

# MAKING STRIDES

MISSISSIPPI OUTDOOR  
RECREATION PLAN  
2015-2019





# ME

Prepared for:  
*Mississippi Department of  
Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks*



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) acknowledges the significant contributions made by those who committed their expertise and time to help establish Mississippi's official outdoor recreation plan. The following individuals, agencies, and organizations have made valuable contributions to this document:

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PHIL BRYANT  
GOVERNOR

July 15, 2014

Dear Outdoor Enthusiast:

I am pleased to support this effort to ensure abundant outdoor recreational opportunities for all Mississippians and those who visit and enjoy Mississippi's parks and natural resources.

Mississippi's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) "Making Strides" - Mississippi Outdoor Recreation Plan 2015-2019 sets the standard for recreation policy throughout Mississippi and guides the disbursement of federal dollars from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to both our local and state recreation agencies.

"Making Strides" was developed with extensive input from citizens and experts from across the State. A special thanks to the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, the SCORP Task Force Committee Members and Dana Brown & Associates for their expertise. This publication will act as a guide to recreational planners statewide and nationally.

I approve and submit "Making Strides" as the official plan for the State of Mississippi's recreational planning through 2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phil Bryant".

Phil Bryant  
Governor

---

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# GLOSSARY

<b>APA</b>	<i>American Planning Association</i>
<b>CDC</b>	<i>Center for Disease Control and Prevention</i>
<b>DBA</b>	<i>Dana Brown &amp; Associates</i>
<b>GIS</b>	<i>Geographic Information System</i>
<b>LWCF</b>	<i>Land &amp; Water Conservation Fund</i>
<b>MARIS</b>	<i>Mississippi Automated Resource Information System</i>
<b>MDWFP</b>	<i>Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries &amp; Parks</i>
<b>MROD</b>	<i>Mississippi Recreational Opportunities Database</i>
<b>NRPA</b>	<i>National Recreation and Parks Association</i>
<b>MRPA</b>	<i>Mississippi Recreation and Parks Association</i>
<b>MS</b>	<i>State of Mississippi</i>
<b>MSPDD</b>	<i>Mississippi Association of Planning and Development Districts</i>
<b>NPS</b>	<i>National Park Service</i>
<b>ORG</b>	<i>Outdoor Recreation Grants</i>
<b>PDD</b>	<i>Planning and Development District</i>
<b>SCORP</b>	<i>Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan</i>
<b>TFCv</b>	<i>SCORP Task Force Committee</i>
<b>US</b>	<i>United State of America</i>
<b>USDA</b>	<i>United States Department of Agriculture</i>
<b>WRP</b>	<i>Wetlands Reserve Program</i>







# ME

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## MAKING STRIDES WILL ASSIST STATE AND LOCAL RECREATION PROFESSIONALS IN MAKING MISSISSIPPI A BETTER AND MORE ACTIVE PLACE TO LIVE.

Mississippi has much to offer its residents and visitors with regards to outdoor recreation. The state is blessed with exciting geographic features such as rolling bluffs, miles of riverfront and coastline, forests, swamps, and much more. It also has a generally pleasant climate that allows for year-round outdoor fun. Moreover, residents are proud to call Mississippi home and willing to make the state a better place for all. The pairing of these attributes places Mississippi in a strong position to build on its outdoor recreation infrastructure.

Every five years, states are required to submit an updated Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in order to remain eligible for LWCF funds. LWCF funds can be used to acquire and develop lands for public outdoor recreation.

Making Strides is Mississippi's 2015-2019 comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. It is the result of an intensive process involving research, public participation, and professional collaboration. In addition to directing LWCF funds and establishing a methodology for how project applications will be selected, Making Strides guides the development of Mississippi's outdoor recreation resources and analyzes the statewide supply and demand of recreation.

Over the next five years, developments in outdoor recreation will improve and be more reflective of the needs of Mississippi. Future outdoor recreation projects will strive to achieve one or more of the following goals:

- *Improve the health and wellness of Mississippians*
- *Expand the paths and trails network*
- *Establish a stronger sense of place for Mississippi communities*
- *Strengthen the promotion of outdoor recreation*
- *Enhance the economy through ecotourism*

Making Strides will assist state and local recreation professionals in making Mississippi a better and more active place to live.





*photo credit: MDWFP*





# ME

## PART - I INTRODUCTION

# INTRODUCTION

## *Purpose*

Making Strides: Mississippi Outdoor Recreation 2015-2019, or simply Making Strides, is a comprehensive plan created to guide and coordinate the development of Mississippi's outdoor recreation resources over the next five years. It identifies and prioritizes emerging outdoor recreation trends, needs, and issues in Mississippi that are relevant to local, regional, and statewide planning efforts. Making Strides will also be used to guide Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant allocations to local governments.

## *Scope*

Making Strides analyzes outdoor recreation data in Mississippi on a federal, state, and local level. It is meant to serve as a guide for future outdoor recreation developments in Mississippi.

## *Background*

The LWCF State Assistance Program was established in 1965 to stimulate a nationwide action program to assist in preserving, developing, and assuring to all citizens of the United States, of present and future generations, such quality and quantity of

outdoor recreation resources as may be available. The program provides matching grants, up to 50 percent, to States, and through the States to local units of government, for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation sites and facilities. Federal funds are appropriated by Congress through the Department of Interior and administered on the federal level by National Park Service (NPS).

The Outdoor Recreation Grants Division (ORG), within the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks, (MDWFP), is charged with distributing LWCF grants funds at the state level to projects that align with the priorities established by this document. Funding for the LWCF program is provided largely from Outer Continental Shelf mineral receipts, with additional income from the Motorboat Fuels Tax, recreation user fees, and through the sales of federal surplus property. Federal LWCF obligations have been matched by state and local contributions, for a total recreation investment of over \$6 billion dollars. In order to remain eligible for LWCF funds, states must update their Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every five years.



*photo credit: City of Pascagoula*



### *Planning Process*

Making Strides is the result of an intensive process involving research, public participation, and professional collaboration. Planning for Making Strides began in September 2013 with the formation of the Task Force Committee (TFC), a steering committee charged with providing support in planning, developing, and monitoring the outdoor recreation plan. The 2015-2019 TFC was comprised of 21 recreation and planning professionals from across the state. Members represented planning and development districts, Mississippi Recreation & Park Association (MRPA), municipal parks and recreation departments, county planning departments, and academic institutions. Under the direction of the MDWFP and its contractor, Dana Brown & Associates, the TFC met three times: October 30, 2013, November 26, 2013, and December 18, 2013. Meeting topics ranged from identifying outdoor recreation issues, concerns, and trends to providing input on the development of the plan.

To facilitate public engagement and obtain public input, MDWFP and its contractor held a total of five public meetings across the state. At least one meeting was held in each of the four congressional districts of Mississippi. These meetings were fashioned to educate the public on the SCORP process and identify outdoor recreation trends, needs, and issues facing that respective part of the state. The public meetings were held in Jackson on October 30, 2013, Hattiesburg on November 6, 2013, Tupelo and Starkville on November 12, 2013, and Greenville on November 26, 2013. Each of the meetings were advertised through flyers, Facebook, Twitter, and the MDWFP website. Public meeting information was also distributed to established public outreach groups across the state.

Beyond TFC and public meetings, input was also gathered through citizen and provider surveys, which were made available online. The polling period for each of these surveys was November 11, 2013 to December 9, 2013. A link to the public survey was posted on the MDWFP website as well as its Facebook and Twitter pages. It was also posted on the Mississippi Association of Supervisors' website and distributed through TFC members and identified public outreach groups. The provider survey was distributed to parks and recreation providers through the MDWFP, MRPA, and TFC members.



*photo credit: DBA*

### *Vision*

Making Strides: Mississippi Outdoor Recreation 2015-2019 will guide outdoor recreation planning and development in Mississippi. It will assist in connecting and coordinating outdoor recreation projects to produce beneficial outcomes for jurisdictions across the state.

## Goals

In order to guide future outdoor recreation developments in Mississippi, the SCORP Task Force Committee established a set of goals for the 2015-2019 Outdoor Recreation Plan. While these goals are not an exhaustive list of every desired outcome for future outdoor recreation developments, the Task Force Committee believes them to be reflective of Mississippi's most important needs over the next five years. Future outdoor recreation projects are encouraged to incorporate as many of these goals as possible.

### *Improve the health and wellness of Mississippians*

Above all else, outdoor recreation projects should seek to improve the health and wellness of Mississippians. Mississippi is continuously ranked among the unhealthiest states in the United States. Prevalence of obesity, physical inactivity, and diabetes remain among the highest in the nation. Of the 2.5 million plus residents of Mississippi, almost 690,000 adults are physically inactive, more than 770,000 adults are obese, and almost 280,000 adults have diabetes (United Health Foundation). While increasing participation in outdoor recreation alone will not solve the current state of health and wellness in Mississippi, it will improve it. Outdoor recreation has the ability to reduce the incidence of chronic disease like heart disease, stroke, cancer, and diabetes. It can also increase the amount of regular physical activity and promote healthier daily living habits among the population. By improving access to outdoor recreation facilities as well as increasing the number and quality of desired facilities, Mississippi can become a healthier and happier state.



*photo credit: City of Pascagoula*

### *Expand the paths and trails network*

Paths and trails are unique outdoor recreation facilities in that they can not only accommodate multiple recreation types such as biking, walking, running, and hiking, they can also serve as alternative transportation routes, wildlife conservation corridors, and economic stimulants. Additionally, paths and trails prove to be cost-effective over time with relatively low installation and maintenance expenses. With these benefits and a large demand across the state, future outdoor recreation projects should include paths and trails that provide connection to other trails and recreation facilities in the area and are accessible to the public through alternative modes of transportation. It is critical to plan future path and trail projects as both recreational facilities and alternative transportation routes in order to achieve the most benefits for the greatest number of people.



### *Establish a stronger sense of place for Mississippi communities*

With proper planning and design, outdoor recreation facilities can be remarkable public spaces that improve aesthetics and create stronger communities. Sense of place involves the perception of the natural and built environment. Recreation facilities can be completed using elements like native plantings, environmentally-conscious design and materials, and other local influences. By integrating outdoor recreation with the built environment, Mississippi communities can become healthier, more connected, more beautiful, and overall better places to live.

### *Strengthen the promotion of outdoor recreation in Mississippi*

Participation in recreation will increase in Mississippi by increasing the local amount and quality of promotion for outdoor recreation. Creating recreational facilities that appeal to the demands of Mississippi residents and visitors alike is the first step. The second step is marketing these new facilities as well as existing ones. Marketing can take the form of newsletters, advertisements, and promotional discounts, to name a few. One idea that may reach a large amount of Mississippi viewers is an advertisement that can be shown during college athletic events, namely football games. The advertisement could initially be aired at Mississippi colleges and universities. If successful, it could then be aired in neighboring states. Another idea is to send out a monthly or quarterly newsletter to willing subscribers. The citizen survey indicated that nearly 50 percent of respondents would be willing to receive a quarterly newsletter about outdoor recreation. These marketing activities, with the exception of some advertisements, do not have to be expensive endeavors. Moreover, the potential

increase in recreation awareness and (hopefully) participation in recreation as a result of enhanced marketing could have lasting impacts on Mississippi's health and outdoor recreation.

### *Enhance the economy through ecotourism*

Mississippi has a great opportunity. By utilizing the rustic appeal of the Mississippi outdoors, the state can enhance its economy through ecotourism. Ecotourism or nature tourism is defined as traveling to natural undisturbed areas to enjoy the scenery: landscape, wildlife, and cultural attractions. As environmental issues and nature conservation become a growing concern for all generations, ecotourism has become one of the fastest growing tourism markets in the world. Ecotourism now makes up about 10-20 percent of all tourism in the world (University Alabama Center of Economic Development). By maintaining a diverse and extensive outdoor recreation system, Mississippi can enhance their economy through ecotourism.

Ecotourism has the potential to become a big industry in Mississippi, as it has globally. The culture of the world is becoming "greener" and more environmentally sensitive. 85 percent of the industrialized world admits they feel that the environment is their primary concern (UA Center of Economic Development). As people travel, with desires to reconnect with nature, they can find places to do so in Mississippi. These travelers will bring with them tourism dollars, which in turn help the local economy. Mississippi recreation providers may enhance their local economy by encouraging ecotourist to visit their facilities.



# MS

## **PART - II**

### **MISSISSIPPI OVERVIEW**



# MISSISSIPPI OVERVIEW

## Population

The US Census Bureau recorded the 2010 population of Mississippi to be 2,967,297 with a 2012 population projection of 2,984,926 (United States Census Bureau, QuickFacts). This makes Mississippi the 31st most populous state in the United States. The state is mainly considered suburban and rural. Only five of Mississippi's eighty-two counties have a residency count of over 100,000. These five most populated counties are Hinds (248,643 residents), Harrison (194,029 residents), DeSoto (166,234 residents), Rankin (145,165 residents), and Jackson (140,298 residents) (ms-demo).

## Age/Gender

Based on the Census' 2012 population projections, 61.5 percent of the Mississippi residents are between the ages of 18 and 65, 25 percent of the people are under the legal age (18 or younger), and 13.5 percent are considered of retirement age (65 or older). It was also noted that, of the state's total population, 6.8 percent is under the age of five years and the female gender holds a slim majority (51.4 percent) over the male gender (United States Census Bureau).

# 2,967,297

MISSISSIPPI'S 2010 POPULATION

# 61.5%

MISSISSIPPIANS AGES 18-65

## Ethnicity

Consistent with the national trend, which shows the majority (77.9 percent) of the nation identifies as white, 59.9 percent of Mississippi citizens identify as white, based on the census' 2012 population projections (United States Census Bureau, QuickFacts). The largest minority population in the state is Black or African American at 37.4 percent, which is above the national average of 13.1 percent. Other minorities include persons of two or more race (1.1 percent), Asian (0.9 percent), American Indian and Alaska Native (0.6 percent), and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander (0.1 percent) (United States Census Bureau, QuickFacts).



photo credit: DBA





### *Economy*

While Mississippi is traditionally an agricultural state, farming has become secondary to manufacturing as the leading revenue-producing sector of the economy (Columbia). Mississippi is known for manufacturing large amounts of petroleum/coal products, food/beverage/tobacco products, chemical products, and furniture products. In terms of agriculture, the state harvests crops like cotton, rice, and soybeans, as well as conducts dairying and aquaculture. On the Gulf coast, there is also a profitable fishing and seafood processing industry (Columbia).

Mississippi has an estimated annual per capita income of \$20,670, which is below the national average, \$28,051 (United States Census Bureau, FactFinder). This earnings difference is reflective of the fact that the cost of living in Mississippi is lower than the national average (City Rating). Similar to the rest of the nation, Mississippi has hit hard economic times. According to the 2008-2012 American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year estimates, Mississippi has an unemployment rate of 10.6 percent, which is significantly higher than the national average (9.3 percent) (United States Census Bureau, FactFinder). Additionally, the amount of families living below poverty level is also extremely high in Mississippi, at 17 percent, while the national average is only 10.9 percent (United States Census Bureau)

# \$20,670

ANNUAL PER CAPITA INCOME IN MISSISSIPPI

# 10.6%

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN MISSISSIPPI

# 17%

FAMILIES LIVING BELOW POVERTY RATE IN MISSISSIPPI



photo credit: DBA

# MISSISSIPPI OVERVIEW

## *Geography*

Often described as the South's warmest welcome, Mississippi is a beautiful and friendly state located in the Deep South region of the United States of America. The state consists of 46,923.27 square miles (30,030,892.80 acres) of land area (United States Census Bureaus, QuickFacts). It is bounded to the north by Tennessee, to the south by the Gulf of Mexico, to the east by Alabama, and to the west by the Mississippi River. The river serves as a physical boundary line separating Mississippi from Arkansas to the northwest and Louisiana to the southwest. The state is comprised of numerous smaller rivers and engineered lakes as well as several large bays along the Gulf Coast. The state is approximately 340 miles in length (north to south) with a width of 180 miles (east to west), making Mississippi the 32nd largest state in the US (Faulkner).

Due to Mississippi's close proximity to the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico, much of state consists of lowland terrain. The lowlands adjacent to the Mississippi River are known as the Mississippi Alluvial Plain or "Delta" in local vernacular. The "Delta" is comprised of rich silt soils, which were deposited from centuries of river flooding (Maps of World). The remainder of the state's landscape is identified as the Gulf Coastal Plain and includes several sub-regions such as the Red Clay Hills of north-central Mississippi and the Piney Woods of the southeast (Maps of World). The northeast corner of the state sits at a comparatively higher elevation than the rest of Mississippi. This region, which consists of crescent shaped bands of loess bluffs, lies in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains (Faulkner). The highest point in the state is Woodall Mountain, in Tishomingo County, which rises to approximately 800 feet above sea level (Faulkner).

Mississippi's geography and climate make it an ideal location for year-round outdoor recreation. Its rivers, lakes, wetlands, and coast provide ample opportunities for swimming, fishing, boating, kayaking, and canoeing, while its relatively flat terrain and beautiful landscapes allow for great biking, running, and hiking.



*photo credit: City of Pascagoula*

## *Climate*

Mississippi has a humid subtropical climate, which allows for a broad range of weather habits (Faulkner). While the coastal areas in the southern portion of the state average warmer temperatures with heavier amounts of rainfall, the inland areas of the state have less frequent but more diverse seasonal precipitation patterns, such as rain, sleet, and snow (Faulkner). Due to Mississippi's geographic position in the southeastern United States, the state captures prevailing southerly winds from May through September. As such, Mississippi experiences high humidity and heat levels (Faulkner). The state is also prone to severe weather conditions like hurricanes, tornadoes, and other destructive storms.



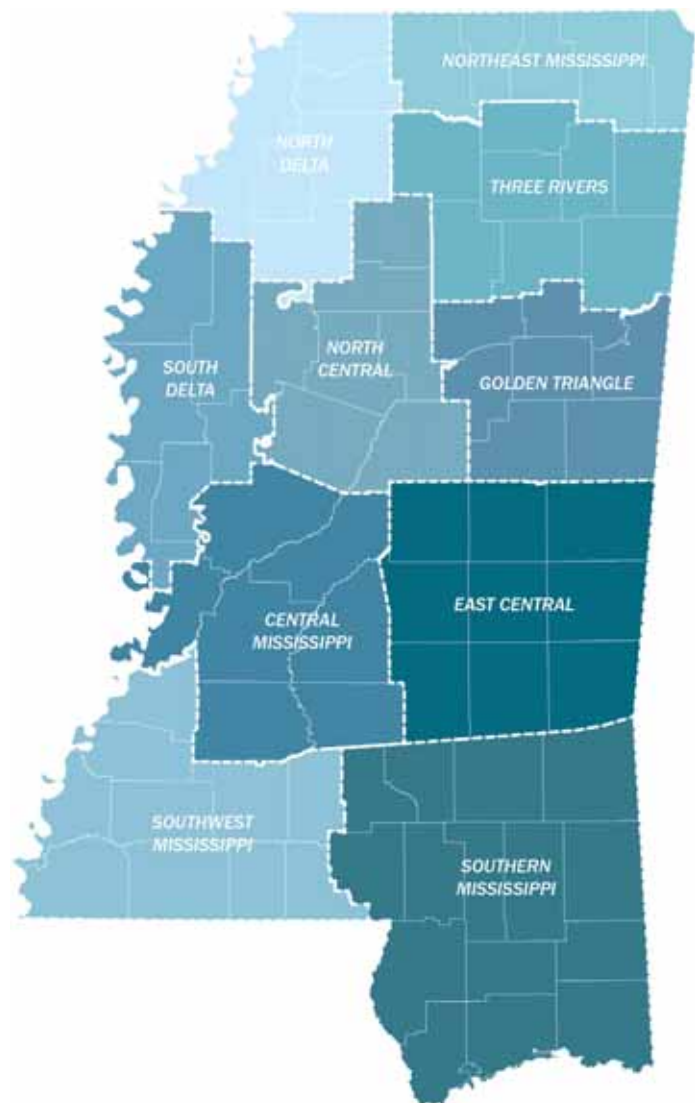
Mississippi's summers are long and hot, averaging 82 degrees F statewide. High temperatures often exceed 90 degrees F. Conversely, winters are generally short and mild, averaging 42 degrees F. Temperatures may briefly drop into the 20s or lower in the northeast region of the state. This first hard frost varies with region and latitude, but typically occurs in early November in the north and early December in south Mississippi. However, the soil rarely freezes. The latest frosts usually occur during late March (Faulkner).

### *Planning and Development Districts*

PDDs are a proven cost-effective, intergovernmental tool to address common planning and development problems and issues. Most of the Mississippi's PDDs were created in the late 1960s to address problems and issues that go beyond individual political boundaries (The Mississippi Association of Planning and Development Districts). Each planning district covers several counties, which are bound together by common economies and geography. The districts are non-profit corporations, governed by a board of directors, committed to the promotion of responsible short and long term community planning (Central Mississippi Planning Development District). PDDs provide many services including, grant writing and administration for general civic, social, recreation, and economic development projects in Mississippi (Northeast Mississippi Planning and Development District).

The state is divided into ten Planning and Development Districts who collectively provide services to all counties and municipalities in Mississippi. This group of districts are organized under the Mississippi Association of Planning and Development Districts (MSPDD). The purpose of the MSPDD is to promote

coordination and cooperation among the PDDs to increase their effectiveness and efficiency; provide mutual assistance and the exchange of ideas among peers; and to collectively address and implement strategies that create opportunities for local communities (The Mississippi Association of Planning and Development Districts). The ten PDDs of Mississippi include: North Delta, South Delta, Northeast Mississippi, Southwest Mississippi PDD, Three Rivers PDD, Golden Triangle, North Central Mississippi, Central Mississippi, East Central Mississippi, and South Mississippi PDD.





# M&S

## **PART - III**

### **BENEFITS OF RECREATION**



# BENEFITS OF RECREATION

## Overview

Outdoor recreation is considered an important asset to enhance in Mississippi. This outlook has been adopted by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks, which seeks to conserve and enhance Mississippi's wildlife, fisheries, and parks, provide quality outdoor recreation, and engage the public in natural resource conservation (MDWFP). Outdoor recreation has much to offer Mississippi including better health and fitness, stronger communities, a more robust economy, and heightened natural conservation. These value added components of outdoor recreation also contribute to a better quality of life for Mississippians.

## Health and Fitness

Across the United States, there is a growing trend of inactivity among adults and children commonly associated with sedentary lifestyles of unhealthy eating and overexposure to television, computers, and/or video games. This inactivity has led to an obesity epidemic, which continues to grow, especially in the southern states. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), during the past twenty years, there has been a dramatic increase in obesity in the United States and rates remain high. More than one-third of US adults (35.7%) and approximately 17 percent of children and adolescents, aged two till nineteen years, are obese (Center for Disease Control and Prevention). Nationwide, various federal and state initiatives, programs, and councils have been established to combat these increasing obesity rates. Throughout all them there is a consistent recommendation for public entities to provide better access to adequate recreational facilities.



photo credit: DBA

# 35.7%

RATE OF ADULT OBESITY IN THE US

# 17%

RATE OF CHILD OBESITY IN THE US

# \$925 M

MISSISSIPPI'S 2008 HEALTHCARE  
EXPENDITURES RELATED TO OBESITY



Obesity is the leading health concern for Mississippi. Obesity has been linked to increased risk for heart disease, high blood pressure, type two diabetes, arthritis-related disability, and some cancers in children and adults (Mississippi State Department of Health). Obesity also effects Mississippi's economy, as high obesity rates translate to a higher burden on the state's resources, influencing medical expenditures. An obese person generates 40 percent more in medical costs per year than a non-obese person.

