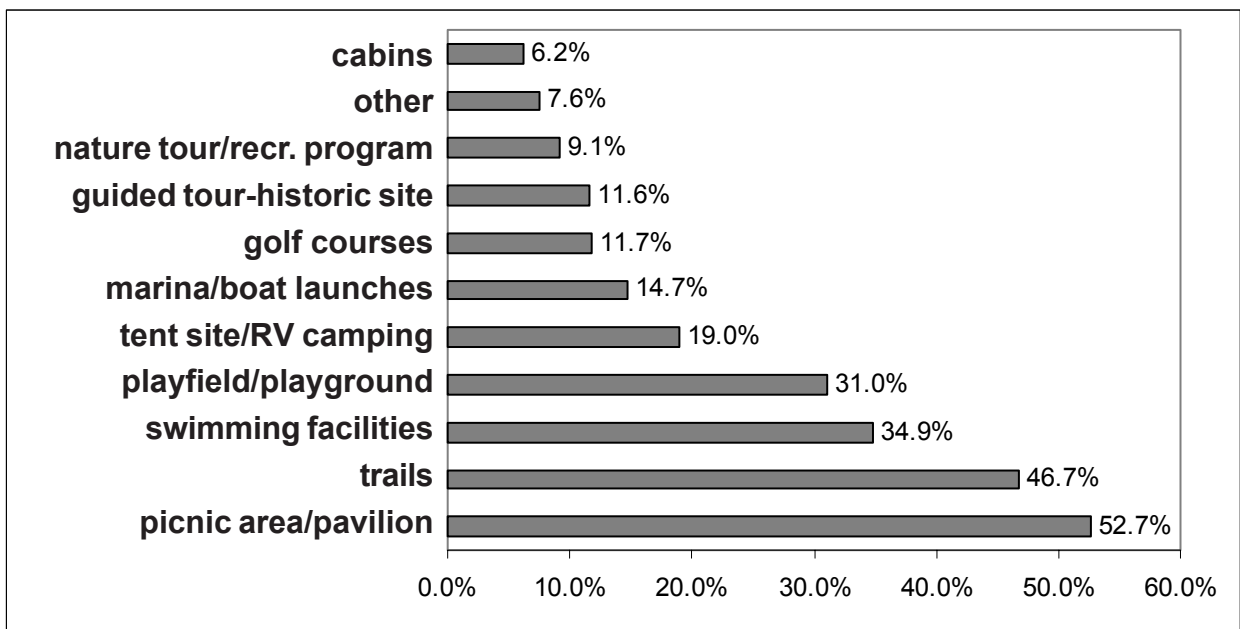
Park you visited most recently:

1. Jones Beach [A]
2. Letchworth [C]
3. Bear Mountain [B]
4. Allegany [E]
5. Harriman [F]
6. Heckscher [G]
7. F. D. Roosevelt [H]
8. Niagara Falls [I]
9. Bethpage [D]
10. Grafton Lakes [L]

8. Which of the following amenities have you used at a New York State Park in the past 5 years?
- cabins
 - tent site/RV camping
 - picnic area/pavilion
 - golf courses
 - marina/boat launch
 - playfield/playground
 - trails
 - swimming facilities
 - guided tour of a state historic site
 - guided nature tour/recreation program
 - other, please specify _____

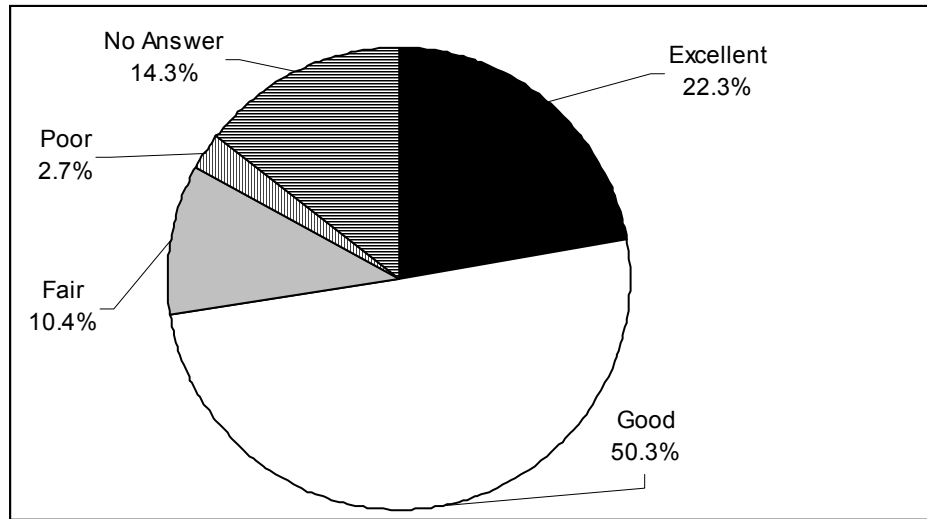
The public was asked which type of amenities they used while at New York State Parks within the past 5 years. Because of a lack of knowledge on the part of the respondent as to what sites are operated by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, some responses may indicate the use of an amenity, but at a facility perhaps operated by DEC or a local government entity. The most popular resources used were those related to typical day use activities, e.g. picnicking, hiking, swimming, etc.

Which of the following have you used at a NY State Park in the past 5 years?



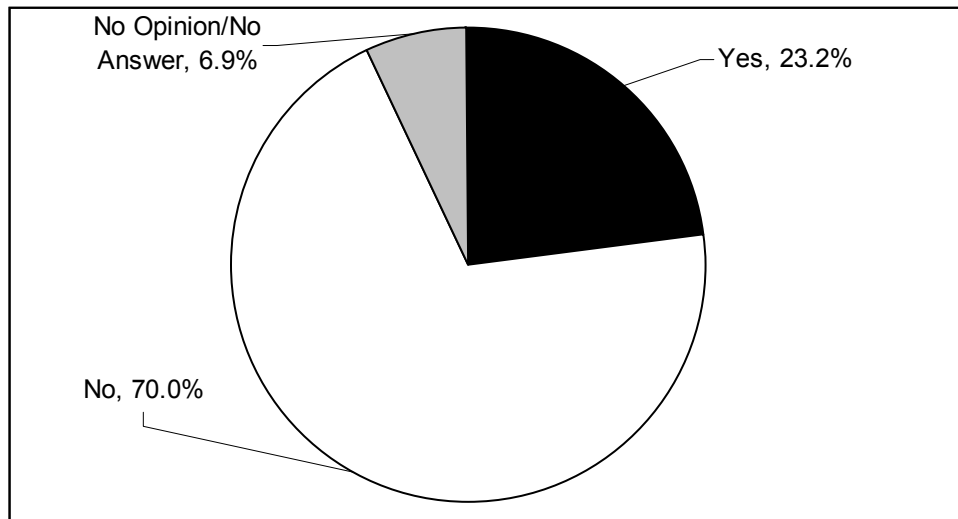
9. If you have visited a park operated by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in the past 5 years, what rating would you give the facility for providing recreation opportunities to children of all ages?

- Excellent Good Fair Poor



10. Have you ever accessed the New York State Park website (<http://nysparks.state.ny.us/>) for information related to parks?

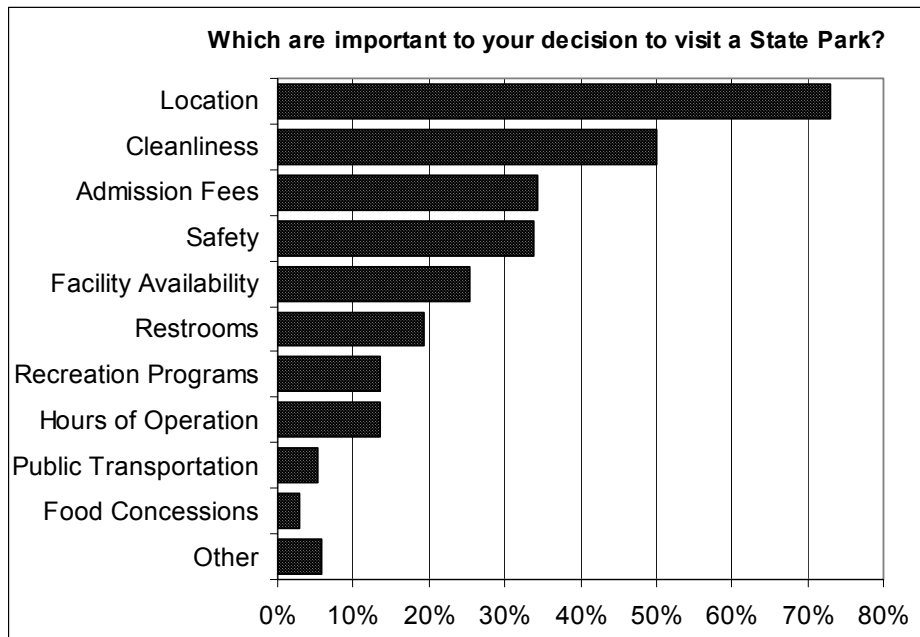
- Yes No No Opinion



The above chart shows the responses to the question “Have you ever accessed the New York State Park website,” as of early 2005. Access to the internet is becoming more commonplace and so it would not be surprising if the “yes” percentage were to increase substantially over time.

