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SOUTH DAKOTA

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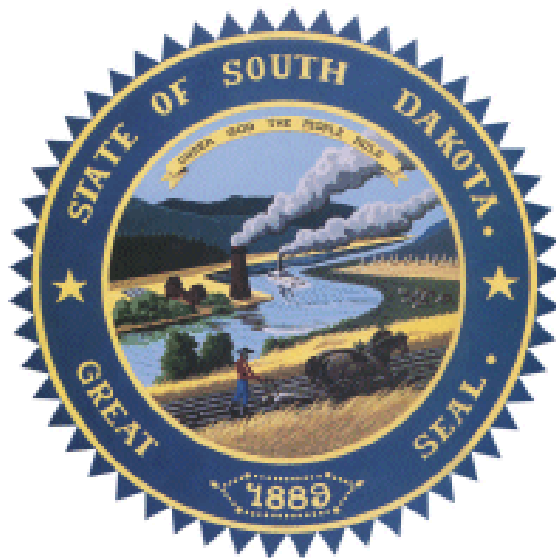
# STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN



# South Dakota

## Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

2023



**Kristi Noem**  
Governor

**Kevin Robling**  
Secretary  
Department of Game, Fish and Parks

**Scott Simpson**  
Director  
Division of Parks and Recreation



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KRISTI NOEM | GOVERNOR

January 17, 2023

Dr. Herbert C Frost  
National Park Service  
Midwest Regional Office  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102

Dear Dr. Frost,

I am pleased to present the 2023 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for South Dakota. As a critical part of our South Dakota heritage, outdoor recreation is not only a tradition for many South Dakotans, but it is also vital for the economic health of many communities across South Dakota.

As the state's primary provider of sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks has prepared this plan on behalf of the municipalities, counties, state departments, federal agencies, non-profits, private businesses, and other providers of outdoor recreation in South Dakota.

The public involvement component of this SCORP provides the guidance to focus our outdoor recreation strategies over the next five years. I certify that ample opportunity for public participation has taken place. Participating citizens endorsed the importance of protecting our state's open space, fish and wildlife habitat, and the need to maintain and improve our existing park and recreation areas. Over the past five years, the state has made strides in conserving our state's open space while improving and maintaining outdoor recreational opportunities through the guidance of our 2018 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

I look forward to the next five years as our outdoor recreation providers work side by side to address the physical and mental needs of our populations while continuing the great outdoor legacy of South Dakota.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kristi Noem", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Governor Kristi Noem

## Acknowledgements

This report was made possible through the contributions of the following persons:

### *South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks*

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A special thank you is extended to Dr. Liu and her students with the SDSU Sport and Recreation Management program for their diligent work in creating, distributing, and analyzing the survey data vital to understanding the needs and priorities of both the providers of outdoor recreation and the members of the public who may participate in South Dakota outdoor recreation opportunities. Also, would like to extend Dr. Liu with our support of her career as she has accepted a position with George Mason University with their Recreation Management Program.

Thank you, also, to the South Dakota Park and Recreation Association, the South Dakota Municipal League and the South Dakota Association of County Commissioners for their assistance in distributing the provider survey, and to the many cities, counties and other community organizations who both completed the provider survey and assisted in distributing the public survey to their residents.

# 2023 SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

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# INTRODUCTION

## WHAT IS THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN?

The 2023-2027 South Dakota Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) serves as an update to the 2018 SCORP and examines how to best meet the needs of our citizens to provide quality, accessible outdoor recreational facilities in our state. The SCORP reviews the most recent trends, data, opinions, and collaborations. In collaboration with the state's numerous outdoor recreation providers, the State of South Dakota chooses to move forward, using sound decision-making in determining the direction of the state's outdoor recreation opportunities.

Although this plan takes the form of a single document, the plan is a process that began in 1964. It was in this year that Congress passed the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act. The Division of Parks and Recreation within the Department of Game, Fish and Parks is the state agency authorized to represent and act for the State in dealing with the Secretary of Interior for the purposes of LWCF in South Dakota. This act paved the way for a grants program that utilizes revenues from offshore oil and gas leases to provide matching funds to states and local communities for projects relating to outdoor recreation. Since 1964, South Dakota has utilized over 40 million dollars from the program to acquire and build parks and recreation areas across the state, with projects completed in every South Dakota County.

Generations of South Dakotans have used and benefited from a variety of LWCF projects including playgrounds, ball fields, tennis courts, swimming pools, picnic areas and other park and outdoor recreation amenities.

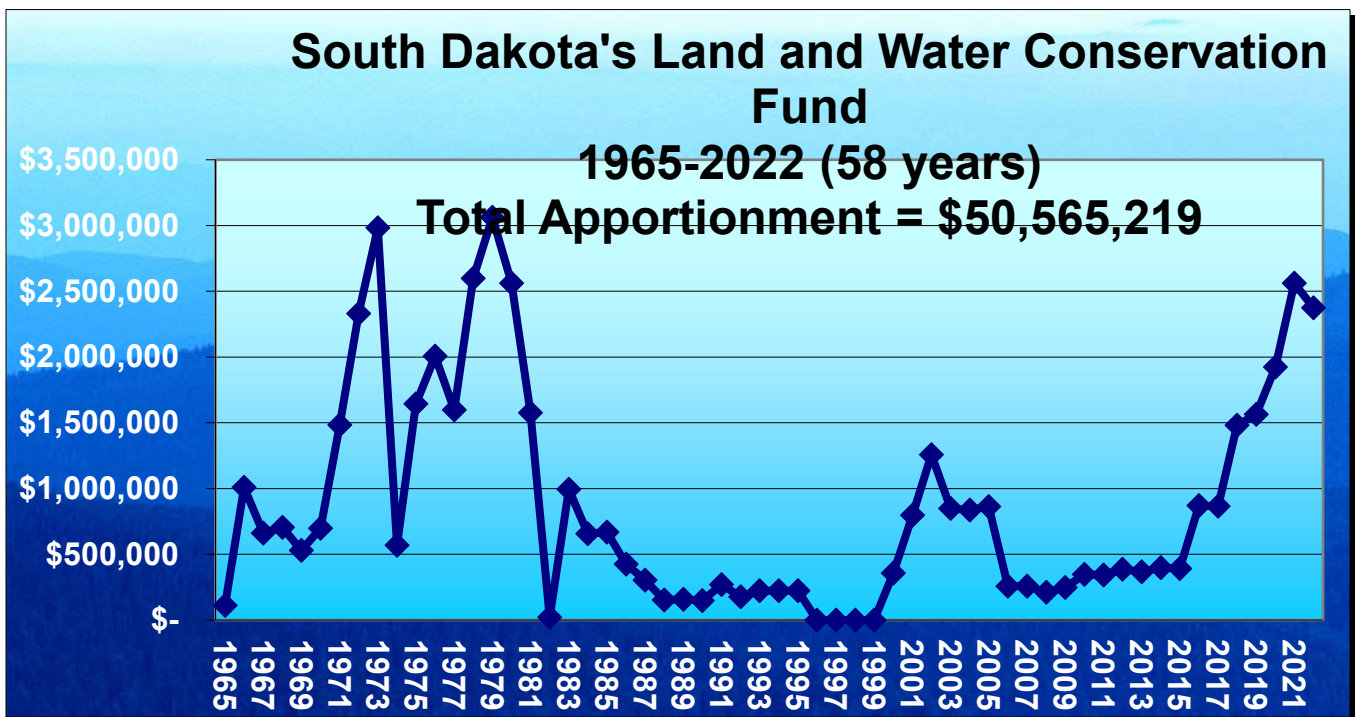
As a requirement of the program, each state is charged with developing a plan that evaluates the demand for and the supply of outdoor recreation resources in the state. The State of South Dakota has prepared a SCORP each year in 1965, 1967, 1971, 1975, 1987, 1992, 2002, 2008, 2013, and 2018. Each plan has taken an in-depth look at outdoor recreation in the state and made recommendations for meeting the demand for that period. It is important to remember, although the SCORP is prepared by South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, this document evaluates outdoor recreation across the state, including state, federal, municipal, county and other providers of outdoor recreation. The public respondents to the survey may recreate in state parks and recreation areas, but likely also enjoy outdoor recreation in city parks, national park and recreation areas and at privately owned facilities. This SCORP will be a tool to help guide future park and recreation projects regardless of who manages or owns the property.

Perhaps the most important product of the SCORP is the opportunity it offers to evaluate the ever-changing climate of outdoor recreation in South Dakota. Industry, economics, resources, attitudes, and values can change significantly over the course of a few years. Keeping a pulse on outdoor recreation is the key for all providers' effective use of our resources.

**WHAT IS THE HISTORY BEHIND THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND?**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has a long and productive history of making outdoor recreational opportunities possible throughout the state. Parks and projects funded through LWCF have the unique reality of being dedicated to public recreation in perpetuity. The program has a history of erratic funding and in 2020 with the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) the program was authorized with 900 million in annual funding. Figure i-1 shows South Dakota’s state-share apportionment from 1965-2022. In the 1970s and 1980s, LWCF built the foundation of many outdoor recreational programs and facilities in South Dakota.

Figure 1-1



Many of the projects built under the program during the 1970’s and 1980’s has reached or are approaching their normal useful life. Playgrounds built during these periods are no longer considered adequate to meet modern safety standards. Swimming pools are aging and deteriorating under the extremes of South Dakota weather. Hard-surfaced play courts are cracked and in need of renovation. These examples and others represent the ongoing challenges public recreation providers face maintaining existing facilities within the limits of their financial resources.

In 2022, South Dakota received \$2,373,384 for its statewide apportionment. While the recent increase in South Dakota’s apportionment has provided much needed funding, those levels have not kept up with inflation and the cost of maintaining facilities and building new opportunities has created budgeting and priority challenges for all outdoor recreation providers.

Due largely to the instability of funding combined with the effects of inflation, LWCF’s role in any comprehensive strategy to address the current and future needs related to outdoor recreation remains



uncertain. This SCORP will address the key issues facing outdoor recreation in South Dakota and strategies that include, but do not necessarily depend on, the Land and Water Conservation Fund to implement.

## **WHY IS OUTDOOR RECREATION IMPORTANT?**

This question generates a wide array of answers, varying greatly on one's perspective. In short, the many benefits of outdoor recreation often mean different things to different people. Respondents to the 2022 Outdoor Recreation Public Survey prioritized the benefits of parks and recreation as: 1) preserving open space and the environment, 2) enhancing a sense of place and community, 3) improving physical health and fitness, and 4) improving mental health and reducing stress. On the other hand, providers of parks and recreation opportunities clearly prioritized the benefits of parks and recreation services as 1) making the community more desirable, 2) helping attract new residents and businesses, 3) enhancing a sense of community, and 4) increasing property values within the community, and 5) providing opportunities for social interaction.

Although parks provide for the preservation of open space, the health and mental wellness aspects of outdoor recreation continue to become more important. Outdoor recreational facilities are continually providing much needed services to help combat health problems associated with obesity, inactive lifestyles, and mental health. Studies are also showing that participation in outdoor recreation can improve the way we think, reason, and socialize. In addition, recreating outdoors provides the opportunity to explore and relax in places of solitude and reflection, much needed in our hectic day to day lives. Many park and recreation facilities also offer opportunities and programs for interpretation and education, focusing on history, nature, conservation, outdoor recreation, and other topics that not only educate participants, but also helps them develop mentally and physically.

Outdoor recreation is no stranger to South Dakota residents and visitors who benefit from the shared memories of camping, hunting, fishing, boating, hiking and other activities in our state and national park and recreation areas. Likewise, generations of South Dakotans grew up spending summers and building friendships at the local pool, passing hours at the community playground, and playing baseball, tennis, or football through an organized league or in a pick-up game after school. On the other end of life's spectrum, South Dakota's aging population continues to recreate outdoors in a variety of ways, including all the opportunities above, as well as pounding the pavement - walking trails, sidewalks and even streets - as they stay fit and active in small towns across the state. And finally, the phenomenal pheasant hunting, rewarding fishing on the Missouri River, majestic elk, thundering buffalo, and some of the best snowmobile trails in the country have also given private guides and providers of outdoor recreation the opportunity to help visitors from around the world in creating great South Dakota outdoor recreation memories.

All these reasons and more contribute to the demand and needs for accessible and well-maintained parks and outdoor recreation facilities and services across the state.

## HOW WAS THE PUBLIC INVOLVED IN THE SCORP?

As stated previously, the overarching purpose of the SCORP is to determine how to best meet the needs of the citizens of South Dakota, as well as visitors, in providing quality, accessible outdoor recreational facilities in our state. To accomplish this purpose, we need to know who those citizens are and what their needs are to provide for and meet those needs. Therefore, involving the public in the development of the SCORP was a vital part of the process.

To gather the necessary data, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) collaborated with the South Dakota State University (SDSU) Department of Health and Nutritional Sciences, Sport, and Recreation Management Program. Two key survey components were used to gather data at the state or local level, while a variety of existing resources were used for comparative data on the national level.

### *2022 South Dakota Outdoor Recreation Survey*

As stated in the 2023 South Dakota SCORP Outdoor Recreation Public Survey Report, the first goal of the project was to investigate the public perspective of outdoor recreation demand and current availability. This was accomplished by assessing South Dakota residents' behavioral patterns in outdoor recreation, and investigating residents' motivation for, and potential barriers to, outdoor recreation in the state. This was completed through the distribution and analysis of the 2022 South Dakota Outdoor Recreation Public Survey. This survey, available in the SCORP Appendix, included six sections: 1) past year participation in outdoor recreation, 2) research participants' motivation and constraints in outdoor recreation, 3) perceived outdoor recreation needs in South Dakota, 4) personal perspective about outdoor recreation, 5) COVID impacts on outdoor recreation, and 6) Demographics

The first section of the public survey was used to assess South Dakota residents' behavioral patterns in outdoor recreation, such as preferred locations, participation in consumptive and non-consumptive recreational activities, and general perception of outdoor recreation opportunities in the state.

It was followed by a series of questions associated with research participants' motivation for, and potential barriers to, outdoor recreation in South Dakota. By using a common definition, motivation was defined as a reason(s) an individual has for participating in outdoor recreation activities from both personal and social aspects. Motivations dictate why people take part in a certain activity. People are motivated either intrinsically or extrinsically. Intrinsic motivation means a person enjoys an activity for internal reasons such as simply finding the activity enjoyable. On the other hand, extrinsic motivation means a person participates in an activity for external reasons, such as rewards or punishments.

Constraints are barriers to participating in outdoor recreation. According to Jackson, Crawford, & Godbey (1993), people experience three types of constraints: intrapersonal, interpersonal, and structural. Intrapersonal constraints deal with an individual's internal attitude towards a specific activity. Interpersonal constraints involve other people and their attitudes towards an activity. Lastly, structural constraints involve aspects such as time, money and location that prevent participation in an activity.

To access the state's needs and priorities for outdoor recreation, the personal perspective section focused on the public's perception of outdoor recreation facilities, amenities and areas, and the importance of

potential benefits of outdoor recreation in South Dakota.

The *2022 South Dakota Outdoor Recreation Public Survey* was distributed to the public in a variety of ways, including but not limited to the following:

- Distributed via email to over 330,000 GFP ‘clients’, including the State Park Update list (primarily state park entrance license holders and campers), as well as deer, small game and waterfowl hunters, trappers, and anglers.
- Announced on social media by GFP and others
- Posted by GFP park and wildlife managers in parks and wildlife areas and offices
- Distributed by SDSU through a variety of email lists and postings
- Posted and distributed by municipalities and counties in their offices and through their distribution points

The public survey was available online from December 2021 through April 20th, 2022. Identical paper-based surveys were also available. According to the QuestionPro database, an SDSU paid online survey platform, there were approximately 6,000 people who viewed the 2022 SCORP public online survey. Among these people, 4,521 individuals completed the survey, yielding a 72% completion rate.

#### *2022 South Dakota Outdoor Recreation Survey: Providers*

The second key element in preparation for the 2023 SCORP required an understanding of the outdoor recreation supply in South Dakota. The 2022 South Dakota SCORP Outdoor Recreation Providers Survey Report assessed the outdoor recreation supply in South Dakota from various providers in the state as well as identified current trends and challenges.

A statewide survey of South Dakota outdoor recreation providers was conducted to understand their general operation and current challenges in the field. General operation information included providers’ outdoor recreation, providers’ organizational information, and responsibilities, such as type of organization/agency, target service population, budget, staff, program, facilities, partnership etc. Providers were asked about the impacts of COVID 19 on outdoor recreation and about the benefits and priorities of outdoor recreation. Also surveyed were their perceived current challenges in providing outdoor recreation in South Dakota, including population change (i.e. aging, diversity, minority, residential area), financial shortfall, natural and environmental condition, social and cultural barriers for being outdoors, and quality of staff. Lastly, providers were asked to complete an inventory survey which detailed facilities and areas for outdoor recreation.

*The 2022 South Dakota Outdoor Recreation Survey: Providers* was also distributed to providers in a variety of ways, including but not limited to the following:

- Distributed via email, where possible, to all South Dakota Municipal League members including the 309 municipal governments across the state.
- Paper surveys distributed to all municipalities that had not completed the online survey.
- Emailed or mailed to each of the nine recognized tribes in South Dakota
- Emailed to National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, US Army Corps of Engineers and other federal landowners and managers in South Dakota

The provider survey was available online from November 2021 through March 2022. Identical paper-based surveys were also available. According to the QuestionPro database, there were approximately 240 individuals who viewed the 2022 SCORP Survey for Outdoor Recreation Providers online. As for the online platform, 103 started the survey but only 56 completed the survey. Additionally, fourteen surveys were sent through emails and returned to the principal investigator for a total of 70 completed surveys.

In addition to the outdoor recreation survey, seventy cities/towns/organizations finished their inventory survey, of which 39 responded online and 31 sent an email or paper-based survey to the principal investigator.

### **WHAT INFORMATION DOES THE SCORP INCLUDE?**

The 2023 SCORP includes the following:

- An Overview of South Dakota and its people
- The Challenges and Opportunities for outdoor recreation in South Dakota
- A Strategy Plan that will guide how the state will utilize its share of LWCF apportionment
- An updated Wetlands component
- An Appendix including the main body of the 2022 South Dakota SCORP Outdoor Recreation Public Survey Report and 2022 South Dakota SCORP Outdoor Recreation Providers Survey Report

The preparation of this plan was financed entirely through the South Dakota Division of Parks and Recreation with planning grant assistance from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

*Chapter 1:*  
*South Dakota Overview*



South Dakota became the 40th state in 1889 but, undoubtedly, outdoor recreation was part of life on the prairie long before statehood. Our history books are full of the stories of children and their games and adventures in the great outdoors. Our museums and cultural centers house artifacts of the same. Stories of competitions in timber and mining camps abound. As time passed, slides and tire swings that dropped gleefully screaming children into the state's lakes and rivers were prolific and families spent their Sundays relaxing at lakeside pavilions and beaches. Back in the day, every small town had a baseball team in summer and, likely, an outdoor skating pond in winter. Tents, little pull behinds and pop-ups filled our parks. Today, our communities and parks abound with soccer fields, outdoor swimming pools, camping pads filled with motor homes, paddle boards on the lakes and geocaching.

Ironically, many of the activities we now consider outdoor recreation, were nothing more than real life in the early days of our state. Hunting and fishing for food, canoeing and hiking as forms of transportation, and living in tents and cabins were the way things were – and not perceived as outdoor recreation.

Although, outdoor recreation has changed extensively in form over the years, most of the driving forces behind it remain the same. The outdoors offers a perfect setting for exercise, relaxation, learning, self-reflection and socialization. As one travels across the state, it is apparent why South Dakota is often referred to as the “land of infinite variety.” However, this adage can apply to the people as well as the landscape. This chapter will give a brief overview of both.

## **THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

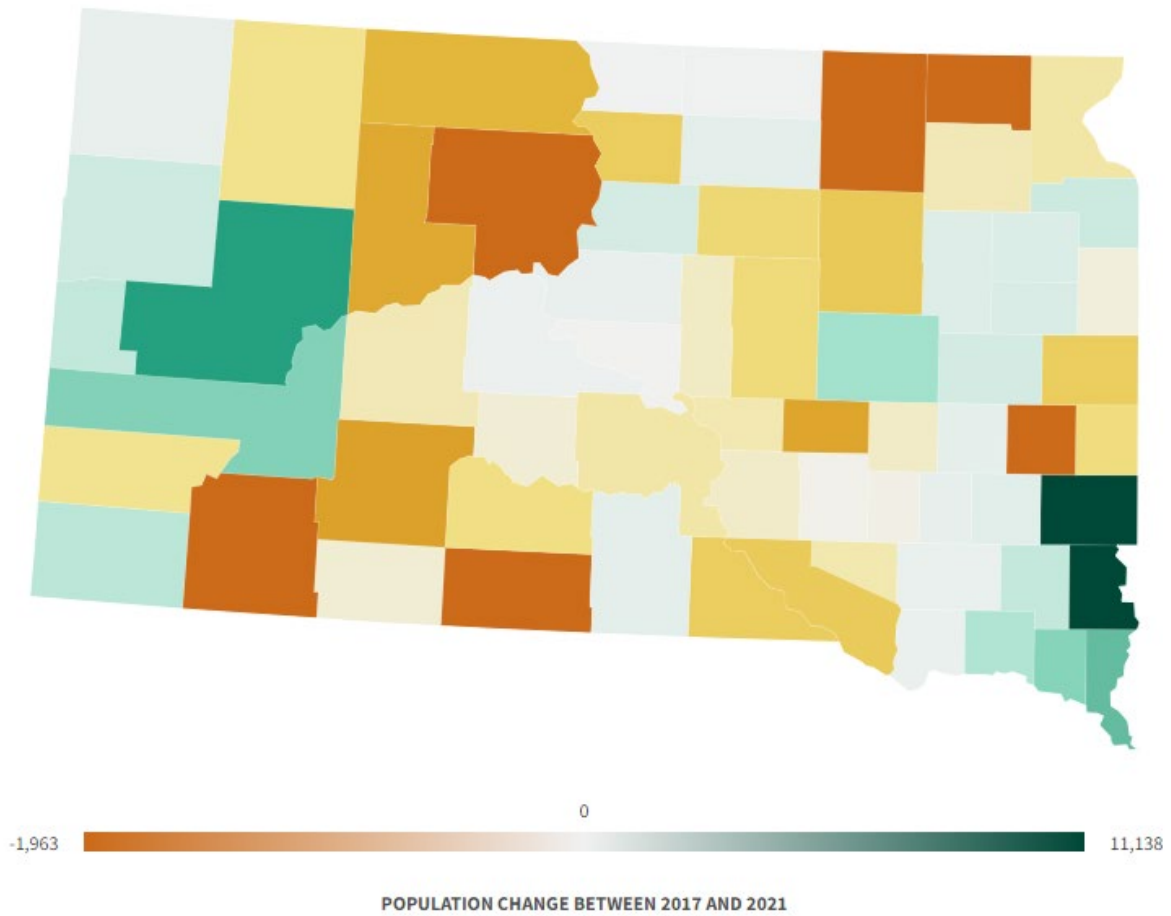
According to the 2020 U.S. Census estimates, there are 886,667 people living in South Dakota. This is an 8.2 percent increase over the 2010 census and the most people that have ever lived in the state. With the 2010 census, South Dakota became an urban state for the first time in history. At the time of the census, there were approximately 57% of South Dakota residents living in urban areas or urban clusters, with the remaining 43% or 352,933 people living in rural areas.

The major demographic trends facing South Dakota are:

1. *Rural Depopulation.* Those counties that have experienced population loss in South Dakota in the last twenty years will likely continue to lose population. The reasons for this are outmigration and low birth rates. Farming-dependent counties are particularly vulnerable, particularly those not adjacent to larger metropolitan areas.
2. *Population Growth in Metropolitan Centers, Along the I-29 Corridor, and Western South Dakota around Rapid City and the Black Hills.* Sioux Falls, Rapid City, and other larger metropolitan areas continue to attract migrants from rural counties.
3. *Out-Migration of Young Adults.* Young adults, especially in the 20-34 age category are leaving many counties, mostly farming-dependent counties.
4. *Increasing Elderly Population.* Out migration of youth leaves a higher percentage of elderly.

Although population in the state has been increasing during recent decades, many areas of the state are experiencing population loss. Figure 1-1 shows which counties have experienced the greatest gains and losses from population change.

Figure 1-2



Source: U.S. Census Bureau – American Fact Finder

South Dakota is a diversified state when it comes to the state’s demographics. As seen in Figure 1-3 below, South Dakota’s age range is spread out similar from age 0-69 and an overall median age range slightly below the national average.

Figure 1-3



Source: U.S. Census Bureau – American Fact Finder

Looking at figure 1-3, the state is comprised of nearly 50% males and 50% females, and a large majority of the state’s population is white with then next highest percentage of population being Native American.

South Dakota ranks sixth amongst all 50 states for having two working parents. According to the U.S. Census data, 75.4% of South Dakota children, younger than six, have both parents working. This is over 16% above the national average. According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2021 American Community Survey, 12.3% of South Dakotans live below 100 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) compared to 12.8% for the nation. While poverty levels for married couple families are relatively low, the poverty levels for other households increases drastically. Single parent households account for the highest percentage of households living below the federal poverty level. Working parents and single parent households provide challenges to parents trying to provide outdoor or other recreational activities for their children.

In recent decades, participation in outdoor recreational activities has continued to diversify and increase. The 2020 Outdoor Participation Report (Outdoor Foundation 2020) shows slightly over half of the US



population (50.7%) participated in at least one outdoor activity in 2019. Comparatively, as shown in Figure 1-6 later in this plan, over 97% of respondents to the 2022 South Dakota Outdoor Recreation Survey indicated they had participated in an outdoor activity at least once in the last year, with over 55% recreating outdoors at least once a week.

Unfortunately, according to the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention only 23% of adults meet the recommended combined aerobic and muscle strengthening guidelines. This creates issues that cross over into other realms, such as health care and social issues. Other studies, such as the National Center for Health Statistics' brief on Prevalence of Obesity Among Adults and Youth: United States, suggest that obesity and health problems, often attributable to poor diet and inactive lifestyles, have increased from 1999 through 2020 to over 41% in adults and 19% in youth. The South Dakota Department of Health statistics for South Dakota youth indicate that in 2021 the percent of youth ages 2-19 who are obese has reached its highest level at 18.4%, slightly lower than the nationwide average of 19.3% while the adult obesity rate in SD has increased to 31.9%.

## **THE LAND OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

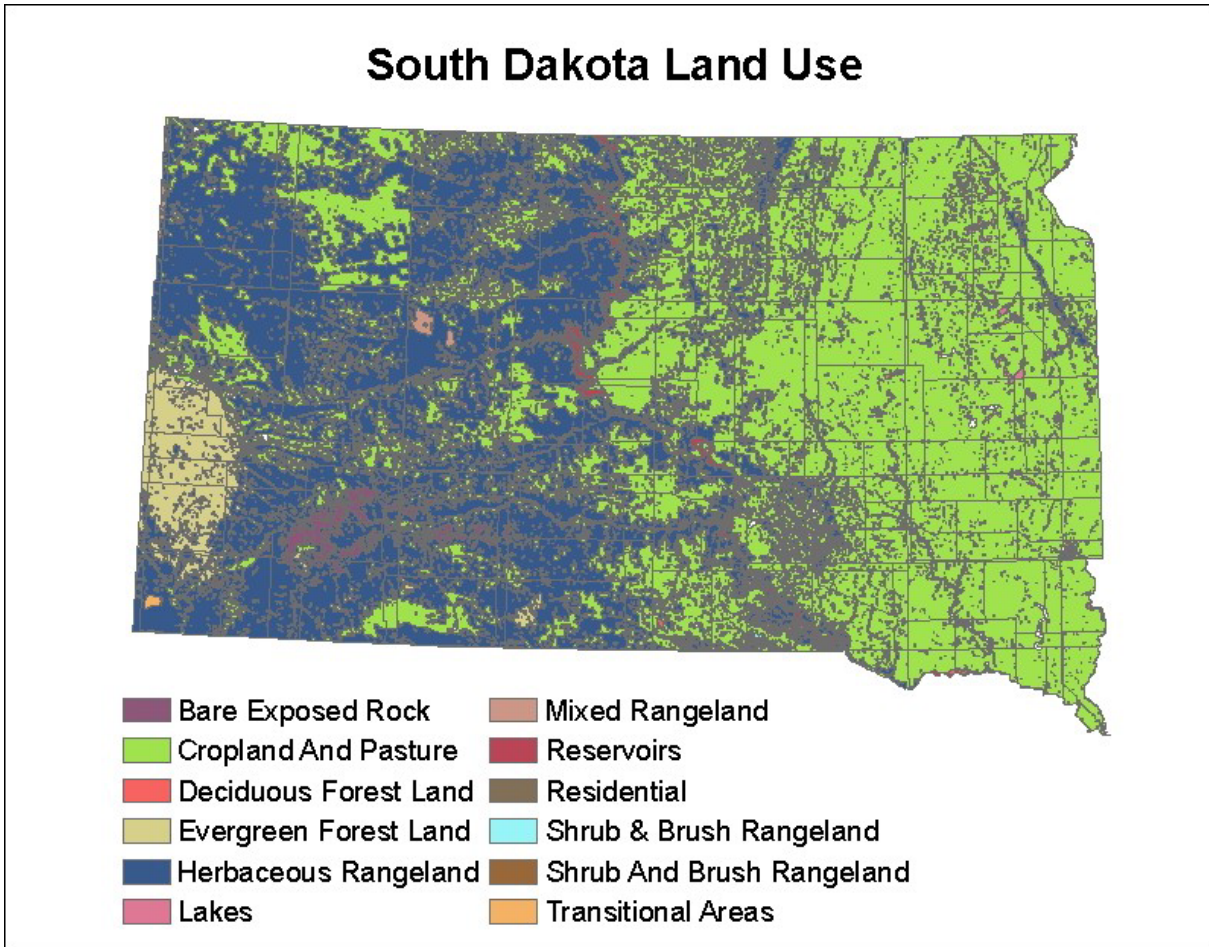
South Dakota contains 77,123 square miles, making it the 16th largest state. The average population density is 11.7 persons per square mile as compared to the national average of 94 persons per square mile for 2020.

The state is identified by several distinct geological regions. The Missouri River bisects the state into east and west regions. On the Missouri River are four main stem dams, authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944, forming four reservoirs. These reservoirs total 470,000 acres of surface area and over 3,000 miles of shoreline.

The different land formations found on either side of the Missouri River have proven to be a driving factor of industry, economics, and demographics of the state. Geologically speaking, the land east of the Missouri River is relatively new, being shaped by glaciers that melted as early as 10,000 years ago. It is gently rolling, has deep soils and enough precipitation to support many crops. The northeast portion of the state contains many prairie pothole wetlands and lakes, left behind as the large remnants as the glacier began to disappear. These natural lakes provide many of the major recreation centers for the residents of this region.

Land west of the river is much older. Most of it was formed over 60 million years ago and consists of shale, limestone, and sandstone beds. The topography is more divided, soils are thin, and precipitation is limited. For the most part, lakes are only present where man-made dams and reservoirs have been constructed. Near the Wyoming border, the Black Hills rise from the surrounding prairie. These pine-covered hills and mountains began as a bulge in the earth's crust, eventually allowing the softer sedimentary rocks to erode. The erosion exposed a bullseye pattern of formations and the granite core of the intrusion. Black Elk Peak (formerly Harney Peak), which rises 7,240 feet above sea level, is at the center of this pattern. (Figure 1-3)

Figure 1-4



**OUTDOOR RECREATION PROVIDERS**

The government’s role in outdoor recreation in South Dakota started taking shape shortly after the state was admitted into the union. It was during this time that leaders recognized the significance of our natural resources and the protection needed to preserve these resources for future generations.

Numerous public entities have a stake in outdoor recreation in South Dakota. Following are some of the main public agencies that provide recreation services. All state and federal public lands are inventoried and compiled in a comprehensive GIS database. The information is accessible at <https://sdgfp.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=946eccdaadf84df6aa2bcf08e9fb1aaf>. Some other data pertaining to recreation providers, such as municipal facilities, is maintained in a GIS database by GFP Division of Parks and Recreation, as well as by the municipalities themselves.

**Federal Agencies**

The presence of the National Park Service in South Dakota began in 1903 when Wind Cave National Park was designated by President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt. Other national park units in South Dakota include Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Jewel Cave National Monument, Badlands National Park and the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site. Services offered at each of these parks vary, but all offer extensive interpretative facilities and programs along with some day-use activities such as picnicking, hiking/walking and sightseeing. Wind Cave National Park and Badlands National Park also offer overnight camping. In addition, the National Park Service manages sections of the lower Missouri River, a section of the National Recreational River, as part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers program. The National Park Service has also been a partner to the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial project, on the portion of the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail traveling through South Dakota, as well as the Spirit Mound Historic Prairie project, 18 Community Conservation and Recreation projects with South Dakota communities and various other historic and natural landmarks.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages seven national wildlife refuges (NWR) in South Dakota including Bear Butte NWR (easement), Karl E. Mundt NWR, Lacreek NWR, Lake Andes NWR, Sand Lake NWR and Waubay NWR, as well as five wetland management districts. Services and facilities at each of these refuges vary, but they are all managed to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. More specifically, these lands provide habitat for endangered species, migratory birds and other wildlife, and provide places for people to learn about, view and enjoy wildlife. Some offer basic facilities such as wildlife viewing areas, trails, picnic areas and fishing areas. The

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also provides waterfowl production areas which are open to public access.

The US Army Corps of Engineers manages the four mainstem dams on the Missouri River in South Dakota. Over 63 recreation and lakeside use areas are associated with these projects. In 2002, federal legislation transferred these recreation areas to the State of South Dakota. Eight other sites were either retained by the Corps of Engineers or leased to tribal governments. The Corps of Engineers also manages Cottonwood Springs and Coldbrook Reservoirs in the southern Black Hills.

The U.S. Forest Service is the largest public landowner in South Dakota. The Black Hills National Forest is one of the most popular outdoor destinations in the region. The Black Hills National Forest offers a multitude of outdoor recreation facilities, including campgrounds, picnic areas, scenic byways, fishing, boat ramps, interpretive facilities and hiking, biking, horse, snowmobile and off highway vehicle trails. Custer Gallatin National Forest offers some limited recreational facilities in the northwestern corner of the state, including camping, fishing, hiking and scenic drives, as well as The Castles National Landmark. There are also three national grasslands (NG) administered by the Forest Service: Ft. Pierre NG, Grand River NG and Buffalo Gap NG. The grasslands also have various activities by location, including biking, hiking, fishing, horseback riding, small game hunting, various types of camping and nature viewing.

The Bureau of Reclamation manages five large reservoirs in western South Dakota. Angostura, Shadehill and Belle Fourche reservoirs have recreation areas that are leased to the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. The recreation areas on Pactola and Deerfield reservoirs are operated by the Black Hills National Forest. These recreation areas provide excellent water-based recreation along with camping, trails and picnicking facilities.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) maintains the Ft. Meade Recreation Area in the northern Black Hills. Hiking, fishing, picnicking and interpretive facilities occupy this area that lies within the old Fort Meade military reservation. The BLM also manages land in western South Dakota for multiple uses.

### **State Agencies**

The South Dakota State Park system includes 13 state parks, 43 recreation areas, 69 lakeside use areas, 5 nature areas, 1 historic prairie and 10 marina/resorts. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) also manages the 114-mile George S. Mickelson Trail, South Dakota's Snowmobile Trail Program and maintains 309 public water access areas. The land managed by the Division of Parks and Recreation totals over 103,000 acres. Custer State Park alone consists of 71,000 acres in the Black Hills. System-wide visitation for the South Dakota Park System for 2021 topped 7.9 million.

Parks within the state system are classified according to the type of management objectives set for that unit. State parks are typically areas of natural, geological, historical or cultural significance where preservation and interpretation are main objectives for management. Recreation areas are usually more developed and offer a wide range of recreational opportunities. Nature areas are managed for little or no development. Lakeside use areas are normally small, water-based areas where access for recreational boating and fishing is the primary objective.

GFP also manages approximately 730 Game Production Areas, totaling more than 300,000 acres. Over 1.3 million acres of privately owned lands are enrolled in the Walk-In Area program for hunting access. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (C.R.E.P.) lands are owned by private individuals who have enrolled over 79,000 acres in a lease agreement to provide public hunting and fishing access. The Controlled Hunting Access Program includes 30,000 acres of privately owned lands, leased primarily for big game hunting. The Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access Program includes 26,000 acres of private land, leased for public hunting access, primarily for field waterfowl hunting. GFP also has access to 15,823 acres of Cooperative Management Areas. In 2021, a total of 113.4 million fish were stocked into 230 waters throughout the state in support of fisheries management efforts. The division also manages interpretive and educational centers at the Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls, the Outdoor Campus West in Rapid City and Cleghorn Fish Hatchery in Rapid City.

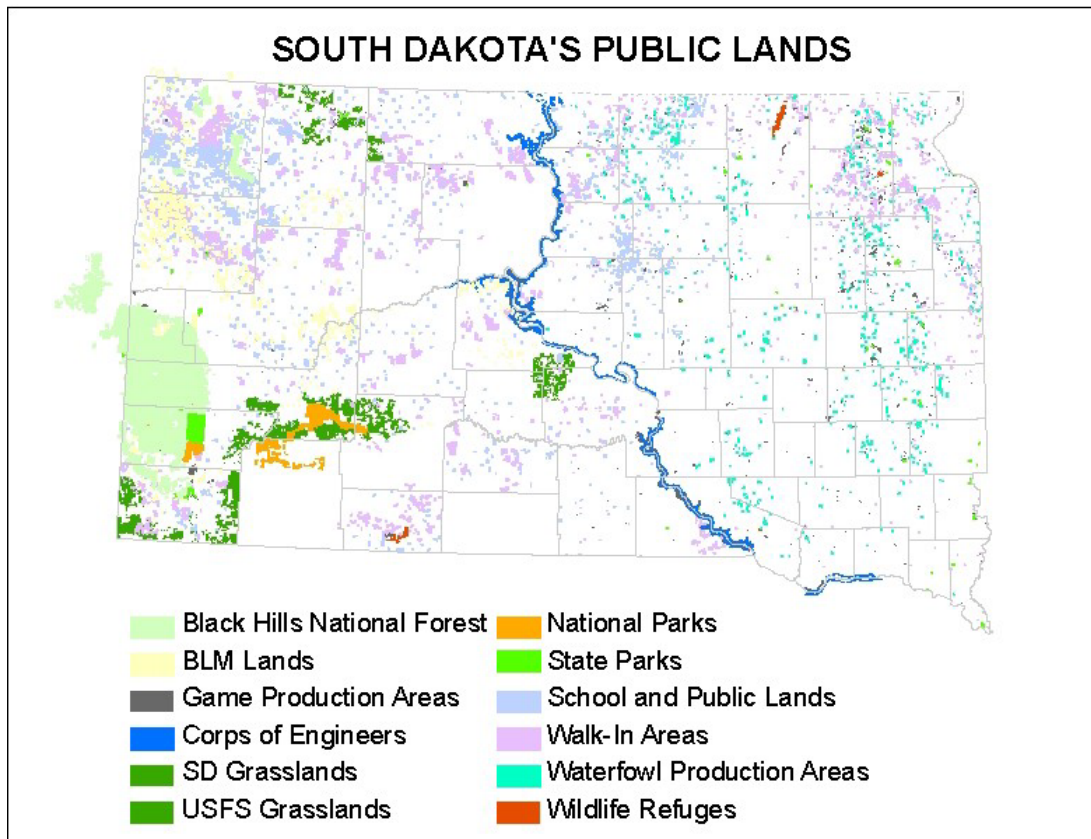
In addition to the State Park System, the fishing and hunting opportunities described above and hundreds of interpretive and education programs, GFP offers numerous other seasonal and year around resources for recreation, including but not limited to:

- 14 Welcome Centers
- 51 Fishing Piers

- 3 Fish Hatcheries
- 2 Outdoor Campuses
- 83 Dams and associated water bodies
- 4,319 Campsites
- 233 Camping Cabins
- 8 Lodges
- 194 Picnic Shelters
- 106 Playgrounds
- Various outdoor recreation equipment including fishing equipment, snowshoes and more
- 77 Docks
- 50 Fish Cleaning Stations
- 388 Boat Ramps
- 53 Beaches
- 337 Miles of Snowmobile Trails
- Canoe, Kayak, Paddle Board and other Rentals

The South Dakota Office of School and Public Lands manages over 750,000 acres of trust land to provide income to support public schools in South Dakota. Although these lands are open to the public, they are operated primarily under lease agreements.

Figure 1-5



### **Tribal Governments**

There are nine Native American tribes in South Dakota, including the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, Oglala Sioux Tribe, Yankton Sioux Tribe, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribe, Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. Six of these tribes have established reservation boundaries within South Dakota. Some tribal governments offer parks and recreation facilities including campgrounds, ball fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, fishing and other outdoor recreation opportunities, while other areas are sparsely populated and remote.

### **Municipal Governments**

There are 310 municipal governments in South Dakota. The South Dakota Municipal League categorizes cities into three groups based on population. There are 18 Class 1 cities with populations over 5,000, consisting of 50 percent of the state's population. There are 98 Class 2 cities with populations between 500 and 5,000. These cities make up 15 percent of the statewide population. Although there are 193 Class 3 cities with populations less than 500, these make up only 4 percent of the state's total population by 2020 Census standards.

Most of South Dakota cities have some form of outdoor recreational facilities. However, the extent and quality of these facilities often depends on the size of the city. Larger cities provide a greater variety of facilities and services, including swimming pools, trails and outdoor sports complexes. Almost all communities have some basic facilities, such as a park, playground, picnic area, sledding hill or softball field.

Cities play a vital role in outdoor recreation. They offer many of the services that people desire on a more frequent basis. City recreation programs also provide organized sports and fitness programs for children and adults.

### **County Governments**

There are only four county governments that were identified as owning or managing outdoor recreational facilities. They are Minnehaha, Clay, Douglas and Codington counties. Most counties have the presence of federal, state or municipal recreational services. Tight budgets and other priorities make it difficult for counties to provide recreational services.

### **Institutional Providers**

Many institutions such as schools and universities provide outdoor recreational facilities, primarily for students or faculty, but are sometimes open to the public. This SCORP did not attempt to inventory or assess these facilities, since the availability of these facilities is widely varied.

### **Private Providers and Outdoor Recreation Organizations**

Quantifying private outdoor recreational services and facilities across the state is, undoubtedly, a complicated task. The South Dakota tourism industry, largely focused on outdoor recreation in South Dakota, contributes over \$2 billion to the state's economy. Identifying the numerous private providers that contribute to these outdoor recreation opportunities across the state would be an undertaking.

Considering the array of terrain, opportunities and seasons in South Dakota, private outdoor recreation providers cover the gamut. These providers include the typical private facilities including campgrounds, golf courses, downhill ski and snowboard facilities, outdoor horse arenas and country clubs with outdoor pools and tennis courts. However, in South Dakota, the hunting and fishing, combined with the diverse habitat land and water resources, result in numerous providers of private outfitting for traditional sports such as hunting, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, horseback riding and others. In addition, private outfitters extend to more diverse classes, certifications and providers of unique experiences including paddle boarding, SCUBA, rock climbing, snowmobiling, off highway and all-terrain vehicle adventures and more.

There are also numerous organizations and clubs, across the state, which promote outdoor recreation and the protection of the habitat vital to future outdoor recreation experiences. These include organizations that span a variety of opportunities, like the Izaak Walton League, the Nature Conservancy and the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts. However, many of these clubs are sport or experience specific, including bicycle clubs, disc golf associations, snowmobile clubs, horseback riding groups, the canoe and kayak association, fly fishing organizations, the trapping association, bowhunters, gun clubs and others. Many of these organizations also focus on a specific or groups of species, such as bird watching clubs, Pheasants Forever, Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation or Walleyes Unlimited. Regardless of the specific type or focus, many of these organizations promote and provide outdoor recreation, often by partnering with state and local agencies, by improving habitat, providing classes, educating the public and even providing funding for projects.

## **OUTDOOR RECREATION PREFERENCES**

In 2022, GFP, with the assistance of South Dakota State University's Department of Health and Nutritional Sciences, Sport and Recreation Management program (SDSU), sent a survey to approximately 330,000 people who are part of the Department's voluntary email and electronic distribution lists. The public survey was also posted on social media, in GFP offices and parks and distributed through a variety of other email distribution groups. Cities and counties were also asked to post the survey to their websites, message boards and other communication venues to provide the public the opportunity to participate in the 2022 Outdoor Recreation Survey. In all, 4,521 surveys were returned. The intent of the survey was to investigate the public perspective of outdoor recreation demand and current availability by assessing South Dakota residents' and visitors' behavioral patterns in outdoor recreation, and investigating residents' and visitors' motivation for, and potential barriers to, outdoor recreation in the state.

A statewide survey of South Dakota outdoor recreation providers was also conducted, by GFP and SDSU, to understand their general operation and current challenges in the field. General operation information included providers' outdoor recreation, providers' organizational information and responsibilities, such as type of organization/agency, target service population, budget, staff, program, facilities, partnership etc. Also surveyed were their perceived current challenges in providing outdoor recreation in South Dakota, including population change (i.e. aging, diversity, minority, residential

area), financial shortfall, natural and environmental condition, social and cultural barriers for being outdoors and quality of staff. In addition, providers were asked to complete an inventory survey with detailed facilities and areas for outdoor recreation.

The following information is taken from the final reports for both the public and provider surveys for use in the South Dakota SCORP. The information included represents the perspective of the respondents to the 2022 Outdoor Recreation Survey and the 2022 Outdoor Recreation Survey: Providers.

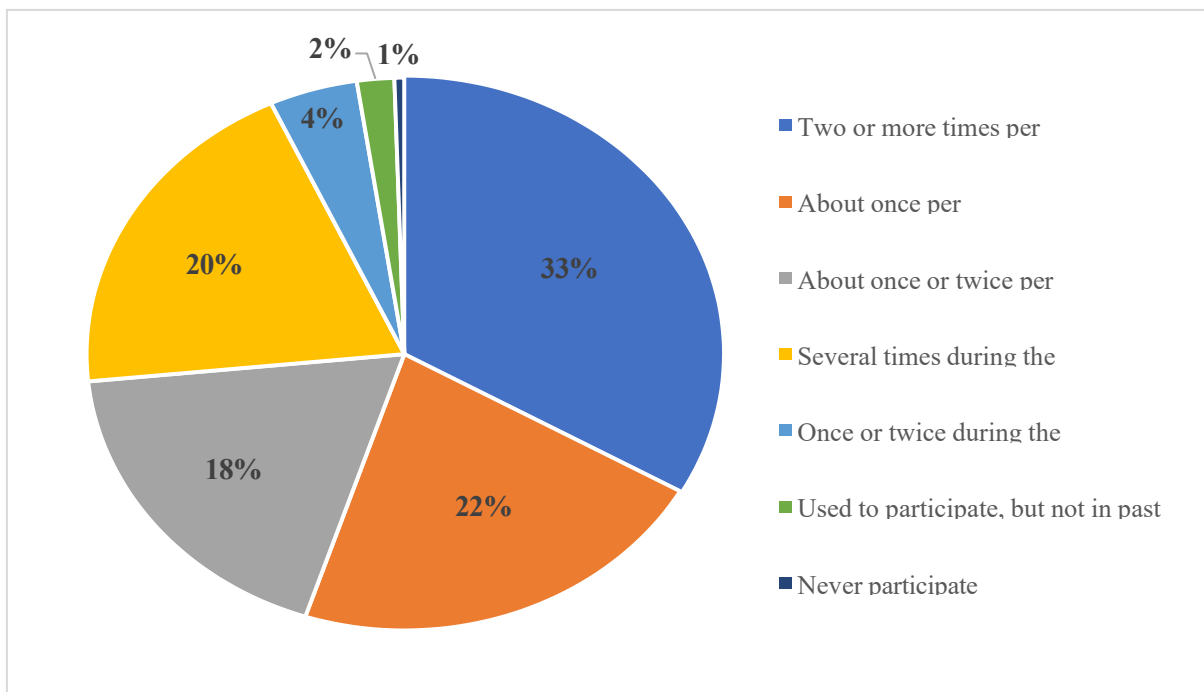
**Public Survey Respondent Data**

The questions in the first section were designed to gauge the relative frequency of participation in outdoor recreational activities, how they are informed about outdoor recreational opportunities, as well as to identify how the respondents participated.

**Section I**

**1. During the past year, how often did you participate in outdoor recreation activities?  
Please select the statement that best describes your frequency of participation.**

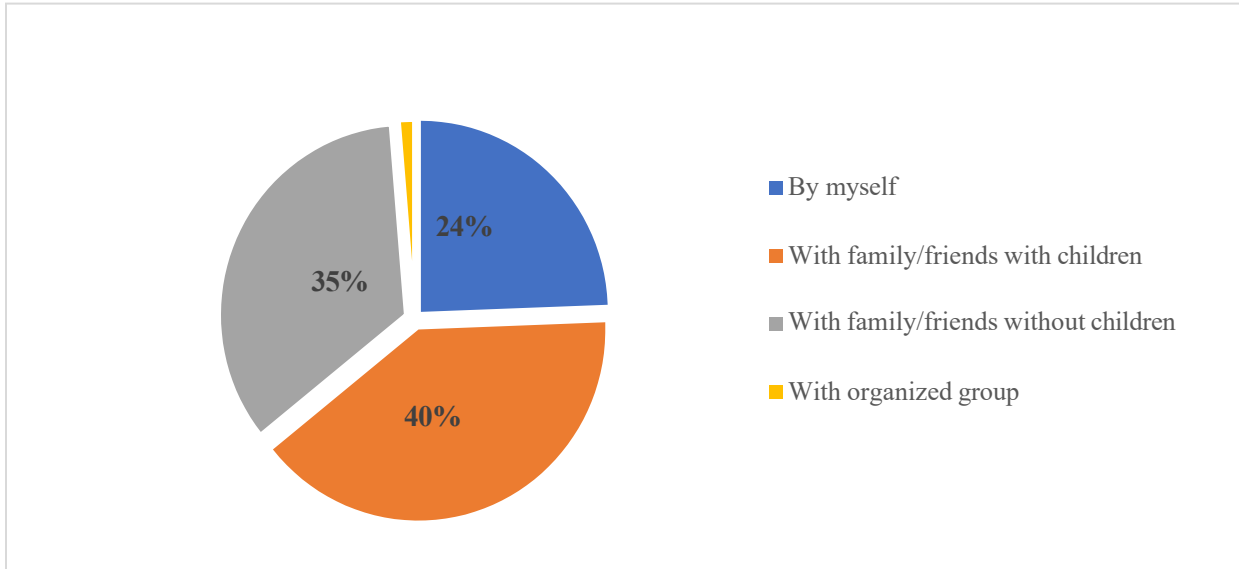
Figure 1-6 Overall Outdoor Recreation Participation Frequency





**2. Which of the following best describes how you participated in outdoor recreation?**

Figure 1-7 Best Description of Being Outdoors



**3. How do you typically hear about information regarding outdoor recreation opportunities and destinations in South Dakota?**

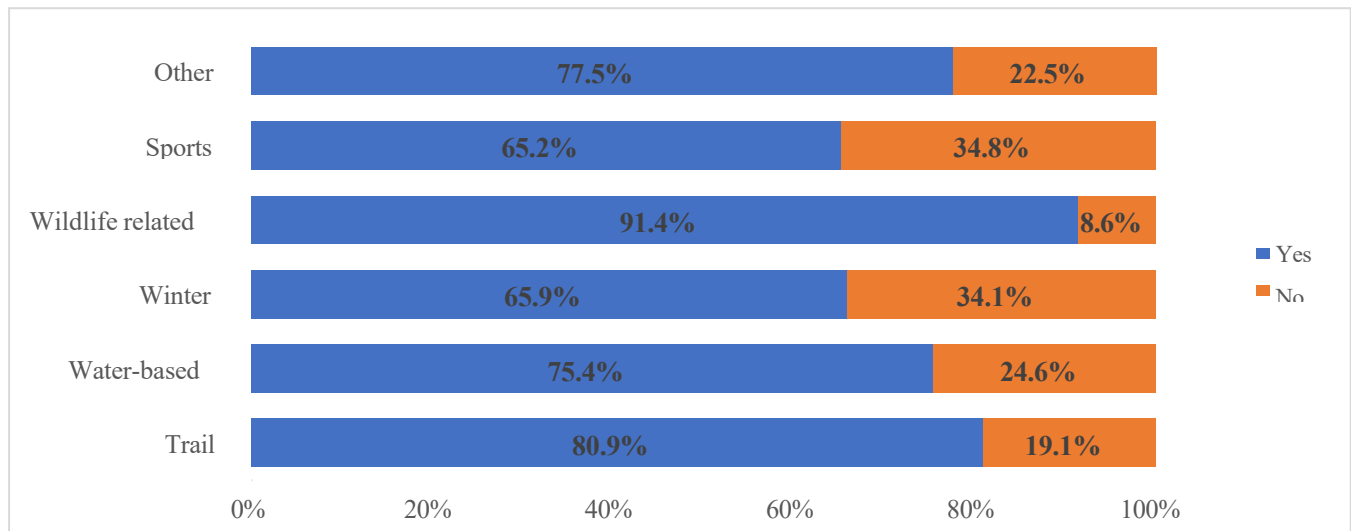
Respondents reported word of mouth, friends and family, internet searches, exploring on their own, and social media as the most common methods of accessing information about outdoor recreational opportunities.

**4. In the past year, how often did you use each of the following types of outdoor recreation areas on average in South Dakota?**

	Never	About once a year	2 to 3 times a year	Monthly	Weekly or more frequently
Local municipal parks, trails, or playgrounds	478 (8.6%)	813 (14.6%)	1,644 (29.6%)	1,495 (26.9%)	1,121 (20.2%)
State parks, recreation areas, lakeside areas, trails, game production areas, public hunting areas	105 (1.9%)	563 (10.0%)	1,561 (27.8%)	2,020 (35.9%)	1,375 (24.4%)
Federal-managed outdoor areas	425 (7.7%)	1,331 (24.0%)	1,780 (32.1%)	1,220 (22.0%)	790 (14.2%)
Private/commercial recreation areas	1,536 (27.9%)	1,368 (24.8%)	1,288 (23.4%)	718 (13.0%)	598 (10.9%)

The following series of questions was designed to gather information about research participants’ frequency of participation. Outdoor recreation activities were grouped into seven categories: 1) trail activities, 2) water-based activities, 3) winter activities, 4) wildlife-related activities, 5) sport activities, 6) other outdoor activities, and 7) additional activities. First, research participants were asked a yes/no question of a particular type of outdoor recreation activity, which determined if a list of specific activities under the category would proceed.

Figure 1-8 Popular Outdoor Recreation Activities by Category



Next, under a list of activities, research participants were asked to report the number of times they participated in each of those activities over the past 12 months.

**Trail activities:** The first question was created to discover the frequency at which participants were engaged with trails and trail related activities.

Did you participate in any outdoor recreation activities on trails (i.e. walking, biking, hiking, ATV riding etc.) in South Dakota over the past year?

- Yes: 4551 (80.9%)
- No: 1075 (19.1%)

Within trail activities, the highest response for people were walking on natural surface or paved trails (Table 1-1).

Table 1-1 (Note: highlighted = the most frequent)

Trail Activities	1-5 times	6-15 times	15+ times	Never
Walking on paved trails	2,135 (50.8%)	793 (18.9%)	761 (18.1%)	512 (12.2%)

Walking on natural surface trails/Hiking (Day Trip)	1,730 (40.3%)	1,118 (26.0%)	854 (19.9%)	591 (13.8%)
Backpacking (Overnight)	826 (21.7%)	303 (8.0%)	45 (1.2%)	2,637 (69.2%)
Jogging/Running	842 (21.8%)	454 (11.8%)	358 (9.3%)	2,202 (57.1%)
Horseback riding	608 (15.9%)	301 (7.9%)	83 (2.2%)	2826 (74.0%)
Biking on a paved road/trail	1230 (30.6%)	705 (17.5%)	472 (11.7%)	1,616 (40.2%)
Biking on unpaved trail	1,038 (26.6%)	567 (14.5%)	267 (6.8%)	2,037 (52.1%)
Mountain biking	703 (18.4%)	378 (9.9%)	201 (5.3%)	2,540 (66.5%)
Off Highway Vehicle (OHV)	771 (19.9%)	409 (10.5%)	170 (4.4%)	2,528 (65.2%)
All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)	1,019 (25.7%)	492 (12.4%)	247 (6.2%)	2,203 (55.6%)
Utility Task Vehicle (UTV)	835 (21.6%)	389 (10.1%)	175 (4.5%)	2,465 (63.8%)
Full Size 4x4 Vehicle	1,001 (25.6%)	476 (12.2%)	287 (7.3%)	2,143 (54.9%)

**Water-based activities.** Question two then looked at participation in any water-based activities within South Dakota during the previous year.

Did you or any member of your household participate in any water-based activities in South Dakota in the past year?

- Yes: 4163 (75.4%)
- No: 1358 (24.6%)

Within the water-based activities, swimming at a beach and motorized boating received the highest number of responses from survey participants (Table 1-2).

Table 1-2

Water-based Activities	1-5 times	6-15 times	15+ times	Never
Swimming at beach	2,085 (55.2%)	586 (15.5%)	327 (8.7%)	779 (20.6%)
Swimming at a pool	883 (29.1%)	409 (13.5%)	334 (11.0%)	1,405 (46.4%)
Motorized boating	1,090 (31.3%)	722 (20.8%)	1,122 (32.3%)	544 (15.6%)
Canoeing or kayaking	1,014 (32.6%)	488 (15.7%)	275 (8.8%)	1,335 (42.9%)

Sailing or sailboarding	125 (4.3%)	70 (2.4%)	46 (1.6%)	2,668 (91.7%)
Standup paddle boarding	414 (14.0%)	149 (5.1%)	99 (3.4%)	2,288 (77.6%)
Snorkeling or SCUBA diving	170 (5.9%)	84 (2.9%)	52 (1.8%)	2,595 (89.5%)

**Winter activities.** The next question asked for outdoor winter recreation participation, including skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, skating (whether it was for hockey or not) fishing, snowmobiling, or biking.

Did you or any member of your household participate in any winter outdoor recreation activities in South Dakota in the past year?

- Yes: 3607 (65.9%)
- No: 1879 (34.1%)

Within the winter activities sledding and downhill skiing/snowboarding were the most common activity enjoyed between 1-5 times while ice fishing was by far the most common activity enjoyed with higher levels of frequency (Table 1-3).

Table 1-3

Winter Activities	1-5 times	6-15 times	15+ times	Never
Downhill skiing/Snowboarding	1,151 (35.7%)	239 (7.4%)	75 (2.3%)	1,756 (54.5%)
Sledding	1,210 (37.4%)	488 (15.1%)	70 (2.2%)	1,468 (45.4%)
Snowshoeing	699 (21.9%)	369 (11.5%)	51 (1.6%)	2,076 (65.0%)
Ice skating (Outdoors)	731 (22.9%)	362 (11.3%)	55 (1.7%)	2,045 (64.0%)
Ice hockey (Outdoors)	382 (12.1%)	376 (12.0%)	47 (1.5%)	2,341 (74.4%)
Ice fishing	1,010 (29.2%)	805 (23.3%)	510 (14.8%)	1,131 (32.7%)
Snowmobiling	642 (20.0%)	393 (12.3%)	70 (2.2%)	2,100 (65.5%)
Cross-country skiing	524 (16.4%)	386 (12.1%)	57 (1.8%)	2,228 (69.7%)
Fat tire biking	379 (12.0%)	343 (10.8%)	47 (1.5%)	2,394 (75.7%)

**Wildlife-related activities.** The next activity focused on anything related to wildlife, which was categorized as anything related to fishing, hunting, trapping or observing.

Did you or any member of your household participate in any wildlife-related outdoor recreation activities (i.e. hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, etc.) in South Dakota in the past year?

- Yes: 4973 (91.4%)
- No: 465 (8.6%)

Within the wildlife-related activities, we have the highest number of overall participants of any of the activities and a great combination of participation spread across fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing (Table 1-4).

Table 1-4

Wildlife-related Activities	1-5 times	6-15 times	15+ times	Never
Shore fishing	2,354 (50.3%)	864 (18.5%)	629 (13.4%)	832 (17.8%)
Fly fishing	1,031 (24.1%)	346 (8.1%)	132 (3.1%)	2,772 (64.8%)
Boat fishing	1,617 (34.4%)	849 (18.0%)	1,091 (23.2%)	1,150 (24.4%)
Hunting (Bow)	1,006 (22.7%)	604 (13.6%)	553 (12.5%)	2,266 (51.2%)
Hunting (Rifle/Pistol/Shot Gun)	1,466 (31.0%)	1,066 (22.5%)	1,169 (24.7%)	1,032 (21.8%)
Trapping	833 (19.4%)	370 (8.6%)	203 (4.7%)	2,885 (67.2%)
Wildlife viewing	1,455 (31.6%)	927 (20.1%)	1,289 (28.0%)	933 (20.3%)
Birdwatching	1,372 (30.6%)	671 (15.0%)	747 (16.7%)	1,688 (37.7%)

**Sports activities.** The fifth question was gauged toward discovering the participation rates in outdoor sports activities. The sports activities included generic outdoor activities, such as golf, tennis, football, baseball/softball and others, and more unique outdoor sport activities, such as archery, rock climbing and pickleball.

Did you or any member of your household participate in any outdoor sports (i.e. baseball, golf, shooting sport etc.) in South Dakota in the past year?

- Yes: 3531 (65.2%)
- No: 1881 (34.8%)

Within the sports activities, there are a wide range of popular activities including the increasingly popular sport shooting (Table 1-5 below).

Table 1-5

Sports Activities	1-5 times	6-15 times	15+ times	Never
Tennis	886 (28.0%)	217 (6.9%)	73 (2.3%)	1,990 (62.9%)
Golf	1,045 (31.3%)	636 (19.1%)	498 (14.9%)	1,158 (34.7%)
Disc golf	777 (24.4%)	463 (14.5%)	83 (2.6%)	1,867 (58.5%)
Baseball/softball	569 (17.7%)	566 (17.6%)	392 (12.2%)	1,683 (52.5%)
Basketball (outdoors)	668 (21.0%)	520 (16.3%)	164 (5.2%)	1,831 (57.5%)
Volleyball (outdoors)	647 (20.4%)	455 (14.4%)	78 (2.5%)	1,985 (62.7%)
Lacrosse	350 (11.2%)	380 (12.1%)	25 (0.8%)	2,383 (75.9%)
Soccer (outdoors)	474 (15.0%)	460 (14.6%)	160 (5.1%)	2,060 (65.3%)
Football	563 (17.7%)	526 (16.5%)	197 (6.2%)	1,900 (59.6%)
Skateboarding	448 (14.2%)	428 (13.6%)	61 (1.9%)	2,210 (70.2%)
Rock climbing	611 (19.4%)	415 (13.2%)	41 (1.3%)	2,079 (66.1%)
Archery Range Shooting (outdoor)	790 (24.5%)	619 (19.2%)	256 (7.9%)	1,566 (48.5%)
Shotgun Range Shooting (outdoor)	1,037 (31.4%)	700 (21.2%)	270 (8.2%)	1,299 (39.3%)
Rifle/Pistol Range Shooting (outdoor)	1,124 (33.6%)	781 (23.3%)	325 (9.7%)	1,119 (33.4%)
Pickleball	487 (15.5%)	392 (12.5%)	76 (2.4%)	2,193 (69.7%)

**Other outdoor activities.** The penultimate question asked for other outdoor activities that aren't categorized under anything else listed above, including camping, picnicking, lawn games, geocaching, being with pets and other more passive activities.

Did you or any member of your household participate in any other outdoor activities (i.e. camping, picnicking, recreating with pets, playing at a playgroup, etc.) in South Dakota in the past year?

- Yes: 4161 (77.5%)
- No: 1207 (22.5%)

Within the other outdoor activities, we find additional activities that vary and show strong participation numbers that prove outdoor recreational opportunities can cover a spectrum of activities for all to enjoy (Table 1-6).

Table 1-6

Other Outdoor Activities	1-5 times	6-15 times	15+ times	Never
Tent camping	1,629 (44.1%)	216 (5.9%)	88 (2.4%)	1,757 (47.6%)
RV camping	1,011 (29.6%)	712 (20.9%)	501 (14.7%)	1,188 (34.8%)
Picnicking	1,632 (49.7%)	618 (18.8%)	255 (7.8%)	777 (23.7%)
Visiting historic sites	1,972 (59.5%)	521 (15.7%)	147 (4.4%)	672 (20.3%)
Visiting nature centers	1,845 (56.1%)	429 (13.0%)	132 (4.0%)	882 (26.8%)
Outdoor photography	1,007 (31.4%)	488 (15.2%)	430 (13.4%)	1,285 (40.0%)
Attending educational programs	774 (25.0%)	146 (4.7%)	48 (1.6%)	2,126 (68.7%)
Attending outdoor festivals	1,439 (45.2%)	232 (7.3%)	72 (2.3%)	1,439 (45.2%)
Playing at a playground	1,000 (30.9%)	552 (17.0%)	444 (13.7%)	1,245 (38.4%)
Geocaching	296 (9.7%)	97 (3.2%)	56 (1.8%)	2,606 (85.3%)
Lawn games (horseshoes, bocce, corn hole)	1,158 (35.5%)	752 (23.0%)	468 (14.3%)	887 (27.2%)
Recreating with pet(s)	664 (20.1%)	579 (17.6%)	1,084 (32.9%)	971 (29.4%)

**Section II: Outdoor Recreation Motivation and Constraints**

The section was designed to understand why people participate in outdoor recreation activities, and what obstacles people face in pursuing their outdoor recreation interests.

1. We would like to know why you participate in outdoor recreation. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following reasons for participating in outdoor recreation activities? Please rate between 1 (Entirely Disagree) to 5 (Entirely Agree) that indicates your agreement on each reason for participating in outdoor recreation.

South Dakota recreation participants reported mainly intrinsic motivations for participating in outdoor recreation. Enjoy beautiful scenery was the top motivation for outdoor recreation with 62.63% of participants selecting strongly agree (M = 4.30). People also listed “for relaxation” (M = 4.29) and “to experience peace/tranquility” (M = 4.20) as motivations. Other popular motivation for outdoor recreation participation included “to be with family and friends” (M = 4.17) and “to observe wildlife” (M = 4.15). Some of the less popular motivations included: “meeting new people” (M = 3.03), “developing self-confidence” (M = 3.35), and “learning about the environment” (M = 3.61). Table 1-7 highlights the most popular motivations for participating in outdoor recreation.

Table 1-7 Summary of Motives in Outdoor Recreation

	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Mean (M)</b>	<b>SD</b>
To enjoy my favorite activity	584 (11.5%)	135 (2.7%)	292 (5.7%)	1296 (25.4)	2790 (54.7%)	4.09	1.32
To develop confidence in myself	256 (5.0%)	519 (10.3%)	2235 (43.6%)	1142 (27.8%)	692 (13.5%)	3.35	1.00
To experience peace/tranquility	64 (1.2%)	220 (4.3%)	667 (13.0%)	1872 (36.4%)	2325 (45.2%)	4.20	0.91
For relaxation	49 (0.9%)	200 (3.9%)	493 (9.6%)	1,879 (36.4%)	2,540 (49.2%)	4.29	0.86
For stimulation and excitement	61 (1.2%)	276 (5.4%)	941 (18.3%)	2,078 (40.5%)	1,781 (34.7%)	4.02	0.92
To feel at one with nature	101 (2.0%)	329 (6.4%)	1,301 (25.3%)	1,793 (34.9%)	1,618 (31.5%)	3.87	0.99
To escape daily routine	72 (1.4%)	304 (5.9%)	810 (15.7%)	1,915 (37.2%)	2,045 (39.7%)	4.08	0.95
To learn about the environment	119 (2.3%)	463 (9.0%)	1,722 (33.5%)	1,838 (35.8%)	995 (19.4%)	3.61	0.97
To experience new things	87 (1.7%)	302 (5.9%)	1,268 (24.7%)	2,185 (42.5%)	1,294 (25.2%)	3.84	0.93
To observe wildlife	53 (1.0%)	222 (4.3%)	710 (13.8%)	2,056 (39.9%)	2,111 (41.0%)	4.15	0.89
To meet new people	401 (7.8%)	1,026 (19.9%)	2,141 (41.6%)	1,195 (23.2%)	385 (7.5%)	3.03	1.02
To be with family and friends	59 (1.1%)	234 (4.5%)	672 (13.0%)	1,984 (38.4%)	2,218 (42.9%)	4.17	0.90



To enjoy beautiful scenery	38 (0.7%)	196 (3.8%)	499 (9.7%)	1,878 (36.4%)	2,548 (49.4%)	4.30	0.85
To develop skill and knowledge	71 (1.4%)	325 (6.3%)	1,547 (30.1%)	2,049 (39.8%)	1,153 (22.4%)	3.76	0.92
To gain sense of accomplishment	108 (2.1%)	415 (8.1%)	1,779 (34.6%)	1,845 (35.9%)	997 (19.4%)	3.62	0.95
To challenge myself	106 (2.1%)	432 (8.4%)	1,559 (30.3%)	1,900 (37.0%)	1,143 (22.2%)	3.69	0.98
To keep physically fit	64 (1.2%)	314 (6.1%)	1,228 (23.9%)	2,190 (42.6%)	1,347 (26.2%)	3.86	0.92
To use my outdoor gear/equipment	109 (2.1%)	440 (8.6%)	1,203 (23.4%)	2,075 (40.4%)	1,314 (25.6%)	3.79	0.99

2. We would like to know about your perceived barriers to participating in outdoor recreation. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following being obstacles you face in pursuing your outdoor recreation interests? Please rate on a scale from 1 (Entirely Disagree) to 5 (Entirely Agree).

Table 1-8 highlights the most popular constraints for participating in outdoor recreation. The results showed structural constraints as the most common reasons/barriers to participating in outdoor recreation:

- “Parks and recreation areas are too crowded” (M=3.23) was the highest barrier to participation.
- “Don’t have enough time” (M=3.09) was another high perceived barrier to participation.
- Cost barriers were also prevalent to participation. “Equipment costs are too high” (M=3.06), “admission fees are too high” (M=2.87), and “activity fees are too high” (M=2.79) were each listed in the top five barriers.
- “Lack of transportation/no way to get to parks” (M=2.11) and “afraid of getting hurt by animals/insects” (M=1.84) were among the less common constraints.

Table 1-8

	Mean	SD
Afraid of getting hurt by animals /insects	1.84	1.07
Lack of interest	2.16	1.17
Don’t feel welcome	2.18	1.17
Lack of information	2.38	1.17
Unaware of opportunities	2.63	1.20
Don’t have enough time	3.09	1.23
Don’t have the skills or physical ability	2.45	1.19
Lack of confidence	2.21	1.12
Don’t have people to go with	2.49	1.18
Activity fees are too high	2.79	1.19
Admission fees are too high	2.87	1.17
Equipment costs are too high	3.06	1.10
The facility I want doesn’t exist in parks	2.54	1.10

Parks and recreation areas are too crowded	3.23	1.13
Concern about safety / crime	2.31	1.13
Nearby parks are dirty or poorly maintained	2.26	1.11
Lack of transportation / no way to get to parks	2.11	1.12
Don't have necessary equipment	2.33	1.14
Weather (i.e., extreme cold or hot temperatures)	2.70	1.16
Age (i.e. busy with kids' activities now, unable to physically participate in the same activities, etc.)	2.63	1.18

3. Do you, or anyone in your household, have a physical disability that affects your ability to participate in outdoor recreation?

- 3,954 (77.6%) No, no one in my household has a disability (Skip to Question 5)
- 829 (16.3%) Yes, I have a disability
- 313 (6.1%) Yes, someone else in my household has a disability

4. If your response is Yes in the previous question, what recommendations could be made to improve your ability to engage in outdoor recreation activities?

Four major themes emerged from the open-ended question. Please see Appendix C for all open-ended answers. The following is a summary of each theme:

**Hunting.** Many survey responses revolved around hunting. ‘Hunting’ was the most used term within this survey, being mentioned 43 times. Outdoor recreation participants expressed a huge need for more public hunting ground accessibility. Respondents stated their concern about public vs. private hunting grounds. It seems that public ground continues to be restricted amongst hunters and hard to come by. Another common recommendation was allowing the use of ATVs to help hunters haul out their big game. It was mentioned that allowing this would be especially beneficial for handicap individuals. Users also discussed the allocation and application process of obtaining a hunting license. There seems to be concern about the high fees and restrictions involved with earning a license. Users would like to see some sort of reduced licensing fee for senior citizens and individuals with disability.

**Water Access.** Water access was a common response among outdoor recreation users, with 35 respondents using the term ‘access’ in their response. The need for more onshore fishing areas was expressed, along with more availability for safe shoreline fishing. Survey respondents also stated that it would be beneficial to create and maintain boat ramps that are handicap accessible. Building additional boat ramps to speed up the launch or load process for boats was also discussed. Fishing licensing fees was another common issue mentioned by survey respondents. Many individuals are concerned about the

cost of purchasing a license. Some even mentioned that they have resorted to fishing out of state because it is cheaper for them and their family.

**Camping.** Users would like the 90-day reservation policy to be extended. It was mentioned that it becomes hard to find available campsites for some people who are unable to reserve grounds that far in advance. Some individuals expressed their frustration with the 90-day reservation policy, stating that many users abuse the system and will reserve camping spots in advance and then not show up for their full reservation. Outdoor enthusiasts mentioned that they would like to see some sort of policy enacted for campers who do not show up for their reservation without cancelling. They also noted that there should be the option for “drop-in” or last-minute campsite availability. There seems to be a need for more full hook-up/electric campsites, and need was also expressed for primitive campsites. Handicap accessible campsites and facilities was another common response. Overall, it seems that state and local parks would benefit from adding more campsites available to the public. A few selected direct quotes below:

- “Being able to plan and reserve camping spots more than 90 days out would be a great help. Only 90 days out makes it difficult to get kids and grandkids to arrange vacation time and still be able to get the camping areas we want.”
- “Campgrounds need more handicap spots. Shorter walking paths would be a nice option, or some type of handicap friendly rental ATVs or golf carts for long trails to scenic areas.”

**Trails/facilities.** Nearly 40 survey respondents stated the need for more paved trails. They are unable to use some trails now due to the width, condition, and incline of the trail. Research participants wish to have more paved trails at a lower incline to accommodate the public with disabilities. Users also requested to have more seating areas around trails and facilities to give people a chance to take a break from their outdoor recreation activity. Research participants also suggested more handicap restrooms. Parking was a popular need among survey participants.

They described the need for more handicap parking, especially near boat ramps and docks. Outdoor recreation users also recommended creating more trails specifically for ATV/UTV usage. However, some users would like to restrict usage of such vehicles as it disturbs their experience when enjoying nature.

5. Do you have any suggestions for how outdoor recreation providers can help remove the barriers to your participation in outdoor recreation activities?

There were five main themes discovered in this open-ended question regarding how to assist the participants to participate more in outdoor recreation activities:

**Improve Accessibility.** A common theme amongst study participants was more ADA (Americans with Disability Act) accommodations. It would be beneficial to create more programming and activities that specifically target individuals with disabilities. This would help create a more inclusive outdoor environment while getting more of the community involved in recreation. Outdoor enthusiasts would like to see more handicap accessible facilities, cabins, and campsites. Some mentioned that creating

more handicap accessible campsites that are near restroom and shower facilities would be beneficial. Additionally, more paved trails that are wheelchair accessible would encourage individuals to interact and be independent in nature. Participants also discussed having more or improved handicap accessible parking and boat ramps, along with having handicap accessible fishing piers. The terms ‘access’ and ‘accessible’ were mentioned 181 times collectively amongst respondents. A few selected direct quotes below:

- “Encourage more participation by conducting classes for those that are handicapped, both physically and developmentally. Make it easier!”
- “All lakes with public access should have a handicap accessible fishing dock.”

**Facility Expansion and Improvement.** Another common response was the expansion and improvement of local and state park services and facilities. Among these were parking, boat docks and ramps, publicly accessible land, but mainly campsites. Respondents mentioned that campsites often feel over-crowded which takes away from the relaxing aspect of the trip itself. Along with that, some respondents mentioned that it is hard to find available campsites due to the 90-day reservation policy. Outdoor recreation users would also like to see more boat ramps and docks, and the maintenance of existing ramps and docks. Additionally, users mentioned that parking can often be difficult to come by and it would be beneficial to create more parking availability. A few selected direct quotes below:

- “Double (or triple) the number of electric RV camping spots at the State Parks! Unless you can readily plan 90-days, it is almost impossible to get a spot! Please add more camping spots!”
- “Continue expanding bike trails in local communities. More pickleball and tennis courts. More summer rec programs to teach kids outdoor”

**Dissension between SD Resident and Non-resident.** Many survey respondents discussed the issue of residents/non-residents mainly regarding the topics of camping and hunting. A resident would be any individual residing in South Dakota, a non-resident would be anyone from out of state. South Dakota residents would like to see more preferential treatment when it comes to reserving campsites and purchasing hunting licenses and tags. They would like to see reduced prices for SD residents and increased prices for non-residents. On the flip side, many non-residents would like to see fees reduced for out-of-staters, mentioning that it is unwelcoming to travel here and pay additional fees. A few selected direct quotes below:

- “Give more preference to SD residents on fishing, hunting, and camping opportunities as compared to non-residents.”
- “Remove out-of-state fees. People already spend more money to travel out-of-state. It is not welcoming.”

**Rules and Regulation of Specialty Activities.** Many respondents discussed matters relating to rules and regulations of outdoor areas and facilities. Outdoor recreation users expressed their concern for the 90-day reservation policy for campsites. It was stated that it can be very difficult to find available campsites because not everyone is able to take advantage of the 90-day reservations due to not knowing their schedule that far in advance. However, there are also individuals who wish they could reserve their campsites more than 90-days in advance. This would allow them to coordinate with family so that everyone has ample time to request vacation or take time off work. Users mentioned that a few first-

come, first-served campsites would be beneficial for individuals who are last minute planners or just need to drop-in for the night. Additionally, respondents would like to see policies enforced for campers who do not show up for their campsite reservation. A few selected direct quotes below:

- “Add more places to camp. Can’t get into state parks to camp at a moment’s notice. They book too far in advance. Keep more camp sites first-come, first-served.”
- “People are abusing the 90-day system by making reservations several days before they plan to occupy the site. If they do not show up the first day of reservation, they should lose it.”

Outdoor recreation enthusiasts also expressed their concern of the increased usage of ATVs/UTVs. It was mentioned that these off-road vehicles contribute to the destruction of nature and wildlife areas. They disturb the peace and serenity of the outdoors that many users seek.

However, on the flip side, several respondents wished there were more areas where they could use their ATVs/UTVs. Some mentioned that it would be beneficial to use an ATV/UTV to assist with hauling out big game during the hunting season. Others mentioned that ATV/UTV usage is the only way they can navigate certain landscapes due to disabilities. A few selected direct quotes below:

- “The ATVs so diminish the sense of tranquility, and they are tearing up the trails. Please restrict their use and ENFORCE it.”
- “Allow wider use of ATVs, I have difficulty walking.”

**Commercialization/Privatization.** Another concern that many respondents had was the lack of public hunting land. More and more land is being dedicated to private land hunting and guided hunts which are not freely available to the public. This results in crowded, limited, public hunting land. Some mentioned that hunting is becoming cost prohibitive due to lack of public space to hunt and resulting in having to pay for guided hunts or pay fees to hunt individually on private land. A few selected direct quotes below:

- “Find more public land in South Dakota that can be accessible to hunters. We are experiencing decreasing opportunities because of lack of places to hunt.”

Please see Appendix C for the list of open-ended answers.

**Section III: Outdoor Recreation Needs in South Dakota**

This section was designed to understand the State’s needs for outdoor recreation related facilities, amenities, and areas to promote and sustain the outdoor recreation legacy of South Dakota over the next five years.

1. Please indicate whether you feel there is a need for more facilities or if efforts should be made to improve what already exists. Please select all that apply.

Participants’ responses indicated a need for more hunting areas, shooting ranges, nature areas, fishing areas, archery ranges, walking/biking trails, campgrounds and canoe/kayak water trails. The top ten facilities of “Need More” and “Need to Improve” were marked in the following

Table 1-9

	Need more	Need to improve	Adequate	No opinion
Tent-camping campgrounds	<b>[5] 25.1%</b>	11.6%	38.3%	24.9%
RV or trailer campgrounds	<b>[4] 26.6%</b>	13.7%	37.7%	22.0%
Areas for backpacking	15.6%	12.7%	36.2%	35.5%
Picnic areas	12.3%	15.5%	49.4%	22.9%
Facilities for boating	16.2%	<b>[4] 17.7%</b>	42.0%	24.1%
Swimming beaches	15.2%	<b>[1] 21.1%</b>	39.7%	23.9%
Swimming pools	12.5%	12.6%	37.4%	37.5%
Fishing areas	<b>[8] 21.5%</b>	<b>[3] 18.1%</b>	42.6%	17.9%
Shore Fishing Areas	<b>[6] 24.5%</b>	<b>[2] 20.1%</b>	36.6%	18.8%
Hunting areas	<b>[1] 31.3%</b>	<b>[7] 16.9%</b>	30.4%	21.4%
Walking/biking trails (unpaved)	<b>[10] 20.7%</b>	<b>[10] 15.8%</b>	40.7%	22.9%
Horseback riding trails	8.6%	8.7%	27.5%	55.2%
Paved trails	14.9%	12.7%	41.7%	30.7%
Mountain biking trails	10.7%	9.4%	28.3%	51.5%
Mountain biking skills course	10.0%	8.6%	23.7%	57.8%
Fat Tire bike trails	8.9%	7.9%	23.0%	60.2%
Cross-country skiing trails	10.3%	9.6%	23.1%	57.0%
Down-hill skiing/Snowboarding areas	11.9%	9.2%	25.2%	53.7%
Sledding areas	17.4%	14.3%	23.5%	44.8%
Ice skating or hockey rinks (Outdoor)	11.9%	11.3%	25.0%	51.8%
Snowmobile trails	8.4%	8.8%	31.5%	51.3%
Off-road or ATV riding areas/trails	13.6%	12.6%	32.5%	41.2%
Historic sites (with interpretation)	13.6%	<b>[5] 17.4%</b>	38.7%	30.3%
Nature areas/open space	<b>[7] 22.6%</b>	<b>[6] 17.1%</b>	38.8%	21.4%
Outdoor festivals/Festival areas	15.9%	13.4%	36.4%	34.3%
Pow-wow grounds	8.3%	10.6%	23.8%	57.3%
Playgrounds	11.0%	15.0%	38.1%	35.9%

Soccer fields	7.0%	7.8%	32.5%	52.7%
Football fields	6.6%	7.6%	33.4%	52.4%
Lacrosse fields	7.1%	6.5%	24.3%	62.1%
Baseball or softball fields	8.8%	10.2%	35.7%	45.3%
Golf courses/driving ranges	9.8%	9.8%	38.6%	41.9%
Skateboarding parks	8.1%	8.2%	26.9%	56.8%
Tennis courts	7.4%	8.4%	29.8%	54.3%
Volleyball courts (outdoor)	8.6%	9.1%	28.0%	54.3%
Basketball courts (outdoor)	9.1%	10.4%	28.9%	51.6%
Horseshoe pits	10.0%	11.3%	28.2%	50.5%
Archery target shooting ranges	<b>[9] 21.0%</b>	15.2%	26.0%	37.8%
Shooting ranges (shotgun)	<b>[3] 27.7%</b>	<b>[8] 16.9%</b>	24.7%	30.7%
Pistol/rifle shooting ranges	<b>[2] 30.4%</b>	<b>[9] 16.5%</b>	24.4%	28.7%
Disc golf courses	11.8%	10.6%	31.4%	46.2%
Dog parks	18.5%	14.2%	28.8%	38.5%
Canoe/Kayak water trails	19.1%	14.3%	25.8%	40.8%
ATV skill parks	10.7%	9.0%	24.4%	55.9%
ADA accessible facilities. Please specify what types.	12.9%	13.7%	22.5%	51.0%

2. What are the most needed recreational facilities in your community (within 10-15 minutes of your home)?

The most needed recreation facility within South Dakota communities according to survey respondents are trails. The term “trails” was mentioned 514 times throughout the survey results. There is a wide variety of trail type that recreation users would like to see. Hiking, biking, and walking trails were one of the most common requests from respondents. Paved, easily accessible, ADA compliant trails was another common response. Outdoor enthusiasts also stated the need for more ATV/UTV specific trails. Additionally, cross-country skiing trails, along with horse trails are a common need stated by survey respondents.

Another common recreational need mentioned was public access to shooting and archery ranges. Users would like to see both indoor and outdoor ranges. Specifically mentioned were rifle ranges, and trap and skeet ranges. Collectively, the terms “range” and “shooting” were discussed 536 times. Survey respondents also wish to have more public access to fishing areas within their community. Most users would like to see more shore fishing options available to them. The term “shore fishing” was discussed 101 times throughout the survey.

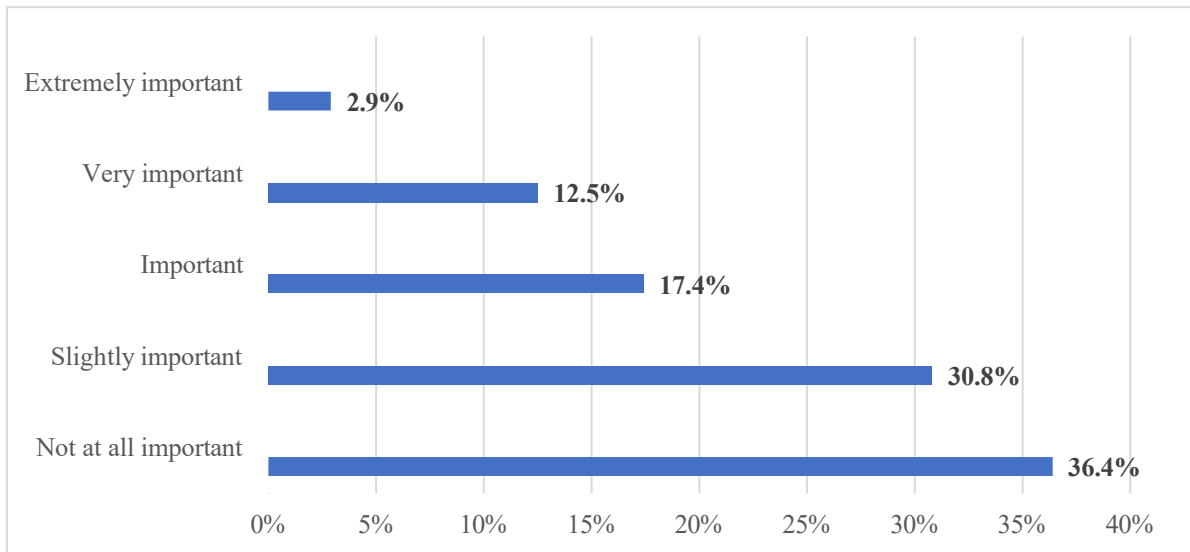
- “Improved paved trails and the establishment of new trails: the potential for trails in our area is unlimited”
- “Archery and shooting range that is open to the public and not privately owned”

Please see Appendix C for the list of open-ended answers.

3. How important is availability of Wi-Fi to you when participating in outdoor recreation activities?

Respondents indicated a very low importance for the availability of Wi-Fi when recreating outdoors with 36.4% responding that it is “not at all important” and 2.9% responding it is “extremely important.” (Figure 1-9)

Figure 1-9: Importance of Wi-Fi Availability



4. What other facilities/areas/amenities should be considered when promoting South Dakota’s outdoor recreation legacy for the next five years?

When considering the facilities/areas/amenities that should be used to promote South Dakota’s outdoor recreation legacy for the next five years, 180 users discussed camping, making it the most common answer among respondents. As has been previously mentioned, the need for additional campsites throughout the state was expressed. Additionally, respondents commented on the difficulty of finding available campsites if you are unable to reserve early within the 90- day window. Hunting and fishing were two other common responses from survey participants.

Overall, users would like to see the maintenance and expansion of public hunting and fishing areas. Collectively, “hunting” and “fishing” were mentioned 299 times throughout the survey.

- “Increase the number of areas for camping and hiking so it’s not so crowded in the summer. It’s getting harder and harder to get away from people, even out west.”
- “Inexpensive opportunities for young families; the ability to rent equipment to try camping for families and young adults would also help grow future use.”
- “Any extra access is good. With so much land being private it is hard to enjoy hunting or fishing with a family when you don’t have relatives who own land.”

Please see Appendix C for the list of open-ended answers.



**Section IV: Public Perspective about Outdoor Recreation**

The following section examined priorities in funding outdoor recreation and conservation efforts in South Dakota, the importance of potential benefits of outdoor recreation, and the ability of outdoor recreation providers to provide these benefits.

1. How important is having access to high-quality park and recreation opportunities when deciding where to live?

Participants placed relatively high importance on having access to high-quality parks and recreation opportunities when deciding where to live. Only 6.5% indicated it was “not at all important.”

- 284 (6.5%) Not at all important
- 711 (16.2%) Slightly important
- 1,307 (29.7%) Important
- 1,255 (28.5%) Very important
- 844 (19.2%) Extremely important

2. When funding outdoor recreation and conservation efforts in South Dakota, how important or unimportant are each of following considerations? Please rate each statement on a 5-point Likert scale from extremely unimportant to extremely important.

Respondents showed the highest average importance of funding efforts to “protect wildlife and fish habitat” (M=3.96), “maintain existing park and recreation areas” (3.91), and “provide environmental and conversation programs” (M=3.56). Although not much lower in importance, the lowest importance was shown to “build pedestrian and cycling paths between places of work, parks, schools, etc.” (M=3.24). Table 1-10 shows the detailed results of funding efforts in outdoor recreation.

Table 1-10 summary of Importance of Funding Efforts in Outdoor Recreation

	Extremely Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat Important	Extremely Important	Mean (M)	SD
(A) Acquire and protect open space (as undeveloped, conserved land)	843 (18.1%)	394 (8.4%)	663 (14.2%)	1,137 (24.4%)	1,627 (34.9%)	3.50	1.48
(B) Acquire additional land and water areas for developed recreation	404 (8.6%)	674 (14.3%)	1,039 (22.1%)	1,539 (32.7%)	1,044 (22.2%)	3.46	1.22
(C) Maintain existing park and recreation areas	463 (9.8%)	404 (8.6%)	490 (10.4%)	1,098 (23.3%)	2,250 (47.8%)	3.91	1.34
(D) Provide environmental and conservation programs	287 (6.1%)	616 (13.1%)	1,112 (23.7%)	1,527 (32.5%)	1,151 (24.5%)	3.56	1.17

(E) Provide recreation programs at parks and recreation areas	238 (5.1%)	704 (15.0%)	1,423 (30.3%)	1,617 (34.5%)	710 (15.1%)	3.40	1.07
(F) Protect wildlife and fish habitat	461 (9.8%)	388 (8.3%)	502 (10.7%)	859 (18.3%)	2,492 (53.0%)	3.96	1.36
(G) Build more greenways/trails	297 (6.3%)	725 (15.5%)	1,446 (30.9%)	1,504 (32.1%)	714 (15.2%)	3.34	1.11
(H) Build pedestrian and cycling paths between places of work, parks, schools etc.	367 (7.8%)	792 (16.9%)	1,537 (32.7%)	1,327 (28.3%)	671 (14.3%)	3.24	1.13

3. When thinking about your community, how much do you agree that the outdoor recreation opportunities provided by your local park and recreation organization provides or supports the delivery of the following benefits to the public? Please rate each statement on a 5-point Likert scale from strongly disagree to strongly agree.

The highest perceived benefits were “preserves open spaces and the environment” (M=3.93) and “enhances a sense of place and community” (M=3.83). “Makes your community a more desirable place,” “preserves historical features in your community,” and “promotes tourism in your community” were also high perceived benefits, all with the mean score of 3.78 (Table 1-11).

Table 1-11 Summary of Perceived Benefits from Parks and Recreation in South Dakota

	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean (M)	SD
Makes your community a more desirable place to live	567 (12.3%)	256 (5.6%)	573 (12.4%)	1,439 (31.2%)	1,772 (38.5%)	3.78	1.34
Preserves historical features in your community	95 (2.1%)	409 (8.9%)	1,173 (25.4%)	1,686 (36.6%)	1,247 (27.0%)	3.78	1.01
Preserves open spaces and the environment	109 (2.4%)	412 (9.0%)	833 (18.1%)	1,597 (34.7%)	1,652 (35.9%)	3.93	1.05
Increases property values in your community	124 (2.7%)	427 (9.3%)	1,319 (28.7%)	1,494 (32.5%)	1,239 (26.9%)	3.72	1.04
Helps attract new residents and businesses	132 (2.9%)	458 (9.9%)	1,142 (24.8%)	1,633 (35.4%)	1,242 (27.0%)	3.74	1.05
Helps to lower the crime rate in your community	160 (3.5%)	613 (13.3%)	1,740 (37.8%)	1,253 (27.2%)	843 (18.3%)	3.44	1.04
Promotes tourism in your community	118 (2.6%)	434 (9.4%)	1,086 (23.6%)	1,687 (36.6%)	1,279 (27.8%)	3.78	1.04
Enhances a sense of place and community	82 (1.8%)	372 (8.1%)	1,083 (23.6%)	1,778 (38.7%)	1,282 (27.9%)	3.83	.99

Provides programs/services that benefit a demographically diverse population	154 (3.4%)	508 (11.1%)	1,593 (34.7%)	1,412 (30.7%)	927 (20.2%)	3.53	1.04
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4. How important is it that your local parks and recreation organization delivers or provides the following Programs/services that focus on health and well-being? Please rate each statement on a 5-point Likert Scale from extremely unimportant to extremely important.

Respondents indicated the highest importance for their local parks and recreation organizations to provide programs and services to “improve mental health and reduce stress for youth” (M=4.01), “improve mental health and reduce stress for adults” (M=3.92), and “provide equitable access to high-quality parks, green spaces, trails, and other built environment features” (M=3.84). The following Table 1-12 shows the results of the provision of health and well-being in parks and recreation services.

Table 1-12 Summary of Importance of Provision of Health and Well-Being Services

	Extremely Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat Important	Extremely Important	Mean (M)	SD
Improve physical health and fitness	590 (13.1%)	292 (6.5%)	786 (17.4%)	1,635 (36.2%)	1,218 (26.9%)	3.57	1.30
Improve mental health and reduce stress for adults	132 (2.9%)	386 (8.5%)	789 (17.4%)	1,642 (36.3%)	1,579 (34.9%)	3.92	1.06
Improve mental health and reduce stress for youth	139 (3.1%)	301 (6.7%)	753 (16.7%)	1,531 (33.9%)	1,798 (39.8%)	4.01	1.05
Provide opportunities for social interaction	144 (3.2%)	466 (10.3%)	1,177 (26.0%)	1,758 (38.8%)	983 (21.7%)	3.66	1.03
Partner with local government or community-based organizations to improve access to health and wellness opportunities	131 (2.9%)	458 (10.1%)	1,308 (28.9%)	1,631 (36.1%)	996 (22.0%)	3.64	1.02
Promote the health and wellness benefits of parks and recreation	108 (2.4%)	409 (9.0%)	1,043 (23.1%)	1,768 (39.1%)	1,194 (26.4%)	3.78	1.01
Provide equitable access to high-quality parks, green spaces, trails, and other built environment features	155 (3.4%)	385 (8.5%)	950 (21.1%)	1,570 (34.8%)	1,453 (32.2%)	3.84	1.08

5. What else should we consider in developing the South Dakota outdoor recreation plan for the next five-years?

In this open-ended question, 119 survey respondents discussed the importance of parks and green spaces within their communities to help contribute to the quality of life for residents. Additionally, users would like to see more access to public hunting areas. Specifically mentioned were walk-in hunting areas. Along with that, survey respondents expressed their concern of the increasing licensing fees to hunt and the decreasing access to public hunting land. Users would also like to see the acquisition of more land for general use by the public. ADA accessible facilities is another consideration for the future. Creating an inclusive and welcoming recreation environment where all individuals are encouraged to participate regardless of ability is important.

- “Breaking barriers and improving accessibility (not only physical disabilities, but other barriers).”
- “In my opinion, the SD State Parks are among the best anywhere. Maintain that high level of excellence and improve where possible.”
- “Improve the quality and quantity of hunting and fishing areas and access.”

Please see Appendix C for the list of open-ended answers.

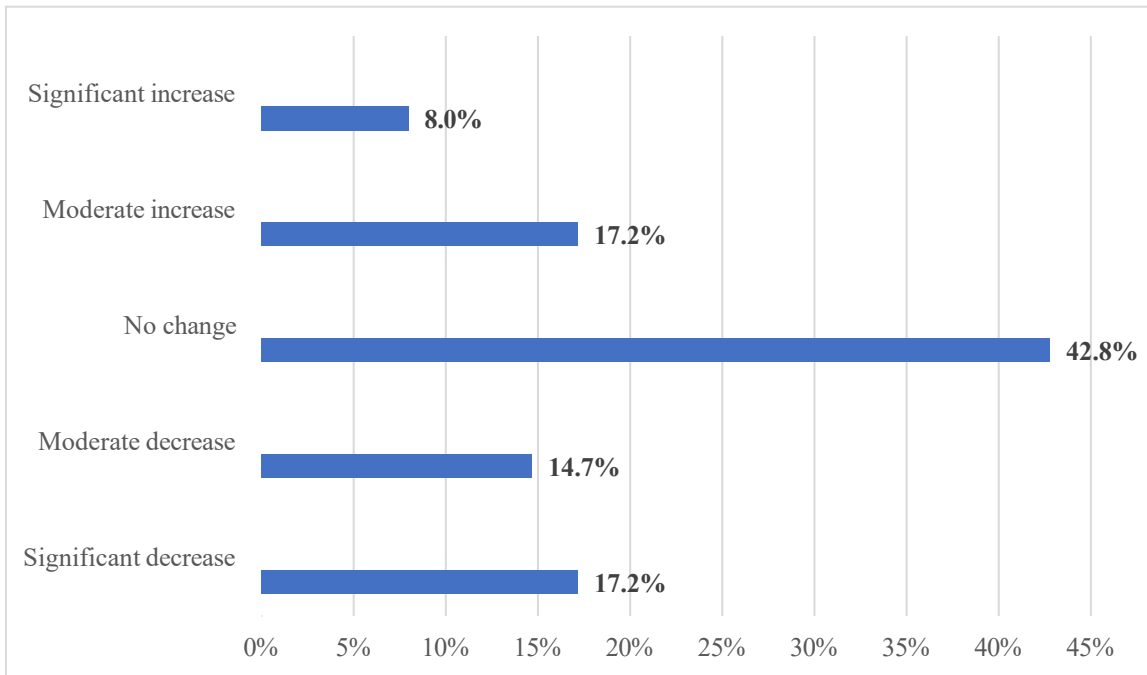
## **SECTION V: COVID-19 IMPACTS ON OUTDOOR RECREATION**

This section was designed to address how the COVID-19 pandemic affected people’s participation and experiences in outdoor recreation. Questions addressed frequency of participation, location of outdoor recreation participation, and involvement in outdoor activities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. How did your frequency of outdoor activity participation change during the COVID-19 pandemic on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being a significant decrease in outdoor activity participation and 5 being a significant increase in outdoor activity participation?

Close to half of the participants (42.8%) indicated their frequency of outdoor activity participation did not change during the COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 1-10). There was some decrease seen with 17.2% indicating their participation decreased significantly and 14.7% indicating their participation decreased moderately.

Figure 1-10 Change in the Outdoor Activity Participation During COVID-19 Pandemic



2. How does the COVID-19 pandemic impact your participation in your favorite outdoor activities? Please explain whether that impact was negative, positive, etc.

In this open-ended question, while a large portion of individuals expressed no impact on their outdoor participation, a total of 328 survey respondents reported that their participation in outdoor activities was positively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many users discussed the matter of safety and social distancing and how outdoor activities allowed them to abide by these guidelines while also socializing or enjoying their favorite recreational activity. Additionally, due to the closure of many businesses and public entities, individuals had more time on their hands than usual and so chose to spend that time outdoors. Walking, with or without a pet, hiking, fishing, hunting, and camping are a few of the outdoor activities that users were able to participate in more often due to the pandemic.

On the flip side, 298 survey respondents reported that their participation in outdoor activities was negatively impacted by COVID-19 due to facility closures and event cancellations. Additionally, some respondents were fearful of contracting the virus so chose not to recreate outside the home. Overcrowding of outdoor spaces due to many public businesses and entities being temporarily closed was another reason users reported a negative impact on their participation in outdoor activities. The discouragement of group events also kept respondents from their favorite activities. However, some reported that they did begin to engage in more individual-based pursuits. The followings are direct quotes from the participants:

- “Due to being at home, we were able to increase our outdoor use, which I would equate to a positive impact.”

- “Overall, it was a negative experience. We did not go out to very many activities, especially that involved other people. We did participate in less social events like hiking and wildlife viewing.”

Please see Appendix C for all open-ended answers.

3. Where do you typically go to participate in outdoor recreation during the COVID-19 pandemic? Please select all that apply.

About half (49.1%) of the respondents went to state parks/recreation areas to participate in outdoor recreation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Local parks/trails (38.0%) and backyards (35.0%) were also popular areas for outdoor recreation participation. Only 12.8% indicated they stayed at home and did not participate in outdoor recreation activities.

- 808 (12.8%) Stay at home (no participation)
- 2,203 (35.0%) Backyard
- 2,393 (38.0%) Local parks/trails
- 3,087 (49.1%) State parks/recreation areas
- 1,930 (30.7%) National parks/forests/grasslands
- 1,532 (24.3%) Private properties
- 191 (3.0%) Other (please specify)
- 28 users reported that they visited lakes to participate in outdoor recreation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hunting and fishing on public land was another popular outdoor recreation activity during the pandemic. Additionally, 15 individuals answered that the golf course was where they chose to recreate during COVID-19.

4. Did you start a new outdoor activity during the COVID-19 pandemic? 4a. What new activity/activities did you pick up during the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Yes: 1,305 (29.0%)
- No: 3,198 (71.0%)

Camping and hunting were the top two new activities picked up during the COVID-19 pandemic, with 33 users reporting such. These activities were followed by fishing and kayaking with 32 respondents reporting these respectively. The fifth most popular activity that was acquired during the pandemic was biking, with 24 individuals reporting this.

5. Did you stop participating in your preferred outdoor recreation activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Yes: 839 (18.5%)
- No: 3,667 (80.9%)
- I did not participate in outdoor recreation activities before the COVID-19 pandemic: 26 (0.6%)

5a. Do you plan to return to your preferred recreation activities after the COVID-19 pandemic? Do you plan to return to your preferred recreation activities after the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Yes: 716 (85.2%)
- No: 37 (4.4%)
- Maybe/Unsure: 87 (10.4%)

6. Please rate the following COVID-19 statements in relation to your outdoor recreation experiences since March of 2020.

Participants indicated the most agreement towards the statement “I am satisfied with the outdoor recreation opportunities provided to me in South Dakota” (M=3.71). Participants had slightly less agreement towards the statement “I am concerned about my own personal health when recreating outdoors” (M=2.37) as well as “I am concerned about the public’s health when recreating outdoors” (M=2.44). Table 1-13 shows the details results of participants’ outdoor recreation experiences amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 1-13 Summary of Outdoor Recreation Preferences related to COVID-19 Pandemic

	Strongly disagree	Slightly disagree	Neutral	Slightly agree	Strongly agree	Mean (M)	SD
I am concerned about my own personal health when recreating outdoors.	1,834 (40.8%)	759 (16.9%)	755 (16.8%)	711 (15.8%)	440 (9.8%)	2.37	1.40
I am concerned about the public’s health when recreating outdoors.	1,679 (37.4%)	751 (16.7%)	871 (19.4%)	778 (17.3%)	412 (9.2%)	2.44	1.38
Local recreation providers provided adequate outdoor recreation opportunities.	172 (3.8%)	525 (11.7%)	1,418 (31.6%)	1,443 (32.2%)	927 (20.7%)	3.54	1.06
I am satisfied with the outdoor recreation opportunities provided to me in South Dakota	153 (3.4%)	614 (13.7%)	861 (19.2%)	1,608 (35.9%)	1,249 (27.8%)	3.71	1.11
I value outdoor recreation more now than compared to before the pandemic.	396 (8.8%)	517 (11.5%)	1,745 (38.9%)	978 (21.8%)	851 (19.0%)	3.31	1.16

**COMPARISON AND ADVANCED ANALYSIS**

The fourth goal of the research project is to investigate the relationship between socio- demographics, economics, and population change from the perspective of and participation in outdoor recreation. To advance understanding of the relationship between socio- demographics and outdoor recreation participations, advanced analysis was applied to examine how South Dakotans’ outdoor recreation participation pattern, motivation, and constraints vary with their socio-demographics (i.e., age, gender, education, and residential area etc.).

**OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS 2022, 2017, & 2012 SURVEY**

The following are the comparisons of the top ten “need-more” and “need-to-improve” outdoor recreation facilities amongst the 2012, 2017, and 2022 survey results (Table 1-14):

- The 2022 survey utilized the same list as the 2017 survey, which included 11 more types of facilities for participants to review than the 2012 survey.
- Compared to the 2017 survey, eight types of facilities remained in the top ten facilities that participants would like more of. These include hunting areas, pistol/rifle shooting ranges, shotgun shooting ranges, nature areas, shore fishing areas, shooting ranges archery ranges, walking trails, RV or trailer campgrounds, and fishing areas



- Hunting areas remained the number one area people would like to see more of. However, the 2012 survey reported a significant higher demand (52%) for hunting areas than the 2017 and 2022 results, which ranged from 31% to 34%.
- While demand for more swimming beaches went down, need for improvement of the current facilities increased.
- Tent-camping campground showed up on the top ten “need more” list for the first time in 2022.
- Historic sites (w/ interpretation) showed up on the top ten “need to improve” list for the first time in 2022.

Table 1-14 Comparison of Top Ten Need-More and Need-to-Improve Facilities

Top Ten Facilities	Need More			Need to Improve		
	2022	2017	2012	2022	2017	2012
Hunting areas	31%	34%	52%	17%	17%	6%
Pistol/rifle shooting ranges	30 %	30%	45%	17%	14%	6%
Shotgun shooting ranges	28%	26%	41%	17%	13%	5%
Nature areas/open space	23%	23%	29%	17%	13%	5%
Shore fishing areas	25%	23%	-	20%	19%	-
Archery target shooting areas	21%	22%	33%	-	12%	9%
Walking/biking trails (unpaved)	21%	20%	22%	16%	11%	6%
RV or trailer campgrounds	25%	20%	26%	-	9%	8%
Fishing areas	22%	20%	38%	18%	17%	9%
Canoe/Kayak water trails	-	20%	-	-	11%	-
Facilities for boating	-	-	27%	18%	-	10%
Swimming beaches	-	-	22%	21%	-	10%
Tent-camping campgrounds	25%	-	-	-	-	-
Historic sites (w/ interpretation)	-	-	-	17%	-	-

**GEOGRAPHICAL COMPARISON OF FACILITIES RESPONDENTS**

The following two tables are geographical comparisons of the facilities respondents checked as “Need More” (Table 1-15) and “Need to Improve” (Table 19). These comparisons only utilized the survey participants who identified themselves as South Dakota residents in the following nine areas. A total usable case might slightly vary question by question.

Table 1-15 Outdoor Recreation Facility “Need More” Comparison in South Dakota

	Statewide	Sioux Falls	Black Hills	Aberdeen	Watertown	Pierre/FP	Brookings	Mitchell	Huron	Yankton
Tent-camping campgrounds	25%	19%	19%	19%	12%	12%	19%	20%	13%	17%
RV or trailer campgrounds	27%	31%	20%	24%	26%	25%	28%	27%	27%	33%
Areas for backpacking	17%	18%	12%	19%	12%	10%	19%	14%	14%	13%
Picnic Areas	12%	12%	11%	13%	10%	11%	13%	9%	6%	6%
Facilities for boating	16%	18%	11%	19%	20%	17%	13%	23%	11%	20%
Swimming beaches	15%	18%	13%	16%	15%	14%	12%	12%	10%	11%
Swimming pools	13%	13%	10%	9%	13%	13%	14%	14%	12%	6%
Fishing areas	22%	25%	18%	28%	24%	19%	22%	20%	23%	20%

Shore fishing areas	24%	30%	18%	30%	27%	25%	28%	25%	24%	21%
Hunting areas	31%	35%	30%	33%	40%	32%	29%	37%	27%	35%
Walking/biking trails (unpaved)	21%	25%	17%	23%	12%	18%	31%	21%	15%	18%
Horseback riding trails	9%	5%	5%	11%	12%	7%	11%	9%	14%	3%
Paved trails	15%	17%	11%	11%	13%	15%	21%	20%	9%	12%
Mountain biking trails	11%	10%	10%	11%	9%	10%	12%	12%	11%	4%
Mountain biking skills course	10%	9%	9%	10%	5%	11%	11%	11%	11%	4%
Fat Tire bike trails	9%	5%	8%	13%	5%	9%	11%	11%	7%	3%
Cross-country skiing trails	11%	7%	12%	9%	10%	11%	13%	9%	5%	7%
Down-hill skiing/Snowboarding areas	12%	11%	11%	15%	13%	12%	13%	12%	8%	8%
Sledding areas	17%	16%	18%	20%	16%	16%	25%	17%	15%	21%
Ice skating or hockey rinks (outdoor)	12%	8%	13%	10%	18%	12%	12%	16%	8%	11%
Snowmobile trails	8%	6%	5%	11%	8%	6%	8%	9%	8%	5%
Off-road or ATV riding areas/trails	14%	14%	8%	18%	17%	13%	15%	14%	14%	14%
Historic sites (with interpretation)	14%	11%	11%	17%	12%	14%	16%	13%	9%	13%
Nature areas/open space	23%	25%	22%	22%	16%	22%	30%	19%	21%	23%
Outdoor festivals/Festival areas	16%	18%	11%	20%	15%	15%	22%	16%	11%	19%
Pow-wow grounds	8%	6%	7%	9%	9%	7%	11%	8%	6%	4%
Playgrounds	11%	9%	9%	13%	11%	9%	13%	9%	12%	7%
Soccer fields	7%	5%	5%	7%	7%	6%	8%	10%	7%	2%
Football fields	6%	4%	3%	10%	5%	6%	8%	5%	5%	2%
Lacrosse fields	7%	3%	3%	10%	8%	6%	7%	13%	5%	2%
Golf course/driving ranges	9%	8%	5%	13%	11%	11%	10%	11%	13%	7%
Baseball or softball fields	9%	7%	5%	12%	10%	9%	10%	12%	4%	4%
Skateboarding parks	8%	7%	6%	10%	10%	7%	9%	6%	8%	3%
Tennis courts	7%	5%	4%	10%	3%	8%	9%	7%	10%	2%
Volleyball courts (outdoor)	9%	7%	5%	10%	10%	6%	8%	16%	11%	3%
Basketball courts (outdoor)	9%	7%	5%	14%	9%	8%	9%	13%	11%	5%
Horseshoe pits	10%	8%	5%	13%	9%	9%	8%	13%	13%	6%
Archery target shooting ranges	21%	23%	21%	21%	25%	12%	21%	22%	17%	20%
Shotgun shooting ranges	28%	34%	32%	30%	27%	23%	27%	27%	22%	32%
Pistol/rifle shooting ranges	30%	38%	36%	32%	25%	26%	29%	36%	27%	34%
Disc golf courses	12%	11%	8%	12%	11%	10%	15%	10%	11%	8%
Dog parks	19%	21%	19%	21%	14%	23%	17%	16%	11%	17%
Canoe/Kayak water trails	10%	22%	19%	21%	16%	14%	24%	22%	12%	21%
ATV skills parks	6%	10%	7%	13%	15%	8%	9%	12%	12%	6%

\*Note: Sioux Falls Area (N=830), Black Hills Area (N=846), Aberdeen (N=231), Watertown (N=295), Pierre (N=300), Brookings (N=308), Mitchell (N=207), Huron (N=132), and Yankton (N=168).

Table 1-16 Outdoor Recreation Facility “Need to Improve” Comparison in South Dakota

	Statewide	Sioux Falls	Black Hills	Aberdeen	Watertown	Pierre/FP	Brookings	Mitchell	Huron	Yankton
Tent-camping campgrounds	12%	11%	12%	12%	14%	14%	17%	16%	28%	19%
RV or trailer campgrounds	14%	11%	9%	15%	14%	11%	12%	21%	21%	11%
Areas for backpacking	13%	11%	10%	14%	12%	15%	17%	14%	12%	10%
Picnic Areas	16%	14%	13%	15%	11%	21%	19%	22%	21%	12%
Facilities for boating	18%	17%	13%	22%	15%	21%	18%	19%	22%	19%
Swimming beaches	21%	22%	17%	20%	24%	26%	28%	27%	22%	17%
Swimming pools	13%	11%	10%	13%	11%	15%	13%	14%	18%	11%
Fishing areas	18%	18%	15%	21%	20%	18%	18%	25%	18%	19%
Shore fishing areas	20%	21%	17%	27%	22%	18%	18%	25%	28%	16%
Hunting areas	17%	15%	15%	20%	15%	21%	17%	18%	21%	14%
Walking/biking trails (unpaved)	16%	18%	13%	16%	16%	17%	14%	13%	23%	15%
Horseback riding trails	9%	6%	6%	10%	8%	10%	10%	11%	14%	6%
Paved trails	13%	12%	11%	19%	11%	13%	12%	14%	24%	13%

Mountain biking trails	9%	6%	7%	13%	9%	9%	11%	8%	14%	4%
Mountain biking skills course	9%	6%	6%	10%	8%	8%	10%	14%	14%	2%
Fat Tire bike trails	8%	7%	9%	12%	8%	9%	11%	10%	21%	2%
Cross-country skiing trails	9%	7%	9%	12%	8%	9%	10%	11%	21%	2%
Down-hill skiing/Snowboarding areas	9%	5%	7%	11%	9%	11%	11%	14%	16%	6%
Sledding areas	14%	14%	13%	19%	15%	10%	17%	12%	13%	7%
Ice skating or hockey rinks (outdoor)	11%	8%	9%	10%	11%	15%	12%	15%	14%	7%
Snowmobile trails	9%	6%	3%	12%	11%	9%	7%	12%	11%	7%
Off-road or ATV riding areas/trails	13%	9%	10%	14%	14%	13%	8%	18%	24%	12%
Historic sites (with interpretation)	17%	16%	18%	17%	15%	17%	21%	21%	24%	12%
Nature areas/open space	17%	16%	16%	14%	19%	17%	17%	19%	20%	16%
Outdoor festivals/Festival areas	13%	11%	10%	16%	16%	13%	15%	18%	16%	13%
Pow-wow grounds	11%	7%	9%	8%	10%	11%	9%	14%	16%	10%
Playgrounds	15%	13%	11%	14%	17%	18%	17%	18%	15%	11%
Soccer fields	8%	5%	4%	8%	10%	13%	7%	12%	16%	2%
Football fields	8%	4%	5%	7%	9%	9%	7%	12%	15%	2%
Lacrosse fields	7%	3%	3%	10%	8%	5%	5%	5%	11%	2%
Golf course/driving ranges	10%	8%	6%	13%	8%	13%	9%	13%	20%	5%
Baseball or softball fields	10%	7%	6%	12%	11%	15%	10%	11%	24%	6%
Skateboarding parks	8%	5%	5%	9%	8%	9%	9%	10%	8%	4%
Tennis courts	8%	4%	6%	9%	11%	10%	5%	10%	15%	6%
Volleyball courts (outdoor)	9%	6%	6%	9%	10%	9%	13%	10%	9%	14%
Basketball courts (outdoor)	10%	7%	6%	9%	14%	13%	11%	12%	18%	8%
Horseshoe pits	11%	9%	8%	10%	12%	16%	11%	13%	19%	7%
Archery target shooting ranges	15%	14%	11%	12%	18%	17%	17%	17%	20%	24%
Shotgun shooting ranges	17%	14%	13%	21%	20%	19%	18%	22%	25%	14%
Pistol/rifle shooting ranges	17%	14%	14%	21%	16%	14%	14%	14%	28%	13%
Disc golf courses	11%	9%	6%	9%	13%	12%	11%	13%	9%	8%
Dog parks	14%	13%	12%	13%	14%	16%	15%	20%	22%	10%
Canoe/Kayak water trails	14%	11%	14%	20%	12%	17%	13%	21%	11%	11%
ATV skills parks	9%	5%	6%	10%	11%	7%	11%	10%	12%	5%

\*Note: Sioux Falls Area (N=830), Black Hills Area (N=846), Aberdeen (N=231), Watertown (N=295), Pierre (N=300), Brookings (N=308), Mitchell (N=207), Huron (N=132), and Yankton (N=168).

**Provider Survey Respondent Data**

As stated previously, a survey was also distributed to providers of outdoor recreation to understand their perspectives and challenges surrounding outdoor recreation. In some cases, as one would imagine, the providers have a slightly different perspective than the public. In addition, their challenges, or barriers to providing outdoor recreation opportunities also vary. The following section shares both the perspective of those who responded to the providers’ survey, as well as some comparisons of the public and provider responses.

**Section I: Benefits and Priorities in Outdoor Recreation**

1. When thinking about your community or organization, how important or unimportant are each of following considerations when making decisions about funding outdoor recreation and conservation efforts? Please rate each statement from scale: Extremely Unimportant to Extremely Important.

Table 1-17 below shows the range of responses for the eight considerations, ranging from Extremely Unimportant to Extremely Important.

- “Maintain existing park and recreation areas” had highest response within extremely important at 96 responses (78.7%) and mean score of 4.60.

- “Build pedestrian and cycling paths between places of work, parks, schools etc.” had 55.1% participants reported as important or extremely important and the second highest mean score of 3.67.
- “Provide recreation programs at parks and recreation areas” had the third highest mean score at 3.61 and 55.1% of research participants indicated as important or extremely important.
- “Provide environmental and conservation programs” had highest response within neutral at 64 responses (53.8%).

Table 1-17 Summary of Importance of Funding efforts in Outdoor Recreation

	Extremely Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat Important	Extremely Important	Mean (M)	SD
Acquire and protect open space (as undeveloped, conserved land)	11 (9.2%)	13 (10.9%)	58 (48.7%)	24 (20.2%)	13 (10.9%)	3.13	1.05
Acquire additional land and water areas for developed recreation	13 (10.9%)	12 (10.1%)	56 (47.1%)	27 (22.7%)	11 (9.2%)	3.09	1.07
Maintain existing park and recreation areas	3 (2.5%)	2 (1.6%)	10 (8.2%)	11 (9.0%)	96 (78.7%)	4.60	.90
Provide environmental and conservation programs	8 (6.7%)	12 (10.1%)	64 (53.8%)	22 (18.5%)	13 (10.9%)	3.17	.99
Provide recreation programs at parks and recreation areas	8 (6.8%)	8 (6.8%)	37 (31.4%)	34 (28.8%)	31 (26.3%)	3.61	1.15
Protect wildlife and fish habitat	10 (8.5%)	12 (10.2%)	58 (49.2%)	22 (18.6%)	16 (13.6%)	3.19	1.07
Build more greenways/trails	10 (8.4%)	8 (6.7%)	45 (37.8%)	33 (27.7%)	23 (19.3%)	3.43	1.13
Build pedestrian and cycling paths between places of work, parks, schools etc.	8 (6.8%)	7 (5.9%)	38 (32.2%)	28 (23.7%)	37 (31.4%)	3.67	1.18

2. When thinking about your community, how much do you agree that the outdoor recreation opportunities your organization provides or supports deliver the following benefits to the public?

This question was used to ask how much providers agree that their outdoor recreation opportunities provide a benefit to various public considerations. Table 1-18 shows the percentage and frequency of the providers; “-“ reflects no responses in that category.

- “Make your community a more desirable place to live” had the highest response rate for extremely important at 82 responses (67.2%) with mean scores of 4.52 out of 5.
- “Enhance a sense of place and community,” “Helps attract new residents and businesses,” and “Increase property values in your community” had the second, third, and fourth highest mean

scores, as well as a high combined percentage of “Somewhat Agree” and “Strongly Agree,” with 87.5%, 83.4%, and 77.5% respectively.

- “Preserves historical features in your community” had the highest frequency (44) of “Neutral.”
- “Helps lower the crime rate in your community” had the lowest mean score (3.73).

Table 1-18 Summary of Community Benefits to the Public

	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean (M)	SD
Make your community a more desirable place to live	-	3 (2.5%)	12 (9.8%)	25 (20.5%)	82 (67.2%)	4.52	.77
Preserve historical features in your community	-	3 (2.5%)	44 (36.7%)	34 (28.3%)	39 (32.5%)	3.91	.89
Preserve open space and the environment	-	4 (3.3%)	26 (21.5%)	38 (31.4%)	53 (43.8%)	4.16	.88
Increase property values in your community	-	2 (1.7%)	24 (20.0%)	43 (35.8%)	50 (41.7)	4.43	2.75
Help attract new residents and businesses	-	3 (2.5%)	17 (14.2%)	41 (34.2%)	59 (49.2%)	4.30	.81
Helps lower the crime rate in your community	2 (1.7%)	6 (5.0%)	43 (36.1%)	39 (32.8%)	29 (24.4%)	3.73	.95
Promotes tourism in your community	1 (0.8%)	5 (4.2%)	35 (29.2%)	32 (26.7%)	47 (39.2%)	3.99	.97
Enhance a sense of place and community	-	2 (1.7%)	13 (10.8%)	39 (32.5%)	66 (55.0%)	4.41	.75
Provides programs/services that benefit a demographically diverse population	1 (0.8%)	3 (2.5%)	42 (35.0%)	33 (27.5%)	41 (34.2%)	3.92	.93

3. How important is it that your agency delivers or provides the following programs/services that **focus on enhancing health and well-being?**

This question was asked to determine how important providers feel their outdoor recreation services are for supporting their community’s health and well-being. Table 5 shows the percentage and frequency of the providers; “-” reflects no responses in that category.

“Partner with local government or community-based organizations to improve access to health and wellness opportunities” had the lowest mean score of 3.93, which is still relatively high on a 5-point scale. This indicates that, overall, providers feel that the health and well-being outcomes of their recreation programs and services are especially important.

“Provide opportunities for social interaction,” “Promote the health and wellness benefits of parks and recreation,” “Improve mental health and reduce stress for youth,” “Improve mental health and reduce stress for adults,” and “Provide equitable access to high-quality parks, green spaces, trails, and other built environment features,” had the highest mean scores, as well as the highest combined percentage of

“Somewhat Important” and “Extremely Important,” with 79.3%, 78.5%, 75.8%, 74.2%, and 71.6% respectively.

Table 1-19 Summary of Health and Wellbeing Benefits

	Extremely Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat Important	Extremely Important	Mean (M)	SD
Improve physical health and fitness	1 (0.9%)	3 (2.6%)	28 (24.1%)	37 (31.9%)	47 (40.5%)	4.09	.91
Improve mental health and reduce stress for adults	1 (0.9%)	4 (3.4%)	25 (21.6%)	35 (30.2%)	51 (44.0%)	4.13	.93
Improve mental health and reduce stress for youth	1 (0.9%)	4 (3.4%)	23 (19.8%)	31 (26.7%)	57 (49.1%)	4.20	.94
Provide opportunities for social interaction	-	4 (3.4%)	20 (17.2%)	36 (31.0%)	56 (48.3%)	4.24	.86
Partner with local government or community-based organizations to improve access to health and wellness opportunities	1 (0.9%)	3 (2.6%)	38 (32.8%)	35 (30.2%)	39 (33.6%)	3.93	.920
Promote the health and wellness benefits of parks and recreation	1 (0.9%)	3 (2.6%)	21 (18.1%)	35 (30.2%)	56 (48.3%)	4.22	.90
Provide equitable access to high-quality parks, green spaces, trails, and other built environment features	1 (0.9%)	3 (2.6%)	29 (25.0%)	29 (25.0%)	54 (46.6%)	4.14	.94

4. What is the level of priority that your agency places on investing in each of the following facilities? Please rate from scale: 1= Lowest priority, 5= Highest priority, or N/A= Not applicable.

Playgrounds were the top facility providers listed as their highest priority to invest in (49.2%). Other top facilities to invest in included baseball or softball fields (42.1%), swimming pools/water parks (24.8%), paved walking/biking trails (22.3%), and outdoor festival/event (20.8%).

Providers listed their lowest priorities as investing in lacrosse fields, mountain biking trails, mountain biking skills courses, and skateboarding parks (Table 1-20).

Table 1-20 Municipal Parks and Recreation Providers’ Facility Priority

	Lowest Priority		Highest Priority		N/A	
Tent-camping campgrounds	21 (17.4%)	22 (18.2%)	19 (15.7%)	10 (8.3%)	2 (1.7%)	47 (38.8%)
RV or trailer campgrounds	13 (10.7%)	15 (12.4%)	20 (16.5%)	19 (15.7%)	10 (8.3%)	44 (36.4%)
Picnic areas	-	9 (7.4%)	45 (37.2%)	36 (29.8%)	23 (19.0%)	8 (6.6%)
Facilities for boating	20 (16.7%)	7 (5.8%)	7 (5.8%)	5 (4.2%)	3 (2.5%)	78 (65%)
Swimming pool/water park	11 (9.1%)	8 (6.6%)	4 (3.3%)	26 (21.5%)	30 (24.8%)	42 (34.7%)
Trails/parks for motorized vehicles	16 (13.2%)	13 (10.7%)	8 (6.6%)	8 (6.6%)	7 (5.8%)	69 (57.0%)
Fishing areas	13 (10.8%)	11 (9.2%)	10 (8.3%)	17 (14.2%)	6 (5.0%)	63 (52.5%)
Walking/biking trails (unpaved)	8 (6.6%)	12 (9.9%)	17 (14.0%)	23 (19.0%)	16 (13.2%)	45 (37.2%)
Walking/biking trails (paved)	5 (4.1%)	9 (7.4%)	14 (11.6%)	23 (19.0%)	27 (22.3%)	43 (35.5%)
Mountain biking skills course	27 (22.5%)	9 (7.5%)	6 (5.0%)	1 (0.8%)	3 (2.5%)	74 (61.7%)
Mountain biking trails	19 (15.8%)	12 (10.0%)	9 (7.5%)	2 (1.7%)	3 (2.5%)	75 (62.5%)
Nature areas/open space	5 (4.2%)	17 (14.4%)	22 (18.6%)	21 (17.8%)	14 (11.9%)	39 (33.1%)
Outdoor festival/event	6 (5.0%)	8 (6.7%)	28 (23.3%)	33 (27.5%)	25 (20.8%)	20 (16.7%)
Playgrounds	2 (1.7%)	2 (1.7%)	13 (10.8%)	38 (31.7%)	59 (49.2%)	6 (5.0%)
Golf courses/driving ranges	13 (10.7%)	7 (5.8%)	9 (7.4%)	17 (14.0%)	10 (8.3%)	65 (53.7%)
Skateboarding parks	26 (21.5%)	12 (9.9%)	12 (9.9%)	6 (5.0%)	3 (2.5%)	62 (51.2%)
Disc golf courses	15 (12.4%)	11 (9.1%)	17 (14.0%)	14 (11.6%)	8 (6.6%)	56 (46.3%)
Off-leash dog parks	16 (13.2%)	10 (8.3%)	15 (12.4%)	14 (11.6%)	9 (7.4%)	57 (47.1%)
Outdoor education facilities	16 (13.2%)	16 (13.2%)	20 (16.5%)	9 (7.4%)	4 (3.3%)	56 (46.3%)
Baseball or softball fields	6 (5.0%)	5 (4.1%)	15 (12.4%)	24 (19.8%)	51 (42.1%)	20 (16.5%)
Soccer fields	14 (11.6%)	11 (9.1%)	13 (10.7%)	13 (10.7%)	10 (8.3%)	60 (49.6%)
Lacrosse fields	27 (22.3%)	16 (13.2%)	3 (2.5%)	1 (0.8%)	3 (2.5%)	71 (58.7%)
Football fields	14 (11.6%)	12 (9.9%)	11 (9.1%)	9 (7.4%)	16 (13.2%)	59 (48.8%)

5. Are there any other types of facilities your agency/organization places high priority on when planning outdoor recreational development?

The highest priorities were placed on new equipment, and city and community owned services such as parks, walking areas, and sport and recreation areas. Other priorities also included upgrades to older resources, and various sports courts.

Please see Appendix D for the list of open-ended answers.

## Section II: Organization and Community Information

1. What is the best description of the park and recreation agency/organization with which you are affiliated?

The first question of the provider’s survey asked what the best description of the park and recreation agency/organization with which respondents were affiliated. 93.4% of survey participants were affiliated with a “local and municipal parks and recreation agency” (N = 128). One research participant (0.7%) was affiliated with a “state agency”, one individual (0.7%) stated “non-profit private organization”, and 5.1% (N = 7) stated “other”.

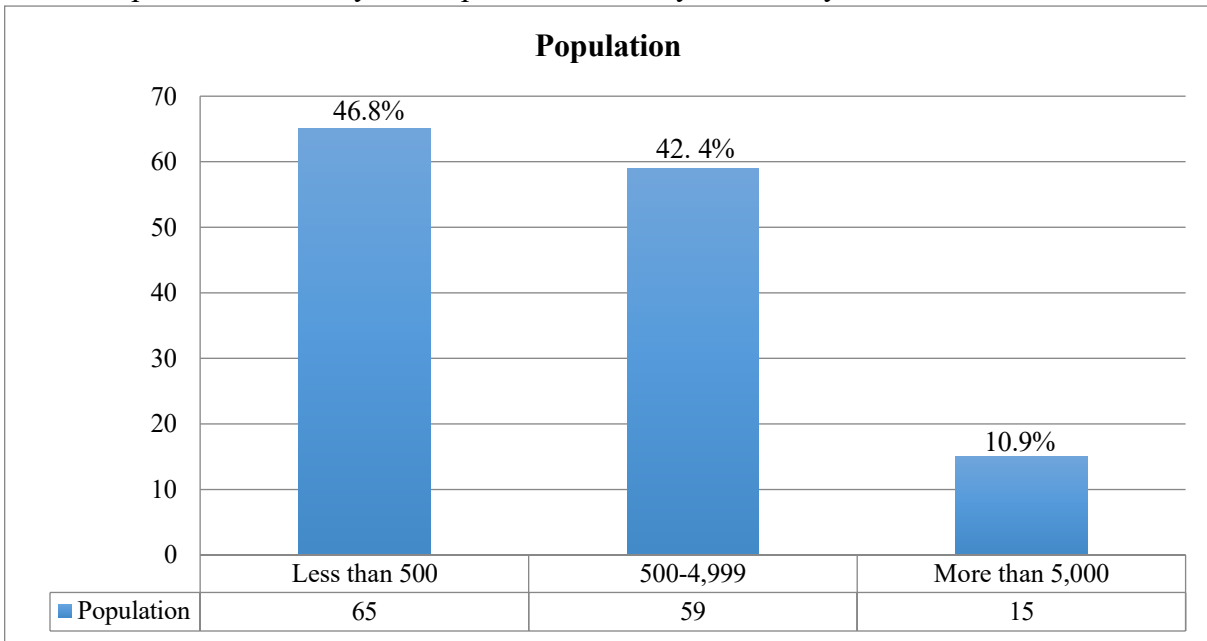
Other affiliation with parks and recreation agencies or organizations came mostly from city funded areas such as parks and municipalities. Some responses mentioned not having a park space in their cities or just having city council or mayor areas

2. What is the population of your town, city or county based on the latest census?

The second question asked for the population size of the city in which providers were providing their services. A total of 139 individuals responded to this question. Below is a graph that shows the responses. 46.8% (N = 65) stated “less than 500”, 42.4% (N = 59) stated “500-4,999”, and 10.9% (N = 15) stated “more than 5,000” (Figure 1-11).



Figure 1-11 Population of Survey Participants: Town, City or Country



3. What is the zip code of your community/municipality/county office?

Please see Appendix D for the list of zip code of community/municipality/county participating the survey.

4. Does your community/municipality/county have a Parks and/or Recreation Department that employs at least one dedicated individual providing park and recreation services?

Approximately 41.5% of the survey respondents (N = 56) reported that their community/municipality/county have at least one dedicated individual providing park and recreation services, while majority (58.5%, N = 79) do not have at least one dedicated individual providing park and recreation services. The survey participants who selected “No” in this question were asked to answer the following question (Question 5) what other unit of city government provides recreation services for the community.

5. If there is not a Parks and/or Recreation Department, is there another unit of city government provides recreation services for the community?

- Yes: 29 (36.3%)
- No: 51 (63.7%)

6. Does your community/municipality/county have a Parks and Recreation Board?

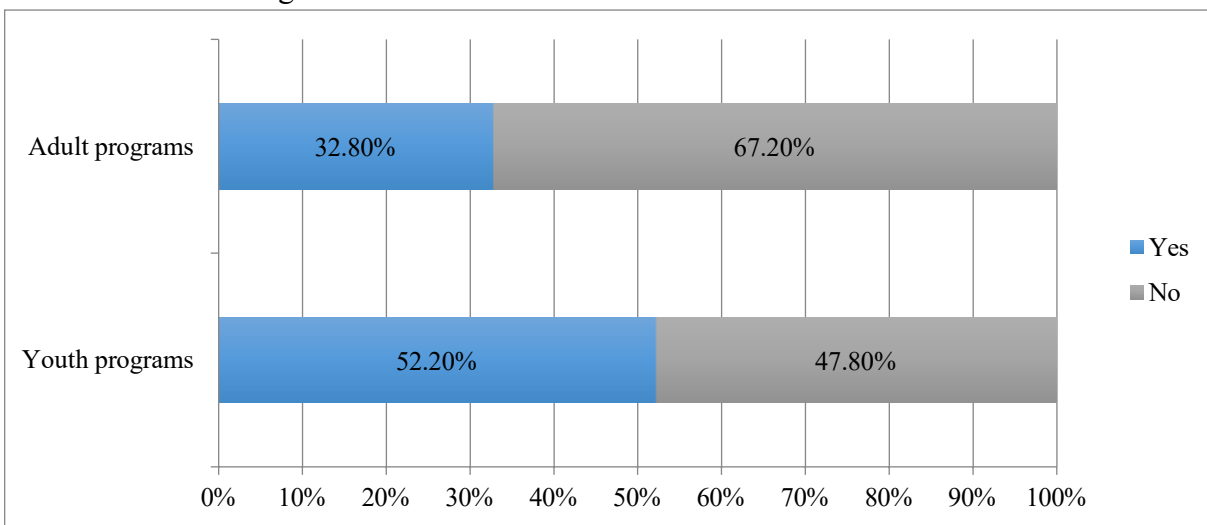
- Yes: 48 (35.3%)
- No: 88 (64.7%)

7. Does the community/municipality/county offer recreation programs for persons 17 years old and younger?  
 8. Does the community/municipality/county offer recreation programs for persons 18 years old and older?

The following two questions were designed to acquire information about adult and youth programs. Figure 1-12 shows percentages:

- Programs for adults “yes” (N = 44) versus “no” (N = 90),
- Programs for youth “yes” (N = 71) versus “no” (N = 65) Figure 1-12 Recreation Programs for Youth and Adults

Figure 1-12 recreation Programs for Youth and Adults



9. Does your community/municipality/county jointly provide park resources with another non-governmental unit? 9a. If yes, please specify organization and what resource/program/service is provided with this partnership.

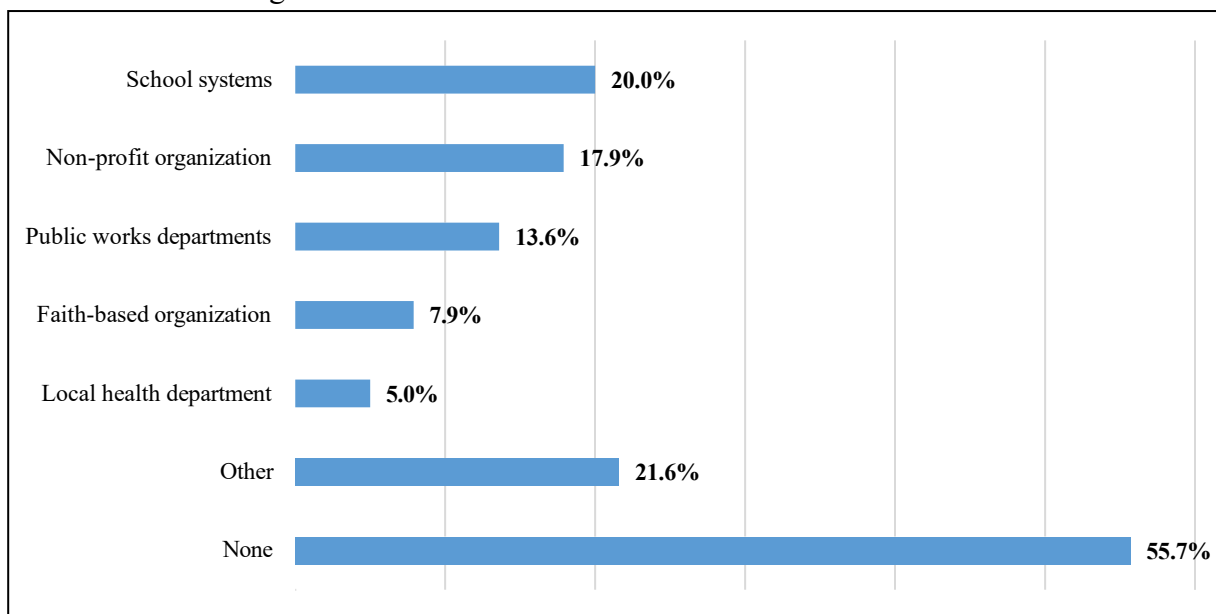
This question was designed to gain insight into the types of partnerships and collaborations that providers utilize to offer programs and services. Figure 1-13 shows percentages. Respondents indicating “Other” were asked to specify. If respondents answered “yes” to any of the following, they were asked to specify the organization and what resource/program/service is provided with the partnership; please see Appendix D for the list of open-ended answers.

- School systems (N = 28)
- Non-profit organizations (N = 25)

- Public works department (N = 25)
- Faith-based organization (N = 11)
- Local health department (N = 7)
- None (N = 78)
- Other (N = 30)
  - Park resources were also provided by the association of the community/municipality/county with non-governmental units such as community organizations and education services, youth groups, American legion, parental provision of sport groups, library and maintenance departments, leagues for various sports and non-profit programs. These have not only provided park resources but have also led to transportation and funding for different recreational programs in some areas.

For respondents who answered yes: The partnerships also included collaborations with multiple community and local agencies and programs. Local services and organizations such as schools, hospitals and sport clubs have also helped for some aspects of providing these services to residents.