In 2008, Mississippi spent \$925 million on health care costs directly related to obesity. If this trend continues, obesity related healthcare costs will be approximately \$3.9 billion dollars by 2018 (University of Mississippi Medical Center). Also noted, obese adults tend to miss work more often than lean workers, impacting productivity. As a result, obesity hurts Mississippi's business competitiveness and ability to attract new industries (University of Mississippi Medical Center).

This realization emphasizes the importance of exercise. To combat the growing obesity epidemic, Mississippians must get active! People of all types, shapes, sizes, and abilities can benefit from being physically active (Mississippi State Department of Health). Outdoor recreation must be utilized to mitigate this obesity trend and improve the health of the population. As obesity rates increase, recreational providers are tasked with the challenge of providing new facilities and maintain current ones to aid the state in the initiative to decrease obesity rates. There is an obvious correlation between obesity and recreation, thus, Mississippi's highest ranking in obesity demands consideration for more quality recreation facilities statewide.



photo credit: DBA



photo credit: Metro Bike Trails

To help fight Mississippi's obesity epidemic, recreation providers will need to work closely with public health officials and agencies. State initiatives, such as the *Healthy Kids* and *Healthy Mississippi*, may help providers locate the more at risk areas of their community. They should work together identifying and eliminating any barriers, such as accessibility, safety, or cost of participation, which may be preventing the residents from using the existing facilities.



# BENEFITS OF RECREATION

## *Community*

Outdoor recreation facilities provide citizens with social opportunities, physical activities, and neighborhood camaraderie. Thoughtfully planned and designed recreation facilities can also aesthetically enhance Mississippi communities by creating well-landscaped, activated spaces for community events, and exercise. Access to recreational facilities is a crucial component to community health. Properly maintained community recreation facilities are known to reduce crime and increase community pride.

The American Planning Association (Francis) believes there are three key points to how parks help to form stronger more social communities. In its essay on community engagement, the APA states: parks are one of the quickest and most effective ways to build a sense of community and improve quality of life, parks provide places for people to connect and interact in a shared environment, and parks channel positive community participation by getting diverse people to work together toward a shared vision.



*photo credit: MDWFP*





### *Economic*

Beyond its role in improving Mississippi's health and communities, outdoor recreation is a vital economic driver in the state. Research conducted by the Outdoor Industry Association found that active outdoor recreation contributes \$4.9 billion annually in consumer spending to Mississippi's economy, supports 58,000 jobs which generate \$1.3 billion in wages and salaries, and produces \$329 million annually in state and local tax revenue (Outdoor Industry Association). The U.S. Census Bureau reports that each year over 1.3 million people participate in hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching in Mississippi, contributing \$1.1 billion to the state economy (LWCF coalition). Mississippi has ample opportunity to expand its outdoor recreation offering in order to generate more revenue from residents and visitors alike. One such method could involve improving access to outdoor recreation by connecting facilities and cities with a multi-use trail system.

# \$4.9 B

CONTRIBUTION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION TO  
MISSISSIPPI'S ECONOMY

# 58,000

JOB SUPPORTED BY OUTDOOR RECREATION  
IN MISSISSIPPI

### *Environmental*

Outdoor recreation can also have a great impact on the environmental health of Mississippi. Critical natural lands and animal habitats, like wetlands, can be conserved and protected through the acquisition of lands for outdoor recreation in Mississippi. Increased wetland conservation efforts are vital to the health and safety of Mississippi because wetlands perform beneficial functions like water filtration and storage, biological productivity, and providing habitats for wildlife (Environmental Protection Agency). Moreover, wetlands provide an excellent environment for a diverse range of popular outdoor recreation ventures, such as hunting, boating, fishing, wildlife watching, farming, and swimming. As of 2006, freshwater and estuarine wetlands covered roughly 13 percent of Mississippi's land surface. This is only 40 percent of the wetlands that were present in the state prior to the 1800s (Environmental Law Institute).

On a national level, roughly 80,000 acres of wetland are lost each year (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Over the last thirty years, the United States government accepted and addressed the importance of wetland resource conservation. In 1986, the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act (Public Law 99-645, S. 303) was signed into federal law. The Act allocated funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for the purchase of wetlands and instituted a National Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan. Among the numerous requirements of the act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund requires states to address wetlands protection in their five-year comprehensive outdoor recreation plans.

## BENEFITS OF RECREATION



*photo credit: MDWFP*

Also in 1986, Mississippi legislated the Uniform Conservation Easement Act demonstrating Mississippi's acknowledgement of the importance of wetland conservation. Under the Uniform Act, a landowner can place restrictions on the present and future uses of his or her property with the intent of promoting and/or preserving conservation practices. Furthermore, the federal government, via the Internal Revenue Service, recognizes that the conveyance of a real property interest to a qualified conservation organization to accomplish a specific conservation purpose has potential public benefits and as such may qualify the owner for a substantial tax deduction (Mississippi Land Trust). Mississippi also utilizes the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), which allows landowners, through funding, the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property in return for long-term conservation and wildlife protection. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Mississippi ranks

third in the nation for total acres enrolled in WRP. Mississippi has over four hundred thirty easements that total roughly 150,000 acres (The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources).

The majority of Mississippi's wetland areas can be divided into two distinct areas: the Delta Wetlands and the Coastal Wetlands. The Delta Wetlands includes all of the farmland, bottom land hardwood forests, oxbow lakes, and cypress swamps that make up the Mississippi River Floodplains. This area is heavily agricultural and the site of major crop production in the state. The Delta Wetlands also provide feeding and breeding grounds for numerous species of wild game and water fowl. The Coastal Wetlands area includes all of salt and freshwater marsh, swamps, barrier islands, bayous, beaches, and bays that make up the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Due to coastal development and wave/storm erosion, this area is extremely sensitive and its protection has become a major concern for the state. Lands in these wetland regions should be a top priority for acquisition for outdoor recreation and wetland conservation given their importance for both the environment and public recreation.

# 80,000

ACRES OF WETLAND LOST EACH YEAR IN THE US

# 150,000

TOTAL MISSISSIPPI ACRES ENROLLED IN THE WRP PROGRAM





*photo credit: MDWFP*

Concern about pollution remains of high importance among residents. The survey shows residents favor passive recreation sites with high levels of environmental integrity. Such preferences are consistent with the findings of other studies in which coastal state tourists were found to have high preferences for environmental amenities. Poor water quality restricts our water-oriented recreation activities. Coliform bacteria, agricultural runoff, and industrial wastes are among the issues that continue to be addressed with the implementation of best management practices. It is important for Mississippi residents to provide future generations with natural environment within the state. Landscapes that are minimally impacted and recreationally enjoyable. Natural areas facilitate multiple uses, including outdoor recreation as well as storm

surge protection, tourism, and fish and wildlife habitat.

Instilling values in children regarding environmental stewardship is becoming more important as environmental issues are heating up political debates, causing extreme weather conditions, and influencing alternative building and development practices. Fundamental to the development of these values is exposure to the outdoors, setting examples of sustainable development practices, and encouraging children's interaction and exploration of various environmental elements. Mississippi's outdoor recreation facilities, natural sites, and historical sites provide the state's children with various opportunities to experience the importance of natural resources and historical legacies.



ME

**PART - IV**  
**RECREATION SUPPLY**



# RECREATION SUPPLY

## *Data*

In conjunction with the outdoor recreation plan, a comprehensive inventory of public recreational lands and facilities in Mississippi was compiled, in what is termed the Mississippi Recreational Opportunities Database (MROD). The MROD includes specific data about the location of researched outdoor recreation facilities throughout the state. The MROD is compatible with the Mississippi Automated Resource Information System (MARIS) database, and it is designed to be user-friendly, highly functional, and communicative for state recreation planning needs.

Data on existing outdoor recreation facilities was obtained from multiple sources: Mississippi recreation facility providers, online recreation databases, and the MDWFP database of funded projects. The information was then compiled to form the MROD. Incomplete data sets, such as missing facility amenities and locations, were supplemented and verified by aerial photographic interpretation. This data was then geocoded and compiled in Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

## *Geographic Information Systems*

GIS is used to accurately map, in a geo-referenced coordinate system, geographic features, such as political boundaries, elevation, topography, and much more. The real power of GIS is the ability to assign attribute data to any geographic feature and then use GIS software to analyze the data. GIS can be used to create maps and other visual displays.



*photo credit: MDWFP*



*photo credit: MDWFP*





photo credit: MDWFP



photo credit: MDWFP

## Analysis

Statewide population fluctuation and regional differences demanded both a county and Planning and Development District (PDD) approach and analysis throughout the development of the SCORP document. The deficiencies identified from the eighty two counties, the ten PDDs, and the survey's rankings of important activities and priorities in Mississippi served as the foundation for the 2015-2019 analysis of recreation needs.

Mississippi's existing unmet outdoor recreation needs were identified by comparing existing recreation facilities to population served (per county), which was then aggregated up to the PDD level. A relative comparison of the counties revealed which counties in the state of Mississippi have the greatest unmet need for active recreation facilities. The same comparison was done to identify which counties has the greatest unmet need for passive recreation facilities.

Active recreation refers to a structured individual or team activity that requires the use of specific facilities, courses, fields, or equipment (Environmental Protection Agency). Examples of active recreation facilities include baseball fields, football fields, soccer fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, swimming pools, splash pads, track fields, etc. Passive recreation refers to recreational activities that do not require prepared facilities (Environmental Protection Agency). Examples of passive recreation activities include hunting, camping, picnicking, walking, hiking, and wildlife viewing. Passive recreation activities facilities, like trails, parks, and campsites, place minimal stress on a site's ecosystem and natural resources.



# RECREATION SUPPLY

Utilizing the MROD, analysis was also conducted of where and what types of recreation needs are being met and are not being met throughout the state. The analysis results, along with resident and provider survey results, formed the basis for identifying and prioritizing recreation facilities needs across the state, ranging from small local athletic fields (active facilities) to large natural conservation areas (passive facilities). The analysis and graphic representation of census data along with existing recreation facilities can clearly reveal the location and type of federal, state, and local recreation investments that should be made.

## *Strategy*

The MROD will be a valuable tool for the long-term. It can be readily updated for both ongoing and periodic in-depth evaluation of SCORP goals and objectives being attained. The MROD will also enable the MDWFP to provide assistance to local governments, counties and municipalities, particularly those in rural areas or those under development pressure, in planning to meet future recreation needs.

To fully utilize the potential established by the MROD during the SCORP process and obtain accurate future analyses, it is highly recommended that the MROD is continuously updated and amended by qualified parks professionals. Immediate accessibility to a comprehensive list of attributes for state parks, trails, and recreational facilities would aid appropriate distribution of LWCF funding, expedite the selection process, and ensure state resident accessibility to adequate recreational opportunities.



*photo credit: MDWFP*



*photo credit: City of Pascagoula*







*photo credit: Jonathan Trovka*



*photo credit: MDWFP*

## *Results*

Based on the data collected, Mississippi has a total of 1,731 outdoor recreation facilities. 812 (47 percent) are active recreation facilities and 919 (53 percent) are passive recreation facilities. The average Mississippi county has a total of 21.11 recreation facilities, 9.90 of which are active facilities and 11.21 of which are passive facilities.

Using 2010 census data in addition to the MROD, we calculated the number of recreation facilities per 1,000 persons on a county basis. The average Mississippi county has 0.23 active recreation facilities per 1,000 persons with a standard deviation of 0.14 and 0.35 passive recreation facilities per 1,000 persons with a standard deviation of 0.28. Based on these numbers, we found 49 counties (60 percent) had less than the average of 0.23 active recreation facilities per 1,000 persons and 52 counties (63 percent) had less than the average of 0.35 passive recreation facilities per 1,000 persons.

Every Mississippian deserves access to adequate recreation facilities, regardless of the county in which they reside. As a whole, Mississippi could benefit from more active and passive recreation facilities. Analyzing the countywide data, we determined which counties have the greatest need for additional recreation facilities based on their proximity to the average number of facilities per 1,000 persons (0.23) and their population size. Therefore, counties most in need would be well below the average number of facilities per 1,000 persons and have a relatively large population. In regards to active recreation facilities, counties most in need are Madison, Jones, Pearl River, Marshall, and Alcorn. In regards to passive recreation facilities, counties most in need are DeSoto, Madison, Pearl River, Lamar, and Lincoln.



ME

**PART - V**  
**RECREATION DEMAND**

# RECREATION DEMAND

## *Survey Analysis and Recommendations*

Public input is a critical component in developing a plan for the future. The process for gathering input to update the Mississippi Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) included conducting two surveys.

- *Provider Survey, which targeted professional outdoor recreation providers*
- *Citizen Survey, which targeted the general public*

By identifying existing facilities and programs as well as interests and participation in recreational activities, the data is intended to provide insight and guide the development of future improvements.

## *Methodology*

Both online surveys were launched on November 11, 2013. The Citizen Survey was delivered via mass email, word of mouth, Facebook posts and re-posts as well as link postings to the MDWFP and the Mississippi association of supervisor's webpages. The team also encouraged participants to forward the survey link to other residents. The Provider Survey was delivered via word of mouth and mass email, utilizing, mainly, MDWFP and MRPA mailing lists.

The survey was conducted for almost four weeks and closed on December 9, 2013. A total of 630 participants responded to the online survey and approximately 90 percent completed all the questions. For a population the size of Mississippi with almost 3 million residents, researchers believe this sampling size is an appropriate amount based on our past experience.

The survey contained questions assessing

the types of programs that citizens are currently participating in. Other questions measured interest in programs that citizens would participate in if they were offered the opportunity. Questions also assessed the priority for future facility development and renovations. Survey results were intended to provide insight into the citizen's desires for public recreation.

## *Citizen Survey Findings*

Citizens are the end-users of park systems and recreation programs. Without strong support and avid usage, the park systems become ineffective. For the plan to be effective in improving service delivery and facilities, it must accurately reflect the facilities and programs most desired by citizens of Mississippi. The recommendations made in this master plan were driven by public input gathered through an online survey sent to the residents of Mississippi. The quotes used throughout this section were selected from the comments in the completed surveys.

The following charts and graphs illustrate some of the survey results and compare responses. A copy of the survey questions is provided in the appendix.

## *Park and Program Usage*

In order to gauge how many hours a participant and/or a participant's family member spends in a park per week, we asked participants and provided amounts as shown in the chart below. With 31 percent spending no time in a park and 58 percent spending little time, we can assume that the citizen survey reached a majority of non-regular park users. Gathering input from both regular and non-regular is helpful when making decisions about future improvements.



Figure 5.1: How many hours do you and/or a member of your family spend in a park per week?

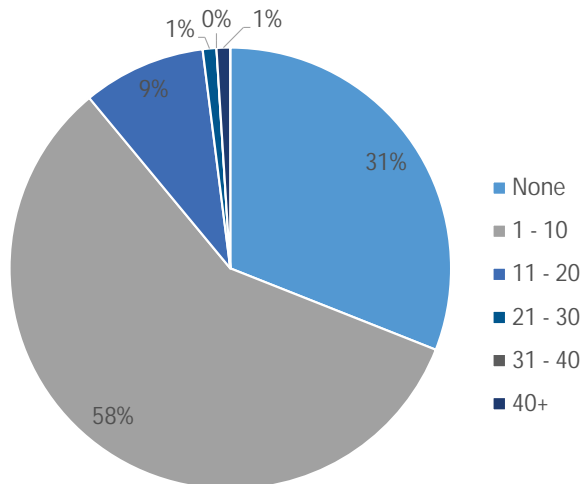
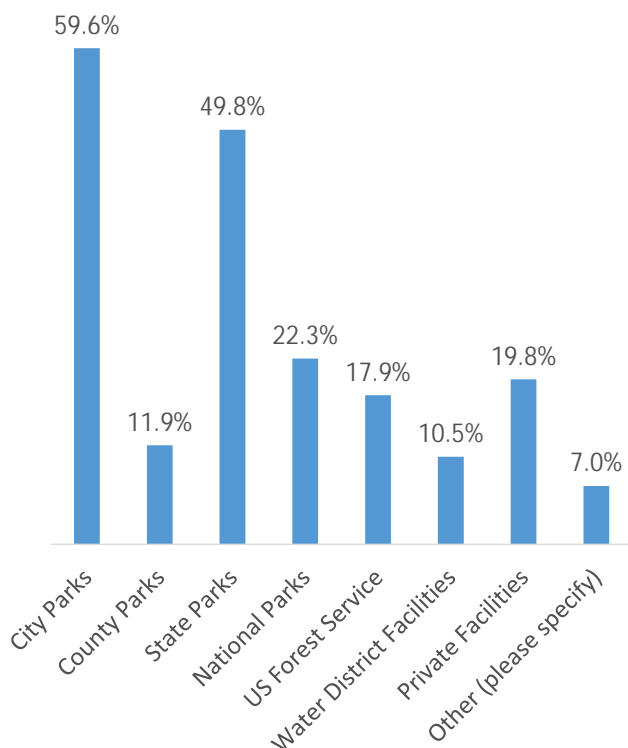


Figure 5.2: Which of the following types of facilities do you visit most often? Please select all that apply.

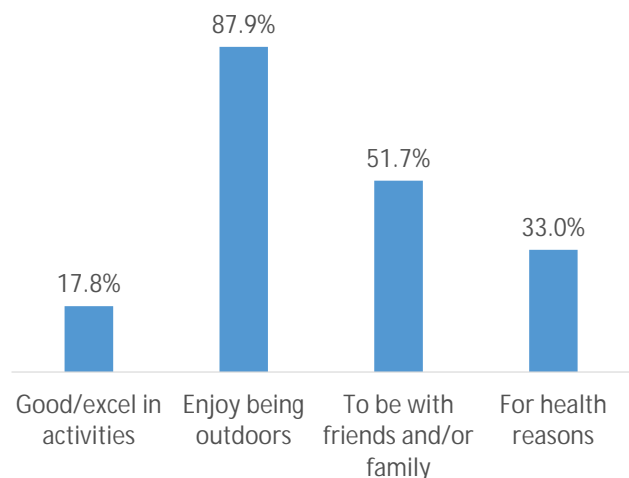


Next, to determine the use of various facilities, we asked, “What types of facilities do you visit most often.” City Parks (59.6%) and State Parks (49.8%) had the highest scores. Listed under “others,” respondents wrote in comments such as “Rails-to-Trails” and “Wildlife Management Areas”

### Participation in Activities

In order to analyze what motivates individuals to use parks, the survey asked, “What are the reasons that the respondent and/or their family participates in park activities?” The majority 87.9 percent of respondents simply enjoy being outdoors. Only 33 percent chose health reasons, which is important to consider when marketing park activities. For instance, marketing park activities as enjoyable could encourage more participation than simply promoting events as good for your health. The least chosen response was good/excel in activities, which may reflect that roughly 17.8 percent of the respondents consider themselves as athletes.

Figure 5.3: What is the reason you and/or your family participate in park activities?



## RECREATION DEMAND

Next, respondents were asked to identify the programs, activities, and events that their families “have participated” and “would like to participate” in. The following five activities received the most responses when asked what they “have participated” in (see figure 5.4 in the Figures section for a complete list):

Then, we asked what activities they “would like to participate” in. The following five activities received the most responses (see figure 5.5 in the Figures section for a complete list):

Overall, we see a strong desire for hiking and trails. Surprisingly, fishing does not appear in the top ten desired list (see figure 5.5 in the Figures section). However, the response count was much lower than the collected responses for “have participated”. See table 5.1 in the Tables section for a complete list of the top three “have participated” and “would like to participate” per PDD.

## "HAVE PARTICIPATED"

- 1) Fishing (on a bank or pier)  
*327 responses*
- 2) Fishing (on a boat)  
*323 responses*
- 3) Fishing (on a boat)  
*307 responses*
- 4) Jog, Run, Walk for exercise  
*291 responses*
- 5) Event, Festival, Etc.  
*281 responses*

## "WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE"

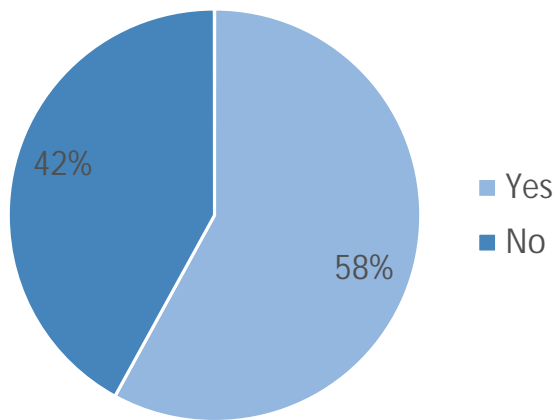
- 1) Hiking and Trails  
*140 responses*
- 2) Canoeing, Kayaking, Rafting, Tubing  
*136 responses*
- 3) Water parks, Splashpool, Sprayground  
*129 responses*
- 4) Camping  
*128 responses*
- 5) Archery  
*127 responses*



### Access to the Parks

In order to understand what other facilities that respondents are using and why, we asked, “do you travel outside of Mississippi to use other parks and recreation facilities?” Over half of the respondents said yes (see figure 5.6).

Figure 5.6: Do you travel outside of Mississippi to use other parks and recreation facilities?



As a follow-up to the question, we asked, if so, where do you travel? We had hundreds of responses mostly listing nearby states, such as Alabama, Tennessee, Arkansas and Florida. One comment explained that they travel to other states because the parks are better maintained. To the right are a few other unique responses.

While it is not surprising that residents travel outside the state to visit unique destinations such as National Parks, researchers were surprised that residents visit neighboring states with unique park facilities, such as skateparks. By diversifying the programs and activities offered in the state, Mississippi could help to retain and attract additional users.

- Access to rivers for kayaking
- Various state parks
- All over the Southeast
- Tennessee- water sprinkler parks and public pools
- Camping in other states
- We travel out of Mississippi to skate more than we skate in Mississippi, due to the lack of skateparks.
- Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Smoky Mountains, Gulf Sea Shore Fort Pickens
- Sipsey River Alabama (Bankhead National Forest)
- Nature Trails in Helena, Arkansas- part of a tracks to trails program
- Collierville, TN to splash pad
- Shelby Farms and Overton Park in Memphis, TN
- Pickwick Landing State Park, Tennessee
- National Parks with hiking trails in Arkansas & Alabama
- Have visited state parks in most of the lower 48 states
- Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama
- Strom Thurman/other Federal Lakes on Savannah River crappie/hybrid bass fishing once/twice each spring.
- TVA nature trails muscle shoals, al
- Canoeing in Tennessee



# RECREATION DEMAND

As part of the survey, respondents were asked, “how far would you be willing to walk, drive or ride a bicycle to parks and recreation facilities if safe multi-use trails, sidewalks or bicycle lanes were available near you?” An impressive 83 percent said they would walk to a park and only 17 percent said they would not walk at all (see figures 5.7-5.9).