11. Which **three** of the following are most important to your decision to visit a New York State Park?

- location safety cleanliness
 admission fees hours of operation recreation programs (e.g. guided nature walk)
 restrooms access to public transportation food concessions
 facility availability (picnic tables, ball fields, etc) other, please specify: _____



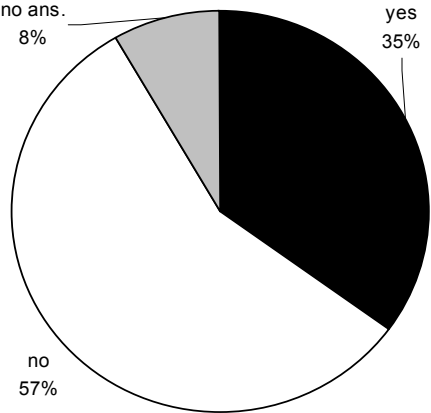
statewide data used in above table

The survey asked people to indicate the three most important factors in their decision to visit a state park. The statewide results are shown in the above chart. As may be expected, location was selected by more respondents than any of the other choices. The statewide results shown above were heavily influenced by those living in the southern area of the state because that is where most people in New York State live. While the pattern of responses was similar throughout the state, there are some differences among respondents when they are grouped by geographic area. For instance, public transportation availability was mentioned by over 11% of the residents of the southern area of the state compared to 7% of the western area and only 1% of the central and northern areas (See Appendix C for a description of the zones used here and in the NYS Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan). Similarly, safety was considerably more important for those in the south, while restrooms were less important there than in other areas of the state. The table below shows the results by zone:

Decision Factor	Western	Central	Northern	Southern	Total
Location	78.0%	78.2%	72.7%	67.7%	73.1%
Cleanliness	56.5%	53.2%	54.8%	43.3%	50.1%
Fees	36.8%	42.7%	27.7%	30.3%	34.4%
Safety	23.3%	32.4%	31.6%	39.5%	33.9%
Facility Availability	24.9%	22.8%	29.7%	25.1%	25.3%
Restrooms	26.7%	18.9%	18.9%	17.8%	19.4%
Recreation programs	9.7%	12.0%	16.7%	14.3%	13.5%
Hours of operation	14.6%	14.5%	10.2%	13.9%	13.5%
Public Transportation	7.1%	1.0%	1.0%	10.6%	5.4%
Food Concessions	2.6%	4.9%	0.8%	2.7%	3.0%
Other	5.6%	7.2%	6.2%	4.7%	5.9%

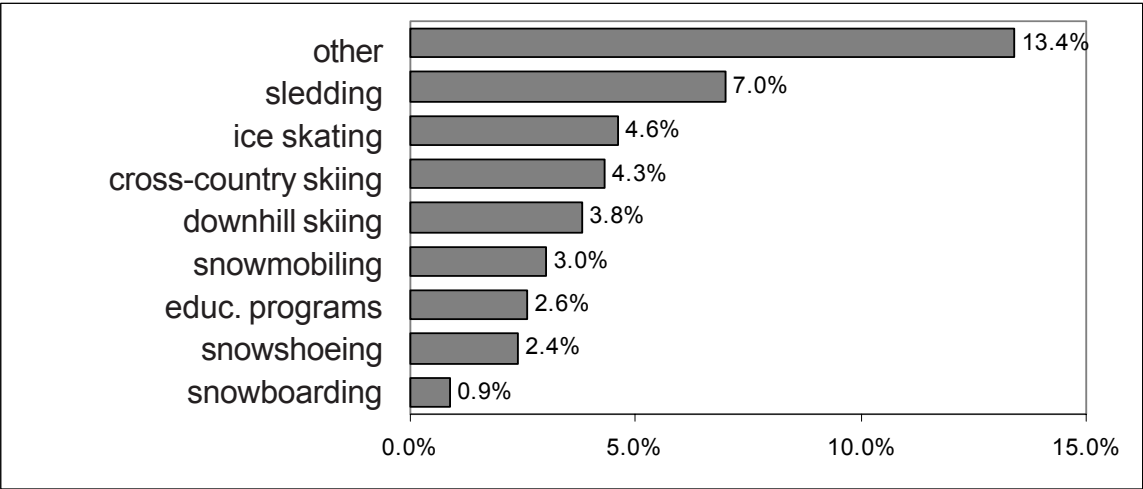
12. Have you visited a New York State Park or Historic Site **during the winter** within the past 5 years?
 no; yes; If yes, in which of the following activities did you participate?
 snowmobiling cross country skiing downhill skiing
 sledding ice skating snowshoeing
 educational programs snow boarding
 other, _____

Winter recreation is important to many of New York State’s citizens. The responses to this question indicated that slightly more than one-third of the people surveyed had been to a state park during the winter in the previous five years.



“Other” was the most common response. A review of the written responses specifying the “other” activity indicated the most commonly mentioned was either walking or hiking - often coupled with another activity such as photography. The table below shows the extent to which the respondents participated in the various activities:

Activities participated in by survey respondents



13. Are you interested in using a full-service cabin, i.e. a cabin where linen service and kitchen utensils are provided? The extra services provided would increase the cost of the cabin Yes; No; No Opinion

The final question in the section concerning the New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation asked whether the respondent was interested in full-service cabins. The responses were as follows: 41.4% “yes”; 30.0% “no”; and 28.6% no opinion or no answer.

Section III: Opinions on Recreational and Environmental Issues

16. YOUR OPINION ON SEVERAL RECREATION ISSUES

Please read each of the statements below 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 open space.
-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	Government should preserve more open space by means other than acquisition, e.g. easements, zoning, etc.
-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	More lands should be purchased by government for recreation.
-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	Government should increase/create 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 development of 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 state and local recreation development and land acquisition should be increased.
-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	Public/private partnerships should be considered to expand and develop recreational facilities.
-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	Patrons should help support programs and services that have been provided through government subsidies in the past.

As shown above, the public was questioned on nine issues dealing with recreational and environmental issues. Their responses are described in this section. These results are shown numerically, graphically and by SCORP planning zones.

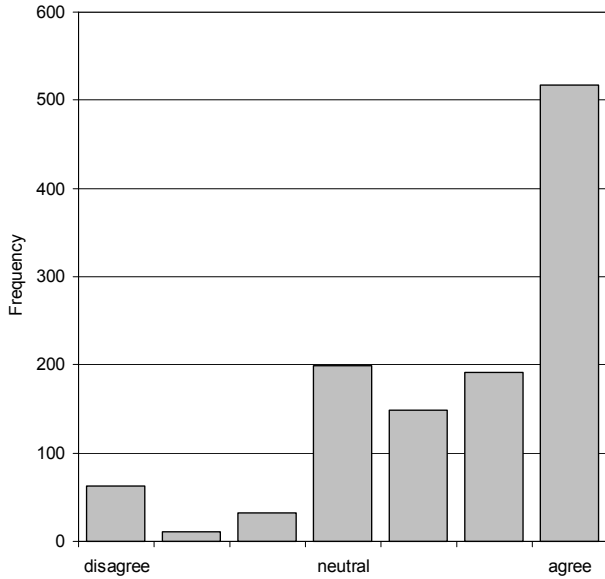
In general, results showed support for all nine issues, ranging from the lowest average response of +1.120 for patron support for programs and services to the highest average, +1.662 for spending more money on public park maintenance and repair.

Interest in this series of questions was high, with the percentage of survey forms with unanswered questions being between 2.03% (purchasing open space and maintenance) and 3.21% (federal assistance). Non-responses were not used in the calculation of means or percentages.

Where appropriate, mention is made of other variables affecting the responses to this series of questions.

Question #16: Your Opinion on Several Recreation Issues

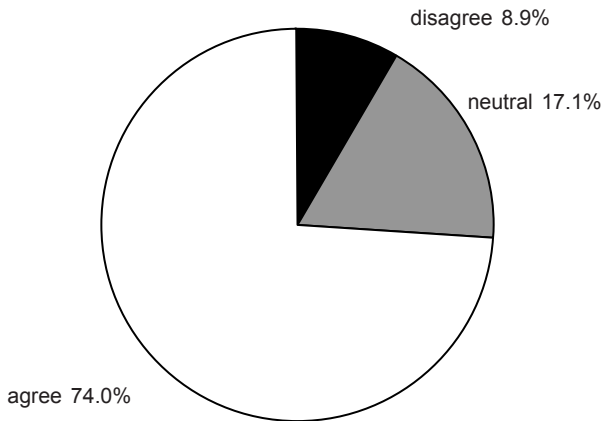
Issue: More lands should be purchased by government to preserve open space.