Figure 1-13 Resource/Program/Service Collaboration



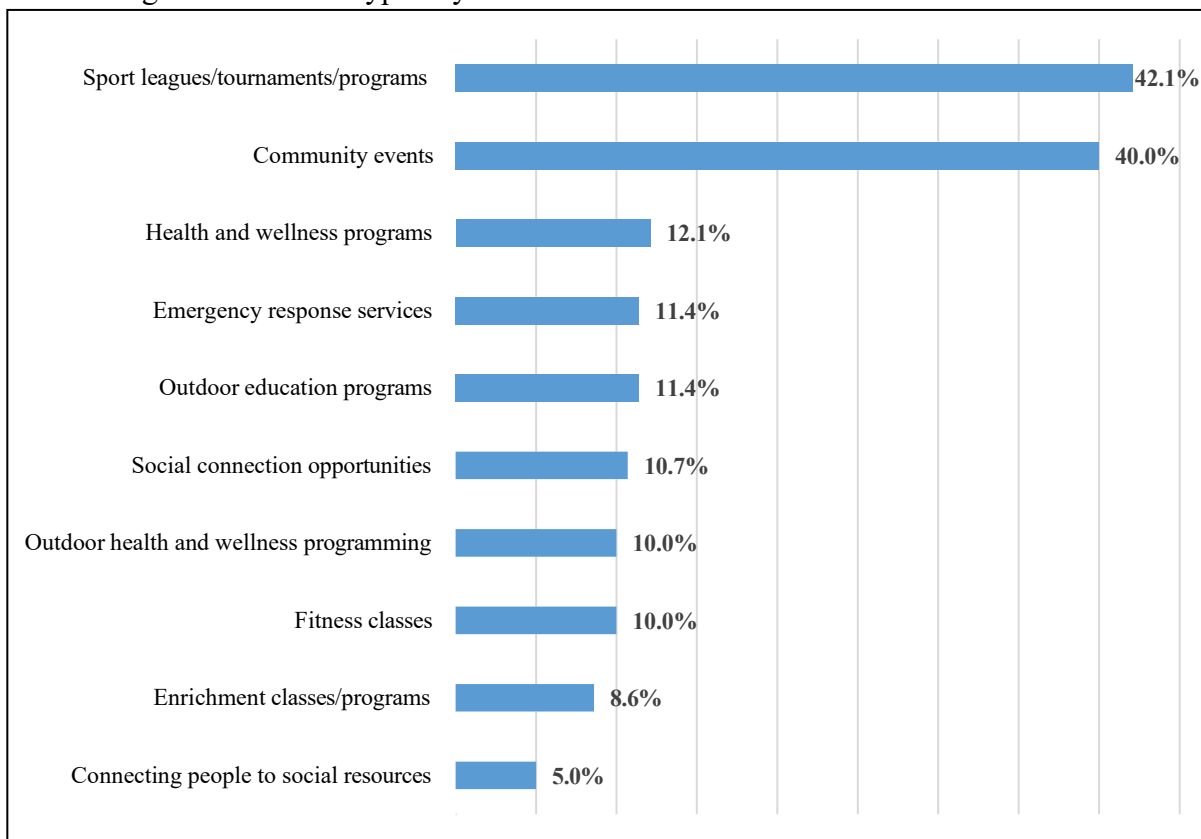
10. What programs/services does your agency typically offer (prior to COVID-19)?

This question was asked to get a sense of what programs/services these providers typically offer to their community (prior to the pandemic). Figure 1-14 shows the percentages. Respondents who indicated “Other” were asked to specify; please see Appendix D for the list of open-ended answers.

- Sports leagues/tournaments/programs (N = 59)
- Community events (N = 56)
- Health and wellness programs (N = 17)

- Emergency response services (N = 16)
- Outdoor education Programs (N = 16)
- Social connection opportunities (N = 15)
- Outdoor health and wellness programming (N = 14)
- Fitness classes (N = 14)
- Enrichment classes/programs (N = 12)
- Connecting people to social resources (N = 7)
- Others: The programs/services that were offered in association with these partnerships also included community halls and centers that provided access to various fitness centers, sports grounds for golf, swimming, etc. general play areas and summer recreational areas.

Figure 1-14 Programs/Services Typically Offered

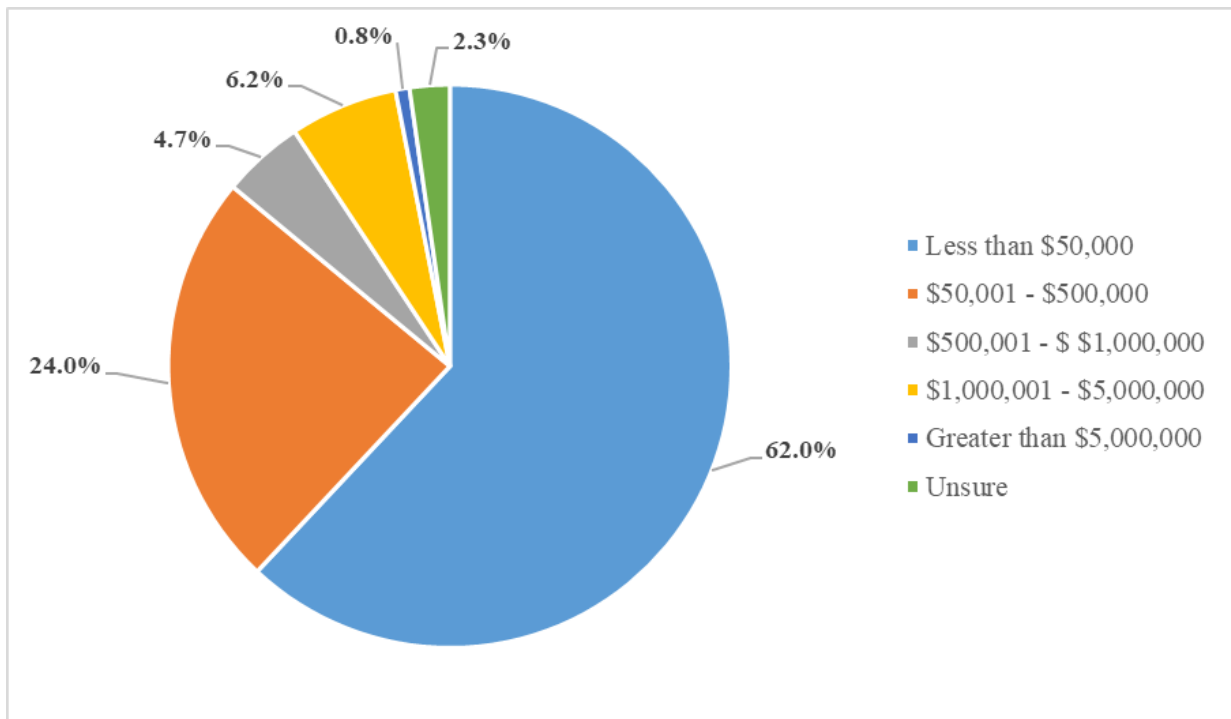


11. What is your organization’s approximate annual parks and recreation budget? This figure should include funds from all sources associated with operating, managing, and maintaining your parks and recreation programs/facilities, and associated capital improvements.

This question was asked to gain a general sense of what the annual operating budgets are for South Dakota’s municipal parks and recreation providers. Percentages can be seen in Figure 1-15.

- Less than \$50,000 (N = 80)
- \$50,001 - \$500,000 (N = 31)
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000 (N = 6)
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000 (N = 8)
- Greater than \$5,000,000 (N = 1)
- Unsure (N = 3)

Figure 1-15 Annual Parks and Recreation Budget



12. Please indicate all the funding sources that currently support your organization.

This question was asked to determine sources of funding that these organizations use to support their programs and services. Municipal budget/taxes were most prevalent, with 80.0% of providers indicating this as at least one of their funding sources. Table 1-21 highlights the other sources of funding.

Most other funding came from the county or in the form of maintenance services from the town. Some responses also stated that no funding was provided.

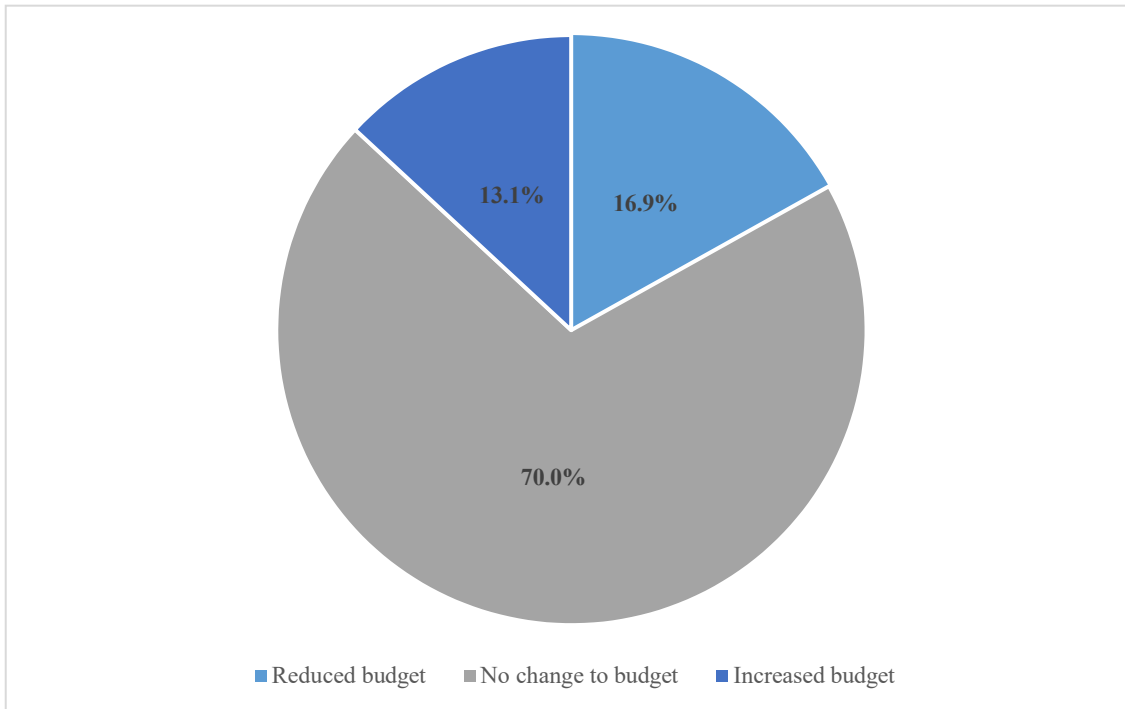
Table 1-21 Funding Sources for Municipal Parks and Recreation in South Dakota

Funding Sources	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Municipal budget/taxes	112	80.0
Donation	52	37.1
Federal grants	32	22.9
Program fees	31	22.1
State or regional grants	30	21.4
License, permit, special use, or event fees	25	17.9
Payment for goods/services	24	17.1
Membership fees	24	17.1
State budget /taxes	22	15.7
Sponsorship	18	12.9
Private foundation grants	16	11.4
Federal budget/taxes	7	5.0

13. During the past three years, most municipalities/counties have experienced parks and recreation budgetary stress. What has your experience been in your community or area of responsibility?

This question was asked to gauge what the state of budgetary stress has been on community recreation providers the past three years. Approximately 70% (N = 91) of survey participants said their organization did not experience a change in budget, while 17% (N = 22) research participants indicated a reduced budget, and 13% (N = 17) experienced an increase in budget. Figure 1-16 highlights percentages.

Figure 1-16 Parks and Recreation Budget Change



13a. If you experienced a reduced or increased budget, what was the approximate percentage of change? 13b. What was the cause of change in budget?

The following is the summary of the open-ended responses. Please see Appendix D for the list of open-ended answers.

- Within the remaining responses, 51% of respondents stated a decreased budget primarily due to COVID-19 that eventually resulted in closure of services or temporarily held off projects. Other reasons included lack of funding, sales taxes and population declination. 49% of these respondents however stated an increased budget due to acquiring grants, increased prices, and upgraded facilities.
- Changes were observed because of COVID-19. Lack of funds, maintaining upkeep on closed off projects and lack of participants during this time led to a reduced budget for some organizations however, for others, this pandemic provided an opportunity to upgrade their resources, acquiring grants, relocate money to save costs, and receive community investments that resulted in an overall increased budget.

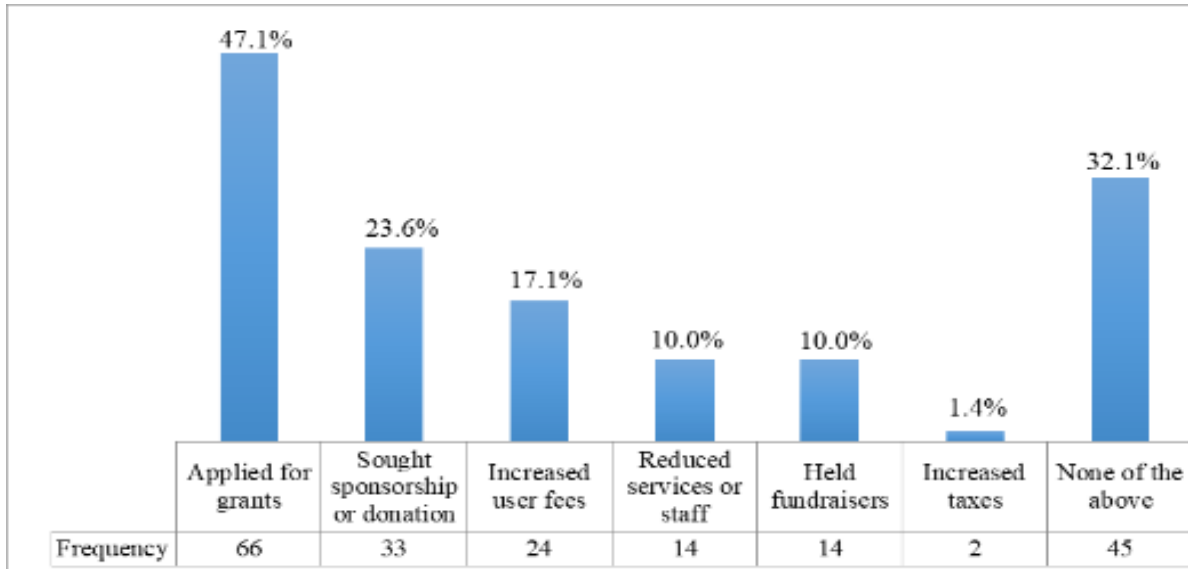
14. Which of the following has your agency/organization done during times of financial shortfall? (Check all that apply)

This question was asked to determine how these providers compensate for the financial shortfall. Figure 1-17 highlights how 47.1% of survey participants indicated that their organization seeks grant funding, while other alternative funding sources included sponsorship or donation, increased user fees, reduced

staff or services, fundraisers, or increased taxes. However, 32.1% of respondents indicated that their organization does not compensate for financial shortfall.

Respondents who indicated “Other” were asked to specify; please see Appendix D for the list of open-ended answers. Agencies/organizations also had to find ways to save funds while simultaneously keeping up with the maintenance of their services during times of financial shortfall.

Figure 1-17 Additional Sources for Financial Shortfall



### Section III: Impacts of COVID-19 on Parks and Recreation

1. Did your agency/organization cancel/postpone/close any programs or facilities due to COVID-19?

This question was used to understand the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on specific facilities/programs. Table 2 highlights how even though approximately 20-30% (apart from playgrounds 66%) of community/senior centers, swimming pools, fitness facilities, special events, sports leagues, and playgrounds remained operating during the pandemic, these facilities/programs were still greatly impacted by closures/cancelations/postponements. Whereas facilities such as camping areas, golf courses, nature areas/open spaces, trails, picnic areas, and splash pads did not experience the same level of closures.

Table 1-22 Facility/Program Impacts of COVID-19

	None	Some	Most	All	N/A
Playgrounds	83 (66.4%)	14 (11.2%)	3 (2.4%)	17 (13.6%)	8 (6.4%)
Camping areas	59 (49.2%)	0	1 (0.8%)	2 (1.7%)	58 (48.3%)
Sports leagues	40 (33.9%)	23 (19.5%)	6 (5.1%)	10 (8.5%)	39 (33.1%)



Special events	33 (27.5%)	29 (24.2%)	12 (10.0%)	12 (10.0%)	34 (28.3%)
Golf courses	42 (36.5%)	4 (3.5%)	0	0	69 (60.0%)
Nature areas/open spaces	64 (55.2%)	3 (2.6%)	0	0	49 (42.2%)
Fitness facilities/rec centers	22 (19.1%)	12 (10.4%)	1 (0.9%)	11 (9.6%)	69 (60.0%)
Trails	57 (49.6%)	1 (0.9%)	0	0	57 (49.6%)
Picnic areas	86 (71.7%)	7 (5.8%)	5 (4.2%)	5 (4.2%)	17 (14.2%)
Swimming pools	40 (33.1%)	10 (8.3%)	1 (0.8%)	18 (14.9%)	52 (43.0%)
Splash pads	22 (19.6%)	3 (2.7%)	0	1 (0.9%)	86 (76.8%)
Enrichment programs	21 (18.8%)	11 (9.8%)	0	2 (1.8%)	78 (69.6%)
Community/senior centers	25 (21.6%)	28 (24.1%)	1 (0.9%)	8 (6.9%)	54 (46.6%)

2. Were there any other outdoor recreation facilities or programs that were canceled/postponed/closed due to COVID-19?

Most outdoor summer sport and recreation programs (e.g., swimming, events, etc.) and tournaments (e.g., baseball, softball, disc golf, etc.) were cancelled due to COVID-19 impacts.

Please see Appendix D for the list of open-ended answers.

3. Did your agency/organization create new park or recreation programs or services in response to COVID-19?

- Yes: 6 (5.0%)
- No: 115 (95.0%)

4. What kind of programming did your agency/organization add in response to COVID-19? (Select all that apply)

This question was asked to get an idea about what kind of programming was added in response to the pandemic. Of the programs and services that were added in response to the pandemic, five participants included outdoor health and wellbeing programming, while both emergency response services and connecting people to social resources through referrals each had two participants indicating such programs. Social connection opportunities for older adults and online gaming/activities were both listed by one participant.

- Outdoor health and wellness programming – N = 5 (3.6%)
- Emergency response services – N = 2 (1.4%)
- Connecting people to social resources through referrals – N = 2 (1.4%)
- Social connection opportunities for older adults – N = 1 (0.7%)
- Online gaming/activities – N = 1 (0.7%)
- Mental health and wellness programming – N = 0
- Virtual health and wellness programs for older adults – N = 0
- Virtual health and wellness programs for youth – N = 0
- Virtual fitness classes – N = 0

5. Does your agency/organization anticipate keeping any of these programs/services post-pandemic?

Of the six organizations that added new programs (Question 4), five said that they plan on keeping these services, while one said that they are unsure.

6. What other impacts, positive and/or negative, has COVID-19 had on your agency/organization’s parks and recreation operations?

There were a lot of other affects due to the pandemic. Most of the negative effects were during the initial period of the pandemic when many of the agencies and organizations were forced to close. During this time, funds were still being spent for the upkeep of the facilities however, due to the lack of participation there was no significant income. Nevertheless, after the gradual opening of the facilities, there was a surge of participants and the increased fees due to all the maintenance and upgrades done during the closure helped bring in increased funds and led to a positive change for various organizations.

Please see Appendix D for the list of open-ended answers.

**Section IV: Challenges in Providing Outdoor Recreation**

1. The following are potential concerns outdoor recreation providers may face. How much of a challenge, if at all, are each of the following concerns? Please indicate the level of challenge/concern for that topic within your organization or community currently, from “Not a challenge (1)” to Major challenge (5)”.

Outdoor recreation providers listed creating new park and recreation facilities as a major concern providers face (M = 3.87). Other major concerns include developing alternative revenue for parks and recreation (M = 3.56), budgeting or allocating funds for operation and management (M= 3.41), recruiting and retaining quality staff and volunteers (M = 3.37), maintaining existing recreation infrastructure or resources (M = 3.87), and enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities on public land (M= 3.35). Providers’ also listed concerns about determining how to use limited resources for various recreation needs from the public and responding to new types of outdoor recreation activities as

moderate to major challenges. On the other hand, South Dakota’s providers’ lowest concern was adapting to serve ethnic minorities (M = 2.04).

Please see the detailed results in Table 1-23.

Table 1-23 Summary of Challenges of Parks and Recreation Providers

Level of Challenge	Not	Slight	Somewhat	Moderate	Major	M	SD
Maintaining existing recreation infrastructure or resources	7 (6.5%)	20 (18.7%)	37 (34.6%)	15 (14.0%)	28 (26.2%)	3.35	1.24
Creating new park and recreation facilities	8 (7.5%)	11 (10.3%)	16 (15.0%)	24 (22.4%)	48 (44.9%)	3.87	1.30
Enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities on public land	16 (15.0%)	15 (14.0%)	24 (22.4%)	24 (22.4%)	28 (26.2%)	3.31	1.39
Collaborating with other government or non-profit organizations for outdoor recreation services	24 (22.4%)	14 (13.1%)	27 (25.2%)	23 (21.5%)	19 (17.8%)	2.99	1.40
Recruiting and retaining quality staff and volunteers	17 (16.0%)	13 (12.3%)	19 (17.9%)	28 (26.4%)	29 (27.4%)	3.37	1.42
Building public awareness of outdoor recreation opportunities in the community or state	23 (21.7%)	15 (14.2%)	29 (27.4%)	28 (26.4%)	11 (10.4%)	2.90	1.30
Advocating the benefits and importance of outdoor recreation related public services	26 (24.5%)	17 (16.0%)	32 (30.2%)	20 (18.9%)	11 (10.4%)	2.75	1.30
Budgeting or allocating funds for operation and management	13 (12.3%)	17 (16.0%)	22 (20.8%)	22 (20.8%)	32 (30.2%)	3.41	1.39
Developing alternative revenue for parks and recreation	10 (9.6%)	12 (11.5%)	24 (23.1%)	26 (25.0%)	32 (30.8%)	3.56	1.30
Responding to new types of outdoor recreation activities	16 (15.5%)	11 (10.7%)	27 (26.2%)	36 (35.0%)	13 (12.6%)	3.18	1.25
Adapting to serve ethnic minorities	46 (44.7%)	24 (23.3%)	20 (19.4%)	9 (8.7%)	4 (3.9%)	2.04	1.16
Adapting to serve aging population	30 (28.8%)	24 (23.1%)	24 (23.1%)	18 (17.3%)	8 (7.7%)	2.52	1.29
Determining how to use limited resources for various recreation needs from the public	14 (13.6%)	13 (12.6%)	26 (25.2%)	29 (28.2%)	21 (20.4%)	3.29	1.30
Providing parks and recreation related facilities/services that meet the needs of people with disabilities	16 (15.1%)	22 (20.8%)	21 (19.8%)	29 (27.4%)	18 (17.0%)	3.10	1.33
Keeping up with technological changes for management (i.e., registration/reservation system)	31 (30.4%)	20 (19.6%)	18 (17.6%)	18 (17.6%)	15 (14.7%)	2.67	1.44
Staying current with social media and technological trends in promotion and marketing	30 (28.6%)	21 (20.0%)	23 (21.9%)	15 (14.3%)	16 (15.2%)	2.68	1.42

Attracting younger generations to participate in outdoor recreation	28 (26.7%)	13 (12.4%)	24 (22.9%)	27 (25.7%)	13 (12.4%)	2.85	1.39
Improving public health and active living through providing outdoor recreation	23 (21.9%)	14 (13.3%)	38 (36.2%)	22 (21.0%)	8 (7.6%)	2.79	1.22
Providing access and opportunities for people with disabilities	19 (17.9%)	16 (15.1%)	28 (26.4%)	27 (25.5%)	16 (15.1%)	3.05	1.32

2. What are other challenges related to parks and recreation that your community faces in planning for the future?

Many of the challenges faced by recreation providers are due to funding aspects. Lack of funds lead to not being able to upgrade or plan any new services or resources. Other reasons are due to environmental restrictions, lack of staff and volunteers, and community support limitations.

Please see the open-ended responses in Appendix D.

3. What else should we consider as we develop the South Dakota outdoor recreation plan for the next five-years?

Aspects to consider for the 5-year recreational plan mainly focused on creating funding and grant opportunities for older and smaller communities, developing and maintaining relationships between larger and smaller communities to provide the possibility of future collaboration for recreation programs, and increasing awareness about the various programs and services that are already available to people.

Please see the open-ended responses in Appendix D.

*Chapter 2:*

*Outdoor Recreation  
Challenges*



South Dakota, as described previously, is a state largely blessed with infinite variety – from the glacial lakes in the northeast, to the central plains and glory of the Missouri River, to the majestic Black Hills in the west. With this variety comes an array of outdoor recreation opportunities. However, in addition to the opportunities, South Dakota is also faced with many challenges. The vastness of the state, with large expanses of sparsely populated areas, hundreds of small towns with declining and aging populations, a society where both parents are working to afford the costs of raising a family, and even Mother Nature and her great range in weather conditions test outdoor recreation providers in their efforts to meet the needs of the state’s residents.

As with any statewide task, recognizing these challenges aids in identifying the ways to improve outdoor recreation opportunities in the state. They charge us to pinpoint the needs and wants of our citizens, while inspiring us to be diligent in focusing on the best and most equitable approaches to outdoor recreation. This list is not meant to point out the faults of the state in any way, as undoubtedly, most states in our region are dealing with similar challenges. Instead, by recognizing the challenges that outdoor recreation participants and providers confront, we are better able to consider these issues and respond appropriately with the right opportunities moving forward.

Following, in no order, are some of the challenges South Dakota has and will continue to evaluate as we develop the strategies to successfully provide outdoor recreation opportunities across the state.

### ***Challenge: Population Shifts***

South Dakota continues to see significant shifts in the population make-ups across our towns, cities and counties. While certain South Dakota counties have seen significant drops in population since 2010, the thirty-three counties that experienced the decrease in population only account for approximately a little over 15% percent of the state’s total population. Conversely, the top seven counties that saw increases in population of over 10% from 2010-2020 make up over 52% of the state’s population. Therefore, the loss of population from largely rural counties is far less than the gains more populous counties, such as Lincoln, Mead, Union and Minnehaha Counties, are seeing.

Options for smaller, rural communities are often limited to focusing on preservation of the most basic and sustainable forms of outdoor recreation by maximizing their resources. It is not surprising, as these communities are trying to hang on to what they have, that over 78% of provider survey respondents indicated their top funding priority as maintaining existing parks, as opposed to building new.

In South Dakota, collaboration with other communities, groups and organizations is typically necessary to achieve even the most basic services in small communities. Over 58% of provider survey respondents indicated their community or county does not have a dedicated individual providing park and recreation services. In most of these cases, communities rely on the public works or maintenance department, or split the parks and recreation responsibilities among various city staff or departments. However, many of these communities also collaborate with local citizens, non-profit organizations or volunteer groups including youth centers, youth groups, school districts, sports associations and other local organizations to meet their needs. These partnerships foster community pride and active volunteers, but often literally

take the entire community's involvement to provide outdoor recreation activities and maintain the community's facilities.

Communities seeing increases in population also have their share of struggles and must be able to invest and react to the increasing demands of a growing and diversifying population. Although these communities might have park and recreation departments or dedicated staff, respondents indicated other challenges in providing outdoor recreation, including:

- Educating the public that investment in outdoor recreation is important and a good use of public funds
- Coordinating with developers
- Finding the time and resources to plan for future park and recreation needs
- Keeping up with the demand for new park and recreation facilities
- Acquiring land for parks and to preserve open space

Another inferred result of the population migration from rural areas to cities, is the request for access to more public land. As South Dakotans move off farms and into large or even small towns, the lack of access to land for hunting and other outdoor recreation activities may increase. Respondents stated that hunting and fishing areas are becoming overcrowded. Respondents also prioritized the acquisition and protection of open space and protecting wildlife and fish habitat, along with acquiring additional land and water areas as being the most important consideration when funding outdoor recreation efforts.

### ***Challenge: Elderly Population***

The elderly segment of South Dakota's population provides both needs and opportunities. Accessible recreational opportunities are needed to sustain a healthy lifestyle. Retirees also provide many opportunities for volunteer programs, especially to encourage recreation with children and grandchildren, as well as mentor programs.

Fifty-five percent of those responding to the public survey indicated they were over the age of 45. Forty-two percent indicated they were over the age of 54. In short, during the duration of this SCORP, these respondents will age into the over 50 and over 60 age groups.

Public Survey participants were asked what other facilities/areas/amenities should be considered when promoting South Dakota's outdoor recreation legacy for the next five years. Based on participants' open-ended responses regarding other facilities/areas/amenities that should be considered in South Dakota, a significant number of survey participants stated that aging was their number one barrier to outdoor recreation. They suggested several ways outdoor recreation providers can better accommodate the aging population's needs. Paved and easier walking trails would allow the aging population to engage in outdoor recreation more. Users also thought programming for different age groups would also be beneficial. Along with more general parking, users expressed the need for more ADA parking by outdoor recreation facilities.

Additionally, respondents asked for more multi-generational experiences. As our population ages, it is more likely that grandparents and other older South Dakotans are more apt to participate in activities

with younger family members or in groups. Over 40% of respondents indicated they typically participate in outdoor activities with family/friends with children or in groups.

***Challenge: Both Parents Working***

South Dakota ranks sixth in the nation for having two working parents with children under the age of 6. This provides challenges for parents to set aside time as a family to participate in recreation or fitness activities. With both parents working, a higher percentage of children may be placed in daycares or after school programs where outdoor and physical activity may be limited or more confined for safety reasons. In addition, more children may be under the care of grandparents or older members of the community, leading to the need for multi-generational activities and programs.

Opportunities exist for recreation providers to offer quality activities geared towards families and provide maximum flexibility for hours and days of availability to the public. Also, recreation providers can locate and market parks and facilities that are closer to daycares, youth centers and schools. This will help to engage kids in both activities that promote fitness and an appreciation of the outdoors.

Due to limited time together, respondents seemed to prioritize more family time and better educational opportunities for children. When asked what else should be considered in the South Dakota outdoor recreation plan for the next five years, respondents asked for more activities that families can participate in together, as well as more family-oriented areas and facilities. In addition, respondents asked for more activities that appealed to children, to try to get them outside and within nature and appealed to the need to get children involved when they are young, as they are the future stewards.

***Challenge: Low Incomes***

Twelve percent of South Dakotans live below 100 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). This number increases significantly in single parent families. Whether below the poverty level or not, survey respondents indicated, through their responses, either their use or the need for lower cost outdoor recreation activities. For example:

- Over 29% of respondents frequented local/municipal parks more than any other option. These community parks and facilities are typically free to use, except for a few activities, such as the swimming pool or organized league play.
- When asked about perceived barriers to outdoor recreation, the most popular constraints for participating included activity fees are too high, admission fees are too high or equipment costs are too high.
- Overall, in the public survey analysis, both residents and nonresidents expressed the need to lower fees for annual park passes and hunting and fishing licenses.
- People also stated that increasing prices are discouraging them from participating in outdoor recreation.
- When asked what should be considered in developing the outdoor recreation plan for the next five years, respondents indicated cost and the need to stop raising prices so the youth can afford to hunt and fish.



Public survey respondents also indicated their need for activities close to home and with low participation cost in how they responded to where and which activities they participate in most frequently.

- Over 68% of respondents enjoy most of their outdoor recreation activities in South Dakota.
- The public survey indicated 119 respondents referenced the importance of parks and green spaces within their communities.
- When asked what other outdoor activities survey respondents participated in, in addition to those specifically listed, the highest response rates for respondents with children included the low-cost options of playing at a playground, picnicking and lawn games.
- The leading trail activities for respondents were walking on paved or natural surface trails.
- The second highest water-based activity was swimming at the beach.
- The highest ranking winter activity was sledding.
- The highest ranking wildlife related activity was shore fishing, with wildlife viewing in 4th and birdwatching in 5th.

***Challenge: High Obesity and Inactivity Rates***

According to the South Dakota State Plan for Nutrition and Physical Activity to Prevent Obesity and Other Chronic Diseases 2015-2020 (PNPA), chronic diseases pose a major health challenge in South Dakota, but many of these diseases and related deaths can be prevented with lifestyle changes, including physical activity and healthy eating. The most recent obesity data from the 2020 South Dakota Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System indicates that 37% of South Dakota (SD) adults are overweight and 33% of SD adults are obese. This statistic puts adult obesity up 9% since the last SCORP. In addition, 22 % of South Dakotans reported no leisure time physical activity or exercise outside of work.

According to the SD Department of Health’s School Height and Weight Report: South Dakota Students 2020-2021 School Year, over 39.2% of South Dakota children and adolescents, ages 5 to 19, are either overweight or obese. This number is up from the 37% reported in the last SCORP. According to the SD Department of Health’s 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, a shocking 72% of youth were not meeting the physical activity guidelines of 60 minutes a day.

Also, according to the PNPA, several disparate populations in South Dakota are disproportionately affected by health issues, including obesity. These disparate populations include those:

- with low socioeconomic status,
- with physical disabilities,
- in rural and underserved locations, and
- Native American populations.

***Challenge: Winter***

South Dakota is known for cold winters. With snow and high winds added to the mix, only 66% of public survey respondents indicated participating in winter outdoor recreation activities. Leading the pack for winter activities are downhill skiing/snowboarding, sledding and ice fishing. The participation

number for ice fishing put this activity in third place, but it was the leader in frequency. Although many of the state's larger communities have indoor ice hockey programs, very few respondents indicated playing hockey outside.

Availability of the resources for outdoor activities varies across the state due to topography, climate and services. The terrain in most areas east of the Black Hills reduces the opportunity for downhill skiing and snowboarding. Likewise, open winters without sufficient snow can limit snowmobiling, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing options. Also, the lack of equipment and, in some cases, instruction can limit how much residents are involved in outdoor winter recreation.

With proof of an aging and somewhat inactive population, the real threats of slippery ice, bitter cold and disorienting snow can reduce outdoor recreation activities and pose a challenge to outdoor recreation activities in the winter.

### ***Challenge: Technology***

The debate over the impact of technology on outdoor recreation activities is likely one that will continue for years to come, with strong cases on both sides of the line. One can argue the increased use of computers, video games, and other technology has come at the expense of leisure time available for outdoor recreation or physical activity, especially among our youth who may spend hours a day gaming, participating in social media or watching TV. On the other hand, the craze of Pokémon Go sent thousands of players into the great outdoors in search of imaginary creatures.

When asked why they participate in outdoor recreation, over 40% of participants reported they participated to experience peace/tranquility or for relaxation, while just 40% indicated they participated in outdoor recreation to escape their daily routine. However, when driving through most campgrounds in South Dakota, you will likely see RVs with more technology inside and out than some South Dakota homes. Undoubtedly, the age-old debate between primitive camping and full hook-ups with WIFI will continue. Likewise, discussions on trail cameras and the use of other such equipment in hunting and depth finders and the like in fishing will be ongoing.

The challenge surrounding technology, therefore, may best be described as figuring out where technology fits into outdoor recreation opportunities. The answers to how technology can be used to attract people into the great outdoors and where the use of technology should be limited will likely continue to change as quickly as technology itself.

### ***Challenge: Fears of the Outdoors***

Sensationalized accounts of rare incidents, crimes and injuries that can occur while recreating outdoors have fostered a form of fear that often precludes individuals, families, and children from partaking in outdoor activities. The reality is that obesity and other health risks from too little physical activity is likely a greater risk than most encountered in the outdoors. At the same time, fear of the outdoors creates a society of misunderstanding and low appreciation for the natural environment.

Although outdoor safety should continue to be of utmost importance as we design for and provide outdoor recreation, the biggest challenge surrounding the fear of the outdoors will be to reach out to those unfamiliar with the outdoors and help educate them on the opportunities. In addition, providing classes and mentors with the skills to introduce new participants to outdoor recreation in a safe and inviting manner will be a challenge for agencies and communities to continue with the generations to come.

### ***Challenge: Universal Accessibility***

Often referred to as ADA accessibility, the challenge of universal accessibility or the concept of providing opportunities for the largest segment of our communities is always in need of solutions, especially as we provide outdoor recreation opportunities. When public survey respondents answered the question on what can be done to improve their ability to engage in outdoor recreation activities, a wide array of ideas was put forth, including the need for:

- More wheelchair accessible boat ramps and fishing docks, as well as shore fishing areas
- A review of regulations regarding crossbows and ATV use in hunting, as well as special seasons
- More accessible camping cabins and campsites, but also improved surfaces in the campgrounds and lighting to assist with moving around safely at night
- More accessible trails, including seating areas or places to rest
- Improvements to restrooms and parking areas, especially at boat ramps, docks and other outdoor recreation facilities
- Increased programming for people with disabilities or the inclusion of more staff to assist with current programs. Ideas ranged from kayaking to activities at ranger stations.

Some of the challenges surrounding accessibility often come merely with the definition. Often, the first thought goes to a person in a wheelchair or other mobility aid device, when our survey respondents replied that old age was their number one barrier to outdoor recreation. In other cases, outdoor recreationalists may include someone with a broken arm, someone who uses a walker, or a child with a sight or hearing impairment. Providing access to the largest segment of our community is the challenge to consider as we look at all our outdoor recreation opportunities and facilities.

### ***Challenge: Time***

Although listed here separately, time is a challenge that likely overlaps several other if not all other challenges. When asked about perceived barriers to outdoor recreation, lack of time was identified as the main hurdle by the public survey participants. In families where both parents work, there is a struggle to find time with family, let alone to spend that time recreating outdoors.

Likewise, outdoor recreation providers identified finding time and resources to plan for future park and recreation needs as a challenge. However, time is an underlying factor in many of the other challenges, such as finding enough people ‘with the time’ to volunteer to help with projects or finding ‘the time’ to identify and pursue funding opportunities or ‘the time’ to educate the public and city officials on the importance of outdoor recreation facilities.

Regardless of the viewpoint, considering time as a key factor in the strategies for providing outdoor recreation opportunities is a must.

***Challenge: The Need for More***

This challenge combines several items, identified by public survey participants, which fit into a common theme of needing more. When asked about barriers to outdoor recreation, participants indicated overcrowding as a barrier with campsites hard to book, fishing and hunting areas becoming more crowded and the desire for more programming for outdoor recreation as examples of areas that need more. When asked if there is a need for more facilities, participants responses indicated a need for more hunting areas, shooting ranges, nature areas, fishing areas, archery ranges, trails and campgrounds, to name a few. When asked about the most important considerations for funding, two of the top four answers focused on the need for more, including the need to acquire and protect open space and acquire additional land and water areas, while several other considerations infer the need for more protection of wildlife and fish habitat and more maintenance of existing park and recreation areas.

The need for more rises to the top in other responses and categories, as well. This plan has already identified the need for more family-oriented areas and facilities, the need for more public hunting and access areas, and the need for more boat ramps and docks, to name a few. In addition, more trails come to the top of many respondents' list, including everything from more cross-country ski trails to more ATV trails, to more walking trails. The need for more diverse recreational opportunities also came to light, such as more rock climbing and zip lining opportunities, more pickleball courts and more geocaching opportunities in parks.

When considering the facilities/areas/amenities that should be used to promote South Dakota's outdoor recreation legacy for the next five years, 180 users discussed camping, making it the most common answer among respondents. As has been previously mentioned, the need for additional campsites throughout the state was expressed. Additionally, respondents commented on the difficulty of finding available campsites if you are unable to reserve early within the 90-day window. Hunting and fishing were two other common responses from survey participants.

To show that providers are making strides towards the public demand for more, a comparison table in the public survey report indicates a drop in requests for more hunting areas, pistol/rifle ranges and shotgun ranges. The table shows a 17%-21% decrease in public demand, although there remains a strong 28%-31% request for more. Since 2012, facility development has increased across the state for public shooting ranges (like the new range in Watertown) and access to leased hunting land for public hunting has been expanded through programs like CREP in the James River and Big Sioux River watersheds.

Regardless of what exactly the 'more' is describing, survey participants tend to respond with 'we need more...', rather than 'we need less...'.

***Challenge: Communication***

As with almost any topic, decision, workplace or family issue, communication is at the heart of many outdoor recreation challenges. A lack of awareness as a barrier to outdoor recreation was indicated by 29% of respondents. Some of the challenges relative to communication are expected and often easily fixed with more or improved communication efforts or the use of a different medium. Other communication challenges are more difficult to resolve and may require different approaches to achieve a good resolution.

When asked about barriers to outdoor recreation, survey respondents stated they would like to see more information regarding programs and events posted on easily accessible mediums like social media. Others suggested updating websites to make it easier to navigate and find specific information. Likewise, when asked what should be considered for outdoor recreation for the next five years, respondents suggested that outdoor recreation providers offer more information about different outdoor recreation activities, that providers publicize events more online and create more user-friendly websites to find information about different events and activities. Other respondents offered encouragement for items like more updated maps and better signage.

As mentioned above there are some other communication items that take a different approach to resolve an issue. In numerous cases, improved communication can possibly eliminate the need for other actions. For example, there may not be a need for more ADA accessible campsites or cabins, but there may be a need to communicate how many and where ADA accessible campsites and cabins are located across the state. Some respondents indicated difficulties in accomplishing certain tasks, such as booking a campsite or purchasing a license. In addition to improving a website, some form of education or how-to communication may also help in this case.

Although it may not be an obvious location to some, the communication challenge may also be a good place to house the challenge of differing viewpoints and perspectives. Several of these items were apparent in the survey responses:

- Full hook up vs. primitive campsites
- More ATV trails vs. no off-road vehicles
- Resident vs nonresident rules, regulations and fees
- Advance vs. same day reservations

Communication covers the challenges of discussion, education, interpretation, promotion, balance, perspective, priorities, planning and many other topics beyond websites and event announcements. Often, the challenge is using the right communication tool to accomplish the goal or resolve the task.

***Challenge: Priorities and Funding***

Identifying priorities and finding funding are often two tasks that go hand in hand. Although provider responses to the survey communicated loud and clear that funding outdoor recreation is their top challenge, deciding what aspect of outdoor recreation gets the limited funds is almost as difficult.

When the public was asked what they perceived as the most important consideration for funding, their ranking was as follows:

1. Protect wildlife and fish habitat (53%)
2. Maintain existing park and recreation areas (47.8%)
3. Acquire and protect open space (34.9%)
4. Provide environmental and conservation programs (24.5%)
5. Acquire additional land and water areas (22.2%)

However, when providers were asked their top consideration when it came to funding, it was split between (1 & 2) with a response over 70%.

Tables within chapter one and included in the public survey show the Need More and Need for Improvement lists, respectively, as identified by public survey respondents. The Need More list is topped with hunting areas, pistol/rifle shooting ranges, shotgun shooting ranges and nature areas/open spaces. From the other perspective, respondents to the provider survey list playgrounds, swimming pools, basketball or softball fields and paved walking/biking trails as their top four priorities for investing funds. However, one needs to remember that most providers responding are affiliated with local and municipal parks (93.4%).

Regardless of the priorities for any given location or type of park, the level of funding is one of the top challenges. In responding to questions on their budget, 17% of providers indicated a reduced budget, with 70% experience no change in budget. With essentially 87% of providers in a reduced budget situation, park and recreation providers rank their top challenges as maintaining existing recreation infrastructure or resources, creating new parks and recreation facilities, recruiting and retaining quality staff and volunteers, allocating funds for operation and management, and developing alternative revenue sources,

Other provider funding challenges, not previously discussed in this plan include:

- Replacing versus repairing
- Funding existing and creating new facilities
- Not enough revenue to help maintain the parks
- Finding funding for smaller communities
- Meeting resident expectations on a small-town budget
- Increase funding opportunities
- Making it easier to get grant funds

### ***Challenge: COVID-19***

The COVID-19 pandemic brought about major changes to when, where, how and why people participated in outdoor recreation. About half (49.1%) of the respondents went to state parks/recreation areas to participate in outdoor recreation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Local parks/trails (38.0%) and backyards (35.0%) were also popular areas for outdoor recreation participation. Only 12.8% indicated they stayed at home and did not participate in outdoor recreation activities.

This almost overnight explosion of people seeking outdoor recreation put major strains on some already weak budgets and staffing. Fifty-one percent of recreation provider respondents stated a decreased budget primarily due to COVID-19 that eventually resulted in closure of services or temporarily held off projects.

Changes were observed because of COVID-19. Lack of funds, maintaining upkeep on closed off projects and lack of participants during this time led to a reduced budget for some organizations however, for others, this pandemic provided an opportunity to upgrade their resources, acquiring grants, relocate money to save costs, and receive community investments that resulted in an overall increased budget.

While this change happened immediately in 2020, current use has somewhat dispersed back to pre-COVID levels. Careful consideration had to be made on whether to ramp-up services, opportunities and staffing to handle the COVID-19 pandemic-fueled thirst for outdoor recreation. As some providers expected, the high levels of people looking for alternatives to their typical recreational activities slowly reverted to pre-COVID levels with over 85% of respondents indicating this change.

*Chapter 3:*

*Outdoor Recreation  
Strategies*





As mentioned in the previous chapter, the list of challenges can be daunting. However, as South Dakota looks to the future, outdoor recreation providers need to consider these challenges to be successful in meeting the state's needs. The following chapter recognizes these challenges and identifies the strategies necessary to move the state's outdoor recreation opportunities forward, not only for the next five years, but for future generations, as well.

It is important to remember that although prepared by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP), this is not a plan for GFP or the Forest Service or the National Park Service or any other provider to accomplish alone, nor can it be. It will take municipalities, counties, agencies, organizations and private providers working together to bring this plan to life. One of the most important concepts to glean from the challenges in the previous chapter is the diversity of the challenges. Likewise, it will take a diverse group of providers to overcome the challenges.

Often, providers may think they need to be everything to everyone, when the key to a successful SCORP may be recognizing which provider has the best opportunity to be the most effective with certain strategies. If the Forest Service is already successful in providing OHV/ATV trails, then perhaps there isn't a need for the Bureau of Reclamation to try to do the same thing. Likewise, cities and counties have an opportunity to collaborate with developers to acquire property and set aside park land as communities grow, where the Forest Service may not. In turn, GFP may have the staff, technical expertise, access to land and water, and the partnerships to improve fish and wildlife habitat on a large scale, where communities and counties may not. Likewise, private providers have the option of delivering a variety of opportunities, that due to policy, regulations or even public perception, state or federal agencies may not be able to accomplish.

In short, one provider doesn't need to have all the pieces, but if each provider joins in the process with their own one or two pieces – it is possible to complete the entire statewide puzzle.

Before delving into the strategies, it is important to revisit what this plan means for the state of South Dakota. This is the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

*Statewide:* This plan covers from North Sioux City, Union County, to Ladner, Harding County, and from Ardmore, Fall River County, to White Rock, Roberts County, and every community and county in between. Whether the outdoor recreation opportunity occurs in Sioux Falls, population 192,517 or Hillsview, population 2, or any city, town or burg in between, this plan should include something that applies to all areas of the state. Likewise, if you are one of the 917 people that live in Jones County or the 197,214 people that live in Minnehaha County, you should be covered. Whether you live in one of the fastest growing suburbs in Lincoln County or on the prairie in the middle of Perkins County you, too, should be covered by this plan.

*Comprehensive:* This plan covers all types of outdoor recreation providers in the state, including municipal, county, state, federal, tribal and private providers. City, county and tribal parks, campgrounds and ballfields; State Parks and Recreation Areas; State School and Public Lands; National Parks; Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs; National Forests and Grasslands; National Fish and Wildlife areas; Corps of

Engineers properties; as well as private ski resorts, golf courses, country clubs, snowmobile renters and guides, fishing and hunting guides and all other providers of outdoor recreation should benefit from the information in this SCORP and should use it as a planning tool moving forward. But this plan reaches beyond the easily apparent providers of outdoor recreation to those entities, agencies and businesses who may not be as obvious, but are critical to the state's outdoor recreation opportunities, including schools, rehabilitation and health care centers, daycare facilities, colleges and universities, boys and girls clubs, other state and tribal agencies, such as the Departments of Health and Agriculture, and the many other agencies and organizations that encourage, teach and promote the benefits of outdoor recreation. The list of people covered by this plan would also not be complete without the numerous local, state and national organizations and partners, including rodeo and horse trail riding clubs, various biking and mountain biking organization, fishing and hunting clubs and organizations, shooting clubs and ranges, rock climbing groups, bird watching clubs, conservation and habitat groups and the hundreds of other organizations that mentor future generations, fund projects, maintain habitat and dedicate their time and efforts to insure outdoor recreation stays at the forefront of our South Dakota heritage.

*Outdoor Recreation:* As numerous as the people, places and organizations covered in this plan, so are the types of outdoor recreation. Even though there are many outdoor recreational activities listed in Chapter One, this plan is just the tip of the iceberg. However, although every type of recreation doesn't appear in print in this SCORP, the participants responded and their priorities, barriers, participation levels, comments and ideas appear in the statistics of the report and are included in the complete 2022 South Dakota SCORP Outdoor Recreation Public Survey Report prepared by SDSU.

*Plan:* As the name implies, this document doesn't identify specific projects. It is not a set of construction documents. It doesn't include specifications or step by step instructions, nor is it a mandated call to action. It is a plan, a tool, a course of action. Plan: a method of acting, doing, proceeding, developed in advance. Plan: a written account of intended future course of action aimed at achieving specific goals or objectives. Plan: a method of achieving something that you have worked out in detail beforehand. Although the definition varies slightly from dictionary to dictionary, the intent is consistent. This plan provides the method needed for South Dakota to continue to meet the outdoor recreation needs and provide future opportunities for South Dakotans. It is the road map that will guide us through the next five years.

The following strategies are a guide for the state of South Dakota's outdoor recreation providers and their cooperative partners and programs, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund. These strategies are established to address the challenges faced by the outdoor recreation providers in the state of South Dakota and to offer a plan to accomplish the goal of providing outdoor recreation opportunities, while encouraging healthy lifestyles and protecting the natural environment.

**Strategy #1 – Provide and promote year-round, diverse outdoor recreation opportunities for South Dakotans of all ages, interests, economic status and ability.**

- Develop additional diverse outdoor recreational facilities and renovate/replace existing ones to meet current demands.
  - Continue to identify the facilities desired by people who recreate outdoors in South Dakota and provide a diverse range of traditional and new and emerging activities, including trails (to work and school, mountain biking, cross country skiing and UTV/ATV), rock climbing, zip lining, pickle ball courts, archery and shooting ranges, as well as more areas for fishing, hunting and exploring of open space.
  - Identify funding to renovate and replace existing structures, such as pools, playground equipment and playfields, especially in small towns.
  - Develop more amenities for water activities, including updating boat docks and ramps, creating urban fishing opportunities, improving access points and trails for kayaking and canoeing and updating beach facilities.
  - Provide options for people that chose to recreate with pets and develop/manage facilities to decrease conflict between folks with and without pets.
- Meet the public’s diverse outdoor recreation desires through collaboration among providers, maximizing staff talents and time, and incorporating volunteers.
  - Seek people in the community who have the backgrounds with different outdoor recreation activities to share their experiences through educational opportunities.
  - Identify persons and organizations with shared goals and services to create collaborative programs that share resources.
  - Co-host programs and events with both public and private entities, such as schools, communities, federal agencies, state departments, YMCA/YWCAs, clubs, organizations, private businesses and others to maximize outreach and opportunity.
- Provide more universally accessible outdoor recreation facilities and opportunities.
  - Reduce the impacts of aging and disabilities as barriers to outdoor recreation by providing opportunities and facilities suitable for the aging and those participants in outdoor recreation with disabilities. These facilities and opportunities may include wheelchair accessible boat ramps and docks, accessible shore fishing and hunting areas/opportunities, accessible camping cabins/camp pads and campground facilities, and accessible trails, seating areas, kayaking and parking areas.
  - Identify and provide more programming for outdoor recreation enthusiasts with disabilities or physical limitations.
  - Evaluate and modify regulations and policies, as needed, to improve accessibility to outdoor recreation opportunities, such as regulations regarding crossbows, the use of ATVs and special seasons.
  - Conduct annual reviews of outdoor recreation facilities, involving persons with varying abilities, to identify potential hazards, barriers and opportunities for participants in outdoor recreation activities.

- Design and construct outdoor recreation facilities for varying ages, mobility and ability levels, especially playgrounds, trails and the like, so that multiple age and mobility groups can enjoy the experience.
- Identify and promote outdoor recreation activities that can be enjoyed in the shoulder seasons and winter.
  - Provide educational and equipment rental opportunities for adults and children to learn more about winter activities including ice fishing, snowshoeing, cross country skiing and other low-cost outdoor winter activities.
  - Collaborate with clubs and winter sport organizations to mentor and introduce citizens to winter activities, including instruction on proper outfitting, safety, equipment and training.
  - Provide safe opportunities for youth, elderly and citizens with disabilities to continue to recreate outdoors in the winter, including snow removal ordinances on sidewalks and maintaining trails for winter use.
  - Identify overnight lodging opportunities that can be packaged with activities.
- Increase the number of activities suitable for busy and working families, youth and the elderly.
  - Develop programming and activities that provide opportunities for mentors, grandparents and staff to teach youth about specific outdoor recreation activities, when parents may not be available for activities.
  - Explore programming at diverse times and days of the week to accommodate the schedules of busy and working families.
  - Locate park and recreation facilities and outdoor recreation opportunities near daycares, senior centers and family-centered neighborhoods and fill the areas in the state where there are gaps in recreation opportunities.
  - Concentrate family-oriented activities in high family use times, so limited family time can be spent recreating together.
  - Provide a wide range of activities to cover an array of age and ability levels.
  - Select specific activities that appeal to children to try to get youth interested in being outside and with nature, to develop the state's stewards of the future.
- Develop and provide outdoor recreation opportunities that can be enjoyed with minimal financial investment.
  - Provide park and recreation areas so that every South Dakotan has an outdoor recreation activity within a half mile of where they live or, at a minimum, access to an outdoor recreation activity.
  - Seek funding and equipment opportunities to keep costs for equipment or access as low as possible.
  - Provide outdoor recreation equipment that can be borrowed or rented for a minimum fee.
  - Evaluate and set fees to provide for equitable use whenever possible.
  - Promote the use of community parks and open spaces, public land and other low-cost opportunities.

- Collaborate with partners and other outdoor recreation providers to share resources and keep costs to a minimum.
- Continue to research and analyze information about South Dakotan’s needs and demands for outdoor recreation.
  - Provide additional opportunities for citizens to communicate their thoughts, through targeted surveys, comment cards, social media, public involvement and visiting with people one on one during park and recreation activities.
  - Utilize research conducted by other agencies, including the National Park and Recreation Association, the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals, the National Association of State Park Directors, the National Center for Disease Control, the Outdoor Industry Association, the South Dakota Department of Health and the South Dakota Office of Tourism.
  - Involve researchers to assist in research design, implementation and analyzing data, including South Dakota university researchers and students.
  - Use the SCORP as an excellent base for research and conduct ongoing research throughout not only the year of the SCORP update, but the five years between SCORP updates.
  - Conduct research and utilize existing research to keep outdoor recreation professionals on the right track, which is especially critical when funding is limited.

Priorities ranked **HIGH** for local and state LWCF projects pertinent to this strategy:

- Projects that provide for universal access to outdoor recreation opportunities when the availability of other federal matching fund programs is not possible or practical.
- Land purchases for parks and recreation areas near underserved communities, the youth, the aging population and other gaps in opportunities across the state.
- Opportunities to develop diverse outdoor recreation opportunities, including new and emerging activities, as well as traditional South Dakota activities.
- Projects that provide facilities and opportunities at affordable costs and encourage family-oriented recreation.

**Strategy #2 – Maintain and improve existing park and recreation areas, open spaces and facilities for outdoor recreation opportunities.**

- Continually evaluate existing parks, facilities and services regarding maintenance needs, safety standards and ways to better protect the environment.
  - Encourage cities, counties, state and federal agencies to build and maintain GIS inventories and asset management programs to continually evaluate maintenance needs and schedule preventative maintenance projects to maintain existing outdoor recreation properties and facilities.
  - Promote long range planning for open space and park and recreation areas to help identify, scope and design projects far in advance of when the projects are needed, to assist in fund identification, allocation and budgeting.
  - Continue to develop partnerships between federal, state, county and municipal agencies, as well as private and non-profit groups, to maintain and manage open space and park and recreation areas, including facilities, habitat, plant and animal species, and historical and cultural resources.
  - Identify additional funding sources that can be used to maintain existing open space, parks and facilities.
  - Develop alternative revenue streams for parks and recreation to aid in funding maintenance and operations.
  - Advance preventative maintenance plans and programs to prolong the life of outdoor recreation facilities and more effectively use limited outdoor recreation funds.
  - Invest resources into aging infrastructure, public facilities and support facilities that are needed to maintain at least minimum standards.
  
- Recruit and retain quality staff and volunteers.
  - Promote ongoing training to teach staff about preventative maintenance approaches and safe management of parks and open spaces.
  - Assist with and promote programs with colleges and universities that offer park management, park and recreation administration, habitat management, fish and wildlife biology, landscape design/architecture and other programs that develop future open space and park and recreation staff.
  - Improve staff and volunteer programs, including training, volunteer housing and other benefits, to solicit and retain quality volunteers and staff.
  
- Be vigilant against potential threats, including fires, floods, pollution, infestations, over- use and abuse of outdoor recreation lands.
  - Continue to train staff in controlled burning and firefighting methods and coordinate with appropriate agencies, as needed.
  - Research common and alternative methods for land management and protection.
  - Continue to monitor small head dams.
  - Collaborate amongst agencies to fight insect infestations, including the pine beetle, Emerald Ash Borer and others.

- Monitor and act in areas where there is over-use and/or abuse of the land, such as compaction on trails, erosion and other negative impacts to park lands and waters.

Priorities ranked **HIGH** for local and state LWCF projects pertinent to this strategy:

- Projects that maintain, improve or update existing outdoor recreation facilities, when the availability of other federal matching fund programs is not possible or practical. Projects may include playgrounds, sports courts and fields, trails and tracks, swimming pools and other renovated facilities. Maintenance is defined as a major maintenance activity to prolong the life of an existing facility that might otherwise be deemed unusable.
- Projects that improve or update an existing facility to increase participation in an outdoor recreation activity.
- Outdoor learning centers and interpretive facilities that educate the public on open space management, threats to outdoor recreation resources and maintenance and care of land, water, historical and cultural resources.

**Strategy #3 – Acquire and protect South Dakota’s open space and natural resources for future outdoor recreation opportunities.**

- Acquire property for open space and park and recreation opportunities in locations that are in areas of or have a high likelihood for future development.
  - Develop policies and planning guidelines to require open space to be preserved and park and recreation areas to be reserved in community and regional development plans, especially in high growth areas.
  - Seek and develop funding opportunities for the purchase of open space and park land, including park and open space development fees or land donations, endowments, grants and other funding generators designed for this purpose.
  - Provide guidelines for establishing park lands in new developments.
- Identify and acquire properties to conserve and protect the state’s natural resources, especially those that are unique and in need of preservation due to plant and animal species or geological, soil or water features.
  - Evaluate areas with unique features in need of protection and determine the best course of action to achieve protection, including acquisition, management or other preservation techniques.
  - Conduct plant and animal species inventories to identify the presence of rare and endangered species.
  - Seek funding or partnerships for land acquisition and protection.
- Identify and acquire properties to meet the state’s recreation needs, especially near urban areas or areas where there are significant gaps between recreation opportunities.
  - Complete a statewide GIS inventory of park facilities.

- Determine areas in the state where there are significant gaps in outdoor recreation opportunities, where South Dakotans live more than ½ mile from a park or do not have reasonable access to a park, community center or outdoor recreation facility
  - Acquire property or management rights for properties where outdoor recreation opportunities may be introduced to fill the gap.
- Evaluate and acquire properties or establish easements adjacent to park lands to properly protect and manage existing parks.
    - Identify parks at risk from encroachment through urbanization, housing and commercial development.
    - Seek funding to purchase land that is at risk.
    - Work with willing landowners on management rights or easements.
  - Take immediate measures to protect highly sensitive historical, cultural and archeological resources through acquisition or cooperative management alternatives.
    - Assess lands that have valuable historical, cultural and archaeological findings and seek ways to protect them.
    - Implement management practices on existing park lands to preserve and protect historical, cultural and archaeological resources.
  - Continue to form partnerships and collaborate amongst municipalities, counties, tribes, state and federal agencies, private providers, South Dakota landowners and organizations to acquire and protect South Dakota’s open space and natural resources.
  - Identify opportunities to eliminate local, state and national funding limitations and policies that negatively impact the ability of outdoor recreation providers to acquire properties and hire staff to properly manage the properties.

Priorities ranked **HIGH** for local and state LWCF projects pertinent to this strategy:

- Land acquisitions for park areas and open space in areas subject to encroachment by development, either in areas of new growth or areas adjacent to existing parks and outdoor recreation areas.
- Land acquisition in areas where populations are underserved and there are gaps in public open space and outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Land acquisitions where immediate action is needed to protect the state’s natural, cultural or archeological resources



**Strategy #4 – Protect and improve the state’s fish and wildlife habitat for outdoor recreation opportunities.**

- Manage fish and wildlife habitat to optimize outdoor recreation opportunities within social, fiscal and biological constraints.
  - Utilize partnerships between public and private landowners, land managers and wildlife-focused organizations to acquire areas with existing habitat or potential to improve fish, wildlife and associated habitat.
  - Identify and acquire or secure management of areas important for fish and wildlife habitat.
  - Develop funding resources or partnerships to aid in the acquisition or management of areas vital for fish and wildlife habitat.
  - Work with private landowners to encourage placement of land into management agreements, conservation easements, endowments, trusts or other such programs to protect habitat for future generations.
  
- Continue to increase land conservation and improve wildlife and fish habitat.
  - Improve pheasant and other wildlife and fish habitat for both conservation and hunting and fishing opportunities.
  - Conserve and maintain prairie and grasslands.
  - Collaborate and develop partnerships and promote involvement in organizations that educate, assist with and develop conservation and habitat development.
  
- Manage properties to protect and improve fish and wildlife habitat.
  - Continue to refine and follow statewide species and habitat management plans.
  - Educate private and public landowners on the management of property to maintain and improve fish and wildlife habitat.
  - Educate public and private landowners on the value of pollinator plots and continue to expand the acreage of pollinator plots across the state.
  - Increase or maintain private landowner participation in conservation programs.
  - Manage noxious weeds, invasive species, and woody encroachment to reduce impacts on desired habitats.
  - Identify priority habitats, including both intact native communities and non-native habitats, for enhanced conservation, restoration, and management activities.
  - Promote collaboration with conservation partners and universities to leverage funding for research, inventory, restoration and management activities.
  - Continue to identify and develop funding opportunities for habitat management and protection.
  
- Improve and increase public access to fish and wildlife related outdoor recreation opportunities.
  - Provide family fishing/hunting and introductory and advanced fishing/hunting clinics and coordinate fishing and hunting opportunities for people with developing skill sets.

- Establish a program where mentor groups and individuals take novice anglers/hunters, senior anglers/hunters, and people with disabilities fishing/hunting a few times per year.
- Develop partnerships between municipalities and other parties to identify opportunities and funding sources for urban fishery creation, enhancement and maintenance.
- Evaluate current license structures, application processes, fees, rules and regulations to enhance fishing and hunting opportunities.
- Improve and increase fishing access and public land hunting access.
- Develop opportunities with private landowners to access inaccessible (landlocked) public lands.
- Increase quality private land hunting access, and inventory, evaluate and promote current access programs for private land.
- Improve and increase access to diverse outdoor recreational opportunities related to fish and wildlife habitat, including birdwatching, wildlife viewing, nature photography, plant identification and viewing, canoeing and kayaking, trails, interpretation, trapping, archery and shooting ranges

Priorities ranked **HIGH** for local and state LWCF projects pertinent to this strategy:

- Projects to improve and increase access to diverse outdoor opportunities related to fish and wildlife habitat, including docks, platforms, shore fishing, shooting sports, trails, wildlife viewing platforms and other such projects when the availability of other federal matching fund programs is not possible or practical.
- Projects that promote habitat education and interpretation.
- New and improved access to public land for fishing and hunting when the availability of other federal matching fund programs is not possible or practical.

**Strategy #5 – Educate, promote and improve communications related to outdoor recreation opportunities.**

- Eliminate or reduce fears associated with outdoor recreation.
  - Provide educational sessions and myth buster sessions to eliminate the fears that sometimes preclude individuals, families and children from recreating in the outdoors.
  - Introduce South Dakotans who have never participated in outdoor recreation activities to a variety of opportunities to familiarize them with the outdoors and help gain a comfort level with the natural environment.
- Promote opportunities to use technology as a benefit to outdoor recreation, instead of a detractor.
  - Develop maps, educational information, scavenger hunts, geocaching activities and other similar tools to attract high technology users into parks and recreation areas.
  - Use social media to inform and promote classes, educational opportunities and events to potential participants, giving plenty of advance time and information.

- Update outdoor recreation websites to make it easier to navigate and find information on licensing, events, activities, classes, volunteer experiences and other opportunities to interact with park and recreation, habitat and conservation programs.
- Improve maps, signage and other online and site-specific tools to guide participants in planning activities and finding their way at around trails, nature areas and other park and recreation facilities.
- Improve communication relative to ADA accessible facilities, licensing regulations, class schedules, reservations and other items identified in the public survey where clearer communication and additional information is needed to alleviate frustrations, inform outdoor participants and introduce participants to more opportunities.
  - Improve websites to provide information in a user-friendly atmosphere.
  - Utilize social media, where appropriate to communicate quickly, yet accurately with busy youth and families.
  - Review current communication techniques for accuracy and effectiveness in reaching all outdoor recreation participants and, perhaps most importantly, those residents of the state who are not currently participating in outdoor recreation activities.
- Continue and expand the efforts to involve the public in the conversation on outdoor recreation in South Dakota.
  - Identify and use the appropriate public involvement opportunities to discuss outdoor recreation with the public.
  - Collaborate with outdoor recreation clubs and organizations to educate and provide the public with accurate information on outdoor recreation topics and initiatives.
  - Provide the venue and the tools for citizens to be involved in decision making processes and share their viewpoints and perspectives.
- Provide relevant and effective educational and interpretive programs.
  - Provide quality training for parks and recreation staff, maximizing efforts to inform and educate the public about outdoor recreational opportunities and programs.
  - Define a suitable and appropriate program and activity inventory for each park, park facility, community, agency or provider and continuously evaluate the effectiveness of each program in meeting the community's or provider's goals.
  - Partner with other communities, agencies and organizations to share expertise, equipment and programming to maximize efforts and investment in outdoor recreation programming.
  - Vary programming and educational sessions to broaden the reach and increase the effectiveness of the interpretive and educational message, concentrating specific programs on families, adults, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, South Dakotan's not currently participating in outdoor recreation, participants already beyond the entry level program and looking for more, and other such groups.

Priorities ranked **HIGH** for local and state LWCF projects pertinent to this strategy:

- Projects that focus on amphitheaters, interpretive shelters, visitor centers and other such on-site tools to aid in interpretation, communication and education at parks, public open space and other outdoor recreation facilities.

**Strategy #6 – Be a compelling voice for action when it comes to making outdoor recreation a priority in people’s choices to improve their health and lifestyle.**

- Promote parks as the state’s largest wellness centers, where the public can find a wide variety of individually initiated physical activities, as well as staff-led events.
  - Make mileage information for trails and park roads easily available to walkers and runners.
  - Offer free or low-cost use of recreation equipment by park visitors to encourage physical activity. I.e., discs for disc golf.
  - Host physical activity-focused programs, such as snowshoe lessons, nature walks, canoe and kayak lessons or organized bike rides.
  - Provide geocaches in the parks to get people out walking while using technology.
  - Incorporate mileage information into interpretive signs for park trails to encourage users to learn while exercising.
  - Partner with the SD Department of Health and other health focused organizations to include health messages in program and activity guides, reservation letters, park and recreation publications, and other opportunities to promote physical activity and healthy eating when enjoying outdoor recreation.
  - Encourage the use of the local trails, sidewalks, playgrounds and other such common community facilities as physical activity centers for all ages.
  - Use the state park system’s Fitness Passport Challenge and other similar programs offered by other agencies, to encourage families to stay active in the outdoors.
- Promote the concept of getting youth active outdoors and involved in natural resource protection through educational programs, the media and events.
  - Offer many family-oriented programs, so parents can bring their children and join them in park and outdoor recreation activities.
  - Provide the media with more public service announcements and press releases concerning the importance of getting outdoors and the opportunities available.
  - Create interpretive products (I.e. brochures, site bulletins, exhibits).
  - Stimulate interest in going outdoors by providing learning opportunities online.
  - Capitalize on printed opportunities such as the children’s section of the South Dakota Conservation Digest, community newsletters and other such publications to educate the public about getting outdoors.
  - Develop and promote challenging youth-oriented programs, such as junior naturalist or junior park ranger programs.

- Start or continue to participate and cooperate with the Department of Health on the Healthy South Dakota program to provide recreational equipment and programs for park and recreation facility users. Efforts include promoting the importance of physical activity and healthy lifestyles, purchasing equipment for public use at parks, and programs offering health-themed programs in the parks.
- Identify and pursue funding, such as Department of Transportation administered Transportation Alternatives grants, for projects that provide walking and biking facilities to promote and increase active transportation (walking, biking), walking to school and work and other such activities in neighborhoods and communities.
- Continue to support and promote the SD Healthy Concessions Model Policy in communities, parks, and on city grounds.
- Involve older adults through volunteer work, intergenerational activities, and older age- specific programs.
  - Target retirees for volunteer opportunities.
  - Plan special events for grandparents and grandchildren.
  - Offer programs specifically for seniors, such as community walking clubs, mid-week kayak lessons and morning exercise classes in community parks.
  - Identify partnerships, such as the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), to collaborate and promote outdoor programming events to take place in county, city, state and federal properties.
- Plan family-oriented activities to promote physical activity, unity, memories and the desire to return.
  - Offer family outdoor challenges to get the whole family involved and active in the outdoors.
  - Promote activities for all ages, including parents and grandparents, rather than just focused on the children,
  - Provide outdoor recreation opportunities that make it as easy as possible for the entire family to participate, such as a nature hikes on a surface suitable for a baby stroller, mobility aid device or walker; provide benches for resting along trails; diaper changing tables in restrooms and other such facilities to allow the whole family to be involved.
- Provide low cost or no cost opportunities to introduce all income levels to outdoor recreation and physical activities in the outdoors.
  - Offer open houses, free days or free introductory classes that give participants the opportunity to explore certain parks and activities without a high initial investment.
  - Work with partners, organizations, private providers, sponsors and volunteers to pool resources, knowledge and equipment to keep costs low while providing the experience and opportunity to as many participants as possible.

Priorities ranked **HIGH** for local and state LWCF projects pertinent to this strategy:

- Projects that provide healthy, outdoor recreation activities for children and youth.
- Projects and facilities that provide healthy, outdoor recreation activities that will serve currently underserved populations based upon statewide averages and identified gaps in opportunities.
- Projects that provide healthy, outdoor recreation activities for persons with disabilities and the aging population.
- Projects that provide healthy, outdoor recreation activities year around or encourage winter outdoor recreation activities.
- Projects that promote appreciation and protection of our natural, historical and cultural resources as part of the outdoor recreation activity.

*Chapter 4:*

*South Dakota  
Wetlands Component*



## INTRODUCTION

Prairie wetlands are a dominant feature across much of South Dakota's prairie landscape and play an important role in the hydrologic cycle that maintains the state's water resources. Conservation of wetlands of all types is a vital component of the state's broader goals of improving management and protection of its water and wildlife resources. Prairie wetlands provide many benefits to all South Dakota citizens, both rural and urban. Wetlands benefit the state's water resources by: storing flood waters and slowing runoff to streams, rivers and lakes; recharging groundwater aquifers; stabilizing stream flows; and removing pollutants from the water by trapping sediments and contaminants and recycling nutrients. Prairie wetlands are perhaps the most diverse, productive and important wildlife habitats found in South Dakota. This diversity of wetland habitats and associated grasslands are vital to maintain a wide variety of wetland dependent game and non-game wildlife species. South Dakota wetlands and grasslands provide some of the North America's most intact and important breeding and brood rearing habitat for waterfowl. Wetlands with dense stands of emergent cover such as cattails also provide important winter cover of economically important resident wildlife such as ring-necked pheasants and white-tailed deer. Prairie wetlands annually provide important recreational opportunities for many outdoor recreation activities including hunting, fishing, trapping, bird- watching, photography and boating.

The Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) covers nearly 300,000 square miles and includes portions of Minnesota, Iowa, North and South Dakota, Montana and the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Nearly all of South Dakota east of the Missouri River was glaciated during the last ice age and is considered part of the PPR. The PPR is the most critical waterfowl breeding habitat in North America. While it encompasses only 10 percent of the waterfowl breeding habitat in North America, it can produce greater than 50 percent of the continental duck population during wet years (Batt and others, 1989). In the contiguous 48 states, 87 percent of the ducks breed in the four prairie pothole states. South Dakota is usually ranked number two in total waterfowl production. However, during wet years, South Dakota wetlands and associated nesting cover (e.g. Conservation Reserve Program grass cover and remaining native prairie) produce more waterfowl than any other state in the lower contiguous U.S.

Over 50 percent of the Prairie Pothole Region's original wetland base has been converted to other land uses. During the 20 years from the mid-1950s to the mid-1970s, such losses averaged 458,000 acres annually. Dahl (1990) estimated that Iowa has lost nearly 90 percent of its' original wetlands. The same author also concluded that the lower 48 states have lost an estimated 53 percent of all wetlands since the late 1700s.

According to National Wetlands Inventory data, wetlands and deep-water habitats account for over 2.2 million acres or slightly less than 10 percent of eastern South Dakota's landscape (Johnson and Higgins, 1997). Fortunately, South Dakota has managed to conserve more of its' wetlands than all the neighboring Prairie Pothole states. Dahl (1990) estimated that about 35 percent of South Dakota wetlands have been lost since settlement with most losses related to agricultural development. More than 80 percent of wetlands lost were located east of the James River. In a more recent report, Dahl (2014)



estimated that 2.8% of all wetlands in the SD PPR were drained from 1997-2009. Remaining wetlands, especially those embedded in cropland, have been altered directly through wetland consolidation where one or more basins are drained into other basins, effectively altering hydrology. Because of frequent tillage practice of adjacent uplands, wetlands also face indirect threats of sedimentation, nutrient, and chemical runoff impacting wetland health and consequently influencing plant and animal trophic systems. Past and continuing rural and urban development have also contributed significantly to the total wetland loss in the state. Significantly increased agricultural drainage, as well as continued urban/suburban development in the last several years in eastern South Dakota will likely result in increased frequency of flooding.

## **PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

In November 1986, Public Law 99-645 was passed by Congress. This legislation is also known as the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 (Act). Section 303 of the Act requires the inclusion of wetlands in Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans. This chapter is South Dakota's assessment and target for accomplishments in wetland acquisition, restoration and protection under the provisions of the Act and the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

## **AUTHORITY**

The authority for the development of this Wetlands Chapter to the South Dakota Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is Section 303 of the Act. Other funding for both wetlands acquisition and restoration is also provided for by the Act.

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks has the authority for the conservation and protection of all wildlife. South Dakota Codified Law 41-2-18 states, "The department ... shall have the power to regulate, direct and control...the conservation, protection...and the hunting ... of all game and furbearing animals, game birds and fish ... and ... shall have jurisdiction and authority for such purposes over all lands and waters ... including all meandered lakes, sloughs, marshes and streams ... and also including all lands to which the state has acquired any right, title or interest for the purposes of water conservation and recreation."

The Department of Game, Fish and Parks has both a Parks and Recreation Division which is responsible for SCORP planning and a Wildlife Division which manages the wildlife resources of the State.

## **COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION**

This wetlands plan was written by the Division of Wildlife in cooperation with the Division of Parks and Recreation. Organizations including Ducks Unlimited, the SD Wetlands Coalition, SD Wildlife Society, SD Wildlife Federation and the Izaak Walton League have provided input on previous versions of this plan. This plan has been updated as needed and generally addresses the goals and objectives of the SCORP regarding wetlands conservation in South Dakota.

## ASSESSMENT

### Inventory

With completion of the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) of South Dakota in the mid-1990s and digitization of those data for the eastern part of the state, Johnson and Higgins (1997) completed an excellent state-of-the-art geographic information system (GIS)-based inventory and summary of eastern South Dakota wetlands. Similarly, Rieger et al. (2006) summarized the NWI data for western South Dakota. South Dakota wetlands occur in all four of Bailey's (1994) ecoregion provinces (Prairie Parkland, Great Plains Steppe, Great Plains Dry Steppe, and Black Hill Coniferous Forest) that comprise the state. Because of the important ecological link between wetlands and associated grassland (e.g. many wetland dependent birds are grassland nesters), it's important to discuss South Dakota wetlands in the context of grassland resources. Excluding the Black Hills, most ecologists consider South Dakota to be comprised of an eastern tier of true tall grass prairie, with the balance of the state being characterized by mixed-grass prairie. Much of the native grass prairie (an estimated 75 percent) in PPR portion of South Dakota has been lost due to agricultural conversion. Conversion of mixed-grass prairie in the western part of the state is considerably less severe.

According to Johnson and Higgins (1997), 2.2 million acres of wetlands and deep-water habitats comprise nearly 10 percent of eastern South Dakota's landscape. In turn, these habitats consist of approximately 80 percent palustrine wetlands, 17 percent lacustrine wetlands and deep-water habitats and 3 percent riverine wetlands. These three wetland systems are further divided by subsystems, class, water regime and special modifiers. Because of their ecologic importance to many species, patterns of historic loss and future agricultural and development related threats, palustrine wetlands (particularly eastern prairie potholes) are a conservation priority in South Dakota. 77.5 percent of the palustrine wetlands are classified as emergent wetlands, 15.8 percent are emergent/aquatic bed, 3.4 percent are aquatic bed and 3.3 percent are other classes. In terms of water regime, 43.5 percent of palustrine wetlands have a seasonal water regime, 32.8 percent are temporary, 23.3 percent are semi-permanent, and 0.2 percent are intermittently exposed. The reader should refer to Johnson and Higgins (1997) and Cowardin and others (1979) for more detailed treatment of eastern South Dakota's other wetland resources.

Rieger et al. (2006) summarized that surface water covers 635,054 acres or about 2.4% of the western South Dakota landscape. These waters are comprised of approximately 50% palustrine, 42% lacustrine and 8% riverine wetlands. There are nearly 173,000 wetland basins in western South Dakota, and they are further categorized by the following water regimes: 36% temporary water; 29% seasonal; 34% semipermanent; and about 1% permanent. Just over 50% of the total number of basins, or approximately 87,000 are created wetlands. Over 72,500 of these are relatively small impoundments or stock dams. Just over 14,000 are livestock watering dugouts and about 300 are natural beaver dams/ponds.

In general, many of the wetlands in the mixed-grass prairie portion of western South Dakota are associated with stream and river corridors and associated riparian areas. Palustrine forested wetlands (e.g. forested oxbows) are relatively common along larger river systems.

While western South Dakota has less than 1/3 of the wetland area of eastern South Dakota, western palustrine emergent wetlands provide similar functions and values. In some areas, wetland densities are quite high (e.g. Lyman, Jones, Stanley, Dewey, Ziebach and Corson counties) with wetlands occurring within large tracts of native or planted grassland habitats. Such areas provide very productive and important breeding, brood rearing and migration habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and other wetland dependent species when water conditions are favorable.

The Black Hills region of southwestern South Dakota is a unique ecoregion like those in the intermountain west. Like other areas in unglaciated western South Dakota, wetlands in the Black Hills are primarily related to streams (riverine system) and related riparian areas. Saturated wet meadow montane wetlands characterized by sedges and associated wetland plants occur along some stream/riparian corridors. Most of these wetlands are classified as palustrine, emergent, saturated wetlands. Saturated scrub/shrub or forested palustrine wetlands, with various water regimes also occur in association with these riverine systems. Additionally, beaver bonds along stream corridors are of local significance and add a unique diversity to these riverine systems.

### **Protection**

South Dakota Department of Game Fish and Parks owns and manages 306,029 acres of Game Production Areas (GPA's) across the state. Wildlife habitat on these areas is managed to benefit game and non-game species alike. These areas are open to public hunting, fishing, wildlife watching and other outdoor activities. East of the Missouri River, essentially all such areas consist of wetland/grassland complexes and developed upland habitats such as woody winter cover and food plots. We estimate that between 90,000 and 95,000 acres east of the river are wetland acres. Many of the GPA's west of the Missouri River are associated with the Missouri River reservoir system or smaller impoundments.

As part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) owns in fee-title and/or manages 50,258 acres, within six designated Refuges, and owns in fee-title 162,707 acres of Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA's) USFWS Refuges and WPAs are both characterized by high wetland densities, often embedded within surrounding grasslands. The USFWS manages Refuges and WPAs primarily for the conservation of migratory birds, with a central emphasis on waterfowl. The USFWS also purchases voluntary wetland conservation easements from willing sellers. These wetland easements on private land are designed to mesh well with a wide variety of agricultural uses and have proven to be popular with landowners. Wetlands on these easements cannot be drained, burned, or filled, but can be used for a wide range of agricultural activities when they are dry from natural conditions.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in South Dakota implements and administers a wetland restoration and protection program consisting of a variety of wetland easement types and contract durations known collectively as the Wetlands Reserve Easement (WRE), formerly the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), under the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). WRE is a voluntary, competitive program where landowners enroll and restore manipulated wetland and associated uplands and in return receive a payment. This program has two different contract lengths, 30

years or perpetual, and the option of retaining grazing rights with a reduced payment. Currently, South Dakota has 1,371 active contracts for a total of 156,477 acres.

### **Wetland Threats**

A national status and trends study showed that from 1954 to 1974 certain wetland types had high rates of conversion to other land uses in specific regions of the United States, including palustrine emergent wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region of the Dakotas and Minnesota. The study also noted South Dakota as being one of 19 states that had significant decreases in wetlands over the 20-year period (Frayer and others, 1983). Subsequent reports (Dahl, 2000) indicate that agriculture related losses of freshwater wetlands nationwide decreased from about 1.0 million acres between the mid-1970s and 1984 down to about 198,000 acres between 1986 and 1997. Implementation and enforcement of the “Swampbuster” provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act (Farm Bill), as well as other land retirement or conservation programs (e.g. CRP, WRP, EWRP, etc.) were the primary reasons for this significant reduction in wetland losses. More recent reports (Dahl, 2006 and Dahl, 2011) indicate that freshwater wetlands have increased nationwide due in large part to wetland restoration activities through programs noted above and due to construction of ponds and other non-vegetated wetlands in urban and suburban settings. However, in South Dakota and neighboring prairie pothole states, losses of emergent wetlands have outpaced gains. Losses are primarily attributed to agricultural conversion, urban expansion and rural development (Dahl, 2011). Dahl (2014) estimated that 2.8% of all wetlands in the SD PPR were drained from 1997-2009.

The consequences of wetland drainage are nearly instant, and the outcomes intended. However, other threats and associated implications are not so apparent and negative impacts not usually accounted for regarding the degradation of wetland basins embedded in cropland. Wetland sedimentation occurs when adjacent uplands undergo tillage and soils from nearby land is deposited into depressions primarily through wind and water erosion. While the results of sediment accrual are obvious in the complete or partial loss of hydrology, other inconspicuous outcomes may alter wetland functionality. The production of aquatic macrophytes and algae is an important component of prairie wetland food chains. Wetland vegetation provides much of the structural habitat for a rich invertebrate population and provides a substrate for colonization by algae and microbes that are important foods of aquatic invertebrates (Murkin 1989). Increased sediment in the water column generally reduces the depth of the photic zone and therefore restricts light availability for aquatic macrophytes and algae growth and development (Dieter 1991) while the accumulation of sediment alone can inhibit macrophyte germination (Jurik et al. 1994). Suspended sediment in the water column can be toxic to zooplankton and limit the foraging efficiency of invertebrates (McCabe and O’Brien 1983). As grassland conversion continues, wetland degradation of existing depressions due to sedimentation will persist and negatively impact remaining wetlands. Continued work side by side with landowners promoting soil health practices in cropland, grassland retention, and establishing buffers benefitting water quality should continue to be emphasized.

### **Functions and Values of South Dakota Wetlands**

A large body of literature documents the wide range of important functions and values that wetlands provide. Besides supporting a diversity of wildlife and plant communities, including threatened and

endangered species, wetlands of various types provide numerous other functions and values. These include water storage, flood attenuation and reduction, ground water recharge, water quality enhancement, erosion control, nutrient retention and recycling, sediment retention, carbon sequestration, food production, stock water, forage production, fishing, hunting, other forms of outdoor recreation, education, and aesthetics. The environmental and socio-economic benefits of wetlands are also well documented and recognized by the scientific community, policy makers, as well as most of the public. We will only briefly discuss some of these functions and values as they relate to South Dakota's fish, wildlife, habitat and recreational resources.

### ***Outdoor recreation and education***

The recreational value of South Dakota's wetlands is important to residents and nonresidents alike. Wetlands provide places for hunting, fishing, trapping, bird watching, photography, boating and other outdoor recreation activities. Wetlands also provide outdoor classrooms and laboratories for school children, college students, wildlife biologists and other researchers studying wetland ecosystems. Many non-profit conservation organizations offer outdoor classroom curriculum to school districts focused on teaching children the importance of wildlife and their habitats.

Water levels in natural lakes in South Dakota can fluctuate widely from year to year. These variable water levels can seriously affect recreational use of the waters as boat ramps and beaches become unusable at low lake levels. Wetlands within lake watersheds, can moderate lake inflows or maintain stream flows throughout the year. Wetlands recharging local aquifers can also function to stabilize lake levels.

### ***Wildlife***

As summarized above most of South Dakota's wetland resources lie in the glaciated eastern Prairie Pothole Region (PPR) portion of the state. Portions of this landscape are dotted by as many as 100 small wetland basins per square mile (Johnson and others, 1997). Complexes of small temporary and seasonal wetlands in conjunction with larger semi-permanent marshes are vitally important for breeding, foraging and migrating waterfowl, shorebirds and other water birds (Evans and Black, 1956; Hubbard, 1988; and Kantrud and others, 1989).

The PPR is the most critical waterfowl breeding habitat in North America. It encompasses only 10 percent of the waterfowl breeding habitat in North America yet can produce as much as 50 to 70 percent of the continental duck population during wet years (Batt and others, 1989, Ducks Unlimited, 2001). Many areas in eastern South Dakota can support over 100 breeding pairs of ducks per sq. mile when water conditions are favorable. In 2001, such conditions in the eastern Dakotas alone supported an estimated 25% of all breeding ducks in the north central North America traditional survey area (USFWS, 2001). Often South Dakota is ranked number two in total waterfowl production for the contiguous 48 states. However, unusually wet conditions, such as those that occurred in the late 1990s and early 2000s, in conjunction with abundant nesting cover (e.g. remaining native prairie and Conservation Reserve Program grass cover) led to South Dakota producing more waterfowl than any other of the contiguous 48 states. As alluded to above, re-establishing federal Farm Bill and Clean Water Act protection of South Dakota's PPR wetlands, as well as other wetlands across the state, is critical to

sustain nationally and internationally important waterfowl populations. This protection is also vital to maintain viable populations of dozens of other wetland dependent migratory passerine, shorebird and waterbird species, including several state and/or federally listed endangered and threatened species.

South Dakota's wetlands, particularly those characterized by dense stands of emergent cattails also provide extremely important winter cover for popular resident game species such as ring-necked pheasants and white-tailed deer. Additionally, wetlands are the most important furbearer habitat in South Dakota. Mink, muskrats and raccoons are particularly abundant in areas characterized by numerous wetlands.

### ***Wildlife Related Economic Benefits***

The total wildlife-related economic value of wetlands is difficult to ascertain but is undoubtedly important to South Dakota's economy. According to the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, 662 thousand residents and non-residents spent \$1.2 billion on wildlife-related recreation in South Dakota. 270 thousand resident and nonresident hunters alone spent over \$596 million that same year, with the migratory bird hunters' share totaling over \$63 million. It is noteworthy that migratory bird hunters primarily pursue ducks and geese and spend much of their time on or near wetlands of various types where waterfowl congregate in the fall. Other hunters spend considerable time near or on wetlands because of the quality cover some wetlands (e.g. seasonal wetlands) provide for pheasants and deer.

The 2011 national survey also indicates that 384 thousand residents and nonresidents spent nearly \$167 million in South Dakota on wildlife-watching activities such as observing, feeding or photographing wildlife. Nearly 200 thousand wildlife watchers observed waterfowl and shorebird species, most of which would have been observed on or near wetlands. Similar 1996 survey results showed that 65 thousand wildlife-watchers that visited some type of public land visited a marsh or wetland site. Although numbers are unavailable, many other folks likely participated in these activities on or near privately owned wetlands.

In 2016, South Dakota Department of Game Fish and Parks commissioned a survey to determine the economic impact of outdoor activities in the state that are managed by the department. The report indicates that in 2016 residents and nonresident spent over 18.6 million days participating in wildlife-related activities including fishing, hunting, trapping and wildlife watching and spent over \$1.33 billion. 215,793 resident and nonresident hunters spent almost \$683 million, with migratory bird hunters alone spending nearly \$85 million (Southwick Associates, 2017).

Due to fluctuating markets and demand, as well as highly variables furbearer populations, the annual value of furs harvested in South Dakota significantly varies year to year. Furbearers often trapped on or near wetlands include mink, muskrats, raccoons, beaver and skunk. According to South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks harvest estimates based on fur dealer reports, annual total values recently have ranged from \$500,000 to slightly over \$1 million. While it may not be as important as it once was, trapping is an important source of income for many South Dakota families and for many an

important recreational pursuit. The 2016 SD GFP commissioned study documented trappers directly spent over \$1.6 million.

### ***Commercial and sport fisheries and economic benefits***

Wetlands play a key role in supporting high quality fisheries across the state. Wetlands adjacent to lakes, immediately upstream from lakes, or elsewhere in a watershed serve as spawning and nursery areas for many species of fish. Those adjacent to rivers and streams also provide important habitat for spawning and juvenile fish.

Baitfish harvest from South Dakota waters is a commercial activity regulated by the Department of Game, Fish and Parks. It has an economic impact of over \$3 million a year, with over 75% of the approximately 170,000 gallons of baitfish netted in South Dakota exported to other states (Ward, 2008). Baitfish were harvested from waters in 25 different counties, with the greatest harvest occurring in Day County. Fathead minnows comprised 99.7% of the harvest, with much smaller numbers of white suckers, creek chubs, and golden shiners also collected. These baitfish are harvested primarily in wetlands in the eastern part of the state.

Sport fishing in South Dakota is a very popular pursuit for resident and non-resident anglers alike. According to the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation 268 thousand anglers spent nearly \$203 million on fishing-related expenses in the state. The numerous natural lakes and associated wetlands in eastern South Dakota support a significant portion of this angling and economic activity. The 2016 SD GFP commissioned economic study indicated that 215,173 resident and nonresident anglers spent over 3.2 million days fishing and spent over \$271 million in 2016.

### ***Surface and groundwater supplies***

Prairie wetlands play a very important role in the hydrologic cycle and are a key element in maintaining and conserving South Dakota's water resources. Wetlands provide benefits to farmers, ranchers and rural and urban citizens in their capacity to store flood water, recharge groundwater, provide nutrient recycling and stabilize stream flows.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recognized wetland values for flood water storage in at least two South Dakota projects (Harmon, 1976). Various federally and state funded projects have advocated restoration and/or acquisition of wetlands to store water on the landscape in lieu of constructing additional flood control dams.

Prairie pothole wetlands can store a tremendous amount of water on the landscape. Shjeflo (1968) and Eisenlohr and others (1972) have shown that from May to October wetlands lose approximately 2.5 feet of water to evapotranspiration. In other words, intact wetlands on the landscape can provide a 2.5 foot cushion of storage of spring runoff and precipitation. In a study completed in the Devils Lake Basin in North Dakota, Ludden and others (1983) found that small wetlands could contain 657,000 acre-feet of water — equivalent to about 72 percent of the total runoff from a 2-year frequency runoff and about 41 percent of the total runoff from a 100-year frequency runoff. The US Fish and Wildlife Service

estimates that each acre of small wetland reduces flood damage to roads by \$6.11 per year. Each acre of small wetland also provides \$29.23 worth of flood damage protection to agricultural land per year.

### ***Maintenance of Lake Water Quality***

Sedimentation is a water quality concern in lakes or permanent wetlands used for recreation. The preservation of wetlands controlling inflows into lakes and permanent wetlands is an important watershed management strategy to address sediment inflows. In the past, dredging of lakes degraded by excessive sedimentation has been suggested and even tried, but such projects are extremely expensive and address symptoms rather than real causes of poor water quality. Advocates now promote watershed management and implementation of conservation practices that prevent erosion and downstream sedimentation.

### **Protection Strategies**

Conservation of South Dakota's wetland resources is vital if the above-described functions and values are to be preserved for future generations. Gigliotti (2012) demonstrated that over 95 percent of South Dakotans believe that wetlands are moderately or very important in preserving clean water and should be protected. Ninety-seven percent of them also feel that healthy wildlife populations are very (77 percent) or moderately (20 percent) important to the economy and well-being of South Dakota residents. These data demonstrate that there is significant public support for conservation of wetlands and wetland-dependent wildlife in the state. South Dakota GFP's wetland conservation efforts fall into several broad categories including education; management; acquisition; continued support of various state and federal regulatory; and legislative measures.

### ***Education***

South Dakota GFP will continue to provide educational materials in various media formats to the public regarding wetland functions and values and the importance of wetland conservation. We will also continue to support and provide technical assistance to other state and federal agencies producing such materials.

### ***Management***

Management of wetlands and associated grasslands on existing state Game Production Areas (GPA's) for the benefit of game and non-game species is a top priority for the Wildlife Division. Control of noxious weeds and other invasive species is an integral component of GFP public land management. Assisting private landowners with wetland and grassland management by providing technical assistance, cost-share and/or incentive payments will continue. One of GFP's top priorities is habitat and access. The priority on habitat places high importance on habitat restoration and management, both on public and private lands, of wetlands and associated uplands. Practices including wetland restoration, enhancement and creation, as well as grazing management and grassland restoration are all eligible for cost share through SD GFP's private lands habitat program. GFP employs private lands habitat biologists that work in partnership with landowners across the state promoting and providing habitat and best management practices harnessing GFP private lands programs and practices. GFP also maintains



and seeks partnerships with NGO's who works closely with landowners to preserve and restore critical habitat.

### ***Acquisition***

Consistent with Executive branch administrative direction, South Dakota GFP may continue to opportunistically purchase new lands from willing sellers. Priority for new land acquisitions will include "round outs" of existing areas through purchase of private inholdings within, or areas immediately adjacent to, existing GPA's. Prairie pothole wetlands of virtually any type, as well as associated grassland (or cropland that can be restored to grassland) within the Prairie Pothole Region of eastern South Dakota are acquisition priorities. Riverine wetlands associated with stream and river corridors (riparian areas) statewide are acquisition priorities as well. Lastly, fens, due to their rarity, special vulnerability and the unique plant communities they support also deserve special consideration by GFP, although open access to such areas may need to be controlled due to the fragile nature of fens.

### ***Support of State and Federal Regulations or Legislation***

Most regulations, laws or provisions that protect wetlands in South Dakota are federal (Clean Water Act, Farm Bill). Wetland regulations have historically been very controversial in the state, and despite supportive public attitudes, legislative support for more protection in state law seems unlikely. Continued state and public support of federal programs is important for wetland protection in lieu of formal state regulatory protection. South Dakota GFP will continue to provide the Army Corps of Engineers and the Natural Resources Conservation Service with technical guidance regarding proposed regulation changes and specific projects that are likely to adversely affect wetland resources. Such guidance will include supporting avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of wetland losses on State and Federally funded projects, with priority given to restoring drained wetlands. State laws and regulations that protect water quality of all waters, including wetlands should be supported and enforced. Improved state level wetland protection legislation should be considered in the future when public support demands it.

### **Wetlands Assessment Criteria**

The following criteria are based on the National Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan (U.S. Department of the Interior, 1989) for protection of wetlands through various forms of acquisition. The NWPC Plan has been developed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the Department of Interior. The Emergency Wetlands Resources Act requires consistency between the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan process and the NWPC Plan. Therefore, we have adequate NWPC Plan criteria in South Dakota.

Although the National Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan only applies to wetlands acquired by Federal Agencies and "wetlands acquired by the States through the Land and Water Conservation Fund grants program administered by the National Park Service", these criteria may be useful in guiding other wetland protection programs as well. The NWPC Plan represents only one tool to be used for the protection of valuable wetland ecosystems. Only through the coordinated efforts of all interests, public and private, can wetland resources be adequately protected for future generations.

All South Dakota wetland types, as defined by Cowardin (1979), will be considered for acquisition. There are many factors that must be considered in setting the priority for the acquisition of wetlands. Those identified within the NWPC Plan and adapted to South Dakota include:

1. Wetland losses: Wetland types may be given priority consideration for acquisition if they have declined within an ecoregion.
  - Palustrine emergent, forested and scrub-shrub wetland types warrant priority consideration for Federal and State acquisition.
  - An ecoregion sustaining a high or moderate loss of the base area of wetland types could warrant priority consideration over an ecoregion having a Low Index of Loss of original wetlands.
  - Statistically valid data or supportable information could be used to substantiate significant losses for a specified wetland type or types within an ecoregion, a State or portion of a State when National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) trends study data do not show a high or moderate Index of Loss.
2. Threat of Future Wetland Loss: Wetlands may be given priority if they are facing imminent threat or long-term cumulative loss or degradation of functions and values to receive priority consideration.
  - Priority may be assigned to a site regardless of size.
3. Wetland Functions and Values: Wetlands to be given priority consideration for acquisition are those with diverse functions and values and/or especially high or special values for specific wetland functions.
  - Priority consideration will be given to wetlands whose public values and benefits cannot be maintained or realized, except through acquisition.
  - Priority consideration will be given to interests in wetland acquisition methods that are the most cost-effective available while fully and permanently allowing for protection and/or improvement of the public values provided by the wetland. Fee title, perpetual easements, leases, deed restrictions, land donations and exchanges or other methods may be employed.
  - Priority consideration will normally be given to wetlands which can be acquired from willing sellers.
  - The relative size of a wetland, particularly smaller wetlands, will not in itself disqualify it from priority consideration.
  - Restorable wetland sites or systems warrant priority consideration for acquisition.
  - Wetland sites that would require minimal operation and maintenance requirements warrant priority consideration for acquisition.

## IMPLEMENTATION AND GUIDANCE

Although the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 authorizes the use of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for the acquisition of wetlands, no additional money has been appropriated to this already diminished funding source.

The LWCF is a federal program that was established for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation opportunities. Through a system of matching grants, states have traditionally used their apportionment for acquiring and improving state parks and municipal recreation facilities. Applications for these types of projects already far exceed the level of funding available.

However, as stated earlier in this plan (page 4-5), wetlands do provide important recreational values. If a local government identifies wetlands acquisition as an important project to provide recreational opportunities in their area, such a project would be eligible for funding. The current procedures for evaluating LWCF applications do allow wetland related projects to compete with other project applications.

When funding is specifically appropriated to the LWCF for state acquisition of wetlands (as originally intended by the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act or the level of funding for the LWCF program in general reaches a point where a broader range of recreational needs can be addressed) wetland acquisition will be considered a priority for the use of LWCF funds.

In addition to the LWCF, the Department has the authority to use several other funding sources for wetlands acquisition. The use of any source will depend on the purpose of the acquisition and the amount of money available in the fund. The following is a list of sources with a brief description of each fund:

### **Game Fund**

1. License Revenue. The Game, Fish and Parks Commission can authorize the use of these revenues for approved projects, including land acquisition.
2. SD Migratory Bird Certification Stamp. This stamp was established as a source of revenue for waterfowl habitat development which could include wetland acquisition.

### **Acquisition Fund**

Pursuant to state statute portions of each nonresident 10-day waterfowl (\$4.00) and small game (\$3.00) license sold and all funds generated from the sale of temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses sold are placed in this fund. This fund can be used both for paying real estate taxes and acquiring new lands.

### **Federal Aid**

Wildlife Restoration funds (Pittman-Robertson or PR) and Sportfish Restoration funds (Dingell-Johnson or DJ) can be used to reimburse the Department 75 percent of the acquisition costs depending

on the purpose. PR funds could be used to acquire wetlands to be managed for wildlife habitat purposes. DJ funds can be used to acquire wetlands that are suited for fisheries habitat management.

### **Other Funding Partnerships**

Partnerships with other governmental entities or programs such as the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants Program, County Conservation Districts, the State Conservation Commission or non-governmental organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, Pheasants Forever, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, other conservation organizations or clubs and private landowners are very important sources of funding for continued wetland and grassland conservation efforts in South Dakota.

### **Wetland Protection Programs**

Many wetland protection programs are available through a multitude of agencies and NGO's consisting of a variety of programs, contract lengths, and program criteria for landowners interested in protecting and/or restoring the functions and values of wetlands on their property. The following lists agencies and organizations that offer programs.

#### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

- Partners for Fish and Wildlife Programs
  - Wetland/grassland restoration
- Wetland and Grassland Easement Programs

#### **U.S. Department of Agriculture: Natural Resources Conservation Service**

- Conservation Stewardship Program
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
  - Wetlands Reserve Easement
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program

#### **U.S. Department of Agriculture: Farm Service Agency**

- CRP Program

#### **Ducks Unlimited**

- Conservation Easements
- Wetland Restoration/Development
- Technical Assistance

#### **South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks**

- Private Lands Program
  - Wetland/grassland restoration

**South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources**

- Riparian Buffer Initiative

**North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)**

- The U.S. Standard Grants Program is a competitive, matching grants program that supports public-private partnerships carrying out projects in the United States that further the goals of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). These projects must involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds

**Review and Revision**

This document and priority wetlands identified will be reviewed and updated at least every 5 years or during the revision of the SCORP. Feedback into the National Wetlands Priority Plan will take place as supported technical data is made available.

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# *Appendix*



# 2022 South Dakota SCORP Outdoor Recreation Public Survey Report

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CONTINUING OUR OUTDOOR LEGACY IN THE NEW ERA



**Prepared by**  
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**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**JULY 29, 2022**

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The ultimate goal of this research project is to incorporate the demand (the public) and supply (provider) perspectives in assisting decision-making and resource allocation to continue the outdoor legacy in South Dakota in a new year full of challenges and opportunities. My desire is to assist in decision-making in providing high-quality outdoor recreation experiences and resources for South Dakota residents and visitors while protecting the experiences and the resources for future generations.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This present report is a collaborative research project between the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Park (GFP) and the School of Health and Consumer Sciences, Sport and Recreation Management program of South Dakota State University (SDSU) for preparing the 2023 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) of South Dakota. This collaboration is not only used to understand the outdoor recreation demand-supply in South Dakota, a required component in SCORP, but also to sustain the South Dakota great outdoor legacy, plan for the provision of high-quality and accessible outdoor recreation opportunities and thrive amid the COVID-19 pandemic challenges.

As a 13-month research project, the primary means of contact with appropriate respondents falls within the timeline from August 2021 to August 2022. The research team consisted of one faculty member at SDSU as principal investigator (PI), who led the four graduate research assistants during the duration of the project. There are three main components of this collective research project: public survey, provider survey and facility inventory, and statewide campground search. The following summary focuses on the public survey results, while the research team prepared separate documents for the provider survey, facility inventory, and campground search results.

The public survey was available on QuestionPro from December, 2021 until April 20, 2022. All the online surveys also had an identical paper-based survey prepared as an alternative for individuals who prefer this method. The first phase of data collection of the public targeted approximately 250 youth and family focused organizations (e.g., YMCA, Boys and Girls club, 4H, home school association, etc.) and local community partners (e.g., library, chamber of commerce, conservation groups) in SD. The second phase of data collection for the public survey was through GFP's newsletter and public communication.

Approximately 6,000 individuals entered the online public survey, while 4,521 individuals completed the online survey, yielding a 72% completion rate. The first phase of data collection started in December followed by the second phase in February/March 2022. The survey was designed without forced response to encourage response; therefore, surveys are considered complete even with minor skipped or missed responses. Overall, research participants' demographics can be viewed as a fair representative of the state's demographic characteristics, such as age, education level, and income, while males had a slightly higher representation in the study. Sixty percent of research participants self-identified as SD residents, while 40% were non-residents.

More than 33% of research participants indicated they participated in outdoor recreation activities "two or more times per week" in South Dakota. Research participants indicated that the source they typically hear information regarding outdoor recreation opportunities in South Dakota was "word of mouth" (45.1%), followed by "suggestions from family and friends" (40.4%) and "internet searches" (36.2%). Local municipal parks, trails, or playgrounds were mostly used 2 to 3 times a year (29.6%), while state parks were mostly used monthly (35.9%). Wildlife-related recreation (91%), water-based recreation (75%), and trail activities (81%) are the most popular outdoor recreation categories in South Dakota.

South Dakota recreation participants reported mainly intrinsic motivations for participating in outdoor recreation. “Enjoy beautiful scenery” was the top motivation for outdoor recreation with 62.63% of participants selecting strongly agree. Two common barriers to participating in outdoor recreation are lack of time and crowding in parks and recreation areas. Research participants indicated improving accessibility, facility expansion and improvement, and rules and regulations of specialty activities would assist them to increase their outdoor recreation participation in South Dakota, while dissension between SD residents and non-residents clearly exist. Trails, ranging from hiking, biking, ADA compliant, to ATV trails, are the most desirable facilities in the community as well as shooting and archery ranges and public fishing and hunting areas in the state.

Respondents showed the highest average importance of funding efforts to “protect wildlife and fish habitat”, “maintain existing park and recreation areas”, and “provide environmental and conservation programs”. In addition, SD residents value the importance of parks and recreation services for promoting health and well-being in local communities, such as “provide opportunities for social interaction” and “partner with local government or community-based organizations”. For comparison analysis, SD residents reported a significantly higher score of parks and recreation contribution on “makes my community a more desirable place to live” than non-residents.

As for the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on outdoor recreation, approximately 43% of participants reported that the pandemic did not change their outdoor recreation participation. Nearly half (49.1%) of the respondents went to state parks/recreation areas to participate in outdoor recreation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Local parks/trails (38.0%) and backyards (35.0%) were also popular areas for outdoor recreation participation. Only 12.8% indicated they stayed at home and did not participate in outdoor recreation activities. SD residents also showed higher satisfaction with the outdoor recreation opportunities provided to them in South Dakota than non-residents. Camping and hunting were the top two new activities picked up during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall, South Dakota provides excellent outdoor recreation opportunities for the state residents and non-residents/visitors even during the COVID-19 pandemic. The motivation of being outdoors and the barriers to participating in outdoor recreation remained consistent with the existing national and SD-focused studies. Research participants showed a strong support and desire to have more public access for fishing and hunting as well as various trail facilities. Some perception differences were found between SD resident and non-residents/visitors. The result of the public survey also further revealed positive contributions of parks and recreation services in wildlife conservation, public health, and community development in South Dakota.

## **PROJECT BACKGROUND**

This present report is a collaborative research project between the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Park (GFP) and the School of Health and Consumer Sciences, Sport and Recreation Management program of South Dakota State University (SDSU) for preparing the 2023 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) of South Dakota. This collaboration is not only used to understand the outdoor recreation demand-supply in South Dakota, a required component in SCORP, but also to conserve and sustain the South Dakota's great outdoor legacy for generations to come.

### **RESEARCH PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The purpose of this project is to comply with the expectations of the National Park Service and to aid the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks. Four research efforts are proposed to assist GFP in preparing the 2022 SCORP for conducting research to sustain the South Dakota great outdoor legacy, plan for the provision of high-quality and accessible outdoor recreation opportunities and thrive amid the COVID-19 pandemic challenges.

The ultimate goal of the research project is to incorporate the demand (the public) and supply (provider) perspectives in assisting decision-making and resource allocation to continue the outdoor legacy in South Dakota in a new year full of challenges and opportunities. The followings are the four main goals of the project:

The first goal of the survey was to investigate public perspective of outdoor recreation demand and current availability through assessing South Dakota residents' behavioral patterns in outdoor recreation, and investigating residents' motivation for, and potential barriers to, outdoor recreation in the state. Additional literature review in both scientific research and practical studies in outdoor recreation were included to provide essential information for further discussion. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic impacts and changes in outdoor recreation participation and public perception of recreational opportunities in South Dakota were included in the public survey.

As a preparation for SCORP, outdoor recreation supply in South Dakota was required. The study assessed the outdoor recreation supply in South Dakota from various providers in the state as well as identifies current trends and challenges. A statewide survey of South Dakota outdoor recreation providers was conducted to understand their general operation and current challenges in the field. General operation in outdoor recreation included providers' outdoor recreation, providers' organizational information, and responsibilities, such as type of organization/agency, target service population, budget, staff, program, facilities, partnership etc. Also, their perceived current challenges in providing outdoor recreation in South Dakota, including population change (i.e., aging, diversity, minority, residential area), financial shortfall, natural and environmental condition, social and cultural barriers for being outdoors, and quality of staff.

The third goal of this project is to understand South Dakota's outdoor recreation market and opportunities with studies in the state, and compare with national studies and similar states' studies for good benchmark. By using existing publications and studies, we were able to examine the similarities and differences in managing outdoor recreation services and perceived current trends and challenges at different recreation providers in South Dakota. In addition, the project

also compare S.D. residents and out-state visitors' outdoor recreation use pattern, motivations, and constraints and identify benchmark partners and national trends for future decision-making and resource allocation.

Finally, the research aimed to investigate the relationship between socio-demographics, economics, and population change from the perspective of and participation in outdoor recreation. In order to advance the understanding of the relationship between socio-demographics and outdoor recreation participations, advanced analysis was applied to examine how South Dakotans' outdoor recreation participation pattern, motivation, and constraints vary with their socio-demographics (e.g., age, gender, race, family status, education, residential area, income, and economic status).

## **RESEARCH TEAM**

The research team was consisting with one Principal investigator (PI), Liu, who led the two graduate research assistances. From August 2021 to May 2022, two second-year graduate students, Kiley Foss and Megan Thompson, assisted Liu on the project till their graduation. Therefore, Lindsay Borer and Aditi Virkar, two first-year graduate students were recruited to assist Liu to complete the project from May 2022 to August 2022.

**Hung-Ling (Stella) Liu, Ph.D.** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health and Nutritional Sciences in the College of Education and Human Sciences at South Dakota State University. She was a co-author of the 2012 Oklahoma Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), multiple Resource Management Plans (RMPs) for Oklahoma state parks, and several assessments of recreational use and users' experience and behavioral patterns in natural environment (e.g., service quality, feasibility studies, economic impacts etc.). She also was a research consultant with the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Assistant Center (OTRAC) in assisting Oklahoma's 2012 and 2017 SCORP preparation before her appointment with SDSU in Fall 2016. She has conducted research with municipal, state, and federal agencies in the past seven years. Her research interests and approaches include survey and evaluation research techniques focusing on behaviors in outdoor recreation, the human dimension of natural resources management, and impacts of recreation and tourism for individuals and community.

**Kiley Foss, M.S.** received her master's degree in Sport and Recreation Administration master's student from SDSU in May 2022. She has worked with Liu on various research project since her sophomore year at SDSU. She has been involved with municipal parks and recreation since she was 15, which fueled her passion in the field of recreation. Her master's thesis focuses on how youth and their families recreate outdoors and the influence parents' have on their children's outdoor recreation experiences. She is currently a professional intern at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Megan Thompson, M.S.** received her master's degree in Sport and Recreation Administration master's student from South Dakota State University in August 2022. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Iowa, where she studied Leisure, Youth and Human Services with an emphasis in outdoor recreation. Megan is extremely passionate about working with youth, specifically in a summer camp setting, which was the predominant motivational factor when choosing recreation as her career path. During the summer of 2022, she works at YMCA youth camp in Sioux Falls, SD.



**Lindsay Borer** is pursuing her master's degree in Sport and Recreation Administration at SDSU, and she received her bachelor's degree in Recreation Management from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in the spring of 2021. Lindsay currently serves as the Operations and Events graduate assistant at the Miller Wellness Center on campus. She is also the SDSU representative on the Parks & Recreation Community Board for Brookings. Recently, Lindsay was appointed the South Dakota State Representative for NIRSA Region V. Lindsay has a passion for recreation and the outdoors. She enjoys water skiing, snow skiing, hiking, walking her dog, and has recently become a big fan of pickleball.

**Aditi Virkar** is pursuing her master's in Sport and Recreation Administration at SDSU, where she received her bachelor's degree in Exercise Sciences in the summer of 2021. Aditi has always been interested in the sports field throughout her school and college life and continues to remain active in this interest through her majors and her work. She is currently serving as a Graduate Teaching Assistant for leadership and life courses and has worked as a Research Assistant in the past.

### **PREPARATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE**

As a 13-month research project, the primary means of contact with appropriate respondents falls within the timeline from August 2021 to August 2022. The principal investigator, Liu, worked with GFP to process the research proposal and research methods in July 2021. The contract was awarded in August 2021. The project timeline was adjusted depending on the discussion and agreement between SDSU and GFP. Overall, the data collection was adjusted to avoid having multiple GFP surveys at one time. Moreover, in order to increase the response rate, the research team also utilized multiple methods for data collection. The following are the details of the preparation process and timeline of the project.

From August to October of 2021, the research team worked with GFP toward agreement on research design and finalized the survey instrument. The team prepared for IRB review (IRB-2108008-EXM) at SDSU and developed the web-based survey platform in October/November as well. The two proposed surveys, one for provider/inventory and another for the public, had a separate timeline due to the target population difference.

For the provider/inventory survey, the data collection and distribution survey started in November 2021 (first-round invitation), and the second-round invite email will follow in December 2021. In order to increase the response rate, paper-based surveys were delivered as the third round of invitations in January 2022. For the public survey, the data collection and distribution started in January 2022, which was rescheduled from December to correspond with other GFP research projects. The first phase of data collection started in December followed by the second phase in February/March 2022.

In February 2022, the SDSU research team agreed to add a statewide campground search as part of the SCORP project to assist GFP in understanding the current campground supplies and business operation in the state. The research team submitted an Excel document and a brief summary of the findings of private campground operations, amenities, and locations in South Dakota.

The SDSU research team started to process and analyze the collected data sets for written report preparation in late April and completed in late May. Two reports are provided, one for the provider survey another for the public survey. Liu led the research team to prepare technical reports for the research findings in June and July. The GFP shall be able to review the results and work with Liu for any needed modification from August 2021. Liu is committed assist GFP staff in completing the SCORP plan by the end of 2022 and future disseminations. Please see the project timeline in Table 1.

Table 1 Timeline of the 2022 SCORP Research Project

Year	2021						2022								
	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9-12
Proposal preparation	■														
Proposal agreement		■													
Instrument development		■	■	■	■	■									
IRB application		■	■												
Research staff supervision		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Web-survey development		■	■				■	■	■						
Literature review	■	■	■						■	■					
Data collection: Provider				■	■			■	■						
Data collection: Public				■	■					■	■				
Mange web-based survey			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Campground Study*									■	■	■	■	■	■	
Data analysis										■	■	■	■	■	
Results/report writing										■	■	■	■	■	
Review and modification														■	■
Assist SCORP completion														■	■

**Note:**

1. The timeline of the study might be modified depending on the approval of the contract.
  2. These research tasks will be achieved by the end of the designated month.
- \* An add-on project in the SCORP preparation.

**METHODS**

**Research participant**

There are two target survey participants in the study:

For the public survey, the population sampled for this survey includes adult South Dakota residents (18 or order) and individuals (18 or order) who are interested in providing their experience and perspective about South Dakota outdoor recreation. Convenience sample was applied to maximize public inputs for future planning processes.

For the provider survey and inventory, the population for the providers survey includes municipality outdoor recreation/recreation providers (18 or order) in South Dakota. A census-like approach was utilized for the providers survey.

### Survey instrument

Two survey instruments were used in the project: public survey and provider survey (including inventory). The survey instruments were developed by adapting and modifying several instruments in related topics, including outdoor recreation motivation (Kil, Holland, & Stein, 2014; Whiting, Larson, Green & Kralowec, 2017), constraints to outdoor recreation (White, 2008; Shores, Scott, & Floyd, 2007), and park/recreation behavioral patterns of using parks or participating in outdoor recreation (Mowen, Payne, & Scott, 2005; Ries, et. al, 2009). Moreover, the impacts of COVID-19 were included in both surveys for not only understanding the challenges and opportunities but also preparing and planning the future outdoor recreation in the state.

Government reports and publications of South Dakota and other states were used to explore the current trends and challenges in outdoor recreation from a variety of land management agencies and recreation service providers. Additional sources of developing the instrument included the theme and strategies discussed in the South Dakota 2018 SCORP. The core values of park and recreation services, health and wellness, conservation, and social equality, identified by National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) were also implemented in developing the survey instruments. Please see the detailed survey instrument below:

**Instrument for public survey.** Conduct research to provide federally-mandated public input regarding the outdoor recreation demand and current availability as part of the SCORP preparation. There are five sections in the public survey, including (1) past year participation in outdoor recreation, (2) research participants' motivation and constraints in outdoor recreation, (3) perceived outdoor recreation needs in South Dakota, (4) personal perspective about outdoor Recreation, (5) COVID-19 impacts of outdoor recreation, and (5) Demographics (Appendix A).

The first section of the public survey was used to assess outdoor recreation use in South Dakota, such as preferred locations, participation in consumptive and non-consumptive recreational activities, and general perception of outdoor recreation opportunities in the state. It was followed by a series of questions associated with research participants' motivation for, and potential barriers to, outdoor recreation in South Dakota. By using a common definition, motivation was defined as a reason(s) an individual has for participating in outdoor recreation activities from both personal and social aspects. Motivations dictate why people take part in a certain activity. People are motivated either intrinsically or extrinsically. Intrinsic motivation means a person enjoys an activity for internal reasons such as simply finding the activity enjoyable. On the other hand, extrinsic motivation means a person participates in an activity for external reasons such as rewards or punishments (Kil, et al., 2014; Whiting, et al., 2017).

Constraints are barriers to participating in outdoor recreation. According to Jackson, Crawford, & Godbey (1993), people experience three types of constraints: intrapersonal, interpersonal, and structural. Intrapersonal constraints deal with an individual's internal attitude towards a specific activity. Interpersonal constraints involve other people and their attitudes towards an activity. Lastly, structural constraints involve aspects such as time, money, and location that prevent participation in an activity.

In order to access the State's needs and priorities for outdoor recreation, the next section focused on the public's perception of outdoor recreation facilities, amenities, and areas, and the importance of potential benefits of outdoor recreation in South Dakota.

**Provider survey and inventory.** The providers' survey was used to assess the outdoor recreation supply in South Dakota from various providers in the state as well as identify current trends and challenges. There are two surveys were created:

- There are five sections in the provider survey, including (1) organization and community information, (2) impacts of COVID-19 on parks and recreation, (3) responsibilities and priorities in outdoor recreation, and (4) challenges in providing outdoor recreation.
- Outdoor recreation facilities inventory survey with detailed facilities and areas for outdoor recreation, such as water-based facilities, trails, sport facilities, and parks and natural/historic areas.
- Please see both provider surveys in the *2022 South Dakota SCORP Outdoor Recreation Provider Survey Report*, which submitted on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

## DATA COLLECTION

For all survey participants, the respondents will voluntarily access an online survey (QuestionPro) and may do so from any appropriate electronic communication device (i.e., personal computer, public computer, tablet, smart phone). An assent form was placed at the beginning of the survey on the paper survey and the identical online survey. The assent form explains the purpose of the study, the voluntary nature of participation, and the guarantee of participants' confidentiality and privacy. By choosing to proceed, it is implied that individuals fully understand the assent form and agree to participate.

**Public survey.** The public survey was available from December, 2021 until April 20, 2022. All the online surveys also had an identical paper-based survey prepared as an alternative for individuals who prefer paper survey. The first phase of data collection of the public was targeted approximately 250 youth and family focused organizations (e.g., YMCA, Boys and Girls club, 4H, home school association, etc.) and local community partners (e.g., library, chamber of commerce, conservation groups) in SD. The second phase of data collection for the public survey was through GFP's newsletter and public communication.

The SCORP public survey link (<https://sdscorppublic2022.questionpro.com>). All recruitment materials created by SDSU research team will be provided to GFP, including collected contact information, posters, invitations etc.

As a result, approximately 6,000 individuals entered the online survey, while 4,521 individuals completed the online survey, yielding a 72% completion rate. Among these completed participants, 3,194 agreed to provide their email for random drawing for a total of two hundreds \$20 Amazon gift cards.

**Provider survey and inventory.** A census-like approach was utilized for both surveys. The research team reached out to 309 incorporated municipalities. In mid-November 2021 an email was sent to 262 municipalities (those with email addresses in GFPs contact database), inviting them to take part in the 2021 SCORP Survey for Outdoor Recreation Providers.

The provider survey link (<https://2022sdscorpprovider.questionpro.com>) and inventory survey (<https://2022sdscorpinventory.questionpro.com>)

According to the QuestionPro database, from November 2021 through March 2022 there were approximately 240 providers who viewed the survey online. Among all these viewers, 103 started the survey, and 56 completed the survey online. The survey was designed without forced response to encourage response; therefore, surveys are considered complete even with minor skipped or missed responses. The online completion rate of the provider survey was approximately 55%. The average time to complete the providers' survey (not including the inventory survey) was sixteen minutes. There were 14 provider surveys emailed back to the principal investigator (PI, Liu). After the first phase of data collection, the research team received 70 surveys from providers.

To increase the rate of response, in mid-February 2022 identical paper surveys were mailed to the municipalities that had not yet completed the online survey, including those who did not have an email address. A cover letter, two surveys (provider survey and inventory), and a return envelope were enclosed in the mailing package. As a result, an additional 70 paper-based provider surveys were returned via mail. Therefore, a total of 140 research participants (cities, towns, or counties) were utilized in the report for 2023 SCORP, which is doubled from 2013's SCORP provider survey participants. The results of this report were based on the 140 municipality providers' feedback to assess the overall outdoor recreation supply in South Dakota. Please see Appendix B for recruitment materials created by the research team.

As for the facility inventory survey, 115 municipalities finished the inventory survey, of which 40 responded online, and 75 sent paper-based surveys to the PI. Several municipality participants expressed the inventory survey might not apply to their community due to minimum or no recreation facilities within their community. Please see the detailed results in the inventory Excel file.

**Campground search.** In February 2022 a statewide campground search was added as part of the SCORP project to assist GFP in understanding the current campground supplies and business operation in South Dakota. The research team searched more than 500 private campgrounds websites and related sources across the South Dakota and prepared an Excel document and a summary of the findings of private campground operations, amenities, and locations in the state.

**RESULTS: PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY**

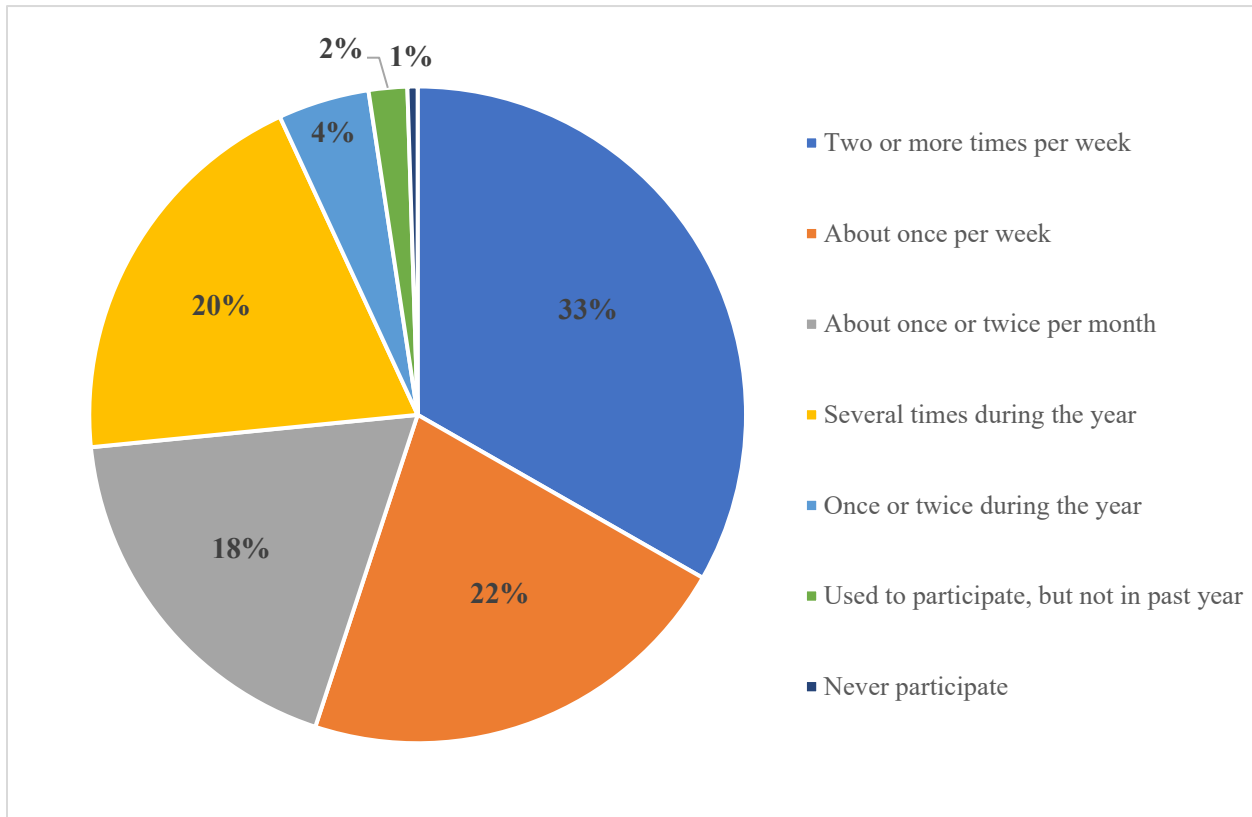
The followings are the results of the public outdoor recreation survey, which is relevant to the first goal of the project by investigating the public perspective of outdoor recreation demand and current availability through assessing South Dakota residents’ behavioral patterns in outdoor recreation, and investigating residents’ motivation for, and potential barriers to, outdoor recreation in the state. The results below followed the sequence of the public survey questions.

**SECTION I: PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR RECREATION**

1. During the past year, how often did you participate in outdoor recreation activities in South Dakota? Please select the statement that best describes your frequency of participation.

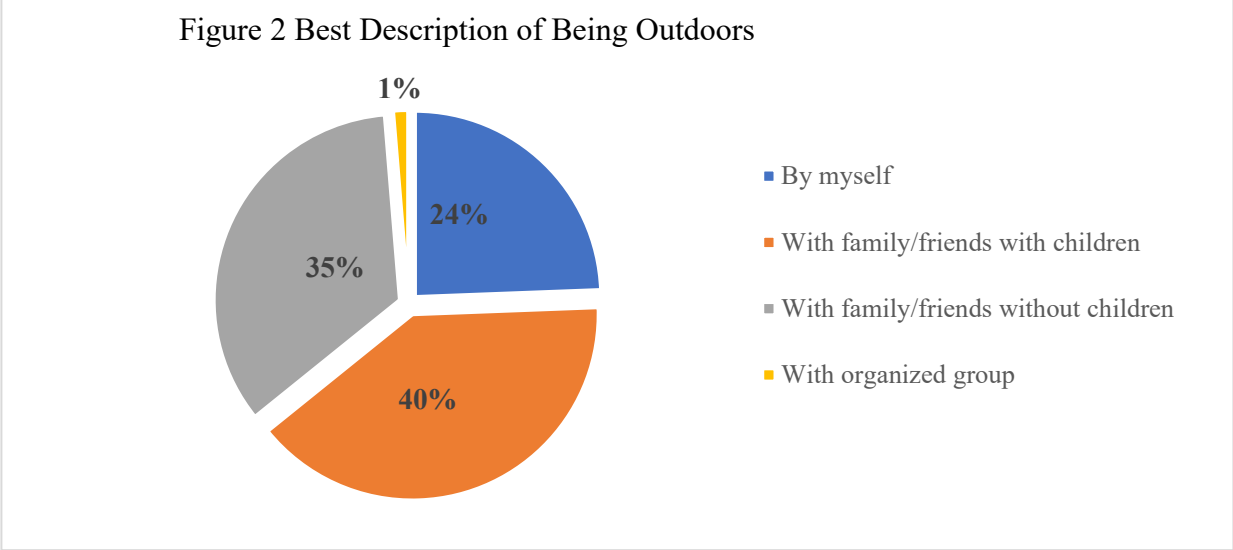
More than 33% of research participants indicated they participated in outdoor recreation activities in South Dakota “two or more times per week.” This was followed by “about once per week” (21.8%) and “about once or twice per month” (18.4%). Only 0.5% selected they never participate (Figure 1).

Figure 1 Overall Outdoor Recreation Participation Frequency



2. Which of the following best describes how you participated in outdoor recreation?

Outdoor recreation participants typically participated in outdoor recreation with family/friends both with children (39.8%) and without children (34.5%). About 24% participated by themselves, and only 1.3% with an organized group (e.g., church group, special association). Figure 2 shows the participants’ response on their outdoor recreation participation.



3. How do you typically hear about information regarding outdoor recreation opportunities and destinations in South Dakota?

Respondents were asked to select all of the ways they typically hear information regarding outdoor recreation opportunities in South Dakota. The most common source was “word of mouth” (45.1%), followed by “suggestions from family and friends” (40.4%) and “internet searches” (36.2%). The least common source of information was “program guides/catalogs” (6.8%).

- **Word of mouth: 2,838 (45.1%)**
- Suggestions from family and friends 2,539 (40.4%)
- Internet searches: 2,279 (36.2%)
- Exploring/way-finding on own: 2,099 (33.4%)
- Websites: 1,974 (31.4%)
- Social media: 1,842 (29.3%)
- Local media (news, magazines, newspapers, radio): 1,210 (19.2%)
- Local residents/staff/visitor centers: 1,206 (19.2%)
- Travel guides: 764 (12.1%)
- Program guides/catalogs: 426 (6.8%)
- Other: 178 (2.8%)
  - The majority of survey participants who answered “other” for this question reported that they typically receive their information from the South Dakota Game, Fish & Park’s email subscription.

**4. In the past year, how often did you use each of the following types of outdoor recreation areas on average in South Dakota?**

Local municipal parks, trails, or playgrounds were mostly used 2 to 3 times a year (29.6%), while state parks were mostly used monthly (35.9%). Participants also commonly went to federal-managed outdoor areas 2 to 3 times a year (32.1%). About 28% of participants indicated they never went to private/commercial recreation areas. Table 2 shows the detailed results.

Table 2 Participation Frequency of Use at Various Outdoor Recreation Areas

	Never	About once a year	2 to 3 times a year	Monthly	Weekly or more frequently
Local municipal parks, trails, or playgrounds	478 (8.6%)	813 (14.6%)	1,644 (29.6%)	1,495 (26.9%)	1,121 (20.2%)
State parks, recreation areas, lakeside areas, trails, game production areas, public hunting areas	105 (1.9%)	563 (10.0%)	1,561 (27.8%)	2,020 (35.9%)	1,375 (24.4%)
Federal-managed outdoor areas	425 (7.7%)	1,331 (24.0%)	1,780 (32.1%)	1,220 (22.0%)	790 (14.2%)
Private/commercial recreation areas	1,536 (27.9%)	1,368 (24.8%)	1,288 (23.4%)	718 (13.0%)	598 (10.9%)

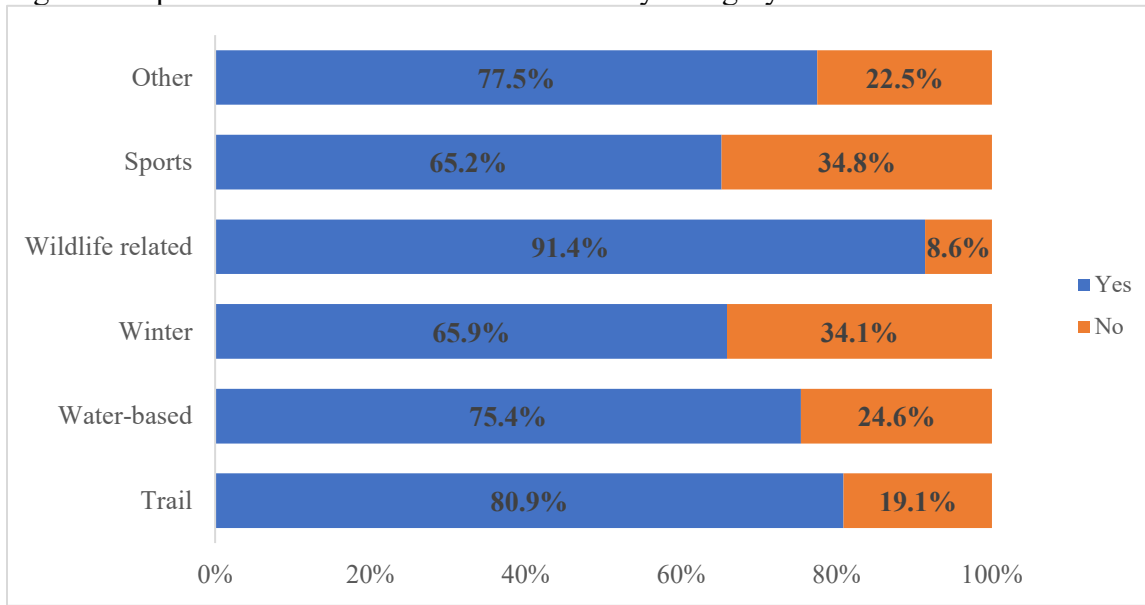
The following series of questions were designed to gather detailed information about research participants’ frequency of participating in outdoor recreation. Outdoor recreation activities were grouped into seven categories included in this section:

- (1) trail activities,
- (2) water-based activities,
- (3) winter activities,
- (4) wildlife-relate activities,
- (5) sport activities,
- (6) other outdoor activities, and
- (7) additional activities.

First, research participants were asked a yes/no question of a particular type of outdoor recreation activity, which determined if a list of specific activities under the category would proceed (Figure 3).



Figure 3 Popular Outdoor Recreation Activities by Category



**Trail activities**

The first question was created to discover the frequency at which participants were engaged with trails and trail related activities. The survey specified trail related activities as anything that involves walking, biking, hiking, or All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) within South Dakota. Slightly more than eighty percent of participants (n=4,551, 80.9%) reported themselves or any of their household members participated in outdoor recreation activities on trails (i.e., walking, biking, hiking, ATV riding etc.) in South Dakota over the past year, while 19% (n=1,075) reported no participation.

The following question asked for the number of times in the past year they participated in trail-related activities, with selections being 1-5 times, 6-15 times, 15+ times, and never.

“Walking on natural surface trails/hiking” (18.1%) and “walking on paved trails” (19.9%) saw the highest frequency participation rates (participated 15+ times) from respondents who indicated they participated in trail activities. “Horseback riding” saw the smallest amount of participation across all participation levels (Table 3).

Table 3 Frequency of Participation in Trail Activities

Trail Activities	1-5 times	6-15 times	15+ times	Never
Walking on paved trails	2,135 (50.8%)	793 (18.9%)	761 (18.1%)	512 (12.2%)
Walking on natural surface trails/Hiking (Day Trip)	1,730 (40.3%)	1,118 (26.0%)	854 (19.9%)	591 (13.8%)
Backpacking (Overnight)	826 (21.7%)	303 (8.0%)	45 (1.2%)	2,637 (69.2%)
Jogging/Running	842 (21.8%)	454 (11.8%)	358 (9.3%)	2,202 (57.1%)

Horseback riding	608 (15.9%)	301 (7.9%)	83 (2.2%)	2,826 (74.0%)
Biking on a paved road/trail	1,230 (30.6%)	705 (17.5%)	472 (11.7%)	1,616 (40.2%)
Biking on unpaved trail	1,038 (26.6%)	567 (14.5%)	267 (6.8%)	2,037 (52.1%)
Mountain biking	703 (18.4%)	378 (9.9%)	201 (5.3%)	2,540 (66.5%)
Off Highway Vehicle (OHV)	771 (19.9%)	409 (10.5%)	170 (4.4%)	2,528 (65.2%)
All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)	1,019 (25.7%)	492 (12.4%)	247 (6.2%)	2,203 (55.6%)
Utility Task Vehicle (UTV)	835 (21.6%)	389 (10.1%)	175 (4.5%)	2,465 (63.8%)
Full size 4×4 Vehicle	1,001 (25.6%)	476 (12.2%)	287 (7.3%)	2,143 (54.9%)

Note: highlighted = the most frequent participation in the category

### Water-based activities.

Question two then looked at participation in any water-based activities within South Dakota during the previous year. More than three quarters of participants (n=4,163, 75.4%) reported themselves or any of their household members participated in water-based activities in South Dakota over the past year, while 24.6 % (n=1,358) reported no participation.

The survey listed activities such as swimming, either at a pool or beach, using a watercraft, either boat, kayak, sail, or paddle board, and snorkeling or SCUBA diving as water-based activities.

Respondents showed high participation rates in “motorized boating” both 1-5 times a year (31.3%) and 15+ times a year (32.3%). A little more than half of water-based recreation participants went “swimming at a beach” 1-5 times a year. Low participation rates are seen in “sailing or sailboarding” and “snorkeling or SCUBA diving.” (Table 4)

Table 4 Frequency of Participation in Water-based Activities

Water-based Activities	1-5 times	6-15 times	15+ times	Never
Swimming at beach	2,085 (55.2%)	586 (15.5%)	327 (8.7%)	779 (20.6%)
Swimming at a pool	883 (29.1%)	409 (13.5%)	334 (11.0%)	1,405 (46.4%)
Motorized boating	1,090 (31.3%)	722 (20.8%)	1,122 (32.3%)	544 (15.6%)
Canoeing or kayaking	1,014 (32.6%)	488 (15.7%)	275 (8.8%)	1,335 (42.9%)
Sailing or sailboarding	125 (4.3%)	70 (2.4%)	46 (1.6%)	2,668 (91.7%)

Standup paddle boarding	414 (14.0%)	149 (5.1%)	99 (3.4%)	2,288 (77.6%)
Snorkeling or SCUBA diving	170 (5.9%)	84 (2.9%)	52 (1.8%)	2,595 (89.5%)

Note: highlighted = the most frequent participation in the category

### Winter activities

The next question, asked for outdoor winter recreation participation, including skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, skating, whether it be for hockey or not, fishing, using a snowmobile, or biking. Almost 66% of survey participants (n=3,607, 65.9%) reported themselves or any of their household members participated in winter activities in South Dakota over the past year, while 34.1 % (n=1,879) reported no participation.

In following with the other questions, the question asked for the number of times in the past year they participated in winter activities, with selections being 1-5 times, 6-15 times, 15+ times, and never. “Ice fishing,” (n=2,325) “sledding,” (n=1,768) and “downhill skiing/snowboarding” (1,465) had the highest total participation rates for winter activities. In total, people participated less frequently in “cross-country skiing” (n=967) and “fat tire biking” (n=769). Table 5 shows the detailed results of participation frequency in water activities.

Table 5 Frequency of Participation in Winter Activities

Winter Activities	1-5 times	6-15 times	15+ times	Never
Downhill skiing/Snowboarding	1,151 (35.7%)	239 (7.4%)	75 (2.3%)	1,756 (54.5%)
Sledding	1,210 (37.4%)	488 (15.1%)	70 (2.2%)	1,468 (45.4%)
Snowshoeing	699 (21.9%)	369 (11.5%)	51 (1.6%)	2,076 (65.0%)
Ice skating (Outdoors)	731 (22.9%)	362 (11.3%)	55 (1.7%)	2,045 (64.0%)
Ice hockey (Outdoors)	382 (12.1%)	376 (12.0%)	47 (1.5%)	2,341 (74.4%)
Ice fishing	1,010 (29.2%)	805 (23.3%)	510 (14.8%)	1,131 (32.7%)
Snowmobiling	642 (20.0%)	393 (12.3%)	70 (2.2%)	2,100 (65.5%)
Cross-country skiing	524 (16.4%)	386 (12.1%)	57 (1.8%)	2,228 (69.7%)
Fat tire biking	379 (12.0%)	343 (10.8%)	47 (1.5%)	2,394 (75.7%)

Note: highlighted = the most frequent participation in the category

### Wildlife-related activities

The next activity focused on anything related to wildlife, which were categorized as anything related to fishing, hunting, trapping, or observing. More than 91% of participants (n=4,973, 91.4%) reported themselves or any of their household members participated in wild-life related activities in South Dakota over the past year, while 8.6 % (n=465) reported no participation.

The following question asked for the number of times in the past year they participated in wildlife-related activities, with selections being 1-5 times, 6-15 times, 15+ times, and never. A vast majority of survey respondents (91.4%) chose that they did participate in wildlife-related activities. High frequency participation of 15+ was seen for wildlife viewing (28.0%), hunting with a rifle/pistol/shotgun (24.7%), and boat fishing (23.3%). Shore fishing had low participation rates with 50.3% of participants indicating they went 1-5 times a year (Table 6).

