

# Connecticut State Outdoor Recreation Plan 2005-2010



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# CONNECTICUT STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2005 – 2010



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September 2005

The preparation of this plan was financed in part through a planning grant from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, under provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (Public Law 88-578, as amended).



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## Executive Summary

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection has prepared this Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2005 – 2010 to fulfill the requirements of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 for participation in the Land and Water Conservation Fund program. The process through which this plan has been developed has provided valuable insights in identifying the recreational needs and desires of Connecticut's recreating citizens, their rates of participation in various outdoor activities, and the barriers that prevent greater levels of participation by our citizens. As such, this SCORP goes far beyond the mere fulfillment of a legal requirement. This plan will guide state investments and resource allocations for meeting the outdoor recreational needs of Connecticut's citizens and visitors during the plan's five year term. The findings of this SCORP will also be useful to municipal recreation planners, Connecticut legislators, and regional planning agencies, as well as to non-profit organizations and user groups.



The approach taken in developing the 2005 – 2010 SCORP was to undertake: (1) a detailed inventory of the supply of outdoor recreational properties and facilities in Connecticut, be they federal, state, municipal, non-profit, or commercial, and (2) an extensive survey of user demand, using several vehicles to ascertain what facilities the public desires. Among these vehicles were a citizen survey which received responses from over 2,200 households, a survey of municipal recreation officials, an on-line survey of expert or avid recreationists, an analysis of the Connecticut responses to the National Survey of Recreation and the Environment, and the holding of three public meetings at sites across the state. DEP partnered with the University of Connecticut Center for Population Research which performed most of the outreach work, data gathering, and statistical analysis.

### Inventory of Supply

The inventory of the supply of outdoor recreational facilities was done using Connecticut's 169 municipalities as the units of analysis. On this town-by-town basis, 4,291 discrete identifiable recreational places or DIRPs were inventoried, with the components at each location entered into the database by both number and condition. DIRPs included not only state and municipal parks but also federal holdings, trails, school athletic facilities, playgrounds, boat launch sites, golf courses, land trust holdings, wildlife viewing areas, and commercial recreation sites. The methodology by which this inventory database was developed is detailed in Chapter 4 of the SCORP, while an analysis of the results is contained in Chapter 6.

Looking first at the acreage of recreational properties in Connecticut, the supply inventory shows a total of 328,000 acres of recreational land, or 964 acres per 10,000 residents. Not surprisingly, this land is not distributed uniformly across the state. For Connecticut's five more rural counties, the supply of recreational land equates to 4,000 acres per 10,000 residents in Litchfield County, and between 2,200 and 2,700 acres per 10,000 residents in Tolland, New London, Middlesex, and Windham Counties. The more urban counties of Fairfield, Hartford, and New Haven, with greater populations and fewer large tracts of open space, offer between 365 and 430 acres of recreational land per 10,000 residents. When categorized by the five socio-economic groups of wealthy, rural, suburban, urban fringe, and urban core, recreational acreage per 10,000 residents varies from 4,164 acres for rural town residents, to 949 acres in suburban towns, 558 acres in the wealthy towns, 284 acres in the municipalities of the urban periphery, and 122 acres in the urban centers.

By facility type, the inventory reveals that playgrounds are the most common recreational facility, with 3.1 playgrounds per 10,000 Connecticut residents. Baseball fields, trails, picnic areas, and fishing areas are provided at a rate of 2.0 or more per 10,000 residents, while at least one basketball court, multi-use area, soccer field, and tennis court are available per 10,000 residents. These facilities show much less variation in the supply rates by county or by socio-economic groups than do the acreage totals, and, as shown in Figures 6-4 and 6-5, these developed facilities show a greater variation in supply rates by county than by category of municipality.

In addition to the raw quantity of recreational facilities in Connecticut, this SCORP evaluated the condition of the facilities. Both state and municipal facilities are graded. Three independent methods were used to assess the condition of the recreational facilities: a citizen demand survey of 2,238 households, a survey of avid or expert users which generated 1,355 responses, and a survey of municipal officials. Unlike the first two surveys, the Town Officials Survey commented only on the condition of municipal facilities.

The Citizen Demand Survey respondents rated the condition of the state parks as either excellent, good, fair, or poor. Respectively, the responses for these four categories were 16.3%, 66.1%, 16.4 %, and 1.2%. The avid users rated the parks as being in slightly worse condition with 12.7%, 63.2%, 22.0%, and 2.1% issuing grades of excellent, good, fair, and poor, respectively.

Local parks are seen as being in about the same condition, but not quite as well-maintained, as state parks. The Citizen Demand Survey respondents issued grades of excellent, good, fair, and poor at rates of 18.9%, 61.8%, 17.1%, and 2.2%, respectively. Again, the avid users were just slightly more critical of the condition of local parks, assessing them as excellent in 9.6% of responses, good in 65.7% of the cases, fair at 23.4%, and poor in 1.3% of the surveys. Thus, the avid users see both state and local parks as being in poorer condition than do all users as a whole. The avid users also see state and local parks as being in equivalent states of maintenance and repair, while the

general public sees the state parks as being in slightly better condition than the municipal parks.

Town officials were more critical of the conditions in the local parks than were either the avid users or citizens as a whole. Town officials tend to rank trails, golf courses, hunting sites, and historic sites as the facilities most likely to be in excellent condition. When combining those facilities in excellent or good condition, the types of sites town officials see in the best condition shifts slightly to include hunting areas, baseball/softball fields, golf courses, and historic sites. Those in the worst condition are courts for volleyball, tennis, and basketball, and areas for winter sports. In treating all nineteen facility components equally, only 71.8% of town officials rated a typical resource as being in excellent or good condition.

In light of the fact that Connecticut citizens rate the condition of park facilities lower than the norm of citizen rankings nationally, and that those more familiar with the facilities, i.e., avid users and town officials, rate the facility conditions even more poorly, this SCORP finds that Connecticut's recreational supply is in need of maintenance, improvement, and enhancement. On a state level, DEP staff concur that state facilities are definitely in need of a greater level of investment in facility upkeep and repairs.

The State of Connecticut and its 169 municipalities are the dominant providers of outdoor recreational opportunities in Connecticut, with non-profit organizations, commercial entities, and the federal government playing important but lesser roles. These players perform significantly different roles in the recreational landscape in this state. DEP owns 66% of the total recreational acreage, with municipalities owning 17% and other entities owning the remaining 17%. DEP provides major shares of the natural resource based supply of recreation, including 70.5% of hunting activity and 25-33% of boating access, camping, fishing, and winter sports facilities. Municipalities provide the lion's share of playgrounds, athletic fields, and swimming pools. Private clubs and organizations own three-quarters of the golf courses, and provide 25% or more of volleyball facilities, beaches, boating access, swimming pools, camp sites, and hunting and fishing access areas. A few activities such as hunting, fishing, boating, trails, and historic sites receive significant levels of support from all three sources: state, municipal, and private ownership.

Before concluding this summary of recreational supply, DEP notes that a need for increasing the supply of certain support facilities was identified during the preparation of this SCORP. Citizens, town officials, and avid users often expressed that many recreational sites badly need additional parking, improved or additional restrooms, additional shelters, more public transportation, and improved or additional accessibility for persons with disabilities. This SCORP strongly notes the need for each of these improvements, and, despite the progress that the state and municipalities have made over the last ten years in supplying these features, it calls for the continued prioritization of these needs.



## Assessment of Demand

Connecticut residents participate in a wide array of outdoor recreational activities. This SCORP therefore undertook an assessment of residents' demand for thirty land-based, water-based and winter sports outdoor recreational activities. Demand data from the Citizen Demand Survey and the National Survey of Recreation and the Environment, supplemented by data from the surveys of town officials and avid users, were used to get a picture of the current participation rates of Connecticut residents and the degree to which the demand is being met. Information was also gathered on the obstacles residents identified as restricting their participation in outdoor recreation, the media they use to obtain information about recreational opportunities, and their relative preferences for funding facility improvements, additional facility development, land acquisition, and new programs.

The Citizen Demand Survey results show that almost all households (93.8%) participate in land-based recreational activities, 85.3% of households participate in water-based activities, and 54.2% participate in winter activities. The survey results verify that a very high percentage of Connecticut residents participate in a wide range of outdoor recreational activities. The top ten activities in descending order of individual participation rates are: walking/running/hiking, beach activities, visiting historic sites or museums, swimming in freshwater or saltwater, swimming in pools, biking, bird and wildlife watching, sledding, camping, and canoeing/kayaking/tubing.



The frequency with which residents engage in these activities varies widely. For example, a walker or runner likely practices that activity more frequently than a visitor to historic sites and museums makes such trips. To capture the variation in the frequency with which the various activities are engaged in, and thus to get a more accurate picture of recreational demand, a measure called the use frequency index (UFI) was developed for this SCORP. Loosely defined, the UFI is a product of the percentage of residents practicing an activity times a measure of the frequency of participation. Chapter 7 of this SCORP presents the UFIs for the thirty measured activities, first on a statewide basis, but also by county and by socio-economic category of municipalities. The twelve most popular activities, listed with their respective UFIs to give a sense of their relative participation intensities, are: running/walking/hiking (95.3), swimming in pools (63.7), beach activities (62.0), swimming in freshwater or saltwater (54.7), biking (40.9), visiting historic sites and museums (36.7), sledding (26.8), basketball/volleyball (22.2), motor boating (21.8), canoeing/kayaking/tubing



(20.8), golf (20.2), and camping (20.0).

As we would expect to find, the rates at which Connecticut residents participate in given outdoor recreational activities correlate well with their expressed need for various types of recreational facilities and areas. As an element of the Citizen Demand Survey, residents were asked what types of facilities members of their households had a need for. Picnic areas/ shelters/playgrounds was the top response at 62%, followed by historic sites (56%), freshwater and saltwater swimming areas (54%), paved multi-use trails (52%), unpaved multi-use trails (52%), nature preserves/bird watching areas (47%), outdoor swimming pools (44%), and single use dedicated trails (38%). These percentages of expressed need were then multiplied by the number of households in Connecticut to determine the total number of households statewide with a need for each type of facility.

User needs for these and other types of facilities are being met to varying degrees. For each activity, residents were asked to what degree their need for that facility is currently being met. The percentage of respondents indicating that their needs were being met at a level of 50% or less was multiplied by the total number of households in the state to determine the number of households with unmet needs for each type of facility. Based on this methodology, the largest unmet need is for paved multi-use trails, with 413,000 households having a desire for this type of facility but finding their need to be 50% or more unmet. The next five largest unmet needs are for picnic areas/shelters/playgrounds, outdoor swimming pools, freshwater and saltwater swimming areas, unpaved multi-use trails, and sledding or snowboarding areas.

The activity with the greatest percentage of unmet needs is off-road motorized biking and all terrain vehicle use. Fully 52% of those expressing a need for this type of facility said their need is completely unmet, with another 20% finding their need to be only 25% met. Outdoor swimming pools have the largest totally unmet need of any activity, equivalent to 130,000 households having their need for this type of facility completely unmet. Twenty-two percent of households having a need for outdoor swimming pools felt their need was completely unmet. This equates to a larger volume of totally unmet need than for motorized biking and ATV use because of the much larger number of households having a need for swimming pools than for dirt bike/ATV trails.

Although survey respondents also indicated that they had significant levels of unmet needs for all other types of facilities, it is clear that picnic areas, playgrounds and shelters, all types of swimming facilities, and trails of all types are the greatest unmet facility needs of the people of Connecticut. When asked to list the three types of facilities most important to develop in local parks, the top five responses were paved multi-use trails, picnic areas/ shelters/ playgrounds, unpaved multi-use trails, swimming pools, and freshwater/saltwater swimming areas. The same question for state parks yielded the top five choices of picnic areas/shelters/playgrounds, unpaved multi-use trails, paved multi-use trails, freshwater/saltwater swimming areas, and nature preserves/bird watching areas.

Town officials were also asked to rate the sufficiency of their town's facilities for the types identified as most desired by the citizens. In the view of the ninety-five responding town officials, the supply of the most needed facilities identified in the Citizen Demand Survey is not sufficient. Fewer than 50% of town officials deem swimming facilities to be sufficient. Only 46% feel that they offer sufficient trails, with 45% saying their towns have sufficient picnic areas, and 40% having sufficient playgrounds. The town officials acknowledge the same needs as the citizens; however, they perceive a greater need for athletic facilities including baseball, multi-use, soccer, and football fields, as well as basketball and volleyball courts. They also see an immediate need for more winter sports facilities.



The town officials were also asked how well they feel their facilities and programs meet the needs of various age groups. In general, the needs of children and families were felt to be adequately met, while those of adults (19-54) and older adults (55+) were felt to be less well met. Younger children (0-5) and teenagers were seen by town officials as having their needs poorly met.

The demand for both state and local parks is high, and there is a considerable degree of overlap among the users of these parks. According to the Citizen Demand Survey, 68% of Connecticut residents visited state parks within the previous year, and 77.1% of residents visited local parks. Of the state park visitors, 88.3% also indicated they use local parks, while 80.2% of local park users also visited state parks.

Residents were also surveyed to identify the factors which keep them from using state and local parks or which prevent them from using these facilities more often than they do. The reasons given were illuminating and not necessarily intuitive. Of the various factors listed, ten reasons were cited by 10% or more of respondents. The two most common reasons given for preventing more frequent use of recreational facilities were not knowing what is being offered (36.3%) and not knowing the location of facilities (27.3%). These findings indicate the presence of an information gap and the need for better communication. Other factors listed by 10% or more of respondents were that facilities were too far from their residences (23.1%), the fees are too high (17.6%), the facilities are not well maintained (15.4%), individuals lack a personal interest in recreation (11.8%), the parks are not well maintained (11.3%), security is insufficient (10.9%), parking is insufficient (10.9%), and there is a lack of programs (10.7%). Connecticut park users rely heavily on free sources of information to learn about parks and recreation programs. Word of mouth, newspapers, maps/road signs, and the internet were the four most frequently cited sources of information used by residents.

In order to address the perceived or identified deficiencies in Connecticut's recreational facilities, residents were asked to prioritize actions which could be taken to improve the supply and condition of recreational properties and facilities. The

maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor facilities enjoyed the broadest public support, with 59% of respondents listing it among their top three priority actions. The acquisition of more open space (47%) and the development of new outdoor recreational facilities (45%) were the next most popular choices. However, the most commonly cited first choice for priority action was the acquisition of open space, with about one third of respondents listing this as their top priority. This indicates that those who support acquiring open space feel very strongly about that action.

### **Public Participation in SCORP**

Public outreach and participation was a very significant element of DEP's SCORP preparation. As mentioned earlier, several instruments were used to determine the needs, activities, desires, and recommendations of the public. The input of the general public, avid recreationists, user groups, and town officials provided the foundation from which most of the findings and recommendations of this SCORP are derived.

The foremost vehicle for public input was the Citizen Demand Survey. This 24-question survey (see Appendix A) was sent to 10,000 households. Responses were received from 2,238 households representing 6,222 individuals. This survey provided crucial input on the specific activities respondents engage in, the frequency of participation, the degree to which current facilities meet citizen needs, their perceptions of the condition of recreational facilities, the impediments to increased participation in recreation, the sources of information about recreation, priorities for investment in recreation, and various demographic information.

A survey of avid recreationists (Appendix C) was posted on-line in both English and Spanish. This 48-question survey provided data on the activities, frequency, facilities, and satisfaction of these users for up to five favorite activities. This survey received 1,355 responses.

Thirdly, a survey of town officials, again taken on-line, garnered ninety-five responses from eighty-one towns which represented a good cross-section of Connecticut's municipalities by population, geographic distribution, and income. This 19-question survey (see Appendix B) provided valuable input on the numerical adequacy and the condition of municipal facilities and the degree to which needs are being met for various activities and age groups.

Another public survey, not undertaken specifically for SCORP, provided valuable insights on coastal recreation issues. The Connecticut Coastal Access Survey Project conducted by the DEP Office of Long Island Sound Programs in 2004 used 419 responses to determine public needs and preferences for saltwater fishing, waterfowl hunting, boating, and wildlife observation along Connecticut's coast. Needed new facilities, and enhancements to existing facilities, to support these activities were identified. In addition, the locations of the greatest unmet demand were highlighted.



Another important avenue of public input into this plan was the SCORP Advisory Board. DEP invited representatives of numerous organizations representing various groups of active outdoor recreational enthusiasts, as well as groups interested in enhancing access to outdoor recreational facilities, to join the SCORP Advisory Board. The Advisory Board met thirteen times, beginning in January 2004, and continuing until June 2005. The Board's task was to support DEP in planning, developing and monitoring the SCORP, while at the same time broadening its scope by representing their various constituencies through comment and participation. The Board was very active in its mission and ably offered a variety of perspectives, representing the concerns of many different user groups, town officials, and environmental protection advocates. Appendix F presents the membership of the SCORP Advisory Board.



Three public meetings were held in the western, central and eastern portions of Connecticut, at Waterbury, West Hartford, and Norwich, respectively, to further solicit public review and input. The West Hartford public meeting was televised on the Connecticut Network (CTN), and the services of a sign language interpreter were available at that meeting. Though not particularly well attended, the public meetings did bring a wide range of issues to light, and also informed the public of DEP's efforts and findings in preparing SCORP.

### **Recommendations of SCORP**

As a result of the responses from the three surveys taken as a part of the preparation of this SCORP, the input of the SCORP Advisory Board, the testimony at the three public meetings, and the experience of DEP personnel from many disciplines, a clear picture has emerged of the needs and desires of Connecticut's citizens for outdoor recreation facilities and services, and of the areas in which there are deficiencies in meeting these needs. This SCORP concludes with a statement of the Department's guiding goals in providing for the recreational needs of its citizens, a discussion of the respective roles of the state, municipalities, and commercial providers of recreation, and a series of recommendations to guide the Department's efforts to meet the identified needs during the planning horizon of this SCORP.

Nine fundamental goals have been identified to direct the Department in its mission to meet our citizens' outdoor recreation needs. These broad, guiding goals are:

- to provide a broad spectrum of natural resource-based outdoor recreational activities for all segments of Connecticut's citizenry, and to maximize public access to DEP's outdoor recreational facilities and the opportunities offered.

- to provide safe, clean, and affordable facilities for the use and enjoyment of Connecticut's citizens and other visitors to our state parks, state forests, and other management areas.
- to promote healthy lifestyles for all of Connecticut's citizens, and especially children, by encouraging them to incorporate outdoor recreation into their daily lifestyles, and to fully recognize the physical and emotional benefits of outdoor recreation.
- to implement *The Connecticut Green Plan: Open Space Acquisition* by pursuing its identified goals for property ownership by the State, municipalities, land trusts, and other landholding entities, and to acquire properties designated as priority acquisitions in the Plan.
- to provide multiple recreational opportunities at its facilities whenever possible so as to maximize the recreational capacity and public utilization of DEP's holdings and facilities.
- to protect valuable natural, cultural, and historic resources so as to encourage their enjoyment by the public while preserving and, where appropriate, enhancing those resources for future generations.
- to increase state park and forest usage by eliminating obstacles which inhibit or restrict usage.
- to promote the maintenance of Connecticut's current inventory of outdoor recreational facilities throughout the state, whether owned or managed by the state, local communities, or private non-profit trusts.
- to create equal access for people with disabilities in all of its programs and facilities, consistent with or in excess of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Connecticut human rights statutes.

DEP sees its specific role in outdoor recreation as providing natural resource-based facilities and experiences where the nature of the setting contributes added value to the activity which cannot be recreated in equal quality in other locations. DEP does not intend or seek to duplicate the recreational facilities commonly provided at the municipal level such as basketball and tennis courts, baseball fields, playscapes, or organized recreational programs. However, DEP will continue to assist the municipalities in fulfilling their role to provide for these more intensive forms of recreation. Similarly, the Department will continue to respect the distinct role served by commercial providers of recreational facilities and services. The Department does not seek to become a provider of recreational activities requiring intensive development or of those commonly provided on a commercial basis.

A greater level of partnering with municipalities, other state agencies, businesses, and non-profit entities is envisioned during the planning horizon of this SCORP. Such partnerships could involve the acquisition of properties or easements or the management of properties. Partnering with certain recreational organizations to manage particular activities on DEP lands has proven successful to date and is envisioned to play an increasing role.

**Capital Maintenance** – The three SCORP surveys have identified deficiencies in the condition of state and local recreational facilities that are impeding the public’s ability to use and enjoy our parks. Observations from DEP personnel as well as feedback from park visitors confirm a pressing need in this area. Based on 2004 data, Connecticut allocates 0.09% of its state budget for the operation of its state parks, compared to an average of 0.20% for the other five New England states, and ranks 46<sup>th</sup> nationally in this area.

The Department believes it has an obligation to maintain its existing facilities in a state of good repair and safe for public use. The Department also recognizes that some facilities fail to meet the public’s needs and expectations because they do not provide sufficient capacity. DEP attaches a high priority for capital funding to meet the needs of infrastructure maintenance and to enhancements of existing facilities which will provide more capacity for recreation. Foremost examples of the later include bathhouses, restrooms, campsites, parking capacity, and ADA access enhancements.

To more precisely define the capital maintenance and infrastructure needs of DEP’s state park and forest recreation areas, the Department undertook the Connecticut State Parks Infrastructure Conditions Assessment, released in December 2003. This assessment detailed the maintenance needs in fifty-one of Connecticut’s most popular state parks and forests to maintain a state of good repair and to meet identified demands upon those facilities. The findings of this extensive six-volume study indicated that a total of \$186,810,000 of repairs and enhancements are needed at these facilities. The Connecticut State Parks Infrastructure Conditions Assessment will be the blueprint for addressing the physical deficiencies of DEP facilities and will serve as the basis for committing all funding DEP receives for this purpose.

Within the above needs, the Department notes that parks with the most critical needs are several that are within or proximate to urban areas. Specifically, West Rock Ridge State Park in New Haven, Wharton Brook State Park in Wallingford, Silver Sands State Park in Milford, and Sherwood Island State Park in Westport merit mention as



having the most urgent infrastructure and maintenance needs. Other state parks which have pressing infrastructure needs and which would be among those selected for early remedial action or facility replacement or expansion are Dinosaur, Hammonasset, Rocky Neck, Gillette Castle, Sleeping Giant, Mashamoquet Brook, Black Rock, Squantz Pond, and Kent Falls. Peoples State Forest and the Austin Hawes Campground within

American Legion State Forest also have pressing needs.

**Land Acquisition**– DEP’s overall land acquisition priorities were identified in *The Connecticut Green Plan*, written in 2001. Six categories of properties were targeted for acquisition, with acreage goals set for each type of property. *The Connecticut Green Plan* goals are:

- Water access properties (10,000 acres)
- Natural areas (15,000 acres)
- Scenic and historically significant properties (15,000 acres)
- Greenways (20,000 acres)
- Forests (50,000 acres)
- Special opportunity purchases (10,000 acres)

Properties which can accommodate water-based recreation such as swimming, boating, and fishing are, as in previous SCORPs, the Department’s highest acquisition priority. However, the increasing popularity of trail-based activities in today’s recreational environment is recognized and places trail supportive properties a close second in priority. Therefore, DEP will place a high priority on properties which allow for multi-use trail development and particularly for those which eliminate gaps in individual trails or within the state’s trail network. Connectivity of trail systems, both to each other and to designated bike routes, will also be pursued through acquisitions. Properties to support trailhead needs such as more parking and restroom facilities are also needed.

Additional specific acquisition priorities are targeted coastal acquisitions, private in-holdings within DEP units, properties which can support multiple uses, and properties with joint ownership and cost-sharing potential.

**Facility Development** – Development of new recreational facilities is needed to provide additional capacity to address currently unmet needs. For saltwater swimming, the development of Silver Sands State Park in Milford in accordance with the Silver Sands State Park Master Plan will provide a fourth major coastal state park adding 7,000 visitors or more in peak daily capacity to our coastal state beaches. Phased development of this park has already begun. New or upgraded infrastructure projects at Hammonasset, Sherwood Island, and Rocky Neck State Parks will maintain or increase capacity at those sites.

Inland swimming areas are also under considerable pressure, and demand often exceeds capacity, resulting in visitors being turned away. Priority actions to meet some of this excess demand include the development of a beach and swimming area at Gardner Lake in Salem, the reinstatement of additional parking at Squantz Pond in New Fairfield, and the expansion of parking and construction of rest rooms at Millers Pond in Durham. The small swimming area at Pattaconk Lake in Cockaponset State Forest in Chester offers an opportunity for expansion, while Higganum Reservoir in Haddam is another water body which could provide additional freshwater swimming capacity.



The Department places a high priority on multi-use trail development and will proceed with the adoption and implementation of the Connecticut Recreational Trails Plan. Protection of the integrity and continuity of the existing trail system is the highest general priority for trails. The foremost specific development needs of Connecticut's trail system are multi-use trails which enhance the connectivity of the trail network, special use trails, and adequate trailhead facilities including restroom facilities and increased parking. There is also a definite need to develop one or more all terrain vehicle (ATV) trails on state, municipal, or private land.

Additional boat launch facilities are also needed in both coastal and inland areas. Trailered and car-top boat launch facilities are particularly needed in the eastern half of Connecticut's coast and on major rivers and inland waterbodies.



Paralleling these specific development needs for coastal parks, inland swimming areas, trails, and boating access areas, the Citizen Demand Survey identified a wide range of user demands to satisfy unmet needs for a spectrum of outdoor activities. Other recreational pursuits and facilities for which there are significant unmet needs are picnic areas/playgrounds/shelters; winter sports including sledding, snowmobiling, ice skating, hockey, downhill and cross-country skiing, and snowboarding; nature preserves and bird and wildlife viewing areas; volleyball, tennis and basketball courts; and overnight camping areas. Each of these needs have been identified as unmet demands for 200,000 or more Connecticut households.

**Access Impediments** – Access recommendations highlight specific steps that can be taken to address the obstacles citizens identified as preventing greater participation in outdoor recreation.

To address the most commonly cited access hindrance, it is the goal of the Department to provide greater access to information about DEP and municipal facilities in order to encourage their usage. DEP will pursue the development of a one-stop, comprehensive web page capable of providing information on all DEP and municipal facilities by geographic location or type of facility. The inventory of recreational facilities developed for this SCORP will be the database for this web page. Further measures to eliminate the 'information gap' prominently identified in the Citizen Demand Survey will include the publication of maps and park brochures, improved highway signage to direct travelers to our parks, and enhanced marketing efforts, especially in cooperation with the Commission on Culture and Tourism.

The Department also seeks to address the constraints represented by a shortage of parking capacity and toilet facilities at both state and municipal recreational facilities. While not traditionally considered as recreational infrastructure, the provision of adequate parking and toilet facilities is one of the clearest, best demonstrated strategies to enhance participation rates and facility utilization, and has been identified as a need in

several surveys including the Citizen Demand Survey, the Town Officials Survey, and the Connecticut Coastal Access Survey.

The Department will explore the creation of a Universal Access Council made up of a majority of members who are people with various disabilities who participate in recreation or who are knowledgeable about the requirements of ADA. The input of such a council would be valuable in overcoming the physical barriers which often prevent citizens from enjoying or fully utilizing DEP facilities.

The installation of bicycle racks at all developed state parks and forests is proposed as a strategy to enhance access to DEP facilities, as well as to encourage exercise. A five mile travel radius is considered a reasonable standard for non-avid cyclists. In conjunction with the currently progressing installation of bicycle racks on most public transit bus systems in Connecticut, the effective bicycle travel radius to state parks and forests is further enhanced.

Opportunities for longer hours of operation at selected facilities and for reducing weekday fees will also be investigated as methods to further promote park access and usage.

**Property Management** – Several measures have been identified to facilitate the management of DEP lands and facilities and the resolution or avoidance of user conflicts and land use problems.

The Department will move to finalize and to adopt the Connecticut Recreational Trails Plan, which will serve not only as a blueprint for developing the recreational trail system in Connecticut, but also as a vehicle to reduce use conflicts on some trails through development of an ATV trails policy and through other measures in this Plan.

The Department intends to make increased use of volunteer patrols and management at some of its facilities, particularly on trails. DEP currently has cooperative trail management agreements with several user groups and has found these arrangements to work very successfully.

The Department recognizes a substantial need to better identify and maintain its property boundaries. Both a lack of surveyors to identify the boundaries and a lack of manpower to mark the boundaries cause confusion for forest and park users and, more importantly, for property administration. Prevention of encroachment, and enforcement actions against existing violations on all lands held for public trust, will require increased capabilities within the Department to survey, to mark, and to defend our boundaries.

The Department will evaluate appropriate opportunities to open additional acreage for hunting, both on existing holdings and as new properties are acquired. The unmet demand for hunting opportunities has been increasing as development and changing ownership patterns on private land reduce availability there and place greater pressure on public lands.

**Municipal Assistance** – As set forth in Connecticut General Statutes, 25% of the federal funds received for recreational development shall be disbursed to the municipalities of the state. This practice will be adhered to during the term of this SCORP. While specific development proposals must originate at the municipal level, the Department will favor those proposals which meet identified statewide needs. Consequently, project rating and scoring systems for municipal outdoor recreational grants will give priority to proposals for multi-use trails; swimming access at freshwater, saltwater or pools; shelters or playgrounds; boating access; and toilet and parking facilities. The latter, though not strictly recreational facilities, have been clearly identified in the SCORP surveys as facilities whose lack is constraining the usage rates at municipal recreation facilities. The Department will also favor proposals for the development of facilities which are accessible from local transit routes.

**Implementation** – The Department will develop an Open Project Selection Process (OPSP) to implement the recommendations, strategies, and priorities laid out in the preceding pages. This OPSP will include the project rating and ranking criteria which will be used to select state and municipal proposals for which LWCF support will be sought and the mechanism by which those criteria will be applied to candidate projects.

### **No Child Left Inside**

In recognition of the need to shift the balance of children’s activities more heavily toward outdoor recreation, DEP Commissioner Gina McCarthy has unveiled a new outreach, education, and public relations campaign to reach families across Connecticut, especially those in urban areas, and to make them aware of the many recreational opportunities available. This \$300,000 campaign has adopted the phrase “No Child Left Inside” as its title and mission. Through this initiative, children and their families will be encouraged to get outdoors, both to participate in physical activity and to make a connection to nature. Visitation to Connecticut’s state parks and forests will be a major focus of this outreach and will introduce many new users to our facilities, hopefully for a positive and rewarding experience.