Responses:	Freq.	Percent
-3 Strongly Disagree	62	5.3
-2	10	0.9
-1	32	2.7
0 neutral	199	17.1
+1	148	12.7
+2	192	16.6
+3 Strongly Agree	518	44.7
No Response	24	-
Total	1186	100.0

Mean: +1.59
Variance: 2.82

There was generally strong support for this issue. Across community types, support consistently increased from rural areas through suburban, urban and finally inner city communities. (Each respondent selected the type of community he felt he lived in).



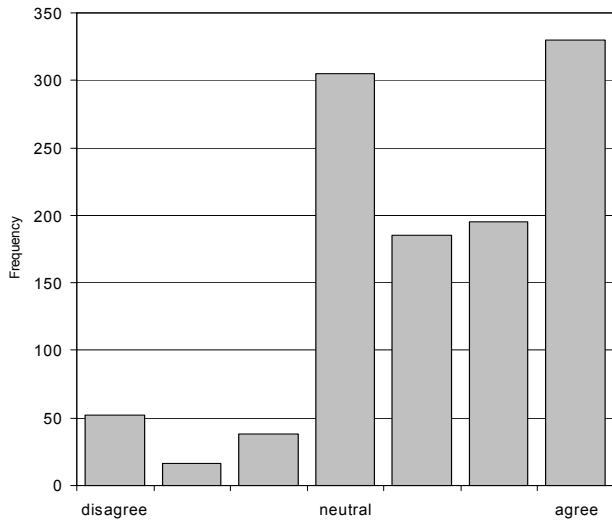
The issue of whether more land should be purchased by government to preserve open space received strong support throughout the state, but especially from the southern, most highly developed part of New York. This finding is similar to the results of this same question when it had been asked in 1998.

Responses to this issue by zone:

	Zone				
	Western	Central	Northern	Southern	Statewide
Agree	68.9%	75.8%	69.6%	76.1%	74.0%
Neutral	15.2%	18.5%	16.6%	17.5%	17.1%
Disagree	15.9%	5.7%	13.8%	6.4%	8.9%

Question #16: Your Opinion on Several Recreation Issues

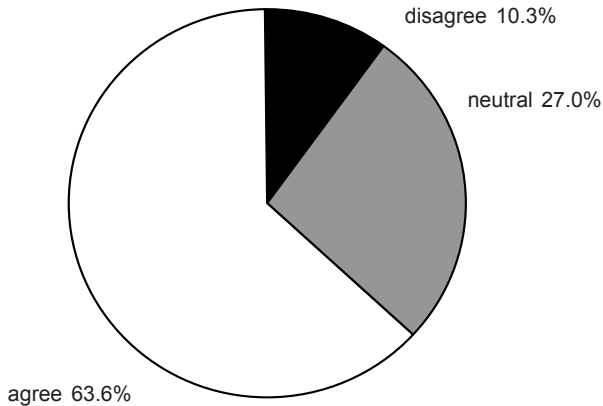
Issue: Government should preserve more open space by means other than acquisition, e.g. easements, zoning, etc.



Responses:	Freq.	Percent
-3 Strongly Disagree	57	5.0
-2	20	1.7
-1	41	3.6
0 neutral	310	27.0
+1	185	16.1
+2	197	17.1
+3 Strongly Agree	339	29.4
No Response	38	-
Total	1186	100.0

Mean: +1.17
Variance: 2.69

While there is support for preserving open space through non-acquisition methods, this issue received the second lowest average rating of all issues asked. The only issue receiving a lower rating is “Patrons should help support programs and services...”.



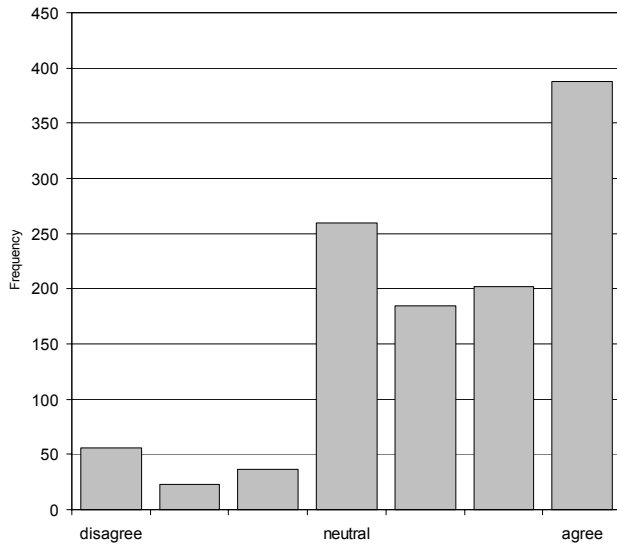
In comparing the responses to this issue among the various household income levels, the strongest supporting group was the wealthiest, the least supportive, the poorest. However, the pattern was inconsistent across the middle groups.

Responses to this issue by zone:

	Zone				
	Western	Central	Northern	Southern	Statewide
Agree	67.2%	61.9%	67.1%	61.1%	63.6%
Neutral	23.4%	28.1%	19.2%	31.3%	27.0%
Disagree	9.4%	10.0%	13.6%	7.6%	10.3%

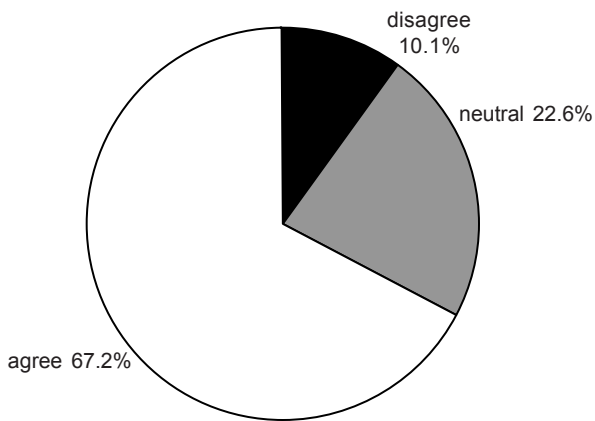
Question #16: Your Opinion on Several Recreation Issues (continued)

Issue: More lands should be purchased by government for recreation.



Responses:	Freq.	Percent
-3 Strongly Disagree	56	4.9
-2	23	2.0
-1	37	3.2
0 neutral	260	22.6
+1	185	16.0
+2	202	17.5
+3 Strongly Agree	388	33.7
No Response	33	
Total	1186	100.0

Mean: +1.30
Variance: 2.75



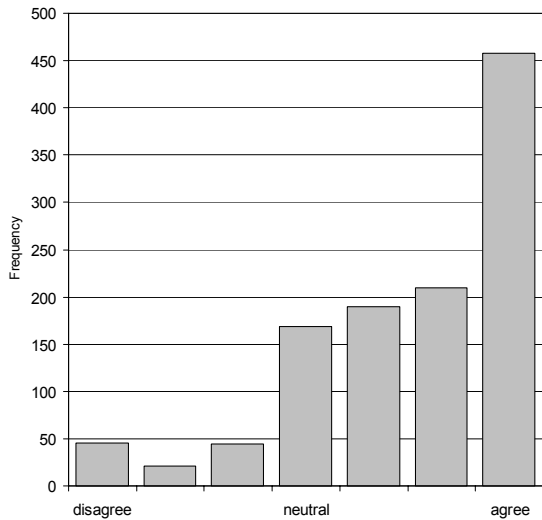
The issue of whether more land should be purchased by government for recreation received a mean response of 1.30. This was slightly lower than the 1.59 for the similar question of whether land should be purchased to preserve open space and seems to indicate a slight preference on the part of the public for preservation rather than recreation

Responses to this issue by zone:

	Zone				
	Western	Central	Northern	Southern	Statewide
Agree	66.9%	65.3%	70.1%	68.5%	67.2%
Neutral	16.9%	29.5%	12.2%	24.4%	22.6%
Disagree	16.2%	5.2%	17.8%	7.1%	10.1%

Question #16: Your Opinion on Several Recreation Issues (continued)

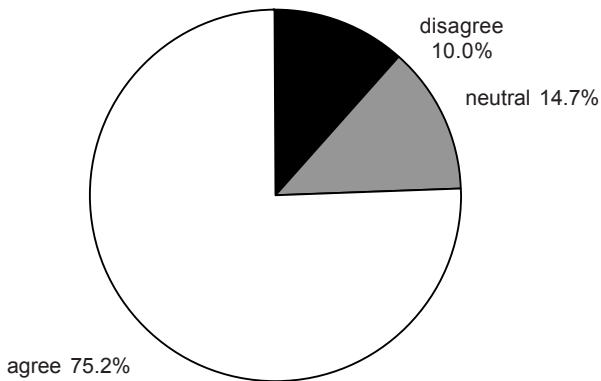
Issue: Government should increase/create additional public access to water resources such as lakes, streams, beaches and oceanfronts.