Biking had a similar percentage of respondents who would bike 78 percent, which only leaves 22 percent not willing to bike. The researcher found it encouraging that more than seventy-five percent of respondents were willing to walk or bike. It could mean that, with more trails connecting parks and the addition of other safety improvements such as bike lanes and greenways, Mississippi could see a significant increase in walking and biking.

When asked about driving to parks, researchers found that respondents would drive 45+ minutes, which tied with 15-30 minutes (30% each). It is possible that the respondents considered regional destinations such as the beach, etc. when responding to the question. In past city and county surveys, we often find that residents prefer to drive under 15 minutes to local parks.

As a follow-up question, we asked, “If you would not walk or bicycle, why?” Responses listed a variety of reasons that they would not bike or walk. Most of the reasons approximately (42%) were due to unsafe conditions or due to health reasons (22%). 11 percent noted that they did not own a bike and 10 percent stated that parks are too far away from them to bike. The remaining comments listed reasons such as “uninterested” or “lazy” (15%).

Figure 5.7: Walk

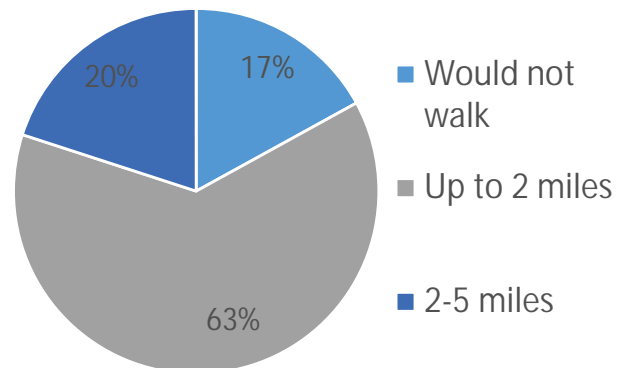


Figure 5.8: Bike

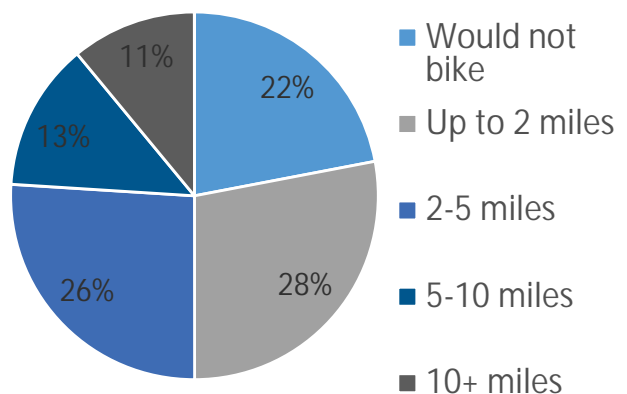
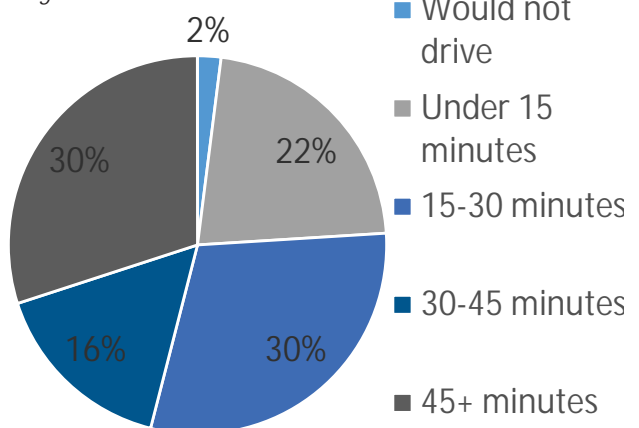


Figure 5.9: Drive

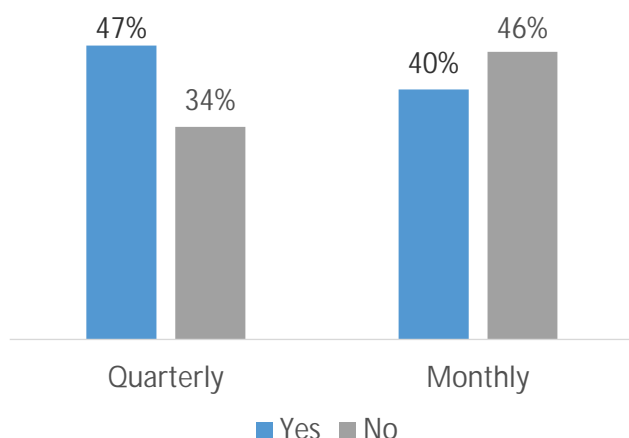




## Marketing

Marketing for park and recreation agencies often include a variety of methods such as websites, social media, guidebooks, radio/TV advertising and even billboards. One way to market and keep citizens informed is to send an email newsletter. Agencies would need to build an email database of supporters and users and provide regular announcements. When asked how often respondents “prefer” to get information on recreation events and programs, the respondents prefer quarterly.

*Figure 5.10: Would you like to receive a monthly or quarterly newsletter via email to inform you and your family of upcoming recreation programs and special events*



Newsletter emails are a good way to generate interest among current and new users. If an agency is sending a quarterly publication, it might be easier for subscribers to overlook than a regular monthly newsletter. Although we find there is a preference for less frequent newsletters, keep in mind, the survey had many non-typical users participating in the survey.

## Respondent Demographics

The researchers were pleased with the diversity of age groups that participated in the survey, where there was a fairly even distribution among the 86.5 percent of participants falling between the ages of 25 to 64 years (see figure 5.11 in the Figures section for a complete breakdown). Additional demographic questions were asked pertaining to gender, ethnicity, and housing status (see figure 5.12-5.14 in the Figures section). When asked about housing status, 87 percent of the respondents indicated that they were homeowners with less than 13% renting. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the homeownership rate from 2007-2011 was 70.6 percent in Mississippi and the U.S. average was 66.1 percent. For this survey, the respondents were higher than the state and national averages.

We later asked about current relationship status and found the majority of survey respondents are married (76%) (see figures 5.15 in the Figures section). We also asked about income, education, and number of years the respondents had lived in the state (see figures 5.16-5.18 in the Figures section). When we asked “How long have you lived in Mississippi?”, the majority of the respondents (81%) indicated that they have lived in the state for over 20 years.

# RECREATION DEMAND

For the final question in the survey, we asked,  
**"Do you have any additional comments?"**

Over 75 comments were gathered as part of this open-ended question.

Below are some selected comments:

- Cleveland needs a splash park and updates to fireman's park
- Coleman State park on the Tennessee River is a hidden jewel. Many Mississippians are not aware of this wonderful place. Please update and market!
- Desoto County needs more focus from the state level. We could really use a competition level, off road, mountain bike trail system to draw competitors from the region to race and train.
- Dog deer hunters speeding & littering the roads near my residence in Homochitto National Forest create unsafe situation.
- I also regularly fish the Corp lakes (Enid/Sardis/Grenada) for crappie/bass about once each month.
- I know the state can't build facilities in every area, but it would be nice if they would build on existing attractions and make them better. Like adding amenities to the Tenn-Tom waterway and recreation areas.
- I love and want to support parks and recreation. I would say we definitely need more bike lanes, trails and connections in order to increase visitorship and make the experience enjoyable and accessible.
- I think a "multi-use" trail tries to serve too many masters. It's either ATV, bicycling, pedestrian, horse, or hunting trail. It can't be all. Anything you do is welcome though, perhaps you have greater vision than I.
- I think our state should focus on maintaining public facilities at our parks to high standards. We need to commit to budget the funds for upkeep of what we build. I hope Mississippi maintains hunting and fishing areas for us in the Three Rivers District.
- I would like to see more camping (RV/5th wheel) parks opening/ updates to facilities.

Such as more parks for such and more full hookups especially at Corps land. Camping has really grown and if the state would invest, more in these facilities like better playgrounds and splash pads it would bring more people into the state.

- I would love to see more greenways in Desoto County; I would also like to see more events in existing county and state parks. I would suggest looking at the state parks that Louisiana has built on lakes and waterways such as Toledo Bend, Poverty Point, Cypremort Point, etc. These cabins are often rented out year round and have a waiting list for reservations. The parks are clean, safe, and well kept.
- I love to use the cabins at our State parks on special occasions (approx. once a year).
- I would [like] to archery hunt for deer in an archery only area.
- RECYCLING!!! Why aren't our state parks recycling? How many people could be exposed to the concept/importance of recycling if cabins, campsites, etc., were set up for guests to recycle their refuse.
- Sure wish we had more walking/running/ bike trails in Rankin County :)



In order to gauge if the survey has statewide participation, we asked what Mississippi Planning and Development District the participant lives in.

Below is a chart indicating results. We find most respondents from Central Mississippi District (31.4%), which seems appropriate given the larger population of Jackson. Based on U.S. Census Bureau data, areas such as Three Rivers, North Delta and Southern Mississippi are areas that have seen recent growth. Coincidentally, we also had higher participation rates from these areas.

**31%**  
RESPONDENTS FROM CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI

Figure 5.20: *Planning and Development Districts*

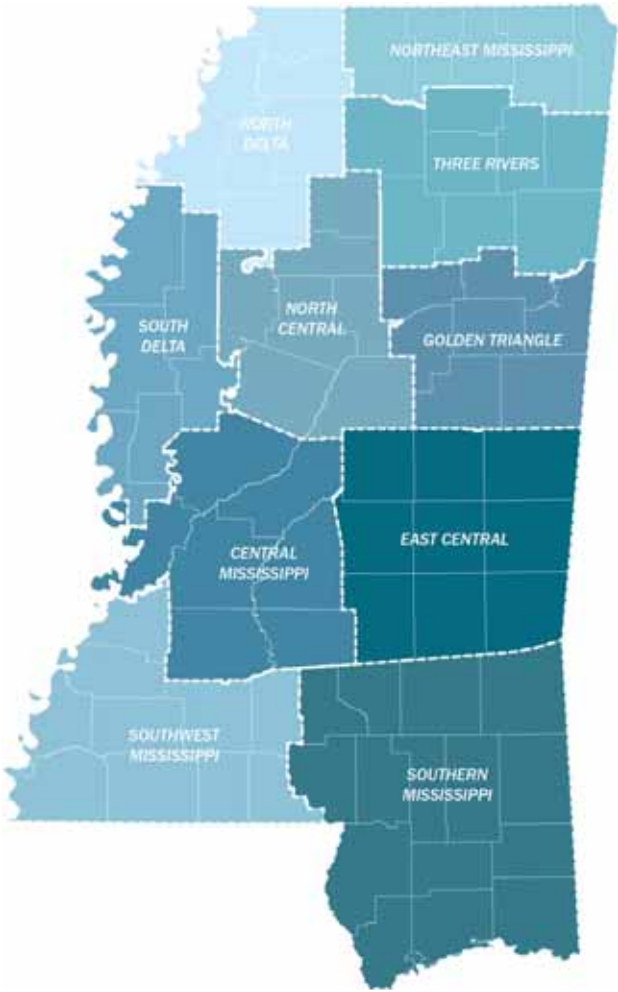
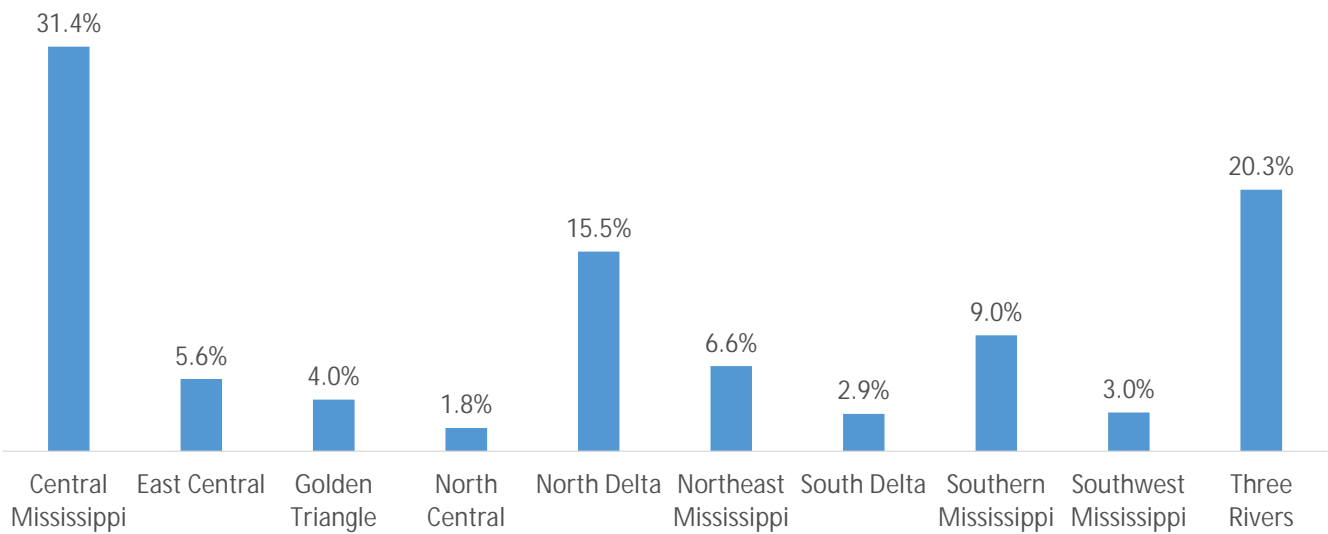


Figure 5.19: *What Mississippi Planning and Development District do you live in? (See map right)*



# RECREATION DEMAND

## *Summary of Citizen Input*

The public input process helped us gather information from a cross section of citizens throughout the state. The respondents included a mixture of both users and non-users, which is helpful in determining how to engage new users and keep existing users. While some had stronger desires for specific facilities over others, the overall desired improvements were for more trails, greenways and blueways.

In summary, the participants' demographics were primarily white (92%) with a majority of the participants being male (57.9%), age group 35-54 (49.7%), a homeowner (86.9%), married (75.9%), and a college graduate (40.9%). In comparison, the participants demographics in the 2009-2014 SCORP (2008 survey) were equally male and female, in the age range of 30-39 and college graduates. The top five statewide recreation needs in 2008 compared to 2013 are listed below.

When we compared to the 2009-2014 SCORP (2008 survey), we find that the primary demand in Mississippi is for trails. In the 2013 survey, we also find trails for walking scoring highest. Given the support for trails, a clear path to increase activity to help decrease the obesity rates is evident.

In addition, the support for trails in the state of Mississippi continues to follow the national recreation trend.

In conclusion of this survey analysis, see the nineteen most commented words and phrases by gender on the following page. The larger font indicates the more often the word was used in the comments.

## TOP FIVE 2008

- 1) Jog, Run, Walk for exercise
- 2) Fishing (bank or pier)
- 3) Swimming (recreational)
- 4) Gardening
- 5) Baseball, Softball

## TOP FIVE 2013

- 1) Hiking and Trails
- 2) Canoeing, Kayaking, Rafting, Tubing
- 3) Water parks, Splashpool
- 4) Camping
- 5) Archery





Cloud view of comments from Females:

Activities Cabins Community Drive Jackson Love  
Mississippi Place Trails

Cloud view of comments from Males:

Opportunities Parks Recreation Road Trails  
Wildlife Management  
DeSoto County Facilities FEES Hiking Hunting Lake Level



photo credit: Lose & Associates, Inc.

# RECREATION DEMAND

## Provider Survey Findings

Using survey questions similar to the 2003 and 2008 survey, the team conducted an online version and, as stated in the Methodology, had 76 providers respond to the survey. This sampling size includes respondents from all ten Planning and Development Districts and we are pleased with the response.

The following charts and graphs illustrate some of the survey results and compare responses. To see a copy of the survey questions, refer to the Appendix.

The majority of responders to the Provider Survey were from cities (66%) and the next highest responders represented State Agencies (23%). We had few College/Universities, Local Park or Federal Agencies and no Schools or Non-profits.

Unlike the Citizens Survey with the majority of the respondents from the Central Mississippi District, which includes Jackson, the Provider Survey had a majority of responded from South Delta (34.8%). The responders included a variety of town, cities and counties in the South Delta District.

Figure 5.21: Which type of organization do you represent?

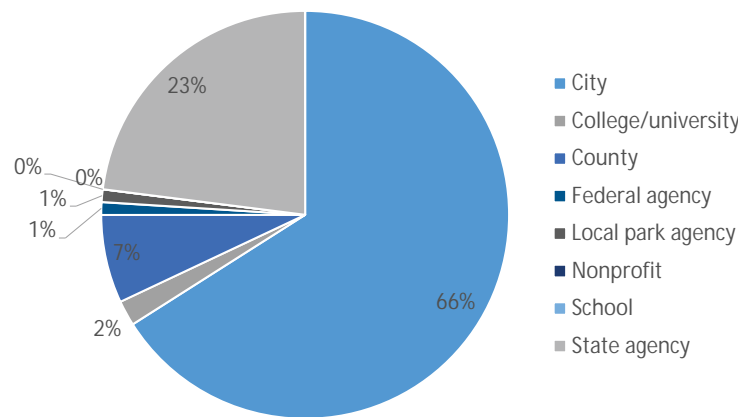
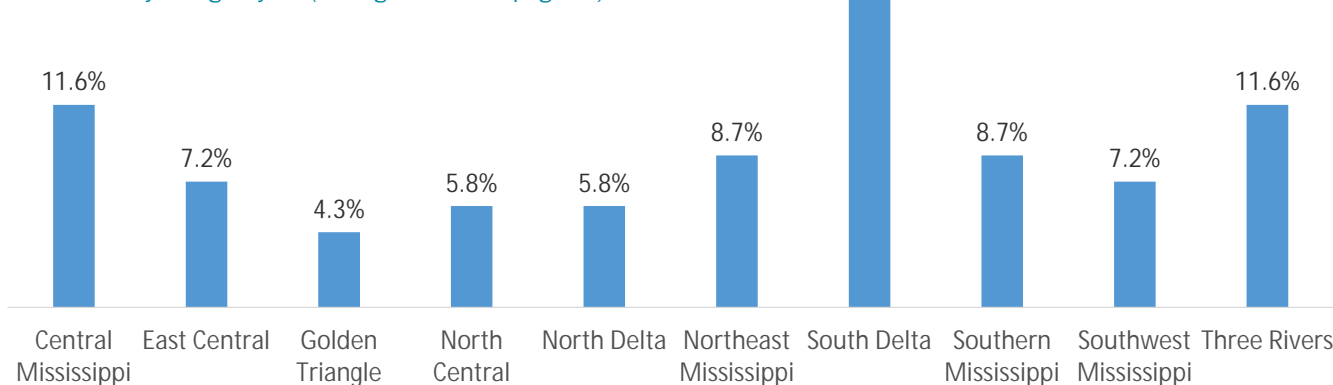


Figure 5.22: What Mississippi Planning and Development District is your agency in? (See figure 5.20 on page 39)





### Park and Program Usage

In the survey, providers were asked to list the new recreational facilities. We find that most of the new recreational facilities were playgrounds and picnic tables, which is not surprising, given

that these items are less expensive than other items on the list and more are generally needed in a community based on National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommendations of one playground per one-thousand residents.

Figure 5.23: Please list the TOTAL amount of items your agency/department provides below i.e. number of fields, courts or miles.

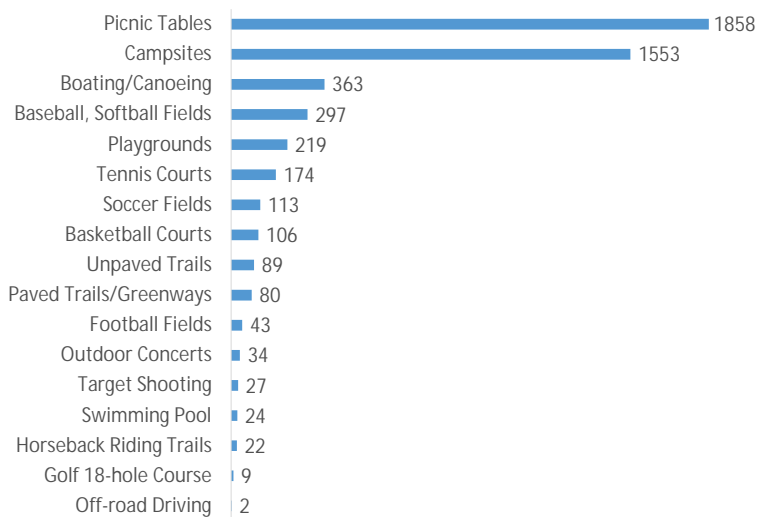
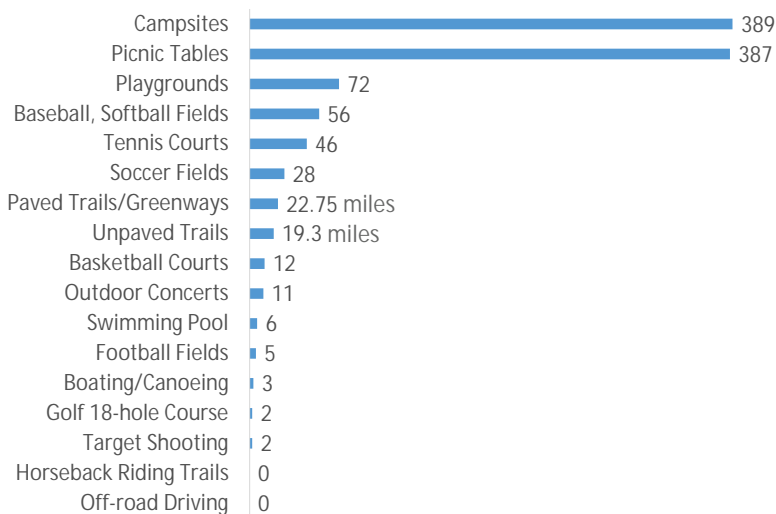


Figure 5.24: Since 2008, has your agency added NEW recreational facilities in your area?? List number or miles.



# RECREATION DEMAND

Using the exact same question from the 2008 SCORP Survey to Providers, we asked respondents to rank these facilities from 1-15 in order from MOST REQUESTED (1) to LEAST REQUESTED (15) in your area.

- 1) *Picnic areas (highest score)*
- 2) *Trails*
- 3) *Hiking/Jogging/Biking*
- 4) *Boating/Fishing*
- 5) *Baseball/Softball fields*
- 6) *Biking areas*
- 7) *Camping areas*
- 8) *Football/Soccer fields*
- 9) *Swimming facilities*
- 10) *Nature/Interpretive*
- 11) *Tennis courts*
- 12) *Public hunting areas*
- 13) *Golf facilities*
- 14) *Off roading areas*
- 15) *Equestrian/horse (lowest score)*

We chose to use the same wording for the question from the 2008 Survey but recommend for future surveys combining the Trails and Hiking/Biking/Jogging into one category given that they are similar. Researchers were not surprised that passive recreational activities such as picnicking, hiking and fishing were high. These are activities that individuals can participate in and, from past studies, we find that these generally rank high. We were surprised to find baseball and softball fields scoring in the top five. Given demographic trends of a growing senior population, we believe the high demand for baseball/softball fields may decline; although, the need for organized sports for youth and adults will continue.