## List of Acronyms

<b>ADA</b>	<b>Americans with Disabilities Act</b>
<b>AEI</b>	<b>Adult Education Index</b>
<b>ATV</b>	<b>All Terrain Vehicle</b>
<b>CHA</b>	<b>Clough, Harbour and Associates</b>
<b>CPR</b>	<b>Center for Population Research</b>
<b>DEP</b>	<b>Department of Environmental Protection</b>
<b>DIRP</b>	<b>Discrete Identifiable Recreational Place</b>
<b>EPA</b>	<b>Environmental Protection Agency</b>
<b>EWRA</b>	<b>Emergency Wetlands Resource Act</b>
<b>LWCF</b>	<b>Land and Water Conservation Fund</b>
<b>NSRE</b>	<b>National Survey of Recreation and the Environment</b>
<b>OSHA</b>	<b>Occupational Safety and Health Administration</b>
<b>SCORP</b>	<b>Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan</b>
<b>UF</b>	<b>Use Frequency</b>
<b>UFI</b>	<b>Use Frequency Index</b>

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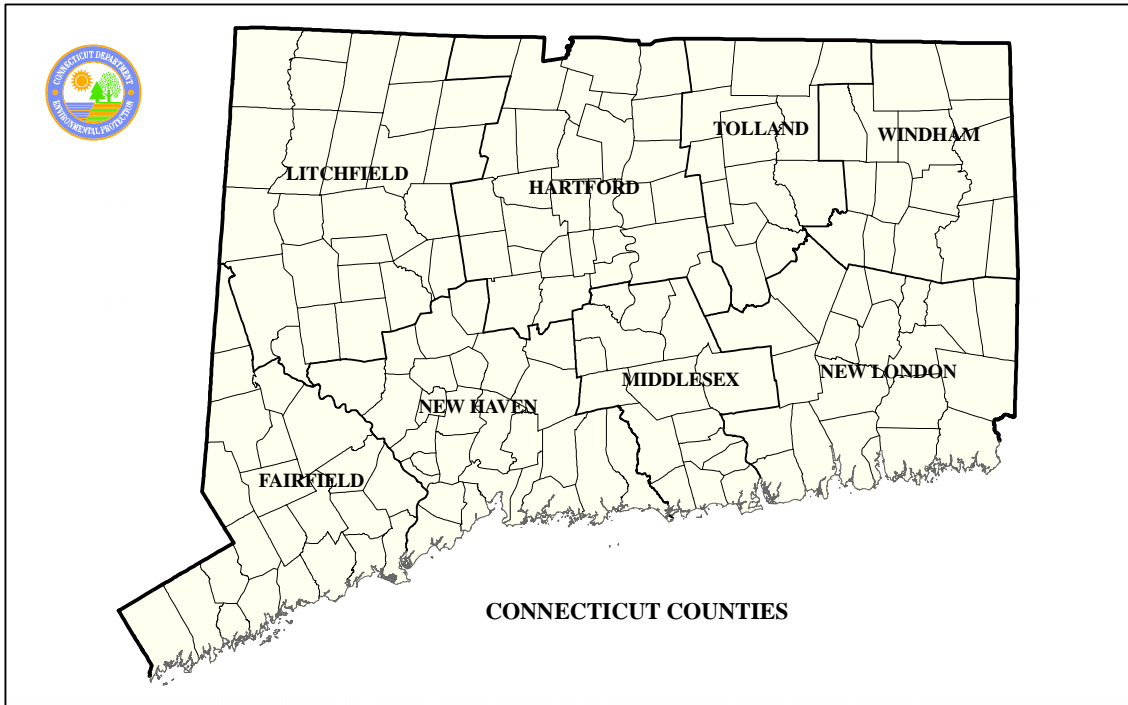
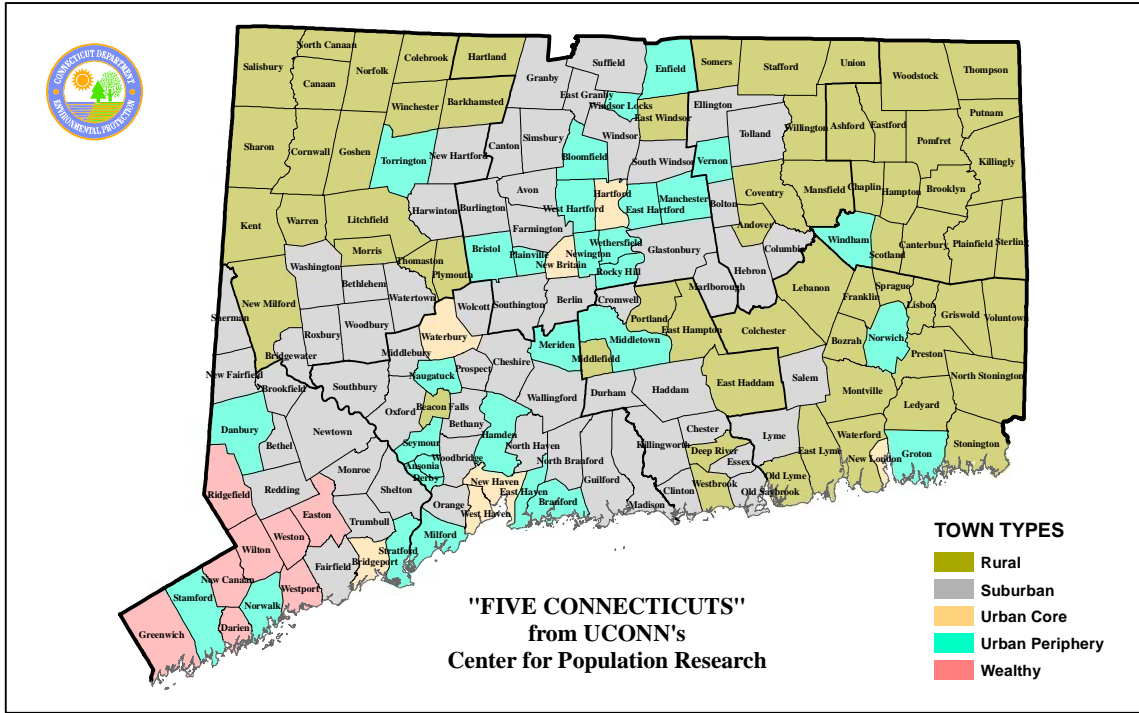
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Photos courtesy DEP State Parks Division, taken by Wanda Torres, William Mattioli and Pamela Adams.





## Chapter 1: Encouraging Outdoor Recreation

The Connecticut Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2005-2010 (SCORP) has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection is the state agency responsible for preparing and implementing this SCORP and for administering the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) applications and projects in Connecticut. Per Connecticut statute, twenty-five percent of the LWCF monies allocated to Connecticut must be disbursed to municipalities for the development of recreational facilities at the local level. The Land and Water Conservation Fund, therefore, supports the enhancement of recreational facilities and opportunities across Connecticut at both the state and local levels.

Although the preparation of a SCORP, and its submission to and approval by the National Park Service, is a requirement of the LWCF Act in order to participate in that program, the National Park Service is only one member of the audience that this plan is intended to address. The substantial effort undertaken to inventory the supply of recreational properties and facilities within Connecticut, including those managed by the state, local governments, non-profit entities, and commercial providers, makes this document a valuable resource to a wide range of government officials and planners. When combined with the detailed analysis of the demand for recreation developed for this report and broken down by thirty individual outdoor activities and by geographic area, the audience for the SCORP is seen as including state legislators, chief elected officials, parks and recreation department directors, regional planning agencies, non-profit organizations including land trusts, and recreation advocacy and user groups.

This SCORP concludes with a detailed set of recommendations to guide the Department of Environmental Protection in its outdoor recreation planning and development efforts over the next five years. The recommendations cover the priority needs for infrastructure maintenance and enhancement, for land acquisition, for the development of new facilities, and for eliminating the obstacles identified in the public outreach process as preventing a broader usage of recreational facilities, both state and municipal. Participation in outdoor recreation offers a wealth of benefits to our citizens. The State of Connecticut intends to do all that it can to maximize the participation of its citizens in outdoor recreation activities.

### **1.1 The Benefits of Outdoor Recreation**

As just mentioned, outdoor recreational activities provide a range of benefits both to participating individuals and to the community. A brief glimpse at the physical, educational, psychological, community, and economic benefits of outdoor recreation furnishes a basis for understanding why providing opportunities for and encouraging participation in such activities is so important.



### *1.1.1 Physical Benefits*

Nationwide, 22% of all adults are obese and 65% are overweight (TFAH, NHANES III qtd. in Ruser et al.). While Connecticut ranks 46<sup>th</sup> in the nation in its obesity rate, the magnitude of the rate and its upward trend are worrisome (TFAH). The number of obese adults in Connecticut rose from 10.9% in 1991 to 19.1% in 2005 (TFAH, AOA: Obesity in the US). Obesity reduces the quality and length of lives by increasing the risk for many serious health conditions, such as coronary heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and osteoarthritis. According to the American Obesity Association, obesity “is the second leading cause of preventable death in the U.S.” Obesity is also costly. The Trust for America’s Health reports that the United States spends more than \$117 billion per year on the direct and indirect costs of obesity. In 2003, Connecticut spent approximately \$246 per person on obesity-related health costs.



Many factors have contributed to this obesity epidemic. Lifestyles in the current Information Age provide the average person with “access to highly caloric, palatable foods but little impetus or opportunity for energy expenditure” (Ruser, et al.). In theory, evolution favors weight retention. In addition, genetics and lifestyle often play a role in a person’s weight gain.

Most sources agree that a combination of improved eating habits and increased activity are the best way to prevent obesity and to help people to lose weight. While exercise will not result in significant weight loss without a concurrent reduction in caloric intake, it will contribute to long-term weight control and to a lower mortality rate, even in the absence of weight loss, due to increased cardiovascular fitness (Ruser et al.). According to Connecticut’s Department of Public Health, “physical activity may also have beneficial effects on hypertension, diabetes, . . . osteoporosis, anxiety, and depression.”

The 1996 Surgeon General’s Report on Physical Activity and Health estimates that 60% of American adults are not regularly active and another 25% are completely inactive. In a 1994 survey conducted by the President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, people claim that time constraints are the main reason they don’t exercise regularly. Having recreational facilities nearby can reduce the time commitment needed for exercise. According to Addy et al., people who had safe places to walk in their neighborhoods and people who “used private recreation facilities, parks, playgrounds, and sports fields were more likely to be regularly active” than people who did not.

### *1.1.2 Educational Benefits*

Outdoor recreation includes both organized sports and natural resource-based recreation (for example, hiking, camping, hunting, and fishing). Both types of recreational activities offer educational benefits to the participants.

Whether or not participants in organized sports achieve higher grades is controversial (Benz). Nonetheless, it is widely believed that athletes develop certain skills and habits that help them to function better in an academic environment. The Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education claims that [t]hrough participation in recreational sports, students are encouraged to develop critical thinking skills, create new problem-solving strategies, hone decision-making skills, enhance creativity, and more effectively synthesize and integrate this information into all aspects of their lives. In this way, students both perform more effectively in an academic environment and flourish throughout all phases of the co-curricular experience.

Natural resource-based recreation also offers educational benefits to the participants. Myron Floyd, an associate professor of recreation, parks, and tourism at the University of Florida, researched how outdoor recreation and exploration benefited urban youth. He discovered that “exposure to wild lands has a host of developmental benefits, including instilling navigational skills and improving cognitive ability.” In addition, children who participate in natural resource-based recreation are likely to retain their interest in the environment as adults. They are more likely to pursue careers related to the environment and to support land preservation initiatives. They are also more likely to be knowledgeable about environmental issues and to understand natural processes in their adult lives as employees, parents, and voters.

### *1.1.3 Psychological Benefits*

As a result of spending less time outdoors, our society is suffering from what Robert Michael Pyle refers to as



“a degenerative cycle of disconnect and loss. Unable to recognize and value ecological integrity in our immediate surroundings, we care little for its degradation. . . .The consequences are profound, both in terms of the health of our environment and in terms of our own psychological and spiritual health” (qtd. in Meyer).

Reconnecting with the natural environment while participating in outdoor recreation can stop this degenerative cycle. First, all forms of exercise reduce anxiety, counteract depression, and increase a person’s sense of well-being. Second, just looking at a natural landscape reduces stress. Based on twenty years of research, Robert Ulrich states that “even the passive viewing of natural environments has both physiological and psychological benefits.” He showed his

subjects slides of natural landscapes and urban landscapes. Most subjects responded with “wakeful relaxation,” and “lower levels of fear and sadness” while viewing the images of nature (qtd. in Rubinstein). In further studies, Ulrich found that post-surgery patients who could see a vegetated landscape recovered faster and needed less analgesic medication than patients who could only see buildings (qtd. in Rubinstein). Rubinstein reports that these positive psychological effects also result from active exploration of the natural environment.

#### *1.1.4 Benefits to the Community*

While some participants in outdoor recreational activities seek solitude, many more participate in group activities. Thus, they have the opportunity to interact and to strengthen their sense of community.

Recreational sports teach the participants to subordinate their own desires for the good of the team and to resolve conflicts. Members learn to express their anger and disappointment appropriately and to accept the authority of their coaches. They also learn to work with people who are, in some cases, very different from themselves. All of these skills prepare the athletes for making positive contributions to their communities. Often, the fans of recreational sports teams develop long lasting friendships and work together to fundraise and to otherwise support the needs of the team.



Similarly, many natural resource-based activities help the participants build important social skills. Wilderness expeditions inspire the participants “to change in the direction of greater independence, self-discipline, patience, and self-reliance” (Rubinstein). Small groups of hunters learn to rely on each other. A sense of camaraderie and community develops in groups of backpackers and kayak campers who share the chores associated with camping and the joys of observing nature.

In addition, outdoor recreational facilities often serve as gathering places for the members of a community. John Hendee comments that “a weekend wave of social campers develops rapidly into a micro-community” and points out that the desire for social interaction is often more important to the campers than the landscape offered by the campground (qtd. in Rubinstein). Other researchers have described “the power of the urban park or plaza to reduce stress, act as a social facilitator, and encourage community cohesion” (Rubinstein).

#### *1.1.5 Economic Benefits*

Having high quality recreational facilities makes positive financial contributions to both the private and the public sectors. Outdoor historical sites, state parks, beaches, ski areas, marinas, and boat launches attract both Connecticut residents and out-of-state visitors. Not only will these visitors spend money at these facilities, but they will also

support the nearby restaurants and shops. Merchants benefit from all forms of outdoor recreation. Sales of sports equipment, clothing, and specialty items contribute to the private sector's retail sales figures.

In addition to the parking fees and the increased sales that come from outdoor recreation, outdoor recreation provides jobs. The income earned by the employees finds its way back into the state's treasury as income taxes and into the private sector as purchases.

## **1.2 No Child Left Inside**

In recognition of the need to shift the balance of children's activity more heavily toward outdoor recreation, DEP Commissioner Gina McCarthy has unveiled a new outreach, education, and public relations campaign to reach families across Connecticut, especially those in urban areas, and make them aware of the many recreational opportunities available. This campaign has adopted the phrase "No Child Left Inside" as its title and mission. Through this initiative, children and their families will be encouraged to get outdoors, both to partake in physical activity and to make a connection to nature. Not only are many of our children not getting sufficient exercise, but also they are not getting an exposure to the outdoors and an understanding of natural systems. A generation that does not have these experiences and this understanding will be ill equipped to be the environmental stewards of the next generation.

The *No Child Left Inside* initiative will work in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, and other entities to promote visits to Connecticut's state and local parks for outdoor activities and to build an enthusiasm for continued natural-resource based recreation. Specific facilities and activities will be highlighted in this \$300,000 outreach campaign to give children and families the impetus to get out in nature and to reap the benefits described in the previous section. Commissioner McCarthy notes that people have an increasing tendency to stay inside and look at "a screen saver with a picture of an island and a palm tree on it" instead of going out to enjoy Connecticut's real beaches, such as Hammonasset Beach. This is a significant problem that must be overcome if we are to prepare a physically healthy and environmentally aware generation to take its place in our society.





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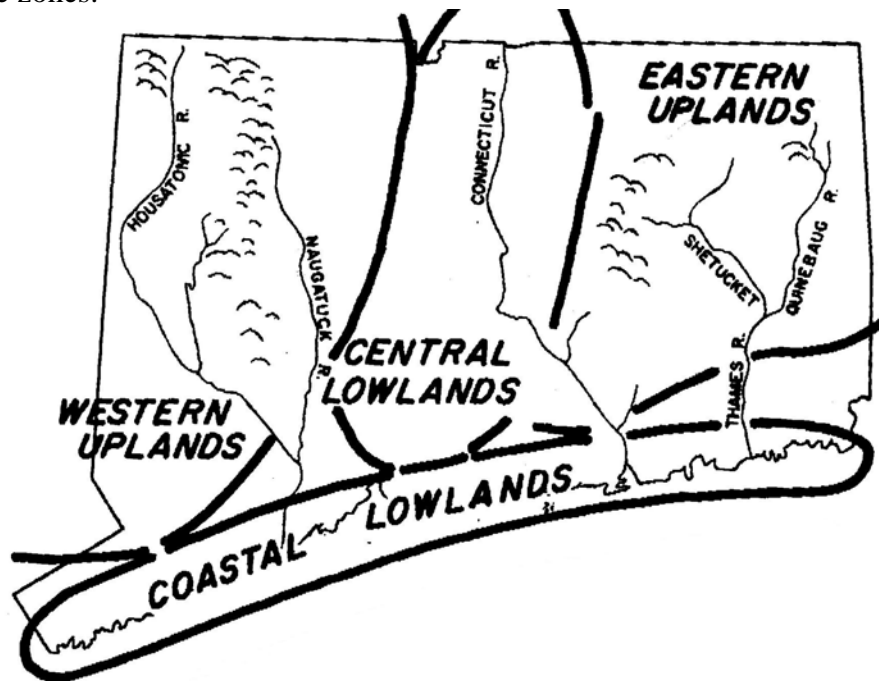
## Chapter 2: Connecticut: The Constitution State

Connecticut is the third smallest state in the union, comprised of a mere 5,009 square miles (3,205,760 acres) of land. It extends approximately 90 miles from east to west and 60 miles from north to south. Connecticut is bordered on the west, north, and east by New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, respectively. Long Island Sound forms the southern boundary.

Despite its relatively small area, Connecticut boasts a diversity of resources rivaling that of any state. Within the short distance of sixty miles, the elevation ranges from sea level to 2,380 feet above sea level. This large range in elevation coupled with varying distances from the ocean results in regional differences in climate, vegetation, and wildlife.

### 2.1 Physiography

Connecticut can be divided into four distinct physiographic zones: the Coastal Lowlands, the Central Lowlands, the Western Uplands, and the Eastern Uplands. Figure 2-1 shows these zones.



**Figure 2-1: Physiographic Regions of Connecticut (Source: Connecticut Interregional Planning Program, Physical Geography, 1963)**

The Coastal Lowlands is a narrow strip of fairly level land that extends along the shore of Long Island Sound. This coastline is characterized by small sections of sandy beach alternating with rocky bluffs and saltwater marshes. It is indented with numerous small coves and inlets, creating 458 miles of actual frontage.

The Central Lowlands is a wide, north-south strip of land bisected by the Connecticut and Quinnipiac Rivers. Most of the land is gently to moderately sloping with fertile agricultural soils. Unique to this region are the traprock ridges that run from Long Island Sound to Massachusetts. Rising to over one thousand feet above sea level, these ridges contains some of the last wilderness areas in central Connecticut.

The remaining areas of the state are hilly regions which slope gradually toward the south and the east. The Eastern Uplands are continuous with the New England Highlands in Massachusetts. Near the Massachusetts border, elevations range from 500 feet to 1,100 feet. In the southeast, elevations range from 200 to 500 feet. The Western Uplands are an extension of the Green Mountain Range. Here the elevation ranges from 200 feet in the south to 2,380 feet at Mt. Frissell in Salisbury. Generally, this area is more rugged than the Eastern Uplands, though its southern hills are gentle. While the Eastern Uplands and the Western Uplands both have scattered pockets of good croplands, they are largely unsuitable for extensive agriculture. Most of the land is either forests or pastures.

## 2.2 Water Resources

Connecticut has an abundance of water resources. These include several major river systems, numerous lakes and ponds, freshwater wetlands, saltwater marshes, and Long Island Sound.

Three major river systems drain the state. The Connecticut River runs through the Central Lowlands, the Housatonic-Naugatuck River System passes through the Western Uplands, and the Quinnebaug-Thames River System drains the Eastern Uplands. In all, there are more than 8,400 miles of rivers and streams.

The state contains over 6,000 lakes and ponds. Most are quite small and better suited to fishing than to high speed boating. However, there are several large lakes in the state: Lake Candlewood (5,420 acres), Barkhamsted Reservoir (2,330 acres), Lake Lillinonah (1,900 acres), Lake Gaillard (1,009 acres), and Lake Zoar (975 acres).

Ten other lakes are between 500 and 1,000 acres, fourteen are between 300 and 500 acres, and eighty-one more are between 100 and 300 acres.



Ninety percent of Connecticut's wetlands (152,000 acres) are freshwater; the other ten percent are salt marshes. Freshwater wetlands include marshes, wet meadows, swamps, bogs, non-saline tidal wetlands, and very small, shallow ponds. Salt marshes are found only in a very narrow zone near Long Island Sound, generally in protected areas at the mouths of rivers and streams.

Long Island Sound is one of the largest estuaries in the United States. It encompasses 1,310 square miles and has tremendous recreational and commercial value. Connecticut's residents enjoy sport fishing, boating, and swimming in the Sound. In addition, commercial fishing, shell fishing, and commercial navigation occur in its waters.

### **2.3 Climate**

Everyone has heard the saying, "If you don't like the weather, wait five minutes." This statement accurately describes the dynamic climate people in Connecticut are subject to. Major temperature and precipitation swings frequently take place in a matter of hours. The pertinent characteristics of Connecticut's climate are: (1) equitable distribution of precipitation among the four seasons, (2) large ranges of temperature both daily and annually, (3) great differences in the same season or month of different years, and (4) considerable variation in the weather over short periods of time.

Precipitation tends to be evenly distributed throughout the year in all parts of the state, averaging three to four inches per month. The annual average is 45 inches with a range of 42 to 52 inches. Measurable precipitation falls on an average of one day in three. Periods of five or more successive days with precipitation occur several times during most years. Therefore, droughts are infrequent; however, flooding is a more frequent problem in the state's river valleys.

Snowfall varies throughout the state. Near Long Island Sound, the average annual snowfall is less than thirty-five inches. In contrast, the northwestern portion of the state typically receives more than one hundred inches of snow. Long term records show considerable variation from year to year. In one location snowfall varied from thirty-seven inches one year to one hundred thirty inches a few years later. Typically, the northwestern corner of the state has snow cover for an average of ninety days each winter, enough to support winter sports activities. Elsewhere in Connecticut, however, opportunities for winter recreation are less predictable, and may be marginal in many years due to limited and short-lived snow cover or warmer temperatures.

Connecticut's coastal location has a moderating effect on the state's temperatures and creates regional differences in climate. The greater contrast of temperature occurs during the winter season; summer temperatures are comparatively uniform throughout the state. The mean annual temperature in the Coastal Lowlands is 50° F. In the Central Lowlands, it is 49° F. These means drop to 47° F and 46° F in the Eastern and Western Uplands, respectively. In January, the coldest month, the average statewide maximum temperature is 36° F and the average minimum is 18 degrees. In July, the warmest month, the average maximum is 83 degrees and the average minimum is 60 degrees.

### **2.4 Human Impact on the Land**

Connecticut's first colonists arrived about 10,000 years ago. They were Native American descendents of Asian people who had crossed over from Asia to North



America several thousand years earlier, during the last glacial period. As they shifted from a nomadic existence to an agrarian one with semi-permanent villages, they began to alter Connecticut's landscape. They used fire to open up the understories of forested areas and to create locally deforested areas for cultivation.

Still, when the first European settlers arrived in the 1630's, they found 96% of the state covered with old growth forests. About 50% of the trees were American chestnuts, and it was common to find immense oak trees and majestic pines. Over the next 200 years, so much land had been cleared for agriculture, building materials, and fuel that only 20% of the state remained forested. This deforestation caused extensive erosion, drainage of wetlands, water pollution, and decimation of native wildlife populations, such as beaver, white-tailed deer, fishers, wild turkeys, and elk.

In the late 1800's, Connecticut made a shift from an agrarian to an industrial economy. On a limited basis, Connecticut continued to enjoy success with dairy farming and with cultivating tobacco, fruits, and vegetables. However, the textile industry became a major employer, particularly in eastern Connecticut, while the brass industry was a dominant economic force in much of western Connecticut. Connecticut industries also produced goods such as firearms, hardware, machine tools, and cutlery.



Industrial activity continued to expand into the 1900's, particularly before and during World War II. Defense related industries grew in importance including the manufacturing of submarines, aircraft engines, helicopters and tanks. Defense facilities such as the Groton submarine base, the Naval Undersea Warfare Center and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy also became major employers.

During the latter decades of the 1900's, manufacturing began to decline in its importance in Connecticut, as service industries, financial services and tourism grew in stature. Land use patterns began to change also as suburbanization took hold. The move away from an agrarian economy had resulted in the abandonment and/or sale of farms and in the reforestation of the state. Currently over 60% of the state is covered by forests. However, the subdivision of both farmland and forests for suburban development has been a consistent pattern over the last several decades and this trend is expected to continue. This affects not only the human environment but the natural one as well. Habitat fragmentation and habitat loss are once again threatening some of Connecticut's unique ecosystems. This threatens to reverse recent gains such as the successful return of several of the species formerly extirpated from Connecticut, including wild turkey and black bear.

Connecticut's state park and forest system, as well as municipal open spaces, are experiencing greater use by the public as neighboring open spaces diminish. Open spaces such as state parks and forests are increasingly becoming islands of undeveloped land amongst subdivisions, whereas twenty years ago they were part of a fabric of contiguous open space. State parks in urban areas often represent the only significant publicly available open space in their regions.

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## Chapter 3: Outdoor Recreation in Connecticut: Who Plays a Role?

Outdoor recreation in Connecticut involves a wide range of activities and a similarly broad spectrum of properties and facilities. These activities can be very intensive forms of recreation occurring on ballfields or in playgrounds, or more solitary pursuits such as hiking or nature watching. Not surprisingly, no single entity can provide the facilities and programs to support such a broad variety of recreational pursuits. In Connecticut, as elsewhere, recreational activities depend on a host of governmental units, private organizations and commercial providers to support their needs. The following sections highlight the roles played by the federal, state, and local levels of government, commercial entities, and private and non-profit organizations in meeting the recreational needs of Connecticut's citizens and visitors to our state.

### **3.1 The Federal Role in Recreation in Connecticut**

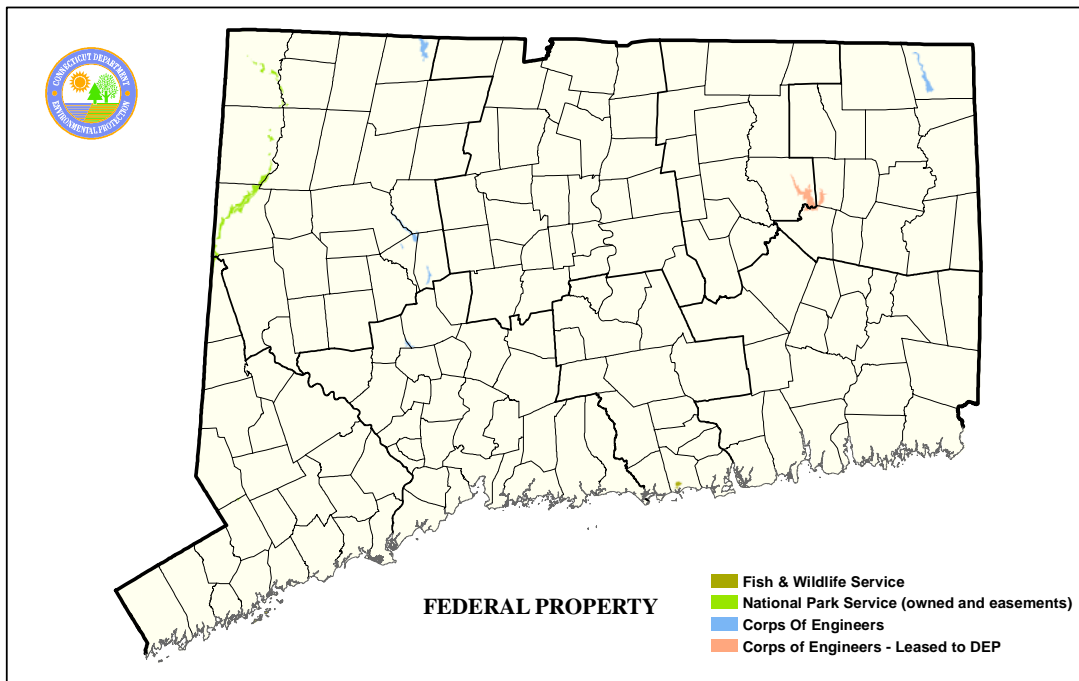
Key Federal agencies playing a role in recreation in Connecticut are the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

#### ***3.1.1 National Park Service***

The National Park Service (NPS) plays several roles within Connecticut's outdoor recreation picture. First and foremost, the NPS administers the Land and Water Conservation Fund, through which both municipalities and the State of Connecticut receive funding for development of recreational facilities and acquisition of land for recreational development. This program, which began in 1964, has provided funds to the Department of Environmental Protection and to municipalities to address recreational needs. Historically, 25% of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) moneys allocated to Connecticut have been distributed to municipalities for local recreational needs. Typically, ten to twenty such grants are awarded annually, on a competitive basis, depending on the size of Connecticut's federal allocation and the size of the local projects. The vast majority of the money is used for facility development.

At the state level, LWCF funds have been used for a wide variety of purposes from the construction of bathhouses to the acquisition of key parcels of land. Projects receiving LWCF funding are selected based on a ranking system, which reflects the priorities detailed in Chapter 8, and are chosen with input from a citizen-based advisory committee. In recent years, a lack of LWCF monies has rendered this program largely inactive. With newly available funds and the development of this SCORP, the LWCF monies from the National Park Service will again play a significant role in the planning and development of Connecticut's recreational facilities.

NPS also plays an important role in Connecticut through the three properties it owns or administers in the state. The first of these is the Weir Farm National Historic Site, a 110-acre unit in the towns of Wilton and Ridgefield in southwestern Connecticut.



The Weir Farm Site is named for J. Alden Weir, a noted American impressionist painter whose daughter, Cora Weir Burlingham, donated the original 37 acres of the Historic Site. Weir Farm receives approximately 15,000 visitors annually.

The Appalachian Trail, which runs for 51.6 miles across five northwestern Connecticut towns on its way from Georgia to Maine, is another local NPS-owned property. Park Service ownership of the trail provides valuable protection of its continuity from interruption or encroachment by development. Total NPS ownership in the Appalachian Trail corridor in Connecticut is 6,488 acres, with another 1,044 acres protected by scenic easements. Though owned by the National Park Service, the Connecticut segment of the Appalachian Trail is maintained by the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

The third NPS-administered unit in Connecticut is the Quinebaug and Shetucket River Valleys National Heritage Corridor in northeastern Connecticut, and extending into south central Massachusetts. The Corridor is a partnership of recreational, historic and cultural sites in 35 towns, owned and operated by a range of municipal and private entities, but coordinated by the Park Service. NPS coordination serves to facilitate preservation efforts within the Corridor while enhancing the public's experience in visiting the individual properties which contribute to the historic values in these valleys.

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

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service owns and administers the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge consists of eight separate units along Connecticut's coast, stretching from the Norwalk Islands on the western end to the 247-

acre Salt Meadows unit in Westbrook on the east. The eight units provide nesting, feeding, and resting habitat for many migratory and resident bird species, several of which are rare or endangered. The location of the refuge along the Atlantic flyway leads to its heavy usage by migratory species.

### ***3.1.3 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers***

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers owns and actively maintains seven large flood control dams and approximately 4,000 acres of related open space in connection with these flood control projects. Six of the projects (Thomaston Dam, Black Rock Dam, Colebrook River Lake, Hancock Brook Lake, Hop Brook Lake and Northfield Brook Lake) are located in western or northwestern Connecticut, while the seventh (Mansfield Hollow Lake) is located in eastern Connecticut. All of these sites are open to recreational use, collectively attracting approximately 1,000,000 visitors annually. Though the activities accommodated at the Corps sites vary, in the aggregate they support fishing, picnicking, hiking, hunting, canoeing, swimming, and camping. Six of the sites allow fishing, while picnicking and hiking are provided at five of the locations. The only designated trail for dirt bikes in this state is located on Corps property at Thomaston Dam.

### ***3.1.4 U. S. Department of Transportation***

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) of the U. S. Department of Transportation has funded several trail and bikeway projects in Connecticut through the Transportation Enhancement Program. Several grants were awarded in the mid-1990s to fund improvements along the Farmington Canal Greenway in Hamden and New Haven, while other Enhancement Grants funded the construction of trails in Madison, Meriden, and Wallingford. The Simsbury, Suffield, Granby and East Granby segments of the Farmington Canal Greenway were also funded through the TEA-21 Enhancement Program. Such funding has not been available in recent years but may become available again in the successor federal surface transportation bill replacing the expired Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21). In preparation for this, the Connecticut Department of Transportation has solicited and ranked a new round of regional trail and bikeway project applications and will be prepared to award grants to the selected projects when the new federal transportation act goes into effect.

A multi-purpose trail/ bikeway has been included as an element of the proposed 9-mile busway between New Britain and Hartford, which will be funded in substantial part by the Federal Transit Administration, another agency within USDOT.

## **3.2 The State Role in Recreation in Connecticut**

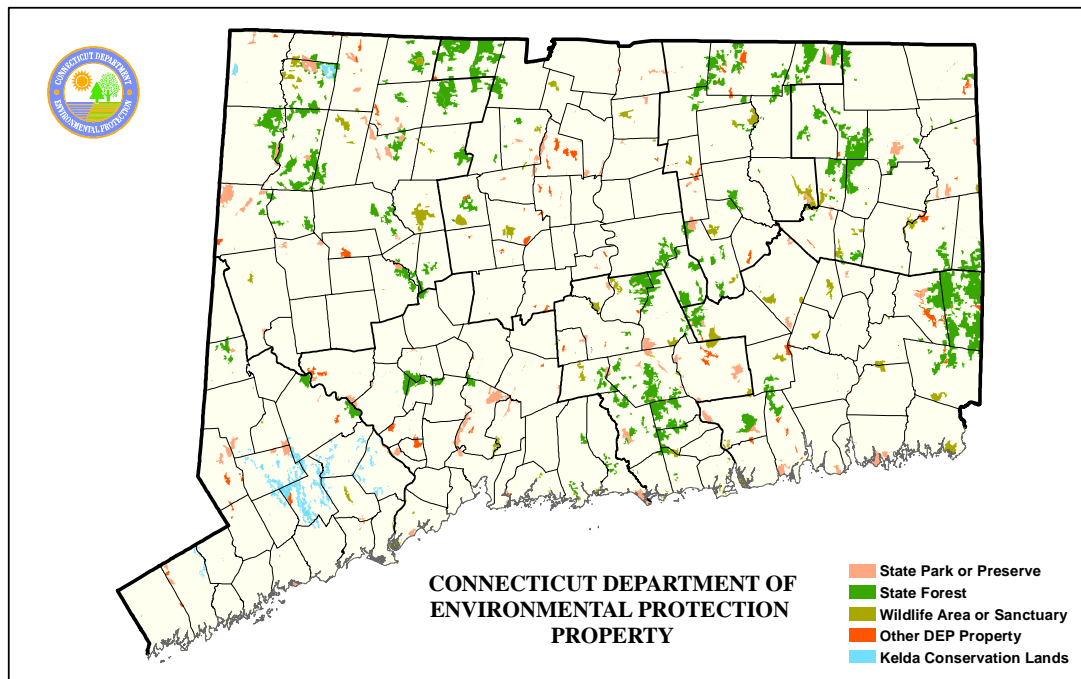
The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection plays the largest role at the state level in providing the facilities for outdoor recreation. Traditionally, DEP's role has focused on providing natural resources-based recreational experiences such as swimming, hiking, hunting, and fishing in open space, natural areas. Team oriented

recreation and playground-based activities have traditionally been the province of municipalities, and, to a much lesser extent, of commercial enterprises. However, the character of DEP's role in recreation is evolving, particularly to address the demand for motorized trail activities, but also for hosting events, concerts, historic reenactments, and team-based sports.