Responses:	Freq.	Percent
-3 Strongly Disagree	47	4.0
-2	25	2.2
-1	44	3.8
0 neutral	171	14.7
+1	192	16.5
+2	214	18.4
+3 Strongly Agree	467	40.3
No Response	26	-
Total	1186	100.0

Mean: +1.54
Variance: 2.65

For some forms of recreation, (swimming, fishing, boating, etc.) direct contact with the water is a necessity. For others, (camping, hiking, picnicking) nearby bodies of water enhance the experience. Although some groups, notably those who own waterfront property, may disagree with increase public access to water resources, overall there is strong support for this issue.



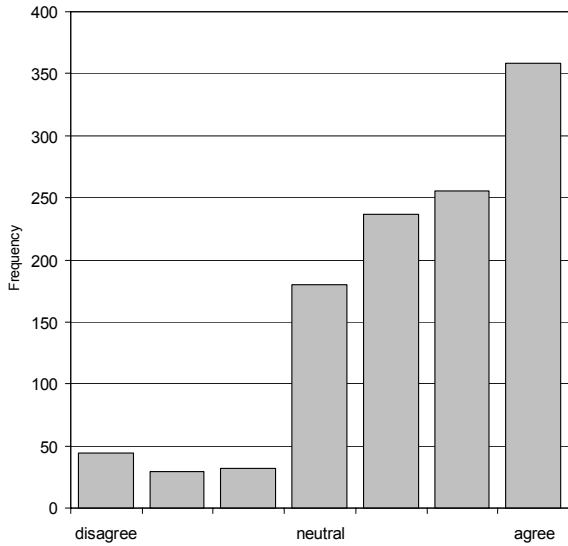
When this question was asked in 1991, 70.4% selected +2 or +3 as their response, compared with 59.3% in 1997. This figure has not changed much since then, the current figure being 58.7%.

Responses to this issue by zone:

	Zone				
	Western	Central	Northern	Southern	Statewide
Agree	75.0%	78.3%	76.1%	72.9%	75.2%
Neutral	16.7%	14.6%	13.8%	14.9%	14.7%
Disagree	8.3%	7.1%	10.1%	12.2%	10.0%

Question #16: Your Opinion on Several Recreation Issues (continued)

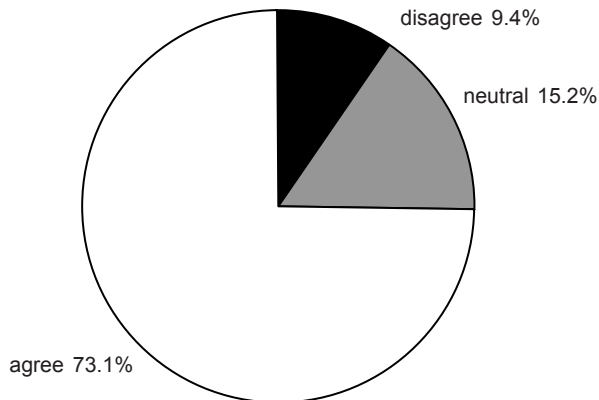
Issue: Government should increase spending for development of recreation facilities, e.g. pools, marinas, trails, campgrounds, etc.



Responses:	Freq.	Percent
-3 Strongly Disagree	47	4.0
-2	30	2.5
-1	35	2.9
0 neutral	181	15.2
+1	240	20.2
+2	258	21.8
+3 Strongly Agree	368	31.1
No Response	27	-
Total	1186	100.0

Mean: +1.40
Variance: 2.47

The phrase “Increased government spending” frequently raises a red flag among the public. Nevertheless a large majority of the public, 73.1% indicated support for this issue, perhaps feeling that these services may be lost otherwise.



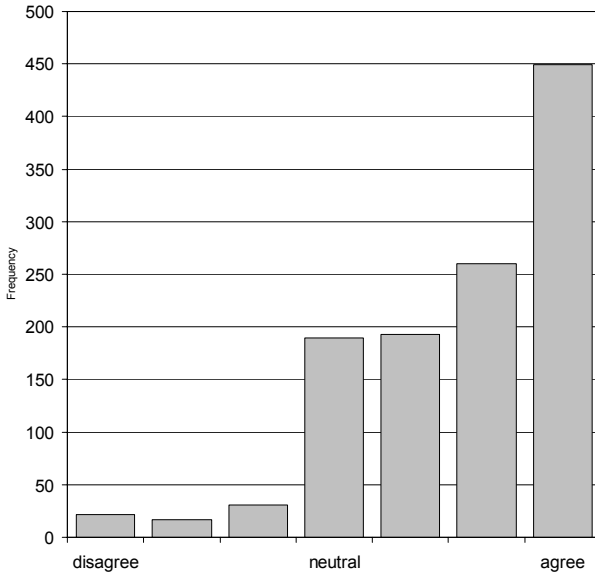
Support for this issue decreased with increasing age. There was also strong agreement with this issue from those describing themselves as inner city residents.

Responses to this issue by zone:

	Zone				
	Western	Central	Northern	Southern	Statewide
Agree	65.4%	71.6%	75.5%	80.0%	73.1%
Neutral	20.0%	18.8%	13.0%	13.8%	15.2%
Disagree	14.6%	9.7%	11.6%	6.2%	9.4%

Question #16: Your Opinion on Several Recreation Issues (continued)

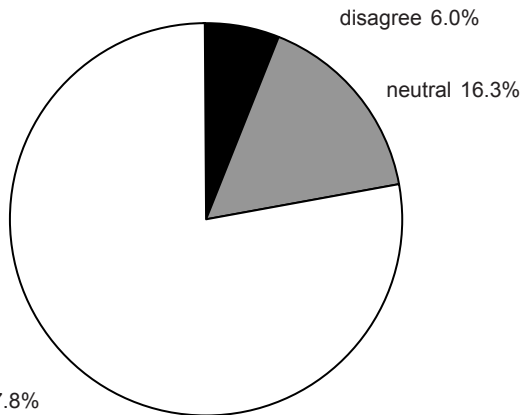
Issue: More money should be spent on public park maintenance and repair.



Responses:	Freq.	Percent
-3 Strongly Disagree	22	1.9
-2	17	1.5
-1	31	2.6
0 neutral	189	16.3
+1	193	16.7
+2	260	22.4
+3 Strongly Agree	449	38.7
No Response	25	-
Total	1186	100.0

Mean: +1.66
Variance: 2.04

Maintenance and repairs have long been an important issue to New Yorkers. This issue received the highest mean response (1.66) of all the issues that were surveyed, indicating a strong concern by the public for the recreational infrastructure in New York State.



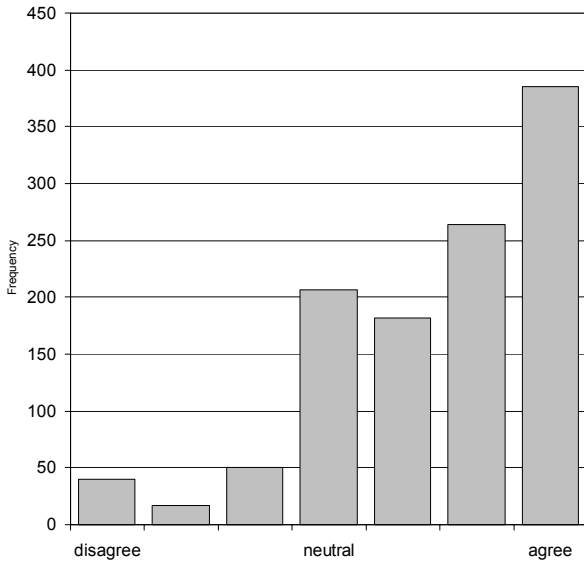
Support for spending more money on public park maintenance is now highest in the Northern zone, while previously, it had scored highest in the Southern park of New York State. Results were fairly similar across income groups.

Responses to this issue by zone:

	Zone				
	Western	Central	Northern	Southern	Statewide
Agree	76.5%	72.4%	82.9%	80.0%	77.8%
Neutral	16.7%	21.0%	12.9%	14.4%	16.3%
Disagree	6.8%	6.5%	4.1%	5.5%	6.0%

Question #16: Your Opinion on Several Recreation Issues (continued)

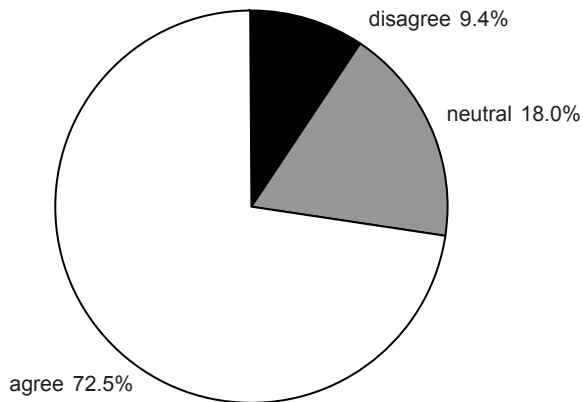
Issue: Federal financial assistance to support recreation development and land acquisition should be increased.