Table 6 Frequency of Participation in Wildlife-related Activities

Wildlife-related Activities	1-5 times	6-15 times	15+ times	Never
Shore fishing	2,354 (50.3%)	864 (18.5%)	629 (13.4%)	832 (17.8%)
Fly fishing	1,031 (24.1%)	346 (8.1%)	132 (3.1%)	2,772 (64.8%)
Boat fishing	1,617 (34.4%)	849 (18.0%)	1,091 (23.2%)	1,150 (24.4%)
Hunting (Bow)	1,006 (22.7%)	604 (13.6%)	553 (12.5%)	2,266 (51.2%)
Hunting (Rifle/Pistol/Shot Gun)	1,466 (31.0%)	1,066 (22.5%)	1,169 (24.7%)	1,032 (21.8%)
Trapping	833 (19.4%)	370 (8.6%)	203 (4.7%)	2,885 (67.2%)
Wildlife viewing	1,455 (31.6%)	927 (20.1%)	1,289 (28.0%)	933 (20.3%)
Birdwatching	1,372 (30.6%)	671 (15.0%)	747 (16.7%)	1,688 (37.7%)

Note: highlighted = the most frequent participation in the category

### Sports activities

The fifth question was gauged toward discovering the participation rates in outdoor sports activities. Approximately 65% of participants (n=3,531, 65.2%) reported themselves or any of their household members participated in outdoor sports activities in South Dakota over the past year, while 34.8 % (n=1,881) reported “No”.

The following question asked for the number of times in the past year they participated in sports activities included generic outdoor activities, such as golf, tennis, football, baseball/softball, and others, and more unique outdoor sport activities, such as archery, rock climbing, and pickleball. The most popular sport activity that people participated in was rifle/pistol range shooting (Table

7). Participants of this activity typically partook in it 1-5 times in the past year (33.6%). The most frequent participation of 15+ times in the past year was seen for golf (14.9%).

Table 7 Frequency of Participation in Sports Activities

Sports Activities	1-5 times	6-15 times	15+ times	Never
Tennis	886 (28.0%)	217 (6.9%)	73 (2.3%)	1,990 (62.9%)
Golf	1,045 (31.3%)	636 (19.1%)	498 (14.9%)	1,158 (34.7%)
Disc golf	777 (24.4%)	463 (14.5%)	83 (2.6%)	1,867 (58.5%)
Baseball/softball	569 (17.7%)	566 (17.6%)	392 (12.2%)	1,683 (52.5%)
Basketball (outdoors)	668 (21.0%)	520 (16.3%)	164 (5.2%)	1,831 (57.5%)
Volleyball (outdoors)	647 (20.4%)	455 (14.4%)	78 (2.5%)	1,985 (62.7%)
Lacrosse	350 (11.2%)	380 (12.1%)	25 (0.8%)	2,383 (75.9%)
Soccer (outdoors)	474 (15.0%)	460 (14.6%)	160 (5.1%)	2,060 (65.3%)
Football	563 (17.7%)	526 (16.5%)	197 (6.2%)	1,900 (59.6%)
Skateboarding	448 (14.2%)	428 (13.6%)	61 (1.9%)	2,210 (70.2%)
Rock climbing	611 (19.4%)	415 (13.2%)	41 (1.3%)	2,079 (66.1%)
Archery Range Shooting (outdoor)	790 (24.5%)	619 (19.2%)	256 (7.9%)	1,566 (48.5%)
Shotgun Range Shooting (outdoor)	1,037 (31.4%)	700 (21.2%)	270 (8.2%)	1,299 (39.3%)
Rifle/Pistol Range Shooting (outdoor)	1,124 (33.6%)	781 (23.3%)	325 (9.7%)	1,119 (33.4%)
Pickleball	487 (15.5%)	392 (12.5%)	76 (2.4%)	2,193 (69.7%)

Note: highlighted = the most frequent participation in the category

### Other outdoor activities

The penultimate question asked for other outdoor activities that aren't categorized under anything else listed above, including camping, picnicking, lawn games, geocaching, being with pets, and other more passive activities. More than 77% of participants (n=4,16, 77.5%) reported themselves or any of their household members participated in other outdoor activities in South Dakota over the past year, while 22.5 % (n=1,207) reported "No".

As aligned with the previous questions, by asking the number of times in the past year they participated in other outdoor activities, with selections being 1-5 times, 6-15 times, 15+ times, and never. The results showed that geocaching (85.3%), attending educational programs (68.7%), and tent camping (47.6%) were among the least popular other outdoor activities people participated in. The most popular was visiting historic sites, with people typically visiting them 1-5 times a year (59.5%). Recreating with pets was also a popular activity and done the most frequently, with 32.9% of outdoor recreation participants in South Dakota participating 15+ times in a year (Table 8).

Table 8 Frequency of Participation in Other Outdoor Activities

Other Outdoor Activities	1-5 times	6-15 times	15+ times	Never
Tent camping	1,629 (44.1%)	216 (5.9%)	88 (2.4%)	1,757 (47.6%)
RV camping	1,011 (29.6%)	712 (20.9%)	501 (14.7%)	1,188 (34.8%)
Picnicking	1,632 (49.7%)	618 (18.8%)	255 (7.8%)	777 (23.7%)
Visiting historic sites	1,972 (59.5%)	521 (15.7%)	147 (4.4%)	672 (20.3%)
Visiting nature centers	1,845 (56.1%)	429 (13.0%)	132 (4.0%)	882 (26.8%)
Outdoor photography	1,007 (31.4%)	488 (15.2%)	430 (13.4%)	1,285 (40.0%)
Attending educational programs	774 (25.0%)	146 (4.7%)	48 (1.6%)	2,126 (68.7%)
Attending outdoor festivals	1,439 (45.2%)	232 (7.3%)	72 (2.3%)	1,439 (45.2%)
Playing at a playground	1,000 (30.9%)	552 (17.0%)	444 (13.7%)	1,245 (38.4%)
Geocaching	296 (9.7%)	97 (3.2%)	56 (1.8%)	2,606 (85.3%)
Lawn games (horseshoes, bocce, corn hole)	1,158 (35.5%)	752 (23.0%)	468 (14.3%)	887 (27.2%)
Recreating with pet(s)	664 (20.1%)	579 (17.6%)	1,084 (32.9%)	971 (29.4%)

Note: highlighted = the most frequent participation in the category

As for open response to other outdoor recreation activities, hunting was the most common outdoor recreation activity mentioned amongst survey participants, with 68 individuals reporting that they partook in this activity over the past year. Hunting was followed by hiking, fishing, and camping with 37, 36, and 35 users having participated in these activities respectively in the last year.

5. Please select the best statement to describe your preferred locations for outdoor recreation.

- 3506 (68.2%): I enjoy most of my outdoor recreation activities in South Dakota.
- 1488 (28.9%): I enjoy some of my outdoor recreation activities in South Dakota and outside of the state as well.
- 147 (2.9%): I enjoy most of my outdoor recreation activities outside of South Dakota

Open-end summary: Minnesota was the most visited state, with 557 users traveling there to recreate. Wyoming and Nebraska were the second and third most visited states, with 451 and 335 participants visiting respectively. North Dakota, Arizona, Colorado, Montana, and Florida were also reported as popular destinations for outdoor recreation. Approximately 720 survey respondents traveled out of state to go hiking, making this the most popular out of state activity. Fishing was next, with 692 users participating in this activity in other states. The third most popular out of state recreational activity was camping, with 597 participants reporting this.

## SECTION II: OUTDOOR RECREATION MOTIVATION AND CONSTRAINTS

The section was designed to understand why people participate in outdoor recreation activities, and what obstacles people face in pursuing their outdoor recreation interests.

1. We would like to know why you participate in outdoor recreation. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following reasons for participating in outdoor recreation activities? Please rate between 1 (Entirely Disagree) to 5 (Entirely Agree) that indicates your agreement on each reason for participating in outdoor recreation.

South Dakota recreation participants reported mainly intrinsic motivations for participating in outdoor recreation. Enjoy beautiful scenery was the top motivation for outdoor recreation with 62.63% of participants selecting strongly agree (M = 4.30). People also listed “for relaxation” (M = 4.29) and “to experience peace/tranquility” (M = 4.20) as motivations. Other popular motivation for outdoor recreation participation included “to be with family and friends” (M = 4.17) and “to observe wildlife” (M = 4.15). Some of the less popular motivations included: “meeting new people” (M = 3.03), “developing self-confidence” (M = 3.35), and “learning about the environment” (M = 3.61). Table 9 highlights the most popular motivations for participating in outdoor recreation.

Table 9 Summary of Motives in Outdoor Recreation

	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Mean (M)</b>	<b>SD</b>
To enjoy my favorite activity	584 (11.5%)	135 (2.7%)	292 (5.7%)	1296 (25.4)	2790 (54.7%)	4.09	1.32
To develop confidence in myself	256 (5.0%)	519 (10.3%)	2235 (43.6%)	1142 (27.8%)	692 (13.5%)	3.35	1.00
To experience peace/tranquility	64 (1.2%)	220 (4.3%)	667 (13.0%)	1872 (36.4%)	2325 (45.2%)	4.20	0.91
For relaxation	49 (0.9%)	200 (3.9%)	493 (9.6%)	1,879 (36.4%)	2,540 (49.2%)	4.29	0.86
For stimulation and excitement	61 (1.2%)	276 (5.4%)	941 (18.3%)	2,078 (40.5%)	1,781 (34.7%)	4.02	0.92
To feel at one with nature	101 (2.0%)	329 (6.4%)	1,301 (25.3%)	1,793 (34.9%)	1,618 (31.5%)	3.87	0.99
To escape daily routine	72 (1.4%)	304 (5.9%)	810 (15.7%)	1,915 (37.2%)	2,045 (39.7%)	4.08	0.95
To learn about the environment	119 (2.3%)	463 (9.0%)	1,722 (33.5%)	1,838 (35.8%)	995 (19.4%)	3.61	0.97
To experience new things	87 (1.7%)	302 (5.9%)	1,268 (24.7%)	2,185 (42.5%)	1,294 (25.2%)	3.84	0.93
To observe wildlife	53 (1.0%)	222 (4.3%)	710 (13.8%)	2,056 (39.9%)	2,111 (41.0%)	4.15	0.89
To meet new people	401 (7.8%)	1,026 (19.9%)	2,141 (41.6%)	1,195 (23.2%)	385 (7.5%)	3.03	1.02
To be with family and friends	59 (1.1%)	234 (4.5%)	672 (13.0%)	1,984 (38.4%)	2,218 (42.9%)	4.17	0.90



To enjoy beautiful scenery	38 (0.7%)	196 (3.8%)	499 (9.7%)	1,878 (36.4%)	2,548 (49.4%)	4.30	0.85
To develop skill and knowledge	71 (1.4%)	325 (6.3%)	1,547 (30.1%)	2,049 (39.8%)	1,153 (22.4%)	3.76	0.92
To gain sense of accomplishment	108 (2.1%)	415 (8.1%)	1,779 (34.6%)	1,845 (35.9%)	997 (19.4%)	3.62	0.95
To challenge myself	106 (2.1%)	432 (8.4%)	1,559 (30.3%)	1,900 (37.0%)	1,143 (22.2%)	3.69	0.98
To keep physically fit	64 (1.2%)	314 (6.1%)	1,228 (23.9%)	2,190 (42.6%)	1,347 (26.2%)	3.86	0.92
To use my outdoor gear/equipment	109 (2.1%)	440 (8.6%)	1,203 (23.4%)	2,075 (40.4%)	1,314 (25.6%)	3.79	0.99

2. We would like to know about your perceived barriers to participating in outdoor recreation. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following being obstacles you face in pursuing your outdoor recreation interests? Please rate on a scale from 1 (Entirely Disagree) to 5 (Entirely Agree).

Table 10 highlights the most popular constraints for participating in outdoor recreation. The results showed structural constraints as the most common reasons/barriers to participating in outdoor recreation:

- “Parks and recreation areas are too crowded” (M=3.23) was the highest barrier to participation.
- “Don’t have enough time” (M=3.09) was another high perceived barrier to participation.
- Cost barriers were also prevalent to participation. “Equipment costs are too high” (M=3.06), “admission fees are too high” (M=2.87), and “activity fees are too high” (M=2.79) were each listed in the top five barriers.
- “Lack of transportation/no way to get to parks” (M=2.11) and “afraid of getting hurt by animals/insects” (M=1.84) were among the less common constraints.

Table 10 Summary of Constraints in Outdoor Recreation

	Mean	SD
Afraid of getting hurt by animals /insects	1.84	1.07
Lack of interest	2.16	1.17
Don’t feel welcome	2.18	1.17
Lack of information	2.38	1.17
Unaware of opportunities	2.63	1.20
Don’t have enough time	3.09	1.23
Don’t have the skills or physical ability	2.45	1.19
Lack of confidence	2.21	1.12
Don’t have people to go with	2.49	1.18
Activity fees are too high	2.79	1.19
Admission fees are too high	2.87	1.17
Equipment costs are too high	3.06	1.10
The facility I want doesn’t exist in parks	2.54	1.10

Parks and recreation areas are too crowded	3.23	1.13
Concern about safety / crime	2.31	1.13
Nearby parks are dirty or poorly maintained	2.26	1.11
Lack of transportation / no way to get to parks	2.11	1.12
Don't have necessary equipment	2.33	1.14
Weather (i.e., extreme cold or hot temperatures)	2.70	1.16
Age (i.e. busy with kids activities now, unable to physically participate in the same activities, etc.)	2.63	1.18

3. Do you, or anyone in your household, have a physical disability that affects your ability to participate in outdoor recreation?

- **3,954 (77.6%): No, no one in my household has a disability**
- 829 (16.3%): Yes, I have a disability
- 313 (6.1): Yes, someone else in my household has a disability

4. If your response is Yes in the previous question, what recommendations could be made to improve your ability to engage in outdoor recreation activities?

Four major themes emerged from the open-ended question. Please see Appendix C for all open-ended answers. The following is the summary of each theme:

**Hunting.** Many survey responses revolved around hunting. ‘Hunting’ was the most used term within this survey, being mentioned 43 times. Outdoor recreation participants expressed a huge need for more public hunting ground accessibility. Respondents stated their concern about public vs. private hunting grounds. It seems that public ground continues to be restricted amongst hunters and hard to come by. Another common recommendation was allowing the use of ATVs to help hunters haul out their big game. It was mentioned that allowing this would be especially beneficial for handicap individuals. Users also discussed the allocation and application process of obtaining a hunting license. There seems to be concern about the high fees and restrictions involved with earning a license. Users would like to see some sort of reduced licensing fee for senior citizens and individuals with disability.

**Water Access.** Water access was a common response among outdoor recreation users, with 35 respondents using the term ‘access’ in their response. The need for more onshore fishing areas was expressed, along with more availability for safe shoreline fishing. Survey respondents also stated that it would be beneficial to create and maintain boat ramps that are handicap accessible. Building additional boat ramps to speed up the launch or load process for boats was also discussed. Fishing licensing fees was another common issue mentioned by survey respondents. Many individuals are concerned about the cost of purchasing a license. Some even mentioned that they have resorted to fishing out of state because it is cheaper for them and their family.

**Camping.** Users would like the 90-day reservation policy to be extended. It was mentioned that it becomes hard to find available campsites for some people who are unable to reserve grounds that far in advance. Some individuals expressed their frustration with the 90-day reservation policy, stating that many users abuse the system and will reserve camping spots in advance and then not show up for their full reservation. Outdoor enthusiasts mentioned that they would like to see some sort of policy enacted for campers who do not show up for their reservation without cancelling. They also noted that there should be the option for “drop-in” or last-minute campsite availability. There seems to be a need for more full hook-up/electric campsites, and need was also expressed for primitive campsites. Handicap accessible campsites and facilities was another common response. Overall, it seems that state and local parks would benefit from adding more campsites available to the public. A few selected direct quotes below:

- “Being able to plan ahead and reserve camping spots more than 90 days out would be a great help. Only 90 days out makes it difficult to get kids and grandkids to arrange vacation time and still be able to get the camping areas we want.”
- “Campgrounds need more handicap spots. Shorter walking paths would be a nice option, or some type of handicap friendly rental ATVs or golf carts for long trails to scenic areas.”

**Trails/facilities.** Nearly 40 survey respondents stated the need for more paved trails. They are unable to use some trails now due to the width, condition, and incline of the trail. Research participants wish to have more paved trails at a lower incline to accommodate the public with disabilities. Users also requested to have more seating areas around trails and facilities to give people a chance to take a break from their outdoor recreation activity. Research participants also suggested more handicap restrooms. Parking was a popular need among survey participants. They described the need for more handicap parking, especially near boat ramps and docks. Outdoor recreation users also recommended creating more trails specifically for ATV/UTV usage. However, some users would like to restrict usage of such vehicles as it disturbs their experience when enjoying nature.

5. Do you have any suggestions for how outdoor recreation providers can help remove the barriers to your participation in outdoor recreation activities?

There were five main themes discovered in this open-ended question regarding how to assist the participants to participate more in outdoor recreation activities:

**Improve Accessibility.** A common theme amongst study participants was more ADA (Americans with Disability Act) accommodations. It would be beneficial to create more programming and activities that specifically target individuals with disabilities. This would help create a more inclusive outdoor environment while getting more of the community involved in recreation. Outdoor enthusiasts would like to see more handicap accessible facilities, cabins, and campsites. Some mentioned that creating more handicap accessible campsites that are near restroom and shower facilities would be beneficial. Additionally, more paved trails that are wheelchair accessible would encourage individuals to interact and be independent in nature. Participants also discussed having more or improved handicap accessible parking and boat ramps, along with having handicap accessible fishing piers. The terms ‘access’ and ‘accessible’ were mentioned 181 times collectively amongst respondents. A few selected direct quotes below:

- “Encourage more participation by conducting classes for those that are handicapped, both physically or developmentally. Make it easier!”
- “All lakes with public access should have a handicap accessible fishing dock.”

**Facility Expansion and Improvement.** Another common response was the expansion and improvement of local and state park services and facilities. Among these were parking, boat docks and ramps, publicly accessible land, but mainly campsites. Respondents mentioned that campsites often feel over-crowded which takes away from the relaxing aspect of the trip itself. Along with that, some respondents mentioned that it is hard to find available campsites due to the 90-day reservation policy. Outdoor recreation users would also like to see more boat ramps and docks, and the maintenance of existing ramps and docks. Additionally, users mentioned that parking can often be difficult to come by and it would be beneficial to create more parking availability. A few selected direct quotes below:

- “Double (or triple) the number of electric RV camping spots at the State Parks! Unless you can readily plan ahead 90-days, it is almost impossible to get a spot! Please add more camping spots!”
- “Continue expanding bike trails in local communities. More pickleball and tennis courts. More summer rec programs to teach kids outdoor”

**Dissension between SD Resident and Non-resident.** Many survey respondents discussed the issue of residents/non-residents mainly regarding the topics of camping and hunting. A resident would be any individual residing in South Dakota, a non-resident would be anyone from out of state. South Dakota residents would like to see more preferential treatment when it comes to reserving campsites and purchasing hunting licenses and tags. They would like to see reduced prices for SD residents and increased prices for non-residents. On the flip side, many non-residents would like to see fees reduced for out-of-staters, mentioning that it is unwelcoming to travel here and have to pay additional fees. A few selected direct quotes below:

- “Give more preference to SD residents on fishing, hunting, and camping opportunities as compared to non-residents.”
- “Remove out-of-state fees. People already spend more money to travel out-of-state. It is not welcoming.”

**Rules and Regulation of Specialty Activities.** Many respondents discussed matters relating to rules and regulations of outdoor areas and facilities. Outdoor recreation users expressed their concern for the 90-day reservation policy for campsites. It was stated that it can be very difficult to find available campsites because not everyone is able to take advantage of the 90-day reservations due to not knowing their schedule that far in advance. However, there are also individuals who wish they could reserve their campsites more than 90-days in advance. This would allow them to coordinate with family so that everyone has ample time to request vacation or take time off work. Users mentioned that a few first-come, first-served campsites would be beneficial for individuals who are last minute planners or just need to drop-in for the night. Additionally, respondents would like to see policies enforced for campers who do not show up for their campsite reservation. A few selected direct quotes below:

- “Add more places to camp. Can’t get into state parks to camp at a moment’s notice. They book too far in advance. Keep more camp sites first-come, first-served.”

- “People are abusing the 90-day system by making reservations several days before they actually plan to occupy the site. If they do not show up the first day of reservation, they should lose it.”

Outdoor recreation enthusiasts also expressed their concern of the increased usage of ATVs/UTVs. It was mentioned that these off-road vehicles contribute to the destruction of nature and wildlife areas. They disturb the peace and serenity of the outdoors that many users seek. However, on the flip side, a number of respondents wished there were more areas where they could use their ATVs/UTVs. Some mentioned that it would be beneficial to use an ATV/UTV to assist with hauling out big game during the hunting season. Others mentioned that ATV/UTV usage is the only way they are able to navigate certain landscapes due to disabilities. A few selected direct quotes below:

- “The ATVs so diminish the sense of tranquility and they are tearing up the trails. Please restrict their use and ENFORCE it.”
- “Allow wider use of ATVs, I have difficulty walking.”

**Commercialization/Privatization.** Another concern that many respondents had was the lack of public hunting land. More and more land is being dedicated to private land hunting and guided hunts which are not freely available to the public. This results in crowded, limited, public hunting land. Some mentioned that hunting is becoming cost prohibitive due to lack of public space to hunt and resulting in having to pay for guided hunts or pay fees to hunt individually on private land. A few selected direct quotes below:

- “Find more public land in South Dakota that can be accessible to hunters. We are experiencing decreasing opportunities because of lack of places to hunt.”

Please see Appendix C for the list of open-ended answers.

### SECTION III: OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

This section was designed to understand the State’s needs for outdoor recreation related facilities, amenities, and areas to promote and sustain the outdoor recreation legacy of South Dakota over the next five years.

1. Please indicate whether or not you feel there is a need for more facilities or if efforts should be made to improve what already exists. Please select all that apply.

Participants responses indicated a need for more hunting areas, shooting ranges, campgrounds (RV/trailer and tent), fishing areas, and walking/biking trails. The top ten facilities of “Need More” and “Need to Improve” were marked in the following Table 11.

Table 11 Percentage and Rank of Need in Facilities and Areas

	Need more	Need to improve	Adequate	No opinion
Tent-camping campgrounds	<b>[5] 25.1%</b>	11.6%	38.3%	24.9%
RV or trailer campgrounds	<b>[4] 26.6%</b>	13.7%	37.7%	22.0%
Areas for backpacking	15.6%	12.7%	36.2%	35.5%
Picnic areas	12.3%	15.5%	49.4%	22.9%
Facilities for boating	16.2%	<b>[4] 17.7%</b>	42.0%	24.1%
Swimming beaches	15.2%	<b>[1] 21.1%</b>	39.7%	23.9%
Swimming pools	12.5%	12.6%	37.4%	37.5%
Fishing areas	<b>[8] 21.5%</b>	<b>[3] 18.1%</b>	42.6%	17.9%
Shore Fishing Areas	<b>[6] 24.5%</b>	<b>[2] 20.1%</b>	36.6%	18.8%
Hunting areas	<b>[1] 31.3%</b>	<b>[7] 16.9%</b>	30.4%	21.4%
Walking/biking trails (unpaved)	<b>[10] 20.7%</b>	<b>[10] 15.8%</b>	40.7%	22.9%
Horseback riding trails	8.6%	8.7%	27.5%	55.2%
Paved trails	14.9%	12.7%	41.7%	30.7%
Mountain biking trails	10.7%	9.4%	28.3%	51.5%
Mountain biking skills course	10.0%	8.6%	23.7%	57.8%
Fat Tire bike trails	8.9%	7.9%	23.0%	60.2%
Cross-country skiing trails	10.3%	9.6%	23.1%	57.0%
Down-hill skiing/Snowboarding areas	11.9%	9.2%	25.2%	53.7%
Sledding areas	17.4%	14.3%	23.5%	44.8%
Ice skating or hockey rinks (Outdoor)	11.9%	11.3%	25.0%	51.8%
Snowmobile trails	8.4%	8.8%	31.5%	51.3%
Off-road or ATV riding areas/trails	13.6%	12.6%	32.5%	41.2%
Historic sites (with interpretation)	13.6%	<b>[5] 17.4%</b>	38.7%	30.3%
Nature areas/open space	<b>[7] 22.6%</b>	<b>[6] 17.1%</b>	38.8%	21.4%
Outdoor festivals/Festival areas	15.9%	13.4%	36.4%	34.3%
Pow-wow grounds	8.3%	10.6%	23.8%	57.3%
Playgrounds	11.0%	15.0%	38.1%	35.9%

Soccer fields	7.0%	7.8%	32.5%	52.7%
Football fields	6.6%	7.6%	33.4%	52.4%
Lacrosse fields	7.1%	6.5%	24.3%	62.1%
Baseball or softball fields	8.8%	10.2%	35.7%	45.3%
Golf courses/driving ranges	9.8%	9.8%	38.6%	41.9%
Skateboarding parks	8.1%	8.2%	26.9%	56.8%
Tennis courts	7.4%	8.4%	29.8%	54.3%
Volleyball courts (outdoor)	8.6%	9.1%	28.0%	54.3%
Basketball courts (outdoor)	9.1%	10.4%	28.9%	51.6%
Horseshoe pits	10.0%	11.3%	28.2%	50.5%
Archery target shooting ranges	<b>[9] 21.0%</b>	15.2%	26.0%	37.8%
Shooting ranges (shotgun)	<b>[3] 27.7%</b>	<b>[8] 16.9%</b>	24.7%	30.7%
Pistol/rifle shooting ranges	<b>[2] 30.4%</b>	<b>[9] 16.5%</b>	24.4%	28.7%
Disc golf courses	11.8%	10.6%	31.4%	46.2%
Dog parks	18.5%	14.2%	28.8%	38.5%
Canoe/Kayak water trails	19.1%	14.3%	25.8%	40.8%
ATV skill parks	10.7%	9.0%	24.4%	55.9%
ADA accessible facilities. Please specify what types.	12.9%	13.7%	22.5%	51.0%

2. What are the most needed recreation facilities in your community (within 10-15 minutes of your home)?

The most needed recreation facility within South Dakota communities according to survey respondents are trails. The term “trails” was mentioned 514 times throughout the survey results. There is a wide variety of trail type that recreation users would like to see. Hiking, biking, and walking trails were one of the most common requests from respondents. Paved, easily accessible, ADA compliant trails was another common response. Outdoor enthusiasts also stated the need for more ATV/UTV specific trails. Additionally, cross-country skiing trails, along with horse trails are a common need stated by survey respondents.

Another common recreational need mentioned was public access to shooting and archery ranges. Users would like to see both indoor and outdoor ranges. Specifically mentioned were rifle ranges, and trap and skeet ranges. Collectively, the terms “range” and “shooting” were discussed 536 times. Survey respondents also wish to have more public access to fishing areas within their community. The majority of users would like to see more shore fishing options available to them. The term “shore fishing” was discussed 101 times throughout the survey.

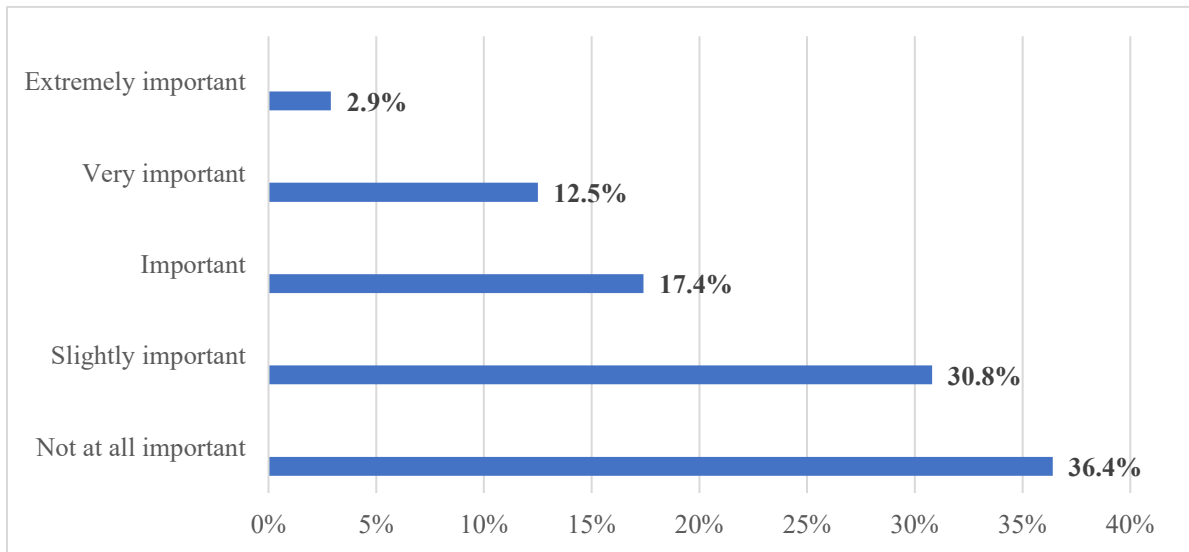
- “Improved paved trails and the establishment of new trails: the potential for trails in our area is unlimited”
- “Archery and shooting range that is open to the public and not privately owned”

Please see Appendix C for the list of open-ended answers.

3. How important is availability of Wi-Fi to you when participating in outdoor recreation activities?

Respondents indicated a very low importance for the availability of Wi-Fi when recreating outdoors with 36.4% responding that it is “not at all important” and 2.9% responding it is “extremely important.” (Figure 4)

Figure 4 Importance of Wi-Fi Availability



4. What other facilities/areas/amenities should be considered when promoting South Dakota’s outdoor recreation legacy for the next five years?

When considering the facilities/areas/amenities that should be used to promote South Dakota’s outdoor recreation legacy for the next five years, 180 users discussed camping, making it the most common answer among respondents. As has been previously mentioned, the need for additional campsites throughout the state was expressed. Additionally, respondents commented on the difficulty of finding available campsites if you are unable to reserve early within the 90-day window. Hunting and fishing were two other common responses from survey participants.

Overall, users would like to see the maintenance and expansion of public hunting and fishing areas. Collectively, “hunting” and “fishing” were mentioned 299 times throughout the survey.

- “Increase the number of areas for camping and hiking so it’s not so crowded in the summer. It’s getting harder and harder to get away from people, even out west.”
- “Inexpensive opportunities for young families; the ability to rent equipment to try camping for families and young adults would also help grow future use.”
- “Any extra access is good. With so much land being private it is hard to enjoy hunting or fishing with a family when you don’t have relatives who own land.”

Please see Appendix C for the list of open-ended answers.



**SECTION IV: PUBLIC PERSPECTIVE ABOUT OUTDOOR RECREATION**

The following section examined priorities in funding outdoor recreation and conservation efforts in South Dakota, the importance of potential benefits of outdoor recreation, and the ability of outdoor recreation providers to provide these benefits.

1. How important is having access to high-quality public park and recreation opportunities when deciding where to live?

Participants placed relatively high importance on having access to high-quality parks and recreation opportunities when deciding where to live. Only 6.5% indicated it was “not at all important.”

- 284 (6.5%) Not at all important
- 711 (16.2%) Slightly important
- **1,307 (29.7%) Important**
- 1,255 (28.5%) Very important
- 844 (19.2%) Extremely important

2. When funding outdoor recreation and conservation efforts in South Dakota, how important or unimportant are each of following considerations? Please rate each statement on a 5-point Likert scale from extremely unimportant to extremely important.

Respondents showed the highest average importance of funding efforts to “protect wildlife and fish habitat” (M=3.96), “maintain existing park and recreation areas” (3.91), and “provide environmental and conversation programs” (M=3.56). Although not much lower in importance, the lowest importance was shown to “build pedestrian and cycling paths between places of work, parks, schools, etc.” (M=3.24). Table 12 shows the detailed results of funding efforts in outdoor recreation.

Table 12 Summary of Importance of Funding Efforts in Outdoor Recreation

	Extremely Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat Important	Extremely Important	Mean (M)	SD
(A) Acquire and protect open space (as undeveloped, conserved land)	843 (18.1%)	394 (8.4%)	663 (14.2%)	1,137 (24.4%)	1,627 (34.9%)	3.50	1.48
(B) Acquire additional land and water areas for developed recreation	404 (8.6%)	674 (14.3%)	1,039 (22.1%)	1,539 (32.7%)	1,044 (22.2%)	3.46	1.22
(C) Maintain existing park and recreation areas	463 (9.8%)	404 (8.6%)	490 (10.4%)	1,098 (23.3%)	2,250 (47.8%)	3.91	1.34
(D) Provide environmental and conservation programs	287 (6.1%)	616 (13.1%)	1,112 (23.7%)	1,527 (32.5%)	1,151 (24.5%)	3.56	1.17

(E) Provide recreation programs at parks and recreation areas	238 (5.1%)	704 (15.0%)	1,423 (30.3%)	1,617 (34.5%)	710 (15.1%)	3.40	1.07
(F) Protect wildlife and fish habitat	461 (9.8%)	388 (8.3%)	502 (10.7%)	859 (18.3%)	2,492 (53.0%)	3.96	1.36
(G) Build more greenways/trails	297 (6.3%)	725 (15.5%)	1,446 (30.9%)	1,504 (32.1%)	714 (15.2%)	3.34	1.11
(H) Build pedestrian and cycling paths between places of work, parks, schools etc.	367 (7.8%)	792 (16.9%)	1,537 (32.7%)	1,327 (28.3%)	671 (14.3%)	3.24	1.13

3. When thinking about your community, how much do you agree that the outdoor recreation opportunities provided by your local park and recreation organization provides or supports the delivery of the following benefits to the public? Please rate each statement on a 5-point Likert scale from strongly disagree to strongly agree.

The highest perceived benefits were “preserves open spaces and the environment” (M=3.93) and “enhances a sense of place and community” (M=3.83). “Makes your community a more desirable place,” “preserves historical features in your community,” and “promotes tourism in your community” were also high perceived benefits, all with the mean score of 3.78 (Table 13).

Table 13 Summary of Perceived Benefits from Parks and Recreation in South Dakota

	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean (M)	SD
Makes your community a more desirable place to live	567 (12.3%)	256 (5.6%)	573 (12.4%)	1,439 (31.2%)	1,772 (38.5%)	3.78	1.34
Preserves historical features in your community	95 (2.1%)	409 (8.9%)	1,173 (25.4%)	1,686 (36.6%)	1,247 (27.0%)	3.78	1.01
Preserves open spaces and the environment	109 (2.4%)	412 (9.0%)	833 (18.1%)	1,597 (34.7%)	1,652 (35.9%)	3.93	1.05
Increases property values in your community	124 (2.7%)	427 (9.3%)	1,319 (28.7%)	1,494 (32.5%)	1,239 (26.9%)	3.72	1.04
Helps attract new residents and businesses	132 (2.9%)	458 (9.9%)	1,142 (24.8%)	1,633 (35.4%)	1,242 (27.0%)	3.74	1.05
Helps to lower the crime rate in your community	160 (3.5%)	613 (13.3%)	1,740 (37.8%)	1,253 (27.2%)	843 (18.3%)	3.44	1.04
Promotes tourism in your community	118 (2.6%)	434 (9.4%)	1,086 (23.6%)	1,687 (36.6%)	1,279 (27.8%)	3.78	1.04
Enhances a sense of place and community	82 (1.8%)	372 (8.1%)	1,083 (23.6%)	1,778 (38.7%)	1,282 (27.9%)	3.83	.99
Provides programs/services that benefit a demographically diverse population	154 (3.4%)	508 (11.1%)	1,593 (34.7%)	1,412 (30.7%)	927 (20.2%)	3.53	1.04

4. How important is it that your local parks and recreation organization delivers or provides the following programs/services that focus on health and well-being? Please rate each statement on a 5-point Likert scale from extremely unimportant to extremely important.

Respondents indicated the highest importance for their local parks and recreation organizations to provide programs and services to “improve mental health and reduce stress for youth” (M=4.01), “improve mental health and reduce stress for youth” (M=3.92), and “provide equitable access to high-quality parks, green spaces, trails, and other built environment features” (M=3.84). The following Table 14 shows the results of the provision of health and well-being in parks and recreation services.

Table 14 Summary of Importance of Provision of Health and Well-being Services

	Extremely Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat Important	Extremely Important	Mean (M)	SD
Improve physical health and fitness	590 (13.1%)	292 (6.5%)	786 (17.4%)	1,635 (36.2%)	1,218 (26.9%)	3.57	1.30
Improve mental health and reduce stress for adults	132 (2.9%)	386 (8.5%)	789 (17.4%)	1,642 (36.3%)	1,579 (34.9%)	3.92	1.06
Improve mental health and reduce stress for youth	139 (3.1%)	301 (6.7%)	753 (16.7%)	1,531 (33.9%)	1,798 (39.8%)	4.01	1.05
Provide opportunities for social interaction	144 (3.2%)	466 (10.3%)	1,177 (26.0%)	1,758 (38.8%)	983 (21.7%)	3.66	1.03
Partner with local government or community-based organizations to improve access to health and wellness opportunities	131 (2.9%)	458 (10.1%)	1,308 (28.9%)	1,631 (36.1%)	996 (22.0%)	3.64	1.02
Promote the health and wellness benefits of parks and recreation	108 (2.4%)	409 (9.0%)	1,043 (23.1%)	1,768 (39.1%)	1,194 (26.4%)	3.78	1.01
Provide equitable access to high-quality parks, green spaces, trails, and other built environment features	155 (3.4%)	385 (8.5%)	950 (21.1%)	1,570 (34.8%)	1,453 (32.2%)	3.84	1.08

5. What else should we consider in developing the South Dakota outdoor recreation plan for the next five-years?

In this open-ended question, 119 survey respondents discussed the importance of parks and green spaces within their communities to help contribute to the quality of life for residents. Additionally, users would like to see more access to public hunting areas. Specifically mentioned were walk-in hunting areas. Along with that, survey respondents expressed their concern of the

increasing licensing fees to hunt and the decreasing access to public hunting land. Users would also like to see the acquisition of more land for general use by the public. ADA accessible facilities is another consideration for the future. Creating an inclusive and welcoming recreation environment where all individuals are encouraged to participate regardless of ability is important.

- “Breaking barriers and improving accessibility (not only physical disabilities, but other barriers).”
- “In my opinion, the SD State Parks are among the best anywhere. Maintain that high level of excellence and improve where possible.”
- “Improve the quality and quantity of hunting and fishing areas and access.”

Please see Appendix C for the list of open-ended answers.

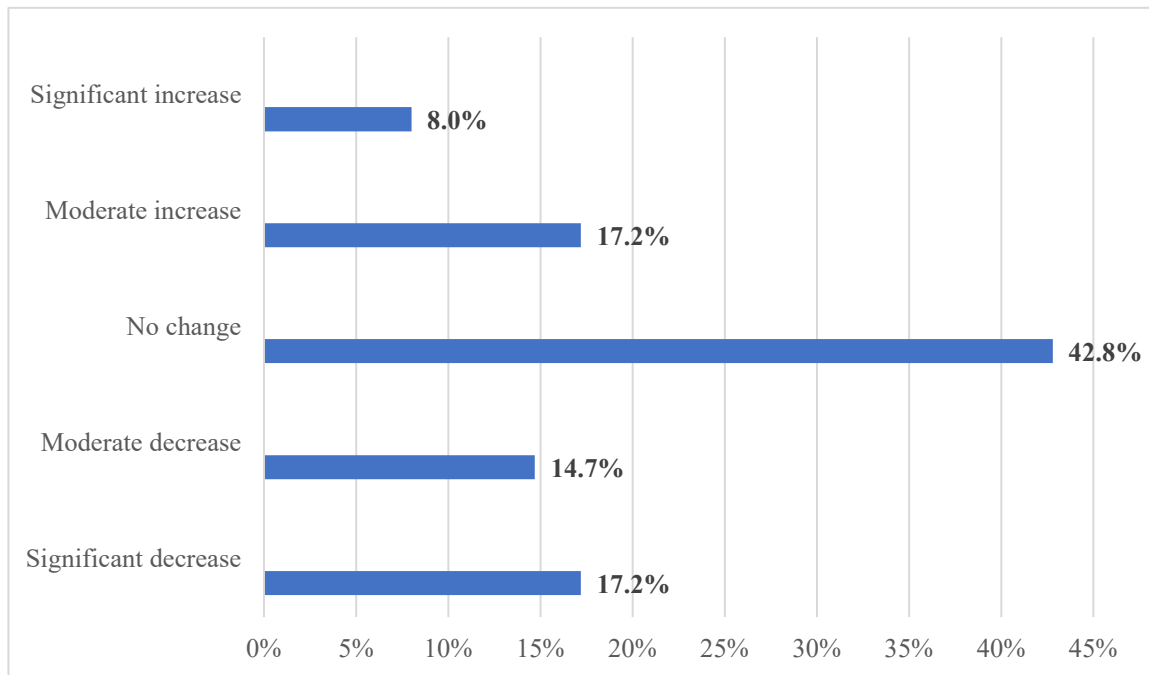
## SECTION V: COVID-19 IMPACTS ON OUTDOOR RECREATION

This section was designed to address how the COVID-19 pandemic affected people’s participation and experiences in outdoor recreation. Questions addressed frequency of participation, location of outdoor recreation participation, and involvement in outdoor activities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. How did your frequency of outdoor activity participation change during the COVID-19 pandemic on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being a significant decrease in outdoor activity participation and 5 being a significant increase in outdoor activity participation?

Close to half of the participants (42.8%) indicated their frequency of outdoor activity participation did not change during the COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 5). There was some decrease seen with 17.2% indicating their participation decreased significantly and 14.7% indicating their participation decreased moderately.

Figure 5 Change in Outdoor Activity Participation During COVID-19 Pandemic



2. How does the COVID-19 pandemic impact your participation in your favorite outdoor activities? Please explain whether that impact was negative, positive, etc.

In this open-ended question, while a large portion of individuals expressed no impact on their outdoor participation, a total of 328 survey respondents reported that their participation in outdoor activities was positively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many users discussed the matter of safety and social distancing and how outdoor activities allowed them to abide by these guidelines while also socializing or enjoying their favorite recreational activity. Additionally, due to the closure of many businesses and public entities, individuals had more time on their hands than usual and so chose to spend that time outdoors. Walking, with or without a pet, hiking, fishing, hunting, and camping are a few of the outdoor activities that users were able to participate in more often due to the pandemic.

On the flip side, 298 survey respondents reported that their participation in outdoor activities was negatively impacted by COVID-19 due to facility closures and event cancellations. Additionally, some respondents were fearful of contracting the virus so chose not to recreate outside the home. Overcrowding of outdoor spaces due to many public businesses and entities being temporarily closed was another reason users reported a negative impact on their participation in outdoor activities. The discouragement of group events also kept respondents from their favorite activities. However, some reported that they did begin to engage in more individual-based pursuits. The followings are direct quotes from the participants:

- “Due to being at home, we were able to increase our outdoor use, which I would equate to a positive impact.”
- “Overall, it was a negative experience. We did not go out to very many activities, especially that involved other people. We did participate in less social events like hiking and wildlife viewing.”

Please see Appendix C for all open-ended answers.

3. Where do you typically go to participate in outdoor recreation during the COVID-19 pandemic? Please select all that apply.

About half (49.1%) of the respondents went to state parks/recreation areas to participate in outdoor recreation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Local parks/trails (38.0%) and backyards (35.0%) were also popular areas for outdoor recreation participation. Only 12.8% indicated they stayed at home and did not participate in outdoor recreation activities.

- 808 (12.8%) Stay at home (no participation)
- 2,203 (35.0%) Backyard
- 2,393 (38.0%) Local parks/trails
- **3,087 (49.1%) State parks/recreation areas**
- 1,930 (30.7%) National parks/forests/grasslands
- 1,532 (24.3%) Private properties
- 191 (3.0%) Other (please specify)
  - 28 users reported that they visited lakes to participate in outdoor recreation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hunting and fishing on public land was another popular outdoor recreation activity during the pandemic. Additionally, 15 individuals answered that the golf course was where they chose to recreate during COVID-19.

4. Did you start a new outdoor activity during the COVID-19 pandemic? 4a. What new activity/activities did you pick up during the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Yes: 1,305 (29.0%)
- No: 3,198 (71.0%)

Camping and hunting were the top two new activities picked up during the COVID-19 pandemic, with 33 users reporting such. These activities were followed by fishing and kayaking with 32 respondents reporting these respectively. The fifth most popular activity that was acquired during the pandemic was biking, with 24 individuals reporting this.

5. Did you stop participating in your preferred outdoor recreation activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

- 839 (18.5%) Yes
- **3,667 (80.9%) No**
- 26 (0.6%) I did not participate in outdoor recreation activities before the COVID-19 pandemic

5a. Do you plan to return to your preferred recreation activities after the COVID-19 pandemic?

- **716 (85.2%) Yes**
- 37 (4.4%) No
- 87 (10.4%) Maybe/unsure

6. Please rate the following COVID-19 statements in relation to your outdoor recreation experiences since March of 2020.

Participants indicated the most agreement towards the statement “I am satisfied with the outdoor recreation opportunities provided to me in South Dakota” (M=3.71). Participants had slightly less agreement towards the statement “I am concerned about my own personal health when recreating outdoors” (M=2.37) as well as “I am concerned about the public’s health when recreating outdoors” (M=2.44). Table 15 shows the details results of participants’ outdoor recreation experiences amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 15 Summary of Outdoor Recreation Preferences related to COVID-19 Pandemic

	Strongly disagree	Slightly disagree	Neutral	Slightly agree	Strongly agree	Mean (M)	SD
I am concerned about my own personal health when recreating outdoors.	1,834 (40.8%)	759 (16.9%)	755 (16.8%)	711 (15.8%)	440 (9.8%)	2.37	1.40

I am concerned about the public's health when recreating outdoors.	1,679 (37.4%)	751 (16.7%)	871 (19.4%)	778 (17.3%)	412 (9.2%)	2.44	1.38
Local recreation providers provided adequate outdoor recreation opportunities.	172 (3.8%)	525 (11.7%)	1,418 (31.6%)	1,443 (32.2%)	927 (20.7%)	3.54	1.06
I am satisfied with the outdoor recreation opportunities provided to me in South Dakota	153 (3.4%)	614 (13.7%)	861 (19.2%)	1,608 (35.9%)	1,249 (27.8%)	3.71	1.11
I value outdoor recreation more now than compared to before the pandemic.	396 (8.8%)	517 (11.5%)	1,745 (38.9%)	978 (21.8%)	851 (19.0)	3.31	1.16

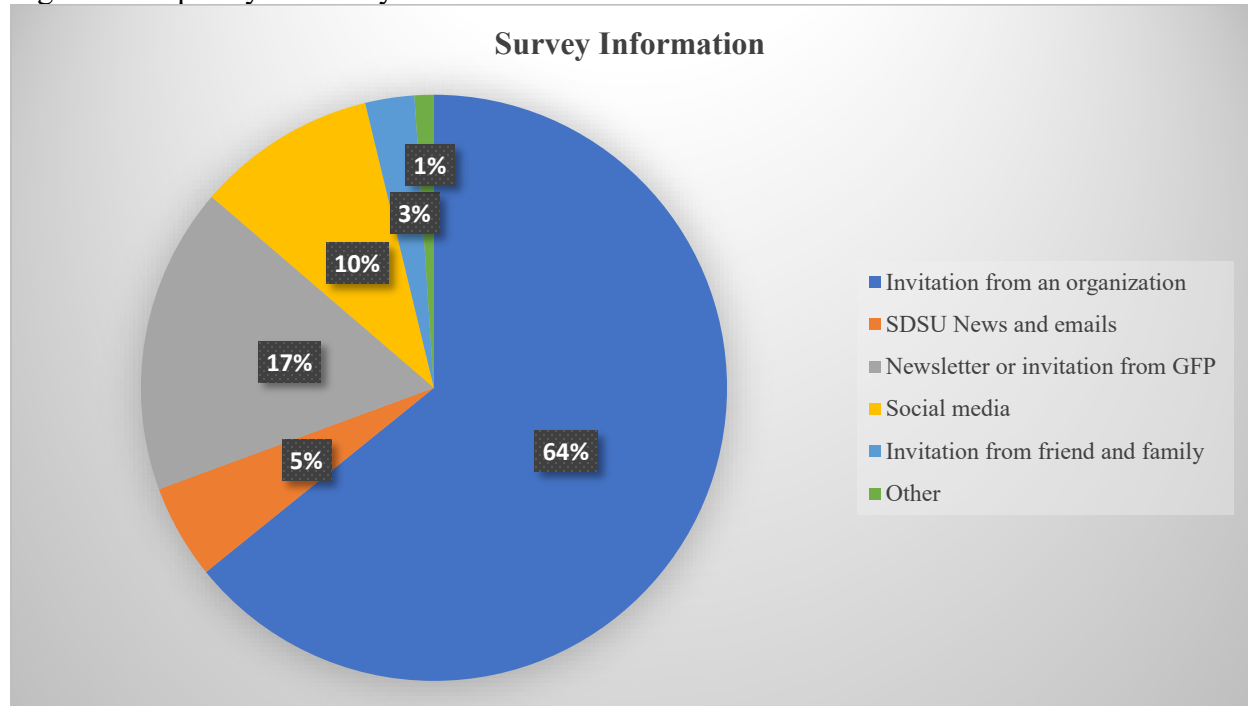


**SECTION VI: DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS**

**1. How did you hear about this survey?**

Approximately 65% of research participants heard about the survey from an organization. Newsletter or invitation from GFP (17%), social media (10%), and SDSU’s news and emails (5%). Figure 6

Figure 6 Frequency of Survey Information Resources



**2. Do you live in any of the following geographic locations?**

The two most common geographic locations participants were from was the Sioux Falls area (21.0%) and the Black Hills (21.5%). Fewer respondents were from the Huron area (3.3%) and the Yankton area (4.3%).

- 841 (21.0%) Sioux Falls area
- **860 (21.5%) Black Hills**
- 237 (5.9%) Aberdeen area
- 304 (7.6%) Watertown area
- 304 (7.6%) Pierre area
- 313 (7.8%) Brookings area
- 211 (5.3%) Mitchell area
- 132 (3.3%) Huron area
- 174 (4.3%) Yankton area
- 626 (15.6%) None of the above

3. What is your gender?

A little more than 64% of respondents were male while almost 34% were female. Eight people identified as non/binary/other gender and 74 people selected “prefer not to answer.”

- 2,898 (64.5%): Male
- 1,516 (33.7%): Female
- 8 (0.2%): Non-binary/other gender
- 74 (1.6%): Prefer not to answer

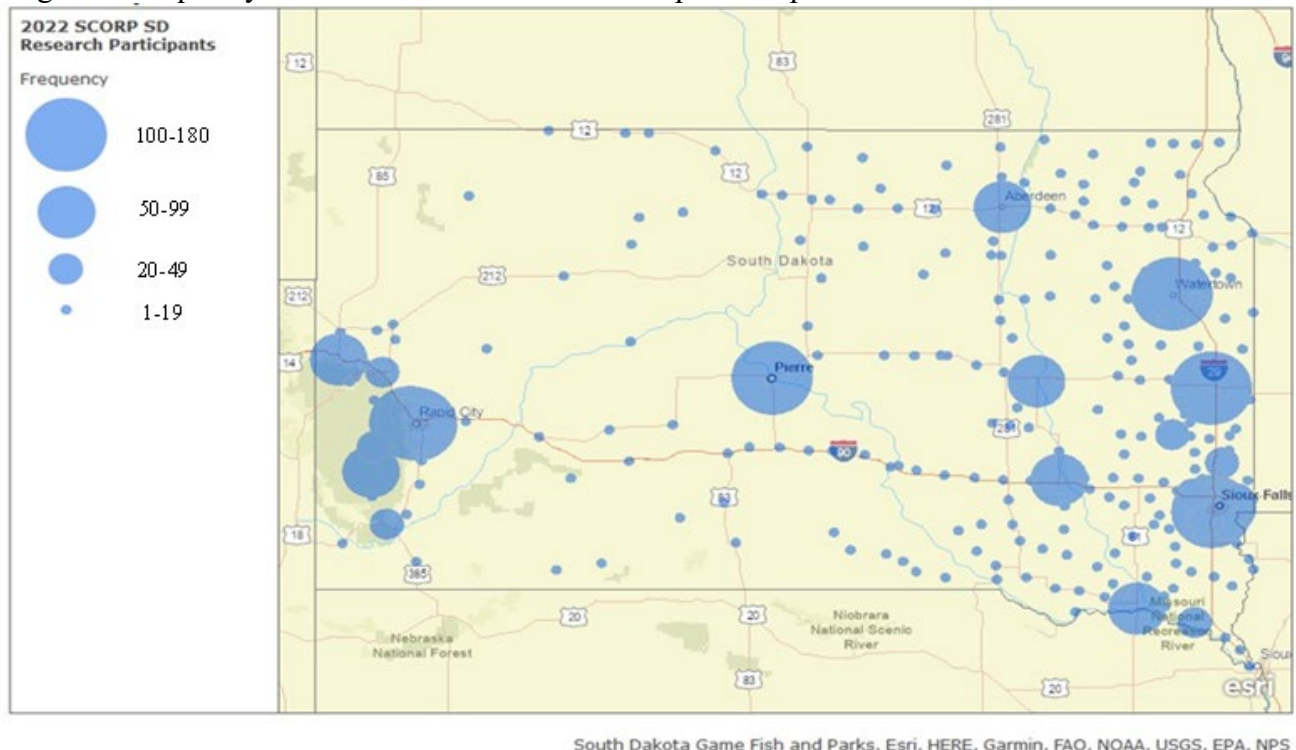
4. What is your zip code?

Approximately 3,145 research participants reported their zip code in South Dakota. The response frequency among all 371 zip codes in SD ranged from 1 to 178. The highest frequency of participation from a single zip code was 57501 (Pierre, n=178), followed by 57702 (Rapid City, n=176), 57106 (Sioux Falls, n=134), 57006 (Brookings, n=130), and 57701 (Rapid City, n=116). About 75% of SD zip codes, a total of 278 zip codes, had at least one individual respond to the public survey. Please see the survey participants’ zip code distribution below (Figure 7):

- 1-19 respondents: 249 zip codes
- 20-49 respondents: 12 zip codes
- 50-99 respondents: 11 zip codes
- 100-180 respondents: 6 zip codes

Appendix C shows the frequency of participants’ zip codes from SD and other states.

Figure 7 Frequency Distribution of Research Participants’ Zip Code



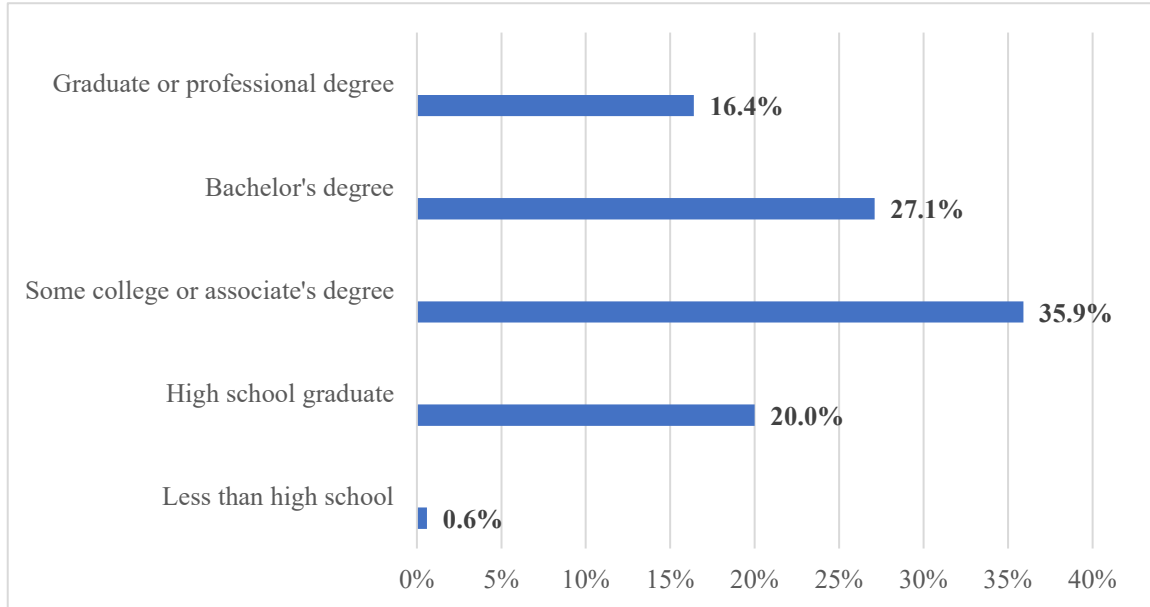
South Dakota Game Fish and Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS

Note: The map was created on Esri ArcGIS online by Dr. I-Chun Wu at Illinois State University.

**5. What is the highest level of education you have achieved?**

Almost 36% of participants had some college or associate degree and about 27% had a bachelor’s degree. Less than 1% had an education level of less than high school (Figure 6).

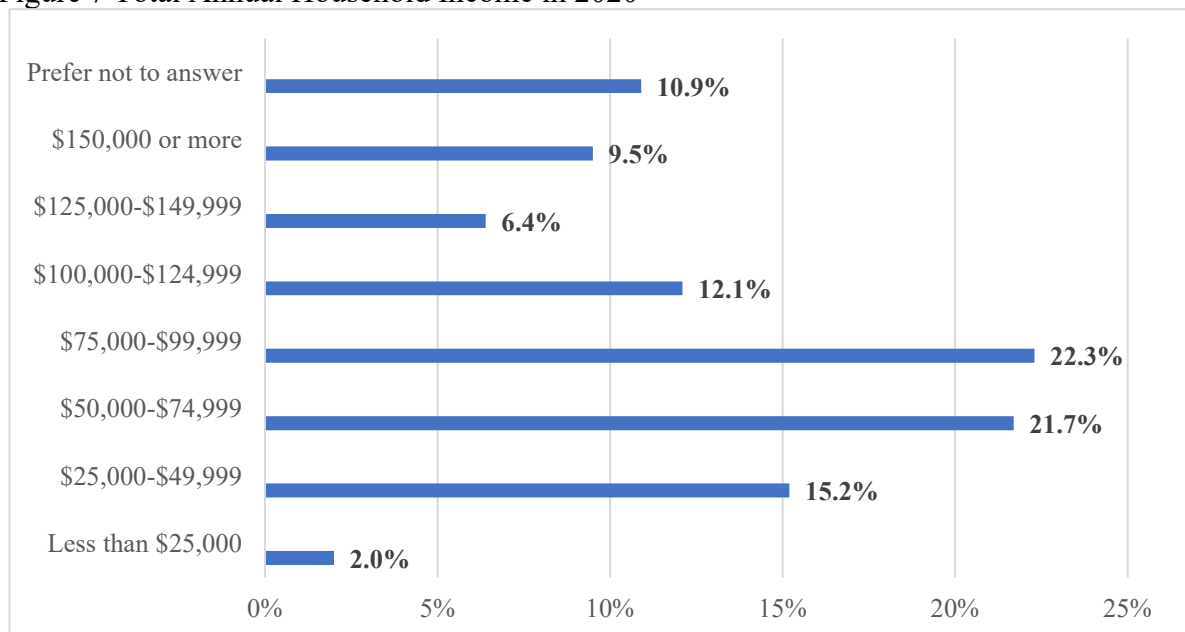
Figure 6 Highest Education Level of Research Participants



**6. What was your total household income for 2020?**

Figure 7 shows that slightly more than 20% of respondents made a total household income of either \$50,000-\$74,999 (21.7%) or \$75,000-\$99,999 (22.3%). About 17% made \$25,000 or less.

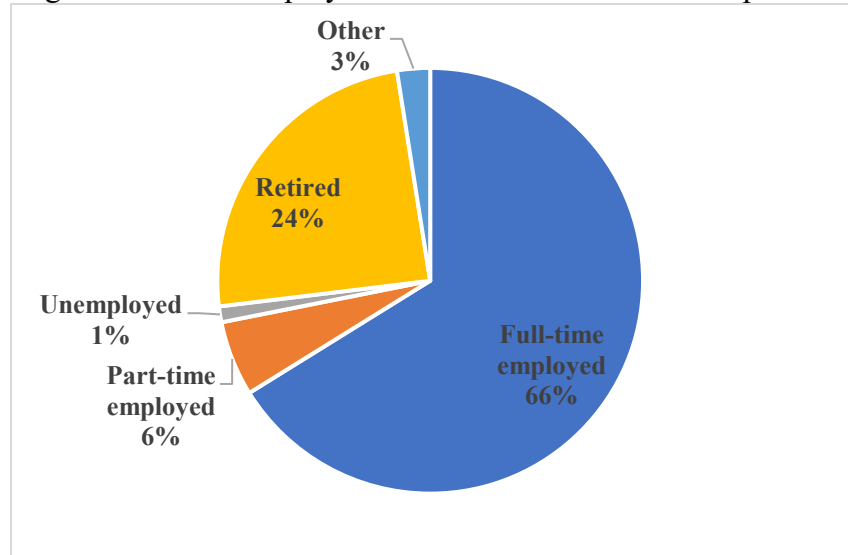
Figure 7 Total Annual Household Income in 2020



7. What is your current employment status?

A majority of participants were full-time employed (66%). About 25% of respondents were retired. Figure 8 Current Employment Status

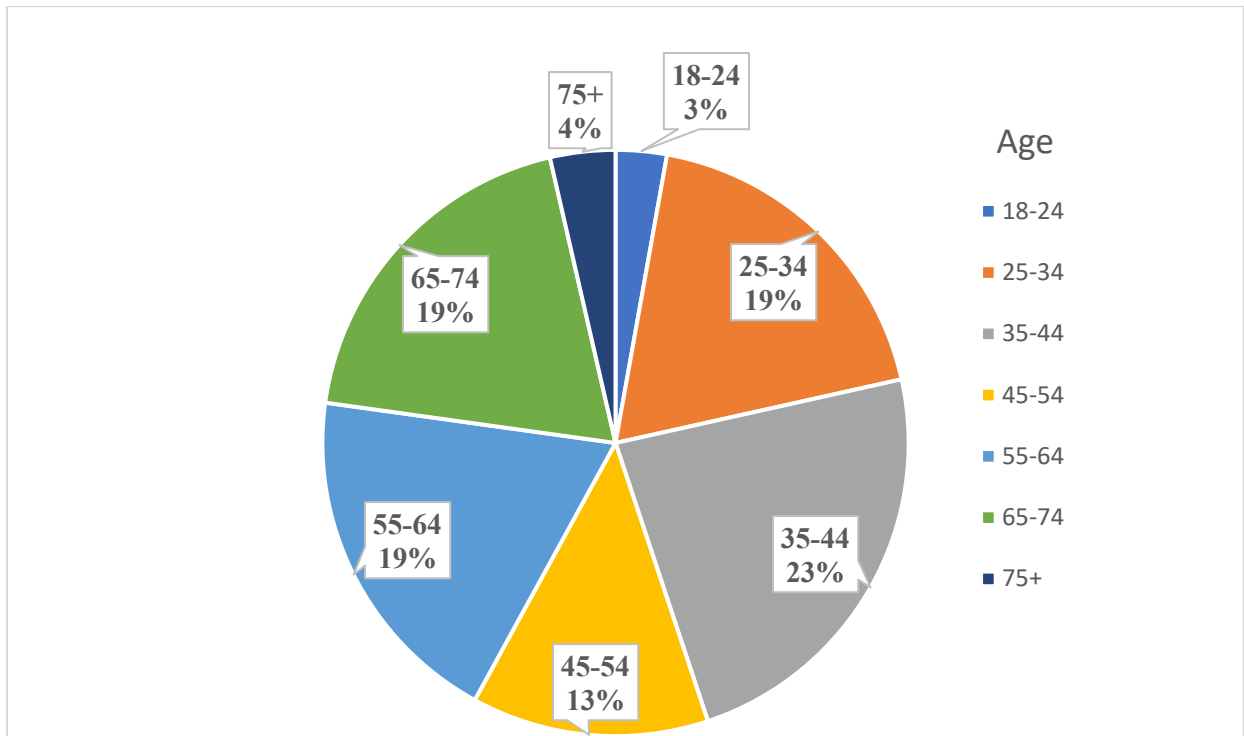
Figure 8 Current Employment Status of Research Participants



8. How old are you?

The research participants were asked to report their age. The results showed that the age range is between 18 to 90 years of age with the mean age is 49 years old and standard deviation is 15.7 years. The Figure 9 indicates the age distribution of the research participants.

Figure 9 Age Distribution of Research Participants



9. Are you of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin?

- 91 (2.1%): Yes
- 4,305 (97.9%): No

10. What is your race?

- **4,219 (95.5%) White**
- 13 (0.3%) Black/African American
- 41 (0.9%) American Indian/Alaska Native
- 20 (0.5%) Asian
- 14 (0.3%) Pacific Islander
- 32 (0.7%) Two or more races
- 78 (1.8%) Other

11. What is your political affiliation?

- **1,515 (44.0) Republican**
- 417 (12.1%) Democrat
- 665 (19.3%) Independent
- 767 (22.3) Prefer not to answer
- 80 (2.3%) Other

## NATIONAL TRENDS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION STUDIES

The third goal of this research project was to understand South Dakota's outdoor recreation market and opportunities comparing to national studies and statistics. By using existing publications and studies, it might be helpful to examine the similarities and differences in managing outdoor recreation services and perceived current trends and challenges at different recreation providers in South Dakota.

### OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION IN USA

According to the 2020 Outdoor Participation Report (Outdoor Foundation [OF], 2020) in 2019, about half (50.7%) of the U.S. population participated in at least one outdoor recreation activity, with participation growing 1.2% from 2018 to 2019. The smallest gender gap to be measured also revealed itself between participants with 53.8% being male and 46.2% being female. The number of female participants in outdoor recreation has continued its slow growth. In 2019, Americans went on a total of 10.9 billion outdoor outings, a noticeable increase from the 10.2 billion outings in 2018, but the number of times an individual participated in outdoor recreation has gone down.

Even with a growing number of total outdoor outings for Americans, Hispanic and Black Americans are still significantly underrepresented when looking at outdoor recreation participants. The 2020 Outdoor Participation Report (OF, 2020) states that Black Americans make up 12.4% of the US population but only 9.4% of outdoor recreation participants and Hispanic Americans make up 17.9% of the population but only 11.6% of outdoor participants. Black, Asian, and Hispanic Americans all showed running, jogging, and trail running as the most popular activity among the demographic groups, while Caucasian Americans showed hiking as the most popular activity.

Similar to previous years, the most popular outdoor activity of outdoor recreation participants was running/jogging (20.2%, 61 million participants). Other popular activities included fishing (16.6%, 50.2 million participants), hiking (16.4%, 49.7 million participants), biking (16.1%, 48.9 million participants), and camping (13.8%, 41.8 billion). Individuals and families may visit parks for different reasons but some of the key reasons that people do choose to visit parks are to be with family and friends, to be closer to nature, to have a break from day-to-day stress, and to exercise or be physically fit (National Recreation and Park Association [NRPA], 2021). Respondents from the same survey also indicated a high importance for access to various outdoor recreation opportunities such as quiet, outdoor places to relax, trails for walking, running, hiking, and biking, as well as access to view scenery and wildlife. Living within walking distance of a park or recreation facility is a significant indicator as to whether or not people will visit these places (NRPA, 2020; NRPA, 2021). Additionally, nearby parks and playgrounds are an important factor when deciding where to live (NRPA, 2020).

### Youth and Family Outdoor Recreation Participation

Participating in outdoor recreation activities is a great way for families and children to spend time together and stay physically active while being exposed to nature. According to the Outdoor

Foundation report (2019) the average age of outdoor recreation participants was 37 years old. Fewer highly active participants were reported with an increased number of participants going out less often.

Youth participation in outdoor recreation has fallen for both boys and girls, but previous research has shown that boys tend to spend more time outdoors than girls (Faulkner et al., 2015). Children aged 6 to 17 had an average of 91 outings in 2012 and only 77 outings in 2019 (Outdoor Foundation, 2020). Road, mountain and BMX biking was the most popular outdoor recreation activity among children. Adults that have children in their households had higher outdoor participation rates (57%) when compared to adults with no children in their households (44.4%). Households that had children aged 6 to 12 had the highest participation rate at 57.8%. Despite children’s decreased participation in outdoor recreation, they are able to gain many benefits when they do play outside. Increased chances to meet physical activity guidelines, lower sedentary behavior, healthier physical conditions, and a deeper connection to nature are just a few of the many benefits (Flowers et al., 2016; Gray et al., 2015; Lekies et al., 2015; McCormick, 2017).

### **Barriers to Outdoor Recreation Participation**

Not enough time and personal issues is the top reason people do not participate in outdoor recreation activities, followed closely by unawareness of programs or facilities offered. Other key reasons people do not participate are lack of facilities and amenities, price/user fees, and hours of operation. Lack of parking (2%) is among the lower reasons people do not participate (NRPA, 2019).

Another large barrier to people participating in outdoor recreation activities is the preferred use of technology. When preparing research for a previous SCORP, Oregon parks and recreation professionals conducted youth focused group interviews and found that technology was acting as a major constraint to playing outdoors more often (Burns et al., 2007).

Technology has become an integral part of people’s lives and has directly affected how often or when people recreate outdoors (Table 16). With the use and dependence on technology being so significant the NRPA has encouraged park and recreation providers to 1) proactively establish a digital transformation strategy for their park and recreation department 2) learn to anticipate the needs of the community 3) seek out educational opportunities and 3) do not forget about digital communication (email, social media, websites, etc.) (Stapleton, 2019).

Table 16 Reasons for Non-Use of Park and Recreation Offerings

<b>Barriers/Constraints</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No time or other personal reasons	35%
Not aware of programs or facilities offered	29%
Lack of facilities and amenities	14%
Price or user fees	14%
Hours of operation	13%
Safety and security	10%
Overall condition/maintenance	9%

Don't have the programs or facilities I want	9%
Location of facilities not convenient	6%
Lack of public transportation	5%
Need more restrooms	5%
Inadequate ADA accessibility	4%
Customer service	3%
Poor condition of outdoor facilities	3%
Lack of parking	2%
Poor condition of indoor facilities	2%
Other	16%

Source: Awareness and the Use of Parks (NRPA, 2019)

## TRENDS IN OUTDOOR RECREATION

**Participation decline.** The Outdoor Industry Association ([OIA], 2021) reported that in 2020 participants reached the same number of total outdoor outings (11.4 billion) as in 2007, but it took 22 million additional participants to reach that number in 2020. This illustrates that the average number of outings per participant has declined over that 13-year period. Furthermore, the number of core participants, those participating more than once a week, has been on a steady decline for 10 years. In 2010, 40 percent of all participants identified as a core participant, while in 2020 just 33 percent of all participants indicated the same (OIA, 2021). This is a troubling trend for the industry, as the most dedicated participants are often the ones to introduce their children, family, and friends to the outdoors, which helps increase overall participation and inspires industry innovation (OIA, 2021).

**Population and aging trends.** In the last decade, the population in South Dakota increased from 814,180 in 2010 to 886,667 in 2020, which is an 8.9% rate of growth (U.S. Census, 2021b). Lincoln county saw the greatest growth in population, with a 45.4% increase, while Meade, Union, Minnehaha, and Beadle counties increased by 10-18% (U.S. Census, 2021b). 75.5% of South Dakota's population is over the age of 18, which is a 9.5% increase from 2010 (U.S. Census, 2021b). 17.2% of South Dakota's population is 65 years or older (U.S. Census, 2021a), which is an increase of 3% from 2010 (CensusViewer, n.d.). This is a consistent trend across the United States and is predicted to continue due to the aging Baby Boomer generation, lower rates of fertility, and an increase in life expectancy (Administration for Community Living, 2020; Anderson et al., 2012; Urban Institute, n.d.).

**Economic Impact.** Parks and recreation agencies have a major impact on the US economy. In 2017, park and recreation agencies were responsible for 1,125,640 jobs and \$166.4 billion in economic activity in the US (NRPA, 2017). Specifically, South Dakota contributed 3,378 jobs and \$381,448,042 in economic activity. While these agencies support their local areas through purchasing equipment, utilities, services, vendors, etc. they also have a greater impact on the economy through improved health and wellness, effective conservation and resiliency, increased property values, improved economic development, and by attracting visitor spending.



## OUTDOOR RECREATION AND HEALTH AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

With the rapid emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world saw drastic societal changes that were immediate and disruptive. Across the globe, industries were having to find creative ways to adapt their operations in order to overcome the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The outdoor recreation industry was no exception. With state and federal prevention measures being put in place, individuals were having to alter the ways in which they used their recreation and leisure time. With the Center for Disease Control recognizing outdoor activities as a safer alternative to indoor activities, 20% of individuals who considered themselves non-participants of outdoor recreation prior to the pandemic found themselves participating in outdoor recreation activities during the early months of COVID-19 (Taff et al., 2021). These new recreationists were more likely to engage in low-barrier activities that could be performed close to home, such as walking, running/jogging, or cycling (Outdoor Industry Association [OIA], 2021).

**Changing participation.** The COVID-19 pandemic induced many stressors on families and individuals of all ages, directly affecting their mental health. As the pandemic became more severe and states began implementing stay-at-home orders in March 2020, people began experiencing higher symptoms of depression, generalized anxiety disorder, acute stress, and intrusive thoughts (Marroquín et al., 2020). Older adults are also more susceptible to loneliness and social isolation during the pandemic as they typically rely on family members and the community in their daily lives (Hwang, et al., 2020). Park and recreation agencies have the opportunity to provide programs that encourage social connection and positively affect overall health of community members. Types of programs can include continued learning for older adults, intergenerational programs, social-emotional learning programs, wellness checks, community healing activities, and substance use prevention programs (NRPA, 2021b).

**Challenges.** Despite the increase in outdoor recreation participation for some people during the pandemic, COVID-19 did present various barriers to people’s participation levels. Some of the barriers preventing individuals from participating in outdoor recreation, found by the NRPA (2021a.), include pandemic-related obstacles (e.g., closed facilities or stay-at-home orders; 39%), lack of time (22%), concern about personal safety at the park and recreation facility (20%), and concern about traveling to/from the park and recreation facility (16%). Thirty-seven percent of adults aged 55 years old or older also reported visiting outdoor spaces less frequently than before the pandemic. This decrease in participation by older adults could be seen as a preventative measure as they are more likely to get sick from contracting the COVID-19 virus (Centers for Disease Control [CDC], 2021).

**Close to home.** Research shows that during the COVID-19 pandemic people are more likely to participate in outdoor recreation activities that are close to home (NRPA, 2021a; OIA, 2021; Rice et al., 2021). These findings parallel what was found in the South Dakota SCORP, as [% of our participants] said they participated in activities that were close to where they lived (e.g., backyard, local parks/trails, state parks/recreation areas). Mackenzie & Goodnow (2021) note that this shift to “microadventures” close to home creates an opportunity to connect to local people and places, generates awareness of the value of our immediate surroundings, and reduces environmental impacts by lowering carbon emissions.

**Public space.** Traditional parks, natural areas, and other open greenspaces have become more widely recognized and valued by public health professionals and the public as essential services that are important to health, well-being, and overall quality of life. In the Western region of the United States, a study of 111 counties saw an average increase of 2.5% in greenspace visitation during the early months of the pandemic (Rice & Pan, 2020). The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) found that in the 12-month period ending in May 2021, 72% of individuals maintained or increased park, trail, and public space use during the pandemic (2021a). This same study showed that 46% of parents, 48% of millennials, 52% of very active adults, and 47% of individuals identifying as Hispanic took the greatest advantage of parks, trails, and other open spaces by increasing their participation during the pandemic (NRPA, 2021a). Moreover, South Dakota state parks saw a visitation increase of 31% in 2020 compared to 2019, and for the first time in several years the state saw a combined 6.7% increase in hunting and fishing license sales from state residents, which contributed to a \$2.6 million increase in revenue (Lowrey, 2020). This shift towards more localized recreation presents the opportunity to market South Dakota's natural beauty, culture, and wildlife to state residents who might have otherwise overlooked these possibilities.

**Health equality.** The COVID-19 pandemic caused disruption across the globe, created opportunities for innovation, and prompted society to learn to adapt to the health crisis. But the pandemic also exposed long-standing issues within public health among South Dakota's most prominent minority group. In South Dakota, the Native American populations face greater health disparities compared to the state's general population (Sarche & Spicer, 2008), and COVID-19 is more likely to have a severe or deadly impact on persons with underlying medical conditions. Despite making up only 9% of the state's population, the South Dakota Department of Health shows that Native Americans were disproportionately affected by COVID-19, accounting for 12% of cases and 14% of COVID-related deaths as of early 2022 (South Dakota Department of Health, 2022). Understanding of these health outcomes can help inform documents such as the SCORP in recognizing inequities in all social systems, including that of outdoor recreation.

**Mental health.** Wu et al., (2021) highlight the increase in mental health problems, such as depression, insomnia, anxiety, and distress since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Javed et al. (2020) explain that these mental health issues are likely due to the separation of loved ones, loss of freedom, boredom, and uncertainty brought on by the pandemic, as well as quarantine and self-isolation guidelines. Spending time in nature and participating in outdoor recreational activities has been found to have a positive impact on mental health (Godbey, 2009; Lackey et al., 2021; Song et al., 2016) and can be used to combat and prevent the negative mental health issues brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic (Kleinschroth & Kowarik, 2020; Lades et al., 2020; Larson et al., 2022). Kleinschroth & Kowarik (2020) noted an increase in individuals seeking out opportunities to go for a walk or use local public green spaces during the early stages of the pandemic, which indicates that the public recognizes these outdoor spaces and opportunities as valuable to their health and wellbeing.

**Adaptivity.** Like other industry professionals, park and recreation providers had to adapt their operations and come up with creative programs as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The NRPA surveyed 200 park and recreation professionals about their organization's response to the pandemic. The vast majority of these professionals indicated adding new health and wellness

programs, including outdoor fitness classes, social connection opportunities, virtual health and wellness programming, and emergency response services; nearly all (97%) of these professionals indicated that the program innovations their agency made during the pandemic will continue post-pandemic (NRPA, 2021b).

## **RESEARCH FOCUSING ON OUTDOOR RECREATION IN SOUTH DAKOTA**

The following abstracts are research papers, projects, or scholarly activities focusing on South Dakota's outdoor recreation from 2018 to 2022. It serves as examples of interdisciplinary nature of outdoor recreation and parks and recreation management with various disciplines (e.g., natural resources management, conservation planning, education, policy, and health promotion).

### **Peer-reviewed journal articles**

Gascoigne, W., Hill, R., Haefele, M., Loomis, J., & Hyberg, S. (2021). Economics of the Conservation Reserve Program and the wildlife it supports: A case study of upland birds in South Dakota. *Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism*, 35, 100385.

The research presented in this study focuses on the economic value of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) by using primary survey data to derive both the economic contribution (jobs, wages, and value-added) and consumer welfare values. The combination of the two economic methods as it pertains to the CRP is a novel approach within the published literature. The survey was conducted querying upland bird hunters in South Dakota on their hunting activities, expenditures, and use of land enrolled in the CRP. In 2013, South Dakota had 972,000 acres enrolled in the CRP and have consistently ranked in the top ten for states with enrolled acres. Based on the data gathered and 2015 hunter figures, our results indicate that upland bird hunting on CRP lands contributed \$17.7 million of annual value added and 365 jobs to the state economy. Furthermore, our study estimates consumer surplus benefits of \$133.7 million annually to South Dakota upland game bird hunters are associated with CRP lands. Although elected officials often concentrate on economic contribution and/or impacts, one should not overlook welfare values as they are a measure of well-being—something pertinent to rural areas of the U.S. that struggle with outmigration and attracting new employment opportunities. The collective results within this study highlight the economic importance of the CRP to the outdoor recreation sector. Given these economic impacts capture only a portion of CRP benefits, they indicate large potential economic impacts to the South Dakota economy if a large reduction in program acres were to occur.

**Management implications** This research pertains to policy makers at all levels tasked with assessing the benefits of land retirement programs, such as the Conservation Reserve Program defined within the U.S. Farm Bill. Specifically, this study highlights the economic value, economic contribution, and consumer surplus of upland bird hunting to South Dakota's economy through a novel approach based on primary survey data. Survey responses show that hunting participants have substantial welfare values, and a vast majority would significantly alter their behavior if enrolled program acres were to decline significantly.

May, C. K. (2021). Institutional panarchy: Adaptations in socio-hydrological governance of the South Dakota Prairie Pothole Region, USA. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 293, 112851.

This study develops and applies the Institutional Panarchy Framework (IPF) to examine institutional adaptations in the rights, rules, and authority to govern public access and use of ‘nonmeandered waters’ (NMWs) overlying private lands in the South Dakota Prairie Pothole Region (SD PPR). Data collection from March 2017 through July 2019 involved field observations of legislative and other public meetings and review of legislation, policy, court cases, documents, and existing statistics. Findings demonstrated how hydrological changes resulted in everyday, operational level changes in how access and use rights to NMWs were executed, conflict over rules governing use and access of NMWs at the collective choice level, and eventually constitutional level changes in the authority to determine rights and rules of access and use of NMWs. A key contribution for commons and socio-hydrological governance scholarship is that institutional resistance and pressures for change are not unidirectional; feedbacks from lower institutional levels spur change at higher levels and broader scales. Broader policy implications include institutional mechanisms for potential improvements in water quality, farm sustainability, and climate justice.

O’Farrell, P.,\*\* Liu, H.-L., Carotta, C. L. (2021). Applying the ecological model to explore the influential factors in children’s outdoor recreation participation. *Journal of Outdoor Recreation, Education, and Leadership*, 13(3), 86–92. <https://doi.org/10.18666/JOREL-2021-V13-13-10695>

Childhood is a key developmental period for important physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development. It can serve as a foundation for behaviors, beliefs, and attitudes that carry into adulthood. In terms of outdoor recreation, existing literature denotes many childhood benefits and finds that children who participate in outdoor activities are likely to continue participation into adulthood. This paper uses an ecological perspective to broaden the exploration of childhood factors that contribute to youth participation in outdoor recreation, including interpersonal, community, and societal factors. Of particular importance are parental and family factors, suggesting that outdoor recreation professionals focus on family programming to foster sustainable participation. Adopting an ecological perspective also emphasizes the importance of creating community partnerships, supportive environments, and inclusive programming for diverse children and adults.

Martling, S., Fletcher, B., & Barnes, M. E. (2020). Economic Impact of Cleghorn Springs State Fish Hatchery, Rapid City, South Dakota, USA. *Modern Economy*, 11(7), 1351-1358.

Cleghorn Springs State Fish Hatchery, Rapid City, South Dakota, USA is a public fish hatchery producing trout and salmon for recreational angling in South Dakota. Funding for the hatchery comes from an excise tax on fishing equipment and the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. This study is an assessment of the local economic effect of hatchery expenditures and fish production for 2019. Fish reared at Cleghorn Springs State Fish Hatchery in 2019 had a calculated total economic impact value of \$5,105,825.89. This value was added to Cleghorn Springs estimated share of angler expenditures in the Black Hills National Forest, increasing the total local monetary impact to \$89,405,101.86.

Cleghorn Springs State Fish Hatchery generated \$171.93 of local economic output per budgetary dollar spent in 2019.

O'Farrell, P. & Liu, H.-L. (2020). Gateway to outdoors: Partnership and programming of outdoor education centers in urban areas. *Education Sciences*, 10(11), 340.  
<https://doi.org/10.3390/educsci10110340>

The purpose of the study is to understand the challenges and opportunities of urban outdoor education centers in partnership and programming. The context for this study involves efforts by all-season outdoor education centers, Outdoor Campus (OC), in two urban areas in South Dakota (SD). Outdoor education scope and social-ecological framework were applied to guide this qualitative study. Semi-structured interview questions were used to interview eight outdoor educators in 2019, including four individuals from each service location composed of three males and five female educators. Qualitative content analysis was applied to identify common themes and essential quotations that emerged from the data analyzed through the interviews. Three main themes emerged: (1) gateway to our outdoor legacy (2) working together for outdoor education, including three sub-themes: formal partnership, programmatic partnership, and finding balance in partnership, (3) challenges as opportunities in outdoor education programs, including two sub-themes: common challenges and evolving process.

Barnes, M. E., & Palmer, T. (2019). Economic Impact of McNenny State Fish Hatchery, Spearfish, South Dakota, USA. *Modern Economy*, 10(06), 1581.

McNenny State Fish Hatchery, rural Spearfish, South Dakota, USA produces trout and salmon for stocking into public recreational fishing waters in South Dakota. Hatchery operations at McNenny are funded solely by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and an excise tax on fishing equipment. This study evaluated the monetary contribution of hatchery expenditures and fish production to the local economy of South Dakota for calendar year 2017. The economic value of the fish raised at McNenny State Fish Hatchery in 2017 was calculated to be \$6,609,576.03 USD. When added to the estimated McNenny share of angler expenditures in the Black Hills National Forest, the total local monetary impact of McNenny State Fish Hatchery operations and fish stocking was slightly more than \$22 million. Based on annual hatchery expenditures, McNenny operations generated \$51.68 of local economic output for every budgetary dollar spent in 2017.

Liu, H.-L., Mehlhaf, J. & Gray, J. (2019). Public perceptions of parks and recreation services. *Journal of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism in Public Health*, 3, 17–26.  
<https://doi.org/10.2979/rptph.3.1.03>

Public parks and recreation services could be considered as an accessible and affordable choice for local residents as they are pursuing active and healthy lifestyles. The purpose of this study is to identify perceptions of benefits from parks and recreation services using Importance-Performance Analysis (IPA). Using convenience sampling through email invitations and social media, a total of 1,212 self-identified South Dakota residents were included in this study. Using paired t-tests to identify differences between importance and performance, the results indicated the public desire more physical and mental health related services from parks and recreation than they have received. The results can assist

parks and recreation providers in prioritizing resource allocations and could aid in decision-making processes to maximize the benefits of health and quality of life.

O'Farrell, P. E., & Liu, H. L. S. (2018). Outdoor Recreation Motivations and Constraints of South Dakota Residents. *Journal of Undergraduate Research, 14*, 1-7.

Understanding participants' motivations and barriers to recreation is essential for outdoor recreation providers to create a desirable leisure experience for users. The purpose of this study is to use residents of the State of South Dakota as the target population for understanding the local residents' motivation and constraints in outdoor recreation and to investigate the relationship between motivation and constraints in outdoor recreation. This research project was a collaboration between South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) and South Dakota State University through an online survey platform in Fall 2017, as a part of a broader outdoor recreation research project for the state. The results indicated: (1) the residents in South Dakota who participate in outdoor recreation were highly driven by internal motivations; (2) the leisure constraints of South Dakota's residents were similar to those found in a national study; (3) there was a significant but weak correlation between recreation motivation and leisure constraints. Future studies might focus on specialized outdoor recreation users or non-participants to further the understanding of the needs and barriers to enjoying the outdoors.

### **Book chapter**

Liu, H.-L., Meendering, J., McCormack, L., & Dvorak, S. (2022). Join the team: Creating healthy rural communities in South Dakota through community-based wellness coalitions. In J. H. Hironaka and S. V. Lankford (Eds.), *Inter-professional Collaboration in Parks, Recreation, and Human Services: Theory and Cases*. Sagamore-Venture Publishing.

Obesity disproportionately impacts rural versus urban areas, with the prevalence of obesity decreasing as the degree of urbanization increases. South Dakota (SD) is primarily a rural state. The prevalence of overweight or obesity among SD adults is 67%. This case study was derived from an obesity prevention project in SD, associated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) High Obesity Program (CDC, 2020) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed). It presents a community-based wellness collaboration aimed at promoting healthy behaviors, such as physical activity and healthy food choices, through the formation and action of wellness coalitions. The case study is associated with the following three themes in the book: Health, Wellness, and Social Determination of Health, Community Development and Community Building, and Youth and Family. The authors not only explain the overall project-wide approaches (e.g., wellness coalitions, needs assessment, intervention, and evaluation and impact) and essential players (e.g., extension, community partners, university) used to create healthy rural communities but also illustrate each component by using a selected community as an example. The project and case emphasize the importance of collaboration and partnership in rural communities and showcase a community-based approach to improve the nutrition and physical activity environment. It also highlights the impacts and successful stories of a specific rural community.

## Conference proceeding and report

Goeden, J., & Burger, D. (2019). Park perception in Brookings, South Dakota: Investigating the role of landscape architecture in cognitive mapping. *Landscape Research Report*, 261-270.

The Image of the City (Lynch, 1960) provides a theory of how people perceive the built environment through cognitive mapping. According to Lynch, five major feature classes help to construct these mental maps: paths, edges, districts, nodes, and landmarks. The mind organizes city features into these classes to simplify the encoding process. However, the role of parks and public spaces within this theory is largely undefined. This paper aims to identify this role. Initial research conducted by landscape architecture students at South Dakota State University showed that landscape features were largely absent from participants' cognitive maps of the university campus (Burger, 2018). This paper changes the scale of the SDSU study to examine whether this holds true for the cognitive maps of residents in Brookings, South Dakota. Participants were interviewed using a similar method to Lynch's study consisting of a mapping exercise, an oral description of their daily commute, an inquiry on their favorite place in Brookings, and follow-up demographic questions. The data was analyzed to indicate how many times parks were mentioned on individual surveys as compared to other mapped features. A content analysis of this data revealed that parks are fairly prevalent in cognitive perception, but the role they play within Lynch's theory varies greatly depending on the method of recall. Our hope is that the results of this study will open a discussion on the role of parks with regards to city perception and promote further research on the relationship between cognitive mapping and park design.

Henderson, K., & Gigliotti, L. (2018). Evaluation of internet surveys for conducting statewide angler surveys in South Dakota. In *Proceedings of the South Dakota Academy of Science*, 97.

Stakeholder information is critical for effective fisheries management. Agencies have traditionally used infrequent mail surveys to collect human dimensions data. Internet surveys provide cost savings, but are associated with caution due to data quality issues. To improve study validity, survey access can be controlled using email invitations, but because these addresses are voluntary, results may not be applicable to the entire population. Additionally, internet surveys typically have lower response rates than mail surveys, thus, a greater potential for nonresponse bias. To identify potential coverage and nonresponse biases in information typically collected by statewide angler surveys, we emailed a link to a web-based survey to all anglers who provided South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) with an email address at the end of the 2011 and 2012 fishing seasons (December 31). Next, we mailed the same questionnaire to both a random sample of anglers not providing an email address and a sample of non-respondents to the internet survey. Internet survey results were similar to both mail surveys for variables SDGFP typically monitors via statewide angler surveys with the exception of slightly over representing male anglers and younger anglers; however, these slight biases can be adjusted by weighting procedures. Results from this study were used by SDGFP to design a web-based, annual statewide angler survey that would collect angler information statistically comparable to information collected by traditional statewide mail surveys.

## Technical report

Foss, K., & Liu, H.-L. (2020). *Connecting to nature: Assessment of outdoor recreation promotion programs in South Dakota*. South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks, Pierre, SD.

Two web-based surveys were utilized through QuestionPro, license purchased by SDSU, for data collection. Program participants lists of *Go Fourth* and *Park Rx* were provided by SDGFP. Based on the record, more than 1,100 fourth graders and their respective families received a free daily park entrance license in 2016-2019. Approximately 100 individuals used the *Park Rx* program to gain free access (free one-day pass) from 2017-2019. All research participants had a chance to win one of twenty \$50 Amazon gift cards by completing the survey based on a random drawing. A total of 126 participants completed the survey and evaluation of two programs: *Go Fourth* (n=115) and *Park Rx* (n=11). Individuals who could not recall their past participation in the program were not included in the research. The following summarizes the results from both surveys: Approximately 72% of *Go Fourth* participants (n=79) updated their one-day free pass to an annual license, while 67% (n=8) of *Park Rx* participants did the update. The *Go Fourth* users' group size of visiting state parks is slightly larger, 2 adults and 2-3 children, than *Park Rx* user groups, 1-2 adults and 1-2 children on average. Program participants reported a similar participation behavior and satisfaction of participating in the program with some minor variations. Participants of both programs reported a similar frequency of participation in outdoor recreation with an even distribution from a wide range of participation frequency (2-3 times per week to several times a year). About 44% of *Go Fourth* participants prefer non-consumptive recreation activities, while 55% of *Park Rx* participants. Both program participants reported similar preference in activities they usually do at a South Dakota state park, such as hiking, swimming, fishing, and visiting a nature center. More than 70% of *Go Fourth* participants always purchase a state park annual entrance license, whereas only one individual from the *Park Rx* indicated that is true for his/her annual entrance purchase. Weekly physical activity participation showed some variation between the two program participants. For example, *Go Fourth* survey participants (adults/parents/guardians) reported they participate in moderate physical activities 3 days per week and their children's participation is 4 days per week, while *Park Rx* survey participants (adults/parents/guardians) reported 1-2 days of moderate physical activities for themselves and 2-3 day of their children. As a result of participating in the program, the majority of *Go Fourth* participants (78%) tended to engage in the same amount of physical activity each week than before the program, while 60% of *Park Rx* participants tended to engage in slightly more physical activity weekly. Both programs assisted participants to increase the awareness of activities and resources available in state parks for physical activities.

Liu, H.-L., Foss, K.,\* & O'Farrell, P.\*\* (2018). *Public survey reading South Dakota State Parks*. South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks, Pierre, SD.

A total of 1025 South Dakota residents participated in the survey and were recruited through QuestionPro. By using an online pre-profiled group identified as South Dakota residents, the project was able to gather input from both regular park users and non-users/non-frequent users. The following summarizes the research: Approximately 40% residents in the study participated in outdoor recreation more than once or twice per month in the past



12 months. Slightly more than 1/4 of the respondents enjoy consumptive recreation activities, while 1/3 of survey participants prefer non-consumptive recreation activities and another 1/3 prefer just relaxing in the nature and not doing recreational activities. About 41% purchased a South Dakota state park annual park entrance license in 2018, while 59% did not purchase an annual park entrance license last year. More than 1/3 of respondents frequented state parks 2-5 times in South Dakota. However, approximately 18% of research participants did not visit South Dakota state parks in the past 12 months and 16% only visited state parks once in the past 12 months. The top three South Dakota state park/recreation activities survey respondents usually take part in are hiking (10.23%), fishing (8.73%), and swimming (7.83%). Research participants also indicated that they believe that state parks are a successful way to serve the public (M = 5.91) and they desire more frequent visitation to state parks (M = 5.70) on a the 7-point Likert scale. The most common barriers to visit state parks were reported as “lack of time” and “too busy with other activities”, both of which are individuals’ personal constraints for visiting state parks – and a reflection of lifestyles. Almost 50% residents would be more willing to visit state parks if the agency reduced costs to use facilities in state parks. Approximately 47% respondents stated they would visit more frequently if the agency provided more recreation programs for adults. Other possible strategies to increase the willingness to visit state parks were (at least 40% select “Yes”): providing different lodging options (e.g., cabin, lodge) in state parks, providing more opportunities during off-season, developing parks closer to home, providing more recreational activities that they prefer, and providing more information about state parks through social media. Residents tended to value state parks as places to conserve nature resources, protect wildlife and their habitats more than utilitarian value (physical recreation, tourism, etc.). As residents’ perceived health benefits of using state parks, research participants reported higher scores in their positive psychological experience in state parks, such more enjoyment, appreciation of life, and connection with nature. Overall, South Dakota residents/research participants enjoy outdoor recreation in various forms and levels of engagement. Although they wish to spend more time at state parks, lack of time and other responsibilities were the main barriers preventing them from doing so. Residents agree that state parks play important roles in conservation of wildlife and nature resources and provide great service and access to the public land for recreation. They also realize the health benefits of visiting state parks and look forward to having more opportunities to explore state parks in South Dakota.

## **Dissertation and Thesis**

Kiley Foss (2022). *Outdoor Recreation Benefits and Promotion through a Youth-Focused Program in State Parks*. South Dakota State University. M.S. Sport and Recreation Administration.

A family’s participation in outdoor recreation activities can provide numerous benefits to each individual. Children’s participation is influenced from various factors, but parents have one of the greatest influences on their child’s outdoor recreation behavior. The purpose of this study is to assess the outcomes of a statewide outdoor recreation program in relation to using state parks as outdoor wellness centers, as well as investigate the relationship between parents’ outdoor recreation participation and perception and their children’s

outdoor recreation involvement. A total of 104 parents or guardians recalled their family's participation in the Go Forth program. Those responses were analyzed and used for this study. The survey was split into five sections (program participation, state park use and outdoor recreation, physical activity, outdoor activity and benefits, and demographics) to better understand the outdoor recreation participation of families. Descriptive analysis showed participants were already frequent state park users and preferred non-consumptive outdoor recreation activities. Popular activities included hiking, picnicking/outdoor cooking, and swimming. Chi-square analysis results showed parents who prefer consumptive outdoor recreation activities place a higher importance for their children to participate in shooting sports, fishing, and hunting. Pearson correlation indicated a substantial positive relationship between parents' physical activity level with their children's physical activity level ( $r = .60$ ). Although parents, in general, reported a high support of their children observing various benefits by using state parks, the results of paired t-tests showed parents had a significantly higher expectation in quality service of state parks provided than they perceived. Due to most of the participants already being frequent outdoor recreation users, providers should find increasingly engaging ways to reach non-frequent users. Importance of educational programs such as, visiting nature centers, was revealed and suggests the possibility of increased programming in this area as well as the potential for collaboration and partnerships with other agencies like schools or libraries.

Sundmark, A. P. (2019). *The Economic and Social Values Associated with Small South Dakota Lakes*. South Dakota State University. Ph.D. Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences.

The valuation of small fishing lakes is a vital component in understanding the importance of fishing and of recreational resources, in general. Knowing the values associated with such lakes is essential when prioritizing management activities. The overall value of a lake as a resource for human benefit is estimated as the summation of both instrumental and non-instrumental values. Instrumental values consist of economic and utilitarian values, as well as the values that a lake provides from ecosystem services. Non-instrumental values consider what the lake is worth as a good of its own, such as aesthetic, moral, and spiritual values gained by people because of the lake's existence. In South Dakota, limited information of the economic and social values associated with small fishing and recreational lakes across the state has been collected. Many economic and social value studies have taken place on relatively larger lakes and reservoirs in the state; however, there is an abundance of small lakes that have yet to receive such research attention. With over 400 small lakes under state management, over time, many of these lakes will require costly renovation projects, such as dam repair, dredging, maintenance and replacement of docks and boat ramps, creation of fishing access, and general fisheries population management. Angler usage and economic information of the contributions of fishing and other water-related recreation at particular lakes of interest can help prioritize these expensive renovation projects. Moreover, the non-market values that local residents place on these lakes can be just as valuable to decision-making processes as the associated economic information. When combined, the information gathered from these lakes will contribute to better economic and social value estimates of similar lakes across South Dakota, and even across the United States. The economic evaluation of small recreational lakes also provides more precise measurements of recreational value when conjoined

with already existing valuation data from relatively larger and higher use lakes. While currently published economic information has been useful in influencing management and policy decisions, the process in which data have been collected has not provided an accurate representation of the economic activity resulting from small fisheries within a region.

Jason Mehlhaf (2019). *Younger Millennials and Outdoor Recreation: Understanding Outdoor Recreational Pursuits of Millennial College Students*. South Dakota State University. M.S. Sport and Recreation Administration.

Outdoor recreation has been shown through past research to provide numerous benefits to the participant when utilized, but for younger millennials, life's expectations are pulling them away from participating. If there is a decrease in recreation participation, what will motivate this demographic toward participation in the future? The purpose of this study is to identify younger millennial perceptions, habits, and trends, so that in the future, recreation professionals are able to cater for specifically toward this demographic. Two universities in South Dakota, one public and one private, were surveyed through an online software program, QuestionPro, to a convenience sample from both schools. Younger millennials were specifically targeted by focusing on college students, who are between the ages of 19–24, to narrow the sample down to those on the younger end of the generation. The results of descriptive analysis found that the respondents like to recreate with others and prefer leisure recreation (walking, recreation with pets, lawn games) to active recreation. The study also found a positive correlation between length of time recreating and respondent comfort levels, as well as a positive correlation between structural constraints and respondents desire to enjoy nature. The respondents are more interested in programs that cater toward their interests instead of programs focused on history or culture. Future recreation professionals could use the information found in this study to create recreation programs that encourage group participation, cater toward millennial interests, and are more leisure orientated. By understanding motivations and constraints in this specific demographic, future professionals could draw new participants toward recreation and create lifelong users of outdoor recreation.

## COMPARISON AND ADVANCED ANALYSIS

The fourth goal of the research project is to investigate the relationship between socio-demographics, economics, and population change from the perspective of and participation in outdoor recreation. In order to advance understanding of the relationship between socio-demographics and outdoor recreation participations, advanced analysis was applied to examine how South Dakotans’ outdoor recreation participation pattern, motivation, and constraints vary with their socio-demographics (i.e., age, gender, education, and residential area etc.).

### OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS 2022, 2017, & 2012 SURVEY

The following are the comparisons of the top ten “need-more” and “need-to-improve” outdoor recreation facilities amongst the 2012, 2017, and 2022 survey results (Table 17):

- The 2022 survey utilized the same list as the 2018 survey, which included 11 more types of facilities for participants to review than the 2012 survey.
- Compared to the 2017 survey, eight types of facilities remained in the top ten facilities that participants would like more of. These include hunting areas, pistol/rifle shooting ranges, shotgun shooting ranges, nature areas, shore fishing areas, shooting ranges archery ranges, walking trails, RV or trailer campgrounds, and fishing areas
- Hunting areas remained the number one area people would like to see more of. However, the 2012 survey reported a significant higher demand (52%) for hunting areas than the 2017 and 2022 results, which ranged from 31% to 34%.
- While demand for more swimming beaches went down, need for improvement of the current facilities increased.
- Tent-camping campground showed up on the top ten “need more” list for the first time in 2022.
- Historic sites (w/ interpretation) showed up on the top ten “need to improve” list for the first time in 2022.

Table 17 Comparison of Top Ten Need-More and Need-to-Improve Facilities

Top Ten Facilities	Need More			Need to Improve		
	2022	2017	2012	2022	2017	2012
Hunting areas	31%	34%	52%	17%	17%	6%
Pistol/rifle shooting ranges	30 %	30%	45%	17%	14%	6%
Shotgun shooting ranges	28%	26%	41%	17%	13%	5%
Nature areas/open space	23%	23%	29%	17%	13%	5%
Shore fishing areas	25%	23%	-	20%	19%	-
Archery target shooting areas	21%	22%	33%	-	12%	9%
Walking/biking trails (unpaved)	21%	20%	22%	16%	11%	6%
RV or trailer campgrounds	25%	20%	26%	-	9%	8%
Fishing areas	22%	20%	38%	18%	17%	9%
Canoe/Kayak water trails	-	20%	-	-	11%	-
Facilities for boating	-	-	27%	18%	-	10%
Swimming beaches	-	-	22%	21%	-	10%
Tent-camping campgrounds	25%	-	-	-	-	-
Historic sites (w/ interpretation)	-	-	-	17%	-	-

## GEOGRAPHICAL COMPARISON OF FACILITIES RESPONDENTS

The following two tables are geographical comparisons of the facilities respondents checked as “Need More” (Table 18) and “Need to Improve” (Table 19). These comparisons only utilized the survey participants who identified themselves as South Dakota residents in the following nine areas. A total usable case might slightly vary question by question.

Table 18 Outdoor Recreation Facility “Need More” Comparison in South Dakota

	Statewide	Sioux Falls	Black Hills	Aberdeen	Watertown	Pierre/FP	Brookings	Mitchell	Huron	Yankton
Tent-camping campgrounds	25%	19%	19%	19%	12%	12%	19%	20%	13%	17%
RV or trailer campgrounds	27%	31%	20%	24%	26%	25%	28%	27%	27%	33%
Areas for backpacking	17%	18%	12%	19%	12%	10%	19%	14%	14%	13%
Picnic Areas	12%	12%	11%	13%	10%	11%	13%	9%	6%	6%
Facilities for boating	16%	18%	11%	19%	20%	17%	13%	23%	11%	20%
Swimming beaches	15%	18%	13%	16%	15%	14%	12%	12%	10%	11%
Swimming pools	13%	13%	10%	9%	13%	13%	14%	14%	12%	6%
Fishing areas	22%	25%	18%	28%	24%	19%	22%	20%	23%	20%
Shore fishing areas	24%	30%	18%	30%	27%	25%	28%	25%	24%	21%
Hunting areas	31%	35%	30%	33%	40%	32%	29%	37%	27%	35%
Walking/biking trails (unpaved)	21%	25%	17%	23%	12%	18%	31%	21%	15%	18%
Horseback riding trails	9%	5%	5%	11%	12%	7%	11%	9%	14%	3%
Paved trails	15%	17%	11%	11%	13%	15%	21%	20%	9%	12%
Mountain biking trails	11%	10%	10%	11%	9%	10%	12%	12%	11%	4%
Mountain biking skills course	10%	9%	9%	10%	5%	11%	11%	11%	11%	4%
Fat Tire bike trails	9%	5%	8%	13%	5%	9%	11%	11%	7%	3%
Cross-country skiing trails	11%	7%	12%	9%	10%	11%	13%	9%	5%	7%
Down-hill skiing/Snowboarding areas	12%	11%	11%	15%	13%	12%	13%	12%	8%	8%
Sledding areas	17%	16%	18%	20%	16%	16%	25%	17%	15%	21%
Ice skating or hockey rinks (outdoor)	12%	8%	13%	10%	18%	12%	12%	16%	8%	11%
Snowmobile trails	8%	6%	5%	11%	8%	6%	8%	9%	8%	5%
Off-road or ATV riding areas/trails	14%	14%	8%	18%	17%	13%	15%	14%	14%	14%
Historic sites (with interpretation)	14%	11%	11%	17%	12%	14%	16%	13%	9%	13%
Nature areas/open space	23%	25%	22%	22%	16%	22%	30%	19%	21%	23%
Outdoor festivals/Festival areas	16%	18%	11%	20%	15%	15%	22%	16%	11%	19%
Pow-wow grounds	8%	6%	7%	9%	9%	7%	11%	8%	6%	4%
Playgrounds	11%	9%	9%	13%	11%	9%	13%	9%	12%	7%
Soccer fields	7%	5%	5%	7%	7%	6%	8%	10%	7%	2%
Football fields	6%	4%	3%	10%	5%	6%	8%	5%	5%	2%
Lacrosse fields	7%	3%	3%	10%	8%	6%	7%	13%	5%	2%
Golf course/driving ranges	9%	8%	5%	13%	11%	11%	10%	11%	13%	7%
Baseball or softball fields	9%	7%	5%	12%	10%	9%	10%	12%	4%	4%
Skateboarding parks	8%	7%	6%	10%	10%	7%	9%	6%	8%	3%
Tennis courts	7%	5%	4%	10%	3%	8%	9%	7%	10%	2%
Volleyball courts (outdoor)	9%	7%	5%	10%	10%	6%	8%	16%	11%	3%
Basketball courts (outdoor)	9%	7%	5%	14%	9%	8%	9%	13%	11%	5%
Horseshoe pits	10%	8%	5%	13%	9%	9%	8%	13%	13%	6%
Archery target shooting ranges	21%	23%	21%	21%	25%	12%	21%	22%	17%	20%
Shotgun shooting ranges	28%	34%	32%	30%	27%	23%	27%	27%	22%	32%
Pistol/rifle shooting ranges	30%	38%	36%	32%	25%	26%	29%	36%	27%	34%
Disc golf courses	12%	11%	8%	12%	11%	10%	15%	10%	11%	8%
Dog parks	19%	21%	19%	21%	14%	23%	17%	16%	11%	17%
Canoe/Kayak water trails	10%	22%	19%	21%	16%	14%	24%	22%	12%	21%
ATV skills parks	6%	10%	7%	13%	15%	8%	9%	12%	12%	6%

\*Note: Sioux Falls Area (N=830), Black Hills Area (N=846), Aberdeen (N=231), Watertown (N=295), Pierre (N=300), Brookings (N=308), Mitchell (N=207), Huron (N=132), and Yankton (N=168).

Table 19 Outdoor Recreation Facility “Need to Improve” Comparison in South Dakota

	Statewide	Sioux Falls	Black Hills	Aberdeen	Watertown	Pierre/FP	Brookings	Mitchell	Huron	Yankton
Tent-camping campgrounds	12%	11%	12%	12%	14%	14%	17%	16%	28%	19%
RV or trailer campgrounds	14%	11%	9%	15%	14%	11%	12%	21%	21%	11%
Areas for backpacking	13%	11%	10%	14%	12%	15%	17%	14%	12%	10%
Picnic Areas	16%	14%	13%	15%	11%	21%	19%	22%	21%	12%
Facilities for boating	18%	17%	13%	22%	15%	21%	18%	19%	22%	19%
Swimming beaches	21%	22%	17%	20%	24%	26%	28%	27%	22%	17%
Swimming pools	13%	11%	10%	13%	11%	15%	13%	14%	18%	11%
Fishing areas	18%	18%	15%	21%	20%	18%	18%	25%	18%	19%
Shore fishing areas	20%	21%	17%	27%	22%	18%	18%	25%	28%	16%
Hunting areas	17%	15%	15%	20%	15%	21%	17%	18%	21%	14%
Walking/biking trails (unpaved)	16%	18%	13%	16%	16%	17%	14%	13%	23%	15%
Horseback riding trails	9%	6%	6%	10%	8%	10%	10%	11%	14%	6%
Paved trails	13%	12%	11%	19%	11%	13%	12%	14%	24%	13%
Mountain biking trails	9%	6%	7%	13%	9%	9%	11%	8%	14%	4%
Mountain biking skills course	9%	6%	6%	10%	8%	8%	10%	14%	14%	2%
Fat Tire bike trails	8%	7%	9%	12%	8%	9%	11%	10%	21%	2%
Cross-country skiing trails	9%	7%	9%	12%	8%	9%	10%	11%	21%	2%
Down-hill skiing/Snowboarding areas	9%	5%	7%	11%	9%	11%	11%	14%	16%	6%
Sledding areas	14%	14%	13%	19%	15%	10%	17%	12%	13%	7%
Ice skating or hockey rinks (outdoor)	11%	8%	9%	10%	11%	15%	12%	15%	14%	7%
Snowmobile trails	9%	6%	3%	12%	11%	9%	7%	12%	11%	7%
Off-road or ATV riding areas/trails	13%	9%	10%	14%	14%	13%	8%	18%	24%	12%
Historic sites (with interpretation)	17%	16%	18%	17%	15%	17%	21%	21%	24%	12%
Nature areas/open space	17%	16%	16%	14%	19%	17%	17%	19%	20%	16%
Outdoor festivals/Festival areas	13%	11%	10%	16%	16%	13%	15%	18%	16%	13%
Pow-wow grounds	11%	7%	9%	8%	10%	11%	9%	14%	16%	10%
Playgrounds	15%	13%	11%	14%	17%	18%	17%	18%	15%	11%
Soccer fields	8%	5%	4%	8%	10%	13%	7%	12%	16%	2%
Football fields	8%	4%	5%	7%	9%	9%	7%	12%	15%	2%
Lacrosse fields	7%	3%	3%	10%	8%	5%	5%	5%	11%	2%
Golf course/driving ranges	10%	8%	6%	13%	8%	13%	9%	13%	20%	5%
Baseball or softball fields	10%	7%	6%	12%	11%	15%	10%	11%	24%	6%
Skateboarding parks	8%	5%	5%	9%	8%	9%	9%	10%	8%	4%
Tennis courts	8%	4%	6%	9%	11%	10%	5%	10%	15%	6%
Volleyball courts (outdoor)	9%	6%	6%	9%	10%	9%	13%	10%	9%	14%
Basketball courts (outdoor)	10%	7%	6%	9%	14%	13%	11%	12%	18%	8%
Horseshoe pits	11%	9%	8%	10%	12%	16%	11%	13%	19%	7%
Archery target shooting ranges	15%	14%	11%	12%	18%	17%	17%	17%	20%	24%
Shotgun shooting ranges	17%	14%	13%	21%	20%	19%	18%	22%	25%	14%
Pistol/rifle shooting ranges	17%	14%	14%	21%	16%	14%	14%	14%	28%	13%
Disc golf courses	11%	9%	6%	9%	13%	12%	11%	13%	9%	8%
Dog parks	14%	13%	12%	13%	14%	16%	15%	20%	22%	10%
Canoe/Kayak water trails	14%	11%	14%	20%	12%	17%	13%	21%	11%	11%
ATV skills parks	9%	5%	6%	10%	11%	7%	11%	10%	12%	5%

\*Note: Sioux Falls Area (N=830), Black Hills Area (N=846), Aberdeen (N=231), Watertown (N=295), Pierre (N=300), Brookings (N=308), Mitchell (N=207), Huron (N=132), and Yankton (N=168).

## COMPARISON ANALYSIS: PERSPECTIVES OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

The first set of comparison used all usable cases from the public survey, including both SD residents and non-SD residents. The purpose of this analysis is to further investigate if SD residents showed different perspectives and values of parks and recreation services than the non-SD residents in the study.

The second section of the comparison analysis only utilized the cases that self-identified as SD residents and reported their residential zip code and socio-demographics. The focus of this comparison analysis was to provide further information through advanced statistical analyses in explaining the public's perspectives about parks and recreation services in their community and outdoor recreation by factors that have been identified affecting individuals' perceptions and experiences during outdoor recreation, such as socio-demographics and residential area (Heberlein & Ericsson, 2005; Hendee, 1969; Stedman & Heberlein, 2002; Zawacki, Marsinko, & Bowker, 2000).

It is important to notice that the survey was designed without forced response to encourage response; therefore, surveys are considered complete even with minor skipped or missed responses. The numbers of respondents may vary from analysis to analysis. Moreover, the researchers reported the comparison results based on individual demographics variables. Please notice that some demographics might intertwine with each other, such as education and household income etc. The following are summaries of the comparison analysis:

**South Dakota residents vs. non-SD residents.** In this comparison, all survey participants were categorized into groups based on their state of residency: SD residents (55%) and non-SD residents (45%). The ANOVA was applied to examine if SD residents showed different perspectives in importance of parks and recreation service (Section IV, Question 1) and conservation efforts (Section IV, Question 2). The results are summarized as follows (Figure 10):

- SD residents reported a slightly lower score in “how important is having access to high-quality public park and recreation opportunities when deciding where to live” than the non-resident group. However, the difference between these groups is not statistically significant.
- SD residents showed significantly higher expectations on funding outdoor recreation and conservation efforts than the non-SD resident group, especially for “protect wildlife and fish habitat” and “acquire and protect open space (as undeveloped, conserved land)”.

Figure 10 Importance of Public Parks and Recreation and Conservation for Outdoor Recreation by Residency

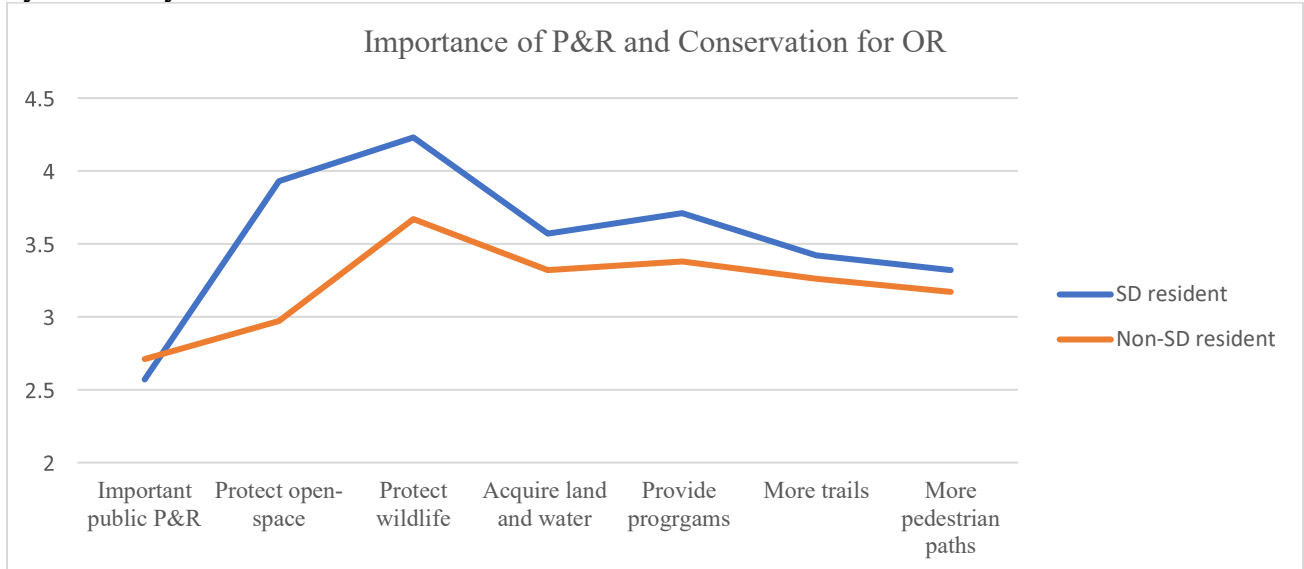
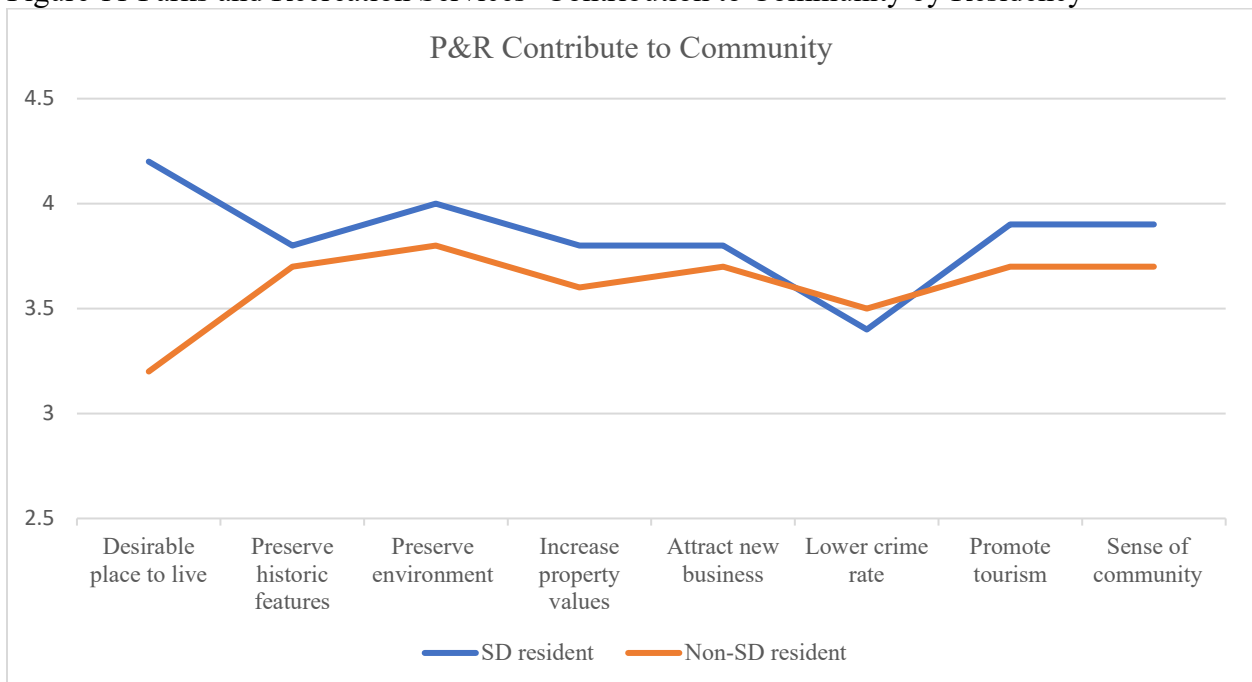


Figure 11 shows the results from ANOVA to examine if SD residents showed different perspectives in their local parks and recreation services and the contribution to various aspects of local community (Section IV, Question 3). The results are summarized as follows:

- SD residents reported a significantly higher score of parks and recreation contribution on “makes my community a more desirable place to live” than non-residents.
- SD residents also reported higher scores than non-residents on other community contributions, such as preserving the environment, helping attract new residents and businesses, promoting tourism, and building a sense of community.

Figure 11 Parks and Recreation Services’ Contribution to Community by Residency

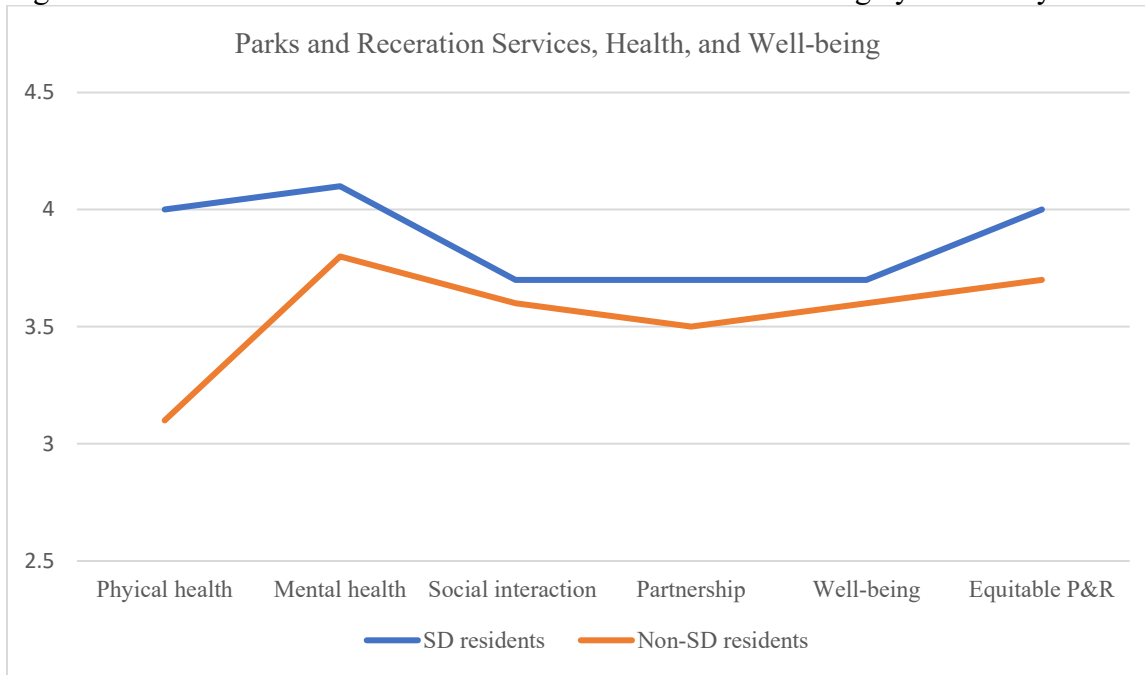




Moreover, ANOVA also was applied to examine if SD residents showed different perspectives in how their local parks and recreation organization delivers or provides the following programs/services that focus on health and well-being (Section IV, Question 4). The results are summarized as follows:

- SD residents reported a higher importance on parks and recreation services for promoting health and well-being in local communities, such as “provide opportunities for social interaction” and “partner with local government or community-based organizations”.
- SD residents scored the importance of parks and recreation services for “improving physical health and fitness” significantly higher than non-residents.

Figure 12 Parks and Recreation Services for Health and Well-being by Residency



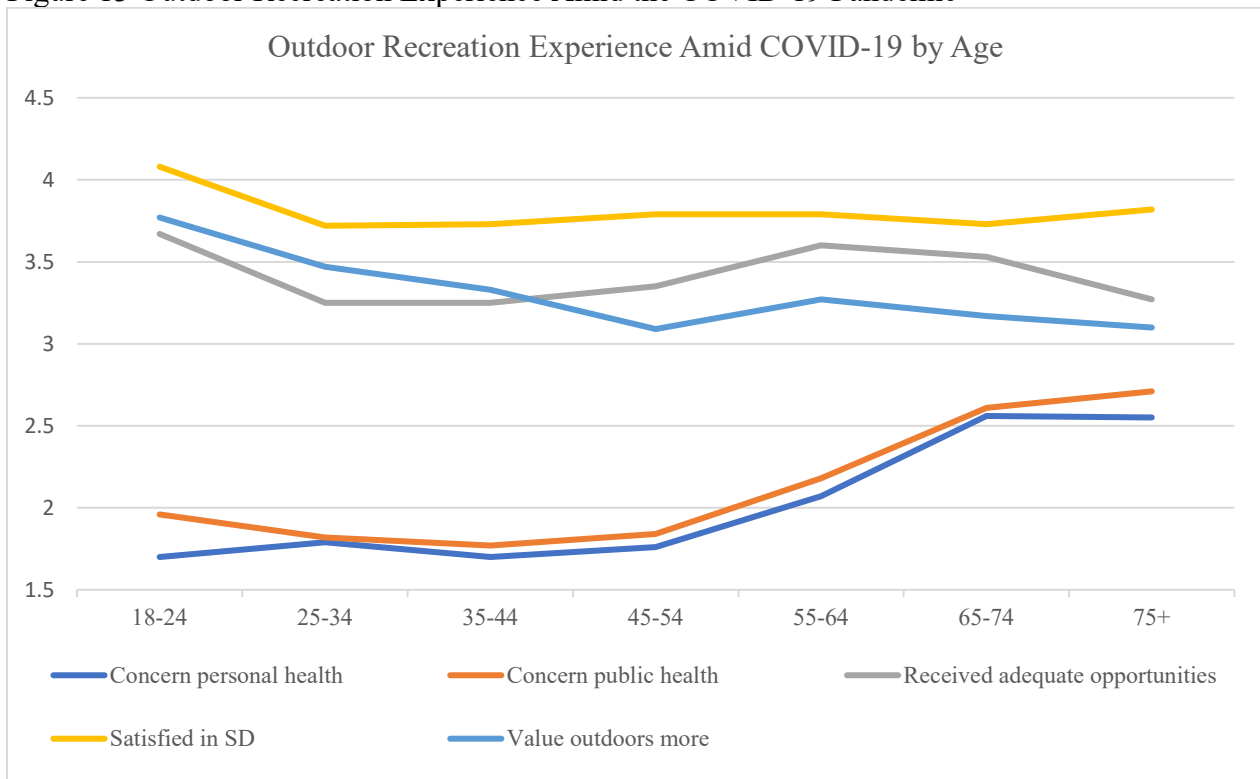
## SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS’ DEMOGRAPHICS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

**Age and outdoor recreation.** In this comparison, all survey participants were categorized into age groups based on 10-year increments (i.e., 18-24, 25-34, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75+). Among public survey participants of outdoor recreation, approximately 42% of them were 55 or older, while only 22 % were under the age of 35.

- (1) The youngest group, 18 to 24 years of age, reported a significantly higher value in the following funding properties in outdoor recreation and conservation than all other age groups:
  - Acquire and protect open space (as undeveloped and conserved land)
  - Provide environmental and conservation programs
  - Protect wildlife and fish habitat
  - Maintaining existing parks and recreation areas

- (2) “Preserve open space and the environment” and “makes your community more desirable place to live” were perceived as the most beneficial and valued of parks and recreation in South Dakota from community members of all ages.
- (3) The youngest group, 18 to 24 years of age, perceived a greater benefit in the following category from local parks and recreation than other groups, especially those who are 25 to 34 years old:
  - Improve physical health and fitness
  - Improve mental health and reduce stress for adults
  - Provide opportunities for social interaction
  - Promote the health and wellness benefits of parks and recreation
- (4) As for the COVID-19 impacts (Figure 13), the age group of 25-34 experienced the most “significant decrease” in outdoor recreation participation than the older groups.
  - Younger research participants (18-44 years of age) were more likely to learn or explore new outdoor recreation activities amid the pandemic than the older participants (45 years of age and older).
  - Survey participants in all ages agreed that “local recreation providers provided adequate outdoor recreation opportunities” and were “satisfied with the outdoor recreation opportunities provided to me in South Dakota” amid the pandemic.

Figure 13 Outdoor Recreation Experience Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic

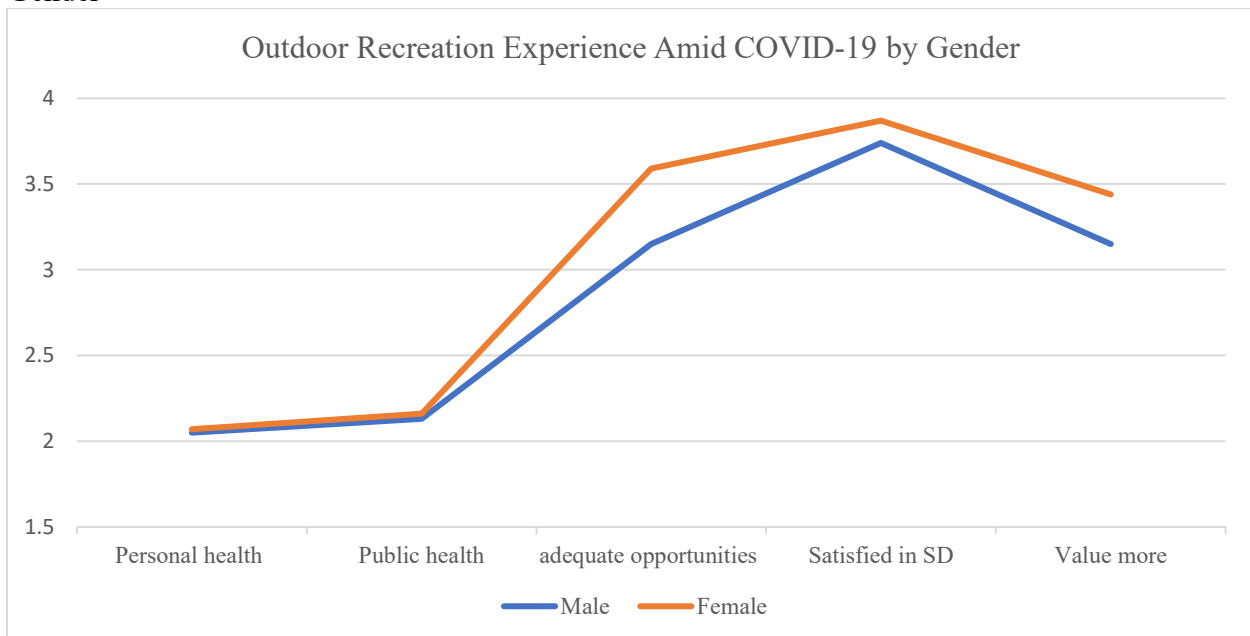


Note: On a 5-point scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Person health = I am concerned about my own personal health when recreating outdoors; Public health = I am concerned about the public’s health when recreating outdoors; Adequate outdoor opportunities = Local recreation providers provided adequate outdoor recreation opportunities; Satisfied in SD = I am satisfied with the outdoor recreation opportunities provided to me in South Dakota; Value more = I value outdoor recreation more now than compared to before the pandemic.

**Gender and outdoor recreation.** The t-test was applied to examine if survey participants showed different perspectives and priorities in funding outdoor recreation and conservation efforts (Section IV, Question 1) and perceived benefits of parks and recreation (Section IV, Question 3 & 5) in South Dakota based on their gender. The results indicated that (Figure 14):

- (1) For both male and female research participants, “maintaining existing park and recreation areas” and “protect wildlife and fish habitat” were the two most important priorities for financially supporting outdoor recreation and conservation.
- (2) For both male and female participants, “improve mental health and reduce stress for adults”, “improve mental health and reduce stress for youth”, and “enhance physical health and fitness” were the top three most important health and well-being related contributions of local parks and recreation services in their community.
- (3) Women research participants were likely to support “building more greenways/trails” and “build pedestrian cycling path between places of work, parks, and schools” as priorities of outdoor recreation in South Dakota than their male counterpart.
- (4) Women participants reported approximately 10-15% higher in scores on all potential benefits from parks and outdoor recreation than men.
- (5) As for the COVID-19 impacts, both male and female reported similarly low concern of their own health and the public’s health while participating in outdoor recreation amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Female participants generally reported a higher score in their outdoor recreation experience (e.g., adequate opportunities, satisfaction, and appreciate outdoors more) during the pandemic.

Figure 14 Comparison: Outdoor Recreation Experience Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic by Gender



Note: On a 5-point scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Person health = I am concerned about my own personal health when recreating outdoors; Public health = I am concerned about the public’s health when recreating outdoors; Adequate outdoor opportunities = Local recreation providers provided adequate outdoor recreation opportunities; Satisfied in SD = I am satisfied with the outdoor recreation opportunities provided to me in South Dakota; Value more = I value outdoor recreation more now than compared to before the pandemic.

**Education level and annual family income.** The ANOVA was applied to examine if the public have different perspectives and priorities based on their highest level of education regarding the importance of high quality public parks and recreation service in the community (Section IV, Question 1), funding outdoor recreation and conservation efforts (Section IV, Question 2), perceived benefits of parks and recreation (Section IV, Question 3), and health and well-being related contribution to the local communities in South Dakota (Section IV, Question 4). The results were summarized as follows:

- (1) Survey participants with college or graduate degree reported a higher level of agreement on “having access to high-quality public park and recreation opportunities when deciding where to live” than those without a college degree.
- (2) Survey participants with college and graduate degree reported greater support for the following conservation efforts than those without a college degree:
  - Build greenways/trails
  - Build pedestrian and cycling paths between places of work, park, and school etc.
- (3) Survey participants with college or graduate degree reported greater agreement on the following contribution of parks and recreation services in the community than those without a college degree:
  - Makes your community a more desirable place to live
  - Increases property values in your community
  - Enhances a sense of place and community
- (4) Regardless of participants’ education level, SD residents scored “improve mental health and reduce stress for adults” and “improve mental health and reduce stress for youth”, as the top two most important health and well-being related contributions of local parks and recreation services in their community.
  - SD residents with college degree and graduate degree reported a greater agreement on “improve physical health and fitness” of parks and recreation than those without a college degree.
- (5) As for the COVID-19 pandemic impact on SD residents’ outdoor recreation participation,
  - 90% of participants did not stop their preferred outdoor recreation activities amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - All education groups reported the highest scores on “local recreation providers provided adequate outdoor recreation opportunities and “I am satisfied with the outdoor recreation opportunities provided to me in South Dakota” amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Household annual income and outdoor recreation.** The ANOVA was applied to test if SD residents have different perspectives and priorities based on their annual household income and the importance of high quality public parks and recreation services in the community (Section IV, Question 1), funding outdoor recreation and conservation efforts (Section IV, Question 2), perceived benefits of parks and recreation (Section IV, Question 3), and the health and well-being contribution to the local communities in South Dakota (Section IV, Question 4). The results were summarized as follows:

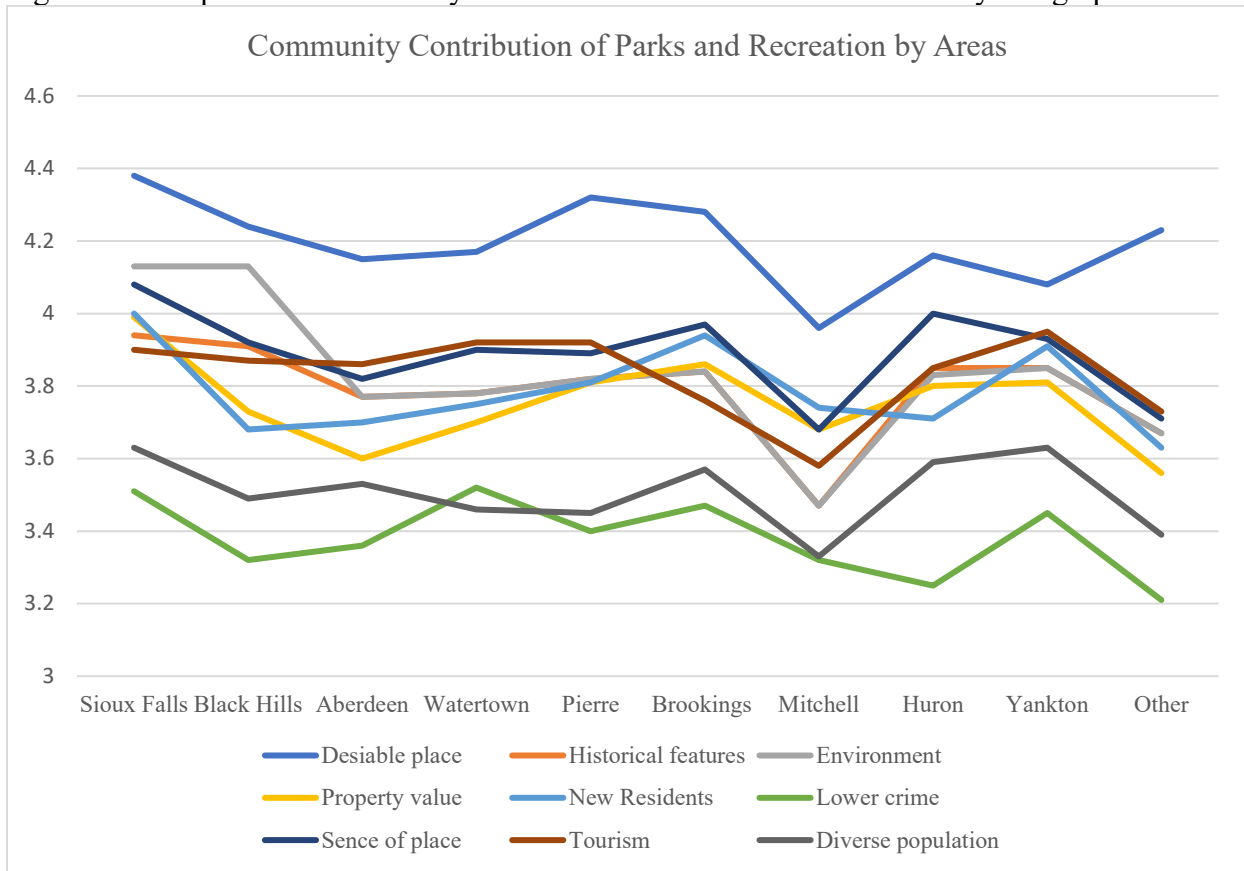
- (1) Approximately 75% of SD residents across all income groups reported that having access to high-quality public park and recreation opportunities was “important”, “very important”, and “extremely important” when deciding to where to live.
- (2) No significant difference was found among different annual income groups in funding outdoor recreation and conservation efforts, perceived benefits of parks and recreation, and health and well-being related contributions to the local communities in South Dakota.

**Residential area (in SD) and outdoor recreation.** In this comparison, all research participants were categorized into groups based on the self-identification of their residential areas in SD. Nine geographic areas were included: Sioux Falls, Black Hills, Aberdeen, Watertown, Pierre, Brookings, Mitchell, Huron, and Yankton as well as an option for “none of the above”. The ANOVA was applied to test if SD residents have different perspectives and priorities with their residential areas in the importance of high-quality public parks and recreation service in the community (Section IV, Question 1), funding outdoor recreation and conservation efforts (Section IV, Question 2), perceived benefits of parks and recreation (Section IV, Question 3), and health and well-being related contributions to the local communities in South Dakota (Section IV, Question 4). The results were summarized as follows:

Regardless of their geographic locations, SD residents reported that having access to high-quality public parks and recreation services were important for them when deciding where to live.

- As for conservation effort in relation to outdoor recreation, “protect wildlife and fish habitat” (range from 4.01 to 4.30 / 5) and “maintain existing park and recreation areas” (range from 4.03 to 4.33 / 5) were the highest priorities in all geographical areas in SD.
- For community contribution of parks and recreation, Sioux Falls residents reported higher scores than all other residential areas. Sioux Falls participants reported a significantly higher value than the residents who live outside of the nine geographic areas/others in the survey (Figure 15).
- “Helps to lower the crime rate in your community” and “provides programs/services that benefit a demographically diverse population” were perceived as less contributive of parks and recreation by SD residents.
- Residents in all geographic locations showed a similar value of parks and recreation in support and promote health and well-being in SD. The three most important functions of parks and recreation for health and well-being are:
  - Improve mental health and reduce stress for adults
  - Improve mental health and reduce stress for youth
  - Provide equitable access to high-quality parks, green spaces, trails, and other built environment features (e.g., picnic area, restroom, etc.)
- Residents in all geographic locations reported a positive experience from participating in outdoor recreation in SD amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 15 Comparison: Community Contribution of Parks and Recreation by Geographic Areas



Note: On 5-point Likert scale. Desirable place = Makes your community a more desirable place to live; Historical features = Preserves historical features in your community; Environment = Preserves open spaces and the environment; Property value = Increases property values in your community; New residents = Helps attract new residents and businesses, Lower crime = Helps to lower the crime rate in your community, Tourism = Promotes tourism in your community; Sense of community = Enhances a sense of place and community; Diverse population = Provides programs/services that benefit a demographically diverse population.