### 3.2.1 State Parks and Forests

The cornerstone of DEP's recreation system is its network of State Parks and Forests. Connecticut's 100 State Parks cover 33,911 acres and are distributed throughout the state. Everything from highly developed coastal parks offering saltwater beaches to undeveloped upland woodlands with rugged terrain, along with all intervening degrees of development, are found within the properties of the State Park system. During 2004, 5,939,000 day use visitors and 284,000 campers made use of the Connecticut State Parks.

Generally, a lower level of development is found within Connecticut's 32 State Forests. These properties, covering 169,800 acres, support hunting, hiking, camping, wildlife viewing, and, in some cases, more active recreation such as swimming, picnicking, and motorized trails. Connecticut State Forests provided recreation for an estimated 1,716,000 day use visitors and 43,200 campers in 2004.



### 3.2.2 Hunting and Fishing

A substantial share of Connecticut's hunting and fishing takes place on DEP owned or managed properties. Hunting occurs principally within DEP's State Forests and in 42 Wildlife Management Areas. These latter properties, covering 24,772 acres,

are, as the name implies, more actively managed for hunting and more focused on that activity than are the more broadly managed State Forests. Lesser amounts of hunting activity are also supported within selected State Parks and in DEP-administered flood control properties.

DEP also plays a major role in providing opportunities for freshwater and saltwater fishing. The Department stocks almost one million fish annually. Approximately 430,000 trout are stocked in 200 streams and 97 lakes and ponds in preparation for opening day. Subsequent trout stockings during the year add another 200,000 trout when and where suitable conditions exist. Northern pike, walleye, kokanee salmon, and broodstock Atlantic salmon are also stocked for recreational purposes. In addition, 1.5 million juvenile Atlantic salmon were stocked in 2004 as part of an on-going effort to restore the Atlantic salmon fishery, which, if successful, will ultimately add this species to the recreational fishery. Similarly, 60,000 sea-run brown trout were stocked in an effort to develop runs of this species in suitable coastal streams.

DEP also manages 27 Wild Trout Management Areas and 15 Trout Management Areas to foster proper conditions for sustainable trout populations within these habitat areas. The latter areas are stocked and offer convenient public access. In addition, eleven trout parks are stocked and managed by DEP, providing opportunities for young and novice anglers to develop their skills at easily accessible locations.

Opportunities for saltwater angling are not only protected through fishery management by DEP and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service but are physically provided through public access locations afforded by DEP boat launch locations as discussed below, and through shore-based fishing access points on DEP-owned properties or at other sites where access was secured through the efforts of the DEP Office of Long Island Sound Programs.

### ***3.2.3 Boating Access Locations***

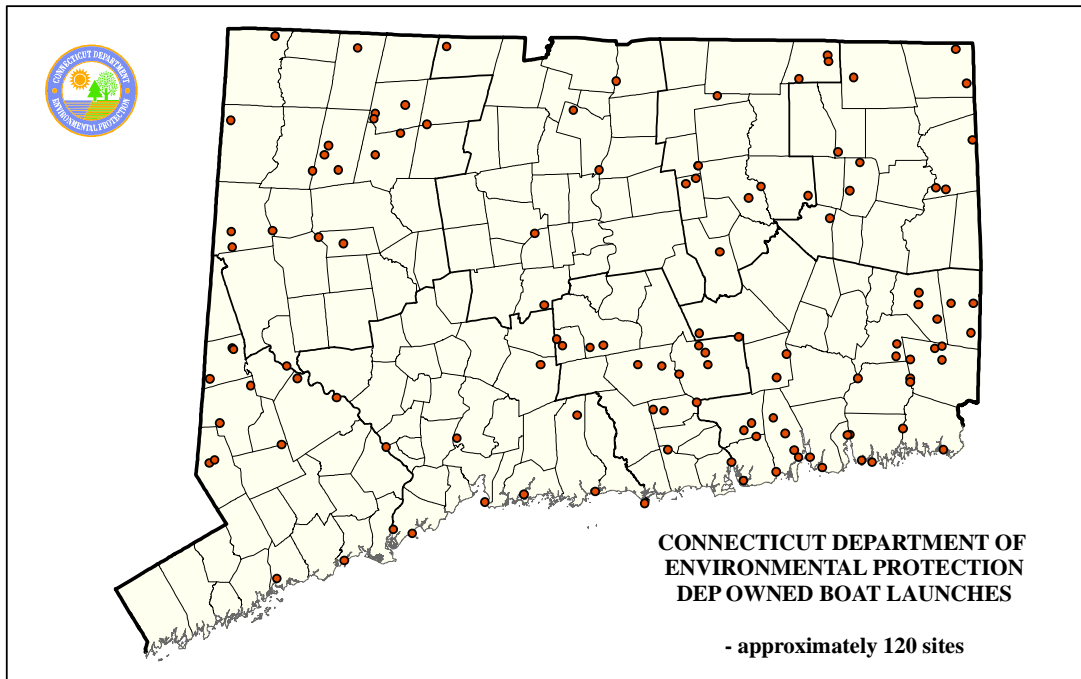
DEP operates 121 boat launch access areas on Connecticut's rivers, larger lakes, and Long Island Sound. Fourteen of these access sites are located on the coast or in close proximity on tidal rivers providing convenient access to Long Island Sound. No usage figures are maintained for boating sites, which do not charge fees for parking or boat launching. Based on Connecticut's 112,000 registered boats, of which approximately 85% are trailered, and a substantial amount of out-of-state usage at some areas, these DEP boat launch sites provide significant opportunities for boating recreation, and closely related, for fishing experiences.

### ***3.2.4 Law Enforcement***

DEP currently employs 50 conservation officers to enforce the hunting, fishing, and boating laws of the State of Connecticut. Conservation officers have full police powers, including power of arrest, in the performance of their duties. The law enforcement functions of DEP conservation officers are necessary to provide a lawful and



safe environment for the enjoyment of Connecticut’s citizens who engage in natural resource-based recreational activities and to provide law enforcement on all DEP properties.



### 3.2.5 Land Acquisition

Reduced to the most basic level, the provision of opportunity of outdoor recreation depends first and foremost on the availability of the land to support the recreational activities. Connecticut has two State-funded programs through which property is acquired for recreational use. The Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program “acquires lands for the beneficial use and enjoyment of the public as additions to the State’s system of parks, forests, and wildlife, fishery, and natural resource management areas. The program is intended to acquire land that represents the ecological diversity of Connecticut, including natural features such as rivers, mountainous areas, coastal systems, and other natural resource areas, in order to ensure the preservation and conservation of such land for recreational, scientific, educational, cultural, and aesthetic purposes.”<sup>1</sup>

The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program provides financial assistance to municipalities and non-profit land conservation organizations to acquire open space land to be left primarily in its natural state or for preserving local agricultural heritage, and to water companies to acquire land for watershed protection.

<sup>1</sup> The Connecticut Green Plan: Open Space Acquisition, Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection, July 2001, p. 3

Substantial acreages have been acquired and added to DEP holdings, in most cases as additions to our State Forests. Under the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program, 247 properties totaling 18,995 acres have been acquired or otherwise protected during the last five years (2000-2004) through the expenditure of \$172,777,000. An additional 17,271 acres have been acquired for preservation by municipalities, land conservation organizations, and water companies through the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program during those same five years.

### ***3.2.6 Commission on Culture and Tourism***

The Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism promotes tourism and travel to and within Connecticut. Tourism and travel have a \$10 billion annual impact in Connecticut and support an estimated 13.4% of total state employment, a greater percentage than manufacturing. While the Commission, and the five regional tourist district bureaus it supports, promote visitation to a wide range of tourist attractions, several Connecticut State Parks and some private recreational and historic properties are among the specifically promoted attractions. In addition, the promotion of tourism in Connecticut in general, to the extent that it successfully draws travelers into the state, increases the population of potential visitors to State Parks and Forests, to private recreational properties and facilities, and to a lesser extent, to municipal parks, especially those offering specialized attractions.

### ***3.2.7 The Historic Preservation and Museum Division***

In addition to its tourism promotion role discussed above, the Commission on Culture and Tourism, through its Historic Preservation and Museum Division, owns and operates six historic properties, four of which are open to the general public. The Historic Preservation and Museum Division, formerly the Connecticut Historical Commission, owns the Prudence Crandall House in Canterbury, the Old Newgate Prison and Copper Mine in East Granby, the Henry Whitfield Museum in Guilford, the Sloane Stanley Museum in Kent, Viets Tavern in East Granby, and the Amos Bull House in Hartford. The first four of these properties are open to the public and attract in excess of 30,000 visitors per year, though budget shortfalls have curtailed the opening of these facilities and the attendance in the last two years. Viets Tavern is undergoing restoration and is open to the public on an very limited schedule. The Amos Bull House serves as the offices of the Division. A seventh property, the Lockkeeper's House on the Farmington Canal in Hamden, is owned by the Division and leased to the Town. It has been restored through a cooperative agreement with the Town, but is not open to the general public.

### ***3.2.8 Connecticut Department of Public Health***

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) cooperates with DEP in the monitoring of water quality at the 20 State Parks and one State Forest which offer public swimming facilities. Beginning the week prior to Memorial Day and continuing through the week prior to Labor Day, weekly water quality samples are taken at each of the 21

swimming areas. The samples are collected by DEP staff and analyzed at DPH's State Health Lab. Indicator bacteria are used to predict the threat of waterborne illness by detecting potential contamination from fecal material of human or animal origin. When exceedances occur, decisions on beach closure are made jointly by the two departments. Additional water sampling is then conducted within 24 hours following the criteria exceedance and continued until the indicator levels are acceptable. The Department of Public Health also tests the drinking water at all State Parks for potability.

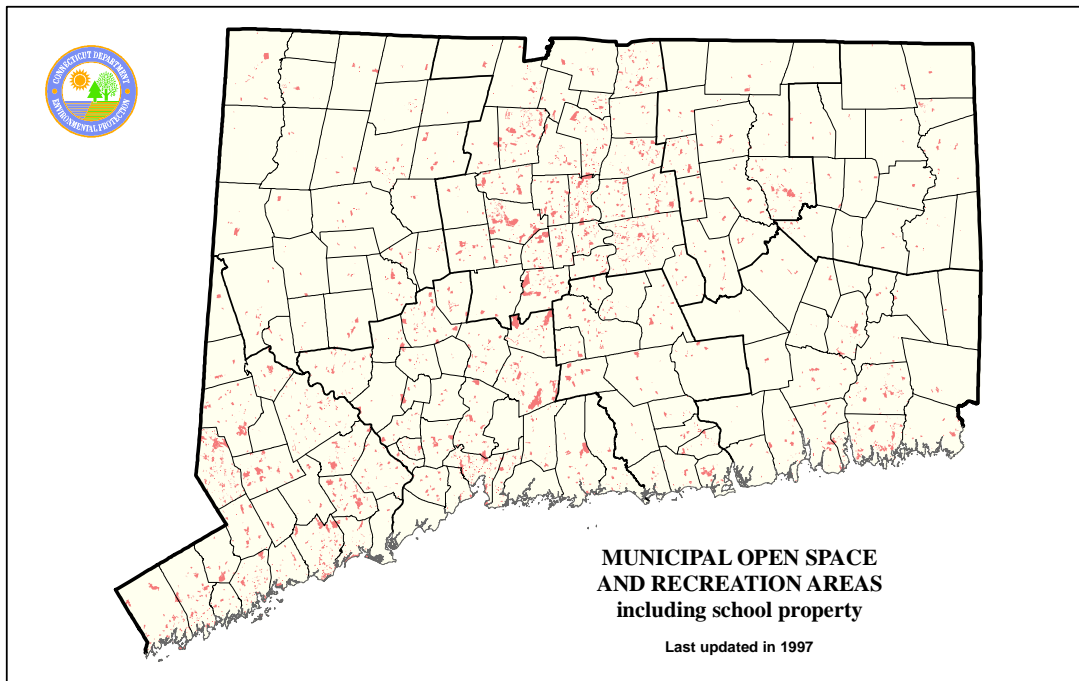
### ***3.2.9 Legislatively Provided Economic Assistance for Municipal Recreation***

Over the last eighteen years (1988-2005), the Connecticut General Assembly has provided \$105,630,000 in economic assistance for 360 municipal recreation projects through the Small Town Economic Assistance Program, Urban Action Grants, and Special Act Grants. The volume of such funding has increased in recent years, particularly since 1999. Over these last seven years, at least \$6.4 million has been extended and twenty-six projects funded each year. The increasing level of funding demonstrates an awareness on the part of legislators of the need for more recreational facilities and a commitment to meet this need.

### **3.3 The Municipal Role in Recreation in Connecticut**

The municipal role in outdoor recreation differs from that of the State in two fundamental ways: 1) municipal recreational facilities and programs are intended to serve predominantly the residents of that municipality rather than a larger regional or statewide population, and 2) the nature of the activities provided for at the local level tend toward the more intensive forms of recreation such as competitive and team sports, fields and courts for specialized uses, and playground areas. Municipal recreation facilities are typically not as closely natural resource-based as are State facilities. A large portion of municipal recreation facilities, and in many cases the majority of them, are operated in conjunction with the local school system. A large percentage of baseball, softball and football fields and basketball courts are provided on school grounds.

Connecticut's 169 municipalities manage the vast majority of the parks and other recreational facilities detailed in Appendix L. In addition, municipalities provide for the dominant share of organized recreational activities and programs in Connecticut. These range from school varsity sports and athletic programs to summer recreational leagues and organized activities for young children and senior citizens. Specialized events offered municipally include outdoor concerts and cultural events, road races, historical tours and commemorations, and local festivals.



### **3.4 The Role of Private For-profit Organizations in Recreation in Connecticut**

Two distinct types of private for-profit organizations in Connecticut provide recreational facilities and experiences. These include commercial enterprises that offer specialized facilities to users for a fee, and public utilities which primarily serve non-recreational functions, but allow, or actively provide for, public recreation on their properties.

The for-profit commercial recreation sector in Connecticut provides specialized, intensive, or high value recreation, often catering to statewide or even regional populations. Commercial recreational facilities serve a valuable role in providing recreation, exercise, and economic activity in the state. Commercially provided recreation includes such facilities as the state's five ski areas (one of which operates via a lease agreement within a Connecticut State Park), marinas, commercial campgrounds, amusement parks, golf courses and driving ranges, miniature golf courses, outdoor shooting ranges, paintball courses and batting cages. Though some of these facilities overlap with those provided at State and local parks, the private facilities generally offer a greater range of amenities, such as at private campgrounds, or a great level of financial investment in the facilities. Without the commercial recreational facilities, there would be a much greater demand on State and local government to meet recreational needs.

Foremost among public utilities providing for recreation are the private and quasi-public water companies of Connecticut. As of 2001, water company lands in Connecticut

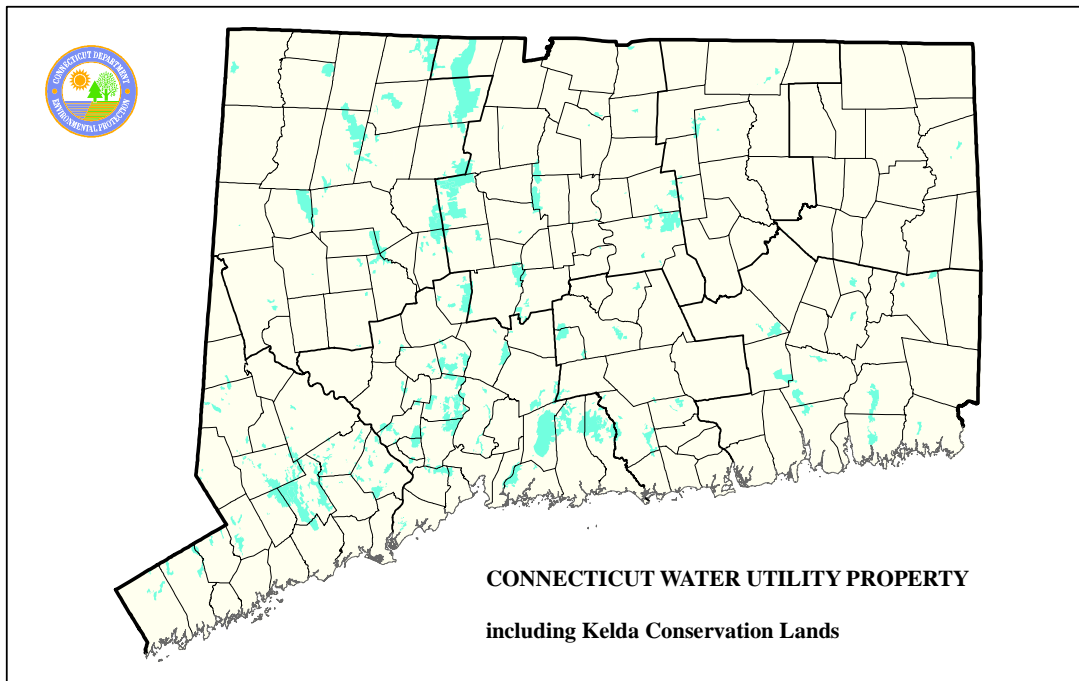
totaled 110,000 acres and represented 24.7% of all open space ownership in the state.<sup>2</sup> Though water supply protection is the primary purpose of these lands, many of the water companies do provide for public recreation on their holdings. Trail systems are a feature on many water company properties, allowing for hiking, jogging and cross-country skiing. Water company lands also provide for important trail segments and connections on the statewide Blue-Blazed Trail system. The Metropolitan District Commission maintains a Braille Trail for blind hikers on one of its properties. Beaches, swimming, picnicking, fishing and non-motorized or electric-powered boating are provided for on other water company properties in Connecticut. Hunting is also provided for on selected water company lands.

Northeast Utilities and its subsidiaries provide for a range of recreational pursuits on their properties. Three Wildlife Management Areas, totaling over 2,200 acres, are managed cooperatively with DEP on Northeast Utilities properties. These areas are located in northwestern Connecticut in Sharon, at Maromas on the Connecticut River in Middletown, and at Kings Island in the Connecticut River at Enfield.

In 1928, a predecessor utility company to Northeast Utilities (NU) constructed Candlewood Lake in western Connecticut, which is the largest inland waterbody in the state. Currently, NU maintains the dam for that impoundment. This waterbody supports a myriad of recreational activities on and along its 5,420 acre surface, including Squantz Pond State Park, a State boat launch ramp at Lattins Cove, and the Dike Point public access area maintained by NU, as well as numerous municipal and private recreation sites. NU also maintains several picnic areas, and boating, rafting and canoe areas on the Housatonic River, as well as an eagle viewing area, operated in cooperation with DEP, at the Shepaug Dam on that river.

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<sup>2</sup> The Connecticut Green Plan: Open Space Acquisition, Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection, July 2001, p.1.



### **3.5 The Private and Non-Profit Role in Recreation in Connecticut**

Without the participation of numerous private and non-profit organizations who play important roles in the provision of recreational opportunities, the recreational landscape in Connecticut would look much different, and be much more limited. Private and non-profit organizations are significant land owners whose holdings are used for both active and passive recreational pursuits. Other organizations are not landowners but perform valuable supportive or complementary roles in Connecticut’s recreation framework. The organizations discussed in the following sections are major players in Connecticut’s recreation community, but by no means is this brief listing the complete cast of participants.

#### ***3.5.1 Land Trusts, The Nature Conservancy, and the Trust for Public Land***

Connecticut is very fortunate to have many active preservation-focused organizations working to acquire, manage and protect open space. Approximately 117 local land trusts are active in Connecticut. In the aggregate, Connecticut’s local land trusts own 51,000 acres in fee and have another 21,400 acres under easement.<sup>3</sup>

The Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy serves both as a landowner and as a facilitator in the purchase and preservation of open space. The Connecticut Chapter of TNC owns and manages 21 separate parcels, principally in the lower Connecticut River Valley and in western and eastern Connecticut. With these preserves

<sup>3</sup> Bowers, Linda, The Nature Conservancy, Connecticut Chapter, via e-mail, 4/4/2005

and its other holdings, TNC owns 15,400 acres in fee and has restrictive easements on an additional 15,600 acres.<sup>4</sup> Connecticut TNC has also facilitated open space purchases for DEP by providing the initial funding to acquire property or conservation easements until the necessary State funds could be secured. These properties, which are often under imminent threat of development or sale, are subsequently transferred to DEP. TNC has also partnered with municipalities and land trusts to purchase properties jointly. The Trust for Public Land also serves a similar facilitator role in acquiring property interests to protect open space in Connecticut.

### ***3.5.2 Fish and Game Clubs***

Fish and game clubs, sportsmen's clubs, rod and gun clubs, and similar organizations are significant owners and/or managers of land for recreational use. The amount of property owned by such organizations varies considerably from those which own a clubhouse on minimal property to those with substantial acreages under their control. While a precise count of the number of clubs and their holdings is difficult to come by, data derived from private clubs registered with DEP for pheasant tagging exemptions and/or clubs with permits to run private shooting preserves provide a conservative assessment of land owned, managed or used by hunting clubs in Connecticut. Each club annually submits an inventory of the acreage owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by agreements. Based on the data for the 103 clubs represented, 12,080 acres are under club ownership, 14,640 acres are leased for hunting activities, and another 12,962 acres are accessed through agreements with private landowners.

### ***3.5.3 Historical Societies***

Approximately 175 active historical societies provide glimpses into life in earlier eras of Connecticut's history. The facilities operated by the societies vary from full museums to historic homesteads to single room collections of historic artifacts and records. Though some of the latter facilities may be of interest to historians and academicians only, the larger facilities draw significant attendance and provide substantial recreational and educational opportunities.

### ***3.5.4 Connecticut Forest and Park Association***

Founded in 1895, the Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA) works on several fronts to further both land conservation and recreation in Connecticut. CFPA is perhaps best known for maintaining the 700-mile Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail system in Connecticut. Begun in 1929 with the opening of the Quinnipiac Trail, the system had grown to 400 miles by 1937. Not only is the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail system the backbone of the recreational trail network in Connecticut, but the Association's *Connecticut Walk Book* covering the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails is now in its 19<sup>th</sup> edition and is a well known and valuable resource widely used by Connecticut hikers.

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<sup>4</sup> *ibid*, pers. comm., March 2005



The Association also works to conserve forestland through assisting in the acquisition of conservation easements and through the purchase of forest property, either for eventual transfer to other conservation organizations or for its own ownership and stewardship. The Association owns 335 acres of land and holds easements over an additional 745 acres. Its greatest role in land conservation, however, has been the initial acquisition of many of Connecticut's State Parks and Forests.

### ***3.5.5 Friends of Connecticut State Parks***

The Friends of Connecticut State Parks is a volunteer organization whose mission is to support State Parks and Forests through education, advocacy and public awareness. Through its 21 individual chapters and 8,000 members, the Friends raise money to meet critical maintenance needs and operating expenses at the parks, politically and publicly advocate for sufficient funding to operate and maintain Connecticut State Parks and Forests, and work to increase public awareness of our State Parks through events such as Connecticut State Parks Day and through publications such as *A Shared Landscape*, published in 2004, which through pictorials, narratives and maps, describes 128 State Parks and Forests. The Friends also solicit and accept gifts of equipment or material for park needs, and undertake projects themselves to improve the appearance and maintenance of the State Parks and Forests.

### ***3.5.6 Other Significant Non-Profit Recreational Property Owners in Connecticut***

Among the private non-profit entities not mentioned above, several own significant holdings of property which serve recreational needs.

Audubon Connecticut, the operating unit of the National Audubon Society in this state, owns and manages a system of 20 bird sanctuaries with a combined area of 4,508 acres. These sanctuaries are maintained expressly for bird and wildlife habitat and support bird and nature watching, but also contain trail systems open to members, guests, and the general public. Most of these sanctuaries are in the western part of the state. The nature center at the Greenwich headquarters also provides a picnic area and weekend educational programs.

Similarly, the Connecticut Audubon Society, which was founded in 1898, maintains 19 sanctuaries totaling 2,500 acres. These properties are distributed across the state and are also managed for bird and wildlife habitat. Six of them contain Audubon centers for staff and the public. Many, but not all contain trails, which are open to the general public.

The four councils of the Boy Scouts of America in Connecticut operate 13 camps totaling approximately 4,359 acres. Three Girl Scout councils operate 12 camps aggregating 1,389 acres. These camps serve a mix of day users and longer term campers, the latter usually staying for one week sessions. Most of these facilities are limited to summer use, though some offer winter programs as well.

In a similar vein, six YMCA camps and one YWCA camp provide an additional 1,367 acres of camping and recreational activity. Generally, both the Scout and ‘Y’ camps are located in the eastern and western portions of the state, with relatively few of them in central portions of Connecticut.

Another significant private holding which contributes to Connecticut recreation is the Yale Myers Forest, owned by Yale University. At 7,840 acres, Yale Myers Forest is the largest of the seven Yale University forests, and the only one located in Connecticut. Yale Myers Forest is located in the towns of Union, Eastford, Ashford, and Woodstock in northeastern Connecticut. Though the primary purpose of this property is for teaching and research by the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, the forest is open to hunters and cooperatively administered with DEP to support small game, waterfowl, turkey and deer hunting. Yale Myers Forest also hosts a substantial segment of the Nipmuck Trail, one of the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails. Motorized trail use is prohibited in the forest. Yale Myers Forest also hosts about 18-20 professional, educational and public seminars on forest management topics each summer.

### **3.6 Consistency with Relevant State Plans and Programs**

The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan does not exist in a policy vacuum but rather takes its place among a family of other State plans and programs dealing with land use, land preservation, resource management, and public health. The following pages describe relevant State plans, programs, and strategies with which SCORP’s recommendations should be consistent.

#### ***3.6.1 Conservation and Development Policies Plan for Connecticut***

Connecticut’s *Conservation and Development Policies Plan* is a statement of the growth, resource management, and public investment policies which should guide the decision-making of all State government agencies. Prepared and adopted every five years, the Plan serves principally to guide State expenditures, projects and policies in a manner to foster appropriate land use. Adoption of the 2004-2009 Plan is occurred during the 2005 General Assembly session.

For purposes of land use planning, the Plan divides the state into eight categories of land. Growth is directed toward four of these land use categories, namely regional centers, neighborhood conservation areas, growth areas, and rural community centers, in that descending order of development priority. Growth and development are directed away from the other four land use categories. Existing open space is assigned the highest conservation priority in the Plan, followed in descending order by preservation areas, conservations areas, and rural lands. The description and the policy of each of these latter four land categories is as follows:

- **Existing open space:** This classification includes Federal, State and municipal parks, forests, and other selected open spaces; major open space preserves in quasi-public ownership, and Class I type water supply lands in State or utility

ownership. The State action strategy for existing preserved open space land is to support permanent continuation as public or quasi-public open space, and to discourage the sale and structural development of such areas, except as may be consistent with the open space functions served.

- **Preservation areas:** This category includes lands that do not reflect the level of permanence of existing preserved open space, but which represent significant resources that should be effectively managed in order to preserve the state's unique heritage. Preservation areas include Class I water company lands not in State or utility ownership, floodways and wave hazard areas, inland wetlands, tidal wetlands, critical species habitats, waterbodies, open space areas designated in approved local plans, designated natural or archaeological areas, and agricultural lands for which development rights have been acquired. The State action strategy for preservation areas is to foster the identification of significant resource, heritage, recreation, and hazardous areas of statewide significance and to advocate their protection by public and quasi-public agencies in their planning and investment decisions, and to avoid support for structural development except as directly consistent with the preservation values.
- **Conservation areas:** These areas include Class II water supply lands, aquifer areas, 100-year flood fringes, scenic and recreational river corridors, significant sand and gravel resources, prime agricultural lands, historic areas, trap rock ridges, greenways and scenic areas, areas of conservation easements, natural areas of local significance, and potential major outdoor recreation areas. The State action strategy for conservation areas is to plan and manage them for long-term benefit so that they can contribute to the state's need for food, fiber, water, other resources, open space, recreation and environmental quality, and to ensure that changes in use are compatible with the identified conservation values.
- **Rural lands:** These include lands remote from existing urban areas and lacking in water and sewer services, and in industrial, commercial, or residential concentrations. The State action strategy for rural lands is to avoid support of structural development forms and intensities which exceed the on-site carrying capacity for water supply and sewage disposal.

The efforts of the State of Connecticut through the Department of Environmental Protection to acquire, preserve and manage open space for active and passive recreation, and for wildlife, fisheries, education, scientific, and cultural resource values are clearly consistent with the policies for preserving existing open space. Many acquired properties are or were classified as preservation areas at the time of their acquisition, furthering the goal of identifying and preserving qualifying properties and their values and resources. Funding assistance to municipalities and water companies under DEP's Open Space and Watershed Lands Acquisition Grant Program further assists in the identification and protection of Class I and II water supply watershed lands and other preservation and conservation area properties. The policies enumerated in Chapter 8 of this SCORP which identify needs to improve maintenance of existing preserved recreation areas and needs to

acquire additional lands to satisfy unmet demands for water-based, trail-based, and other recreational activities are consistent with the *Conservation and Development Policies Plan* action strategies for existing open space, preservation, and conservation areas. Also, to the extent that a portion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund monies received by DEP and awarded to municipalities through the open project selection process may be used for local acquisitions, the preservation and conservation goals of the Plan are also furthered.

For **Existing Preserved Open Space**, the 2004-2009 *Conservation and Development Policies Plan* offers the following more detailed policy.

- Policy:** Continue to protect Existing Preserved Open Space areas and to limit improvements to those consistent with long-term preservation and appropriate public enjoyment of the natural resource and open space values of the site.
- Encourage public use in conformance with management plans that foster long-range , multi-purpose usage;
  - Approve actions not consistent with long-term preservation only when it is demonstrated that there are overriding social, economic, and public benefits and there are no feasible alternatives; and
  - Manage public trust lands to ensure their long-term preservation, the viability of their natural ecological processes, and their availability to the public.

Further, in relation to the State objective to preserve at least 10% of Connecticut's land area as State-owned open space, and 21% of the state's land area as public or private preserved open space, the 2004-2009 Plan also provides detailed policy guidance.

**Policy:** Provide a system of appropriately managed natural areas with a diversity of well-functioning habitats, and a wide variety of high quality outdoor recreational opportunities to all citizens, emphasizing activities that broaden understanding of and contact with the natural environment. Assess statewide needs for recreational resources and facilities. Develop management plans that maximize multiple uses of state-owned lands, and encourage collaborative ventures with municipal and private entities to provide, protect, and manage habitat lands, emphasizing:

- Continued support for state acquisition or state-assisted acquisition of open space lands for natural resource protection to meet the overall statutory goal of preserving 21% of the state's area, while seeking to define an appropriate resource-based goal for protected acreage;
- New water-based recreation sites that are consistent with other resource protection requirements;
- Access to Long Island Sound shoreline areas of highest recreational potential, with recommendations for state-first option for purchase, lease-back, easements, and other incentives to maintain and increase public access to coastal areas, or to acquire through emergency purchase high-hazard coastal areas;

- Maintenance of access to sufficient acreage to support hunting and fishing as viable sporting activities through coordinated management of public land and access to leased privately owned open space;
- Continued development of five-year open space acquisition, recreation, and wildlife development plans as an adequate, comprehensive, and balanced schedule for expanding state recreational facilities and for preserving and enhancing management of areas critical for protection of wildlife habitats, water quality, and other natural resources;
- Maintenance and management of critical wildlife habitats, exemplary natural communities, and large forest blocks;
- Continued funding for the research, identification, and formulation of appropriate management guidelines necessary to protect these areas;
- Coordinated expansion of natural resource management programs with other public and private interests concerned with the management of natural, cultural, and historical areas, and
- Continued development of trail opportunities for both non-motorized and motorized recreation.

The SCORP, and DEP's land management policies overall, are consistent with these policies. The objective to secure 21% of the state's land area in dedicated open space is discussed in the following section on *The Connecticut Green Plan: Open Space Acquisition*. Acquisition of new water-based recreation sites is a recognized need, as discussed in *The Green Plan* and later in the *Coastal Access Recreation Survey Project*, and in previous Connecticut SCORPs. Water access has long been cited as Connecticut's most critical recreational need, and our review system for potential property acquisitions has consistently favored water access as a top priority. The elimination of inholdings within DEP properties is another priority in our land acquisition efforts which furthers the Plan's policies to maintain and manage critical wildlife habitats and large forest blocks, and also to provide sufficient acreage to support hunting, as the acquisition of inholdings eliminates the 500' buffer around inholdings in which hunting is prohibited.