Tennis, public hunting areas, golf facilities, off roading and horse facilities all scored the lowest and outside of the top ten. In comparison, we find that respondents in the Citizen Survey ranked these items in the middle to low range with items such as cheerleading, shuffleboard and swim team ranking the lowest. When analyzing the results, it is important to keep in mind the demographics of the respondent and understand that certain activities, such as swim team, may only appeal to a small group. However, water parks, splashpad, spraygroups, which appeal to a much larger segment of the population, ranked in the top three for items that the citizens would like to participate in. In the next question, we find that providers have a good understanding of the desire of their populace.

We asked, “what is the greatest recreational need in your area that is not currently provided?” This question was open-ended and we had a wide variety of responses. The greatest needed improvement was related to providing greenways, hiking, biking trails and multi-use trails (40.3%). The next highest



photo credit: DBA



ranking activity was aquatic facility, splashpad, swimming (16.4%) In this open-ended question, we also find a wide variety of needs across the state.

*Summary of Provider Survey*

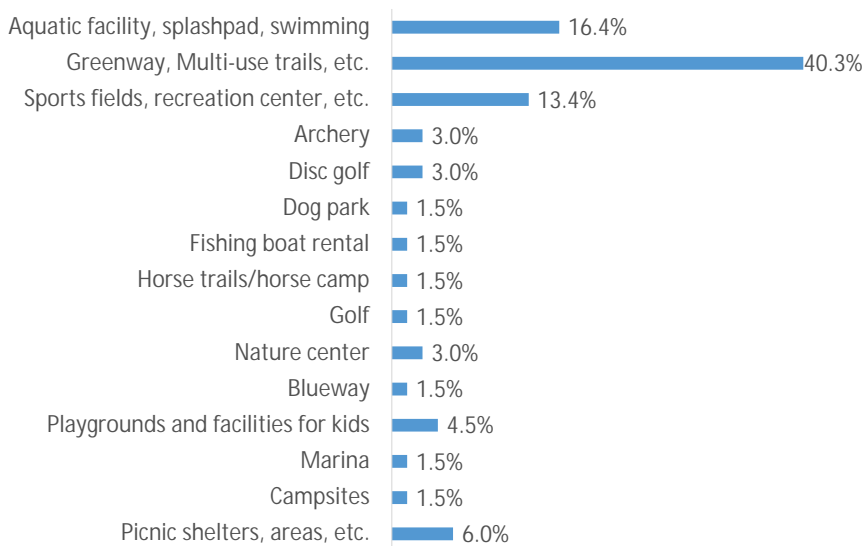
The provider input helped us gather information from a variety of agencies throughout the state. The respondents represent 67 different agencies from all ten Planning and Development Districts.

Given the similar rankings in the Citizen Survey (see figure 5.5 and the list per PDD in the Appendix) and Provider Survey (see figure 5.25) for the most desired and most requested, we find that, overall, providers understand the needs of their community. In order to provide and maintain existing and new facilities, providers will need support to secure a future that sustains their park systems.

Providers are continuing to add facilities with facilities such as picnic tables being the most common. While past studies focused on overall increases to facilities, it is important to highlight the need to maintain existing facilities. As funding continues to be an issue, maintaining existing facilities could suffer, which can negatively impact the perception of a park system as a whole.

In summary, the surveys reveal that Mississippians enjoy fishing and hunting activities and appreciate these great facilities within the state. Moving forward, citizens want to continue these activities but they also desire more trails, greenways and bikeways to access park amenities. In addition, specific needs such as dog parks, disc golf and/or splashpads, are desired across the state. These activities will be important in creating park systems that provide high quality of life for its residents, promote healthier lifestyles and economic well-being for the state of Mississippi.

*Figure 5.25: What is the greatest recreational need in your area that is not currently provided?*





# ME

## **PART - VI**

### **ISSUES & ACTION PLAN**

# ISSUES & ACTION PLAN

## *Coordination & Collaboration*

*Issue:* The state of Mississippi, as a whole, is considered suburban and rural. A bulk of its population resides in small towns separated by miles of forest and farmland. The TFC feels that isolation has fostered an independent demeanor amongst intracity agencies, neighboring municipalities, and even adjacent counties. From Task Force Committee and public meetings, it is apparent that there is not enough collaboration on projects between community leaders. As a result, smaller, perhaps less efficient projects are taken on when larger, more comprehensive ones, could be completed.

An example of this would be if two neighboring communities constructed duplicate baseball fields. In this case, there is a lack of collaboration between the county school board and local recreation department. Though easier, it seems inefficient to have two new baseball fields built serving, basically, the same area. One well-built recreation facility could potentially serve a larger group of neighborhoods or even a cluster of adjacent cities.

These projects may not consider the perspective of the larger community. The public does not see its recreational needs being met through jurisdiction lines. Those who participate in recreation want a broad range of opportunities within their area. They generally do not care who provides the service as long as it meets their needs. Municipal Parks, recreation areas, local ball fields, federal forests, wildlife management areas, and even cross-county trails are all a part of Mississippi's outdoor recreation system. Though they are each governed by different entities, together they are united in providing recreation opportunities for state residents and visitors.

Mississippi counties and municipalities should strive to overcome their current lack of coordination and cooperation to maximize the funding for construction, maintenance, and operations, as well as the location and visitation of new recreation facilities. In an ideal world, agencies with the same objectives should work together, unite their resources, and help their community by accomplishing larger goals.

*Action:* The state should facilitate the communication and cooperation between all outdoor recreation providers and ensure that the state's recreation system meets the need and desires of all its citizens. Utilizing the MDWFP, PDDs, and MRPA, there is a need to fully evaluate the feasibility of establishing joint ventures between agencies. This group of recreation and planning professionals can evaluate and refine the requirements of local recreation plans to better foster collaboration between recreation providers.

The MDWFP and MRPA should encourage the PDDs and their municipal and county parks and recreation department to meet quarterly to share information and ideas, coordinate on parks and outdoor recreation management issues, foster the growth of the recreation system within the region, and oversee development of regional outdoor recreation action plans. The MDWFP and MRPA should also recognize and reward collaboration and cooperation between units of government, agencies, and non-profits by way of publication and in their grant award decisions. For example, rewarding recreation providers who work with public health agencies and construct facilities that help fight Mississippi's obesity epidemic.





## *Funding*

*Issue:* Among all local, state, and federal jurisdictions, a lack of adequate funding continues to be a major issue preventing governments from meeting the demands of its constituents. Therefore, like most, Mississippi suffers from resource limitations. Simply put, the dollars are just not there. Mississippi cannot support the cost of constructing and operating all of the new outdoor recreation facilities that their citizens require and/or desire.

Local budgets within Mississippi are limited and give higher priority to financing other community needs over recreation. This issue combined with an increasing demand for new facilities and the renovation of existing facilities has greatly increased the pressure on already limited recreation funds.



*photo credit: DBA*

*Action:* Recreation providers should acquire more funds to meet the needs of residents. Local park organizations should work with their regional and state governments to integrate high-priority outdoor recreation needs into regional comprehensive economic development strategies. This will link outdoor recreation with economic goals and leverage funding opportunities for projects. Additionally, if recreation providers work cross-jurisdictionally and pool their resources, more funding may become available on certain projects.

Recreation providers should also lobby legislators at all levels. To achieve more funding, they should create awareness about the over arching benefits of outdoor recreation. Lawmakers need to understand how outdoor recreation facilities and programming assist communities by promoting economic prosperity and community pride. One way to gain lawmakers attention is to formulate advocacy groups consisting of stakeholders from various professions such as real estate, tourism, and healthcare. Advocacy groups can have a collective voice and generate state and federal support for local issues. While a more long-term strategy, advocacy groups can produce lasting impacts with proper organization and persistence.

Another method for mitigating funding limitations is to encourage the private development of public recreation facilities through tax incentives. Private developers could couple their large projects with adjacent parks or trails. The developer could then donate the park or trail to the city with a future maintenance endowment.

## *Maintenance*

*Issue:* At the local government level, the amount of money budgeted for the maintenance of recreation facilities is being stretched to do more than ever. As the economy inflates the cost of doing simple tasks, like mowing the lawn or pruning the hedges at the local park, maintenance costs increase as well. Without adequate budget adjustments, recreation providers cannot provide the amount of maintenance their facilities require.

Compounding the issue, sometimes when new recreation facilities are constructed, the department's facilities maintenance budget is not increased to accommodate the additional facility. Therefore, the required new grounds keeping spreads the existing fund thin. Also, many of Mississippi's existing recreation facilities are aging. They now cost even more to repair due to their age and, sometimes, lack of periodic maintenance. Governments have been forced to close, once popular now derelict, facilities and now lack the funding needed to repair and re-open them. Lastly, in many communities, there is an ongoing issue of public vandalism, such as graffiti, theft, and the wear and tear of improper facility use, which is depleting funds even faster. Dollars previously spent on routine maintenance are now also being spent to restore damaged facilities, thus increasing the community need for more recreation facilities.

*Action:* Ongoing maintenance should be considered a primary budget concern when planning new recreation facilities. Ideally, for each of their facilities, recreation providers should set aside a protected endowment that would ensure that all projectable maintenance needs, like monthly mowing, tree pruning, and equipment replacement, are met for the life of the facility. Recreation providers should also ensure that recreational funding sources continue to recognize and support the need for infrastructure improvements on existing facilities. Infrastructure improvements and maintenance is a key element for providing long term and high-quality recreational opportunities for the public.

Recreation providers may also consider organizing volunteer groups to help maintain local and state outdoor recreation facilities. Schools and social/service organization are optimal candidates to help support or fund neighborhood park clean-ups. Utilizing "adopt-a-park" groups is a cost effective way for recreation providers to extend their maintenance budgets.

Recreation providers, contractors, and facility maintenance crews should stay knowledgeable of new, more efficient, methods for constructing and maintaining outdoor recreation facilities. New techniques may allow for more durable facilities that require less consistent and costly maintenance. Local officials should establish building, infrastructure, and maintenance quality standards for their parks, trails, and other recreational facilities ensuring that the facilities are meeting the standards. The standards should target the utilization of quality materials and construction practices to ensure a long life for the facility.



### *Planning Assistance*

*Issue:* Outdoor recreation has become a high priority for the PDDs in Mississippi. A desire to utilize the health benefits of recreation has fostered many governments to create their own Parks and Recreation Department. These departments are typically charged with the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of all public recreational facilities within their jurisdiction.

However, due to a lack of resources, the planning process has become a major hurdle for smaller communities. The shortage of professional park planning assistance available to local units of government is a statewide issue. Numerous small towns want to strengthen their outdoor recreation system, but they are not certain how. Furthermore, the state currently lacks a recreation information clearinghouse, which would help local communities research and problem solve their various issues.

*Action:* In Mississippi there is a deficiency in the amount of assistance local recreation providers receive for park planning. Mississippi counties and municipalities should utilize the services of their region's Planning and Development Districts (PDD) and the resources of the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). PDDs are a proven cost effective intergovernmental tool to address common planning and development problems and issues (Central Mississippi Planning Development District). Additionally, the NRPA has programs that provide professional planners to assist local governments in the development of local (more personalized) recreation standards and procedures. Recreation providers must exploit these resources.

### *Grant Application Education*

*Issue:* Most supplemental outdoor recreation funding trickles down from the federal government in the form of grants. Grants are typically time sensitive, which requires a local government to foresee, research, and apply for them in a short amount of time. This format causes issues for smaller communities, as most grant applications are too complicated for them to quickly digest. They find the criteria is unfairly rigid and geared towards larger cities, with more resources. For smaller towns, which are prevalent in Mississippi, the grant application process requires too many man hours, and therefore, becomes too expensive to comply.

*Action:* Municipal and county governments need a liaison to help streamline (simplify and expedite) grant applications. State agencies like the Planning and Development Districts (PDD) as well as, the Mississippi Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) provide many services including grant writing and administration for general civic, social, recreation, and economic development projects in Mississippi (Northeast Mississippi Planning Development District). By seeking the help of those recreation professionals, local legislators can become better educated on the grant planning, application, and compliance processes.



M

# PART - VII

## OPEN PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

# OPEN PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

## *LWCF Project Selection Process*

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in Mississippi is administered by the Outdoor Recreation Grants (ORG) division of the MDWFP. As set forth in Mississippi Code #55-3-71, the Executive Director of the MDWFP is designated as the authorized representative of the State of Mississippi under the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act; therefore, the Executive Director is thereby directed to utilize the SCORP document. Please note that the Governor may choose to appoint an alternative state liaison officer to administer the program.

The ORG division of the MDWFP holds the following responsibilities: to be the official state agency liaison with the US Department of the Interior's National Park Service (NPS) and to be the official state agency to receive and disburse federal LWCF funds available to the state for outdoor recreational acquisition and/or development and planning.



*photo credit: City of Pascagoula*

## *Application Process*

LWCF grants are awarded on an annual funding cycle, when appropriations are available. This notification is widely publicized as it is sent to every mayor, president of the boards of supervisors, eligible state agency directors, MRPA, and all PDDs, as well as any other recreation consultants and planners throughout the state Mississippi. An electronic application is posted on the MDWFP website for applicants to download. A presentation describing the technical information required for the application is also available online. The normal funding cycle dates begin October of each federal fiscal year and all applications are due no later than December thirty first. Please note, these dates are altered when LWCF appropriations are delayed. In the event that this happens, all potential eligible sponsors will be notified of the changes.

Applicants are required to submit SF-424 to the appropriate PDD providing all appropriate information about the proposed project. Documentation of an environmental assessment and a dated project boundary map for the proposed project must also be included with the completed application.

Once all applications are reviewed and necessary, site visits are made and applications are then ranked by ORG staff. The staff utilizes an objective standardized priority rating system and ranks applications according to their score. At this point, all applications are evaluated and separate funding decisions are made. This process continues until all available funds have been allocated. Applications at the lower end of the priority list are not considered until all higher-ranking applications have been approved or rejected.





The final ranking list is presented by the State Liaison Officer to the Executive Committee of the MDWFP for review and then presented to the Executive Director of the MDWFP for ratification.

The priority rating system was revised and updated in 2013, after review by the SCORP Task Force Committee. Comments received from these participants were evaluated and where feasible, incorporated into the revised rating process.

The priority rating system used in evaluating applications for each fiscal year is divided into two sections: local governments and state agencies.

#### *Local Government, priority rating system*

- 1. Minimum requirements are evaluated from data on the application forms. Included are a list of regulations, assurances of matching funds, citizen participation procedures, and compliance with the SCORP, dated boundary map, and environmental assessment.*
- 2. Measured criteria allows a variable number of points for:*
  - Per capita income;
  - (b) Planning considerations, including local and regional plans and factors effecting project area;
  - (c) Site alteration which allows more points when a greater percentage of the total project is used for facility development;
  - (d) Degree of citizen participation, allowing for additional credit to be revealed.
- 3. Incentive criteria allows bonus points for projects utilizing consultant services, land donations, low income project sites, multiple use facilities, and/or inter-agency collaboration, among others.*

#### *State Agencies, priority rating system*

- 4. Needs – containing evidence of statewide need in the SCORP, individual agency plans, and state legislation mandating specific development.*
- 5. Special consideration – including acquisition of land to expand project (park) boundaries, land acquisition to preserve natural or endangered areas, acquisition of wetlands, emergency acquisition, minority considerations, and handicapped considerations.*

Please note, the recommended state project share is 40 percent of the annual appropriation, unless increased by legislative mandate.

### **INCENTIVE CRITERIA ALLOWS BONUS POINTS FOR PROJECTS UTILIZING INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION, AMONG OTHERS.**



*photo credit: MSU Alumni*

# OPEN PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

## *Outreach Program*

The ORG staff has developed an active program to encourage participation in the LWCF grant program. An active mailing list of city and county governments is maintained by the ORG. A formal application packet is distributed to every mayor, president of the boards of supervisors, eligible state agency director, and all planning and development districts, as well as anyone requesting a copy.

## *LWCF Project Application, Minimum Assurances and Requirements*

Before proceeding with this application, the applicant must be able to demonstrate compliance with the following:

- 1. The Applicant - The applicant must be a legally constituted governmental entity responsible for administering local recreation program, such as cities/mayors, counties/presidents of the boards of supervisors, tribal governments/chiefs, and state agency directors.*
- 2. Application - The applicant must submit the completed application form with all supplemental documentation, which includes a map of the jurisdiction identifying all public recreational facilities, a map identifying the land acquisition and/or construction requested in this application, and a map identifying minority population distribution. Please note, attached to the recreation facilities map should be an additional narrative describing the proposed recreational facilities located and labeled on the map.*
- 3. Property Boundary Map - The applicant must provide a dated property boundary map on 8 ½ x 11 size paper showing metes and bounds, footages of each and the surrounding land use.*
- 4. Environmental Assessment - The applicant will be required to submit environmental assessment documentation with the application. Please note, an environmental assessment packet will be provided with the application packet.*

*5. Public Participation - Mississippi's open project selection process requires public participation in the formulation of the project. During the early phases of the project, prior to submitting the application, an applicant must document public involvement. In the ranking criteria, additional credit is given if the potential sponsor has invited and received large amounts of citizen input on determining priority recreation needs (sites and facilities). A detailed description of the procedure used to obtain local citizen input along with a summary of the results obtained must be submitted in writing. The applicant must insure citizen participation in the formulation of the proposed project or have demonstrated significant and representative input into seeking recreational priorities.*

*6. Matching Funding - The applicant must have budgeted the 50% matching requirements or have a resolution attesting to the availability of the matching requirement. They must also identify sources of other federal funds used as matching share, when applicable. Please note, if land acquisition is involved, plans of the property must be provided with full description.*

*7. Facilities Inventory - The applicant must document that a need for the outdoor recreation grant exists. Need, as perceived by a small group of individuals, will not be considered sufficient documentation to meet this requirement. Applicant must complete facilities inventory form, provided by ORG staff, for each existing park and submit local or regional recreational plan(s), if available. The project must also be consistent with the goals of the SCORP document.*

*8. Assurances - The applicant must assure ORG in writing that project initiation will commence immediately upon notification by NPS that the grant has been approved.*

*9. Checklist - A checklist of the components of the application will be submitted along with the application. The checklist will be signed and dated by the applicant.*



## *Additional Assurances*

Submission of the application is evidence that the applicant has read and understands all applicable federal and state rules, regulations, and assurances pertaining to the LWCF supported projects. These requirements have either been detailed or incorporated by reference in this application document. Each of the following must be complied, with an agreement signed by the applicant to that effect, before a project can be selected for funding.

- 1. The applicant must sign assurances that compliance with all federal and state laws and Outdoor Recreation Grants guidelines will be guaranteed, i.e. PL 88-352 Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Department of Interior Regulations (43-CFR 17), and all other assurances assigned to applicable federal and state law.*
- 2. Each grant recipient must designate a coordinator that will be responsible for assuring compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This act requires a self-evaluation of facilities to determine accessibility by the handicapped, and grievance procedure to follow, in event of a complaint of discrimination.*
- 3. Property acquired or developed with assistance from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (under Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act), shall be retained and used for "public outdoor recreation" in perpetuity. In the event that this property is converted to other than outdoor recreation use, knowingly or unknowingly, by the project sponsor, it will constitute a conversion. In order to rectify such a conversion, the project sponsor must first notify the State Liaison Officer for assistance. Then a federal land appraisal will need to be conducted to determine the "fair market value" of the loss, and equal value replacement property must be acquired and developed at the Sponsors expense. The National Park Service will have final approval of this process. In order that this regulation may be stringently enforced, the attached limitation of use must become a part of the warranty deed and be*

*recorded in the county courthouse.*

- 4. Evidence of this recording must be furnished to this office before reimbursement of funds is made.*
- 5. Each grant recipient must provide the ORG staff a copy of the official city/county comprehensive audit that includes all transactions relative to the LWCF grant. Failure to do so within a reasonable length of time after the project closeout will result in the demand for a payback of all federal funds expended.*
- 6. Each grant recipient agrees that project initiation will commence immediately upon notification by the National Park Service that the grant has been approved. This includes an immediate land appraisal (if applicable), bid advertisements, contract acceptance procedures and facility construction. Inability to adhere to this assurance will result in project withdrawal.*
- 7. Each grant recipient will operate and maintain the proposed development in a manner that is aesthetically pleasing, sanitary, safe and open for public use. The recipient will also maintain an attractive LWCF site sign at all times and adhere to all guidelines included in the National Park Service regulations.*
- 8. Each grant recipient will agree to adhere to new federal regulations regarding lobbying, contractor debarment, federal grant notification procedures, and other federal guidelines deemed essential.*



*photo credit: City of Pascagoula*



# OPEN PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

## *Affirmative Action*

The open project selection process recognizes the need for proposed projects, to the greatest extent practicable, to be accessible to all segments of the general public including minority population (Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans and Asian Americans), the elderly, and handicapped. The LWCF program requires that all applicants provide city and/or county maps identifying all existing and proposed park sites and the geographic distribution of low income/minority areas. Additionally, the applicant must complete facility inventory forms of each existing park. This information enables the ORG staff to analyze the need for the proposed site as well as determine its accessibility to all segments of the general public.

## *Technical Assistance*

Assistance is available to potential sponsors needing help in completing the application process. If a potential sponsor fails to comply with minimum requirements, technical assistance will be available to assure that they meet these requirements for the next funding cycle. Considerable effort is made to make personal contact with potential sponsors through meetings, pre-award inspections, and telephone communication. By providing help early in the grant process, ORG is able to develop high-quality projects while reducing later grant problems.

## *Conclusion*

Mississippi has developed an open project selection process emphasizing public involvement in the initial development of a project scope by the project sponsor. This process helps to ensure that a project is developed with citizen input from the inception forward.