Responses:	Freq.	Percent
-3 Strongly Disagree	40	3.5
-2	17	1.5
-1	50	4.4
0 neutral	207	18.0
+1	182	15.9
+2	264	23.0
+3 Strongly Agree	385	33.6
No Response	39	-
Total	1186	100.0

Mean: +1.49
Variance: 2.43

Federal funding for recreation is an important issue in times of local budgetary constraints. This issue received an overall score of 1.41 in the 1998 survey and 1.49 now. Support for this issue varied with income but was highest among those with a household income over \$125,000 and lowest among those whose income was less than \$15,000.

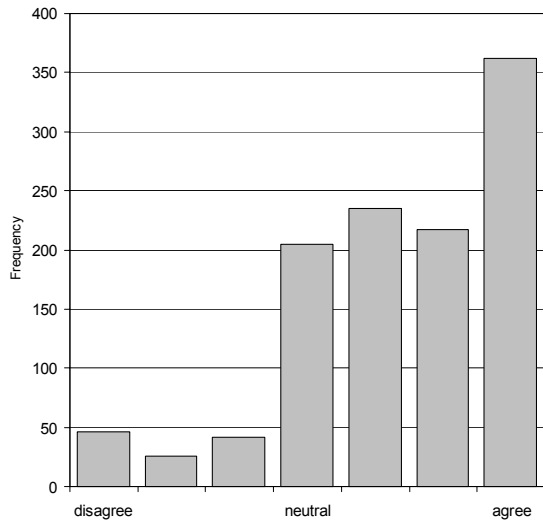


Statewide, more people support federal funds for recreation now than they did in prior surveys. An earlier survey showed 48.3% supported this issue at the “strongly agree” level (+2 or +3). The 1997 survey support was 54.2% and it is now 56.6%.

Responses to this issue by zone:

	Zone				
	Western	Central	Northern	Southern	Statewide
Agree	69.7%	71.8%	76.0%	72.5%	72.5%
Neutral	17.4%	18.4%	17.1%	18.6%	18.0%
Disagree	12.9%	9.8%	6.9%	8.9%	9.4%

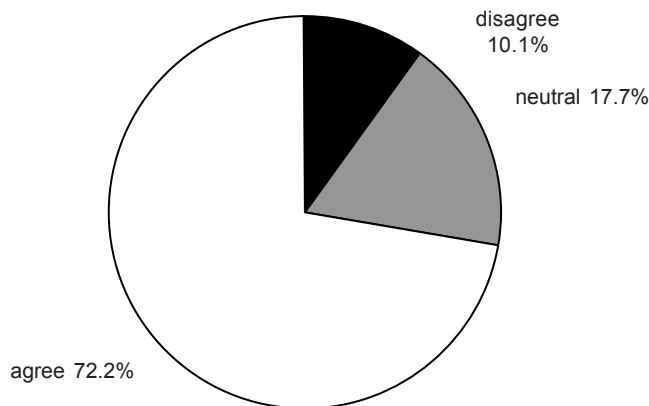
Question #16: Your Opinion on Several Recreation Issues (continued)
Issue: Public/private partnerships should be considered to expand and develop recreational facilities.



Responses:	Freq.	Percent
-3 Strongly Disagree	48	4.1
-2	27	2.3
-1	42	3.7
0 neutral	204	17.7
+1	243	21.0
+2	226	19.5
+3 Strongly Agree	367	31.7
No Response	29	-
Total	1186	100.0

Mean: +1.34
Variance: 2.47

The resources of government at all levels have been stretched thin. Increases in taxes to cover expenses are considered politically non-viable. Consequently, there has been increased reliance on partnerships with private sector and non-profit organizations because of reductions in the level of taxation. Within New York State public/private partnerships are actively promoted by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.



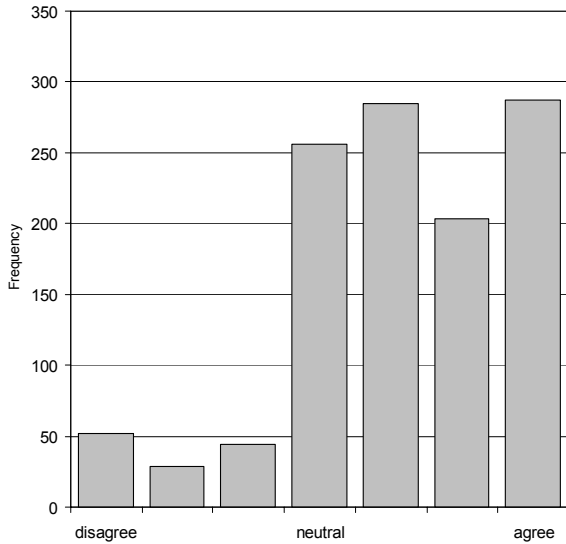
Support for this issue has increased slightly from the 1998 survey at which time 68.9% of the public agreed and 14.1% disagreed. Currently, support for this issue is weakest in the Central Zone.

Responses to this issue by zone:

	Zone				
	Western	Central	Northern	Southern	Statewide
Agree	72.9%	67.0%	73.4%	74.5%	72.2%
Neutral	21.1%	20.7%	17.9%	15.0%	17.7%
Disagree	6.0%	12.2%	8.7%	10.4%	10.1%

Question #16: Your Opinion on Several Recreation Issues (continued)

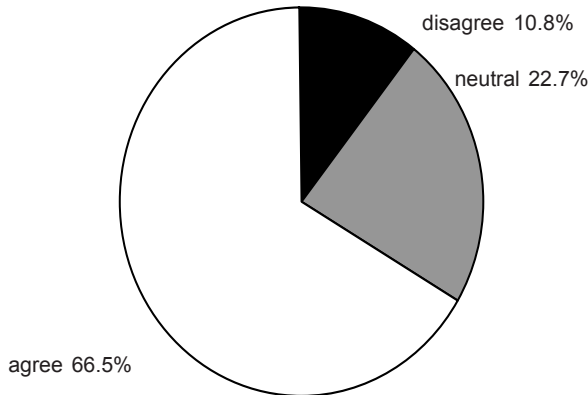
Issue: Patrons should help support programs and services that have been provided through government subsidies in the past.



Responses:	Freq.	Percent
-3 Strongly Disagree	52	4.5
-2	29	2.5
-1	44	3.8
0 neutral	256	22.2
+1	285	24.7
+2	203	17.5
+3 Strongly Agree	287	24.8
No Response	30	-
Total	1186	100.0

Mean: +1.12
Variance: 2.47

At +1.12, this issue had the lowest mean score of all 9 issues. While not saying so directly, what this issue is all about is increased fees for recreation programs and services. This could explain the lack of support among the lower income groups surveyed.



At 10.8%, more of the public gave this issue a negative score than any of the other issues.

Responses to this issue by zone:

	Zone				
	Western	Central	Northern	Southern	Statewide
Agree	68.9%	62.8%	67.0%	68.6%	66.5%
Neutral	24.2%	26.1%	18.8%	21.4%	22.7%
Disagree	6.8%	11.1%	14.2%	10.0%	10.8%

Appendix A



New York State
Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

2004
General Public Recreation Survey





New York State
Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
**2004 General Public
Recreation Survey**

1. Please complete the activity lists below for you and any two other household members above age 12. Indicate the approximate number of days the activity was done during calendar year 2004 (January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004), regardless of where the activity took place, whether at a state park, local park, private facility or anywhere else. If you and the two other household members did not participate in an activity at all you may leave the line blank.