In addition, the 2004-2009 Plan contains several greenways and trails policies, which are furthered by policies contained in this SCORP. The 2004-2009 Plan encourages greenways to and within rural community centers; linking residential and recreational areas, schools and community centers; linking revitalized areas, particularly in river corridors, to trail and greenway projects; and as elements of brownfield reclamation projects, particularly in urban areas and along waterways. Greenways are also encouraged as a method to promote access to recreational opportunities for residents of affordable and mixed income housing.

### ***3.6.2 The Connecticut Green Plan: Open Space Acquisition***

*The Connecticut Green Plan: Open Space Acquisition* was developed in 2001 by DEP in consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality and with private non-profit landholding groups, in response to a proposed 5-year land acquisition initiative by

then Governor John Rowland to use bond funds to acquire open space. Initial funding for the Governor's open space initiative began in 1999. In 2001, the General Assembly provided an additional \$10,000,000 for property acquisitions targeting urban areas of at least 1,500 persons per square mile population density. This latter program was known as the Charter Oak Open Space Trust Program. *The Green Plan* was developed as a road map to direct funding and land acquisition during the latter years of the Governor's initiative and for the Charter Oak Program. It was also envisioned to have continuing applicability for future property acquisitions and is used as a master plan for land acquisition in current DEP purchase decisions.

The Governor's initiative set a goal of preserving 21% of the state's land area, or 673,000 acres, as permanent open space, with 10% or 320,576 acres being in State ownership, and 11% (352,634 acres) owned by municipalities, private non-profit organizations, and water utilities. A target date of 25 years or 2026 was set for attainment of these goals. *The Green Plan* incorporates those goals and sets targets within those totals for acquisitions of six specific critical classes of open space. At the time *The Green Plan* was proposed, 444,740 acres of dedicated open space was set aside in Connecticut, of which 217,000 acres was State-owned.

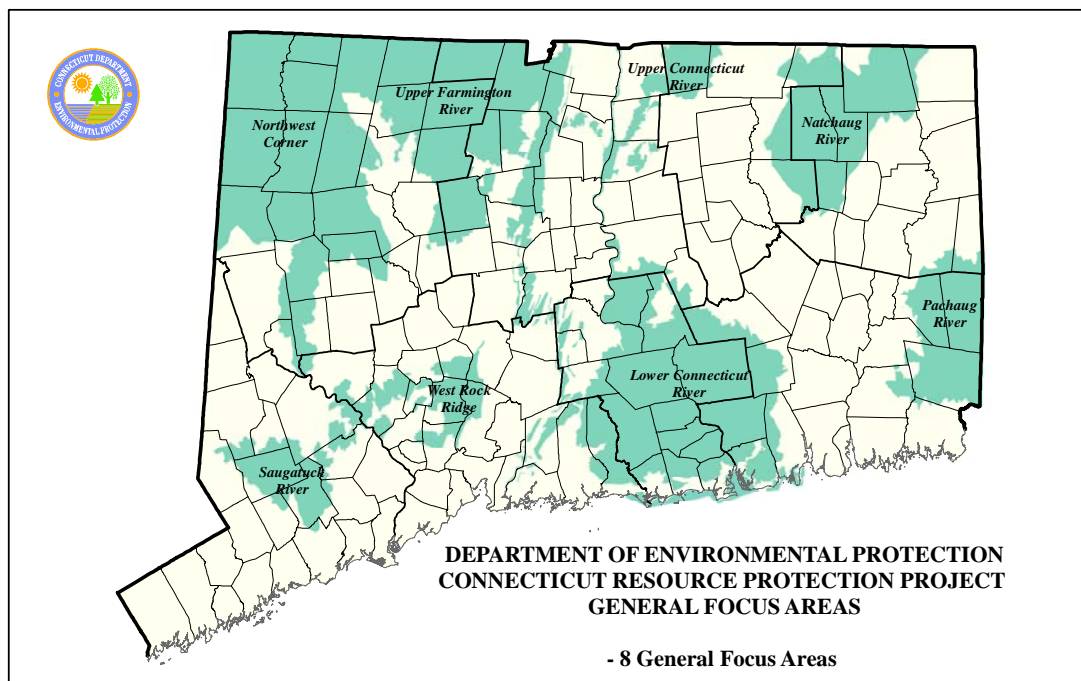
Funding in the amount of \$165,500,000 was proposed by the governor for the five year period 1999-2003. The General Assembly provided the additional \$10,000,000 for the Charter Oak Open Space Trust acquisitions. The Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Fund was proposed to receive \$104,500,000 and the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program was funded at \$61,000,000 for the first five years of the initiative. Ultimately, the funds received for these programs were extremely close to the proposed levels. The one time \$10,000,000 Charter Oak Open Space grant for urban areas was incorporated into the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Fund and the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Programs, with the monies targeted for the intended urban communities but without creating a separate program. Additional funding for those two programs has continued following the initial 1999-2003 five year initiative.

*The Green Plan* identified six specific classes of open space properties which should be acquired and set targets for each of these classes.

- **Water access** opportunities such as swimming areas, fishing access points and boat launches were identified as the most critical need, as popular demand chronically exceeds opportunities for public water access. Approximately 10,000 acres of such properties are proposed for acquisition.
- **Natural areas** of ecological, scientific or educational value such as white cedar swamps, black spruce bogs, freshwater and tidal wetlands, sand plains and grasslands are proposed for acquisition with a target of 15,000 acres.
- **Scenic and historically significant properties**, both natural and cultural, are proposed for 15,000 acres of acquisition. Examples of such properties are trap rock ridges, scenic river valley lands, canals, iron furnaces, and archaeological sites.

- **Greenways**, especially those connecting open spaces or linking community centers and neighborhoods to parks, or those serving as wildlife migration routes, should be acquired in the amount of 20,000 acres. Trails, abandoned railroad rights-of-way, and natural features such as ridgelines and stream corridors are examples of desirable greenway acquisitions.
- **Forests**, especially those that can be added to existing State Forests or to wildlife management areas, can provide critical assemblages of large forest acreages needed for habitat by many wildlife and bird species and can provide access for hunting, fishing, bird watching, hiking and other outdoor pursuits. Fifty thousand acres of forestland are sought.
- **Special opportunities** for acquisition may become available as utility lands, institutional holdings or other large blocks come on the market, perhaps in sudden fashion. Up to 10,000 acres of such holdings are foreseen for acquisition.

*The Connecticut Green Plan* further identified target acquisition candidates on a geographic basis by concentrating efforts within eight ‘focus areas’. These eight areas are distributed across the state and are designated as the Northwest Corner Focus Area, the Upper Farmington River Focus Area, the Upper Connecticut River Focus Area, the Natchaug River Focus Area, the Saugatuck River Focus Area, the West Rock Ridge Focus Area, the Lower Connecticut River Focus Area and the Pachaug River Focus Area. The first four of these are distributed across northern Connecticut, at roughly even intervals, from west to east, respectively. Similarly, the latter four are equally spaced across southern Connecticut going from west to east.





### *3.6.3 Connecticut State Parks Infrastructure Condition Assessment*

The Connecticut State Parks Infrastructure Condition Assessment represents a significant effort by the DEP State Parks Division to objectively evaluate and ultimately to improve Connecticut's State Park and State Forest recreation areas. The study took an in-depth look at 51 of the most developed State Park and Forest recreation areas. The principal objective of the survey, assessment and documentation of Connecticut State Park infrastructure conditions was to identify specific system wide needs, and objectively prioritize improvements to ensure that parks with the greatest deficiencies or needs were addressed first, and the level of improvements were commensurate with the needs and level of park usage. Performed by Clough Harbour and Associates (CHA), this assessment was undertaken to assist DEP in the implementation of the '2010 Plan'. The 2010 Plan, announced in 1997, was designed to infuse the State Parks system with \$114,000,000 in capital improvement bonding for the reconstruction of existing infrastructure and the restoration of the full beauty and vitality of Connecticut's state park and forest facilities. The 2010 Plan was the largest improvement initiative in the park's 85 year history. If the money was to be utilized to the fullest extent and committed to the most critical needs, it was necessary to objectively assess the condition and needs of the system.

Clough Harbour was asked to look at all aspects of development in the 51 facilities, and to suggest the acceptable standards to which the areas should be improved. CHA was also charged with developing a maintenance model that identifies operations and maintenance tasks necessary for the basic operation of the parks and their facilities, and quantifies the annual cost of providing an appropriate level of operations and maintenance in the parks evaluated. CHA developed a matrix that broke down maintenance routines into individual tasks, e.g., for opening a building, tasks analyzed might include seasonal and daily washing/sweeping of floors, cleaning plumbing fixtures and partitions, washing windows, painting and roof repairs, etc. The tasks were assigned hours of labor that were added up per building type. The study also gave suggested staffing levels and assigned a baseline for equipment.

The CHA study also gave in-depth descriptions of all suggested capital improvements by functional area. A total of 4,151 projects were identified, ranging from the replacement of amenities (picnic tables, grills, etc.) to new toilet buildings and visitors' centers, improvements to vehicular and pedestrian circulation, enhanced beach access, and the implementation of master plans for total park rehabilitation. The highest priority was given to buildings or areas that had building code or OSHA violations, usually due to changes in the code since construction, and to historical sites where buildings on the NPS Register of Historic Places were in jeopardy. ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) concerns were evaluated by a DEP/DPW study in 1998, and improvements have already addressed access issues. The projected capital expenditures for the identified projects were \$186,810,256, a figure which does not reflect the staffing levels or routine annualized maintenance costs identified in the assessment.

### 3.6.4 *The Connecticut Recreational Trails Plan*

*The Connecticut Recreational Trails Plan*, published in September 2004 in draft form, covers trail planning and use and the status of Connecticut's trail development efforts. Currently, there are approximately 1,000 miles of trails in Connecticut, including the 700 miles of the Blue-Blazed Trail System and the Appalachian Trail, as well as segments as short as local trails and walkways. A significant source of funding for trail projects in Connecticut has been the Recreational Trails Program, administered by the Federal Highway Administration and funded from a portion of the gas tax on off-highway vehicles.

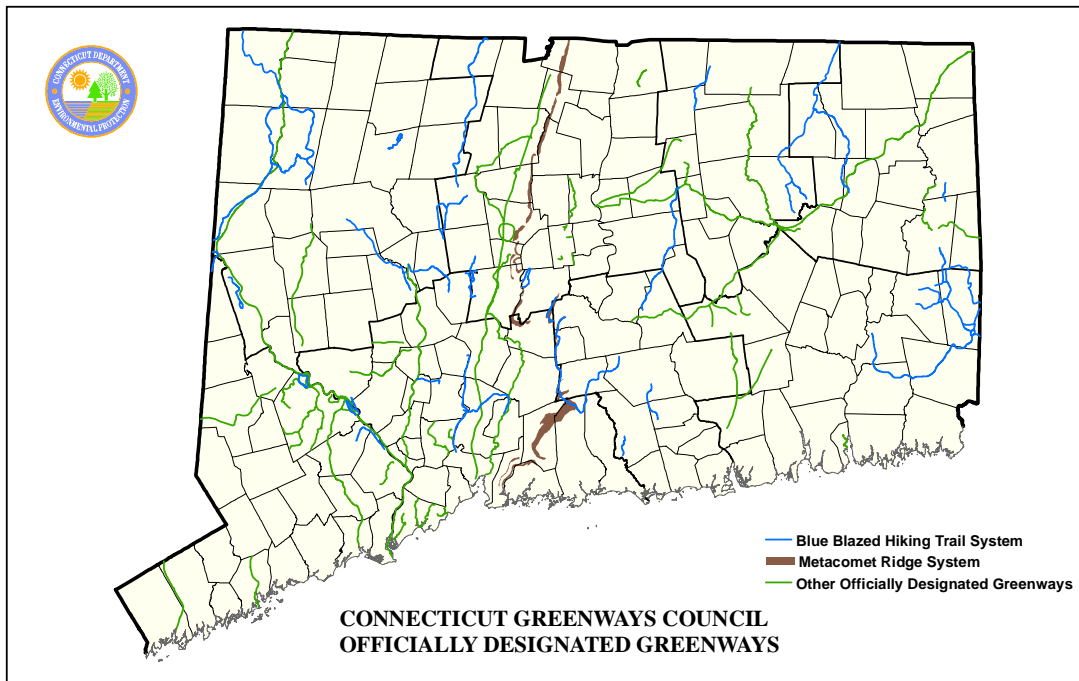
The Connecticut Recreational Trails Plan contains five overarching goals:

- Ensure the continuity and linkage of trails around the state
- Develop areas for all trail users in the state
- Ensure public participation in and support for the state trail programs
- Ensure construction and maintenance of trails in an environmentally sound manner
- Utilize trails as educational media.

Maintenance of the integrity of the trails, most of which are located on private property, is a key consideration of the plan. Development activities and changes in land ownership are a threat to trail integrity and also complicate efforts to eliminate gaps in the trail systems.

Addressing critically underserved trail needs is another salient issue in trail planning. Motorized trail facilities are the most dramatic example. There are an estimated 65,000 motorized trail vehicles in Connecticut, but just one motorcycle trail (for street-legal bikes) in a State Forest, one dirt bike facility on federal land, and one ATV club trail with access to riding areas on private land.

The Plan also seeks to foster connectivity of trails and coordination of trail development efforts among various user groups, planners, and government entities. Goals for developing trail maps, standardizing trail use protocols and etiquette, and developing standard agreements between DEP and user/volunteer groups for administration and maintenance of trails on DEP lands are other elements of the Plan. The Plan also contains a list of all officially designated greenways and trails in the state. Finalization and adoption of the Connecticut Recreational Trails Plan is anticipated to occur late in 2005, following a series of public hearings in the fall of the year.



### 3.6.5 Connecticut Coastal Access Survey Project

From February 2004 to July 2004, Connecticut DEP’s Office of Long Island Sound Programs distributed three coastal recreation access surveys to better understand the public’s coastal recreation habits and to assess public demand for access to Connecticut’s coast for the following popular recreational activities: (1) saltwater fishing and waterfowl hunting; (2) coastal boating; and (3) wildlife observation. The purpose of this survey was to provide guidance for the public access enhancement programs managed by DEP’s Office of Long Island Sound Programs. This survey effort was undertaken in cooperation with the Boating, Marine Fisheries, and Wildlife Divisions of DEP, the NOAA Coastal Services Center and UConn at Avery Point.

One thousand and sixty-nine surveys were distributed, of which 419 or 39% were returned. Recipients were asked about the geographic areas, numerical adequacy, and specific facility improvements needed to support coastal fishing, waterfowl hunting, boating, and wildlife observation.

The wildlife observation survey generated 166 responses out of 356 surveys, or a 47% response rate. Eighty-one percent of the respondents felt that additional observation areas are needed. The east central coastal area (Guilford to Old Lyme) was the area felt to be most in need of additional wildlife viewing opportunities, followed by the west central coastal area (Bridgeport to Branford). Specific areas suggested by respondents for additional viewing access points included the tidal sections of the Quinnipiac River, and areas at the mouths of the Housatonic and Connecticut Rivers. Improvements at existing observation areas were also requested. Toilets, more parking, and observation

platforms or blinds were the most requested improvements. Longer hours of access were also sought at wildlife viewing areas.

The saltwater fishing and waterfowl hunting survey generated a 38% response rate, or 141 replies out of 368 surveys, with respondents split between saltwater shore-based fishermen (45%), saltwater boat fishermen (45%), and waterfowl hunters (10%). The east central (39%) and eastern (38%) Connecticut coastlines were easily the most popular areas for shore-based fishing and were the areas for which additional access for both types of fishing were most desired. These were also the coastline segments most popular with waterfowl hunters. Improvements most desired by waterfowl hunters at access sites are toilets, ramps for trailered boats, carry-in boat launches, access piers, and parking improvements. The eastern coastal region (East Lyme to Stonington), followed by the east central region, were the most frequently requested areas for additional waterfowl hunting access.

Thirty-six percent of the shore-based fisherman returning surveys cited a need to cross private property to access their preferred fishing sites. This suggests that such access is at risk if the affected private landowners choose to restrict such access in the future. Three quarters of those who crossed private land to access their fishing sites expressed a desire that DEP acquire the intervening land or otherwise secure access rights to guarantee their fishing access.

Lastly, the boating access survey, based on 112 responses from 345 surveys, a 32% response rate, found 83% of the respondents feeling that more public boating access sites are needed along the coast. For those using car top launches, the east central region was the most requested area for new access at 31% of respondents, followed by the east coastal region at 26%, the west coastal region (Greenwich to Fairfield) at 24%, and the west central region at 19%. Demand for new trailered launch capacity was not as evenly divided, but more heavily favored the east central region at 36%, and the eastern region at 30%, with the western coastal region at 20% and the west central coast at 14%. Soft bottom ramps and toilet facilities were the dominant requests among carry-in boaters for desired facilities at new access sites. Trailered boat users were more split in their expression of needs with 33% wanting more hard bottom ramps, 29% asking for toilet facilities, and 27% seeking a public dock at the launch facilities.

Additional facilities sought at existing boating access sites are additional parking (24%), ramps (20%), improved water depths (15%) and toilet facilities (15%). Improvements of existing facilities at existing sites were requested most often for public docks, toilets, parking and increased water depth.

A question on whether boat launch sites should be managed to allow uses other than boating access indicated that boaters are fairly evenly divided on accommodating other recreational activities at boat launch sites. The survey results on this question produced a very slight negative majority (53%/47%), with fishing, wildlife observation and picnicking at boat launch sites favored by 34%, 34% and 29%, respectively. This finding is significant in that it indicates an almost even split among those with a specific

interest in boating. Therefore, if the non-boating public was also surveyed on this issue, it is likely that a substantial majority would support allowing expanded recreational uses at boat launch areas.

### **3.6.6 Connecticut's Draft Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) Plan**

Connecticut's *Draft Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) Plan* outlines a process for identifying Connecticut's priority coastal land conservation opportunities to be funded in part by the federal CELCP grant funds. This federal program, administered by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, is authorized to receive up to \$60 million annually to fund coastal land acquisition through a competitive state grant program. The Program's purpose is to "protect important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, or aesthetic values." Currently, Program funds are awarded through Congressional earmarks through the federal agencies' appropriations process. Upon becoming a competitive state grant program, states with approved CELCP plans will be eligible to apply for CELCP funds.

Connecticut's CELCP Plan identifies the State's most critical coastal land conservation needs. These needs are based upon Connecticut's priority coastal land conservation values that were identified through a survey of land conservation organizations and interviews with state and federal agency resource management experts. These values include: (1) ecologically significant areas; (2) important coastal recreation access areas; and (3) other sites with exceptional or unique values. Each class of values is further described below:

- 1) Ecologically significant areas are those areas that are: (a) typical or representative of Long Island Sound coastal systems; (b) provide outstanding examples of such systems, habitats, or landscapes; or (c) provide rare species habitat.
- 2) Coastal recreation access areas providing or capable of providing coastal access for the following popular coastal resource-based recreation activities:
  - a.) car-top and trailered boating,
  - b.) shore-based fishing or crabbing,
  - c.) passive recreation activities (e.g., hiking) in areas of significant or unique geologic or biologic interest, or part of an existing or planned greenway, trail, or linear park,
  - d.) wildlife observation,
  - e.) waterfowl hunting, or
  - f.) saltwater bathing.
- 3) Other sites with significant coastal resource recreation or cultural heritage value.

The above described priority coastal land conservation values will be used to help identify Connecticut's most significant coastal land acquisition opportunities and to

nominate proposed acquisitions to a federal CELCP project funding review committee that will select projects for CELCP funding assistance.

### ***3.6.7 Connecticut Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan***

*The Connecticut Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan* was prepared by the Connecticut Department of Transportation in 1999. This document is intended to:

- Guide the Department of Transportation, Regional Planning Agencies, cities, towns and other agencies or groups in the development of bicycle and pedestrian systems.
- Clarify the goals and objectives recommended in the statewide bicycle and pedestrian element of Connecticut’s Long Range Master Transportation Plan.
- Explain the rules of the road and state laws in regard to the use of public roadways by bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Establish guidelines for the planning, design, maintenance, and enforcement of bike routes, multi-use trails, and sidewalks in Connecticut.
- Provide information to those interested in bicycle and pedestrian transportation programs.

The Plan is based on a vision that “Any Connecticut resident will be able to bicycle, or use other type of non-motorized transportation mode, safely and conveniently from his or her home to any destination in the state. From any town, residents will be able to follow multi-use trails that are connected to other towns in the region, to other regions, and to neighboring states....”<sup>5</sup>

To make this vision a reality, the Plan lays out four directing goals:

- Provide a statewide multi-use trail system which is integrated with other transportation systems.
- Provide and maintain a safe, convenient and pleasing bicycle and pedestrian environment.
- Encourage and support bicycle/pedestrian safety, education and enforcement programs.
- Make full use of state resources in providing technical assistance to towns and municipalities relative to the development of multi-use trail facilities throughout our state.

The passage of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) signaled a renewed interest in providing facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians. ISTEA recognized bicycling and walking as integral elements of a multi-modal approach to transportation and required states to develop bicycle and pedestrian components in

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<sup>5</sup> Connecticut Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan, Connecticut Dept. of Transportation, March 1999, p.v.

their transportation plans. In light of this increased level of interest in bicycle transportation, ConnDOT formulated a policy to foster the establishment of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in cooperation with the towns of Connecticut to provide a safe, adequate and efficient mode of transportation other than by motor vehicles. The Plan notes that, in Connecticut, bicycles are considered vehicles and allowed on all public roads except controlled access highways.

On the federal level, the Plan notes that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is also placing increased emphasis on bicycling and walking as modes of transportation. The FHWA's goals are to double the percentages of transportation trips made by bicycling and walking, while reducing by 10% the number of bicycling and pedestrian injuries and fatalities.<sup>6</sup> The base rate upon which the FHWA trip goals seek to improve are derived from "The National Bicycling and Walking Study" prepared by FHWA. The study found that, on a national basis, 7.2% of all trips are made by walking and 0.7% by bicycling. These figures are somewhat higher than the Connecticut figures, which are based on 1990 Census data. This data showed 6.6% of all travel trips in this state are accomplished by walking, and 0.37% by bicycling. The Plan notes that, at that time (1999), there were almost 75 projects for bicycle or pedestrian transportation in some state of design or construction in Connecticut.

Among many ConnDOT strategies listed in the Plan are the designation of suitable State roads as bicycle routes, the design and incorporation of walkways and bike trails in projects wherever possible, inclusion of wider shoulders and sidewalks in road and especially bridge projects, placing bicycle racks at train stations and commuter lots, and periodically updating the Connecticut Statewide Bicycle map. The Plan also contains extensive guidance on the design of bikeways and walkways, a discussion of regional bicycle plans, and a listing of existing and proposed bicycle routes.

### **3.6.8 Connecticut Statewide Forest Resource Plan 2004-2013**

The *Connecticut Statewide Forest Resource Plan 2004-2013* is a cooperative effort of the Department of Environmental Protection, the University of Connecticut College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the U.S. Forest Service. A wide range of stakeholders were involved in its preparation, including government agencies, private landowners, foresters, forest products companies, water companies, land trusts, recreational organizations, and educators. The purpose of the Plan is to develop management strategies for Connecticut's public and private forests for the next decade and beyond.

Eight key aspects of forest resource management were identified, and visions were developed for each aspect to serve as the destinations to guide the management strategies. The eight aspects of forest resource management addressed in the plan are: (1) forest ecosystem health, (2) public forest stewardship, (3) private forest stewardship, (4) recreation, (5) sustainable forest based economy, (6) education and outreach, (7) planning and policy, and (8) research.

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<sup>6</sup> *ibid*, p. 3



The first aspect, forest resource health, is seen as the key consideration upon which the other aspects are dependent. Forest ecosystem health is reflected in the biologic diversity of our forests, and in their ability to withstand the damaging effects of invasive species, adverse weather, insects, diseases, wildfires, and erosion. The most dangerous threats to forest ecosystem health are forest fragmentation, a lack of age diversity within the forests, and declining species diversity.

The Plan finds the second aspect, public forest stewardship, has suffered from a lack sufficient State resources to manage the State Forests. Municipal forests similarly suffer from this constraint, perhaps to a greater degree. Increased staffing and resources are seen as needed to address public forest management needs.

For the 85% of Connecticut's forests that are in private ownership, the Plan sees a need for more forestry assistance, largely from DEP, to assist private landowners in the management of their lands, and more education to help landowners understand and appreciate the importance of their lands and the functions they serve. Land trusts, sportmen's clubs and other organizational landowners are considered as being among the private forest stewards.

Regarding the recreation aspect of Connecticut's forests, the Plan advocates that public forests should be open to all user groups to the extent appropriate with resource management. It notes that there is a deficiency of parking at public forest access points, particularly for winter access and for horse trailers. Other management challenges noted for public forests are the largely unaccommodated demand for ATV access, difficulties for emergency medical access, the lengthy process for rerouting trails, and increasing competition for use of trails by different user groups. On private forest lands, the major recreational concerns are the diminishing public access to private lands, careless attitudes toward private property on the part of some users, liability issues dissuading otherwise willing landowners from allowing access, and the lack of ATV access. A statewide clearinghouse for group liability insurance policies is seen as one measure to overcome difficulties that municipalities, land trusts, private landowners, and user groups encounter in obtaining and maintaining liability insurance coverage.

A sustainable forest based economy, the fifth aspect considered in the Plan, allows the landowner to offset the cost of owning and managing the land, while providing employment and other economic benefits. The fragmented ownership patterns of our private forests deny the benefits of economies of scale to our forest products economy. Connecticut's forest based economy is further constrained by the even-aged nature of much of our forests, which hinders the sustainability of commercial forest activity. Limited markets for many low grade products and negative public opinions about timber harvesting pose additional obstacles to achieving a sustainable Connecticut forest based economy.

Education and outreach, planning and policy, and research are the other three forest resource aspects considered in the Plan. In the planning and policy aspect, three

recommendations relevant to SCORP are to revise and streamline DEP's land acquisition procedures under the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust program, to make more acquisition funding available, and to pursue the purchase of development rights rather than fee acquisitions as a way to stretch forest acquisition funds.

Several of the problems identified and actions discussed in the Plan have direct relevance to recreation planning and land preservation. Preserving large intact forest blocks from fragmentation is a recurrent theme in the Plan. Addressing the liability concerns of private landowners is also a key consideration to continuing and expanding public access to private forests. Sustaining a healthy forest products industry is necessary to provide the economic incentives and resources to maintain the forests and to keep them from being developed for residential or other uses. The purchase of development rights to forestland as a way to stretch forest acquisition dollars, the education of landowners to the many values and uses of forests including recreation, and the need for enhanced parking access for winter sports and for horse trailers are elements of the Plan which have applicability to the recreational use and enjoyment of Connecticut's forests.

### **3.6.9 Farmland Preservation Program**

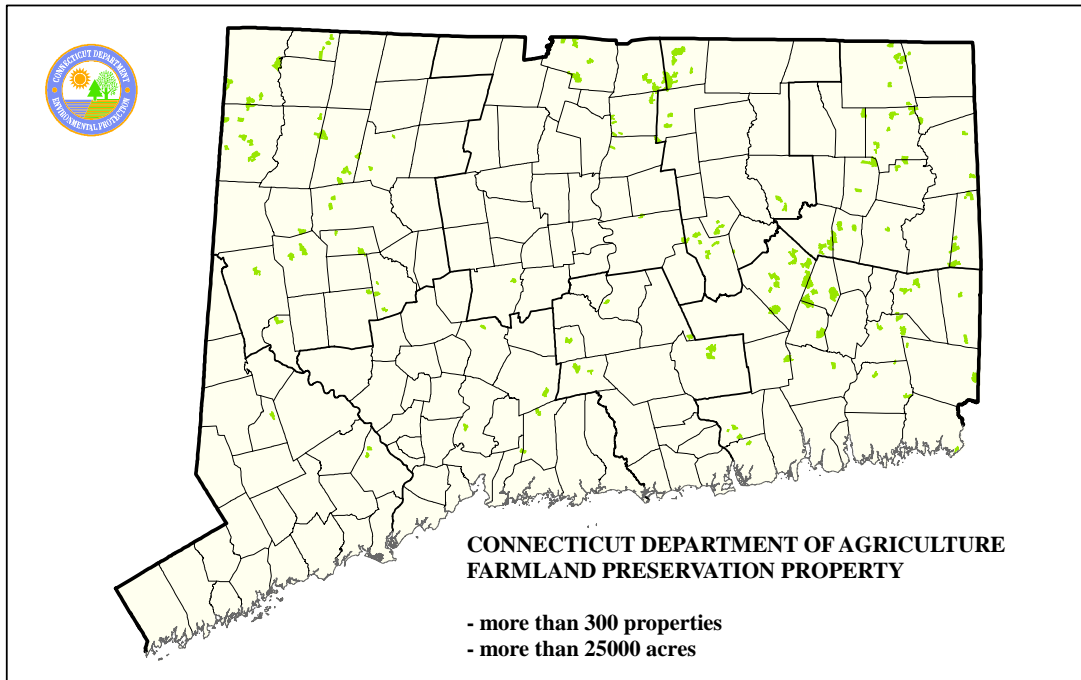
The Farmland Preservation Program was instituted in 1986 in recognition of the rapid rate at which Connecticut's farmland was disappearing. Through the Farmland Preservation Program, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture preserves farmland by acquiring the development rights to agricultural properties. The farms remain in private ownership and continue to pay local property taxes. A permanent restriction on non-agricultural uses is placed on the subject property. The program is voluntary on the part of the applicant. The applicant must own an active farm containing a high percentage of prime farmland soils.

When this program was instituted, a goal of preserving 130,000 acres was established, including 85,000 acres of cropland. This land base would enable Connecticut to produce at least 50% of its fluid milk needs and 70% of its in-season fresh fruits and vegetables. To date, 30,157 acres on 214 farms have been preserved through this program, with several additional acquisitions currently pending or in the appraisal stage. The rights acquired to date represent 23% of the 130,000 acre goal.

For each prospective development rights purchase, the farm is appraised for its unrestricted market value and its market agricultural value. The difference between these two appraisals indicates the value of the development rights.

Though the Farmland Preservation Program is not intended to protect recreational values, and the protected acreage is not counted toward the goals contained in *The Green Plan*, preserving farmland does contribute to recreational opportunities in several ways. Preserved farmscapes add to the visual diversity and attractiveness of our landscape, thereby enhancing the appeal of the state to tourists and to casual sightseeing by Connecticut residents. Many farmers lease their lands to sportmen's clubs for hunting, with such lands providing an appreciable portion of the property accessible to hunters

statewide. Fishing access to lakes, ponds and streams is also frequently accomplished using farm properties. Farms also provide bird and wildlife habitat, and represent opportunities for our residents to view these species. Therefore, though the Farmland Preservation Program is not a recreation program *per se*, it accomplishes multiple recreation-friendly purposes, and specifically helps meet the demand for hunting and fishing access.



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## Chapter 4: Methodology

### 4.1 Introduction

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended, requires that all recipient states, including Connecticut, prepare a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) as a condition for participating in the program. The LWCF Act stipulates that the SCORP:

1. specify the name of the state agency with authority to act for the state in regards to the development and implementation of the plan;
2. include an evaluation of the supply of outdoor recreation resources and facilities in the state;
3. include an assessment of current demand among citizens for outdoor recreation;
4. demonstrate opportunity for public contribution to the development of the plan;
5. analyze the needs and priorities based upon an assessment of supply, demand and public comment; and
6. specify an implementation plan that addresses those findings.

Sections 22a-21 and 22a-21a of the Connecticut General Statutes also require the Department of Environmental Protection to study the recreational needs of the state and disseminate information concerning recreational services and authorize the Commissioner to “prepare, maintain and keep up-to-date a comprehensive plan for the development of the outdoor recreation resources and other natural resources of the state....”

Therefore, pursuant to both the requirements of LWCF and the Connecticut General Statutes, the SCORP seeks to measure the demand for and supply of outdoor recreation facilities and resources so as to make appropriate recommendations and posit both short term and long term objectives. In accomplishing this, the SCORP will take into consideration input from the public as well as the goals and strategies of other relevant governmental plans and programs.

The development of Connecticut’s 2005-2010 SCORP evolved from discussions between the National Park Service and Connecticut DEP. To assist DEP in the SCORP’s preparation, an external SCORP Advisory Board was constituted by DEP to oversee the development of the plan. DEP selected the Board members from a broad group of citizens who represent the interests of a wide array of recreational users. The Board has served for nearly two years, helping to design, manage and implement Connecticut’s SCORP development efforts.

To assess and gauge the public demand for outdoor recreational opportunities and to measure the supply of outdoor recreational facilities, DEP and the SCORP Advisory Board partnered with the University of Connecticut Center for Population Research (CPR). CPR developed instruments to measure and record both the supply of and

demand for outdoor recreation statewide. CPR's methodology to develop an inventory of all publicly accessible outdoor recreational facilities and resources is presented herein. This database was compiled from state and municipal recreational professionals working with the CPR staff. The supply database's comprehensiveness, component features, current status and future utility are also discussed. The development of a comprehensive inventory of recreational supply provided the first of the four measures of supply and demand utilized in the SCORP.