*photo credit: City of Pascagoula*



*photo credit: City of Pascagoula*









# ME

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# REFERENCES

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# ME

## TABLES

# TABLES

Table 4.1: County Analysis

COUNTY	2010 POPULATION	ACTIVE FACILITIES	ACTIVE FACILITIES PER 1000 PERSONS	PASSIVE FACILITIES	PASSIVE FACILITIES PER 1000 PERSONS
ADAMS	32,297	10	0.31	12	0.37
ALCORN	37,057	7	0.19	8	0.22
AMITE	13,131	3	0.23	3	0.23
ATTALA	19,564	4	0.20	7	0.36
BENTON	8,729	1	0.11	0	0.00
BOLIVAR	34,145	13	0.38	13	0.38
CALHOUN	14,962	2	0.13	4	0.27
CARROLL	10,597	0	0.00	2	0.19
CHICKASAW	17,392	0	0.00	9	0.52
CHOCTAW	8,547	4	0.47	7	0.82
CLAIBORNE	9,604	0	0.00	5	0.52
CLARKE	16,732	6	0.36	13	0.78
CLAY	20,634	10	0.48	10	0.48
COAHOMA	26,151	4	0.15	5	0.19
COPIAH	29,449	6	0.20	8	0.27
COVINGTON	19,568	5	0.26	7	0.36
DESOTO	161,252	44	0.27	30	0.19
FORREST	74,934	18	0.24	21	0.28
FRANKLIN	8,118	1	0.12	7	0.86
GEORGE	22,578	5	0.22	4	0.18
GREENE	14,400	1	0.07	2	0.14
GRENADA	21,906	3	0.14	24	1.10
HANCOCK	43,929	10	0.23	28	0.64
HARRISON	187,105	101	0.54	81	0.43
HINDS	245,285	81	0.33	48	0.20
HOLMES	19,198	2	0.10	9	0.47
HUMPHREYS	9,375	3	0.32	2	0.21
ISSAQUENA	1,406	0	0.00	0	0.00
ITAWAMBA	23,401	3	0.13	8	0.34
JACKSON	139,668	38	0.27	44	0.32
JASPER	17,062	3	0.18	3	0.18
JEFFERSON	7,726	2	0.26	0	0.00
JEFFERSON DAVIS	12,487	1	0.08	5	0.40
JONES	67,761	12	0.18	17	0.25
KEMPER	10,456	2	0.19	0	0.00
LAFAYETTE	47,351	10	0.21	15	0.32
LAMAR	55,658	12	0.22	9	0.16
LAUDERDALE	80,261	32	0.40	23	0.29
LAWRENCE	12,929	2	0.15	4	0.31
LEAKE	23,805	3	0.13	8	0.34
LEE	82,910	31	0.37	28	0.34
LEFLORE	32,317	10	0.31	15	0.46
LINCOLN	34,869	5	0.14	6	0.17
LOWNDES	59,779	16	0.27	18	0.30
MADISON	95,203	12	0.13	19	0.20





Table 4.1: County Analysis (continued)

COUNTY	2010 POPULATION	ACTIVE FACILITIES	ACTIVE FACILITIES PER 1000 PERSONS	PASSIVE FACILITIES	PASSIVE FACILITIES PER 1000 PERSONS
MARION	27,088	6	0.22	5	0.18
MARSHALL	37,144	5	0.13	9	0.24
MONROE	36,989	19	0.51	14	0.38
MONTGOMERY	10,925	2	0.18	1	0.09
NESHOBA	29,676	9	0.30	9	0.30
NEWTON	21,720	8	0.37	7	0.32
NOXUBEE	11,545	1	0.09	2	0.17
OKTIBBEHA	47,671	18	0.38	13	0.27
PANOLA	34,707	6	0.17	22	0.63
PEARL RIVER	55,834	7	0.13	4	0.07
PERRY	12,250	3	0.24	13	1.06
PIKE	40,404	11	0.27	11	0.27
PONTOTOC	29,957	9	0.30	9	0.30
PRENTISS	25,276	6	0.24	7	0.28
QUITMAN	8,223	1	0.12	0	0.00
RANKIN	141,617	32	0.23	30	0.21
SCOTT	28,264	6	0.21	12	0.42
SHARKEY	4,916	2	0.41	8	1.63
SIMPSON	27,503	4	0.15	5	0.18
SMITH	16,491	1	0.06	7	0.42
STONE	17,786	4	0.22	13	0.73
SUNFLOWER	29,450	10	0.34	8	0.27
TALLAHATCHIE	15,378	5	0.33	1	0.07
TATE	28,886	5	0.17	6	0.21
TIPPAH	22,232	3	0.13	2	0.09
TISHOMINGO	19,593	9	0.46	22	1.12
TUNICA	10,778	6	0.56	5	0.46
UNION	27,134	5	0.18	6	0.22
WALTHALL	15,443	2	0.13	3	0.19
WARREN	48,773	15	0.31	11	0.23
WASHINGTON	51,137	38	0.74	26	0.51
WAYNE	20,747	4	0.19	8	0.39
WEBSTER	10,253	1	0.10	3	0.29
WILKINSON	9,878	1	0.10	4	0.40
WINSTON	19,198	4	0.21	7	0.36
YALOBUSHA	12,678	3	0.24	12	0.95
YAZOO	28,065	3	0.11	3	0.11

Table 4.2: Planning &amp; Development District Analysis

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT	2010 POPULATION	ACTIVE FACILITIES	ACTIVE FACILITIES PER 1000 PERSONS	PASSIVE FACILITIES	PASSIVE FACILITIES PER 1000 PERSONS
CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI	615,895	153	0.25	124	0.20
EAST CENTRAL	244,467	70	0.29	82	0.34
GOLDEN TRIANGLE	177,627	54	0.30	60	0.34
NORTH CENTRAL	127,185	24	0.19	70	0.55
NORTH DELTA	285,375	71	0.25	69	0.24
NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI	150,031	31	0.21	48	0.32
SOUTH DELTA	130,429	66	0.51	57	0.44
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI	771,793	227	0.29	261	0.34
SOUTHWEST MISSISSIPPI	184,399	37	0.20	55	0.30
THREE RIVERS	280,096	79	0.28	93	0.33

# TABLES

Table 5.1: Citizen Survey - Top 3 "Have Participated" In and Top 3 "Would Like to Participate" In by PDD

Area	#	Top 3 HAVE participated in	#	Top 3 WOULD LIKE TO participate in
<b>Northeast Mississippi</b>				
	26	Jog, Run, Walk for exercise	9	Canoeing, Kayaking, Rafting, Tubing
	25	Hiking and Trails	8	Bicycling (non-motorized)
	25	Visit Beaches in Mississippi	7	Archery
	24	Fishing (On a Boat)	7	Competitive Shooting
	24	Picnicking	7	Hiking and Trails
			7	Jog, Run, Walk for exercise
			7	Outdoor Drama - Concerts, Cultural Events, etc.
			7	Target Shooting/Skeet
			7	Water Parks, Splashpool, Sprayground
<b>North Delta</b>				
	51	Playgrounds	32	Water Parks, Splashpool, Sprayground
	49	Fishing on a Bank or Pier	27	Hiking and Trails
	48	Events, Festivals, etc.	22	Bicycling (non-motorized)
	48	Jog, run, walk, exercise	22	Events, Festivals, etc.
<b>South Delta</b>				
	9	Fishing (On a Bank or Pier)	9	Excitement/Outdoors
	9	Health/Fitness Training	9	High Ropes Course
	8	Backpacking	8	Hiking and Trails
	8	Bicycling (non-motorized)	7	Canoeing, Kayaking, Rafting, Tubing
	8	Camping	7	Events, Festivals, etc.
	8	Events, Festivals, etc.	7	Nature Photography
	8	Jog, Run, Walk for exercise	7	Repelling/Rock Climbing
	8	Playgrounds	7	Water Parks, Splashpool, Sprayground
	7	Canoeing, Kayaking, Rafting, Tubing		
	7	Hiking and Trails		
	7	Swimming (Recreation)		
<b>Three Rivers</b>				
	63	Camping	30	Canoeing, Kayaking, Rafting, Tubing
	63	Fishing (On a Boat)	30	Target Shooting/Skeet
	62	Fishing (On a Bank or Pier)	30	Water Parks, Splashpool, Sprayground
	60	Picnicking	28	Bicycling (non-motorized)
			27	Hiking and Trails
<b>Golden Triangle</b>				
	16	Fishing (On a Boat)	11	Camping
	14	Camping	9	Fishing (On a Boat)
	12	Fishing (On a Bank or Pier)	9	Hiking and Trails
	12	Picnicking	8	Archery
			8	Nature Photography



Table 5.1: Citizen Survey - Top 3 "Have Participated" In and Top 3 "Would Like to Participate" In by PDD (continued)

Area	#	Top 3 HAVE participated in	#	Top 3 WOULD LIKE TO participate in
<b>North Central Mississippi</b>				
	7	Boating/Sailing	4	Target Shooting/Skeet
	7	Camping	3	Animal Training/Showing
	7	Fishing (On a Bank or Pier)	3	Backpacking
	7	Hunting, Bow Hunting	3	Competitive Shooting
	6	Fishing (On a Boat)	3	Fishing (On a Bank or Pier)
	6	Hiking and Trails	3	Golf
	6	Playgrounds	3	High Ropes Course
	5	Events, Festivals, etc.	3	Hiking and Trails
	5	Excitement/Outdoors	3	Horseback Riding/Trail Riding
	5	Jog, Run, Walk for exercise	3	Picnicking
	5	Off-Road Vehicle, ATV, Dirt Biking (motorized)	2	Archery
			2	Baseball, Softball
			2	Boating/Sailing
			2	Camping
			2	Dog Field Trials
			2	Frisbee, Disc Golf
			2	Gardening
			2	Health/Fitness Training
			2	Jog, Run, Walk for exercise
			2	Nature Photography
			2	Outdoor Drama - Concerts, Cultural Events, etc.
			2	Playgrounds
			2	Repelling/Rock Climbing
			2	Soccer
			2	Swim Team (Competitive)
			2	Visit Beaches in Mississippi
			2	Volleyball/Badminton
			2	Zoos
<b>Central Mississippi</b>				
	98	Fishing (On a Bank or Pier)	48	Hiking and Trails
	95	Fishing (On a Boat)	44	Camping
	95	Jog, Run, Walk for exercise	40	Canoeing, Kayaking, Rafting, Tubing
	94	Events, Festivals, etc.	40	Picnicking

# TABLES

Table 5.1: Citizen Survey - Top 3 "Have Participated" In and Top 3 "Would Like to Participate" In by PDD (continued)

Area	#	Top 3 HAVE participated in	#	Top 3 WOULD LIKE TO participate in
<b>East Central</b>				
	22	Fishing (On a Bank or Pier)	7	Competitive Shooting
	20	Fishing (On a Boat)	7	Hunting, Bow Hunting
	17	Baseball, Softball	5	Archery
	17	Camping	5	Automobile Racing
			5	Off-Road Vehicle, ATV, Dirt Biking (motorized)
			5	Scuba/Snorkeling
			5	Target Shooting/Skeet
			4	Camping
			4	Events, Festivals, etc.
			4	Nature Photography
			4	Repelling/Rock Climbing
			4	Water Parks, Splashpool, Sprayground
<b>Southwest Mississippi</b>				
	15	Hunting, Bow Hunting	5	Competitive Shooting
				Off-Road Vehicle, ATV, Dirt Biking (motorized)
	13	Camping	5	
	11	Archery	4	Backpacking
	11	Fishing (On a Bank or Pier)	3	Canoeing, Kayaking, Rafting, Tubing
	11	Fishing (On a Boat)	3	Health/Fitness Training
			3	Hunting, Bow Hunting
			3	Spelunking (Caves)
<b>Southern Mississippi</b>				
	36	Fishing (On a Boat)	17	Competitive Shooting
	33	Fishing (On a Bank or Pier)	16	Archery
	31	Hunting, Bow Hunting	15	Canoeing, Kayaking, Rafting, Tubing
			15	Target Shooting/Skeet









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## FIGURES

# FIGURES

Figure 4.1: Recreation Facilities Per PDD

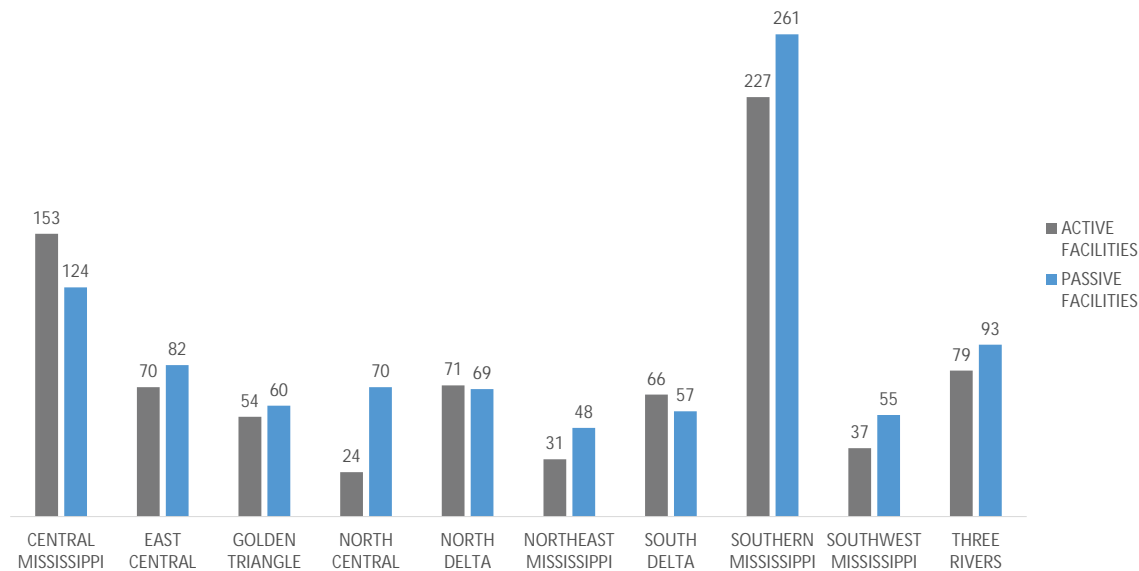


Figure 4.2: Recreation Facilities Per 1,000 Persons

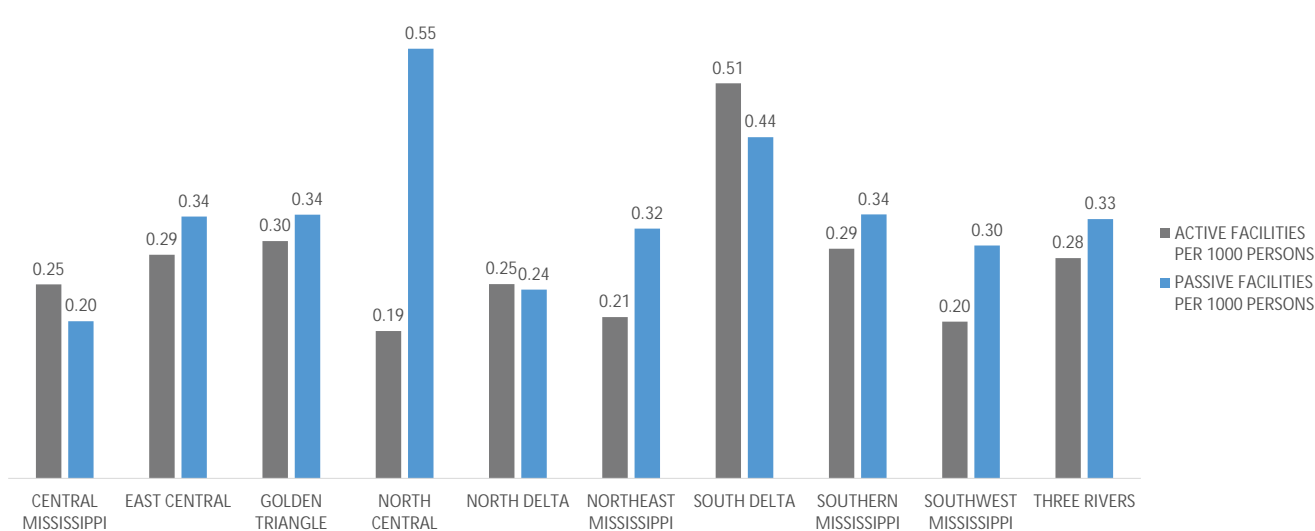
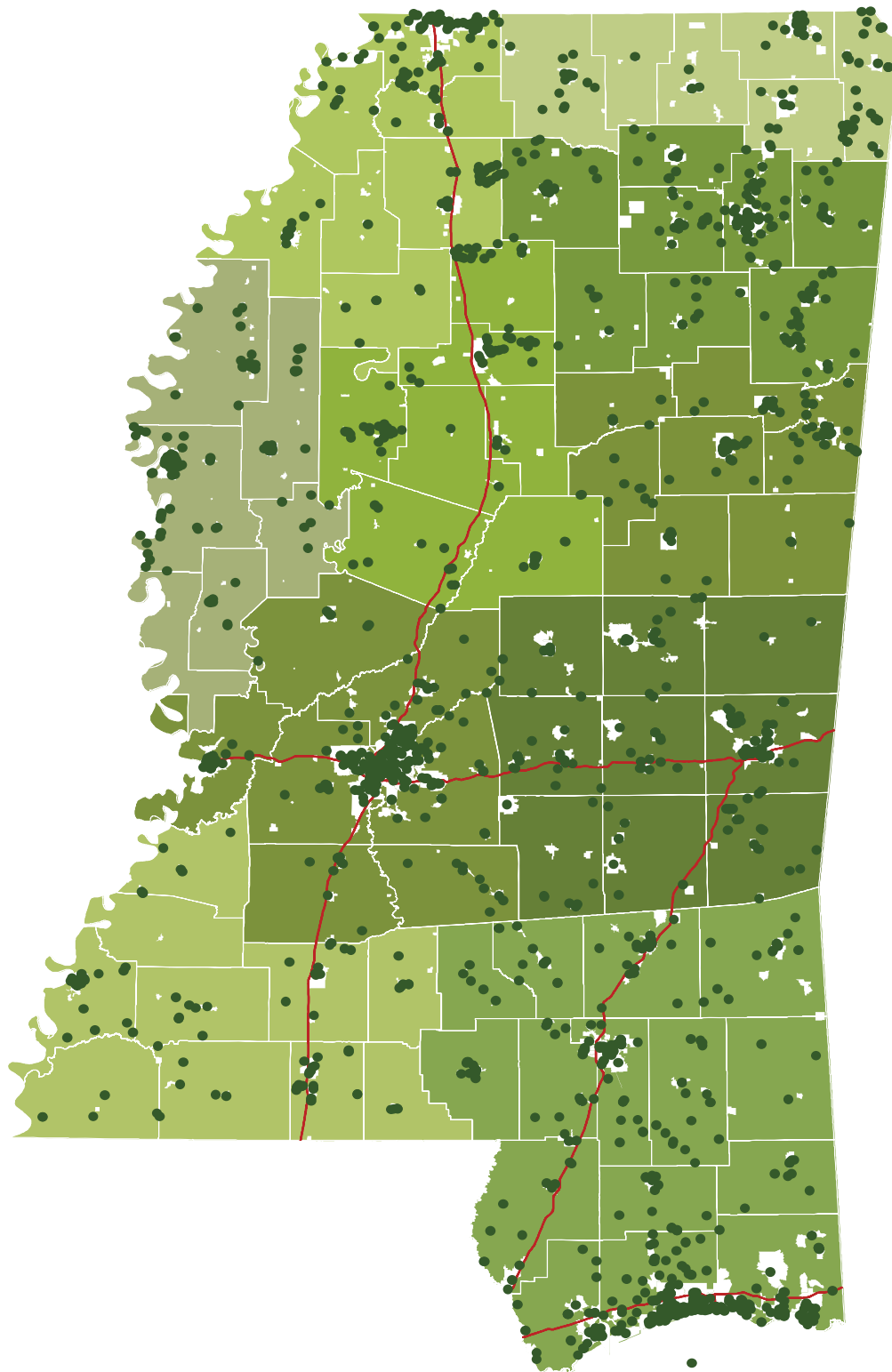


Figure 4.3: Mississippi Recreation Facilities



# FIGURES

Figure 4.4: Mississippi Active and Passive Recreation Facilities

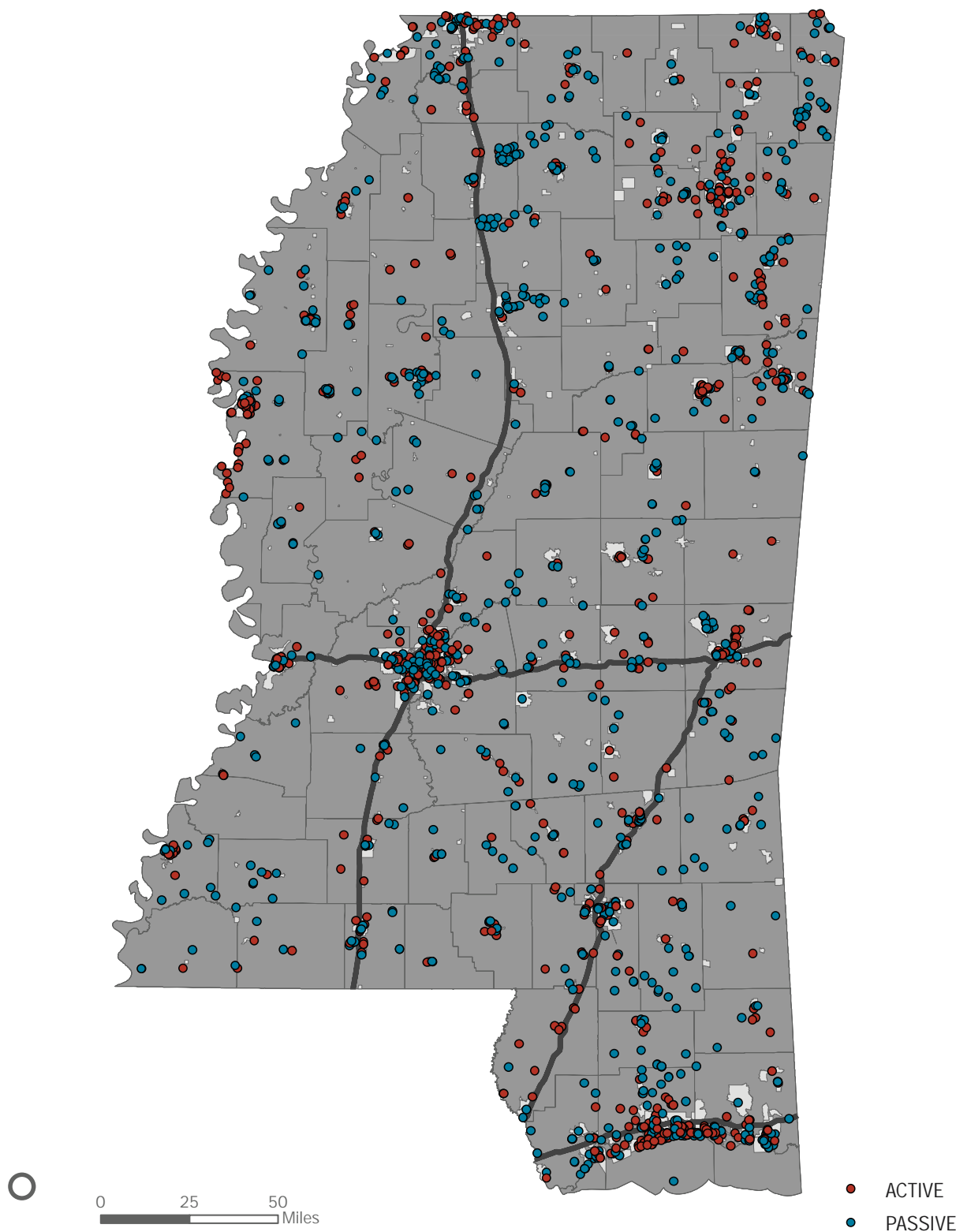


Figure 5.1: How many hours do you and/or a member of your family spend in a park per week?