Examples: Golf 7 = [Played 7 days last year]
Basketball 100 = [Played 100 days last year, about twice a week]

	YOU	*OTHER HOUSEHOLD* MEMBER 1	*OTHER HOUSEHOLD* MEMBER 2
	___ age ___ sex	___ age ___ sex	___ age ___ sex
ACTIVITY LIST	days	days	days
<u>Visiting Parks and Natural Areas</u>			
Relaxing in the park	_____	_____	_____
Picnicking	_____	_____	_____
Playground use	_____	_____	_____
Bird Watching/Nature Photography	_____	_____	_____
Visiting Nature Preserves	_____	_____	_____
<u>Court Games</u>			
Tennis	_____	_____	_____
Handball/Racquetball	_____	_____	_____
Basketball	_____	_____	_____
<u>Field Sports</u>			
Baseball/Softball	_____	_____	_____
Soccer	_____	_____	_____
Volleyball	_____	_____	_____
<u>Water Based Activities</u>			
Swimming	_____	_____	_____
Boating (with a motor)	_____	_____	_____
Rowboating/Canoeing/Kayaking	_____	_____	_____
Sailing	_____	_____	_____
Salt Water Fishing	_____	_____	_____
Fresh Water Fishing	_____	_____	_____
Surfing	_____	_____	_____
<u>Trail Activities (whether or not on a trail)</u>			
Bicycling (On-Road)	_____	_____	_____
Bicycling (Off-Road/Mountain)	_____	_____	_____
Skateboarding/Rollerblading	_____	_____	_____
Walking for enjoyment or exercise	_____	_____	_____
Jogging/Running	_____	_____	_____
Hiking/Backpacking	_____	_____	_____
Horseback Riding	_____	_____	_____
ATV/Off Road Vehicle/4x4	_____	_____	_____
<u>Camping</u>			
Tent Camping	_____	_____	_____
RV Camping	_____	_____	_____
Primitive Camping/Backpacking	_____	_____	_____
Cabin/Cottage Camping	_____	_____	_____

	YOU	*OTHER HOUSEHOLD*	*OTHER HOUSEHOLD*
	MEMBER 1	MEMBER 1	MEMBER 2
	___ age ___ sex	___ age ___ sex	___ age ___ sex
ACTIVITY LIST	days	days	days
<u>Other Outdoor Recreation</u>			
Golfing	_____	_____	_____
Gardening	_____	_____	_____
Geocaching	_____	_____	_____
Hunting	_____	_____	_____
Rock Climbing	_____	_____	_____
<u>Cultural Activities</u>			
Visiting Formal Gardens	_____	_____	_____
Outdoor Theatre/Concerts	_____	_____	_____
Visiting Zoos	_____	_____	_____
Visiting Historic Sites	_____	_____	_____
Visiting Museums	_____	_____	_____
<u>Winter Activities</u>			
Ice Skating	_____	_____	_____
Cross Country Skiing	_____	_____	_____
Downhill Skiing	_____	_____	_____
Sledding	_____	_____	_____
Snow Boarding	_____	_____	_____
Snow Shoeing	_____	_____	_____
Snowmobiling	_____	_____	_____
Other (specify) _____	_____	_____	_____

2. What 2 activities would you most like to participate in, but can't for any reason?

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

3. Compared to 5 years ago, are you participating in more, less or about the same amount of physical activities? (Please circle)

M L S	M L S	M L S
-------	-------	-------

4. What prevents you from participating in more outdoor recreation? (Please check as many as are applicable).

Work/Housework/School takes too much time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial Limitations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I prefer indoor activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical Limitations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are few facilities available in my area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nothing, I participate in as much outdoor recreation as I wish.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The questions on page 4 refer only to facilities operated by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Please limit your responses to your experience at these facilities.

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is responsible for the operation and maintenance of 169 State Parks and 35 Historic Sites. These sites are located throughout the state from Montauk Point to Niagara Falls and as far north as the Canadian border. We are looking for your input to help us make the decisions necessary to provide you, the public, with the best possible recreational experience when visiting one of our facilities. The next series of questions concern your experiences and your expectations when visiting a New York State Park or Historic Site. Thank you for your help.

5. When did you last visit a State Park in New York State? (please check one box only)
- Last Year (2004); Prior Year (2003); In the previous 5 years (1998-2002);
 More than 5 years ago (prior to 1998); I never visited a New York State Park or Historic Site.
- 5a. If you last visited a State Park prior to 1998 or never visited a State Park, please indicate why:
- I don't know where a State Park is. The State Parks in my area are over-crowded.
 I recently moved to New York State. I am too busy.
 State Parks are too far from my residence. Other, please specify: _____
6. What was the name of the New York State Park or Historic Site you visited most recently? _____
How did you hear about this park?
 near home; friends; advertisements; website; Other, please specify: _____
7. What is the name of the New York State Park or Historic Site closest to your home? _____
How often do you visit this park/site? _____ days per year;
8. Which of the following amenities have you used at a State Park in New York State in the past 5 years?
- cabins tent site/RV camping picnic area/pavilion
 golf courses marina/boat launch playfield/playground
 trails swimming facilities guided tour of a state historic site
 guided nature tour/recreation program
 other, please specify _____
9. If you have visited a park operated by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in the past 5 years, What rating would you give the facility for providing recreation opportunities to children of all ages?
- Excellent Good Fair Poor
10. Have you ever accessed the New York State Park website (<http://nysparks.state.ny.us/>) for information related to parks?
 Yes; No; No Opinion
11. Which **three** of the following are most important to your decision to visit a State Park?
- location safety cleanliness
 admission fees hours of operation recreation programs (e.g. guided nature walk)
 restrooms access to public transportation food concessions
 facility availability (picnic tables, ball fields, etc) other, please specify: _____
12. Have you visited a State Park or State Historic Site in New York State **during the winter** within the past 5 years?
 no; yes; If yes, in which of the following activities did you participate?
- snowmobiling cross country skiing downhill skiing
 sledding ice skating snowshoeing
 educational programs snow boarding
 other, _____
13. Are you interested in using a full-service cabin, i.e. a cabin where linen service and kitchen utensils are provided?
The extra services provided would increase the cost of the cabin Yes; No; No Opinion

14. Do you feel that more recreation facilities are needed within 30 minutes of your home?

Yes; No; No Opinion; If yes, which do you think are most needed?

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf Courses | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming Pools/Beaches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis Courts | <input type="checkbox"/> Ball Fields | <input type="checkbox"/> Boating and other Water Access |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Open Space | <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboard Parks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic Facilities | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Please describe: _____ | | |

15. During 2004, approximately how many days did you visit the recreation facility types listed below? Do you plan on visiting these facilities more, less, or about the same number of times during 2005?

Days		More / Less / Same		
_____	County, Town or City Parks	M	L	S
_____	State Parks or Campgrounds (NYS)	M	L	S
_____	State Historic Sites (NYS)	M	L	S
_____	National Parks	M	L	S
_____	Commercial recreation facilities	M	L	S

16. YOUR OPINION ON SEVERAL RECREATION ISSUES

Please read each of the statements below 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		More lands should be purchased by government to preserve open space.
-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3		Government should preserve more open space by means other than acquisition, e.g. easements, zoning, etc.
-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3		More lands should be purchased by government for recreation.
-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3		Government should increase/create 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 development of 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 state and local recreation development and land acquisition should be increased.
-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3		Public/private partnerships should be considered to expand and develop recreational facilities.
-3 -2 -1 0 +1 +2 +3		Patrons should help support programs and services that have been provided through government subsidies in the past.

**The remaining questions are being collected for statistical purposes only.
Your responses will help us to better analyze your answers to the previous questions.**

17. Please check the employment status for you and the other two household members in question 1:

	YOU	HOUSEHOLD MEMBER 1	HOUSEHOLD MEMBER 2
Working full-time	_____	_____	_____
Working part-time	_____	_____	_____
Self-employed	_____	_____	_____
Unemployed	_____	_____	_____
Retired	_____	_____	_____
Student	_____	_____	_____
Homemaker	_____	_____	_____
Disabled (check if disabled)	_____	_____	_____

18. In what town/village/or city do you live? _____ zip code: _____

19. Is your community rural suburban urban inner city?

20. What is your approximate total annual household income?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Below \$15,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 - \$74,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 - \$29,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 - \$125,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 - \$49,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$125,000 |

21. Including yourself, how many members of your immediate household are in each category?

Children (under 12) _____	Teenagers (age 12 to 17) _____	Young Adults (age 18 to 25) _____
Adults (age 26 to 40) _____	Adults (age 41 to 65) _____	Senior Citizens (66 and older) _____

**Thank you for helping New York State
improve recreation for you and your fellow citizens.**

**You may purchase an Empire Passport for only \$59 per year
that gives you unlimited access to New York State Parks at
<http://www.nysparks.state.ny.us/passport/>
or by calling this telephone number:
(518) 474-0458**

APPENDIX B

2004 General Public Recreation Survey Preliminary Analysis

Introduction

Design work on the 2004 General Public Recreation Survey began in the second half of 2004. This survey, like similar surveys done by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), is an important input into the analysis that goes into the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Design & Implementation

The survey instrument was developed within the Planning Bureau at OPRHP and reviewed throughout the agency. A mailing list of New York State names and addresses was purchased with the following parameters specified. The head of the household had to be between 18 and 85 years old. The head of the household was to complete the entire survey and additionally, any other 2 individuals within the household could reply to the section on recreation participation. Each county sent a minimum of 50 and a maximum of 450 surveys and each household had to have resided at its current address for a minimum of 2 years.