In addition to surveying officials from many of Connecticut's 169 towns and from DEP, two additional surveys were conducted, and the results of a third previously undertaken national survey were also used for the SCORP. First, a randomized survey was conducted of recreational usage and demand among 2,238 Connecticut households. Then, an on-line, non-randomized survey of invited avid users was undertaken. Lastly, an analysis of the Connecticut portion of the National Survey of Recreation and the Environment 1999 – 2003, a random sample of Americans surveyed on their demand for and participation in approximately 80 outdoor recreational activities, was analyzed and compared to the results of the other surveys. This chapter explains the contribution to this SCORP from each of these data sources.

Throughout the development of the SCORP, public input and participation have been actively solicited. Specific public input was obtained through the deliberations of the Advisory Board, through the various surveys described above, and from a series of three public meetings specifically held to receive such input. At each of the public meetings, which were held in the western, central and eastern portions of Connecticut, citizens were presented with the results of the supply data and the surveys, and provided with the preliminary conclusions and recommendations of DEP and the Advisory Board. Citizens offered their comments and input, which have in relevant part been integrated into this SCORP.

In summary, this chapter describes the development of and the role of the SCORP Advisory Board, the construction of a comprehensive inventory of publicly accessible outdoor recreational facilities and resources, the four instruments used to measure demand for outdoor recreation, and the method of ensuring public input to the SCORP development process. Clearly, the DEP and the SCORP Advisory Board focused on the key requirements outlined by the LWCF Act and the Connecticut General Statutes for SCORP development: specification of state agency with plan responsibility, evaluation of supply of and demand for outdoor recreation, and ensuring public input. Finally, this chapter closes with a description of the process through which this data was analyzed.

#### **4.2 The SCORP Advisory Board**

DEP invited representatives of numerous organizations representing various groups of active outdoor recreational enthusiasts, as well as groups interested in enhancing access to outdoor recreational facilities, to join the SCORP Advisory Board. From its inception, the Advisory Board's task was to support DEP in planning, developing and monitoring the SCORP, while at the same time broadening its scope by

representing their various constituencies through comment and participation. The Advisory Board met approximately once a month beginning January 2004 and continued through June 2005.

The Advisory Board included members from the following groups:

- Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities
- Appalachian Mountain Club
- DEP's Citizen Advisory Committee
- City of New Haven
- Connecticut Bike Coalition
- Connecticut Conference of Municipalities
- Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality
- Connecticut Forest and Park Association
- Connecticut Horse Council
- Connecticut Marine Trades Association
- Connecticut Park and Recreation Association
- Connecticut Riders
- Friends of Connecticut State Parks
- Housatonic Valley Association
- Natural Heritage, Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Review Board
- New England Mountain Bike Association
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Trust for Public Land

In addition to these members, the Advisory Board meetings were attended by members of DEP including:

- Deputy Commissioner for Environmental Conservation
- Bureau Chief, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation
- Director, Division of State Parks
- Director, Land Acquisition
- Division Director, Special Projects
- Division Director, Environmental and Geographic Information Center
- Bureau Outdoor Recreation, Trail and Greenways Coordinator
- Senior Environmental Analyst, Office of Environmental Review
- Senior Environmental Analyst, Office of Long Island Sound Programs
- SCORP Project Manager

After CPR became involved in the project in July 2004, the Director of the Center for Population Research, as well as its Data Manager and Lead Researcher, also attended the Advisory Board meetings.

The Board was active in every aspect of the planning and development of the SCORP, analyzing summarized findings, and both making and reviewing recommendations. Not only did the Board offer a variety of perspectives, but it ably



represented the concerns of many different user groups. A careful review of Board composition shows that members included:

- Town officials actively involved in maintaining municipally owned resources and delivering recreational services to citizens. These members provided insight into the concerns and needs of municipalities and the citizens that use those resources.
- User groups including equestrians, motorized vehicle users, cyclists, hikers, campers, hunters, fishermen, birders and boaters. Simultaneously, these Board members educated other members on the habits and needs of their groups. The wide cross section of representation on the Board contributed to thorough public input in the process
- Advocates for environmental protection. These members helped remind the Board that in addition to promoting and facilitating outdoor recreation, the protection and preservation of the natural resources of the state of Connecticut remains a goal of DEP and the citizens of the state.

Several of the Advisory Board meetings were pivotal in the development of the SCORP. Three in particular merit specific mention:

1. October 5, 2004. Having identified and clarified the goals of the SCORP and enlisted the support of CPR, at this meeting the Board reviewed CPR's proposed methodology for measuring the supply of all outdoor recreational facilities and resources in the state.
2. November 16, 2004. In addition to receiving an update on the progress of the supply database, the Board reviewed and approved the multiple survey efforts ascertaining Connecticut's demand for recreational facilities and resources, including a random survey of citizens, a survey of town officials, a non-random survey of avid users and statistically small groups of people, and a review of secondary data. Specifically, the Board focused on the question selection, wording, and order of the instruments used to measure citizen demand.
3. February 28, 2005. The Board was presented with the findings of the Citizen Demand Survey, the Town Officials Survey and Avid Users Survey. These presentations highlighted the many outdoor recreational activities Connecticut citizens enjoy, their use of and demand for resources, and their prioritized needs. The presentations also showed the Board areas of statewide concern including access to recreation, condition of resources, planning for the future, and adequately delivering recreational opportunities to all citizens.

On May 2, 2005, the Board met to review the preliminary recommendations of DEP based on the findings of the SCORP surveys, the personal experience of DEP staff, and relevant state and federal plans and programs. The resulting recommendations, including implementation plans, were agreed upon and prepared for the public information meetings held on May 23, June 1 and June 6. Finally, after the public information meetings, the Board met on June 6 to review the comments from citizens, to revise the SCORP to reflect those comments, and to finalize the plan.

### **4.3 The Supply of Outdoor Recreational Facilities and Resources**

Connecticut's system of outdoor recreation includes state, municipal, and privately held resources and facilities. Unlike many states, Connecticut is host to very few federally-owned recreational areas. The State system, as noted earlier, includes state parks, forests, wildlife management areas and natural area preserves that offer a wide assortment of facilities including trails, beaches, camping, and picnic areas, as well as other activities such as fishing, hunting and various winter sports. In addition, some State assets are historic in nature and serve to some extent as tourist destinations, while others function as nature conservation areas, serving to protect and preserve habitats while offerings sites for passive enjoyment. Municipal areas include local parks and preserves, multi-use areas, swimming areas, golf courses, athletic fields and courts. In addition, many municipal school facilities include areas for outdoor recreation. Finally, privately held but publicly accessible resources include land trusts, a variety of institutionally held facilities, and commercially available attractions. Despite Connecticut's relatively small size, it is home to resources of all types, owned, operated and managed by an assortment of institutions. The task of compiling a comprehensive supply inventory is daunting.

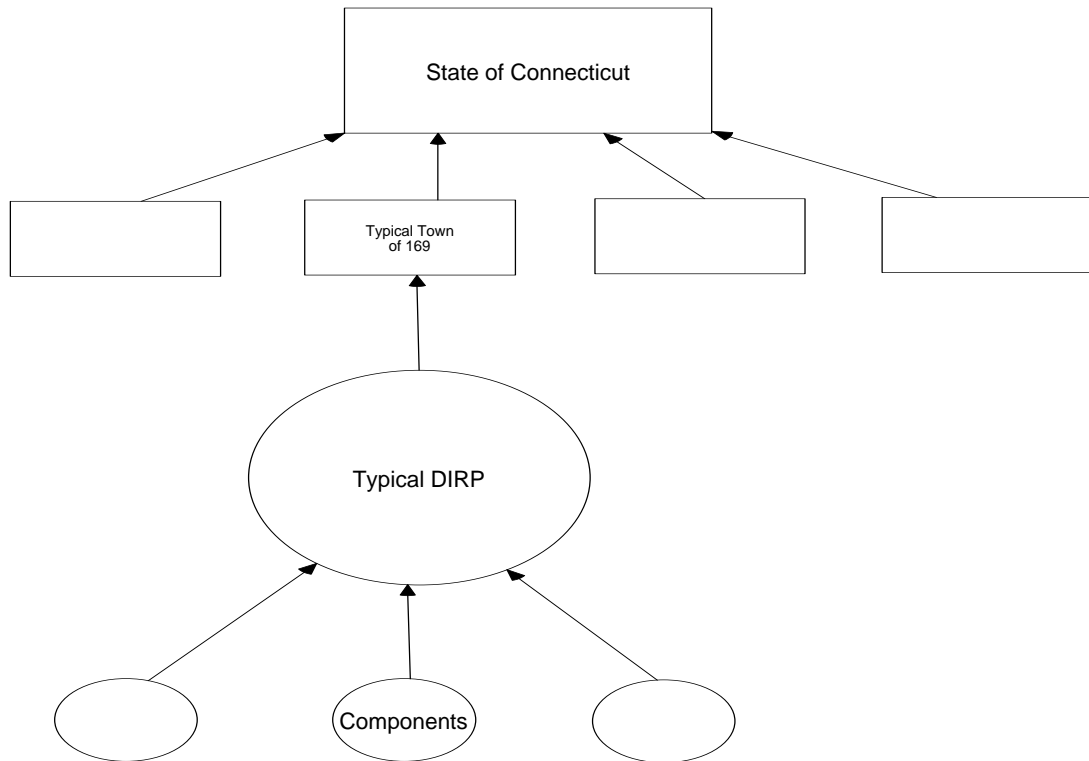
Although not required of a SCORP, the DEP and the Advisory Board decided to assemble an inventory of the state's outdoor recreational resources to: 1) determine the degree to which adequate resources existed relative to demand for those resources, 2) assist in setting priorities by not only counting resources but also by precisely defining their location, and 3) provide State and municipal planners, managers and ultimately citizens a centralized and accessible listing of available resources.

To achieve these goals, the DEP and Advisory Board sought to locate and analyze the number of recreational resources in the state, their location, condition and components. The unit of analysis employed, as discussed and established by the Advisory Board, is the discrete identifiable recreational place (DIRP). DIRPs are discrete in that each one is separate and distinct from all others and can be definitively located. Consequently in the state there are a finite and measurable number of DIRP's.

In developing an approach to counting, analyzing and recording DIRPs, it was useful to employ the concept of nesting. DIRPs as a unit of analysis are nested in towns, and then in the state as a whole. At the same time, components, such as trails, picnic areas, or sports fields, are part of or nested within DIRPs. Some DIRPs may have only one component, for example a golf course, while others, like a state or municipal park, may have multiple components. The use of the DIRP as the unit of analysis provides a vehicle for counting all recreational resources and components, assuring that they are counted only once, and once counted, verifying that they have been counted correctly.

Logistically, DIRPs are located or nested in towns. In order to insure reliable measurement, after noting that some DIRPs extend across town borders, CPR instituted a rule in the coding system to locate these multi-town DIRPs. Each DIRP was attributed to the town that included that DIRP's main entrance. In listing the components of a multi-

town DIRP, all components are listed as part of the town that includes the main entrance. The DIRP is then listed as present in its other towns but its components are not credited there. Rather, the data base directs the reviewer to the “main entrance” town for access to component information. This coding strategy insured that each DIRP was counted, and each component of each DIRP was counted once and only once. Components then, like picnic areas, trails, sports fields etc., are for the purpose of measurement and ultimately access, nested in DIRPs, that are in turn nested in towns, which of course are nested in the state.



**Figure 4-1: Conceptualization of Recreational Nesting**

Figure 4-1 graphically demonstrates the nesting of recreational facilities and components in the state of Connecticut. Adhering to this concept of resources facilitated accurate and reliable measurement. For example, Lion’s Club Memorial Park is a DIRP located in the town of Mansfield, one of Connecticut’s 169 towns. Within Lions Club Memorial Park are multiple components including a playground, a multi-use field, and a basketball court. The nested concept of DIRPs made it possible to count all these recreational resources, count them only once and verify the accuracy of that count.

Having established the DIRP as the unit of analysis, CPR developed a methodological strategy to obtain and to validate the data. After reviewing other SCORPs and available state data on recreational resources, CPR designed a coding procedure that included location, ownership, general description, availability of parking,

restrooms, access for disabled persons, a ranking of general condition, and the presence of and quantity of approximately 50 different components.

Using this coding procedure, each DIRP was measured for:

- Location – each and every DIRP is recorded in one of Connecticut’s 169 towns using the ‘main entrance’ rule where applicable.
- Ownership – each DIRP was placed in one of five categories: federal, state, municipal, institutional or commercial.
- Size – number of acres
- Facilities – presence of parking, restrooms, access for the disabled
- Condition – a subjective ranking from poor (1) to new (5)
- Components – each potential component was dichotomously noted for its presence or absence and then quantified in either number, e.g. basketball courts, or length, e.g. trails.
- In addition, each DIRP entry allowed for additional comments.

The database was constructed using Microsoft Access. Using this software and customizing it for the Connecticut SCORP, it is now possible to query the database for all DIRPs by any of the recorded categories such as town or ownership, or to instantaneously obtain statewide or town-wide reports on any number of components such as trails or hunting sites. Also, because all DIRPs are attributed to towns, the database information can be retrieved in any grouping of towns such as counties, congressional districts (provided those districts adhere to town boundaries), or socio-economic analysis (such as the CPR’s Five Connecticut).

This database, when completed, will be a powerful and useful tool. In the short term, this data base provides a comprehensive listing and count of all recreational facilities in the state. Chapter 6, *The Supply of Recreational Facilities and Resources in Connecticut*, draws upon this database to show the current supply. Prior to its creation by CPR, no centralized statewide listing of publicly accessible recreational facilities ever existed for Connecticut. Although the current database produced as part of this SCORP is the only listing of outdoor recreational facilities available, it is as yet not complete. It has not yet identified every single DIRP in the state nor has it identified every component in the listed DIRPs. Still, as discussed in Chapter 6, the current database of recreational supply is a successful first step in the direction of a totally comprehensive listing of all resources and facilities.

To facilitate the collection of the data on DIRPs, CPR divided the state into 10 sectors and assigned one researcher to each sector. For the most part, the sectors conformed to the existing Regional Planning Organizations (RPO) of the state.<sup>1</sup> DEP sent a letter explaining the SCORP process and the specifics of DEP’s plan to develop a statewide database of supply to each RPO and every one of Connecticut’s 169 towns.

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<sup>1</sup> Connecticut has 15 Regional Planning Organizations, created under Connecticut General Statute Sect.8-31a, to assist member municipalities in planning for land use, housing and transportation.

DEP requested that each chief elected municipal official designate a staff person to serve as the SCORP liaison and to provide assistance to CPR's staff researchers.

With the database structure in place and both RPOs and towns invited to assist in the process, the research staff began the process by listing all DIRPs by town from public sources. Researchers for each sector reviewed town websites, phone directories, town maps and publications, state materials, and guidebooks to make a preliminary list of all DIRPs. At the same time, researchers established contact with the designated town liaison persons and requested whatever inventory data individual towns had. The process of listing all publicly accessible DIRPs and then obtaining detailed information about each one was both time-consuming and iterative, extending from September 2004 through May 2005. Research continued for each town to exhaustively list each DIRP and component as the researchers extended their inquiries to include various town officials, citizen groups, and special interest groups. In this way, not only did the database progressively become more and more complete, but even the development of supply had a public involvement component.

In December 2004, CPR launched on its website a "SCORP" page linked to the DEP's website (<http://popcenter.uconn.edu/scorp.html>). The web page once again explained the SCORP process and invited town officials and other interested parties to examine the supply data on their community and offer corrections to that data. The web page listed each of Connecticut's 169 towns as links. Towns were color coded to indicate: 1) no draft report ready, 2) draft report ready for comment, or 3) report completed and verified.

To accommodate an examination of the database information by town, CPR transformed the data into two reports. These included a spreadsheet listing all identified DIRPs for a town, followed by a column for each of 20 of the most popular recreational components, so that, at a glance, a person could see if something was missing or incorrect. The second report listed in detail each DIRP with all the component information that had been gathered to date. Each of these town reports was posted as a PDF file.

The four questions on the web page allowed respondents to provide the CPR staff with comments, corrections and additional contact persons. In practice, many respondents preferred to download the executive summary, annotate their comments on it, and send that information back to CPR. After the web page was launched and reports were made available, DEP sent another letter to all town elected officials inviting them to visit the web page and provide feedback.

This iterative process was quite successful. Of Connecticut's 169 towns, 103 (61%) visited the web page and provided reliable feedback on the list of and attributes of their DIRPs. In addition, DEP staff checked and validated the information on all State-owned facilities. For fifty-six additional towns, there was a sufficient response by phone or through the mail that it is reasonable to assert that the supply information for those towns is accurate. The remaining ten towns, varying in size and population from very

small to among the state's largest, did not provide sufficient data. In those ten cases, rather than including only the data that had been gathered from public sources and running the risk of understating supply, CPR imputed the number of components by inserting the difference between the measured number of components and the average number of each component of the three most similar Connecticut towns by population and density. The imputed components remain noted as such in the database.



As described in Chapter 6, CPR identified over 4,000 DIRPs in the state of Connecticut. The database is available for query by component, facility, ownership or location. It is a tangible and valuable outcome of the SCORP process. With progressive enhancement, it will form the basis of the proposed publicly accessible informational website.

The third request on the web page asked town officials to visit another web site and take a brief online survey, entitled “Town Officials Survey”. The following section discusses that survey. This survey yielded the best data on the condition of municipal resources. In addition, it contributed valuable data on usage, needs, and programmatic decisions. By dovetailing the invitation to participate in this survey and the survey on supply, CPR succeeded in enhancing the response. In total, 95 responses to the Town Officials Survey were received from 81 towns (48%).

#### **4.4 The Demand for Outdoor Recreation in Connecticut**

DEP and the Advisory Board were keenly interested in ascertaining the current demand for outdoor recreation in the state of Connecticut. While supply could be measured by painstakingly inventorying what exists and what condition it is in, determining the demand for recreational resources is more difficult in that demand has multiple indicators. CPR sought to determine the following: 1) What recreational activities do Connecticut's citizens engage in?; 2) How often?; 3) Where do people go to recreate?; 4) Are their needs being met?; 5) What are the factors that inhibit participation in outdoor recreation?; and 6) What steps and priorities do various people, groups and officials see as necessary to increase participation? Given the financial constraints of the study, and in an effort to triangulate these indicators to the greatest extent possible, the Advisory Board approved the following methods:

1. Citizen Demand Survey – Conduct a hybrid mail/phone survey of randomly selected Connecticut households to assess activities, facility usage and need, impediments to usage, and priority opinions.
2. Town Officials Survey – Conduct an online survey of invited yet self-selected town officials to assess the condition of assets, facility and component needs, user preferences, and funding priorities.

3. Avid Users Survey – Conduct an online survey, using both convenience and snowball sampling, to provide avid users and statistically small populations an opportunity to list their favorite activities and expound on the problems or needs associated with those activities.
4. Analysis of Connecticut sample of the National Survey of Recreation and the Environment 1999 – 2003. This random sample of Connecticut residents described their participation rates in their favorite outdoor recreational activities from among a list of 80 different choices.
5. Public input. In addition to the other four methods, three public informational meetings were conducted at which citizens were given the opportunity to comment on the plan and describe their usage, needs and opinion of priorities.

The following briefly describes the design of each instrument used to measure demand for outdoor recreation. Each instrument's sampling methods are described, and its utility and limitations is summarized. In addition, the goal of each approach and how those goals are consistent with the SCORP process as a whole is explained. Chapter 5 provides the detailed results of each survey and of each of the public informational meetings.

#### *4.4.1 Citizen Demand Survey*

DEP, in cooperation with CPR and Leisure Vision, a division of ETC Institute, conducted the Citizen Demand Survey from late December 2004 through February 2005 to help establish priorities for the future development of outdoor recreational facilities, resources, programs, and services. The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout the Connecticut. The survey was administered by a combination of mail and phone.

This instrument was developed as a joint project involving DEP staff, CPR staff, the Advisory Board and the staff of Leisure Vision. The development process included an analysis of demand surveys used by several states in recent SCORPs. Leisure Vision contributed specific wording they had used in both municipal needs surveys and a recent SCORP. NPS reviewed and commented on early draft versions of the questionnaire. Those comments were incorporated into the final survey.

In order to measure the demand for outdoor recreational facilities and resources, the following indicators were considered important:

- From a list of 30 land and water based activities, how many household members participate in each and at what frequency?
- From a list of 25 types of facilities, does each respondent have a need for that type of facility and to what extent is that need being met?
- What is the frequency of use of both local and state facilities?
- What is the mode of transportation to outdoor recreation facilities?
- What are the sources of information about outdoor recreation?
- What are seen as impediments to outdoor recreation participation?



- What are the attitudes towards major categories of funding for outdoor recreation?
- What are the demographic data of respondent households?

In order to develop a representative sample of Connecticut residents, a goal of 2,000 responses was set. The survey was mailed to 10,000 randomly selected households. Approximately two weeks after the surveys were mailed, residents who received the surveys were contacted by phone. Those who indicated they had not returned the survey were given the option of completing it by phone. Ultimately, 2,145 were completed by mail and 93 by phone. Chapter 5 details the results as well as the demographics of the sample.



The response rate for the survey was 22.8% when undeliverables are subtracted from the denominator. The households were randomly selected; however, respondents who chose to complete the survey may very well differ in meaningful ways from those who did not choose to complete the survey. A number of respondents indicated during phone calls that they were not going to take the survey given their age, or in some cases, their indifference towards outdoor recreation. It is reasonable to conclude that the survey respondents were more likely to be interested and involved in outdoor recreation than some of those that did not respond. Nonetheless, as demonstrated in Chapter 5, the respondent population was representative of Connecticut's population along demographic lines of location, income, education, race and ethnicity.

This survey is in many ways the best form of public participation in the SCORP process. A random yet representative group in effect speaks for all of their fellow citizens. This survey was consistent with the overall SCORP goals of determining the recreational patterns, needs and opinions of the state's population so as to assist in determining needs and setting priorities.

#### **4.4.2 Avid Users Survey**

Throughout the planning stages of the SCORP, the Advisory Board and DEP staff sought to insure that statistically small groups of citizens, whether identified by recreational activity, physical attributes or a defining demographic characteristic, had an opportunity to be part of the SCORP. The Citizen Demand Survey reached approximately 0.2% of Connecticut's households. Groups that comprise less than that percentage of the population, albeit small but avid groups or small groups less inclined to respond, ran the risk of not being sufficiently included in the process. Specifically, the

Advisory Board sought to hear from avid users and minorities. Given time and financial limitations, the chosen method provided insight, but there is a need for more extensive outreach methods to be employed in the future. The online “Avid Users Survey” succeeded in soliciting response from avid users, but not from minorities.

The Avid Users Survey (see Appendices C and D) was posted on a commercially hosted survey website. E-mail invitations were sent to user groups from lists provided by DEP and members of the Advisory Board, and to public groups found by CPR staff members on the Internet. The survey was posted on the Internet in both English and Spanish, and an invitation to participate was distributed to public libraries throughout the state. As part of the survey, a snowball sampling methodology was used, that is, respondents were invited to extend an invitation to participate to others in their group or acquaintance. Between February 2005 and April 2005, 1,355 respondents participated in the survey.

Chapter 7 provides the results of this survey, while the demographics of the respondents is discussed in Appendix E. This sample is not considered to be representative of the population of Connecticut. DEP and the Advisory Board acknowledge that the goal of soliciting responses from minority populations was not achieved. However, this sample of avid recreational users who participate in a wide range of activities did provide rich and helpful data relative to their specific recreational needs.

The questions in this survey were primarily open ended. Respondents were asked to indicate up to five recreational activities that were important to them. For each activity, they indicated their frequency of participation, their location of use, and, most importantly, their unmet needs or obstacles to enjoyment. These open-ended responses were analyzed and coded into analytically distinct categories.

The employment of this Avid Users Survey is consistent with the goals of the SCORP. Avid users from a number of different groups including but not limited to bicyclists, hikers, motorized vehicle enthusiasts, equestrians, boaters, fishermen, hunters, birders, and many others provided data relative to their usage, needs, complaints and opinions. As such, this primarily qualitative data contributes to an understanding of the demand for outdoor recreation in Connecticut. Still, when determining the SCORP’s recommendations, greater weight is given to the data obtained from the more representative sample in the Citizen Demand Survey.

#### *4.4.3 Town Officials Survey*

The Town Officials Survey was available online from December 2004 through April 2005. In that time, 95 individuals from 81 towns responded. Respondents were primarily associated with municipal Park and Recreation Departments, but were also drawn from town administration, engineering, planning, conservation, and education departments. This survey sought to obtain information regarding supply and demand from the officials responsible for maintaining local facilities, delivering services, and

designing programs. The Advisory Board wanted to hear from those people who are in contact with citizens on a daily basis.

Town officials in this survey were asked to:

- Rate the condition of the recreational facilities in their community;
- Comment on the sufficiency of various recreational facilities in their community, both now and for the future;
- Indicate which of six different age groups; 0 – 5 , 6 – 12, 13 – 18, 19 – 54, 55 and older, and family groups, they believe are adequately serviced recreationally;
- Describe what activity is most popular with each age group;
- State their greatest needs for facilities at their existing parks, e.g. restrooms, parking; and
- Rank their funding priorities.

Again, this type survey approach is consistent with the overall SCORP goals. Town officials reported two forms of information. First of all, they presented their opinions relative to condition, needs and funding in their role as town officials. Secondly, since they service and interact with citizens, they offer insight into demand and user needs.

#### *4.4.4 National Survey of Recreation and the Environment 1999 – 2003*

Drawn from a larger national sample, the 1,057 Connecticut respondents to this survey serve as a validity check on our Citizen Demand Survey. CPR compared the usage patterns of this sample with that of our sample of over 2,200 households. Additionally, CPR compared the usage patterns, an indicator of demand, with those of other New England states.

### **4.5 Public Input**

Throughout the SCORP development process, public input has been sought and incorporated. Public input is present in the composition of the Advisory Board, in the design and construction of the Citizen Demand Survey and the Avid Users Survey, and in the contacts made in the development of supply data. Between May 23, 2005 and June 6, 2005, three public information meetings were held. At each meeting, the public was provided with a summary of the data from each survey and an outline of the DEP and Advisory Board recommendations. The majority of each meeting was devoted to listening to comments from attending citizens. Meetings were held at three sites in western, central and eastern Connecticut to accommodate as many residents as possible. Easily accessible meeting sites were selected by DEP and the Advisory Board to enhance public participation.

The next two chapters, Supply and Demand, provide a detailed description of and analysis of the data from the supply database as well as each demand instrument.

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## Chapter 5: Demographics

### 5.1 Connecticut Demographics

An understanding of Connecticut's demographics is important to the development of this SCORP. Therefore, the University of Connecticut's Center for Population Research (CPR) analyzed the United States Census Bureau's 2000 data on Connecticut. First, they compared Connecticut's demographic makeup to the national demographic makeup in four categories: age, ethnicity, income, and education. Second, they organized Connecticut's towns into five subgroups with different demographic characteristics: Wealthy, Suburban, Rural, Urban Periphery, and Urban Core. Towns are grouped by their population density and economic similarities rather than by location.

#### 5.1.1 *Connecticut's Demographic Makeup*

On April 1, 2000, the census determined the population of Connecticut to be 3,405,565. Connecticut residents represented 1.2% of the total population of the United States. Since Connecticut has about 3,200,000 acres, the statewide population density is about 1.06 people per acre.

Connecticut's population was older than the national average. The median age was 37.4 compared to a national median of 35.3. Connecticut's adult population (25 years and over) made up 67.3% of the total state population. Children (17 years and under) comprised 24.7% of the population. The remaining category of residents, young adults (18-24 years), accounted for 8% of the population. Nationally, the corresponding percentages were 64.7% adults, 25.7% children, and 9.7% young adults.

In 2000, Connecticut had lower percentages of non-White residents than the national average. Its racial composition consisted of 78.3% White (non-Hispanic), 9.4% Hispanic, 9.4% Black or African American (non-Hispanic), and 3% Other (non-Hispanic including Asian, Native American, and Pacific Islander). Nationally, the corresponding percentages were 70.1%, 12.6%, 12.6%, and 4.8%, respectively. Hispanics were the largest minority in Connecticut. Although both Hispanics and non-Hispanic African Americans/Blacks account for approximately 9.4% of the population, Hispanics (320,323) just slightly outnumbered non-Hispanic African Americans/Blacks (318,619).

Connecticut's per capita income of \$28,766 was 1.33 times the national average of \$21,587. Connecticut's household income was 1.28 times and its family income was 1.31 times the corresponding national medians. The median household income in Connecticut was \$53,935 and the median family income was \$65,521. Nationally, median household income was \$41,994, while the median family income was \$50,046. In Connecticut, 59.97% of families had two or more workers. This percentage made Connecticut the 18th highest ranked state in the country in percent of families with two or more workers. The national average was 56.9%.

The Adult Education Index (AEI) is an educational attainment measure developed by CPR. The AEI is used to compare the overall maximum educational attainment between different groups. A higher AEI value indicates higher overall educational attainment. Education is measured using five categories of maximum educational attainment for adults (age 25 and over). The categories are as follows:

- Not Completed High School - AEI 1.0
- Completed High School - AEI 2.0
- Completed Associate Degree or Some College - AEI 3.0
- Completed Bachelor's Degree - AEI 4.0
- Education Beyond Bachelor's Degree - AEI 5.0

Connecticut residents, as a whole, have completed more education than the average American. In 2000, the Connecticut's AEI was 2.85 while the national AEI value was 2.65.

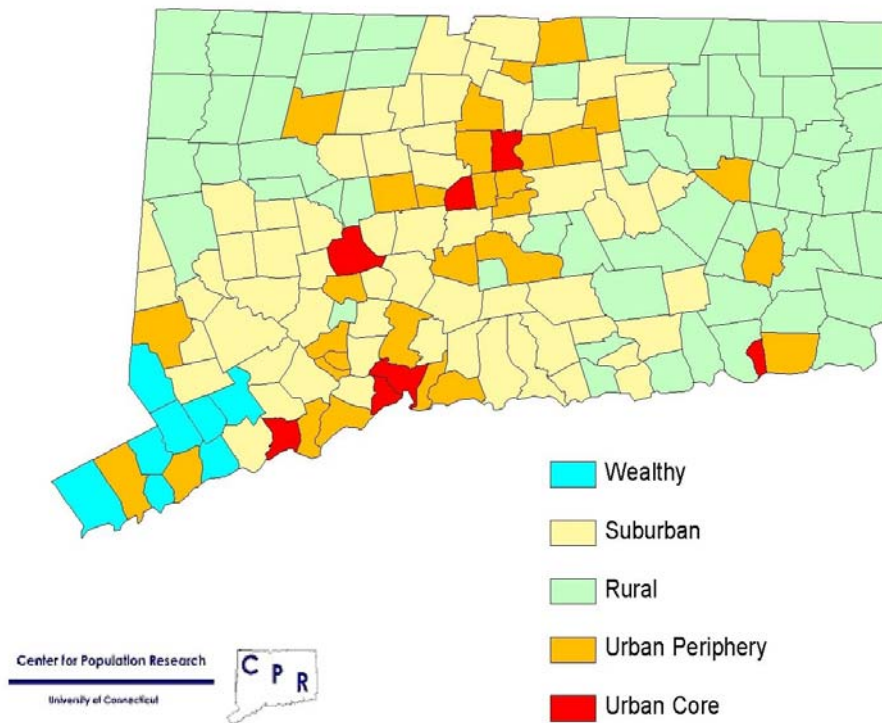
### ***5.1.2 The Five Connecticut***

Connecticut's 169 towns vary in population, area, and population density. These towns are home to people with varying incomes, educational attainment, and living conditions. The average Connecticut town would have socioeconomic and demographic characteristics similar to statewide averages. It would have a population of 20,151 residents, a per capita income of \$28,766, a median household income of \$53,935, and a median family income of \$65,521. The AEI would be 2.85. The percentage of the population living in poverty would be 7.6%. Finally, the racial composition of the town would be similar to the statewide percentages of 78.3% White (non-Hispanic), 9.4 % Hispanic, 9.4% Black or African American (non-Hispanic), and 3% Other (non-Hispanic).

Clearly, no single town matches these criteria. Instead, Connecticut's towns were grouped into five categories based on their population densities, median family income, and poverty levels. The racial mix of the town was not used to categorize it. However, in some cases, the town's racial makeup correlates to one of the three socioeconomic variables used to categorize it. The five categories that represent the array of socioeconomic conditions found in Connecticut are Wealthy, Suburban, Rural, Urban Periphery, and Urban Core. Figure 2-2 shows the geographic distribution of these categories.



## 2000 Town Groups



**Figure 5-1: The Five Connecticut's**

The towns that make up Wealthy Connecticut have exceptionally high income, low poverty, and a moderate population density. This group's defining characteristic is its high income or wealth. Located on the coast of southwestern Connecticut, Westport is representative of this group. In 2000, Westport had 25,749 residents and a population density of 1,287 people per square mile (psm). In 1999, the median family income for a typical town in Wealthy Connecticut was \$155,655 with a poverty rate of 2.9%. Wealthy Connecticut had the highest percentage of children in the state (28.9%) with 3.4% young adults and 67.7% adults. The racial composition was 91.9% White, 3.4% Hispanic, 1.2% Black, and 3.5% Other. Its AEI was 3.72. In 2000, 66% of adults in Wealthy Connecticut had completed at least a Bachelor's degree, and 30% had completed education beyond the Bachelor's degree.