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Appendix A: Public Survey



**2022 South Dakota Outdoor Recreation Survey**



The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) and South Dakota State University (SDSU) need your help in gathering information to plan for outdoor recreation opportunities across the state of South Dakota. You may be an active outdoors person or someone that cringes at the mere thought of outdoor recreation. Regardless of your time spent in the South Dakota outdoors or the outdoor activities you choose to participate in – we would like to hear from you. We invite you to participate in a survey to share your experiences and perspectives on outdoor recreation in South Dakota. Whether you recreate in your local community or county, in a state park, a national forest, a privately owned recreation facility or not at all, your voice is an important part of assisting your community in planning for the future.

Your participation in this research is voluntary. There is no penalty for refusal to participate, and you are free to withdraw your consent and participation in this project at any time. This online survey will take less than 20 minutes of your time. We respectfully request you fill out all sections of the survey. There are no known risks to your participation in the study. Your responses to the survey will be anonymous. You may start the survey, stop, and resume the survey at a later time. Also, your responses are strictly confidential. When the data and analysis are presented, you will not be linked to the data by your name, title or any other identifying item.

Upon full completion of the survey all participants will have the chance to be entered into a random drawing for 100, \$20 Amazon gift cards. If you wish to enter the drawing you will provide your email after fully completing the survey. We plan to do the random drawing around mid-March 2022.

**Contacts:** You may contact the researchers at the following address and phone number, should you desire to discuss your participation in the study and/or request information about the results of the study: Hung-Ling (Stella) Liu, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in Recreation Management, 407 Wager, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD 57006, [stella.liu@sdstate.edu](mailto:stella.liu@sdstate.edu), (605) 688-6163 or Kiley Foss, Research Assistant, [kiley.foss@sdstate.edu](mailto:kiley.foss@sdstate.edu).

If you have questions regarding your rights as a participant, you can contact the SDSU Research Compliance Coordinator at (605) 688-6975 or [SDSU.IRB@sdstate.edu](mailto:SDSU.IRB@sdstate.edu).

Sincerely,

Stella Liu, Assistant Professor in Recreation Management  
Kiley Foss, Graduate Research Assistant  
Megan Thompson, Graduate Research Assistant

**2022 South Dakota Outdoor Recreation Survey: Public**

**Section I: Participation in Outdoor Recreation**

The following questions are designed to aid us in understanding your experiences and general use of parks and recreation areas for outdoor recreation (i.e., visiting parks, hiking, camping, fishing, sightseeing, bird watching, boating etc.).

1. During the past year, how often did you participate in outdoor recreation activities in South Dakota? Please select the statement that best describes your frequency of participation.

- Two or more times per week
- About once per week
- About once or twice per month
- Several times during the year
- Once or twice during the year
- I used to participate in outdoor recreation previously but not in the past year
- I never participate in outdoor recreation (Please skip to Section 2, Question 2)

2. Which of the following best describes how you participated in outdoor recreation?

- By myself
- With family/friends with children (under age of 18)
- With Family/friends without children (under age of 18)
- With an organized group (i.e., church group, special association etc.)

3. How do you typically hear about information regarding outdoor recreation opportunities and destinations in South Dakota? Please select all that apply.

Internet searches	<input type="checkbox"/>
Word of mouth	<input type="checkbox"/>
Websites	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suggestions from family and friends	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exploring/way-finding on own	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travel guides	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social media	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local residents/staff/visitor centers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local media - News, magazines, newspapers, radio	<input type="checkbox"/>
Program guides/catalogs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. **In the past year**, how often did you use each of the following types of outdoor recreation areas on average in South Dakota?

Local/municipal parks, trails, or playground	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly or more frequently <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> 2 to 3 times per year <input type="checkbox"/> About once a year <input type="checkbox"/> Never
State parks, recreation areas, lakeside use areas, trails, game production areas, public hunting	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly or more frequently <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly

areas, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 to 3 times per year <input type="checkbox"/> About once a year <input type="checkbox"/> Never
Federal-managed outdoor areas (i.e. national parks, forest, reserves, lakes etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly or more frequently <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> 2 to 3 times per year <input type="checkbox"/> About once a year <input type="checkbox"/> Never
Private/commercial recreation areas (i.e. resorts, private golf courses, waterparks)	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly or more frequently <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> 2 to 3 times per year <input type="checkbox"/> About once a year <input type="checkbox"/> Never
Other (please specify)	

**4.1 Trail activities:** Did you or any member of your household participate in any outdoor recreation activities on trails (i.e., walking, biking, hiking, ATV riding etc.) in South Dakota over the past year?  
 Yes     No (Skip to Question 4.2)

Below is a list of common outdoor recreation activities on trails. How often did you or any members of your household participate in the following activities in South Dakota within the last 12 months. Mark ONE box per activity.

Trail Activities	1-5 times	6-15 times	15+ times	Never
Walking on paved trails				
Walking on natural surface trails/Hiking (Day Trip)				
Backpacking (Overnight)				
Jogging/Running				
Horseback riding				
Biking on a paved road/trail				
Biking on unpaved trail				
Mountain biking				
Off Highway Vehicle (OHV)				
All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)				
Utility Task Vehicle (UTV)				
Full size 4x4 Vehicle				

**4.2 Water-based activities:** Did you or any member of your household participate in any water-based activities in South Dakota in the past year?  
 Yes     No (Skip to Question 4.3)

Below is a list of common water-based outdoor recreation activities. How often did you or any members of your household participate in the following activities in South Dakota within the last 12 months. Mark ONE box per activity.

Water-based Activities	1-5 times	6-15 times	15+ times	Never
Swimming at beach				
Swimming at a pool				
Motorized boating				
Canoeing or kayaking				

Sailing or sailboarding				
Standup paddle boarding				
Snorkeling or SCUBA diving				

**4.3 Winter activities:** Did you or any member of your household participate in any winter outdoor recreation activities in South Dakota in the past year?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No (Skip to Question 4.4)

Below is a list of common winter outdoor recreation activities. How often did you or any members of your household participate in the following activities in South Dakota within the last 12 months. Mark ONE box per activity.

Winter Activities	1-5 times	6-15 times	15+ times	Never
Downhill skiing/Snowboarding				
Sledding				
Snowshoeing				
Ice skating (outdoors)				
Ice hockey (outdoors)				
Ice fishing				
Snowmobiling				
Cross-country skiing				
Fat tire biking				

**4.4 Wildlife-related activities:** Did you or any member of your household participate in any wildlife-related outdoor recreation activities (i.e., hunting, fishing, wildlife watching etc.) in South Dakota in the past year?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No (Skip to Question 4.5)

Below is a list of common wildlife-related outdoor recreation activities. How often did you or any members of your household participate in the following activities in South Dakota within the last 12 months. Mark ONE box per activity.

Wildlife-related Activities	1-5 times	6-15 times	15+ times	Never
Shore fishing				
Fly Fishing				
Boat fishing				
Hunting (Bow)				
Hunting (Rifle/Piston/Shot Gun)				
Trapping				
Wildlife viewing				
Birdwatching				

**4.5 Sports activities:** Did you or any member of your household participate in any outdoor sports (i.e. baseball, golf, shooting sport etc.) in South Dakota in the past year?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No (Skip to Question 4.6)

Below is a list of common outdoor sports. How often did you or any members of your household participate in the following activities in South Dakota within the last 12 months. Mark ONE box per activity.

Sports Activities	1-5 times	6-15 times	15+ times	Never
Tennis				
Golf				

Disc golf				
Baseball/softball				
Basketball (outdoors)				
Volleyball (outdoors)				
Lacrosse				
Soccer (outdoors)				
Football				
Skateboarding				
Rock climbing				
Archery Range Shooting (outdoor)				
Shotgun Range Shooting (outdoor)				
Rifle/Pistol Range Shooting (outdoor)				
Pickleball				

4.6 Other outdoor activities: Did you or any member of your household participate in any other outdoor activities (i.e. camping, picnicking, recreating with pets, playing at a playgroup etc.) in South Dakota in the past year?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No (Skip to Question 4.7)

Below is a list of other common outdoor activities. How often did you or any members of your household participate in the following activities in South Dakota within the last 12 months. Mark ONE box per activity.

Other outdoor activities	1-5 times	6-15 times	15+ times	Never
Tent camping				
RV camping				
Picnicking				
Visiting historic sites				
Visiting nature centers				
Outdoor photography				
Attending educational programs				
Attending outdoor festivals				
Playing at a playground				
Geocaching				
Lawn games (horseshoes, bocce, corn hole)				
Recreating with pet(s)				

4.7 Additional activities: Did you or any member of your household participate in any other outdoor recreation activities in South Dakota in the past year? If so, please list them here.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Please select the best statement to describe your preferred locations for outdoor recreation.

- \_\_\_\_\_ I enjoy most of my outdoor recreation activities in South Dakota
- \_\_\_\_\_ I enjoy some of my outdoor recreation activities in South Dakota and outside of the state as well  
(Please specify which states and what you did \_\_\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_\_\_ I enjoy most of my outdoor recreation activities outside of South Dakota  
(Please specify which states and what you did \_\_\_\_\_)

6. Do you have plans to do any of the following in the next year? Please select all that apply.

Camp at a South Dakota state park	
Purchase a South Dakota fishing license	
Register a boat in South Dakota	
Purchase a South Dakota hunting license	
Register an ATV/UTV in South Dakota	
Register a snowmobile in South Dakota	
None of the above	

## Section II: Outdoor Recreation Motivation & Constraints

The following questions are designed to help us understand what you enjoy about outdoor recreation activities, and any obstacles you may face in pursuing your outdoor recreation interests.

1. We would like to know why you participate in outdoor recreation. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following reasons for participating in outdoor recreation activities? Please rate between 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree) that indicates your agreement on each reason for participating in outdoor recreation.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
To enjoy my favorite activity	1	2	3	4	5
To develop confidence in myself	1	2	3	4	5
To experience peace/tranquility	1	2	3	4	5
For relaxation	1	2	3	4	5
For stimulation and excitement	1	2	3	4	5
To feel at one with nature	1	2	3	4	5
To escape daily routine	1	2	3	4	5
To learn about the environment	1	2	3	4	5
To experience new things	1	2	3	4	5
To observe wildlife	1	2	3	4	5
To meet new people	1	2	3	4	5
To be with family and friends	1	2	3	4	5
To enjoy beautiful scenery	1	2	3	4	5
To develop skill and knowledge	1	2	3	4	5
To gain sense of accomplishment	1	2	3	4	5
To challenge myself	1	2	3	4	5
To keep physically fit	1	2	3	4	5
To use my outdoor gear/equipment	1	2	3	4	5

2. We would like to know about your perceived barriers to participating in outdoor recreation. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following being obstacles you face in pursuing your outdoor recreation interests? Please rate on a scale from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree).

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
Afraid of getting hurt by animals /insects	1	2	3	4	5
Lack of interest	1	2	3	4	5
Don't feel welcome	1	2	3	4	5
Lack of information	1	2	3	4	5
Unaware of opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Don't have enough time	1	2	3	4	5
Don't have the skills or physical ability	1	2	3	4	5
Lack of confidence	1	2	3	4	5
Don't have people to go with	1	2	3	4	5
Activity fees are too high	1	2	3	4	5
Admission fees are too high	1	2	3	4	5
Equipment costs are too high	1	2	3	4	5
The facility I want doesn't exist in parks	1	2	3	4	5
Parks and recreation areas are too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
Concern about safety / crime	1	2	3	4	5
Nearby parks are dirty or poorly maintained	1	2	3	4	5
Lack of transportation / no way to get to parks	1	2	3	4	5
Don't have necessary equipment	1	2	3	4	5
Weather (i.e., extreme cold or hot temperatures)	1	2	3	4	5
Age (i.e. busy with kids activities now, unable to physically participate in the same activities, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5

3. Do you, or anyone in your household, have a physical disability that affects your ability to participate in outdoor recreation?

- No, no one in my household has a disability (Skip to Question 5)
- Yes, I have a disability
- Yes, someone else in my household has a disability

4. If your response is "Yes" in the previous question, what recommendations could be made to improve your ability to engage in outdoor recreation activities?

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5. Do you have any suggestions for how outdoor recreation providers can help remove the barriers to your participation in outdoor recreation activities?

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**Section III: Outdoor Recreation Needs**

The following questions are used to help understand the State’s needs for outdoor recreation related facilities, amenities, and areas to promote and sustain the outdoor recreation legacy of South Dakota over the next five years. Please enter what you feel to be true for your area, not just your household.

1. Please indicate whether or not you feel there is a need for more facilities or if efforts should be made to improve what already exists.

	Need more	Need to improve	Adequate	No opinion
Tent-camping campgrounds				
RV or trailer campgrounds				
Areas for backpacking				
Picnic areas				
Facilities for boating				
Swimming beaches				
Swimming pools				
Fishing areas				
Shore Fishing Areas				
Hunting areas				
Walking/biking trails (unpaved)				
Horseback riding trails				
Paved trails				
Mountain biking trails				
Mountain biking skills course				
Fat Tire bike trails				
Cross-country skiing trails				
Down-hill skiing/Snowboarding areas				
Sledding areas				
Ice skating or hockey rinks (Outdoor)				
Snowmobile trails				
Off-road or ATV riding areas/trails				
Historic sites (with interpretation)				
Nature areas/open space				
Outdoor festivals/Festival areas				
Pow-wow grounds				
Playgrounds				
Soccer fields				
Football fields				
Lacrosse fields				
Baseball or softball fields				
Golf courses/driving ranges				
Skateboarding parks				
Tennis courts				
Volleyball courts (outdoor)				
Basketball courts (outdoor)				
Horseshoe pits				
Archery target shooting ranges				
Shooting ranges (shotgun)				

Pistol/rifle shooting ranges				
Disc golf courses				
Dog parks				
Canoe/Kayak water trails				
ATV skill parks				
ADA accessible facilities. Please specify what types.				

2. What are the most needed recreation facilities in your community (within 10-15 minutes of your home)?

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3. How important is availability of Wi-Fi to you when participating in outdoor recreation activities?

Not at all important	Slightly important	Important	Very important	Extremely important

4. What other facilities/areas/amenities should be considered when promoting South Dakota’s outdoor recreation legacy for the next five years?

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**Section IV: Your Perspective about Outdoor Recreation**

The following section examines priorities in funding outdoor recreation and conservation efforts in South Dakota, the importance of potential benefits of outdoor recreation, and the ability of outdoor recreation providers to provide these benefits.

1. How important is having access to high-quality public park and recreation opportunities when deciding where to live?

Not at all important	Slightly important	Important	Very important	Extremely important

2. When funding outdoor recreation and conservation efforts in South Dakota, how important or unimportant are each of following considerations? Please rate each statement on a 5-point Likert scale from extremely unimportant to extremely important.

	Extremely unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat important	Extremely important
Acquire and protect open space (as undeveloped, conserved land)	1	2	3	4	5
Acquire additional land and water areas for developed	1	2	3	4	5

recreation					
Maintain existing park and recreation areas	1	2	3	4	5
Provide environmental and conservation programs	1	2	3	4	5
Provide recreation programs at parks and recreation areas	1	2	3	4	5
Protect wildlife and fish habitat	1	2	3	4	5
Build more greenways/trails	1	2	3	4	5
Build pedestrian and cycling paths between places of work, parks, schools etc.	1	2	3	4	5

3. When thinking about your community, how much do you agree that the outdoor recreation opportunities provided by your local park and recreation organization provides or supports the delivery of the following benefits to the public? Please rate each statement on a 5-point Likert scale from strongly disagree to strongly agree.

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
Makes your community a more desirable place to live	1	2	3	4	5
Preserves historical features in your community	1	2	3	4	5
Preserves open spaces and the environment	1	2	3	4	5
Increases property values in your community	1	2	3	4	5
Helps attract new residents and businesses	1	2	3	4	5
Helps to lower the crime rate in your community	1	2	3	4	5
Promotes tourism in your community	1	2	3	4	5
Enhances a sense of place and community	1	2	3	4	5
Provides programs/services that benefit a demographically diverse population	1	2	3	4	5

4. How important is it that your local parks and recreation organization delivers or provides the following programs/services that focus on health and well-being? Please rate each statement on a 5-point Likert scale from extremely unimportant to extremely important.

	Extremely unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat important	Extremely important
Improve physical health and fitness	1	2	3	4	5
Improve mental health and reduce stress for adults	1	2	3	4	5
Improve mental health and reduce	1	2	3	4	5

stress for youth					
Provide opportunities for social interaction	1	2	3	4	5
Partner with local government or community-based organizations to improve access to health and wellness opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Promote the health and wellness benefits of parks and recreation	1	2	3	4	5
Provide equitable access to high-quality parks, green spaces, trails, and other built environment features	1	2	3	4	5

5. What else should we consider in developing the South Dakota outdoor recreation plan for the next five-years?

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**Section V: COVID-19 Impacts on Outdoor Recreation**

The following questions address how the COVID-19 pandemic affected your participation and experience in outdoor recreation.

1. How did your frequency of outdoor activity participation change during the COVID-19 pandemic on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being a significant decrease in outdoor activity participation and 5 being a significant increase in outdoor activity participation?

Significant decrease	Moderate decrease	No change	Moderate increase	Significant increase
1	2	3	4	5

2. How does the COVID-19 pandemic impact your participation in your favorite outdoor activities? Please explain whether that impact was negative, positive, etc.

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3. Where do you typically go to participate in outdoor recreation during the COVID-19 pandemic? Please select all that apply.

Stay at home (no participation)	
Backyard	
Local parks/trails	
State parks/recreation areas	
National parks/forest/grassland	
Private properties	

Other (please specify)	
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4. Did you start a new outdoor activity during the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Yes
- No (Skip to Question 5)

4a. What new activity/activities did you pick up during the COVID-19 pandemic?

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5. Did you stop participating in your preferred outdoor recreation activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Yes
- No (skip to Question 6)
- I did not participate in outdoor recreation activities before the COVID-19 pandemic (skip to Question 6)

5a. Do you plan to return to your preferred recreation activities after the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe/unsure

6. Please rate the following COVID-19 statements in relation to your outdoor recreation experiences since March of 2020.

	Strongly disagree	Slightly disagree	Neutral	Slightly agree	Strongly agree
I am concerned about my own personal health when recreating outdoors.					
I am concerned about the public's health when recreating outdoors.					
Local recreation providers provided adequate outdoor recreation opportunities.					
I am satisfied with the outdoor recreation opportunities provided to me in South Dakota					
I value outdoor recreation more now than compared to before the pandemic.					

**Section VI: Demographics**

1. How did you hear about this survey?

- Email invitation from an organization
- Message or newsletter from SDSU
- Newsletter or invitation from GFP
- Social media
- Invitation from family or friend
- Other (please specify \_\_\_\_\_)

Do you live in any of the following geographic locations?	Sioux Falls area		
	Black Hills		
	Aberdeen area		
	Watertown area		
	Pierre area		
	Brookings area		
	Mitchell area		
	Huron area		
	Yankton area		
	None of the above		
What is your zip code?			
What is your gender?	Male		Female
	Non-binary/other gender		Prefer not to answer
What is the highest level of education you have achieved?	Less than high school		
	High school graduate		
	Some college or associate's degree		
	Bachelor's degree		
	Graduate or professional degree		
What was your total household income for 2020?	Less than \$25,000		
	\$25,000 to \$49,999		
	\$50,000 to \$74,999		
	\$75,000 to \$99,999		
	\$100,000 to \$124,999		
	\$125,000 to \$149,999		
	\$150,000 or more		
	Prefer not to answer		
What is your current employment status?	Full-time employed		
	Part-time employed		
	Unemployed		
	Retired		
	Other (please specify _____)		
How old are you?			
Are you of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin?	Yes		No

What is your race?	White
	Black/African American
	American Indian/Alaska native
	Asian
	Pacific Islander
	Two or more races
	Other (please specify _____)
What is your political affiliation?	Republican
	Democrat
	Independent
	Other (please specify _____)
	Prefer not to answer

**\*If you would like to be entered into the Amazon gift card drawing, please provide your email below.**

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*Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey!*

## Appendix B: Recruitment Materials

### Reminder email for organizations

Good morning!

I hope you have had a wonderful week so far! My research team and I wanted to thank the organizations that have taken the time to help distribute the South Dakota SCORP public survey, we greatly appreciate your help! I also wanted to provide the information again if you would still like to assist us in promoting the survey. The South Dakota SCORP public survey allows people, who recreate in the South Dakota outdoors, to share their personal experiences and attitudes about their outdoor recreation participation. With your help we are able to reach out to a larger part of South Dakota's population as we work to gather information regarding to outdoor recreation in the state. If you have already posted the survey information, please feel free to post again or print the poster attached and hang somewhere in your building or office.

#### Information to include:

“South Dakota State University and the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks are working together for the 2022 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. With your help and insight, this project will help plan for future outdoor recreation opportunities in the state. They invite you to participate in their online survey which allows you to share your outdoor recreation experiences and perspectives in South Dakota. No matter where you participate in outdoor recreation or how often, your input will play an important role in the planning of future outdoor recreation opportunities in South Dakota.

**Survey link:** <https://sdscorppublic2022.questionpro.com>

All participants who fully complete the survey will have the chance to be entered into a random drawing for one of 100, \$20 Amazon gift cards. They plan to do the drawing around early April 2022. Any questions regarding the survey or study please contact Dr. Stella Liu ([stella.liu@sdstate.edu](mailto:stella.liu@sdstate.edu)) and/or Kiley Foss ([kiley.foss@sdstate.edu](mailto:kiley.foss@sdstate.edu)).

Thank you again for your help, please let me know if you have any questions!

### Monday Morning Message

Hung-Ling (Stella) Liu, Assistant Professor of Recreation Management in the College of Education and Human Sciences, and her research team are working with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks to gather public inputs for the 2022 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. We invite everyone, regardless of level of outdoor recreation participation, to participate in our survey to share your experiences and perspectives on outdoor recreation. Your input will play an important role in the planning of future outdoor recreation opportunities in South Dakota.



Survey Link <https://sdscorppublic2022.questionpro.com>

### **Additional SCORP description for organizations**

Hello!

We are reaching out to you as we believe your organization and the community you serve will benefit us by sharing their experiences and thoughts on outdoor recreation in South Dakota. We are asking for your assistance in distributing our Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) public survey to residents of South Dakota. South Dakota's SCORP is used to support funding for outdoor recreation in the state, as well as plan for future outdoor recreation experiences. Your help in posting the survey to your social media pages and/or website would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to copy and paste the paragraph below when posting information regarding the study. There is also an attached poster if you would like to include that when posting about the survey or to print off and place in your office. If you have any questions regarding the study or sharing the information provided please contact Stella Liu ([stella.liu@sdstate.edu](mailto:stella.liu@sdstate.edu)) and/or Kiley Foss ([kiley.foss@sdstate.edu](mailto:kiley.foss@sdstate.edu)).

“South Dakota State University and the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks are working together for the 2022 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. With your help and insight, this project will help plan for future outdoor recreation opportunities in the state. They invite you to participate in their online survey which allows you to share your outdoor recreation experiences and perspectives in South Dakota. No matter where you participate in outdoor recreation or how often, your input will play an important role in the planning of future outdoor recreation opportunities in South Dakota.

**Survey link:** <https://sdscorppublic2022.questionpro.com>

All participants who fully complete the survey will have the chance to be entered into a random drawing for one of 100, \$20 Amazon gift cards. They plan to do the drawing around early April 2022. Any questions regarding the survey or study please contact Stella Liu ([stella.liu@sdstate.edu](mailto:stella.liu@sdstate.edu)) and/or Kiley Foss ([kiley.foss@sdstate.edu](mailto:kiley.foss@sdstate.edu)).”

**Appendix C: Public Survey Open-ended Questions.**

**(Note: Comments from survey respondents with errata)**

**Section II**

Section 2, Question 4. What recommendations could be made to improve your ability to engage in outdoor recreation activities?

- a new body:)
- Access to beaches..no steps
- access to shore fishing
- Add outdoor programs
- Adding more campsites in some campgrounds
- Additional rest room facilities. Better trail guides
- Adult special needs swing
- advertise/highlight areas that are more easily accessible (be able to 'search' for them)
- Age is a factor
- ALLOW 'DISABLED HUNTER CARD' HOLDERS TO DRIVE ON/HUNT ON 'WALK IN ONLY' VEHICLE PROHIBITED PROPERTY.
- Allow light-duty motorized vehicles on Mickelson Trail, possibly on certain days/dates/seasons.
- Allow me to hunt from my ATV. I cannot much and have trouble carrying and shouldering a gun due to Rheumatoid Arthritis.
- Allow more motorized off road access to areas
- Allow older hunters better access to waterfowl hunting on public areas
- allow people over 65 to use a cross bow for archery hunting !!!!!!!
- Allow wider use of ATV's, I have difficulty walking.
- already been done
- Always have some first come rv sites that require no reservation
- An outdoor archery range in or just outside town (Sturgis).
- Any other state around SD has elderly life time licenses and park stickers. Oh no not in SD they want the money Deer lincex draw is to control the people not the States around us just go buy a lincex What a rip off wildlife
- As an individual we need to work ourselves to improve ability to move. It is not a SCORP function.
- Atv use to get in and out
- back time up forty years
- bathrooms. Toilet seat improperly installed makes bathroom near fire tower unuseable.
- be younger
- become younger.;...
- Being able to plan ahead and reserve camping spots more than just 90 days would be a great help. Only 90 days out makes it difficult to get kids and grandkids to arrange vacation time and still be able to get the camping areas that we want.
- Benches to rest more often a closer bathroom
- better boat access on smalol ponds and lakes
- Better access for physically handicapped.
- Better access to private land to improve hunting in the state.

- Better boat dock design at some locations
- Better boat ramps and restroom facilities
- Better handicap usability
- Better low vision friendly activities
- better pathways
- Better road hunting for pheasants. Farming practices have greatly reduced opportunities for this
- Better shoreline fishing at the smaller areas. Much, MUCH better control of the speed boats and skiers that are way too close to shoreline fishing and smaller row boats. If you can throw a medium size rock from shore and hit a speeding boat, they are too close!
- Better supervision of ATV/UTV use on trails not open to them. Too many people with loud, destructive machines on the BHNF. A better balance of multiple uses on the BHNF that more clearly benefits people rather than timber and mining companies.
- Better tent camping, designated areas for canoes and kayaks, more motorcycle trails, a more welcoming approach for dogs.
- Bike and hike trails
- Boat ramps in as early as possible and out late as possible. Use my atv to drag deer out of the woods.
- Camp grounds fill up too fast, other states let you make reservations 6 to 12 months out.
- Camp grounds for adults. No noisy, disrespectful kids.
- Campgrounds need more handicap spots. Shorter walking paths would be a nice option or Some type of handicap friendly rental atvs, golf carts for long trails to scenic areas.
- Camping sites and boat launch sites often lack accommodations. Would like to see more maintained wheelchair surfaces and ramps
- Cannot get a campsite because the system is abused... people are allowed to book ahead of time and not have to physically be there on the 90 day out and put up Barbie tent in same-day until they decide to set up camp .The 2 week period keeps others from camping during the time people are just holding the spot.
- Cannot think of any at this moment
- Can't think of any offhand
- Can't think of anything
- Cart or wheelchair like equipment availability.
- Change the application system regarding big game hunting
- Change the way hunting license are allocated. It is crazy that deer license are so restricted given the deer population. I also cannot hunt with friends in South Dakota for big game because of how restrictive the licensing is. I end up going to other states to hunt most of my bigger game.
- classes to gain the skill, knowledge and confidence to engage in more outdoor recreation activities
- Clean and clear obstructions of larger rivers. Like dead fall and low head dams.
- Closer handicap parking at boat ramps especially during low water
- Consider snow sledding hills for youth and families; beaches at lakes improved.
- Continued efforts to increase shore fishing opportunities
- Cost is much too high for resident hunting and fishing
- Cost of fishing License. Previously you had a 'Family Fishing License', now my wife needs her own and we need to spend an additional \$97 to obtain one. Thinking about going to North Dakota instead, or fishing other Lakes in Nebraska FOR THIS REASON ALONE. Sent previous survey

with amount of money spent on our 2021 South Dakota trips ..... ALOT ! Guess you won't be seeing a dime of that this year.

- Cure for diabetic people
- Deaf awareness is important, especially when the activity is being led by a Parks employee verbally.
- Develop a youth pill! I'm 75 years old with 3 stints in my heart & still enjoy pheasant hunting, predator hunting, trapping, fishing, & just being outdoors when the weather permits. Develop public hunting & walk-in access programs so the average SD resident has access to recreation activities without going to a resort, outfitter, or other pay to play facility. Keep costs reasonable and access to lakes, wildlife areas, etc. & discourage privatization of our public resources.....it shouldn't be all about making money for private individuals.
- Develop more campgrounds
- Disabled citizens should receive free admission to all parks and be eligible for fire hunting and fishing permits
- Disabled folks should be allowed to retrieve the game they kill by using a vehicle as long as they do not abuse the land. Simply allowing an atv would make a huge difference for disabled people to participate without causing further injuries to themselves. It's ridiculous to sell a hunting license and give a disabled hunting permit to someone and then tell them they cannot use any vehicle assisted retrieval of their game.
- Divorce?
- Doing a good job.
- Don't really have a recommendation for allowing for older age and the physical limitations that come with aging.
- Double (or triple) the number of electric RV camping spots at the State parks! Unless you can readily plan ahead 90-days, it is almost impossible to get a spot! Please add more camping spots!
- Easier access on trails,
- Easier access to lake shore fishing, more designated areas for lake shore fishing, lower costs of camping sites & camping cabins (think about the families who struggle to make ends meet that would be able to participate in more outdoor, weekend activities if the cost was lower).
- easier access to streams for us old folks
- easier trails to walk
- Easy access to walk in areas
- Easy to get around
- Ensuring there is plenty of wheelchair accessible things to do.
- Fewer ATV
- Find a balance with cost. State parks are fuller, I go camping/fishing to get away but everyone uses jet skis and such to the point one can't enjoy.
- Fishing access to shore
- For fishing we need more fishing docks that are handicap accessible. For waterfowl hunting having the ability to get closer to the water.
- Free access for those on disability
- Free equipment rental for park members or a super cheap rental on items with a waiver to say if you ruin or damage you pay of course. More classes at TOC, and specifically classes the way they used to be where there were kid, adult and family ones.
- free fishing for seniors
- Free fun outdoor events that are somewhat close to home.

- Fun activities
- get more shooting ranges like by Rapid City. Need / more and better quality public hunting lands. Need more windbreaks for winter survival. Our lakes and rivers and public hunting lands are getting raped by out of staters. Upland game stocking is misleading counted in harvest statistics. Give a true number and/or separate commercial harvest statistics.
- Get younger
- Give alternative route
- Give residents a earlier chance to reserve campsites before out of state campers.
- Had a hip replacement so somethings are not viable
- handicaped accessible places on the rock riprap ares on the missouri river. (I often fish from the pier below fort thompson dam)
- Handy capability
- Hard to find camping spots. I don't believe in paying for days and keeping others from going if I can't, but most weekends people book 3 or 4 days they don't intend to be there for. It keeps people like me who can't plan 90 days in advance from camping
- Hard to get camping spot
- Hard to say as I can only speak for myself. I try to do as much as I can while I can outdoors
- have age specific activities.
- Have more handicapped things around like more ramps and spots at parks have things for handicapped children
- He likes the ATV/UTV trails since he can't walk very far.
- Heart and back problems
- Heart pacemaker
- Hold a classes on how to snowshoe and how to fire and clean a pistol
- I am paralyzed on my left side due to a stroke. South Dakota has done a great job in keeping me involved. The state has given me a crossbow permit, so I can still bow hunt and even offered to take me in a disabled hunters hunt this spring through the Outdoor Campus. That is wonderful! I feel privileged to live here!
- I beleive that most, if not all, measures have been taken to make it possible for people, like me, to enjoy the outdoor facilities & opportunities without making the changes a burden to the general population. Thank you, for the concerns for all of us-- but we must all realize that total access to everyone without total physical abilities is not possible.
- I catch and release all fish. Why can't I buy a conservation license you non resident license way to high compared to other states in the area.
- I could be 10 years younger!
- I do not have a left hand anymore but it does not hinder me from anything hung but it is a disability
- I don't know what more could be done. I think you're doing a great job
- I enjoy Okobojo Point Recreation Area camping, but reservations are not accepted so it's a risk driving a long distance and possibly not finding an open camp site. Make the sites reservable like any other campground. Also, in spite of the area being almost totally beach, metal detecting is not permitted in this park. Lake Herman also does not allow metal detecting on their swimming beach. These decisions seem to be arbitrarily made by park management and not by state policy.
- I got better training through study
- I have a heart problem, more off road development.

- I have a shoulder injury and the state is accommodating and letting me get a permit for a crossbow license. I appreciate that.
- I have MS and cannot always participate in some activities.
- I need stable ground to walk, but I gear my activities to smooth surfaces and not rocky terrain.
- I need to get a car with a functional 4 wheel drive and high suspension that is reliable (my 4 wheel drive on my Dodge truck is old and erratic now). I like to go where there are no people, so I would prefer to go out on public lands in places not designated for recreation or high use. I suggest GFP work with federal agencies to create more Wilderness and Roadless Areas...Areas 2,500 square miles with no roads and low evidence of human activities. I object to trapping. I think it is cruel. Recreational trapping should not be happening on SD state parks or federal lands. I am 70 and have erratic arthritis in my knees, if medical community can make arthritis go away, I would hike longer distances more often..
- I need to get healthier
- I need to get more motivated.
- I need to work on my recovery from health issues and surgeries.
- I shore fish lake oah above the dam at cow creek . I fish it in march april and may after that it is to much hassle the park rangers game warnders servay people come to the camp site 3 to 5 times a day checking on you takes the fun and relsaxion out of it. the other there are not many campsites so you have to reserve long time ahead. they keep blocking off places one could camp. my favorite site was 44 was blocked off 2 years ago so you cant park where i parked the last 10 - 12 years for no appearnt reasion tried to reason with them last year there not responding because thats they do.
- I think there are options, I just wish I could do what I did before.
- I was told they could put a handicap road west of david reises ranch on white river two years ago where they blocked a road off for the second time farther away from the woods,in two weeks and they still havent done it two years later ,and putting rip rap along the river every where you fish around oacoma and cant walk up or down it.
- I wish I could pick you up
- I wish I knew what to suggest
- I would like to see more campgrounds with accessible sites and a way to reserve them with other nearby site for extended family.
- I'm 79 years old
- I'm just getting older!
- Improve boat landings on more lakes then just the camping lakes
- improve hunting opportunity i find that in order to get big game tags i must go out of state .
- In Christian Park already give me some of my life back When you give me a permit to use a crossbow hunting. I'm not able to pull a bow and arrow anymore my right shoulder is shot thank you.
- in marshall county the dept of gfp are continually closing existing trails limiting vehicle access to traditional shore fishing and hunting opportunities to families with children and older sportsmen, example white lake and four mile bullhead area.
- In the end your cost are going to cost you in the end. But for movement works that doesn't matter for business people it does but the government isn't in business they just can rip off the public
- Increase recreational facilities for the disabled
- INCREES ACCESS AND IMPROVEMENTS ON AN THING THAT RELATES TO WALKING OR USE OF LEGS.

- Install grab bars on all boat docks
- Invite in advance schedule in advance
- It can increase your knowledge and fitness
- It is getting increasingly more difficult for me to walk due to bad ankles.
- It's an old age thing!
- Just more time to involve entire family.
- just old age
- Just walk slower.... Stop to identify flowers, birds or learn something
- Keep outdoor recreation areas NON-COMMERCIAL. The more commercial facilities there are, the more people who don't appreciate nature show up and wreck the place.
- Keep the cattle out of my Public Shooting Areas. Every other year they are grazed down to look like a golf course right during nesting season. Then there is no summer habitat for the birds, no habitat for the birds during hunting season, and no winter cover. Therefore, no birds.
- Keep the fish cleaning station cleaner
- Keep the handicap camping sites for people with disabilities only. Don't rent them to me nondisabled people.
- Keep Tourism the hell out of GFP
- Keeping more of the campground bathhouses open during the winter. You close them long before duck season has gone out.
- Land set a side for disabled hunters.
- Large print maps or better trail markers for those with low vision
- Larger camping sites to accommodate noise control of neighbors
- Larger parking lots at boat ramps.
- Learn more about events
- Legalize crossbows!!!! Now
- Let more people get involved, such as celebrities
- Let people over 65 hunt with a cross bow. When I retired I was going to get back into bow hunting and bought a brand new bow and equipment, only to find out I can no longer shoot a compound bow due to serious Osteoarthritis. I asked my doctor to sign the waiver, and he said I would have to travel 125 miles to my joint replacement doctor to get the waiver signed. At 71, I didn't think it was worth 3 to \$400 for an appointment and travel. We have tried to get the waiver through the legislature the last 2 years and failed, soon, it will not make any difference for me.
- Let people use ATV's for retrieving big game animals
- level trails, wider stream crossings
- licenses cost are too high. Can't afford them this year. Senior licenses in any other state are lower or free for seniors. Not SD there to greedy.
- Limit to one first choice in rifle deer tags instead of two so more people are able to draw at least one tag of their choice.
- Long rifles are allowed for deer hunting but not turkey hunting. Why? At least allow us disabled hunters to use long rifles on private land during turkey hunting season.
- Lower cost and make it more affordable to all disabilities.
- Lower cost of non resident fishing permits and return non resident family fishing permit
- Lower fees
- lower fees and better free access
- Lower fees, all required licenses be free for resident Seniors.

- Lower gas prices
- lower or eliminate entrance and activity fees for people 65 years old or older.
- Lower prices. Stock the water with fish
- Make it so out of staters can only come a certain time of the season
- Make more access points to various parks, lakes and recreation areas handicapped accessible.
- make more hunting opportunities that we could drive into
- Make park and camping fees more affordable for families. Also fishing licences are very expensive! When we lived in North Dakota we could buy a couples license which was nice to I could fish with my husband when I wanted to and the cost was minimal compared to South Dakota
- Make some trails in public hunting areas for people like me who are unable to walk trough thick grass. I have MS but I would still like to be able to hunt with my dog in these areas.
- Make sure the camp sites are as level as possible. Fill holes on camp site to make it easier for disabled persons to move around on their site.
- Making sure all areas are wheelchair accessible or making sure there is a key that states which parks/areas are accessible if not are accessible.
- Maybe a little bit of trail work
- More handicapped accessible camping cabins.
- More & safer shore fishing accesses throughout the State
- More accessible fishing
- More ADA friendly areas
- More advertisement
- More affordable
- More areas to explore.
- More bathrooms & showers.
- More boat landing to help get in and out of boats.
- More boat landings and docks and shore fishing
- More campgrounds with full hookup.
- More disability friendly playground equipment.
- more disability parking, more ramps and accessible washrooms, have assistive devices such as all-terrain wheelchairs and electric tricycles and wheelchairs to rent, braille signs ...
- More disabled parking near boat ramps
- more equestrian campsites at Newton Hills
- More exercise and fitness activities
- More family friendly activities, multiple ages.
- More fishing docks
- more general handicap access
- more handicap access able courses
- More handicap access
- more handicap accessibility
- More handicap accessible areas, fishing docks, pathways to facilities, indoor unisex bathrooms/showerhouse at State Parks, trails to fishing docks need to be accessible (Mirror Lake near Spearfish needs much work on trails), more handicap parking and camping sites, more handicap accessible camping cabins in Custer State Park. Just a general upgrade to all handicap



facilities. Handicap population is growing. My husband is now disabled because of stroke. Only 67 years old.

- More handicap camp sites
- More handicap camping spots.
- More handicap docs on all lakes. More areas for elderly to fish with out having to walk along ays to get to it from the car!
- More handicap options.
- More handicap parking at the boat ramps, especially at Snake Creek and Platte Creek
- More handicap spots
- more handicap walking paths and trails
- More handicapped accessible campsites
- More handicapped accessible vault toilets, the walkway to and from parking and the toilet itself. Areas specifically designed for ease of access for kayaks and canoes, not part of a motorboat ramp,
- More Handicapped campsites. Showers with benches inside and out of shower. More opportunities for mobility devices( trails boardwalks)
- more handicapped parking/camping sites
- More handrails or paved,wheelchair accessible trails
- more handy cap parking spots at boat ramps
- MORE HUNTING AND FISHING ACCESS. BRING BACK THE PUBLICS RIGHT TO THE USE OF ALL WATER IN SD. STOP THE PRIVITIZATION OF OUR FISH AND GAME. THE FISH, GAME AND WATER ARE A PUBLIC RESOURCE AND SHOULD NOT BE USED AS A POLITICAL FOOTBALL. IF WE CONTINUE ON THE PATH WE ARE ON WE WILL TURN HUNTING AND FISHING INTO A RICH MANS SPORT. THE LORDS AND THE PEASANTS. WE WILL TURN OFF THE YOUTH AND OUR GREAT HERITAGE WILL BE LOST FOREVER.
- More local facilities
- More maybe more paved paths
- More parking in campgrounds & at attractions
- More parks. Lower fees
- more paved bicycle paths
- More paved trails in state parks for mobilty challenged individuals. New additional camp sites/areas to ease demand for existing sites. Existing camp grounds need upkeep/ maintenance. Camp sites are in poor conditions, challenging to back into due to obstructions, narrow roads, over crowded. as well as upgrading. If someone reserves a site and doesn't show, free up the site after the first night for others.
- More paved trails so walking would be better. Not on the hiking trails just the walking trails. Be able to get a hunting License for residents and not have so many preference points pile up!
- More primitive tent or hammock camping sites; I'm so tired of listening to generators all night.
- More public ground to hunt
- More public hunting and fishing areas, more hiking trails
- More public hunting areas
- more public hunting ground
- More public restrooms and better maintenance of facilities
- More ramps

- More rest points on hiking trails for those with asthma.
- More seating areas and drinking water along trails so people who don't walk well can still get out and use trails without over doing it.
- More shore access
- More trails for people with wheelchairs or walkers, canes
- More trails. There are tons of state recreation land that go unused where trails would be perfect. I have stated this on many occasions to many officials and yet no one ever builds new trails in my area. Northpoint Recreation Area has a huge swath of unused land and an eager staff to build trails, but they struggle with getting approvals and funding.
- more wheel chair friendly
- More wheelchair or walker accessible fishing areas.
- Most of our outdoor activities has involved camping and trail riding with our own horses. More locations available to do that would be great!
- Most of the state parks have fairly basic facilities and many need to be updated. There needs to be better enforcement of the rules regarding pets on leashes as many people just let their dogs run around, especially at Oahe Downstream. People also parking on the roadway making it difficult to get around them and parking a camper due to vehicles being in the way, again Oahe Downstream is a big culprit. The camp hosts aren't doing their job properly and enforcing the rules
- My experience so far in South Dakota has been good
- My heart valve no longer allows me to hike strenuous trails like Black Elk Peak like I used to. We take easier trails and drive more to see landscapes and wildlife. I would like to see better trail guides, as some trails marked easy were not easy, like around Sylvan lake. The rocky part inhibits the elderly and families with strollers.
- My injury is brain related. So nothing more can be done. But people with physical disabilities need more wheelchair access
- My wife and I r disabled veteran we are sometimes comprised by our disability but get out as much as possible
- need more fishing piers. my legs are bad and cannot crawl up or down rocks or shorelines.
- Need more level areas
- Need to have a one time fee or free for disabled vets and there families. We have a free pass to any where in the 48 states parks but SD does not except them.
- Newton Hills State Park--some hard-surface walker/wheelchair-friendly pathways from road to seating areas around playground equipment, overlook benches,
- None - just have a bad hoof/ankle, i.e. I have a fused ankle which interrupts the stamina I used to have. Additionally, I am 61 years old, which affects my stamina
- None I do the best that I can
- None I enjoy the challenge to adapt myself. Mother Nature doesn't adapt to anyone so we all need to learn to overcome our own challenges.
- None it's a health disability
- None that I can think of at this time. I have an artificial left leg, above the knee, but I like to walk.
- None. Part of it is long haul covid, part is just being in our 80s,,
- None. I am happy with the way South Dakota manages their parks.
- Not be required to pay to go visit, otherwise just go to free areas. People shouldn't have to pay to enjoy nature.

- not sure at this time. Easy access to fishing areas, not located near boat docks.
- Not you, it's me.
- NOTHING
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- NOTHING AT THIS TIME
- nothing can be done, have back pain/issues.
- Nothing comes to mind.
- Nothing on your end. I have some physical limitations that don't allow me to do longer hikes or back pack anymore. Things I use to enjoy in my youth.
- Nothing really it very weather related
- Nothing that can be fixed at this level of government
- Nothing that I can think of
- Nothing!
- Nothing, just have to live with it.
- Nothing, really.
- Nothing. I participate in the activities with my disability. I just deal with it.
- open more trails in game production areas so us disabled hunters can get to the good spots.
- open the public land around Roy Lake to auto traffic
- Open up all waterways!
- Outdoor equipment is available
- Pain is what holds them back. When it works they go and do.
- participate in real active or strong activities in moderation
- Patrol the waters for illegal fishing activities. Not just the beaches.
- Perhaps loaner UTVs, same as the program for the all-terrain wheelchair
- Personally, nothing for me
- Places for larger RVs in the State parks, more accessible paths
- Playing football
- prices for out of state hunting
- Provide more benches to sit on trails for rest and observations.
- provide more outdoor education
- Public hunting land habitat improvement.
- Put more accessible fishing accesses at the lakes.
- Quality shore access on public lakes. Hayes
- Quit raising the fees
- Reduce crowding, can't even get a reservation for camping
- Reducing campground costs for seniors during the weekdays when facilities use is low.
- Replace my knee.
- Rest days are fine
- Restrooms
- Retrieval of big game on public lands is an issue for many hunters. It is an issue but I don't have any suggestions that would fix it without creating other problems.
- SDGF&P reps work with medical doctors / PA's and encourage them to give their patients 'certifications' so they can utilize crossbows or other equipment needed to enjoy SD outdoors.

- Set aside more day-use areas specifically for those of us that are handicapped such as fishing docks or hunting blinds that are reserved for those of us that are handicapped. AND THEN ENFORCE THOSE REGULATIONS.
- Slot limits on Walleye often kill the fish when released if bait fishing. Put a daily limit on the fish period.
- Smooth walkways and paths that I can use my scooter
- Some type of scooters or mobility devices to allow for guided trails. More lakeside benches. A designated quiet area portion of campgrounds.
- sorry - no
- South Dakota has done a great job of providing opportunities to assist people with disabilities.
- South Dakota has made a number of adaptations that help. Continuing to maintain and improve accessibility is nice.
- Special days for those who are physically handicapped with publicity about accessible trails and activities
- spots to step off trail and rest do not need benches just a place to sit, log rock whatever. Drinking water access near trail in middle if possible.
- Spouse has knee & hip issues
- Statutes/regulations analysis to ensure retention of senior participants. I currently utilize a crossbow for archery deer hunting based upon a chronic shoulder limitation. I am required to get a medical exemption signed by a medical practitioner which is pretty much a joke. Has anyone ever been rejected for a medically approved crossbow application? Perhaps set a minimum age (70?) for blanket authorization.
- Stimulate visitors' interest in the outdoors
- Stop fishing tournaments before our fisheries are depleted. Pay better attention to what's going on, ie cwd, poor fishing.
- Stop the stupid shooting range in Meade County
- Surgery
- The activities are rich and interesting
- The availability of scooters to rent.
- The bike trails need to be better monitored / policed for walkers vs. bikers.
- The camping reservation system is a joke. Campers usually only want to camp on Fri, Sat. and Sunday. The way the camping system is set up, if you want to get your spot you have to reserve it early like Tues. Wed. or Thursday. Then the State brags how camping was up when in reality their income was up but no one was on the middle of the week sites. This prevents the locals who could go during the week a chance to go because people have the sites reserved but are not actually camping.
- The current setup and opportunities meet my need.
- The impossible but I appreciate your offering to try. I need new knees and to lose about 150 lbs. but that doesn't stop me from seeing the wildlife or awesome rock formations or Mr. Rushmore or the Buffalo Drop and other things. I can't hike, if I could, I would. What I would like in every state is if there are paved trails or maintained paths that aren't so severe that it would be legal for a disabled person to take a personal hoveround on the trail. It's not fair that we pay taxes but cant use the trails because we are disabled to the point that we can't walk very far. Think of the poor veteran that lost his/her leg in battle that can't walk to far that doesn't get to see the pinnacle of that peak because it is 5 miles away but he could take or drive a personal electric vehicle there.

Just like the trail that goes from Custer down to Hill city. I can't remember the mans name that the trail was named after.

- The increased availability of accessible fishing piers at State parks and recreation areas.
- The license and park fee too expensive I probably will have to give up my hunting and fishing this year dur to cost and greed by the GF &P
- The only thing we have found is it is hard to find a place to camp at the last minute on weekends because there are no campsites available unless you reserve 90 days in advance.
- The public access for hunting could have walking areas cut for hunting areas that are intentionally left overgrown for wildlife. Also there are many, many waterfowl hunting areas that are too far away from the parking areas so an older man with bad knees like myself, have zero chances of getting decoys or a kayak or canoe anywhere near the water. A driving path for older and handicapped people should be allowed to bring in hunting equipment and parking areas could be closer to the body of water. I miss out on many waterfowl hunting opportunities because they are too far away.
- the SD GF&P website is difficult to negotiate to purchase licenses.
- There are no other comments
- There is a lot to do along the Missouri River and the black hills; it would be nice to see the same things spread out throughout the state
- There not to help
- This community is full of avid archery enthusiasts, snd many that live in town are unable to shoot at home. I also believe this leads to people not practicing to hunt there quarry and taking unethical shots, I have witnessed this first hand myself, snd heard many stories of the same situation because we don't have a place to legally, easily, affordably shoot.
- This past year most places were way too crowded with tourists which ruins everything about enjoying one's self.
- To have more access to shore line at the Missouri River for handicap people, the rocky shore line is very difficult to walk down and fish on.
- To play basketball
- Total Hip Replacement.
- try to open more land to hunting
- Turn back the clock. Age is slowing me down.
- Van accessible parking (minimum 6 feet of stripes on right side of parking space. More areas need to be paved for wheelchair access. Older areas need to be updates to be ADA compliant. Advertise what areas are accessible. Very few fishing areas are up to ADA standards (shore fishing areas, docks, etc.)
- Very few options in my area
- Walking sticks available for day-use at parks that have equipment rentals.
- We are ok with present availability
- We just have to limit where and when it what activities due to limitations.
- We spend a great deal of time in Custer State Park and the outdoor biffies are really showing their age and need to be updated.
- Well, my dad has gotten a license for his immobility; so that's nice.
- Wheel chair access areas
- Wheelchair friendly
- Whoever combined the AG department and the conservation dept had their head up their Ass.
- Working to improve walking.

- Would like to get assistive devices
- You can take part as long as the weather is good
- You do a great job, we just know which trails we can use & which ones are too strenuous.
- You do great work, handicap accessible canines
- You're doing a good job
- You're working on them

Section 2, Question 5. Do you have any suggestions for how outdoor recreation providers can help remove the barriers to your participation in outdoor recreation activities?

- By making more handicap roads
  - Cheaper primitive camping fees
  - I enjoy driving in the parks and forest service areas and have felt unsafe for the past few years with the increased use of ATV on back country roads due to the speed and lack of knowledge of driving on gravel roads. Several times they have come around a bend on wrong side of road.
  - Keep in mind, not every place and every one needs to get every where. Some areas need to be wild and a challenge. Untouched by the human race. Not every facility or business needs to profit and therefore exploit the environment for \$.
  - \*Keep other camper's kids and dogs out of my space!
  - paved road to some of the remote boat ramp areas on Lake Oahe, mainly Little Bend area or similar. Very Popular area but too much gravel to get there.
  - provide public areas free from hunting so we don't have to worry about getting shot (or yelled at) during hunting season. 2. if you created trails, parks, etc., and establish rules for using these areas, keep the areas maintained and enforce the rules
  - The boat landing on Lake Albert needs to be reconstructed so that larger boats and pontoons can be used. 2. The drainage from Lake Albert on the North end of the Lake needs to have a permanent spillway in place or raise the 2 large culverts at least 2 feet so water will stay in Lake Albert and no flood Lake Poinsette every year or two. Having more water in Lake Albert will increase family and recreational capabilities and will also improve the water quality, fishing and recreational activities for the entire area around the lakes.
  - Below Oahe Dam there is one handicap fishing pier. It is used so much especially in the fall but sometimes by people not handicapped. Would love to see more fishing piers in the Pierre/Fort Pierre area. They will get used if put in!!!!!!!!!!!!
- 
- 90 day camping window makes it terribly challenging to get a camp site. often times people including ourselves get campsites for 3-4 extra days to secure the weekend causing week day camping impossible as well because the sites are empty yet reserved. Improved website is a nightmare!
  - A little more how to do/get started on more things for those of us who are willing but don't know the ins and outs .
  - A lot more year-round port-a-potties for those of us with weak bladders. Sometimes I don't go to outdoor recreational places in the winter because I know that the normal bathrooms are closed by necessity, but there are few or no port-a-potties.
  - A lot of hunting drawings favor land owners, private land hunting/guided hunts. Very crowded, limited public land opportunities for the DIY hunter.

- A non-resident annual small game license offered at an affordable price would encourage me to visit more often.
- a wider board or least a crossing for streams
- Aberdeen Aqua Addicts (local waterski show team) has a day at the lake for disabled waterskiers.
- Access has proved me out in most cases.
- Access to land for hunting and trapping is difficult, who to ask is difficult. You can't just look for the farm place and stop anymore.
- Access to land locked public land.
- Accommodation for mobility devices
- Accommodation is safer
- Activities for singles. There are so many middle aged singles that would like to do more of these things yet it seems impossible to find ways to connect or belong to these groups that often revolve around families. I love the idea of eco living/communities yet there is nothing like that in South Dakota...I can see many singles of all ages enjoying something like this to bring there own unique skill sets into a group setting for the good of all.
- Activities that appeal to BOTH kids and adults. We love finding stuff on trails that the GFP puts out (e.g. signs of animals, photo points, scavenger hunts). Keep scavenger hunts contained in one park so we can accomplish in one trip, but have them in multiple parks so we can do them in multiple locations. Time is biggest constraint, so however we can involve the whole family and make it relatively easy to participate is always a plus
- ADA facilities
- Adaptive equipment that can be rented by anyone regardless of disabilities would be nice as well as kayak ramps/areas more suited to those with disabilities and the elderly.
- Add a search feature to the website that actually works, IE- search lake contour maps and it actually brings them up. Often it is easier to reference the gf&p website in a Google search about a particular question to find the gf&p link to the answer rather than searching the gf&p website because you will not get the same results.
- add campsites for SD residents first and add campsites in Custer
- Add more camp grounds
- add more camping spots, program to lower costs if achieving 'X' number of volunteer hours per year
- Add more campsites
- Add more campsites at state campgrounds. Have discounts for senior citizens during the week like the federal campgrounds to encourage more camping on week days. ( 10% off is not a discount )
- Add more hiking trails
- add more outdoor recreation areas, offer more coupons for rentals or have specials or discounts, more access to equipment needed for recreation - rentals.
- Add more parking and improve some of the boat ramp areas
- Add more places to camp. Can't get into state parks to camp a moments notice. They book too far in advance. Keep more camp sites 1st come 1st served.
- Add more re camping especially same day sites
- Add Public clay pigeon shooting sites close to Sioux Falls
- Adding More RV parks
- Addition docking for boats to drop off passengers before loading or launching boat

- additional boat ramps at several lake
- additional camp sites so that there is always room to camp
- Additional facilities in Sioux Falls area
- Adjust how same day reservations for camping are handled. Seems like they do t open up. Seems like people are manipulating the system. Expand hiking and bike trails.
- Admission fees for camping and entrance into state parks is getting ridiculous. Admission fees into public pools is high. Find a way to help lower costs. The weather in South Dakota is cold for 7-8 months out of the year leaving a limited time for practicing and building skills with firearms and archery equipment. Indoor ranges for archery equipment may be cheaper but at least some kind of indoor facility for the public would be nice.
- Advertise activities on city websites what to do section
- Advertise the activities and special events for the parks in more areas - news and social media, etc.
- All is good
- All lakes with public access should have a handicap accessible fishing dock
- All parks should have access to hiking trails, and facilities to promote access to fishing. Also should have fish cleaning stations so the cleanings get properly disposed of.
- All this state seems to care about is out of state people and the money they spend. Apparently if you live in this state you don't spend any money here. That's why this 'buy local' push falls on deaf ears for me. As soon as the state and its businesses start appreciating residents and the money they spend my attitude will probably change.
- Allow ATV and 4x4 to access remote stretches of beach between Cow and Spring Creek.
- allow camping reservations earlier than 90 days and get rid of the exceptions where sites are booked long before open to the public
- Allow crossbows for seniors during archery season!!!!
- Allow dogs to free roam on state lands. Build more camping cabins, can't get one if you don't book ahead months. More hunting opportunities less out of state hunters.
- Allow for some sleeper cabins to be dog friendly. We have enjoyed using the sleeper cabins over the years at Randall Creek. However we now have a mini golden doodle and will not be able to use the sleeper cabins or come to Randall Creek since we don't have a camper.
- Allow locals to have early time frame for camp site in state parks and recreation area registration
- Allow making reservations further out then 90 days
- Allow more dog friendly lakes
- Allow more than 2 turkey tags per East/west river prairie tags for both the fall and spring season!
- Allow pets in state park cabins
- Allow pheasant hunting to begin daily at sunup (to sunset) and change the season closing date from January 31st to January 3rd. The birds are much too stressed during the month of January and already have serious predation issues with the dramatic increase in the SD coyote population.
- Allow residents to make camping reservations prior to non-residents
- Allow South Dakota residents early access for reservations and admittance
- Allow wider use of ATV's, I have difficulty walking.
- And pheasants have disappeared from Lincoln county as toxic farm chemicals waft through the air throughout the summer, and every scrap of habitat is tiled out on farms.
- And there isn't as much to do on this side of the state. You should fill that dumb quarry in Sioux Falls and turn it into a water recreation area.



- Arrange activity development dates more rationally.
- As a 2nd home property taxpayer, we are being treated unfairly having to pay nonresident fishing and hunting lisc. fees, esp. when our nonresident property taxes are already way higher !!!
- As far as the state parks, customer service is TERRIBLE! My grandfather was a former Superintendent of Custer State Park, my family and I no longer go to CSP because of the terrible customer service we've experienced at the lodges! Our family has owned land in SD since the 1870's, including to this day. We live in WY, we no longer hunt or fish in SD because of the extra fees placed on us ie extra \$25 "conservation fee" on top of purchasing a out of state license (SD does not pay me for the wildlife that are raised on and consume a portion of our crops, but I have to pay extra to hunt them, I think not! Why do you charge me extra to camp in a state campground? We pay property tax on our farms, plus the various taxes and fees associated with planting, growing & harvesting the crops, property and equipment maintenance expenses, contractors/employees etc., licensing of vehicles. I have no problem purchasing out of state licenses, but I refuse to be screwed on the conservation tax! We have started making all our major farm purchases out of state, and bringing them into SD ourselves.
- As long as the weather is good, I love the outdoors
- As my husband and I age and SOME of our abilities and interests change, maybe provide age group interest/ability guidance. For instance: some experience necessary, all abilities welcome, some trails involve scrambling, etc, etc.
- As Outdoor activities have increased and fishing pressure increases the GF&P needs to build a fish hatchery in the Pierre area. We can't keep encourage people to come and take all our fish and not better manage the fish populations.
- As the population gets older in age, there needs to be less physical barriers for the less able to access the State Park's given activities .
- Availability at some parks
- Avoid expanding campgrounds and RV parks in wildlife preserves. Allow pets access and provide cleanup supplies for them. Allow adult beverages.
- ban political flags and banners at campgrounds
- Base your hunting and trapping activities on science instead if a nitwit governor who thinks it is ok to trap critters just to kill them, no fur value no other use of critters. The Nest Raider program is a sham and makes no biological sense.
- Basketball games are best held on holidays, with rewards
- Be careful of price increases. Are there more ways to use volunteers to help with budget control.
- Be intentional about spending funds to make areas accessible. Include people with disabilities and their families in making decisions and planning.
- Be more generous with residents for big game tags than for non residents
- Beef up the CRP program, decrease the amount of haying in ditches and other areas to improve pheasant population
- Being a stay-at-home mom I am always on the lookout for activities. But sometimes the information just isn't on/updated/clear on websites.
- Being able to reserve campsites for sooner than 90 days would make it much easier to plan trips and vacations.
- better boat access to small ponds and lakes
- Better Access to more open areas and waters, More boat ramps and docks
- Better access to public hunting
- better access to some of your lakes (more gravel, better boat ramps etc.)

- Better boat ramps
- Better boat ramps at some lakes
- Better boating access to waterfowl hunting
- Better communication of helping stock fish on private ponds. Costs. Ideas. training for success stocking fish.
- Better enforcement of water activities. Ive lived here in Hot Springs for 12 years and have never seen the game warden on the water in Angostura lake. Except monitoring beach activities. Ive heard reports of illegal limits being taken f walleye and Crappie.
- Better hiking guides!! There are tons of trails, but unless you use a fee based app there are very few that have free, reliable info provided by the park system or forest service
- Better maintenance of comfort station facilities at Oakwood and better treatment by park manager. More camp sites and a better reservation system.
- Better outhouse maintenance
- Better resources for finding information on public land, where you can camp on public hunting ground/where access points are for public ground/more long distance shooting ranges
- Better restroom facilities.
- Better road markings to get to many of the state parks. They can be hard to find.
- Better signage
- Better signage to direct people to the public use areas at lakes. ( primarily eastern South Dakota)
- Better trail marking/signage is sometimes in order
- Better year round maintenance of the Mickelson trail- either plow or groom so it's useable for cross country skiing. Also add more rails to trails in other parts of the state when the opportunities come up to do so.
- Biggest barrier is having open trailer camping when we want to go on the spur of the moment. I understand constraints of having unlimited camping. Curtain camping becomes over used.
- Biggest issue is access. South Dakota does a good job with lots of public land and the Walk In Area program. Would be nice if there was a well developed WIA style program for fishing access.
- Boat ramp and parking lot improvements to improve traffic order and efficiency.
- Boat ramp areas some places are not adequate
- Boat ramp, dock and facilities at Dog Ear Lake
- Boat ramps need updating
- Boat Ramps on Missouri River are always overwhelming on weekends. Fishing tournaments that include money during the spawn should be outlawed. This will give relief to the ramps and the fish, creating a better quality of fishing in South Dakota again.
- Boat ramps on the Missouri River are too crowded. I often don't go fishing because i don't want to fight the crowds at the ramps. Also, it is difficult to load and unload a boat by yourself. when the ramps are crowded. It would be nice if there was a way to have a dock set up for people that are by themselves or with someone(wife or children) who are unable to help with the loading and unloading of a boat.
- Booking camp sites should be a larger window
- Bring back the family out of state fishing license.
- Bring bad emotions to work, lack of enthusiasm, affect work efficiency
- Bring cost down so everyone can enjoy the outdoors
- Build a shooting range

- Build a ski mountain
- build more boat ramps and have more parking.
- Build more cabins at Oahe Downstream
- Build more campgrounds on Corp ground along the Missouri river and install more tire reefs for fishing in the river to develop a more diverse fishery.
- Build more campgrounds or enlarge current sites. Provide and maintain access points (boat ramps, hunting access)
- build more walking/hiking trails by Aberdeen SD. We dont have alot around our state parks and other areas. I know we are a flat land area but, I sure would love lots of options to walk and bike to take in different wild life and scenery.
- Build the South Dakota Shooting Sports Complex in western South Dakota!
- but there is extremely limited access and almost zero parking and no camping on this stretch of beach
- By allowing horses in more locations.
- By developing fishing docks that are available and to have areas so people with disabilities can get to the water for waterfowl hunting.
- By putting restrictions on numbers of people allowed in an area so that the privacy is preserved and the area is not over-run with people destroying the environment.
- Cabins in State Parks are too expensive. Need more camping cabins.
- Campgrounds fill up quickly, especially with RVers, which ruins tent camping.. I know some parks provide snowshoes, but how or where to borrow them.
- Camping fees are too high for what you get. Ie no water or sewer are campsites. State park fees are very near what u pay at private camps that do.
- Camping over the years was very easy to find spots, relax, costs were minimal. Now the recreation sector has become quite commercial. Everything is quite abit more expensive, and it is harder to find camping spots quickly. It has become alot more hectic around campgrounds. It is actually very nice to see more people out in the outdoors. Hunting is also something that has become very commercial. Hunting on private ground has become impossible unless you pay large fees. But for farmers and ranchers they need the extra income, but we have people buying property just for hunting of animals. I'm not a tree hugger but I don't believe in using wildlife for that type of exploitations. All in all South Dakota has wonderful opportunities.
- Camping reservations at State Parks. We enjoy camping at the State Parks, but getting a reservation is almost impossible unless done well in advance. Yet when we drive through the parks (we only live 15 miles away) there are multiple empty sites that have been reserved well in advance, to secure the site for the weekend. Reserved, so I can't get this empty site during the week. I think campers should be required to have a unit on the reserved site within 24 hours of the first reserved day. If they don't they should be fined, not just the camp site fee, but an additional fine or cancelation of their entire stay. If you don't show up within 24 hours of your first day, your entire stay is cancelled, you loose the reservations fees, and possible a fine.
- Camping reservations should favor state residents in some way over out of states. You can not get a reservation in Custer State unless you know a year in advance.
- Camping, in particular:
  - Campsites are often booked immediately upon the 90 day window opening (1 year Custer State Park). Very frustrating not being able to rent specifically cabins.
  - Can't think of any ways that would help me.
  - Can't think of anything

- Change camping reservation policies so people can't reserve for 2 weeks, then cancel and re-reserve the spots for only a few days. This is commonly happening and doesn't allow for others to plan or access sites.
- Change the application program regarding big game hunting
- change the reservation method. Need more spots that are first come first served.
- Charge less. Reduce rules and restrictions to simplify the process.
- Charge more for non resident fishing and hunting way to low and they take all resources and not care about wildlife and management
- Charge out of state people more to camp, fish, hunt,
- Charge out of state residents more and South Dakota residents a lot less or nothing.
- Check out the above question. Have the responsible people enforce the rules
- Cities should have more outdoor recreational equipment for rent. If they do have it, it needs to be up to date, clean, and usable
- Clarify stream access laws when streams abut or cross thru private property
- Classes! There is so little opportunity around Sioux Falls to learn how to do new things. I didn't grow up in an outdoor involved family aside from Trap shooting and there is no easy access to information. Also having groups of like minded people available so we can talk about outdoor activities would be great. I really want to develop this community to keep these things from going away.
- Clean bathroom and shower facilities
- clean bathrooms are a must.
- Clean the lakes, they are green and not very inviting during the Summer.
- clean up beaches and more access to beach for shore fishing
- Cleaner, non-green water areas
- Clear markings on trails and more frequent marking of property boundaries
- Clearly outline acceptable behavior and expectations and enforce them. Blaring music, leaving trash, 1 person taking up half of a fishing dock are regular occurrences in the center of the state.
- Close down the arc trails in September so I can hunt in peace.....
- Closer locations to allow more day trips, i.e. perhaps alliances between the state and private land owners to create more but limited public hunting and fishing opportunities on private lands.
- Concerned about safety of my dogs and horses when hiking/riding on public lands because of hunters and allowed trapping.
- Consider doing a class or an event for special needs at individual parks.
- Construct more primitive boat ramps/launch access spots on public lakes in South Dakota for waterfowl hunting. I have visited with GFP staff in the past about this suggestion but for the most part, my suggestions seem to be ignored. There are many small and large public lakes and sloughs in SD that people cannot access with a boat easily.
- Continue expanding bike trails in local communities. More pickle ball and tennis courts. More summer rec programs to teach kids outdoor activities - tennis, etc
- Continue making more lakes accessible
- Continue spreading the word via social media - frequently and often.
- Continue the work of improving the app so it doesn't randomly freeze up.
- Continue to do what they do best.
- Continue to gain and offer more public land for activities. More and more private land is not available to public.

- Continue to improve water access to lakes in the NE part of the state. Law enforcement at times has been overbearing, several checks, seem to be very particular. This has improved but still can be bothersome
- Continue to invest resources to develop public land for recreation activities such as hunting, hiking and camping. We must invest in public lands to remove the critical barriers such as access and cost that keep our young population from experiencing and connecting with nature and enjoying the benefits of such constructive activities>
- Continue upkeep and maintenance, especially west river.
- Continue with the same improvements, fish cleaning, bathrooms etc. more lake & river boat accesses to alleviate crowds.
- Convert US Forest Service facilities to South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks
- Cost is my issue
- costs for sites, licenses etc can be limiting for retirees on fixed incomes.
- could a fishing license be more affordable for the senior crowd?
- Covid rules and closures are a barrier. Having the Sioux River off limits to kayaks is a barrier. The water condition of the Sioux River and Lake Alvin are a barrier. Improvements would be the addition of archery ranges, full-size 4x4 course park (like Appleton MN). The number of campsites at Palisades is GOOD; the addition of campsites will decrease the enjoyment of the peace and solitude.
- Crack down on reservation abuses. Unoccupied camping reservations at State campgrounds are a problem. Regulating occupancy, setting expectations, and enforcing.
- Create a 1-2 week window during the Spring that allows only SD Resident fishing statewide. Extend the camping reservation period for non-residents to 100 days prior to arrival. Extend the resident only pheasant hunting season to 5 days vs the current 3 day season.
- Create and maintain more trails for hiking walking recreation
- Create as much hunting access as possible.
- Create gear libraries. Have more meet-ups. Less rv campers and more tent camping.
- Create more campgrounds for those who live in SD.
- create more camping sites
- Create more handicap parking at boat ramps.
- Create more integrated, year round use parks. Provide areas with groomed cross country ski trails, develop new trails for mountain biking. To many parks are narrow focused or one dimensional, e.g. RV Camping-Boating, summer use.
- Create more parks and state hunting areas around Sioux Falls area
- Create more parks, campsites, and access areas to water.
- Create more state campgrounds to make it easier for people to enjoy the outdoors. That would be a start.
- Create more state camping sites and cabins. You have to reserve very early to get a site on a holiday weekend or if we want to reserve several sites for a family camping trip we also have to reserve several days in advance.
- Create more trails near residential areas. (walking & bike paths; see Boulder, CO as an amazing example--you can bike from almost any home to any other part of the city)
- Create more wilderness or 'semi-primitive' areas on public land - areas at least 2,500 acres with no active road templates and no cars or ATVs and no or low evidence of human activities. Have adequate parking at trail heads. Create a program where wildlife watchers can donate to a wildlife watcher access fund. SD laws only allow for a program of purchasing hunter access

across private land, we need laws and programs to purchase nature study/photographer access across private land. We need more access to prairie riparian areas and wetlands and to BLM lands land locked by private land..

- create more.
- create or publish information about where to snowshoe or cross-country ski in NE SD
- Creating more programs to incentivize and reward children for outdoor recreation participation would be very valuable. (species passports/checklist, free youth licenses, equipment loan programs).
- Cut cost of licensing
- decrease fees all around. entrance fees, hunting and fishing fees. With how much more crowded the use areas are you cant tell me you couldnt decrease fees. More shooting ranges.
- Dedicated campsites for local residents, first come first serve basis, removing reservation competition
- Definitely need more state parks & more electrical campsites.
- Delay the start of Duck season so early season Bowhunters have a chance to hunt unpressured deer on GFP lands. We basically have 2 weeks and then all hell breaks loose. Tired of spending 35+ days each year scouting, placing cameras and stands to only have duck and goose hunters ruin my hunt.
- Design a complete guide
- Develop more facilities to spread the demand out
- Develop more local groups to loan out equipment or take out new people
- Do a better job of knocking down bugs.
- Do campsites by person, not by couple. It feels unfair to have to pay the same amount as a family even though I'm camping by myself. This is one of the reasons I avoid state parks.
- Do NOT allow smoking!
- Do not over develop already popular outdoor recreation spots. Over crowding is a huge barrier.
- dog tie-ups on all restrooms in all parks
- Dog traing gear is expensive for just me to buy.
- Doing great compared to most states
- Don't allow boaters in game refuge waterways or refuges. They scare or run all the game out. The shoot from corp areas into private property which I am in. Very dangerous & creates poor hunting for the entire srea
- Don't allow campsites in state parks to be booked out so far in advance.
- Don't take away non resident oppertunities please
- Dont charge for every freakin thing. what's the habitat stamp for. Doesn't our fees go to the same thing
- Don't expect the barriers to be removed. I am physically disabled and thus, don't expect to be able to do many things that others do.
- Don't have people who get an elk tag have to wait nine years in between applying for their next tag. At least give people a chance to build up preference points for their next tag.
- don't keep raising campground fees.
- Don't know how you would make all people treat others with respect whether your a resident or not
- Don't let business get in the way of entertainment
- Don't let tribes pull docks out of Missouri river and block highways that are public.

- Don't like bikes when we ride horses. They scare horses when they are riding fast or braking hard. They can ride bikes all over we have very few places to ride.
- Don't make it so easy for ATV's to get everywhere! They are noisy, stinky and create a lot of dust.
- Don't raise costs anymore than you have to.
- Double (or triple) the number of electric RV camping spots at the State parks! Unless you can readily plan ahead 90-days, it is almost impossible to get a spot! Please add more camping spots!
- Driving up in a car and seeing whatever works well.
- Due to the aging of myself and my friends I believe there may need a way for people to safely board a boat.
- Ease the overcrowding
- Easier access to these facilities
- easier and more public access for us old folks
- easier navigation thru the game fish and parks website and reminder when tags are due.
- Eastern South Dakota has extremely limited places for free, dispersed camping. While I don't mind paying for tent sites, I would camp more if there was more free/undeveloped camping areas.
- Easy to begin pheasant hunt on public land, but wander onto private no-hunt land unintentionally
- Education and an introduction to multiple aspects of the outdoors
- Effectively reduce outdoor risk
- Electric plug ins at camping sites.
- eliminate bottlenecks at check in stations
- Eliminate fee for people 65 years old and older.
- Eliminate the sense of social isolation
- Elk hunting in the hills has been easier in past of getting drawn more than once in a lifetime. Offer a tag to raffle off at RMEF banquets
- Encourage inclusion, offer education activities across various platforms/locations/times
- Encourage more participation by conducting classes for those that are handicapped, both physically or developmentally. Make it easier!
- End liability for people making poor decisions from the State to make it responsible to the individual
- End reservations on some spots, eliminate camping cabins
- End the bounty program
- Enforce rules such as quiet time at night.
- Enhanced education, mapping, and on-site signage of public land access. I have entered land that was mapped to be public, but was actually not public and no on-site signage was present. This can be a very frightening experience to the faint of heart when firearms are involved, and I have witnessed it push people away from public outdoor rec and into private game lodges. This is now how hunting use to be. Bird populations are dwindling due to excess out of state hunters, low rain fall, hail, high daily limits, and limited amount of public access areas. Over hunting is a big issue and it will not improve unless the habitats and wildlife are given time to recoup. Limit the number out of state hunters and reduce the daily limit of pheasant by 1 bird per day.
- Equipment is very expensive and to try a sport or an activity for myself and my children for the first time is very cost prohibitive and it makes it very Hard to want to buy into some thing that they may not enjoy after spending hundreds of dollars
- equipment rentals.

- Everyone has their opinion so here is mine, Have tougher leash requirements for pets and enforce them. I'm getting a bit tired of the usual excuses, my dog never bites he's just curious or he just nips or he just jumps on people when he's excited, etc.
- Examine each park and see where the room is wasted , for example Lake Herman state park . All of the best places are frittered away on day use people , the best places are underutilized and should have camp sites on them and the worst places and the places that would make great day use areas are campsites . Game Fish and Parks needs to get away from what outsiders perceive is a dynamic of good ole boys sticking it to Gov. Noem and eco warriors sticking it to both of them . common sense planning made far away from people who have an agenda would certainly be a breath of fresh air ...
- Exercise in futility. Don't waste my time.
- Expand access to the recent wide sandy/gravel beaches between Cow Creek and Spring Creek,. The individual campsites become excessively crowded during the summer, especially weekends. New day use areas are desperately needed as the beach has become optimum for
- Expand camping spots at state parks
- Expand camping spots on the national forest with fire rings. Wyoming allows camp fires on national forest but South Dakota does not which causes me to go over state line. Expanding opportunities and seasons. Managing the resources to their fullest.
- Expand certain parks that are hard to get into such as west bend
- Expand current campgrounds, but do not take away hunting/hiking/fishing areas.
- expand the existing campgrounds on state parks and being equipped with electricity,
- Expand the number of camping spots at the campgrounds while also keep them spread out.
- expand the trail width restrictions to 66'.
- Expansion to reduce crowding
- expense
- Extend boat ramps for low water use
- Extend western South Dakota bobcat season. Lower resident hunting/fishing license costs.
- Fees and reservations
- Fees are too high. Eastern south dakota has no place for a recreational shooter to go without paying a membership fee, and those membership fees usually force you to join the NRA. We need a state provided area to shoot for free just like the black hills
- Fees for docks at Marina in Yankton are too high. The new docks are not ADA compliant at Lewis and Clark Marina
- Fewer tourists
- Find more public land in South Dakota that can be accessible to hunters. We are experiencing decreasing opportunities because of lack of places to hunt.
- Find ways to keep fees at a reasonable rate, especially for people on a fixed income.
- Fishermen need more fish cleaning stations in the Glacial Lakes region!!!! After a day of fishing it sucks to have to clean fish on the bumper of the truck and then find a responsible place to put the waste. Public cleaning station within the towns of Waubay and Webster would be extremely helpful!
- Fishing access is limited. Handicap docks are used by all people and at times no room available for people with disability.
- Fishing docks limited motorized access for over 70
- Fishing license for out of state is getting very high, and fishing on the Missouri has declined since about 10 years ago. That's a shame.



- Fishing report website.
- Fix the non-meanderd water law
- Flat or wheelchair friendly paths
- Flyers, Social media, newspaper listings, etc
- Free access kids programs with basic transportation from an easily accessible main drop off point within a nearby town or city. If you develop and interest young, you tend to stay with it much longer. I started camping before I can remember and still go camping whenever I can. My family went on occasion, but my real love for it started with an overnight church trip to a county park. It was a sponsored trip that included basic outdoor education on wildlife, how to deal with insects, how to start a fire, and how to catch and cook a fish. There was also religious stuff but that was just a means to an end for that trip.
- Free entrance opportunities are nice
- Free licenses for Senior resident citizens.
- Fuel Prices & cost of SD fishing license (to include Habitat fee)
- Full access to all public land. To much land especially west river is land locked, or difficult to access.
- Fun activities
- Gas prices to high #FJB LGB
- General guide on where to fish or hunt or hike or snowmobile
- get another govener
- Get companies to sell there products and ammo cheaper :)
- Get Nebraska to limit nonresident waterfowl permits in the Lewis and Clark area
- Get rid of cattle grazing (cows with calves are dangerous) and get rid of UTVs and ATVs in Black Hills National Forest - foot traffic, non-motorized vehicles only.
- Get rid of How to get a campsite. The computer system seems like a person can't get a site at 7 when it opens. You can see the night before that it is open or other sites but 7:00 roles around and it is filled. Go back to having to reserve at the park entrance...those that aren't physically there have to wait until they are.
- get rid of the barriers between reservation land and public land.
- Get rid of the stupid big game application process I used to apply for handfuls of tags
- get rid of this HORRIBLE water law and make public trust water open to everyone again, make recreational use of public trust waters a use. for everyone equally. I promise you this would open up more license sales to sd for fishing , ND saw a 23% increase in license sales when sd passed this bad law , while sd saw a 21% decrease in that same period. ... Plus stop making SD a commercial paid hunting and fishing, that is literally ruining our next generation of outdoor people by making it a rich persons game.
- get the public/private water issue settled, don't cave in to landonwers wanting to close waters that can be accessed from road right of ways or over water and ice.
- Get younger
- Getting an app that actually works to reserve campsites and letting residents have first dibs on camp spots
- Getting cost prohibitive to hunt due to lack of public lands
- Getting older bad back & allergies
- Getting rather pricey to RV camp in South Dakota, Kansas is much cheaper and does not charge a fee for being an out-of-stater. Nebraska campgrounds in the Eastern third of the state are overcrowded, and Calamus Rec area is being over-run by people from Colorado as alcohol has

been banned at Lake McConaghay. South Dakota parks can be crowded also but spaces for RV campers are usually larger.

- Getting to expensive to reserve camping sites, reservation rates go up but never any improvements at campground or expansions of sites that are overcrowded. Hunting and fishing license are expensive, the price of tags keep a lot of people from traveling to hunt anymore
- GF&P needs to better manage the deer, elk, pronghorn and turkey populations. They have done a very, very, very bad job over the years and have almost completely ruined hunting in the state of South Dakota.
- GFP employees should be friendlier and provide for more of a welcoming environment. I find myself utilizing state parks with those types of employees.
- GFP should be involved in preserving natural wildlife habitat--water-shed, stream quality, preserving natural wooded grassland areas near SD's cities and larger towns.
- GFP should go to Boat shows and Sportsman show out of state.
- GFP should preserve/expand open spaces near Sioux Falls and other cities--clean air, quiet, and a view of the horizon are today's luxury--preserve for children who do not have the
- give locals a better way to make reservations before tourist reserve all available camping spots.
- Give more preference to SD residents on fishing, hunting, and camping opportunities as compared to nonresidents.
- Give residents more chance at access than nonresidents.
- Give SD residents discounted fees!
- Give South Dakota residence first chance at camping reservations
- Give South Dakota residents first chance for reservations. The current reservation system for campsites makes it very difficult to find spots, especially if you need several sites all together.
- Give South Dakota's residents first chance to reserve campsites... Ability to camp a SD state parks greatly limited last year due to inability to reserve sites
- Give the state of South Dakota first chance to get a camping spot during the summer months. Minnesota and Iowa take up too many of the camping spots. My camper sets my driveway most of time cause we can't even get one thanks for the survey
- Give us a break... Sure we get lower cost fishing licenses, but that's all....then you torch us with an add on \$10 fee on top of the license fee...just give us on SSI a break.....
- Go back to how they did reservations last year with the change this year it will be very hard to get sites together as a family since you have to enter all the info for each site before you can reserve another site and on top of that you only have 20 min to it
- Gov. Noem and GFP are an easy mark for NRA/gun industry/lobbyists--GFP 2022 kowtow to Gov. Noem's weapons-brandishing campaign images with \$28 Million Rapid City gun range plan--outrageous! Recently, quiet at Newton Hills State Park ruined by just one nearby landowner occasionally practice shooting a high-caliber pistol east of the park.
- Group activities geared towards people with disabilities or a special weekend
- Guided activities help
- Gun target practice!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Dangerous, the shooters leave shells, cigarette butts, and trash. OHVs that speed, drive where they aren't allowed, and take over entire picnic areas!
- GUNS--GUN RANGES--SHOOTING IS NOT AN APPROPRIATE USE OF GFP FUNDS/MISSION. MORE GUNS--MORE GUN VIOLENCE, MORE GUN DEATHS.
- Habitat is the key, GFP administration continues to spend money on actions that do not benefit habitat or the general public! The continued loss of public land is going to continue to limit success and access to the outdoors to the general public

- Hand holds at some boat docks
- Handicap parking and better access.
- Handicap parking so I don't have to walk so far
- Handicapped facilities
- Handles on all docks to hold while getting in and out of boats
- Happy people are getting out and enjoying recreations, but starting to see activities crossing paths more. Like putting a bike agility course through a walk in archery area in Spearfish. Don't see much good coming from that!!
- Hard to reserve camping sites for the time you want so you end up getting them 2 or 3 days ahead to make sure you get them for the time you want.
- Hard to use websites to reserve campsites and too many people reserving spots and not showing up...leaves sites vacant for others to use
- Have a pass for everything and any vehicle in my family
- Have accessible trail, signs, check out programs by Birdability <https://www.birdability.org/>
- Have become discouraged by the dominance of off trail/atv numbers in campsites and trails on public lands
- Have better - more boat ramps on Oahe .... Not enough good parking and access on some ramps especially when the water levels are low . Better dust control and maintenance on major roads getting to the ramps ... ex Little Bend and Bush's ... very poor road maintenance ! Are those state or township roads ?? If township have the GF & P help maintain ! Piss poor ramp access when Oahe has low water levels . Fix them now when the water is low so you don't have to do it later ... don't close during peak fishing pressure though. ... fix early or fix late in the season ... there !!!
- Have camping areas/parks that are RV-free.
- Have enough pens per campsites for horses. Oakwood does not have enough also does not have any electricity to hook campers up to when camping with horses.
- Have knowledgeable people that oversee the part of the park that they are working in. For example at a horse camp, have people that know and understand horses and horse people and their needs. Make sure trails are maintained by removing fallen trees or areas that are unsafe like a steel post sticking out of the ground on the trail is removed. Set up the camping area better for horse people, don't have the fire pit right beside where a person will unload their horses. And make sure that the manure that is piled up is removed more often so as not to attract bugs and make a mess. Also make sure the corrals have a good base so that they do not become a muddy mess. And start fining people who do not leave their corrals in as good of shape as possible with manure and hay removed. Clean the outdoor bathrooms!!! In the black hills the outdoor toilet are very clean. In other parks on the east side of SD especially at horse camps the toilets are awful. Tons of bugs on the floor and the bathroom stinks. Also if the rules say keep your dog on a leash then start fining people who let their dogs run wild even on the hiking trails. Enforce the rules better.
- Have local interest groups created. IE. Who wants to go fishing/hunting/ golfing today.
- Have more areas to enjoy
- Have more camping site available on the East side of SD
- Have more organized activities in the state park campgrounds.
- Have more public areas to hunt that actually have game on them. Less hunting pressure. Game wardens make me feel like a criminal even though I am not. Private land owners are very unwelcoming when asking permission to hunt/fish. Fishing accessibility to productive fisheries tend to not be very available around cities.

- Have more public hunting land
- Have people in wheelchair test our area and have them part of planning for the areas.
- Have railings in stairs, maybe pavement in some trails.
- Have senior discounts
- Have senior rates and some preference for SD residents.
- Have someplace that rents equipment at some of the lakes or at the county office offer an equipment rental, along with maybe hunting classes with the local game warden with kids.
- Have the right people in charge of parks. One example is Memorial park. The people who run it are more worried about their family and friends having fun versus the people who stay there to enjoy themselves.
- have them universal at parks.
- Have walking sticks/staffs available, especially at Sica Hollow as that trail is incredibly steep in parts without anything to hold onto
- Having to reserve a camping spot 90 days in advance is a joke. Haven't camped in a campground in years because of this.
- Help establish a chapter of Pheasants Forever in Union County. There has been talk for years, it has never come to fruition. I am on the Board in Dakota County Nebraska, and I solicit North Sioux City business to donate or sponsor, so that we can keep a youth program going somewhere close to home. Ponca State park has a great youth education program, as does the Pecaut Nature Center, our SD residents use these programs as there are none available close to Union County that are well advertised. Youth programs are what allow kids to experience the world past the small screen that they are glued to, if they have parents who have zero clue or are too intimidated. Having the head of the programs present at the elementary schools, at that age level, will help to peak students interest before they loose motivation to explore the world around them. The stigma associated with scouting on a national level, has removed that program from being viable. That places the burden on our State Employees to entice with opportunities. Perhaps fund it with a state check off on vehicle License, hunting and fishing license, and state park permit fees. People are willing to give to youth programs, as long as it is not a mandated fee.
- Help kids
- help make rv camping available to more people, maybe put limits on how long or how often reservations can be made
- Help me to get permission to hunt from ATV
- Help with shore accessibility for people with disabilities in more locations, since local areas are over crowded.
- Hmm ..... wheelchair accessibility is so expensive to provide in major ways. I have learned to adapt to what I am able to do.
- Hope to add more sports facilities.
- Horse rides, nicer beaches, water slide in lake where swimming, docks for campers to fish from
- Host more educational events, not only for children but for adults as well.
- How about a discount on state park stickers, camping fees for 65 and older,vets. Open more camping to first come.
- Hunter landowner relationship programs for more free access to ethical hunters. Greater access for local hunters that seem to be getting priced out of tags and less chance of drawing tags.
- Hunting is the activity I participate in most often and access is the key issue. Yes there are a TON of public land opportunities here but those areas (locally) do not always provide great opportunity for success.

- Hunting license fees are much higher for deer and turkeys than a lot of other states. \$25 for a Turkey license that yields 5 to 7 pounds of meat is not very economical. There is also an unsafe amount of UTV's operating in the forest service and surrounding black hills areas. Most locals that live in the area have quit using these trails as there is so many ATVs dusting you out and sometimes come up on you at very high speeds makes it feel unsafe. Seems there will need to be a way of managing this quickly growing outdoor trend of UTV'ers. Thanks for giving us a voice in this survey it's a great state and this information will only help make it better!
- I actually don't want recreation areas to be paved or over-developed, just because I'm not as strong or agile as I used to be. Keep them wild!
- I am a firm believer in setting some of the campsites for first come instead of reservations. Wealthy people reserve for more days than they are staying in order to beat the time limit. White Swan is a treasure regarding this!
- I am a local and grew up here in SD. Very upset with SD Tourism, SD GF&P, SD government personnel advertising to bring out of state people here to SD. What used to be great outdoor experiences for 40+ years in the Black Hills area has now been ruined due to traffic, congestion in campgrounds, poor etiquette by other outdoor users from ATV's and Mt Bikers, etc. Now that SD has been discovered by every other state in the US, people are flocking here to live and utilize what South Dakotans use to treasure. We now have 'squatters' on US BHPNF thanks. I hope the state of SD is ready to deal with all the problems that all these extra people bring from law enforcement, drugs, vandalism, overcrowding, customer/recreational user complaints, etc.
- I am concerned about boat ramp availability with low water levels. Some areas could use more ramp access and parking facilities
- I am very concerned that our National Parks and forests and State Parks are being overrun by people on motorized personal four-wheel vehicles. They destroy a pleasant experience, and permanently damage the environment.
- I believe that if there is an empty camp site (equestrian), we should be allowed to camp there until the reserved party shows up (then, of course, be expected to leave). I have found, all too many times, that camp sites get reserved & no one shows up. I have a belief that this is done on purpose to keep the horse people out. It's a problem, all horse people know it. (Willow Creek Custer Park is a huge example)
- I believe that if we know where to look for activities it can help. Are they posted on fb pages? email lists? or just the general websites? try it days can be helpful too. that is how I got into snowshoeing
- I believe that South Dakota does one of the best jobs in creating opportunity for people to enjoy what it has to offer. The Missouri River and the Black Hills are two of the most unique opportunities in the US. I travel a lot with one of my jobs across the US several times a year. I would put the Black Hills up against almost any views I've seen.
- I do not feel I have any barriers other than access to private land during hunting seasons. Possibly, provide incentive to landowners to allow hunting activities on their land.
- I do not. My main barrier to getting out as much as I'd like is a lack of time. I do wish that there was a solution to the parking issues at Sylvan Lake. I don't really go there during the summer anymore unless I am responding to a Search and Rescue call.
- I do try to avoid going to state and federal places that charge an entrance or use fee. I feel that taxes do and should cover this but then again administrations do not fund those places well enough, so those places need to charge. I say we need to get state and federal administrators to do more outdoor recreation so they can see what they are missing.

- I don't feel there are barriers to my participation. But perhaps others feel that way. It is a must that the love of outdoor activities begins when we're young. I developed an interest in insects, plants and rocks at a young age because it was something a child from a poor family could do--it didn't cost any money to learn what the bugs, flowers, weeds, rocks and fossils were, just a desire to know. Perhaps more elementary school age seminars or programs are in order that introduce our young people to our state, our history, our natural amenities, our environment and how we can enjoy it in the natural light of day and not the blue light of a phone, computer, or screen.
- I don't perceive barriers: I do see the State's unwillingness to invest in our area (Ft. Randall Dam) For example: trails, courtesy docks at our crowded boat ramps, boat ramps--pickstown side below. Our area is experiencing an explosion of park users, campers, and fisherman; yet most of the money goes to Pierre and the Black Hills.
- I enjoy Lake Poinsett A LOT, but avoid it because of the craziness in the summer.
- I feel outdoor recreation providers are doing an excellent job. Of course there is always room for improvement but I do not have any improvement ideas, and I am satisfied with the park and outdoor recreation system in South Dakota.
- I have a small fishing boat that cannot hold my whole family. A boat dock (not at launch) which could be used to load and off load passengers at the lake and near a playground would make boating more accessible for my whole family to enjoy.
- I have been RV camping in South Dakota, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Nebraska and Wyoming. The camping fees for South Dakota Black Hills area are the highest I've seen for having primitive campsites. For the price I pay for a primitive campsite in the Black Hills I usually get electricity and water at the campsite in other states. I almost always get an RV dump station and sometimes flushing toilets and a shower house. South Dakota needs to revise their camping fees to be more comparable with surrounding states.
- I have difficulty hearing about or finding out about special events(like weekend park activities etc.).
- I have experienced no barriers
- I have no or few barriers at this time other than age. : )
- I have noticed over the last couple of years that there are a lot more ATVs, and whatever else they are called, in places that used to only be open to hiking. They are loud and tear up the trails. I would like to see them have more restrictions as to where they are, when they are, and how loud they are.
- I know cost are high, but I'd love to have a walking bridge at Fisher Grove to have access to the other side. I loved snowshoeing and cross country skiing back there. Maybe a groomed trail at the golf course. I enjoy the parks that have these, but they are too far most times for us to enjoy.
- I know for a fact that South Dakota loses revenue and hunters every year because they can't get licenses and/or it is too much of a hassle. Especially with regards to Non-Resident Waterfowl licenses!!!!
- I know it is hard but more awareness - I often don't know about special events unless I go to the GFP website and look for activities.
- I know the SDGFP website has a great deal of information, but my family and I find it difficult to navigate. A revamping of the website may improve the ability of many to access events and activities.
- I like rock hunting and do not know where to go around my area, need more info. hard to make friends

- I like the trail challenge at Custer State Park but have never finished one. I wish there was a young children/old people one with only 1-2 miles trails.
- I like the trails series, would also be nice to have some updated books or a better website with local hikes.
- I like to tent camp and have a hard time finding primitive sites available in state parks on short notice
- I live in Pierre, sometimes events are simply missed because I did not know they were happening.
- I need to find more friends who like to be as active as I am.
- I seen there is a HB 1324 going through legislation right now and feel strongly this needs to pass for the people of South Dakota. I do have relatives out of state to camp but feel that residents deserve a chance at recreation in their own state over nonresidents. Getting tired of going to campgrounds or parks and so many from out of state. If the 14 day period for reservations of residents over nonresidents does not pass I think the nonresidents should have to pay substantially more than residents for camping, fishing, and hunting.
- I stay in park cabins, there should be more cabins built
- I think for someone like myself who looks for those opportunities, the information is out there
- I think SDGF&P does a good job geting information out on their websites and using push emails. Continue to be visible in local newspapers and social media.
- I think something needs to Change with the park camping reservation as it is very hard to reserve site... maybe make it so only 1 name per all state campground per day probably cut down on the people mass reserving sites for family and friends that might show up
- I think that the more places there is to do things outside the better the world will be! Outdoors is awesome!
- I think the highly used fishing areas should have a better road leading there.(better mai
- I think there are lots that are already done to help in areas to gain access, and some places we have difficulty we just have to go slower or use poles, etc. Nature should be natural in most areas and we go where we can.
- I think these remove barrier questions are stupid.
- I think we just need to expand our trails and continue to make them gravel or dirt. Don't pave our trails in state parks
- I think we should do more outdoor activities
- I think your doing a good job
- I try to avoid places that feel like human zoos (cars, crowds, litter). I like being outdoors to feel like I can escape all of that. Keep more places natural
- I wish someone would fix the boat docks!
- I would appreciate more opportunity to not camp in campgrounds in the state (dispersed camping), also the ability to go out and have a campfire on state land. I don't like recreating in campgrounds and opportunity is very limited to avoid that in South Dakota.
- I would like our wildlife agency to continue to look for ways to appropriately expand some hunting seasons, and continue to make public hunting access a top priority.
- I would like to see improved definitions of where hunting is allowed in GFP-owned state park property. There are some areas that are 'off-limits' to hunting ('established campgrounds', etc.) that I would like to see defined on maps.
- I would like to see statewide shooting ranges for fire arms and archery. I live in Minnehaha county and even public shooting areas are posted for 'no target shooting allowed'.

- I would ride my bike more if there were bike paths so that it isn't necessary to ride on the tiny bit of shoulder available on most roads.
- I would suggest folks to encourage each other to get out and enjoy. Take a friend, kid or older person outdoors.
- I'd be really interested in outdoor education events like camping trips and hikes in order to learn new skills and gain confidence z
- I'd like to see more opportunities for equipment rental and educational classes on how to do certain activities.
- I'm concerned about the falling pheasant populations in public areas and on private lands in South Dakota..... I'd really like to see those numbers managed better, especially West River opportunities..
- I've been enjoying the outdoors for 62 years, I love the peace and quiet and being with nature. I am not a fan of the side by sides, atvs, and other motorized recreational vehicles. They destroy the quiet both on the roads and trails, the total opposite of what enjoying nature should be.
- Id say more cabins at campgrounds, but there could never be enough anyways
- If park fees and fishing licenses get any higher I will stop doing any of it. South Dakota is getting very expensive to enjoy for retired people!
- If there's a charge to camp that's fine. But the bathroom and the picnic table should be open to the public.
- If you have a camping site rented, you have to be on the site or their will be a penalty of some kind.
- If you want the people to use the facilities lower the cost but of course you don't that means people will have to work that's too much to ask they just want to brown nose and kiss butts of the supervisors
- ikea
- I'm lucky because I don't feel like I have any barriers.
- I'm not that disabled yet, and I understand that natural ground conditions are limiting factor for any ability challenges
- I'm on SS. Lower fees for those on limited income. And conservation licenses for those that don't impact the resources
- I'm very satisfied with my access.
- Improve access for hunting.
- Improve access roads and campsights for larger campers. Encourage group camping areas for family and associations.
- Improve and maintain and add more trails in the Black Hills
- Improve hunting license process. It least allow private operators to issue license for their land so bigger hunting parties can go. The set up now limits the size of the operators.
- Improve number and quality of shore fishing areas. Increase amount of natural landscapes in Eastern SD. Improve habitat quantity and quality on public lands. Clean up rivers, creeks, lakes. Improve habitat quality and diversity in wetlands. Improve access to rivers, streams, for boating/kayaking/canoeing. Increase the number of ATV riding trails in SD. Improve quality of non-walleye fisheries (more panfish) in Eastern SD lakes. Increase number of state parks and rec areas. Increase quality of campsites in state parks and recreation areas so the sites are not so close together = make the campsites and campgrounds larger so people are not so packed together.
- Improve parking at boat ramps (quantity)
- Improve pheasant population. Consider raising and releasing birds in public areas.



- Improve the walking path in Mary Hall Park in Rapid City SD.
- improve trails; more information on where accessible areas are
- Improved education and marketing efforts. We have a large number of 'urban' folks on the Eastern side of the state. Impending education programs and activities into the school systems will help capture interest from some kids that may never get to experience our outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Improved hiking trail maps & markers
- In addition to dump sites, provide sewer hook-ups, water & electric hook-ups. We like to be comfortable when we RV camp. That is why we pay exorbitant prices for RV's.
- In regards to hunting, the classes offered through GFP are wonderful, however, that does not help with access to land. The public lands can be a challenge to hunt due to poor habitats, overgrazed land, and too many hunters there. So participating in hunting is challenging unless you have access to quality land or waters.
- In the Black Hills, I perceive the rampant use of ATVs and OHVs as a barrier to my enjoyment of the resource. They are loud and ruin the quiet and peaceful atmosphere I seek. They are also doing great damage to the environment. I don't know how GFP can help in this issue since it occurs on USFS property in this instance, but I would have the same feelings if a state park I visited was overrun by OHVs and ATVs. Gold mining is another issue here in the Black Hills. The increased interest in mining development on Rapid Creek threatens an extremely valuable resource, yet there has been very little done to help protect Rapid Creek from this threat. The state needs to step up and realize we have far more to gain from the recreation opportunities on our streams than we do from mining development
- Increase access opportunities, stop encouraging commercial hunting operations. Stop closing access to meandering waters. Better stream access laws and clarity.
- Increase access to public and private land. Maintain existing access especially to public land - don't reduce access to a single acre of public land!
- Increase awareness of activities around the area
- Increase campground spots at popular destinations or allow SD residents more time to book camping spots by giving them 1 or 2 extra days before non-residents can book a spot (16 days instead of 14). It has become very difficult to make plans and get reservations for residents to reserve camping spots especially when you are trying to get a group of families to go. Another improvement would be to develop group camping spots that have power for campers, I know group spots are currently available but most do not have power provided.
- Increase Day Use access on Lake Oahe, specifically Okobojo, Cow and Spring Creeks.
- Increase habitat and provide more public ground to hunt
- Increase park entrance and camping fees for out of states...not for SD residents. Out of states pay a premium fee over residents in other states. .
- Increase recreational facilities for the disabled
- Increase the number of boat docks and trailer parking at the boat docks
- Increase the reward system
- Indoor archery range. More hunting land open to public. Restrictions on out of state hunters. Better odds of drawing tags. Open more vehicle trails in the winter.
- Install full service hookups at State parks for campers
- Install more boat access points on small public lakes and hunting areas with lakes so duck hunters can boat to areas on them instead of having to hike in and carry all of your gear. Older sportsmen would appreciate that.

- Install more cabins and update bathrooms and showers
- Invest in super boat ramps, especially on Oahe. Its time to think big. We should have at least 3 super ramps on Oahe that will accommodate boaters during high water and low water events. Courtesy docks need to be available at all our boat ramps. Courtesy docks can reduce ramp congestion by 50 %. Fish populations and regulations need to be adjusted that will benefit the resource instead of catering to the tourist and private interest for economic gain. We need a warm water fish hatchery located in the Pierre area to ensure fish populations can be maintained for future angling opportunities. We need to finish the construction of Oahe Dam to allow top water discharges can allow discharges back into the river system. The emergency spillway was built to allow that, and some of the down stream infrastructure was also built. The ideas was scrapped to save money at the time and use the stilling basin deep water discharges to be used instead. This has created many fish management issues over the years.
- Invite in advance and arrange time in advance to attend
- Invite more people
- Is there a way to locate all activities in a given month for all parks? I like to access a monthly email that would give all events for all state parks for a particular month. I'd like the email to also highlight future major events, so that I could plan for them. I know I miss events because I don't access each park in my home area.
- It feels good; There is no suggestion
- It is hard to get camping reservations. The reservation system needs to change, or we need more campgrounds.
- It sucks to hunt deer on public land in my county because other hunters from different counties flood the HAMLIN COUNTY PUBLIC LAND. I pretty much give up on hunting deer here anymore. Can't hunt private, unless your hunting for does. The problem I have with shore fishing is that places I used to drive to to fish are now fenced off for pheasant and deer hunting. I'm not walking that far with all my stuff to fish, so I don't fish there anymore
- It would be beneficial to have more accessible fishing docks for people wishing to fish from shore.
- It would be great to have more off-leash areas for recreation with dog. In summer, I'm afraid to go in tall grass because of ticks and chiggers, so having a mowed or gravel (preferred) path would increase my use of trails in summer.
- It would be nice during the peak of the boating season, at some of the more busy State Parks, with boat landings, to have someone there to assist in boat etiquette. I have waited more than 30 minutes to launch at Poinsett numerous times because of it being busy and ignorance of the people at the dock trying to launch or trailer.
- It would be nice if state regulated the number of ATV and UTV rentals in the Black Hills. A lot of the areas are getting torn up because of too much traffic at one time. It is good to have the business in the Hills but it is also our duty to be responsible and to take care of the hills for future generations. Fines should be higher for littering. I pick up exponentially more trash than I did even five years ago that people discard on the trail's.
- It would be nice if they got rid of some of the poison Ivey.
- It's hard to get a camping reservation in State parks. Recommend having several sites at each campground be first come first serve. Limiting people who move from site to site all summer.
- It's not your job to worry about this. Just focus on doing the great job you're already doing.
- Just be open and friendly.
- Just benches & bathrooms.

- Just do it, associate with people who have experience and are open to mentoring
- Just make more accessible for a variety of physical limitations.
- Just more outdoor recreation please.
- Just wish I had more planning before summer months on what is happening at the parks. We camp in many different parks all summer long and always just hope the campground is doing something fun and engaging for our kids. We utilize a large tent for our 7 person family, so we are always needing to reserve our favorite spots on that 90 day spot. With having to be early on reserving, it is always a gamble on what extra things can be happening at our campgrounds in South Dakota.
- keep accesses to lakes open for boater and fishing, even in the winter.
- Keep adding hiking trails.
- Keep barriers in place. Not to prevent people from enjoying the outdoors, but from making certain things too easy. Not every lake needs a boat launch, not every GPA needs a trail. Keep some of these places wild and harder to get to for those who wish a challenge.
- Keep costs to participate down, especially with the cost of gas now
- Keep encouraging people to explore low-cost activities and the applicable benefits of each activity.
- Keep everything as nature made it. We all know our limitations.
- Keep fees low. We are retired.
- keep good up to date info available both in print and on line. keep up periodic reminders
- keep it simple
- Keep non-resident fishing and hunting license fees in check. A.K.A. stop raising fees every year.
- Keep out of staters out!
- Keep parks cleaner, less crowded and more affordable
- Keep people from moving in. It's ridiculous how many houses are being built in the trees and along the roads going through the black hills.
- Keep price of State Park stickers affordable, so more people will use them.
- keep prices and fees down
- Keep recreation fees reasonable. Do something to ensure those who are making reservations on the day of use sites, are actually beginning their stay that day. It's annoying that a preferred campsite has a lawn chair or vacant tent only on it for most of the week, only actually being occupied once Friday night arrives.
- Keep South Dakota clean, and maintain naturalistic surroundings that are free of advertising, gear heads, and -especially- noise.
- Keep the camp clean, ESPECIALLY THE RESTROOMS!
- keep the cost down for fees. provide plenty of opportunity.
- Keep the costs low, fuel costs are going to be a major factor ...
- Keep the laws simple for residents of South Dakota. We are heading more and more to having to pay to hunt and even fish. Stop allowing the Department of Tourism to run how we residents hunt and fish in this state they want everything centered around out of state dollars(more nonresidents hunting pheasants than residents is one example). We have outstanding opportunities here let's keep it that way and not do everything based on who has the biggest wallet.thanks for allowing my input
- Keep the outdoors looking nice. I don't enjoy seeing trails cut by off-road vehicles in places they shouldn't go. I also don't like the dust they raise when they go by.

- Keep up the good work
- Keep up the good work. We like to camp at North Point and Randall Creek down below. Staff is good and have been helpful. I wish the grass around the pads was better and less weeds, but this would cost too much and without sprinklers this is probably not going to work unless you raise rates, and I like them the way they are. I don't think it would be out of line to charge more to the out of state campers, as Nebraska and Iowa are taking over and reservations can be hard to get sometimes. Overall very happy, we just need to go more as a family!
- Keep up with good information and signage for education and direction
- Keep wild areas wild. Hike in areas. Don't let ATVs and snowmobiles have additional land. They have already tore up a lot of our Hills.
- Keeping it clean and as safe as possible. Have no complaints
- Kill all mosquitos, lol!
- Lack of info. Keep the technology geeks from trying to improve computer systems
- Land owners won't allow access, walk-in areas mostly worthless
- Last summer some of the interpretive centers at parks were closed when we went to visit, not everyone can make it during 'business-hours'. Opening during early evening hours would be nice.
- leave more spots open for last minute campers so you don't have to schedule 3 months out
- Legalize crossbows now
- Less emphasis on Hunting/trapping!!! The governor's move to encourage youth to begin trapping is Appalling!!! Game, Fish and Parks should spend more time protecting our ecosystem. Every creature has its place in the circle of life and if you remove part of it to overhunting and trapping or humans taking over animals habitat we are all in trouble!!!
- Less NON RESIDENT OPPORTUNITY
- Less out of state people. It is impossible to get camp sites because there are too many out of town and out of staters
- Less rules
- Let a professional guide
- Let the disabled use hoverboards on trails that would permit it.
- Let us use atv to only drag big game to vehicles
- Letting people know what is available.
- Level paths and remove objects that are too close to or on trails
- Level trails and areas for the disabled to have a better opportunity to participate.
- Lewis & Clark lake Campground - keep a few comfort stations open longer into the late fall.
- Life is expensive already - when we place more limits due to finances, it has a negative impact. It costs so much to just go camping! We sold our camper, as it just wasn't "enjoyable" with all the park fees and reservation fees. Went back to a tent.
- Like to see couple place on east side of state have trails for atv/utv
- Limit access to reduce # of people, More space among campsites and more privacy (trees), maintain cross-country ski trails that do not allow snowshoes/walkers
- Limit atv licenses for trail use in the forest.
- Limit costs to camping facilities.
- Limit guides that take over the best hunting farms by paying them a fee then charging hunters extremely amount of money to hunt a public bird
- Limit how close boats can come to shore. I frequently have to cut my line because a fishing boat came too close to shore and got tangled in my line( during the summer )

- limit large all terrain vehicles such as side-by-side UTVs from much of the black hills. They are tearing up the trails and ruining the land. they are driving on the gravel roads excessively fast and rutting up all the old logging roads, driving very fast. These large UTVs have increased substantially in the last few years and i have seen so much destruction in the forest trails all over the hills with trash and empty cans and bottles littered all over which was not here years ago. i am afraid to ride my horse or hike many trails now due to all the UTVs coming into the black hills after last summer. many of these out of state riders were rude and did not follow trails which destroyed alot of fauna. very sad.
- Limit non residents from fishing year around. Our boat ramps are too crowded in April-June.
- Limit or timed entrance to reduce crowding.
- Limit out of state reservations
- Limit tags to hunting lands
- Limit the number of atvs and Utvs in the black hills. Especially stop giving permits to private businesses renting these. It's ridiculous how many more atvs there are then 5-10 years ago and they ruin the outdoor experience.
- Limit the number of humans allowed where wildlife still has a habitat. Keep up/improve local residential facilities: tennis and basketball courts, soccer and baseball fields, pools and playgrounds.
- Limit the number of people nonresident coming and using our facilities
- Limit the option of reserving camping spots that are unused. Keep down the large group partying on the weekends at our state parks. At least enforce the quiet time at 11:00 p.m. Check that out-of-state fishermen/women are following the limit requirements and size requirements of fish harvested. Please update the comfort stations at all state parks.
- Limit the outta staters
- Limit the use & sale of boats intended to produce wakes, ie. wake board boats. The rapid adoption of these boats has strongly limited my enjoyment of water recreation, particularly at Pactola reservoir. Wake producing boats have a strong NEGATIVE impact on my enjoyment and safety at the lake.
- Live every day
- Local/Regional media promotions that educate and address apprehensions of public. Confirm education of Parks, National and other staff to provide information and promote responsible use.
- Locals first
- longer hunting seasons
- Longer, more interesting hiking trails at state and municipal parks.
- Lorem ipsum is the bomb yo!
- Loser cost
- Lots of nonresident competition for the resources in some places, dry lake in Clark county by willow lake, Harding county and Perkins for deer and antelope, etc
- Loud groups of people are not policed by the host. Firm noise rules that are enforced would make camping more enjoyable for everyone. More cabins with shower- water-kitchens would be great
- Low-cost or free rentals for outdoor items such as kayaks. Better options for free or reduced admission to state parks and campgrounds. I don't want to spend a lot of time or money in something I have no idea if I'll enjoy.
- lower access fees and remove things like 'license agent' fees, convince fees, etc.
- Lower camping fees
- Lower cost

- Lower cost for fishing , hunting, & park fees
- lower cost for seniors!
- lower cost when possible
- Lower costs for SD residents and charge more for nonresident.
- lower costs possibly
- Lower Costs; Develop more camping locations close to Metro Areas; Develop more fair / easier reservation system where reservations don't have to be made so far in advance OR don't charge cancellation fees when something develops in meantime. 90 days out is just too far. We have 'eaten' many a reservation / camping fee. So much that it is starting to deter us from making reservations in South Dakota.
- Lower fees
- Lower fees and perhaps start some clubs for outdoor enthusiasts, as a way to meet people. Maybe allow a rental program through the state for outdoor equipment/vehicles for those that can't afford their own to utilize.
- lower fees, do away with park entrance fees most surrounding states do not have such. allow general funds to support and help our parks. again most surrounding states do such.
- Lower fees, more trails
- Lower fishing license fee.
- lower fishing/hunting license cost, lower camping and park fees, remove fees from areas like east Whitlock where theres no facilities there should be no use fees or park pass passes needed.
- Lower license cost
- Lower park fees
- Lower prices
- Lower prices for residents, higher prices for non-residents of the state.
- LOWER THE COST OF CAMPING AND HUNTING LICENSES
- Lower the price of hunting and fishing license. Get rid of the habitat license, it's a joke. The gf&p added it so they can make more money. If you drive around and look at the state land, the gf&p do crap for habitat.
- Lower the prices of fees hunting fishing park pass GFP don't own it we the people do
- luxury of growing up on a farm as many my generation did..
- mail paper materials to more households and schools, more brand engagement activities, set up more marketing booths at events and outdoor spaces for public engagement and activation for brand awareness
- Maintenance on hunting areas - Most Fencing is in terrible shape and laying on the ground. Dangerous for hunters and their dogs. Make the bottom wire barbless, so dogs an critters don't get injured on the barbwire.
- Make getting reservations easier, and open spots up for people, when other people reserve spots and don't show up. I don't know how many times I've seen this. Why do we have to book through an out of state entity just to make a reservation.
- Make (free) rental equipment more widely available (e.g., canoes) and make water cleaner so that my kids aren't at risk of contracting e coli poisoning when we visit the beach.
- Make an effort to be more inclusive of the natural histories of an area (e.g. native Americans)
- Make annual passes cheaper for residents. We pay taxes for the parks, we should be able to use them for a discounted rate. I shouldn't have to pay taxes in order for tourists to use the resources at the same price point that the locals pay.

- Make better fishing access paths to shore fishing areas
- Make camping areas like hunting seasons. Limit the out of State people so i can pull my camper out to the lake where I live more than once a year over a weekend.
- Make concrete pads or gravel pads at benches large enough to park a wheelchair next to the bench. That way I can sit next to my friend instead of looking for some awkward way to park the chair that is out of way of other walkers.
- Make fishing better in some of the local lakes, and lower the amount of fish allowed to keep out of small lakes.
- Make getting through the sand to the beach possible
- Make handicap accessible facilities, cabins, campsites more readily available
- Make hunting and fishing spots known
- Make instate resident prices lower to encourage more traffic. More upkeep on parks if the prices of hunting/fishing/state parks are going to be high. Offer more free weekends or fund classes in certain areas.
- Make is 70 ° all year round
- Make it cleaner, better access, more facilities, cheaper
- Make it easier (such as hunting used to love archery but due to injuries I'm limited to what I can do) crossbow should just be a regular way to archery hunt
- make it easier for people to know what's out there and make it easier for people with disabilities to participate
- Make it easier to get reservations. New system to hard.
- Make it easier to identify public land if on an app or a map
- Make it easier to reserve a cabin....or build more. It is almost impossible to get one anymore!
- Make it easy and visible and known
- Make it so people can rent waterfowl decoys to go hunting. I think there might be this opportunity in a certain area of the state but make it more available in different areas.
- Make me independently wealthy so I can spend less time working and more time recreating. In all seriousness, I'm happy with my recreation opportunities. I have a good balance and no difficulty getting out and doing the things I like to do.
- Make more campgrounds and more spaces at existing campgrounds!
- Make more information available about activities so im more aware of opportunities.
- Make my wife enjoy fishing and boating more??? I know, wishful thinking!
- make non resident family fishing permit available
- Make out of state licenses more affordable
- Make participation affordable and market the opportunities.
- Make resident licenses and park passes less expensive.
- Make state park entrance fee very low
- Make the internet more accessible
- Make the kyack ramps on Big Sioux easier access for a small flat bottom boat. Some have big rocks right where you need to put in in water. Got a new to me 1232 jon boat to fish Big Sioux and James this year. Those rivers a bit shallow for my big boat.
- Make the outdoor biffies more user friendly, especially for the handicapped.
- Make the system to sign up for things easier again. I am a capable computer person and it is hard for me, the layout is all over and just seems like it's a headache. There is no way elderly or

language barrier or whatever can sign up for things easily. I almost don't want to keep doing it because it's such a pain now.

- Make the trails at Newton Hills usable for hikers. They are very smelly and full of horse urine and poop.
- Make them available in ALL areas
- Make them better know and what they offer
- Make things more affordable
- Make WiFi available
- Making the reservations for camping at state parks is very difficult and I feel very defeated when trying to reserve camping spots.
- Making things kid friendly or child centered are great. Families often have kids of varying ages so it is important to be able to accommodate and be of interest to all age groups.
- Manage the crowding and limit use of motorized vehicles
- Manage your budget better. Quit trying to impress the wealthy by building bigger and fancy facilities that the average South Dakotan can only 'No, I can't. afford that camping/fishing weekend' or 'We don't have the money for that excursion'. Get real with the citizens of South Dakota and work to make it easier for the underdogs!!!!
- mandatory hunter safety programs for all age groups including education on courtesy to others in hunting and fishing
- Many areas are becoming overrun with ATV/OHVs and are pushing other trail users out. They are also causing very significant resource damage that will cost the taxpayers to repair or are irreparable. Both state and federal agencies do not have adequate funding for trail maintenance or law enforcement on the trails.
- Many can play together
- Maps to access fishing/boating areas on rivers and lakes.
- Maybe have a few more SD resident “free admission” says so we don’t have to pay tourist prices for some of these local attractions
- Maybe have electric bikes to get around. Golf carts
- Maybe more campsites to help with people who are late on reservations
- Maybe more electrical sites in campgrounds
- Maybe more fishing pods and more handicap or larger docks
- Maybe offer a small amount of first come first serve campsites at each park. There are times that due to a busy schedule, planning weeks in advance just doesn't work and being able to get a camp site on short notice would be great. Maybe expand or add some camping areas on state parks/locations that are often full.
- Maybe some area just for disabled hunters. But I’m sure this is probably already done.
- Maybe try to arrange more seminars on how to do.
- Mentor youth archery in schools
- More handicapped things and lower prices so people can afford to go I mean for us lower classed
- Monitor boat ramp maintenance more closely
- Monitor use of the same campers always in the campground. Hard to get a spot as the same people seem to get all the spots and just move from place to place in the same campground.
- More group invitations or more group activities where people with no activity partner are able to participate.



- More trailheads for Utrvs/atvs Picnic tables and bathroom facilities available at trailheads. I had one situation in the Black Hills this year we had to pay to sit at a picnic table at a trail head.
- More access to public lands - specifically, develop (either through purchasing ROWs or legislation) avenues that insure there are NO public lands cutoff from reasonable public access.
- More access to public lands and educating about what you can and can't do. I love to shed hunt but there are so many rules and places you can't do it that are public land that I just avoid it so I don't make a mistake.
- More accessibility
- More accessibility to trails. Bathrooms. Beaches. Piers at lakes for handicap to go on and fish.
- More acres of public land to access
- More advertisement
- More advertising
- More affordable rates for Senior Citizens
- More and better access to areas with good wildlife habitat (like WIA's and improved habitat on federal lands).
- more and better boat ramps. more GPA's.
- More and better boat ramps; better access to GPA and WPA areas; access easements to public land (School land West River)
- more and better fish cleaning stations
- More announcements on lottery draw licensing for hunts like deer and other big game
- More archery ranges and golf courses!!!
- More areas along Missouri River Lake Francis Case area
- More areas to explore.
- More available campsites. Lower fees for seniors.
- More bicycle and hiking trails, availability of a long shooting range
- more boat docks through out the state mainly pease creek, snake creek,platte creek,north point
- More boat docks, and cleaning stations. open up more primitive camping with better roads to them around lakes.
- More boat ramps and more parking at boat ramps. More fish cleaning stations.
- More boat ramps and more parking.
- More boat ramps. Easier access for hunting on public lands.
- more campgrounds? Making reservations usually requires paying for extra days just so you can get ahead of the 90 day rule.
- More camping access
- More camping areas through out the state
- More camping sites
- More camping sites at parks in Sioux Falls area, within 100 miles
- More camping space, better boat ramps, better public hunting land.
- more camping spots in Custer state park would be great. it is very difficult to get a spot even when you try to book a year in advance
- More camping spots in the parks.
- More camping spots West River. Keep some first come first served. Favor SD residents like Wyoming does.
- More campsites

- More campsites at state parks. It has become more difficult over the past 2 years to reserve campsites for a normal 3 day weekend. A person has to reserve a 4 or 5 night stay due to the 90 window factor and other campers adding days into the front of their trip just to secure a site for the weekend. This is an added cost that feels unfortunate and unnecessary.
- More campsites at the current campgrounds. Eliminate higher camping fees at the busier campgrounds.
- more campsites with electricity at Rocky Point or a different location on the Belle Fourche Reservoir
- More centralized information. Some activities are not publicized well/have to go to multiple information sources to figure out everything available
- More classes about how to do some of the activities. The classes should include information about what steps to take next to be able to do activities on our own. What to consider when purchasing our own equipment, mentored outdoor activities or group activities as a step between classes and independently doing it on our own.
- More disabled parking.
- More education - I don't know where I am allowed to camp, etc.
- More enforcement of motorized vehicle violations
- More facilities and better outreach of what is available.
- more fishing
- More focus on residents. Non-residents have overrun fishing and pheasant hunting in this state. Much to the exclusion of residents.
- more free weekends for opportunities. free fishing weekend has a lot of people that don't fish, fishing..
- More funding
- More game = more hunters, fishermen
- More golf courses and trap ranges
- More group activities such as hiking
- More gun ranges and shooting have no place in GFP plans. Pheasant hunting is a dying sport-- well beyond the financial capability or interests of most families today.
- More handicap docks on good fishing lakes
- More hiking trails in Eastern (around Brookings) and along Missouri River (especially Pollock area)
- More hiking trails so places aren't so crowded in the summer. Hard to find peace and quiet. Clean up dog waste in the parks. Or start really monitoring and giving heavy fines.
- More horse facilities if possible
- More horse friendly campgrounds
- More horse friendly camping areas.
- More hunting and shooting opportunities
- More hunting opportunities for out of state person's
- More indoor opportunities for young kids to do indoors during the winter that'll let them still learn about the outdoors. Winter gets long with littles and below zero temperatures
- More info on opportunities. Sessions offered to try things with groups. Reinstute quick clinics at state park campgrounds on the weekends publicized in advance, at check in, in common areas and word of mouth as hosts check in on guests.

- More information about activities sent through multiple means, e.g., Social Media, e-mailing list(s), radio/newspaper announcements, etc.
- More information about opportunities and guided programs.
- more information on social media
- More Information on where I can and cannot hunt. I personally don't have enough experience on public lands but there are federal lands, wilderness, gfps, us engineers. I like to waterfowl hunt. I know where the zones for waterfowl are but my lack of experience and knowledge of what public land I can hunt is troublesome. I also know there is the map on gfp website but it doesn't explain if I can hunt there or not.
- More information posted in public places.
- More information that is clearly written about month and times open, fees (where and how to pay them), what you can and can't do in the rec area, where the area is located. Information on websites, social media and multiple places.
- More kids fishing and wildlife ect information not just scavenger hunts. Nice if the local state parks would offer something monthly or more. Or maybe have a intern at the parks lead shore fishing on Saturday mornings ect.
- More kids fishing parks
- More land
- More land access
- More law enforcement and more accountability to those offenders.
- more level parking.
- More mentoring programs for novice hunters without mentors in their family. More public shooting ranges for archery and rifles for people to become more comfortable with the method of choice
- More mentorship/networking activities. I have a few dedicated hunting buddies, but I would love to meet more women who hunt and participate in something like a ladies' pheasant hunt.
- More of them close to population centers.
- more opportunities to check out equipment at the parks
- more opportunities to drive into
- More opportunity for those who don't own RV's, large campers....more oportunities and options for those with tents, want to do backpacking, kayaking and kayaking trips (like kayak and backpacking combined), more paddle up sites, etc.
- More options, more opportunities to learn outdoor recreational skills, more protected habitat, stronger guidance on practices like foraging
- More options/places of things to do
- More overlooks should be added along the scenic roads, with trees cut down so that those who are less able to hike can be awed and inspired to create art of our incredible vistas. The Mt. Coolidge area really needs tree removal/cleanup, along with Needles & Iron Mt. Road.
- More parks with primitive camping east of river.
- More partnerships with private landowners for public access to private land for hunting and fishing. (Walk-in program, Controlled Hunting Access Program, CREP, etc.)
- More paths for wheel chairs ,more wheel chair docks for people to fish on
- More paved paths
- More paved paths
- more playground equipment that is inclusive for children with disabilities

- More policing on the bike trails for safety
- More public access
- More Public Access for Hunting, More Walk In Areas, Better Habitat on public hunting areas (more food plots, etc)
- More public access to quality hunting and fishing lands
- MORE PUBLIC ACCESS, quit privatizing natural resources/wildlife, less of an emphasis on commercial hunting, improve access to public hunting areas (especially waterfowl)
- More public access. Stop closing meandering waters. Stop encouraging commercial hunting which closes more doors to the average person.
- more public docks and shore access
- more public ground
- More public hunting access, less pressure from pay-to-hunt outfits trying to choke out all recreational hunting. Opening fish cleaning stations along the river in April.
- More public hunting access, more lake access.
- More Public Hunting Land
- More public hunting land would be appreciated.
- More public land
- More public land on east side of the state
- More public land would be great! More hiking trails, day use areas on the East side of the state.
- More Recreation Closer To Home!!
- More rental equipment
- More rental equipment available.
- More rowboat, canoe rentals. Strict enforcement of noise policy's. This last summer we almost quit camping due to overcrowding and loud music blasting in the campground.
- More scenic trails in eastern SD
- More seating areas and potable water along trails. Continue to groom some trails to allow for fewer trip hazards, etc
- More shore fishing opportunities and maps that show where they are
- more showers and cooler bathroom, they get super hot. i know that's not efficient it's just , maybe bigger ventilation? i don't know, thanks
- More signage for popular hikes so tourists are more apt to hike there instead of our secret getaway spots
- more single track trails for walking/running only - no bikes or horses
- more social media coverage? or somehow get the word out better? Free family activities, Story book Hike - a sign posted with a part of a story and hike to the next part of the story?
- More state hunting walk-in
- More state park camping sites. With the surge in camping over the covid years, it is impossible to get a campsite for a weekend. Being on at 7am when the 90 day window opens is sometimes not enough.
- More tent camping options that don't involve sleeping right next to an RV. SD GFP has plenty of options for RV's but very few primitive spots. Tenters don't want to be setup next to a 50 foot motorhome that has string lights and a traeger next to it with music playing on their surround sound system. Tenters want to light a fire in the fire ring and look up at the star. I hope they don't turn the Spring Creek acquisition into an RV park. I'd love to see a good amount of primitive campsites out there. If the goal is Native American cultural appreciation, I don't see how an RV

park aligns with that goal, but sleeping with nothing but a piece of cloth between you and nature and cooking your food over open flames, well, you see the parallels.

- More tent only camping areas.
- More trails
- More UTV access to trails, most are ATV width. Mine is 63'
- More vacation days
- More Walleyes! More pheasants. Fewer biologists. More people on the ground that listen to the landowners, fishermen, hunters, conservationists. Listen to the people who want to help and live every day with the wildlife.
- More wheelchair accessible areas to sit and watch activities.
- More wheelchair accessible paths/walking options
- More year around actives that are not always based in Sioux Falls or Rapid City
- more/larger state parks and more fish cleaning stations
- Most of my barriers are self imposed or imagined.
- Most of the recreation we prefer is outside of the city. But it would be really nice to have things closer by but maybe smaller.
- Most of the small lakes on ponds in southeastern South Dakota get really disgusting part way through the summer. Once they get green and slimy my canoe is done for the season.
- Mostly I worry about being safe from other trail users, especially those using motorized equipment (ATVs, etc.) on mixed-use trails
- Motorized Boat rentals would be nice
- Move to a lottery system for out of state archery licenses.
- My biggest reservation that is within the grasp of the State's control is being overcrowded in parks. However, that is fairly biased because I do enjoy the solitude of having an area to myself.
- My complaint with game fish and parks is the camping reservation system. It is not user friendly at all. Also people are abusing the 90 day system by making reservations several days before they actually plan to occupy the site. If they do not show up first day of reservation they should lose it. That's what airlines do.
- My disability of not having a left hand anymore does not have any barriers to me hunting, fishing, camping or almost any outdoor activity. It's just not there anymore but it is a disability by definition.
- My family and I really enjoy hunting waterfowl. I live in Watertown SD. I love hunting Waterfowl in North East SD. This is a big staging area for Ducks and Geese. We have some large lakes in our area that used to hold lots of waterfowl. The problem is the fisherman are all over these lakes in October and early November. This causes big problems. It seems to me that fisherman could take a break on these lakes from the 10th of October till the 15th of November. They get to fish all year long. Take 45 days off.
- Need more access / ability to obtain RESIDENT turkey and deer licenses annually. It's much easier to buy non resident licenses in Ne, Ia and Ks.
- Need more atv/utv access in the eastern part of South Dakota. Talsma Trail and South Shore are about it. Otherwise it's West River or Minnesota for the next closest places.
- Need more boat docks and ramps on MO river
- need more boat docks at Platte creek and snake creek in south dakota
- Need more campgrounds
- need more camping spots ... to hard to get into .... need to change 90 day window to 30 or even 45 days to hard to plan that far out

- Need more hours in a day, too much work and time to chase kids. Not enough time to enjoy other activities.
- Need more locations
- Need more places
- Need more rv camping pads
- Need more same day reservations at more parks other than Custer and Lewis and Clark
- Need much more dry camping opportunities along the Missouri river.
- need suitable venue
- Need to make more and upgrade existing rifle ranges The existing one at Kiowa GPA for example.
- need to redo lic. procedure .
- New reservation system is not user friendly and does not promote the ability of family and friends to camp together. Needs to allow users to put multiple spots in cart prior to completing equipment and personal info.
- News paper . All would help.
- Newton Hills Lake Lakota surely must be a farm-chemical toxic waste dump--unsafe to swim in. While water testing is done for bacteria--none is done for excessive levels of farm herbicides/pesticides. GFP should lead with Friends of the Big Sioux River in measuring chemical pollution at Lake Lakota and Lake Alvin.
- no - just me not getting out and moving.
- No - our experience was very good.
- No the only barrier are my ankles..
- no barriers are stopping me from participating
- No generator camping areas or generator use time more limited, like 11:00-3:00. People ruining the tranquility of camping by constantly running generators to run their AC and big refrigerators
- No I don't have any issues getting to where I want to go
- No not really.
- No parks that I've been to are great
- No sorry. Just an old retired couple trying to enjoy the outdoors
- No, because my issue is poor eyesight.
- No, I believe that SD GF&P does a good job of removing barriers.
- No, I don't really have any barriers
- No, I don't think there are any major barriers to participate in outdoor recreation. There are already many options available.
- No, I really don't have any 'barriers' I just like to do what I like to do, I guess. I love camping and fishing, so that is what we do
- No, no barriers prevent me from taking part in activities.
- No, other than state parks are often too crowded and NOISEY.
- No, South Dakota has done and appears to continue to be pro-recreation and welcomes all to participate.
- No, South Dakota is doing a great job
- No, unless they can find a way to cram more hours in the weekends or find another day.
- no, we are pretty happy with our experiences
- no, we have to use our own judgment

- No, we try to do what we can when we go camping at the Missouri River and a couple State Parks.
- No, you are light years ahead of ND in regards to trails for everything. From walking trails to ATV trails, you have it all and someday soon we are going to relocate permanently to SD. to enjoy all you have to offer full time.
- No. I moved here from Nebraska a few years ago and I'm very impressed with how well South Dakota maintains the state parks I have visited.
- No. But please think more about people with disabilities as we have friends and family that have this consideration. Also think about bigger families in the cabins—it's always 4, rarely 6 people cabins. I'm not gonna buy a \$15,000 RV to camp twice a year. People have odd number families.
- No. Get out and do it.
- No. I love South Dakota and all the opportunities. I sometimes wish there were fewer roads in the black hills so I could get lost easier. Thank you GFP for all you do!
- No. I think more events or special promotions would motivate me to go to more parks though.
- No. I think South Dakota does a really good job of creating a variety of recreation across the state.
- Non resident fishing licenses are to high
- Non resident hunting fees too high and license application deadlines way to early - April, for fall hunting season.
- None at this time. Hobbies are expensive and that is just part of it.
- None- I think that the attempts to provide access has been stellar in the past decades.
- None- only barrier is the weather and this last year the lack of rain and low river for kayaking. I just don't prefer the cold weather but that's not under anyone's control
- none- very accomodating
- None, SD Parks program is great.
- None, they are doing a great job.
- Nope I think they do a fantastic job
- nope the SDGFP has already done all that needs to be done
- Nope. Lack of motivation is my only barrier.
- Not disabled; just better trail maintenance statewide imo
- Not enough state park camping areas in the N.E./S.E.
- Not family friendly
- Not for me, but a teack chair program at Custer SP for people with disabilities would be fantastic. Check out the program at Staunton SP in Colorado.
- Not have Non-Meandered fishing areas.
- Not really- it's just my stage in life (kids activities). I think our SD parks are wonderful, and amazingly priced!
- Not really, the barriers I face are mostly related to not having the time I would like to have to participate. Next would be my financial situation since I live out of state the cost of purchasing licenses are higher, fuel to drive etc. There were only a couple times last year I didn't drive to SD to some of my favorite places mainly because of time.
- Not sure if this is the right place to add this but I would love to see the all season fish cleaning stations come to fruition. Selfishly... in Pierre. There are very few options to discard fish waste once the cleaning station close. I assume our landfill gets loaded up with fish guts in the winter.
- Not unless you can give me more hours in a day.

- Off road vehicle use in the Black Hills especially has begun to compromise all other activities we enjoy by creating hazards to safety as well as noise disruption and dust creation. This complicates our ability to camp, enjoy wildlife, hike and enjoy our natural surrounding, and especially complicates the safety of biking and hiking in the Black Hills.
- Offer discounts or cheap days
- Offer loaning or renting of equipment, put more groups together throughout the State to run outdoor activities, find volunteers with experience to teach regularly, promote more, possibly mentor programs
- Offer more classes or options of classes.
- Offer more outdoor recreation activities available near cities like Sioux Falls. Walking trails/parks
- Offer more Supervision for free camping areas to monitor parked equipment without people to save spots.
- Offer multi-State licensing for hunting, fishing, etc. e.g. SD, NE, IA, MN, ND, CO, WY, MT, or any combination of the preceding
- Offer things like lifetime fishing and hunting licenses and lifetime park passes or lower state park stickers or lower the daily price
- Offering my favorite outdoor activity
- Often other people do not treat the outdoors with respect or the others using nature, too. Their equipment or vehicles are too loud, big, disrupting, or damaging to the areas being enjoyed. I find that many people treat outdoor recreation as only belonging to themselves and forget it doesn't belong to them only.
- On longer hiking trails have water fill up points.
- One of my biggest passions is archery. And it would be nice to have a facility when we have inclement weather to where archers could go and shoot indoors. And in a controlled Environment like that may get others involved in our tree when it's cold and snowing
- One of my primary outdoor activities is hunting. With most areas being developed for multi-use purposes, hunting opportunities have been significantly diminished. Though technically hunting is still allowed in those areas, the quality of habitat and the lack of wildlife due to multi-use activities makes for a poor quality hunting experience in those areas. Too much public land has been developed. We need more natural wild areas.
- Only to lower fees to make it more affordable.
- Open camp sites to residents before offering to non-residents (like camp sites and cabins open for residents 2 weeks before non residents for reservations)
- Open camping reservations for in state residents 100 days prior and keep the 90 day window for out of state campers
- Open camping site to SD residents first before out of state reservations can be made.
- Open facilities in April and Close at the end of October or later
- Open more campgrounds so the ones you have aren't so crowded and difficult to reserve. We have to reserve very far in advance in order to guarantee a place to stay.
- Open More Campsites and lower the cost per campsite
- Open more new state campgrounds, it is difficult to reserve a camp spot. May be time to look at building new areas
- open the trail at south scatterwood lake for disabled hunters, and make handicapped parking at boat docks.
- open up fishing lakes and ponds in northwest South Dakota



- Open up land locked hunting areas or make the owners of the land around d the land locked area pay the taxes. Tired of paying for stuff we can't use.
  - Open up more public ground (I know that's a dream). Post the actual bird forecasts backed by actual wild bird surveys and not these 'Pheasant Outlooks'.
  - Opening camping reservations early for residents would make it easier for us to reserve spots we know accommodate our family well.
  - Other than lower fees for park passes and licenses, none
  - Our barriers are ours to deal with.
  - Our family really enjoyed Lake Hiddenwood...after school and weekends. Walking the trails, cooking a backpack meal, wildlife. Disappointed the dam won't be rebuilt.
  - Our state parks do a great job and even at my age I can enjoy them.
  - Out door swimming pool for kids, sometimes lakes are not the best in areas
  - Out of State people take up all the good fishing camp areas
  - Outdoor can let me better experience the nature, into the nature
  - Outdoor guidance is provided
  - Outdoor safety is more guaranteed
  - Outdoor sports, the body can get exercise
  - Outdoor training sessions and practical applications are available
  - Outdoor training sessions are available
  - Outlaw all terrain vehicles
  - over all i think sdgfp has done a good job
  - Parks can get very over crowded ... also when trapping in the winter hikers with dogs get in the way ... they don't think I should be there they need to be educated
  - Partner with local community groups like SD AARP more
  - Partner with people who want to share their love of specific activities and companies to provide equipment need for a free to low cost learning experience. The right experience will lead someone to make the sacrifices to enjoy the activity and the outdoors
  - Partnership with communities to create safe connecting corridors from residential areas to trails for cycling and running.
  - Patrol
  - People need to leash their dogs. The only barrier I see is safety for my dog. She is always leashed. Other owners are not so considerate and it is infuriating.
  - Physical and mental experience, contribute to health
  - Please consider dealing with the ever-increasing noise/dust problems associated with ATVs!!! Our previously quiet campgrounds are now way too noisy. Could we designate some areas of our campgrounds as ATV accessible while other areas are for tents/RVs...or reserve some campgrounds as ATV friendly and others for tent/RVs only? HELP!!!
  - Please develop a system where in state campers can call in for sites one week before out of staters because it is hard to get sites in the current system especially if one doesn't have internet and has to call in.
  - Please increase rates for nonresidents
  - Please keep motorized vehicles off the Micealson trail - landowners on either side shouldn't have the right to drive on the trail on a regular basis (I found this happening. Going North in Custer on the Mickelson trail last summer - a biker shouldn't have to dodge a pickup truck....
- Thank You

- Please make Slip Up Creek a state park
- Please reduce unregulated shooting in the Black Hills. It's like world war three whenever we are out in the woods. Safety and the trash from targets and casings is becoming a big concern. OHV usage is also getting out of hand. The noise, smell, and trail damage makes it less likely that we visit many areas we used to go to.
- Plenty! Feel free to call me at +16056399193 I am the President of a local archery club and I am happy to give my feedback.
- Pontoons are a great way to get wheelchair bound people onto boats to fish.
- possible make more camp sites, the outdoors is the best place for a family to just do fun activities together
- Possibly making seasons more available and out there to see but other than that, I don't have anything.
- prices to high for south dakota residents
- Private access is out of my p
- Promote activities on social media, help to organize groups for people that might be alone in their pursuit
- Promote special event and sales
- Promote the benefits of outdoor exercise
- Promote the fly fishing for trout in the State particularly the Black Hills and surrounding area
- Promoting local recreation opportunities and ease of access for licenses, fees, etc.
- prosecute landowners who deny access to public lands (block roads, post inaccurate signage) and harass hunters
- Provid more fishing docks at state parks. Especially at Angastora, there are only two on the entire lake. It's very frustrating when you have children or handicapped folks. They're always crowded and you'll only get a spot if you around e super early in the morning.
- Provide a more widespread heads up on everything going on. I believe the waterfowl areas all need upgrading/ expanding for sure.
- Provide a wide variety of experiences. Rustic cabins, tent camp sites, luxury cabins (with bathroom/kitchen), lodge accommodations. Also having some facilities be rustic, spread out and limited availability to minimize crowding. Other areas have many camping spots close together to allow more group camping or comradery with neighbors. Yurts would be a great addition to the park system.
- Provide better active and passive recreation opportunities for people to get out and move their bodies. Promote healthy outdoor recreation better. Coming off a long winter, provide better opportunities for winter recreation. There need's to be more of a focus put on open space recreation opportunities in general though throughout South Dakota. More soft surface trails and places to go offering a diversity of uses.
- Provide better public access to state owned hunting and fishing areas.
- Provide better training
- Provide boat tours and fishing sessions at a reasonable price. Even if we can't do much activity, we would love to catch fish.
- Provide clearer accounts of how fees contribute to conservation
- Provide discounts and special activities for locals.
- Provide fish cleaning stations not in state parks in the Waubay/Webster SD area
- Provide interpreter options via. technology
- Provide local rate for golf courses. Give locals a better chance at booking a campsite.