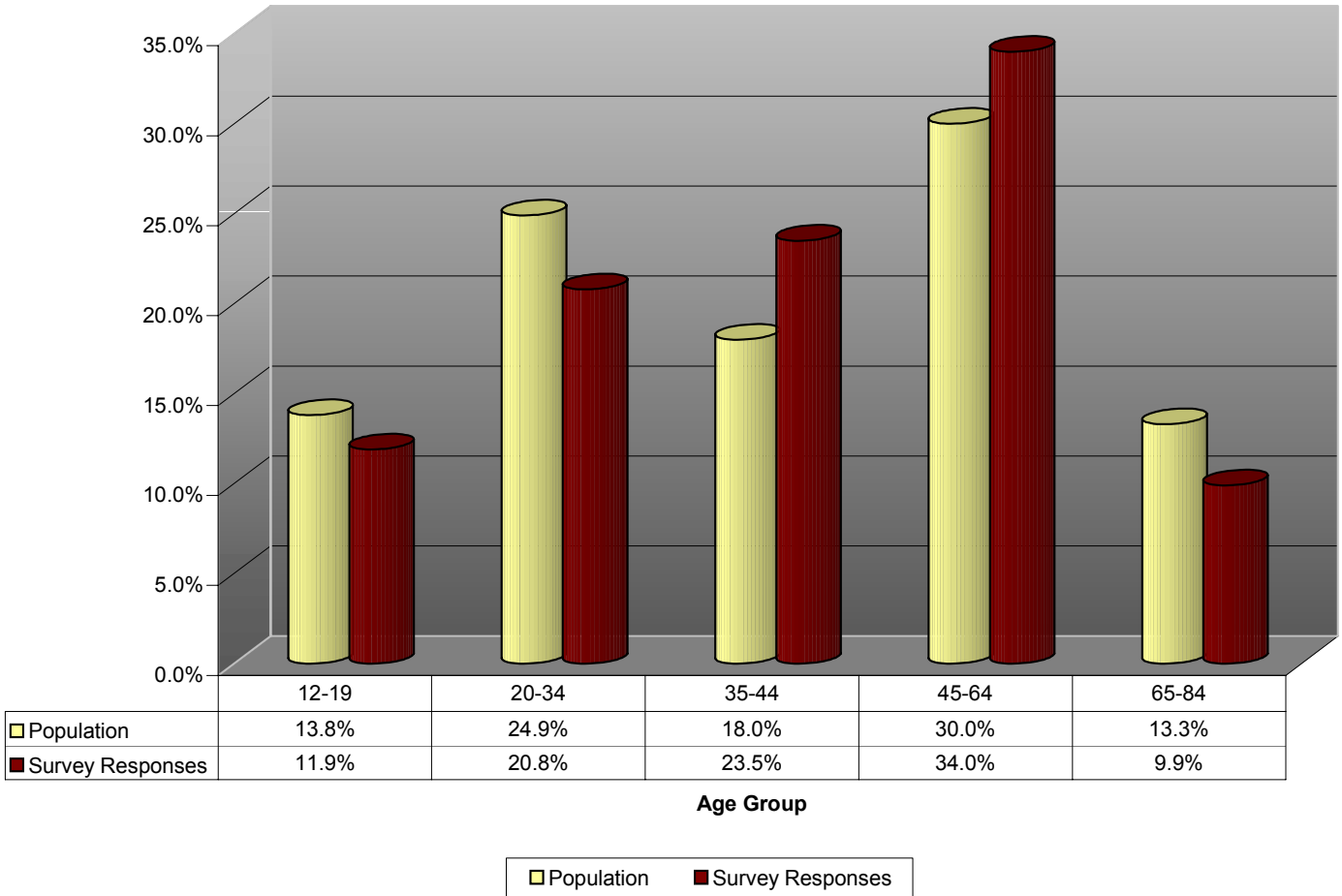
The survey asked people about their recreational activities for a 12 month period beginning January 1, 2004. While the target population was individuals between 12 and 85 years old, a very few survey forms were completed by people whose age was outside this range.

Response Demographics

In order to provide useful information about recreational activities, the demographics of the survey respondents should be similar to the known population demographics of New York State. Therefore, one of the first tasks in assessing the results of the survey is to make these comparisons. In the past, three of the most important factors in determining recreational preferences have been age, income and geographic location. The following section discusses these issues.

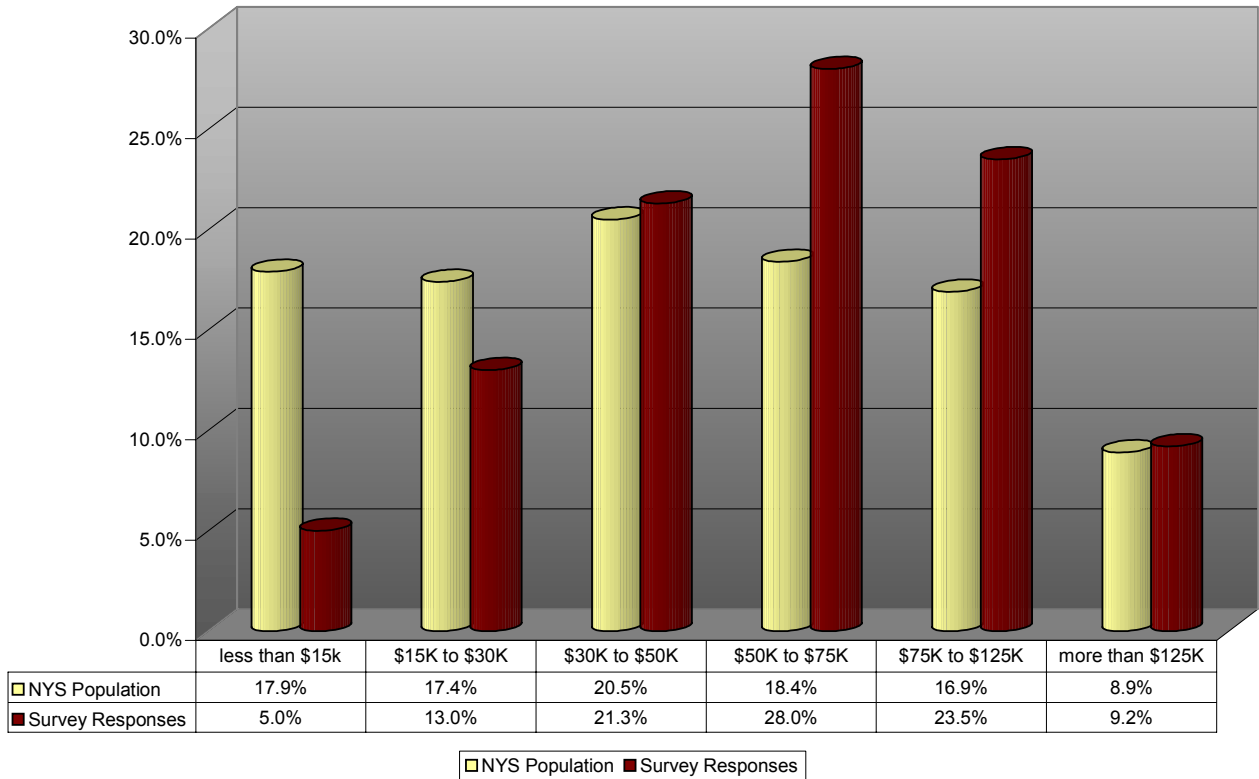
Age Groups – The results show some under-representation of the 2 youngest and the most elderly groups. These are individuals between the ages of 12 and 34 years old as well as senior citizens, age 65 and older. As a result, the other age groups are over represented, most notably the 35 to 44 year olds.