Suburban Connecticut's towns have above average income, low poverty, and moderate population density. Towns in this group are best described as suburbs of more densely populated urban areas. Located in central Connecticut, Cheshire, a suburb of both Waterbury and New Haven, best represents this group. In 2000, Cheshire had a population of 28,543 and a population density of 867 psm. In 1999, the median family income for suburban Connecticut was \$81,370 with a poverty rate of 2.7%. In 2000, the age distribution of Suburban Connecticut was 25.6% children, 5.4% young adults, and 69% adults. Its racial composition was 93.2% White, 2.4% Hispanic, 2.3% Black, and 2.2% Other. Its AEI was 3.15. In 2000, 26.3% of the state's population lived in Suburban Connecticut, and they received 30.7% of the state's income (based on aggregate



per capita income). The income this group received was greater than its share but not to the same extent as in Wealthy Connecticut.

Towns in Rural Connecticut have average income, below average poverty, and the lowest population density. Low population density is the distinguishing characteristic of this group. Located in the southeast corner of Connecticut, North Stonington, with 4,991 residents and a population density of 92 psm, best represents this group. In 1999, the median family income of a typical town in Rural Connecticut was \$64,750 with a poverty rate of 4.7%. In 2000, the age distribution was 24.2% children, 8.7% young adults, and 67.1% adults. The racial composition was 93.4% White, 2.4% Hispanic, 2.2% Black, and 2.1% Other. The AEI was 2.79, slightly below the statewide average of 2.84. In 2000, 13.4% of the state's population lived in Rural Connecticut but received only 11.9% of the state's income (based on aggregate per capita income).

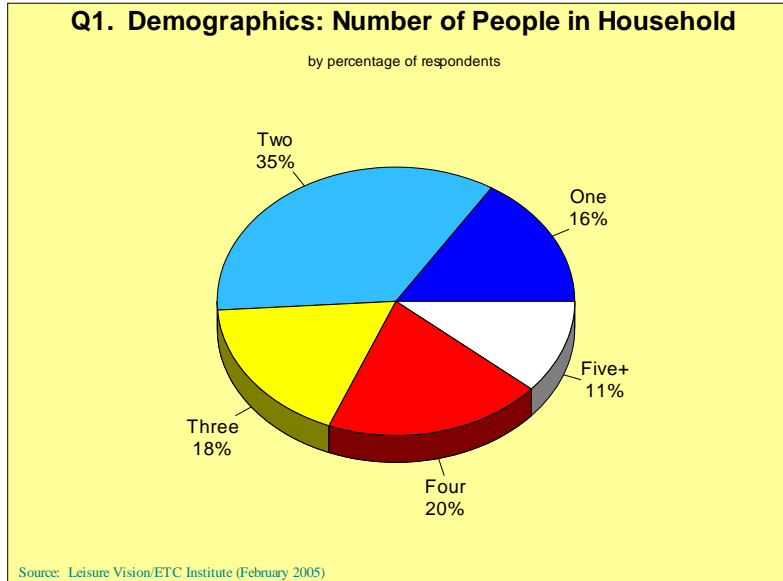
The towns that make up Connecticut's Urban Periphery have below average income, average poverty, and high population density. These towns are best described as transitional towns between the urban cores and the suburbs. Located in central Connecticut, Manchester, with 54,740 residents and a population density of 2,008 psm, best represents this group. In 1999, the median family income in the Urban Periphery was \$60,557. In 2000, the age distribution was 22.6% children, 8% young adults, and 69.4% adults. The racial composition was 78.5% White, 8.9% Hispanic, 9.0% Black, and 3.5% Other, closer to the statewide averages than any of the other groups. In the Urban Periphery, the AEI was 2.75, somewhat below the statewide average. In 2000, 36% of the state's population lived in the Urban Periphery. However, this group received only 33% of the state's income (based on aggregate per capita income).

The towns in Connecticut's Urban Core have the lowest income, highest poverty, and the highest population density. This group's single most distinguishing characteristic is its extremely high population density. Located in southwestern Connecticut, the coastal city of Bridgeport best represents this group. The Urban Core is comprised of seven towns with a total population of 641,573 and a population density of 5,809 psm. In 1999, the median family income was \$39,571. In 2000, the age distribution was 26.7% children, 12.3% young adults, and 60.9% adults. By 2000, the racial composition was 42.3% White, 26.9% Hispanic, 27.3% Black, and 3.6% Other. Clearly, Connecticut's minority population is concentrated in the Urban Core. In 2000, only 18.8% of the state's population lived in the Urban Core. However, 54% of the state's Hispanics and 55% of the state's Blacks lived in the Urban Core. The AEI is 2.31, significantly lower than the statewide and the national averages. In 2000, 18.8% of the state's population lived in the Urban Core but this group received only 11% of the state's income (based on aggregate per capita income).

## **5.2 Demographics of Survey Respondents**

The online survey conducted by CPR and Leisure Vision/ ETC Institute determined Connecticut demographics by household. The demographics are broken into the following categories: number of residents, ages, age of respondents, race, residents of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish ancestry, gender, education received, and annual household income.

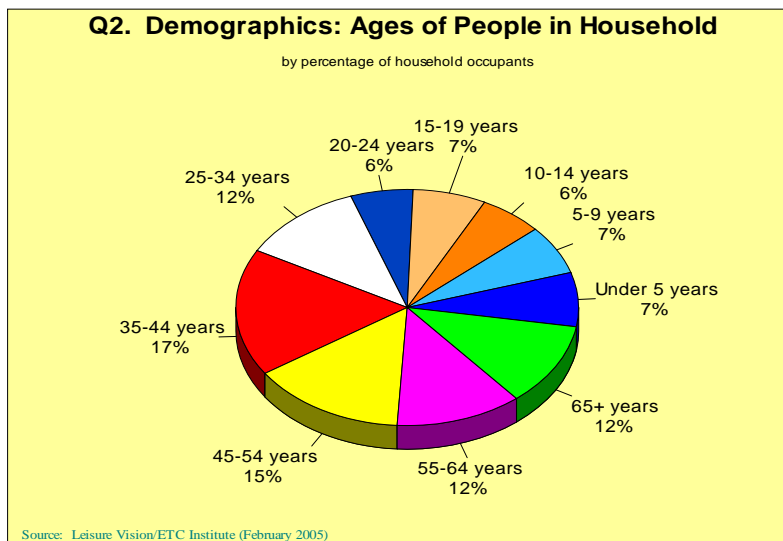
**Number of Residents:** Households were surveyed for the number of residents. Possible responses ranged from one to five or more. The most frequent response (35%) was two residents. Five or more residents in a household was least common; only 11% of households fell into this category. Sixteen percent of the households have only one person, 18% have three people, and 20% have 4 people.



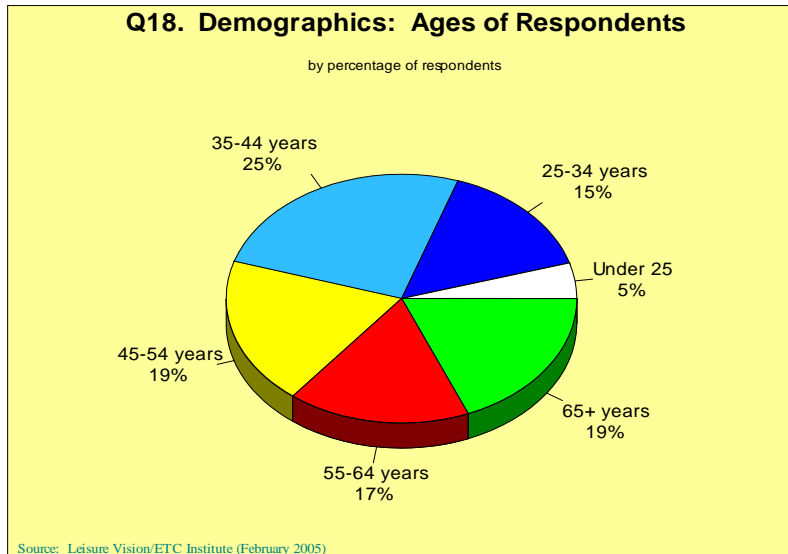
**Figure 5-2**

**Age:** Data were collected on the ages of people in each household. Possible responses ranged from under 5 years old to 65 years and older. Sixty-eight percent of the population is over 25 years of age, and 32% under 25 years old. Adolescents make up 13% of the population, and children make up 14% of the population.

**Ages of Respondents:** Ninety-five percent of the respondents were over the age of 25. Five percent of the respondents were under 25.

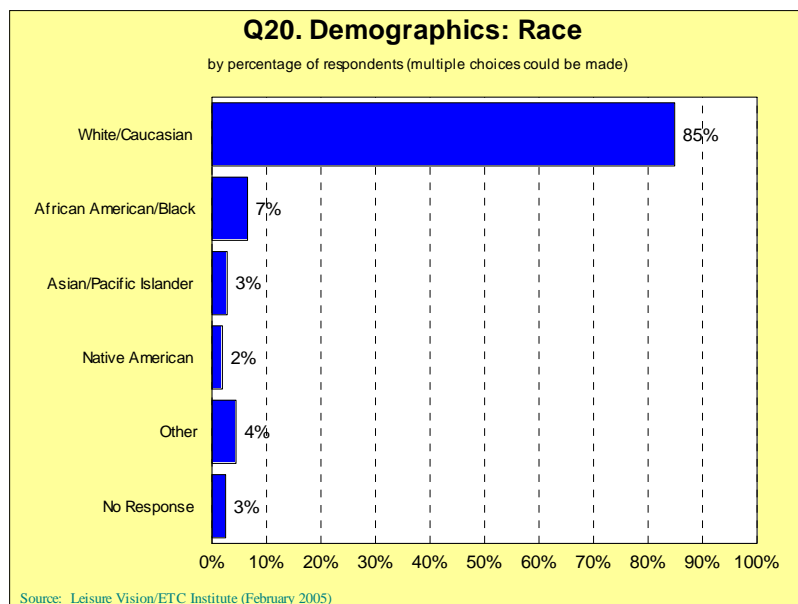


**Figure 5-3**



**Figure 5-4**

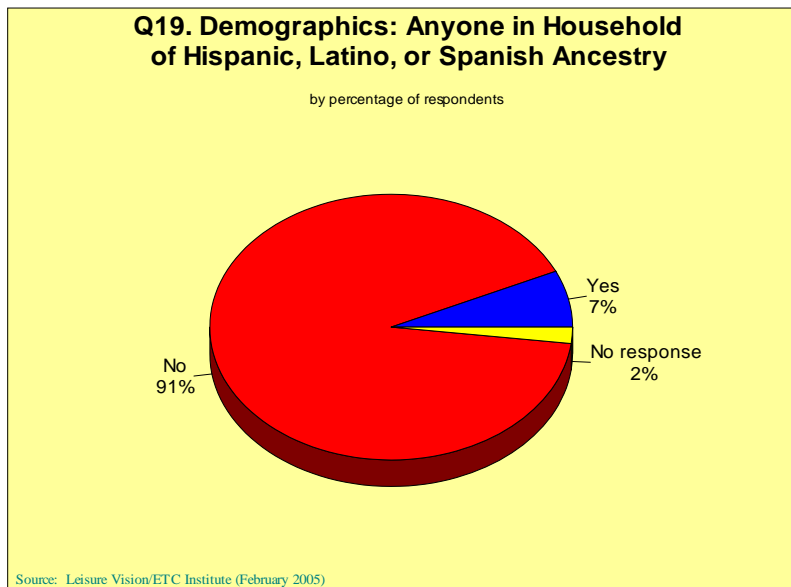
**Race:** Race was determined by a multiple-choice question. Possible responses were White/Caucasian, African American/Black, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American, and Other. Eighty-five percent of the surveys respondents were White/Caucasian. Sixteen percent of the respondents identified themselves as part of a minority group. African Americans/Blacks were the minority group with the highest response rate (7%). Three percent of the respondents did not answer the question.



**Figure 5-5**

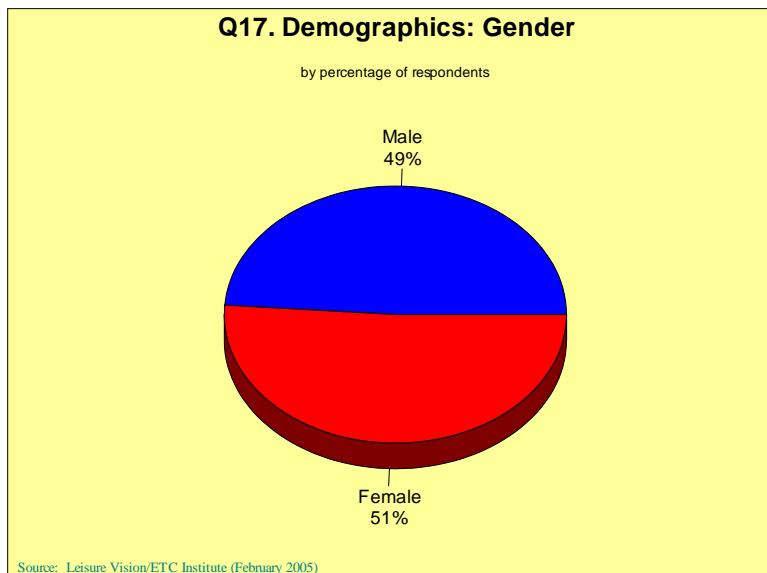
**Residents of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Ancestry:** This question asked if anyone in the household was of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish ancestry. Ninety-one percent of the

respondents said no. Only seven percent of respondents said yes. Two percent of the respondents chose not to answer this question.



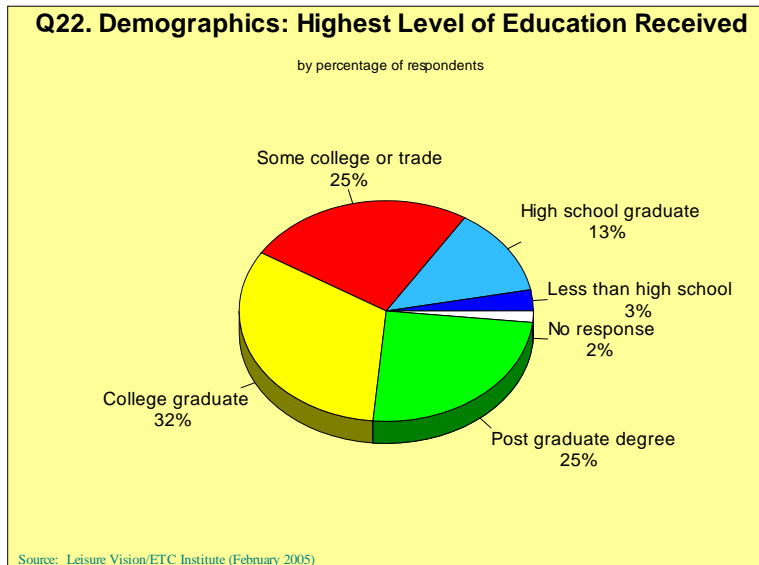
**Figure 5-6**

**Gender:** Forty-nine percent of the respondents were male; fifty-one percent were female.



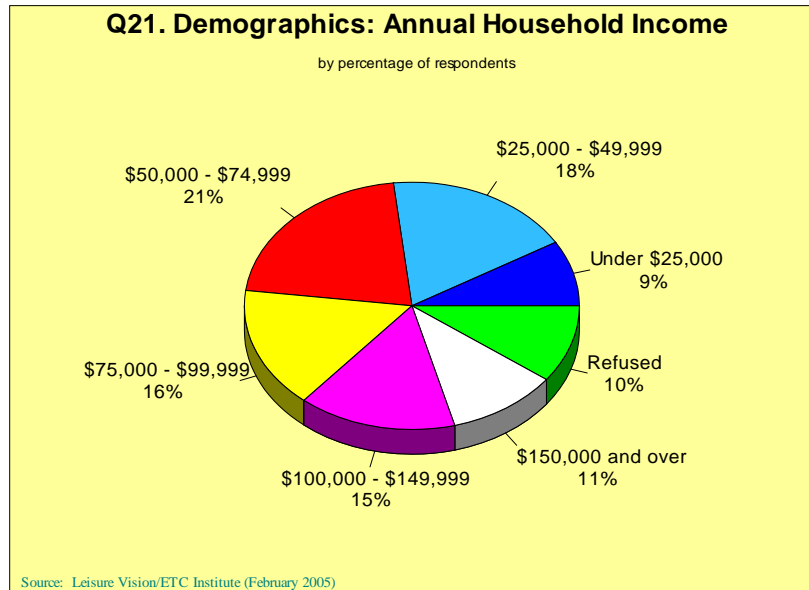
**Figure 5-7**

**Education:** The survey analyzed the highest level of education received by the respondents. Ninety-five percent of the respondents completed high school, and eighty-two percent went on to a higher level of education. Thirty-two percent of the respondents completed their undergraduate degree, and twenty-five percent completed a postgraduate degree. Only three percent of respondents have less than a high school education. Two percent of respondents chose not to answer this question.



**Figure 5-8**

**Income:** Annual household income was also determined. The possible responses were divided into six incremental income amounts from under \$25,000 to \$150,000 and over. Just over 40% of the respondents earn over \$75,000 per year. Almost half of the respondents make less than \$75,000 per year. The most common response was a household income between \$50,000 - \$74,999 (21% of respondents). Only 9% of the respondents fell into the under \$25,000 income bracket. Ten percent of the respondents chose not to answer this question.



**Figure 5-9**

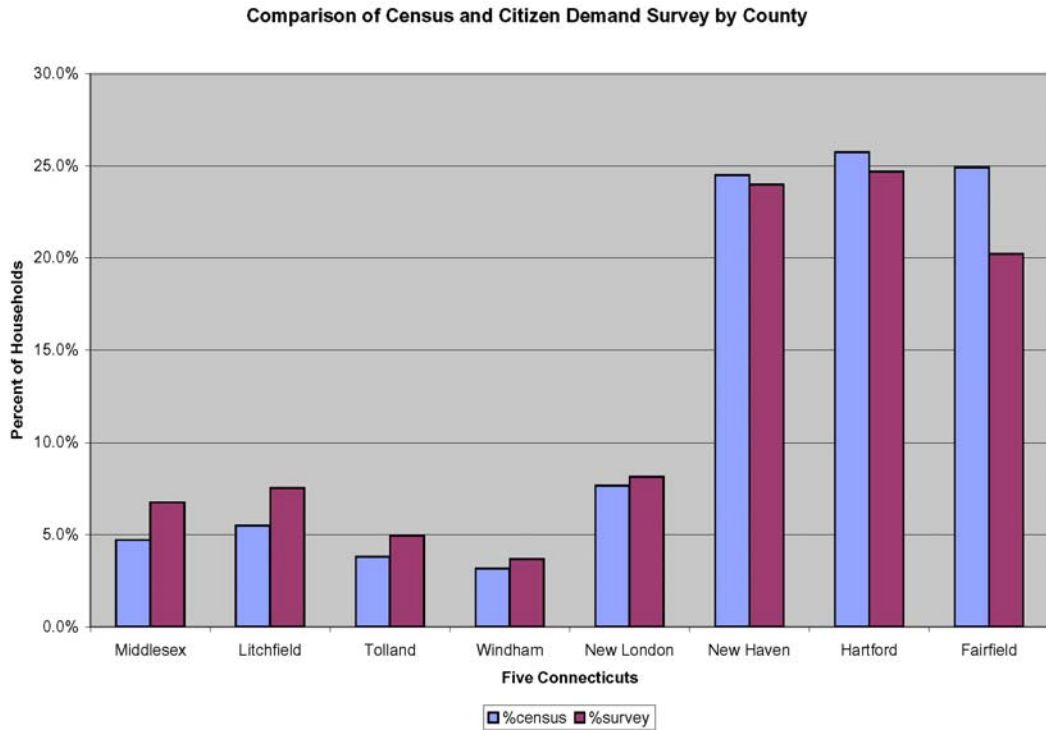
### **5.3 Comparison of Sample Demographics with U. S. Census Data**

In this section, the demographics of the sample drawn in the Citizen Demand Survey are compared to data from the 2000 U.S. Census. Given that this report uses the Citizen Demand Survey and generalizes the responses to the entire population of Connecticut, it is fair to ask how representative are the survey respondents of the state's population. As noted in the methodology chapter, 2,238 households with a total population of 6,222 responded to the survey. Unlike the U.S. Census, which seeks universal input for demographic questions, this survey drew a random sample of 10,000 households. Within that universe, it received a response rate of approximately 23%. The census does not receive a 100% response rate, either. In fact, the Census Bureau acknowledges, and the University of Connecticut's Center for Population Research has also shown, that response rates tend to be lowest among poor and minority communities. It is reasonable to expect that the responses to this survey would follow a similar pattern. In addition, respondents chose whether or not to respond based upon, in most cases, one request. In similar surveys, the data shows that the individuals with an interest in the surveyed subject matter are more likely to respond than those without such interest. Thus, it is reasonable to expect that the sample developed in the Citizen Demand Survey would show an under-sampling of poor and minority Connecticut residents as well as a tendency to have an overrepresentation of recreational users. Still, it remains fair to investigate the degree to which the survey sample is representative of Connecticut's population in comparison to the findings of the U.S. Census.

The first question one might ask is whether the sample is representative of the manner in which Connecticut's population is geographically distributed. Data on the survey's respondents were analyzed to determine if, in fact, this is the case. In Figure 5-10, the distribution of the respondents by county is compared with the distribution of the

entire population of the state. The results indicate that the geographic distribution of the sample is fairly representative. Although the survey appears to have under-sampled in Fairfield County and over-sampled in both Middlesex and Litchfield Counties, the overall geographic character of the sample is consistent with the distribution of the state's population. It is also noteworthy that approximately 75% of Connecticut's population resides in three of her eight counties: New Haven, Hartford, and Fairfield.

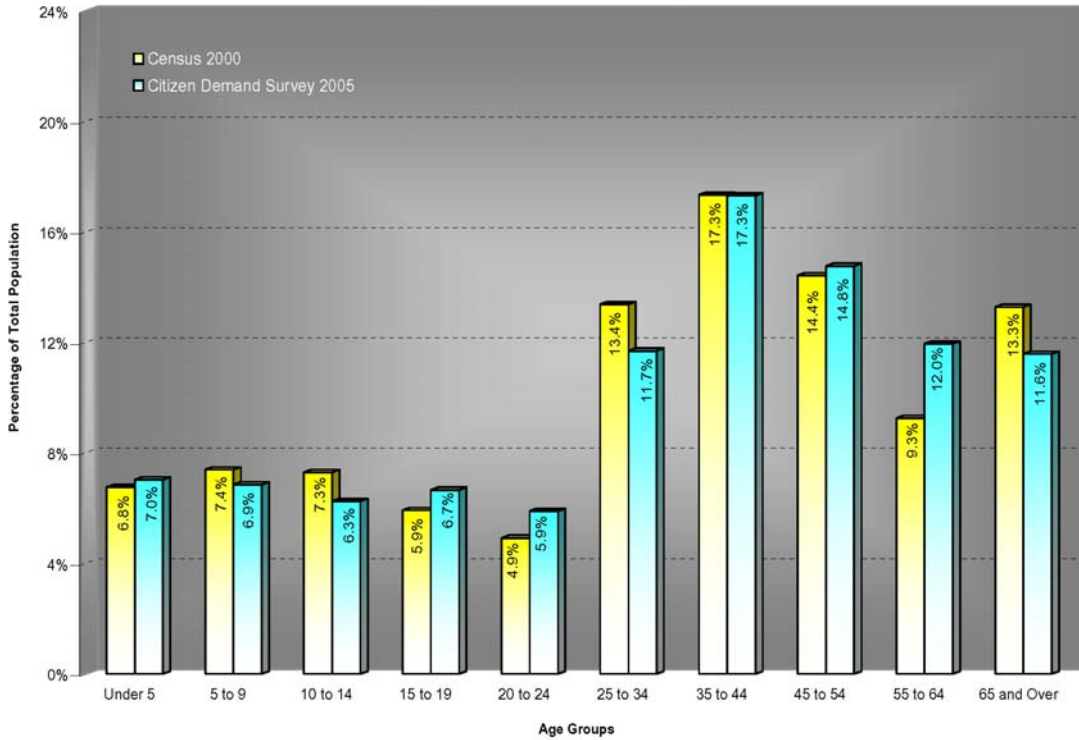
Next, the age distribution of the individuals in the sample is compared to that of the general population. Each respondent provided the number of people in their household and placed them in an age category. Figure 5-11 shows that the general character of the age distribution within the sample is similar to the census description of the population. Some variation is evident. For example, only 11.6% of individuals in the survey sample are 65 years of age or older, while 13.3% of the general population is. The survey sample has a higher percentage of individuals age 55 – 64 (12%) than does the general population (9.3%). However, when considering all adults age 25 to 54 in both the survey sample and the general population, little difference exists between the two



**Figure 5-10**



**Demographics - Age Distribution of Household Population**  
Connecticut Statewide

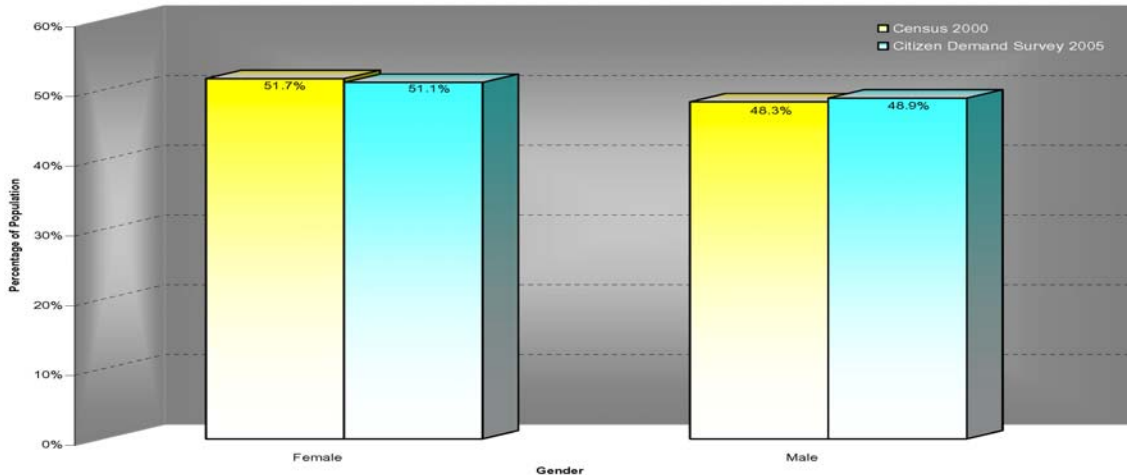


**Figure 5-11**

populations: 43.8% of the individuals in the survey sample are between 25 and 54, while 45.1% of the individuals in the general population are from that age group. It is fair to conclude that the sample accurately reflects the age distribution of the population of the state.

The survey sample is also quite representative of the general population in terms of gender distribution. As shown in Figure 5-12, the general population contains 51.7% women and 48.3% men. The survey sample is virtually identical with 51.1% women and 48.9% men.

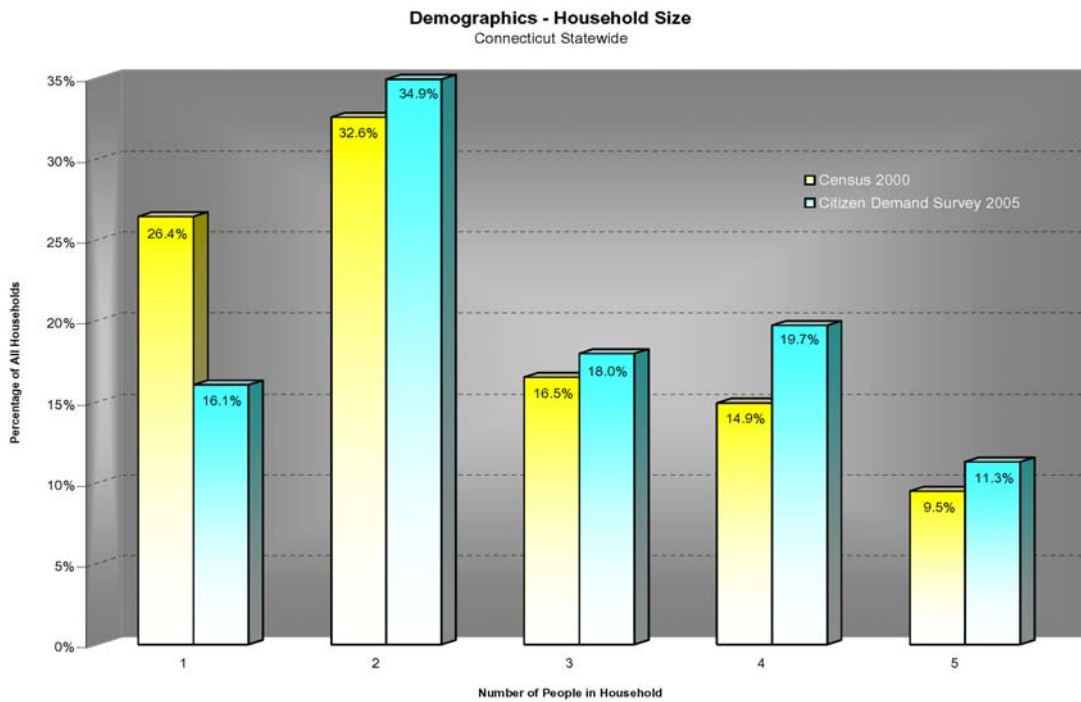
**Demographics - Gender**  
Connecticut Statewide



**Figure 5-12**

Although the sample is extremely representative of the state of Connecticut’s population in terms of geographic distribution, age range variation and gender, there are some differences. Household size, ethnic makeup, income, and educational attainment of the sample differ from that of the overall population.

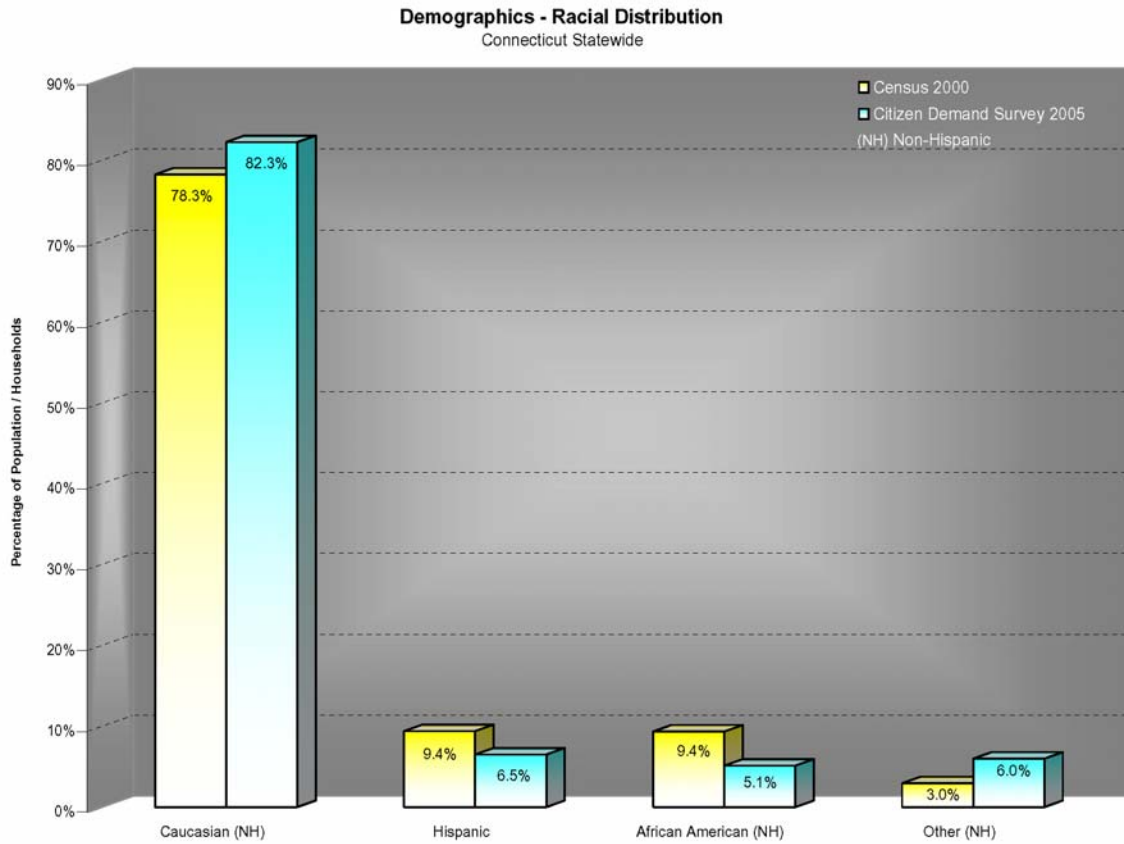
First of all, the survey under-sampled single-person households. Figure 5-13 shows the comparison of household size between the households in the sample and all Connecticut households. While over one-fourth of all Connecticut households are single-person households, only 16.1% of the households in this sample include only one person. None of the other sized households show such a significant difference. Two-person households, three-person households, and those with five or more are represented to a similar degree. Only those households of four persons are noticeably larger as a percentage in the sample than in the general population.