- Provide more access meaning more opportunities in East half of state. Too few public areas and facilities east river
- Provide more access points for canoes on Missouri and Big Sioux Rivers--and clean up Big Sioux!
- Provide more access. I hunt and fish a lot and finding places to do those things is getting harder every year
- Provide more ada access to hiking trails, kayak, fishing
- Provide more camping sites. And make sure once someone books a campsite make sure they show up. Lots of people are booking early to get their sites bring their camper and then leave and come back a day or two later.
- provide more good land for public hunting
- Provide more horse campgrounds.
- Provide more information about what is available
- Provide more natural areas that are undeveloped - i.e. wilderness areas for hiking, backpacking, fishing, wildlife viewing
- Provide more programing in more locations so they are more accessible
- Provide more public hunting and fishing areas around Sioux Falls. Fishing areas stocked with easy to catch fish, like blue gills, designating these spots to youth only. The public fishing areas around Sioux Falls are filled with shady adults. These people take the only decent spots and parents with young kids do not have easy access to the water.
- Provide more public hunting land and access. The walk-in program is amazing. Along with the variety of walk in types: no hunting before crops are harvested, being able to drive to drop off decoys, etc. These places and access trails are usually clearly posted. MORE PLEASE.
- Provide more quality, accessible public areas
- Provide more rentals of bows, kayaks, etc
- provide more rv camping opportunitites. Improve the reservation system
- Provide more shore fishing opportunities by removing aquatic vegetation, ensuring good quality of the water, cutting and trimming of vegetation to provide shore access, shore line dredging to improve fishing conditions.
- Provide more trails around the Sioux Falls area
- Provide more trails for x-country skiing, hiking, biking (paved trails) & snowshoeing
- Provide opportunities for state residents to obtain park reservations before out of staters
- Provide reduced fees for senior citizens
- Provide security
- Provide special hunts for disabled hunters
- Providers are doing a good job. Barriers to participate by the public are mostly self-induced.
- Public areas where target shooting is allowed east river would be nice. Currently only a few private ranges available.
- Public transportation
- Public water access is getting difficult along the river. Too many RV parks with no improvement/increased capacity to park or launch boats.
- publicize more information
- Purchase additional public land.
- Put a stop to these private campgrounds popping up along the park entrances
- Put an outdoor rifle range in the east river that is open everyday day.

- Put back the length limits on BASS!
- Put up more handicapped signs. Make some trails more accessible with outhouses and wheelchair accessible.
- Questions about security, including some viruses
- quit booking camp sites and then they do not show up.. It should be like a motel you do not call or show that site should be open...I was camping a lot this summer and a lot of sites were open for days but if you get on the site it is booked..
- Quit charging out of state people extra fees. I have no interest in staying in S.D. parks again because of extra fees. I tell everyone I know my thoughts.
- Quit letting people reserve camping spots in the state parks that don't use them. Reserve for a week, camp for 2 nights. Keep Noem out of the pheasant hunting reports.
- Quit making all of the state park campgrounds RESERVATION ONLY. We don't always know how far we will travel, so we like to be able to find a first come first serve camp site opportunity. Also provide more tenting opportunities. It seems like most places are for RV people. We enjoy camping with a tent, but it is difficult sometimes to find a campground that has a tent area, or the sites are crammed right next to each other, so we have no privacy.
- Quit overbuilding State Parks, especially Custer State Park -- it's already too crowded much of the year!
- Quit raising fees every year, whether it is for camping, licenses, or just access.
- Quit raising prices
- Quit taking away public opportunities. Restrictions imposed by preventing public waters access, increased restrictions on road hunting (such as HB 1090), and other efforts to privatize public resources do not help statewide interest.
- Quit taxing private facilities while subsidizing government facilities.
- quit terrible and unnecessary logging practices that blight the landscape unnecessarily and that destroys animal and rare plant habitat. Spruce forests in most particular.
- quite blocking off camp sites that are already established may put in new ones
- ramps to all camping cabin
- Rather than always first come first serve, how about offering lotteries for certain dates at camp grounds and other activities.
- Read the last answer
- Reasonable rates for kayak rental
- rec areas are crowded, boat docks are extremely crowded, too many trailer parks getting built next to rec areas and boat docks and are ruining experiences for south dakota residents, i here this from a lot of south dakota residents. access to hunting has almost been lost for normal working people.
- reduce cabin prices at campgrounds
- Reduce cost of entrance and use. Open more areas for primitive camping in Eastern sd.
- Reduce fees
- Reduce non resident hunting license fees
- reduce out of state hunting pressure, it is getting to commercialized and harder to get permission to hunt private land. the wildlife belongs to all of us
- Reduce park fees for residents and charge non-resident's higher costs.
- Reduce some of the cost
- Reduce the cost by half and reduce the legislature's budget accordingly

- Reduce the miles of motorized recreational trails on the Black Hills National Forest. The BHNF has more miles than any other National Forest for motorized recreation. Our fees are way toooooo low. Folks come here, tear it up, and drive away. Our forest is a trashed out, noise infested wreck. You can reduce the number of miles of trails, reduce the number of ATVs on the trails, insist on noise arresters, and provide more area for those who wish to experience quiet places to go. It is our forest, too! I have observed poachers on ATVs while out horseback riding on the BHNF. The moment they see me, they come to a skidding halt, turn around and speed away. Thank God, they have not shot me or my horse. There are too many of them, they do not follow the rules, the rest of us are having to put up with them. It must stop!
- Regular Cleaning of bathroom at Enemy Swim boat Ramp
- Regulate the prices. Way too expensive to come back
- Reinstate the 'Family Fishing License' !
- Remove barricades from roads and parks during winter season concerning access, iron mountain road, needles hwy, Newton Hills state park, etc
- Remove out of state fees. People already spend more money to travel from out of state. It is not welcoming.
- Remove part of the camping reservation system! All sites shouldn't be able to be reserved- some should be on a first come, first serve basis.
- Remove side-by-sides. These people tear up the Black Hills with no regard for anything or anyone in it. Start banning these things as other states have. It gets so bad that simply driving out a country road is dangerous due to how these idiots drive.
- Remove state required access permits to hunting on federal national forests. How can the state require a hunter who has a valid hunting license to get permission from the state to hunt on federal property?
- Rent hiking equipment
- Rental equipment such as kayaks or boats at the site (for those who don't have a way to transport larger equipment). Some equipment such as skis that people might not want to own would be nice as well.
- rental rates have become too high and ability to rent RV spots in CSP in very difficult. Have more same day RV campsites available.
- Require reasonably good-neighbor behavior. i.e. not overly noisy--day or nite.
- Reservations restrictions and limited space also UPkeep in campground at Shadehill NEED to be addressed
- Residents could have 30 day head start on camping reservations over non-resident (even for Custer State Park)
- Restrict deer draws to one option instead of two so you have a better opportunity to draw your proffered tag.
- Retired people, free fishing
- Reverse gas prices to \$2 gallon level.
- Revise hunting seasons and fees to be more inclusive of out of State people
- Rewards points for outdoor activities and get entered into drawings for equipment or park pass or preference point or something. Enough gets wasted im sure on programs that aren't working. Nightmare to track though I'm sure
- Running water and showers at Equestrian sites
- Safe walking paths to fishing areas

- Scheduling camp sites prior to ninety days would be nice. Schedule year around with paid penalties if cancellations are not made prior to arrival date.
- SD GF&P website is unfriendly to me.
- SD has limited real estate for outdoor recreation. Stop promoting the state to no residents. Population will ruin the environment and the outdoor experience here.
- SD residents should only have to buy one park entrance license vs one for each vehicle
- security
- security
- security
- Security measures have been improved
- See earlier remark
- see previous question. Accessible canoe and kayak ramps, a hard surface path to the beach in some areas for wheelchairs/walkers etc.
- Seems like if there is boat landing in a State Park there is an additional fee (Park Sticker) required to use. I feel that I have already paid enough for boat, trailer licenses, fishing and habitat stamps fees.
- Seniors license fee lesson to a manageable fee or free. Most of them are on limited income and the GF&P is taking away what they payed for most of their life to begin with. Habit stamp what a rip off I provide more habitat than they do at a large cost that I enjoy doing.
- Separate ATV and UTV enthusiasts from common hunting areas during deer and elk season
- Separate out hunting seasons more like Colorado. There are too many people. The game is there but too many people all at once.
- Set hunting seasons to start and end corresponding with local Tribal seasons.
- Shorter hunting seasons. Afraid of getting shot.
- Simplify and reduce rules and regulations, reduce cost of license or increase land access.
- Slow down the visitors to our area so we can enjoy the quiet, peaceful areas without 10,000 screaming kids, racing boats etc
- Social security stability
- Some parks with longer hiking trails would be nice. We don't have much more than a mile or two in most east river parks.
- Some understanding of deaf culture and ASL
- Sorry, no
- South Dakota badly needs a total water management program. Excessive run off from drained ag. land causes excessive pollution/algae blooms in our lakes and streams resulting in closed swimming beaches and generally a negative impact on the desire to recreate on them. Furthermore many of our lakes are flooded during periods of high precipitation to the point of flooding roads and dwellings. This is caused by the lack of any planning relevant to drainage in the watersheds .
- South Dakota citizen free access to parks and fishing
- South Dakota has 350 miles of hard-surface bike trails--Minnesota has 3500 miles.
- South Dakota has done a great job of providing opportunities to assist people with disabilities.
- South dakota lifelong residents who are at or beyond retirement age should be able to purchase a senior pass to parks, camping etc. Much as the federal gov't has lifetime senior passes. We worked all of our life to support south dakota and our outdoor programs. It's the least the gfp can do for our service to the state.

- South Dakota lottery draw for hunting licenses Is absolutely ridiculous; for both residents and non-residents. Texas, New Mexico, Florida all have over the counter licenses.
- South Dakota needs to have better access to rivers for kayakers. Ramps are often muddy. Parking lots by access points can be very rough and rutted
- South Dakota needs to stop over charging out of state people
- South Dakota where fishing lakes are popular
- Space out campsites better. More trees
- Sportsmans Clubs and locals could provide assistance for boating and shore fishing. Fishing piers are and and have been important. Suggest more piers.
- spray for mosquitos in the summer
- spraying for mosquitoes? :)
- Spread out visitors more in CSP so there isn't such congestion. Lead the state in normalizing better pay and 4 day work weeks so people have more time to recreate.
- State government, Noem and her state forester could stop being advocates for cutting down the entire Black Hills National Forest, a wonderful recreation opportunity that is being ruined by politicians and those who pay them.
- State Park annual pass price is way too high. Custer State Park is overcrowded. Geese at lakes in Custer State Park are a nuisance.
- State park camping reservation system is a joke. Sights are reserved for extensive periods and then not occupied. No opportunity to be spontaneous and take your tent out for a weekend and find a spot at a State Park.
- State parks and GPS need more horse riding trails
- State parks are too expensive. I pay the same with my pop-up camper running only a fan and light as a giant rv running 2 air conditioners, a frig, tvs, etc. Double-up fees are ridiculous. Got charged double for a pop-up and pickup camper because we were trying to be nice and let someone else get a spot and have the opportunity to camp. If we're going to pay double anyways then we're just going to get the other spot and someone else will miss out.
- State parks could have more rental equipment. Paddleboards, kayaks, etc.
- State Parks should advertise their activities for the camping weekends better. Post flyers in the bath houses.
- State parks should try to have more fishing docks. Town people drive out to fish and the campers have no room
- Stop allowing farmers blocking roads and access to state / federal lands for hunting, fishing and hiking. Do not allow landowners blocking access to rivers and streams from high water line to high water line. The Missouri River, Sioux River and Cheyenne River are good examples where this is done.
- Stop asking woke questions... there r no barriers only lazy people who like to complain
- Stop building houses in national Forrest and stop making more rules for hunting
- Stop encouraging people to come to South Dakota for recreation or to live! They are uneducated in use of public lands and 'demand' service and facilities that don't necessarily remain compatible with the types of recreation that are so important for relaxation, enjoyment, cherishing nature.
- Stop letting everyone book 6months in advance
- Stop Looking for barriers. Go outside. Either you wanna be outside or you don't.
- Stop making the outdoors about parks, that is not what it is about. We have enough campgrounds. We have enough places that require permits. We have enough areas that keep restricting vehicle access. It almost seems as though you want want to turn the 'outdoors' into a damn city park. there

should be areas that if you do not have a good 4x4 you shouldn't be able to get there. Everything, every where should not be accessible for everyone. Stop worrying about rutted trails and closing roads... that is part of the experience. Really frustrating when you see areas open to bicycles, ATVs, motorcycles, horses, during the spring and summer and when fall arrives hunters are excluded from driving their vehicles in the same areas. There are quite a few people that do not want campers and tents all over the area that we hunt. Frustrating having a place to duck hunt, you set up the decoys and some idiot and his family arrive across the lake and start fishing.....about 75 yards away from your decoys. Some areas should be wild and not have water, sewage dumps, restricted pay access to pay for upkeep. There should be some areas where you have to use 4x4 to get there or walk.

- Stop over licensing the deer herd
- Stop private campgrounds from hogging the state run boat ramps and access areas
- Stop promoting to out of state participants
- Stop providing so many buck tags to out of state hunters for \$500 a pop. A South Dakota hunter can't draw a buck tag, but all of these Pennsylvania guys can now get a tag and come shoot South Dakota deer. I fortunately took a buck to the processors last year; not because I drew an any whitetail tag, but because some of out of state hunter just sawed off the antlers on his deer and didn't care about the meat. It seems to me like SD GFP is more concerned now about the cash than providing great hunting experiences for the citizens of South Dakota.
- Stop renting out so many of those damned ATV/UTVs.
- Stop socialism.
- Stop the DNR from pulling over watercraft to check for AIS unless next to water or waterways.
- Stop the money grab of increasing license fees and using 'loopholes' to invoke additional costs through requirements for certificates and stamps. Keep the government intrusions and bureaucracy to a minimum. Get back to the basics and stop chasing 'butterflies'.
- Stop with all the fees. It's too expensive. Don't charge for state parks or to tent camp. Same with hunting, the fees and licenses are ridiculously and stop people like me from doing it. Too much bureaucracy and fees to enjoy our outdoors
- Suppliers should provide more multi-person cooperation and interaction to carry out incentive activities
- Supporting activities for parents and children
- Take better care of local lakes and ponds, invest in more activities such as canoes, and kayaks
- Take reservations for all camp sites in the state. Set regulations for how recreational activities are allowed.
- TAKE THE POLITICS OUT OF GAME & FISH MANAGEMENT!!! LET BIOLOGY, SCIENCE AND WATER HISTORY OF THE STATE OF SD PREVAIL!!!! ITS NOT SO MUCH WHAT WE CAN DO TO IMPROVE BUT HOW CAN WE STOP THE DESTRUCTION AND PRIVITIZATION OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES!!!!
- Take trail permit stickers away or start actually enforcing the trails. I buy one every year and never see anyone getting tickets for driving around closed roads or having no trail permits
- Tell campground hosts to stop acting like they think they are the police.
- Thanks
- That is not a huge concern or problem for me.
- The activities are rich and interesting
- The areas that I use have ample access for all.



- The ATVs so diminish the sense of tranquility and they re tearing up the trails. Please restrict their use and ENFORCE it.
- The barriers are things in my control.
- The 'barriers' I see in the people around me are having their children overscheduled in organized sports. That prevents families from exploring the Outdoors, which is their own fault. I would like to see more groups geared for women. I have met many women who simply didn't have the instruction growing up like men did from a mentor for many activities that our state has to offer. The BOW program has only one weekend and limited participants. More programs like that should be offered year round. Secondly, safe and ethical recreation takes instruction, repetition, and ethics. A longer mentorship program would help with that.
- The biggest problem that I see in the Black Hills area is the UTV / ATV traffic. There is a large issue with people taking there UTV's / ATV's off of the designated roads which make it very difficult for people to hunt. The has made it to where a lot of people can't fill there tags during season. I personally had an elk tag this year that ended up being wasted due to this activity specifically. Multiple times I would be stalking elk and would have someone driving around on the fire roads that are not to be used. This action would spook the elk and cause them to run. I don't know how this could be regulated but I think it would be a great discussion.
- The Black Hills has grown increasingly crowded the past few years. I am concerned about the capacity for our trails, parks & recreation areas to handle all these people. Honestly, the state needs to stop pushing the Black Hills area so much in its tourism advertising. The answer is not more parking lots either - that will only add more people to the crowded trails & lakes. We simply need to get back to a manageable level; our space is finite.
- The camping cabins, like the ones at Shadehill, make overnight camping for someone who likes to boat, but doesn't have a camper possible for people with young children.
- The cost of camping and park fees is making things more difficult causing us to travel and visit less.
- The cost of hunting license has continued to go up and is way more expensive and way more cumbersome than my prior state of AR to hunt and fish in. Also they have changed the hunting license process to receive a license to 'make it easier to get the license you want with deer hunting, ect' and I have now received fewer licenses since that process changed. Also there are fee to every state park to enter and enjoy activities and its just easier to go to a city park and not have to pay a daily fee and go through the hassle of dealing with that and then dealing with the crowding in certain areas.
- The cost of licenses (hunting, fishing, vehicle licenses, etc) is prohibitively high. I will continue to pay them out of necessity but it is frustrating. It seems like GF&P and several other licensing entities are simply trying to turn a profit from taxpayers. I am also frustrated with the online camping reservation system. Honestly, I hate it. It was MUCH better when we could just show up and hope to find a spot...and usually that was no problem. Now it feels like camping at most of the state facilities has to be planned months in advance. It really takes the fun out of it.
- The cultural differences
- The deer license draw process is frustrating. Having to choose only 2 seasons in the 1st draw is not great. If it was just me applying it would not be bad, but with me and 2 kids, it becomes difficult to manage which tag to apply for depending on each of our preference points for different tags. Changing that sure has not helped us draw tags any sooner. Overcomplicated

- The economic benefits to the local communities far out way the ability to reduce the crowds and ATV/UTV use in the Black Hills. It is way too crowded most day in the Hills. The lack of enforcement or monitoring by the State or Feds has a been a long-time issue.
- The economy of the American West is shifting from resource based to recreation based. Read Dr. Tom Power an economist at U. Montana. We need to protect open space and recreation of all types for future generations and for the economy of our state. This is especially true in the Black Hills where we are loosing open space at a rapid rate to development. Conservation of private lands is important for health of public lands ->  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/270153650\\_Post-Cowboy\\_Economics\\_Pay\\_and\\_Prosperty\\_in\\_the\\_New\\_American\\_West](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/270153650_Post-Cowboy_Economics_Pay_and_Prosperty_in_the_New_American_West)
- The heavy AVT/OTV/UTV use is having a negative impact on our family enjoyment of the campgrounds, especially in the Black Hills. They are noisy, dusty and smelly. The users often come in large loud groups. The noise of the vehicles take away from the serenity we came outdoor seeking. The riders use the bathroom facilities of area campgrounds even when they are not register guests, often tying the bathroom facilities up for 45 minutes or more and using up all the supplies. The enjoyment of our last few camping trips were greatly diminished by all these riders/vehicles roaring through.
- The increased availability of fishing piers at State parks and recreation areas.
- The infrastructure of the docks and roads to the docks is deteriorating to the point that we cannot risk using certain docks on the Missouri River. The fees for camping, licenses, entrance stickers have all increased in the same year. I'm hoping the hole in the concrete ramp at Okobojo can be filled!!!! My suggestion is to maintain what infrastructure we have, especially with all the cost increases in fees.
- The invasive species program is a joke u put people out to monitor 2x a year. 100% or don't do it who inspects the ducks? Docks are to short at most places. Non resident fishing license fees are insane. Sdgfp needs to work something out with nebraska below Gavin's point that situation isn't documented well and it's a joke. Then nebraska wants their cut. Nebraska wardens are jerks not helpful to new people. Like they have a quota. So with the extra fees etc I can drive a little further better limits and not at places that are a little more commercialized.
- The lakes that I go to regularly in eastern south Dakota are very overcrowded with non resident people which is great that they come here to fish but I takes away from the experience when there isn't even room to park. The people I have asked about what would bring them to the area all day the same thing. We see adds on TV all the time about how great the fishing is so we came to try it out not knowing there wouldn't be a place to camp or park or clean fish. Can't invite people you don't have room for. A few more game wardens would be a great addition and would be welcomed by everyone I know.
- The lakeside campsites at Sheps Canyon on Angostura Reservoir should be fee areas with limits on how long you can stay- 3-4 days so more people can enjoy the area and not have people who come and stay for weeks at a time.
- The low water levels have created extensive beaches that are perfect for kiteboarding, etc
- The main thing that I enjoy in the outdoors is hunting and fishing with family and friends. The problem is getting licenses to hunt in the hills so I choose to go out of state where tags are more available.
- The new reservation web site is a big mess and very hard to navigate. The process has really been messed up. Not sure what you folks tried to do.

- The number of people looking to use the parks campgrounds, and facilities far exceeded the number of parks, campgrounds, and facilities that are available.
- The only barrier I perceive in SD is lack of public land. I strongly encourage GFP to continue pursuing programs such as the Walk In Areas.
- The only issue we run into sometimes is the access to parking. Some of the trails in and around the hills have very limited areas to park especially if you're driving to an area with bikes loaded.
- The parks, trails and lakes have been incredibly crowded and sometimes private landowners block access to public lands. I think more people would participate in outdoor recreation if we had more accessible space in our local communities. Like regional parks and open space areas.
- The people involved with Custer State Park have always been very friendly and courteous. I haven't figured out why rangers in the national parks treat visitors as if the rangers own the parks. We haven't had a problem with them, it's the attitude they portray--militaristic.
- The price and the highly limited deer licenses make it unattractive to take young adults hunting. The cost of fishing licenses have kept is from purchasing them to only use a few times per year.
- The private reading environment is great
- The reservation system we have found that a lot of people reserve at 90 days prior and then don't go and the campsites are open.
- The Reservation System. Too cumbersome for non-techies and there are not enough camping places available. Everything is always full. Even if you do it the first day.
- The reservation time should change back to midnight on the day your ALLOWED TO RESERVE a camp site. NOT WAIT till 7am. Otherwise why do online reservations?
- The restrictions/regulations on reserved campsites. Sold our camper because we could never get a campsite
- The rules are in place in state campgrounds but are not enforced. State employees see rules being broken and look the other way.
- The sdgfp app on my phone is hard to use. It should be fixed so its more user friendly.
- The shooting range monies could be much better spent on other areas.
- The Southeast corner of South Dakota needs more and better fishing opportunities, there are hundreds of sportsmen in this area and we have to drive long distances to get to decent fishing
- The State has to do something to improve pheasant numbers. There are still way too many predators. Birds of prey are a big problem. The lack of cover and feed is terrible. Growing up, there was much more cover. Now, farmers mow every ditch and plow the fields before winter. Even some GFP ground is plowed before winter. There is nothing but dirt - no scattered grain and no cover. Drainage tile is eliminating sloughs all over eastern SD. Much GFP land contains extremely poor grass/cover. This land should be replanted with better pheasant friendly grasses. Until the State addresses the lack of cover, we will never get strong pheasant numbers back. Better access to private ground for hunting is needed. If a landowner receives any government subsidies or assistance, they should be required to provide reasonable public hunting/fishing access. The biggest thing holding me back from participating in SD outdoor activities is the lack of pheasant numbers and the overcrowding of lakes.
- The state needs more campgrounds with modern facilities.
- The state recreation areas can really use kayak launches at lakes and the Missouri river. We have been kayak fishing for 10 years and see more kayakers every year.
- The use of ATV/UTV's has become out of hand. Locals and visitors using ATV's, especially in Western SD, has taken away from the beauty and tranquility of the area. Lack of enforcement is causing trails to be torn up, ATV drivers are not being monitored and are going around barriers to

create their own trails, and parks are not being monitored for use of illegal drugs and overconsumption of alcohol. It simply does not feel safe to visit SD parks and other areas any more. It's just so unfortunate. If our governor continues to "invite" people to move to our state, then there should be a plan in place to improve infrastructure and provide enough law enforcement to ensure a good quality of life.

- There are different levels of participation and expertise. Make sure the youth and 1st timers are supported.
- There are no barriers for folks who really want to get out there. You can go places that do not cost money.
- There are no barriers other than over promotion and overcrowding of hiking areas and a total lack of management of ATV's UTV's. GF&P needs to get a handle on this issue rather than pass it off to the USFS.
- There are no barriers.
- There are no other comments
- There are plenty of opportunities in South Dakota
- There aren't any barriers for what I want to do.
- There have gotten to be way too many off road vehicles in the Black Hills and there are not enough law enforcement to enforce the regulations. This is a huge problem and needs to be addressed. The logging industry is also cutting way too many big trees and leaving either too much bare forest or areas of crowded thin trees and making the forest not so nice to look at and disturbing way too much wildlife.
- There is a better field for outdoor sports
- There is mostly just a lack of places to recreate and/or find solitude near Sioux Falls and much of southeastern SD.
- There is no better suggestion
- There is such a high demand for camping. It would be nice to have more availability for camping.
- There needs to be more trail access to varying types of trails that are accessible close to where people live. The States focus has been too much on sports like snowmobiling and State Parks that are not accessible to the majority due to cost/travel.
- they have done a lot already
- They need more camping places. Camp grounds are always packed and you have to make reservations 3 months in advance. Plus you have to pay for days that you're not even going to be there, because otherwise you won't even get a camping place for the day that you want.
- This is not an issue for me personally but many of my friends do not feel comfortable hiking alone.
- This shutting waterways is BS! No one owns the water! It comes and it goes!
- those with disabilities would probably appreciate more small cabins and fishing spots with ramps. Also a small cabin with indoor plumbing.
- Time permitting
- To play tennis
- Too many tourists. The last two years has been terrible. No peace even when I walk back around a lake to shore fish. Tourists come and stand right behind me. Gov. Noem made this into some political movement to come here. There are no benefits for the residents. It seems everything is for tourists. There is no enforcement of bad behavior by tourists either, I am happy for the businesses but the attitude and behavior change of tourists is unacceptable. I haven't want to go to even the local grocery store. Quality of life is important. NOT just money. Poaching is

up..bad driving....bad behaviors. I want my home and town back. I used to fish every other day at several different lakes. I rented boats and quit that because of almost being run over and washed out. GFP should be about resident opportunities year round.

- Tough with hunting. not much anyone can do to help a mobility impaired individual walk across a field, etc.
- Train folks how to operate boats, back boat trailers, etc.
- Trap stray cats as the help to destroy the pheasant population.
- Tree beach maintenance
- Trim more low overhanging trees or branches they make costly damage to RV vehicles by rubbing hitting or scratching
- Trumppers in SD are very hostile. Felt unwelcome wearing a mask for their protection as well as mine. One campground owner north of Pierre said the panademic was a hoax. He was also friends with your governor.
- Try to limit price increases on hunting/fishing licenses.
- Unless you plan way way way in advance of camping, you can't get a site reservation.
- Upgrade trails to make them smoother for those who are mobility challenged. At benches so one can rest on longer trails,
- Useless rules, lack of enforcement of those rules never see a CO Ranger in the Black Hills, roads poorly marked, different rules in different districts like Ebikes. UTV run wild in the Black Hills a few do a lot of damage, walking trails is a waste of time if the UTVs are going by you what's the point of walking.
- Vote for party that promotes America first such as secure borders, USA oil and gas production, less regulations and maintain our constitutional rights.
- Walk slower and identify birds or flowers
- Walk-in hunting ground should be higher quality, maybe plant some crops to hold wildlife
- Walking friendly
- walking/wheelchair access is difficult from limited handicapped parking.
- We are loving things to death, need to limit use Crowding is brutal
- We don't really have any barriers that would keep us from going outside and doing activities other than time. Sometimes when state parks are full, people are nasty and rude. Makes it not so fun.
- We don't really have any barriers to participation. Admission fees are certainly a concern, but they aren't going to keep us from doing what we want. One thing that would help us in particular is to have more camping sites that larger rigs can get into easily. Since we're full-time, we live in a large unit - a 46' fifth wheel that we pull with a Freightliner. Narrow roads with too many trees and sharp turns prevent us from enjoying some state parks and recreation areas, and we're unlikely to go if we can't camp overnight. We avoid private RV parks, so we will just go elsewhere if we don't fit. We're as big as a semi truck/trailer combination, if that helps you picture our size.
- We have a great time doing our favorite things outdoors and you provide great opportunities and a wide variety of things to do all year round.
- WE HAVE ENJOYED SD STATE PARKS AND RECREATION IN SD FOR 20 + YEARS.....THIS YEAR THEY INCREASED THE FAMILY FISHING AND INDIVIDUAL FISHING LICENSES SO MUCH THAT WE ARENT PURCHASING THEM.....THIS HURTS FAMILIES.....WE HAVE TAUGHT OUR KIDS TO DO THINGS AND ENJOY NATURE

AND NOW WE HAVE TO TELL THEM THAT WE CANT AFFORD FOR THEM TO FISH.....ITS TERRIBLE.....

- We like to bring our two dogs with us. Few places have dog areas for off leash play or swimming areas that are dog friendly. . We find it difficult to camp with the dogs in the summer as we cant rent cabins, we dont have a camper, so tenting can be hard to keep us and our dogs cool. We enjoy archery, but few places offer ranges or trails.
- We like water so more water.
- We live out in a rural area so some of the activities are not close by.
- We need a park or public area to recreate on East side of Rapid City/Rapid Valley
- We need access to land locked public water, such as at Hidden Hill Lodge. The lodge claims the lake as their private lake, it is NOT. It's public land but they have locked the public OUT. There are more examples of the same in South Dakota.
- We need more areas. I actually like some barriers, we need easy to access areas for people but it's not really challenging or truly 'away from it all' when there are no barriers to overcome. There is no accomplishment, no sense of adventure when it is too easy.
- We need more information about up coming programs. Public ads, e-mails,
- We need more RV camping sites in state parks .Rv camping has exploded in the last 3 years.
- we need more shooting Ranges through out of state
- We need more wildlife habitat improvement programs, remove the low head dams in Rapid Creek in Rapid City that impede fish migration. Add a Whitewater Park on Rapid Creek in Rapid City
- We need our governing body to let the time stay the same all year around. No more springing ahead or falling back.
- We need to have the GFP Secretary working for the people of SD and not do everything the Governor says because she doesn't care about South Dakota's sportsmen/women or others who enjoy South Dakota's outdoors.... She only seems to care about her image and money which has proven to hurt our great outdoors here.
- We need to improve on more areas of opportunities, expand shore fishing and docks on the river, more areas to explored waterfowl opportunities. There are to many fee areas and when hunting areas open up along the river, these private lodges snatch up all of the spots for their paid hunters. The main reason we don't camp is because everything is to crowded and not enough room. We enjoy berreta road but it also gets crowded, we were so excited to hear about the new range to be built north of rapid city and were sad when we heard it was shut down due to the bawling of uneducated people thinking they would be in danger if it was built.
- We would love to camp every weekend but the way the reservation system works it's impossible to get reservations! I really hate the system !
- Weather and kids sports are the only things that keep us from outdoor recreation.
- Weather, temperature, warmth
- Web sites are difficult to navigate when you're old and not very smart.
- Welcome pets, provide better tent camping (away from generators), places for dirt bikes
- Welcoming driving horses & ponies to state and local trails. We have been questioned regarding our 'vehicles' which are non-motorized, with similar wheels & tires if bicycles.
- Well if an entry to a State Park (west) Sica Hollow during 5 months of Winter due to a purposeful snow berm by plow then SD Tourism is wasting a lot of \$ promoting Winter Tourism in N E SD except for machines that can go over snow!

- WELL WE DONT WANT TO PAY FOR A PARK STICKER FOR MY SON'S VEHICLE ALONG WITH MINE AND THE TRUCK, SO SOMETIMES HE DOESN'T WANT TO GO BECAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE A PASS.
- When they place two outdoors uses near each other, like a dog walking park and kids play area fence off the kids play area to prevent dogs from running into the play area scaring kids and leaving dog waste.
- Wifi access
- Wildlife officials be more available for a traveling hunter to get info
- wind driven sports like Kiteboarding.
- Wish we could do something to make reservations easier to get. Only available to go on weekend and not willing to pay Wednesday, Thursday just to make sure I get a spot. Very disappointing not able to get into our favorite state parks as people are willing to pay, good for you, not us. What is even worse when you just go for a day to enjoy the outdoors and the spots are sitting empty. Maybe some way to know that cancelations have happened at the last minute at your favorite park. Somehow sign up for notifications.
- Work with farmers so they stop closing lakes that I'd normally fish
- Work with private landowners to increase boating access to private/public waters. Give landowners tax breaks or credits for public access with no liability for accidents on their property
- worry more about the residents than the non residents there are to many hunting lodges
- Would be great to fund west dam project in Custer to get an outdoor ice skating rink and another body of water, walking trail.
- would be very nice to have better access to missouri river from n sioux city sd to yankton sd ie plae to drop in a kayak
- would like dog park areas to let them off leash
- Would like to see more areas to do ATV and UTV riding
- Would love to go camping at a state park but kinda busy to book a spot 90 days in advance. Than we i drive throw the park on the weekend i wanted to camp they are not full because people booked the spot didnt come and want to pay the cancelation fee so the just dont use the spot so it empty but i could get a spot because i didnt get on 90 days in advance
- Wouldnt be natural if barriers would be removed
- Yeah fix the shitty gfp hunting liscense draw system
- Yeah, pass Universal Basic Income, then I'll have the time to go. That's a bad joke, sorry. Most things that are barriers are just due to life, but I would like to have places where rustic camping (packing in, especially East River) is possible and the massive use of parks is always going to be an issue. More access/land would help but won't fix it.
- Yes i do. You give more favoritism to out of staters than you do locals , seniors etc. How about giving locals first chance on camping spots .
- Yes limit the nonresident crowds
- Yes more camp hosts especially at first come first serve campgrounds
- Yes stop over regulating everything. Stop charging a fee for every stupid little thing. With all of the permits and regulations and preference point added cost I am about done hunting. Pay a crap load of money for an opportunity you may or may not get. The state has taken the fun out of enjoying the outdoors.
- yes, open all trails to standard vehicles and quit catering to OHV and UTV type machines, besides that is only catering to a few and most SD people should be able to drive those trails as well.

- Yes, open up our public trust waters for everyone. Stop closing our waters just so rich people can fish. Stop closing our meandered waters !!
- Yes, please stop with the tourism campaigns. We are being over-run with far too many people for the space and opportunities in the Black Hills. Primarily, with OHV use. And we know, when the governor is selling SoDak, she is selling the Black Hills. Growth is inevitable, but it needs to be at least tempered with the notion of sustainability.
- Yes, require that dogs be on leashes at all times in the state parks and keep people from running their dogs behind their cars within the park and while people are there. It is very dangerous, and I notice it is happening more frequently. My dog has been attacked by dogs running loose in state parks, so we scope the park out before we walk now.
- yes, residents should have greater access to hunting licenses, i.e. a high chance of getting a hunting license for what ever animal or game bird they wish to hunt, in what ever area they wish to hunt.
- Yes, see above. Generally all handicap facilities need to be looked at and upgraded.
- Yes, spend money more appropriately. For instance don't build the stupid shooting range in Meade County!
- Yes, we need a gun range and an archery range that is open to the public in the Miller area There is nothing in my area so its impossible to find a safe place to teach my kids how to shoot guns and archery equipment.
- yes. I suggest the State Parks institute a No Turn away program for Bike touring cyclists. Not free! But assure them they can spend the night at rentable sight and if non available they can tent at the park where land is available to them. Weather makes it impossible to schedule spots in advance. Other States do this. Makes us look Bike Friendly and will encourage bike tourists to come across SD. I have intended to send a detailed letter on this subject and would love to visit on it. Tom Dice 6057701813
- Yes. The quality of hunting is directly opposite to the number of participants. That is, as the number of hunters increase the opportunities for and the quality of hunting pheasants, turkeys or any game decreases. I have experienced non-resident hunters attempting to run me off of hunting land, rude behavior, and interference with my hunting. They are here for their greedy, self-interest excursion only to then leave and go home again after they have rudely ruined my hunting experience, left their trash and litter, and in more than one instance ruined the landowner-hunter permission and relationship. They don't have to live with the consequences of their behavior. I definitely support eliminating non-resident hunting. Yet my perception is GR&P doesn't care because GF&P only wants the money.
- You do a great job with limited funding and support; kudos to you!
- You guys do a great job.
- You host a lot activities and events but sometimes I don't hear about them until afterwards. Advertise more! Also, I have young children. Sometimes it could be beneficial to me if I knew what trails/events were stroller friendly.
- You might want to keep the cost lower to the residents of South Dakota and charge more for the out of State people.
- You need to have better ways of finding information online, and NOT just Facebook. Not everyone likes using Facebook.
- You never never ever listen to the public so why even suggest
- Your camping reservation website sucks. You've changed it twice in the last few years and made it worse each time. Next time, talk to some normal people to see what the problems are so you



can fix them instead of making things worse. Apparently your website folks don't go camping & don't make reservations on your website.

- Youth programs at local state parks/rec areas need to be better communicated. I'd take my school-aged kids to more of them if there were better communication about what's going on. Random Facebook posts are NOT sufficient.

### Section III

Section 3, Question 2. What are the most needed recreation facilities in your community (within 10-15 minutes of your home)?

- Walking and biking trails
- azure specs
- Disabled accessible fishing
- High school fishing education and competition opportunities
- Areas for kayaking (launch and retrieval site, docks or kayak platforms). Covell Lake needs a launch/dock access. Sioux River within Sioux Falls needs the same things.
- Improved paved trails and the establishment of new trails: the potential for trails in our area is unlimited
- Courtesy docks for boats to let off their trailer backers without impeding the flow of the boat loading and to allow single fisherman to park their boat without impeding
- More areas in Sioux Falls for target archery without having to join a club or team. Access is very limited for those of us who just want to shoot for fun.
- Indoor cleaning facilities to accommodate the surge of fall and winter fisherman in our area.
- The Outdoor Campus East offers limited outdoor rec classes, but could/should be offering a lot more. There are many days when the facilities are not being used to their full potential, I'm guessing mainly because of limited staff. They definitely need an indoor archery/bb gun range so classes could be offered year round and in the evening. Maybe more adult classes, as most adults really don't want to learn outdoor skills with a bunch of 6 year olds.
- 300-500 yard public rifle range similar to the one outside of Pierre.
- 3d outdoor archery range
- Improved boat ramp on the east ramp below the Fort Randall dam to accommodate the surge of winter and early spring fisherman, when this is the only access due to the boat
- 8
- A basketball court would be fine
- a better dog park with actual trails
- a cheaper pool than the Evans plunge
- A good swimming pool
- A gun range and archery range for sure and a local fishing area around town. Then the baseball/softball fields need to be improved upon greatly.
- A large body of water for fishing/boating
- A large square
- A pan fish lake for kids!!
- A pan fishing lake for kids!! We are walleye nuts in SD! We need more lakes that can get kids interested in fishing. Stock some fish, like blue gill, crappie, perch etc. in more lakes for kids!
- A park for kids, sidewalks for riding bikes, sledding hill
- A park for walking
- A place to shoot clay targets..... a shooting range.
- A place to shoot shotguns with lead shot. Trap skeet Archery range
- A place where I can take my kids fishing from shore where they can catch a decent sized fish to clean.
- A public & free archery range

- A safe and organized rifle, pistol and shotgun range
- A shooting range
- A shotgun shooting range closer to town would be wonderful
- A state park with campgrounds. It's an hour drive to nearest campground
- A state park with camping facilities is desperately needed in the Mitchell area. The closest state parks are an hour or more away from Mitchell. Mitchell's city owned campground at the lake is too crowded and I would not camp there. Camp sites are way too close together.
- A t v trails
- A usable lake (live in Mitchell).
- A whitewater park on Rapid Creek is needed. Other than that we have great access to most recreational activities (fishing, biking, mtb, hiking, parks, etc) right in Rapid City
- A whitewater park on Rapid Creek!
- Abandoned rail line east of town to river not converted to bike trails--still available?.
- Aberdeen has a lot locally for families and big honking RVs; it would be great to have more dispersed and solo camping and hiking opportunities for roughing it.
- Ability to camp and park anywhere on shore of Missouri River instead of only established campgrounds.
- Absolutely 100% need the new shooting complex that has been proposed. While it is great that shooting is allowed in BHNF, it does potentially detract from the safety and enjoyment of those areas by others. In addition, Beretta Road is a dumping ground, and is categorically unsafe at times, especially when it gets crowded. It's only a matter of time before someone gets shot and/or killed out there. The new complex is a badly needed resource for West River hunters and sportsmen. I travel to Pierre a lot and I absolutely love the shooting range near Oahe Downstream, and use it nearly every time I'm in town.
- access to bike trails, dog park
- Access to hiking walking running trlls
- Access to lakes areas that are owned by farmers.
- Access to more public water/hunting lands
- Accessible trails, interpretive sites, dog parks, etc.
- Accessible trails. Campgrounds
- activities from fishing to recreating to kiting will expand.
- ADA access
- Ada accessible hiking trails, kayak access, wildlife viewing aread
- ADA accessible needed in many areas
- ADA areas
- ADA compliant trails, parking, and facilities (e.g. family restrooms for disabled adults).
- ADA facilities
- Add all season fish cleaning stations
- add public clay pigeon shooting areas close to Sioux Falls. Add a boat dock to Scott's slough.
- additional archery ranges, dog areas in campgrounds to let them run and enjoy outside as well.
- Additional availability of RV camping sites
- Additional camp sites. Just not enough to go around.
- Additional campsites for local participation. Current program, reservation competition and over occupancy prevent ability to participate.
- Additional places to fish and hunt.

- Additional public hunting areas
- Additional water based recreation facilities
- Adequate
- Adequate
- adequate
- adequate
- Adequate
- Adequate bridges to access trails.
- Adequate currently
- Adequate facilities
- Adequate facilities
- Adequate fishing facilities and fisheries
- Adequate for our area.
- Adequate here
- Adequate recreation facilities exist within this range to my home.
- Ads shore fishing
- Adventure Center providing for multiple recreation types.
- Adventure sports
- affordable camping
- Affordable Rec. Center for kids.
- affordable shooting sports areas
- Affordable swimming pools
- Alake to swim and fish in
- ALL
- All
- All
- All are adequate.
- All of them
- All of them. We live over 15 mins from any place
- All purpose trails (running/mtb/hiking). State parks w just day use and no camping.
- Allow boondocking at more lakeside use areas.
- Although adequate for my needs, I think the Sioux Falls area would benefit from more modern camping areas.
- American Legion baseball field is in the planning stages.
- An outdoor shooting range for shotgun, and hiking trails.
- Another dog park
- Another dog park
- Another state RV campground
- Anything
- Anything to get the fat and lazy people out
- ANYTHING!
- Aquatic center/swimming pool.
- Aquatic centers
- Archery

- Archery and firearm areas/facilities
- Archery and gun ranges, trapshooting facility, atv trails, boat landings
- Archery and rifle ranges
- archery and shooting range and more shore fishing access places
- Archery and shooting range that us open to the public and not privately owned.
- Archery and shooting ranges
- Archery courses
- Archery facilities, outdoor ice skating
- Archery facility
- archery range
- Archery range
- archery range
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- Archery range
- Archery range
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- Archery Range
- Archery range
- Archery Range
- Archery range
- Archery range (outdoor). Fishing area, biking trails (paved or unpaved)
- Archery range and Gfp land
- Archery Range and larger shooting ranges for rifles
- Archery range, firearms range
- Archery range, golf course
- Archery range, improved tennis courts
- Archery range, rifle range, disc golf course
- Archery range, rifle/pistol range
- Archery range, snowboard/sledding
- Archery range, Sturgis SD
- archery range.
- Archery Range. I am unaware of one in my area.
- Archery range; canoe access
- Archery ranges
- Archery ranges
- Archery ranges
- Archery ranges
- Archery ranges
- Archery ranges
- Archery Ranges
- Archery shooting range
- Archery targets and long range shooting range. More places to fish walleye

- Archery, shotgun
- ARCHERY/SHOOTING RANGE IMPROVEMENTS
- Areas free of OHV and UTV type vehicles, they are very noisy and destroy so very much of our environment.
- Areas open to hunting.
- Areas open to public foot traffic without fear of interfering with hunters that may be there
- Areas prohibiting commercial/residential development set aside for public use
- Areas to put kayaks in the lake. Cross country ski trails. State ran campgrounds
- Areas where my team can train with dogs off leash
- Arterial cycling access trails, paved.
- As the beaches expand the access to the beaches also needs to expand.
- At Fisher's Grove State Park a bridge is needed to get over to the 'old campground'.....Open that back up for camping again or at least put a foot bridge in so campers can get over there to walk, ride bike, etc. The huge shade trees are at the 'old' campground.
- Atm trails, dog parks
- Atv and utv riding areas
- Atv areas
- ATV park/ open area
- ATV recreation areas, areas outside of campgrounds that we are able to camp and have campfires in.
- atv riding areas, fishing
- ATV riding trails
- ATV skills park
- ATV tracks
- ATV trail system/mapping
- ATV trail. Shore fishing areas/docks.
- ATV Trails
- ATV trails
- Atv trails
- Atv trails
- ATV Trails
- ATV trails
- ATV trails
- Atv trails
- ATV TRAILS
- ATV trails or mud park. Better fishing opportunities. Stock the lakes around Sioux Falls more.
- ATV trails that are open year round.
- ATV trails, bike trails, disc golf, hiking trails
- ATV trails, camping
- ATV trails, Hiking areas
- atv trails, pickleball courts,
- ATV trails.
- ATV trails. Better swimming opportunities. Lake Alvin and Wall Lake can get pretty nasty.
- ATV trails; walking trail outside of town
- ATV/ UTV trails anywhere east of the Blackhills. There is only one that I know of.

- Atv/ utv trails, biking trails, tent/ RV campgrounds, archery/ gun ranges
- ATV/DIRT BIKE TRAILS.....CANOE/KAYAKING WATER TRAILS.....DISC GOLF
- Atv/urv
- ATV/UTV riding areas
- Atv/Utv trail's
- ATV/UTV trails
- Atv/utv trails and riding areas
- ATV/UTV trails, dog parks, wildlife viewing trails, shooting range
- Backpacking allowed in CSP
- Backpacking entrances.
- Baseball fields
- baseball fields
- Baseball fields
- Baseball fields.
- Baseball, basketball, soccer, tennis, biking and walking trails
- basketball
- basketball
- Basketball and baseball courts fields
- basketball and skate park areas
- basketball court
- Basketball court
- Basketball court park volleyball court
- Basketball court pickle ball court
- Basketball court tennis court
- Basketball courts
- Basketball courts
- Basketball courts
- Basketball courts Ice skating rinks
- Bass fishing lakes
- bay being frozen
- Beach
- Beach access, year-round toilets (pit toilet is OK), public RV dump site, defined hiking trail loops with map (QR code map is OK).
- Beaches
- BEACHES
- beaches
- Beaches
- beaches and pools
- Belle Fourche has almost everything. It would be nice to have more public access for waterfowl
- Better fishing opportunities
- Better access to trails
- Better Bathroom facilities
- Better biking lanes. It's "fend for your life" with idiot drivers...
- better boat ramps

- Better camping. Statewide there are plenty. Nothing close to home
- better dog park
- Better facilities for campers at whetstone bay
- Better fish management. Stocking and sustaining good fish.
- Better fishing
- Better fishing
- Better fishing
- Better fishing
- Better fishing accommodations, less people hunting public land, more information about off road vehicles
- Better fishing areas. I feel that Lake Alvin has everything it needs to support a better walleye population so I wouldn't have to drive 2 hours to fish for them.
- Better fishing for kids
- Better fishing numbers
- Better fishing opportunities
- Better fishing spots with shore fishing.
- better golf courses.
- Better habitat on hunting areas
- Better lake access; more GPAs
- Better maintained boat docks.
- Better outdoor activity facilities including walking and biking paths, ice skating/hockey rinks, shooting range, fish cleaning station.
- Better parks.
- Better pool facilities
- Better public hunting areas
- Better public/handicapped accessible swimming beaches up in Spring Creek/Codger's Cove area. Ridiculous walk to get down to that beach. Not at all handicapped friendly. Now they block off driving in that area. If you do not own a golf cart or ATV, it is nearly impossible to get a handicap or elderly person there. And the distance, path to the beach from the dirt back road is totally unacceptable. They need a parking area for golf carts, ATVs down on that beach area. It is a hardship to haul the items down there. I got an elder relative down there once and needed several persons to help get back up the hill. It was horrific! GFP definitely needs to upgrade that beach area or make a better, simpler one right near or at the Spring Creek lodge area. Maybe relook at that bay on the West side by the cabins. Can a safe, nice beach area be constructed in that cove area?
- Better reservation system. And crack down on people abusing it.
- Better shooting range
- Better shore fishing access points for lakes and rivers.
- Better shore fishing opportunities, with ADA access.
- Better shore fishing, paved trails, dog parks
- Better skate park, fields for lacrosse/other field sports
- Better walking trails
- Better/more baseball parks near Harrisburg
- bicycle
- Bicycle commuting trails in town, traffic is not considerate of bikers



- Bicycling infrastructure (e.g. bike lanes, trails, etc.) and expansion of biking/walking path in Rapid City
- Big Sioux recreation.
- Bigger lakes and higher hills.
- Bigger or more handicap docks.
- Bike & walking trails; even sidewalks--there are some homes that have bushes to the edge of their home and no public sidewalk. That makes it hard to walk the neighborhood with kids.
- Bike and hiking trails
- Bike path
- Bike path parks
- Bike paths
- bike paths
- Bike Paths
- bike paths
- Bike paths
- Bike paths
- Bike paths and playgrounds.
- Bike paths, nature area/trails
- Bike paths.
- Bike trail
- Bike trail
- Bike trail
- Bike trail maintenance
- Bike trails
- Bike trails
- Bike trails
- bike trails
- Bike trails
- Bike trails
- Bike trails
- Bike trails
- Bike trails
- Bike trails
- Bike trails
- Bike trails
- Bike trails
- bike trails and cross country trails
- Bike trails and hiking trails
- Bike trails that are not damaged by ATV's
- Bike trails, playgrounds
- Bike trails, walking trails
- Bike trails.
- Bike trails. Cross country skiing trails
- Bike trails. They can be paved or crushed stone, but more are needed.
- Bike trails. Zip line.
- Bike trials

- Bike/walking paths. More designated areas for outdoor activities. Places for dogs to run safely. Places for friends or family to get together and encourage people getting outside
- Bike/walking trails
- Bike/walking trails
- Bike/walking trails, parks (not campgrounds)
- Biking ,hiking , and walking trails
- Biking and hiking trails
- Biking and walking trails
- Biking options for mountain bike, fat bike, pump track, cyclocross. Shore fishing that is easy to walk or roll to. Open safe spaces for wildlife. Hammock sites
- Biking Trails
- Biking trails
- Biking trails
- Biking trails, shooting ranges
- biking, walking trails, pickleball courts, tennis courts
- Biking/Walking paths
- Billiards
- birding sites
- Bitter Lake needs a DUMPSTER and a fish cleaning station! Bitter Lake attracts anglers not only from South Dakota, but from many different states. (MN, NE, IA, ND, MT)
- Boat access and parking.
- Boat access ramp in long lake
- Boat Access to WPA with habitat for duck hunting
- Boat docks
- Boat docks
- boat landing and shore fishing that are done right. We have over 5k acres of public owned land in marshall county that has water on it with fish in it and not 1 boat landing or shore fishing. Stop catering to landowners and worry about our lands.
- Boat landings
- Boat landings and docks.
- Boat launch
- Boat launch installation.
- Boat launches on all public water
- Boat launching ramps
- Boat ramp and parking at Pactola lake needs improvements and more slip rentals. Has been a tremendous need for 20 years. Use at Pactola is off the charts but the boat ramp can't handle the amount of people that use the facility.
- Boat Ramps
- boat ramps
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- boat ramps
- boat ramps
- Boat ramps
- boat ramps

- Boat ramps
- Boat ramps
- Boat ramps
- Boat ramps
- Boat ramps
- Boat ramps 10 miles west of Gavin's Point Dam
- Boat Ramps and accessible Fishing Areas
- Boat Ramps and fish cleaning facilities
- Boat ramps and indoor, year round fish cleaning stations that are well maintained and clean!
- Boat ramps and parking at them
- Boat ramps and walking trails
- Boat ramps on smaller lakes
- Boating
- Boating
- Boating access
- Boating and boat washing station
- Boating and Fishing
- Boating and fishing areas
- Boating areas, hunting areas
- boating docks
- BOATING FACILITIES - DOCKS
- Boating opportunity
- Boating, camping, fishing, swimming
- boating, fishing, pool
- Brookings
- Bus stops are set up in the annex
- Cabin Camping
- Cabins
- Cabins
- Camp ground
- Camp ground
- Camp grounds
- Camp grounds
- Camp grounds
- Camp grounds
- Camp sites
- Camp spots
- Camp spots/ Cabins
- Camper spots
- campground
- Campground
- Campground
- campground with facilities
- Campgrounds
- Campgrounds

- Campgrounds
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- campgrounds
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- Campgrounds
- Campgrounds
- Campgrounds and day use areas
- Campgrounds and recreation areas
- Campgrounds and trails
- Campgrounds or lakes I would say. Campgrounds to help get away from college without going too far and lakes so you could spend a nice spring day out on the lake and do some swimming, fishing, tubing, etc.
- Campgrounds, shooting range, and wider shoulders on roads for bike riding. Cross country ski trails
- Camping
- camping
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- camping
- Camping

- Camping
- Camping
- CAMPING , SHOOTING
- Camping and cabins
- camping and hiking
- Camping and natural areas - we have a decent amount of trails and access to water activities - but water quality prevents use of the water (Mitchell)
- Camping and picnic area
- Camping and river recreation
- Camping and Shore Fishing
- Camping area
- Camping areas
- CAmping areas
- camping areas
- Camping areas
- Camping Areas that aren't out of price ranges for locals. Shooting Ranges.
- Camping areas with shore fishing.
- Camping areas, access to bike trails,
- camping cabins
- Camping cabins and full service cabins.
- Camping facilities
- Camping facilities, hiking trails.
- CAmping Fishing
- Camping opportunities and UTV trails
- Camping pads
- CAMPING RV
- camping spaces
- Camping spots
- Camping spots
- camping spots
- Camping spots and Picnic Areas
- Camping, ATV opportunities. Wish there was an ATV park near where we live.
- Camping, fishing
- CAMPING, HIKING
- camping, hiking trails, and biking trails
- Camping, hiking, fishing docks,
- Camping, hunting, fishing
- Camping, off road trails.
- camping, shooting sports
- Camping. Parks should be first come first serve and only make reservations five days in advance.
- Camping/RV Sites
- camprgrounds
- Campsites
- Campung

- Can't think of any
- Cannot participate much anymore.
- canoe launch sites on the Big Sioux River, which also would necessitate removing fences across the river that prohibit travel. Low cost & low maintenance unpaved walking trails in small towns. Outdoor pickleball courts. Groomed cross country ski trails in small town parks.
- Canoe or kayak activity
- Canoe/Kayak launch/takeout sites
- Can't think of anything
- children's playground
- Cinema
- City of Canton: swimming pool, Big Sioux Riverfront hard-surface trails/river front park/accessibility, hard-surface walkways within city parks., tree lined streets, replanting to replace ash tree losses for shaded sidewalks.
- City park
- City park
- City park
- City park (one that is not part of a school)
- City parks
- Clay shooting facility
- Clean and more Restrooms
- Clean bathroom
- Clean dog parks
- Clean fishing water ways
- Clean out the buckthorn before it takes over all the wooded areas. There is a very short window before Sica Hollow is completely taken over and the same for Pickerel Lake.
- Clean up to date biffies!
- clean water in the lake
- Clean water, clean water, clean water. Would also enjoy more hiking trails, cross country ski trails, and available rental equipment.
- Cleaner park's.
- CLEANING STATION
- Closure of the all too many roads, particularly in the BHNF
- Community center
- Community Fitness Center
- Concert venue that can pull in National acts
- Connect existing bike trails to larger regional trail systems
- 'Connection' from 1 to the other without using public roadways
- Connection to trails from town
- Connectivity of trails
- continued open spaces
- Convenience store/park with basketball and skateboarding for kids. I live out by the Argyle Fire Station and any town besides Pringle is approximately 20 miles away!
- Convenient motor vehicle access to lake shore
- Convention venue/hall
- Cornhole facility

- Corsica Lake is close to us, and we did get a new boat dock, so thanks so much for that. It was really needed. We could use more camp sites here, but it is a county owned campground so you may or may not be able to help with that. There is the Dakota Trails golf course right there (very nice 9 hole course) and the lake just needs to be deeper to hold fish, and this would be perfect get away spot, just missing the fishing and swimming area. But not sure it's good spot to swim currently either.
- Cross country ski and snowshoeing trails.
- cross country ski course
- Cross country ski paths on the city bike trails
- cross country ski trails
- Cross country skiing, swimming pools, tennis courts, improved and expanded bike trails
- cross-country trail no horses. Can you make it show more? More fly-fishing access if possible
- CRP that hasn't been cut for hay
- Custer has become so crowded in the summer it can be difficult to park at some rec areas
- Custer state park. Forest land
- DANR needs to install air quality monitoring for more parameters in Black Hawk and install air quality monitoring in more communities in the Foothills including Summerset/Piedmont & monitor point sources. We get inversions in the 'Red Valley' . BHNH needs to cut back on logging & allow more pine trees to become old growth - large diameter trees. SDGFP needs to get public access across Pete Liens fields to Forest Service lands. Lien lands are just sitting empty waiting till he wants to mine them.
- Day use hiking, walking, nature areas. Places where a person can get out during the day and enjoy nature. More Golf would be great too.
- Day use lake access
- Decent and affordable camping.
- Decent size dog park with water feature(s) for summer use.
- Deer hunting areas
- designated biking trails, horseback riding opportunities
- develop existing rails to trails, former Milwaukee Road trackage, through Rapid Valley
- Difficult hiking trails. Everything is so accessible.
- Dirt bike riding areas
- Dirt hiking trails WITHOUT vehicles!
- Disc golf
- disc golf
- Disc golf
- Disc golf
- Disc Golf Course and/improving what is there
- disc golf, camper, and boating
- Disc golf, horse shoe pits
- disc golf, trails (east side of Lake Vermillion)
- Disc golf. Improve playground
- Do not live in SD
- Dog areas
- Dog friendly cross-country ski trails
- Dog friendly swim beaches. Replacement archery targets.

- Dog Park
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- Dog park
- Dog park . Paved walking trails.
- dog park and a city swimming pool
- dog park and kids playground equipment
- Dog park, hiking trail, swimming pool
- dog park, improve/increase biking trails
- Dog park, more public hunting areas, family playgrounds, updates to youth sports fields, and outdoor meeting / gathering spaces.
- Dog park, splash pad for children
- Dog parks
- dog parks
- Dog parks
- dog parks
- Dog parks
- Dog parks
- Dog parks
- Dog parks (fenced is best!), cross country trails, fat bike trails, really anything biking. I would love more bike lanes. Also wilderness areas or any other cultural area.
- dog parks and trails
- Dog parks in state parks
- Dog parks where the dogs are enclosed (can't get out).
- Dog parks, accessible areas, public hunting grounds
- dog parks, dirt bike trails
- Dog parks, hunting areas, ATV/Offroad trails, Public Nature areas
- Dog parks, open nature areas, tent camping
- Dog parks, pickle ball courts, Paved bike path from Downs Marina to the southeast side of Pierre that is not sidewalk or street..
- Dog parks, shooting ranges
- Dog parks, shore fishing access
- dog parks, swimming pools
- Dog parks, unpaved hiking trails, public hunting access



- dog parks. public fishing access
- don't need anymore
- Downhill skiing
- Drag race
- Dry camping locations along Lake Francis Case
- Easy access for CWD testing for all big game animals taken during hunting season.
- easy access to fishing areas, although there are no areas within that distance where a person can fish. Senior citizens who have used the outdoor areas all their life would like to continue to use these areas but can be difficult due to age related limits. No longer care to tramp through tall grasses and weeds to get to fishing area.
- Eliminate the extremely destructive ATV trails! They are destroying the forest.
- Enough facilities near Watertown
- Equestrian trails
- Even camping
- everything
- Everything, I live by the base so There's not much you can do.
- Exercise equipment
- Existing are fine.
- Expanded bike/hiking trails...existing ones are too crowded
- extend the paved trail system
- Facilities are adequate
- Facilities are adequate in my area.
- Family areas
- Family Fishing
- Family oriented events
- Fee free primitive camping.
- Fewer ATB trails -- more quiet and less torn up muddy trails are needed.
- Fewer tourists
- Fewer tourists
- Financially reasonable indoor pool
- finish the remaining trails you can add at Good Earth State Park
- Firearm shooting range
- Firearms ranges
- Firearms ranges
- Firing ranges.
- Fish
- Fish Cleaning Station
- Fish cleaning station
- Fish cleaning station near Custer
- Fish cleaning stations
- Fishing
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- Fishing
- fishing access
- Fishing access
- Fishing Access
- fishing Access
- Fishing access
- Fishing access to the big Sioux river
- Fishing access, More GPAs, More RV camping, Shooting ranges
- fishing access, shooting range
- Fishing access.
- Fishing accessibility, camping accessibility, walk in areas
- fishing and hunting access
- Fishing and hunting areas
- Fishing and public hunting
- Fishing and skateboarding
- Fishing area, bike and kayak rentals
- Fishing Areas
- fishing areas
- FISHING AREAS
- fishing areas
- Fishing Areas
- Fishing Areas for kids
- Fishing areas which we have plenty of.
- Fishing areas with better varieties of pan fish. NOT just trout!!!
- Fishing Areas.
- Fishing beaches
- Fishing cleaning
- Fishing docks

- fishing docks and shore fishing accessibility and more places to hunt
- fishing for public and handi capped
- Fishing from shore areas, dog parks, spray parks.
- Fishing hunting camping utv trails
- Fishing lakes.
- Fishing opportunities
- Fishing opportunities
- Fishing opportunities
- Fishing opportunities
- Fishing opportunities
- Fishing opportunities,
- Fishing places
- Fishing ponds, disc golf, golf, running/biking trails, dog parks
- Fishing shore access, Hunting land access
- Fishing spots
- Fishing spots
- Fishing spots and more trash cans
- fishing spots, skateboard parks, outdoor basketball
- Fishing water
- Fishing,
- Fishing, gun ranges
- Fishing, recreational beach facility
- Fishing, shooting, swimming
- Fishing, snowmobiling and hiking areas.
- Fishing, swimming, and hiking
- Fishing/atv
- Fishing/boating areas
- fitness
- Fix parks damaged by floods
- fix the lake up so it isnt' so gross
- Fly fishing areas
- football
- football field
- Football field
- Football field shooting range that's open more something fun for kids to do
- For me personally, more access to ponds/lakes to train hunting retriever. For the community probably more youth sports facilities and or hiking trails
- For my family and I we don't have time to use all that there is.
- For the state parks near Yankton to offer more activities to rent or borrow. Kayaks, 4 person bikes, scooters, games etc.
- For us the most needed is more areas for shade at the beach. We have a baby under 6 months.
- For what I like to do, none come to mind.
- Forest clean up
- Free camping for families that can't afford paid camping
- Free indoor walking area for winter.

- Free outdoor archery range
- FREE STATE PARKS
- Frisbee golf
- Frisby golf
- Full hookups ( water, electric and sewer) for RV's.
- Full service camping areas. More historical events
- Fully fenced dog park.
- Further bike trail connecting SF to Harrisburg
- G
- Game Production Areas
- Gated dog parks
- Get shooting out of the forest. Wildlife wintering areas should be a respite for wildlife. I'm not saying no hunting during appropriate season. Also, no trapping near developments. We have children and pets. It is a hideous lack of respect to animals and to people who have to hear them screaming.
- GFP ran rifle and archery ranges. More public land access too. Incredibly scarce in Minnehaha and Lincoln county
- Given that I am in Canada this isn't relevant for your survey.
- golf
- golf and rifle, shotgun ranges
- Golf course
- golf course
- Golf course
- Golf course
- Golf course
- Golf Courses
- Golf courses
- Golf courses
- golf courses
- golf courses and better fishing
- Golf courses and shooting facilities
- Golf courses and swimming pools
- Golf courses, parks, trails
- golf courses, pet friendly trails
- Golf courses, shooting areas, archery areas, soccer fields, public fishing access
- Golf courses. Tennis courts.
- Golf Driving Range / Safe Paved Walking Trail / Shooting Range
- Golf lessons!! Inexpensive 9-hole golf, better signage for bike path in Rapid (signs indicating the streets being ridden under at bridges and at intersections), more maintenance/attention to bike path East of Monument, lengthen or additions to bike path
- Golf, lake boating, camping, snowmobile.
- Good earth state park and lake Lakota
- Good facilities near me , 2 state parks and green community

- Good facilities-close
- Good fishing areas
- Good fishing areas from shore
- good fishing opportunities
- Good here.
- Good opportunity near me.
- Good parking with walking trails
- Good swim beaches
- Goofy Golf
- Greater variety of activities for youth probably
- Green space. Less people.
- groomed cross country sk98i trails
- Groomed cross country ski trails would be fantastic.
- Groomed cross country skiing trails
- groomed cross-country ski trails
- Groomed cross-country ski trails or paved bike trails
- Groomed cross-country ski trails with adequate shelter (trees) from wind that do not allow other recreators to damage the groomed trail
- gun range
- Gun club
- Gun range
- Gun Range
- Gun range
- Gun range
- gun range for sighting in rifles
- Gun range would be nice, mostly beach and camping improvement at local lake.
- Gun range, fishing , hunting areas
- gun ranges, someone to tend to the existing parks outhouses (Good Earth) because they are disgusting, safe swimming waters, shore fishing,
- Gun Shooting Range
- gym
- Gym and walking trail
- Gymnasium for school
- Habitat management on the few Game Production Areas in SE South Dakota! Include prescribed burns, native plantings, food plots, and invasive species control!
- Handicap accessible fishing on Oahe (not sure it can be done)
- Handicap fishing docks on all public access areas
- Happy with current facilities in my area
- Happy with options
- Have CO's check occasionally. I never see them at Marindahl or Beaver Lake (Yankton co.)
- Have plenty of resources
- Having an outdoor campus in the northeastern part of South Dakota
- Hicking trail without mountain bikes they tear up the forest
- Hiddenwood State Park needs work done but state didn't want to put money into it so the community has raise money to make it usable again.



- hiking trails
- hiking trails
- Hiking trails
- Hiking trails
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- Hiking trails
- hiking trails
- Hiking trails
- Hiking trails
- Hiking trails
- Hiking Trails - Mature Trees and nature
- hiking trails & green spaces with playgrounds for kids.
- Hiking trails and groupd
- Hiking trails and horse back riding trails
- Hiking trails free of UTVs and ATVs and horses and cattle.
- Hiking Trails meeting USDA/Forest Service Standards
- Hiking trails, campgrounds, recreational areas.
- Hiking trails, dump stations, bicycle trails
- Hiking trails, picnic areas,
- hiking trails, picnic areas, state park-historic sites, good boat ramps, good swimming beaches
- Hiking trails, river recreation
- Hiking trails, shooting ranges, and Sledding hills
- Hiking trails. Biking trails.
- Hiking trails/nature trails
- Hiking walking trails outside of town
- Hiking, biking, nature observation trails
- hiking, hunting area, fishing access to meandered waters
- Hiking, skiiing, fat tire biking, festivals
- Hiking/biking trails
- Hiking/biking trails
- Hiking/unpaved walking trails
- hiking/walking/biking trails. parks in the area need better gravel base trails for family biking
- Hinting areas
- historical site interpretation
- Honestly I have a bike trial, disc golf course, golf course, swimming pool, camp grounds, and dog park all within 15 minutes. The only thing I don't have is kayaking, and no one would want to kayak in Moccasin Creek.
- Honestly, leave it as it is. open up the nw section of Orman dam to vehicles during hunting season. Stop making wild areas into a freaking park. there are enough parks in the area. It would be great if you would force landowners to provide access to land locked public land or restrict them from letting others hunt on it. Decent walk in areas that are not all grazed down to the soil. Also, try and find a way to recover the pheasant population that once existed at Sourum dam.
- Horse campgrounds and trails
- Horse camping & trails
- Horse riding trails

- Horse riding trails, lake, and a swimming shore
- Horse trails
- Horse trails
- Horse trails
- Horse trails
- Horse trails with camping
- Horse trails, atv/utv trails
- Horseback riding trails, Crosscountry course (for horse eventing)
- Horseshoe facility, outdoor skating rink
- Horseshoe, big dog park
- Hot yoga, ice skating, more walking trails
- Hotel
- Hunt shoot
- Hunt, fish, boating, swimming, ski,
- Hunting
- Hunting
- Hunting
- Hunting
- Hunting
- Hunting & fishing areas
- Hunting Access
- Hunting access areas
- Hunting access.
- hunting and camping
- Hunting and Camping
- hunting and fishing opportunities
- Hunting area
- Hunting area
- Hunting area
- Hunting area
- Hunting areas
- Hunting areas
- HUNTING AREAS
- Hunting areas
- Hunting areas
- Hunting areas
- Hunting areas
- Hunting areas
- Hunting areas
- Hunting areas close to Sioux falls
- Hunting areas with good year round wildlife habitat.
- Hunting areas, shore fishing areas
- Hunting dog training area
- Hunting grasslands
- Hunting ground



- hunting ground
- Hunting grounds
- Hunting grounds, walk in, etc.
- Hunting land
- Hunting land
- hunting on private land
- Hunting opportunities, dog park
- Hunting spots
- Hunting, fishing access
- Hunting, golfing, camping
- Hunting/Shooting areas.
- Huron has a very diverse and low income Asian and Hispanic population. They need to learn value of picking up trash as does all young folks. Need local things for them.
- I am a resident of North Dakota.
- I am fortunate to live close to the best SP in the country. Keep up the good work!
- I am happy with the current level of developed recreational opportunities and do not wish to see more dog parks, shooting ranges, or similar activities.
- I am in a good location
- I am lucky enough to live close to walking trails, which is what I love to use.
- I am surrounded by forest service land but rocky point recreation area is approximately 5 times too small for the number of people wanting/wishing they could use it.
- I am very lucky that we have most of what we need in my community of Winner. If I had to pick one, I would like to see a public trap shooting range. I have only lived here for 6 years, and there could be one that I am not aware of.
- I believe it's adequate
- I can't think of any
- I cant think of any
- I can't think of any at this time.
- I do not have an opinion about most things that I do not participate in. That doesn't mean I do not or would not support those activities, I don't have the knowledge if venues or facilities are adequate. I would like to see more vault toilets at day use areas and more formalized shooting areas (pistol, rifle, archery)
- I do not live in SD
- I don't know
- I don't know
- I don't have a facility that close to my home
- I don't live there as stated but I do pay tax when I am there and like I said in a prior comment, my wife and I are moving there.
- I dont visit much
- I feel like my basic recreation needs are met in Brookings.
- I feel pretty good about what is offered. could use a public shooting range.
- I feel there are lots of facilities for whatever activity you want to participate in.
- I feel we are so lucky to live right by the river with lots of opportunities close.
- I grew up and currently reside in Minnesota. I went to College at SDSU and that's when I became familiar with recreational opportunities in South Dakota.

- I had mentioned foraging classes but would my time and the instructors time mesh?
- I have adequate access, but I would like to see more trash and recycling receptacles on trails
- I hope someone with some “financial sense” actually reads this! Burke Lake needs developing or given back to the City of Burke so they can take care of it!! SDGFP should be ashamed of the state of disrepair the Burke Lake area is in. Just letting it go to ruin!! If you guys can’t handle it, then give it back to the people!! It has to be a total financial burden to SDGFP!! SDGFP takes in absolutely no revenue from this site!! Most people can’t run a business in this manner! You want to improve your system, cut your losses, give it back to the City!! Or go in and develop it and turn it into income! What a beautiful place to let it go unused!
- I hope to visit next year
- I improve camping facilities at twin lakes in sanborn county
- I like to photograph birds, it would be nice to have a drive up feeding area in the winter where I could use my car as a blind, without having to get out and walk on ice and snow.
- i live farther than 20 miles from SD
- I live in a good area that has everything I use close.
- I live in a very rural area and picnic areas and playground equipment
- I live in Belle Fourche, I have plenty to do within 15 min of my home, and don’t mind driving 1-2 hrs for all else (Custer State Park, Pactola, etc).
- I live in Brandon and our State Park, Dog training area and walking trails are amazing.
- I live in Iowa and am very close to Canton SD We are very thankful for newton Hills. My group that rides there are very careful that we leave our horse camp sites better than when we found them!
- I live in Iowa, but hear it’s public ground
- I live in Mitchell, I feel they are adequate
- I live in Nebraska but visit SD parks a lot so what I need 10-15 minutes from me doesn't pertain to this
- I live in Rapid, we have plenty here- it’s just getting really crowded.
- I live in rural SD. I have the Mickelson Trail across the highway and use it very frequently. Given my location I don't see a need for more facilities at this time.
- I live in Salem, SD. We need a kids pond in or close to town.
- I live in SF, so shooting ranges
- I live in Sioux Falls, recreation facilities abound.
- I live in sw Sioux Falls and there are no swimming pools, tennis courts, pickleball courts or spray parks nearby. No good parks nearby also.
- I live in the country so nothing
- I live in the country, I can do any activity right out my door.
- I live in the country. More camping sites near water and public hunting areas.
- I live in the middle of no where, also the best place on earth! Haha 10 to 15 minutes would not even get me to a county gravel
- I live in volga, so I travel to do any activities.
- I live in Watertown and all is well.
- I live in Wisconsin, so NA
- I live in Wyoming so I will not respond to this question.
- I live in Yabkton,SD. I have sll the recreational activities I need.

- I live more than 15 minutes from a town. We don't need recreation facilities out here. No rifle ranges.
- I live near Herman State park, it is AWESOME
- I live near OCW, things are good.
- I live out of state.
- I love out of state
- I think it's good here
- I think it's pretty good now
- I think more mountain bike trails would be used as well, and shore fishing areas are always busy and packed.
- I think our community does fairly well on recreational things but in wishful thinking, it would be nice to have a youth soccer field in our community. (I am a big youth soccer fan!)
- I think that Sioux Falls has everything
- I think that there needs to be a bridge over the highway at Legion Lake to the campground. It is a really dangerous corner for all involved. I also feel that barking dogs need to be curbed in camping areas as well as in staff quarters! This is something that really bothers me when I visit.
- I think there is a good variety of facilities.
- i wish there was better fishing options closer to Sioux Falls.
- I wish we had a decent indoor water park for younger children during the winter months. I think the only options might be Larson and a hotel, but they are not that great.
- I would like access to XC ski at Meadowbrook GC, with perhaps groomed trails to ensure that skiers stay off greens, along with rules in place to assure access only when there is adequate snow cover.
- I would like better outdoor basketball courts.
- I would like to see more walking/hiking trails in the area
- I would love a shooting range, and some public hunting land.
- I would really like new hiking trails and areas to kayak without motorboats.
- I'd love to see more target facilities, and outdoor opportunities in general, in the East River region.
- I'm 15 minutes from almost all activities, lucky me
- Ice fishing areas
- ice skaing
- Ice skating
- Ice skating facility.
- Ice skating rink needs to be bigger, there is room..
- Ice skating rinks
- Ice skating, swimming pool,
- ice skating/hockey
- I'd love for the overnight primitive canoe-in campsite at Good Earth to be available for individual reservation (right now, I believe it's boy scouts only or something.) I would also like to see primitive camping at Lake Alvin/Good Earth. No RV spots!
- IF this trend continues wide beaches perfect for a number of
- I'm a nonresident
- i'm from out of state
- I'm in iowa

- I'm not in SD live in neb.
- I'm o with where I am in relation to what is available
- I'm overall very happy with the recreation facilities available within my community. I would like to see more groomed cross country ski trails during the winter at state recreation areas. I have an environmental education background, so I'm always in favor of additional interpretive signage placed along trails as well.
- I'm proved boat ramps
- I'm quite happy with the available facilities close to me.
- Improve boat launch sites and fish cleaning stations on BH Mational Forest reservoirs
- Improve fishing access, low water will become more of an issue. Increase walleye stocking, there is a tremendous fishing pressure on river. Consider stocking pheasants on public lands.
- Improve the city beaches and city parks. I live on the river and it was a much nicer beach 20 years ago when I was younger. Simple improvements would go a long way.
- Improved archery and firearm shooting ranges that have open hours. The one in Watertown is amazing and it would be really nice to have one in Aberdeen.
- Improved basketball courts, more skate parks
- Improved boat ramps
- improved disk golf and shaded walking trails
- Improved dog park. Solid wall near tennis courts to practice/warm up by yourself.
- Improved fishing access. Increase size of boat ramps and parking lots
- Improved golf course facilities.
- Improved habitat for fishing
- Improved public beaches. Low water access boat ramps.
- Improved rifle/shotgun range - currently near the Black Hills, Fall River is the closest improved outdoor range. The proposed facility north of Rapid City would be a significant upgrade to what we have. I would happily pay a membership fee if build and a sporting clays course was available (per design)
- Improved shore fishing access out of city limits.
- Improved shore fishing opportunities and more walking and biking trails
- Improved skate park and Kayaking opportunities
- Improved swimming pool
- Improved trail running
- Improved younger age baseball facilities and indoor rec center!!
- Improvements to our Stream Habitat on Rapid Creek for fly fishing
- In my area, we could greatly benefit from having a little more public walk-in areas. Places to both hunt, fish as well as recreate.
- In Sioux Falls we are pretty well set
- In Sioux Falls, there are many options within the 15 minutes of my house.
- In town bike trails
- In Western SD we do not have much access to our rivers for kayaking and canoeing. For example, the Cheyenne River has limited access outside of the tribal lands.
- Increase recreational facilities for the disabled
- Increase rv camping sites
- Indoor Archery Facilities,
- Indoor archery range

- Indoor archery range
- Indoor Archery Range and Shooting Range
- Indoor archery range, another rifle range
- Indoor archery ranges and a place for naturalist programs
- Indoor archery, small bore rifle, pistol range
- Indoor archery/firearms facility for winter months, an indoor playground or play place for children,
- Indoor baseball training facilities/batting cages, atv rental/trails, low cost indoor basketball courts,
- indoor fish cleaning station
- Indoor or outdoor shooting range
- Indoor parks for kids in winter
- Indoor plumbing. Lake Menno only has an outhouse
- indoor pool
- indoor pool
- Indoor pool
- Indoor pool for winter recreation.
- indoor recreation space, indoor pools and aquatics space, indoor space for year-round leisure and recreation of all kinds - arts, fitness, culinary, theater, - too many winter months to not have enough indoor space for the number of people in south dakota. Also to make the outdoor spaces more unique and inviting, better signage, better design, better architecture, more uniqueness and better identity
- Indoor sports complex
- Indoor sports. Such as racquetball courts. Winter sports facilities
- Indoor Swim Center
- Indoor swimming
- Indoor swimming facility
- Indoor swimming pool & recreation facility
- Indoor swimming pools and tennis courts
- Indoor there are few places to walk in winter. Outdoor we are good.
- Indoor/outdoor campus
- Is ok where we live
- It is adequate because there is nothing nay so much to work with in the Sioux Falls area
- It takes me 20 minutes to get to town and that town is is Valentine NE.
- It would be nice if our community had an indoor swimming pool since the weather often makes the outdoor pool unavailable. It would also be nice to have an indoor skate park. These could both be housed in a community center if the city would put money into that. I am happy with the outdoor recreation opportunities in the park and on the forest. I just think our city could put more effort into our local parks and into building a community center.
- It would be nice to have an Atv park
- It's good
- Just more options would be nice.
- Kayak courses
- Kayak/Canoe only lakes or restrictions
- kayak/river access, bike trail expansion
- Kayaking Canoeing

- kayaking and paddleboarding areas
- Kayaking area
- Kayaking areas
- Keep improving the bike trails. Still are very good in Sioux Falls
- Kids fields soccer football lacrosse etc
- Kids fishing opportunities
- Kids fishing ponds
- Kids fishing programs
- Kids rec
- Kids stuff. Parks and events
- Kiteboarding access sites
- Lacking winter activities
- Lacrosse facility
- Lake
- Lake access
- Lake access
- Lake access
- Lake access
- Lake accesses
- Lake accesses
- Lake alivin and the archery range near by, the targets are wore out and arrows almost go right through them
- Lake and trails
- Lake camping areas    Playgrounds
- Lake fishing
- Lake fishing, camping
- Lake for boating
- Lake kapeska
- Lake Lakota toxic pesticide/herbicide water quality monitoring--likely not safe to swim in.
- Lake Louise near Miller,SD
- Lake shoreline access, extending low water boat ramps, functional padding for boat protection on the docks, actual hot (not low warm or cold) water in camp ground showers, and maintaining existing swimming beaches.
- Lakes
- Lakes and rivers for fishing, boating, swimming. Rivers, creeks that exist are severely poor quality and no public access. Insufficient public land for hunting, wildlife viewing.
- lakes for swimming, bike lanes
- Lakes to go fishing
- Lakes, campgrounds
- Larger Parking areas for trails.
- Law Enforcement management for all the ATV/UTV's on the trails, roads due to non-compliance in areas, resource damage, etc.
- Lawn
- Leisure fitness equipment
- LESS ATV usage!!!!
- Less ATV's and more year round campgrounds

- Less boat traffic on Wall lake haha
- Less costly tent camping facilities and swimming areas that are not cost prohibitive.
- Less crowded campgrounds
- Less crowded camping Space at campsites
- Less motorized noise from mountain and dirt bikes, ATV's, UTV's, etc.
- Less rugged camping facilities such as full hookup sites and cabins.
- Less tourists
- Limit side by sides!! Too many! Destroying the trails!
- live in Pierre it all outside my door
- Live out of state
- Long distance rifle shooting
- Long range rifle
- Long range rifle range
- Long range rifle range
- Long Range Rifle Range (1000+ yards)
- Long Range shooting Complex
- Long range shooting range
- Longer shooting range 5-600yards
- Longer trails, better accessibility for physically handicapped individuals
- Long-range rifle range 500+ yards
- Love the local trail system, but could use better maintenance and more trash cans along trail.
- Low water ramp
- Lucky to have mall of what I need close to home
- maintained xc ski/snowshoe areas, year round swimming facilities
- Maintaining Custer State Park as it is.
- marina
- maybe a trap range
- maybe stock Canyon Lake with more fish?
- Me
- Mini bike trails, more camping spots at Newton Hills
- Miniature basketball court
- Mirror Lake needs to be updated and fixed. Need more bike paths.
- Missouri River Access
- Mobridge has plenty of everything!
- more access to hunting land
- More access to private lands for hiking and possibly archery only hunting areas
- More activities for teens climbing courses or things for teens to do
- More ADA accessibility for sidewalks and parks in my neighborhood.
- More ads campsites
- more and better access to boat docks and fishing areas
- more and better boat ramps, more rv camping
- More and better connected biking trails. Public fishing access.
- More and larger and affordable rv camp sites
- More area's for hunting

- More areas to access lakes to fish from shore
- More areas to camp
- More areas to fish and able for the handicap people to enjoy as well
- more Atv trail
- More bathrooms at state parks!
- more better bike trails
- More bike trails
- More bike trails
- More bike trails
- More bike trails
- More bike trails
- More biking trails
- More boat launches
- More boat launches and RV camping
- more boat ramps
- More boat ramps
- more boat ramps
- More boat ramps and parking, access to fishing areas that were blocked off
- More boat ramps and restroom facilities
- More boat rental equipment
- More boating and golf courses
- More bost ramps
- More cabins
- More cabins, less camping sites
- more camp grounds
- More camp grounds at the lake.
- More camp sites
- More camp sites
- More camp sites
- More camp spaces and better reservations software and rules
- More camper sites.
- More campground availability for local campers
- More campgrounds
- more campgrounds
- more campgrounds
- More campgrounds
- More campgrounds
- More campgrounds and outside pistol range
- More campgrounds for horse camping and riding. Not only for me but for the hundreds of people coming through our state hauling horses.
- more campgrounds/camping sites
- More camping
- more camping
- More camping



- More camping
- more camping and more trails for walking
- More camping areas
- More Camping areas
- More camping areas
- More camping areas
- More camping areas and maybe more gun ranges
- More camping areas.
- More camping facilities.
- more camping options for tent & campers, it would be nice to not have to drive an hour plus.
- more camping sites
- More camping sites
- More camping sites and easier to reserve for family group camping. Rifle range
- More camping sites and improvement on current sites. (Trees trimmed, sites leveled
- more camping spaces
- more camping spots
- More camping spots
- More camping spots
- More camping spots
- More camping spots
- More camping spots (pads)
- More camping spots, shooting range, picnic areas
- More camping, rec areas
- More campsites
- More campsites, and atv trails
- More Canoe/Kayaking launch/landing areas
- More concerned about habitat or many things are a waste of time, in the winter after a snow you can't find a weed of cover.
- More constructed trails to keep people spread out. I live near Custer and the USFS has closed much needed trails over the years.
- More covered picnic areas, and playground equipment near it, so the open areas are set apart from the noise.
- More crosswalks and bike lanes
- More CRP land for wildlife
- More dog barks and bike trails need to reach residential area,
- More Dog Parks!
- More dog parks!
- More fish cleaning facilities
- more fishing
- more fishing areas
- More fishing areas
- More fishing areas. More public hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities.
- More fishing, it was awesome when wall lake had all of those perch!
- more for the youth in our community
- More golf facilities and walking trails. This ones we have are excellent but very busy.

- More golf. All the city course and Willow Run are super busy. Also, better set up public hunting. Make the land huntable for smaller parties by mowing rows.
- More good public hunting ground. The hills is great, but once you get out onto the prairie the land can be pretty desolate at times.
- More habitat for wildlife and cleaner Lakes and streams
- More handicap access
- More handicap docks, pickerel lake, pitas lake, Buffalo lake, clear lake, why not put one in at every boat launch? Also more cleaning stations for invasive species.
- More hiking trails
- More hiking trails
- more hiking trails
- More hiking trails
- More hiking trails
- More hiking trails
- More hiking trails
- More hiking trails
- More hiking trails
- more hiking trails where there is no hunting or ATVs
- More horse pens at Oakwood state park. Not enough for each campsite to have one and no electricity to hook up there
- More hunting
- More hunting areas
- More hunting land
- More hunting, and fishing areas
- More ice skating
- More kids/teen aged activities for them to be able to stay busy and maybe educational for them as alternative to just “hanging out”
- More lake side events and parks
- More Lakes! Our population is increasing but we haven’t added any new lakes in western SD. Consider doing something on lower Rapid Creek or the Cheyenne River below Angostura.
- More lakeside use boat dock fish cleaning parking
- More land and water open to public hunting/fishing/trapping
- more land to hunt and fish.
- More low water boat ramps
- More mountain bike trails.
- More MTB Trails
- more natural areas both land based & water based
- More nature appreciation areas (non-hunting)
- More Nature Trails
- More open areas to walk or run dogs
- More open green spaces for picnics and playgrounds
- more open space - less congested trails by ATV use
- More opportunities
- MORE opportunity for PUBLIC hunting areas
- More outdoor basketball courts.

- More park equipment to cover all ages of children. More walking paths.
- More park reasonable price
- More parking access to Mickelson Trail, specifically at Chilson Bridge near Edgemont
- More Parking areas for fishing along the 81 ponds, the new guard rail has blocked most of the parking areas from being used.
- More parking for water recreations
- More parks
- More parks
- More parks with camping
- More paved biking and walking trails
- More paved or unpaved walking or hiking trails
- More paved trails
- More paved trails
- More paved trails and nature trails
- More pheasant hunting and deer hunting areas to hunt.
- More pickelball courts.
- more places to fish from shore as they have covered most of it with rip rap
- more playgrounds
- More playgrounds
- More protected areas. Government should have more land that does not allow hunting or trapping. Land for enjoyment. Not killing.
- More public access for free roaming with off leash pets.
- More public access hunting
- More public access to Lake Oahe. More areas for 'off grid' camping near water (self-contained vehicles w own toilets); More group camping areas with access to water; Beach camping allowed when water elevation is down.
- More public hunting access
- More Public Hunting and Fishing
- More public hunting areas
- More public hunting areas
- More public hunting areas
- More public hunting areas and more water access areas. More leased public hunting pits and/or blinds.
- More public hunting areas. Deer, Pheasants, Turkey
- More public hunting for residents only.
- More public hunting grounds
- More public hunting land
- More public hunting land
- More PUBLIC hunting opportunities
- More public hunting, better maintained fisheries. Areas in eastern SD see immense amounts of unsustainable pressure resulting in locals having to travel further to catch fish
- More public land
- More public or walk in hunting opportunities.
- More Public Parks are needed. But,... NO ATV/Off road machines and any other machinery that destroys our forest and trails. Noisy, dangerous machines! To many of them already. They are

destroying our roads and the emergency personnel spend lots of time picking up and fixing the broken people.

- More quality hunting areas, boat landings.
- More recreation areas, dams, accessible waterways, better utilization of the natural resources we already have in place.
- More riffle ranges
- more rv camping areas
- More rv camping areas
- More RV camping pads are desperately needed at most campgrounds. We don't need more campgrounds. Most state parks have excess undeveloped land that could be utilized for expansion. It's also time to start adding full hookup (water and sewer) to our state campgrounds.
- more rv camping spots
- More rv camping spots
- More RV camping spots for larger campers
- More RV campsites
- More rv sites
- More shooting areas
- More shooting ranges (but with controlled access to limit vandalism, etc). Also, there are WAY too many ATVs tearing up the Black Hills and it needs regulation and prescriptive penalties ASAP.
- More shooting ranges archery specially, off-road parks, swimming pools for the kids and family's
- More shore fishing
- More shore fishing access
- More shore fishing access. There are many small lakes around me, but the shorelines are overgrown/not maintained so the only place to fish is immediately around the dock/boat ramps, where there aren't many fish.
- More shore fishing areas and better boat ramps and docks
- More shore fishing areas, better access to existing shore fishing areas, more picnic areas with outdoor activity availability like volleyball pits, horseshoe pits, and basketball courts
- More shore fishing locations
- More shore fishing spots
- More singletrack trails, bike park/pump track
- More skateparks
- More space to fish from shore other than just along road or by boat
- More space. Can be overcrowded
- More state camping areas with power. I live on the Western side of the state and it is very difficult to get a campsite during the summer. Our favorite destination is Orman Dam and the campground there needs to be expanded, but also one of the big draws for a lot of people is the opportunity to camp along the shoreline there for free.
- More Swimming Beaches
- More swimming beaches on Oahe
- More swimming pools
- More tennis courts and an indoor ice arena.
- MORE TENT CAMPING
- More tent camping with more space between sites

- More things for kids and parents to do.
- More trails and kayak areas
- More trails devoted to walkers only
- more trails for hiking and mountain biking
- More trails in eastern South Dakota.
- More trails to hike
- More trails with bathroom/water facilities
- More trails, outdoor areas not reserved for just hunting
- More trails.
- More unlaced hiking trails. Ability to rent cross country skis
- More unpaved hiking trails
- More unpaved trail for hiking/mountain biking
- More unpaved trails
- More vault toilets in some locations and a little more maintenance would be nice. Vandals are a problem and I suppose always will be.
- More Walk In Areas
- more walking and biking trails/paths, especially to link outlying areas to the Spearfish city trails and to the Crow Peak trailhead
- more walking trail options out in the country, state parks etc. Aberdeen is flat but, would love to have more options to get outside of town and see sunsets and rises and wildlife.
- More walking trails
- More walking trails
- More walking trails
- More walking/hiking paths-better safer sidewalks on Haines Avenue
- More walking/running trails or longer ones.
- More waterfowl hunting access areas
- more waterfowl hunting opportunities
- More wheelchair paved trails to see grand vistas at least 100 yards from the car.
- More/better indoor pools
- Most needed? I am 15 minutes from Custer state park.
- Motocross bikes
- Mountain Bike Trails
- Mountain bike trails
- Mountain bike trails
- Mountain bike trails and skills areas, additional hiking trails
- Mountain bike trails and skills parks and more bike paths
- Mountain bike trails, archery ranges, rifle shooting range
- mountain bike/fat tire bike trails
- Mountain biking
- Mountain biking and dirt biking
- Mountain biking trails, archery ranges,
- Mountain biking/hiking trails
- Mountain buggy
- mountains
- Mt bike trails

- mt. bike trails
- MTB and BMX Skills and freestyle parks.
- Much needed Spacious rv campsite and playground
- Multi-purpose trails.
- My area has adequate facilities
- My area is pretty good with facilities.
- My community in about 20 min. from the black hills: parks, picnic, community recreation of all kinds,. There are a couple small dams that have inadequate shoreline fishing and the deer ticks outnumber all other insects by 10,000 to one.
- My community is loaded with recreational facilities.
- My family and I are fortunate to live in an area that within 10-15 of our home we have city parks, the Outdoor Campus, bike trails and other recreation areas. I'm sure there are other residents and areas that are in greater need of recreation facilities.
- My family and I would like to see more playgrounds aimed at a variety of age of children from small to pre-teen.
- My home is on the lake so I have what I need
- Native American Historical visitor centers
- Natural areas
- natural areas committed to conservation and the least amount of disturbance possible
- Natural areas to walk in nature.
- Natural open spaces
- Natural unspoiled forest and open space.
- Natural wetlands and prairies nature park
- nature and hiking rv grounds
- Nature areas
- Nature areas
- Nature areas
- Nature Areas
- Nature areas state parks
- nature areas that don't also cater to many other recreational needs
- Nature areas with trails
- Nature Parks
- Nature preserves
- Nature trails With no motor vehicle access
- nature trails, cabin camping (with bathroom and kitchen), dog parks, urban fisheries
- Nature/hiking trail
- nature/hiking trails and water trails
- Nearly everything
- Need a new boat ramp, dock and clean up the dead trees at Dog Ear Lake
- Need a tennis court
- Need less atv/utv trails. They are ruining the outdoor experience.
- Need more boat ramps
- Need more campsites.
- Need more nature trails
- Need more trails and walking areas in my area of the state (south-eastern corner)

- need shooting facility near rapid to limit the amount of shooting on USFS lands near trails that we like to hike/bike on with our children
- Need to add some social activities
- need to be improved ;
- Need to have more options for disc golf. The courses that we have are fairly good however the good ones get over crowded at times. Also there is little to no atv/snowmobile trail systems around Sioux Falls and you end up having to ride ditches or travel to the other side of the state to enjoy. It would also be nice to have more options for hard surface bike riding around as the few systems that are in the area get very busy on nice days.
- Need walking trail close to home. Need better quality fishing
- new indoor pool
- New updated swimming pool
- Nice areas around lakes that have fish in them. Grassy areas to picnic and fish and grill. Possible covered shelters.
- Nice camping sites with full hook ups. Cabins with full service—water shower etc
- Nice parks for kids to play on and adults to sit and enjoy end outside
- nice parks with picnic areas and good hiking
- Nice swimming beach
- Nicer swim beaches
- No more development! Leave nature alone!
- no more needed. Just need to restrict the number that use BH trails.
- No wake zones for non-motorized vessels (kayaks, paddleboards)
- Non Private rifle/pistol range. We have 2 near vermillion that are private only.
- Non resident
- None needed. We live at Pickerel Lake.
- None that come to mind except for a skeet range.
- none we have to many now
- None you are over built already.
- None! We live in Sturgis and have access to excellent outdoor recreational opportunities!
- None. There are many acres of hiking and horseback trails. Nature is all the recreation we need. Once it is gone, it is gone forever.
- None. We are centrally located where most of our activities we enjoy are within 20 miles.
- None. we have plenty of parks nearby
- Non-motorized trails
- not a resident
- Not in a position to respond to this question
- Not needed, just reduce cost
- Not needed.
- Not sure maybe more info centers
- Not understanding question
- Not very familiar with all of the opportunities near Box Elder. We look forward to exploring more of South Dakota in the future.
- Nothing additional needed.
- Nothing at this time
- Nothing, everything I want I have within that distance!

- Nothing. It has great opportunities.
- nothing. we live in the middle of the city
- Oahe downstream
- Off leash dog areas
- Off leash dog parks with working dog opportunities - not just an open boring park. Kayak/paddle board trails could be interesting.
- Off leash hiking with dogs
- Off leash trails for dogs
- Off road ATV/UTV TRAILS.
- off road motorcycling,
- Off road park for full size vehicles; cleaner kayaking options; archery range;
- off road recreational trail for atvs and motorcycles
- Off road trails. Everyone wants to go take their pickup or four wheeler offroading
- Off-road trails
- OK...live in Sioux Falls
- Okay as is
- On road bicycle lanes or other designations to promote cycling safely
- Only 2 things that close to me, a forest service rd at training & hiking/biking/ horseback riding trail both could benefit from more parking trash can or 2 maybe vault toilet?
- On-street bike lanes, for commuting as well as recreation.
- Open access
- Open areas to hike, like prairie areas with trails, or areas to learn more about nature....you can't have too many.
- Open areas, fish cleaning stations, wildlife viewing
- Open forest service gates
- Open our public trust waters!! Get rid of that horrible water bill.
- Open public land
- Open space and peace and quiet where I can get away from the damn ORV's, 4 wheelers and looky loos.
- Open space hiking trails
- Open space, peace and quiet, and no competition with ORV's, ATV's and off road nuts.
- open space. Habitat. Dog park
- Open spaces. Hiking trails/walking trails that are family friendly. Kids need to be in nature and not just on playgrounds when outside.
- open spaces/nature areas
- Open spaces; nature focused; no dogs allowed
- Other than the local city park there are none within 10-15 minutes of my home.
- Our area does really well with outdoor recreation so feel there is not much need. Maybe some improvement on bike trails.
- Our closest state park is 45 minutes away. It's not bad but I can't answer anything that is listed above being as close as 10-15 min from me.
- Our community has just the right amount
- Out door gun range
- Outdoor archery
- Outdoor archery and gun ranges



- Outdoor Archery Range
- Outdoor archery range
- Outdoor archery trail.
- Outdoor archery. Off road ATV trails.
- Outdoor basketball court
- outdoor basketball courts
- Outdoor basketball courts in my neighborhood
- Outdoor community event area
- Outdoor ice rink
- Outdoor Ice skating rinks
- Outdoor park with pool
- Outdoor pickle ball, cross country skiing groomed trails,
- Outdoor pool
- Outdoor Pool
- outdoor pool - live near Toronto Sd
- Outdoor pool and disc golf courses
- Outdoor pool, ice skating rink, pistol/rifle shooting range, more nature areas and less corn/soybeans
- Outdoor related activities for youth. Not crowded spaces and facilities, there are way to many visitors in our area! Stop with getting more and more people packed in to this island on the plains, the Black Hills, with a limited space. Think quality, not quantity. Don't ruin this area by loving it do death.
- Outdoor rifle and pistol range. Also outdoor archery range.
- Outdoor Rifle Range
- Outdoor rifle range
- Outdoor shooting
- Outdoor shooting range
- Outdoor shooting range (shotgun or rifle)
- Outdoor shooting range and basketball ball counts
- outdoor shooting sports ranges
- Outdoor shotgun range
- outdoor stadium and track
- Outdoor Swimming pool
- Outdoor trails
- Outdoor trails
- outdoor volleyball courts in the middle/41st and Kiwanis area
- Outdoor water activities or a lake that is clean to swim in
- Outdoor water or swimming area
- Outdoor water park
- Outdoor winter activities for kids like sledding
- Paintball
- park
- park
- Park or pool
- Park, playground, walking trails, bike trails

- Parkes
- Parking ar Sylvan Lake
- Parking, bathrooms, and better/more launch sites for kayaks and canoes
- Parks
- parks
- Parks
- Parks
- Parks
- Parks
- Parks
- Parks
- Parks
- Parks and grassy, open spaces. Also, the old WPA projects such as Roosevelt Park should be preserved.
- Parks and open green spaces
- Parks for children
- Parks on Southeast Sioux Falls
- parks to take my children to, decent lakes where we can catch fish (even if we have to throw them back, it's no fun for young kids to get out there and end up skunked!)
- Parks with awesome playgrounds
- Parks with restrooms for littles.
- Parks, both for humans and pets.
- Parks, dog parks in East Rapid City/ Rapid Valley
- Parks, Public hunting, sport fields, waterparks, golf courses
- Parks, rec centers
- parks/playgrounds, ice rinks,
- Paved and unpaved walking trails
- Paved bike ONLY trails
- Paved bike path around Lake Kampeska
- Paved bike trails
- Paved bike trails
- Paved bike trails
- Paved bike trails
- paved bike trails (to help with safety and traffic concerns)
- Paved bike trails or shared road signs for cars/bikes
- Paved bike trails to
- Paved bike/running trails, pistol/rifle shooting ranges
- Paved bike/walking trails, hiking areas, picnic areas, baseball fields
- Paved biking trails
- Paved biking trails
- paved or dirt walking running trail
- paved or unpaved trails away from vehicle traffic for bike, run, walk
- Paved roads
- paved trail to the baseball fields

- Paved Trails
- Paved trails for walking biking
- Paved trails for walking. Trails for horseback riding and ATV
- paved trails, dog parks
- Paved walking and biking trails
- Paved walking trails
- Paved walking trails
- Paved walking trails
- Paved walking trails
- Paved walking, dog park, information about what's available, group classes & activities
- Paved walking/biking trails
- paved, ADA accessible trails, ATV-UTV -Free trails
- Pay attention to boat ramps on river.
- Pelican state park and lake Kampeska
- Perhaps finding more shore fishing spots for folks like us w/o boats.
- Pet parks, splash pads, hiking trails
- pheasant hunting, canoe and kayaking, tent camping close to nature. hate taking my grandkids camping, packed behind the motorhomes listening to generators and televisions. Dog parks.
- Pheasant hunting, dog parks
- Pickle all courts
- Pickle all courts
- Pickle ball and Kayak ports
- Pickle ball courts
- Pickle ball courts
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- pickle ball courts
- Pickle ball courts
- pickle ball courts
- Pickle ball courts
- Pickle ball courts
- Pickle Ball courts. Options for indoor recreation during winter months.
- Pickle ball, dog parks
- Pickleball court
- Pickleball courts
- Pickleball courts
- Pickleball courts
- Pickleball courts
- pickleball courts
- Pickleball courts
- pickleball courts and safe walking trails
- Pickle-ball courts with lights
- Pickleball courts!! This is the fastest growing sport in America and the number of players during prime play times outnumber courts more often than not.
- Pickleball courts, all season court space
- Pickleball courts, basketball courts, indoor recreation facilities

- PICKLEBALL COURTS, OUTSIDE BASKETBALL COURTS,
- Pickleball courts.
- picnic, hiking, fishing
- picnic area, Dog parks
- Picnic area. Swimming pool. Walking trails. Playgrounds. Golf courses. More guided/informational walks.
- Picnic areas
- Picnic areas
- Picnic areas.
- picnic shelters
- Picnic table
- Picnic table by northernmost tunnel on the Mickelson Trail
- Picnic, hiking
- pistol shooting range
- Pistol/rifle range
- Pistol/rifle range
- Place to ride ATV
- place to swim
- Place to train and run dogs off leash
- Places to fish safely. More docks with fishing access.
- Places to fish.
- places to hike
- places to hike and hunt
- places to hunt
- Places to hunt. natural areas and/or 'green space.'
- places to put in kayaks.
- Places to put kayaks in, mountain biking trails by FAST
- places to shore fish
- Places with good hunting
- Places/activities that wheelchair-bound people can access/participate in. Safe bicycling paths/areas.
- Platte creek Snake Creek
- Play ground
- Play grounds
- Play grounds for kids.
- play grounds, campgrounds,
- playground
- playground
- Playground
- Playground
- Playground
- Playground
- Playground
- Playground
- Playground for children
- Playground for children

- playground park
- playground, open park space, access to bike and walking/running trails
- Playground, park space, ice skating rink
- Playground,camping spots, boat ramp improvements
- Playgrounds
- Playgrounds
- Playgrounds
- Playgrounds and areas for sledding, fishing, swimming
- Playgrounds and bike trails
- Playgrounds and disk golf and removing drunks from parks and washing the urine off of stuff in parks
- Playgrounds for children
- Playgrounds, beaches, additional camping
- Playgrounds, community recreation areas
- Playgrounds, Hiking Trails
- Playgrounds, pool
- Playgrounds, state parks, baseball fields, swimming beach, public hunting acres.
- Playgrounds.
- Playing football
- plenty available.
- Plenty of facilities around Pierre
- Pool
- pool and baseball field
- Pool basketball courts
- Pool, fishing off shore
- Pool. Shooting rangers skating facility
- pools
- Pools, walking trails, volleyball courts
- Pools/swimming that are actually open and staffed. Rapid city pools opened at 12-5 last year which is difficult with small children who nap from 1-3. Many parks in RC are dirty or have homeless people or are in bad areas. We often go further away to enjoy the outdoors
- Possibly more camping areas!
- Potties, walking trails
- preserve clean air, quiet, view of the horizon natural areas for hiking, walking.
- Private land access
- Promenade
- Protect sylvan lake from so many people. The new parking area sickens
- Protection of wildlife habitat from destruction by aggressive farm practices/expansion/greed & USDA farm subsidy that encourages habitat destruction. Drainage of wetlands, tree strip removal and plowing of established grasslands with erodible soils are big threats that are not being effectively addressed in our South Dakota society. Private gain should not occur at public expense.
- Public access facilities (specifically boat ramps)
- Public access on Redwater River between 'jumping bridge' and Cadillac ranch
- Public access shooting range for rifle/pistol/shotgun

- Public access to hiking and hunting. More local fishing access.
- public access to lakes with enough parking and facilities to clean fish
- Public archery range
- Public Basketball court, indoor
- public boat access
- public boat access to hunting areas
- Public fish cleaning station
- public golf courses, outdoor shooting ranges, pickle ball facilities
- Public Gun Range for Handgun, Rifle, Shotgun
- Public gun ranges
- Public hunting
- Public hunting
- Public hunting
- Public hunting
- Public hunting & fishing opportunity
- Public hunting access
- Public hunting access
- Public Hunting and Archery ranges
- Public hunting and fishing areas
- Public hunting and fishing areas
- public hunting and rifle range
- Public hunting area
- Public hunting areas
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- Public hunting areas
- Public hunting areas
- Public hunting areas
- Public hunting areas, nature trails
- Public hunting areas. Better fishing opportunities.
- Public hunting GAmE production areas
- Public hunting ground
- Public hunting ground and campgrounds
- Public hunting land
- Public hunting land

- public hunting land, shore fishing
- public hunting lands that actually work not just one small grass field
- Public hunting or crep land
- Public hunting walk-in areas.
- Public hunting with waterfowl
- public hunting, walking trails
- Public hunting/fishing
- public land
- Public Land
- Public land
- Public land, outdoor ice rink
- Public lands
- Public lands for hunting and fishing.
- Public lands to go pheasant hunting on.
- Public outdoor pool, improved outdoor concert/festival venues.
- public owned hunting lands
- Public park
- public parks
- Public parks that are maybe more pet friendly. Also, would be nice to have a bigger public swimming pool
- Public pickle ball court
- Public Pickle ball courts that you don't have to belong to some club to use..
- Public recreation/hunting areas
- Public Rifle/Pistol range. Shotgun (trap) facilities.
- Public shooting range
- Public shooting range
- public shooting range
- Public shooting range
- Public shooting range
- Public shooting range and a golf course.
- Public shooting range, Public access to hunting areas surrounded by private land,
- Public shooting range. Campgrounds.
- Public Shooting range. It is all private around here, paying \$25+ a month to enjoy target shooting and teach my children proper gun safety is a big burden to my family.
- Public shooting ranges
- Public Shooting Ranges
- Public Shooting ranges.
- Public shore fishing piers Pierre/Fort Pierre area.
- Public shotgun range
- Public swimming areas, public fishing docks
- Public swimming pool
- public swimming pool
- Public toilets. Improved lighting, emergency phones along paved trails
- Public use areas
- Public, not private, gun range around Aberdeen

- public hunting, rifle range,
- Quality shore fishing...lakes are becoming silted in...I would like to see smaller bodies of water dredged.
- Quick shore fishing options
- Quiet areas that are not someone's back yard
- Quiet woods without ATV's
- Quiet, hiking areas that are free of single track motorcycles tearing around in the forest. Quiet places to watch the birds without ATVs speeding by dusting you out as you try to get a picture. We need the trail heads and miles of ATV trails take OUT - they are disrespectful of others. Getting tired of picking up all their beer cans from the sides of the trails and along my road :-(. To protect our wildlife, the majority of the population who enjoy the quieter aspects of the forest, please restrict the number of ATVs. They do not spend the amount of money the rest of us do. Do your homework. You are attracting an aspect of recreation that costs more to clean up after than they bring in.
- Quiet, peaceful areas where one can go to escape the noise/dust of modern day 'living' (especially ATVs), USFS campgrounds well maintained with level, non-eroded sites.
- Rafting kayaking and dog parks
- Ramp improvment onto Big Sioux for small boat access.
- ranges for shooting
- Real walk -in areas to hunt and not mowed fields
- recreatiON CENTER !!!!!!!!!!!!!
- recreation center
- Recreation center with a gym.
- Recreation facilities near Rapid City are very nice. West river walleye fishing is very tough, which leads to long trips across the state. More opportunities are needed.
- Recreational boating, RV campsites
- repairs on Lake Lakota
- Resident only public hunting opportunities
- Rifle and archery range
- Rifle and archery ranges
- Rifle and pistol range
- Rifle and Pistol Range
- Rifle And pistol range
- Rifle and shotgun shooting ranges
- Rifle Pistol ranges
- Rifle range
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- Rifle range
- rifle range
- rifle range,
- Rifle range, Archary range
- rifle range, ATV trails
- Rifle Range. There is none besides using private property. Would love a long range shooting range. Also Mitchell Lake still needs to be fixed. Should not be controlled by the city. It is terrible fishing lake and wouldn't eat anything that came out of that lake.
- rifle ranges
- Rifle shooting range
- Rifle shooting range
- Rifle shooting range
- Rifle shooting range to site in rifles!!!! Walleye fishing/opportunities to catch larger game fish.
- Rifle,handgun range.
- Rifle/ gun range
- Rifle/archery range
- Rifle/Pistol Range
- Rifle/pistol shooting
- Rifle/pistol Shooting ranges
- Rifle/pistol/shotgun ranges that dont cost an arm and a leg
- right of ways
- River access
- River access
- River access for kayaks public hunting areas
- River access points for public
- River Fishing
- River fishing access and shooting ranges
- River walk
- Rock climbing
- rock climbing walls
- Roubaix Lake, Black Hills National Forest, Mickelson Trail, Deadwood Rec Center, Reausaw Lake, UTV trails and snowmobile trails.
- Running ground
- Running trails
- Running/biking trails (not paved)
- Rv campground with house with washer dryer and shower and bathroom where semis can also use
- rv campgrounds
- RV campgrounds
- Rv camping
- RV Camping
- RV Camping
- RV Camping
- RV camping for summer. Quality pheasant hunting.
- RV Camping Spots

- RV camping with picnic areas so that additional family can gather
- RV camping, boat docks
- Rv campsites and hiking trails.
- RV campsites with full hookup
- RV hookups, improvement to swimming beaches and camping areas.
- RV sites
- RV/tent Camping
- Safe and stable shore fishing opportunities in an area where a person has the best chances at catching better fish.
- Safe paved bicycling trails off of actual roadways. Parallel but separate would be good. Bicycling on roadways is very dangerous.
- Safe rifle range.
- Safe shooting areas
- Safe shooting range
- Safe Shooting sports areas
- Safe spaces
- Safe swimming beaches
- Safe walking parks, dog park(s), skateboard & wholesome teen type recreation places.
- Safe walking paths and wide open spaces (check!)
- Safer canoe / kayak access area. Perhaps input from Sioux Empire Canoe - kayak association.
- Sailboat dock
- Sand lake wildlife refuge
- satisfied
- satisfied
- SD needs backpacking trails with destinations (hike in fisheries with backpacking areas). Winter time, indoor recreation (such as indoor archery range, golf simulators)
- Seems these days more camping spots and recreation activities
- Shady picnic areas
- Shoot range, shore and dock fishing, xc skiing areas
- shooting
- Shooting
- Shooting
- Shooting ranges. Most people around rapid city just use the National forest as their shooting range. This is dangerous to others who want to use the area, and it makes the area dirty.
- Shooting and archery
- Shooting and archery ranges
- Shooting area
- Shooting area for rifle and pistol, Archery target area. Hunting areas
- Shooting area. General outdoor recreation area. Boating access.
- Shooting areas
- shooting areas
- shooting areas, hunting areas, fishing areas
- shooting facilities
- Shooting facilities
- shooting facilities open to the public.

- shooting facilities. appreciate rifle/pistol range in Watertown. would like more shot gun areas
- Shooting facilities. Hunting access
- Shooting locations
- Shooting nrange
- Shooting parks and better maintained parking areas at hunting areas
- Shooting rang bank fishing access better public hunting areas more boat ramps
- Shooting rangdes
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- Shooting range
- Shooting range (but only if the ammo shortage and price gouging ends)
- Shooting range (easily accessible to the public, ie no fees, pain to register), and kayak/canoe trails launches and whatnot.
- Shooting range (near Rapid.) 4x4/offroad trails in west river area - Forest Service closed approximately 95% of what we had in 2010 with the travel management plan and continue closing more every year
- Shooting range (rifle/shotgun/handgun)
- Shooting range (shotgun, pistol, rifle), pool, shore fishing that is easy for kids to access with catchable fish like panfish and others but not bullhead/ catfish etc
- Shooting range /indoor archery range
- Shooting range and additional campgrounds, especially in Custer State Park.
- shooting range and boat launches
- Shooting Range and Disc Golf.
- Shooting range archery, shotgun, handgun and riffle.
- shooting Range for Guns Yankton has amazing Archery Course and my family uses that almost everyday when weather decent. but to shoot our Guns we travel over to picstown to use shooting range and we normally end up waiting 3 to 4 hours to shoot.
- shooting range free
- Shooting range other than the national forest
- Shooting Range Rifle
- Shooting range rifle/pisto/shotgun
- Shooting range that doesn't cost an arm and a leg
- Shooting range, Archery Range
- Shooting range, atv trail
- Shooting Range, boat ramps and parking at these areas. Backpacking overnight areas
- Shooting range, hunting access
- SHOOTING RANGE.
- Shooting range.
- shooting range=rifle and pistol
- Shooting ranged
- shooting ranges
- Shooting ranges
- Shooting ranges

- shooting ranges
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- Shooting ranges
- Shooting ranges and atv trails
- Shooting ranges and facilities for gun and archery
- Shooting Ranges and improved kayak access areas
- shooting ranges and shore fishing places
- Shooting ranges are a big issue West river. The GF&P should step up the construction of shooting ranges for the public to use. I do not know of any public shooting ranges in my area anymore and when I was growing up there were a few places the public was allowed to practice.
- Shooting ranges both rifle and handgun
- Shooting ranges firearms and Archery
- Shooting ranges for rifle/shotgun/archery.
- Shooting ranges, hunting area, fishing areas
- shooting ranges. we have none near madison sd
- Shooting rifle/pistol ranges
- Shooting sports
- Shooting sports
- Shooting sports and bike park
- Shooting Sports Complex!
- Shooting sports facilities such as a skeet range
- shooting!!!!
- Shore Access Fishing, Outdoor Shooting range(s)
- Shore fishing

- Shore fishing
- Shore fishing
- Shore fishing
- Shore fishing
- Shore fishing
- Shore fishing
- Shore fishing
- Shore fishing
- shore fishing
- Shore fishing access and tent camping.
- Shore Fishing access could be improved in our area. Also, we have one local disc golf course and the next closest after that is over an hour away.
- Shore fishing accommodation
- Shore fishing areas
- shore fishing areas
- shore fishing areas
- Shore fishing areas
- shore fishing areas
- Shore fishing areas
- Shore Fishing areas
- Shore fishing areas
- Shore fishing areas better boat ramp at Kamp Dakota 4X4 only for boats 16' or bigger due to the steep incline
- shore fishing areas and places to launch kayaks and canoes. Our state parks yell at kids when they try to launch at beach areas and the fishing areas are too crowded to launch kayaks.
- shore fishing areas and shooting ranges
- Shore fishing areas, boat ramps
- Shore fishing areas, utv trails, hiking/cross country skiing trails.
- Shore fishing areas.
- shore fishing capability
- Shore fishing facilities with ADA access.
- shore fishing improvements, Cross-country ski trails
- Shore fishing location
- Shore fishing locations and fishing piers
- shore fishing opportunities
- Shore fishing opportunities and a fish. Leaning station
- Shore fishing places
- Shore fishing sites;
- Shore fishing that doesn't suck
- Shore Fishing with edible fish to catch
- Shore fishing, Archery ranges
- Shore fishing, beach areas, shooting range
- shore fishing, boat ramps
- Shore fishing, clean beaches
- Shore fishing, outside of creeks. Some bass, bluegill, crappie type ponds or lakes.

- Shore fishing, state park ground and boat ramp, on McCook Lake.
- Shore fishing; Nature trails (paved or unpaved); Picnic/gathering areas
- Shotgun and rifle range
- Shotgun and rifle range
- Shotgun range
- Shotgun range
- Shotgun range
- shotgun range skeet trap
- Shotgun range, pistol/rifle range, dog park
- Shotgun shooting facilities
- Shotgun shooting range
- Showers
- sidewalks
- Sidewalks. We live in West Virginia.
- Simple double track dirt trails leading out to the various points are needed.
- single track motorcycle trails
- Single track trails
- Sioux Falls Area
- Sioux Falls area has plenty things happening with Good Earth here now and Spring Creek development.
- Skate and bike parks.
- skate groomed cross-country ski trails
- Skate park
- Skate park
- Skate Park
- Skate park, Downhill skiing/Snowboard hill with lift/tow rope.
- Skate/Bike parks.
- Skateboard
- Skateboard park, fishing camps along Big Sioux River
- skateboard park, reasonably priced swimming pools
- Skateboard parks, camping, dog parks
- Skateboard/Scooter/rollerblade park
- Skating Rink - picnic areas - Fishing
- skating rink, fish cleaning stations
- skeet range
- Skeet, trap, rifle and pistol ranges that are safe. wilderness hiking areas.
- Ski Trails
- Sledding area
- Sledding hill
- sledding hills, campgrounds, ice skate rink
- Sledding hills, ice skating areas,
- Sledding, camping.
- Sledding, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, hiking, fishing from shore.
- Small parks with exercise equipment

- Snowboard/Skiing, Running/Biking trails, Skatepark!
- soccer
- Soccer field and goals
- Soccer fields
- Soccer fields
- Soft surface trails, nature areas, cross country skiing, canoe/kayak river access
- Softball facilities=upgraded
- softball fields
- Softball fields and playgrounds
- Softball/baseball complex
- Solo dog parks, with a water jump for dogs. Basically a longer fenced in area so we can run our dogs without letting them play with other dogs.
- Something that attracts 2230-year-olds.
- sound buffering improvements to outdoor shooting range
- specific Kayak and Canoe launch areas and parking areas
- Splash pad (as an alternate to pool on colder days), playgrounds, soccer fields, baseball and softball fields, fishing piers for shore fishing,
- Sporting clays and distance shooting
- Sports Facilities. Soccer baseball softball outdoor swimming facility
- Sports fields, hiking trails
- stadium
- state and local parks
- State campground and more walking paths.
- State campground near Mitchell would be great!
- State camping
- State Game production land for bird hunting.
- State park
- State Parks
- State Parks
- State parks with trees
- State Parks! One isn't enough because there's SO many people RV camping these days.
- Stocking fish in ponds.
- Stocking of fish in lakes
- stripper joints
- Sturgis has plenty of trails. Maybe some water sports
- Summer fun for family (outdoor pool) and indoor active activities
- Swan lake
- Swim Beach, Dog Park
- Swimming pool improvement
- Swimming
- swimming
- Swimming
- Swimming
- Swimming
- swimming



- Swimming area and campground improvements at Burke Lake
- Swimming beach
- Swimming Beach, Boat Access, Ball Fields
- Swimming beach/accessibility at Fisher Grove
- Swimming beaches and paved ADA trail systems
- Swimming beaches, boat ramp, shore fishing areas
- Swimming Facilities Pool and/or groomed beaches.
- Swimming pool
- Swimming pool
- Swimming Pool
- Swimming pool
- Swimming pool
- Swimming Pool
- Swimming pool
- Swimming pool
- swimming pool and dog park
- swimming pool, dog-friendly open space, skatepark, connector trail from town to forest service trail network
- Swimming pool, football field
- Swimming pool, Gun range, improvement of outdoor swimming,
- Swimming pool, ice skating rink
- swimming pool, lake:) bike path
- swimming pool, river activities, playgrounds
- Swimming pool, with early morning swimming option
- Swimming pools.
- Swimming, hunting, hiking
- Swimming, skating and biking.
- Swimming, walking, kayaking
- Swimming/Hiking
- target shooting
- Target shooting range that isn't so expensive. The privately owned are to expensive. Would be nice to have a place to do some target shooting or sighting in a rifle that didn't cost a fortune. Ammunition is expensive enough! This is the one thing that's nice about the Black Hills is that you could go just about anywhere and do this for free.
- Target Shooting Ranges.
- Teenager recreation and disabled people recreation opportunities
- Tennis and pickleball courts
- Tennis court upkeep, swimming pool, camping area.
- Tennis Courts
- Tennis courts
- Tennis courts
- Tennis Courts
- Tennis courts; hiking trails; gun range
- Tent camp sites IN NATURE not right off the interstate
- Tent camping

- Tent camping and shore fishing access.
- Tent camping sites
- Tent camping sites
- Tent camping. Primitive camping
- Terrain for any type of outdoor activities. I live near Fargo.
- Thanks
- The 2022 Missouri River runoff is currently <80% of normal.
- The amusement park
- The basketball court
- The basketball court
- The basketball court
- The basketball court
- The fishing
- The library
- The maintenance shops in my community could be updated; they are quite dilapidated.
- The most need recreation facility would be the nature park and beach/lake access along with a golf course.
- The municipal parks provide many of the facilities/activities listed in the SDGF&P survey. Some activities/facilities are best done by local government, more so in urban areas than in rural areas. The municipalities close to where I live do a very good job of providing outdoor recreational opportunities.
- The only outdoor activity i know of within 10 to 15 minutes is shore fishing, but we have the river with 35 nibutes one way and and hour another way so we are fortunate in that regards. It would be nice if there were more atv trails around.
- The plane land
- The proposed shooting range north of Rapid City MUST happen. An hour and a half plus drive to shoot on a controlled range in Hot Springs is not feasible. This combined with alternatives being shooting on and (people consistently) trashing public lands is unacceptable.
- The tennis court
- The volleyball game
- There are a number of items where I live. No disc golf courses close to me.
- There are adequate facilities near me
- There are adequate opportunities here
- There are many recreational options already within 10-15 minutes from my house.
- There are none in that distance from my home.
- There are none so you guys can pick
- There are plenty within 10-15 minutes from my home for me.
- There are plenty already available throughout the Black Hills.
- there are too many ATV trails and not enough hiking trails.
- There are very few recreation areas that close to us.
- There is too much pressure on our reservoirs and lakes. Need to take big steps as a state and look to build more bodies of water to offer more opportunities and better quality. Too many out of state people depleting these resources.
- There isn't anything close to my home. All at least half hour or more away.

- There isn't enough public hunting near Sioux Falls to sustain the demand. I typically drive 2+ hours to waterfowl and archery hunt to get away from the crowds. There are a lot of late season geese in the area that are inaccessible to those without decoy trailers and land-owner connections.
- They are adequate in my opinion.
- They are okay for me.
- Things are fine now. This isn't the Rockies where there are millions of acres to ruin with millions of people flooding into the mountains. Tell the gov. To stop promoting the state like there are no limits. People always ruin the environment.
- things for younger kids to enjoy
- Things to do
- Think we are ok
- This is not easy to answer at all. We actually have good recreation and shooting facilities, but a sporting clay facility and shotgun shooting area in general would be really helpful. A longer distance (e.g., at least 300 m) rifle range is sorely needed. I feel like community gardening should be part of this as well, but I know that is debatable. More of that would be useful where I live (even though we have some).
- To play badminton
- To play basketball
- To play table tennis
- To play tennis
- too long of a survey .... pretty much just filling in stuff just to get it complete at this point...
- Trail
- Trails
- trails
- Trails
- Trails
- TRAILS
- Trails
- Trails
- Trails
- Trails
- Trails
- Trails
- Trails - paved or unpaved
- Trails (paved/unpaved) and picnic areas.
- Trails and dog park
- Trails and improved shore fishing
- Trails closed to ATVs/motor use
- Trails for hiking/backpacking.
- Trails for hiking/biking. Pickle-ball courts
- Trails for non-motorized activity
- Trails for walking with pets
- Trails to walk
- Trails to walk
- Trails to walk/run, boating areas,
- Trails, bike parks

- Trails, boat dock and parking at Spirit Lake
- Trails, dog parks
- Trails, indoor recreation space, pickleball courts, futsal mini pitches, passive an natural recreation spaces
- Trails, public shooting ranges
- Trails. Campgrounds.
- Trails. I live in Denver, NC
- Trails....
- Trap and Skeet range
- Trap and skeet range would he great
- Trap range
- Trap shooting
- trap shooting range
- trap/skeet fields
- Travel out of town, although 'trail' needs to be extended / improved.
- tubing....
- Tube sledding
- undeveloped natural areas for wildlife habitat.
- undeveloped wild places
- Undeveloped, Natural open space
- Unimproved natural areas and public pheasant hunting land
- unpaved hiking trails
- Unpaved hiking trails
- Unpaved hiking trails, nature areas
- Unpaved hiking trails. Shooting/archery facilities open to the public.
- Unpaved mountain bike trails, dog parks, disc golf courses, indoor shooting range.
- Unpaved Running trails. Most important.
- unpaved trails, shore fishing
- Unpaved walking trails
- Unpaved walking trails, new bathroom facilities
- Unpaved walking trails, playgrounds, picnic areas, nature areas
- Updated playgrounds
- Updated playgrounds and more playgrounds. More bike trails
- Updated playgrounds. They are pretty lackluster
- Updated pool and playground. Walking or hiking paths and opportunities for fishing.
- Upgraded bathrooms.
- Upland hunting area
- Urban fishing (kids)
- Urban no paved trails
- Utv trail
- Utv trails
- UTV trails
- UTV trails, mountain bike trails, long range shooting
- Very lucky to live in redfield and have everything I need

- Volleyball and tennis courts
- Volleyball court
- Volleyball court, public hunting, archery/shooting range
- Volleyball courts
- Volleyball courts and shooting range
- Walk in hunting
- Walk in hunting areas.
- Walk-in hunting access
- Walking & biking trails
- Walking and biking trails
- walking and biking trails
- Walking and biking trails. Walk in fishing areas
- Walking areas
- walking hiking nature trails
- walking or bike trails
- Walking or biking trails
- Walking paths
- Walking paths
- Walking Paths unpaved
- Walking paths year round
- walking trail
- Walking trail
- Walking trails
- walking trails
- walking trails
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- Walking trails
- Walking trails
- walking trails

- Walking trails - best exercise, cheap to do, can do it alone. The best facility for the greatest number of people.
- Walking trails and handicap accessible .
- walking trails not paved.
- Walking trails separate from OHV travel.
- Walking trails that allow dogs
- Walking trails,
- walking trails, firearms practice ranges, hunting and fishing locations.
- Walking trails, bike trails
- Walking trails, but honestly, there's nowhere to put walking trails... it's all private land.
- walking trails, educational activities
- Walking trails, playgrounds
- Walking trails, public hunting, fishing spots.
- walking trails, streets for riding bike or paved paths for walking
- Walking trails, tent camping, beaches.
- Walking trails.
- Walking, hiking and bike paths
- Walking/biking trail completion
- Walking/biking trails and playgrounds
- Walking/hiking trails
- Walking/hiking trails
- Walking/hiking trails and public access to open space.
- Walking/hiking/cross country skiing trails at Fisher Grove
- Walking/Running (Re: local path is not safe)
- Wall Lake
- WALL lake
- Wall lake. Any campground in the summer, walk trail
- Water access
- water access
- Water access of all types
- Water access, boat ramps, cleaning stations atv/utv trails
- Water activity, archery, parks,
- water based activities that is not the local pool
- water fowl production areas, camping areas where it is possible to get a reservation without booking 90 days in advance.
- Water park or Ravine Lake
- water park or swimming pool
- water recreation areas
- Water slides on public beach
- Water sport availability
- Water sports areas
- Water that doesn't get disgusting halfway through the summer.
- We are close to lake Vermillion campgrounds and used them several times last year. Really happy to see the increase in the number of camping spots.

- We are overrun by OTV/ATV's in my residential neighborhood. They need designated trails away from residential neighborhoods with more patrol officers.
- We are set up well...
- We are well situated to use a variety of activities.
- We don't have much for public shooting ranges. Those I've seen are not very well maintained and often the target of vandalism and abused by people who use them. I have spent many hours picking up trash in areas set aside as shooting ranges. There needs to be more public awareness that these areas exist to be used and maintained by the public and not abused.
- We don't need more - we simply need people using them to clean up after themselves and their pets
- We go to Lake Poinsett, so whatever new things that can be added there would be great!
- we have a lot of facilities, we need more space
- We have a nice area that is designated for dog training (as someone with hunting dogs, it looks maintained to be training bird dogs) but it is starting to become overrun with people who just want a dog park experience.... If we had a dog park that would help to keep this area focused for training instead of people dropping their dogs off to run and drinking their coffee in their car. It would be great to get a dog park to meet their needs, and also to help those of us looking to use this area for bird dog training.
- We have been trying to improve a natural hiking trail that connects a paved trail to a park in our community. And add interpretive signs. My husband and I have volunteered our time to do so. We need to raise money and get more support from our city.
- We have great facilities in my area. But I would love to see curling offered at my local ice arena.
- We have great recreation opportunities near my home.
- We have lots
- We have no facilities within 30 minutes of my home.
- We have very few recreation facilities within 15 minutes from our home. We are in the extreme Northeast part of South Dakota. There are a few boat landings and one state owned park roadside park with playground equipment that I know of. Everything else is over 15 minutes away.
- We have what we need.
- We live 20 minutes from town. In the town it has some nice biking trails.
- We live in a great area and are satisfied with what we have. Butte County
- We live in Rapid Valley and we do not have a Dog Park, we go to the near by school playground.
- We live out of state, have a permanent campsite in SD. Within 10-15 minutes of our campsite, more handicap parking at boat ramps is needed.
- We live out of state. 2 hours from SD
- We live outside of the state so I doubt my opinion would help you for this question
- We live within 10-15 minutes of Lake Mitchell. I know the City has tried to improve it, but I have always wished Lake Mitchell could be a State park so it could be utilized by more people.
- We live within 10-15 minutes of Lake Mitchell. I know the City has tried to improve Lake Mitchell, but I have always wished it could be a State park.
- We need a dog park for small dogs.
- We need a good boat landing on Lake Albert. There is only one and it is in poor shape and the vehicles get stuck. Boat ramp is too short since the water is receding and also need to reconstruct the culverts on the North end of Lake Albert to maintain a steady water level in the Lake.
- We need an outdoor shooting range near Miller, SD

- We need handicap accessible areas for fishing, swimming, and beach fun. Mobridge has no swimming and very little access to the water for anyone other than fisherman, during summer and winter. It's all about fishing and hunting. Concentrate on all the other activities families like to do other than just those 2 activities. Manage our resources.
- We need more camping sites as more and more people have purchased campers.
- We need more hiking trails.
- We need to be better informed.
- We need to keep the ATV traffic down and keep them from tearing up the trails.
- We pretty much have all of them already
- We were good with all
- Well maintained public hunting areas, thistle control
- Well, my community is ND so obviously I will say ATV trails.
- We're good where we are.
- We're out of state.
- West Dam restoration
- Wheelchair/walker hard-surface pathways at Newton Hills State Park to fishing dock, shelter/seating areas, playground equipment.
- Whitewater kayak park
- WIA, Game Production Areas, CREP
- WiFi
- Wildlife areas
- Wildlife habitat. Nature areas. Shore fishing access
- wildlife viewing areas, drive thru scenic areas
- Winter activities (skiing, sledding, etc)
- Winter bball courts and track
- Winter Recreation Areas for cross country skiing, fat biking, mtn. biking, general hiking and day tent camping.
- Winter sports facilities
- Wish there were better ice fishing opportunities
- within 10-15 minutes from our house we have plenty of hiking trails to go on and use
- Within Sioux Falls there is plenty of available outdoor outlets.
- Work out equipment on trails
- Would be nice if there was horse camp in the fort Randall area. I do know there is one at Peace creek Another horse camp and trails are still needed
- Would love more natural walking/hiking trails - they are few and far between in Eastern SD. More educational things for birds wildlife that both kids and adults would gain from. More places with groomed cross country skiing trails
- Xc ski trails
- Yankton Marina needs more food/beverage options and more boat fuel options
- Year round dog parks, more camping spots
- Year round fish cleaning facility
- year round picnic tables in the parks. We have intermittent great weather all year round and I like to eat outside. We don't need a state paid pistol or rifle range. I don't want to attract any 'Patriots' or 'Oathkeepers' or folks who drive around with F\*\*K Biden flags waving from their antennas.



Perhaps GF&P could be teaching more wilderness/park etiquette courses instead of killing opossum, foxes, badgers, raccoons and any other indigenous animal.

- year round swimming
- Youth Baseball/softball Fields
- Youth center
- Youth fishing and outdoor activities
- Youth training facilities for outdoor hunting and fishing

Section 3, Question 4. What other facilities/areas/amenities should be considered when promoting South Dakota's outdoor recreation legacy for the next five years?

- bath houses in all campgrounds
- I would like to see bathrooms closer closer to tenting sites. It has been my observation that the tenters have to go the furthest to access a bathroom and the RV's are sitting on top of them AND THEY HAVE BATHROOMS IN THEIR CAMPER, for the most part
- Lean up water, livestock out of state federal waterways
- more big fishing lakes
- Protect the Rapid Creek watershed from mining. 2) create a mountain bike skills areas along the Rapid Creek Greenway. Bentonville Arkansas is a great example of what can be done to make the Black Hills a better mountain bike destination.
- whitewater park on Rapid Creek
- limit OHV vehicles to specific roads and trails in the forest
- 50 amp in all campgrounds
- a branch of the state's cultural heritage museum in Custer State Park to provide interpretive material on SD's past to both visitors and residents
- A comfort station closer to the tent camping area at Lake Poinsett is only logical. People with campers have facilities. Tenters don't. And while there is a vault toilet several campsites away, they have to walk half of the facility to take a shower. We were confused why they put a cabin at that end instead of another comfort station.
- A decent place to fish
- A different way to do reservations for in state patrons
- A few more fish cleaning stations
- A first class shooting range in Western South Dakota.
- A large shooting range that would accomodate a variety of outdoor shooting events
- A 'Leashless' park where dogs and humans can roam, leash-free. (Not a small dog park, but like a WIA during pheasant season, but one with walking trails for people and isn't limited to hunting season.)
- A lot of emphasis is always put on the Black Hills. However, it is my opinion that we should be promoting the natural beauty in the Eastern and Central parts of the state as well. Local outdoorsmen and women know and utilize the areas in these parts of the state. As far as tourism goes, there is very little, other than what pheasant hunting brings in. States like North Dakota don't focus so much on Devils Lake as much as they promote towns such as Dickinson. When the state parks, such as Lake Thompson and Lake Louise, are kept-up they are wonderful vacation spots that are fairly reasonable in price.
- a port a potty or some bathroom facility since I always have my children with me

- A public rifle/pistol range for the city of Mitchell. On the public lands near Mitchell, plant crops that are dove hunting friendly like sunflowers and millet. These crops benefit pheasants but also create high opportunity for dove hunters.
- A ropes/adventure course!
- A safe outdoor shooting complex would be useful
- A shooting range would add to the economy of the Black Hills region (in recent news). Let's look at a reasonable location.
- A water park
- access
- Access roads
- Access to fly fishing streams/creeks
- Access to hunting and fishing opportunities.
- Access to lakes and streams
- Access to land owned by those receiving government support payments!
- Access to landlocked public lands
- Access to landlocked public state and federal land
- Access to outhouses and drinking water.
- access!!!!!!
- Accessibility for all ages and abilities
- Accessibility for the elderly
- Accessibility within 5-10minutes of each neighborhood and all age inclusive.....like community gathering areas...
- Accessible amenities and diverse options. Being creative with new areas and facilities.
- Accessible hunting
- Accessible, quality outdoor recreation opportunities for everyone!
- Activities for kids
- Activities for kids and families
- Activities for retirement folks and outdoor entertainment
- Activities to get kids and families outdoors that don't cost a fortune to the family. Costs add up very quickly when figuring a family of 4.
- ADA
- ADA accessible
- ADA accessible trails for hiking , biking, wheelchair use
- ADA and cleanliness
- ADA facilities
- Add more archery ranges to state parks
- Add state park rv options
- Add water for individual camping spots in modern camping areas
- Adding 1-2 trophy trout lakes into the Black Hills trout management plan. For example: 1) Rid Lakota Lake of its pike and move them to Stockade Lake. 2) Add catch-and-release regulations to Lakota Lake and close it to ice-fishing. 3) In addition to rainbow trout, begin stocking tiger trout there instead of Center Lake.
- Adding a bit more RV and horse camping opportunities
- Adding full hookup RV pads.
- Adding more camping areas and hunting areas

- Adding more walk in hunting areas
- Addition RV camping sites in state parks.
- Additional boat docks, spots to launch kayak/paddle board
- additional camping in the black hills
- Additional interest in American Indian, Lewis and Clark, Old West history. Possibly reenactment of Jack McCall trial as an idea.
- Additional Opportunities in the Sioux Falls area for public access during late season Canada Goose Hunting. Maybe draw fields or Walk in areas.
- Additional quality public wildlife areas open to hunting and fishing.
- Additional shooting ranges would be good.
- Adequate bathroom facilities for handicap people
- Adequate parking, decent bathroom facilities, spectator seating at outdoor games
- Adequate restroom facilities.
- Adult Education. There is a growing amount of the population that are not SD natives, not from the Midwest, or may just need a reliable resource to find their way into outdoor recreation.
- Affordability and access
- Affordability, safe for social distancing and clean for covid concerns
- Affordable
- Affordable costs!!!!
- Affordable for low income people of South Dakota
- Affordable rentals such as kayaks, canoes, but definitely more state ground ( and develop for hunting opportunities).
- air conditioned toilets
- Airsoft and or paintball
- All are adequate.
- All season fish cleaning stations
- All weather fish and game cleaning stations
- Always looking to improve existing structures!
- amenities such as showers at campsights
- Amount of people moving to South Dakota from other states
- An extra reservoir or two in the Rapid City area +- 75 miles
- And a MUCH improved system for people to make reservations--or not-- but to find places to camp without a hassle. Not everyone knows if they will get approved for work leave, on a particular day, a year ahead.
- Animal entertainment
- Another long rail trail or two, bicycle infrastructure in state parks and cities and routes connecting the cities and parks
- Any extra access is good. With so much land being private it is hard to enjoy hunting or fishing with a family when you don't have relatives who own land.
- Any outdoor recreational facilities, areas, and amenities should focus on the natural not the WIFI, not the motorized, not the artificial. We need to focus on the gift of our natural environment so that it remains a place of renewal, exploration, discovery, and peace in a world that is moving faster and faster, becoming more crowded, more demanding and more stressful because of it. .
- Anything leading to pure natural areas

- Anything similar in scope to the Mickelson Trail or the bike path along the Big Sioux in Sioux Falls should be considered in all areas of the state.
- Archery
- Archery areas
- Archery areas at more parks
- Archery only hunting areas
- Archery parks/courses, hatchet/knife throwing targets available in an area,
- Archery ranges and shooting ranges, protect the land we have. Protect wilderness and keep vehicles out of it. Limit otv/utv/atv address so they don't tear up and destroy our Beautiful black hills
- Archery ranges, and more hunting areas.
- Archery, and gun ranges
- archery, bike and atm areas
- Archery, hunting and fishing. Getting women outdoors and more involved. Getting people in general outside and away from toxic news media and Facebook lol
- Archery, rifle, pistol for the kids
- Are you serious about wifi? WThell does wifi have to do with outdoor recreation???
- Areas along the Missouri River. Create trails in the bluffs to allow people to walk/hike and get away from campgrounds.
- Areas closed to vehicles of all kinds including ATVs.
- Areas for covered picnic tables.
- Areas free of arc/utv
- Areas of reduced noise pollution and strongly enforced leash laws.
- Areas specifically for veterans hunting or fishing access only
- As our population grows older, there needs to be camping sites and facilities that can accommodate their needs.
- ATV activities
- Atv Off road park
- ATV trails. Shore fishing docks
- Atv utv parking and facilities
- ATV UTV trails or parks. Iowa has done several parks in conjunction with COE. Why can't we do that in SD
- Atv/snowmobile trails with rentals available
- Atv/utv contol, crazy out there. Get them into the prairie some and limit the rental places, charge out of state high fees, etc
- ATV/UTV free zones.
- ATV/UTV rental Businesses should be paying enough for trail tags on their rental machine to financially support trail maintenance and management. The bigger more powerful 'performance' machines should have a higher tag cost then say a 600-700cc 'touring' machine. Too many ATVs/UTVs rentals allowed in the Blackhills, Areas around the rental locations are damaged more than others. Do not know if it is higher traffic or people who rent the ATVs/UTVs care less about the trails. If people are willing to pay several hundred dollars for a rental, they should be Ok paying \$25-\$50 for trail maintenance fee per day.
- ATV/UTV Trails
- ATV-type wheelchairs available for use/rental in a few areas and special trails for them.