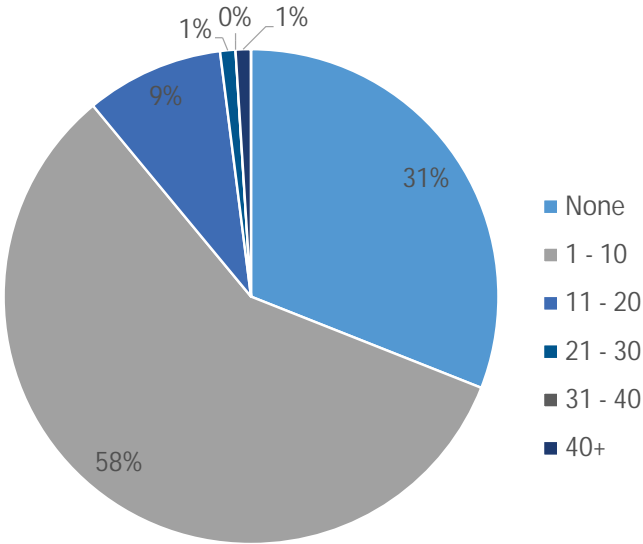
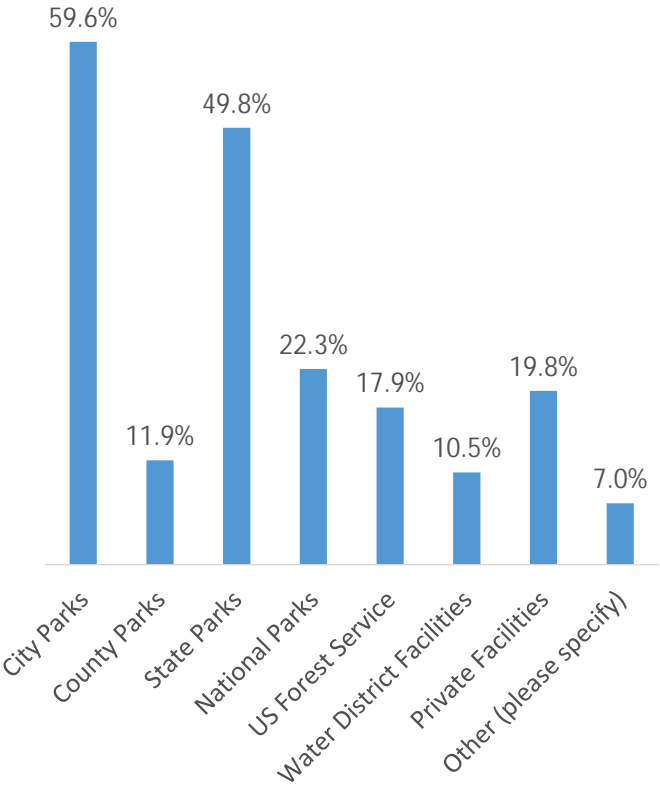


Figure 5.2: Which of the following types of facilities do you visit most often? Please select all that apply.



# FIGURES

Figure 5.3: What is the reason you and/or your family participate in park activities?

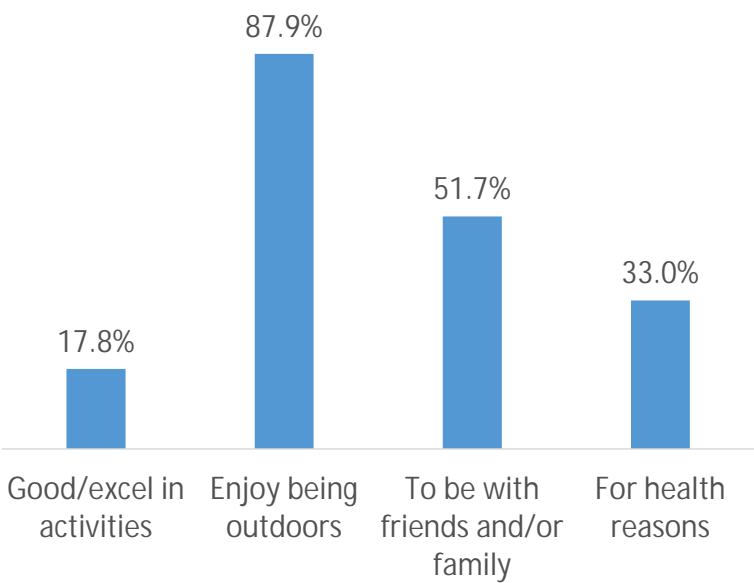
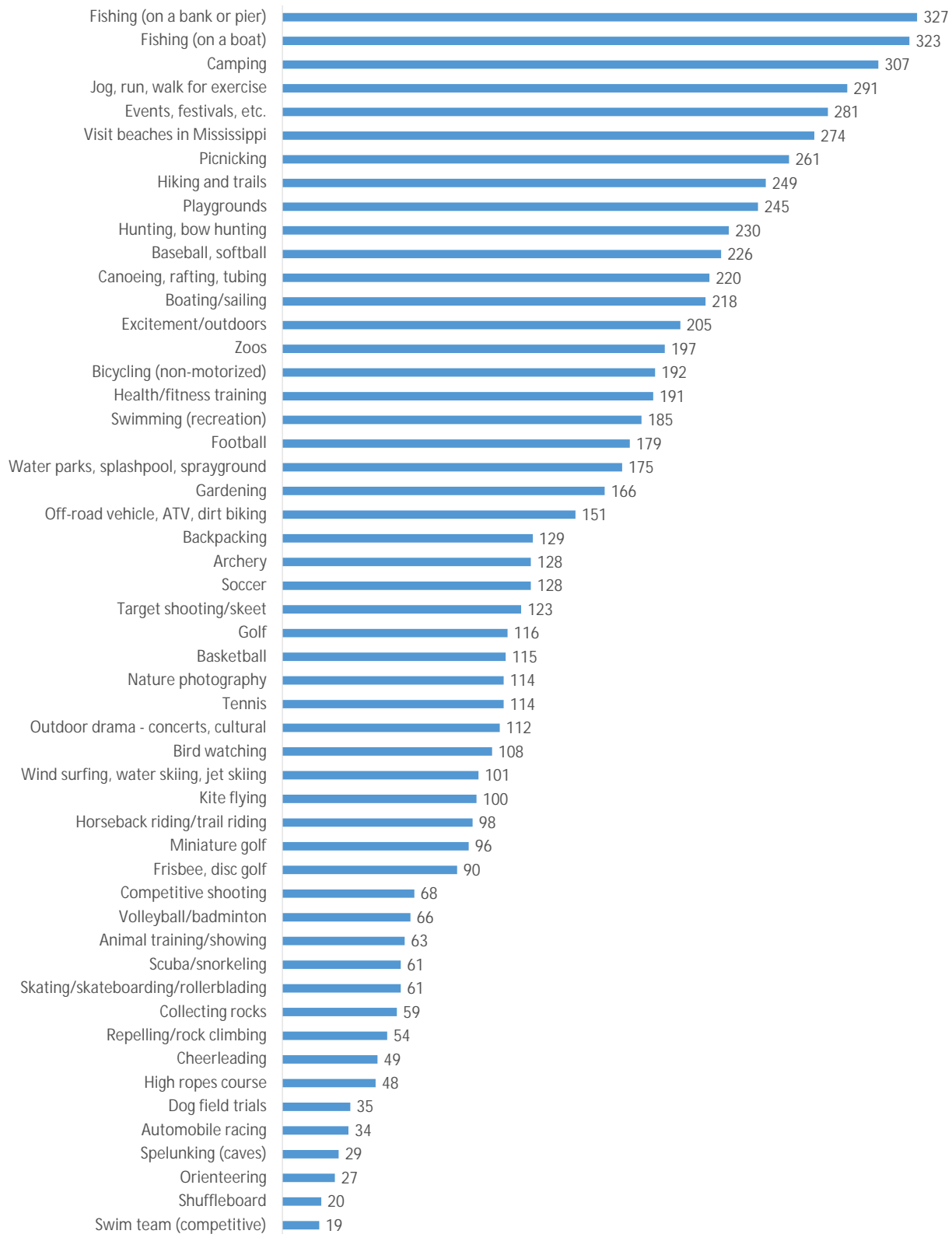




Figure 5.4: Recreation activities that you have participated.



# FIGURES

Figure 5.5: Recreation activities that you would like to participate.

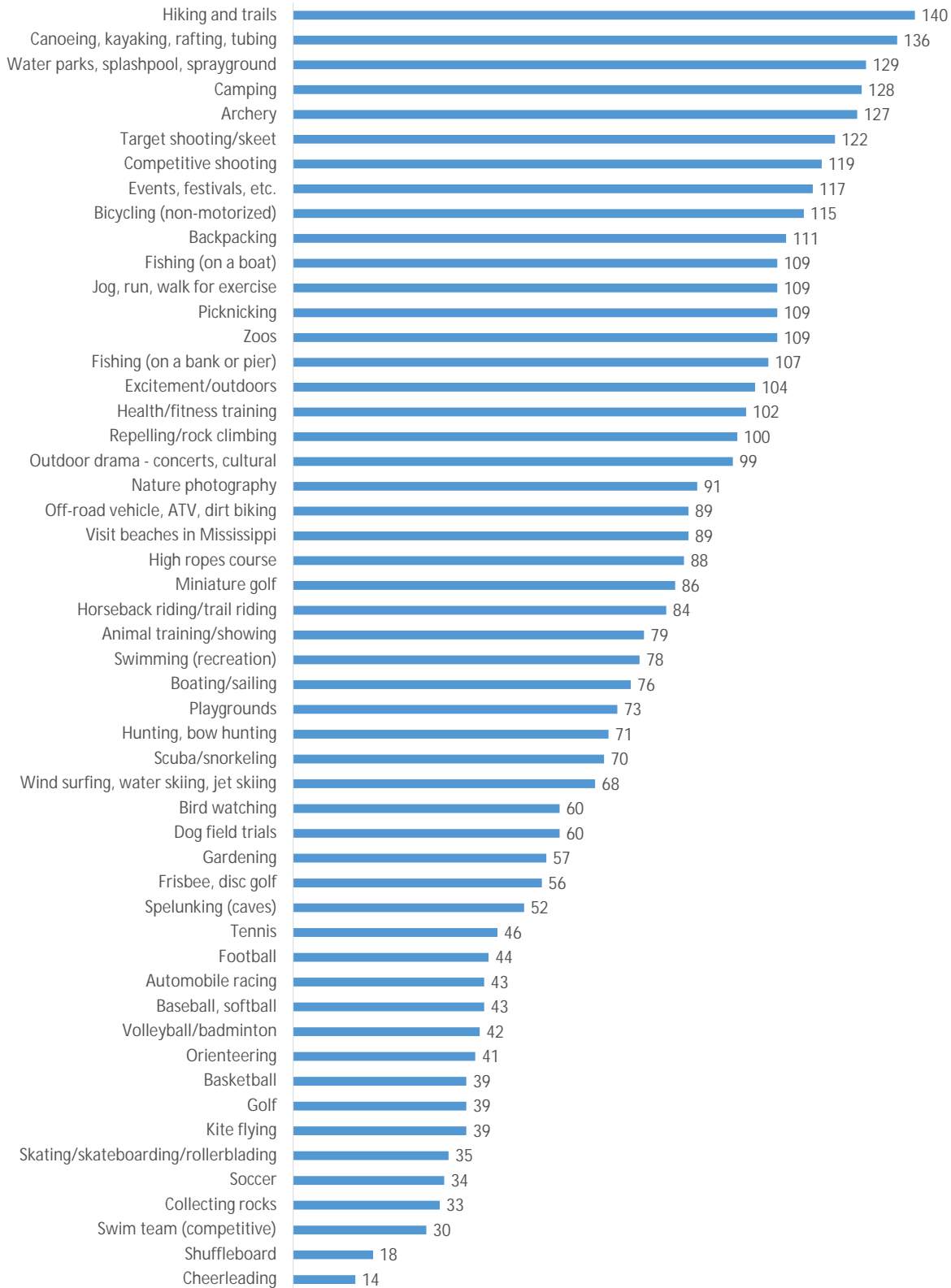


Figure 5.6: Do you travel outside of Mississippi to use other parks and recreation facilities?

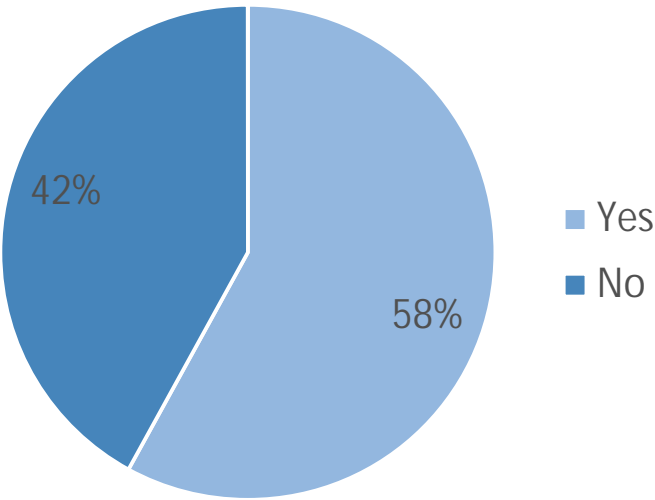
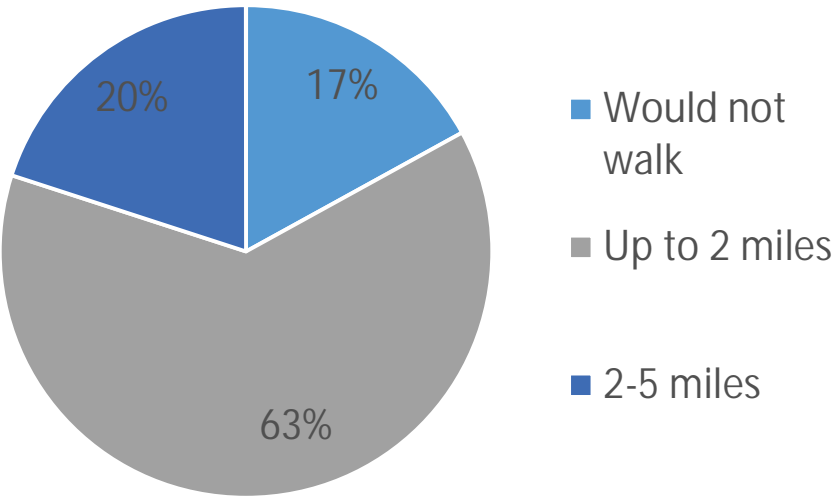


Figure 5.7: How far would you be willing to walk to parks and recreation facilities if safe multi-use trails, sidewalks or bicycle lanes were available near you?



# FIGURES

Figure 5.8: How far would you be willing to ride a bicycle to parks and recreation facilities if safe multi-use trails, sidewalks or bicycle lanes were available near you?

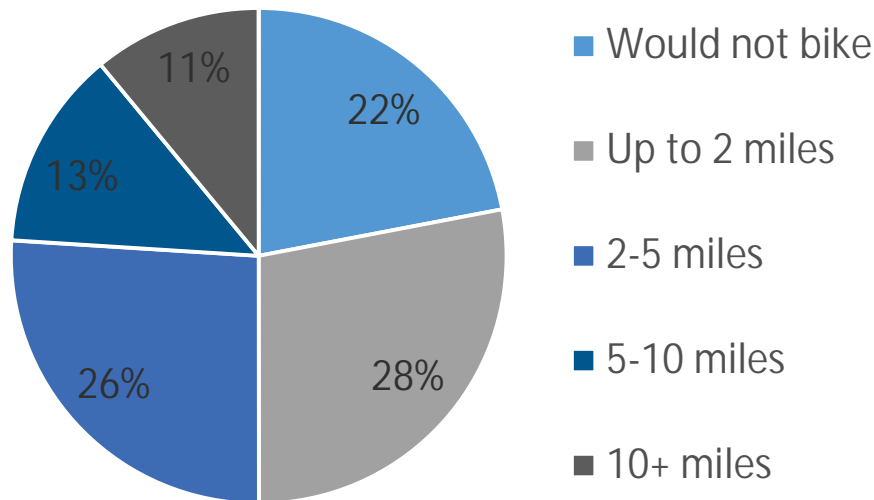


Figure 5.9: How far would you be drive to parks and recreation facilities if safe multi-use trails, sidewalks or bicycle lanes were available near you?

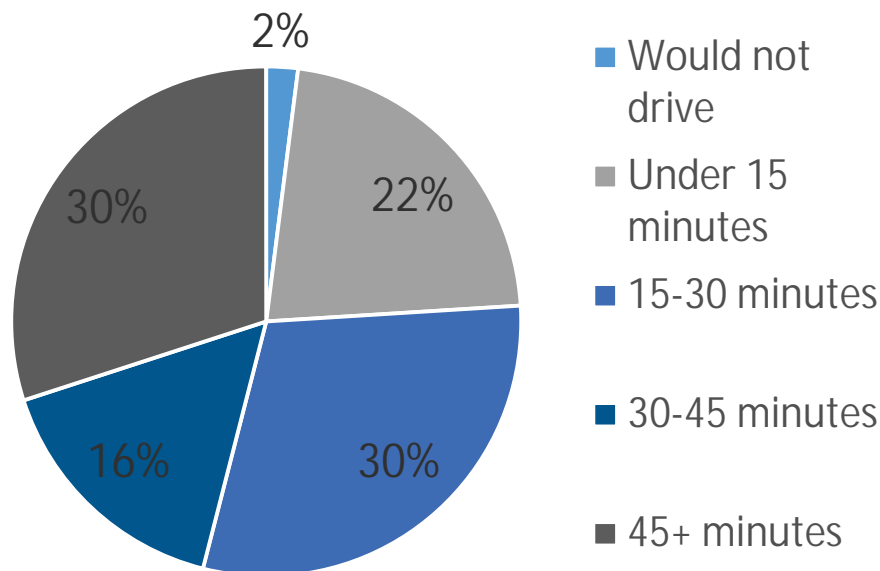


Figure 5.10: Would you like to receive a monthly or quarterly newsletter via email to inform you and your family of upcoming recreation programs and special events?

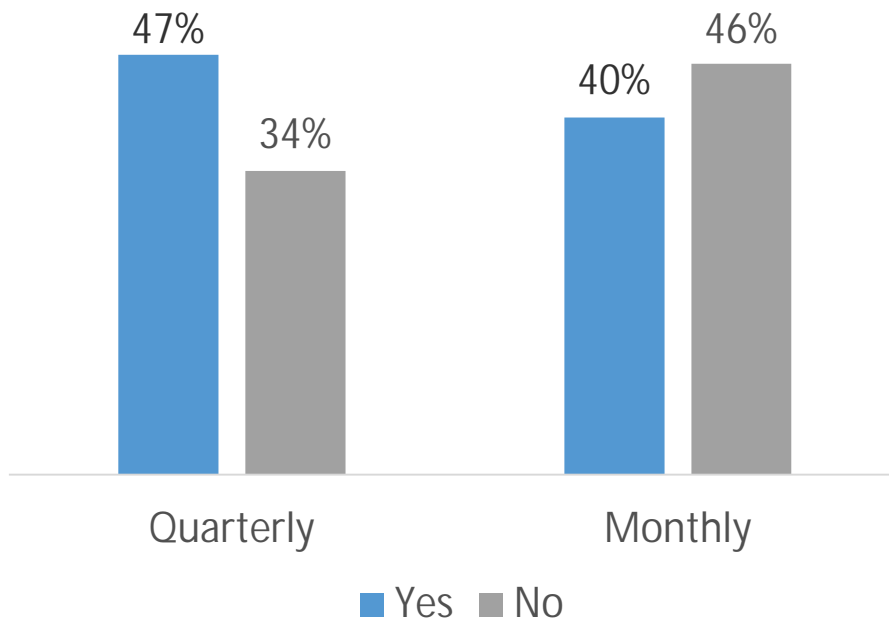
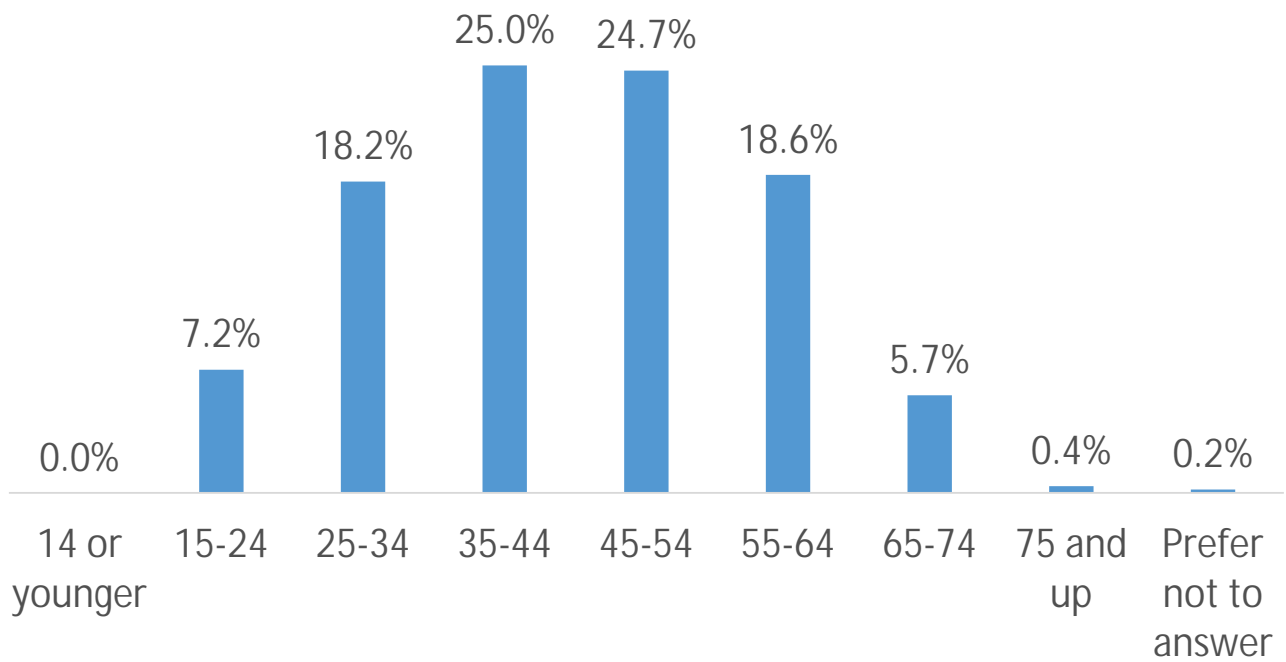


Figure 5.11: Please indicate your age.



# FIGURES

Figure 5.12: What is your gender?

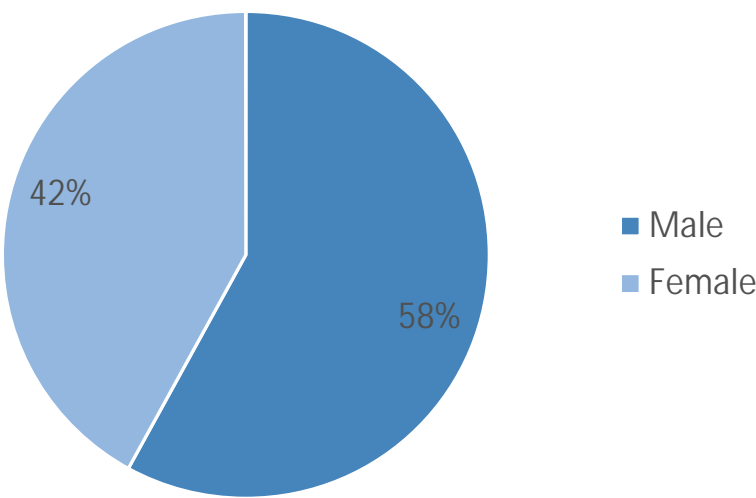


Figure 5.13: What is your ethnicity? (Please select all that apply.)