**Figure 5-13**

Second, the racial and ethnic makeup of the survey sample shows a significant variation from that of the general population. In its analysis of Connecticut’s population, the Center for Population Research treated Hispanic as a race rather than as an ethnicity, but not a race in the same way the census does. An individual who considered himself Hispanic was placed in that racial category, whether or not he self-identified as white, black, or as some other race. The remaining respondents were then classified based upon their self-description as Caucasian (Not-Hispanic), African-American or Black, or Other (including Multi-racial, Native American, Asian or any other race). The data presented in Figure 5-14 uses this method for both all individuals in the state of Connecticut (based on census data) as well as for the individuals that responded to the survey. The sample size for the survey is the same as the number of households, because the person that filled out

the survey was asked to indicate race. If households contained persons of different races, that was not captured in this question.<sup>1</sup>



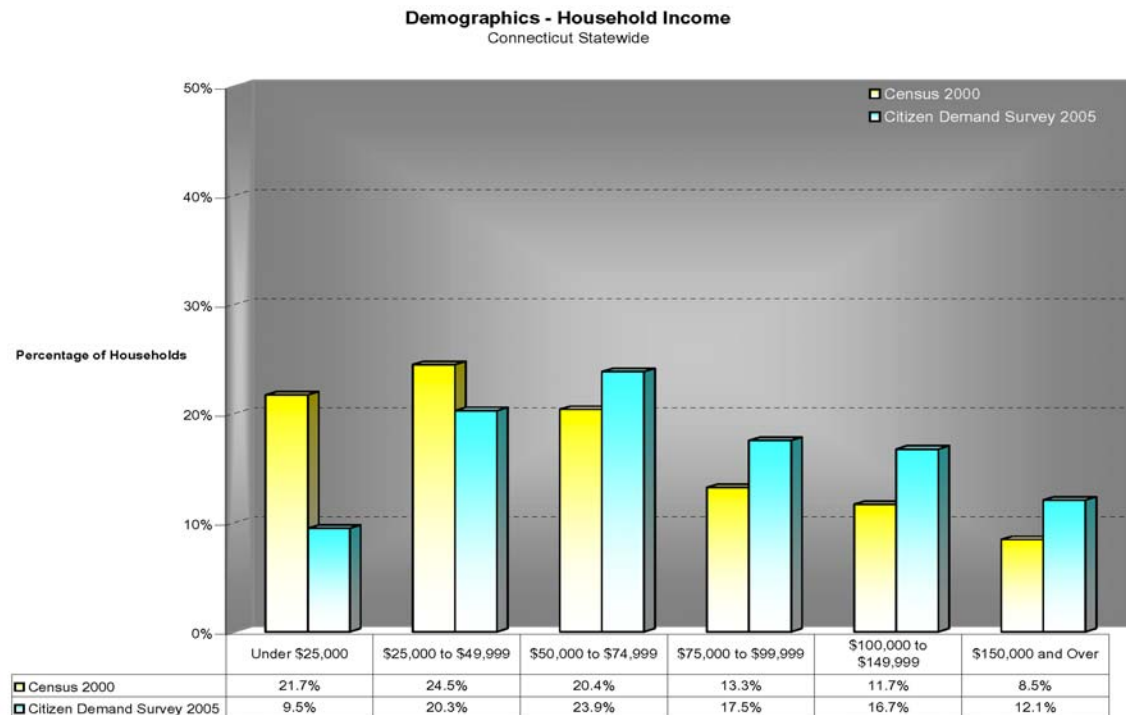
**Figure 5-14**

Hispanics and African-Americans were under-sampled in the survey. As noted in the methodology section, the initial response from the mail-out questionnaire yielded an even lower response among Hispanics and African-Americans. In order to approach an adequate representation, the mail-out questionnaires were followed up with telephone interviews among both Hispanics and African-Americans. The fact that those two groups responded at a rate less than their overall percentage of the population was consistent with other similar surveys, as well as with the census itself. In the future, additional funds should be allocated to ensure additional follow-up among these populations.

Nonetheless, if the population is regrouped into White or Caucasian (Not-Hispanic) or Non-White, the relative percentages of the survey sample and the general population are more closely matched. When regrouped in this way, the survey sample is 82.3% Caucasian whereas the general population is 78.3%. The Non-White portion of

<sup>1</sup> An earlier question asked if any person in the household was Hispanic. In that 6.9% of households contained Hispanic people but only 6.5% of respondents considered themselves to be Hispanic, some variation is present. Still, the racial percentages shown in Figure 5-14 reflect the racial composition of the sample comprised of the household respondents.

the survey sample is 17.7% compared to 21.7% of the general population. Overall, it is fair to say that this survey's sample, like many other samples, has a higher percentage of White (Not Hispanic) than does the general population. Following the attempt to augment the initial response, persons who do not identify themselves as white were well represented.

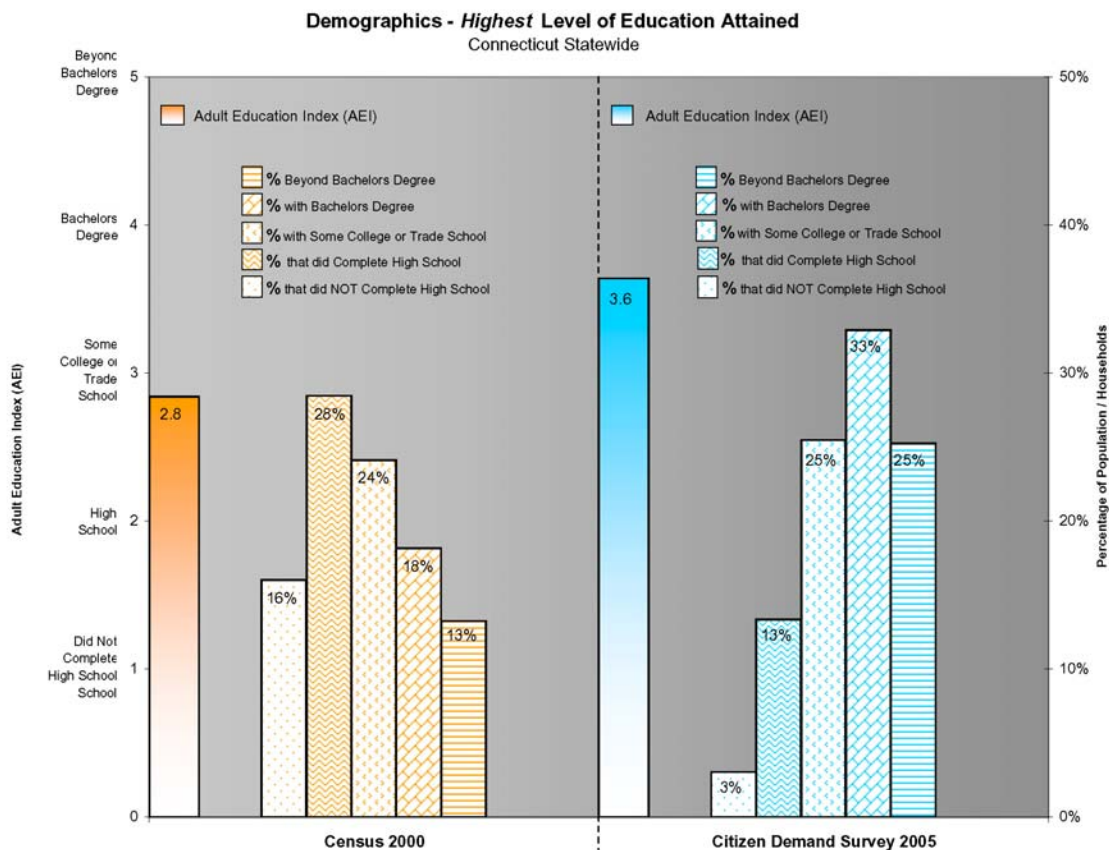


**Figure 5-15**

A third, and more striking difference, is the low representation of lower income households in the sample. The survey sample contained a consistently more affluent population than the general population. Only 9.5% of respondents indicated having a household income in the lowest income category (less than \$25,000), while the census reports 21.7% at that level. In the highest income category, the survey found that 12.1% of respondent households indicated they had an income of \$150,000 or more, while the census shows only 8.5% of Connecticut's population meeting that description. As of the 2000 census, the median household income in Connecticut was approximately \$65,000 per year. Five years of growth or wage inflation does not account for the variation in the income disparity between the survey sample and the general population. Another contributing explanation is the tendency of the census to overstate the income of the poor while understating the income of the wealthy due to sampling methodology and mode of measurement.<sup>2</sup> Still, it is evident that the survey sample is somewhat more affluent than the general population of the state of Connecticut.

<sup>2</sup> Income is derived from the census long form that aims for a sampling rate of 1 of 6. In that more affluent tend to respond among the lower income, the census systematically overstates the income of all lower income people. The census also does not capture capital gains. In that wealthy people are more likely to have capital gains, their income is systematically understated by the census. Although this survey did not specifically ask respondents to include their capital gains, it is possible that in approximating their income so as to respond, people did include all forms of income in their response.

Fourth, the educational attainment of the sample respondents was higher than that of the general population. To analyze the educational attainment of individuals in the state of Connecticut, the Center for Population Research developed the Adult Education Index (AEI), an index that allowed for comparison of educational attainment between groups of people. The methodology used to compute the AEI is explained earlier in this chapter. A few differences exist between how the census measured educational attainment and how the Citizen Demand Survey collected that information. The census only measured the educational attainment of adults aged 25 and older. The Citizen Demand Survey only obtained information on one individual per household, the respondent. In addition, the data for the census was gathered about five years prior to the data in the Citizen Demand Survey. AEI increases over time simply due to a cohort effect. Because older people both tend as a whole to have received less education than younger people and because they are more likely to pass away, AEI currently increases over time by approximately .02 per year. In addition, the survey sample contains slightly fewer persons above 65 years of age than does the general population. These factors account for some of the difference between the general population AEI of 2.8 and the sample AEI of 3.6. However, they do not account for all the difference. It is fair to conclude that the survey sample is more educated than the general population.



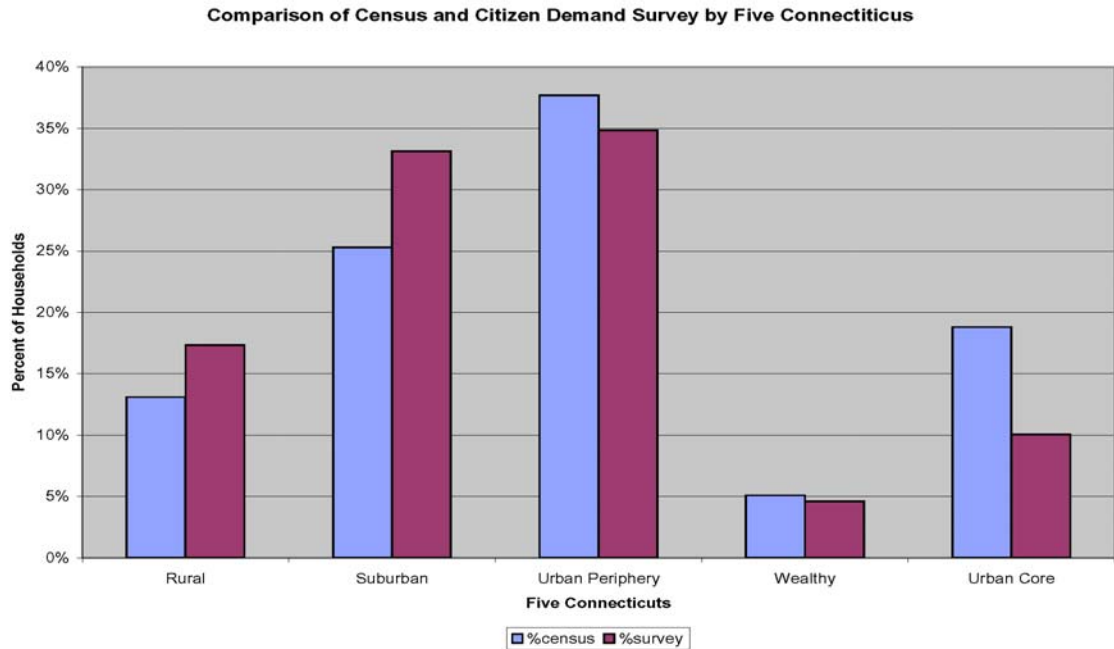
**Figure 5-16**

Overall, the survey sample is a fair and reasonable representation of the general population of the state of Connecticut. In terms of geographic distribution, age range,

gender, and, for the most part, household size, the survey sample is very similar to the general population. In race, income, and educational attainment, some differences have been noted. The survey sample is wealthier and more highly educated than the general population. It also includes a higher percentage of self-identified Caucasians. However, those differences are not as great as first appear considering 1) the difference in data collection time between the Citizen Demand Survey and the 2000 Census, 2) typical survey response rates among lower income and minority people, and 3) both sampling and data collection techniques inherent to the U.S Census.

The Center for Population Research used factor, cluster, and discriminant analyses to develop its report “The Five Connecticut’s”. The Five Connecticut’s are five socioeconomic groupings of towns based simultaneously on 1) income, 2) poverty level and 3) population density. The categories are Wealthy Connecticut, Suburban Connecticut, Rural Connecticut, Connecticut’s Urban Periphery, and Connecticut’s Urban Core. (Additional detail on the Five Connecticut’s can be found in the background section.) In its report, CPR argued that these Five Connecticut’s capture a clustering of certain differentiated qualities of life. Not all people that live in a town share the same income level, nor do all towns in the same grouping have an identical average income, poverty rate, or population density. However, by categorizing all 169 towns, CPR found groups of towns that are similar not only in the three defining factors, but also in educational attainment and racial distribution, even though these last two were not determining factors.

Figure 5-17 evaluates whether or not the survey sample is representative of the Five Connecticut’s by comparing the percentage of the general population and the percentage of the survey sample by each of the five categories. The data shows that the distribution of the sample respondents is similar to the pattern of the Five Connecticut’s in the general population. The largest exception is the Urban Core. The Urban Core is home to 19% of Connecticut’s population, while only 10% of the survey respondents are drawn from the Urban Core. The underrepresentation of this group in the survey sample is consistent with the results of previous research on U.S. Census sampling and other mail-out and phone surveys. Still, it is unfortunate that the areas of the state in greatest economic need and with the highest population density are underrepresented in this analysis. In addition, those who did respond from the Urban Core are not typical of that group. Urban Core respondents tend to have a higher income and more education than the group as a whole. In addition, they account for a greater percentage of White Non-Hispanics than is representative of the entire Urban Core. For example, the Urban Core is 42.3% White Non-Hispanic, 27.3% Black, and 26.9% Hispanic. The Citizen Demand Survey has drawn a sample from the Urban Core of 48.1% White Non-Hispanic, 26.9% Black, and 17.1% Hispanic. In terms of income, the greatest variation in the sample is at the lowest income category in the Urban Core. The Urban Core actually has 40% of its population living in households with an income at or below \$25,000 per year. In contrast, the portion of the sample drawn from the Urban Core only contains 25% of respondents from those low-income households. Despite the sample from the Urban Core not being a representative sample in terms of poverty level and racial mix, the sample drawn from the other four of the Five Connecticut’s is quite representative.



**Figure 5-17**

In summary, the sample drawn for and analyzed through the Citizen Demand Survey and reported here is a fair representation of the statewide population of Connecticut, its counties, and the socio-economic groups identified by the CPR.

Although the towns of the Five Connecticut are not in all cases geographically contiguous, an analysis of any aspect of lifestyle, including education or recreation, by these groupings is appropriate. The last section of the Demand chapter report shows how demand for outdoor recreation (as measured by the UFI for each of thirty activities) varies by geographic location (county) and by socio-economic grouping (Five Connecticut).



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## Chapter 6: Supply

### 6.1 Introduction

As noted in Chapter 1 of this report, the Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965 requires a SCORP to include an evaluation of the supply of outdoor recreational resources and facilities. Though federal guidelines do not require that this analysis of supply be quantitative, the State of Connecticut sought to build an exhaustive and comprehensive database of the supply of outdoor recreational facilities and resources.

This chapter describes the supply database as it is now constructed, shows what the database contains, and explains its application for citizens, policy makers, and recreation officials. This SCORP recommends that the database be made publicly available, that it be persistently enhanced, and that it be used as the supply infrastructure of all future State of Connecticut SCORPs. Potential information, tourism, and economic benefits of this initiative are also discussed.

Further, this chapter provides current data on recreational supply. First, statewide totals of recreational facilities and resources are presented. Second, this chapter categorizes those facilities and resources by ownership. This chapter then uses data from extant state reports and the survey of town officials to outline the supply of and the need for facility features including restrooms, parking, and accessibility for persons with disabilities. The report next provides a ranking of supply for twenty different recreational activities per 10,000 people by both county and Five Connecticut. The survey data from the Citizen Demand Survey, the Survey of Avid Users, and the Survey of Town Officials are then used to discuss the current condition of the supply of recreation facilities and resources. Finally, the chapter concludes by providing a brief analytical look at supply relative to demand.

### 6.2 Description of the Database

In Chapter 4, this report outlined the methodology used to develop the current database of the supply of recreational places in the state of Connecticut. For each of the state's 169 municipalities, a list of discrete identifiable recreational places (DIRPs) was developed. For DIRPs that spanned town borders, the DIRP was only counted once. Its components were attributed to the town that housed its main entrance, but the DIRP's existence and accessibility was noted for all towns in which it was located. The information on each DIRP was gathered from public information and interviews with local and state officials. As the database was developed, that information was placed on a special website and validated by local and state officials as well as, in some cases, by citizens.

The supply database can include the following information for each recreational facility and resource:

1. Name of the DIRP
  - a. Actual name
  - b. Unique identification number
  - c. Town
2. Ownership
  - a. Federal
  - b. State
  - c. Municipal
  - d. Institutional
  - e. Commercial
  - f. Other
3. Size – Number of acres
4. General Information
  - a. Description
  - b. Condition (rated 1-5, poor to new)
5. Services
  - a. Restrooms (Yes or No)
  - b. Accessibility for persons with disabilities (Yes or No)
  - c. Parking (Yes or No), number of spaces
6. Sports (for each, Yes or No and, where applicable, number of fields or courts)
  - a. Multi-use fields
  - b. Running track
  - c. Soccer
  - d. Ice skating
  - e. Skate park
  - f. Volleyball court
  - g. Basketball court
  - h. Football field
  - i. Tennis court
  - j. Baseball field
  - k. Softball field
  - l. Golf course
  - m. Winter sports
  - n. Rock climbing
7. Trails
  - a. Total length
  - b. Hard surface (length)
  - c. Natural surface (length)
  - d. Permitted uses
    - i. Hiking, walking, jogging
    - ii. Biking
    - iii. ATV
    - iv. Snowmobiling
    - v. Snowshoeing
    - vi. Cross-country skiing

- vii. Rollerblading
- viii. Equestrian
- 8. Water Access (Yes or No)
  - a. Beach (Yes or No), length
  - b. Boat launch (Yes or No)
  - c. Swimming pool (Yes or No)
  - d. Fresh or saltwater swimming (Yes or No)
- 9. Fishing (Yes or No)
- 10. Hunting (Yes or No)
- 11. Camping (Yes or No), number of sites
- 12. Picnic Area (Yes or No), number of sites
- 13. Miscellaneous
  - a. Public gardens (Yes or No)
  - b. Playground area (Yes or No), number of areas
  - c. Concert stage (Yes or No)
  - d. Amusement park (Yes or No)
  - e. Educational or historic site (Yes or No)
- 14. Additional comments

The structure of the database is extensive. Researchers working on this SCORP sought to gather all this information for every identifiable recreational place in every town in the entire state. Prior to this study, no centralized and comprehensive database of all publicly accessible recreation facilities and resources in Connecticut existed. The task was, and in truth continues to be, daunting but very much worth the effort. Included as an appendix is the current summary report for the state as a whole, as well as for each of Connecticut's 169 towns. The data developed in the construction of the database is used in the analysis in this chapter.

### **6.3 What Good Is The Database?**

Prior to presenting the data, it is fair to ask whether or not this task is worthwhile. What state is the data in currently? How can the data be used? Who can benefit from this database? What recommendation is this SCORP making?

First of all, the database is not yet complete. In developing the database of supply and gathering the data, the researchers encountered a full spectrum of levels of assistance as well as a full range of qualities of existing data. In some cases, towns or agencies could supply the researchers with a clear inventory and a breakdown of components. However, those cases were rare. In many cases, towns, institutions, and even state agencies had no clear or available inventories of recreational facilities or of their attributes. It became increasingly clear that this database would fill a major need for this supply information. Upon its completion, Connecticut would have in one centralized location not only a list of all publicly accessible recreational resources but also an inventory of most of the popular components and necessary service features.

Given the enormity of the task, the SCORP Advisory Board and the Department of Environmental Protection prioritized the data needs. First and foremost was the development of a list of all recreational places by town. Secondly, researchers focused on determining the main attributes of those sites, including their components, such as swimming pools, trails, and sports fields. The third priority was documenting the presence of support features including parking and restrooms. Finally, as time and information availability allowed, researchers sought to “fill in the blanks” and learn about size, number of fields or courts, length of trails, and other more in-depth features.

At this point, the database is constructed and working and has built a nearly comprehensive listing of all publicly accessible outdoor recreational places in the state of Connecticut. Secondly, it has identified which of those sites include or do not include the resources or facilities that accommodate the most popular recreational activities that citizens discussed in the demand surveys. Third, the database has made significant progress towards counting the exact number of each component, the total land devoted to publicly accessible outdoor recreation, the length of trails, and the length of beaches. This SCORP recommends further enhancing the database by improving the quality and depth of the data. The foundation has been poured. Building upon this impressive foundation will yield a database that includes: 1) all publicly accessible recreational places, 2) a detailed outline of all recreational components at those sites, and 3) a site-by-site breakdown of all support services.

#### **6.4 The Supply of Outdoor Recreation in Connecticut**

Currently the recreation supply database has identified 4,291 DIRPs in Connecticut. The next two sections of this SCORP look at these nearly 4,300 recreation sites, first treating the entire state as one unit of analysis, and secondly ranking the presence of recreational components contained in these 4,300 DIRPs by county and by the Five Connecticut. The report presents some gross data on the most popular recreational components housed in these DIRPs. The reader will note that some components are identified as a dichotomous variable, that is either present or not, while others are quantified, for example, the number of tennis courts or golf courses. As noted earlier, it is the goal of this continuing supply process to gather data sufficient to display not only the presence but also the quantity (whether number or length) as well. After initially presenting counts for some recreational components, this report shifts to treating all components as either being present at a site or absent.

##### **State of Connecticut Recreation Supply 2005**

- Total acreage 328,000 (approximately 10% of the state)
- Total baseball and softball fields 1,806
- Total football fields 189
- Total multi-use fields 847
- Total soccer fields 860
- Total basketball courts 830
- Total tennis courts 1,186

- Total volleyball courts 90
- Total golf courses 125
- Sites with playgrounds areas 1,065
- Sites with swimming pools 137
- Sites with fresh/salt swimming 176
- Sites with picnic areas 677
- Sites with fishing access 669
- Sites with boating access 285
- Sites with hunting 88
- Sites with camping 88
- Sites with trails 896
- Sites with winter sports access 238
- Historic or educational sites 99
- Sites with gardens 109

Connecticut is home to over 3.4 million people residing in 169 municipalities. The towns of Connecticut range in population from under 1,000 to over 135,000. In order to pursue this analysis of the supply of outdoor recreation, a standard of sites per 10,000 people for any given activity was adopted. Some of Connecticut's towns do have populations of approximately 10,000 and as such this unit is meaningful as a comparative analytical unit to a national standard. For other towns, this measure is helpful to assess the number and sufficiency of sites with a particular recreational resource per that number of people. As noted earlier, some recreational components may occur in multiples, as is commonly the case with tennis courts, for example. However, in the following analysis, this report looks at sites with a particular component regardless of the quantity of that facility present. As the database becomes progressively more complete, a more detailed analysis will be possible.

In Figure 6-1, the number of recreational components per 10,000 residents is shown for the twenty most often used components in descending order. In this chart, the state is treated as a whole with no geographic, socioeconomic, or ownership criteria included.

For every 10,000 residents, Connecticut has 964 acres of recreational land. In terms of land alone, Connecticut provides approximately a tenth of an acre of recreational land for every citizen of the state. However, that land is not evenly distributed geographically throughout the state.

Nine recreational components are present at sites at a rate of equal to or greater than one per every 10,000. In order those include: playgrounds, baseball/softball fields, trails, picnic areas, fishing access, basketball courts, multi-use fields, soccer fields, and tennis courts. One way for the reader to think about these numbers is to begin by considering a particular type of component. Both swimming pools and golf courses, for example, are present in the state at a rate of 0.4 per 10,000, or 1 for every 25,000 persons. A community in which the ratio of swimming pools or golf courses exceeds 1 for 25,000 persons has an availability of that resource greater than the statewide average. If the

community has less than one facility per 25,000 residents for these two activities, it falls below the statewide average. Again the reader must recall that first of all these ratios are based upon 1) sites with an asset, not the number of assets, and 2) publicly accessible assets only. Figure 6-2 displays the same twenty recreational resources and shows the number of Connecticut residents per site with that resource in ascending

Counts of Sites/DIRPs per 10,000 Population	Statewide
Acreage	964
Playgrounds	3.1
Baseball / Softball	2.9
Trails	2.6
Picnic	2.0
Fishing	2.0
Basketball	1.9
MultiUse	1.8
Soccer	1.5
Tennis	1.1
Boating	0.8
Winter Sports	0.7
Beach	0.5
Football	0.5
Swimming	0.4
Golf	0.4
Garden	0.3
Historic	0.3
Hunting	0.3
Camping	0.3
Volleyball	0.2

**Figure 6-1**

order.

It is difficult to compare the statewide inventory of sites with various recreational resources to national standards. In some cases, national standards are stated in terms of fields per population, in some cases as sites per population, (as in the figure above), or in other cases as miles per population, (for example, in a discussion of trails). For comparative purposes, this report highlights a few of Connecticut’s statewide supply features relative to the national standards stipulated by the National Parks and Recreation Association (NPRA). Playgrounds appear to be the most prevalent resource in



Resource	Number of Residents Per Site with Resource Statewide
Playgrounds	3198
Baseball / Softball	3461
Trails	3801
Picnic	5030
Fishing	5091
Basketball	5280
MultiUse	5458
Soccer	6880
Tennis	8869
Boating	11949
Winter Sports	14309
Beach	19350
Football	22114
Swimming	24858
Golf	27245
Garden	31244
Historic	34400
Hunting	38700
Camping	38700
Volleyball	46021

**Figure 6-2**

terms of sites with that resource per population in the state of Connecticut. Connecticut has one site with a playground for every 3,198 residents. The standard proposed by the NPRA is one playground per 1,000 people. According to this standard, despite playgrounds ranking highest statewide, Connecticut's supply is woefully inadequate. Conversely, in Connecticut, the supply database shows that there is one site with a golf course per 27,000 residents. (The difference between Figures 6-1 and 6-2 is due to rounding.) The national standard is one per 25,000. In terms of golf courses, Connecticut appears to offer an adequate supply. Again, Figure 6-2 provides a useful

picture of the supply of recreational assets statewide and a starting point for comparing that supply to national standards. When the database is completely developed and presented in future SCORPs, it will be possible to measure supply in the same units as the national standards.

#### *6.4.1 Ownership*

State and local governments, non-profit organizations, and commercial entities serve differing roles in meeting the recreational needs of the citizens of Connecticut. In Figure 6-3, the supply of sites with the twenty different recreational resources is separated by ownership. All state forests and state parks, as well as other state properties available for recreational use, are included as state-owned. Municipal properties include recreational areas, schools, playgrounds, and municipally managed preserves. All institutionally-owned but publicly accessible recreational sites as well as commercial sites are grouped together under “Other”. Highlighted in yellow are all instances where over 50% of that facility type is within one ownership category. Those categories in which a significant minority of the recreational supply is contributed by one of the ownership types are highlighted in green.

First of all, it is clear that the job of supplying different types of outdoor recreation falls differentially to the different types of ownership. The state provides the majority of recreational lands and, as such, is most likely concerned with long-term acquisition of open space. This is consistent with the state providing, as seen here, the vast majority of opportunities for hunting, fishing, camping, and trails. All of these

Percentage of Sites/DIRPs	State Ownership	Municipal Ownership	Other Ownership
Acreage	65.8%	17.1%	17.1%
Baseball / Softball	0.6%	90.5%	8.8%
Basketball	0.5%	90.5%	9.0%
Beach	10.2%	55.1%	34.7%
Boating_Access	30.2%	36.8%	33.0%
Camping	33.0%	25.0%	42.0%
Fishing	26.3%	41.9%	31.8%
Football	0.6%	87.7%	11.7%
Gardens	6.4%	69.7%	23.9%
Golf	0.8%	24.0%	75.2%
Historic	24.2%	58.6%	17.2%
Hunting	70.5%	2.3%	27.3%
MultiUse	5.3%	83.3%	11.4%
Picnic	12.4%	67.7%	19.9%
Playground	0.4%	88.4%	11.3%
Soccer	1.0%	90.3%	8.7%
SwimmingPool	1.5%	68.6%	29.9%
Tennis	1.0%	91.4%	7.6%
Trails	18.2%	49.9%	31.9%
Volleyball	0.0%	67.6%	32.4%
Winter_Sports	29.4%	52.1%	18.5%

**Figure 6-3**

activities are dependent on a significant land base. Municipal jurisdictions clearly provide the majority of resources devoted to sports fields, courts, public gardens, playgrounds, and swimming pools. Golf courses are supplied most often by commercial entities.

Some resources are supplied by multiple ownership groups. Included in this shared resource contribution category are beaches (fresh and saltwater swimming), boating access, camping, fishing, historic sites, trails, and winter sports. In some ways the reader must carefully consider this figure. Some resources, including trails and beaches, can vary vastly in scale. When considered, as they are here, simply as the percentage of sites, the effect of scale on supply can be overlooked. State Parks contribute only 10% of the sites with beaches and 18% of sites with trail, but when considering the scale of the state-owned water access properties or of trails, the true state contribution is much greater. Still, in dividing the resource types by ownership, it is clear which supply categories tend to be provided by which ownership groups.

### **6.4.2 Need for Support Features**

Prior to dividing the supply of recreational resources by geographic and socioeconomic categories, this report briefly highlights the need for increasing the supply of support features. Citizens, town officials, and avid users often said that many recreational sites badly need additional parking, improved or additional restrooms, additional shelters, more available public transportation, and improved or additional accessibility for persons with disabilities. This SCORP strongly notes the need for each of these improvements, and despite the progress the state and municipal entities have made over the last ten years in supplying these features, calls for the continued prioritization of these needs.

Town officials were asked specifically to rank the needs of their sites for these support features. When asked in the survey whether their facilities provided adequate restrooms, public transportation, shelter, accessibility, and parking, public officials ranked those needs in descending order of “rate of inadequacy” as:

- |                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Restrooms             | 65% |
| 2. Public Transportation | 64% |
| 3. Shelter               | 52% |
| 4. Parking               | 46% |
| 5. Accessibility         | 33% |

According to town officials, nearly two-thirds of towns have inadequate restrooms and public transportation for their recreational facilities, about half are in need of additional or improved shelter and parking, and about one third continue to provide inadequate accessibility for persons with disabilities. This SCORP includes these needs as priority supply components that will be recognized as priority needs in the allocation of LWCF funds to municipalities.

### **6.4.3 Comparing Supply by County**

Figure 6-4 shows the number of sites or DIRPs with a particular recreational component per 10,000 individuals on both a statewide basis and by county. Any cell that is significantly lower than the statewide average is highlighted in green. As one might expect, the most populous counties in the state, i.e., Fairfield, Hartford and New Haven,

show the greatest levels of unmet needs. The comparatively more rural counties fare much better in meeting supply standards.

Counts of Sites/DIRPs per 10,000	Statewide	Counties							
		Fairfield	Hartford	Litchfield	Middlesex	New Haven	New London	Tolland	Windham
Acreage	964	365	427	4,002	2,435	383	2,234	2,201	2,709
Playgrounds	3.1	2.7	3.6	4.1	2.2	2.8	3.8	3.2	3.7
Baseball / Softball	2.9	2.1	3.3	4.0	2.6	2.7	3.5	4.0	3.7
Trails	2.6	2.5	1.8	5.5	4.1	1.5	3.7	5.6	5.8
Picnic	2.0	1.8	1.4	5.2	3.5	1.4	2.8	2.3	2.7
Fishing	2.0	1.4	1.0	6.6	4.5	1.1	3.0	4.1	4.1
Basketball	1.9	1.1	2.2	2.7	1.9	2.0	2.4	2.4	1.7
MultiUse	1.8	1.6	1.6	4.1	1.2	1.3	3.4	2.6	2.7
Soccer	1.5	0.9	1.7	2.4	1.7	1.2	1.4	2.7	2.0
Tennis	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3
Boating	0.8	0.6	0.3	2.5	2.6	0.3	1.6	1.8	2.1
Winter Sports	0.7	0.5	0.6	2.3	0.9	0.4	0.5	1.7	1.1
Beach	0.5	0.5	0.1	1.4	0.9	0.5	0.8	1.1	0.7
Football	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5
Swimming	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.5
Golf	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.6
Garden	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4
Historic	0.3	0.3	0.2	1.0	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.4
Hunting	0.3	0.1	0.1	1.2	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.7	1.6
Camping	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.1	0.7	0.4	1.2
Volleyball	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.1

**Figure 6-4**

Litchfield, Tolland and Windham counties are the most rural of Connecticut’s counties and, as one would expect, they provide their populations greater availability of trails and opportunities for hunting, fishing, and camping.