- Availability of camping sites
- Availability of rest rooms, additional RV camping areas
- availability to ranges for archery and firearms
- Available camping is extremely hard to find
- Available clean bathrooms
- Available potable water
- Available sites
- Back to nature fun activities
- Badlands, Blackhills, Missouri river
- Basketball
- Basketball court
- Bathroom access
- Bathroom access
- Bathroom and dump stations
- bathroom and water spicket or fountain to get a drink / refill water bottle
- bathroom facilities
- Bathroom facilities at picnic areas/on some trails
- Bathroom/ showers
- Bathrooms
- bathrooms
- Bathrooms
- Bathrooms
- Bathrooms
- Bathrooms on kayak routes. Parking for kayakers at Cherapa place
- Bathrooms/shower houses
- Be careful about what you build and promote.....many of the things you have listed simply should not be promoted and will have long term negative consequences!
- Beaches
- Beauty
- Beauty of the outdoors - the diversity of the landscape - the excellent fishing opportunities - excellent campgrounds!
- Better access for land locked public lands
- Better access like paved roads
- Better access to and connectors to/from the Mickelson Trail.
- Better access to land locked School & Public lands. Better boundary signage on all public hunting & fishing areas.
- Better beaches and access to shore fishing
- Better beaches, more beaches, more birding opportunities
- Better boat docks on lake oahe
- Better boat ramps in places like 81 ponds. Better access to small lakes in the NE. Opportunities for shore fishing suitable for families with young children- BLUEGILLS
- Better campground areas with space
- Better cell service in case of a fall while on a trail.
- Better cell service in remote areas
- Better cell signal

- Better deer hunting land
- Better do something about the hunting for big game
- better fish cleaning stations and some year around fish cleaning stations
- Better fish populations
- Better groomed camp sites in parks. Overhead limbs, trash, steep grades in RV spots
- Better Habitat
- Better hiking trail maps and better trail markings
- Better maintained public areas both by government officials and public awareness. More parks employees t maintain public facilities more frequently. If that means fees go up, so be it. The public also needs reminders that public facilities are as much their responsibility as GF&P officials. A campaign should be enacted that would bring about public awareness as to how they can help keep the resources available and maintained. A reminder of public involvement and assistance should be posted at every park entrance, boat ramp or fish cleaning station as a reminder of our responsibility to maintain these places.
- Better marked areas and roads would be nice.
- Better online reservation system.
- Better policing and maintenance of atv, Sxs trails in BH Forest.
- Better Public Pheasant Habitate
- better restroom facilities
- Better restrooms
- Better shore fishing opportunities on large lakes, better information for locating stock ponds in my area
- Better signage for river access. Especially the Missouri River.
- Better signage on trails
- Better stay close to home and not waste so much time on the road
- Better system for reserving camping sites
- Better upkeep and facilities in our east river state parks. More cabins and bathrooms. Bike/walking trails need redone. Trees need attention and more need planted. Beach areas need better markings. Better signage in the parks.
- Better water quality and ways to maintain lake levels to ensure fishing and boating activities. No lakes will hurt the economy and activities.
- Better websites
- Better wildlife habitat and water quality
- Better/more rv camping
- bicycle
- Bigger campground restrooms. Do not clean them during the busiest time of the morning.
- Bike and ATV trails
- Bike lanes and infrastructure
- Bike paths. E bike
- Bike repair stations (with working air pumps!)
- Bike trails
- Bike trails
- bike trails
- Bike Trails , Kayak areas, Shore Fishing

- Biking trails to popular places for e bikes or folks who can't move as well. My folks biked the Mickelson this summer and loved it, easy stuff like that for them!
- Biodiversity, climate change resiliency, protected natural areas and wildlife and plants for future generations, more stewardship practices, improved relationships with the land, improved relationships to Native American land use and management, improved JEDI within public lands
- bird watching routes and board walks and observation towers
- Birding sanctuary, tie zoo and butterfly house into other outdoor recreation, conservation and educational opportunities
- Black Hills
- Black Hills trout fishing
- Boat accesses
- Boat docks
- boat docks river
- Boat docks, Platte lake
- Boat docks/ramps
- Boat ramp and dock improvements
- Boat ramp and parking at Pactola Lake.
- Boat ramp and parking lot improvement
- Boat ramps
- boat ramps
- boat ramps
- Boat ramps
- Boat ramps
- boat ramps and roads to get to ramps.
- Boat ramps at smaller lakes
- boat ramps for low water levels
- Boat rental
- Boating access
- Boating access is almost always crowded during the warm summer weekends. A soft-surface running path along the bike trail would be beneficial to many people's body health.
- boating access to our lakes
- Boating, hunting, fishing, and trails southwest of Sioux Falls
- Boats keep getting bigger and heavier. make sure the boat ramps can handle them
- brand awareness and greater public engagement, lots more surveys, ongoing surveys and input, show the outcomes, show data, show stats, shows success stories of programs and progress, show behind the scenes - be transparent, do everything you already know customers and visitors want and do it. Spend more on marketing and it will help all areas
- bring back the pheasant survey!
- Bringing back the wildlife counts (ie pheasants) so we're not continually lying to people and then they will never hunt SD again. But, also need to put South Dakotan's first as we live here and pay more than out of staters, but keep getting treated horrible by our own Governor, GFP Sec and legislators! Put our money (Habitat Stamp, Pittman Robertson, etc.) to good use and buy more public lands and keep improving them every year so the average person can continue to use SD's outdoors without having to pay to hunt.

- Bringing the cost back in line so those of us on fixed incomes can enjoy the outdoors instead of continuing the practice of catering to rich people.
- Buffers online on the tributaries to our lakes for cleaner more enjoyable lakes . Audit what environmentally friendly waste removal systems that were purchased and see if they are working safely and properly to make our state parks less stinky and more enjoyable. It is hard to promote our parks when the water is green and the facilities gag you with poop air.
- Build a new warm water fish hatchery in the Pierre area. Review and implement fishing regulations that enhance the fish population. Regulations are currently geared to attract business for private and commercial entities. Its time to think big and build boat launch facilities that will accommodate 8-10 launch ramps. Oahe should have at least three such super deep water launches that will allow boaters the means to launch their boats regardless of lake levels. Finishing Oahe Reservoir to allow top water release back into the Missouri river. The emergency spillway was built to allow top warm water discharge, but it was decided later in the construction process to abandon that idea and rely on the deep water stilling basin for water releases. We now know that was a bad idea and it has effected Oahe fishery drastically over the years. The SD Game Fish & Parks need to do a study on guide activity on the Missouri River. There should be a permit process and its time to review aggregate limits. There needs to be some conservation guidelines.
- Build the Rapid City area shooting range.
- Building an outdoor shooting sports complex.
- Cabin rental
- Cabin type facilities.
- Cabins
- Cabins to rent that have bathrooms at the parks! It's hard to have to leave to go potty all the time esp with kids or medical issues, etc
- Cameras at public docks. Adequate dumpsters and bathrooms maintained.
- camp grounds, public hunting, walking trails
- Camp sites
- Camper hook up more site affordable sites and fare spacing
- Camper hookups, electricity, boat ramps, cleaning stations, wifi
- campgrounds
- Campgrounds
- Campgrounds seem overcrowded
- Campgrounds, state parks, National forest
- Camping
- Camping
- Camping
- Camping
- Camping
- Camping
- Camping spots BUT NOT IN CUSTER STATE PARK
- Camping activities and hunting meals
- Camping and hiking without a lot of people around; more privacy with nature.
- Camping and walking Rec trails
- Camping cabins with bathrooms would be nice!
- Camping pads / fishing access



- camping rv
- Camping sites
- Camping sites
- Camping sites at smaller lakes
- Camping sites that meet ADA requirements.
- Camping sites, bathroom/bath houses, boat ramps,
- Camping spots
- camping spots
- Camping spots in national forest.
- Camping spots large enough for families and pets
- Camping, bathrooms,
- Camping/hunting/fishing
- Camping/RV sites and the new reservation system is terrible
- Campsites spread apart
- Can't think of any
- Can't think of any
- Can't think of any
- Can't think of any
- Can't think of any
- Cannot think of any
- Canoe access points and campgrounds
- Canoe rental beaches
- Canoe rentals, interactive exhibits, day use fire pits
- Can't think of any.
- Can't think of anything
- Cascade Falls -- no fees and a beautiful swimming hole!
- Catering facilities
- Cell phone coverage
- Cell phone reception
- Cell phone service, not for the idea of being on our phone, but for emergencies.
- Cell phone signal.
- Cell service
- CHAP locations
- Charge move for non resident fishing and hunting way to low and they take all resources and not care about wildlife and management
- Charge the out of state hunters more for a license and not the residents who live here
- Cheaper fees
- Childrens activities
- Children's facilities
- Children's fishing days.
- Children's museum
- Children's park
- Children's recreation center and senior recreation center
- City lights

- clean and adequate restroom/shower facilities, horse pens/trails, open camp spots for travelers
- Clean and heated bathrooms for early or late camping
- Clean and more showers
- clean bathrooms and more rv camping spots
- Clean bathrooms and showers. Good for the most part but...
- Clean bathrooms, not just vault toilets
- clean bathrooms. recreation in the campgrounds/ entertainment
- clean facilities
- Clean parks we were at a state park this past year and it was absolutely discussing the rest rooms and showers were terrible garbage was overflowing don't know if I will return there again
- Clean public restrooms more shoreline fishing availability
- Clean restroom facilities
- Clean restrooms
- Clean restrooms with running water to wash hands.
- clean restrooms,
- Clean toilets at trailheads
- Clean undergrowth from Burr Oak areas. Fire burns to clean large dog park areas.
- Clean up
- Clean up the campground areas - when you are camping with children or pets, its horrible the way some of the campsites are maintained. Keep the grass mowed and clean up around trees
- Clean Water and Bathrooms
- clean water for swimming
- Clean water, low fees
- Clean well kept facilities
- Cleaner lakes
- Cleaner water - so much of outdoor water recreation is limited because lakes and streams as so polluted.
- Cleaning stations for fish/game
- cleanliness
- Cleanliness and availability. We got out of public camping at state parks because you have to book so far in advance. How do I know what we are going to be doing 3 months from now and what the weather is like????
- clear blue skys
- Climate change. Need to adjust winter activities or more options for disabled individuals
- Climbing mountaineering, rock climbing, field simulation
- Close the atv/utv trails in the black hills during hunting seasons (exceptions for handicapped individuals). This will provide opportunity for people to enjoy the hunting without be harassed by off-road vehicles.
- Combination fly fishing ponds/ hunting in game production areas. Also, re-purpose dead rail lines as trails for hiking, biking, and cross country skiing
- Comfort stations
- Comfort stations in all state parks. Fix up Hiddenwood State Park near Selby,
- Comfort Stations with running water
- Commendations for Newton Hills park staff/management for outstanding clean, safe, continuous improvement/expansion of park.

- Commitment to eco-friendly development and practices
- community sports field
- Concentrate more on local residents rather out-of-state, commercial aspects.
- Concentrate on on resident only as activities!!
- Connecting communities with trails
- Consider keeping the number of campsites static. Adding more people will diminish the outdoor experience and the charm of South Dakota
- Consider the negative impact to our recreating environment/experience by drawing more people to the Black Hills.
- Consideration to clear lake accesses during winters with alot of snow to allow better access for ice fishermen
- consumptive hunting opportunities
- Continue to improve the camping facilities.
- continue upgrading lavatory facilities
- Continuing to improve habitat for wildlife
- Continuing to provide and improve on what is available.
- CONTROL the ATV numbers and police them!!!!
- Cost - many families choose not to participate because costs can be prohibitive.
- Cost !
- Cross country ski paths
- Cross Country ski trail / walking trail at Enemy Swim Rec areas
- Cultural attractions
- Cultural entertainment
- culture
- culturesecurity
- Curling park
- Current and new facilities should all have names that are respectful of Indigenous people - it's time to get Custer off the roster.
- Custer State Park is getting over-crowded during peak tourist season. Trails near Sylvan Lake are very crowded, to the point that local citizens do not use the park but wait until peak tourist season is over. Traffic on park roads is heavy. A few years ago it was proposed to increase the boat speed limit on Deerfield Lake to 25 mph but the increase was opposed by citizens. This is a quiet lake and hopefully it will remain so.
- Cycling: Road car long-distance, mountain bike off-road, BMX mobile, mountain downhill
- Dark skies, stargazing
- Dark sky areas. preserving natural areas/restoring natural areas
- Day parking for horse trailers at trail heads. A lot of us from colorado come to ride your beautiful state and horse trailer parking is not readily available in some areas
- Day Trips
- day use
- Deeds worthy of promotion
- definitely wifi
- Designated nature areas/trails close to or within municipalities. Kids need safe places to get out and get dirty!
- Develop more local public Shooting Ranges.

- Developing a pheasant brooding program on the existing fish hatcheries sites around the state for release of chicks in wildlife production areas. Fish hatcheries have been a huge success and have fostered the growth of this activity within the state. We already have the Wildlife biologists on staff to facilitate.
- Developing trails, trailheads, day use areas. Eastern SD Ski Area in the Coteau Hills.
- Development outside of Custer State Park. As mentioned previously more rentals for kayaks, bikes etc. The parks that offer these things are a big hit with my family.
- Different means of promotion. Consider a mailing/emailing list.
- Different outdoor programs for our youth. Shooting, fishing, hunting, nature.
- Dirt biking
- Disabled fishing contests
- Disabled parking needs increasing
- Disc golf
- Dispersed camping grounds on the east side of the state, more public hunting opportunity, cleaner lake areas (algae blooms, washed up carp, etc.)
- dispersed camping, or low cost camping solutions. Campgrounds are far too expensive.
- Do not add anymore campgrounds to Custer State Park. It is beautiful as it is!
- DO NOT add more camping site to Custer State Park
- DO NOT DESTROY WILDLIFE HABITAT BY BUILDING STATE RUN CAMPGROUNDS!  
There are plenty of campgrounds available & the private sector can & will provide more without destroying the park system properties
- Dog friendly areas. Unpaved areas.
- Dog friendly cabins.
- Dog parks
- Dog parks
- Dog Parks
- Dog parks near campgrounds (specifically in Yankton)
- Dog training grounds for bird dog and retriever training.
- Don't let them be overrun. Manage the crowds.
- Don't let. People drive across waterfowl production areas with impunity and determine who is actually responsible for them. Federal or State-Not Both.
- Don't focus so much on hunting.
- DON'T GET TOO MODERN.
- Don't let the left take away any of our God given rights!
- Don't make so many parks/campgrounds that it scares off the wildlife people want to see. Leaving plenty of space at campgrounds - don't sacrifice space for the income gained from 'packing them in'.
- don't over-promote lest we be over-run and deny everyone participating of a good experience. Sometimes less is more
- Don't promote them, we have too may people here already.
- Don't promote, too many people already.
- Don't straighten any more roads like you did with Sheridan Lake Road. It used to be really nice for motorcycling. Now it's a freeway.
- DOWNHILL SKIING, BIKE TRAILS, CANOEING/KAYAKING/PADDLE BOARDING
- Drawing non residents to the area

- Drinking water
- Drinking water at all these if feasible
- dry camping areas
- Dump stations for RV
- Ease of access
- east river could use some off road areas for ATVs
- Educate people on trapping ... so we can keep it a South Dakota legacy
- Education and recognition of Indigenous People and wildlife.
- Education to get kids outside.
- Electrical hook-ups for campers. There is some need for necessary medical equipment.
- Electricity for camping people have medical equipment they need electricity for
- Electronic
- Eliminate all ATVs they are destroying the black hills and other areas
- Elimination of ATV's
- Enough people to keep them up and clean.
- Environmental protection of lakes
- Even camping sites
- Events
- everything is ok
- Everything that I currently do or have an interest in is being promoted through email, websites, groups, mailings, and friends.
- exercise areas with hilly topography
- Expand bike trails
- Expand network/facilities to minimize driving to get access for recreation. Bird and wildlife watching. Improve habitat.
- Expand state parks
- Expand the walk-in areas for upland game.
- Expanding Great Bear, rental equipment for kayak, biking at Big Sioux Rec, deal with the rattlesnake issue at West Bend!!!!
- Expanding number of golf courses
- Expanding RV camping at state parks
- Extra parking for visitors at campgrounds
- Facilities and amenities are not necessarily important to me. I prefer solidarity and the less facilities/amenities/people the better.
- Facilities that integrate science and nature
- Facilities/trails for horse camping
- Fair camping reservations
- Family & children's programs
- family activities to participate in while camping. Games/events
- Family friendly activities to draw attention to the areas
- Family fun areas
- family orientated campgrounds with cabins available to rent
- Family oriented activities
- Family oriented recreational areas
- Family pavilions

- fee reductions
- Fee reductions
- feel we do a good job
- Festivals
- Fewer tourists
- Fewer tourists (reduced promotion)
- Finding ways to support existing hunting and fishing for those who enjoy it while also expanding opportunities for those who just like to be outside to experience nature (people like me). I don't care about hunting (not against it, just not patient enough to enjoy it) but I love backpacking, back country camping, mountain biking, and more. On the eastern side of our state I feel like those opportunities are slim.
- Fines for off-leash dogs and people that run generators all night.
- Firearm ranges
- Fish cleaning areas and waterfowl access
- Fish cleaning stations
- Fish cleaning stations
- Fish cleaning stations
- Fish cleaning stations
- Fish cleaning stations
- fish cleaning stations
- Fish cleaning stations
- fish cleaning stations and shooting areas
- Fish cleaning stations that are open year round.
- Fish cleaning stations, ample parking
- fish cleaning stations, new rifle ranges, improved boating and shore fishing facilities, additional lands leased for open hunting and fishing.
- Fishing
- fishing access
- Fishing access
- Fishing access on rivers
- Fishing and all of the opportunities
- fishing and camping
- Fishing and hunting area that do not have a fee
- Fishing areas
- Fishing areas
- fishing camping and dog friendly parks
- Fishing cleaning stations in north east South Dakot
- Fishing, Camping
- fishing, hunting
- fishing, hunting, camping
- Fishing; Camping (RV or trailer); Historic importance
- Fitness equipment
- Fitness facilities
- Fix roads going into parks-Oakwood, Lake Thompson. Regrade camping pads and level them.
- Fixing the way camp ground spots are rented

- Fly fishing access.
- Fly fishing for trout like Iowa does
- Focus on conservation
- focus on youth and getting kids outside and disconnect them from all their electronic devices while in the outdoors.
- Folks are used to flush toilets & potable water. Slit toilets can be a detriment to being in the outdoors. My age (80) group has done many outdoor activities b4 FT'S, so it isn't such a big deal w/us. Just sayin'.
- Food plots for \$20 a acre last 20 yrs is not enough
- For fishing I would really like to see a spring size limit to help protect the females. slot limit of only 15-18' fish with the 1 over 28' for trophy fish.
- For the blood sports (hunting/fishing) more management on our public areas (GPA, fishing/boating access, etc.)
- Forest health and habitat improvement
- Fresh water, shelters for tent camping because of the volatile nature of SD weather
- Full hook up at state parks for rv camping
- full hook up camp grounds for rvs
- Full hook ups
- Full hook ups and let people know where they can rent or find amenities
- Full hookups in horse campgrounds.
- full service hookups for camping, IE water, sewer, electricity
- Fun things to do
- Funds
- Game production areas are not managed as such. GFP does not seem to treat them as areas to produce game by not planting food plots and more areas of cover. They seem to manage solely with native grasses and the like which are not really beneficial to deer and elk. If GFP desires to call it a game production area, then they should manage it as such.
- Geologic sites
- Get better pheasant hunting back. habitat is dwindling fast.. No residual pheasants left like hens.
- Get out and explore!! Half the fun and adventure is exploring a new area. A lot of how you perceive your experience on public ground/parks/lakes etc. is your attitude, explore with a sense of adventure!
- get regular people into gfp commission post, instead people who don't want to listen to South Dakota hunters ect. These land owner game ranch owners just care about themselves
- Get rid of billboard blight across South Dakota.
- Get rid of predator bounty program
- get rid of the barriers between reservation and public land
- get rid of UTV and ATV 's in the black hills and on GPA's, they are ruining it for the rest of us.
- Get rid or archaic prudish SD laws and have designated nude hiking / recreation areas.
- Getting kids involved
- getting/keeping youth involved
- Give attention to the US Forest Service campgrounds. A couple of them need work on the campsites to better accommodate larger campers. The roads within the campgrounds need to be widened. Many of the firepits need to be replaced.
- Give less priority to hunting and rvs and more to camping.

- Give residents preference in booking camping spots to nonresidents
- Give us nature. Keep it NON-COMMERCIAL.
- Go back to the old way of making reservations. The ability to make more than one without going back and forth in the app. Hate it!!!!
- Going to need rules for use of electric bikes on trails.
- golf
- Golf courses
- Golf courses
- Golf courses seem to be missing from all SD State Parks. Fishing guides should be required to be licensed minimum of \$500 to go to resupplying the thousand of fish they take, just like pheasant hunting preserves have too.
- Good bath houses
- Good bathrooms/shower facilities.
- Good cell coverage is important for safety.
- Good maintenance of the wonderful facilities that are already in place
- Great as is
- Groomed X-country ski trails
- Group activities for youth and women
- Group canoe or kayak outing
- group tours, trails, swim beach accessories
- Gun Ranges.
- Habatit
- habitat
- Habitat for quail
- Habitat for wildlife. It appears to me I see way less pheasants and deer in South Dakota compared to 20 years ago.
- Habitat improvement on GPA's, continue to look for opportunities to expand public hunting areas
- Hammock park, biking facilities, wildlife safety
- Handicap accessibility
- Handicapped accessible facilities
- Hard-surface wheelchair/walker pathways from parking to shelters, toilets, playground equipment, concert venues fishing docks within parks.
- Have more outdoor activities for people to participate in and for large groups to learn activities
- have no suggestions
- Have WIFI at campgrounds
- Having a well maintained and diverse inventory of recreational equipment for people to rent at state parks would encourage my family to try new activities.
- Having equipment for families to try activities. Maybe a BOW for teens? We NEED a homeschool program for outdoors in Rapid.
- having more trash bins along trails and in certain areas of parks
- Health benefits of outdoor fresh air—NOTHING POLITICAL
- Help young families and kids get experience with outdoor sports
- higher amps at state campgrounds
- Higher prices for out of state license.
- Hiking



- Hiking and backpacking
- hiking areas
- Hiking trails
- Hiking trails
- Hiking trails
- Hiking,biking
- Hiking/ biking trails
- Hiking/biking trails
- Historic sites, open areas, hunting access. SoDak is and truthfully probably will be a powerhouse for upland hunting for the remaining future. However, it may not retain that title if the bird numbers (which according to the 'outlook' were high) get exacerbated due to over hunting on the lower years (which seemed to be the case in the areas from the eastern border through Pierre area that I visited.).
- Historical
- Historical areas
- Historically significant sights.
- History
- History and why we need to preserve land weather it is urban or rural and the importance's of taking care along with respecting for the future.
- Honestly, finding a solution for many of our homeless residents would make our urban park spaces feel more safe/clean. I don't think adding things like WiFi will bring the type of visitors that are intended. Some of us go outdoors to escape things like the internet.
- Hookups for RVs
- Hope for increase in pheasant numbers
- Horse camps
- Horse trails
- Horseback riding trail
- Horseback riding trails
- Hotter showers, covered areas
- How about being able to check out/borrow outdoor recreation equipment from a local library or club if you can't afford it (e.g. a canoe, kayak, or bicycle) or having a low-income voucher for that? Promote unusual activities to get people outside - open air painting, a class on cooking over an open fire, parkour (for beginners!), citizen science, acoustic performances, etc. Get creative! Target groups that don't normally get outside...
- How about installing sewer to septic and water lines in SD State Parks for RV's? It is the biggest issue.
- How do we bring in dollars from out-of-state. South Dakota has so much to offer however many of our hunting and fishing rules are decades out-of-date.
- How to mange the recreation pressure on game production areas adjacent to communities (Northern Black Hills Area). Some access will need to be given to manage where the and possibly when people use there areas rather than just ignoring the the overlap and essentially encouraging conflict through inaction. These areas were purchased with Pittman Roberts funds so maybe a type of conservation easement could be purchased internally to facilitate the access.
- Human wellness
- hunting

- HUNTING & FISHING AREAS NEED TO INCREASE
- Hunting access
- hunting areas
- hunting areas that are not over hunted
- Hunting areas, pickleball courts
- Hunting for non-residents
- Hunting grounds
- Hunting needs to be further promoted for youth. It is very important to involve the youth in this, or it will not continue to thrive. The same goes for other shooting sports.
- Hunting needs to change for more access for average South Dakotans.
- Hunting should be allowed on AG land as a concession for their extremely low property tax
- Hunting/fishing access
- I am happy with south Dakota and their outdoor recreation opportunities
- I appreciate dog clean-up stations along walking trails - not only for my own dog but to encourage others to clean up after their dogs.
- I appreciate everything that is done in the interest of scuba diving and underwater spearfishing
- I appreciate the new/replacement boat docks, please keep replacing them so I can keep my boat safe. More access points at lakes.
- I believe upkeep of what infrastructure you have will be a battle big enough.
- I don't care as long as out of staters don't get more camp spots than residents
- I don't have an opinion - however I feel there are adequate outdoor areas to explore.
- I don't know. I don't want more people coming to SD creating messes. It's not about money!!!!
- I don't think promotion is needed until more facilities are available handle the demand. It seems the state is more concerned about quality than quantity.
- I don't want any car plug ins' anywhere near them. :)
- I enjoy in some other states there are some hike in camping spots, or canoeing camping spots. We have very little of these.
- I feel we are in good shape with facilities etc. LEAVE CUSTER STATE PARK ALONE. DO NOT RUIN THIS GEM.
- I have given my opinions. Being a local in the Fort Randall area (Pickstown) I consider myself a potentially valuable asset to improve the area. I know this will not happen, and I am sure that most of these ideas will not be adapted. One area close to Pickstown is Pease Creek and the need for improved boat ramp area and parking is beyond critical.. Since Charles Mix county has no zoning there is no coordination with the developers of monster camper areas and the state. Right now Pease Creek boat ramp is virtually a private ramp for Pease trailer park residents (150 campers or so). This is a travesty!.
- I hear about a lot of vehicle break ins and vandalism at boat landing/launches/parking. maybe something can be done to mitigate the issue
- I know it says outdoor, but more indoor public facilities would be greatly appreciated given our winters which can be long and harsh. I would love an indoor playground facility to take the kids to. We don't have anything like that in SD.
- I know it's a money thing and board approval but boat ramp docks and fishing platforms need fixed/updating.
- I know my kids always enjoy the crafts and movie night at the state campgrounds. Good for them to get together with other kids. Gets them out of their comfort zone maybe a little and off their

phones/ipods etc. Kids need some communication skills and this is just one small thing that I think is worth keeping going!!

- I know the state is doing its best to grow the Good Earth area, and it is fantastic and the visitors center and the music events are awesome. My kids love going out there, and I hope the state can continue to expand their landholdings along the Big Sioux, so more people can get out and enjoy the areas.
- I like to fish, some of the boat ramps need repaired. I mainly fish in the Webster area
- I like to see more hands on or training on anything outdoors..how to camp, set up tents, how to cook in the outdoors, what to bring, dutch oven cooking, how to fish, what you all need to fish, anything on hunting, kayaking, boating, etc...teach them how to use the outdoors and what can all be done, the list is endless. Get people involved, but some are not going to want to pay the entrance fee...or are able to pay the fee, so make it affordable to everyone.
- I love our outdoor options in western South Dakota!
- I love the idea to get wifi in our camper. I also feel that there could be some showers added to some of the campgrounds.
- I need more bathhouses at campgrounds open during the winter
- I primarily use boat ramps and trails around the Missouri river
- I really don't know
- I think a place where all hunters can meet up at would be cool. As in a place for brainstorming, mingling, and relaxing.
- I think a shooting range would be good
- I think being able to promote the wide open spaces South Dakota has to offer.
- I think Custer State Park offers enough amenities and facilities. Maybe other areas of the state could use improvements in their outdoor recreation amenities and facilities. I hope our little mountain towns don't turn into the Front Range of Colorado. We have people moving here to our town to escape that, and they tell us how the character of their formerly loved mountain town has changed so much. I like Custer State Park the way it is.
- I think it's fairly obvious that, for better or worse, target shooters are paying the majority of federal aid taxes - not hunters. So, accommodating them with places to shoot is pretty important. I think it might be possible to accommodate some of this by modifying existing GPAs to allow shooting in dedicated safe areas. Places that a CO can look in on them without much trouble. This would be just as beneficial as expensive, elaborate shooting facilities because there's nowhere public to just go 'plink' with your kid, try out a new handgun, or things like that. Indoor shooting doesn't provide the same experience and opportunity.
- I think keeping areas undeveloped and trails unpaved is important!
- I think more camping facilities are needed because of the increase popularity of RV's
- I think more competition type events would be a great thing get people excited to participate and gives a reason
- I think South Dakota does a great job providing what people need
- I think the variety of opportunities is a strength. I have no problem getting out and doing what I want to do. I like solitude in the outdoors. So, selfishly, I would say stop promoting South Dakota recreation so I can keep it to myself.
- I think we are ok.
- I think what I mentioned above. Fewer nonresident hunters + fishermen.
- I think you do a good job with what you have. Camp pads need work as some are in bad shape - very unlevel and paved. Keep up the god level of staff you have.

- I wish our water sources were cleaner
- I wish the State had more historic sites to go to. Otherwise, for the most part, things are pretty well done.
- I wish there were more dog clean up stations that were properly supplied
- I wish there were overnight backpacking trails and dispersed camping locations in Eastern SD.
- I wish you wouldn't promote us at all to out-of-staters. We're being over-run!
- I would appreciate any activities/areas that are highly isolated from developed land.
- I would like more full hookup rv camping sites.
- I would like more trails to ride side by side's on.
- I would like more walk in areas with no hunting so I feel safe to watch migrating birds and study the beauty of botany in my South Dakota.
- I would like to reroute the Centennial Trail so that it is separate from the ATV Trail north of Pilot Knob. It's very unpleasant to hike there, and it's somewhat unsafe.
- I would like to see more public hunting areas
- I would love for there to be more groomed ski trails, I want to get into cross country skiing and skijoring, but there are very limited areas around the sioux falls area.
- I would love to see the Tabor to Platte rail trail completed.
- I would rather it not be promoted
- I would say SD is doing a good job
- I would very much like to see a renewed effort to connect Good Earth State Park to the wooded, rolling bluffs to the east--across the Big Sioux River--in order to create one big park on both sides of the river. I've read about efforts to do this in the recent past, but I haven't heard anything lately. This area is so historic, unique, and beautiful, that it would be a shame to lose the wooded bluffs on the east side of the Big Sioux River to development.
- I/we enjoy South Dakota's outdoor opportunities primarily to escape from people and find a semblance of peace and tranquility.....frankly, I'd prefer "back country" remain "back country" and that we keep our trails as primitive as possible..... Where's the fun in "getting away from it all" and "back to nature" if you've got 5 side by sides buzzing by or a couple draws over? I feel the facilities and amenities are adequate.....
- Ice available at campgrounds
- Ice climbing wall
- If you don't protect the open space with the unchecked private development, there isn't going to be anything to promote.
- I'm also a fan of research that helps management of our lands to make them better for hunting and fishing and increasing harvest opportunities, so that should always be something to invest in.
- improve roads and shore fishing access
- IMPROVE ACCESS TO SHORE FISHING AREAS (ADD GRAVEL/ROCK TO SHORELINES AND/OR JETTIES)
- Improve availability of hunting opportunities- amount and availability of game.
- Improve bathrooms and parking availability
- Improve boat ramps up and down the Missouri
- Improve existing areas, parents take their children and these areas are falling apart
- Improve facilities in the parks to be utilized through hunting season/ ice fishing
- Improve pheasant population.

- Improve tent camping sites. The state provides rvs with perfect sites, tent sites lack tent pads, flat ground or even shade it so many cases.
- Improve the Centennial Trail maps and signage.
- improve the habit and fishing in
- Improve the hiking experience on the Centennial Trail. Divert it off the ATV trail or ban the ATV's from the Centennial Trail.
- Improve wildlife habitat
- Improve, not add to, camping in the Custer state park
- Improve/increase bike lanes on city streets. More outdoor lessons/locations for sports such as pickle ball.
- Improved bathrooms/showers at campgrounds
- Improved boat launches at Missouri River (Lake Oahe).
- Improved boat ramps and parking areas in the Webster area. The main lakes have decent ramps and nice gravel lots but others are terrible and get torn up if we have any moisture
- Improved boating facilities, additional fish cleaning stations
- Improved campgrounds
- improved cell service in the campgrounds, better campground reservation system
- Improved facilities at state parks, especially with a body of water. More opportunities for outdoor rec all across SD, not just in the Black Hills area.
- improved fish cleaning stations
- Improved natural habitat for pheasants. Less mowed ditches, more CRP walk-in, more GPA land with food plots, increased law enforcement.
- Improvement in restroom shower facility
- improving current facilities, buildings and cabin renovations and remodeling
- Improving private land access for hunting.
- Improving west river fishing opportunities, would be the most important to me. Also improving bathroom facilities and making facilities family friendly would be helpful too!
- Improving wildlife habitat on private lands
- In general, I would like to see more visitor centers/environmental education centers available throughout the state. I've spent quite a bit of time in Minnesota and Wisconsin which both have a plethora of places to learn about nature, conservation, and outdoor skills. Now, when I look back on South Dakota, I realize how much the state lacks for environmental education compared to other places in the US. I understand why there is an emphasis placed on hunting and fishing in South Dakota, but not everyone is going to be interested in those activities. I would love to see more programs that are focused on other outdoor activities which would allow the state to connect with more diverse community members, not just those who hunt and fish.
- in the n.e. part of South Dakota i think what we have is good.
- Inclusion & Diversity
- incorporate more pet friendly activities and areas
- Incorporate SD history
- Increase campgrounds as the current ones are very crowded
- Increase pheasant population and decrease Coyote population
- increase quality and number of boat ramps in NE SD

- Increase quantity in almost every number and type of facilities and areas. Almost just as important is to improve the quality and maintenance of existing facilities and areas (specifically water quality and upland/wetland habitat), management of these area are severely impaired
- Increase recreational facilities for the disabled
- Increase the number of areas for camping and hiking so it's not so crowded in the summer. It's getting harder and harder to get away from people, even out west.
- Increase wildlife habitat. PLEASE!
- Increased public land and water access
- Increased public shooting/hunting areas
- Increased sand beaches
- Increasing size of existing state parks (Newton hills, palisades)
- Indian Creek Campground & boat docks
- Indoor and especially Outdoor Public Shooting Ranges
- Indoor facilities for horse events
- Indoor fish cleaning stations
- Indoor shooting complex for the winter months.
- Indoor swimming pool
- Inexpensive opportunities for young families; the ability to rent equipment to try camping for families and young adults would also help grow future use.
- Inexpensive places to eat and stay.
- Inside restrooms & showers
- Inspiring people to participate and enjoy nature
- Instructions should be noted next to it
- Interactive geomapping apps of facilities
- Invest in rural recreation opportunities! The middle part of our state is very beautiful, yet few trails exist or are well known for us residents.
- Is it possible to increase the duration that the forest service campgrounds are open in the Black Hills? September and October specifically - it seems like almost all close after Labor Day. This is a great time of the year to camp. This wouldn't require capital spending, just coordination and alignment with USFS or other agencies.
- It is absolutely crazy that we now have to reserve our family 7-8 camping spots for a whole week in order to get reservations for holidays. The last several years when we did get spots at Yankton, most of the campers were either from Iowa or Nebraska.
- It is becoming impossible to be able to listen to the sounds of just nature if you are unable to backpack into the wilderness. Loud motorcycles and pickup trucks, constantly screaming children, motorized boats blasting music, and drunks partying make enjoying SD parks almost impossible. We are willing to drive many miles to more remote campgrounds in hopes of finding peace and quiet. Is this just another sad commentary on our times?
- it is too hard to get a rv camp spot, so we really gave it up.
- It makes me sick to see how the state is constantly destroying nature to build more money makers (camp grounds is a perfect example). LEAVE THINGS ALONE!!!! Stop destroying nature trying to line your pockets!!!!
- It would be nice if South Dakota residents had preference when making campsite reservations. The current reservation system for State campgrounds makes it extremely difficult to reserve campsites when you need several sites all together.

- It's been a little while since I've been to lake Poinsett but on the state boat access in the campground area it would be nice to have a pier built like main boat dock at Lewis and Clark lake by Midway campground.
- It's always good to have facilities available for the disabled, especially the Veterans that are disabled.
- Just cont. periodically to update all facilities
- just keep improving what you have. Maintain the tent sites and fishing areas. Your staff is already shorthanded with staff so adding more will just make areas you already have get worse.
- Just keep taking care of what we have.
- Just leave the woods as they are!
- just more camping areas
- Just need to fix repair the parks you have. Some of the parks we use to visit aren't worth going back to.
- Just regularly maintain what we have instead of large dollars on new things. Too much money for a shooting range!!! I would rather that kind of dollar amount be spread around improving what we have already.
- Just remember that the residents are here all year long. Don't prostitute the wildlife, fish and outdoor activities to the point that it imposes on the residents.
- Just the plan beauty
- Just wifi, a lot people are working from home now days and would love to be able to stay in the little cabins and work some during the week!
- Kayak/Canoe experiences
- Keep custer state park the way it is. Don't add more camping in areas where the animals are. That's so important.
- Keep doing what you're doing - you are attractive to out of state visitors.
- Keep everything in good working condition.
- Keep facilities clean and repaired, including showers/bathrooms, dump stations, trash receptacles.
- Keep fishing beaches cleaner Lots of liter laying around ( cans beer bottles garbage fishing string )
- keep improving
- Keep improving current facilities.
- Keep it peaceful for the residents. Pactola is already a mess. Angustora is over crowded.
- Keep it quiet, spread out, not crowded
- keep it simple, keep commercial sale entities down
- Keep it smaller but better, too many people making a mess.
- Keep it wild as possible, noise free, no generators
- Keep manmade parks and 'facilities' to a MINIMUM!! Protect the outdoors for wildlife and the opportunity for people to experience stillness and nature without the need to 'DO' something like participate in an activity!!!
- keep more reservations for South Dakota residents only. It's hard to enjoy all our states has to offer with all the out of state visitors
- Keep our parks as they are - with wildlife the priority, not more commercialization, promote pack it in pack it out, teach more about real camping, not RV camping
- Keep parking lots small so trails are not overcrowded. More information about off roading in the hills/backpacking, reduce fees for park admissions/deals on multiple purchases

- Keep people spaced out
- Keep places from overcrowding. Maybe a reservation system needs to be put in place. ie. Sylvan Lake are of CSP.
- Keep Public grounds public. Give the animals more food sources. keep thick cover thick. Overall I think SD does great job.
- Keep the current activities well maintained
- Keep the open spaces as they are and don't try to develop more campgrounds and semi-urban projects.
- keep up our state and local parks. They are so important.
- Keep up the good work
- Keep up the good work
- Keep wild areas wild. Less infrastructure and encroachment in wild areas.
- Keeping areas primitive instead of adding campgrounds, roads, and buildings.
- Keeping camping fees where they are. Don't increase non resident fees. Increased fees will eliminate us coming to SD
- Keeping comfort stations open during the winter months. Year around.
- Keeping infrastructure maintained and updated
- Keeping non motorized areas for quiet, nature. Too many motorized trails already. Difficult to find quiet spots, especially in the Black Hills area.
- Keeping SD's parks to a limited number of campers
- Keeping the wild in wilderness and outdoors in general. If I want to recreate in uber-developed areas, I'll go to Disneyland, as I believe others will as well.
- Keeping things cleaned, updating signs and information
- Keeping up with increased traffic without losing what is so important here, such as not being over crowded, roads to favorite areas, etc. Keeping the balance between nature and being to offer recreation activities
- keeping up with maintenance on facilities and trails
- Kids, kids, kids, kids!!!! we need kids to put the phones away and get outside! Anything we can do to get kids in the outdoors is good! In order to keep them interested we need to make it fun. Pan fish, teaching classes about how to fish. Bird watching/photography. Plant identification ----- anything outdoors to connect youth to their environment ----- with out a screen and key pad!!
- Kiteboarding - South Dakota - especially Pierre area - has exceptional conditions for this growing activity.
- Kyak rentals and outboard rentals at lakes.
- Lack of campgrounds in this area is leading to overcrowding and some elderly patrons are having trouble finding nearby places to enjoy
- Lacreek National refuge, Foster Bay boat ramp
- Lacrosse and mountain biking
- lake access
- lakes
- Land access
- Land for wildlife to live on and thrive
- Land sports and cycling



- large camping sites with plenty of room between sites and shade trees. Clean, often remodeled bathroom facilities - they get used a lot! More camping sites - it's frustrating when we can get a place to camp!
- Large group camping spots. There are some now but you need to reserve fast.
- Large, interconnected bike trail system on the east side of the state.
- Law enforcement
- Law Enforcement for AT/UTV use. Increase license fees on ATV's, increase presence on roads/highways, BHNH roads,
- Learning Activities for Adults - if there are any classes available for specific sports/activities that would be great
- Leave as is
- Leave it natural and primitive
- Leave more first come first served camping spots. Seems hard to get a camping spot if not reserved 2-3 months in advance. Seems like the gf&p is only worried about non-resident camping.
- Leave open areas that are 'untamed' as in no wifi and let the animals roam.
- Leave your noise (ATVs) and technology at home. Enjoy nature!
- Less about ditch parrots.
- Less congested campsites for the pleasure of enjoying surroundings not the neighbor campsites
- Less hunting and trapping and more hiking, photography, respect and protecting nature/ environmental programs
- Less is more. Please do not overcrowd South Dakota
- less motorized and more wild experiences
- Less park ranger being over zealous about rules
- Less people. More space between camp grounds.
- Less promotion...more opportunities for locals
- Less side by sides. More restrictions on ATV
- Let's not pay over nature to create more parking spaces or places for RVs. People come to the parks for nature. Let's keep it that way
- Let's make licensing more affordable for our residents. Also, maybe reduce costs for everyone. Especially for young adults day under 25. By making licenses more affordable, more people will participate and they may make it a habit. There are lots of times when my young sons would like to go hunting or fishing for maybe a day, but the cost of a license is too prohibitive. They also may want to peasant hunt for a weekend. Again the cost is not worth it it seems to many people that I have talked with that South Dakotans opinion is that over the last 10-15 years the SDGF&P had become more restrictive and more greedy. Licenses have gotten ridiculous? Bring back the sportsman's license. One license that covers everything except big game. But most importantly **MAKE IT AFFORDABLE!!** Let's try making more money by selling more licenses instead of giving the heck out of those who still hunt. I have hunted for 50 years in SD. I HAVE UP FISHING BECAUSE OF THE COST OF THE LICENSE! It's just too expensive to buy a license to only fish a few times a year. And if the hunting licenses don't become more affordable I'll quit buying them in a year or two when my boys do hunting! **ARE YOU LISTENING??**
- licensing of fishing guides since they are charging to utilize a public resource in facilities, water and wildlife.
- Lifelong fishing license for those over 65.
- Lifestyle living, hunting

- Limit amenities to the bare minimum. The outdoors is supposed to be wild.
- Limit new paved trails
- Limit the impact of off road vehicles in Black Hills national forest areas. Disrupting wildlife and impacting nature
- Limit the number of and/or dramatically increase fees for commercial motorized trail vehicles!! Also, consider other requirements for training, maintaining, and fee generation from commercial operations that are making a killing renting these machines out that are DESTROYING the Black Hills
- Limiting some areas for locals so we can enjoy the hills also. We cannot overdevelop for recreating in the hills or we destroy what we are going there to enjoy, the habitat for the animals who belong there more than us. ATVs need to be limited. They are destroying not only the tranquility but the trails and streams. They are ignorant or indifferent to the damage they do.
- Limits on motorized vehicles and an emphasis on peace and quiet
- Linking existing trails. Continue to expand hunting access. Proactively address aquatic invasive species and not be resigned to the fact that all public waters will end up infected.
- Linking trails across the state would be cool.
- Locations
- Long distance shooting area
- Long distance shooting range and competition, trail enforcement of UTV trails, punishment for going off trail on UTV, UTV attractions map, more communication on snowmobile trail conditions, more cow elk tags.
- Long Range Shooting Complex and more public hunting land
- Longer distance (3-10 mile), hike in backpacking trails, with destination activities (e.g., fishing).
- Longer hiking trails to explore
- Looking at the (wonderful) increase in boat ramps and boat trailer parking areas, I see the need for higher levels of fish stocking in the coming years. I live and fish on Lake Poinsett and it is busy and will only see more fishing activity in the future
- Lots of dirt bike kids need to travel long distances or end up destroying natural areas for lack of some simple trails.
- Love camping in sd
- Low cost
- Low water boat landings on Oahe
- Low water boat ramps
- lower cost for seniors on fixed income
- Lower fees
- Lower fishing lic
- Maintain
- Maintain comfort stations and keep updated. Expand camping sites in areas where feasible while still providing natural areas
- Maintain fisheries across eastern SD. Promote smaller fisheries to decrease pressure on the most popular ones
- maintain natural areas. Let private industry see to the RV, ATV, Skiing, etc.
- Maintain the natural surroundings. Limit use of ATV's and UTVs in campground areas. The noise is pollution. Maintain existing historical sites and get information out to South Dakotans what places are available to visit.

- Maintain the present facilities to a higher standard
- Maintain what we have
- Maintain what we have . No need to go big, we aren't NY or CA that's why people come here. Don't destroy our beauty.
- Maintain your balance
- Maintaining and improving public hunting land.
- Maintaining Custer State Park as is.
- Maintaining or improving access to public lands.
- Maintaining what is already there and expanding some
- Maintenance
- Maintenance due to a significant increase in traffic. Instead of building new, update and improve what is existing.
- Make 1-2 lakes a Black Hills a trophy trout destination for resident and touring anglers. That's good economic development.
- Make ATV/UTV/OTV parks specific to those users only and allowed only in designated areas away from those seeking the quiet outdoors.
- make cabins affordable, clean beaches,
- Make Goose hunting like North Dakotas, where if a field is not posted, then a hunter has a right to hunt it.
- make it affordable
- make more hiking trails.
- Make places less crowded
- Make slip up creek a park
- Make sure public areas are sprayed to divert mosquito bitings and lyme disease.
- Making the area not look like a reservation
- Managed public hunting and shooting ranges. Access to deep water for shore/dock fishing (many of the docks do not go out far enough and tend to be full of weeds in the summer.
- Managing ATV/UTV traffic and behavior. Lots of outdoor activities don't overly impact the environment or the ability of others to enjoy it, but ATVs screaming around all over the place really does. I realize most (maybe all?) of this traffic is on National Forest, but it's still a real issue.
- Many Many areas in Yankton have year round camping. The state is missing out by not having some type of areas like this. They could add some more areas to Lewis and Clark state park.
- Many of the Walk In Areas are on land that holds no game, or is inaccessible for hunting. A lot of it could be taken out of the program and better lands acquired with those funds.
- Maps to area lakes that designate on-site facilities including public access points, boat ramps, docks, lodging and rest rooms
- Maps! I'd love to be able to get trail maps for planning purposes.
- Mass transit options to cut down on vehicles in parks and wildlife areas.
- maybe a jeep trail on the east side
- Maybe a small, affordable place for kids to golf. Big courses are not affordable or designed for families wanting to golf together and teach the game to their young kids.
- Maybe adding another fishing platform on the South Dakota side of the river by the dam like on the Nebraska side
- Maybe better facilities at some lakes for fishing

- Maybe Cross country ski areas/trails and warmup shacks
- Maybe more patrolling of campgrounds during the night. Some loud, disrespectful people can ruin a camping experience & they need to be caught n the act
- maybe more walkin hunting areas, upgrade and add to state historic sites.
- maybe more water hookups at campgrounds for RVs
- maybe some ebike considerations
- Maybe some more bathroom options at the existing areas that don't already have them.
- maybe some trampolines in the ground for kids to jump on
- mini bike trails
- missouri river
- Missouri River
- Missouri River facilities total experience for various activities
- Modern and well maintained restroom and shower facilities.
- mORE SLEDING HILLS FOR YOUYH
- More camping grounds
- More access
- more access areas on the Missouri River
- More access points for shore fishing and more public hunting areas
- More access to gun ranges. Shotgun needs to be part of every gun range to provide an area for young shooter to gain experience to have a successful season
- More access to shore fishing
- more access to shore fishing at buryanek campground and clean up volunteer trees on shoreline
- More accessible areas for people with disabilities
- More activities courts
- More activities for kids to learn about nature
- more ADA camping spots and camping cabins
- More Ada facilities
- More Amps for electricity and improve internet
- More and better managed upland hunting areas with cover to sustain our wild game populations through winter. So much of the cover has been depleted. I would like to see a program to bring back the Hungarian Partridge to its former glory. In seven years of hunting SE SD, I have seen exactly 4 of these wonderful birds. Also, our pheasant population in SE SD has been declining for years, and especially in the Canton, SD, and near by SF areas. With gas going to \$5 a gallon or more, I do not want to have to drive 250 miles from home to find birds. Just saying, I was born here, and I will die here, but I miss the days long gone past, the haydays of wild bird hunting in SD.
- More and better walk in areas. Not areas that have nothing to offer. Drop the point system and go back to luck of the draw for hunting and fishing draws.
- More archery ranges
- More area to camp
- More areas at beaches where dogs are allowed
- More areas for outdoor shore fishing for people with accessibiliity.
- More areas for public hunting.
- More areas for wildlife!!!!

- more areas to enjoy fishing that are close to the car and not alot of work to get from car to dock or shore, so many good lakes with a road that you cant fish from and one dock that you cant fish because fo boaters. with no usable shore line to fish from thats not privet
- More attention should be placed on other recreational areas in the state besides the Black Hills.
- More ATV trails- East half of the state. Bike trail expansion, i.e. abandon rail lines etc... Wildlife habitat expansion..
- More atv trails east river
- more atv trails. more boat docks. more hunting areas
- More availability of backpacking/dispersed camping without traveling to a national grassland or forest
- More back country wilderness areas that are hike in only
- More bathrooms
- More bathrooms are always good, more shore fishing opportunity
- More bathrooms that are open and clean
- More Bathrooms with showers
- More bathrooms.
- More bike paths in towns and state parks
- More bike trails! Please support the Tabor to Platte rail-trail proposal, the Mickelson connector to Mt. Rushmore, and develop more singletrack in Custer State Park
- More birdwatching and photography areas--I love what we have but there could always be more!
- More boat docks
- More boat launches
- More Boat ramps
- More boat ramps
- More boat ramps and parking in general for all fishing areas
- more boat ramps and vehicle parking in the Gettysburg area, on the weekend might as well stay home because of all the boat but for sure no place to part pickup and trailer.
- more boat ramps on 81 ponds
- More boat trailer parking and xamp sites at area lakes
- more boating, fishing and hunting areas
- More boondocking places
- more cabins
- More cabins at South Dakota owned camp sites
- More cabins at state parks and upkeep
- More cabins at the state camping areas.
- More cabins to rent in state parks
- More cabins, amenities at camp sites
- More cabins, and either drop the price or have refrigerators and running water/bathrooms. It's hard to justify spending \$60 per night plus daily entrance fees when you have to haul a cooler w/ dry ice to keep food cold, buy firewood to cook and hike to the outdoor bathrooms. By the time you add up all the costs you're better off in a hotel with a pool and your own bathroom.
- More cabins. Why aren't there any cabins in/near Chamberlin?
- more camp sites
- More camp sites! More hiking trails that are not used by horses.

- More camp sites, 120 day window for in state residence only. Heavy Fines for individuals who make reservation and do not show up or change the camping reservations.
- more camp/rv sites with modern facilities
- More camper sites
- More campgrounds
- More campgrounds
- More campgrounds
- More campgrounds and more boat ramps
- More campgrounds at Custer State Parks.
- More campgrounds statewide with water and Electricity, expand current campgrounds to accommodate newer longer campers.
- more campgrounds. they are in such high demand
- More campgrounds. We also noticed that while camped at Hanna, why in the world are tents allowed to take up an RV site when they have plenty of tent sites to set up on. That is ridiculous and should not be allowed. We watched RV after RV get turned away while two tents were taking up spots. They have beautiful tent sites there that sat empty. That is mismanagement.
- More camping
- More camping
- More camping and recreational sites.
- More camping areas
- More camping areas
- more camping areas
- more camping areas
- More camping areas around more lakes. Areas that boats can go to a dock and camp overnight. We need more places so people can do more spontaneous trips without the 90 day reservation game. Lake Thompson is a Great Lake but it doesn't have any campgrounds but on the north end. Why not put some in on the south end. This is just an example. Many lakes lack camping areas to stay overnight. Indian Springs, dry lake 2, Scott lake, Beaver Lake, and many others.
- More camping areas at local lakes
- More camping areas by Yankton
- more camping cabins
- more camping cabins
- More camping cabins, an increase of educational opportunities, day camps for kids, family activities, group outdoor experiences, equipment rentals during the week.
- More camping cabins, I've noticed some state parks that have lots of geocaching but very poor cell phone reception makes the geocaching more difficult.
- More camping cabins. More state campgrounds. More public parking areas around boat ramps. More boat ramps. Public trails to access public land that is landlocked by private property.
- More camping in state parks
- More camping opportunities. Things fill up fast!
- More camping parks with no reservations
- More camping RV spaces are needed at Cottonwood area near Yankton. (technically lies in Nebraska)
- More camping sites
- More camping sites

- More camping sites
- more camping sites, seems like campgrounds have become crowded. a camp without atvs and gasoline generators would great!
- More camping spots
- more camping spots - especially at Orman
- more camping spots and first dibs to in state tax payers!
- More camping spots,
- More camping spots.
- More campsites
- More campsites and access to a SD residents or exclusive to SD residents.
- More campsites, they are hard to get during the peak summer months.
- More CREP for habitat
- more CREP land
- More Disc Golf courses as the sport is becoming extremely popular.
- More dog friendly places
- More drive thru camp area for large campers
- More easily accessible public hunting
- More East River public rifle ranges.
- More electrical sites at campgrounds.
- more facilities as rest rooms at boat ramps
- More fish cleaning facilities. Especially in the Black Hills .
- More fish cleaning station
- More fish cleaning stations
- More fish cleaning stations
- more fish cleaning stations at public accesses
- More fish cleaning stations in Northeast SD
- More fish cleaning stations near boat ramps
- More fish cleaning stations. Better boat launch facilities. And more boat launch facilities. Maintain them from anything silting him.
- more fish public fish cleaning stations
- more fishing access, more and better boat docks, more hunting areas
- More fishing and hunting access
- More fishing areas
- More fishing camping and decent public hunting land available.
- More fishing docks
- More food plot incentive to farmers
- More for limiting off road activities that tear up the beauty of natural areas. ATV for instance.
- More for our residents less for tourists
- More full hookup camping sites
- More full service camping spaces
- More geocaches in state parks/public areas
- More good land for public hunting
- MORE GROUP ACTIVITIES IN THE CAMP GROUNDS
- More guided activities to get beginners involved
- More habitat for wildlife and clean lakes and streams

- More Habitat projects in SE South Dakota.
- More hiking opportunities east river.
- More hiking trails
- More hiking trails and comfort stations.
- More hiking trails at state parks
- More hiking trails more cabins
- More historical and environmental info
- more horse camps
- More hunter and gun education courses for young people and kids.
- More hunting and fishing locations.
- More hunting areas
- More hunting areas
- More hunting areas
- More hunting areas for the public
- More hunting areas. Keep the governor out of gf&p business.
- More improved campgrounds.
- More indoor winter activities.
- more information being communicated to people
- More intergenerational activities.
- More kid friendly activities
- more lacrosse courts, focus on preserving natural spaces for wildlife, limit urban sprawl
- More lake accesses
- More land open to public hunting
- More launch areas on smaller lakes for kayaks/inflatable pontoons, more docks as well, better maintained areas around the lakes for easier shore fishing access
- More law enforcement checking on out of state hunters and fishing person leaving trash and taking over the limits
- More learning outdoor activities for seniors.
- More local gun ranges and archery ranges.
- More lodging, of the beaten trail camping, hiking trails
- More long range shooting ranges and possibly shooting ranges for 3 gun competitions and similar shooting competitions and for fun.
- More modern comfort station
- More modern facilities/shelters for group events
- More modern/larger cabins in between camping cabins and group lodges
- More mountain biking areas
- More native plant areas. Promote native. More camping especially group / family camping. Easier to make camping reservations. More guided activities like for kids and adults .local nature person is excellent and like the program and activities offered. Would like more
- more natural areas that are undisturbed & undeveloped for more hiking, backpacking, wildlife viewing, kayaking/canoeing, etc...
- More nature areas, not buildings!!
- More nature trails
- more nature walks more rv campgrounds more things that would appeal to retired people
- More open access/fish cleaning stations



- More open areas
- More open shore fishing, primitive camp sights along the Missouri River waterfront
- More open space to roam freely (East River).
- More opportunities to lower congestion.
- More outdoor festivals
- More overall camping parks
- More parks and trails would be used
- More paved bike trails.
- More paved walking and biking trails - more road races
- More pheasants, more fish, atv and utv parks
- more picnic areas which dont cost to use
- more picnic shelters
- More places to camp. There is going to be a large interest in South Dakota so long as we have democrats in power. The state is filling up and the prices are going crazy for land and housing, I know, I search every day to find something to look at this summer. I plan on buying property this spring or summer and already have made arrangements with a loan company in Spearfish to buy something. A lot of other people are moving there too. I have a feeling even though Jan-March is so cold, many people will still stay if they can adapt to the change. We all will need more places to camp while we look for properties and then the larger population will need more amenities for the residents to enjoy because of the growth in population.
- More private lands hunting opportunities. WIA
- More protection of wildlife habitat
- More public access along the missouri river system
- More public access hunting areas
- More PUBLIC hunting
- More public hunting
- More public hunting
- More public hunting access and more improved fishing access areas
- More public hunting area
- More public hunting areas
- More public hunting areas
- More public hunting areas
- More public hunting areas
- More public hunting areas
- More public hunting areas.
- more public hunting ground
- More public hunting land.
- More public land access for hunting
- More public land for the various recreational opportunities...buy more before china gets it all purchased.
- More public land to hunt. To crowded
- more public lands and recreation areas
- More quiet, nondisrupted space. We are being overrun by ATV;s in the Black Hills!
- More rails to trails

- more recreation close by. not just in Sioux Falls -more hiking trails and walking trails - more information about things like meteor showers - which are educational, fun and you can enjoy them at home. Bike paths around state park areas
- more recreational bike trails
- More regulation on ATV use which are destroying the natural beauty of the Black Hills.
- More restroom facilities/Cleaner
- More restrooms
- More restrooms at state parks!
- More river access boat ramps and parking. More fish cleaning areas.
- More roughing it or away from it all camping. There used to be a sense of privacy in many state parks with vegetation around your site, those were all removed years ago. I want to get away from it all not be surrounded by people.
- More RV and boating fishing areas
- More RV campgrounds in CSP
- More RV camping sites. Places fill up quickly
- More RV camping spaces
- more rv camping spots in sd camp grounds
- More rv parking
- More RV parks
- More RV Sites
- More shooting facilities focused on rifles (long-range), handgun (tactical) and shotguns (clays/trap shooting)
- More shooting ranges
- More shore fishing facilities would be nice for families.
- More shower areas
- More sledding areas
- more small cabins are needed (maybe even have inmates build them to learn a trade and cut costs). We book almost all of our camping as soon as we can with the 90 day window otherwise we probably won't get a weekend spot. There is plenty of room at Mina Lake State Park and Pelican State Park to add additional camping spots. Water and sewer at sites would be awesome. Need more covered picnic shelter areas that you can rent/reserve for the day. Lake Thompson does not have signs indicating where the camp sites are located once you get in the campground. Any chance of getting a campground built at Cotton Wood Lake just west of Redfield? We enjoy the State Parks camping all summer long.
- More small cabins at state parks!
- More spacious RV campsites needed. Give South Dakota residents early campsite reservations before opening to out of state.
- More state camping areas
- more state owned cabins
- More state parks in the Black Hills, more hiking and biking trails, improved and expanded boat ramps, more RV campsites
- More state parks. Better management of existing parks.
- More tent camping sites that are located away from RV campers
- More things open in the winter, shoulder seasons

- more thoughtful delineation of atv/off road vehicle areas so that it does not compromise all other recreation interests
- More trails and better access for people to try different activities.
- More trails to hike, cross country ski, etc.
- More trash cans throughout campgrounds
- More walk in acres
- More walk in areas for public hunting
- More walk in areas with productive habitat
- More walk in hunting areas
- More Walk-In hunting areas.
- more water parks and playground for toddlers
- More water/dump stations at campgrounds.
- More watercraft rentals and swimming beach improvements.
- More ways to help people learn about the ecosystems around them. Animals, plants, fish recognition classes and plaques
- more WIA
- More wild and open spaces
- more year round campgrounds less ATV/UTV/Snowmobiles. Less Mt Bikes!!!!
- More youth hunting, fishing, hiking and backpacking opportunities. That said SD does a pretty darn good job at the Great Outdoors. Thank you!
- More/larger camping cabins that can accommodate a family of five or more.
- Most facilities for lodging] etc. should be private, not consuming public park & wildlife lands.
- Motorcycle parking pads at recreation sites
- Motorist-free trails connecting parks and urban areas
- Mountain bike trails, beauty of lakes
- mountain biking (non-motorized) trails, green spaces, trails both paved and unpaved.
- Music explore park
- My corner of the state is promoting enough how many out-of-state fisherman taking all our fish
- Native American Cultures and Histories.
- Native grasslands.
- native sites
- Native species and wildlife in state parks
- Natural areas with less commercial campgrounds and encroachment by big money
- natural beauty of our woods and waters
- Natural beauty of the area, the value of not being overly developed, and affordability.
- Natural history preservation
- natural playgrounds, ones that fit the area not red. yellow, blue school playgrounds. Think spiderwebs, Nature Discovery playgrounds. Places to kayak without motorboats. Consider lowering the fee of group areas in C.S.P. it was prohibitive to rent for my hiking group for a weekend get away OR offering a discount to groups that promote outdoor activities. I really would like to see hiking safety classes, hiking with your dog ( what good behavior is). I receive feedback from my hiking group that they want map reading and orientation skills. More trails that remain natural, less pavement.
- natural sites, if you want all the luxuries of home-stay home.
- Nature

- Nature and Hiking
- Nature areas with native wildlife, healthy vegetation and clean bodies of water that are accessible for all to enjoy.
- nature centers fully staffed
- Nature trails
- Nature, focus on different regions and what has always been there
- Nearby places to purchase supplies like food, beverages, health & beauty without having to drive into town
- need a better job at getting the youth more involved in what's possible outdoors.
- Need more ATV trails
- Need more camper cabins available for rent.
- Need more camping sites
- Need more gun turkey tags in day county. There is getting to be too many turkeys. They're eating crops and pheasant food. Also such big flocks will get a disease if not controlled.
- Need more horse back riding areas
- Need more lacrosse.
- Need to maintain fishing access all over the state.
- Need to restrict fishing to out of state people. Our fisheries would be more successful!
- Need to somehow get the pheasants back all over the state. Not just in some parts of the state.
- Need WiFi in state parks/recreation areas. More people working from RVs.
- New clean restroom
- New fish Hatchery in Pierre area.
- New shooting range
- Nice bathroom/shower facilities at campground
- Nice maintained restrooms, vending machine options, community events
- No cost use/reasonable pricing.
- No mandates
- No more campgrounds in Custer State Park. Leave it a park for wildlife. If more campsites are put in, what makes it any different than the rest of the Black Hills? Leave it alone.
- No more campgrounds in state parks
- No more development. Protect the water. Manage the crowds. Enforce the ATV rules on public lands.
- No more guns
- NO MORE GUNS--GUN RANGES--SHUT EM DOWN. HUNTING IS A DYING SPORT. NO NOISY ATV/SNOMOBILE PROMOTING. PRESERVE NATURAL AREA EXPERIENCE.
- NO MORE PROMOTION.... the exposure is raising my taxes and prohibiting locals from being able to use our facilities.
- NO new expansion into our pristine parks and other areas.
- Non motor pursuits
- Non-consumptive users (i.e., people who don't hunt, fish, trap; which is most people in South Dakota). First, please acknowledge that we exist. Then give us places to do our thing! Note that even hunters, anglers, trappers do non-consumptive outdoor activities too! Provide diversity of places/activities/amenities so that a wider diversity of people and interests can enjoy outdoors. Pay attention to areas away from the Black Hills/Sioux Falls.
- None let nature be nature

- none we have to many now
- None, it is nice to not have all the amenities to keep more people away. I like state parts better than private campgrounds due to less 'stuff'. The campgrounds have nice spread out spots, bath houses, and electricity.
- None, or you will keep raising fees and I won't be able to use what we have.
- None, too many people as it is.
- None. Too much promotion now.
- None. We camp to get away from it all
- Non-motorized use areas
- Not allowing lakes to become private. McCook in union county private boat ramps or pay per use. Give nebraska a kickback from South Dakota's outrageous fishing/ park pass fees and keep them on there side of the river
- Not being so hard on animal habitats and natural environments.
- not crowded
- Not just a few that have to be reserved forever in advance, but plenty. Enough for everyone who wants to camp using them.
- not sure, but a good question
- Nothing but nature.
- Nothing we don't need more people here
- Nothing, the more you change the outdoor areas is the more you lose the nostalgia of the outdoors. We have enough commercial places. We need more rustic areas!
- Nothing. Good work.
- Number of active participants
- Off road areas
- Off road motorized access to more areas.
- off road riding areas
- Off road trails, better and more localized shooting ranges. More uses of existing areas. Needs change at each site.1
- Off road vehicles. But update the other areas of the state that has parks, or expand then. Black hills very boring after awhile.
- Off the beating path spots!
- One area that we could see a huge improvement in is by making some of the larger bodies of water on our state owned public lands accessible to boats, even if it was just a small gravel launch.
- Open hunting areas in the west.
- Open public hunting areas
- Open space
- OPEN SPACE
- Open space and pristine environments
- Open space, undeveloped natural areas with NO motorized traffic as well as peace & quiet are (and will be even more going into the future) the ultimate amenity.
- open spaces
- Open spaces and lack of people
- Opportunity for state residents at certain times

- Other states have out of state boat ANS stickers. North Dakota and Nebraska are examples. These states are charging 5 to 20 dollars for out of state boats to operate in their waters. We could do the same to help in the ANS problem.
- Other than wifi, I cannot think of others.
- Our children need clean space and affordable options. Our kids are overweight and don't know how to get off phones!! So sad...
- Our CLEAN and wonderful areas of the plains, rivers, and The Hills
- Our recreation amenities are being properly promoted. They need to be maintained at at least the current level - and improved upon/updated at money is available/budgeted.
- Our swim beaches on the lake
- Out of state licenses are getting really expensive and hard to afford
- Outdoor amphitheater for musicians
- outdoor archery lanes/ targets
- Outdoor cameras for crime
- Outdoor education facilities-making sure people have a place to go to learn ALL outdoor activities. Not just hunting related
- outdoor gun ranges, mentor fishing opportunities
- outdoor hiking
- Outdoor ice rinks
- Outdoor live theater
- Outdoor observation areas for viewing and photography
- Outdoor Pickle Ball courts
- Outdoor pickle ball, CONTROL OF ATV, MOTORIZED VEHICLES. Maintenance of existing trails.
- OUTDOOR RESTROOMS. BOAT RAMPS.
- Outdoor Shooting Range
- Outdoor shooting range near Rapid City/Black Hills
- Outdoor spaces for family gatherings, remote natural areas with little manmade light, well-kept swimming beaches
- Outdoor swimming and sandy beaches.
- Outdoor swimming areas with clean facilities
- Outlaw Jet skis. They have destroyed safe and peaceful water recreation.
- Overnight Canoeing/Kayaking options.
- Parking
- parking areas and toilet facilities at trailheads
- Parking for boat ramps at most lakes get very overcrowded. Improved parking for boats in existing campgrounds. Why build a campground next to a lake with no thought whatsoever about parking a boat trailer.
- pave camping pads and make them bigger and longer
- Paved bike trails
- Paved bike trails are needed. PAVE THE MICKELSON TRAIL!
- Paved bike trails, kayak loading areas
- Paved campsites
- Paved roads and toilets

- people are traveling more and more with their pets. Have more areas in towns, cities for people to take their pets too. some additional camping spots in selected state parks.
- People come to our State because of what we have NOW. We don't need to turn our beautiful resources in to another Disney world. Just keep what we have now in better repair!!!
- People still need to be in touch with nature and set aside the fast pace of life.
- Permanent public hunting areas. Forested areas with turkey hunting potential.
- Personal, make sure you continue to hire employees that care for the outdoors and people that use the facilities
- Pet friendly
- Pheasant hunting
- Pheasant Hunting areas
- Pickle ball courts
- Pickle ball courts.
- Pickle ball courts?
- Pickleball court
- pickleball courts
- Pickleball courts
- Pickleball courts at campgrounds
- Pickleball courts at state parks.
- Picnic area and campgrounds
- Picnic areas
- Picnic areas, boat access, public hunting.
- Pit toilets and water filling stations??
- Places for youth & family to hunt fish target shooting
- Places only for South Dakota residents to fish
- Places to get groceries or restaurants
- Places to take mentored deer hunters.
- Places to train hunting dogs
- Places where you can get away from motorized activities (ATV-free zones, for example)
- Planting trees and bushes for wind breaks and trying not to remove so many trees. If we want to embrace outdoor activities, we need shelter from SD winds. As an example, Lake Poinsett Recreation Area recently had many ash trees removed, understandably, in anticipation of their loss to ash borer, but then they tore down a great windbreaking stand of trees on the east end of the park to make a boat ramp parking lot. The boat ramp and extra parking spots will be nice to have, but the sheltered beach and picnic area that used to be at that end of the park was even nicer. I sure hope they can put some trees back in, even though I may not see them mature during my lifetime.
- Playground for children
- Playing football
- Please consider that improving access to some remote areas will degrade the areas. Leave some remote areas remote.
- Please DON'T over process areas. We go there because of the space. More is not better. Advertising what is available is ok

- Please don't let the state be overrun with motorized vehicles, which create noise pollution. When off-road electric vehicles are more widespread, it will hopefully be easier for motorized vehicles and hikers to share the same areas.
- Please limit motorized use for safety and for the integrity of the Hills. The popularity of these sports are ruining the solitude of the Hills and causing damage to groundcover. I have been in areas where UTVs have completely decimated the sides of Hills along the trail open especially for them. There is no sacred space in the Hills at this time because those machines encroach on every square inch. Special areas like Botany Canyon are overrun with people who can now easily get to the trail heads on machines. Social media and publications also draw those without sense of the spiritual aspects of our Black Hills. There has to be some balance. Those on utvs carry with them garbage that ends up all over the trails. The shooting as areas are disgusting.... the areas around Vicotoria Lake are really covered in garbage and shells. I can't ride or hike or camp in the deep Hills like I used to without being found by people on utvs.
- Please more public hunting areas and nature trails for hiking.
- Please quit building more campgrounds on our already crowded parks
- plowed trails on ice for fishing when snow is deep
- Porta John at Long Lake by Watertown
- Possibility of downhill skiing in the area
- possibly more handicap docks or fishing docks in general
- Power
- Power and water
- Preferably somewhere kid-friendly
- Preservation is more important than continuing to build. There's a lot that still can be done within our parks
- Preservation of history and integrity of the native lands/area
- Preserve clean air, quiet, and a view of the horizon for walking and hiking through natural areas with wonderful GFP parks like Newton Hills near SD cities where people live.
- Preserve natural areas - restrict mown areas, especially Easr River. Help people experience the South Dakota in its natural beauty.
- Preserve the wild life areas as protected and provide viewing locations, and then have a separate public recreation area that will not disturb the preserved area.
- Preserving nature! That is makes SD unique. Don't commercialize our state any more.
- Preserving South Dakotan history and longevity of amenities built.
- Preserving the areas and limiting development within and around these areas. People go to them to get away from it.
- preserving the nature
- Preserving the quality of SD wildlife and opportunities, not politicking the SdGFP commission.
- Preserving what we have and not over-expending our resources. DO NOT take natural habitats away to appeal to the residents of other states. Let us enjoy what our state has to offer without commercializing it.
- Pretty much answered in #2.
- Primitive areas.
- Primitive camping, recreating areas.
- Primitive camping.
- Primitive campsites with fire pits and off leash dog parks



- Privacy offroad. No offroad vehicles, cracking down on ATV's, UTV's abusing the BHNH. Closing more BHNH roads to anything but foot traffic and horses.
- Private facilities. Quit try to socialize outdoor recreation.
- Probably any that don't require internal combustion engines. Human or electric would be good. Being able to charge Ebikes and the like would a good idea. Encouraging EV charging station installation would be good too.
- Programs at state parks, visitor centers
- Programs introduced in the schools to get kids involved in all aspects of interest outdoors for health, wellbeing, peace of mind & sense of accomplishment
- Promote educational events about the appreciation of nature and how important is role is in our lives and how it can work hand in hand with agriculture in our state
- Promote hiking, biking, camping and boating. All things families can do together without taxing our hunting and fly fishing resources.
- Promote more for residents outdoors
- Promote non-hunting nature activities. Most people don't care about hunting anymore. That's why your numbers are sinking. More trails and natural areas. Better kayaking/canoeing access near Springfield. The sedimentation "problem" is creating a world class wetlands habitat.
- Promote the family recreation.
- promote youth activities such as youth hunting and fishing
- promoting access programs for hunting on private lands. Improving access to landlocked public lands.
- promoting fishing and hunting for youth
- Promotion to get land owners with prairie dog problems to allow hunters to shoot them win win
- proper long term game management to ensure access to hunting large and small game for our hunters and prospective new hunters.
- Proper maintenance of existing facilities and increasing public and visitor awareness of facilities.
- Protect private property
- Protect wild spaces. Keep wild and protect from development and dividing habitat. Protect watersheds and educate public about their impact on watersheds.
- protected areas within public sites that accommodate low-intensity outdoor recreation
- Protected streams and rivers
- Protecting wilderness and open space
- Protecting wildlife for viewing and not prioritizing hunting over other outdoor recreation. Otters, beavers, etc.. reintroduction of river otters west river.
- Provide for the experience and not for profit
- Provide Native history of this land. More horse camps. Warming huts on cross-country trails. Enforcement of decibel level limits on motorcycles, Change houses with showers at lakes and state parks: This is A SIMPLE MATTER OF HYGIENE that is hideously lacking and is especially important in the era of pandemics. Better maintenance of toilets at state parks. Restrict lighted billboards and billboards in general; provide the tourist info instead via wireless channels.
- Provide opportunities to increase hunting/shooting activities for all ages and both sexes.
- Providing more access to lakes and hunting areas.
- Publi. Hunting land
- Public access
- public access

- Public access is important. Feels like public lands and parks are being reduced not expanded.
- public access to land and opportunities that are clearly marked and easy to use
- public access. more spaces means more opportunities
- Public advertising
- Public assess
- Public bird hunting that's not over-hunted.
- public hunting access
- public hunting access, either thru private lands that allow or maybe trade some of the public lands for other areas of private land so you can have larger chunks of real estate. not spread out in tiny patches
- Public hunting areas
- Public Hunting Areas
- public hunting areas
- public hunting areas
- Public hunting areas
- Public hunting areas, walk-in areas
- Public Hunting Grounds
- public hunting grounds need expanded
- Public hunting grounds, public lakes for fishing, and the maintaining of our state parks.
- Public hunting land
- Public hunting lands
- public hunting, fishing and hiking places
- Public hunting, game mgt areas. Rifle ranges.
- public hunting/fishing access
- Public indoor archery
- public land
- Public land
- Public land
- Public land and public land access
- Public lands for hunting and fishing
- Public pheasant hunting areas that actually are huntable without dogs (dispersed corn etc.). I have a very hard time taking my 12yo out to find birds; so much so that we pretty much gave up last season after just one weekend looking.
- public restroom access with trash collection
- Public Restrooms
- Public restrooms, trails
- Public shooting areas are important and just areas to get away from the crowds.
- Public shooting ranges
- Public shooting ranges around Sioux Falls
- Public Shooting Ranges free to utilize
- Public transport
- public water access
- Purchase more land for parks
- Put an outdoor campus in the Pierre area.
- Put boat lands on our GPA and federal lands that have water!!

- Put Trump on Mount Rushmore
- Put your laptops and phones away enjoy what's around us.
- Quality
- Quality hunting and fishing habitats
- Quality of experience
- Quiet areas
- Quiet zones, tech free zones, everyone camping anymore has got a radio going, I want to hear nature not more noise from technology.
- Quit enticing children to kill animals and teach them to appreciate and take care of what we have.
- Rails to trails program in Spink County. Wishful thinking, but what an amazing thought!
- Really my only thing is better firewood at campgrounds for purchase, or let us bring our wood back in for cooking reasons
- reason for wifi at campgrounds is for safety to have emergency contact. Improved cellular service (cell boosters) would be good too.
- Recreation improvements along Missouri River from Northpoint Rec Area to Tabor Lakeside Use Area
- Recreational benefit of the states water resources
- Reduce the number of offroad vehicles in the BHNF - they are taking it over.
- Reduced admission fees/licenses for seniors
- reducing ATV use and traffic and eliminating them from trail systems in SD would be most ideal. More habitat for wildlife and nature viewing areas would be beneficial.
- REGULATE OUT OF STATE FISHERMAN MORE
- Reinvesting in hunting land and having more public lands to hunt across the state especially in regions near or around Brookings, SD.
- reliable phone service
- Remember it's about space, respect for wildlife and the SD way of life. More isn't always better.
- Remember the parks are loved because people aren't crowded in!!
- remote/primitive areas with hiking trails and historic and interpretive signing
- Remove the Governor and other politicians from pheasant management. The nest predator bounty program, initiated by the Governor's mandate is a waste of Wildlife Division money that could possibly be used as matching funds for PR/DJ projects. SD has potentially lost up to \$7,5 million to date. Believe in science, not political poll numbers!!!
- Rentals at rec areas that are affordable
- renting paddleboat on some lakes? That would be fun.
- Reopen restareas. You can't find a spot to pee or rest when traveling many highways in SD.
- Residents are a priority
- Resource protection should not suffer in the effort to promote SD's outdoor legacy. Raise the licensing fees for ATV/OHVs to provide adequate funding to both state and federal agencies for trail maintenance and enforcement.
- rest rooms
- Rest rooms
- Rest rooms Access to water and land
- rest rooms on public beaches
- Rest stops on hiking trails that have Wi-Fi. Often im when I am hiking I don't have cell service, so if I were to get hurt I wouldn't be able to call anyone.

- Restoring silted in waterways, fish restocking efforts
- Restroom and picnic areas
- Restroom facilities
- Restroom facilities at fishing locations
- Restroom facilities available to public
- restroom/showers
- Restrooms
- Restrooms
- Restrooms / ATV and UTV control ( it is out of control )
- Restrooms and drinking fountains.
- Restrooms at trailheads
- Restrooms, ada complaint facilities
- Restrooms, anything that gets kids interested and keeps them engaged (like activities along trails--Good Earth has done a nice job). Also, outdoor play spaces that integrate the natural environment (like the playground at the Sioux Falls Outdoor Campus)--other communities have amazing natural playgrounds and we'd like to see more of those in SD.
- Restrooms, boat / fishing accesses. fish cleaning.
- Restrooms, get rid of the open pits please.
- Retain focus on subdivision park and playground requirements/investments, and ensure sidewalk/curb and gutter infrastructure allows safe passage to the neighborhood parks.
- REVIEW OUR WATER LAW AND DEMAND WE RETURN TO WHAT OUR CONSTITUTION CALLED FOR!!!!
- Rewilding
- Rifle ranges
- Rifle/pistol/shotgun ranges that dont cost if you have a park sticker
- river
- River and lake access. Improve water quality in rivers to make them usable. Rivers in East part of state are disgusting
- River cleanup
- River/lake canoe trails
- Rivers and camping
- Rivers and lakes. Campgrounds. Trail systems.
- Road race
- Road/Convenience store
- Roadside parks / rest areas
- Rock climbing features, warming houses, groomed xc ski trails and maintained ice skating areas on state park lakes
- Rock hounding, shed hunting, fossil hunting.
- Running jogging trails, walking trail heads
- Running water electrical more tent camping more cabins put campers and RVs farther away from shore so tents can actually enjoy the shoreline. Should be first come first served not reserved for months on in
- Running, biking, trails within or near towns. Volga to brookings.
- Rv camping facilities.
- RV CAMPING, WHITEWATER KAYAKING VENUES

- RV Sales businesses have taken over Highway 52! Enough is enough! Restroom/water fountains should be placed along bike path on Highway 52 on the way to Lewis & Clark Lake.
- Safety
- Safety
- Safety for all participants
- Safety, assistance when needed
- Safety, more family-friendly festivals (people without guns)
- Safety/security
- Sailing: surfing, water skiing, sailing, sampan, sailing
- satisfied
- Science and technology culture
- SD does a good job promoting
- SD pays attention to their comfort stations —would suggest that they continue to do so
- SD resident preference
- SD residents getting first right to camping sites.
- SD state residents should have an earlier sign up for camping reservations
- Search and rescue teams gear
- security
- Security
- See previous written comment. Don't love the areas to death.
- Seem to be a dramatic decrease in picnic areas over last 50 yrs. Very disappointing. I understand maintaining a problem, but if the goal is to get people outdoors, that's a failure.
- Settle the meandering water issues with land owners
- Shade for camping spaces
- Shade shelters at beaches, fish cleaning stations at all lakes (perhaps a certain size requirement)
- Shade trees updated shower houses
- Shooting both archery and firearms
- Shooting competitions
- Shooting complex and paintball ranges
- shooting facilities and parking spaces
- shooting range
- Shooting range
- Shooting range
- Shooting range
- shooting range
- Shooting range in Aberdeen area. Local sportsmen club needs to get on board with this concept and quit fighting the process
- Shooting range/ indoor archery range
- shooting ranges
- Shooting ranges
- Shooting ranges
- shooting ranges
- Shooting ranges
- Shooting ranges
- Shooting ranges
- Shooting ranges

- Shooting ranges and a sporting Clay's course. SD is known for its pheasant hunting but does not have a single sporting Clay's course in western SD.
- Shooting ranges East river in the more populated areas.
- shooting ranges for both rifle/pistol/shotgun ie sporting clays in particular
- Shooting sports
- Shooting sports
- Shore fishing
- Shore fishing access
- Shore fishing and family areas around Chamberlain
- Shore Fishing spots
- should be cell coverage so people can check for storms
- Should offer bikes and outdoor classes at more campgrounds
- Shower facilities at or near campgrounds
- Shower facilities available for all at state park campgrounds
- Shower facilities, more no wake zones, man made jet ski/ play boating areas away from fishing,
- Shower houses
- Shower, toilet facilities.
- Showered facility
- Showers
- showers
- Since population around Sioux Falls is increasing we need to increase the variety of dirt trails—it's getting more crowded and I go out to to be with nature and not talking people
- Ski rink, golf course
- Slip up creek should be made a park
- Small lake outhouses being destroyed by kids partying . They need to be law enforcement or wardens checking them at nite to break up the gatherings or game cameras placed to catch the people destroying them !! I bring family to some lakes and need those rest room facilities !!
- Small town museums.
- Snake Creek
- So, no to worrying about WiFi in the outdoors, along with so many other “improvements”. And, while I’m at it, a plea to stop sharing locations on social media; let people explore and discover for themselves what we have here.
- Some lakes need better boat access.
- Some areas need easier access to potable water
- Some parks could use some larger/cleaner bathroom facilities for those that need them. Also some campgrounds should have better lighting for safety.
- some place to put aluminum cans
- Some sort of partnership with our Native American communities. More camping cabins, cabins available during later fall, early spring and winter with bathroona.
- Something needs to be done about the explosion of ATVs, or off road vehicles, especially out of staters, They are ruining trails and landscapes!!!
- South Dakota families participate a lot in outdoor activities during the warmer months and our winters put a damper on being able to participate and grow in those activities year around. Many times I take my children outdoors through the summer but in the winter months it is not as easy and obviously not the best for children to be out in the cold for too long. Indoor facilities are

expensive but I believe an important element to allow families to keep children involved in activities where they continue to grow and move to the outdoors during the warm months. Whether it be indoor rock climbing, indoor archery or firearms range, an indoor playground or rope course, something to help support our families, keeping kids active, and keeping them involved in the activities South Dakotans are rooted in.

- South Dakota legislators should repeal the licensing of ATVs and OHVs so they can't go on highways anymore. They should restrict licensing for licensing renting of such as well. The noise, pollution and damage ruins recreation for others.
- South Dakota needs to maintain and repair some of its neglected state parks (Little Moreau, Lake Hiddenwood)
- South Dakotans should be able to reserve facilities ahead(perhaps earlier date for reservations) of out-of-state people. It is getting very hard to get camping spots along the Missouri river. When you do get there, the spots are filled with out-of-state vehicles.
- Specify if good wifi exists and which sites are better for long term stays and/or work from TV options
- Splash park areas, obstacle courses, family activities and large camping sites
- splash parks
- Sporting clay ranges
- Sporting clays range, more boat shore access and better walk in hunting grounds.
- Sports and hunting
- Sports venues
- Spray your weeds
- Spring Creek area - it's growing. A playground would be nice closer by.
- state forest camping sites
- State Parks
- State parks and how high priced they are
- State Parks and recreational areas
- State recreation areas could also use a pheasant cleaning area, along side the fishi cleaning station. (Indoor)
- Stay-up-to-date on technology. Especially Wi-Fi, many facilities are living in the past and out of date in terms of tech.
- Stop dumping carcasses! It is disgusting and embarrassing to take out of town guests for a walk and to see and SMELL such careless activity on the forest.
- Stop federal parks from charging fees for dogs. They are family too!
- Stop horseback riding on GFP lands during Archery season!
- Stop letting lakes get closed off
- Stop mining threats and other threats to our water quality
- stop promoting...getting too crowded!!!
- STOP this fetish with shooting ranges and "hunting". Fear of being shot and scary experiences with drunks with guns who call themselves hunters and have crate blanche from GF&P severely limits safe and enjoyable access to the outdoors.
- Storm Shelters
- Supply of game/fish/etc
- Sustainable trails
- swimming beaches, shore/dock fishing opportunities

- Swimming lakes
- Swimming options in clean water
- Swimming parks
- Swimming pool
- Take care if your residents and quit basing all hunting and fishing decisions on tourist dollars.
- Take care of existing parks ie/ Lake Hiddenwood
- Take care of residents limit non residents. Overcrowding will increasingly deteriorate South Dakota's outdoor resources in my view. More promotion is hurting
- Technology to readily (very easy) see camping available
- Television access
- Tell them to go somewhere else
- Tell them to stay home
- Tent campers shouldn't have to be in same areas as RVs
- Tent camping areas
- Tent camping, hiking, and backpacking facilities/trails
- Tent camping, RV camping but not those Big have to move your own house on wheels in.
- Tent only camping
- The ability to unplug and spend a quiet time in nature. Emphasis on quiet.
- The abundant wildlife viewing
- The accessibility
- The amusement park
- The amusement park.
- The attention given to sustainable management of our public lands. The pride that South Dakotans have in taking care of our forests and prairies. Leave no trace, respect for others, leaving it better than when you arrived. Our disapproval of resource damage incurred from motorized recreation. Draw those into the state that have money to spend, and, don't leave one hell of a mess to clean up after - deferred maintenance.
- The basketball court periphery perfect good food and beverage bar
- The beautiful scenery and wildlife. Sustainability of wildlife. The development and upkeep of existing recreational areas.
- The beauty of the natural, what local businesses are around the parks and nature areas for those who may be in need of last minute items.
- The beauty of the places and wildlife - we don't need more cars/UTVs/atvs. The outdoors should be for everyone. More accessible hiking trails or wheelchairs. Shuttles to trailheads/rideshare
- The black hills are sacred and meant to be enjoyed intimately. Please do not incentivize destructive motor homes to come in, trash campsites and trails, and leave without even enjoying our south dakota nature. There are still plenty of tourism dollars to be made by attracting responsible and respectful visitors, and doing so will not be at the cost of state citizens.
- The Black Hills have been overrun by rude, destructive, and annoying ATV-UTV users (on top of the motorcycles). We need more hiking area and roadless areas.
- The Black Hills is a relatively small area- it has been overrun with tourists the past couple years. The crowds, traffic and noise are ruining what is enjoyable about being in the outdoors- or even trying to grocery shop!



- The cell phone coverage in the Black Hills, especially the campgrounds, needs to be improved. I have elderly parents so I need to have the capability to make and receive phone calls for emergencies.
- the cleanliness in some of the bathrooms at some of the state parks has been a BIG deterrent for our family. Palisades has been revolting in my past experiences and we will not frequent there despite how beautiful it is.
- the fishing locations
- The Gf&P has done an outstanding job. Their long range plan has always proved sufficient.
- The Glacier lake's Up North
- The government does not have to provide all this on public grounds, private business can go with it .
- The increased prices for hunting are tough on a guy
- The lakes, the hiking trails
- The less impact with buildings and paved trails and road the better to help preserve the natural environment
- The Lewis and Clark trail. Kayak/canoe oppurtunities
- The Missouri River is the (my opinion) the most under promoted treasure in South Dakota. Also, it would be nice if there were more resorts ON the water to use in the summer.
- The most annoying thing to us is the non-resident fee charged to us with campground reservations and fishing liscences. We do not overuse facilities or take more than legal limits of fish so feel this is unfair.
- The nature park
- The need for improved public hunting is a necessity. Our youth will NOT be hunting as they age due to lack of ducks and pheasants in our public hunting areas.
- The need to better monitor and enforce the off road vehicles. Because of them, our areas are becoming trashed with garbage and the noise is becoming a pain.
- The Online RV Spot Reserve Program is a terrible mess and hard to use.
- The only thing I can really think of is to maybe do a little more advertising out of state. I know the Black Hills area probably does get that but the small treasures like Sica Hollow and other smaller state parks or recreational areas.
- The open spaces and lack of crowds for most activities. The general friendliness and accommodating nature of the South Dakota residents and businesses
- The outdoor campuses within the state.
- the outdoors and not wrecking it out there and how cool it is :)
- The park has set up a shop
- The parks and areas not along I-90 and not in the Black Hills.
- The parks are too nice and have too many creature comforts and facilities, it is not fun to go camping in a place that's no different than my house.
- The parks here are amazing! great trails, water activities and SD does a great job of maintaining them!
- The Prehistoric Indian Village Museum is overlooked. Located on the lake in Mitchell.
- The problem with sensationalizing South Dakota's outdoor opportunities is the resulting overcrowding and destruction of our great state.. I have been very dismayed over the past couple years at the lack of ETHICS, COURTESY, and APPRECIATION FOR HABITAT AND WILDLIFE. I have asked people in the Badlands why they are walking their dogs on the trails when the posted signs clearly state 'no dogs'. They shrug and say they don't care. I have seen

hunters shoot up a Prairie dog town in the middle of my deer hunt (Mellette Co), I have seen drivers on the Wildlife Loop stop their car in the middle of the lane, get out, and walk around to take pictures while approaching the wildlife too closely, I have see my coworker post a picture of her spraypainted name at Poet's Table to social media (another reason to STOP THE STATE PROMOTION ALL THE TIME ON SOCIAL MEDIA), I have smelled the disgusting aroma of diesel in the Spearfish Canyon winters next to Roughlock Falls instead of smelling the crisp winter airs due to the OVERPROMOTION OF ATV's and snowmobiles. Please please just preserve what precocious little pieces of heaven we have here in SD. How about you focus on 'Leave no Trace' education?

- The projects that are happening.,
- The promoting question trying to increase tourism in the state? vs helping to improve and maintain the existing facilities.
- The state and national parks are pretty full. the national forest should be considered more for outdoor hiking. The Black Hills National Forest is being desecrated by accelerated logging that has surpassed sustainability and is blighting the possibility of multi. use opportunities in the national forest.
- The state has fish hatcheries for stocking fish, what about creating a pheasant farm to stock birds on public lands
- The state parks are well kept and have excellent restroom areas.
- The tennis court
- The UTV and ATV sport is growing and there is alot of Revenue to be had
- The variety of outdoor activities in SD
- There are many more people who want to go out in nature just to relax, watch the wildlife, maybe take some pictures. Perhaps it is time to cater to them as much as the hunters have been catered to in the past.
- There has been a noticeable increase in UTV/ATV traffic over the last few years spending time in the hills around Deerfield/Hill City/Rochford area. An increase in enforcement/maintenance would be nice to see. Slightly irritating to hike into an area currently closed to ATV/UTVs only to have them drive by.
- There is so much in South Dakota but we don't want huge crowds. fewer bugs in the Hills. Help campgrounds to better advertise since the state won't add more to state parks.
- There's electric food nearby, or a burger
- Things are okay as they are
- Think about families so everyone in a family has something they can and would like to do at an affordable cost.
- Think about were you plant trees. They do grow and when trees are planted right beside a road or at a campsite realize what is going to happen when those trees get big. Can a big horse trailer pull into the spot or a big camper. And start thinning some trees in areas around the campsite that blocks the sun or crowds the campsite. Improve all trails have water bars so that trails don't wash out so much. Fix what we already have.
- To hopefully be able to add more horse back trails (camping too) OR at the very least, retain the already existing.
- to new to the state to know
- To play badminton
- To play basketball
- To play table tennis

- To play tennis
- toilet facilities, porta pots
- too long of a survey .... pretty much just filling in stuff just to get it complete at this point...
- TOP OF LIST: sewer, water, electricity for RV's
- Touring and sightseeing vehicles are available
- Trail
- Trail extensions and connections that could connect towns to near by state parks or public lands. Trail Connections for community to community and trails that follow rivers and creeks where appropriate.
- Trail markers for clear marked paths
- Trail networks- the entire Black Hills could be linked by a non-motorized trail network. This would create opportunity not available in the US and more of a European experience.
- Trails
- Trails
- Trails
- Trails intermediate to novice
- Trails like the Mickelson and Centennial Trail are invaluable. I think the Centennial Trail will get more use as I have seen many youtube videos proclaiming it is a good warm-up to through-hiking the Appalachian Trail.
- trails, deeper camping pads in some parks (some don't have enough room for vehicles and campers)
- trails, parking, outhouses, natural areas (less development)
- Training facilities
- Trap shooting is the fastest growing high school sport in the country. We need more gun ranges.
- Trapping
- Trash and recycling receptacles
- Travel packages, day trips. When I am going somewhere, I want to find a unique experience and a good deal.
- Trees planted, things not so crowded together in camp locations
- Try to include facilities to meet the needs for people of all ages. Overall the state does a great job maintaining state park areas.
- Trying to negotiate GF&P web site has become more difficult and confusing.
- Unique locations
- Universal accommodations or. ADA
- Unpaved trails that are away from loud vehicles are rare and very valued by our family.
- Updated fish cleaning services
- Updated restroom facilities. Some of the comfort stations are in really poor condition and need to be improved.
- Upgraded restroom/showers
- Upgrading camping electrical service to 50 amp
- Use of national grasslands
- Vault toilet improvements. Lights (solar powered), more staff to keep up with cleaning.
- very adequate
- Volunteer program to control invasive species is desperately needed
- Vr technology

- Walk in areas for pheasant need to be vastly improved for success rates and there need to be many more such areas. The South Dakota hunter has been priced out of hunting private lands and have too little success to spend much time on walk-in areas.
- Walk in hunting areas
- Walk in hunting areas
- Walk in hunting areas
- Walk-in access for upland hunting. Especially in good Pheasant Counties
- Walk-in hunting areas that haven't been overgrazed.
- Walk-in hunting areas, accessible fishing areas.
- Walking trails
- Wall Lake
- walleye fishing. we need to look at improving the population especially on the lower Missouri.
- wash room facilities, information and locations, trash recycling
- Water
- Water and sewer at campsites
- Water and sewer hook ups
- Water and sewer hookups for rvs
- Water and sewer RV hook ups
- water fountains and trash cans
- Water fountains or hydrants for water accessibility
- Water quality is important such as limiting agricultural and municipal run-off. Water degradation (green scum) caused by phosphorous and other chemicals is somewhat of a concern at the State Parks I visit. More shoreline fishing opportunities/maintenance is needed.
- water sources and camping spots along the bike trails.
- Water station
- Water, showers in season
- Ways to make use more affordable. Bringing license fees and park passes down, or providing a multiple use discount.
- We are fortunate to have great outdoor recreation areas throughout the state. Improvements are always welcomed.
- We could really expand on the rails to trails for biking, hiking, running and walking. There is a great number of small communities with great people in our state of South Dakota. Getting people to pass through and spend some time would hopefully be an economic boost to these struggling towns. I believe biking is becoming more and more popular with time. I know it can be a hard sell to surrounding landowners though when the old, abandoned rail lines pass along their property.
- We don't depend on wi-fi, but having good cell service is really a must-have for us.
- We enjoy the spacious camping sites in the State Parks.
- We have more water than I think visitors and residents know of South Dakota! We take our kayaks with us everywhere and we have camped in every corner of SD and always are enjoying remarkable landscapes with water! I have really been enjoying a new area around the Waubay area each summer and this year we are trying Roy Lake! Can't wait for our family adventures this summer in our great state.
- We have plenty of beauty and historical sights. Plenty of hiking trails. Way too many riding trails for off roaders and their machines, dangerous.

- We LOVE our state and the outdoors are special here. don't go overboard on the improvements, we like natural. Just a few more ADA spots and better toilets, we'd be good!
- We need facilities for our young people of all the different age groups. Many times they have 'nothing to do'
- We need far more public bird hunting land with good habitat
- We need more atv/ utv trails on the eastern side of the state. We also need more campgrounds, especially for tents.
- We need more open space to explore and experience without a crowd of people of camping
- We need more panfish lakes for families and especially kids! Quit thinking only about walleyes!
- We need to better manage and/or restrict off road vehicle usage in the Black Hills. Trails are overrun or illegally used. Trails and associated areas are being destroyed.
- We need to get back to the master plan for Sylvan Lake that was started a few years ago & then seems to have been abandoned during covid. Sylvan is entirely overrun; people park along the roads after the parking lots fill up, the lake is packed and the trails are too busy. There were a lot of possible solutions offered in that plan, and it's time to start implementing them.
- We need to have educational shooting programs and shooting ranges
- We need to remember that not all activities are to be enjoyed by everyone. The more people friendly you make things, the less enjoyable they become for the people that have been using the areas the most.
- well maintained and clean camp grounds
- Well maintained hiking trails
- What the hell are we doing with wifi and baseball fields on this survey? Please don't get in the business of building holiday inns on public lands. Leave that to cities and counties to develop if they find the need for it. Same with the shooting range out west - let Pennington county build that. The \$900K used to purchase the land from GF&P could have leased a lot of walk in areas across the state. It's disappointing that \$ from hunting licenses is used to support shooting sports. Not the same thing. Use hunting \$ to support hunting. Every overdeveloped area creates less hunting access, takes away from the natural state of the area.
- What we need to do is to stop the UTV's from driving wherever they want in the Black Hills. Last year when A friend, and I were deer hunting in the hills, we could not walk down any trail that didn't have UTV's using it. Many of these trails were supposed to be closed to vehicle traffic.
- While there may be a need for more, I feel it is very important to try to maintain recreation areas that are not over-crowded or over-used.
- White water park
- why should we dumb down our simple land? Our wildlife is leaving from the noise of 3 wheelers, etc....there is a real lack of understanding of Nature...
- Wi fi, low water boat ramps
- Wide open spaces our our best assets
- Wider shoulders on our roads for cyclist, runners and walkers. U.S. Route 83 between Rt.10 / 83 intersection to the North Dakota border has little to no shoulder and is extremely danerous. There is no place for pedestrians, vehicles or over loaded / wide loaded trucks to pull off on, very dangerous for all travelers and commercial traffic.
- WIFI
- wifi
- WiFi
- WiFi and room for boat launches and RV camping

- Wifi has nothing to do with the outdoors
- wifi hotspots- some in the hills dont have service.
- Wifi is becoming more critical with each passing year and SD parks are severely lacking.
- wi-fi is not important. Cell towers are important.
- WIFI is the most important
- WIFI would be great for groups that want to use the outdoors as their gathering space.  
Educational learning opportunities for families of all ages. Camping opportunities where supplies are provided (tent, wood etc) so families don't have to worry about investing in all of the supplies and not knowing if it is a good fit for their family.
- Wifi,
- WiFi, if there's a cell signal, wifi doesn't matter. For safety reasons, a cell signal is 8mpirtant.
- Wi-Fi, in state parks
- Wild Country or Wilderness (if you will) no roads, etc.
- Wilderness and outdoor activities, hunting, hiking, biking not near motorized trails
- Wilderness areas where man is a visitor who does not remain
- Wildlife Habitat is the easily the most important.
- Wildlife parks
- Wildlife preservation
- Wildlife resataurant. Have personnel clean and cook, fish, duck, pheasant, and any animal a hunter kills that day.
- Wildlife viewing
- Wildlife viewing
- wildlife viewing, tent camping, hiking trails
- Wildlife, beautiful views and being able to hike without a crowd of other people around. This is what is most important to me.
- Wildlife/bird viewing not just hunting/harvesting of game species. We have a great diversity of animals that live here year round and migrate through and it is undervalued.
- Winter camping/cabins/winter use bathroom facilities. Warming houses at cross country ski trails.
- With the large numbers of people coming, maybe more viewing areas or pullouts for people to safely view animals and sights, but NO MORE CAMPGROUNDS within our parks.
- Work with landowners to improve water quality. Most of the visitors I talk with are disgusted with our water. That should be priority one.
- Work with private/commercial entities to provide additional camping sites, gun ranges, etc.
- Would like to see fun obstacle courses and/or workout stations.
- Would love to have more state parks for camping and boating along the river
- Year round activity for locals. Ice skating..sledding.
- Year round camping
- Year round use
- You are doing a good job maintaining what you have for outdoor recreation, but with more people enjoying outdoor facilities, the demand for more options is higher.
- You need to create a program for non-consumptive users (i.e not hunters/fishers/tappers) to donate to habitat & research on species of greatest conservation need (see SD Wildlife Action Plan). You need to create a program for non-consumptive users to donate to a fund to purchase 'nature study' access across private land & to allow SD-GFP to lease such easements for non-consumptive users. You might find some land owners don't want hunters, but like bird watchers.

- Youth groups for all activities across the board keep kids interested and active away from electronics
- Youth Programs so that you serve the residents, building a legacy beyond tourism. Youth Programs at parks, similar to Nebraska, to entice more tourism to our areas.
- Yurts, family cabins
- Zip Lines
- Zip lining , more trails

## Section IV

Section 4, Question 5. What else should we consider in developing the South Dakota outdoor recreation plan for the next five years?

- Build (more) awareness, i.e. marketing
- Involvement with various local groups
- Newspaper, radio/RV
- Community members included in planning committees, etc. (ongoing)"
- lowering resident hunting fees
- sd populatsion is growning quite getting people to move here
- “Urban” fishing opportunities for kids that rarely get to get to experience the outdoors. Easy, fun to catch fish like bluegills, perch, whitebass, largemouth need to be stocked, even if it’s a put take fishery that will winter kill. The number one reason I hear from kids on why they don’t like fishing is “it’s boring.” I think we need to provide the best opportunity possible to recruit and retain new young anglers.
- Develop a way for more people to access campsites like have a certain amount of 1st come-1st serve sites. 2. Charge people , or put them at the bottom of the reservation list if they make reservations but don’t show up.
- 3. Perhaps have a reservation system so if someone gets a reservation this year, then next year, their name goes into a drawing so the same people can’t block others from getting campsites every year, just because some people may have the advantage of knowing 6months to a year in advance when their vacation time will be."
- 1. Do people in all parts of the state have access to well-maintained areas and have a diversity of options? 2. Diversity of options! Are all user groups being heard? Is funding and attention being given to a diversity of non-consumptive activities in a variety of locations? 3. Is the plan for tourists or South Dakotans? Your plan will be very different, depending on which of these groups you are listening to.
- A better reservation plan for camp sites in Custer state park areas so people who consistently reserve and don't use sites stop preventing others from accessing sites as locals
- A focus on acquiring animal and fish habitat and managing that habitat for well being of all living things - including native plants, rodents, insects and animals.
- A larger entertainment venue at Lewis and Clark lake!
- A place in eastern sd for atv riding.
- A way to make equipment available to rent at trail heads such as wheel chairs, etc...
- Access for equestrian travelers.
- Access for hunting and fishing opportunities
- Access to places to hunt and fish.
- Access to public areas
- Access to public lands
- Accessibility
- Accessibility for hiking, more programs for children to instill love of outdoors and how important it is to conserve our outdoor spaces
- Accessible and welcoming to all!! This means race, Lifestyle, culture, physical and intellectual abilities, transportation, pricing. All people of all incomes and of all abilities must be offered these amenities for the well-being of the community!!



- Accessible ecotourism.
- Accessible for the disabled
- Accessible to all
- Accessing the parks and campgrounds and consider the older population is going to be using the facilities.
- Acquire additional public hunting areas.
- Acquire more access for hunting
- Acquiring land where possible to provide for public access opportunities
- Active lifestyles
- Active Participation Levels
- Activities that bring families together outdoors.
- ADA
- Add camp spots to some smaller campgrounds
- Add facilities to facilitate movement of people.
- Add public golf courses and improve the boat ramps
- Add to it
- adding small green spaces , road side parks
- Additional camping spots and additional dump stations. Sandy Shore at Watertown needs it's own dump station and expand that campground if at all possible. Sandy Shore has a great 'family' shower area. Additional small cabins. Small cabins with a shower/toilet? Add spots with water/sewer. covered picnic shelter areas that can be rented by the day.
- Additional/improved boat access facilities at lakes (other than the Missouri River system) should be a priority
- Address foraging interests, more education about invasive species, more emphasis on ethical hunting
- Adequate
- adequately maintain and staff excellent facilities we presently have..ran into staffing issues this past summer at facilities and expanding would not help that situation
- Advertising
- Advertising any updates made to current areas & involving conservation-related programs with the areas for activities
- Affordable fees
- Affordability of places to visit
- Again all based on money. Preserving as much land and water ways as possible. I enjoy the outdoors and I don't want to see them end up destroyed for housing or commercial use.
- Again Maintain what we have
- Again new fish hatcheries
- Again, avoid destroying park properties by converting lands to campgrounds. For generations, the private sector has provided camping & housing in the area of parks. There is no reason for the park system to take on that role while destroying wild lands.
- Again, make things affordable for families. Money is tight and is the reason a lot of people are unable to enjoy the things we do have in this state
- again, repair and preserve state parks like Little Moreau and Lake Hiddenwood
- Again, we need to be better informed
- Agri-tourism

- All good
- All in all I think SD does a pretty good job in this area. Stay abreast of changing trends and react to those changes.
- All season fish cleaning stations :)
- All types of recreation especially in the Black Hills to take care of all the people moving into the area. SAD that our state is attracting so many people. It will crowd all outdoor recreation areas.
- Allow more non-resident hunting opportunities
- Allow residents 1st choice in use of facilities
- Amusement park
- Acquire more land for public use
- Archery ranges
- Are there areas that have been neglected or closed that could be improved or reopened to benefit the community
- Areas Being Over populated due to an increase of commercial campsites.
- Areas to remove yourself from technology and other people. More secluded areas for true connection to nature.
- As more folks move from rural areas to larger towns/metro, it is important that we build green spaces/trails into our communities as residential areas expand/homes are built.
- As towns and cities in SD grow make sure to have plenty of parks and green areas for the best quality of life for residents of all ages.
- Assist small communities in re-establishing or enhancing water based recreational opportunities where applicable. Example is Custer's efforts to re-establish West Dam.
- "At risk and under served youth. Work with kids in the Children's Home, in foster care. Find a way to get schools and afterschool/ summer care groups into the parks. They NEED help with transportation. Buses are expensive and they don't have the funds to get to the park. They will come if they can.
- Don't forget about our seniors. They want to come to the park but they don't always feel comfortable with the drive.
- 
- The people coming to the park are the ones that are able to drive themselves. However, the young and the old want to come too. The young is the next generation. You have got to get them involved. "
- ATV trails. Shore fishing areas/docks
- ATV/UTV trails in eastern SD
- ATV/UTV uses are overrunning the black hills and are a major problem. Increased logging and surface mining are quickly destroying the Black Hills!
- Availability for all communities
- Available in all demographic areas, not just the "nice" neighborhoods
- Avoid over crowding
- "Awareness campaigns on existing outdoor recreation and upcoming new recreation
- Connecting cities/towns via bike trails"
- Balance quality opportunities for residents with desire to accommodate non-residents. Should not compromise quality of outdoor activities by overcrowding outdoors for the benefit of non-residents.

- Be cognizant of acquiring desirable land/water resources for inclusion/development of SDGF&P facilities.
- Be considerate of land owners and the ranchers who supply food for the area and don't disturb their living.
- Be inclusive regardless of gender identification, race or physical abilities
- "Be very thoughtful in allowing off road travel in areas.
- I am very concerned about too much atv and snowmobile traffic and its effect on wildlife and enviroment."
- benefits to nature
- Better access top public & private land
- Better attention by Game &Fish Dept.
- Better bank fishing opportunities
- Better boat access on missouri river system
- Better boat dock with protection from wind and bushes boat dock on lake oahe
- "Better Boat Ramps
- More golf courses"
- Better fishing lakes
- better habitat on public hunting areas
- Better hiking trails
- Better kayak/canoe access only areas
- Better level tent sites with good grass
- Better parks
- better partnerships between recreation organizations will create better outcomes for those organizations, their staff, and the people they serve. Right now, most recreation groups or agencies are working separately - more need to come together to partner on projects and services.
- Better trail connectivity to services
- Better wildlife management plan. More wildlife habitat (CRP). Focus on pheasant numbers as they continue to decline.
- Bike trails
- bird/wildlife watching opportunities
- Black hills fishing opportunity fly fishing becoming more and more popular
- Blackhills, badlands and Missouri river should promote resorts and recreational activities
- BMX tracks funding grants and facilities
- boat ramps
- "boat ramps for low water levels
- "
- Breaking barriers and improving accessibility (not only physical disabilities, but other barriers)
- Bringing new things to the state
- Budget friendly options for large families
- Buffers for clean water
- Build ATV Trails on old Rail Road lines
- Build connections in South Dakota with private landowners to incentivize conservation of open space in and around the Black Hills and to reduce property taxes for those who want to keep open space. We have very little help for private landowners who do not want to develop. The Black Hills are being turned into suburbia -- So many of the meadows I hiked or hunted or fished

through as a kid are now housing developments. The Black Hills is the most heavily privatized national forest in the country and we need wildlife corridors and private-public partnerships and better tax incentives to maintain habitat and ecosystem health. If we don't protect it now we WILL lose huge tracts of remaining open land in the hills to land developers.

- Build more cabins at Oahe Downstream
- Buy every golf course in the state and turn it into public housing tracts and green spaces that are open to all. I'm not joking.
- "Buy land and don't destroy it
- Plant trees and make it beautiful"
- Buy land for more wildlife and hunting
- Buy land to keep as is. No development. Enough development has occurred.
- Buy more land
- Buy more land. Not lease.
- Buy more lands for public use!
- Campgrounds, right side, reservations. Left side first come first served.
- Camping
- camping & hunting
- Camping options for those with out campers or tents
- Can't think of anything
- Can't think of anything
- Cannot think of anything
- Can't think of anything
- Can't think of anything else.
- Can't think of anything.
- Capacity. It is getting crowded
- Catering problems
- Catering problems
- Catering problems
- Certainly don't need a gun range near Rapid City.
- Change the application program for big game
- Change the focus of non-resident or tourist economic benefits to a balanced use approach. The tax paying locals have a need for a fair chance to use the resources. This has not been the case for several years.
- Changing the guidelines and policies to non-resident outdoorsmen and women. I truly believe that the cost of nonresident licenses dissuade potential revenue sources. It may not look as good to the state, but local communities need outside people in order to keep up with the time and update their businesses and facilities. I understand wanting to protect our resources and not allowing in more hunters than we can support, but we also can't afford not to.
- Charge more for services provided
- Charge more for non resident fishing and hunting way to low and they take all resources and not care about wildlife and management
- Cheaper rates for camping and the park pass for seniors over 65
- Children drive the parents' decision when considering vacations or family fun day. Use the childrens' draw as your selling point. Ex: Bring back Fort Yankton to the Lewis and Clark campground.

- Children with disabilities-ie playgrounds that are 'accessible' to children in wheel chairs, need sensory input or have limited mobility.
- City growth
- Clean up lakes and rivers
- Clean up the poverty/homelessness. I won't go nor allow my kids to bike/walk in north Rapid City. That's sad!!
- Cleaner lakes
- cleanliness
- Cleanliness
- Clear out buckthorn where ever it is found. I know how bad this can become after spending three years clearing out our windbreak of about four acres.
- Climate change
- Climate change resiliency, protecting biodiversity, promoting JEDI, conserving our recreation and lands for future generations
- Climate warming and drought conditions that foster fire danger.
- Colleges
- communicate better the opportunities that are out there. Don't just concentrate on the big cities of SD.
- Community Gardens?
- Community involvement. It feels like there is no way to get involved and if there is it is not promoted enough. I would love to help in any way I can but it feels like there is nothing I can do. It would be wonderful to get my children involved in this helping at a young age to inspire a passion in the outdoors for them.
- "Community recreation availability/skills education
- Youth organization opportunity and support.
- School outdoor rec and education."
- Community support maybe
- Complete biking routes around towns
- Complete the South Dakota Shooting Sports Complex in western South Dakota!
- Concentrate on getting our youth outside
- Connect some existing trails. For example Yankton has partnered with state parks to have trails encircle the whole area. Pierre is another great example. Keep doing tht.
- Connected wildlife corridors in conjunction with neighboring states
- Connecting urban trails to those in natural areas
- Conservation service opportunities. Work party's replenish prairie grass lands, plant native flowers support wildlife, support birds , healthy habitat for all of nature.
- Consider all age groups not just younger people.
- Consider construction and maintenance costs
- Consider improving ramps and fish cleaning stations and increase maintenance
- Consider locals first before tourism
- Consider overcrowding issues.
- Consider Pickleball courts over tennis courts. More mtg trails.
- consider population growth and changes in resident activities
- Consider restricting ATV vehicles to using existing roads.

- Consider reviewing leased hunting lands, like walk-ins. Some areas are fantastic but some areas are very small with no opportunity to see anything. In addition, some farmers/ranchers will post “no hunting” signs around walk in areas.
- Consider safety
- Consider security
- Consider taking public opinion into account
- "Consider that our wildlife is a finite resource. Our outdoors in this state keeps us here.
- Seems fund raising is top priority to GFP and governor."
- Consider that there is a limit to what the citizens can afford.
- Consider the environment
- Consider the needs of citizens
- Consider the needs of citizens
- Consider the needs of the masses
- Consider the wildlife first, you can't replace them once you develop spaces.
- Consider thinking about people who love the recreation but have low income.
- Consult with a diverse population for ideas. If you want suggestions, consider alternative opinions. Create something unique.
- Continually improving and maintaining
- Continue to budget enough money so that all current infrastructure remains in good shape.
- Continue to enlist the creation of walk in hunting and recreation areas.
- Continue to improve fishing quality and opportunities
- continue to increase public use areas
- CONTROL the ATV numbers and police them!
- Control the ATV, OHV trail damage and enforce the responsible use of the systems. Put some horsepower limits on those machines. Too many people like the horsepower which promotes spinning tires and slinging mud and dust.
- Controlling ticks and other insects.
- Cost
- Cost !
- Cost factors. Low income families are not able to afford many of the opportunities. It seems like outdoor activities have become 'rich man' playgrounds. Extremely sad and unfair.
- Cost of maintenance and over crowding
- Cost versus benefit, whether it would be taking living space from the wildlife, how much the change may cost the consumer (ie., park entry fees, licenses, taxes, etc.)
- Cost. Reduce cost whenever possible
- cost. the price of hunting license with loss of CRP land is making hunting more expensive with less area to hunt. Clark County prime example.
- cost....keep it affordable
- Cost/benefit
- Costs: To taxpayers, fees to use facilities, to maintain, to promote, etc.
- Create more camping areas
- Create more electrical sites for campers.
- Crowds might be nice for some people but i enjoy the quite time
- CRP without it the rest is a waste of time.
- Cultural attractions

- Cultural entertainment
- Curb and monitor excessive logging that currently supersedes other use activities, more education on wild plants and habitats unique to the black hills via placards.
- cure for EHD
- currently I could reserve a campsite for 14 days, but in reality, I will only use the site for the last 5 days. While preserving the reservation for the last 5 days, provide a system to sub-lease the first 9 days so that others have the opportunity to enjoy a camping weekend on a campsite that would otherwise be reserved, yet vacant. Or at least change the reservation process so that a high majority of the days reserved must at least have campers on site.
- Data
- dealing with increased population levels
- "Dedicated ATV/UTV/OTV parks
- Preserving the land from being torn up by the above mentioned vehicles"
- Develop a plan to dredge high use lakes in eastern sd and deal with the algae problems. Concentrate on fish habitat in low fished lakes to reduce pressure on the high use lakes.
- Develop a stable, secure maintenance program to keep the facilities in good shape, good working order. and up to date.
- Develop cultural interpretation as well as historical interpretation and environmental conservation
- Develop Elk. Bring in 10,000, and develop a viable population. Get money to pay off farmers for damages they cause.
- Develop more camp sites along the River.
- Develop some of the under developed access points along Lake Francis Case.
- Disc golf at state Parks
- disc golf, more trees, spray more for them skeeters
- distance
- Diversifying population
- Diversity, access, inclusion, equality. Protect public lands, water and wildlife for future generations. Don't overdevelop.
- Do a better job of building up areas to have groups be able set up for the day. More picnic type areas in parks and areas a family and a group can stake claim at for the day. more bbq pits or whatever. Just doesnt seem lie rocket science. I believe they could do alot better. They seem to do a really good job over on the west side of town where the rich people live
- Do more advertising of events, I don't participate as I don't know what's going on
- Do not add gun ranges. We seriously have plenty
- Do not build more campgrounds in Custer State Park and do not annex Spearfish Canyon. We do not need more parks...we need to maintain the ones we have and find ways to make it easier and less expensive to access them. Public land access should not be a rich man's sport
- Do not compete with private campground owners
- DO NOT CONSIDER SPENDING MY TAX MONEY AND STATE PARK FEES ON MEGAPROJECTS, SUCH AS RV PARKING FACILITIES IN WILDLIFE PRESERVES OR A \$2.5 -million SHOOTING RANGE, OR PAYING BOUNTIES FOR NON-GAME ANIMALS, OR TEACHING YOUTH THAT KILLING OTHER ANIMALS AND TRAPPING THEM IS A SPORT, OR BRINGING PHEASANT HUNTERS FROM OUT OF STATE TO TAKE BIRDS AT A WHOLESALE SCALE, OR FACILITATE THE DEADLY DESTRUCTIVE PRACTICE OF SNOWMOBILING, OR KILLING LARGER ANIMALS WHEN HUMANS FEEL THREATENED RATHER THAN TRANQUILIZING THEM. INSTEAD TEACH GF&P

EMPLOYEES AND THE PUBLIC THAT NATURAL HABITAT CONSERVATION, PROTECTION FROM INVASIVE SPECIES, AND REGENERATION, TOGETHER WITH PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM FUEL OIL PRODUCTS, PESTICIDES, FERTILIZERS, LIGHT, NOISE, AND POPULATION INFLUX, ARE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY IN SHIELDING US FROM CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY LOSS: IT IS KEY TO OUR HEALTH AND RESILIENCE. A BASIN-WIDE APPROACH SHOULD BE USED, INTEGRATING VARIOUS DISCIPLINE FOR WHOLISTIC SOLUTIONS, RATHER THAN PIECEMEAL FIXES. MANAGEMENT MUST BE TRAINED IN THE PRACTICE OF INSTITUTING MEASURES FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION IN PROFESSIONALLY ADMINISTERING OUR PUBLIC LANDS.

- do not give too easy of access to the wildlife and nature areas to limit littering, otherwise the respect for the areas will be lost.
- DO NOT PUT IN THE GUN RANGE BY RAPID CITY. We frequent Sheridan Lake most of the summer and people shooting in the Berretta Road area is loud all the time they are shooting. To have a facility that has shooting every day all day is a horrible idea for anyone that has to live within 5 to 10 miles.
- Do what you need to do to limit the OHV and UTV out of state sales to reduce the negative impacts to our wildlife and local residences, we live here and have top deal with the noise pollution caused by this type of recreation. Also the trail users are destroying most of our environment anywhere they are treading on the BH area land.
- Docks on 81 ponds
- Dog friendliness
- Dog swimming areas where kids can be safe swimming too
- Doing a better job of working with local and federal land managers for more opportunity.
- doing great
- Don't know
- Don't know
- Don't know
- Don't ruin state parks with disc golf.
- don't allow the parks/spaces to become so overcrowded that they are not enjoyable.
- Don't bother focusing on diversity, equity, gender issues. No one cares. Just make things open for all and don't make a non-issue into an issue.
- Don't develop more than can be paid for short-term and long-term.
- Don't go crazy with it...
- don't know
- Don't know
- Don't know what it would take,, but find something attractive enough to youth to get them outdoors
- Don't know.
- Don't lower river levels during minnow and game fish spawn and hatch !!!
- Don't over develop everything. The wonderful thing about SD is the open space and natural spaces. Encourage more activities like photography and hiking and less on killing things. More educational programs for kids instead of teaching them to kill. Teach that all living things have a place. Maybe some community gardens? Tree planting? Engage kids in building Accessible trails?



- Don't overadvertise for outsiders! There are plenty of tax paying locals who would like to use our recreational facilities.
- Don't penalize / overcharge non-residents for recreation
- Don't spend all of the time and money in big cities, they have enough opportunities. It would be nice to see some of that stuff in some of the small towns in the middle of the state.
- Double (or triple) the number of electric RV camping spots at the State parks! Unless you can readily plan ahead 90-days, it is almost impossible to get a spot! Please add more camping spots!
- Drainage / protecting water, maintaining some open green spaces, more playgrounds.
- Drastically improve what area's you have for walk in hunting. Currently 90's of walk in ground is absolute joke
- "Draw a 50-mile circle around South Dakota's largest cities--where most people live--and expand/preserve natural grassland/woodland spaces/riverfronts for hiking/biking/picnics for a generation of young people who live in a noisy, crowded , urban world..
- Develop Dark-Sky areas in SD's open spaces for tourism. Are all light fixtures in SD GFP parks Dark Sky certified 'down-lights?'
- This is global warming--South Dakota is likely to be mostly water-short dryland-desert--get involved in preserving watersheds, preserving those wetlands that are likely not to dry up.
- GET OUT OF THE GUN BUSINESS. KILL THE RAPID CITY \$28 MILLION NOEM TROPHY GUN RANGE PROJECT. NOW., SHUT DOWN THE GUN RANGES.
- De-emphasize the 'boys and their toys noise' activities--ATV's, snowmobiles, guns, hunting--emphasize preserving clean air, quiet, a view of the horizon natural environment
- spaces and activities--walking, hiking, canoeing, fishing, picnicking."
- Drop the liberal diversity and inclusion BS
- Easily accessible for all individuals, sustainable resources, more programs for youth
- Easements to land locked public land
- Easy access restrooms, play spaces and large private camp/rv areas to spread campers and not overcrowd
- Easy to get around
- Economy of the US.
- Ageing of the population.
- Increase of population.
- People WANT to recreate, but if it costs a lot (by their standards) it will be the first thing they leave out of their budgets & lives.
- 
- Older people generally have more time & perhaps a bit more expendable income. The recreation area must feel safe & comfortable--no wild, rowdy persons--for them to spend their hard earned \$ to be there.
- Again: A CLEAN, well-maintained place is always more attractive than an unkempt or dirty one.
- And you need to increase accomodation areas to keep up with the ever-growing population."
- Educate farmers on the detrimental practice of fence row and ditch stripping, cultivating after harvest, and eliminating natural water ways via underground tile. These sound environmental practices allow wild game to have a larger distribution, viable reproduction, increasing more sporting opportunities. Most importantly is traps the chemical field runoff, and prevents top soil loss during dry years.

- Educate the masses. I travel extensively and many people I encounter have no idea the vast resources South Dakota has
- Education Programs that people can attend to learn more about Nature and how to use it.
- Educational classes and fairs for the kids to have mini camps, just a couple hours long. They used to do this out to west Whitlock in the 90's. The kids loved the events!!!
- Eliminate ATV recreation use on South Dakota's trails. They are a nuisance. Provide more funding for partnerships with charitable organizations already doing great habitat work. Enhance current habitat and create initiatives to establish more. More public hydration stations made available in state parks and recreation areas.
- Eliminate so many ATV and UTVs on highways, roads, and trails.
- Encourage high schools to reduce spending on expensive competitive sports and spend more of their athletic budget on local lifelong recreational activities for all students to participate in. I believe it would result in more outdoor recreational facilities & opportunities in small towns. Also would result in a more fit population if small schools would lessen their fixation on competitive sports for a select few and spend their dollars on opportunities that would get all students active. Would also get more parents active by engaging them in recreational activities with their kids instead of sitting on bleachers watching them compete against another town.
- Encourage youngsters to hunt and fish.
- Encouraging low-income participation by allowing a rv campground rentals for underserved families
- Enhance habitat for wildlife, not tourists
- "Enhanced public hunting opportunities
- Better management of wildlife "
- Enroll more land in the CRP and walk in areas
- Environmental impact of ATVs and motorized boats.
- equity - especially cultural use and needs of Indigenous populations of our area
- Establishing playground equipment, fishing docks, much larger boat ramps with fish cleaning stations besides at the state parks.
- "Evaluate and determine human capacity for existing and new facilities. Goals are set for ideal wildlife populations. The same should be established for humans.
- "
- Evaluate capacity of venues or outdoor spaces and decide if usage restrictions may need to be applied. Increased growth may detract from attractiveness of recreational opportunities.
- Exclude ATVs on state land
- Expand
- Expand access to water recreation.
- Expand and build more campground facilities
- Expand campgrounds
- Expand camping RV parks with amenities
- Expand hiking trails
- Expand mountain biking trails, ATV/UTV trails, and snowmobile trails. Add additional public indoor lap pools. Remote controlled vehicle parks/trails/courses.
- Expanding number of rv/camping areas
- Expanding public access to hunting. Expanding walking trails, Identify areas where water access needs to be increased (boat ramps) and develop a plan to maintain water levels.

- expanding walking and biking access throughout the state. Address AIS in all outdoor areas, not just fishing and boating.
- Expansion of camping facilities in key parks that are always full.
- Expected population growth
- Extending or expanding the bike path routes in other directions around the city and surrounding areas. More bike lanes in and around town, more crosswalks in and around town. With the current state of the economy I feel more and more people of all walks will be looking for more efficient ways of transportation via, foot, mountain bike, road bike, etc. Public transportation is going to be of great importance for the general public in the coming years. Let's be prepared for it.
- Family activities at state parks
- "Farmer's and land owners need help with land management costs for wildlife habitat
- "
- Fee reduction
- "Fee relief for South Dakota seniors on fixed incomes. IE
- Lifetime park pass
- 1/2 price camping fees at state facilities
- Figure out how to get young people away from all the Electronics and more fascinated or interested in the out of doors without WIFI or Cellular.
- find a better solution to meander/non-meandered water, address issue of private enterprise using public resources at no charge or benefit to the public.
- Find a way to develop without raising user fees or taxes.
- First maintain what we have then accumulate more
- Fish and wildlife population as well as ATV/UTV trails
- Fish cleaning stations
- Fishing docks
- Fitness circuit in parks would be really nice
- Fitness or strength building facilities along walking/biking trails or in city parks.
- Fix the camping reservation system
- Fix what we already have. E.G. Lake Hiddenwood. Open more space along the Missouri River for camping and recreation. Thousands of miles of shoreline that can't be used... Complete waste.
- Fixing and repairing what you have would be a great start. Not looking for new and improved sites. Fix the old ones so things are safe
- Fixing roads
- Focus education and economic benefits towards the many residents that do not want to see South Dakota grow in popularity! Unbelievable how many residents don't want people moving in from other states!
- Focus on all regions of the state, not just Custer State Park, Missouri River corridor and Black Hills.
- Focus on better management of existing facilities rather than building new ones. When it comes to outdoor recreation, nature should be the draw.
- Focus on increased participation in the community-based areas, but do not over-exploit remaining natural areas as some folks need opportunities for, at least, perceived seclusion, and frankly so do wildlife, etc. Those types of 'gems' are no longer gems when they become abused by our own interested, even if our intentions are good.

- Focus on keeping your offerings high quality like they are. You have a major competitive advantage in that area once people experience what you have.
- "Focus on multi-generational access.
- Focus on the rural communities not just major cities like Pierre, rapid, and Sioux Falls. They have a lot more activities. It's the small counties that have limited outdoor spaces or activity areas. I realize you can't make lakes in these areas but even making trails paved or not will help encourage health wellness and overall happiness to people of all ages.
- Focus on the younger populations. Promote more outdoor activities that will encourage youth to do more outdoor-related activities and less time spent indoors looking at their cell phones.
- Focus on truck and trailer parking at public boat ramps
- Focusing not on what brings in a lot of revenue (ATVs/UTVs, shooting complexes) but what is healthy for people, land, and water. Increasing understanding of conservation and providing opportunities for people to unplug and experience peace, quiet, natural world.
- Free camping areas
- Free or low cost so more can enjoy
- Free public beach
- free swimming lessons for the youth, as well as improving literacy in the community.
- frequent public rest stops along the bike trails
- Fun education opportunities on a variety of ecological subjects that get kids (and adults) interested in their environment. Ways for more people to enjoy the outdoors without going to crowded 'popular' areas.
- Get a New Governor!!!!
- Get CRP back in order to get more pheasants back. Get better quality grasses on public lands to support pheasants even in winter. Most areas fill in with snow and are of no value when they need it most.
- Get kids involved and include Native American education and traditions
- Get rid of the guns, traps, and motors. Teach people about the plants and animals (without killing them). Promote leave no trace use of public lands.
- Get rid of the nest predator bounty program. It has proven to not be an impact to the pheasant population. There are many other activities that can get kids interested in nature and the outdoors while spending time with family other than this ridiculous program.
- Get the word out about State Parks facilities, camping, fishing boating, hiking,/biking trails. There are many options for State Park outdoor recreation. Please don't just market one, Custer State Park.
- getting kids off screen time and encourage outdoor activity
- Getting people active and off Facebook
- Getting rid of Kristi Noem would be a huge benefit. It isn't the skunks, raccoons, and other animals killing off the pheasant population as it is the huge corporate farms. They destroy the habitat and the high use of herbicide and pesticide is doing more to harm the population than the other animals. Wake up GFP!!!
- Getting rid of Non-Meandered Waters. It is ruining the overall fish population within the lake. Figure out what to do with the land underwater and give the farmer a tax break.
- Getting Youth involved and unplugged - #1 factor hands down.
- "Give preference to SD residents when it comes to camping reservations
- Given that we have a population of Native Americans living in our state I would urge you to provide programs for this group.

- Giving repeat customers an advantage on making camping reservations for the following year. As someone who grew up very close to Pickerel Lake and has camped there for over 30 years, it is a real disappointment having to battle for reservations, or not getting them at all.
- Going back to my prior suggestion, I feel it would behoove the SDGF&P, the State of SD, local and non-resident pheasant hunters, local businesses and the public's general perception of and attitude about pheasant hunting in SD to adjust their pheasant hunting regulations to allow pheasants to be hunted from sunup to sundown and change the season closing date from January 31 to January 3. This would offer hunters a much better chance of harvesting birds and decrease pressure on the birds during their most vulnerable time of the year.
- Good landowner relations
- Great access to all resources
- Green areas help capture carbon
- Growth in some state parks
- Habitat and Access
- Habitat, Habitat, Habitat, less commercialization, need places for the residents. Future is not bright for the next generation of SD hunters.
- Handicap bathrooms in parks
- Handicapped accessible facilities
- Have all terrain wheel chairs for those that can't walk
- Have better quality hunting areas. Most of the CREP and Walk-in Areas are a joke as they are often bare fields or located where there are no game birds or adequate numbers of game.
- Have information about things around the recreation areas. Also having different small activities for the students to do, like a mini scavenger hunt or something
- Have the activities size follow the community size. And make this survey shorter!
- Have things for children and families to participate in
- Having more free fishing opportunities for family's that can afford a license or don't have the equipment to go
- "Help financially if someone needs assistance to be able to afford and participate in recreational activities
- Charge higher prices for out of state campers leave spots for local people to reserve to camp
- Help rural towns maintain their parks
- helps improve the economy of the community
- "Highway maintenance & upgrades should include good, wide shoulders for bicyclists. This means not putting rumble strips in the middle of the paved shoulder as this forces bicyclists into the traffic lane.
- More campgrounds with water access; More public beaches & more promotion of South Dakota's water sports."
- Hire an adequate number of staff. Provide adequate pay to hire and retain staff. Need more CO's to provide law enforcement to keep campgrounds safe.
- Hold local City and Parks Departments accountable for their own parks and the maintenance of them. They need to be held to a higher standard in Yankton.
- How about rental equipment and a short instructional video online that improves user knowledge skill and safety at the time of rental. Somehow track it so if a person has watched a video on how to ride an incumbent bike they don't have to do it again... But that they get pertinent safety information. Link it to the waiver they have to sign. 3 or 4 minutes tops. same with a kayak, or any other sports or cooking equipment etc. Could have Specific videos available at certain

campgrounds websites for any activities that might be pertinent to that particular space i.e. shore fishing, birdwatching with a note that they could pick up a laminated card at the visitor center, biking, paddle boarding, etc

- How easily
- How many more people are going to be using them
- How to accommodate growing populations in the state while simultaneously preventing them from detracting from scarce or limited recreation opportunities.
- How to actually cut into each family
- How to deal with overcrowding
- how to fund all these projects
- How to get more youth involved in outdoor activities. Maybe a partnership with local schools, or field trips to outdoor areas.
- How to increase last min camping solutions. Along with dispersed camping across the state, not just in the Forestry and Grasslands
- How to keep open spaces open? What is the maximum visitor capacity to our parks/recreational areas? When we reach that number, how do we balance availability to all? When a developed area is proposed/planned, What are the impacts to wildlife and the natural resources? A state environmental assessment protocol should be developed and a team put into place to ensure that the process is followed....much like the Forest Practices Act in Washington state
- How to keep selfish politics neutral.
- How to maximize tourism to increase resident opportunities, for outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing.
- Hunting
- Hunting access
- Hunting access and lower license fees
- "Hunting and fishing are the cornerstones for people that have long term commitment to enjoying the outdoors. A main reason for this is the
- opportunity to 'get away from it all'. When overcrowding occurs, it deters from a person enjoying the down time."
- Hunting lands in my area are crowded or over hunted . Some lands provide nothing at all habitat wise for anything.
- hunting, fishing
- Husband and I think you're doing a great job--that's why we retired here. Hope that you find adequate funding sources to continue and improve!
- I am drawing a blank
- I am glad the legislature listened to the constituents about adding more campsites at Custer during the session this spring. However, although campsites at Custer is maybe not the answer, considering how busy the Black Hills region is during the summer, there may still be a need for more state park campsites in the western part of the state.
- I am not sure, the questions you are posing lead me to believe that your direction is not at all congruent with what I feel should be done. Wifi, health and wellness? sad.
- I am very concerned with how much drain tiling i see going on as i travel across the state of SD. Once destroyed, the wetlands will never return.
- i can not think of any
- I can't think of anything

- I can't think of anything other than maybe working with the state on infrastructure like road maintenance.
- I cant think of anything
- I can't think of anything additional at the moment.
- I don't hear a lot about my local community programs. I get emails from SDGFP noting different activities going on, but I don't hear much about my local community parks.
- I don't know
- I don't know
- I don't know what the State's working programs with volunteers on parks are, but I feel that community volunteers to to the State for feedback and analysis is vitally important. Having dedicated community members who have a broad interest in their community and State.
- I enjoyed the free use of snowshoes when we moved here. Keep providing opportunities to try things in the outdoors using your equipment before we buy. Maybe a fishing derby for local kids. For kids new to atv and dirt bike riding it would be nice to have a one way loop someplace to teach them on and not have to worry about oncoming machines. With all the recreation machine rental companies out there, there should be a safety video for customers to watch. We have had issues with rental two up snowmobiles letting the kids drive. Not enough weight in the front to steer if kids drive. The skis do not turn. Almost hit by two up rental with kids driving. Heavy person in back keeps skis off the ground.
- I feel the main focus should be maintaining what you have
- I feel there are many opportunities available to a wide range of activites already available. I feel it is more important to get the word out about what is available. Instead of creating new opportunities get more people involved with what is already available.
- I feel you have covered most of the bases. Thanks for including me in the survey.
- I hear a LOT of tourists and locals complain about the 'ugliness' of our forests due to beetle kill and storm debris. It would be nice to clean up the deadfall not only for landscape beauty, but also fire safety, especially along the roads. We need to make sure people can quickly and safely evacuate from fire storms.
- I hope you're not planning to raise taxes to build programs that we can live without. Don't be like California!
- I just want more undeveloped land for public recreation like camping, hunting, and fishing
- I really like the last few questions that were focused on LOCAL COMMUNITY responsibilities - these are important, but I'm concerned that GFP at the state level sometimes becomes involved in these. There should be a clear distinction between what the community does (local trails and pools) and what GFP does (statewide wildlife and resource management),
- I think a senior golf course would be a good idea, for our elderly south dakotans to enjoy without feeling rushed or pressured by younger generations. I also think exercise programs provided in the beauty of the parks would get people interested.
- I think I probably answered some of this earlier, but the health and wellness aspect is pretty valuable. Partnering with local communities, hospitals, and universities could cost share these programs and also provide folks with more expertise than GFP probably has in some areas.
- I think that the number is sd residents that hunt only public land will continue to increase. If opportunities aren't there and success is not there they will stop participating.
- I think that we could generate recreational use dollars by increasing out-of-state fishing license fees by 20%.

