

Action Plan for Nebraska

One of the requirements of SCORP is to identify issues of statewide significance based on input from the public. Some of these issues can be addressed through projects that can be funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Others must be addressed by the providers of the services and amenities offered. The Action Plan provides suggestions on what providers' priorities are and what actions can be taken to achieve the priorities. The list below spells out the Action Plan priorities for Nebraska.

1. Promote Livability through Health and Physical Activity
2. Boost Economic Vitality
3. Properly Use and Conserve Natural Resources
4. Improve and Develop Outdoor Recreation Facilities
5. Provide Outdoor Recreation Education and Programming
6. Provide and Enhance Public Access
7. Secure Sustainable Funding
8. Understanding the Opportunities and Threats in Developing Urban Areas
9. Wetland Priorities
10. LWCF Priorities



LWCF Priorities for Funding

The Action Plan for Nebraska provides specific direction on what the LWCF should fund in the future. This does not limit LWCF grant applications to just these activities. It identifies activities that could help shape the way the Open Project Selection Process be looked at to fund. The Open Project Selection Process is essentially the ranking system of grant applications for the LWCF. Two different survey sources were used to derive the LWCF priorities because LWCF is split up into two pots of money where 40 percent of the funds goes towards state projects and 60 percent goes towards local community projects. State priorities have been identified as follows:

- Camping facilities
- Wildlife viewing opportunities
- Picnicking opportunities
- Fishing access
- Hiking/biking trails
- Playgrounds
- Swimming opportunities (both beach and pool)

The local priorities have been identified as follows:

- Picnicking facilities
- Areas to observe or photograph nature
- Community gardening opportunities
- Playgrounds
- Fishing access
- Swimming access on water bodies (not pools)



See You Out There



To view the SCORP plan, visit

http://OutdoorNebraska.ne.gov/Parks/programs/scorp/2011_plan_Data.asp

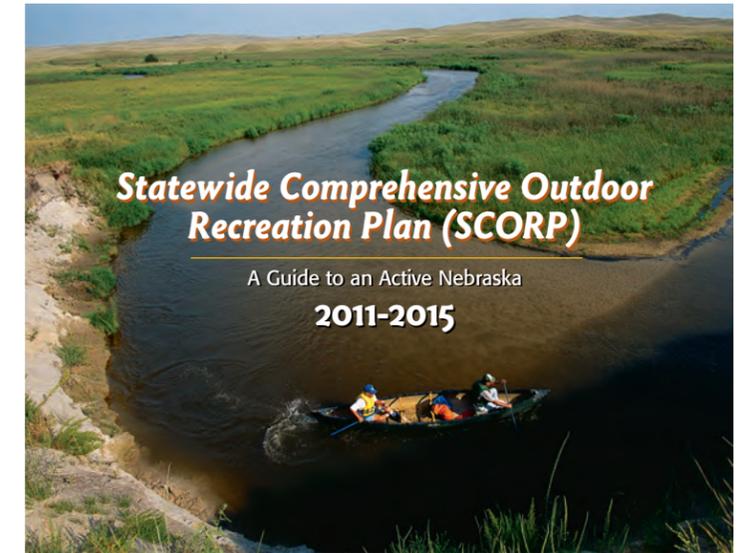
For more information call 402-471-5425.

Planning for the Future of Outdoor Recreation in Nebraska

An executive summary of the
Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2015

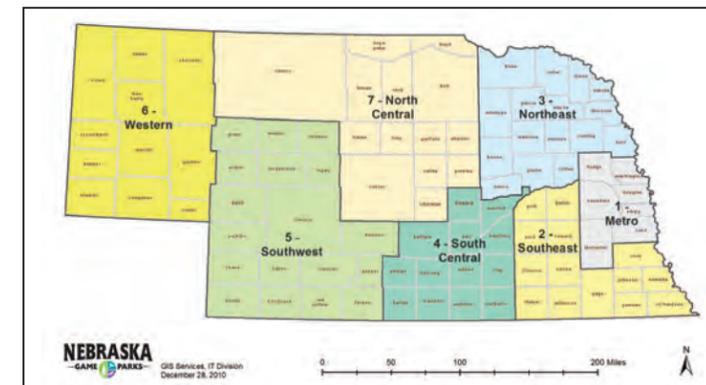
What is the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan?

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is the state's outdoor recreation plan. It outlines the supply of, the demand for, and the trends effecting outdoor recreation. The plan also provides a community or other potential provider of outdoor recreation a "how to" kit on planning for outdoor recreation, funding outdoor recreation and other helpful hints that providers have learned from their years of experience managing outdoor recreation facilities and amenities. This plan assists in prioritizing recreational projects for federal funding under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The SCORP will guide conservation and development of Nebraska's outdoor recreation resources to provide parks and open spaces that are compatible with the state's natural resources and serve the needs of residents and visitors from 2011 to 2015.



Regions in the State

Nebraska was divided into seven regions to assist in planning for the future of outdoor recreation. Regions will need different types and amounts of recreational facilities and amenities due to the demographic makeup. There also are unique landscapes and areas that can be identified by regions that provide different types of recreation specific to a region. These regions closely match other state planning documents so the information in this plan can be compared to information in other documents.



What Influences Outdoor Recreation Trends in Nebraska?