Survey Compared with 2000 Census (Age)



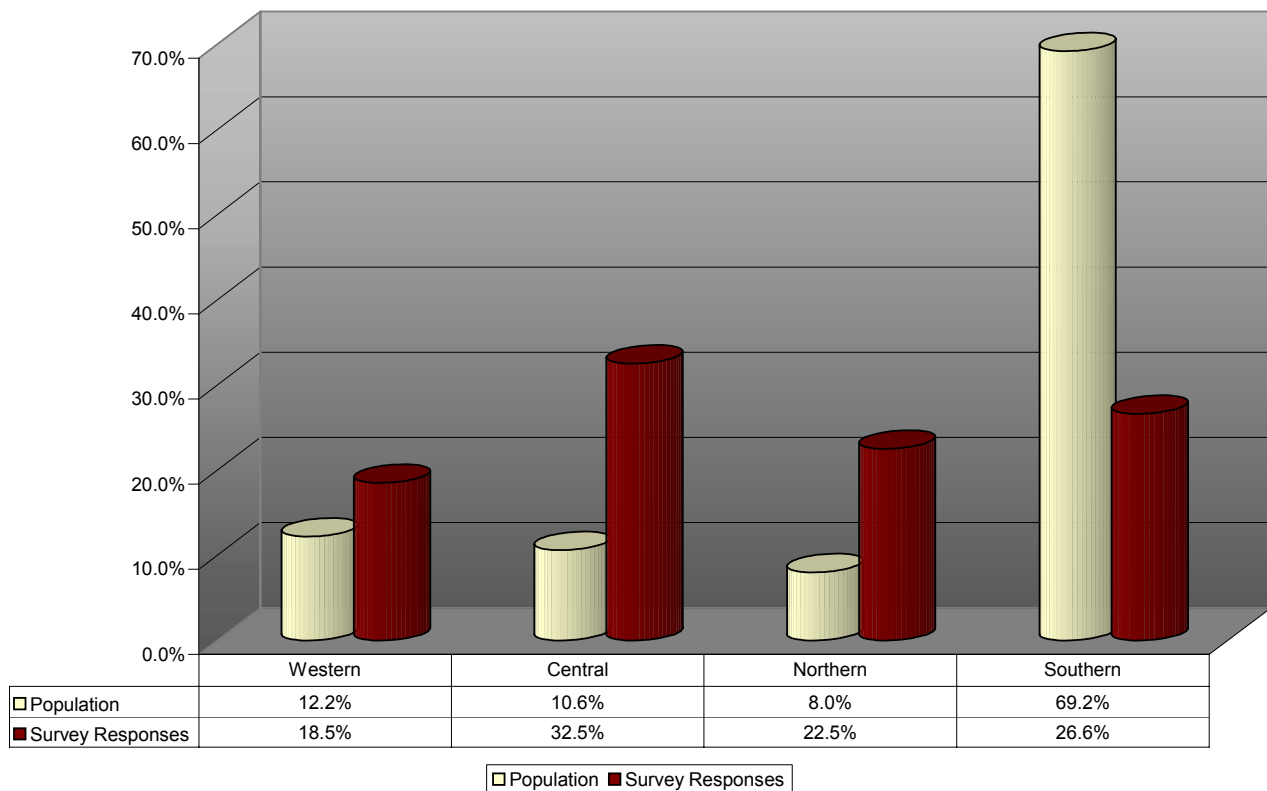
Income Groups – The lowest two groups, < \$10,000 and \$10,000 to \$19,999 per annum were noticeably underrepresented in the survey results. Those with household incomes above \$50,000 and less than \$125,000 were overrepresented.

Survey compared to census (Income)



Geography of respondents – As part of the original survey design, the mailing list was geographically stratified in order to provide a sufficient number of responses from rural upstate areas. Therefore, it is not surprising that the returned surveys are skewed in a similar manner. Grouping the responses using the same “zones” as were used in the 2003 SCORP, the Southern Zone, i.e. the lower Hudson Valley, NYC and Long Island are very much underrepresented in comparison to the rest of NY State. See Appendix E for a listing of counties by SCORP Zone.

Geographic Responses compared with 2000 Census



The effects of the geographically stratifying the sample will be accounted for by using “case weighting” to bring survey demographics more in line with the known population parameters. This technique will also be used for similar income and age disparities.

Appendix C

Highlights from the 2004 General Public Recreation Survey

* In January 2005, approximately ten thousand surveys were mailed to New York State residents. Satisfactorily completed survey forms were received from 1,103 households, detailing the recreational activities of 2,327 individuals.

* Overall results of this survey are consistent with findings of previous surveys. Activities which, in the past were among the most popular, e.g. swimming, picnicking, etc. remain the most popular. Age continues to be a negative force in an individual's ability/willingness to participate in most activities. Other important factors are income and urban/rural residence. The first look at this data seems to indicate that people, while participating in the same number of activities, are doing so less days per year. A more thorough analysis remains to be done on the current survey to confirm this and any other findings.

Recreation Activity findings:

* Picnicking/Relaxing in the park, Walking/Jogging and Visiting Historic Sites and Museums were the three most popular activities in terms of percentage of the general population participating.

* Walking/Jogging, Field Sports (Baseball, Soccer, Volleyball) and Court Games (Basketball, Handball) were the three most intensely participated in activities in terms of activity days per participant.

* Swimming Pools and Trails were the 2 types of facilities identified as being most wanted within 30 minutes of home.

State Park findings:

* Matching the results of the 1998 General Public Recreation Survey, location and cleanliness were the top two factors for the public in their decisions to visit a state park. In 1998 safety had been in third place but in 2004, admission fees barely edged out safety as the third most important factor.

* Over half of those surveyed indicated that they had visited a New York State Park during the winter during the past five years. Among the more popular activities these people participated in are cross-country sledding, ice skating and cross-country skiing.

Recreation Issues:

* Throughout New York State, residents continue to show strong support for a wide variety of recreation and environmental issues:

- Purchasing additional lands for open space and recreation.
- Increased access to water resources.
- Development, maintenance and repair of recreation facilities.
- New sources of funding for recreation, such as Federal funds and private/public partnerships.
- Enhanced water safety.

Final Note:

Additional analysis will be done and as the data are subjected to more rigorous analysis, it is expected that although there may be some changes to the results, these changes are not expected to be dramatic.

Appendix D

New York State Recreation Zones



Western Zone:

Counties: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming

2000 Population: 2,391,379



Central Zone:

Counties: Cayuga, Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Ontario, Oswego, Otsego, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, Yates

2000 Population: 2,051,541



Northern Zone:

Counties: Albany, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis, Montgomery, Rensselaer, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, Washington

2000 Population: 1,529,067



Southern Zone:

Counties: Bronx, Columbia, Dutchess, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester

2000 Population: 13,004,474

Appendix E

Recreational Activity List Summary

The table below, and on the following page, lists the activities as they were presented in question 1 of the survey. The column labelled “percent” shows the percentage of individuals who participated in the activity at least once during 2004. The column labelled “days” indicates, for participants only, the average number of days per participant.

ACTIVITY LIST	percent	days
<u>Visiting Parks and Natural Areas</u>		
Relaxing in the park	70.8	22.0
Picnicking	45.1	8.7
Playground use	30.9	23.7
Bird Watching/Nature Photography	22.7	21.9
Visiting Nature Preserves	32.4	8.1
<u>Court Games</u>		
Tennis	10.1	15.8
Handball/Racquetball	6.8	26.1
Basketball	13.3	18.6
<u>Field Sports</u>		
Baseball/Softball	11.4	18.3
Soccer	8.0	31.4
Volleyball	6.3	10.1
<u>Water Based Activities</u>		
Swimming	47.7	18.4
Boating (with a motor)	18.9	13.0
Rowboating/Canoeing/Kayaking	17.6	7.8
Sailing	3.1	9.3
Salt Water Fishing	7.8	13.5
Fresh Water Fishing	17.4	14.0
Surfing	2.1	13.9
<u>Trail Activities (whether or not on a trail)</u>		
Bicycling (On-Road)	28.5	21.5
Bicycling (Off-Road/Mountain)	9.8	17.3
Skateboarding/Rollerblading	8.0	17.0
Walking for enjoyment or exercise	54.5	55.5
Jogging/Running	17.5	48.3
Hiking/Backpacking	19.5	12.0
Horseback Riding	5.4	22.0
ATV/Off Road Vehicle/4x4	8.2	23.1
<u>Camping</u>		
Tent Camping	20.1	8.1
RV Camping	6.9	9.3
Primitive Camping/Backpacking	3.9	7.1
Cabin/Cottage Camping	10.6	8.8

ACTIVITY LIST	percent	days
<u>Other Outdoor Recreation</u>		
Golfing	14.3	20.8
Gardening	33.6	35.8
Geocaching	0.9	15.0
Hunting	7.3	20.4
Rock Climbing	5.4	5.9
<u>Cultural Activities</u>		
Visiting Formal Gardens	29.7	5.1
Outdoor Theatre/Concerts	37.4	5.8
Visiting Zoos	40.3	4.6
Visiting Historic Sites	42.5	4.9
Visiting Museums	50.8	6.1
<u>Winter Activities</u>		
Ice Skating	16.3	5.5
Cross Country Skiing	5.5	7.0
Downhill Skiing	8.8	10.0
Sledding	19.0	6.6
Snow Boarding	4.5	9.6
Snow Shoeing	3.7	8.3
Snowmobiling	5.5	9.8

The activities above appear in the same order as they did on the survey instrument without any modifications. The tables on page 4 vary somewhat in that the data for some activities were merged to make more consistent with the way the data was used in previous versions of the New York State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. For example, the table above lists three different types of recreational boating: motor boating, rowboating/canoeing/kayaking, and sailing - with percentage participation rates of 18.9%, 17.6% and 3.1% respectively. The table on page 4 lists only “boating” with a participation rate of 29.7%. It should be noted that this figure is less than the sum of the three types of boating because an individual boater, over the course of a year may participate in either one, two or three of these types of boating. The same holds true for other activities that were combined in a similar way.