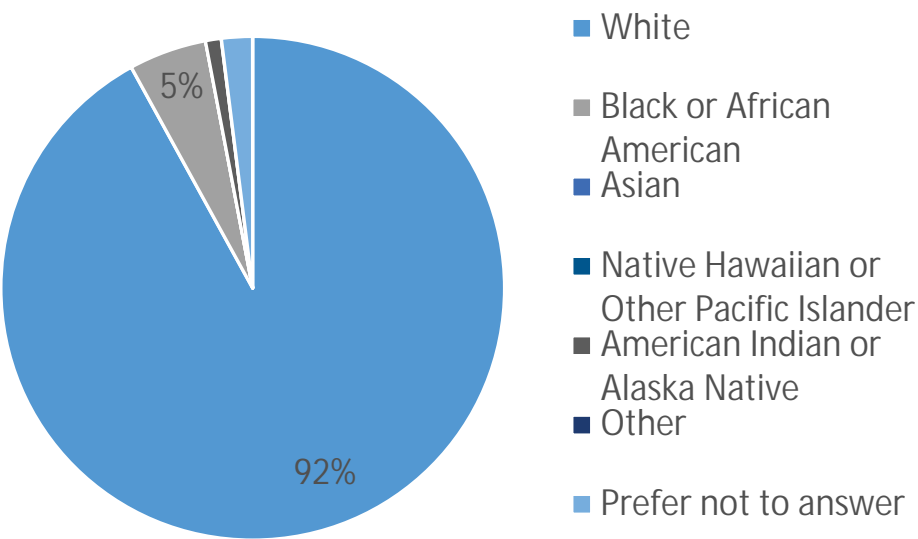




Figure 5.14: Please check your housing status.

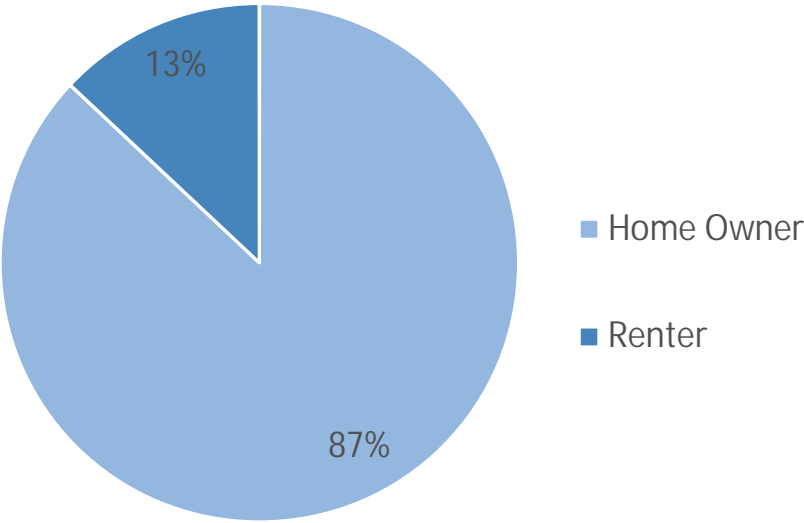
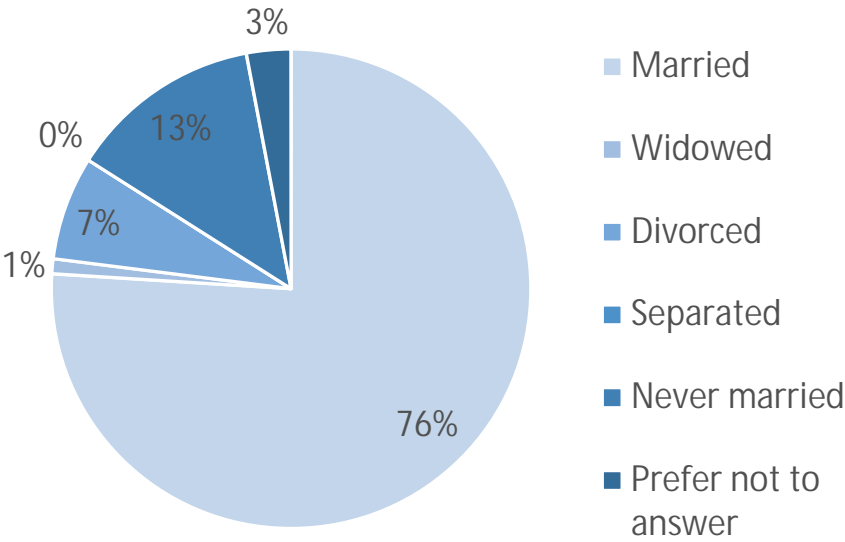


Figure 5.15: Which of the following best describes your current relationship status?



## FIGURES

Figure 5.16: What is your approximate average household income?

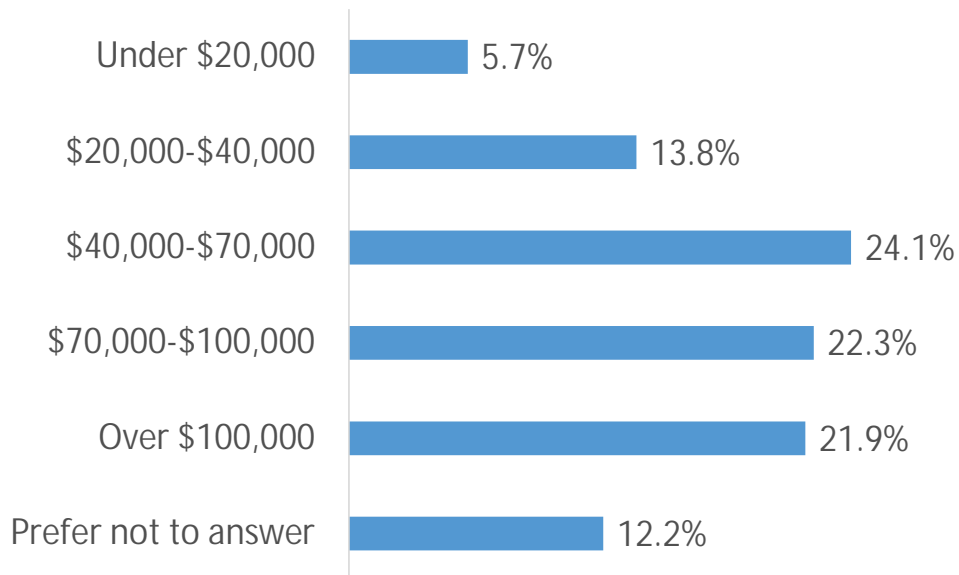


Figure 5.17: What is the highest level of education you have completed?

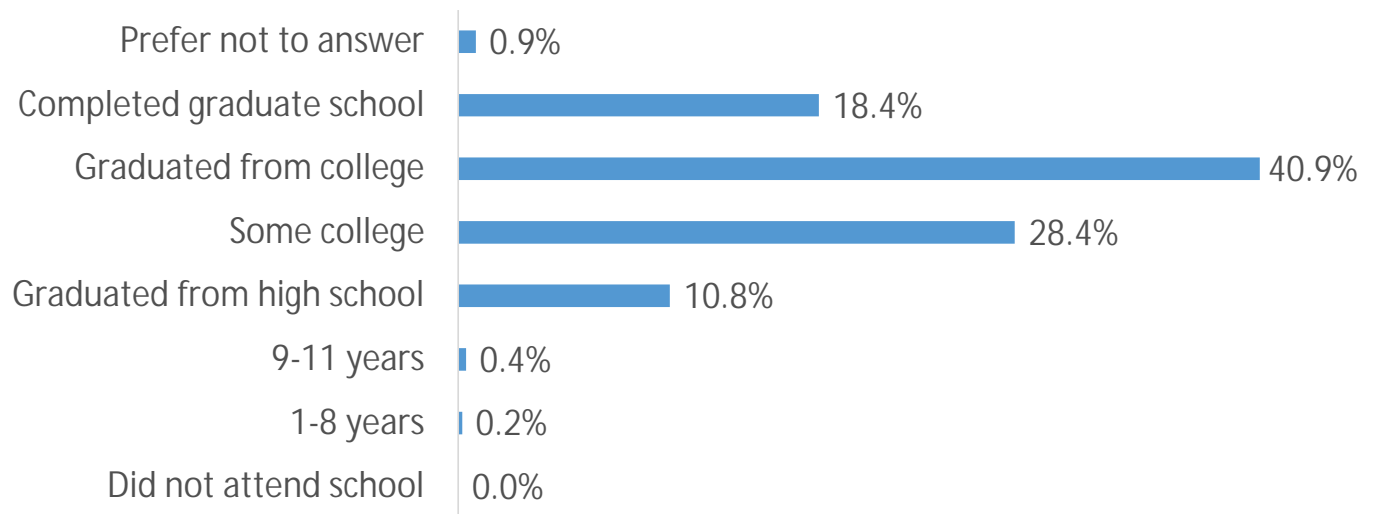


Figure 5.18: How long have you lived in Mississippi

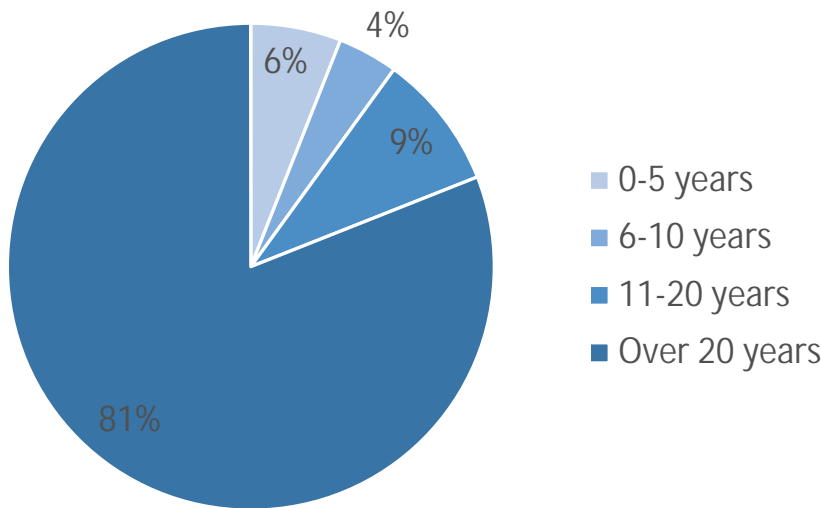
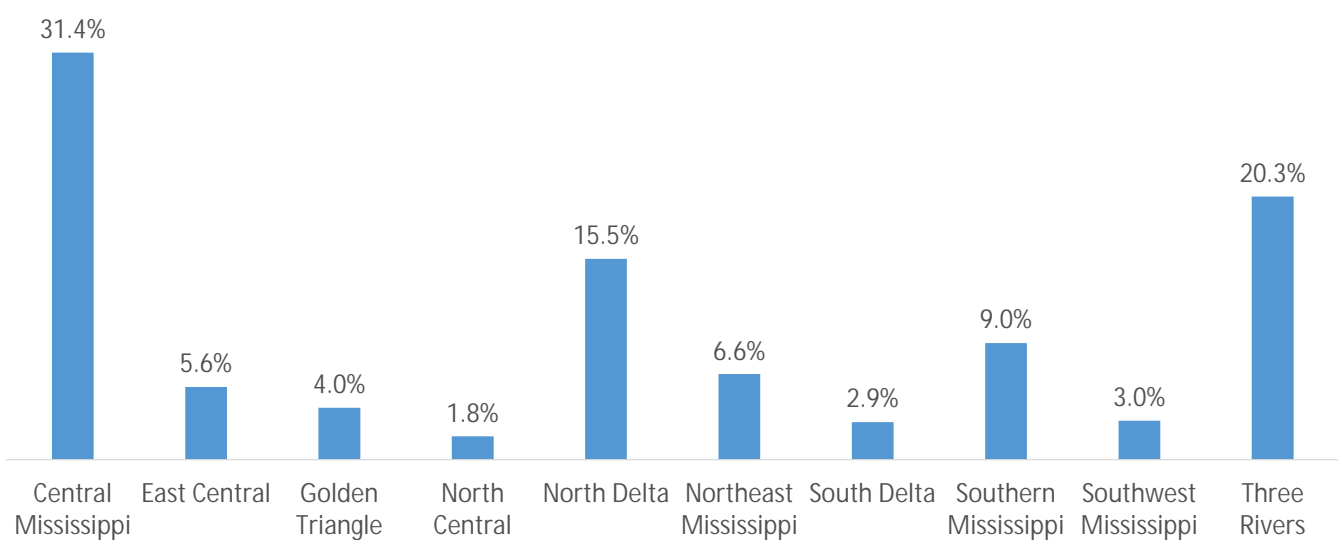


Figure 5.19: What Mississippi Planning and Development District do you live in? (See map below)



# FIGURES

Figure 5.20: Planning and Development Districts

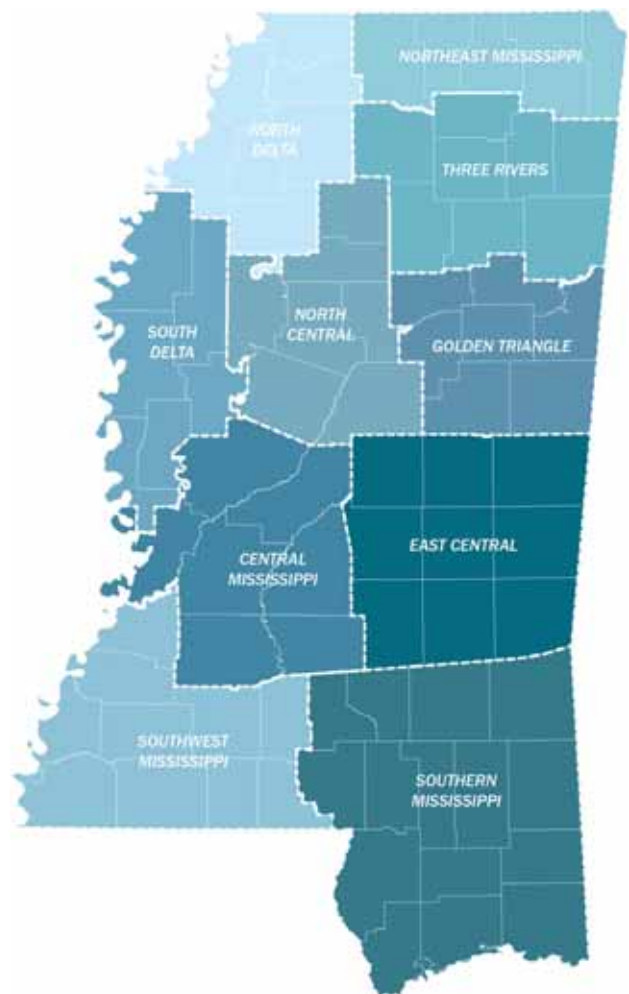


Figure 5.21: Which type of organization do you represent?

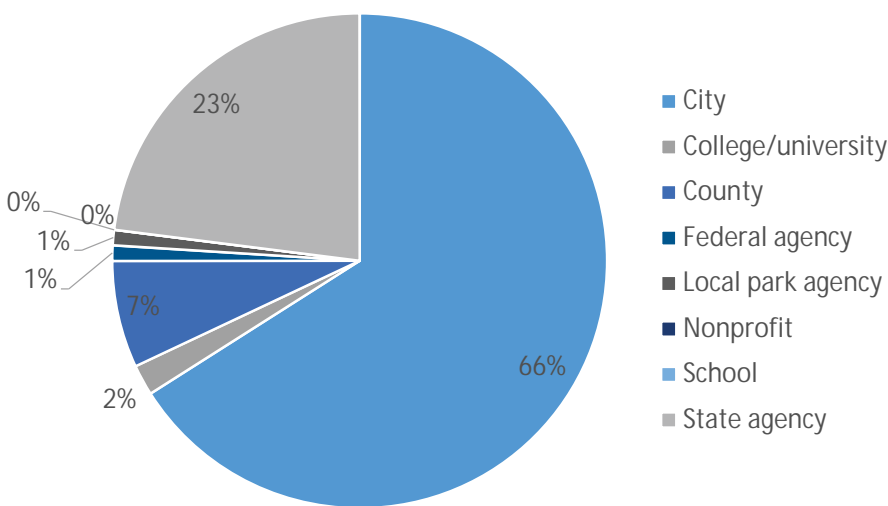


Figure 5.22: What Mississippi Planning and Development District is your agency in?

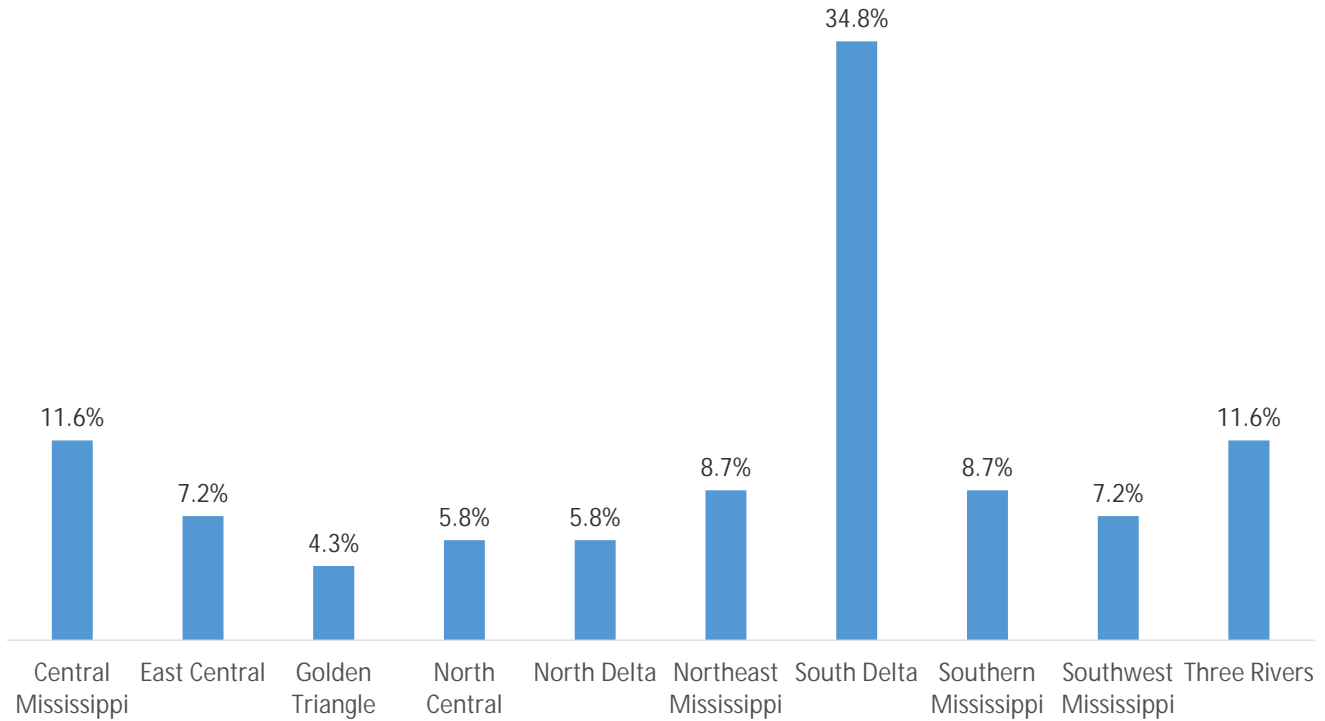
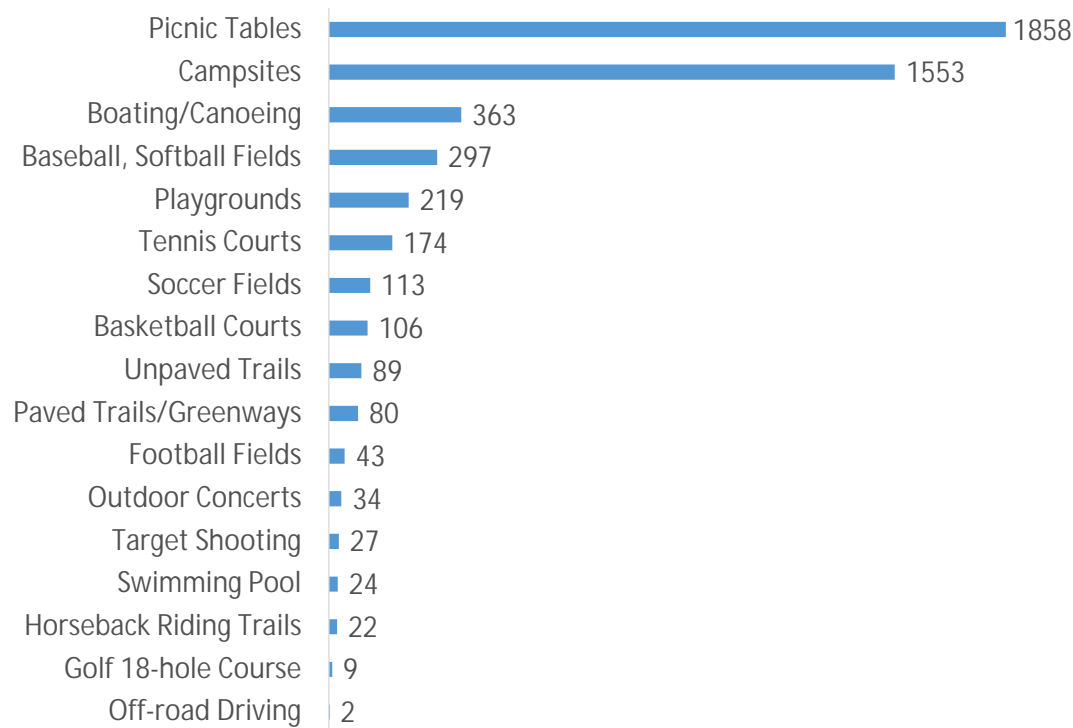


Figure 5.23: Please list the TOTAL amount of items your agency/department provides below i.e. number of fields, courts or miles.



# FIGURES

Figure 5.24: Since 2008, has your agency added NEW recreational facilities in your area? List number or miles.