1. The open space and green movements in urban areas
2. The diversity of recreation opportunities
3. Nebraskans' health
4. Community support for outdoor recreation
5. Conservation ethics of Nebraskans
6. Demographic changes in Nebraska
7. Youth learning outdoor skills
8. Being close to home to recreate
9. Occupation of leisure time



Benefits of Outdoor Recreation

1. Improves quality of life
2. Helps keep you physically active and healthy
3. Provides tourist destinations, which help local economy
4. Provides educational opportunities about Nebraska's natural resources
5. Enhances water quality, reduces erosion and increases wildlife habitat
6. Catalyst for business and family relocation



TOTAL PUBLIC RECREATIONAL LANDS AND WATER BY REGION IN STATE

	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	State Total
Local	20,129.4	1,883.65	2,664.74	2,952.27	1,312.55	1,303.25	921.25	31,167.11
Regional	4,857	4,104	3,862	2,154	81	136	265	15,459
State	24,930.62	24,586.19	24,857.38	10,151.05	86,911.77	59,187.45	64,917.01	295,541.47
Federal	8,629	219	16,198	89,709	81,410	196,994	203,673	596,832
Schools	1,600.25	408.5	326	371	1,305.25	389.75	73.5	4,474.25
Open Fields/CRP	1,814.2	27,165.24	7,946.13	3,337.2	27,799.8	91,504.9	19,133.06	178,700.53
Nonprofits	2,904	1,330	40	11,240	0	24,144	5,020	44,678
Total acres	64,864.47	59,696.58	55,894.25	119,914.52	198,820.37	373,659.35	294,002.82	1,166,852.36

Source: NGPC 2009 Surveys, 2004 School Survey, Internet searches, personal contact and existing supply data

Supply of Recreation in Nebraska

Nebraska has 1,166,852 acres of public recreational lands and water and 900,761 acres of private recreational lands and water for residents and visitors to use. Only 2.4 percent of Nebraska is open to public recreation, but the opportunities are numerous in that small percentage of land. Most private areas are open for a fee for different types of recreation, such as hunting or ATV riding. The recreational opportunities in the state can vary from nonconsumptive types of recreation, such as wildlife viewing and nature photography, to traditional activities, such as hunting or fishing, to highly

developed state parks that provide numerous amenities for visitors. Nebraska's supply of recreation provides something for everyone. The state's supply of recreational lands and facilities is categorized by management type. Federal and some state and natural resources district lands offer more natural-based outdoor recreation; municipalities and schools offer more community-based outdoor recreation opportunities; and nonprofit and private organizations offer both types of recreation.

TOTAL PRIVATE RECREATIONAL LANDS AND WATER BY REGION IN STATE

	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	State Total
Private - Commercial	4,229	1,411	1,145	1,666	961	961	1,250	11,623
Private Outfitters	730	19,545	40,140	16,080	182,701	409,700	220,242	889,138
Total acres	4,959	20,956	41,285	17,746	183,662	410,661	221,492	900,761

Source: NGPC 2009 Surveys, 2004 School Survey, Internet searches, personal contact and existing supply data

Participation Levels in Outdoor Recreational Activities

ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATED IN BY NEBRASKANS

ACTIVITY	POPULATION RATE PERCENTAGE
Picnicking	77.4
Driving for Pleasure	67.8
Sightseeing	66.7
Walking Without Pet	65.3
Observing or Photographing Nature	59.2
Gardening	58.8
Visiting Historical Sites	57.4
Going to Playground	56.1
Fishing from Bank	53.7
Swimming at Beach	50.2

Source: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey, Conducted by UNL-BOSR; 2009

ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATED IN BY AMERICANS

ACTIVITY	POPULATION RATE PERCENTAGE
Walking for Pleasure	84.3
Gathering of Family/Friends	74.1
Gardening	66.9
Observing Natural Scenery	62.7
Visiting Outdoor Nature Center/Zoo	55.6
Sightseeing	51.4
Picnicking	50.9
Observing Wildflowers/Trees	50.7
Driving for Pleasure	49.7
Observing Wildlife Besides Birds and Fish	49.5

Source: NSRE 2005-2009

Participation Levels in Nebraska — Key Findings

Age, gender, ethnicity, income, and education affect the types of outdoor recreation activities participated in by a population. The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey, conducted by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Sociological Research, asked questions about 49 outdoor recreational activities regarding if the person taking the survey or anybody in his/her household participated in the activities. This provided a picture of what people were actively participating in the

outdoors. Picnicking was the most popular response for general Nebraskans. The data tables within the SCORP show responses broken down by age, gender, ethnicity, income, and education. There are some distinct differences, especially by gender, on what people are actively participating in. Please see the SCORP, chapter 5, for more information on the participation levels of outdoor activities in Nebraska.

Demand for Recreational Facilities in Nebraska

TOP 10 RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WANTED IN NEBRASKA

SERVICE/ AMENITY	PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
Picnic Areas	39.6
Fishing Access	38.2
Campsites	32.2
Trails	26.5
Outdoor Swimming & Beach Areas	24.1
Hunting Areas	22.8
Playgrounds	22.2
Boat Access	19.7
Wildlife Observation/Photography Areas	16.2
Golf	12.2

Source: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Survey, Conducted by UNL-BOSR; 2009

It is recommended in chapter 6 of the SCORP that providers look at the participation levels of activities from chapter 5 as well as survey their constituents to, establish the demand for outdoor recreational facilities. Information from the UNL survey is included in this chapter that does show the top 10 recreational facilities wanted in Nebraska, as shown in the graph to the left. Participants of this survey also ranked the top 10 services and amenities to add in Nebraska, which can be found in the SCORP. Infrastructure needs are being recognized as something that must be addressed within Nebraska, along with additional facilities for activities that are most popular with Nebraskans. While the Top 10 list to the left is what general Nebraskans said, each community is different. This is why it is important each community establish its own demands.