- I will say it again, make waterfowl hunting like North Dakotas, where if a field is not posted by the farmer, then a hunter has a legal right to hunt it.
- I wonder if we can build a ski resort
- I would like to see a focus on maintaining what we have before developing more man-made areas. And for God's sake, quit laying asphalt over endangered flora species like was done at Latchstring Inn trail system. While we're at it, let's communicate with the Forest Service to outlaw/stop/forbid clear cutting in the forest. We need to get back to being stewards of our lands and resources rather than always looking at how to capitalize on them for the short term.
- I would not promote bike paths to work, keep the cyclist on the bike paths and not on public roadways
- I, for one, am opposed to the unfettered access that ATV's, UTV's and their ilk, have to our natural spaces. I despise the noise and destruction they wreak upon the countryside. I would ban them from ANY off road areas.
- I'd like to see expanded outdoor education for all ages. People live longer, happier, healthier lives when they are active. Safe bike trails and bike safety/ repair skills are also critical. Maps and good signage make trail systems more usable. More people would kayak if they had a safe place to learn basic skills.
- If the state continues to raise the price of park entrance fees, fishing and hunting permits, the state will see a decrease in people participating
- If you build facilities or recreation opportunities but charge people to participate in them the usage will be lower than if you freely allowed all parties to participate and utilize them.
- If you build it, they will come.
- ikea
- Impacts of new construction on existing wildlife on public lands
- Implement programs that will get people who need more exercise and outdoor time out into the great outdoors... not sure what programs have proven effectiveness in that area, but the U.S.A. is getting fatter and more sedentary and the recreation plan should make an attempt at reversing that trend for folks in SD. I feel very strongly that open space, public land, and recreation areas are essential! If people experience outdoor recreation in a positive way, they'll want to preserve and enhance it - so I want more people to experience it!
- Importance of protecting natural resources and protecting wildlife habitats
- Improve boating access locations
- Improve environmental quality, access, and maintenance
- Improve existing fisheries west of the river
- "Improve habitat for game species and fish
- Be more engaged in keeping our water clean and protect it from pollution from development
- "Improve local parks, especially those in low income areas. Have local law enforcement stop yelling at people/indigenous/children for 'loitering' near parks or trails. Parks are meant to be safe and welcoming spaces for all to exist. Let them exist. Ensure they are safe and let people thrive there. It takes a village.
- More education on land history and conservation. More focus on green space in local planning."
- Improve on what we have
- Improve our over-all water quality. Reduce agricultural runoff.
- Improve pheasant habitat
- Improve pheasant habitat...look for ways to increase pheasant populations.
- Improve pheasant hunting



- Improve pheasant numbers, pheasant habitat, public hunting areas
- Improve programming for retirees
- improve relationship with famers and rural land owners to give permission to young waterfowl hunters. less and less farmers are giving permission in my experience.
- Improve reservation system for camping
- Improve the foundation the State Parks & Recreation began with. Let all South Dakotan's be able to participate in the actities that they enjoy without having to wrangle the household budget. The costs of enjoying are South Dakota beauty just keeps adding up. Camping, hunting, fishing, etc is unreachable for many people who call this State their home!!!
- Improve the quality and quantity of hunting and fishing areas and access.
- Improve the reservation system. Let state residents have first crack at making reservations and crack down on people abusing the system...making reservations several days before they actually plan to arrive.
- Improve the smaller recreation and game production areas. It's not all about the river and East River areas
- Improve the traffic
- "Improve trail signage
- Improve swim beaches"
- Improve what we have
- Improved parking at populars sites
- Improved use of the doplar radars for tracking of bird migrations. Local new underwood radar was offline for the majority of 2021 hunting season
- Improving access for all
- Improving non-motorized recreation trail networks. Rails-to-trails or other long trails. Promote bicycle touring with camping and shower facilities along scenic routes, Similar to what MT is doing. Look into ways that Game, Fish & Parks and other landowners can support Landback efforts and and work to transfer management to indigenous control.
- Improving quality and maintenance of existing facilities
- Improving the areas that already exist
- Improving winter options
- In access walking trails and green space in cities and towns busy roads can be a barrier. In future development of recreation areas it would be beneficial to provide alternative ways to cross busy roads or avoid them.
- In Colorado we saw some music parks where there were things in the parks that made music...I think that would be great for kids. Also, promote local history with either naming convention or pictures/plaques/benches, etc. City govt should really think about what percentage of budget goes to Parks & Rec and develop good Master Plans that incorporate the city's vision that can be built on year to year when the commissioners have turn over
- In my opinion the SD State Parks are among the best anywhere. Maintain that high level of excellence and improve where possible.
- In NE SD parks at Roy Lake, Clear Lake Rec area and other Parks, have pretty much destroyed a beautiful canopy of oak ash cottonwood trees! So bigger RC campers to pull in, Shame on them!
- In planning for development or improvement consider the limitations of the area so as not to become overcrowded. Such as leaving ample spacing between camp sites to avoid looking like a parking lot with picnic tables.

- In the Black Hills forest the boating ramp areas get very crowded for boat trailer parking, more parking would be nice.
- In wishful thinking, it would be nice if my out-of-State relatives could have an easier path to obtaining an out-of-state deer or antelope hunting license. Not sure if that is actually feasible.
- Include ways to incorporate native plant restoration in your design of recreational areas.
- Including local artists to provide art/sculptures in parks and recreation areas
- Incorporation of dynamic GIS mapping to depict conservation/recreation areas as well as potential areas for expansion
- Increase accessibility for RVers to stay and utilize recreation areas.
- Increase efforts to gain permanent access to more water and grass lands. Work on removing meandering water restrictions.
- Increase hunting opportunities/land
- Increase of usage with increase in population
- Increase parking capacity at trailheads in the Black hills. It's getting very crowded the last few years
- Increase physical activity for a healthy world
- Increase recreational facilities for the disabled
- Increase the number of employees
- Increase upland bird hunting access in counties with good Pheasant populations
- increased access to more out of state license for big game hunting
- Increasing access for public hunting in the state
- increasing campground areas
- Increasing numbers of people that are starting to use the parks
- Increasing the number of game birds, deer, game fish
- Indigenous lands, impact surveys of land, air and water, habitat protection from noise, air and water pollution
- Indoor archery ranges
- Indoor/outdoor campuses
- Inflation! Gas prices! People here are not high income and thus won't be able to afford to drive very far to enjoy parks, camp fees, entrance fees. Out of state in certain areas will come though where finances are better. You may see it with fishing and pheasant, waterfowl and big game in some areas already. Some popular camping areas are very difficult to get a spot on weekends ie oak wood, poinsette and others.
- Infrastructure is boring and a giant drain on funding, but so so important as the parks established in the 30s age; please work to maintain them for future generations. It was crushing to see Hiddenwood disappear...
- Interactive activities....geochaching, scavenger hunts, etc.
- Interconnectivity
- "Internal improvement within the Parks Department. Consider park employees. We frequent east river parks. I find it strange that only female workers man the entrances whenever we visit. The state Parks, specifically Palisades in Garrison and Big Sioux Brandon.
- My family and I have also tried other activities. We would like people to be more open to teaching new people to the state outdoor life. We wanted to hunt for the first time and didn't our homework and Hunters Ed but we had to look at other states because their wasn't a desire to teach a couple of "newbs.""

- Invest more into the existing infrastructure (TAKE CARE OF WHAT WE ALREADY HAVE!)
- Investing in South Dakota residents instead of being geared totally for non-resident tourism, hunting and fishing.
- investment in outdoor resources that grab the attention of our youth; we need to get their interest and attention drawn to outdoor recreation opportunities
- It has just been getting too expensive to do anything any more, maybe find a way to cut costs for elderly
- It seems like motorized trails/users are currently favored, the Shanks quarry project with trails geared towards the non-motorized crowd is nice. It would be nice to see more non-motorized trails improved/promoted like the Sturgis trail system in the central and southern black hills (I can't speak to East river opportunities)
- It's important to establish and communicate the strategic plan for improvement to create and maintain buy in. Share the features but also the benefits of how the plan helps maintain property value, community involvement, and other benefits for SD residents.
- It's okay outside of work
- I've already stated
- Just add more recreation.
- Just do it
- Just keep doing what you are doing, and maintain the beautiful OHV trail system you have in place. It is gorgeous out there and we truly enjoy it.
- Just keep the roads paved and facilities up to date. Stop spending exorbitant amounts of money.
- Just keeping South Dakota free from external social/ political influence would be a priority in my book.....
- Keep as much of the area natural as possible and reduce outside developments less is more
- Keep asking what's important.
- Keep bad people out of the parks that just go there to drink and sleep out in the open during the day.
- Keep cost down
- Keep costs in line so folks can afford to go
- Keep fat tire bikes off snowmobile trails. It's dangerous for both bikers & snowmobilers. Fat tire bikes need to have their own trails so they can ride with a greater sense of safety & relaxation.
- Keep fees reasonable
- keep government regulations out of it
- Keep green spaces in towns. In Sioux Falls a stupid Dollar General went in RIGHT next to an established independent grocery store that had been in business for a very long time. Nevermind that there was a Family Dollar less than a half mile away from that grocery store. That space was beautiful and green and should have been turned into a park. Instead the city lost a long-term business, created a food desert situation, and put a store that had no business being in that neighborhood on Cleveland Street. A park should have been there. Now we have a parking lot.
- Keep hunting and fishing license cost down
- keep it affordable. Try not to change things just to make more money. Horesthief lake is a great example. It was a nice quiet lake before the dredging and trail construction, now it is way too busy and has lost its quiet and relaxing atmosphere.
- keep it as NON-COMMERCIAL as possible. Let people enjoy nature.
- Keep it green

- Keep on doing what is happening today!
- Keep open natural space. No pavement in nature.
- Keep open spaces open and continue to keep parks nice.
- Keep our governor out of it.
- keep program cost & fees affordable- offer discounts
- Keep protecting the land
- Keep small towns in mind. The bigger towns, the Black Hills region, and anything located near the Missouri River garnishes lots of attention. There are some gems in small towns that can see further development. The vitality of these small towns is a big boon to the more popular areas throughout the year; many of these populations travel to the hot spots, but in the off-months and other times, these people need to have opportunities close to home.
- Keep some spaces wild and hard to access so that the locals, not the tourists, can enjoy them.
- Keep the fees low enough everyone enjoy.
- Keep the focus on individual and family outdoor activities, not on group activities and spectator events.
- Keep the handicap people in mind !
- Keep the outdoors a wild place of nature...not a developed conglomerate of people and their things.
- Keep the parks and open spaces as they are, free of buildings and changes such as new campgrounds.
- keep the parks family friendly
- Keep the public lands public. Conservation of those lands.
- keep the wild places wild
- "Keep the youth in mind with all of your decisions!
- They are the future of your great state."
- Keep them clean. Keep them affordable.
- Keep them very clean and tidy.
- Keep thing primitive it is more enjoyable
- Keep things natural
- Keep up campgrounds
- keep up the good work!
- Keep up the good work.
- Keep up the good work.
- Keep up the good work. It would be nice to have more trails & camping areas (especially horses). It seems that the camping is getting more & more congested, full & unavailable. In some Parks you need to reserve a year ahead of time & becomes a huge challenge. From an equestrian point of view, the problem, in part is what was mentioned earlier with camp sites getting reserved & no one shows up, leaving it unavailable. It would be nice to have more "walk in/non reservable" sites that we could utilize. South Dakota has some of the best horse back riding in the Midwest & is a very popular destination! I love the Paha Sapa!
- Keep up the mission and always keep up goals to protect the environment from intrusion of development that degrades life
- keeping cost's down but providing import items, such as adequate rest room facilities and shelters
- keeping costs in line

- Keeping current parks in good condition and work on new parks
- Keeping recreation areas as natural as possible.
- Keeping the wild spaces for the wildlife
- Keeping urban sprawl from overtaking natural lands and historical landmarks.
- khjlgj
- Kids activities
- "Kids splash pads
- Additional public areas to gather and spend time "
- Kiteboarding access to expanded beaches during the current drought. Day use parking on Oahe.
- Law Enforcement due to ATV/UTV users, etc.
- Lead with the promotion of stress-relief/escape/contentedness for the end-user in terms of concept. The programs and development will fall into place.
- leave it alone do not develop any more enough is enough
- Leave the wide open spaces as they are and protect them in the untouched state that they are. Don't build all these tourist paths and ruin it. Take Roughlock Falls in Spearfish Canyon. You used to be able to explore dirt paths and now it's covered in concrete sidewalks, fences, and you're restricted from actually enjoying nature as intended.
- Less crowded areas for hiking
- Less emphasis on hunting and trapping.
- Less fishing tournaments too many people packing into boat ramps parking everywhere and no tournament people can't fish at certain spots needs to capped or something'.
- Less geared towards tourists and more towards residents tax payers
- Less hunting more other stuff
- Less impact to preserve the natural habitat
- "Less out of state deer license.
- "
- Less people. More space.
- Less rv's and atv's. More camping and hiking opportunities.
- Less SDGF parks and better care of BHNF Keep east river people east river
- Less urbanization and more nature
- Less utv's and a season on shed hunting to give the animals a break.
- lessen park fees
- Let me South Dakota residents have availability to campsites, instead of out of state people. They are taking over our space!!!!!!
- Let some of the smaller clubs and groups get some funding for improvements to increase participation and usage. not always just the large ones. We ve tried and no go.
- "Let us use the dead( after we kill them) asian carp that jump into boat as cut bait for catfish. This would only be allowed in James, lower Big Sioux, or below Gavins Point.
- Other states are finding big cats love to eat them."
- Lets get the meandered water taken care of once and for all, Get the injunctions taken off the lakes that they are on.
- Licensing prices are getting high. That alone is turning people away.
- Like it or not, the population of SD is growing. The outdoor rec plan needs to try to keep ahead of that growth.

- Like was stated before, you need to keep the cattle off of public ground, as it benefits only the rancher, and the GF&P. It does nothing for the nesting habitat for the birds, and you just as well forget about deer hunting on it. Since this practice was started, the pheasant numbers have diminished to an unhuntable population. My family used to hunt the Crow Lake Public Shooting Area in Jerauld Co. for years, but we haven't hunted for the last 8 to 10 yrs due to the lack of birds.
- Limit ATV and UTV use. They tear up the trail and damage the land. There are way too many. Maybe increasing fees and licenses could aid in funding for protecting the hills.
- Limit commercialization
- "Limit motorized recreation to specific areas, with much improved law enforcement since some of the gear-head community follow no rules at all.
- Separate widely nonmotorized and motorized recreation (out of sound distances)."
- Limit out of states hunting and fishing
- "Limit wake producing boats. They limit my use of local bodies of water. Damage shoreline and wildlife habitat.
- They create unsafe conditions for others "
- Listen to the people, not to someone's agenda.
- Local parks and rec dept in Watertown do not promote outdoors unless the city has financial incentive unfortunately
- Local residents first shot on camping in state parks
- Locals first
- Location of outdoor recreation area. If they are close to populated areas they to are over populated.
- Look at developing full service campgrounds.
- Look at developing new areas East of Rapid
- "Look at doing this stuff to benefit those residing here and not as a means to get more tourist and folks moving here thus over crowding the develop ment for current residents to use.
- Look at the demographic of the areas you serve. West river the fishing is not great, the GF&P seems to only want trout in lakes it would be great to see the lakes stocked with more walleye and perch, the species residents like to pursue. This could provide a great marketing opportunity to increase the fishing on the West side of the state much like it is on the East and Central part of the state
- Look at the lack of camping facilities along the Missouri River. Were no commercial campgrounds are available put in state campgrounds to help spread out the facilities and people.
- Look for what an area doesn't have before building something that is already available in that area.
- Look into repairing Lake Hiddenwood Rec. Area by Selby, SD.
- Look to rural communities, everyone wants to get away from the larger cities and this will help promote smaller towns and their attributes.
- looks good
- Loving our parks to much will destroy the tranquility of them with too many people visiting them.
- Low fees
- Lower cost for license
- Lower fees, better restrooms and better ADA.

- Lower out of state license fees
- Lower resident license fees and up non resident fees. It should be a reward for living in the state. Make them move here!!!
- Lowering fees
- Maintain boat ramps and fish cleaning facilities
- Maintain fee structure that will benefit all socioeconomic levels.
- Maintain the cleanliness
- Maintain the pristine quality of StatecParks.
- Maintain what we have and keep expanding to meet the public demands at an affordable price
- Maintain! Don't let our parks deteriorate away like some States I have seen.
- Maintain, Maintain, Maintain
- maintaining and adding new areas
- Maintaining boat landings, managing our fisheries, and a continued effort on working with land owners to gain access for hunting opportunities.
- Maintaining what we have already.
- Maintenance and policed walkways
- Maintenance of existing areas
- Maintenance of existing areas is more important than acquiring more land. Making sure that the parks remain safe by increasing staffing during the week.
- Maintenance. Our parks are clean, and well maintained. Please keep it up.
- Make Antelope hunting east river/west river, not limited to one section
- Make decisions based on science, not politics
- Make family outdoor activities more important.
- Make it affordable. Most people cant afford ur ridiculous fees and dont go because of it or dont participate in hunting and fishing
- Make it snow more so Terry Peak can have a longer ski season.
- "Make it so Dogs are welcome
- More affordable and more rentals in general-boats, jet skis, paddle boats,
- Get rid of the bounty hunter program
- No licenses to kill mountain lions
- Make more local parks for Sioux falls people so they stay near Sioux falls
- Make out of state licenses affordable.
- Make slip up creek a park
- Make slip up creek a prk
- Make South Dakota residents the priority, not people from MN, IA, WI and NE.
- Make sure all parks are free of stickers in the grass.
- Make sure it includes plans for rural communities also
- make sure there enough employees to maintain the current parks and recreation area. If understaffed the current area's will be in poor condition
- Make sure those new to SD or an area are aware of the parks, trails, etc and feel welcome using them.
- Make the app more user friendly
- Make things more accessible for handicap people
- make this survey shorter, increase length limits on walleye

- Making less trails available for utvs and atvs so they quit destroying the hills and public prairie lands
- Making sure that as we see more demand for housing we also leave room for green spaces for communities to enjoy.
- Making sure there's youth opportunities to get new people involved
- "Manage capacity. ATV's and UTV's are out of control. They should pay more for licenses and be regulated.
- They are LOUD, DIRTY and cause erosion in our Black Hills. In the area of Dev...work with DOT on BIKE paths along state highways and finish the loop to Rushmore. You don't need to expand in CUSTER STATE PARK. "
- Manage the fishing and hunting for all people.
- Many areas that have become developed lack green space, if people have green spaces within there immediate area they are more likely to use.
- Many more campsites
- Maybe a larger variety of things at state parks? I see lots of volleyball areas and play parks but finding horseshoes or disc golf is hard.
- Maybe more state parks with camping facilities and/or updating existing campgrounds to accommodate big rv's
- maybe zip lines
- Meet the needs of a variety of people, especially seniors.
- meeting the diverse needs of residents, no development that are not affordable for the average family,
- Mindful development. Don't build new & fancy when facilities exist that can be improved for far less. Sometimes with the outdoors, less is more! If fees need increased, increase for non-residents, especially for large game hunting and off road access.
- Mission should be to NOT put anymore natural terrain under concrete.
- More access areas for fishing
- More access for hunters and fishing locations
- more access for hunting and fishing for the public
- More access places for fishing and dogs. More and better boat dock areas
- More access to fishing and public hunting
- More access to lake and more boat ramps
- More access to Nonmeandering lakes
- more access to shore fishing, not everyone has a boat or can afford one
- More accessible land for hunting
- More activities for kids and the older generation
- More activities in the winter, especially for rural and underserved populations without access to indoor facilities.
- More ADA areas. Where people who are getting up in years can still participate in enjoyment of our wildlife and nature safely.
- More affordable access to state parks, lakes etc. for South Dakota residents that already pay for them
- More areas close to larger cities and towns. I consider outdoor recreation to be on my list of Free Fun for Families. Yes a family may need to buy an annual pass but once they do it is pretty much unlimited FREE FUN for their family for the year. Families need to buy a ball or a frisbee and get



outdoors. NO WIFI, leave the phones behind. Bicycle paths, walking paths, hiking paths are great but nobody wants to go 30 miles to do it. Close to towns also make them easier to monitor. People need to feel safe in today's world.

- More beaches
- more bike trails
- More boat accesses
- More boat docks
- more boating docks
- More butterfly plantings.
- More camp grounds hard to get a spot
- more camp grounds with hookups creating more jobs
- More campgrounds
- more campgrounds
- More campgrounds
- More campgrounds
- More Campgrounds
- "More campgrounds
- More festivals headed outdoors "
- More campgrounds and boat ramps
- More campgrounds There's not enough in the summer months make sure the fishing at these campgrounds
- more camping
- More camping
- More camping areas
- More camping site at Orman & Angastura
- More camping sites
- More camping sites
- More camping spaces at oahe dam
- More camping spots - more advertising - take advantage of out of staters to welcome them here to spend \$\$\$
- "more camping spots
- More camping spots!
- more campsites
- more classes on teaching people how to hunt/fish or more outdoor skills.
- More community involvement in decision making
- more cooperation with local farmers to public deer hunting
- More cross country skiing trails closer to Rapid City
- More CRP. More Tribal wardens. Specified tribal access roads. More youth programs. Trapping programs for kids and adults
- More deer hunting opportunities east of the river for those of us without access to private lands.
- More deer licenses as our area has an over abundance
- more deer tags
- More docks on waterways for fishing access.
- More dog parks would be nice
- More dog parks.

- More educational programs about taking care of our green spaces, prairies, etc., maybe gardening or planting classes for kids or young adults, teach responsible hunting and fishing like herd management, and maybe have those same classes for adults too. Common sense in nature classes, such as tracking, following sign, what to do if you come across a predator, how to walk in nature without destroying it. Maybe even outdoor survival classes.
- More emphasis should be put on existing parks versus developing new ones
- More fish
- MORE FISH STOCKING
- More fishing areas/commercial carp fishing/lower costs/restore deer population maybe take some tips from Iowa/promote commercializing lake community 's maybe look at devils lake the state could definitely increase revenue in Waubay/ watertown/ Arlington. Concentrate on creating fishing opportunities southeast areas of state to increase out of state licenses sales to lower locals. Renegotiate with Nebraska below Gavin's point to get them on their side of the river.
- More funding for guided and led programs.
- More golf courses
- more golf courses
- More golf courses, more open dates for ice skating
- More GPA's, WIAs are nice but they come and go
- More green spaces with undefined purpose
- More group shelters in each state park would be nice. Only one group a day can use them usually
- More hiking trails
- More hiking trails less leveling and plowing our natural habitat especially large groups of trees and road ditches
- More hiking/walking/jogging/biking trails
- More horse camping and trails.
- More horse camping with stables water, electric sites
- more hunting opportunities
- more hunting and camping opportunities
- More lake and river access
- more lakes for fishing and boating
- More large campsites for big RVs with access for the same. We're too old for tent camping now, but we still enjoy lots of outdoor activities and prefer being able to walk or bike to them. That means staying on-site.
- More Missouri river shore fishing access for handicapped.
- More natural trails, please!
- more open spaces & natural areas
- More open spaces that the public can enjoy.
- more opportunities for the homeschool community during weekday hours
- More organized outdoor fitness races
- More outdoor pools like Kuehn that have space for actually swimming and not just play features like a water park.
- More outdoor trails for walking
- More outdoor training sessions should be offered
- More paddlesports opportunities, a life jacket lending program at heavily trafficked areas like Jenny Gulch, better safety awareness for boating.

- More park rangers present
- More people participating
- More people patrolling and ticketing atv/utv violators in the Black hills it is being over run and ruined
- More people will be looking for places to sit outside, walk outside, just enjoy the outdoors.
- More pickle ball courts
- More preservation and wildlife photography opportunities of animals in natural habitat. Less on promoting hunting/trapping killing
- More programs for children, get girls more involved in fishing, hunting
- more public hunting
- "More Public Hunting
- It is incredibly difficult to find quality hunting—most good hunting is private
- 
- Also...increase price for out of state hunting and fishing licenses. Compared to our neighboring states are rates are too low.
- 
- Require out of state hunters to purchase a SD hunting license in order to apply for big game license. "
- more public hunting areas
- More public hunting areas
- More Public Hunting Grounds
- More public land access
- More public land and more off leash dog parks
- More public shooting ranges
- More public shooting ranges
- More quiet areas! Also, it's a shame that we have to vacate our home during the Sturgis rally. It's as though overrunning SD natural areas are the bikers' rights. Apparently the bikers think we want them here? (I'm just venting.)
- More recreation facilities most of the parks around me are full and hard to get into same with hunting and fishing areas overcrowded and hard to get into safely
- more regular golf and disc golf courses
- "More rev parks, most family can't afford distance get a way, closer campground with full hook up
- "
- More riding areas trails
- More RV sites
- More RV spots, access for diverse comm
- more same day camping, open up sites for no show reservations
- More Senior only areas or senior advantage areas
- More shooting activities
- More shore accessible fishing location with diverse species
- More sledding hills for kids ( not snow mobile)
- More snowmobile trails and have the camping cabins have lower nightly rates go back to \$50.00 a night.
- More state campsites at lakes and river

- More State Park areas.
- More trails
- More trails for walking
- More tree planting
- More wild areas
- more wildlife habitat
- More winter activities
- More youth involvement or considerations for building/improving trails or open spaces.
- More youth programs
- Motor sports
- Mountain biking trails
- Mountain lion and wolf control to save wild life so we have something to hunt !!!!
- Move forward slowly. In the last two years the impact on our area has become overwhelmingly crowded on trails, parking areas, backroads with ATV's and UTV's which I despise.
- "My only comment here is that your survey does not take into account a Republican controlled state legislature which would be opposed to most all of these things. They seem to feel that recreation is a waste of money. My proof: our park director for Randall Creek came up with a simple, and relatively cheap, plan to put in tent camping spots in the green area adjacent to our beautiful campground. Rejected by the legislature! I certainly have no respect for our governor but her plan for the Black Hills was a good one and is another
- example to our legislature blocking an environmentally oriented plan.. So, before you go too wild with your planning i would try to get the legislature on board< Good Luck! "
- Nature! Of course, there needs to be management, especially as more people go outdoors. But let's not harm the natural beauty and peace that people go outdoors to find. Natural areas are a limited resource.
- Nature, Trees, Beauty, Hiking Trails
- Need more Public hunting land
- Need more summer areas for kids, pools and gathering places, need to be able to let them get out more.
- NEED MORE, the only area SD is currently up to date with is ATV UTV trails. It is not great to have to deal with all the noise and dust and ruts they make
- Need to factor in climate change and the resultant apparent increased drought severity and length affecting lake levels especially Lake Oahe. Also, as fuel prices increase practically exponentially need to recognize that there will be a concomitant increase in local and regional recreation.
- Need to limit non resident outdoorsmen as they are over running our public land and waters
- Need to maintain access to camping opportunities for local residents instead of out of state tourists. ie. Custer State Park campsites all reserved already for the summer, leaves no sites available for weekend camping for locals. No longer feel that we can get spots on spur of the moment camping. Don't have the flexibility to plan ahead because of work schedules.
- Need to make sure access is available for people living in poverty which continues to climb in SD
- Need to prepare for increased demands, diversity issues need to be addressed. Big game hunters and ATV owners are being given too much, get them under control.
- New and emerging type of winter recreation.
- New shooting range
- New State Parks with Camping they seem to be full most of the time

- Nice, easily accessible outdoor recreation is very important to well being of all ages. Canyon Lake in Rapid City is a great example.
- No alcohol or drugs in public areas.
- No idea. Keep the price of in state licenses down. And the camping fees.
- No more ATV trails!!
- No more development in Custer State Park.
- no more new bike trails along roadways. they still ride on the road leaving the trail empty
- No more new campgrounds. There are plenty. Work on access to landlocked public lands (such as access agreements with private landowners.) Start charging rv/camper units more fairly. Larger units using more resources should pay more than those using less. Camp spots in most parks are too close to each other. I don't go camping to live in a trailer park. I go to enjoy nature. Hard to do when you can't get any privacy.
- No new campgrounds in Custer State Park. Slightly expand the existing ones to achieve a greater capacity.
- No new RV campgrounds are needed in the public sector. We should be promoting outdoor recreation opportunities that do not diminish environmental quality. Resource conservation should be considered the most important value for parks, trails and campgrounds. Lakes and water features need to have no wake/no motor zones
- Not everyone has social media. Use more public outlets to inform public of outdoor opportunities and events.
- Not hunting opportunities for out of state hunters. Lower fees of out of state hunting licenses
- Not sure, but I am against spending state tax payer dollars acquiring more land for public hunting.
- Not taking away current public lands for any reason including developing.
- Not thing in custer all they is damage it and not get charged for it
- Nothing. We want less tourists from liberal states and less shitheads messing around in the woods while we're hunting.
- Number of camp grounds
- Number of people moving here
- "Nutral
- "
- Of course you have to consider the needs of the people,
- Off roading is extremely popular and and we have very limited access to this in the eastern and even central part of the state.
- Offer more reduced fees for elderly and disabled people.
- On the one hand, I know that businesses benefit from all the tourism both from in-state and out-of-state residents. However, however places that have been beautiful green spaces in the past are being overrun now by too many people and have nearly ruined the serenity and peace of this state.
- once again, in exchange for the extremely low and inequitable property tax on AG land they should allow access across their property to public land and allow hunting of the state owned wildlife on their land. Otherwise they should pay the same property tax based on assessed value like the rest of us!!
- Once again, we open areas so that people can tear up trails and throw trash out our property with no law enforcement in sight.
- open our public trust waters for everyone! And Buy more public lands for everyone, stop putting in gun ranges, they are NOT needed as all they do is leave a mess.

- Open our public trust waters!!
- Open public hunting areas
- open spaces
- open up lakes and hunting areas.
- Open up more water for fishing pay the farmer off for lost lands flooding
- Opening up more land locked public ground for access
- Opportunities for you and families to get encourage to get outdoors
- Opportunities to harvest antlered deer in city limits.
- Opportunity for elderly people and handicapped
- Our governor recently combined the agriculture and natural resources departments. The combining of these two weakens the focus on natural resources. Additionally, through a mis guided trapping program she's targeting incorrect species of 'predators', giving people a false understanding of wildlife in South Dakota.
- Outdoor fitness park. Social opportunities. Classes specific for special populations or learning-veterans, native Americans, women, etc
- Outdoor theaters
- Overall I think everything is great. They get crowded quick and the restrooms are all awful!
- Overcrowding
- Overcrowding of public lands
- Overcrowding. Segregating/limit numbers of huge class A campers.
- Parking
- Parking
- Parks and Recreation need stronger voice at both the local (City and County) and state levels.
- Parks required for every so many new McMansions that are built. Be like Boulder.. buy propert all around rapid and custe so we don't get endless sprawl.
- Partner (guidance and funding) with smaller communities to develop and maintain parks & outdoor activities (horseshoe pits, fizbee courses. ect).
- Partner with local governments on recreational projects whenever possible
- Partnerships with other non profit organizations to promote physical activity and outdoor use.
- pave more camping pads
- Paved bike paths
- Pay attention to wildlife-natural eco-systems. Not 10 dollars a tail. STOP making hunting decisions based on tourists or economic benefits. Make decisions on wildlife and hunting based on the wildlife. SICK of the trapping, tails and pitting one species against the other for the sake of a dollars.
- Pay more attention to the visitor experience
- pedestrianism
- People live walking trails around lakes
- People often reserve campsites and do not use them there needs to be a way where if the site is not occupied by a certain time in the afternoon it can be resold to someone else who would like to stay the night and the original person refunded the money for that night sight
- Perhaps schools or other organizations should help with cleaning up and preserving the parks beauty would create more ownership. Adults seeking jobs could be directed toward employment by the park service instead of receiving state aide. I feel every state should do this.

- Pheasants need to be bought and released more fish stockings Stop guides from using public waters to profit Or make them pay a 5,000 fee to guide
- Places to fish for sd residents only
- Plain and simple Make it easier for the local people to use and enjoy the outdoors in our area
- Plant more food plots in our public hunting areas, and stop grazing cattle in them! It's disgusting to go hunt a public shooting area, and find no cover for pheasants because it was grazed to the dirt! I hunted a public shooting area in potter county this year, no food plots were planted, but there was a bunch of new fence out up for grazing cattle. Made me not want to buy a deer license again!
- "Planting edible bushes/trees
- Leaving natural habitat & less lawns"
- Platte lake
- Playground space and walking trails for all abilities
- Playing football
- Please add trash bins to walking trails if possible. Many trails especially gravel do not have them. It's very inconvenient to carry the dog's poop bags the entire walk for the responsible pet owners that pick up after them.
- Please clean up around the current shorelines. Example: WestBend campground, boat dock area was always nice to park your boat on the shore and for kids to fish from there. Not no more!! The shoreline is terrible now, litter with willow bushes and small trees growing out of control, you can't even get to the shoreline anymore. Used to be so nice if it was to windy out to be in the boat the kids could fish in the bay. Now Absolutely a disgrace!!! It's like its totally been neglected. Campgrounds want the money and increase fees but don't want to maintain the area.
- PLEASE CLEAN UP THE EXISTING BEACHES AND GET BETTER SAND.....MORE DISC GOLF .....MORE ATV TRAILS.....
- Please consider accessibility concerns for people with disabilities, who are neurodivergent, who are from disadvantaged socio economic backgrounds, and other at risk populations. These folks are often ignored or paid lip service. Conduct an accessibility audit to see what you can do specifically. Encourage free or reduced pricing for fitness memberships with local governments or nonprofits. Regardless of it being a publicly funded and owned facility, our local wellness center deliberately prices people out including those with disabilities. There is no income based payments for the facility and it is flat out not affordable for many people. We all have a right to health and wellness, and I think it would be beneficial for your organization to support the needs of all people regardless of their ability to pay.
- Please consider climate change and protecting the earth.
- Please consider keeping remote areas remote. Improved access to remote areas can degrade the area.
- Please create more opportunities for undeveloped and unmaintained places to recreate. Not everyone likes maintained trails and manicured parks.
- Please do not cut back on any of it.
- Please increase fines for people who drive off trail or on the wrong trails for UTVs/ATVs. Increase the fees to offset policing them
- Please understand the onus of responsibility is on individuals as more than it is on the government — our need is for the state and local governments to provide the space and maintenance, but it is on the people to utilize the space to its fullest potential.
- Population growth and adequacy of facilities:

- "Population growth
- "
- Population ruins everything. What is wrong with maintaining an enjoyable outdoor experience for your residents? People will come no matter what. No need to promote it.
- possibility of allowing outside vendors to sell food inside state parks ie food trailers or trucks. many locations simply do not have enough establishments to support the number of people using the areas especially during peak times in the summer and winter ie 1-2 hour wait for food around lake Poinsett last summer if you wanted to eat out on the weekend.
- Possibly build some new parks.
- Possibly provide guided tours on historical sites( for the ones that are a little harder to get too)
- preservation of native plants and animals
- Preserve nature holing areas within cities and near towns
- Preserve roadless areas as opposed to feeling the need to develop everything. Wilderness and seclusion is important and is a zero cost alternative. Please recognize the importance of preserving that.
- Preserve the environment, don't build 100 campsites just because you can shoehorn 100 sites into a space - this makes parks fell like trailer parks.
- Preserve what wildlife has. If you make it easily accessible it will be over run with people and wildlife will move out.
- Preserving the natural resources we have
- Preserving wild and natural areas
- Pretty much sums it up!
- Prevent traffic jams
- Prioritize availability for average citizens to fish, hunt & just enjoy the outdoors..
- Prioritize protection of wildlife habitat (wildlife viewing continues to keep tourism high), protect open spaces (meadows are continuing to become housing developments), spend less money/time developing new infrastructure in Custer State Park and provide more opportunities in other SD state parks. Provide more bicycling within state parks or between state parks. Stop spending money on the Rushmore Connector Trail as it negates the protection of wildlife habitat (Norbeck WILDLIFE Preserve) and spend the money on other opportunities for trail riding. Coordinate better with other public land managers to complement opportunities for outdoor recreation. Let the Cities provide urban recreation opportunities.
- Prioritizing opportunities for RESIDENTS that LIVE HERE. Residents don't need more tourists and competition for resources, we need to be prioritized to enjoy what we have.
- Private Landowner rights
- "Proactively considering/addressing/mitigating climate impacts on habitat, preservation and the correlated impacts/changes to use; possible public-private partnerships and sponsorships of recreation areas/facilities.
- [1. how to support Terry Peak being used more for lift-access mountain biking, extreme sport, large outdoor music/amphitheater events and activities during spring, summer and fall months instead of only traditional winter months with limited appeal versus higher-elevation resorts in nearby states; or supporting more snowmaking and retention equipment]
- [2. approaching large organizations in the state to sponsor state or local recreation areas/facilities for improvement/maintenance, like highway cleanup, with heavily discounted or fully compensated use fees for employees, branding and community-benefit opportunities, etc.]"
- programs for all make them inclusive for everyone.



- Prohibit ATV's!
- Promote more pheasant hunting in western South Dakota
- Promote outdoor activities in schools
- Promote outdoor activities in the education system.
- Promote resident involvement and focus on our residents rather than out-of-state people.
- Promote the ability of actual state residents to have better access
- Promote the Centennial Trail. It's a hidden gem.
- Promoting natural history appreciation and education
- Promoting the Tabor to Platte Rail Trail and promoting self contained cycling in South Dakota. We have many excellent hard surfaced roads throughout the State for bike packing along the rivers and glacial lakes areas. I do this and it is something you can do into later years. I am 76.
- Promoting tourism has turned out to be a bad thing. Too many people and the industry does not give back to conservation. It is based on greed.
- Protect environmental health
- Protect private property owners.
- Protect the environment and increase recreational facilities
- Protect the environment, can't get it back once it is ruined.
- Protect the water, release pheasants and stock fish.
- Protect wild animals and protect the natural environment
- Protect wilderness
- Protect your surroundings
- protecting land, water, and wildlife from industry and development should be the highest priority; trapping is not a sport
- Protection of cultural resources when developing activities.
- provide a way that you could buy a license that is good for a couple to be used on all their vehicles.
- Provide access to land-locked public land.
- Provide better opportunities for senior hunters to keep them wanting to hunt as they get older
- Provide easily accessible local Shooting Ranges.
- Provide financial support to cities to support the above.
- Provide funding to pay for staff at rec areas. Have an actual person(s) present who can teach newbies, organize impromptu games / hikes / competitions, and encourage more people to use these areas (social media posting, flyers on activity boards in parks, etc.)
- Provide more observation of out of state boaters in following limit size and numbers each day.
- Provide more opportunities for PUBLIC hunting. Acquire more land for the PUBLIC
- Provide more Quality walk in areas and reduce over use of walk in areas. Taxpayers pay for walk in areas, but some are so over used by the land owner that they don't provide any wild life cover.
- Provide opportunities for jobs to keep our locals to stay in South Dakota for careers
- Provide pet (dog) friendly cabins in state parks and recreation areas.
- provide programs affordable for the younger and older residents in the community.
- Provide programs to different groups of population, minimize motorized vehicles in parks / outdoor recreation areas
- Providing trails and things in rural areas
- Proximity to population areas
- Public / private partnerships that provide activities in the campground settings

- "Public areas for shotgun hunting for ducks, geese, pheasant. Many current areas are of poor quality, lack game.
- Landowners are major problem re: access"
- Public hunting areas and nature trails
- Public hunting grounds
- Public involvement, awareness campaign asking the public to become more involved in maintaining public use areas, parks, and recreation areas.
- Public outreach on what is available and programs to educate people on those activities. I strongly believe that many people would enjoy more outdoor activities if they knew about them or had an avenue to join a group of people participating in those activities.
- Public Rifle Ranges in SE South Dakota.
- Public shooting range
- Purchase more public hunting land
- Put more focus on the local recreation areas!!
- Put the interests of the residents ahead of the out of state visitors
- Quality fishing opportunities don't exist in the most highly populated areas of our state. One living in Sioux Falls must travel upwards of 100 miles for good fishing opportunities with amenities that are conducive to high pressure caused by the population of the area.
- Quality habitat and hunting areas
- quality over quantity
- Quiet and good place of scenery
- Quiet spaces, grasslands without cattle
- Quit leasing out our public land for grazing cutting grass it was bought and paid for by hunters not farmers and ranchers you are take away the cover and make it easier for predators if they are using public land for personal use then Their land should be opened to public hunting in return I don't appreciate running from cattle when I'm out shed hunting You know as well as I do most ducks nest in the grass not on water let alone pheasant
- Quit promoting SD as a tourist destination, you are just degrading resident quality of life. The state is just turning the Black Hills area into a huge commercial venture.
- "Quit telling people to move here!!!
- Protect what we have. I'm actually rather nonprogressive. Build it and they will come and they will destroy. Keep what we have, pristine."
- Raise nonresident rates
- Raising property taxes so everyone contributes
- Realize SD isn't the only place to recreate.
- Realize that the population is going to increase. More and more people are going to be using the state parks. And hire educated people that know about horses, fishing, camping, hiking, biking etc. And have people skills.
- reasonable recreation fees for residents more so than going for the money of visitors.
- Rebuild Lake Hiddenwood!
- Reduce fishing pressure, don't promote fishing tournaments, primitive camping areas and more hunting and fishing access.
- Reduce regulations on private campgrounds if public campgrounds are going to continue to be full all the time
- Reduced annual park sticker fee for low income families/individuals who live within the state.

- Reducing the amount of homeless people in the parks we already have. There are some local parks (in Rapid City) that I don't feel safe taking my family to as there are quite a few homeless people there and I've found numerous drug paraphernalia.
- regulate number of out of state licenses especially during fish spawning season, if people cant fish in iowa of minnesota during spawning season they bombard south dakota at that time and ruin the experience for south dakota residents
- Remove hunting lottery draw. Just sell the licenses
- Remove laws restricting shed hunting.
- Remove race-based questions. We are all Americans and live in a land of opportunity. It is up to the individual to take advantage of these opportunities and to participate. It is not based on lack of access due to race, color, gender etc.
- Removing of natural areas and making it into small communities at the expense of the wildlife
- Rental equipment at state parks
- Replace boating dock ramps , make them all concrete and extend them further in
- restrict side by side vehicles that tear the crap out of trail, drive slow on highways
- Retention of the dwindling user group
- Review the Deerfield Reservoir regulations that will enhance fishing activity. The last GF&P lake survey data done several years ago, showed a average of one boat every three days throughout the summer months. Our lakes are crowded and this 76 year old reservoir is needed to allow better utilization.
- "Rifle range more camping
- Easier reservation system for camping more native planting areas and education on native plants
- Roads
- safe
- Safe environment for parking boats away from campsites
- Safe hidden trouble
- Safe outdoor access for parks and trail for average citizens. Hunting camping and fishing at reasonable costs. Eliminate lodge hunting and decrease out of state licenses.
- Safety - again, attracting people WITHOUT guns
- safety for geocachers
- Safety for people using the outdoor areas
- Same as above More water access, boat ramps, indoor fish cleaning stations
- Save our trees., Farmers are taking down trees at such a fast rate. Either buy land and let the trees be or buy land and plant trees.
- Save the wildlife and fisheries. Plant sustainable wildflowers for the butterfly's and birds!!
- SD does a great job, keep it up
- SD GFP Wildlife Department is totally biased to improving improving hunting, fishing & trapping recreational opportunities. We assume this is a 'follow the money' type of issue due to money derived by wildlife department from license sales. The last USFWS recreational survey shows wildlife watching as being much more popular and generating more money that hunting/fishing/trapping. The Wildlife Department needs to stop seeing the 3 Rs as just about consumptive uses that general license revenue and highly value nature study and include those in the 3 Rs. If birds or wildlife are hunted, they are more shy and harder to see for wildlife watchers. This is an inherent conflict between users (consumptive and non-consumptive). SDGFP must give at least equal recognition to that conflict when reviewing the 3Rs for each rule...A rule that

increases hunting/fishing/trapping, decreases wildlife watching. But SDGFP is the hand maiden of hunting/fishing/trapping. I assume due to the revenue from those funds their salaries.

- Sd Is known for great hunting and fishing , you do a great job promoting. Now show all the other fantastic things you can do.
- SD resident preference for camping
- SD residents should have first access to state park camp sites before non-residents
- Secure more public access lands west river for big game hunting outside of the black hills area.
- security
- security
- securityhealth
- See above comments re: ATV problem, and keeping what we have now in good repair.
- See item
- Seek public input early in the planning process
- Seems that all the funding/interest goes to hunting & fishing interest how about all the other outdoor activities such as birding, hiking biking etc that don't get as much voice because they dont have funds tied directly to them
- Senior activities
- Seriously consider adding more parks with electrical hookups so that people can get out. If they don't always have to reserve so far in advance and think so far ahead they might be inclined to go out camping more often. That is the biggest hang up in South Dakota is the reservation process. If you're not a wiz at computers and Internet it is difficult to get a spot on a weekend that comes open for your family. The parks are being overrun by huge campers and people that want to reserve way ahead of time. I know this takes more people and is a lot more work but I think it would get people out more often.
- Shadehill reservations at Lemmon SD need more camp pads!!
- Shooting range
- Shooting range and more trail law enforcement.
- Short staffing and providing affordable wages for workers
- Shortening your surveys. This is ridiculous.
- Simplicity is key.
- Skate and scooter parks that are we'll lighten for kids. Monthly recreational programs that are well advertised to the public .
- Skate park
- Slow down the crowds preserve our resources for our residents who have made their livelihood here
- Smiles lots of smiles
- So many rec opportunities are costly, like hunting, fishing, snowmobile, golf. Let's develop more opportunities for free recreation like hiking, biking, outdoor concerts, environmental programs, fitness programs etc, to improve the health & fitness of our SD citizens.
- Some current parks are neglected
- "Some young people are pretty intimidated by doing anything outside that involves leaving their screens. I thought your question asking about WiFi was very telling. I LOVE that Custer Park makes a point of telling people WiFi is not available,
- Encourage going outside & observing! I served on a Girl Scout Board & that was always our concern."

- Something to get kids off their phones and devices and get them outside
- Something to keep the youth engaged and teach conservation and stewardship of the land.
- South Dakota does not need to spend money advertising their facilities, use advertising money to maintain and develop facilities, plenty of social media platforms to get the 'word' out if it is a good facility.
- South Dakota should consider more bike trials similar to the Mickelson Trail (perhaps, one across the state) and quite walk in areas and hiking trails. South Dakotans are subjected to tremendous stress due to world events, political division, economic pandemonium resultant from local and state government policies. Costs will increase - not decrease into the future. South Dakotans deserve places to go, things to do and heal in nature. Not more noise, exhaust, chaos. We need to take care of our fellow South Dakotans - let's get nature back into our lives.
- "South Dakota's population is growing and more businesses
- and development is happening. We need to ask more of developers for the privilege to do business. They need to include green space in campuses with their businesses and developers need playgrounds with the housing developments.
- I don't like ATVs. We can't give them any more space. The noise and destruction they cause is exponential. I watch the machines get more powerful and the people who drive them become more aggressive. It was a mistake our state let them drive on our roads. It's hard to catch them speeding with so many access points into the forest. There have been many near misses with walkers on our county road. The state needs to add fees that will go back to GF&P, local police and FS to manage this unlawful behavior. "
- South Dakotans first
- South Dakotans should receive a bigger discounts than out of staters. Charge much more to out of staters if you need revenue for state parks, hunting fishing, etc.
- Space
- Specialty rec. items to draw different populations to the parks. Spread out educational programs in Programs to create access. Skills over academics, to draw younger people.
- start thinking about the residents first instead of tourist and there money
- State residents should have a priority in all camping reservations. Possible solution could be to back off on the 90 day calendar to 85 days for state residents and 90 days for all others. Should not make any difference in the amount of usage as spots will still be occupied.
- Stay away from anything Minnesota, Colorado, or California do in there State
- Stock more fish.
- Stocking fish
- Stop allowing landowners to restrict or control previous access to public waters. Stop allowing for- profit hunting and fishing guides the free use of facilities paid for with public money.
- "Stop clearing areas of dead trees and brush for perceived aesthetics - it removes vital breeding habitat for hundreds of bird, mammal, insect, plant and fungus species and destroys the ecosystem. Stop the indiscriminate spraying for mosquitos which also kills precious other beneficial insects such as bees, butterflies, moths and beetles. I can walk on state park horse trails on hot days and not even find flies on the dung,. It's outrageous. I've been to many parks in other states that use NO insect sprays. People can wear Thermocells or use deet.
- Separation of busy, noisy activities that are disruptive and stressful for wildlife and for those people attempting to study the animals and plants. Noise pollution should be reduced greatly in natural areas i.e. loud stereos, loud motorcycles, cars & trucks. All domestic animals should be leashed and even prohibited in certain areas. Personnel should be trained in the natural sciences

and not just in outdoor sports activities. I know very few state gf&p employees who know anything about the animals that you can't get a license to kill. I am not anti-hunting but I'd like to see maximum effort on preserving natural areas for wildlife and combating the disastrous effects of climate change. Please."

- Stop commercial development in habitat
- Stop development and encroachment in wild areas. Maintain and improve public access to undeveloped wild areas
- "Stop horses from riding on GFP lands during Archery season.
- Teach Hunter Ethics"
- Stop the greedy dam farmers from creating the dirty 30's again. And not by some program the tax payers pay for.. try making them responsible. Stop complete fall tillaging
- Stop using the word equitable. Know the difference between equal versus equitable, please.
- Stop wasting money
- Stop with promoting SD on a national basis. There are to many visitors to this area. Quality is to be the focus. Not making \$.
- Stop with your racial equity bs
- STOP worshipping drunks with guns. When I called a game warden after being threatened, he spent more time telling me to let it go or sue them privately than talking to them. Why should I be forced to spend \$\$ trying to be safe when GF&P encourages dangerous and drunken gun owners
- Strict regulation of motorized recreational vehicles!!!!!!!!!!!!!! More wildlife and habitat programs for private landowners.
- Strong lights at the boat landings with cameras. Cameras for people that litter, break in vehicles, and lights for safety of boaters,
- Stronger promotion and marketing of outdoor campus offerings
- "Strongly feel, that our parks are being overrun by tourist. I used to be in the tourist industry, it has grown by far over the years. In the process of growth our property taxes have taken a tremendous hike. It may become difficult for locals to just be able to afford taxes. Custer county has so much land here, custer state park, forest service property that is not taxed leaving the burden of taxes falling on the local residents to carry the load. People are coming to this area and buying properties way over the value which is in affect raising our taxes.
- "
- Support university majors and courses focused on recreation and parks.
- Sustainability and equity!
- sustainable education regarding use of natural resources
- Sustainable wildlife. Gaining money and putting it towards maintaining and improving existing recreational areas in federal, state, and municipal parks.
- Swimming pools
- Take excellent care of what you already have. Do not increase the amount of state services as that requires allowing more people to ruin the open spaces we already have. Make the recreation services you have high quality and clean!
- Take into consideration that when the fish are spawning to close the season to local and out of state fisherman, like they do in other states. Letting everyone enter the state to fish when the spawning season is on ruins our fish industry for all the local residents, and NO there is not that many walleye's in the Missouri River. Out of state fishing during the spawn is ruining the fishing for our upcoming generations.
- Thanks

- That all areas - rural and urban- be given resources and guidance for use of resources in a way that benefits all communities / members of the state - not just focusing on improving services and facilities in the larger cities
- That many of the parks and greenspaces are overly urbanized and lack the actual nature that South Dakota was (e.g. prairie for most of it)
- The accessibility everyone had to take part in the activities of outdoor recreation.
- The age of the group the development is for.
- The amount of people escaping to SD Black Hills
- The appeal of the outdoors include wildlife so protection and conservation is key. Bikes are important. Teens and kids need options to stay plugged in to the outdoor experience so things like bikes, skateboarding, hammocks, etc are great. A whitewater or kayak park would be amazing. Better access for kayaking would be great
- The Black Hills has WAY to much access for 4-Wheelers. It is not good for the wildlife or environment and should be reduced.
- The Black Hills is losing about 7 acres of forested land a week to development of housing and buildings. We are losing our wild spaces. A focus on obtaining and keep wild spaces is critical. Land that is not tore up by motorized vehicles and boats. We need to have some super protected spaces, some protected spaces and then just a small amount of space that is heavy use.
- The crowds and traffic during tourist season limit our use of the state. Off season is more enjoyable.
- The decrease in resident hunting opportunities, ex drawing limited hunting licenses. I've talked to many people who are searching for out of state opportunities because they now have to wait 2-5 years to draw certain tags. The decline in youth participating in outdoor activities.
- The Governor's Habitat Fund needs a perpetual source of Significant revenue. Many of the surrounding state have a well-funded perpetual conservation fund . South Dakota needs one as well. It is high time that everyone who enjoys outdoor activities in SD actually pay their fair share of the costs. Historically only hunters, fishermen and state park users pay anything and proportionately it is hunters and fishermen.
- The importance of maintaining a balance of different kinds of outdoor opportunities (developed vs. undeveloped).
- The importance of nature for mental health including getting kids involved in nature. See Nature Deficit Disorder material by Louv and others.
- The influx of people into the state
- The key is growing wildlife habitat. We all want clean water and air. Why don't we focus on buffer strips of 100' on both sides of all streams feeding into the Big Sioux and James Rivers including those watersheds?
- The most important thing to me is if we are going to develop new areas, we should try to do it with the least amount of disruption to wildlife and the environment.
- The natural parts of outdoor recreation are what are important to our family.
- The need for expansion of open space in parks or limiting daily entrance numbers to avoid overuse and stress on wildlife.
- The negative effects of social media need to be offset with positive experiences for youth outdoors
- The new South Dakota outdoor recreation plan should be catered to the South Dakota resident. To much emphasis is placed on courting the non-resident outdoor enthusiast and South Dakotan's take a back seat. In South Dakota, South Dakotan's should come first.

- The new visitor center in Custer State Park is wonderful as it provides history for our tourist and us local residents. The hikes put on by the park all year is great for us locals. I would hope that if there are families that are staying for any length of time would be offered or made aware of the hiking trails and maybe offer guides at a few of the trails.
- The next generation will have difficulty reclaiming lands that are being developed. In the Black Hills, we need a better social network presence to learn about trail and recreation events.
- The outdoor campuses are great, but they're hard to access. I'd love to know more about access to similar opportunities at state parks.
- The population of South Dakota is growing at a high rate, especially in Western South Dakota. I believe there needs to be an emphasis on the happy medium between building to allow our population to grow but not reducing the land we are able to use as the population grows. I think we cannot let our human impact take over the land to chase out or displace wildlife and/or destroy the natural beauty of South Dakota and it's land.
- "The proposed campground development for CSP this year is exactly what WE DO NOT NEED! Too many of the state parks and recreation areas are being developed for revenue and not in the long term public interest.
- The reservation system for the State parks. People are taking advantage of the fact that they can rewerve a spot days in advance before a holiday and then switch the reservation. This prevents the people who just want to honestly camp over the holiday to get spots.
- The resort
- The sustainability of our environment/experience. Over promoting our Hills is a threat to the enjoyment by everyone here and anyone visiting.
- The totalization of the gaze allegorizes the authentication of power. Lorem ipsum is the bomb yo! Pootwattle's carefully researched summary of the relationship between the totalization of the gaze and the authentication of power is exceptionally resistant to summary, as befits its project.
- The use of the word 'equitable' in the above survey section pisses me off.
- there are a lot of nice recreational areas promotion and awareness of the lesser known ones
- There is a reason we have a chronic, obese population. We need to get people moving and healthy again. Creating more ATV trails, more snowmobile trails, is not the solution to 'getting them outdoors'. Instead, it wrecks the land and pollutes the air. Please consider the 'end result' in the population, as well as the impact on the environment.
- "there is enough recreation areas in the Black Hills and in some places it has been over done already
- There is no reason to attract people to our area currently, they come regardless. Focus's on locals that want access to the land and activities for municipal areas
- There seems to be a decline in youth hunters and perhaps youth fisherman
- Things to do during inclement weather
- things you don't have to travel far to enjoy
- Think of residents and locals over tourists. Tourists, especially ATVs are destroying the Black Hills. Don't make money the only priority!
- Think young and hip. I guess also figure out how to connect existing spaces. James river has a lot of opportunities. A great Kayak/canoe trail opportunity(s) exit between Fisher Grove state park (north side could be backpack only) and james river down to Huron.
- This is all important but its also important that opportunity to privately have a persons own available access to health well being access to their own activities.



- This is one area that to me reflects GFP poor management. We pay for walk in access for hunting in South Dakota. You drive many a mile to find walk in land that you could hit a golf ball and see it laying out there because of no cover. Walking in Montana you sign in and you pay by use. I would really like to think our conservation officers would report and these ranchers would receive any thing if there is no game or habitat we paid for. GFP can't get this right how can the get the big picture right?????
- This survey is too godamn long
- To attract more tourists to develop the local economy
- To call on people to return to nature for the theme
- to get youth involved and make them excited about being outdoors and being active
- To hell with yer proposed rc shooting range!
- To play badminton
- To play basketball
- To play table tennis
- To play tennis
- To protect and enhance the hunting and fishing resources we have in this state.
- too long of a survey .... pretty much just filling in stuff just to get it complete at this point...
- Too much already
- tourism
- Tourism
- Tourists high traffic.
- Traffic problems, prevent congestion
- Trail Maintenance costs/time! Especially with motorized vehicle trails, OTV, UTV & ATV.
- trails for designed for elderly and people with limited mobility
- trails for nonmotorized travel is of utmost importance
- Trails, trails, trails. The state's trail system is heavily used and is consistently identified as a unique and important contributor to our communities. From the Sioux Falls trail to the Mickelson rail trail, Centennial Trail and systems like that in Spearfish, these are incredibly important in attracting and retaining healthy populations, particularly when people are 'shut in' for such a long time each winter.
- Transportation, fitness trails, accessibility restrooms all times of the year.
- Trapping education
- trash recycling
- Tread carefully. Once a natural space is converted for regular human use it diminishes our natural resource, usually permanently. The more people we have the more we will need those diminishing natural areas. The natural areas we preserve will become more and more precious with each generation.
- Try not to pack areas with people. Quiet, relaxing areas are needed to enjoy. Crowded areas are stressful.
- Understand that most people have children and pets
- Up keep on what we have then I like what your doing with this by asking for our opinions/thoughts. I think each community may have different circumstances. In small communities I like the idea of walking/bike paths
- updated equipment
- updating boat ramps in Eastern SD

- Urban ecosystems
- Use tax payer funds wisely. Listen to the public when developing areas and be landowner sensitive. Don't overbuild campgrounds.
- Use the information from the users of outdoor facilities to help guide future expansion/development of outdoor rec.
- Useable pedestrian travel within in a community. While I realize the infrastructure cost is great, I think dedicated safe pedestrian trails through a community could increase use for errands, work, etc. Not just 'sidewalks', but dedicated routes that protect from traffic and provide a thoroughfare through a community. Minneapolis, MN has this in some areas. Also Finland and Denmark do this well.
- UTV PARK IS BECOMING VERY POPULAR.
- Varying degrees of difficulty and remoteness. Also integrating the use of onX and other apps or services, like Garmin.
- Vastly improve primitive camping locations along Missouri river
- walking trails along the many secluded areas along the Missouri River
- Want to plan good route machine convenience degree
- Watch out for the traffic
- water conservation
- ways to get youth active and healthy
- Ways to improve what we already have and ways to provide new areas to hopefully interest people of all ages.
- ways to maintain natural beauty
- We don't have many lakes. More should be made accessible with adequate boat ramps.
- We don't need another gun range in the rapid city area!
- We don't need programs to enjoy nature.
- We have a large immigrant population that has varying views on the environment and their interaction with nature. Exploring these traditions could benefit all of us.
- We have enough ATV trails and areas. We do not need more. They spoil the outdoor rec opportunities.
- We have noticed, like every place, there are fewer employees in the parks that leads to sometimes things are a little messy.
- We have such opportunities in the Black Hills and the Loess Hills for mountain bike / equestrian / hiking mixed use trails. I'd love to see more and for them to be better maintained.
- We love the Eugene T. Mahoney state Park in Nebraska for its expansive campus and multitude of recreation opportunities. Look to that for ways to replicate in South Dakota.
- We need to protect green space. NO MORE PUBLIC CAMPGROUNDS!
- We should make plans to properly manage the increases in tourism we have been experiencing.
- We should take into account the will of the masses and listen more to what they really think
- We were on a contract position in Colorado, and I loved how active the communities were. Pickle ball and tennis courts everywhere, bike and walking trails linking every community together (that didn't involve walking on major roads), outdoor obstacle and Nina courses for every age, great lighting etc!
- What is meant by 'diverse population'? Our SD community does not need to change based on patterns of federal over reach in illegal immigration, and transportation of illegal immigrants into

our community. Keep our traditions intact and no tax dollars for 'diversity and inclusion' efforts to diminish our traditional values.

- What kind of outdoor sports are you considering
- What made it great to live here was the low population, the Black Hills area is growing too fast and the crowds, litter, traffic and noise are dying if the experience. Please do t make more RV or camping areas where even more people can over run us. How about trash cans at trail heads? There used to be “Give a hoot, don’t pollute” signs. Many people need education on poisonous plants, littering, etc.
- When building trails (non-paved), quit simply mowing grass trails and going straight up and down hills. Build quality, sustainable, trails that don't promote erosion. Stop letting horses on the trails in wet conditions, it completely destroys the trails for everyone else.
- Where and who the land came from , how to tread lightly on it , and how to have the most fun while there.
- Whether it is suitable for most of the crowd and solicit the opinions of the masses
- While we have a lot of outdoor recreation provided in Pierre, we need free workshops promoting the use of a lot of them; for example, how to fish, fly fish, play tennis, pickle ball, horseshoes, use the skateboard attractive safely. Post rules for using various recreational areas. Promote these free or low cost workshops to all ages so youth , middle age and elderly could all come and becom friends. It should be promoted to encourage all ages, races and religions, etc.
- While we have ample hunting opportunities on public lands in SD, we should look to expand and improve.
- Who pays for/where the money comes from. Catering to Non consumptive users with dollars from consumptive users. Many users pay in little or no fees for use of same resources and can interfere with paid uses at times
- wifi
- wifi and charging areas
- Wildfire prevention. Clear the down trees and underbrush. And reseed trees where there have been fires. Also if your going to promote tourism. Make certain there are places for locals. For your residents and not just the out of staters.
- Wildlife conservation
- Wildlife Habitat
- Wish to add cultural elements
- With all the growth going on in the Black Hills, parks, trails, and other outdoor recreation facilities needs to be planned for accordingly.
- With an influx in population growth, need to address open space, leave no trace principles and how our resources won’t be overrun.
- With so many people being invited to move to South Dakota the park facilities are inadequate.
- Work on improving what we already have and also work to make public waters more accessible. The continuing privatization of our wildlife resources worries me the most. Real pheasant hunting in SD is a joke anymore. If you are not able to afford a hunt at a preserve you will not shoot many pheasants. Two realities currently exist with regard to pheasant hunting in SD. The myth of what you see on TV which is preserve hunting and the actual reality of walking public shooting areas with no birds.
- Work on reducing overcrowding at the existing campgrounds!!
- "Work together with USFS and Lawrence County and whomever else is necessary to do a complete 'fix' of mess that the public is making of the Devil's Bathtub situation in Spearfish

Canyon. Build a bridge across the creek at Pump House #2, create a switchback trail up the side of the hill to the elevation of the bath tub feature. Then, take it on around the corner and into the feature.

- Please make foot traffic along the Spearfish and Victoria creeks a thing of the past."
- Worry less about programs and more about access to land and water
- Worry more about the residents
- Would like to see connections as far as bike trails/walking trails between cities and nearby state parks and recreation areas. E.g. extend Sioux Falls bike trail to Good Earth State Park
- X
- year round facilities
- Yep
- Yes
- You can't force people to utilize outdoor spaces and stay physically active so instead of trying to build a system for everyone we should continue improving areas for people who have already chosen to utilize them and stay physically active. Ice fishing is an example. There is now more trash on the ice than ever because of all the new people who are "experts" already.
- You have a beautiful State with many recreational opportunities. Your state's commitment to providing personal choice opportunities for everyone without overemphasizing one's physical characteristics is very attractive for me.
- You have covered a lot of bases.....
- You have it covered
- You need quality people to operate and maintain so look for the need of desirable wages for seasonal workers.
- You need to hire more staff for what you currently have.
- You should consider that we don't need a nanny looking out for our every want.
- Your survey is too long for truly accurate responses.
- Your water quality is declining. You must deal with non point source pollution. Your kids trapping small mammals was stupid and anyone with a brain knew it was. The only time I have less opportunity to enjoy our outdoors is in the autumn when I have to worry about getting shot. Do all you can to protect and promote the stream fisheries in the Black Hills. You need to decentralize nature education as Nebraska Parks do. Not as many people go to Outdoor Education Centers in Sioux Falls or Rapid as you'd reach with mobile education and activities that could travel through out the state. Do all you can to support the new Master Naturalist program. It will lead to many advocates for you.
- You're off to a good start...spend the money now!
- Youth fishing access
- Youth programs and outdoor mentorship clubs. Getting the youth and adults to unplug for 48 hours each week.

**Section V**

Section 5, Question 2. How does the COVID-19 pandemic impact your participation in your favorite outdoor activities? Please explain whether that impact was negative, positive, etc.

- Busier at work so harder to get away and plan as far in advance as need to to book camp reservations, etc
- I continued to walk in my woods and the forest around me. However, I did not travel due to Covid.
- None
- a farce
- A great luxury to have Newton Hills State Park near Canton for hiking, walking for last 30 years--so no Covid change for me.
- A lot more people out in nature. This a good and bad thing
- Able to camp freely, so very positive
- able to get outside daily to breath and relax
- Absolutely no impact
- Activates in some states were canceled. very negative.
- actively
- Actually was positive as I spent more time outside in the fresh air or the people that were very concerned stayed inside so there was less pressure where I hunted archery
- Afraid of being infected
- Afraid of being infected by the virus
- Afraid to travel
- All BS i live as i always have.
- All sorts of people came out of the woodwork to fill up every golf course, lake and campground because there was nothing else for them to do. Now getting a campground reservation has become very difficult. Or there's always way more people at any remote lake/rec area you go to. And some of these people aren't always as respectable of the nature areas as they should be (litter, noise/partying, etc).
- allowed for more family time fishing. Positive
- Allowed me more time to get outdoors.
- Allowed me to go fishing more with family.
- Allowed us to get out of the house
- Allows more time to enjoy outdoors. Positive
- Almost none, it is still really difficult to find and book campsites, especially cabins. The system in places favors those with campers, boats, and knowledge of the system. Everything is booked before people even have time to consider their plans, especially families! This effectively cuts off the majority of the citizens to access lakes and other nature areas that have a positive influence over health and well being.
- Areas I visit showed signs of increased use and larger crowds
- As a family we spent more time rving with family and friends especially in SD and because of that bought property in SD.
- As far as hunting / fishing / hiking it had no impact.....but it did severely impact my shooting sport activities as there were fewer registered competitions in SD and mostly in other states.

- At first canceled camping but than got shots and went back to normal
- At first, we had more time to be outdoors and would drive until we found an empty rec area. Now we are back to be super busy and struggle to fit in the time to find a spot that isn't too busy.
- At this point in the pandemic I feel more comfortable with social interactions, so my use of the park system should increase in the future.
- At this point no impact
- Availability of gear
- Avoid crowded places
- Avoided festivals, but otherwise enjoyed the outdoors
- Avoided State Parks due to overcrowding from tourists. Very negative! Spent more time in undeveloped areas or on private land.
- Because I am mostly a walker or bike rider (by myself), the pandemic had little effect on my outdoor activities.
- Because of COVID my outdoor activities increased somewhat. Ability to distance from others.
- Because of the pandemic I avoid contact with other people.
- Because there is no job, there is no financial ability to maintain
- Being outdoors in our boat on the water is as safe as we can get!
- Being outdoors was perfect for social distancing, stress release and physical fitness.
- Being outdoors was the best thing we could do during the pandemic. South Dakota was 'open' during this time, so it was great to be able to camp and hike.
- Being outside is healthy
- Being outside was the best place to be during the pandemic!
- Biggest impact was more Tourists in SD, which isn't necessarily a great thing. It's all about \$\$, but disregards how it impacts local citizens.
- boating and fishing kept us away from other people
- Booth. Too many people recreating
- Both. Negative as we didn't get out as much or do as much, but positive in that when we did get out we enjoyed our time more.
- Bow hunting is done by myself, no change! Positively increased our walking as most activities cancelled! Negative significant impact on sporting events during the time. Fishing ...stayed the same.
- Camp more often
- Campgrounds over crowded
- Camping
- camping No negative effects
- Camping and boating when lots of people from in and out of state are near.
- Camping opportunities were limited due to filled campgrounds.
- Camping positive
- Camping spots were all booked.
- Camping spots were difficult to obtain
- Camping was good place for us.
- Camping was very hard to book as more people were doing this activity
- Camping, everybody and his brother started camping and I could not reserve a camp site all summer long.

- cancellations of outdoor activities is always a negative. But when proper safety measures were/ are in place it was a positive.
- Cancellation of camping reservations
- cancelled fishing tournaments.
- Can't easily carry out outdoor sports
- cant get what i need to get out. limited materials.
- Can't go out
- can't think of anything
- Caused over crowding at beaches and camping
- City parks closed for a few months March-July 2020
- closed places
- closure of facilities made travel to hiking areas difficult,
- Clovid impacted because more people opted for outdoor activities in our area and campgrounds were hard to get into
- Concerts, missed them
- Continue to ride horses with friends
- Continued daily life as usual!
- Cost of ammunition has doubled
- Could not fish in Canada. This is negative, because the resort has had my money for two years now.
- Could not participate with friends and family
- Couldn't be with friends
- Covid 19 did not effect any of my activity as camping, fishing, hiking and hunting are all done while socially distancing.
- COVID caused a whole bunch of idiots to suddenly think being outside was cool and something good for them. Why weren't they doing it before? I'll always be outside.
- Covid changed nothing. We cant be afraid of everything. Get out and live life and dont believe everything the govt says. Especially the Biden administration.
- Covid did not affect hiking, which is my main activity
- Covid did not change my outdoor activities
- Covid did not effect my trips to SD because your governor did a good job and did not shut down the state!
- Covid did not impact my out door participation
- covid did not impact my outdoor activities.
- Covid did not impact my participation.
- Covid did not impact my participation.
- Covid did not slow me down
- Covid didn't change my life in any way.
- COVID does not impact my participation in activities
- Covid doesn't change my behavior at all.
- "Covid forced us to look outside of typical areas for
- Entertainment and activities. It provided a much needed place of escape during the lockdown"
- Covid got my family out MORE because we could distance from others while finding activities to share.
- COVID had no effect on my activities

- COVID had no impact in my participation in outdoor activities.
- Covid has had a negative affect on me, as like many others, we choose just to stay close to home, and not get out as much.
- Covid has no impact on any of my participation in any outdoor activity
- Covid impact with cancellations was positive on me as it allowed more time to spend outdoors with my husband.
- covid is a joke
- Covid is a joke Stop being sheep.
- Covid made me all the more eager to be outside away from people and enjoying nature
- Covid made me get out of the house and explore wildlife and to go out and fish and to do things I love. It definitely made a positive impact for wildlife activities
- covid made our business more busy hence the time for outdoor activities was limited
- Covid really got me outside more. No better way to social distance than getting outside on a hiking trail
- COVID rules were very restricted to events
- covid was a joke it did not change my life
- Covid was a joke. It did not effect our family times spend outdoors at all
- COVID was both negative and positive, the positive was that friends and family were always excited to get out into the field. The negative was that outdoor participation has been up for the last two years and areas are more crowded than normal.
- COVID-19 had little to no impact
- COVID-19 had no bearing on my outdoor activity participation. If anything, it increased me being outdoors.
- COVID-19 has greatly impacted our travel. Since March 2020, we are more likely to access a neighborhood park, the Dakota Nature Park, or Oakwood State Park than to travel to other locations in-state and out.
- COVID-19 has had very impact on my outdoor recreation. Other than not being able to do things with friends and family at times.
- COVID-19 made me more aware of how important outdoor activities were. Impact was positive.
- COVID-19 pandemic didn't really change the level of our outdoor activities. I was thankful that we live in such an unpopulated state that there were opportunities to 'stay away' from people, there were places to enjoy without the additional crunch of people. However, the State/State Tourism provided such a successful publicity outreach that the State truly became 'over-run' with tourists. The businesses had difficulty serving all the people. The highways were constantly busy.....facilities were busy! I was able to enjoy the outdoors....but differently...different locations.
- COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a massive surge of new people participating in outdoor activities with absolutely ZERO ethics or stewardship of the environment. Result: overcrowding & 'bad-actors'
- Covid19 was released by the US government to get trump out of office and get Joe Biden into the office. They are now trying to wreck America. Glade I live in SD were we are free to do what we want. Covid19 had zero affect on what we did and when we did it. Glade it is gone, now the war is the main concern and you hear nothing about covid19.
- Covid-19, negative impact
- Crazy people accosting us, stores and restaurants closed.
- Crowded boat ramps and lakes



- Crowds discourage us from booking at our favorite locations for camping and hiking
- Curtailed outdoor gathering - family re-unions, civic events. Definitely negative.
- Cut down on some hunting days.
- Data
- Decreased due to travel from out of state was problematic
- Decreased ability to play Pickleball indoors
- Decreased community activities, but increased personal exploration of open spaces and hiking trails
- Decreased family interaction
- Decreased, negative.
- Did less indoor stuff and more outdoor stuff - avoided people
- Did more camping and hiking, biking
- Did more camping/hiking and meeting people in an outdoor setting
- Did more outdoor running, bought a bike and biked a lot.
- Did more outside stuff
- Did more things outdoors family oriented.
- Did not affect our horseback riding
- did not impact me at all
- Did not affect us, activities continued as usual. Would have loved to get outdoors even more, as I realize some people were able, but our work situations, thankfully, did not change during COVID, so thus really, neither did it increase or decrease our leisure time.
- Did not allow The fear of COVID impact my enjoyment of the thing I enjoy and live for in the slightest
- did not attend group activities or places where groups were gathering
- Did not change
- did not change
- Did not change anything for covid continued living life as normal
- Did not change it
- Did not change my activity
- did not change my involvement.
- Did not change my participation in outdoor activities.
- Did not change positive
- Did not change what we do
- did not effect
- Did not effect it
- Did not effect it at all
- did not effect me
- Did not effect my participation,
- did not have an impact for outdoor activities
- Did not have an impact.
- Did not impact
- Did not impact
- did not impact
- did not impact greatly
- Did not impact it

- did not impact me at all, I did everything I wanted to because our Governor kept us open
- Did not impact me at all.
- Did not impact my ability to hunt at all.
- Did not impact my activites at all.
- Did not impact my outdoor recreation.
- Did not impact my participation one way or the other.
- Did not impact my use.
- Did not impact participation
- Did not impact. We did our normal outdoor activities.
- Did not impact. We did what we normally do each year.
- Did not participate during pandemic
- Did not really affect at all.
- Did not really changed my habits, after Covid I could tell many others were starting to enjoy the outdoors as much as I always have by the amount of people that I would see in places that I would rarely see anyone. I believe the Covid Pandemic is going to be smothered by high gas prices and World unrest.
- Did not really impact
- Did not really impact
- Did not really impact as we just stayed away from groups of people, some what of an inconvenience with the closure of some restroom facilities at the start of Covid.
- did not really impact my outdoor activitites
- Did not socialize on trails and kept distances from other recreationists.
- "Did not travel as far
- Stayed closer to home"
- Did not travel as much. Spent time with neighbors, played yard games, golf, etc.
- Did not want to be around crowds so did more camping and horseback riding, hiking, golfing. Positive effect.
- Did not want to be with crowds
- did not want to mingle with strangers. Did not want to share restroom facilities with strangers.
- did not. but i did see a lot of hysterical news and social media!!
- Did them more since a little exposure and fun things to do with a close group of people
- Didn't affect anything for my family
- Didn't affect it
- Didn't affect it at all
- Didn't affect it. Other than more people took up fishing so there were more boneheads at boat ramps
- Didn't affect me at all
- Didn't affect our outdoor activities
- Didn't affect us we used it as a way to get away from the stress
- Didn't and doesn't
- Didn't care went and did it anyway
- Didn't change
- Didn't change much a little increase in outdoors
- Didn't change what we did as a family but it did bring us closer to our kids because they didn't have all the extra stuff to do.

- Didn't change. Still hunted.
- Didn't change. Except more people at the trailhead and campgrounds
- Didn't effect
- Didn't impact
- Didn't impact ,
- Didn't impact at all
- Didn't impact at all
- Didn't impact it
- Didn't impact it
- Didn't impact it at all
- Didn't impact it.
- "Didn't impact me
- Didn't impact me at all
- Didn't let Covid run my life wasn't afraid of it
- Didn't matter
- Didn't not have impact. Pandemic was highly over rated and was only used for a scare tactics for stupid liberals
- Didn't really impact
- Didn't travel much.
- Didn't affect actual hunting but did negatively impact travel to and from.
- Didn't affect it at all
- Didn't affect me
- Didn't affect me a bit
- didn't affect me at all
- Didn't affect me. Mandates were overkill.
- Didn't affect my outdoor activities
- Didn't affect our participation.
- didn't change
- Didn't change
- Didn't change
- didn't change
- didn't change
- Didn't change positive
- Didn't change anything being it was a bunch of hype over a cold ...what a joke
- Didn't change anything for our family, except for the restrictions placed on sports/sporting events.
- Didn't change anything. We still participated in anything we wanted to.
- Didn't change it much
- Didn't change participation. Did change to go to less popular areas.
- "Didn't change
- I continued my outdoor activities"
- didn't change, walk by myself mostly or fish
- Didn't change.
- didnt change.
- Didn't effect

- Didn't have a impact
- Didn't have a indoor thing
- Didn't have an effect
- Didn't have any impact.
- Didn't impact but noticed an increase in traffic in state parks (not alone as much as usual) and great beat (child skiis).
- Didn't impact it at all
- Didn't impact me
- didn't matter
- Didn't matter
- didn't really change anything
- Didn't really change our participation.
- Didn't really impact it
- Didn't really want to travel anywhere
- Distance and isolation made a good prevention method and solution
- Didn't change a thing
- Does not affect me.
- Does not effect anything I do
- Does not impact
- Does not impact
- does not impact our time
- Doesn't affect me at all... the price of gas does though
- Doesn't anymore
- Doesn't effect me anymore
- Doesn't impact
- Doesn't impact it at all. Stay away from people or talk from a distance
- Doesn't impact it.
- Doesn't impact new one bit
- Doesn't change anything for me
- doesn't effect me much at all. neutral kept on doing what I like.
- Doesn't impact me at all
- Doesn't impact my favorite activities at all.
- Doesn't impact my participation
- Doesn't really
- Doesn't, it's a government lie.
- dont
- dont care about covid,
- Don't want to go out
- Double-edged sword. I think it's good that more people are getting out but more people means more traffic.
- Drove separately vs with buddies
- Due to an ankle sprain I was unable to continue my backpacking in WA state and it limited my hiking ability. With COVID I stopped taking public transportation and getting out much less frequently. Since moving to SD, I'm adjusting to the weather and wind but enjoy the ease of

going for walks and local parks. Still limiting indoor interactions with others Buy enjoying the change in location!

- Due to being at home, we were able to increase our outdoor use, which I would equate to a positive impact.
- Due to grandchildren health situations we did not camp as much with them. We like to camp with family so sometimes we did not go because they could not attend
- Due to risks involved in in door activities, participation in outdoor activities increased
- Due to South Dakota's local and state government officials, the lack of a mask mandate and other deleterious ways has created an physically unsafe environment, as well as an emotionally stressful state for many folks I know.
- "Due to work restrictions, I initially was able to explore the outdoors much more during the beginning of the Pandemic. I went on shed hunts, visited family near Hot Springs and consequently explored (hiked) CSP more, and was able to do a ton of fishing and fly fishing.
- However, I was dismayed at the actions of many-such as when the Badlands Park was unstaffed at the beginning of the pandemic. People were gross. Littering, dog poop, disrespect for the posted rules. Having our State push Tourism over Conservation measures was gross as well. The State pushed for pheasant hunting despite there not being a broad count since 2019(?). What a mess for the local GFP guys to explain to angry out of state hunters when they didn't get their limit! I can honestly say I was on the road nearly weekly throughout the pandemic and saw more out of state license plates than local. The crowds became unbearable for someone who works hard and wanted time of reprieve.
- During 2020 we didn't do much.. we have since purchased kayaks and are now out as often as possible! Not impacted
- During COVID all we did was fish! Even when my son and i were positive, it was the one thing we could do that was safe outside of the house. . . we sat on the ice and isolated together and caught some fish!
- During lockdown I wasn't working, so I had more time to camp. Not applicable now.
- During the pandemic we spent more time outside and at the lake because there wasn't as many activities elsewhere.
- Early on in the pandemic, we had fewer scheduled activities leaving more time to camp and get outside.
- Easier to do things outdoors
- Encouraged more outdoor activities
- engaged in more social distancing so did not use some facilities (e.g. showers) as much. Avoided docks at peak times which limited opportunities to go out. Did not participate in organized activities at parks
- Even with pandemic we kept active with outdoor activities. we did not have any problem with it.
- Except for traveling internationally it doesn't
- Facilities were shut down - outdoor restrooms, etc.
- Family and friends more likely to avoid crowds.
- feel like there was no change for me, most of the things i do for outdoor recreation are self guided if you will (fishing, boating, golfing). didnt increase or decrease
- Feels like we all stayed home which was sad
- Felt need ta shutter
- Felt safer outdoors and spending time in fresh air made me feel somewhat free
- Festivals at the parks were canceled. Less family get together time

- Fewer events, concerts & programs were offered but increased camping trips.
- Fewer out of the house commitments (like volunteer/social groups) and fewer indoor play opportunities freed up our family to spend more time outside (at parks, on hiking trails, etc)
- Fewer public music opportunities and the result was negative.
- First year of covid significant use of state park trails. Second year not so much
- Fishing and no impact
- Fishing greatly improved much lower numbers of non residents, positive for me.
- Fishing is social distancing
- Fishing, no impact
- Fishing, reduced so is negative
- For fear of an accidental poisoning, one must go out less
- For me it did not change my pattern of use, however, it did bring out a lot more people to compete with for resources/facilities available.
- For outdoor activities not much. Indoor alot.
- For quite awhile I had to work overtime, limiting my activities. This year should be back to normal though.
- Fort Sisseton was cancelled. Outdoor events didn't take place.
- Friends and family could not go together. Masks made things unpleasant.
- Gave me more time to be outside since a lot of places were closed. I would consider that a positive influence.
- Generally positive. I had more time to get outdoors because as a family we weren't going out and doing other things as much
- Generally somewhat negative -- didn't get out as much in cold weather.
- Geocaching activities/events with friends decreased significantly which was a negative impact.
- Getting tired of getting told can't do certain activities because of Covid. If people want to stay in their homes and not live their life that's fine but don't force others to not live life. When it is your time it's your time.
- Getting together with friends and family was extremely limited. We liked the open spaces to be away from people.
- Give some reward, maybe more people
- got me out more
- Got me outdoors more than I usually would.
- Got out and did more
- Got out more
- got out more to get away from the norm
- Got outside more as more indoor activities were cancelled
- Got to busy could not make reservations
- Got together less
- Got us into camping and fishing more. We love it.
- Got us outside more.
- Gov Noem called all the tourists from all over here and so my risks went up and I could not even get into my fishing spots. Too many people. I couldn't even use the local grocery store.
- Government shut lots down including camping reservations
- Government-run parks required masking and other protocols that limited time/access to facilities.
- Greatly increased

- Group activities were decreased.
- Had a negative effect for me by interrupting my 3 times a week golf game
- Had a positive impact as it got my family going more to get out.
- Had greater emphasis on outdoor activities to avoid non-mask wearers, and inside heavily populated areas.
- Had less free time, not enough time to explore; too many people in the parks and didn't feel Covid safe
- Had more time and flexibility to add it to our schedules. Positive
- Had more time to be outdoors
- had more time to focus on exercise, walked and biked more, but less social interactions, some positive and negative effects
- Had more time to get outdoors, stopped playing team sports.
- had more time to go out in the outdoors
- had more time to spend outdoors.
- Had no affect
- Had no affect as I loved my life like always
- Had no effect on me
- Had no impact
- Had no impact
- Had no impact
- Had to be more careful.
- Had to cancel a camping trip or two during the pandemic.
- Had to move to 57350 from the Black Hills d/t financial and family concerns. Could no longer afford to live in an area where you had to work constantly and not able to take part in any recreation.
- Hang out with friends and family outdoors is local and state recreation areas
- Harder to access because more people were participating.
- Harder to find the equipment needed to participate
- Harder to get camping spots
- has had no effect
- Has had no effect.
- has no effect
- Has no recent impact other than lack of personnel at parks, etc.
- has not
- Hasn't change
- Hasn't really affected my outdoor activities, basically spend as much time outdoors as we did pre-pandemic.
- Have a great impact, afraid to go out, afraid of infection, after all, safety first
- have not seen much impact mostly local rules
- Having COVID-19 has made it more difficult for me physically, as I have continued breathing issues even a full year later. Campgrounds did a good job of handling the pandemic and public safety, and I was grateful they stayed open. The adjustment to activities at most Recreation areas was minimal.
- Having wide open spaces makes it easy to be outdoors. The biggest mistake the state has made was to put commercial businesses that cater to drunk teenagers.

- Helpful
- Higher traffic of boat numbers. Boat parking has been extremely difficult. I would be turned away from accessing the river because of no parking and long lines.
- Hiking and biking and kayaking, backpacking, camping, photographic nature outings did not affect us at all. We preferred to stay away from other people and when in nature you do not want a crowd. It was very healing, calming and gave us hope that everything would be okay just from getting grounded in the forest, in the mountains, just out in nature - where we could find some QUIET!
- Hiking increased
- Hunting increased
- Biking increased
- Hiking not affected locally, prevented travel to other states
- Hunted and fished as much as ever. Did more target shooting.
- Hunting and fishing in the area has become much more crowded. Especially from out of state people. Good for the economy bad for the locals
- Hunting because I do it socially
- Hunting was a positive impact. I was able to get out more.
- Hunting was a safe way to enjoy the outdoors during Covid
- Husband worked a lot so did t get out as much
- I actually got out more because I would do things by myself
- I already spent a lot of time in the outdoors, so the Covid-19 pandemic caused no change in my outdoor activities.
- I already spent a lot of time outside, the pandemic did not change that or my hobbies.
- I am an avid birder and since it is an activity that can be enjoyed alone as well as with others, I just meant going by myself as did the other birders across the nation. Many group and organization activities were canceled during the pandemic and meetings were held on zoom but we all were able to drive the back roads and walk the trails to find birds and share our observations via social media.
- I am involved in a non-profit that sponsors out-door events. During the pandemic we stopped sponsoring anything that created face-to-face activities and just did Zoom stuff. SD's failure to have mask-mandates or vaccination requirements helped to increase fear of face-to-face activities and helped to stop us sponsoring outdoor stuff. Personally as an elder, I just hide at home (still do) this caused me to go out less in a car, but maybe more by foot at home.
- I am unwilling to travel as much and unwilling to stay in or visit moderately to heavily occupied areas such as most state park campgrounds.
- I avoid crowds
- I avoided crowds until vaccinated.
- I avoided doing indoor things and concentrated on doing outdoor activities.
- I avoided outdoor activities people.
- I began meeting friends outdoors to walk/bike the trail. In general, I went outside far more, and became a regular at Good Earth State Park, which is absolutely a positive!
- I believe it made the parks and lakes I visit even more busy
- I camped more as it allows social distancing
- I can't help it. I'm afraid of the virus



- I continued to ride with friends for biking day trips with no ill effects even though local bike clubs had canceled all activities. I live in Minneapolis.
- I cut back on outdoor activities for the sake of my health
- I did everything that I wanted to do. All of the mandates and regulations were a waste of time in my book. Let us live our lives.
- I did it a lot more
- I did it more often. The effects were positive.
- I did it more. It was positive.
- I did more outdoor activities to get away from other people.
- I did more solo fishing, as friends from other states didn't travel to fish with me.
- I did not affect us.
- I did not allow the pandemic to control my life.
- I did not attend broom-ball pick-up games to avoid exposure to COVID, but increased hiking. Less social interaction was a negative.
- I did not change a thing.
- I did not change my activities due to covid
- I did not change my life during covid
- I did not feel comfortable traveling to crowded places with a baby and toddler. COVID also impacted childcare and the need to work extra hours to catch up. Not enough time to get out
- I did not get out to go fishing near as much, not that areas were crowded or anything just didn't get out
- I did not have as many social commitments, so I spent more time outside. Overall positive on outdoor activities
- I did not hunt in big groups or gatherings
- I did not let Covid stuff interfere with my life.
- I did not let the pandemic effect what I did.
- I did not travel as much during the pandemic but camping and outdoor activities are better for people than indoor activities. I think camping benefited from Covid mostly.
- I did the same as I always did. No change.
- I did them more.
- I didn't experience a change
- I didn't let COVID change what I wanted to do outdoors.
- i didnt change my camping outings but found it difficult to get a camping spot
- I didn't impact my participation, great way to social distance in the outdoors
- I didn't really let it stop me from doing anything
- I do mostly horse camping. There was little impact for this.
- I does not, I think we learned that COVID was an experiment in Government control of the population. I kept living my life, somehow, despite what 'health experts' and our president said, I survived.
- I doesn't at all. To many people live in fear therefore don't really live.
- I don't think it impacted it too much- except for gathering in larger groups
- I don't believe that the pandemic impacted my participation. The only impact was when the activities were cancelled.
- i dont do a lot of group activities.. usually just my husband and I so we were fine
- I enjoy doing outdoor activities more

- I experienced no change in outdoor activities
- I experienced some crowding during the summers 2020 & 2021, but nothing that was too negative.
- i explored more state parks during the summer of 2019 and now know where my favorite spots are that I frequent in the warmer months.
- I felt that the state could have done more to protect people when they were outdoors. We were very concerned when we were outdoors with the lack of people observing good covid-19 practices!!
- I fish all the time and it never changed how much I went
- I had a lot more free time to go out.
- I had a lot of running races, group activities w our local running club and running store cancelled, but I just ended up doing those things alone instead.
- I had a negative impact. It increased compition for outdoor resources, i.e. campgrounds, boat launches, and beaches.
- I had a positive experience since most trails and parks were much less crowded. I really enjoy my alone time!!
- I had a state campground to myself for a whole week in April of 2020 and it was awesome. This may be April of any year though.
- I had more freetime to go out
- I had more time to do things like hunt, since I wasn't hanging out in indoor spaces.
- I had no change due to covid
- I had to travel across the state to grasslands to camp as all campgrounds were full on the east side of the state. Led to less opportunities to camp.
- I had to work less, so I got to spend more time outside. I spend time outside away from people so it was perfect
- I have always participated in outdoor activities. During COVID my sanity was to get out and hike, paddle, bike or picnic with friends social distancing.
- i have gone no place
- I have not changed any of my activities due to the politically motivated pandemic.
- I have not changed much through the pandemic
- I have not wanted to inteact with others as much so I have not done as many activities, even outdoor activities.
- I hike almost daily. When Covid hit I started visiting less congested state park trails rather than those in the city.
- I hunt with close friends I trap along it had no impact really.
- I hunt with people in my circle. I still hunted.
- I ignored the pandemic and didn't change anything
- I increased my time in nature and the outdoors. I spent a great deal of time at the lake.
- I just did what I had done before
- I like basketball and I like watching people
- I like the activities of the large number of people worried about the spread of the virus
- I live in a rural area, so I was able to keep hiking every day, weather permitting. So COVID did not impact my hiking a great deal.
- I live in the country...didn't affect me much...until I went to town!
- I lived my life as usual!

- I love that most of the SD parks stayed opened when the high of the pandemic was happening. I think our Governor did the best she can do with the data provided.
- I mainly fish, and I would say I go fishing more now than I used to, since there hasn't been many other things to do and I will go with 2 or 3 people
- I may have somewhat more engaged in outdoor activity in that so much can be done in the Black Hills on a more individual basis.
- I moved from an area with many opportunities for outdoor recreation, to an area with a limited amount of recreation opportunities. I had to now travel a longer distance in order to participate in activities I enjoyed.
- I moved to South Dakota where more opportunities are available. So I hunted more. Fished more and hiked more.
- I never allowed the COVID-19 pandemic to impact my outdoor recreation plans in any manner
- I never changed a thing.
- I never changed what I was doing
- I participate more in outdoor activities
- I participate more in outdoor activities due to Covid 19.
- I participated even more than usual
- I participated more alone versus with groups.
- I personally did not feel an impact
- I spend more time working and less time outdoors
- I spent 8 days in the hospital for Covid-19 and pneumonia, when I returned home I struggled with my being tired and short winded. I was unable to go for hikes and walks at Hartford Beach State Park. That was in Sept. and we went to Hartford in Feb. and it seemed like I missed the whole fall season, meaning not being able to see the leaves turn color. It was so good to be able to return to Hartford this winter and witnessing the beautiful park in the winter. It was really a time of healing and reflection. My family is so thankful to have this only 20 minutes from our home.
- I spent more time in parks meeting outdoors with family. That was fun.
- I spent more time outside walking my dog instead of going to the gym, which was positive overall. That was the only change.
- I spent more time walking outside.
- I stayed away from businesses that are tied to the outdoors because we had WAY too many out of staters bringing in cv19. Our state failed at this.
- I stayed closer to home and utilized more local resources
- I stayed home to limit my exposure to Covid and I missed my outdoor activities greatly! I wasn't worried about being in the parks themselves, but rather potential exposure involved in getting there--gas stations, restrooms, restaurants and hotels. I don't camp or have an RV so all those amenities are essential considerations.
- I still did what I wanted
- I still participated in all my outdoor activities.
- I still participated, but with masks, distancing, etc.
- I still walked because it's outdoors and I go when there are few people.
- I still went hunting and camping. But tried not to go shopping for groceries or home building only when absolutely necessary.
- I SWIM MORE IN LAKES, LESS IN POOLS. THIS WAS NEGATIVE BECAUSE I HAD TO TRAVEL FARTHER AND THE PUBLIC BEACHES/ACCESS IN THE NORTHERN BLACK

HILLS WHERE I LIVE ARE IN VERY POOR REPAIR. IT WAS POSITIVE BECAUSE IT WAS MORE EMOTIONALLY FULFILLING. I PICNIC WHEN I WOULD OTHERWISE EAT AT A RESTAURANT. THIS IS NEGATIVE BECAUSE IT'S MORE WORK THAN GOING TO A RESTAURANT AND UNCOMFORTABLE DUE TO WEATHER EXTREMES. IT WAS POSITIVE DUE TO HEIGHTENED ADVENTURE.

- I tend to choose places that are less crowded
- I think it allows more people more time outside. Positive.
- I think it has had a positive impact because the outdoors was seen as something you were still able to do while still being safe.
- I think it is over but I did tend to avoid crowded atmospheres like festivals, parks etc.
- I tried to maintain my normal life as much as possible.
- I typically travel extensively for my job. Due to covid, I was not traveling as much, so it allowed me so spend more time outdoors.
- I used Outdoor activities a lot
- I walk a lot and it didn't stop it at all.
- I was able to find more time to get outside, exercise, camp and fish more often. The desire to get out of the house we were confined to and get outside in nature yet away from other households, was a huge benefit.
- I was able to go more.
- I was able to have more free time to do some hunting which was a positive impact. I had more time to be outdoors enjoying wildlife.
- I was already a very high participant in outdoor activities so my frequency did not change much. But I noticed more people outside than I ever have before.
- I was already going on walks with my children, but because I didn't want to take them places indoors, we spent more time outside and on walks than maybe I would have otherwise. Covid was a positive impact on outdoor recreation.
- I was hesitant to go out because of the pandemic
- I was more inclined to hang out with friends outdoors.
- I was no longer comfortable taking my kids to parks with lots of other people
- I was out more than in the past
- I was outdoors more hunting and fishing and saw an increase in people doing the same. Which can be both negative and positive as more people are learning the importance of being outdoors but also putting more stress on wildlife I hunt and fish
- I was outside more
- I was outside more and took advantage to the outdoor areas
- I was very grateful for access to outdoor areas like the Mickelson Trail & Forest Service trails and lakes so that I could get outside but not be too crowded. That was very positive. Unfortunately, during covid, I didn't utilize Custer State Park very much because it was so overcrowded. Trails were full, lakes were full, the Wildlife Loop Road was so crowded & traffic would back up, so that was negative.
- I wasn't working as much. It allowed me to go camping and fishing more when the weather was nice.
- I went on as normal
- I went out more which was better
- I went to the Buffalo Roundup and enjoyed but felt very unsafe as we were sitting basically on top of one another. I enjoy the art festival every year but did not attend 2019 or 2020. Locally in

town was very crowded and also avoided going out to eat. As a longtime resident near CSP I have always enjoyed our tourist and like to strike up conversation learning where they are from but this year I felt invaded. YES, we need our tourist!!

- I will never allow a demonrat dempanic to manipulate and/or otherwise 'impact' my outdoor experiences in a negative way.
- I would try to find more outdoor activities vs some indoor and some outdoor. Positive impact - love to be outdoors!
- I'm a hiker and camper so I was still able to do my thing
- I've always liked outdoor trail walking and it became more crowded with the pandemic— Unfortunately some of those newbies to the trails seem to litter them and I found more garbage than I ever have in the past.
- I'am an avid bird watcher I had more time
- idiotic liberal question.
- If I'm with my husband and assured that we could isolate while on hikes it was fine. But we stayed away from other people for two years
- If somewhere is crowded, we don't stop
- If the activity took place i went
- ikea
- I'm a teacher. My workload exploded.
- I'm in healthcare so was very busy however truly valued outdoor recreation to get away from daily work
- I'm not scared of a virus that has (according to to CDC) a 97.5 % to 99.7% survival rate.
- I'm not sure it impacted the activities. We just had more time to enjoy the outdoors since I was able to work from home.
- impact was and is minimal.
- impact was negative for me..
- Impact was positive. I hiked more during the pandemic than I ever had. The negative impact was the increased traffic on trails near Rapid City. It seemed people who are new to the outdoors were disrespectful of the cleanliness of the natural areas.
- In 2020 our work hours were cut and we had more time to go outdoors, positive. Hunting has become a more important food source as groceries get more expensive.
- in 2022 it does not impact my participation
- In the beginning of the pandemic it severely hindered our participation in outdoor activities. I run, the races were cancelled. My husband plays rec softball, the season was postponed. Our kids play soccer, those seasons were cancelled. We fish with my parents who we were trying to safely distance from because they are older and there was no vaccine, so we didn't go boating or boat fishing. When we camp, we just have a little pop-up and early season camping was scrapped because the state said the comfort stations weren't going to be opened, and that doesn't work with little kids. 2021 was back to normal for all the things we do, just with extra hand sanitizer and gathering rules.
- Inconvenient travel has a big impact
- Increased
- increased ability to get on the slopes because children's activities were cancelled
- increased appreciation of easy access to outdoor activities
- increased frequency due to obvious isolation relief. State missed opportunity to promote outdoor benefits, instead spent too much time promoting motel stays, public gatherings, etc.

- Increased how much I participated in outdoor activities and improved my mental health. Having parks available nearby had such a positive impact on my lifestyle.
- Increased in 2021
- Increased my hunting and fishing activities due to open facilities and areas.
- Increased my outdoor activity time and started going on daily walks
- Increased my walking in the hills. Positive
- Increased outdoor activities
- Increased outdoor recreation because had to distance from others
- Increased outside time
- Increased so positive
- Increased utilization
- increased utilization due to no need for social distancing, masks, etc
- Influx of people in campgrounds. Harder to get campsites anymore
- Infuriates me when see people outside with masks on.
- Initially cancelled some fishing activities with friends. Moving past the Covid issues now.
- Initially it restricted the use of outdoor activities & now that is all anyone does so it is starting to get congested and people that have no clue or no care are starting to overuse & damage some of the outdoor space.
- Initially positive since there weren't limits on outdoor activities- but then less so when many areas were overcrowded
- Initially, decreased the frequency of hikes. Now, it has no effect.
- Ironically it was positive. It was easier to maintain social distance by using outdoor resources
- It actually causes me to do more outdoor activities as it seems safer to be doing outdoor activities when not close to other people.
- It actually has had a very positive impact.
- It allows people to get outside and not be overwhelmed with being close to people so it was a positive thing
- It became harder to get the kids outdoors
- It cancelled our local spring tuesday night fishing league in 2020, back up and running in '21
- It changed nothing for me!
- It created too many people in my favorite hiking spots that I had to give them up and seek new ones with less people.
- It decreased family members from team sports such as volleyball. Decreased the amount of camping we did.
- It did and does not impact it at all.
- It did not
- It did not - we stayed away from people in general.
- It did not affect anything.
- It did not affect it at all.
- It did not affect me at all. I continued to live my life as usual.
- It did not affect me too much as I usually hunt alone. I did more walking in our local park due to the pandemic.
- It did not affect my hunting or fishing activity at all.
- It did not affect our participation.

- It did not affect us personally. Cities who shut down parks were stupid for thinking that was good for our kids. As a matter of fact Covid actually gave us the chance to see more families at the lake and parks.
- it did not change
- it did not change me at all
- it did not change my outdoor activities
- it did not change what we do
- It did not have a significant impact on my wife and me. It did however make us look at less used trails and areas to hike.
- It did not impact it at all
- It did not impact it except that there were more people out there also. I went camping, hiking and bird watching as usual.
- It did not impact it that much, if anything made me get out and away more often.
- It did not impact it very much as we hike by ourselves.
- It did not impact it.
- It did not impact my activity.
- It did not impact my use at all.
- it did not really change our outdoor activities, except during the peak of the 'pandemic' or covid/flu season while everything shut down we went fishing more, went shooting more and started shed hunting earlier.
- It did not really impact my outdoor activities, just the indoor activities.
- It did not stop us from our usual hiking. We just wore a mask for protection.
- It did not, only gave me more time to go outside
- it did not, we go to a lake and mainly stay to ourselves or close friends
- It didn't affect me at all
- It didn't affect my outdoor activities as these activities promote health and wellness which help promote a healthy lifestyle keeping the pandemic on the outskirts of my life. It proved mental health as well!!!
- It didn't affect my outdoor activities.
- It didn't because I didn't let it stop me
- It didn't change much as I'm always very active outside, but I had more time during the pandemic. Didn't like having to wear masks on trails and in national parks. Hard to wear a mask while hiking.
- It didn't change one bit.
- It didn't effect me
- It didn't effect me at all
- It didn't effect us at all.. we still used the the campgrounds
- It didn't impact at all unless some people stayed home.
- It didn't impact it.
- "It didn't other than
- Make outdoors more desirable "
- It didn't stop me from fishing
- It didn't, COVID is BS.
- It didn't. I began rollerblading during the pandemic.
- It didn't. I did my thing

- it didn't - we could still go camping.
- It didn't !!! We still camped with immediate family !!!
- It didn't affect my activities at all. It was all a bunch of political hogwash!!!
- it didn't and doesn't
- It didn't and still doesn't.
- It didn't because you are safer in an outdoor open area
- It didn't bother my outdoor activities.
- It didn't change
- It didn't change anything
- It didn't change it at all
- It didn't change much
- It didn't effect me at all.
- It didn't have any effect on me. Most activities I participate are outdoors & with limited people.
- It didn't impact it at all, I continued to hunt and fish regularly
- It didn't impact it.
- it didn't impact me, unless something was closed
- It didn't impact my outdoor activities
- It didn't impact my participation in outdoor activities
- It didn't impact my participation---as I mainly like fishing and swimming, as well as other lake activities.
- it didn't make much difference to me because I had Covid in Nov. of 2019
- It didn't really affect it, being outside and away from crowds was safer than being inside and in crowds.
- It didn't really affect me other than making it more difficult to secure a reservation or find an area to enjoy because more people were there.
- It didn't stop me from going fishing
- It didn't stop my activity
- It didn't, covid is a lie
- It didn't. You were outside and could keep your distance.
- It didn't. I generally recreate alone anyway.
- It didn't/doesn't. I have continued to do everything that I did before COVID and have continued to do so. I have had COVID and I LIVED through it.. I plan on keeping that up until it's my time to leave this earth.
- It does not
- It does not
- It does not affect it
- it does not impact
- It does not impact me.
- It does not impact my participation at all. I fish, usually alone, but sometimes with family members. There really was no impact, negative or positive.
- It does not impact my participation either way.
- It does not impact my participation in outdoor activities.
- It does not. I do not make decisions based on fear
- It does not; neutral impact
- It doesn't



- It doesn't because Covid is a joke
- It doesn't change it I still do what I want too
- It doesn't effect what I did
- It doesn't impact it at all. Never did
- It doesn't - Covid is a a basic cold and I'm not going to stop living my life bc of simple fear.
- It doesn't affect it.
- It doesn't affect what I do in the putdoors
- It doesn't and hasn't
- It doesn't because Covid is a bullshit cold
- it doesn't deter me
- It doesn't impact it anymore but when we first shut down we biked and walked our bike path a lot more. WE found safe outdoor activities to do.
- It doesn't impact me unless others put restrictions in place that I cannot control. when it impacts me it is a negative experience as I believe the fresh air, sunshine and all the good Lord provides for us should have not limitations. it is good for the heart and soul!
- It doesn't impact my participation.
- It doesn't, lived life as normal
- It doesn't. Covid in my opinion is a waste of everyones time. Just move on with life. We established it's here, now just learn to live with it.
- It doesn't. If anything I spent more time outside.
- It doesn't. I used camping and fishing as an escape from it
- It doesn't. I went about life as usual as much as possible
- It doesn't. No impact at all.
- It don't impact me at all
- Enjoy what God gave us
- He giveth
- He taketh away
- It encouraged us to spend more time outside than ever.
- It felt risky to travel in SD. No one wearing a mask at gas stations (even on the interstate), restaurants, etc. So, I really limited trips, did not stay in hotels or frequent places that apparently didn't care about the health and safety of their customers.
- it got me out of school and gave me a chance after work to go fishing and hiking with friends
- It got us out camping more - we were tired of being home, so went camping almost every weekend.
- It had a negative effect as we weren't able to go to as many places. A positive was being able to spend more time with those I love
- It had a slight increase. With other activities restricted my family and I looked for more outdoor recreational activities. This kept us doing things but we were able to stay away from people easier.
- It had little impact, maybe positive.
- It had little to no impact
- It had no impact
- it had no impact I still did the things I wanted to do I'm not a snowflake!
- It had no impact.
- It had no impact.

- It had no impact. We did the same things & went to the same places we always do.
- It had no impact. Positive
- It has added an additional level of safety concerns. Crowded areas have been avoided. Covid has reduced my (our) public outdoor activities
- it has been more local and I've found places I didn't know existed before
- It has encouraged us to spend more time outdoors in our local community since I am now a telecommuter, which is positive
- It has given more people time to do the things that we have always done, making hunting/fishing areas over crowded and less parking spots.
- It has had no effect.
- It has made outdoor spaces more busy and at times harder to use due to popularity.
- It has no impact of my involvement of the outdoors.
- It has no impact on my mule riding/driving or golfing or hunting.
- It has no negative effect on me what so ever. I found that during the pandemic I was able to get out and enjoy the outdoors with more frequency
- It has not been too bad now. It was at first because of the ridiculous rules that did not allow people to go outside which seems to be the opposite of what people needed to maintain their health. If any impact now it's because of our overreaction and policies to COVID not because of COVID.
- It has not had an impact. I still participated.
- It has not really effected it. It has almost increased it because of having more time and the want to get outside more.
- It has very little impact . I usually hung or fish alone.
- It has zero impact on my family's activities. We are young and healthy and are not afraid of the flu or colds either.
- It hasn't
- It hasn't really impacted my outdoor activities The only difference was that my husband was able to accompany me when he would otherwise have been working.
- It hasn't changed a thing.
- It impacted getting together with family and friends
- It impacted it negatively because nervous to be around other people.
- It impacts my participation by increasing my urge to get outside!
- It increased my outdoor activity significantly. I spent more time outdoors hunting, fishing, golfing and hiking since we were not able to interact with others while indoors.
- It increased my participation in outdoor activities, also included more family in those activities.
- It increased our participation, as it was time spent together outside the house and away from other people. It was a way to destress after being inside and away from normal activities.
- It increased the fishing pressure on our lakes.
- It increased the need for outdoor activities, so very positive.
- it incresed it and was positive
- It interrupted confidence in travel. Unsure what facilities or resources would be available out of State.
- It is over people!
- We lived our life as we always had...enjoying the outdoors as much as possible, and will continue to!"

- It kept me from enjoying my hunting and fishing.
- It limited camp ground space had a hard time finding places to camp
- It limited where we went and how often
- It made it more crowded. Participation was a little less enjoyable because of the crowds
- It made it so I had to pay more for ammo to go hunting
- It made me stay inside
- It made our family take part in much more outdoor activities
- It made some aspects more challenging with trying to maintain distance in areas with lots of people, but also provided a safer space to do things I love and be able distance in less popular areas
- It moved us outside more. We simply got out more!
- It negative
- It never changed.
- It probably got us out more often so it was positive
- It probably has a more positive impact since I enjoy the outdoors meaning it gives me more of a reason to get out and do something rather than being holed up or always around other people if I want to get away or do something.
- It pushed me to get out to more remote locations to get away from the public.
- It really cut into my time with friends and family on getting together for food and fun.
- It really did not change our participation in our outdoor activities because outdoor activities are our main hobbies
- It really didn't have any effect on my activities. I hunted, fished, and golfed as if there was no pandemic.
- It really didn't affect me it since I live within the boundary of the Black Hills National Forest (i.e. public land) and have Custer State Park out my back door.
- It really didn't change anything
- it really didn't do much, other than keep some friends from coming out.
- It really didn't impact me that much
- It really hasn't effected us
- It really was my only recreational outlet, I felt safe outdoors.
- It reduced my disposable income and decreased my propensity to spend time in public
- It reduced the amount of activity we did out doors for fear of getting sick.
- It resulted in us taking more sxs trips to the Black Hills where we could be outdoors more but not around as many people.
- It seemed like a lot more people were enjoying the outdoors during the pandemic.
- It seemed outdoor spaces were busier than before COVID – traffic was more of a nuisance than a real barrier for participation.
- It should have increased.
- It was a big negative. We were unable to RV camp, which we usually would have done many times throughout the camping season.
- It was a false narrative pushed by the liberals.
- It was a life saver!
- It was a negative impact
- It was a nice place to go and feel safe from getting covid

- It was a pain to travel during that time but being outside by myself or my travel buddies had no effect.
- It was a positive impact
- It was a positive impact because less people.
- It was a positive impact, we were outside so much more finding things to do. IT was unfortunate some river access docks were closed down due to COVID.
- It was a positive impact. My family and I were outside more than we were but we were also able to bring our friends and family outside who were not involved in outdoor activities before the pandemic.
- It was about the same for us. We just didnt do alot on holidays or weekends when we know more people were around.
- It was great
- It was great to see camping's popularity surge, but harder to find a campsite!
- It was hard to get together with people on the bigger pheasant hunts or fishing outings. Also it made a few places get really busy when out fishing and hunting with people constantly out of work.
- It was harder to get camping reservations.
- It was mostly positive by using outdoor activities to safely gather with friends. We did forego group hunting in the fall.
- It was negative as I did not get to the outdoors like I had in the past but that was mostly my fault
- it was negative when the government restricted access to parks and federal land and closed facilities.
- It was negative. We started not going places, and it's easy to get lazy.
- It was neutral for me. My outdoor activity remained constant.
- It was nice seeing everyone out there. Not afraid
- It was positive as camping made family closer together.
- It was positive as it got me outdoors as I purchased a bike and ride often now
- It was positive because I got outside more but was more crowded.
- It was positive. I was outside more often since I wanted to minimize my non family social interaction.
- It was positive. We were outside more.
- It was probably a positive experience because we had more time to trap. It was a nice way to get out of the house when we couldn't go out in public.
- It was sad to see all the people panic with the pandemic.
- It was significant because it was a safe place to be. Outdoors is where it was at, not indoor events. We explored other places we may not have visited before covid.
- It was the only thing we could do as a family and not be contained to a small area. It was a great stress reliever! Thank you
- It was/is safer to be outside, less risk of exposure/exposing someone else. I enjoyed the shifting of priorities to doing these outdoors.
- It would keep people away so they didn't bug me !!!! Good !!!!
- It's stupid. Turn off ur stupid box and go live ur life!!
- It's a big impact
- I've always been an outdoor runner and I noticed higher traffic on both paved and unpaved trails.

- I've continued to live my life. Not much change in outdoor activity. Was high before, is high during and will be high afterwards.
- Just be safe
- Just had to be more determined to go but also had to factor in social distancing.
- Just had to try and keep away from the anti masker/vaxxers when traveling so we wouldn't get sick or spread it to harm or potentially kill our fellow South Dakotans.
- Just have to be careful what activity I participated in.
- just stay at home
- keeps out of state friends from coming
- Kids were not able to do other social functions with friends so therefore we spent more time outdoors with immediate family fishing boating etc.
- Lack of campground spaces available
- Very negative impact
- lack of support from the Governor for masking and vaccinations made it unlikely I would participate in any outdoor or indoor activity with others, especially people I did not know
- Less access to facilities for a while, then we focused extra attention on being outdoors to get sunshine and since areas were not overcrowded; we did less driving to nearby areas to be outside, and did more walking in our neighborhood; both negative and positive included
- Less access to some face reduced ability to do certain things
- Less camping and social gatherings
- less friends and family going along
- Less friends to participate.
- Less group activities with other families and have stayed closer to home.
- Less interaction with family/friends led to more time outdoors
- Less out of state fishermen led to less crowded areas and better attitudes from locals
- Less people in areas I frequent is always nice
- Less people in some places. But in others there were more people outside.
- Less people so easier to get out and enjoy nature
- less places to go , negative
- Less solitude because more people.
- Less travel
- Less travel for hunting and fishing
- Less use of public gardens and festivals
- Less willing to attend public events with crowds
- Let's go Brandon
- Life goes on like normal.
- Like running, exercise
- Like to fish so didn't have a huge impact once on the water
- Limited a few, but otherwise it was great to have outdoor spaces where we could be at least eight feet apart. However, most of our parks, lakesides, riversides, athletic fields were closed.
- Limited ability to participate with friends/family
- Limited access to indoor activities encouraged greater use of outdoor recreation. Could also recreate outdoors and provide adequate social distancing. Pandemic increased outdoor recreation in a positive way.
- limited activities around other people.

- limited because didn't want to get Covid
- Limited family participation and travel. Some what negative impact.
- Limited golfing is all in 2020
- Limited the ability of the same number of participants to feel comfortable congregating for our usual outdoor activities. This was a negative impact on our outdoor recreation.
- Limited where I could go to participate
- little affect
- Little change
- Little impact
- Little impact
- Little impact as I primarily camp and hike so social distance was not an issue
- Little impact since our outdoor activities seemed like some of the safest things we could do during the pandemic
- Little impact, but positive
- Little impact. Some increase in social distancing is all.
- little or no impact
- Little to no effect
- Little to none
- Lived life like normal
- local state parks were over-crowded. Unable to find a place to park.
- Loss of loved ones, traveling concerns was a definite negative
- lost guiding days for fishing and hunting
- Lots of fishing and swimming in 2020. Plenty of space to spread out. Very positive!
- Luckily I'm a frequent tennis player so we could continue playing outdoors when weather permitted. The major impact was losing players for weeks at a time when they were stricken by Covid.
- I can't think of anything positive about this pandemic other than it may have given some areas a short break from over-usage, but the influx in people recently has left that a vague memory."
- Luckily in South Dakota it doesn't impact us like everyone else and we kept on going
- Made ammo way to expensive
- Made for more time
- Made it difficult to enter Canada for fishing
- Made it easier.
- Made it increase
- Made it more crowded
- Made me do more outside since some indoor activities were closed or required masks.
- Made me explore more outdoor activities and appreciate being in nature.
- Made me get back outdoors. Positive mental and physical impact. Therapy.
- made me think twice
- Made me want to be out fishing more
- made parks and other recreation areas busier
- Made parks, camp grounds busier
- Made them more valuable to me! I wouldn't say I increased or decreased the amount but made getting to go outside that much sweeter.
- Make sure we are COVID free.

- Makes it even more important to have a place to get away and relax
- Makes outdoor recreation a more attractive option than traditional indoor activities.
- manageable
- Many places have limited access, which of course is negative
- Mask / vaccine mandates ruin it for us. Won't go if required. Especially when outside?!?
- maybe increased how often I went to parks
- might do more things outdoors and at parks because of covid
- Mine was positive. I was going and traveling more outdoors because of the Covid pandemic
- minimal
- Minimal
- Minimal changes
- Minimal impact
- minimal impact
- Minimal impact, but colleagues practiced recommended safety procedures
- minimal impact. fewer indoor things to do, but we were outside a lot anyway
- missed the social get togethers
- Mood is the most important
- More fishing with only a few friends
- More alone or immediate family time.
- more apprehensive about doing group activities having a negative impact
- More camping at state parks rather than vacation travel
- more careful of cleanliness
- More cautious around crowds but not a big issue
- More crowded
- More crowded
- More difficult to find access to public hunting/fishing areas due to influx of non-residents from States with more Covid restrictions
- More family outings. Only my family vs. groups of many families.
- More freedom and flexibility in scheduling to enjoy the outdoors when conditions are best.
- More incentive to go outdoors. Other activities restricted.
- More individual activities versus group activities
- More individual participation than around people
- more likely to go fishing, hunting, or hiking so to stay away from more enclosed spaces with people. Probably positive.
- More likely to spend time alone in the outdoors
- More outdoor activities
- More outdoor activities
- More outdoor. Less indoor
- More outdoors solitary or small group use. Avoided large group events outdoors.
- More outdoors time
- More people are going to the places I used to enjoy by myself.
- More people are out and making places more crowded.
- More people are participating now in my favorite activities
- More people are visiting public areas and they have become crowded
- More people at boat ramps

- More people came to South Dakota from other states during the pandemic, at least partly due to the open factor of our state and not being shut-down like other states.
- More people camping- harder to get a spot
- More people camping less places to find a place to camp
- More people camping resulted in hard to get reservations and crowds
- More people decided to do things that we had already been doing and found it harder to get campsites, crowded picnic areas, etc
- More people hunting on public land so it was harder to find pheasants and deer
- more people out there - made getting away from people tougher
- More people out using the available resources sometimes causing crowding
- More people participate because of time off and the outdoor aspect
- More people pursued outdoor (i.e. camping) during the pandemic which meant campgrounds and parks were more crowded with out of state visitors. This made access for locals more difficult which negatively impacted the local people. Other than that it had no impact.
- More people seemed to get outside which was good for people to connect to the land, but also caused crowding and resource exhaustion from overuse
- More people started using trails and contributed to growing. More non-motorized trail networks are needed close to communities.
- More people were out camping made it more difficult to reserve camping cabins.
- More planning
- More solitary activity
- more time as traditional actives were canceled. Also social distancing is easy in outdoor spaces.
- More time for outdoor activities
- More time for outdoors
- More time on open water lake and trails instead of crowded factory. positive
- More time outdoors
- More time outdoors to get away from being stuck indoors. Visiting with friends outdoors.
- More time outdoors
- More time outside and less time inside....Positive impact
- More time spent outside due to the restrictions of the pandemic.
- More time to be involved
- More time to be outside due to fewer extra obligations
- More time to experience outdoors with family, positive impact
- More time to participate positively due to WFH
- More time to pheasant hunt. Positive!!!
- More time was spent with outdoor recreation
- More time. More positive.
- More use because it is safer
- More walking the dog on local trails. It was a very positive impact except the dog started to get a little too skinny...had to feed her more. :-)
- Most activities are solo. Didn't change much.
- most everything was closed so I went fishing
- most of my activities are hunting and fishing, very little interaction with crowds, when covid was bad couldn't attend school sports



- Most of the only changes in parks, business, eating out, shopping etc. was what restrictions the government put on us, we were willing to still go out and participate.
- Most places have bad hours now that don't work for my family and me
- Mostly it just got hard to find ammunition so I couldn't hunt or shoot as much, but other than that there really wasn't any impact.
- Mostly negative
- Mostly neutral. I am usually alone
- Mostly no impact now but curtailed all activities in past 2 years
- Mostly positive, some things were shut down which was inconvenient.
- Much busier managing business during the pandemic so didn't have the time or in some cases the energy to get out and recreate.
- Much more time spent with my kids hiking. Very positive.
- Much more time spent, positive
- Music concerts attended less
- My ability to hunt/fish with friends.
- My activities remain moderate currently.
- My camping was not affected by COVID-19 one way or the other.
- My family always did a lot outdoors prior to the pandemic, the pandemic really didn't change our activity but made us appreciate the outdoors more because our lifestyles didn't have to change
- My family didn't change anything
- My family tried to find activities that distanced themselves from other people.
- My favorite activity is golf and our community was not impacted to a great degree. We were able to social distance rather easily. Our other activities such as youth soccer were canceled for the season. (disappointing). Other than that my family stayed home more than we normally would have.
- My favorite kayak events were all canceled, so I paddled independently more.
- My favorite outdoor activities are carried out with close friends and family, so there wasn't much change.
- My favorite thing is camping and boating so we are still doing those things and keeping apart from others
- My job took a hit so I was more able to enjoy outdoor time like hiking and kayaking during peak daytime hours. It was SO nice and I am going to miss it as work returns to busy busy busy
- My level of participation was the same but the quality of my experience was diminished as the trails and outdoor spaces became very crowded. Many of the people using these resources were new to outdoor recreation and were disrespectful to nature.
- My main recreation activity is pheasant hunting, COVID did not slow me down.
- My outdoor activities do not involve interaction with others so rather than being a negative, my hikes and excursions were a much-needed positive.
- My outdoor activities increased which was definitely a positive thing.
- My outdoor time is my private time, so Covid did not concern me.
- My partner and I went out together more often. Because of my asthma, we avoided all indoor contact with people. We even avoided contact with our families other than following each other in cars and talking a safe distance away, wearing masks, at pullouts and picnicking.. Because the outdoor toilets are poorly ventilated, we brought garden shovels to properly use the woods for our toiletry needs.

- My skiing was affected, which was negative for me
- Need to get outside to preserve mental health and well being
- Need to keep things open, and SD did well.
- Needed more activity to get out of home
- Needed to cancel camping due to the pandemic
- Neg in that less participation in group activities
- Negative - closed offices and facilities
- Negative - COVID-19 precautions in the outdoors and in facilities were not warranted
- Negative In 2020 we lost archers who were competing outdoors and indoors and have had to work at building back the attendance
- Negative - more people were crowding the trails and nature areas
- Negative - stayed away from several activities to distance
- Negative - Was not able to participate as often as before.
- Negative (Eating Facilities disrupted)
- Negative . Wreaked the economy
- Negative as far as group activities and being able to social distance. Too many unvaccinated people here in South Dakota
- Negative as had to work more because less people working because they got paid not to work
- negative as many park headquarters may have significantly reduced hours
- Negative as some parks closed
- negative as somewhat restricted travel
- Negative as still generally solo fish.
- Negative as to planing with others
- Negative because everything became more crowded.
- Negative because parks I planned to visit were closed.
- Negative couldn't get any camping spots on the whole east side of South Dakota during covid
- Negative -difficult to arrange group events - some peoples fears - out of state campers every where - It was great that people came here but did cause some crowding
- Negative due to potential exposure
- Negative effect based on park and facility closures.
- Negative feeling of being around others Only used when traveling instead of good breaks
- negative for restroom use
- negative-- i ran out of time.
- Negative if any impact
- Negative impact
- Negative impact
- negative impact
- Negative impact
- Negative impact - couldn't go to places I wanted to due to too many people and pets
- negative impact - just overall less getting out
- negative impact - still go as much as always and even more in some cases
- negative impact as limited possibilities and participation..
- Negative impact because we stayed home more than usual.
- Negative impact due to fishing tournaments being cancelled.
- Negative impact due to trying to avoid others

- Negative impact of closed roads due to checkpoints in the middle of state.
- negative impact ok travel/overnight stays for hunting trips
- Negative impact on hunting with friends and we did not travel and camp as much as we would have liked to.
- negative impact since hunting and fishing is done outside and doesn't require close contact with other individuals
- Negative impact was can't find shells for hunting now
- negative impact with closed bathroom faculties and other facilities
- Negative impact.
- Negative impact. There were too many people at my local lakes and in the forest. The new people that were recreating in the forest and lakes were slobs, left trash everywhere.
- Negative impacts for all activities that involved close contact with other people in more confined spaces such as public pools, boat ramps, skating rinks. Positive impacts for bike trails, hiking trails, fishing areas, etc.
- negative in every aspect
- Negative in group participation with friends and family but developed new activities I could do alone or with my family hiking birding outdoor photography
- Negative in that we stayed home more.
- Negative in the fact of facility closings
- Negative it was
- Negative on group activities - they were almost all halted. Positive on individual (I.E hiking) I had more time to go explore outdoors
- Negative since we were not supposed to be around people and stay home
- Bunch of bull
- negative so many rules
- Negative use, frequency and individuals using facilities
- negative with others
- Negative
- Negative!
- Negative, afraid of the virus
- Negative, as it has brought so many people in from out of state which weren't following any safety protocols and over ran our parks/camping facilities with out of staters leaving us residents without access.
- Negative, because we weren't able to be with family as much.
- Negative, did not change our activities
- Negative, didn't do group activity
- Negative, Everyone decided to start using parks so they became overly crowded.
- Negative, fewer group activities and limited access to certain locations
- Negative, I live in Oregon where our governor is a Nazi and I escaped to South Dakota so I could enjoy my life rather than be locked down like a convict.
- Negative, in order to avoid catching the virus, people have to stay indoors.
- Negative, limits participation
- negative, many ares were untypical crowded, especially in the Hills.
- Negative, more people camped and now it is harder to get weekend reservation unless you book Thursday night as well which then becomes cost prohibitive.

- Negative, no golf leagues.
- Negative, participated in less activities with other people.
- Negative, people are afraid of catching COVID-19
- Negative, people can only stay indoors
- Negative, too many people out
- Negative, too crowded.
- Negative, too many people!
- negative, traveling and overnite hotels were difficult and restaurant closing
- Negative, your outside in the fresh air and distant from other people
- negative, couldn't spend much time with family camping
- Negative, was to many people than before covid
- Negative.
- negative. had to avoid gatherings.
- Negative. Did not travel overnight.
- Negative. I did not travel nearly as much as I would have due to Covid concerns ... stayed away from motels, restaurants, sports shows, and more. My travel was restricted to local and nearby areas.
- Negative. Primers and Powder became MUCH MUCH harder to find and more expensive. Supposedly due to all the new people buying them, but that seems questionable
- Negative. The States profit and economy at all health cost over ruled common sense and sense of civic responsibility.
- Negative. All the spots were taken by non residents traveling
- Negative. Brought more people to hunting and over crowed public lands
- Negative. Covid made me mostly disabled.
- Negative. If places were open, had to wear a mask.
- Negative. It scared people when they shouldn't have been
- Negative. More people were going out on trails, camping, and etc. Which is good, but they failed to leave no trace and respect nature and wildlife places and space.
- Negative. Places were closed so concerned about services available in and around parks.
- Negative. The outdoors was very crowded.
- Negative. There was a shortage of shotgun shells for hunting in 2021.
- Negative. Too many people.
- Negative. Tried to avoid crowded outdoor parks and playgrounds.
- negative. We became more cautious going outside.
- Negative. We needed to stay home to feel safe.
- Negative. Why wear a mask outdoors? Don't need to
- "Negative: The pandemic has squelched my out of state travel/vacation practices.
- Positive: I have camped in more SD state parks (cabins). I have participated more often in my favorite outdoor activities near where I live."
- negative; depression set in
- Negatively
- Negatively - I did not feel comfortable hiking with a large group of friends (could be 8-20).
- Positively - My husband started hiking and walking with me more often. I probably hiked more miles than some other years.

- Negatively - in 2020 we only camped once and determined that it was not a good environment for social distancing. By 2021 we camped a lot."
- Negatively - parks are always full of people so I have done very little camping, etc. I look forward to feeling safe to do that.
- Negatively affected fishing pressure and RV campsite availability
- Negatively as many took to camping to escape crowded cities. They brought all their big city habits with them which in turn turned campgrounds noisy and overcrowded especially when they brought their dogs with them. Lots of new campers that had no campground etiquette whatsoever.
- Negatively impacted activities in public recreation areas such as parks or trails or privately-owned commercial areas in order to avoid contact with people. Most of our outdoor activity was on our own property.
- Negatively slow down are outdoor activities
- Negatively. Lots of new hunters overcrowding hunting areas, no etiquette
- negative impact our camping fishing hunting experiences are with family or alone
- neutral - I mainly hike and camp with just my immediate family - this was really not effected other than being extra crowded at public facilities because of others taking advantage of the circumstances to get outside more.
- neutral - it was no different than the flu, other than it was used to influence the presidential election.
- neutral - may have moved some activities outdoors
- neutral because it is outdoors
- Neutral- did not reduce.
- neutral effect
- Neutral impact, the weather had more to do with reducing our outdoor activities, especially fall and winter.
- Neutral impact.
- Neutral- just didn't see as many people
- Neutral my activites don't involve close interaction
- neutral, it stayed about the same
- Neutral, my outdoor activities continues as normal.
- Neutral. Social distancing, mask use, and vaccination were the guideline.
- Neutral. I am an avid hiker and if anything I did get out more as long as there were no crowds. I stayed away from trails and kept to the Mickelson Trail and BHNH land.
- Neutral. It did not hinder my willingness to participate in outdoor activities.
- never
- Never changed
- Never let it impact at all
- Nice to get away from people more and diconnect
- no additional impact
- No affect
- no affect
- No Affect
- No affect
- No affect

- no change - outdoors is the best and safest place to be during a pandemic
- No change always looked for hiking opportunities
- No change I still did everything I normally do
- no change in activities due to covid
- No change in activities.
- No Change in fishing.
- no change in my life in the outdoors
- no change in what we do
- No Change other than getting outdoor equipment like ammo.
- No change really continues to engage in same outdoor activities throughout COVID-19
- No change really. Often participated with only 1 or 2 others.
- No change what so ever
- no change
- No change
- No Change!!
- no change,
- No change, continued as usual
- No change, did outdoor activities when we wanted
- No change, if anything we probably went fishing more
- No change.
- No change.
- No change.
- No change. I continued my outdoor activities as normal.
- No change. I didn't buy into it. Crimes against humanity.
- No change. It's outdoors, so there was no concern.
- No change. More people were out during the initial start of the China virus
- No change. The only impact was the rules we sometimes had to follow. COVID is just a name for a flu strain. Flu is just flu. A fabricated lie to create fear and impact elections, etc.
- No change. Already was active
- No change. Continued to do what I wanted.
- No change. Not concerned.
- No change. Other than the prices of things are astronomical. Businesses suffering probably has effected me the most just living in a rural area where business are sparse the way it is. Having to travel further for activities, groceries, etc
- No changes due to pandemic
- No Changs. Fly fishing provides social distancing
- No difference during the Covid pandemic.
- No difference. We lived our normal lives
- No effect as I often go alone
- no effect at all. Its just the common cold by definition
- No effect except very difficult to get into state parks to camp because they are always full
- no effect on fishing and hunting
- No effect other than having to wear a mask at times.
- No effect, had Covid and still enjoyed the outdoor
- no effect. Live your life don't worry about it!

- No effect/impact whatsoever
- No festival attendance or large group functions. But hiking and traveling remained the same.
- No impact - easy to social distance outdoors. Many miles of shoreline
- No impact - i continued to live my life
- No impact
- Felt safe outside
- No impact ... life as normal
- no impact a joke for people being outside negative impact
- No impact as I usually go alone.
- no impact as the activities I enjoy are outdoors and socially distanced (my fishing rods are a minimum of 6')
- The only impact would be that I did not participate in the rules meetings and social events surrounding the tournaments early in the pandemic. After immunization and subsequent booster I then resumed attending. Immunization is the responsible and statistically best practice to protect ourselves and fellow citizens from this deadly virus. "
- No impact at all
- No impact at all since most of my interests are solo in nature.
- No impact at all.
- No impact at all.
- No impact at all. I am a waterfowler and many times hunt by myself or with one partner.
- No impact at all. Was able to camp, waterski and ride motorcycle.
- No impact except some places are busier than pre Covid since many people from urban areas took up more outdoor activities.
- No impact for outdoor activities
- No impact for us
- No impact in south Dakota
- No impact life as usual at our house
- No impact maybe even favorable because of where we live...Black Hills. 1.3 million acres to enjoy every day!!
- No impact on me
- No impact on my activities
- No impact on my outdoor activities
- No impact on our activities
- No impact on outdoor activities.
- No impact on outdoor recreation activities.
- no impact on what I do
- No impact other than cancelling other activities giving more available time
- No impact other than loss of opportunities and customer service due to others reactions
- No impact still participate
- no impact we did what we normally do
- No impact we still went camping
- No impact what so ever
- No impact what so ever
- No impact what soever. It was totally a panic by government. Should have been no restrictions. People need to take their own safety precautions for their health situations.

- No impact whatsoever ever, I never fell for the political narratives
- No impact whatsoever.
- NO IMPACT WITH MY ACTIVITEIS..
- No impact, except that it increased the fishing pressure here, especially below the dam. This created a problem because we are not important enough here to have law enforcement. The state wardens seldom ever come around, so, in my opinion, we have a tremendous amount of poaching of small fish, mainly walleyes, and this impacts, or will impact, our future fishery. I sincerely believe that people know they won't be checked here and thus the laws provide little deterrence. Another issue that is related to the tremendous influx of people into our area and using our big lake is that there is no shore patrol. In my opinion it is a matter of time before we have a serious accident. My understanding is that this is due to the fact that the corp and the state feel it is the others responsibility, so we have no safety patrols!
- No impact, live life as normal
- No impact, most outdoor activities I do alone so I was able to continue doing them with no problem.
- no impact, still visited and did outdoor activities
- No impact, to me there was no pandemic just attempt at government control. It did result in huge influx of nonresidents fleeing their local& state government restrictions and afflicting SD residents.
- No impact, we live in the free state of South Dakota!!
- No impact. I maintained my previous activities with exception of ammo shortage.
- No impact. Most activities involve only me or one other family member. COVID had no impact. However, I would say finding camp sites at state parks became more difficult as it appears more people started camping more.
- no impact. Everyone should practice freedom with responsibility .
- No impact. I do outdoor activities to be away from people.
- No impact. I was still able to get outside.
- No impact. It's Simply political propaganda
- No impact. Postive
- No impact. Still camped, fished and did the same activities.
- No impact. Still went camping hunting and fishing
- No impact. We continued doing outdoor activities just like normal.
- No impacts
- No impacts for me
- No impact—was still able to do the things we enjoy
- no longer a factor
- No longer impacts but last year people avoided each other on oaths. I thought it was silly and sad
- No major impact
- No motivation to go out, fear of infection/negative
- no noticeable impact as almost all of my outdoor activities were pursued by myself or with my spouse.
- No one works anymore so there was a massive influx of new outdoorsman. Making activities harder due to amounts of people on public land and waters
- No participation....negative
- No problem with what I do outside.



- No problem, just avoided a lot of close contact with people
- No real change
- No real impact
- No real impact
- No real impact at all
- no real impact, one can avoid crowds, people
- No real impact.
- No really negative impact
- No to little change
- No to slight change due to the additional folks that seemed to take part due to Covid. Needed to spend a little more time traveling to get out and away from additional hunters.
- Nonchange
- none no changes
- None at all
- None continued on with life as normal as possible. Have had covid 3 times each time less and less severe. Most recent time was less symptoms than a common cold
- None either way
- None negative no change
- none really
- None really
- None we did even more during Covid.
- None whatsoever, I still hunted and fished just as many days as before Covid started.
- None, I think it was a way to control people (sheep). Its a man made flu.
- None, my wife and I are pretty much a couple who do things together. On occasion we participate with others. But, obviously, during the initial stages of the Pandemic we were limited. Since the relaxation of group assemblies, our participation has grown back to our usual levels.
- None, nothing changed for me, I am in a very rural area
- None. The only thing that changed was the availability of some locations.
- None. Did not deter my activities at all
- None. Still do what we love to do.
- None. WE live in SOUTH DAKOTA home of PERSONAL RESPOSIBILITY!!!!!! Still did what I wanted in SD not as much in those other Dumb states!! Never been happier to be from and live in South Dakota than the last two years!!!! Thank you Governor Noem!!!!
- Nonhunting hikers were frequently out in game production areas. It frequently disrupted my hunting opportunities.
- Nonimpact
- nope
- Not
- Not at all this gear
- Not at all. I hunt and fish which naturally promote social distancing
- not at all. Most activities by myself, with a pet or family.
- Not at all. Covid affected nothing for me.
- Not at all. I like to hunt, fish and golf alone or with family and close friends and this did not change.
- Not at all. I'm outside proper distancing.

- Not being able to travel
- Not Good
- not having bathrooms open in your state parks stop us from taking vacation in SD
- not impacted at all
- Not much
- NOT MUCH
- Not much
- Not much affect on me or my family. We hunt and fish quite a bit.
- Not much at all other than less traveling
- Not much change
- Not much change
- Not much change for myself. I mainly go alone.
- Not much change, we just did it with less people.
- Not much impact
- not much impact
- not much impact, really
- Not much impact. Felt more comfortable camping at a park.
- Not much really
- Not much still enjoyed camping and being outdoors
- Not much.
- Not much. I usually fish and hunt by myself
- Not much. Since we enjoy hiking, cross country skiing, biking and kayaking, we had enough air space from other people.
- not much-neutral
- Not one bit
- Not participating
- Not really I just kept right on fishing and hunting.
- Not really impact but we increased more camping etc
- Not safe to be in groups ir close proximity to strangers
- Not so much, dealing with it in stride
- Not too much. Most of my outdoor activities are to get away to tranquil places and those were not impacted by covid.
- nothing
- Nothing changed
- Nothing changed for me
- Nothing changed for us.
- Nothing changed. Beaches were fuller because pools were closed, but didn't affect what I was doing.
- Nothing negative, being outdoors is safe and awesome
- Nothing unless was crowded with people
- Nothing was impacted.
- nothing, i operated as normal
- Noticed more people.
- Now going out more and recently retired
- nuetral

- Of course the negative, people can only stay at home, the whole society can not function
- Only affected 2020-2021
- only affected out of state hunting travel in 2020
- Only great activity that we had without fear. Love getting outdoors
- only impacted camping opportunities due to shared bathroom/shower facilities
- "Only limited by places being closed.
- One BIG thing for our RV'ing family: Parks (mostly private) that used covid for an excuse to shut down their water &/or toilet & sewer facilities, but did not mention that until we had already paid, were infuriating! We & our friends & family will always remember those parks & NEVER camp there again!"
- Only to buy Bait at local bait shops. Other than that none.
- Other opportunities were closed so we used outdoor facilities more. Campgrounds and other facilities that closed or limited numbers of people in sites were a negative impact.
- Other than having schedules changed or canceled because of scared people it didnt change
- Other things like retirement affected my activities as much as Covid.
- Our Activate is fishing at Gettysburg area, we did more during the pandemic because we spent most of our time out doors.
- Our family is outdoors all the time. Hasn't impacted us.
- Our family relied more heavily on trail systems for cycling and running.
- Our lack of participation in out recreation was more physical than COVID
- Our participation in outdoor activities was not affected much if any at all by the pandemic.
- Out of state people took over, so nowhere to go to camp, etc.
- Outdoor activities are refreshing and gets one away from the craziness
- Outdoor activities are the best to avoid COVID.
- Outdoor activities increased because other activities were limited
- "Outdoor activities increased
- Family gatherings outdoors increased
- Negative was outdoor spaces were more crowded "
- Outdoor activities not really affected.
- Outdoor areas were more crowded as people sought things they could do while social distancing, while made being able to book facilities and find solitude more difficult.
- Outdoor spaces became more crowded as more people participated in outdoor activities.
- Outdoor sports were canceled
- Outdoor time increased
- Outdoor was a good thing. I felt safer doing outdoor things.
- Outdoors space was very crowded
- Outdoors were my get a way from COVID
- Outside more
- Over reach and mandates too oppressive. Masks and social distancing did not and will not work.
- Over reaction to Covid-19 closed many opportunities to participate and killed the economy
- Overall experience was negative compared to prior years as competition and crowding was an issue
- Overall it was a negative experience. We did not go out to very many activities, especially that involved other people. We did participate in less social events like hiking and wildlife viewing.