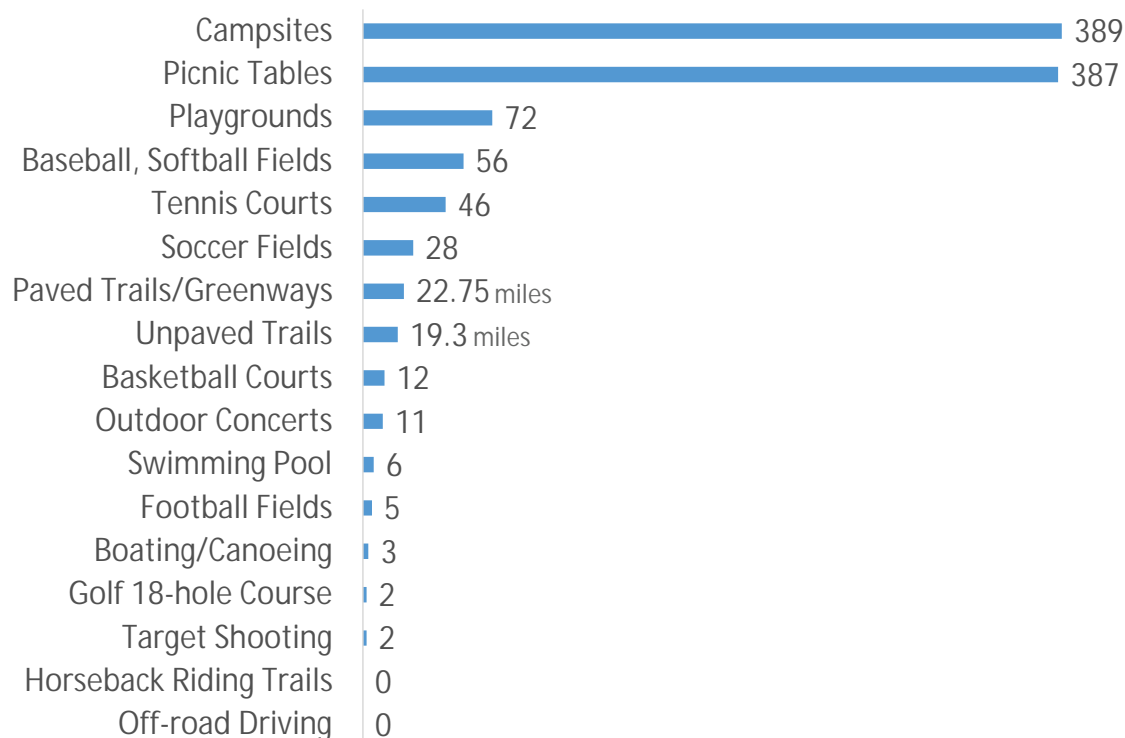
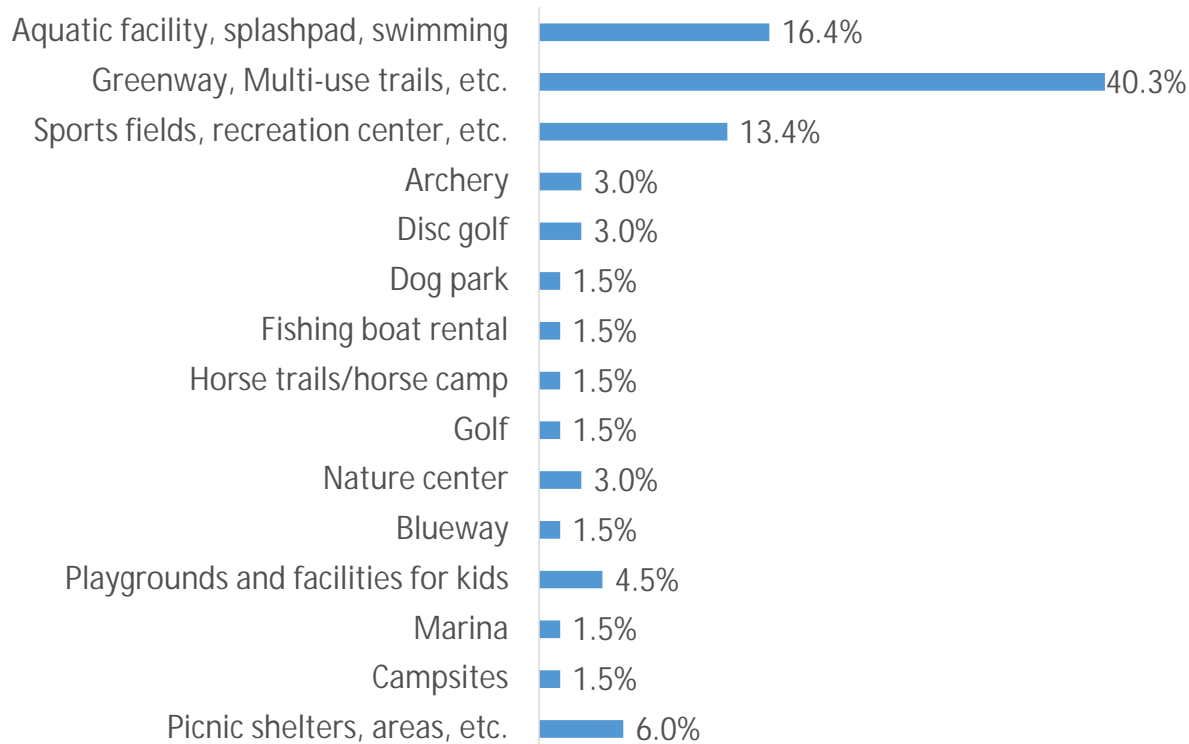


Figure 5.25: What is the greatest recreational need in your area that is not currently provided?









ME

## APPENDIX



#### 2015-2019 TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

##### Planning & Development District Representatives

Name	Organization
Mitzi Stubbs	Central Mississippi PDD
Scott Burge	Central Mississippi PDD
Jenifer Buford	East Central Mississippi PDD
Kawana McCary	East Central Mississippi PDD
Phylis Benson	Golden Triangle PDD
George Crawford	Golden Triangle PDD
Steven Russell	North Central Mississippi PDD
John Wiggers	North Central Mississippi PDD
James Curcio	North Delta PDD
Darlene Grimes	Northeast Mississippi PDD
Jonathan Troyka	South Delta PDD
Vernon Kelley	Three Rivers PDD
Karen Heintz	Three Rivers PDD
Kurt Brummett	Three Rivers PDD

##### Mississippi Recreation Park Association Professionals

Name	Organization
Lamar Evans	MS Recreation & Parks Association
Dewayne Williams	MS Recreation & Parks Association

##### Municipal Representatives

Name	Organization
Ray Holloway	Parks & Recreational, City of Clinton
Cheryl Bell	Parks & Recreation, City of Biloxi
Allen Jones	Parks & Recreation, City of Jackson

##### County Representative

Name	Organization
Leonard Williams	Planning and Zoning, Washington County

##### Academic Representative

Name	Organization
Sadik Artunc	MSU Department of Landscape Architecture

##### Consultant Representatives

Name	Organization
Dana Brown	Dana Brown & Associates
Gaylan Williams	Dana Brown & Associates
Joe Pfeifer	Dana Brown & Associates
Mary Vavra	Lose & Associates

## 2015-2019 SCORP Survey for Citizens

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks is currently updating the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). As a resident of Mississippi, we need your input. Your help is greatly appreciated. Please complete the survey by December 9, 2013.

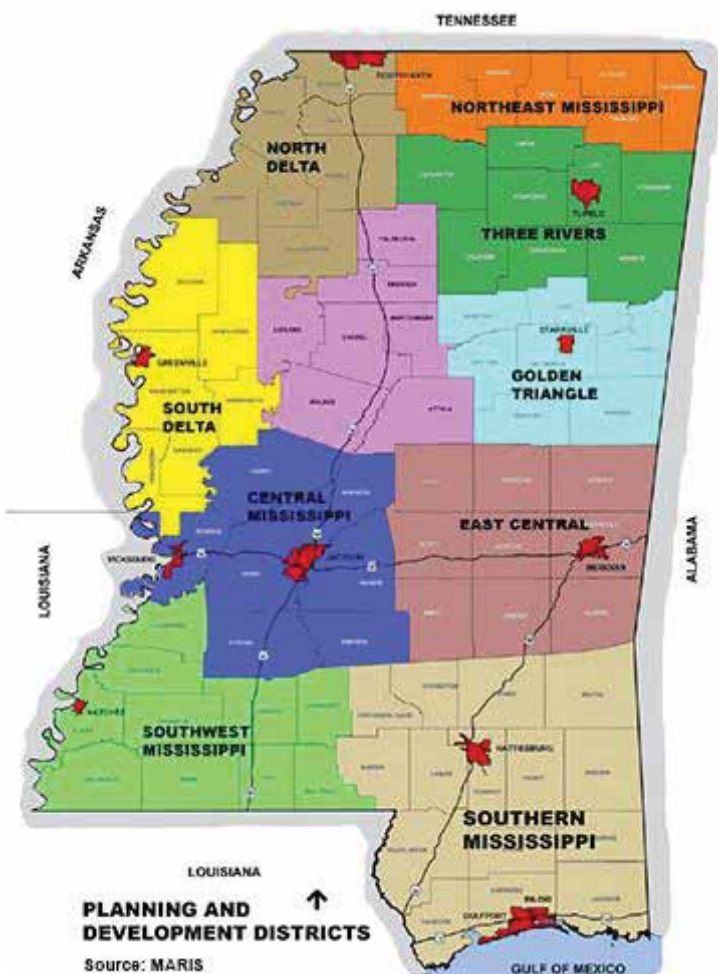
Thank you for participating in this survey.

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

## 2015-2019 SCORP Survey for Citizens

### 1. What Mississippi Planning/Development District do you live in? (See map below)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Northeast Mississippi | <input type="radio"/> North Central         |
| <input type="radio"/> North Delta           | <input type="radio"/> Central Mississippi   |
| <input type="radio"/> South Delta           | <input type="radio"/> East Central          |
| <input type="radio"/> Three Rivers          | <input type="radio"/> Southwest Mississippi |
| <input type="radio"/> Golden Triangle       | <input type="radio"/> Southern Mississippi  |



2. How many hours do you and/or a member of your family spend in a park per week?

- ☐ None
- ☐ 1-10
- ☐ 11-20
- ☐ 21-30
- ☐ 31-40
- ☐ 40+

3. Which of the following types of facilities do you visit most often? Please select all that apply.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Parks     | <input type="checkbox"/> US Forest Service         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Parks   | <input type="checkbox"/> Water District Facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Parks    | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Facilities        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Parks |  |

Other (please specify)

2015-2019 SCORP Survey for Citizens



4. Please place a check next to the recreation activities that you OR members of your family have and/or would like to participate in your area.

	Have Participated	Would Like to Participate
Animal Training/Showing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Automobile Racing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Backpacking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baseball, Softball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bicycling (non-motorized)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bird Watching	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boating/Sailing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Camping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canoeing, Kayaking, Rafting, Tubing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cheerleading	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collecting Rocks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Competitive Shooting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog Field Trials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Events, Festivals, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Excitement/Outdoors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fishing (On a Bank or Pier)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fishing (On a Boat)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Football	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frisbee, Disc Golf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gardening	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Golf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health/Fitness Training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High Ropes Course	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hiking and Trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Horseback Riding/Trail Riding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hunting, Bow Hunting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jog, Run, Walk for exercise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kite Flying	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miniature Golf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nature Photography	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Off-Road Vehicle, ATV, Dirt Biking (motorized)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Orienteering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor Drama - Concerts, Cultural Events, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Picnicking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Repelling/Rock Climbing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scuba/Snorkeling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shuffleboard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skating/Skateboarding/Rollerblading	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soccer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spelunking (Caves)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swim Team (Competitive)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swimming (Recreation)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Target Shooting/Skeet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visit Beaches in Mississippi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Volleyball/Badminton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water Parks, Splashpool, Sprayground	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wind Surfing, Water Skiing, Jet Skiing, Parasailing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zoos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>	

## 2015-2019 SCORP Survey for Citizens

### 5. What is the reason you and/or your family participate in park activities?

- ☐ For health reasons
- ☐ To be with friends and/or family
- ☐ Enjoy being outdoors
- ☐ Good/excel in activities

6. Do you travel outside of Mississippi to use other parks and recreation facilities?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

If so, where?

7. How far would you be willing to walk, drive or ride a bicycle to parks and recreation facilities if safe multi-use trails, sidewalks or bicycle lanes were available near you?

Walk

Drive

Ride a Bike

Check ONE choice  
per drop-down menu

If you would not walk or bicycle, why?

8. Would you like to receive a monthly or quarterly newsletter via email to inform you and your family of upcoming recreation programs and special events?

Yes

No

Monthly

☐☐

Quarterly

☐☐

## 2015-2019 SCORP Survey for Citizens

9. Please indicate your age.

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> 14 or younger | <input type="radio"/> 55-64                |
| <input type="radio"/> 15-24         | <input type="radio"/> 65-74                |
| <input type="radio"/> 25-34         | <input type="radio"/> 75 and up            |
| <input type="radio"/> 35-44         | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to answer |
| <input type="radio"/> 45-54         |  |

10. What is your gender?

- ☐ Female  
☐ Male

11. What is your ethnicity? (Please select all that apply.)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> White                                     | <input type="radio"/> American Indian or Alaska Native |
| <input type="radio"/> Black or African American                 | <input type="radio"/> Other                            |
| <input type="radio"/> Asian                                     | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to answer             |
| <input type="radio"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander |  |

12. Please check your housing status.

- ☐ Home Owner
- ☐ Renter

13. Which of the following best describes your current relationship status?

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Married  | <input type="radio"/> Separated            |
| <input type="radio"/> Widowed  | <input type="radio"/> Never married        |
| <input type="radio"/> Divorced | <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to answer |

14. What is your approximate average household income?

- ☐ Under \$20,000
- ☐ \$20,000-\$40,000
- ☐ \$40,000-\$70,000
- ☐ \$70,000-\$100,000
- ☐ Over \$100,000
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

15. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

16. How long have you lived in Mississippi?

- ☐ 0 – 5 Years
- ☐ 6 – 10 Years
- ☐ 11 – 20 Years
- ☐ Over 20 Years

17. Do you have any additional comments?

## 2015-2019 SCORP Survey for Providers

Mississippi is currently updating the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). As a provider, we need your assistance in determining the number of new and/or abandoned facilities in the state in order to update the inventory list. Your help is greatly appreciated. Please complete the survey by December 9, 2013.

Thank you,  
Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

### 1. Please provide the name of your agency/department/organization.

### 2. Which type of organization do you represent?

☐ City☐ Federal Agency☐ School☐ College/University☐ Local Park Agency☐ State Agency☐ County☐ Nonprofit

Other (please specify)

### \* 3. Please provide your contact information.

Name:

Organization:

Address:

Address 2:

City/Town:

State:

ZIP:

Country:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

## 2015-2019 SCORP Survey for Providers

#### 4. Since 2008, has your agency added NEW recreational facilities in your area?

	Yes	No
Baseball, Softball Fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many added? List number or miles.		
<input type="text"/>		
Basketball Courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many added? List number or miles.		
<input type="text"/>		
Boating/Canoeing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many added? List number or miles.		
<input type="text"/>		
Campsites	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many added? List number or miles.		
<input type="text"/>		
Football Fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many added? List number or miles.		
<input type="text"/>		
Golf 18-hole Course	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many added? List number or miles.		
<input type="text"/>		
Horseback Riding Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many added? List number or miles.		
<input type="text"/>		
Off-road driving	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many added? List number or miles.		
<input type="text"/>		
Outdoor concerts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many added? List number or miles.		
<input type="text"/>		
Picnic Tables	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many added? List number or miles.		
<input type="text"/>		
Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many added? List number or miles.		
<input type="text"/>		
Soccer Fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How many added? List number or miles.

Swimming Pool

☐☐

How many added? List number or miles.

Target shooting

☐☐

How many added? List number or miles.

Tennis Courts

☐☐

How many added? List number or miles.

Paved Trails/Greenways

☐☐

How many added? List number or miles.

Unpaved Trails

☐☐

How many added? List number or miles.



5. Since 2008, has your agency ABANDONED any recreational facilities in your area?

	yes	no
Baseball, Softball Fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many added? List number or miles.		
Basketball Courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many added? List number or miles.		
Boating/Canoeing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many added? List number or miles.		
Campsites	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many added? List number or miles.		
Football Fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many added? List number or miles.		
Golf 18-hole Course	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many added? List number or miles.		
Horseback Riding Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many added? List number or miles.		
Off-road driving	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many added? List number or miles.		
Outdoor concerts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many added? List number or miles.		
Picnic Tables	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many added? List number or miles.		
Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How many added? List number or miles.		

Soccer Fields

☐☐

How many added? List number or miles.

Swimming Pool

☐☐

How many added? List number or miles.

Target shooting

☐☐

How many added? List number or miles.

Tennis Courts

☐☐

How many added? List number or miles.

Paved

☐☐

Trails/Greenways

How many added? List number or miles.

Unpaved Trails

☐☐

How many added? List number or miles.

2015-2019 SCORP Survey for Providers

6. In order to have an accurate count, please list the TOTAL amount of the items below i.e. number of fields, courts or miles.

Baseball, Softball Fields	<input type="text"/>
Basketball Courts	<input type="text"/>
Boating/Canoeing	<input type="text"/>
Campsites	<input type="text"/>
Football Fields	<input type="text"/>
Golf 18-hole Course	<input type="text"/>
Horseback Riding Trails	<input type="text"/>
Off-road driving	<input type="text"/>
Outdoor concerts	<input type="text"/>
Picnic Tables	<input type="text"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="text"/>
Soccer Fields	<input type="text"/>
Swimming Pool	<input type="text"/>
Target shooting	<input type="text"/>
Tennis Courts	<input type="text"/>
Paved Trails/Greenways	<input type="text"/>
Unpaved Trails	<input type="text"/>

## 2015-2019 SCORP Survey for Providers

7. In addition, does your agency/department provide any of the following facilities? If so, please list the amount i.e. number of fields, courts or miles.

BMX track	<input type="text"/>
Community gardens	<input type="text"/>
Conference center/rental facility	<input type="text"/>
Disc Golf Course	<input type="text"/>
Dog Park	<input type="text"/>
Driving Range	<input type="text"/>
Fitness center/community center	<input type="text"/>
Gardens/arboretum	<input type="text"/>
Gyms	<input type="text"/>
Ice skating rink	<input type="text"/>
Lake/river access	<input type="text"/>
Library	<input type="text"/>
Marina	<input type="text"/>
Miniature golf	<input type="text"/>
Mountain biking trails	<input type="text"/>
Museums/historic sites	<input type="text"/>
Nature center	<input type="text"/>
Non-competition pool	<input type="text"/>
Ocean/Beach access	<input type="text"/>
Picnic areas with shelters	<input type="text"/>
Rock climbing wall	<input type="text"/>
Skate park	<input type="text"/>
Sports stadium/arena	<input type="text"/>
Spraygrounds/splash pads	<input type="text"/>
Synthetic fields	<input type="text"/>
Theater/preforming arts center	<input type="text"/>
Nature center	<input type="text"/>
Volleyball court	<input type="text"/>

2015-2019 SCORP Survey for Providers

8. Rank these facilities from 1-15 in order from MOST REQUESTED (1) to LEAST REQUESTED (15) in your area.

<input type="text"/>	Trails
<input type="text"/>	Picnic Areas
<input type="text"/>	Swimming Facilities
<input type="text"/>	Baseball/Softball Fields
<input type="text"/>	Football/Soccer/Fields
<input type="text"/>	Golf Facilities
<input type="text"/>	Tennis Courts
<input type="text"/>	Nature/Interpretive Centers
<input type="text"/>	Boating And Fishing
<input type="text"/>	Public Hunting Areas
<input type="text"/>	Off Roding (OHV) Areas
<input type="text"/>	Equestrian/Horse Facilities
<input type="text"/>	Biking Areas
<input type="text"/>	Camping Areas
<input type="text"/>	Hiking/Biking/Jogging

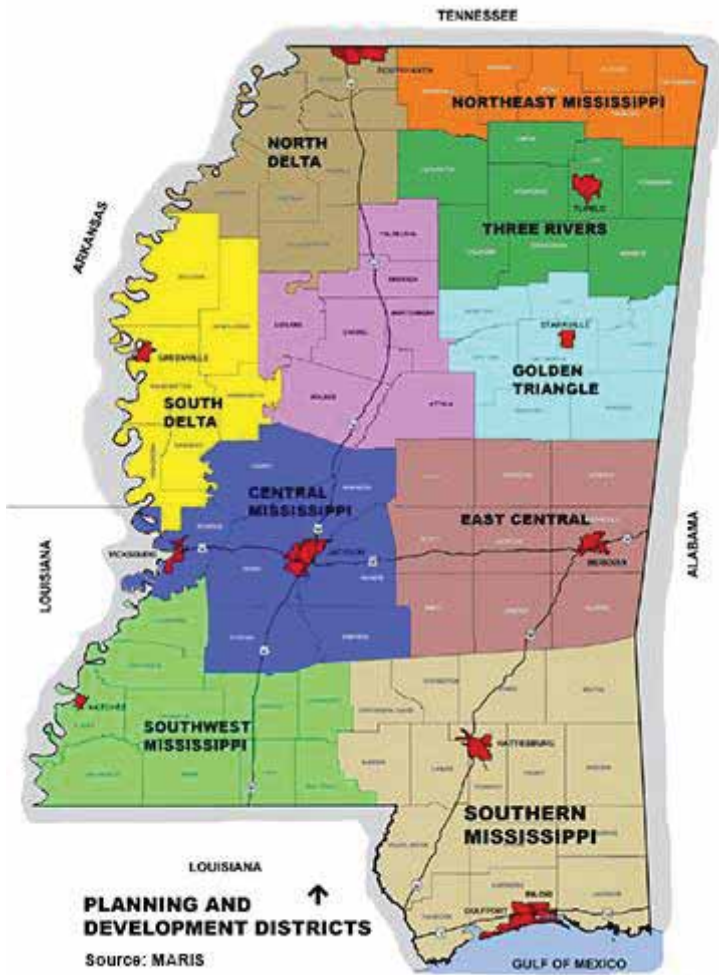
9. What is the greatest recreational need in your area that is not currently provided?

## 2015-2019 SCORP Survey for Providers

10. What Mississippi Planning/Development District is your agency in? (See map below)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northeast Mississippi | <input type="checkbox"/> North Central         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North Delta           | <input type="checkbox"/> Central Mississippi   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> South Delta           | <input type="checkbox"/> East Central          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Three Rivers          | <input type="checkbox"/> Southwest Mississippi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golden Triangle       | <input type="checkbox"/> Southern Mississippi  |

## Mississippi Planning/Development District Map





# MISSISSIPPI

## 2015-2019 STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

### UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks (MDWFP) is actively assembling the 2015-2019 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The SCORP is critical for understanding Mississippi's current recreational assets and determining future recreational project needs. Listed below is information on upcoming public meetings regarding the SCORP. Please attend, participate, and help improve outdoor recreation in Mississippi!

**WED, OCT 30 @ 2:00P**

MDWFP - Jackson Office  
1505 Eastover Drive  
Jackson, MS 39211  
601-432-2400

**WED, NOV 6 @ 2:00P**

Paul B Johnson State Park  
319 Geiger Lake Road  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
601-582-7721



**TUES, NOV 12 @ 11:00A**

MDWFP - North Region Office  
272 County Road 995  
Tupelo, MS 38804  
662-840-5172

**TUES, NOV 12 @ 3:00P**

Mississippi State University  
Landscape Architecture  
Room C104  
845-3 Stone Boulevard  
Starkville, MS 39762  
662-563-8068

**TUES, NOV 26 @ 2:00P**

Washington County  
Convention Center  
1040 S Raceway Road  
Greenville, MS 38703  
662-332-0488

#### Questions?

Joe Pfeifer, Dana Brown & Associates  
jpfeifer@danabrownassociates.com  
504-345-2639



DANA BROWN &  
Associates