- Overall negative impact on participation, with fearmongering media saying to not gather and participate in activities.
- Overall, very minimal. Our family has still been able to enjoy our favorite outdoor activities at the same capacity.
- Overcrowded by out of states
- parks and hunting stayed open so no impact to me
- parks are busier and hard to get campground
- parks made you feel safe to be outside
- Parks were busy and booked so didn't go as much
- Participated in activities where we could social distance
- Participated less in group activities, but more in individual/family activities
- Participated more because of t
- Participated more in outdoor activities
- Participated MORE. Participated in many, many more outdoor activities.
- Participation only limited when facilities are closed or hours are restricted.
- Participation was low no attendance, so fewer people, less revenue, not as much fun, harder to keep organization going
- People lost their minds over this BS. Had an elderly guy try to fight me while fishing on one of the fishing docks at Sheridan with my two pre-teens. Scared my daughter to the point she didn't want to go fishing any longer. Maybe more conservation officers to help keep idiots in check?
- People need to get over covid, it is no different then the annual flu season.
- Personally covid didn't really impact my outdoor activities because I'm always outside participating in some form outdoor activity
- places are busier making it harder to do things I enjoy when I have time
- Places got too crowded
- Places where randomly closed which negatively impacted me
- Playgrounds were closed for my kids
- Playing football
- Positive - didn't do anything in indoor public areas.
- positive fewer people in state park
- Positive - had more free time
- Positive - helped me escape the nonsense of society
- Positive - I just spent more time hunting
- Positive - increased participation in water sports (paddle board) and increased interest in hunting and shooting sports
- positive - made it a priority to get out and get fresh air - and had the time since I was working from home
- "Positive - more time
- Negative - the quarantine "
- Positive - nice to get out and be in nature
- Positive - provided a location to go away from people where we didn't need to worry about wearing masks which was helpful as a parent with young kids
- Positive - spent more time in the outdoors and less time in public places
- Positive - spent more time outdoors

- Positive - was able to telework, thus eliminating a two hour commute and opening up more free time. My partner and I got into canoeing and completed the entire Jay Heath Canoe Trail during the year of 2020
- positive - was the one thing could continue
- positive - we did more outside
- Positive - went outside more
- "Positive
- Outside and alone away from people"
- Positive , got outside more
- Positive .
- Positive = It kept more people inside and let me get outside more.
- Positive allowed for outdoors with friends and relatives without masking. Allows to distance from big crowds.
- Positive as I go out in nature more to get away from the crowds
- Positive as it gave me the space to social distance.
- positive as it got most of us outside more
- Positive as less transmission outside.
- Positive as we could spend more time outdoors with our kids.
- Positive because the pandemic didn't bother me as much as I
- Positive because we went camping more
- Positive being out doors; negative in the fact that South Dakota did not seem to take COVID-19 as seriously as they should have. Mandates and social distancing not enforced. Sanitation not as good as it should have been.
- positive except for the fact that more people visited parks and they are getting overcrowded.
- Positive felt safe outdoors
- Positive for me cause I like to be outdoors alone and got a lot of time of that
- Positive for the most part
- "positive got us outdoors more alone
- negative less family and friend gatherings
- Positive- helped get out and still socialize
- Positive I got out more in the park.
- Positive I hiked a lot more when my job forced some time off
- "Positive- I spent more time outdoors
- Negative- outdoor recreation was more crowded "
- Positive impact because I was able to get out more due to office being closed
- Positive impact because we camped more at our favorite boondocking site, but there were so many campers it was crowded
- Positive impact being outdoors and easily able to social distance
- Positive impact but also negative. Positive because people were able to get outside more than normal, but negative because it put more strain on an already strained resource.
- Positive impact by bettering my health to reduce co-morbidities
- Positive impact for outdoor activities since that was one of the only safe things to do during the last two years.
- Positive impact in getting me out tent camping more
- Positive impact in that we could spend more time outside without worrying about exposure

- Positive impact on more time to go outdoors and adequate spacing with others at the park - fresh air
- positive impact through outdoor isolation when needed
- Positive impact, I was able to get out more o the water with canoes, kayaks, and motorized boats.
- Positive impact, more time for outdoor activities, ability to be socially distant, tried new things
- positive impact, provided needed recreational activities
- positive impact, we enjoyed friends in outdoor activities
- Positive impact, we were outside more.
- Positive impact. I took up birdwatching seriously and did a lot of hiking. Being outdoors was a solution to isolation. I did a lot more outdoor photography.
- positive impact. We felt safer being outdoors with other people so we increased our outdoor activities, especially walking/hiking. We also started new hobbies: cross country skiing and disc golf.
- Positive impact. I participated in more outdoor activities.
- Positive impact. Not only did we get out more for recreation, local public parks provided sites for board meetings, outdoor gathering at proper social distance for meetings and events.
- Positive in that it gave me more time to fish and hunt. Negative in the way that it may have effected fish and animal populations due to increased pressure.
- Positive- it was one of the places people felt SAFE.
- Positive- less having to attend events translates into more outdoor recreation time.
- Positive more time outside
- Positive more time spent outdoors with family
- Positive out and about more
- Positive outdoor more
- "Positive since I enjoyed outdoors experiences in SD more.
- Also negative, since we saw a larger than normal influx out out of staters which made areas over used and busy"
- Positive since we spent more time together as a family
- Positive spent more time outside
- Positive spent much more time outdoors
- positive to distance or mask around lots of people
- Positive to get and stay outside
- Positive we got outdoors more and not indoors
- Positive we spent more time participating in or favorite activities.
- Positive went fishing more
- positive ww spent more time camping
- Positive, I spent much more time in the tree stand
- Positive, spent more time outdoors
- Positive, as being outdoors allowed getting together in groups when it was not safe to do so indoors.
- Positive, couldn't do much else besides go hunting and fishing.
- Positive, did more hunting and fishing
- Positive, got me Exercising
- Positive, had more time for activity
- Positive, I felt safe enjoying outside activities

- Positive, I was able to get out and about and go fishing more often due to school closures
- Positive, I'm an introvert and didn't mind
- positive, increased my use of outdoor facilities
- positive, more outside activities
- Positive, more people are out enjoying parks
- "Positive, more reason to go outdoors
- Positive, more time for the outdoors.
- Positive, more time to get outside
- Positive, reduced my expenses
- positive, spent more time outside away from people
- Positive, spent more time outside. my favorite activity is hiking, only change was no car pooling
- Positive, took chance to observe more
- Positive, was more family time
- Positive, we choose more outdoor activities
- Positive, we got out for more hikes which helped our frame of mind.
- positive, we went everywhere using precautions, we enjoyed the parks uncrowded
- positive, we were able to get out and still enjoy the things we liked.
- Positive, we were able to use the park facilities more often
- Positive, went outside more and visited parks for walks
- Positive.
- Positive. Didn't affect it
- Positive. I took my family to the parks more often.
- Positive. Just used things more!
- Positive. Needed to be outdoors more rather than indoors.
- Positive. People who may not have gotten out to enjoy the outdoors joined me on activities such as hiking and kayaking that they may not have if other indoor activities were available
- Positive. Spent more time outdoors
- Positive. Working from home gave me scheduling flexibility, so I could get outside in daylight more often.
- Positive. Able to golf more and be outside since indoor activities and travel were limited
- positive. because I could avoid human contact. 30 tent nights in 2020 and 20 in 2021.
- Positive. Get away from people
- Positive. Getting outdoors was key
- Positive. Got out and exercised by walking away more often since the pandemic.
- positive. got outdoors even when very cold. helped my physical and mental outlook.
- Positive. Helped us get out of the house for exercise and mental well-being. Could count on it being pretty spread out—not a lot of people unless camping.
- Positive. I needed to be outdoors!
- Positive. I received free vitamin D
- Positive. Indoor activities were limited and obviously can't stay at home in fear forever. Was still able to enjoy activities outside
- Positive. More time to be outside.
- positive. other activities were cancelled
- Positive. Outdoor activities take you away from dangerous social interactions where covid could be contracted.

- Positive. People stayed away from me
- Positive. We felt more comfortable spending time outdoors than indoors.
- Positive. We spent way more time outdoors.
- Positive/ more outdoor activities
- Positive: spent way more time in walks, purchased a bicycle and a new camper
- Positive: what better way to social distance than to get outside?
- Positive-did not feel outdoor activity would lead to covid exposure
- Positive-during nice months spent more time outdoors because didn't want to be indoors and around crowds of people
- Positive-encouraged me to get out of the house and away from people
- Positively
- Positively due to more outdoor activities (picnics, camping, fishing, etc.)
- Positively impacted, did much more of it and that has remained since Covid has ceased some.
- Positive—only place we gathered with friends
- "Positives spent more time outdoors
- Negative more people in areas spending time outdoors "
- Positive-safe, healthy outdoor activities-hiking, biking, KAYAKING, x-country skiing, snowshoeing and dog park
- Postive
- Postive gave more free time to go out and less people where there
- Postive. We went out hiking more because we had more time to do so.
- Pretty much stay away from crowds
- Pretty neutral as a whole. I saw more people out, but I am out a lot and COVID did not change that. If anything it slightly increased.
- Probably did even more outdoor recreation...we needed to get off computers!
- Probably didn't do as much just to avoid being around other people in parks.
- Probably just got out and hiked a bit more. That was positive. Stayed away from activities that put us all in contact with a lot of people as South Dakota was not very smart and produced high infection rates. The rest of the activities remained the same.
- Probably negative
- Probably spent more time out because of Covid. A good thing
- Problems affecting going out to play basketball, volleyball
- Provided me more opportunities / time to participate because other activities were put on hold.
- Put more people on the land scape. Got crowded
- Ran into more hunters
- really didn't
- really little or no impact on favorites: these are largely things that i do alone/with family
- Recreated locally more
- Recreation events were canceled (not fun) or conducted virtually (on your own - not as fun).
- Recreation is outdoors, no change
- Reduce The number of different people we spent time with
- Reduced camping and travel for camping. Increased local recreation without overnight stays (birding, day hikes)
- Reduced frequency of park visits due to need to minimize contact with people in public space



- Reduced large group hunts, many friends and family stayed home. Covid was a minor negative impact
- Reduced the amount of time spent where there typically are large numbers of people.
- Reduced time in the outdoors overall.
- Reduced travel opportunities both within South Dakota and, particularly, outside of South Dakota.
- Reduced visitation to public places
- Reluctant to participate with other people in close proximity; avoided any 'large' gathering.
- Replaced other activities with more outdoor activities to promote social distancing
- Retired, fished more, positive
- Safe outlet
- Same other than increased time to participate
- Saw increased outdoor activity from others, but we continued to ours as normal
- Sd allowed way too many people into our state and that caused cv19a to go up and that caused me to stay home
- Seems as if there's been a increase in participation in most outdoor activities. Some resources have been overwhelmed.
- Several events canceled. Negative
- Shorter trap season
- SHUT DOWN INTERACTION WITH THE PUBLIC.
- Simply did not go where there were crowds of people we did not know or were related to.
- Since most of my activities are solitary experiences my activity increased modestly because of the need for social distancing during the Covid-19 Pandemic.
- Since we avoided large indoor gatherings of people, we spent more time walking and biking as a family on paved trails. We also camped one more weekend each summer instead of a hotel trip.
- Since your keyword is 'outdoor', our (2 of us) participation in & enjoyment of a favorite activity, fishing, was impacted not at all.
- Slight positive impact because we sought out recreation outdoors more often than pre-pandemic, but the cold weather and having young children makes it tough to get out very often.
- Slightly negative as I was more likely to go without some things rather than be around people to obtain them.
- Slightly negative . Most often can maintain social distancing during outdoor activities .
- Slightly negative impact as we avoided crowded areas
- slightly negative.....some friends and family did not visit due to covid
- Slowed down our getting out to parks a little
- Small impact as events were canceled.
- Social distance myself
- Social distancing
- Some activities were cancelled.
- some activities were closed off, was a negative for kids.
- Some activities were unavailable or hindered during that time. It was mostly negative.
- Some activities/events were canceled.
- Some baseball and softball programs were canceled
- some canceled programs
- Some in our family didn't go hunting during the pandemic.

- Some negative impact
- Some places that I would have visited were closed. Some of the trails that I used had far more people on them (which was a negative for me, though I liked seeing people getting out on the trails!). Overall, the impact was only slightly negative regarding outdoor activities.
- Some places were closed so did more camping and boating. Impact was neither positive nor negative
- Some regular hunting partners from out of state did not come during the pandemic.
- Some things seemed closed. Early on everyone was scared and i think many people just stayed inside.
- somewhat
- somewhat
- Somewhat decreased visiting crowded areas or areas of high use. We stayed mostly to ourselves as much as possible but still participated in the things we liked doing such as hiking, biking, visiting historic sites etc.
- Somewhat early cut down on outdoor archery and trapshooting.
- Somewhat negative
- Somewhat negative
- Somewhat negative
- Somewhat negatively
- somewhat positive
- South Cakota was good, other states that closed or limited access to parks and restaurants were tough. Made me happy to be back in the state.
- Spend alot more time outdoors away from people so very positive in my opinion
- Spent less time inside at visitor centers / museums /etc. but outdoor- no change
- Spent less time on keeping fit
- Spent more time hunting with my dog.
- Spent more time outdoors
- Spent more time outdoors but not around crowded areas
- Spent more time outdoors hiking.
- Spent more time outdoors with family since community events were at a minimum. Anytime with my family is positive.
- "Spent more time outdoors"
- Spent more time outdoors, just in smaller groups
- Spent more time outside but the parks got more crowded . Camping spots were scarce.
- Spent more time outside. Positive
- spent more time participating in outdoor activities
- Spent more times outdoors to be able to Socially distance. So had a posiiive impact.
- Spent time outdoors to avoid public interaction.
- Split, some areas open where other were closed.
- Started running for my mental well-being
- started RV camping to spend time with family and friends
- Stay outdoors and away from people
- Stayed at random avoided people
- Stayed away from crowded areas
- Stayed away from crowds

- "stayed away from crowds of people. I was ok with that
- stayed away from people
- "Stayed closer to home
- Used more local resources "
- Stayed home
- Stayed home
- Stayed home
- Stayed home a lot more
- Stayed home more
- Stayed home. Negative
- Stayed the same
- Stayed the same
- staying a way from people
- Staying home
- still did my normal things
- Still able to camping just social distance more
- Stopped camping because campgrounds closed.
- Stopped traveling and bought our own land.
- Stores closed, small businesses gone, mask rules and lockdowns in some towns
- Stupid, live life as normal
- Sure would be nice to know the truth. FJB
- Sylvan lake was disgustingly overcrowded.
- Thank goodness I live in South Dakota with a Governor who has a sensible head on her shoulders and didn't buy into the bat-shit crazy agenda that was/is trying to be forced on us for a non-real pandemic. Yes, COVID-19 exists but is nothing like the talking heads are still trying to get us to believe even though the true numbers and science do not support it at all. Thankfully, our outdoor activities were not really impacted - we just stay away from federal land and stayed with State areas.
- "Thankfully, isolation from other people didn't isolate us from nature. I had more time and reason to get out to the woods.
- The "pandemic" did not affect my outdoor recreation at all. This question should not even be included in any type of outdoor planning.
- The ability to travel to my preferred locations was negatively impacted because I have to interact with many people to arrive at the location. Form gas for vehicle to snacks and meals on the road.
- The activity wasn't impacted it was not wanting to stay in hotels\bars\restaurants etc. that effected a lot of people so staying local happened more.
- The Chinese flu didn't impact our participation in our outdoor activities at all except to make SD state parks more crowded due to the freedom we enjoy. Fresh air and sunshine are essential for good health and we didn't diminish these benefits during the flu season.
- the covid 19 pandemic provided a great reason to be outside in nature more often
- The COVID-19 pandemic has given me more opportunities to enjoy the outdoor hobbies I have. It certainly feels like there has been an uptick in the number of people also utilizing the state resources. That is great to see more involved, I also hope the state is able to provide more space and opportunities for things like camping, hunting, and fishing too.
- The emergence of a virus,The effect is negative

- The entire COVID 19 thing , is a bunch of crap.
- The fake pandemic was and still is a joke!
- The fear everyone has is ruining some opportunities, by either cancelling evens or requiring masks or proof of vaccination. I found other things to do.
- The first 6-8 months of lock up. keep your distance was bad on the body, breaking out the last nnumber of months.
- The huge influx of tourists to our state because of our open response to Covid made my enjoyment less positive because it was too crowded!
- The impact did not stop us from participating in our favorite outdoor activities.
- The impact I had was positive. I love spending time outdoors in general, but especially out on the lakes. I occasionally will buy a day fishing license and do some fishing, or just go fishing or even find a friend or family with a boat and go boating.
- The impact was in between negative and positive
- The impact was very negative. Places where I would go to hunt or fish by myself always seem to have people there. Before COVID-19 I would have an entire shoreline or public hunting area to myself.
- The local swimming pool was closed
- The main impact was that it made our lakes and trails busier.
- The more outdoor sports the better, there is no great impact on us
- The only negative that I saw was from your Governor. I lost my best friend that I hunted with for 50 years from Covid-19. Making this Pandemic and the prevention protocols political was extremely disturbing.
- the only negative was some outdoor areas being closed being
- The only time change is when I had Covid
- The only way it negatively impacted me was that it seemed more crowded.
- The pandemic brought more people and awareness to the outdoors, which is good. But I loved when we had the area to ourselves and could explore without a hundred other people around.. People are out there, but are lacking respect to nature. Through programs, some are learning and appreciating more our natural world and becoming better stewards, but there are always going to be that few.
- The pandemic coincided with my retirement, so I had more time to walk the trails
- The pandemic decreased my participation in some outdoor activities. This resulted in a slight decrease in level of fitness/wellness.
- The pandemic did not affect my participation in any outdoor activities.
- The pandemic did not affect our participation in outdoor activities at all. We don't usually participate with anyone outside of our immediate family.
- The pandemic did not change my activity
- The pandemic didn't affect my outdoor activities.
- The pandemic has greatly increased the number of outdoor users and overrun the availability of recreational access close to communities.
- The pandemic hasn't really changed my participation in outdoor activities. I've stopped doing almost all indoor activities, but have kept up with my usual outdoor ones, which has been really nice. I've felt safe outdoors, especially when I'm hiking, kayaking, or skiing and not surrounded by many people.
- The pandemic impacted social participation in sports. However, we used the water activities and boated and fished much more.

- The pandemic is over. It never had an impact on outdoor activities.
- The pandemic made us get outside more as that was acceptable with social distancing. It had a positive impact for us.
- The people that were afraid of covid stayed home and made more room for the unafraid
- The picnic
- The same as before
- The spread of the virus is feared to affect itself
- The spread of the virus is frightening
- The spread of the virus is more serious to worry about itself
- The spread of the virus the government demanded that the outing be reduced
- The sublimation of exchange value should suggest the logic of a radical alterity. The totalization of the gaze allegorizes the authentication of power. Pootwattle's carefully researched summary of the relationship between the totalization of the gaze and the authentication of power is exceptionally resistant to summary, as befits its project.
- "The summer of 2020 our only recreation was camping and hiking. It was actually a very relaxing, laid back summer.
- Last summer we were out camping and hiking about as much as normal pre-covid."
- the swimming pools were either closed or had time limits and that was a negative for us.
- The vid had made the outdoor areas over crowded in California. Every where else we went was not as crowded, but people in National parks seemed more stressed or scared.
- There are definitely more people out in the woods, enjoying nature. This is putting a strain on the natural resources....in a negative way.
- There are more people now and that sucks
- There no change. It's just the flu
- There really was no impact, only that some parks facilities were more crowded.
- There seemingly was more competition for camping spots
- There was a big increase in the amount of campers, fishermen and boaters on the river and in the campgrounds
- There was a moderate decrease because the camp grounds and atv trails are full. Some people on the trails were disrespectful with all the US flags dragging or nearly dragging in the dirt. We stayed at one campground and the men would urinate where ever they felt. The would yell about being free, but had not problem urinating in from of women and children. The people that act like this are few but sure disgusting.
- There was a negative and positive effect. Due to the pandemic more people went outside on lakes or pools so they were more crowded. But it gave me a chance to meet and learn new techniques from other people.
- There was an increase in participation from the public in recreational activities
- There was little else to do if you were covid conscious.
- There was no change
- There was no difference positive or negative.
- There was no impact - most of our outdoor activities are by nature socially-distanced
- There was no impact at all.
- there was no impact.
- There was no impact. The COVID scare was a hoax and it wasn't a pandemic in anyway. Plus being outdoors was the best thing for you as the flu is not contractable outside, unless you lick

eachother's tongues!! Hello, this needs to stop being brought up....it's all over and being exposed as the hoax it was.

- There was quite a bit more time available to do more outdoor activities because of the lack of anything else to do.
- There was significant crowding on public land which to me demonstrates the need to secure more.
- There were fewer options to visit.
- There were more people in the hunting and fishing world that were using the same areas.
- They close the campgrounds Where would you like to go and get only get in
- Things were much more crowded than before, especially hunting area
- This has not affected my outdoor activities. I'm usually alone or with family and friends. It was neither negative or positive. My friends were a little more cautious at the gas pumps but other than that there was no impact.
- This situation was over hyped by dishonest assholes at the highest levels of the federal government.
- This survey is starting to get long.
- To many people
- To play badminton
- To play table tennis
- To play tennis
- too long of a survey .... pretty much just filling in stuff just to get it complete at this point...
- Too many people with nothing to do.
- Too much to be infected with the virus,
- Took more time for camping and walking trails
- Trails are more crowded than before.
- Travel has been disrupted due to COVID-19, but it cannot stop one from pursuing one's own hobby
- Travel risk
- Travel. Did not go.
- travelled less
- tried not to let it impact, but did more activities alone
- Tried to not go to many busy areas. Impact was positive.
- Truly dissatisfied with closing of my Rushmore. Thaxs Joe Biden
- Try to stay from people more
- Unable to camp due to major increase in campers. I live in Yankton and was unable to camp here due to the mass influx if tourists
- Unable to socialize with friends during activities.
- Unchanged
- Unchanged
- Unchanged
- Unemployed out of states flooded the fishing areas because they're states have closed seasons for walleye. It's my opinion that if they can't fish in their state they shouldn't be allowed to fish in ours because I just don't believe that the Missouri River can sustain the added fishing pressure for long, and if that happens it will be very sad again.
- Use outdoor facilities more.

- Used public shower house less, relied more on RV for showers.
- Used public walking trails more, met friends for walks on trails.
- Used outdoors more often
- Used the opportunity to expand use of outdoors
- Very careful to keep social distance
- Very little
- Very little interaction with other campers
- Very little change
- Very little change.
- Very little impact
- Very little impact in my family's activities. We live in the country to begin with. Too much of the COVID experience was guided by POLITICAL science, not actual science. Activities and movements were excessively restricted for artificial purposes. Those who refused to live in fear continued on almost as normal. I was frustrated by the ineffective measures.
- very little impact.
- very little impact. a little negative due to the need to distance from other people
- Very little impact. Fortunate that I didn't drag it home.
- Very little.
- Very negative
- Very negative
- Very negative
- very negatively impacted the ability to travel and interact with people.
- Walked & bicycled more in 2020 due to less out-of-town travel.
- Walked or biked every day which was great.
- walking, camping and golfing provided us recreation where we could be alone, with just our family/ safe group during the pandemic
- walking, hiking-positive
- Walking-No change
- Wanting to avoid indoor spaces, outdoor spaces became more important.
- Was able to be outside away from people more. Went on plenty of walks and bike rides.
- Was able to do more and parks were less crowded
- Was able to meet outdoors with friends, have meetings outdoors, walk with friends etc.
- was fine. no real impact
- Was harder to find available campsites
- Was harder to get a campsite at favorite campground
- Was less social in general, with family & friends
- Was more difficult to get into some facilities
- Was not affected
- Was not an impact
- was outside more, hiked and rode more ATVs
- was reluctant to gather in large groups
- Was sick and missed.2020. Hunting
- was still able to be outside and enjoy the parks
- Was very frustrating to abide by rules when just trying to get outside
- Wasn't applicable for me

- Way more people out on trails now it's harder to find a nice quiet place to hike without ATVs and UTVs disturbing us or running at high rates of speed down a trail.
- Way to crowded. Un enjoyable
- We actually made it our goal to visit as many state parks as we could that summer.
- WE ALWAYS ARE OUTSIDE, SO NOT MUCH CHANGE FOR US.....IF ANYTHING WE WENT CAMPING AND FISHING MORE BECAUSE WE HAD NO OTHER ACTIVITIES
- WE ARE ALWAYS OUTDOORS SO JUST MORE PEOPLE DOING THE SAME THING, WE WERE ALREADY OUTDOORS ALOT BEFORE THE PANDEMIC
- We avoided any activities that would be crowded.
- We avoided indoor / crowded outdoor much as possible.
- We bought a travel trailer in the fall of 2019. The use of the camper was extremely important for our family due to the pandemic in 2020 and it has continued. Definitely a positive impact.
- we camped less and spent less time away from home due to the pandemic and family members concerned about it. We were unable to enjoy many of our 'normal' activities mainly due to the mental health impact on particular family members
- We camped less last year
- WE camped more because outside activities were the safest.
- We camped more with our family.
- We canceled Snow Birding in Texas in 2021-22!
- We continued outdoor activities because you could socially distance.
- We continued to camp as much as usual even with Covid-19.
- We continued to do most of our normal outdoor activities
- we continued to hike, visit CSP, Angostura and Wind Cave National Park.
- We could still hike or enjoy the outdoors so the pandemic didn't really affect what we do. He could still fish, I could hike or take photos. We didn't go camping like usual but not all due to covid.
- We decided to travel more locally, and enjoy the outdoors more. Air travel was out of the question, as was destinations with crowds (like museums or sporting events). Travel by RV was perfect for our desire for trips of a longer duration, and camping in state forest and state park campgrounds is our preferred stop because of them being part of some larger destination with hiking, kayaking, scenic drives, etc.
- We decreased indoor activities, such as shopping, etc. Met with friends at parks while the weather permitted.
- We did less classes and no indoor to more outdoor and just is. Th re are positives and negatives for both those.
- We did more activities but they were different activities where there were not as many people.
- We did more activities with as many people as possible.
- We did more camping, hiking and fishing which we enjoy anyway, but had more time to do with other activities limited due to COVID-19.
- we did more outdoor activities but so did many other people so most public places were busy
- We did more since we didn't want to be inside.
- We did more things outdoors and away from people
- We did not participate if there was a large crowd
- We did not pay attention to the so called government advice and went outside as usual
- We didn't care about the pandemic and lived our life as we have.



- We didn't feel safe going to municipal parks, we did increase our usage of state and federal parks. We didn't feel safe being indoors at the gfp outdoor campus west, and we were disappointed that they didn't offer outdoor classes and activities.
- We didn't get out to state parks or kayak as much. It was negative
- We didn't go camping due to possible exposure of everyone using the same facilities
- We didn't bother with C19 planning. It did not affect what we did outdoors at all. We did the same as usual and didn't worry about it. Thank your Governor for keeping things normal and open rather than following the fear in other states.
- We didn't get together in big groups during the pandemic and were more careful.
- We didn't go out as much at first, but then once we realized it was better to be outside than sitting inside all the time, we started going out again more frequently and loved having parks and recreational places to go to.
- We didn't travel out of state to some of the fishing destinations that we typically would have (ie. Ontario and Minnesota)
- We discovered many new walking and hiking trails.
- We don't go camping as much...we got out of our routine and haven't gotten back up to speed.
- We engaged in outdoor activities at the same frequency as we did before COVID but in much smaller groups or by going alone
- We enjoy outdoor activities (mostly camping and boating in the summer and hunting in the fall) as often as possible so the only impact COVID had on us was that it made our usual spots more congested because more people were enjoying them too. We're glad that people were getting outside to enjoy God's bountiful gifts but it did make it more difficult to fully enjoy it ourselves
- We enjoyed the outdoors as we could be off by ourselves and get away from home
- We fish a lot so it didn't affect us much
- we go to ones that are outdoors and have distance to greatly reduce the exposure to Covid
- We got out more, but interacted with strangers less.
- We got outside more because we felt safer with no need to mask.
- We had more time to do it.
- We had more time to go outside.
- We had no impact, this was one place I felt safe heading to.
- We had to avoid packed campgrounds
- We have always been an outdoor family, more than others I would say. The pandemic gave us more free time to utilize our public outdoor spaces. It was great, and I loved it, but now we have done everything within a 100 mile radius or so multiple times and we either need new experiences or further drives to keep exploring public lands.
- We have always been campers, however with the pandemic suddenly everyone else was to and made it difficult to make campground reservations.
- We have children under 5 and are limiting access.
- we have gone camping more
- We have tried to keep COVID-19 from impacting our lives as much as possible. The biggest negative is having to wear useless masks - even after they've been proven to be as effective at preventing the virus and its spread as the non-vaccine shots are, which is NOT. We have avoided places where vaccination was required, so their paranoia is their loss. We have chosen to go places where we can be outdoors in fresh air, and COVID-19 has only impacted that when things are closed because of it.
- We have uncreased our park visits and returned to camping

- We hiked more in the winter due to so many people on the hiking trails in summer. We swam more since there didn't seem to be an increase in lake swimming. We explored new hiking areas that are less advertised. We became more secretive about new trail discoveries to prevent them from being trampled.
- We increased our activities, but had always done them. During the pandemic there was a lot more people in the areas we frequent and it was harder to relax and enjoy.
- we just avoid people but still use recreation facilities.
- We just lost a few group related activities, but most of our other activities were not affected by Covid.
- We just take precautions to keep our safe space and wash our hands after being in public areas. We avoid crowded spaces.
- We likely picked up COVID at our area ski hill in lift lines and crowds
- We maintained our normal activities. We traveled in our motorhome to the 'free' states of Florida and South Dakota.
- We mask up and go out. We wear masks indoor activities.
- We mostly stayed home did not go out a lot...
- We never stopped going places during the pandemic
- We ride horseback usually by ourselves, so there was little impact.
- We rv and kayak fish, and it was very difficult to find places in the state campgrounds in western South Dakota.
- We seemed to have more time for it
- We sold our camper in 2019 when COVID hit so definitely had a negative impact on us knowing we wouldn't be able to get in to most campgrounds, was the ONLY thing people did so was just too hard to do.
- We spent more time and saw more parks, places we had never seen as we searched for unpopulated areas, in difficult times we were cautious but found ourselves having a wonderful time.
- We spent more time camping and hiking during the week to avoid crowds
- We spent more time outside since we could not be in congested areas
- We stay in state
- We stayed away from people while continuing our camping activities
- We stayed away, mostly, even though we are vaxed and boosted. We missed being out terribly and are gradually adding things back into our lives. Wouldn't change our past behavior, we are healthy and well because of it.
- We stayed home more in 2020, ventured out with masks 2021, stayed to ourselves when camping.
- We still camp just don't use the public bathrooms or showers.
- We still camped, walked, fished, played outside games with our families & that was a very positive experience for what was happening in our country.
- We still do outdoor activities but we isolate which is easy to do in South Dakota parks
- We still shot the shit out of them.
- "we tried to avoid being near groups of people--stayed at home more the last couple of years
- "
- We tried to camp more, but was difficult to get reservations. Wish that all state parks would have a set amount of spaces that were first come, first serve.
- We upgraded to a camper so that we wouldnt have to use public restrooms in parks

- We walked more in-town but did not venture into the Black Hills for any activities that involved going inside a building, restaurant, etc. WE enjoyed hiking and camping, but only where we could avoid close proximity with others.
- We wanted to support South Dakota in its allowing freedom during COVID-19, so we did the most travelling, camping, site seeing, etc. than we had ever previously done. We were glad to support South Dakota.
- "WE went - we lived our lives and didn't worry about covid!
- "
- We went out less
- We went out more and visited parks we had never been to before
- We went with groups less
- we were able to enjoy camping through pandemic. Kids didnt participate in many sports due to pandemic
- We were camping and fishing more with our grandkids.
- We were not able to get our groups together to enjoy the outdoors as before
- We were not able to take our planned 40th wedding anniversary trip to the Black hills, originally planned for 2020 bumped to 2021 and still might not be able to for 2021. Thanks to Putin. Although it's likely to be cheaper to do a road trip south of the border than in Canada.
- We were out in the parks etc. quite often during the pandemic.
- We were outside more. not worried about it.
- We were still able to camp and hike so it did not affect us very much
- We were still able to do our outdoor activities
- We were still able to participate in our outdoor activities, but it was not as enjoyable when buildings were not open, and activities were scaled down. Also access to restrooms at state parks in Minnesota were restricted, which made things inconvenient. I don't know if SD was that way.
- We were very active outside prior to the pandemic. Now we have to share the trails with more people. Those people don't necessarily treat the resources nicely or practice good etiquette.
- We were very careful being around a lot of people.
- We will be careful
- We will not be going into crowded places, gift shops, restaurants, visitor centers.
- We would rather be outdoors with large groups. It's a positive thing! It's just difficult sometimes because of the cold weather in the winters
- Well it was a negative impact in that more people were out at my favorite places, but that is positive as I want more people to enjoy the outdoors. It just poses difficult management issues.
- Well people in this state got crazy and everyone went camping. Now some of my favorite locations are overrun by out of staters whose own states didn't stay open.
- Went camping and visited outdoor parks and spaces a lot more than in the past.
- Went fishing more during the beginning of the pandemic.
- Went frisbee golfing and to the beach a lot more
- went golfing weekly was not afraid of covid & did what I wanted
- Went hiking alone to places not crowded
- went less
- Went less places and avoided congested areas.
- went more to enjoy the open spaces

- Went outside more - vacation in 2020 there were less people out and about - sight seeing we had great pictures - positive because we enjoyed nature with less people to share it with
- Went outside more spent more time with family. Best year ever.
- Went outside more to escape family and house.
- Went to fewer organized events
- What Covid?
- What is Covid-19? It never affected my outdoor hobbies.
- When Covid-19 shut down schools and businesses early on, my family turned to outdoor recreation as an activity that could be done together, and outdoors. We were active before, but now spend considerable more time outdoors.
- When elderly is involved we did not do as much with crowds of people so they would not get sick negative experience since we did not get to things we wanted.
- When they didn't have kids activities we did a lot more fishing. It was awesome.
- When we couldn't go anywhere else, we would go outside. We went camping when others were probably afraid to. It was a positive impact, you can go outside in South Dakota and stay 6 feet apart from others and get fresh air and sunshine.
- With certain things canceled we had more time to hunt and fish
- with outdoor activities we could social distance without any problems
- With work events being cancelled it gave me more time to do outdoor activities.
- Without having to travel to work allowed more time to go run at Lake Vermillion campgrounds.
- Worry about how far I stand away from people and if stuff is clean and disinfected a negative
- Would have been better if the Governor would have tried to save lives rather than kill people by not helping families in SD.
- Would like to have been camping more, but everything was booked
- Yes
- yes passive
- Yes very negative couldn't go camping to get away
- Yes, negative
- Zero
- zero
- ZERO impact
- Zero impact

**Section VI**

4. What is your zip code?

Zip code frequency in South Dakota

<b>Zip Code</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>County</b>
57501	178	Pierre	Hughes County
57702	176	Rapid City	Pennington
57106	134	Sioux Falls	Minnehaha
57006	130	Brookings	Brookings
57701	116	Rapid City	Pennington
57201	107	Watertown	Codington
57108	86	Sioux Falls	Lincoln County
57401	83	Aberdeen	Brown
57350	75	Huron	Beadle County
57301	72	Mitchel	Davison
57730	70	Custer	Custer
57783	66	Spearfish	Lawrence
57078	65	Yankton	Yankton
57103	64	Sioux Falls	Minnehaha
57110	60	Sioux Falls	Minnehaha
57703	60	Rapid City	Pennington
57105	56	Sioux Falls	Minnehaha
57785	46	Sturgis	Meade
57747	42	Hot Springs	Fall River
57005	40	Brandon	Minnehaha
57104	38	Sioux Falls	Minnehaha
57042	36	Madison	Lake
57718	34	Black Hawk	Meade
57069	33	Vermillion	Clay
57033	30	Hartford	Minnehaha
57032	28	Harrisburg	Lincoln County
57745	22	Hill City	Pennington
57022	21	Dell Rapids	Minnehaha
57064	21	Tea	Lincoln County
57252	20	Milbank	Grant
57601	20	Mobridge	Walworth
57719	20	Box Elder	Pennington
57744	20	Hermosa	Custer
57107	19	Sioux Falls	Minnehaha
57532	19	Fort Pierre	Stanley
57399	18	Huron	Beadle County
57717	18	Belle Fourche	Butte
57754	18	Lead	Lawrence
57071	16	Volga	Brookings

Appendix C: Open-ended Questions

57769	16	Piedmont	Meade
57017	15	Colman	Moody
57366	15	Parkston	Hutchinson
57013	14	Canton	Lincoln County
57039	14	Lennox	Lincoln
57058	14	Salem	McCook
57212	14	Arlington	Kingsbury
57732	14	Deadwood	Lawrence
57049	13	North Sioux City	Union
57430	13	Britton	Marshall
57025	12	Elk Point	Union
57030	12	Garretson	Minnehaha
57249	12	Lake Preston	Kingsbury
57274	12	Webster	Day County
57325	12	Chamberlain	Brule
57451	12	Ipswich	Edmunds County
57469	11	Redfield	Spink
57580	11	Winner	Tripp
57003	10	Baltic	Minnehaha
57018	10	Colton	Minnehaha
57020	10	Crooks	Minnehaha
57053	10	Parker	Turner
57234	10	Estelline	Hamlin
57369	10	Platte	Charles Mix
57445	10	Groton	Brown
57638	10	Lemmon	Perkins
57793	10	Whitewood	Lawrence
57004	9	Beresford	Union
57043	9	Marion	Turner
57220	9	Bruce	Brookings
57262	9	Sisseton	Roberts
57028	8	Flandreau	Moody
57038	8	Jefferson	Union
57101	8	Sioux Falls	Minnehaha
57225	8	Clark	Clark
57226	8	Clear Lake	Deuel
57276	8	White	Brookings
57362	8	Miller	Hand
57382	8	Springs	Jerauld
57002	7	Aurora	Brookings
57007	7	Brookings	Brookings
57014	7	Centerville	Turner
57077	7	Worthing	Lincoln County

Appendix C: Open-ended Questions

57241	7	Hayti	Hamlin
57243	7	Henry	Codington
57248	7	Lake Norden	Hamlin
57273	7	Waubay	Day County
57278	7	Willow Lake	Clark
57328	7	Corsica	Douglas
57380	7	Wagner	Charles Mix
57523	7	Burke	Gregory
57551	7	Martin	Bennett
57001	6	Alcester	Union
57015	6	Chancellor	Turner
57029	6	Freeman	Hutchinson
57035	6	Humboldt	Minnehaha
57036	6	Hurley	Turner
57223	6	Castlewood	Hamlin
57239	6	Grenville	Day County
57279	6	Wilmot	Roberts
57321	6	Canova	Miner
57345	6	Highmore	Hyde
57355	6	Kimball	Brule
57368	6	Plankinton	Aurora
57442	6	Gettysburg	Potter County
57564	6	Onida	Sully County
57735	6	Edgemont	Fall River
57751	6	Keystone	Pennington
57010	5	Burbank	Clay
57046	5	Mission Hill	Yankton
57048	5	Montrose	McCook
57055	5	Renner	Minnehaha
57062	5	Springfield	Bon Homme
57066	5	Tyndall	Bon Homme
57068	5	Valley Springs	Minnehaha
57072	5	Volin	Yankton
57216	5	Big Stone City	Grant
57332	5	Emery	Hanson County
57340	5	Fulton	Hanson County
57476	5	Tulare	Spink
57045	4	Menno	Hutchinson
57075	4	Wentworth	Lake
57213	4	Astoria	Deuel
57221	4	Bryant	Hamlin
57247	4	Lake City	Marshall
57260	4	Rosholt	Roberts

Appendix C: Open-ended Questions

57311	4	Alexandria	Hanson County
57356	4	Lake Andes	Charles Mix
57370	4	Pukwana	Brule
57383	4	White Lake	Aurora
57384	4	Wolsey	Beadle County
57438	4	Faulkton	Faulk County
57567	4	Philip	Haakon
57568	4	Presho	Lyman County
57037	3	Irene	Yankton
57054	3	Ramona	Lake
57067	3	Utica	Yankton
57217	3	Bradley	Clark
57236	3	Garden City	Clark
57317	3	Bonesteel	Gregory
57324	3	Cavour	Beadle County
57334	3	Ethan	Davison
57363	3	Mount Vernon	Davison
57365	3	Oacoma	Lyman County
57374	3	Spencer	McCook
57427	3	Bath	Brown
57437	3	Eureka	McPherson
57465	3	Northville	Spink
57472	3	Selby	Walworth
57522	3	Blunt	Hughes County
57533	3	Gregory	Gregory
57759	3	Nemo	Lawrence
57760	3	Newell	Butte
57012	2	Canistota	McCook
57026	2	Elkton	Brookings
57040	2	Lesterville	Yankton
57047	2	Monroe	Turner
57059	2	Scotland	Bon Homme
57061	2	Sinai	Brookings
57063	2	Tabor	Bon Homme
57065	2	Trent	Moody
57070	2	Viborg	Turner
57227	2	Corona	Roberts
57231	2	De Smet	Kingsbury County
57233	2	Erwin	Kingsbury County
57235	2	Florence	Codington
57242	2	Hazel	Hamlin
57256	2	Ortley	Roberts
57261	2	Roslyn	Day County



Appendix C: Open-ended Questions

57263	2	South Shore	Codington
57269	2	Twin Brooks	Grant
57313	2	Armour	Douglas
57319	2	Bridgewater	McCook
57367	2	Pickstown	Charles Mix
57373	2	St. Lawrence	Hand
57376	2	Tripp	Hutchinson
57432	2	Claremont	Brown
57434	2	Conde	Spink
57435	2	Cresbard	Faulk County
57436	2	Doland	Spink
57440	2	Frankfort	Spink
57441	2	Frederick	Brown
57446	2	Hecla	Brown
57454	2	Langford	Marshall
57460	2	Mansfield	Brown
57471	2	Roscoe	Edmunds County
57479	2	Warner	Brown
57538	2	Herrick	Gregory
57544	2	Kennebec	Lyman County
57552	2	Midland	Haakon
57559	2	Murdo	Jones County
57623	2	Dupree	Ziebach
57626	2	Faith	Meade
57632	2	Herreid	Campbell
57642	2	McLaughlin	Corson
57649	2	Prairie City	Perkins
57656	2	Timber Lake	Dewey
57716	2	Batesland	Shannon
57741	2	Fort Meade	Meade
57761	2	New Underwood	Pennington
57773	2	Pringle	Custer
57779	2	Saint Onge	Lawrence
57790	2	Wall	Pennington
57016	1	Chester	Lake
57024	1	Egan	Moody
57027	1	Fairview	Lincoln County
57031	1	Gayville	Yankton
57034	1	Hudson	Lincoln County
57041	1	Lyons	Minnehaha
57050	1	Nunda	Lake
57057	1	Rutland	Lake
57073	1	Wakonda	Clay

## Appendix C: Open-ended Questions

57076	1	Winfred	Lake
57109	1	Sioux Falls	Minnehaha
57118	1	Sioux Falls	Minnehaha
57120	1	Rombas	Moselle
57198	1	Garretson	Minnehaha
57219	1	Bristol	Day County
57224	1	Claire City	Roberts
57232	1	Eden	Marshall
57237	1	Gary	Deuel
57238	1	Goodwin	Deuel
57245	1	Kranzburg	Codington
57255	1	New Effington	Roberts
57257	1	Peever	Roberts
57259	1	Reville	Grant
57265	1	Strandburg	Grant
57270	1	Veblen	Marshall
57271	1	Vienna	Clark
57312	1	Alpena	Jerauld
57315	1	Avon	Bon Homme
57323	1	Carthage	Miner
57330	1	Delmont	Douglas
57342	1	Geddes	Charles Mix
57344	1	Harrison	Douglas
57348	1	Hitchcock	Beadle County
57349	1	Howard	Miner
57358	1	Lane	Jerauld
57359	1	Letcher	Sanborn
57371	1	Ree Heights	Hand
57375	1	Stickney	Aurora
57381	1	Wessington	Hand
57385	1	Woonsocket	Sanborn
57402	1	Aberdeen	Brown
57420	1	Akaska	Walworth
57422	1	Andover	Day County
57428	1	Bowdle	Edmunds County
57433	1	Columbia	Brown
57448	1	Hosmer	Edmunds County
57452	1	Java	Walworth
57456	1	Leola	McPherson
57461	1	Mellette	Spink
57468	1	Pierpont	Day County
57475	1	Tolstoy	Potter County
57481	1	Westport	Brown

Appendix C: Open-ended Questions

57528	1	Colome	Tripp
57531	1	Draper	Jones County
57543	1	Kadoka	Jackson
57555	1	Mission	Todd
57560	1	Norris	Mellette County
57569	1	Reliance	Lyman County
57576	1	Vivian	Lyman County
57579	1	White River	Mellette County
57622	1	Cherry Creek	Ziebach
57631	1	Glenham	Walworth
57633	1	Isabel	Dewey
57641	1	McIntosh	Corson
57660	1	Watauga	Corson
57706	1	Box Elder	Pennington
57709	1	Rapid City	Pennington
57722	1	Buffalo Gap	Custer
57725	1	Caputa	Pennington
57738	1	Fairburn	Custer
57750	1	Interior	Jackson
57762	1	Nisland	Butte
57763	1	Oelrichs	Fall River
57787	1	Union Center	Meade
57788	1	Vale	Butte

Frequency by states (other than South Dakota)

<b>State</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Arizona	3
Arkansas	3
California	7
Colorado	11
Florida	3
Georgia	1
Idaho	1
Illinois	5
Indiana	3
Iowa	60
Kansas	4
Kentucky	1
Maryland	1
Michigan	8
Minnesota	58
Missouri	2
Montana	1
Nebraska	70
Nevada	1
New Mexico	1
New York	5
North Carolina	5
North Dakota	26
Ohio	4
Oklahoma	2
Oregon	3
Pennsylvania	4
South Carolina	1
Tennessee	8
Texas	6
Washington	2
West Virginia	1
Wisconsin	15
Wyoming	7

# 2022 South Dakota SCORP Outdoor Recreation Provider Survey Report

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CONTINUING OUR OUTDOOR LEGACY IN THE NEW ERA



**Prepared by**  
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**JULY 7, 2022**

## **Results: Survey for Outdoor Recreation Providers**

As a preparation for SCORP, outdoor recreation supply in South Dakota was required. Two separate surveys, provider survey (Appendix A) and inventory survey (Appendix B), were used to assess the outdoor recreation supply in South Dakota from various providers in the state as well as identify current trends and challenges.

### **Survey Structure**

There are five sections within the **provider survey**. The first section is the general operation in outdoor recreation, including providers' outdoor recreation opportunities, providers' organizational information, and responsibilities, such as type of organization/agency, target service population, budget, staff, program, facilities, partnership etc. The second section is related to the impacts of COVID-19, including cancelled, postponed, or closed programs or facilities and if the organization added new programming as a response to the pandemic. The third section is responsibilities and priorities in outdoor recreation ranging from conservation efforts, health and wellness, and facilities management and operation in the community. The final section focuses on current challenges in providing outdoor recreation in South Dakota, including population change (e.g., aging, diversity, minority, residential area), financial shortfall, natural and environmental conditions, social and cultural barriers for being outdoors, and quality of staff.

A separate outdoor recreation **facilities inventory survey** with detailed facilities and areas for outdoor recreation was distributed to municipal parks and recreation providers. Outdoor recreation facilities are categorized into four groups, including water-based facilities, trails, sport facilities, and parks and natural/historic areas. An Excel file of the inventory survey will be provided to GFP.

### **Data Collection and Response Summary**

A census-like approach was utilized for both surveys. The research team reached out to 309 incorporated municipalities. In mid-November 2021 an email was sent to 262 municipalities (those with email addresses in GFPs contact database), inviting them to take part in the 2021 SCORP Survey for Outdoor Recreation Providers. According to the QuestionPro database, from November 2021 through March 2022 there were approximately 240 providers who viewed the survey online. Among all these viewers, 103 started the survey, and 56 completed the survey online. The survey was designed without forced response to encourage response; therefore, surveys are considered complete even with minor skipped or missed responses. The online completion rate of the provider survey was approximately 55%. The average time to complete the providers' survey (not including the inventory survey) was sixteen minutes. There were 14 provider surveys emailed back to the principal investigator (PI, Liu). After the first phase of data collection, the research team received 70 surveys from providers.

To increase the rate of response, in mid-February 2022 identical paper surveys were mailed to the municipalities that had not yet completed the online survey, including those who did not have an email address. A cover letter, two surveys (provider survey and inventory), and a return envelope were enclosed in the mailing package. As a result, an additional 70 paper-based provider surveys were returned via mail. Therefore, a total of 140 research participants (cities,

towns, or counties) were utilized in the report for 2023 SCORP, which is doubled from 2013's SCORP provider survey participants. The results of this report were based on the 140 municipality providers' feedback to assess the overall outdoor recreation supply in South Dakota. Please see Appendix C for recruitment materials created by the research team.

As for the facility inventory survey, 115 municipalities finished the inventory survey, of which 40 responded online, and 75 sent paper-based surveys to the PI. Several municipality participants expressed the inventory survey might not apply to their community due to minimum or no recreation facilities within their community. Please see the detailed results in the inventory Excel file.

**Section I: Organization and Community Information**

1. What is the best description of the park and recreation agency/organization with which you are affiliated?

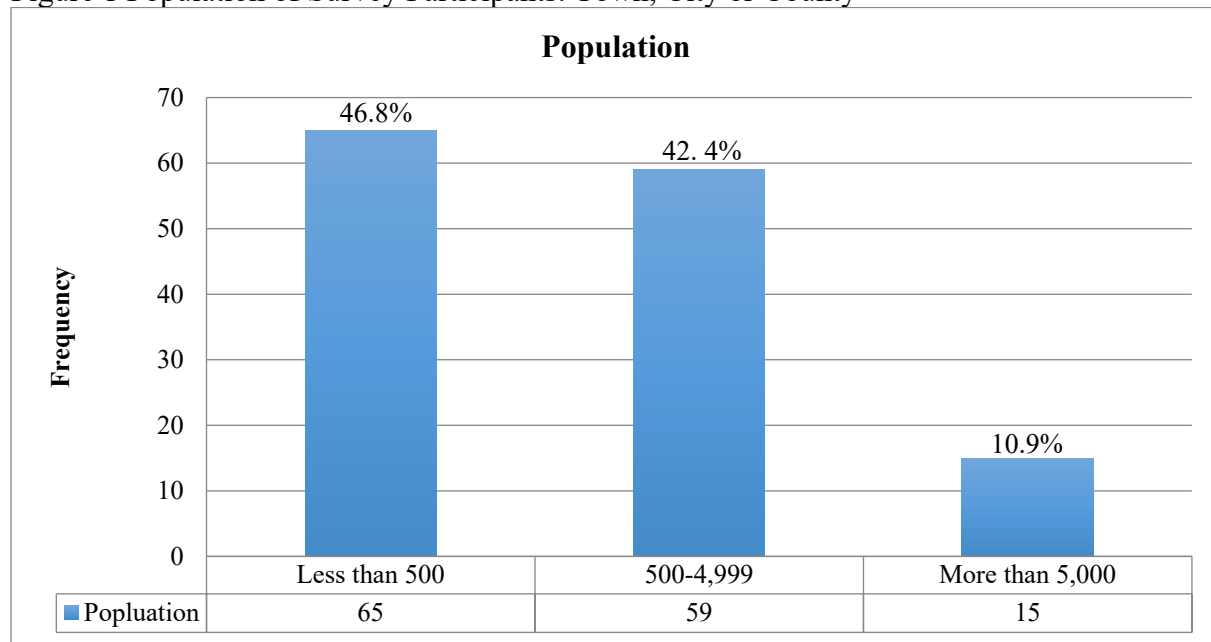
The first question of the provider’s survey asked what the best description of the park and recreation agency/organization with which respondents were affiliated. 93.4% of survey participants were affiliated with a “local and municipal parks and recreation agency” (N = 128). One research participant (0.7%) was affiliated with a “state agency”, one individual (0.7%) stated “non-profit private organization”, and 5.1% (N = 7) stated “other”.

Other affiliation with parks and recreation agencies or organizations came mostly from city funded areas such as parks and municipalities. Some responses mentioned not having a park space in their cities or just having city council or mayor areas

2. What is the population of your town, city or county based on the latest census?

The second question asked for the population size of the city in which providers were providing their services. A total of 139 individuals responded to this question. Below is a graph that shows the responses. 46.8% (N = 65) stated “less than 500”, 42.4% (N = 59) stated “500-4,999”, and 10.9% (N = 15) stated “more than 5,000” (Figure 1).

Figure 1 Population of Survey Participants: Town, City or County



3. What is the zip code of your community/municipality/county office?

Please see Appendix D for the list of zip code of community/municipality/county participating the survey.



4. Does your community/municipality/county have a Parks and/or Recreation Department that employs at least one dedicated individual providing park and recreation services?

Approximately 41.5% of the survey respondents (N = 56) reported that their community/municipality/county have at least one dedicated individual providing park and recreation services, while majority (58.5%, N = 79) do not have at least one dedicated individual providing park and recreation services. The survey participants who selected “No” in this question were asked to answer the following question (Question 5) what other unit of city government provides recreation services for the community.

5. If there is not a Parks and/or Recreation Department, is there another unit of city government provides recreation services for the community?

- Yes: 29 (36.3%)
- No: 51 (63.7%)

6. Does your community/municipality/county have a Parks and Recreation Board?

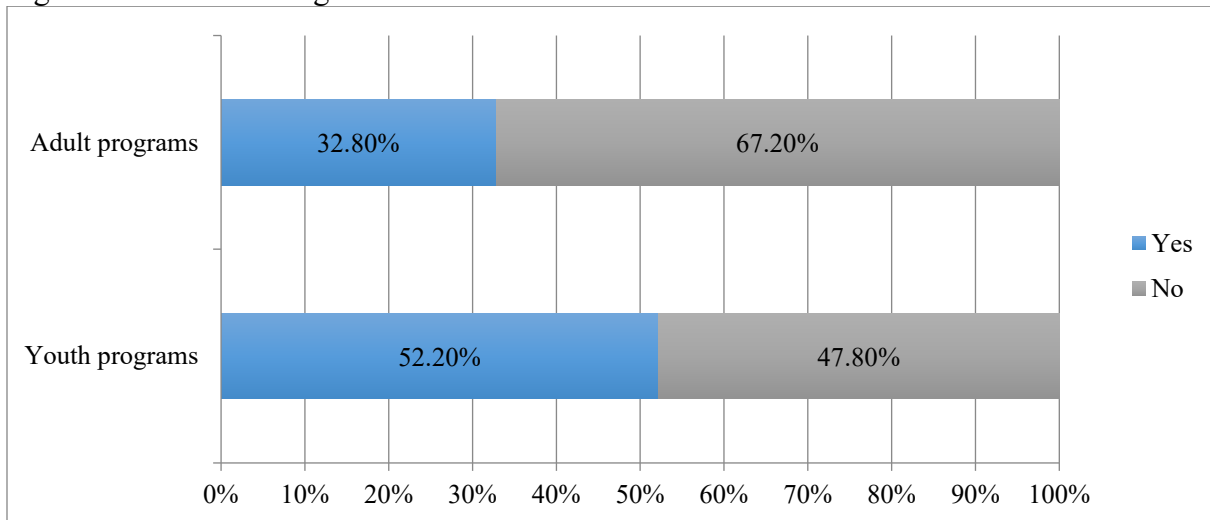
- Yes: 48 (35.3%)
- No: 88 (64.7%)

7. Does the community/municipality/county offer recreation programs for persons 17 years old and younger?  
 8. Does the community/municipality/county offer recreation programs for persons 18 years old and older?

The following two questions were designed to acquire information about adult and youth programs. Figure 2 shows percentages:

- Programs for adults “yes” (N = 44) versus “no” (N = 90),
- Programs for youth “yes” (N = 71) versus “no” (N = 65)

Figure 2 Recreation Programs for Youth and Adults



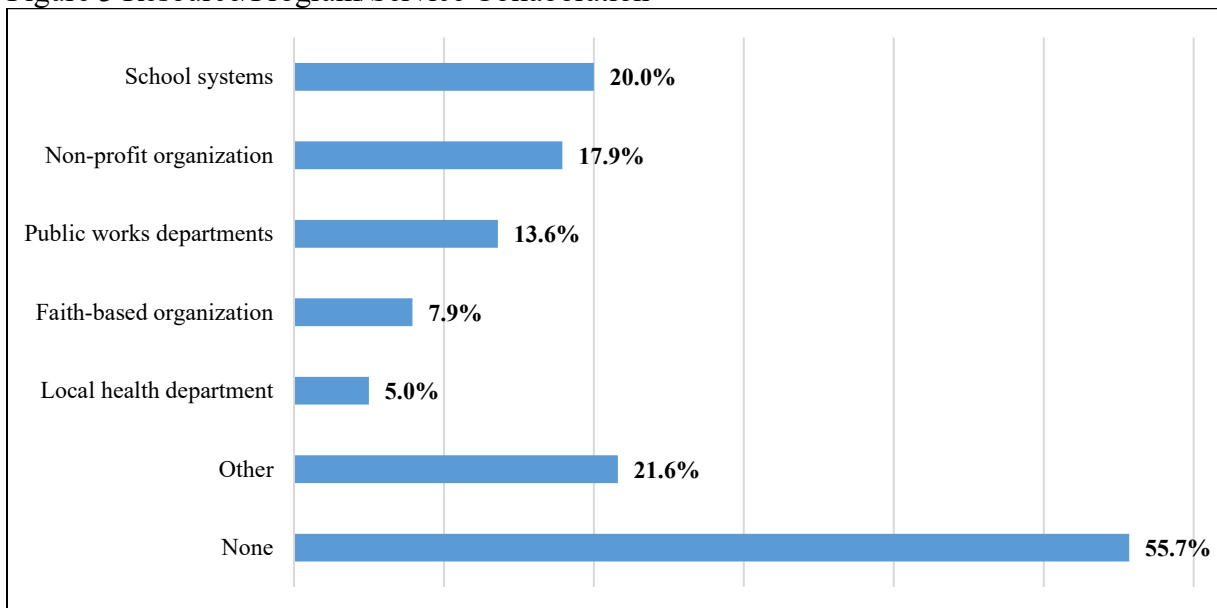
9. Does your community/municipality/county jointly provide park resources with another non-governmental unit? 9a. If yes, please specify organization and what resource/program/service is provided with this partnership.

This question was designed to gain insight into the types of partnerships and collaborations that providers utilize to offer programs and services. Figure 3 shows percentages. Respondents indicating “Other” were asked to specify. If respondents answered “yes” to any of the following, they were asked to specify the organization and what resource/program/service is provided with the partnership; please see Appendix D for the list of open-ended answers.

- School systems (N = 28)
- Non-profit organizations (N = 25)
- Public works department (N = 25)
- Faith-based organization (N = 11)
- Local health department (N = 7)
- None (N = 78)
- Other (N = 30)
  - Park resources were also provided by the association of the community/municipality/county with non-governmental units such as community organizations and education services, youth groups, American legion, parental provision of sport groups, library and maintenance departments, leagues for various sports and non-profit programs. These have not only provided park resources but have also led to transportation and funding for different recreational programs in some areas.

For respondents who answered yes: The partnerships also included collaborations with multiple community and local agencies and programs. Local services and organizations such as schools, hospitals and sport clubs have also helped for some aspects of providing these services to residents.

Figure 3 Resource/Program/Service Collaboration

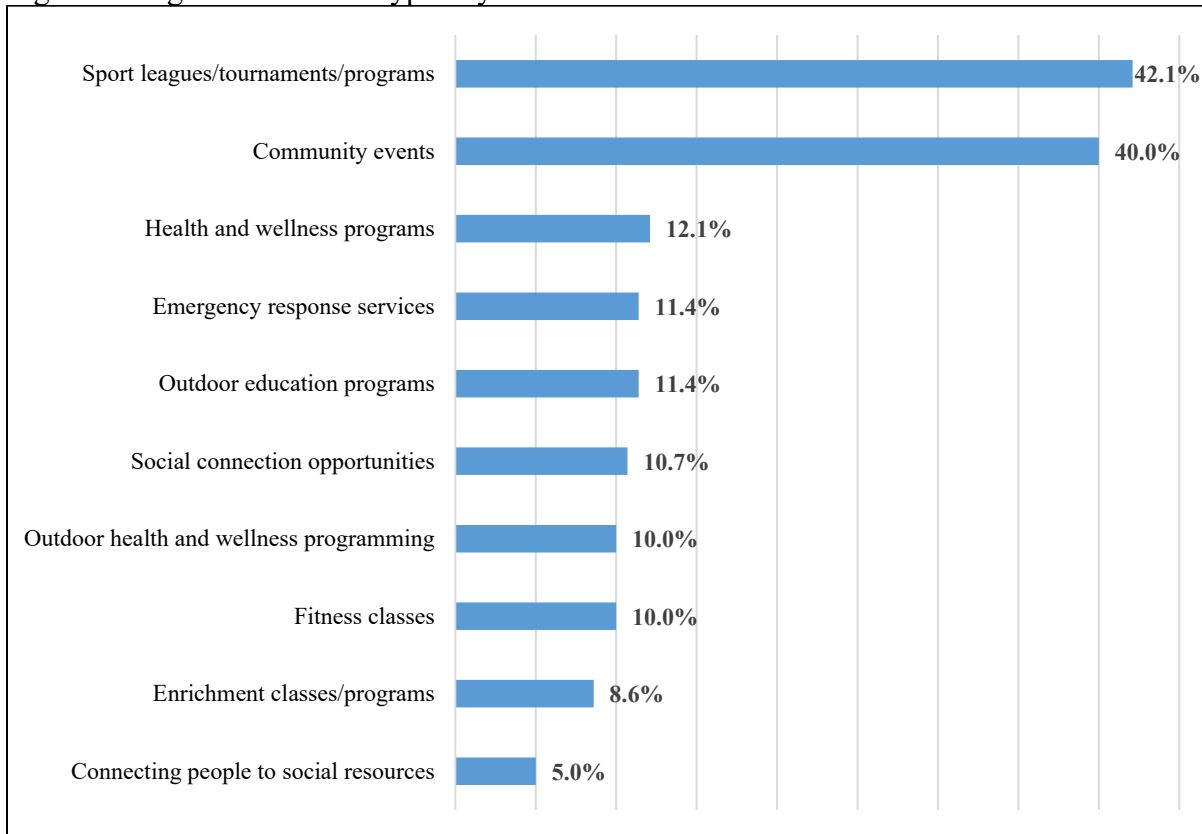


10. What programs/services does your agency typically offer (prior to COVID-19)?

This question was asked to get a sense of what programs/services these providers typically offer to their community (prior to the pandemic). Figure 4 shows the percentages. Respondents who indicated “Other” were asked to specify; please see Appendix D for the list of open-ended answers.

- Sports leagues/tournaments/programs (N = 59)
- Community events (N = 56)
- Health and wellness programs (N = 17)
- Emergency response services (N = 16)
- Outdoor education Programs (N = 16)
- Social connection opportunities (N = 15)
- Outdoor health and wellness programming (N = 14)
- Fitness classes (N = 14)
- Enrichment classes/programs (N = 12)
- Connecting people to social resources (N = 7)
- Others: The programs/services that were offered in association with these partnerships also included community halls and centers that provided access to various fitness centers, sports grounds for golf, swimming, etc. general play areas and summer recreational areas.

Figure 4 Programs/Services Typically Offered

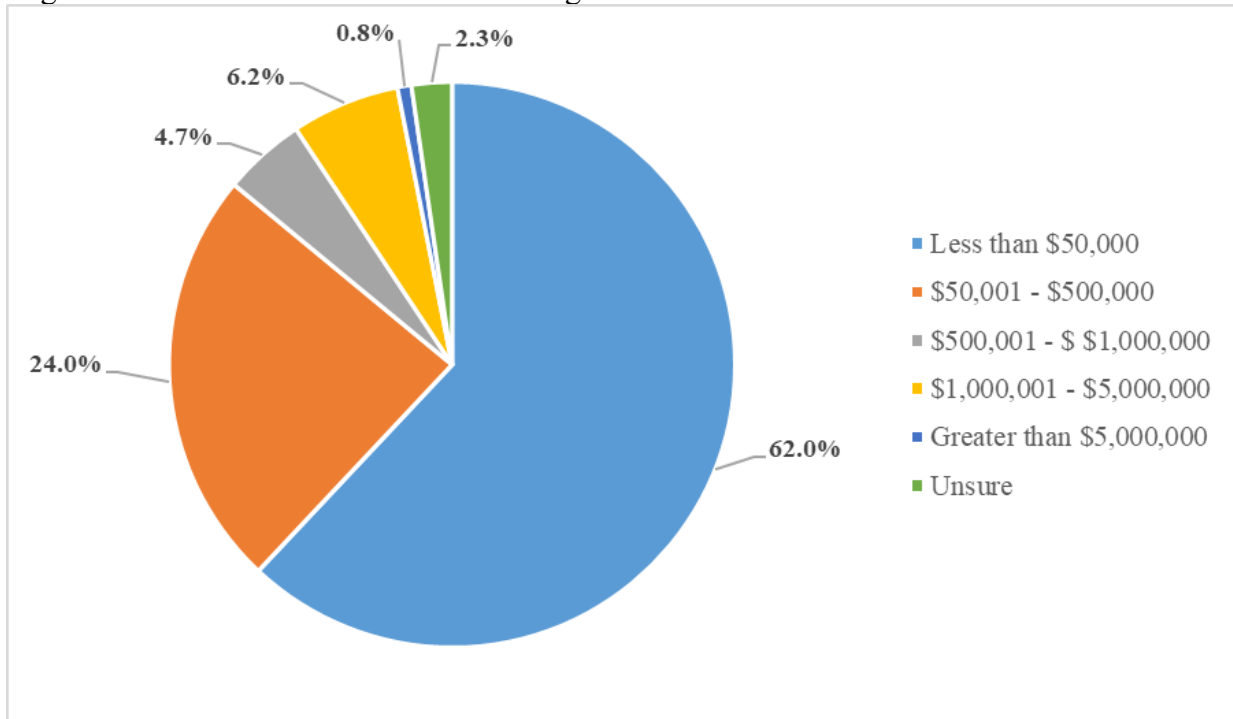


11. What is your organization’s approximate annual parks and recreation budget? This figure should include funds from all sources associated with operating, managing, and maintaining your parks and recreation programs/facilities, and associated capital improvements.

This question was asked to gain a general sense of what the annual operating budgets are for South Dakota’s municipal parks and recreation providers. Percentages can be seen in Figure 5.

- Less than \$50,000 (N = 80)
- \$50,001 - \$500,000 (N = 31)
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000 (N = 6)
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000 (N = 8)
- Greater than \$5,000,000 (N = 1)
- Unsure (N = 3)

Figure 5 Annual Parks and Recreation Budget



12. Please indicate all the funding sources that currently support your organization.

This question was asked to determine sources of funding that these organizations use to support their programs and services. Municipal budget/taxes was most prevalent, with 80.0% of providers indicating this as at least one of their funding sources. Table 1 highlights the other sources of funding.

Most other funding came from the county or in the form of maintenance services from the town. Some responses also stated that no funding was provided.

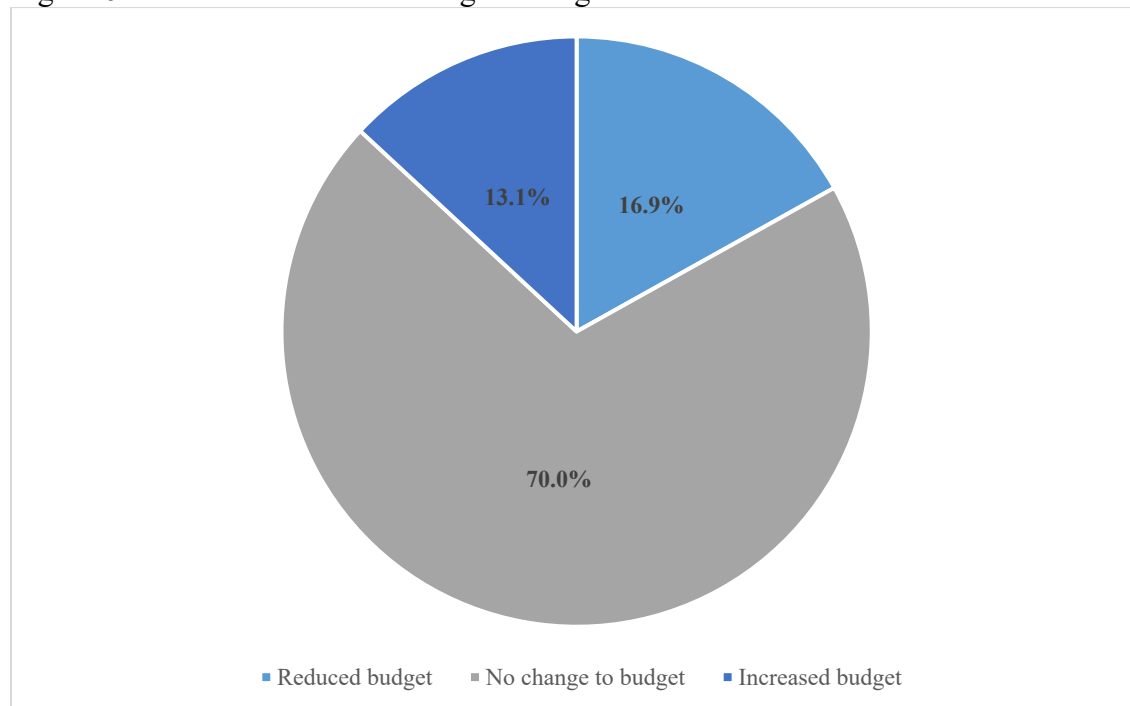
Table 1 Funding Sources for Municipal Parks and Recreation in South Dakota

Funding Sources	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Municipal budget/taxes	112	80.0
Donation	52	37.1
Federal grants	32	22.9
Program fees	31	22.1
State or regional grants	30	21.4
License, permit, special use, or event fees	25	17.9
Payment for goods/services	24	17.1
Membership fees	24	17.1
State budget /taxes	22	15.7
Sponsorship	18	12.9
Private foundation grants	16	11.4
Federal budget/taxes	7	5.0

13. During the past three years, most municipalities/counties have experienced parks and recreation budgetary stress. What has your experience been in your community or area of responsibility?

This question was asked to gauge what the state of budgetary stress has been on community recreation providers the past three years. Approximately 70% (N = 91) of survey participants said their organization did not experience a change in budget, while 17% (N = 22) research participants indicated a reduced budget, and 13% (N = 17) experienced an increase in budget. Figure 6 highlights percentages.

Figure 6 Parks and Recreation Budget Change



13a. If you experienced a reduced or increased budget, what was the approximate percentage of change? 13b. What was the cause of change in budget?

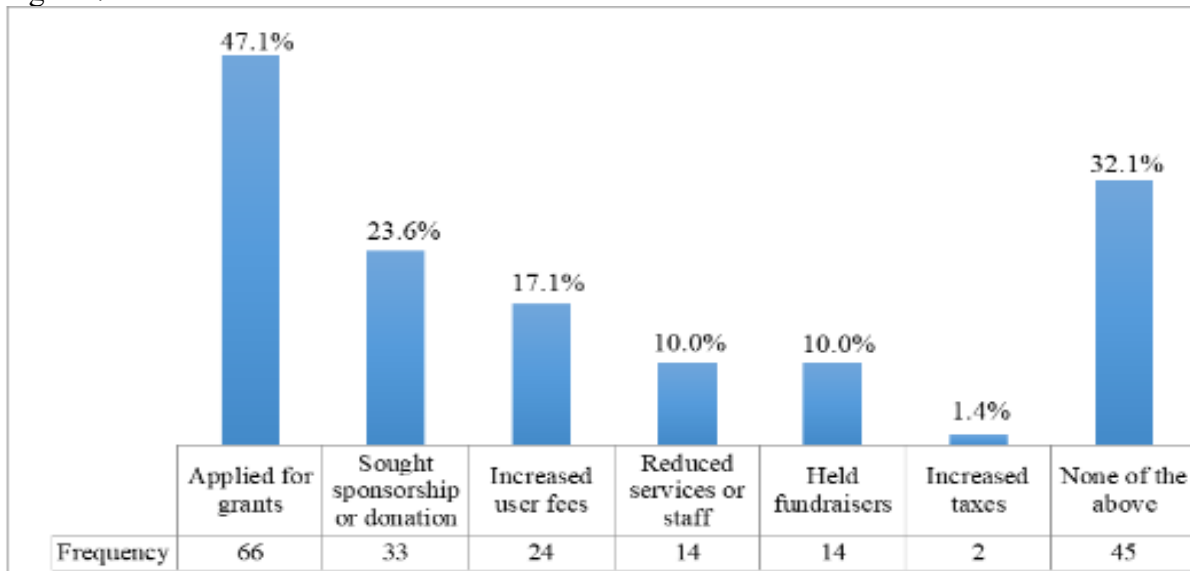
The following is the summary of the open-ended responses. Please see Appendix D for the list of open-ended answers.

- Within the remaining responses, 51% of respondents stated a decreased budget primarily due to COVID-19 that eventually resulted in closure of services or temporarily held off projects. Other reasons included lack of funding, sales taxes and population declination. 49% of these respondents however stated an increased budget due to acquiring grants, increased prices, and upgraded facilities.
- Changes were observed due to the effects of COVID-19. Lack of funds, maintaining upkeep on closed off projects and lack of participants during this time led to a reduced budget for some organizations however, for others, this pandemic provided an opportunity to upgrade their resources, acquiring grants, relocate money to save costs, and receive community investments that resulted in an overall increased budget.

14. Which of the following has your agency/organization done during times of financial shortfall? (Check all that apply)

This question was asked to determine how these providers compensate for the financial shortfall. Figure 7 highlights how 47.1% of survey participants indicated that their organization seeks grant funding, while other alternative funding sources included sponsorship or donation, increased user fees, reduced staff or services, fundraisers, or increased taxes. However, 32.1% of respondents indicated that their organization does not compensate for financial shortfall. Respondents who indicated “Other” were asked to specify; please see Appendix D for the list of open-ended answers. Agencies/organizations also had to find ways to save funds while simultaneously keeping up with the maintenance of their services during times of financial shortfall.

Figure 7 Additional Sources for Financial Shortfall



## Section II: Impacts of COVID-19 on Parks and Recreation

1. Did your agency/organization cancel/postpone/close any programs or facilities due to COVID-19?

This question was used to understand the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on specific facilities/programs. Table 2 highlights how even though approximately 20-30% (apart from playgrounds 66%) of community/senior centers, swimming pools, fitness facilities, special events, sports leagues, and playgrounds remained operating during the pandemic, these facilities/programs were still greatly impacted by closures/cancelations/postponements. Whereas facilities such as camping areas, golf courses, nature areas/open spaces, trails, picnic areas, and splash pads did not experience the same level of closures.

Table 2 Facility/Program Impacts of COVID-19

	None	Some	Most	All	N/A
Playgrounds	83 (66.4%)	14 (11.2%)	3 (2.4%)	17 (13.6%)	8 (6.4%)
Camping areas	59 (49.2%)	0	1 (0.8%)	2 (1.7%)	58 (48.3%)
Sports leagues	40 (33.9%)	23 (19.5%)	6 (5.1%)	10 (8.5%)	39 (33.1%)
Special events	33 (27.5%)	29 (24.2%)	12 (10.0%)	12 (10.0%)	34 (28.3%)
Golf courses	42 (36.5%)	4 (3.5%)	0	0	69 (60.0%)
Nature areas/open spaces	64 (55.2%)	3 (2.6%)	0	0	49 (42.2%)
Fitness facilities/rec centers	22 (19.1%)	12 (10.4%)	1 (0.9%)	11 (9.6%)	69 (60.0%)
Trails	57 (49.6%)	1 (0.9%)	0	0	57 (49.6%)
Picnic areas	86 (71.7%)	7 (5.8%)	5 (4.2%)	5 (4.2%)	17 (14.2%)
Swimming pools	40 (33.1%)	10 (8.3%)	1 (0.8%)	18 (14.9%)	52 (43.0%)
Splash pads	22 (19.6%)	3 (2.7%)	0	1 (0.9%)	86 (76.8%)
Enrichment programs	21 (18.8%)	11 (9.8%)	0	2 (1.8%)	78 (69.6%)
Community/senior centers	25 (21.6%)	28 (24.1%)	1 (0.9%)	8 (6.9%)	54 (46.6%)

2. Were there any other outdoor recreation facilities or programs that were canceled/postponed/closed due to COVID-19?

Most outdoor summer sport and recreation programs (e.g., swimming, events, etc.) and tournaments (e.g., baseball, softball, disc golf, etc.) were cancelled due to COVID-19 impacts.

Please see Appendix D for the list of open-ended answers.

3. Did your agency/organization create new park or recreation programs or services in response to COVID-19?

- Yes 6 (5.0%)
- No 115 (95.0%)

4. What kind of programming did your agency/organization add in response to COVID-19? (Select all that apply)

This question was asked to get an idea about what kind of programming was added in response to the pandemic. Of the programs and services that were added in response to the pandemic, five participants included outdoor health and wellbeing programming, while both emergency response services and connecting people to social resources through referrals each had two participants indicating such programs. Social connection opportunities for older adults and online gaming/activities were both listed by one participant.

- Outdoor health and wellness programming – N = 5 (3.6%)
- Emergency response services – N = 2 (1.4%)
- Connecting people to social resources through referrals – N = 2 (1.4%)
- Social connection opportunities for older adults – N = 1 (0.7%)
- Online gaming/activities – N = 1 (0.7%)
- Mental health and wellness programming – N = 0
- Virtual health and wellness programs for older adults – N = 0
- Virtual health and wellness programs for youth – N = 0
- Virtual fitness classes – N = 0

5. Does your agency/organization anticipate keeping any of these programs/services post-pandemic?

Of the six organizations that added new programs (Question 4), five said that they plan on keeping these services, while one said that they are unsure.

6. What other impacts, positive and/or negative, has COVID-19 had on your agency/organization's parks and recreation operations?



There were a lot of other affects due to the pandemic. Most of the negative effects were during the initial period of the pandemic when a majority of the agencies and organizations were forced to close down. During this time, funds were still being spent for the upkeep of the facilities however, due to the lack of participation there was no significant income. Nevertheless, , after the gradual opening of the facilities, there was a surge of participants and the increased fees due to all the maintenance and upgrades done during the closure helped bring in increased funds and led to a positive change for various organizations.

Please see Appendix D for the list of open-ended answers.

**Section III: Benefits and Priorities in Outdoor Recreation**

1. When thinking about your community or organization, how important or unimportant are each of following considerations when making decisions about **funding outdoor recreation and conservation efforts**? Please rate each statement from scale: Extremely Unimportant to Extremely Important.

Table 3 below shows the range of responses for the eight considerations, ranging from Extremely Unimportant to Extremely Important.

- “Maintain existing park and recreation areas” had highest response within extremely important at 96 responses (78.7%) and mean score of 4.60.
- “Build pedestrian and cycling paths between places of work, parks, schools etc.” had 55.1% participants reported as important or extremely important and the second highest mean score of 3.67.
- “Provide recreation programs at parks and recreation areas” had the third highest mean score at 3.61 and 55.1% of research participants indicated as important or extremely important.
- “Provide environmental and conservation programs” had highest response within neutral at 64 responses (53.8%).

Table 3 Summary of Importance of Funding Efforts in Outdoor Recreation

	Extremely Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat Important	Extremely Important	Mean (M)	SD
Acquire and protect open space (as undeveloped, conserved land)	11 (9.2%)	13 (10.9%)	58 (48.7%)	24 (20.2%)	13 (10.9%)	3.13	1.05
Acquire additional land and water areas for developed recreation	13 (10.9%)	12 (10.1%)	56 (47.1%)	27 (22.7%)	11 (9.2%)	3.09	1.07
Maintain existing park and recreation areas	3 (2.5%)	2 (1.6%)	10 (8.2%)	11 (9.0%)	96 (78.7%)	4.60	.90
Provide environmental and conservation programs	8 (6.7%)	12 (10.1%)	64 (53.8%)	22 (18.5%)	13 (10.9%)	3.17	.99
Provide recreation programs at parks and recreation areas	8 (6.8%)	8 (6.8%)	37 (31.4%)	34 (28.8%)	31 (26.3%)	3.61	1.15
Protect wildlife and fish habitat	10 (8.5%)	12 (10.2%)	58 (49.2%)	22 (18.6%)	16 (13.6%)	3.19	1.07
Build more greenways/trails	10 (8.4%)	8 (6.7%)	45 (37.8%)	33 (27.7%)	23 (19.3%)	3.43	1.13
Build pedestrian and cycling paths between places of work, parks, schools etc.	8 (6.8%)	7 (5.9%)	38 (32.2%)	28 (23.7%)	37 (31.4%)	3.67	1.18

**2. When thinking about your community, how much do you agree that the outdoor recreation opportunities your organization provides or supports deliver the following **benefits to the public?****

This question was used to ask how much providers agree that their outdoor recreation opportunities provide a benefit to various public considerations. Table 4 shows the percentage and frequency of the providers; “-“ reflects no responses in that category.

- “Make your community a more desirable place to live” had the highest response rate for extremely important at 82 responses (67.2%) with mean scores of 4.52 out of 5.
- “Enhance a sense of place and community,” “Helps attract new residents and businesses,” and “Increase property values in your community” had the second, third, and fourth highest mean scores, as well as a high combined percentage of “Somewhat Agree” and “Strongly Agree,” with 87.5%, 83.4%, and 77.5% respectively.
- “Preserves historical features in your community” had the highest frequency (44) of “Neutral.”
- “Helps lower the crime rate in your community” had the lowest mean score (3.73).

Table 4 Summary of Community Benefits to the Public

	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean (M)	SD
Make your community a more desirable place to live	-	3 (2.5%)	12 (9.8%)	25 (20.5%)	82 (67.2%)	4.52	.77
Preserve historical features in your community	-	3 (2.5%)	44 (36.7%)	34 (28.3%)	39 (32.5%)	3.91	.89
Preserve open space and the environment	-	4 (3.3%)	26 (21.5%)	38 (31.4%)	53 (43.8%)	4.16	.88
Increase property values in your community	-	2 (1.7%)	24 (20.0%)	43 (35.8%)	50 (41.7%)	4.43	2.75
Help attract new residents and businesses	-	3 (2.5%)	17 (14.2%)	41 (34.2%)	59 (49.2%)	4.30	.81
Helps lower the crime rate in your community	2 (1.7%)	6 (5.0%)	43 (36.1%)	39 (32.8%)	29 (24.4%)	3.73	.95
Promotes tourism in your community	1 (0.8%)	5 (4.2%)	35 (29.2%)	32 (26.7%)	47 (39.2%)	3.99	.97
Enhance a sense of place and community	-	2 (1.7%)	13 (10.8%)	39 (32.5%)	66 (55.0%)	4.41	.75
Provides programs/services that benefit a demographically diverse population	1 (0.8%)	3 (2.5%)	42 (35.0%)	33 (27.5%)	41 (34.2%)	3.92	.93

**3. How important is it that your agency delivers or provides the following programs/services that **focus on enhancing health and well-being?****

This question was asked to determine how important providers feel their outdoor recreation services are for supporting their community’s health and well-being. Table 5 shows the percentage and frequency of the providers; “-“ reflects no responses in that category.

“Partner with local government or community-based organizations to improve access to health and wellness opportunities” had the lowest mean score of 3.93, which is still relatively high on a 5-point scale. This indicates that, overall, providers feel that the health and well-being outcomes of their recreation programs and services are especially important.

“Provide opportunities for social interaction,” “Promote the health and wellness benefits of parks and recreation,” “Improve mental health and reduce stress for youth,” “Improve mental health and reduce stress for adults,” and “Provide equitable access to high-quality parks, green spaces, trails, and other built environment features,” had the highest mean scores, as well as the highest combined percentage of “Somewhat Important” and “Extremely Important,” with 79.3%, 78.5%, 75.8%, 74.2%, and 71.6% respectively.

Table 5 Summary of Health and Wellbeing Benefits

	Extremely Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat Important	Extremely Important	Mean (M)	SD
Improve physical health and fitness	1 (0.9%)	3 (2.6%)	28 (24.1%)	37 (31.9%)	47 (40.5%)	4.09	.91
Improve mental health and reduce stress for adults	1 (0.9%)	4 (3.4%)	25 (21.6%)	35 (30.2%)	51 (44.0%)	4.13	.93
Improve mental health and reduce stress for youth	1 (0.9%)	4 (3.4%)	23 (19.8%)	31 (26.7%)	57 (49.1%)	4.20	.94
Provide opportunities for social interaction	-	4 (3.4%)	20 (17.2%)	36 (31.0%)	56 (48.3%)	4.24	.86
Partner with local government or community-based organizations to improve access to health and wellness opportunities	1 (0.9%)	3 (2.6%)	38 (32.8%)	35 (30.2%)	39 (33.6%)	3.93	.920
Promote the health and wellness benefits of parks and recreation	1 (0.9%)	3 (2.6%)	21 (18.1%)	35 (30.2%)	56 (48.3%)	4.22	.90
Provide equitable access to high-quality parks, green spaces, trails, and other built environment features	1 (0.9%)	3 (2.6%)	29 (25.0%)	29 (25.0%)	54 (46.6%)	4.14	.94

4. What is the level of priority that your agency places on investing in each of the following facilities? Please rate from scale: 1 = Lowest priority, 5 = Highest priority, or N/A = Not applicable.

Playgrounds were the top facility providers listed as their highest priority to invest in (49.2%). Other top facilities to invest in included baseball or softball fields (42.1%), swimming pools/water parks (24.8%), paved walking/biking trails (22.3%), and outdoor festival/event (20.8%).

Providers listed their lowest priorities as investing in lacrosse fields, mountain biking trails, mountain biking skills courses, and skateboarding parks (Table 6).

Table 6 Municipal Parks and Recreation Providers' Facility Priority

	Lowest Priority	←————→			Highest Priority	N/A
Tent-camping campgrounds	21 (17.4%)	22 (18.2%)	19 (15.7%)	10 (8.3%)	2 (1.7%)	47 (38.8%)
RV or trailer campgrounds	13 (10.7%)	15 (12.4%)	20 (16.5%)	19 (15.7%)	10 (8.3%)	44 (36.4%)
Picnic areas	-	9 (7.4%)	45 (37.2%)	36 (29.8%)	23 (19.0%)	8 (6.6%)
Facilities for boating	20 (16.7%)	7 (5.8%)	7 (5.8%)	5 (4.2%)	3 (2.5%)	78 (65%)
Swimming pool/water park	11 (9.1%)	8 (6.6%)	4 (3.3%)	26 (21.5%)	30 (24.8%)	42 (34.7%)
Trails/parks for motorized vehicles	16 (13.2%)	13 (10.7%)	8 (6.6%)	8 (6.6%)	7 (5.8%)	69 (57.0%)
Fishing areas	13 (10.8%)	11 (9.2%)	10 (8.3%)	17 (14.2%)	6 (5.0%)	63 (52.5%)
Walking/biking trails (unpaved)	8 (6.6%)	12 (9.9%)	17 (14.0%)	23 (19.0%)	16 (13.2%)	45 (37.2%)
Walking/biking trails (paved)	5 (4.1%)	9 (7.4%)	14 (11.6%)	23 (19.0%)	27 (22.3%)	43 (35.5%)
Mountain biking skills course	27 (22.5%)	9 (7.5%)	6 (5.0%)	1 (0.8%)	3 (2.5%)	74 (61.7%)
Mountain biking trails	19 (15.8%)	12 (10.0%)	9 (7.5%)	2 (1.7%)	3 (2.5%)	75 (62.5%)
Nature areas/open space	5 (4.2%)	17 (14.4%)	22 (18.6%)	21 (17.8%)	14 (11.9%)	39 (33.1%)
Outdoor festival/event	6 (5.0%)	8 (6.7%)	28 (23.3%)	33 (27.5%)	25 (20.8%)	20 (16.7%)
Playgrounds	2 (1.7%)	2 (1.7%)	13 (10.8%)	38 (31.7%)	59 (49.2%)	6 (5.0%)
Golf courses/driving ranges	13 (10.7%)	7 (5.8%)	9 (7.4%)	17 (14.0%)	10 (8.3%)	65 (53.7%)
Skateboarding parks	26 (21.5%)	12 (9.9%)	12 (9.9%)	6 (5.0%)	3 (2.5%)	62 (51.2%)
Disc golf courses	15 (12.4%)	11 (9.1%)	17 (14.0%)	14 (11.6%)	8 (6.6%)	56 (46.3%)

Off-leash dog parks	16 (13.2%)	10 (8.3%)	15 (12.4%)	14 (11.6%)	9 (7.4%)	57 (47.1%)
Outdoor education facilities	16 (13.2%)	16 (13.2%)	20 (16.5%)	9 (7.4%)	4 (3.3%)	56 (46.3%)
Baseball or softball fields	6 (5.0%)	5 (4.1%)	15 (12.4%)	24 (19.8%)	51 (42.1%)	20 (16.5%)
Soccer fields	14 (11.6%)	11 (9.1%)	13 (10.7%)	13 (10.7%)	10 (8.3%)	60 (49.6%)
Lacrosse fields	27 (22.3%)	16 (13.2%)	3 (2.5%)	1 (0.8%)	3 (2.5%)	71 (58.7%)
Football fields	14 (11.6%)	12 (9.9%)	11 (9.1%)	9 (7.4%)	16 (13.2%)	59 (48.8%)

5. Are there any other types of facilities your agency/organization places high priority on when planning outdoor recreation development?

The highest priorities were placed on new equipment, and city and community owned services such as parks, walking areas, and sport and recreation areas. Other priorities also included upgrades to older resources, and various sports courts.

Please see Appendix D for the list of open-ended answers.

## Section IV: Challenges in Providing Outdoor Recreation

1. The following are potential concerns outdoor recreation providers may face. How much of a challenge, if at all, are each of the following concerns? Please indicate the level of challenge/concern for that topic within your organization of community at this time, from “Not a challenge (1)” to Major challenge (5)”.

Outdoor recreation providers listed creating new park and recreation facilities as a major concern providers face (M = 3.87). Other major concerns include developing alternative revenue for parks and recreation (M = 3.56), budgeting or allocating funds for operation and management (M = 3.41), recruiting and retaining quality staff and volunteers (M = 3.37), maintaining existing recreation infrastructure or resources (M = 3.87), and enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities on public land (M = 3.35). Providers’ also listed concerns about determining how to use limited resources for various recreation needs from the public and responding to new types of outdoor recreation activities as moderate to major challenges. On the other hand, South Dakota’s providers’ lowest concern was adapting to serve ethnic minorities (M = 2.04).

Please see the detailed results in Table 7.

Table 7 Summary of Challenges of Parks and Recreation Providers

Level of Challenge	Not	Slight	Somewhat	Moderate	Major	M	SD
Maintaining existing recreation infrastructure or resources	7 (6.5%)	20 (18.7%)	37 (34.6%)	15 (14.0%)	28 (26.2%)	3.35	1.24
Creating new park and recreation facilities	8 (7.5%)	11 (10.3%)	16 (15.0%)	24 (22.4%)	48 (44.9%)	3.87	1.30
Enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities on public land	16 (15.0%)	15 (14.0%)	24 (22.4%)	24 (22.4%)	28 (26.2%)	3.31	1.39
Collaborating with other government or non-profit organizations for outdoor recreation services	24 (22.4%)	14 (13.1%)	27 (25.2%)	23 (21.5%)	19 (17.8%)	2.99	1.40
Recruiting and retaining quality staff and volunteers	17 (16.0%)	13 (12.3%)	19 (17.9%)	28 (26.4%)	29 (27.4%)	3.37	1.42
Building public awareness of outdoor recreation opportunities in the community or state	23 (21.7%)	15 (14.2%)	29 (27.4%)	28 (26.4%)	11 (10.4%)	2.90	1.30
Advocating the benefits and importance of outdoor recreation related public services	26 (24.5%)	17 (16.0%)	32 (30.2%)	20 (18.9%)	11 (10.4%)	2.75	1.30
Budgeting or allocating funds for operation and management	13 (12.3%)	17 (16.0%)	22 (20.8%)	22 (20.8%)	32 (30.2%)	3.41	1.39
Developing alternative revenue for parks and recreation	10 (9.6%)	12 (11.5%)	24 (23.1%)	26 (25.0%)	32 (30.8%)	3.56	1.30
Responding to new types of outdoor recreation activities	16 (15.5%)	11 (10.7%)	27 (26.2%)	36 (35.0%)	13 (12.6%)	3.18	1.25
Adapting to serve ethnic minorities	46 (44.7%)	24 (23.3%)	20 (19.4%)	9 (8.7%)	4 (3.9%)	2.04	1.16

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Adapting to serve aging population	30 (28.8%)	24 (23.1%)	24 (23.1%)	18 (17.3%)	8 (7.7%)	2.52	1.29
Determining how to use limited resources for various recreation needs from the public	14 (13.6%)	13 (12.6%)	26 (25.2%)	29 (28.2%)	21 (20.4%)	3.29	1.30
Providing parks and recreation related facilities/services that meet the needs of people with disabilities	16 (15.1%)	22 (20.8%)	21 (19.8%)	29 (27.4%)	18 (17.0%)	3.10	1.33
Keeping up with technological changes for management (i.e., registration/reservation system)	31 (30.4%)	20 (19.6%)	18 (17.6%)	18 (17.6%)	15 (14.7%)	2.67	1.44
Staying current with social media and technological trends in promotion and marketing	30 (28.6%)	21 (20.0%)	23 (21.9%)	15 (14.3%)	16 (15.2%)	2.68	1.42
Attracting younger generations to participate in outdoor recreation	28 (26.7%)	13 (12.4%)	24 (22.9%)	27 (25.7%)	13 (12.4%)	2.85	1.39
Improving public health and active living through providing outdoor recreation	23 (21.9%)	14 (13.3%)	38 (36.2%)	22 (21.0%)	8 (7.6%)	2.79	1.22
Providing access and opportunities for people with disabilities	19 (17.9%)	16 (15.1%)	28 (26.4%)	27 (25.5%)	16 (15.1%)	3.05	1.32

2. What are other challenges related to parks and recreation that your community faces in planning for the future?

A majority of the challenges faced by recreation providers are due to funding aspects. Lack of funds lead to not being able to upgrade or plan any new services or resources. Other reasons are due to environmental restrictions, lack of staff and volunteers, and community support limitations.

Please see the open-ended responses in Appendix D.

3. What else should we consider as we develop the South Dakota outdoor recreation plan for the next five-years?

Aspects to consider for the 5-year recreational plan mainly focused on creating funding and grant opportunities for older and smaller communities, developing and maintaining relationships between larger and smaller communities to provide the possibility of future collaboration for recreation programs, and increasing awareness about the various programs and services that are already available to people.

Please see the open-ended responses in Appendix D.





## 2022 South Dakota Outdoor Recreation Survey: Provider



The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) and South Dakota State University (SDSU) need your help in gathering information to plan for outdoor recreation opportunities across the state of South Dakota. We are currently in the process of updating the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Many of you may have been involved in this process in the past. The SCORP is updated every five years; the most recent version is available at <https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/scorp18.pdf>. As part of the SCORP update, we are surveying city, county, state, federal, non-profits and other providers of outdoor recreation opportunities. The information we gather will help determine supply, demand, challenges and opportunities for outdoor recreation across the state and the resulting plan is often used to support investment in projects and grants statewide. We invite you to participate in a survey to share your experiences and perspectives on outdoor recreation in South Dakota. Your voice is an important part of assisting your community in planning for the future.

Your participation in this research is voluntary. There is no penalty for refusal to participate, and you are free to withdraw your consent and participation in this project at any time. This survey will take 15 minutes of your time. We respectfully request you fill out all sections of the survey. There are no known risks to your participation in the study. Your responses to the survey will be anonymous. You may start the survey, stop, and resume the survey at a later time. Also, your responses are strictly confidential. When the data and analysis are presented, you will not be linked to the data by your name, title or any other identifying item.

You may contact the researchers at the following address and phone number, should you desire to discuss your participation in the study and/or request information about the results of the study: Hung-Ling (Stella) Liu, Assistant Professor in Recreation Management ([stella.liu@sdstate.edu](mailto:stella.liu@sdstate.edu), 605-688-6163) or Megan Thompson, Research Assistant ([megan.thompson@sdstate.edu](mailto:megan.thompson@sdstate.edu)). If you have questions regarding your rights as a participant, you can contact the SDSU Research Compliance Coordinator at (605) 688-6975 or [SDSU.IRB@sdstate.edu](mailto:SDSU.IRB@sdstate.edu).

**South Dakota Outdoor Recreation Survey: Providers**

**Section I: Organization and Community Information**

Please provide the general information about your community/municipality/county information.

1. What is the best description of the park and recreation agency/organization with which you are affiliated?
  - Local and Municipal parks and recreation agency
  - State agency (**Go to Section II**)
  - Non-profit private organization (**Go to Section II**)
  - Federal land management agency (**Go to Section II**)
  - Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the population of your town, city or county based on the latest census?
  - Less than 500
  - 500 to 4,999
  - 5,000 or more
3. What is the zip code of your community/municipality/county office?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Does your community/municipality/county have a Parks and/or Recreation Department that employs at least one dedicated individual providing park and recreation services?  
 Yes (**Go to Question 6**)  No (**Go to Question 5**)
5. If there is not a Parks and/or Recreation Department, is there another unit of city government that provides recreation services for the community?  
 Yes  No
6. Does your community/municipality/county have a Parks and Recreation Board?  
 Yes  No
7. Does the community/municipality/county offer recreation programs for persons 17 years old and younger?  
 Yes  No
8. Does the community/municipality/county offer recreation programs for persons 18 years old and older?  
 Yes  No
9. Does your community/municipality/county jointly provide park resources with another non-governmental unit?
  - Nonprofit organizations (YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, etc.)
  - Local health departments (Hospitals, senior centers, etc.)
  - Faith-based organizations (Churches, etc.)
  - Public works departments
  - School systems
  - None
  - Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please specify organization and what resource/program/service is provided with this partnership.

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What programs/services does your agency typically offer (prior to COVID-19)?
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Fitness classes	<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor health and wellness programming
<input type="checkbox"/> Social connection opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> Community events (e.g., festivals)
<input type="checkbox"/> Health and wellness programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Sport leagues/tournaments/programs
<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor education programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrichment classes/programs
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency response services (e.g., food distribution, shelter, childcare)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Connecting people to social resources through referrals (e.g., food, housing, healthcare)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____	

11. What is your organization’s approximate annual parks and recreation budget? This figure should include funds from all sources associated with operating, managing, and maintaining your parks and recreation programs/facilities, and associated capital improvements.

- Less than \$50,000
- \$50,001 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
- Greater than \$5,000,000

12. Please indicate all the funding sources that currently support your organization

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal budget/taxes | <input type="checkbox"/> State budget/taxes                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal grants       | <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal budget/taxes                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program fees         | <input type="checkbox"/> Private foundation grants                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership fees      | <input type="checkbox"/> State or regional grants                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsorship          | <input type="checkbox"/> License, permit, special use, or event fees          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donation             | <input type="checkbox"/> Payment for goods/services (including entrance fees) |
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

13. During the past three years, most municipalities/counties have experienced parks and recreation budgetary stress. What has your experience been in your community or area of responsibility?

- Reduced budget
- No change to budget (**Go to Question 14**)
- Increased budget

13a. If you experienced a reduced or increased budget, what was the approximate **percentage** of change? \_\_\_\_\_

13b. What was the cause of change in budget?

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14. Which of the following has your agency/organization done during times of financial shortfall? (Check all that apply.)

- Applied for grants
- Increased user fees
- Sought sponsorship or donations
- Reduced services or staff
- Held fundraisers
- Increased taxes
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

**Section II: Impacts of COVID-19 on Parks and Recreation**

1. Did your agency/organization cancel/postpone/close any programs or facilities due to COVID-19?

	None	Some	Most	All	N/A
Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Camping areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sports leagues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Special events	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Golf courses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nature areas/open spaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fitness facilities/rec centers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Picnic areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swimming pools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Splash pads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enrichment programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community/senior centers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. Were there any other outdoor recreation facilities or programs that were canceled/postponed/closed due to COVID-19?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Did your agency/organization create new park or recreation programs or services in response to COVID-19?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes (**Go to Question 3**)

\_\_\_\_\_ No (**Go to Question 5**)

4. What kind of programming did your agency/organization add in response to COVID-19? (Select all that apply.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Outdoor health and wellness programming

\_\_\_\_\_ Mental health and wellness programming (e.g., yoga, tai chi, meditation)

\_\_\_\_\_ Social connection opportunities for older adults

\_\_\_\_\_ Virtual health and wellness programs for older adults

\_\_\_\_\_ Virtual health and wellness programs for youth

\_\_\_\_\_ Virtual fitness classes

\_\_\_\_\_ Emergency response services (e.g., food distribution, shelter, childcare)

\_\_\_\_\_ Connecting people to social resources through referrals (e.g., food, housing, healthcare)

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Does your agency/organization anticipate keeping any of these programs/services post-pandemic?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Unsure

6. What other impacts, positive and/or negative, has COVID-19 had on your agency/organization’s parks and recreation operations?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Section III: Benefits and Priorities in Outdoor Recreation**

The following questions are used to help understand how your community or organization values outdoor recreation.

1. When thinking about your community or organization, how important are each of following considerations when making decisions about **funding outdoor recreation and conservation efforts**? Please rate each statement from scale: Extremely Unimportant to Extremely Important.

	Extremely Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat Important	Extremely Important
Acquire and protect open space (as undeveloped, conserved land)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Acquire additional land and water areas for developed recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintain existing park and recreation areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide environmental and conservation programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide recreation programs at parks and recreation areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protect wildlife and fish habitat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Build more greenways/trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Build pedestrian and cycling paths between places of work, parks, schools etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. When thinking about your community, how much do you agree that the outdoor recreation opportunities your organization provides or supports deliver the following **benefits to the public**?

	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
Makes your community a more desirable place to live	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preserves historical features in your community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preserves open space and the environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increases property values in your community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Helps attract new residents and businesses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Helps to lower the crime rate in your community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promotes tourism in your community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enhances a sense of place and community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provides programs/services that benefit a demographically diverse populations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. How important is it that your agency delivers or provides the following programs/services that **focus on enhancing health and well-being?**

	Extremely Unimportant	Somewhat Unimportant	Neutral	Somewhat Important	Extremely Important
Improve physical health and fitness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve mental health and reduce stress for adults	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve mental health and reduce stress for youth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide opportunities for social interaction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Partner with local government or community-based organizations to improve access to health and wellness opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promote the health and wellness benefits of parks and recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide equitable access to high-quality parks, green spaces, trails, and other built environment features	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. What is the level of priority that your agency places on investing in each of the following outdoor facilities? Please rate from scale: 1 = Lowest priority, 5 = Highest priority, or N/A = Not applicable.

	Lowest Priority	Low Priority	Medium Priority	High Priority	Highest Priority	Not applicable
Tent-camping campgrounds	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
RV or trailer campgrounds	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Picnic areas	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Facilities for boating	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Swimming pool/water park	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Trails/parks for motorized vehicles	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Fishing areas	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Walking/biking trails (unpaved)	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Walking/biking trails (paved)	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Mountain biking skills course	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Mountain biking trails	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Nature areas/open space	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

Outdoor festival/event	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Playgrounds	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Golf courses/driving ranges	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Skateboarding parks	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Disc golf courses	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Off-leash dog parks	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Outdoor education facilities	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Baseball or softball fields	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Soccer fields	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Lacrosse fields	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Football fields	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

5. Are there any other types of facilities your agency/organization places a high priority on when planning outdoor recreation development?

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**Section IV: Challenges in Providing Outdoor Recreation**

The following questions are used to understand the challenges your agency encounters in providing parks and recreation services to the public.

1. The following are potential concerns outdoor recreation providers may face. How much of a challenge, if at all, are each of the following concerns? Please indicate the level of challenge/concern for that topic within your organization or community at this time, from “Not a challenge” to “Major challenge”.

	Not a challenge	Slight challenge	Somewhat of a challenge	Moderate challenge	Major challenge
Maintaining existing recreation infrastructure or resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creating new park and recreation facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities on public land	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Collaborating with other government or non-profit organizations for outdoor recreation services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recruiting and retaining quality staff and volunteers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Building public awareness of outdoor recreation opportunities in the community or state	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Advocating the benefits and importance of outdoor recreation related public services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Budgeting or allocating funds for operation and management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Developing alternative revenue for parks and recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Responding to new types of outdoor recreation activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adapting to serve ethnic minorities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adapting to serve an aging population	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Determining how to use limited resources for various recreation needs from the public	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing parks and recreation related facilities/services that meet the needs of people with disabilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Keeping up with technological changes for management (i.e., registration/reservation system)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Staying current with social media and technological trends in promotion and marketing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attracting younger generations to participate in outdoor recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improving public health and active living through providing outdoor recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing access and opportunities for people with disabilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. What are other challenges related to parks and recreation that your community faces in planning for the future?

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3. What else should we consider as we develop the South Dakota outdoor recreation plan for the next five-years?

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*Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey!*

*If you would like to participate in an outdoor recreation users' survey, you may take the survey at*

<https://sdscorppublic2022.questionpro.com>





**2021 South Dakota Outdoor Recreation Survey: Inventory**



Please print out this survey and fill out your inventory on a hard copy.

Please send your complete inventory to Stella Liu, Assistant Professor in Recreation Management, Wagner 407, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD 57007.

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) and South Dakota State University (SDSU) need your help in gathering information regarding the State’s inventory supply of outdoor recreation facilities, structures, and spaces. This information will be included in the 2023-2028 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and is crucial in helping assess how resources can be used to better meet the outdoor recreation needs across the state.

Your participation in this research is voluntary. There is no penalty for refusal to participate, and you are free to withdraw your consent and participation in this project at any time. There are no known risks to your participation in the study. Your responses to the survey will be strictly confidential. You may start the survey, stop, and resume the survey at a later time. When the data and analysis are presented, you will not be linked to the data by your name, title or any other identifying item.

You may contact the researchers at the following address and phone number, should you desire to discuss your participation in the study and/or request information about the results of the study: Hung-Ling (Stella) Liu, Assistant Professor in Recreation Management ([stella.liu@sdstate.edu](mailto:stella.liu@sdstate.edu), 605-688-6163) or Megan Thompson, Research Assistant ([megan.thompson@sdstate.edu](mailto:megan.thompson@sdstate.edu)). If you have questions regarding your rights as a participant, you can contact the SDSU Research Compliance Coordinator at (605) 688-6975 or [SDSU.IRB@sdstate.edu](mailto:SDSU.IRB@sdstate.edu).

City/County/Agency:		Date:	
Person completing this form:		Title:	
Contact Information:	(Email)		
	(Phone number)		

1. How many separate park or recreation sites are maintained by your city/county/agency? If possible, please include school or other institutional sites that provide playgrounds, play fields or other facilities open to the general public.
  - Number of your sites: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Number of institutional sites: \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the total number of acres available for park and recreational activities at these sites (excluding golf courses)?
  - Total number of acres: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Please complete the following inventory of listed recreational facilities **owned or managed by your city/county/agency**. Also break down the number of those facilities that fall into the following categories:
  - Those needing major **renovation** or **replacement**. These facilities are generally well used or needed, but typically have met their life expectancy, are too expensive to maintain, vandalized, becoming an issue of liability, or were damaged by a natural disaster.
  - Any **additional** facilities that you can justify as needed within your park system to meet current or potential demand.

**3.1 Water-based facilities**

Swimming pools	_____ Number of indoor swimming pools _____ Number of outdoor swimming pools Of these swimming pools, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____ _____ Number of <b>additional swimming pools</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand
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Swimming beaches	_____ Number of swimming beaches _____ Total feet of swimming beach Of these swimming beaches, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____ _____ Number of <b>additional swimming beaches</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand
Boat ramps	_____ Number of boat ramps Of these boat ramps, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____ _____ Number of <b>additional boat ramps</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand
Public fishing access areas	_____ Number of public fishing access areas Of these public fishing access areas, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____ _____ Number of <b>additional public fishing access</b> areas needed to meet the current or potential demand
Shore Fishing Opportunities	_____ Number of shore fishing locations Of these shore fishing locations, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____ _____ Number of <b>additional shore fishing locations</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand
Splash pads/parks	_____ Number of splash pads/parks Of these splash pads/parks, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____ _____ Number of <b>additional splash pads/parks</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand
Lakes	_____ Number of public lakes _____ Acres of public water _____ Number of <b>additional public lake</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand
Canoes/Kayaks	_____ Number of canoes available for rent/check-out _____ Number of kayaks available for rent/check-out Of these canoes/kayaks, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____ _____ Number of <b>additional canoes/kayaks</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand
Paddleboards	_____ Number of stand-up paddleboards available for rent/check-out Of these stand-up paddleboards, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____ _____ Number of <b>additional stand-up paddleboards</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand

**3.2 Trail Facilities**

Trails	_____ Number of trails _____ Total miles of trails _____ Total miles of paved trails (non-motorized) _____ Total miles of unpaved trails (non-motorized) _____ Total miles of interpretive/educational trails _____ Total miles of ATV trails _____ Total miles of OHV trails _____ Total miles of mountain biking trails _____ Total miles of horseback riding trails _____ Total miles of cross-country skiing trails _____ Total miles of groomed snowmobile trails
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	Of these miles of trails, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____ _____ Number of <b>additional miles of trails</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand
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### 3.3 Sports Facilities

Softball/baseball Diamonds	_____ Number of softball/baseball diamonds (60 ft. diamond) _____ Number with lights Of these softball/baseball diamonds, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____ _____ Number of <b>additional softball diamonds</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand
Baseball Diamonds	_____ Number of baseball diamonds (90 ft. diamond) _____ Number with lights Of these baseball diamonds, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____ _____ Number of <b>additional baseball diamonds</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand
Soccer Fields	_____ Number of soccer fields _____ Number with lights Of these soccer fields, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____ _____ Number of <b>additional soccer fields</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand
Football Fields	_____ Number of football fields _____ Number with lights Of these football fields, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____ _____ Number of <b>additional football fields</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand
Lacrosse Fields	_____ Number of lacrosse fields _____ Number with lights Of these lacrosse fields, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____ _____ Number of <b>additional lacrosse fields</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand
Outdoor Tennis Courts	_____ Number of outdoor tennis courts _____ Number with lights Of these outdoor tennis courts, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____ _____ Number of <b>additional outdoor tennis courts</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand
Outdoor Basketball Courts	_____ Number of outdoor basketball courts _____ Number with lights Of these outdoor basketball courts, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____ _____ Number of <b>additional outdoor basketball courts</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand
Outdoor Volleyball Courts	_____ Number of outdoor volleyball courts (sand and/or hard surfaced) _____ Number with lights Of these outdoor volleyball courts, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____ _____ Number of <b>additional outdoor volleyball courts</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand
Skate Parks	_____ Total number of skate parks Of these skate parks, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____ _____ Number of <b>additional skate parks</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand

	demand
Golf Courses	<p>_____ Number of golf courses (owned or managed by city)</p> <p>_____ Total number of holes</p> <p>Of these golf courses, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____</p> <p>_____ Number of <b>additional holes</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand</p>
Disc Golf Courses	<p>_____ Number of disc golf courses (owned or managed by city)</p> <p>_____ Total number of holes</p> <p>Of these discs golf courses, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____</p> <p>_____ Number of <b>additional disc golf courses</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand</p>
Ice Skating/ hockey Rinks	<p>_____ Number of outdoor ice skating/hockey rinks</p> <p>_____ Number of indoor ice skating/hockey rinks</p> <p>Of these group ice skating/hockey rinks, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____</p> <p>_____ Number of <b>additional outdoor ice-skating rinks</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand</p> <p>_____ Number of <b>additional indoor ice-skating rinks</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand</p>
Downhill Skiing or Snowboarding Areas	<p>_____ Number of downhill skiing or snowboarding areas</p> <p>Of these skiing or snowboarding areas, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____</p> <p>_____ Number of <b>additional skiing or snowboarding areas</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand</p>
Sledding	<p>_____ Number of designated sledding areas</p> <p>Of these downhill sledding areas, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____</p> <p>_____ Number of <b>additional sledding areas</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand</p>
Horseshoe Pits	<p>_____ Total number of horseshoe pits</p> <p>Of these horseshoe pits, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____</p> <p>_____ Number of <b>additional horseshoe pits</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand</p>
Outdoor Archery Ranges	<p>_____ Number of outdoor archery ranges (city owned/managed outside city limits)</p> <p>Of these outdoor archery ranges, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____</p> <p>_____ Number of <b>additional outdoor archery ranges</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand</p>
Outdoor rifle/pistol/ shotgun ranges	<p>_____ Total number of outdoor rifle/pistol/shotgun ranges</p> <p>_____ Number of trap, skeet, or sporting clay ranges</p> <p>_____ Number of pistol/rifle shooting areas</p> <p>Of these shooting ranges, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____</p> <p>_____ Number of <b>additional outdoor shooting ranges</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand</p>
Pickleball Courts	<p>_____ Total number of pickleball courts</p> <p>Of these pickleball courts, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____</p> <p>_____ Number of <b>additional pickleball courts</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand</p>

**3.4 Parks and Natural/Historic Areas**

Parks	<p>_____ Number of parks</p> <p>_____ Total acres of park land</p> <p>Of these parks, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____</p> <p>_____ Number of <b>additional parks</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand</p>
Picnic Areas	<p>_____ Number of picnic areas</p> <p>_____ Number of group picnic shelters</p> <p>Of these group picnic shelters, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____</p> <p>_____ Number of <b>additional picnic areas</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand</p> <p>_____ Number of <b>additional group picnic shelters</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand</p>
Playgrounds	<p>_____ Total number of playground structures (swing sets, slides, gyms, etc.)</p> <p>Of these playground structures, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____</p> <p>_____ Number of <b>additional playgrounds</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand</p>
Campgrounds	<p>_____ Number of campgrounds (owned or managed by city)</p> <p>_____ Total number of campsites (including all types)</p> <p>Tent campsites</p> <p>_____ Number of primitive tent campsites</p> <p>_____ Number tent campsites with electricity</p> <p>RV campsites</p> <p>_____ Number of primitive RV campsites</p> <p>_____ Number RV campsites with electricity</p> <p>_____ Number RV campsite with full hookups</p> <p>Of these campsites above, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____</p> <p>_____ Number of <b>additional campsites</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand (if you are restricted from adding campsites, fill in the number that you could add if allowed)</p>
Nature Areas	<p>_____ Number of nature areas managed for wildlife or nature observance</p> <p>_____ Total acres of nature areas managed for wildlife or nature observance</p> <p>_____ Number of <b>additional nature areas</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand</p>
Interpretive or Educational Facilities	<p>_____ Number of outdoor interpretive or educational facilities (amphitheaters, kiosks, learning stations, visitor centers, etc.)</p> <p>Of these outdoor interpretive or educational facilities, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____</p> <p>_____ Number of <b>additional educational facilities</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand</p>
Historic Sites	<p>_____ Number of historic sites</p> <p>Of these historic sites, how many need to be renovated/restored? _____</p> <p>_____ Number of <b>additional historic sites</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand</p>
Public Hunting Areas	<p>_____ Total acres open to public hunting (city property outside city limits)</p> <p>Of these public hunting areas, how many need to be renovated/replaced? _____</p> <p>_____ Number of additional <b>public hunting areas</b> needed to meet the current or potential demand</p>

4. Please list any other outdoor recreational facilities or activities that your city provides:

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*Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey!*

## Appendix C: Recruitment Materials

### Example 1

Hello Municipal Professionals,

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) and South Dakota State University (SDSU) need your help in gathering information to complete the 2023-2028 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for South Dakota. The SCORP attempts to bring together the supply, demand, challenges and opportunities for outdoor recreation across the state. Every five years, each state must prepare a SCORP as evaluation criteria to receive grant funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Since 1964, South Dakota has utilized over 40 million dollars from the program to acquire and build parks and recreation areas across the state, with projects completed in every South Dakota county. If you would like a large snapshot of what goes into a SCORP, please follow this link to see South Dakota's 2018 SCORP <https://gfp.sd.gov/userdocs/docs/scorp18.pdf>

This email is simply serving as an invitation to join our project. We will be sending out two surveys to recreation providers in the following days. One survey will focus on management and operations, while the other will collect inventory data. There will be both online (QuestionPro) and mail-in options to complete the surveys. We understand that South Dakota is largely a rural state and small municipalities may not have a parks and recreation department. However, we still want to encourage you to complete the surveys to the best of your abilities, as that data is a representation of South Dakota and should be highlighted in the final report.

This is a significant project and we are asking for your assistance in being a voice for our state's outdoor recreation legacy. We received your contact information from GFP to serve as the point of contact for your municipality. If you feel that there is someone else in your organization who would be a better representative for this project, please respond to this email with their name, email address, and phone number so we can reach out to them. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you,

Stella Liu, Assistant Professor in Recreation Management

Megan Thompson, Graduate Research Assistant

Kiley Foss, Graduate Research Assistant

## Example 2

Hello,

As part of the 2023-2028 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) and South Dakota State University (SDSU) are collecting information regarding the State's inventory supply of outdoor recreation facilities, structures, and spaces. This is the second survey that we are asking providers to complete as part of this project.

All responses will remain confidential and secure. Thank you in advance for your valuable insights and your commitment to maintaining recreation opportunities for your community. Your input will be used to assess how South Dakota can better use its resources to meet the outdoor recreation demands across the state. We appreciate your trust and look forward to serving you in the future.

Please click on this link to complete the online survey:

<https://2022sdscorpinventory.questionpro.com>

Or if you would prefer a hard copy, attached is a PDF document of the survey.

We greatly appreciate those who have already taken the providers survey that was sent out last month.

If you have not had the chance to do so, please follow this link:

<https://2022sdscorpprovider.questionpro.com>

PDF is also attached if you would prefer a hard copy.

If you would like more information regarding the details of this study, please contact stella.liu@sdstate.edu or 605-688-6163.

Thank You,

Stella Liu, Assistant Professor in Recreation Management

Megan Thompson, Graduate Research Assistant

Kiley Foss, Graduate Research Assistant





Hello Municipal Professional,

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) and South Dakota State University (SDSU) need your help in gathering information to complete the 2023-2028 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for South Dakota. No matter the size of your town or community, we would like to gather information on outdoor recreation from the perspective of your municipality. We have two surveys that can be filled out on paper and mailed back or completed online following the links below.

This is an important piece to maintaining current outdoor recreation opportunities in South Dakota, as well as determining the need to expand and create new opportunities for residents and visitors. Your help in gathering this information is greatly appreciated.

**Providers Survey**

<https://2022sdscorpprovider.questionpro.com>



**Inventory Survey**

<https://2022sdscorpinventory.questionpro.com>



If you have questions, please contact Megan Thompson, Graduate Assistant [megan.thompson@sdstate.edu](mailto:megan.thompson@sdstate.edu) or Dr. Stella Liu [stella.liu@sdstate.edu](mailto:stella.liu@sdstate.edu) or 605-688-6163.



Hello Municipal Professional,

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) and South Dakota State University (SDSU) need your help in gathering information to complete the 2023-2028 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for South Dakota. No matter the size of your town or community, we would like to gather information on outdoor recreation from the perspective of your municipality. We have two surveys that can be filled out on paper and mailed back or completed online following the links below.

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**Inventory Survey**

<https://2022sdscorpinventory.questionpro.com>



If you have questions, please contact Megan Thompson, Graduate Assistant [megan.thompson@sdstate.edu](mailto:megan.thompson@sdstate.edu) or Dr. Stella Liu [stella.liu@sdstate.edu](mailto:stella.liu@sdstate.edu) or 605-688-6163.

### Appendix D: Provider Survey Open-ended Questions

Section I Question 3. What is the zip code of your community/municipality/county office?
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The following list includes survey participants who answered the question:

Zip code	City/Town	Zip code	City/Town
57001	Alcester	57242	Hazel
57004	Beresford	57247	Lake City
57005	Brandon	57249	Lake Preston
57006	Brookings	57258	Raymond
57013	Canton	57261	Roslyn
57017	Colman	57264	Stockholm
57026	Elkton	57274	Webster, Lily
57028	Flandreau	57311	Alexandria
57029	Freeman	57313	Armour
57030	Garretson, Sherman	57315	Avon
57032	Harrisburg	57317	Bonesteel
57033	Hartford	57325	Chamberlain
57035	Humboldt	57329	Dante
57037	Irene	57332	Emery
57038	Jefferson	57342	Geddes
57039	Lennox	57349	Howard, Roswell
57042	Madison	57350	Huron
57048	Montrose	37353	Iroquois
57051	Oldham	57355	Kimball
57053	Parker	57365	Oacoma
57058	Salem	57366	Parkston
57062	Springfield, Running Water	57367	Pickstown
57063	Tabor	57368	Plankinton
57069	Vermillion, Meckling	57374	Spencer
57070	Viborg	57380	Wagner
57071	Volga	57381	Wessington
57072	Volin	57384	Wolsey
57073	Wakonda	57386	Yale
57078	Yankton	57401	Aberdeen
57104	Sioux Falls	57424	Ashton
57212	Arlington, Hetland	57430	Britton
57213	Astoria	57433	Columbia
57220	Bruce	57434	Conde
57226	Clear Lake, Altamont	57436	Doland
57233	Erwin	57438	Faulkton, Miranda, Norbeck, Wecota
57237	Gary	57441	Frederick
57238	Goodwin	57442	Gettysburg

Appendix D: Open-ended Questions

<b>Zip code</b>	<b>City/Town</b>
57445	Groton
57446	Hecla
57451	Ipswich, Mina
57452	Java
57461	Mellette
57465	Northville
57471	Roscoe
57472	Selby, Lowry
57476	Tulare
57521	Belvidere
57523	Burke, Lucas
57528	Colome
57533	Gregory, Dixon, Iona
57544	Kennebec
57551	Martin, Vetal
57552	Midland
57564	Onida
57567	Philip
57579	White River
57580	Winner
57584	Witten
57648	Pollock
57656	Timber Lake
57717	Belle Fourche, Fruitdale
57719	Box Elder
57720	Buffalo
57730	Custer
57732	Deadwood
57745	Hill City
57747	Hot Springs
57750	Interior
57751	Keystone
57754	Lead, Central City
57760	Newell
57775	Quinn
57783	Spearfish
57785	Sturgis
57790	Wall

Section I Question 9. Does your community/municipality/county jointly provide park resources with another non-governmental unit? **Other (please specify)**

- American Legion
- baseball--not an organization, just parents
- Beresford Park, rec, and community Education (BPRCE)
- Community board
- Community Organizations
- community youth baseball groups
- Frederick Forward
- Library Department
- Local community organizations
- maintenance
- Men's Softball League, Youth Soccer Program, Youth Baseball Program
- Non-profit local trails organization
- Other
- We provide bussing to swimming lessons in the summer
- We provide funding for another city's golf course and recreation program.

Section I Question 9a. If yes, please specify organization and what resource/program/service is provided with this partnership.

- Community Club, Leo Club,
- A local trails focused non-profit, Black Hills Trails, has an agreement with the City to develop and maintain trails on City, BLM and USFS property. The Police Department's PALs program also has fundraised to develop a new bike park in our community
- American Legion Baseball.
- Ball fields in summer turn into PE classes during school
- BF school district
- Boys & Girls Club
- Boys & Girls Club
- BPRCE provides (see below)
- Brandon Valley School District. We share some park equipment.
- Chamberlain City Recreation Dept: Summer recreation program for youth. Chamberlain (City) Country Club: Golf course improvements and equipment.
- churches
- city park
- city provides
- Frederick Forward
- General Parks - Grounds maint for park and community areas.
- General Parks - Grounds maintenance for parks and community areas
- Gettysburg school, city of gettysburg local gov. municipality

- Girls on the Run Program provides skills for young girls, Senior Citizens Center provides activities for elderly, School provides recreation opportunities, Summer Rec Program provides summer rec programs, Churches provide spiritual worship
- Haakon County Young Women maintains the Kiddie Park; Community Betterment Committee maintains Fire Hall Park; Philip Garden Club maintains Senechal Park; Area Retired Teachers Association maintains School House Park
- Harrisburg Basesball Association provides recreational and competitive leagues from Spring through Summer.
- Interlakes softball, Madison Area Baseball, soccer Madison
- Lions Club
- Lion's organization
- Local community organizations have adopted park areas in the community. They maintain the parks and in turn, the city provides insurance, free water and other assistance as requested.
- Maintenance guys
- Men's Softball League, Youth Soccer Program, Youth Baseball Program, Summer Swimming Lessons
- Multiple non profit Youth Sports Organizations - Hockey, baseball, softball, football, soccer, golf
- open enrollment school district
- Our public works department maintains the City park, pool and South Boulevard area by mowing and trimming.
- Red Cross (swimming lessons)
- School District uses the municipal indoor pool and community center gym, various non-city club sports use our athletic facilities, church groups will use our indoor gyms
- Shared buildings and park resources with the school system.
- Summer recreation program two times a week during the summer with the kids. Involves gardening and playing in the park.
- teener baseball
- The city and Frederick Forward have worked together to put play ground equipment and a dock in at the park.
- The City doesn't partner will anyone to provide any type of recreation services. There is a youth baseball & softball organizations that handle the summer programs. The City just provides the facilities & pay their insurance.
- The City doesn't partner with anyone. We provide the facilities and pay for the insurance. otherwise we aren't involved much.
- The Hanson School and the 4-H office
- The hospital and school in town will donate to the city parks, they have helped to get a fishing dock and disc golf course installed. The boy scouts this year also asked to install a gaga ball pit in the city park.
- this is at the county level
- Use of our facilities within the system

- We pay for the bussing for summer swimming lessons for all children with a 57213 address
- We utilize property owned by the Huron Public Schools for our Little League baseball facility.
- Yankton School District. The Summit Activities Center- a community recreation facility and the high school grounds that have tennis courts, a track, sports fields, and an arboretum with walking trail.

Section I Question 10. What programs/services does your agency typically offer (prior to COVID-19)? **Other (please specify)**

- Comm. Hall operate during winter months for walking indoors
- Fitness Center
- Fitness Opportunities thought the YMCA
- Golf course
- Play-ground area and camping sites
- Summer rec/swimming/baseball
- summer recreation for kids
- Summer Recreation Program
- swimming pool
- Swimming Pool / Support to local organizations
- The municipality doesn't provide anything
- We do have a baseball field and a volunteer parent works with the youth for this program

Section I Question 12. Please indicate all the funding sources that currently support your organization. **Other (please specify)**

- County
- Nothing provided
- The town does mowing/maintenance

Section I Question 13a. If you experienced a reduced or increased budget, what was the approximate percentage of change?

- (-) covid and more important city projects
- (-) .5% Needing monies for other depts
- (-) ? pool was not open the first summer of covid
- (-) 10 population decline
- (-) 10 sales tax dollars
- (-) 10% More money spent in other departments
- (-) 15 Need for increased funds in other areas.
- (-) 15-20% Re-allocation of money.
- (-) 15% Lack of participation among community members
- (-) 20 pandemic
- (-) 20% COVID

- (-) 25 Covid + have had no projects recently in parks and recreation
- (-) 25 over-spent in 2021
- (-) 3 not as much activity
- (-) 5 lack of housing/no school/no churches
- (-) 5 Not enough money
- (-) 5% Infrastructure upgrades are taking priority.
- (-) 7.5% Change in budgeting philosophy, COVID.
- (+) Increased cost of wages and supplies
- (+) potential pool liner
- (+) We qualified for a grant for a park
- (+) 10% Program growth.
- (+) 10% Upgrading our City Park facilities
- (+) 13% Increase labor costs and improvements
- (+) 2% Increase in supply and operating costs.
- (+) 25% Updating fields.... sprinkler systems, dugouts, etc...
- (+) 2-5% Growing population and community needs.
- (+) 3% parks and recreation viewed as a priority and new projects
- (+) 3.43 FEMA grant money is the increase
- (+) 30% Increase personnel costs and maintenance of park facilities.
- (+) 5% Improvements
- (+) 5% Community has grown and the community has diversified its income base which has allowed us to increase our investments in our community
- (+) 50% We are updating the facilities at our City Park.
- (+) 50% Added staff, expanding programs, beautification efforts.
- (+) 50% capital improvements - need to replace old equipment

Section I Question 13b. What was the cause of change in budget?
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- Added staff, expanding programs, beautification efforts.
- capital improvements - need to replace old equipment
- Change in budgeting philosophy, COVID.
- Community has grown and the community has diversified its income base which has allowed us to increase our investments in our community
- COVID
- Covid + have had no projects recently in parks and recreation
- covid and more important city projects
- FEMA grant money is the increase
- Growing population and community needs.
- Improvements
- Increase in supply and operating costs.
- Increase labor costs and improvements
- Increase personnel costs and maintenance of park facilities.
- Increased cost of wages and supplies
- Infrastructure upgrades are taking priority.

- lack of housing/no school/no churches
- Lack of participation among community members
- More money spent in other departments
- Need for increased funds in other areas.
- Needing monies for other depts
- not as much activity
- Not enough money
- over-spent in 2021
- pandemic
- parks and recreation viewed as a priority and new projects
- pool was not open the first summer of covid
- population decline
- potential pool liner
- Program growth.
- Re-allocation of money.
- sales tax dollars
- Updating fields.... sprinkler systems, dugouts, etc...
- Upgrading our City Park facilities
- We are updating the facilities at our City Park.
- We qualified for a grant for a park

Section I Question 14. Which of the following has your agency/organization done during times of financial shortfall? (Check all that apply) **Other (please specify)**

- Learned to not spend money and save. We pay our bills, add culverts when needed, and road maintaining. We city liability insurance, municipal fees to pay also.
- supplement the budget

Section II Question 2. Were there any other outdoor recreation facilities or programs that were canceled/postponed/closed due to COVID-19?

- 2019 - closed softball/baseball programs. Cancel [unknown] days celebration
- Baseball
- Closed the whole park area
- disc golf for a short time
- No outdoor programs or facilities were closed
- No, we briefly closed our park and shelter bookings, but opened them backup in June of 2020. We increased sanitation measures at all facilities and they remained open.
- Our city swimming pool was closed.
- Our summer Softball & Baseball leagues were canceled in 2020.
- Our town regular summer Fun Days in the park was cancelled. The alumni gathering/banquet was cancelled.



- outdoor basketball court
- Outdoor pool
- pool was late opening, city parks were closed
- Spring Soccer in 2020 was cancelled along with Summer Recreation in 2020.
- Summer baseball and softball programs were cancelled
- summer rec cancelled 2020
- summer rec postponed
- Summer rec/enrichment programs
- summer recreation, swimming lessons
- Swimming lessons were cancelled one year
- The annual "fun days" put on by the Astoria community [unknown] and Astoria [unknown]
- The parent led groups cancelled baseball
- The playground at our City Park.
- We closed all indoor spaces (including fitness facilities) during the 15 days to slow the spread, but May of 2020 everything was open
- yes
- yes
- Yes
- Yes, an Easter egg hunt in the Park was cancelled.
- Yes, our summer rec program was modified in 2020 - they did not offer a lot of classes due to covid-19. Our 'teeners' and adult baseball teams did not play in 2020.
- Youth Baseball

Section II Question 6. What other impacts, positive and/or negative, has COVID-19 had on your agency/organization's parks and recreation operations?

- After we opened things back up, all our facilities have been very busy and the City has committed to improving our facilities.
- Because the pool was closed for a whole year, there was much more maintenance and funds involved to reopen after closure
- Closed facilities for a short time, but because most of our operations are outside, our participation numbers ultimately increased.
- COVID-19 has pushed more residents outside which highlighted the need for more facilities and programs.
- Decreased participation
- festival was cancelled in 2020
- Gained kids for swimming lessons
- Increased housekeeping/cleanliness in all parks and recreation areas.
- Kids spent more time outside. Busier pool year
- Less activity and/or usage

- Less people around
- Less people visiting
- Loss of returning staff in 2021. Higher cleaning costs of facilities.
- Lost of participates to our programs, increase usage of our golf course and camping areas
- Low to no impact
- Membership and user program fees were reduced in 2020 but we saw an increase in local use of the facilities.
- More people used the park during the COVID crisis
- negative - supply shortage, remote working, some shut downs
- not as many people invovled
- Not much of an impact.
- Nothing permanent, only temporary.
- Only local residents were allowed pool usage 2020, no one from out of the county was allowed. Temp checks were done on everyone entering. Concession stand shut down, restrooms sprayed with disinfectant several times a day
- Our city outside park was busier than normal
- Our golf course has stayed busy
- Our participation numbers decreased in 2020, but rebounded in 2021.
- positive - increased sales tax revenue
- Positive: people are outside (summer months) more
- Reduced participation, reduced work force, reduced volunteers
- reduced usage
- Slowed usage of parks and recreational areas in the community
- Small negative of making accommodations to meet covid regulations.
- staffing and scheduling; covid guidelines
- Summer Rec created a new nature hike class that the kids really enjoyed. Our campgrounds also seen a significant increase in visitors during covid-19.
- There has been a reduction in participation (though that is slowly returning to pre-pandemic levels). There has been a significant change in the moods, attitudes and emotions of a sizeable portion of our community that has created far more anger, rage and depression
- There has been a significant increase in the amount of use of our outdoor facilities and programs. This has highlighted areas of improvement and expansion that are needed.
- There has been more use at all city park locations due to covid-19. More individuals are looking for outdoor activities
- Things have returned to pre-covid activities
- Use of community recreation center has dropped significantly. Causing budget concerns and a strategic plan to change operations significantly.
- We are a small town with a population of 70. The mayor and board and finance officer keep the park clean and mowed
- We are very small so didn't really have any impact. Our city park stayed open.

- We feel that due to closing the Waterpark down for a season that we had an increased amount of repairs for start-up last season.
- We have a new local brewery that has increased; positive impact on our community. They help a social, trunk or treat, bring in food trucks as they are located by our park
- We have seen a decline in participation in summer recreational sports the last 2 years.
- We have seen a positive impact on our outdoor activities; urban and hiking trails
- We hope that 2022 will be a "normal year"

Section III Question 5. Are there any other types of facilities your agency/organization places a high priority on when planning outdoor recreation development?

- horseshoe pits/pickleball courts
- list above covered it
- need new park equipment
- New man made lake to provide numerous outdoor aquatic activities
- Our bathhouse build in the 30s
- Our city-owned auditoriums where there is walkings, dance, tumbling, basketball, shooting sports, summer rec for youth, prom
- Our community is actively reviewing the potential to construct a man made lake adventure park that would have numerous outdoor activities for residents and visitors alike
- Our outdoor park with playground equipment and picnic area
- Pickle Ball Courts
- Rodeo Grounds
- softball/baseball fields improved
- swimming pool
- We want to get a kayak area started at an adjacent US fish and wildlife area.

Section IV Question 2. What are other challenges related to parks and recreation that your community faces in planning for the future?

- A creek runs through park and needs to be diverted
- ADA needs
- Age of park equipment, walking trail deteriorating, age of pool falling apart.
- always funding
- Always funding.
- Balancing the public's expectations with reality, the public will often see a new field or park in a far larger City and then demand it to happen in our small town. When developing a new outdoor area it meets significant pushback from any resident who does not see their particular activity within the proposal
- Budgeting. Community Growth. Positive Public Relations. Revolving population (military base).
- Declining population
- Decreasing size of population, younger family's moving away and older generation moving in.

- financial
- Financial. Not enough open space for certain recreational needs and and wants
- Finding affordable playground equipment
- funding for renovating and improving parks and swimming pool and outdoor facilities
- Improve park
- Keeping small towns funded and the community involved
- Keeping the equipment in good condition, replacing and updating with new equipment, adding a bathroom is very costly for a town of our size.
- Keeping volunteers to help as kids get older
- lack of money
- lack of usable space
- Land availability - The land that is available is often flat terrain. Lack of community center or community recreation building for staff to operate out of. If we don't have it now, planning and building will take 2-5 years.
- Limited space for expansion and the competition for land from homes and commercial uses.
- Long term maintenance costs are very challenging as are continuing to make improvements to comply with ADA
- Mainly funding.
- Maintain budget funds for pool
- Meeting public expectations
- Money
- Money!!!
- mostly shortage of funds
- Need programs with easy planning and limited funds
- New restrooms, playground equipment, camp ground
- Our public swimming pool is in need of an upgrade so finding the resources to fund the project and a community center for walking indoors during the winter months would be very beneficial for our community.
- Part-time Staff
- Playground equipment is so expensive that we cannot afford to upgrade/replace old equipment.
- Playground improvements. Securing land for access to a kayak area
- population, age of people in community
- Replacing outdated playground equipment
- Sportsmanship-lack of sports officials. Field/court space
- Staffing, keeping long-term interest
- The biggest challenge is motivating the community to try new things and not stay stagnant.
- To have permanent vault toilets or public bathrooms for the public park. To grow some more trees for shade. To provide an updated park equipment for people to enjoy

- Updating restrooms and adding new playground equipment
- Volunteer help
- We are a bedroom community close to Sioux Falls. We are expected to provide 'Sioux Falls' quality on a small budget.
- We are a small older community; this question is hard to answer
- we have a highway running through our main street that separates our city park/playground area and the football field/disc golf course and lake park. Our main concern is the safety of our children trying to cross the highway to get to the other parks
- We lack space for growth. We are surrounded by farm land on all sides--essentially we cannot grow due to the fact the farmers will not sell land and we could not afford it.
- We would like to update our current city park and ballpark.

Section IV Question 3. What else should we consider as we develop the South Dakota outdoor recreation plan for the next five-years?

- Connectivity. Being able to connect to different areas in the hills in other ways that are not on a highway would be ideal.
- Continue to increase funding opportunities for small communities.
- Cross countyr skiing trails
- Easier access pertaining to information regarding state grants.
- Ensure municipalities are aware of the South Dakota rec plan. Push out more information to any sized municipality to ensure this happens. Many members have not been made aware of this program's existence.
- Funding availability for the smaller communities
- Grants for equipmment and recreation items
- Grants to very small towns like ours. Our city park is very important to all our residents, also to people who don't live in town utilize our park all the time. We really need a bathroom and just do not have the funding to do so.
- help smaller towns
- Helping smaller communities upgrade and maintain their recreation areas.
- Higher share for grants - smaller communities have a struggle to come up with 50%
- Increase grant funding
- it appears everything is being considered. Cannot think of something additional
- Larger communities to answer
- Many residents enjoy the playground and picnic areas. Also a fishing dock.
- outdoor event venues
- Outdoor pickleball facilities, update parks that have become dated.
- pool funding!!!
- Recreation ideas
- Small towns don't receive grants for new equipment for parks, and it is hard to raise money for them

- The new local brewery has been offering yoga classes and they have hosted fundraisers for our local PTO
- The significant tourism development that can occur from outdoor recreation. It can be a significant portion of an economic development strategy, it attracts tourists and enhances the quality of living within communities which can help attract new residents and retain existing residents
- There seems to be little statewide interest in large expenditures outside of the Rapid City/Sioux Falls area. It would be nice to see a greater partnership between smaller communities and the state
- Updating parks and trails to help even the disabled. Provide more permanent bathrooms that are handicap accessible
- Walking and biking paths