#### 6.4.4 Comparing Supply by the Five Connecticut

The geographic information in Figure 6-5 provides valuable planning and assessment assistance in considering needs and funding priorities. Further guidance is provided by this figure that divides the recreational supply by the five socioeconomic categories of the state: Wealthy, Suburban, Rural, Urban Periphery and Urban Core. When comparing the availability of recreational components, the towns of Suburban Connecticut and Rural Connecticut exceed or equal the state average in every category. This is not to say that the towns in those areas do not have needs, or that their supply of recreational components exceeds national standards. Rather, this chart shows that when compared to the state as a whole or, in many categories, with the towns of the Urban Periphery or the Urban Core, the Suburban and Rural towns have a far more adequate supply of recreational components relative to their populations.

Counts of Sites/DIRPs per 10,000 Population	Statewide	5 CT's				
		Wealthy	Suburban	Rural	Urban Periphery	Urban Core
Acreage	964	558	949	4,164	284	122
Playgrounds	3.1	2.3	3.3	3.5	3.1	2.9
Baseball / Softball	2.9	2.8	3.4	3.9	2.9	1.4
Trails	2.6	6.1	3.6	5.5	1.3	0.7
Picnic	2.0	2.9	2.8	3.8	1.1	1.0
Fishing	2.0	2.3	2.5	5.5	1.1	0.3
Basketball	1.9	0.8	1.8	2.1	2.2	1.5
MultiUse	1.8	2.2	2.6	3.2	1.4	0.6
Soccer	1.5	1.0	2.0	2.2	1.3	0.6
Tennis	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.4	1.1	0.6
Boating	0.8	1.3	1.1	2.4	0.4	0.2
Winter Sports	0.7	0.8	1.2	1.5	0.3	0.1
Beach	0.5	0.9	0.7	1.1	0.3	0.2
Football	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4
Swimming	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3
Golf	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.1
Garden	0.3	1.0	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1
Historic	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.1
Hunting	0.3	0.1	0.3	1.2	0.1	0.0
Camping	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.0	0.0	0.0
Volleyball	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.1

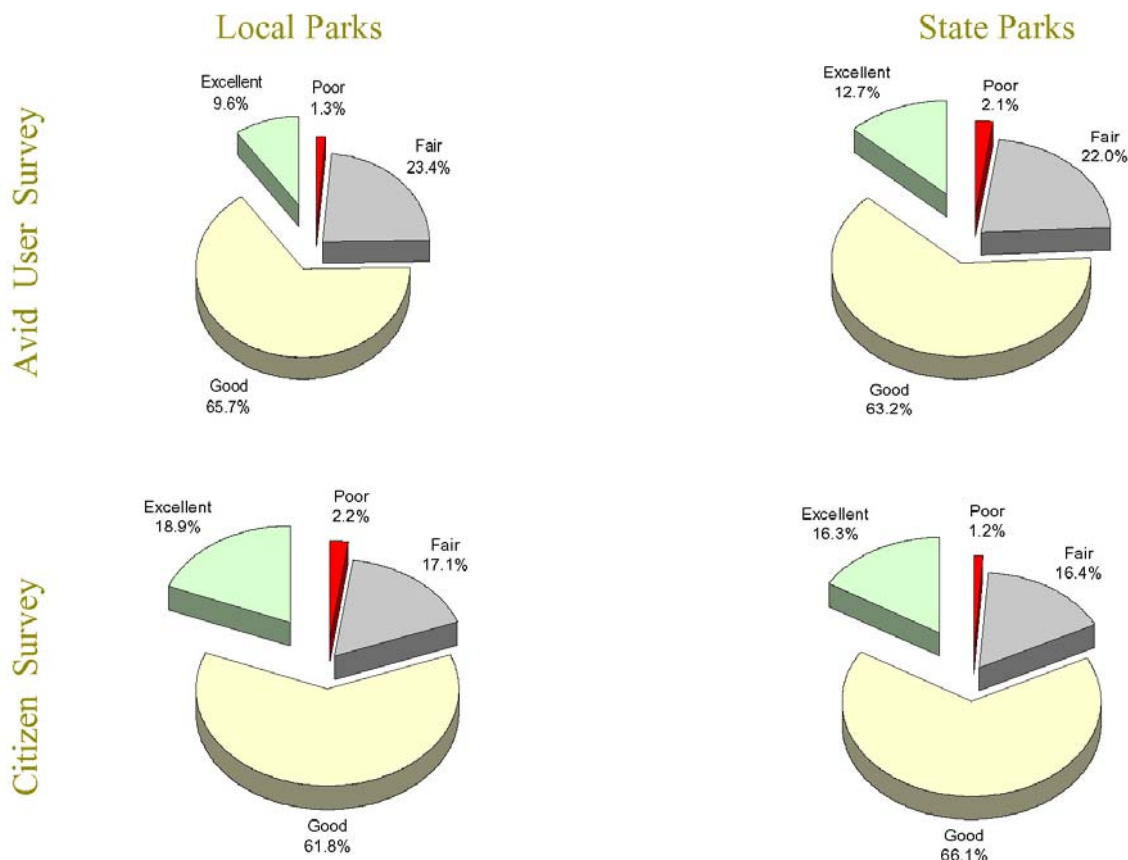
**Figure 6-5**

This report recommends incorporating this data into the process of assessing funding requests, and into the process of planning the improvement to and development of state recreational assets by location.

### 6.5 Condition of Outdoor Recreation Supply

In three separate surveys, the Citizen Demand Survey, the Survey of Avid Users, and the Survey of Town Officials, citizens and officials in the state were asked to comment on the condition of outdoor recreational facilities on both the local and state levels. Figure 6-6 shows the results of both the Citizen Demand Survey and the Survey of Avid Users. In all four cases, the vast majority of Connecticut's residents rated the condition of recreational facilities, whether in state parks and forests or in the local community, as "good" or "excellent".

# Facility Conditions



**Figure 6-6**

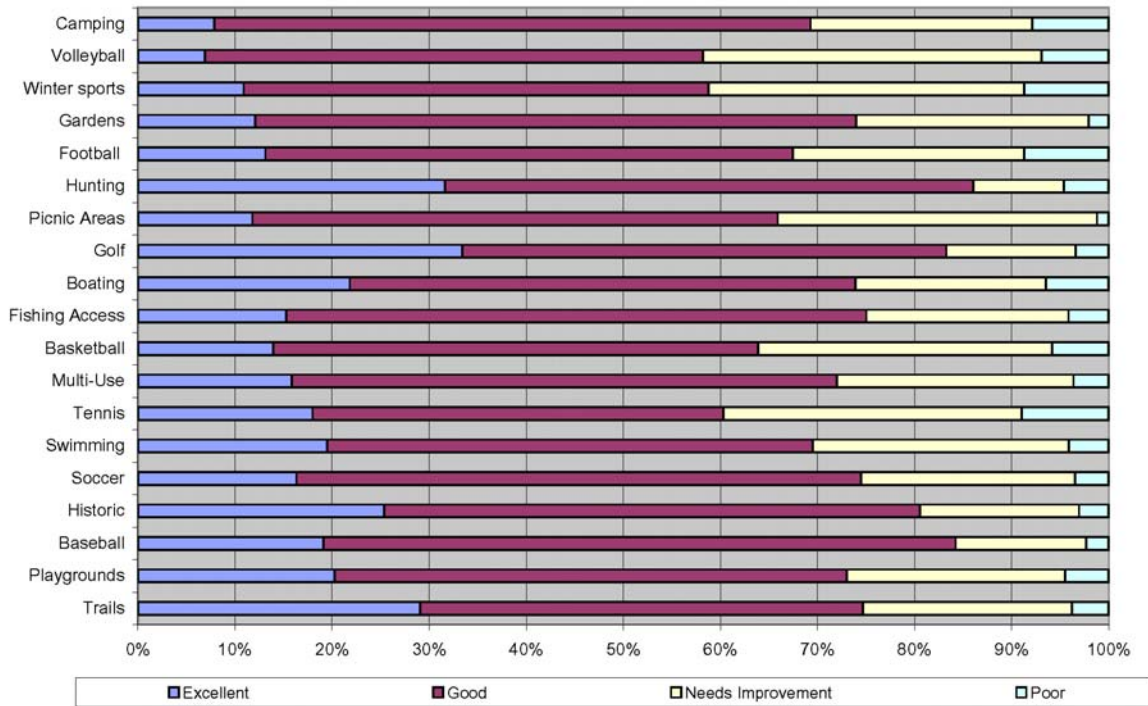
However, there is reason for concern. According to Leisure Vision, Inc., the national norm for citizen-rated conditions is higher than these figures indicate for the state of Connecticut. Nationally, the average citizen ranking of good or excellent is closer to 85%. In Connecticut, avid users ranked local parks at about 75% good or excellent and state parks at about 76%. The general population as represented by the Citizen Demand Survey has a better opinion of the condition of the supply than do avid users. Citizens ranked local parks at slightly over 80% good or excellent and state parks at 82.4%. Although few respondents considered the condition to be poor, in every case, whether among avid users or the general population, between 17% and 20% see the recreational supply as in only fair or poor condition. It is fair to surmise that they would indeed call for an improvement in condition.

Avid users are more critical of facility conditions than is the general population, but town officials are even more unsatisfied with their condition. One could argue that avid users, given their level of use, are more familiar with park conditions than the average citizen is, and therefore perhaps more able to accurately evaluate this parameter. Town officials are even more intimately familiar with their recreational facilities given that they maintain and repair them. Therefore, one could speculate that their opinions as



to condition are the most accurate. Figure 6-7 shows the rating of town officials on the overall condition of a range of recreational assets.

Town officials tend to rank trails, golf, hunting, and historic sites as particularly high in the excellent column. When combining those in excellent and good condition, the types of sites in the best condition according to town officials shifts



**Figure 6-7**

slightly to include hunting, baseball and softball fields, golf, and historic sites. Those in the worst condition are courts for volleyball, tennis, and basketball, as well as areas for winter sports. In treating all nineteen component types equally and averaging the percentage of town officials that rate that average site as excellent or good, only 71.8% of town officials rated a typical resource as in excellent or good condition.

In light of the fact that Connecticut citizens rate the condition of park facilities lower than the norm of citizen rankings nationally and that those more familiar with the facilities, i.e., avid users and town officials, rate the facility conditions even more poorly, this SCORP finds that Connecticut’s recreational supply is in need of maintenance, improvement, and enhancement. On a state level, DEP staff concur that state facilities are definitely in need of a greater level of investment in facility upkeep and repairs.

## **6.6 Development of a Statewide Interactive Recreation Website**

This SCORP recommends that the supply database be further enhanced by developing it into a publicly accessible reference to serve citizens, town officials, and the

local recreation industry. The following discussion details how such a resource could meet the needs of these three communities.

### **6.6.1 Citizens**

In Chapter 7, this report will show that the largest single obstacle to outdoor recreation among the citizens of Connecticut is a lack of information. Citizens neither know what is available nor, in many cases, how to get there. The supply database presents a potential solution to simultaneously respond to both those concerns.

This SCORP recommends making the database publicly available as an interactive website. Visitors to the website will be able to query the database in a number of ways:

- By location. Given its construction by town, the database is potentially searchable by town or by any geographic unit that is constructed of towns. For example, a query can include a single town, a county, or a specified cluster of towns.
- By activity. The database can also be independently searched by activity. For example, it could provide a list of all sites with golf or with trails. Additionally, the database can simultaneously be searched by location and activity yielding, for example, those sites with trails in Hartford County.
- By feature. Any feature could also be added as a filter. In other words, a citizen interested only in trails in a certain location at which restrooms are available could find all such sites.

In addition to searching the database for available facilities and activities to meet an individual's or a family's needs, the website would include an easy to use mapping function providing printable directions from the user's point of origin to the site. In that way, the second most cited informational concern of citizens is addressed.

### **6.6.2 Officials**

Most of Connecticut's towns, as well as the DEP and many recreational groups, maintain their own websites. Since each is independently developed and serviced, no two are alike. The proposed new Connecticut recreational website could be linked to each and every town, state, and institutional website. In that way, rather than visiting well over 200 disparate websites with varied and incomplete information, individuals could access one centralized recreational website where all recreational information would be available. Towns, state agencies and institutions could be hyper-linked to the centralized recreational website to provide other valuable information. Information that assists citizens and supports town officials would thereby be available.

Second, town officials can update information concerning DIRPs in their town by providing new information to the recreational website director at any time. In that way, information would be both current and accurate.

Third, town officials could at all times know what recreational resources are available in neighboring communities. This information cannot only be useful in educating and accommodating citizens but would be essential for town officials interested in any form of regionalization to enhance existing recreation, build new facilities, or obtain additional open space. State officials would benefit from having a current supply inventory at all times. An up-to-date inventory of supply is crucial as decisions are made relative to setting funding priorities.

### **6.6.3 Business Community**

This report sees several ways that the recreational database will assist the business community and perhaps be an avenue for both economic development and continuing enhancement of the database itself.

Similar to the links possible between the recreational website and the websites of towns and institutions, the database could contain links to businesses that relate to the interests of the database users. For example, it is possible to include links to businesses that cater to cyclists or hikers. When a citizen searches for DIRPs specific to their needs, they can also access this valuable information. The database managers could charge the businesses fees for this exposure, and the funding could be used to support and enhance the website.

Second, the recreational resources of Connecticut are not only assets to our citizens but serve as reasons for tourists to visit the state. The recreational website could be linked to agencies currently promoting tourism, both statewide and in specific areas of the state. Again, visitors will appreciate being able to learn about the state's recreational opportunities and to plan their trips by visiting one centralized location. Thus, the recreational website will contribute to making Connecticut more recreationally friendly for both residents and visitors. It will thereby encourage recreational activity, promote tourism, and foster the indirect economic activity derived from tourism.

The supply database as constructed provides valuable information about the current state of recreation. Therefore, it is imperative that this database be continued, maintained, and enhanced. Attainment of the postulated benefits is dependent on the database and website providing correct and current information so that it may function as a passport to increased citizen enjoyment and potential economic development, and so that it may serve local government information needs.

### 7.1 Introduction

Connecticut's residents enjoy a wide assortment of outdoor recreational activities. They visit state parks and forests, local parks and facilities, privately held properties, and commercial enterprises. During the course of the year, Connecticut's people take part in land-based, water-based, and winter activities. The level of participation indicates that the demand for outdoor recreation in Connecticut is high and is increasing. This chapter describes the activities practiced by the residents of the state. It also compares the level of participation in thirty different activities between Connecticut's citizens and the nation's. Data from the Citizen Demand Survey, conducted by the UConn CPR, and the National Survey of Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) are supplemented by data from the surveys of town officials and avid users. The facilities citizens visit are analyzed as to the demand for those facilities, the degree to which that demand is being met, the most frequently cited obstacles to the enjoyment of these facilities, and the opinion of both citizens and officials as to the condition of those facilities, regardless of the management, maintenance, and ownership of the facilities. Lastly, thirty different activities are analyzed for participation rates and facility needs by county and by each of the Five Connecticuts. Data from the three surveys and the public information sessions are analyzed to show how residents 1) use state and local parks, 2) feel about the condition of parks, 3) feel they are restricted from participating in outdoor recreation, 4) obtain information about outdoor recreation, and 5) feel about funding improvements, facility development, and land acquisition for outdoor recreation.

## 7.2 Participation

Residents of the 2,238 responding Connecticut households were asked to indicate, for each of thirty sets of outdoor activities: 1) how many households members participated in the activity, and 2) how often they participated. The thirty sets of outdoor activities surveyed were:

### Land-Based Activities

- running, walking or hiking
- road biking/ biking in neighborhoods
- mountain biking or trail biking
- rollerblading or skateboarding
- horseback riding
- driving motorized recreational vehicles
- overnight camping
- bird watching or wildlife viewing
- visiting historic sites or museums
- hunting or trapping
- playing tennis
- playing basketball or volleyball
- playing football, lacrosse, field hockey, or rugby
- playing baseball or softball
- playing soccer
- playing golf

### Water-Based Activities

- swimming in pools
- swimming in freshwater/saltwater
- activities at the beach
- motor boating
- sailing
- canoeing, kayaking, or tubing
- water skiing or jet skiing
- snorkeling or scuba diving
- freshwater fishing or ice fishing
- saltwater fishing

### Winter Activities

- downhill skiing or snowboarding
- cross country skiing or snowshoeing
- sledding
- ice skating or hockey

Data from the Citizen Demand Survey indicate that 95.5% of Connecticut households participate in at least one of these thirty activities. In this survey, the responding individual spoke for the entire household and the data herein refer to the number of participating households. Almost all households (93.8%) participate in land-based activities, 85.3% of households participate in water-based activities, and 54.2% participate in winter activities.

The survey results verify that a very high percentage of Connecticut’s residents participate in a wide range of outdoor recreational activities.

Data from the Connecticut portion of the 2004 NSRE indicate the rate of participation among individuals. They show that 94.9 % of individuals participated in land-based activities, 71.7% of individuals participated in water-based activities, and 36.5% of individuals participated in winter activities in this state. The NSRE data for individuals validate the Citizen Demand Survey household data.

Connecticut is home to over 3.4 million people constituting over 1.3 million households of varying size. The following analysis presents the data showing both household and individual participation rates. The report highlights the activities that tend to be practiced by entire households and those that are more often practiced by individuals. Where frequency of participation is included in the assessment of usage, individuals rather than households are the unit of analysis.

### 7.2.1 Participation In Land-Based Activities

Figure 7-1 compares the percentage of households and individuals participating in each land-based activity. It shows that 86% of households and 72% of individuals in Connecticut participate in running, walking, and hiking, which is the most popular outdoor recreational activity pursued by survey respondents. The next most popular activity is visiting historic sites or museums. Motorized biking, hunting or trapping, and horseback riding are the three activities that have the least number of participants, with fewer than 20% of all households and approximately 10% of all individuals participating.

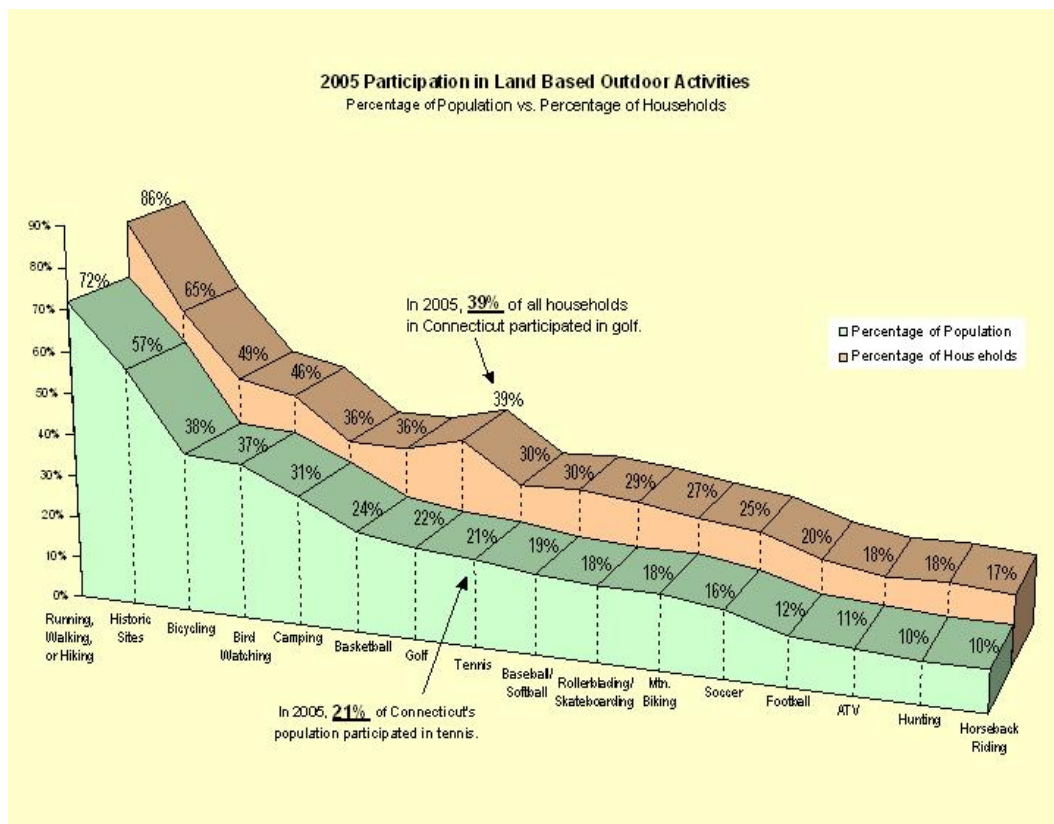


Figure 7-1

Figure 7-2 includes data from the Citizen Demand Survey and the NSRE survey. The NSRE only surveyed individuals age 16 or older, whereas the Citizen Demand Survey included all individuals age 5 or older. Still, the ranking of activities is similar despite methodological differences. Comparing NSRE's data on Connecticut to its data on the nation shows a similarity in the participation rates of individuals in many of the surveyed activities. However, more Connecticut residents participate in activities such as overnight camping, basketball, volleyball, soccer, tennis, and golf, while fewer individuals participate in hunting, trapping, and driving motorized recreational vehicles as compared to the national participation rates. The trends in participation rates in hunting and fishing match observed declines in the sales of hunting and fishing licenses in Connecticut.

From 1995 to 2004, NSRE data indicate a substantial increase in Connecticut's participation rates for certain activities. The land-based activities showing the greatest percentage increases were soccer, football/lacrosse/field hockey/rugby, basketball/ volleyball, and motorized biking. Among the sixteen land-based activities, only hunting and trapping did not show an increase in the participation rate.

The activities with the smallest percentage differences between individual and household participation rates include overnight camping and visiting historic sites and museums. Those activities and others with relatively small differences between individual and household rates are ones that entire households tend to do together. Conversely, hunting and trapping and golf displayed the greatest differences between individual and household participation rates. These activities tend not to be practiced by the entire household.

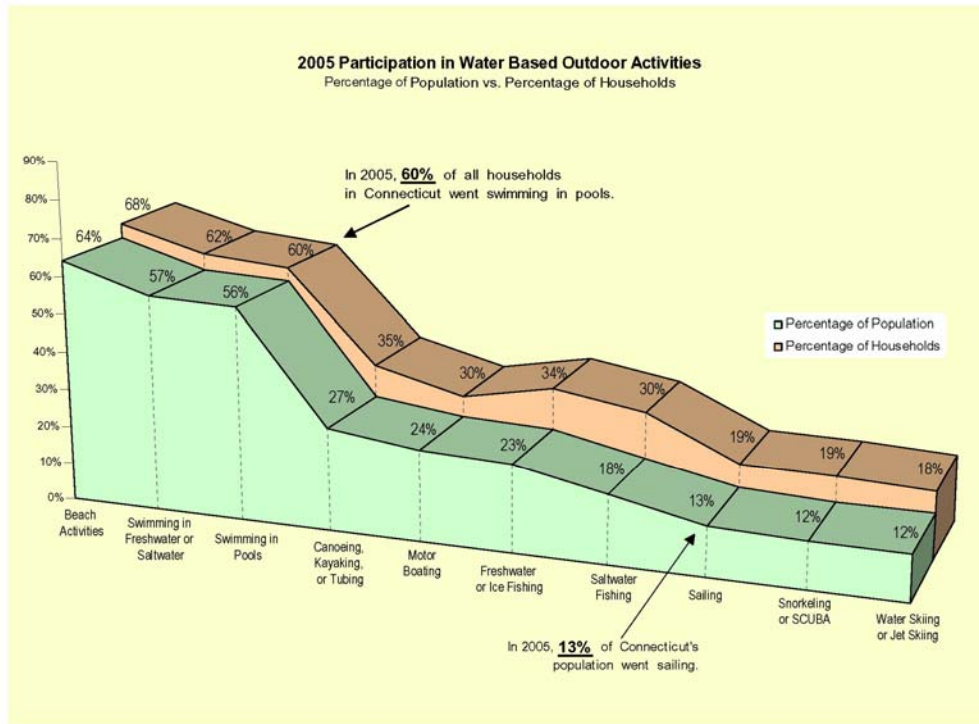
Rank*	Land Based Outdoor Recreational Activities	Citizen Demand Survey			NSRE		
		% CT Population that participated in 2005	% CT Households that participated in 2005	Difference in Usage between Households and Populaiton	% CT Population that Participated in 2004	% CT Population that Participated in 1995	% National Population that Participated (Data Collected 2000 to 2004)
1	Running, Walking or Hiking	72%	86%	19%	86%	73%	83%
2	Visiting Historic Sites or Museums	57%	65%	14%	49%	42%	46%
3	Road Biking / Biking in Neighborhoods	38%	49%	30%	41%	30%	39%
4	Bird Watching or Wildlife Viewing	37%	46%	25%	46%	30%	45%
5	Overnight Camping	31%	36%	17%	31%	18%	27%
6	Basketball or Volleyball	24%	36%	50%	21%	8%	14%
7	Golf	22%	39%	79%	21%	17%	17%
8	Tennis	21%	30%	43%	17%	10%	11%
9	Baseball or Softball	19%	30%	60%	12%	7%	10%
10	Rollerblading or Skateboarding	18%	29%	61%			18%
11	Mountain Biking or Trail biking	18%	27%	48%			21%
12	Soccer	16%	25%	56%	13%	4%	8%
13	Football, Lacrosse, Field Hockey or Rugby	12%	20%	67%	11%	4%	8%
14	Motorized biking	11%	18%	62%	13%	6%	19%
15	Hunting or Trapping	10%	18%	80%	8%	5%	11%
16	Horseback Riding	10%	17%	69%	5%	5%	10%
Notes:							
* Sorted by % of CT Population that Participated in 2005							

**Figure 7-2**



## 7.2.2 Participation in Water-Based Activities

Figures 7-3 and 7-4 indicate that the most popular water-based activities practiced by Connecticut residents are activities at the beach, and swimming in freshwater, saltwater, or pools, with 68% of all households and 64% of all individuals participating in the former activity, and 62% of households and 57% of individuals participating in the latter. Given Connecticut's abundant water resources, it is no surprise that Connecticut's participation rates exceed the national averages for these activities. Sailing, snorkeling/ scuba diving, and water skiing/ jet skiing are more specialized activities, appealing to fewer than 20% of the households and approximately 12% of the individuals.



**Figure 7-3**

For the most part, the Citizen Demand Survey's ranking of water-based activities mirrors the NSRE's ranking; however, there are two deviations. The Citizen Demand Survey shows a far greater percentage of individuals participating in canoeing, kayaking, or tubing than does the NSRE. In fact, this was the fourth highest-rated activity. This discrepancy can be accounted for by differences in the way the two surveys grouped the activities and by the way CPR reported the NSRE data. NSRE treats canoeing and kayaking as separate activities. Rather than adding these participation rates together, the greater of the two was used in this chart. Thus, the NSRE participation rate for this category may be understated. The second discrepancy is in the participation rates for freshwater fishing. The Citizen Demand Survey data shown below ranked freshwater fishing sixth, based on the individual participation rates, whereas this activity would rank higher based on either the NSRE data or the Citizen Demand Survey's household data.

Rank*	Water Based Outdoor Recreational Activities	Citizen Demand Survey			NSRE		
		% CT Population That Participated in 2005	% CT Households That Participated in 2005	Difference in Usage between Households and Populaiton	% CT Population That Participated in 2004	% CT Population That Participated in 1995	% National Population that Participated (Data Collected 2000 to 2004)
1	Activities at the Beach	64%	68%	6%	72%	73%	43%
2	Swimming in Freshwater/Saltwater	57%	62%	8%	53%	55%	42%
3	Swimming in Pools	56%	60%	6%	46%	49%	42%
4	Canoeing, Kayaking or Tubeing	27%	35%	31%	15%	7%	10%
5	Motor Boating	24%	30%	23%	23%	23%	25%
6	Freshwater Fishing or Ice Fishing	23%	34%	48%	30%	28%	34%
7	Saltwater Fishing	18%	30%	67%	16%	16%	10%
8	Sailing	13%	19%	48%	11%	8%	5%
9	Snorkeling or Scuba Diving	12%	19%	56%	10%	10%	7%
10	Water Skiing or Jet Skiing	12%	18%	47%	7%	3%	10%
Notes:							
* Sorted by % of CT Population that Participated in 2005							

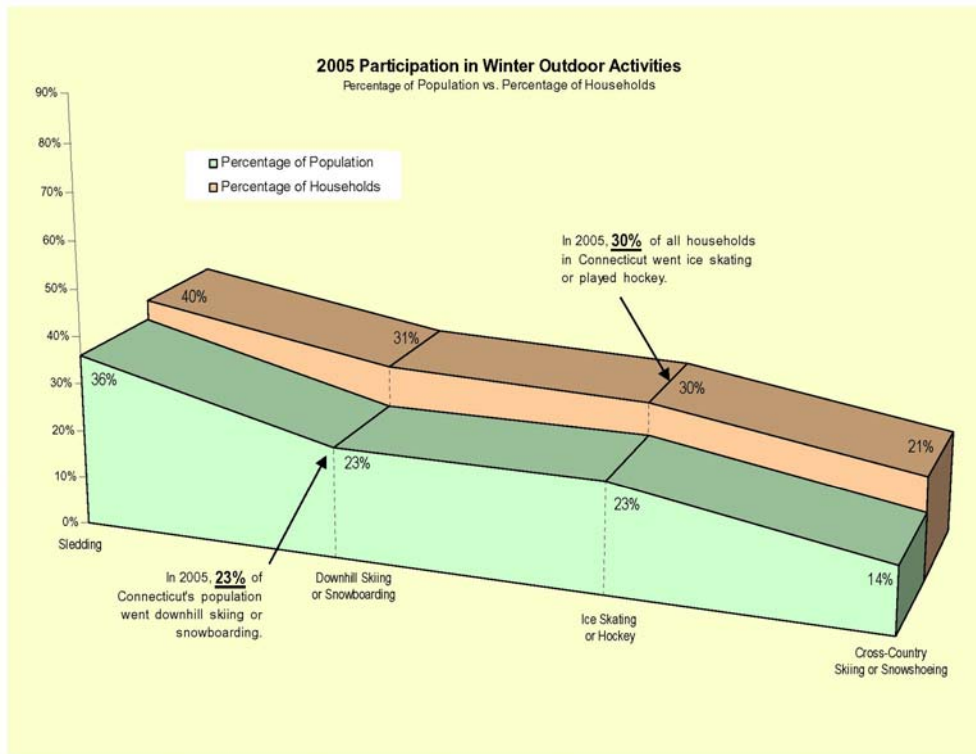
**Figure 7-4**

From 1995 to 2004, the NSRE data show the greatest percentage increase in the participation rates of water skiing/jet skiing and canoeing/kayaking/tubing. The participation rates in the other water-based activities did not change significantly.

The Citizen Demand Survey shows that activities at the beach and swimming are the highest rated water-based activities. In addition, the extremely low differences between individual rates and household rates implies that entire households participate in these activities. Among water-based activities, saltwater fishing showed the greatest difference between individual and household participation, implying that entire households generally do not participate in this activity.

### 7.2.3 Participation in Winter Activities

Figure 7-5 shows that sledding is the most popular winter activity in Connecticut, with 40% of Connecticut's households and 36% of individuals participating, based on the Citizen Demand Survey. Downhill skiing/snowboarding and ice-skating or hockey have very similar participation rates with approximately 30% of households and 23% of individuals participating. Cross-country skiing or snowshoeing attracts 21% of households and 14% of individuals.



**Figure 7-5**

Figure 7-6 shows that Connecticut’s participation rates for winter activities exceed the national average, which is no surprise given its climate. From 1995 to 2004, Connecticut’s participation in sledding and ice skating/hockey increased, while its participation in downhill skiing/snowboarding and cross-country skiing/snowshoeing decreased. The large differences in household and individual participation rates for all of the winter activities except sledding would suggest that most of them are done by individuals rather than by entire households.

Rank*	Winter Outdoor Recreational Activities	Citizen Demand Survey			NSRE		
		% CT Population That Participated in 2005	% CT Households That Participated in 2005	Difference in Usage between Households and Population	% CT Population That Participated in 2004	% CT Population That Participated in 1995	% National Population that Participated (Data Collected 2000 to 2004)
1	Sledding	36%	40%	12%	22%	13%	15%
2	Downhill Skiing or Snowboarding	23%	31%	37%	11%	14%	8%
3	Ice Skating or Hockey	23%	30%	30%	15%	8%	7%
4	Cross-Country Skiing or Snowshoeing	14%	21%	52%	6%	8%	4%
Notes:							
* Sorted by % of CT Population that Participated in 2005							

**Figure 7-6**

## 7.2.4 All Activities

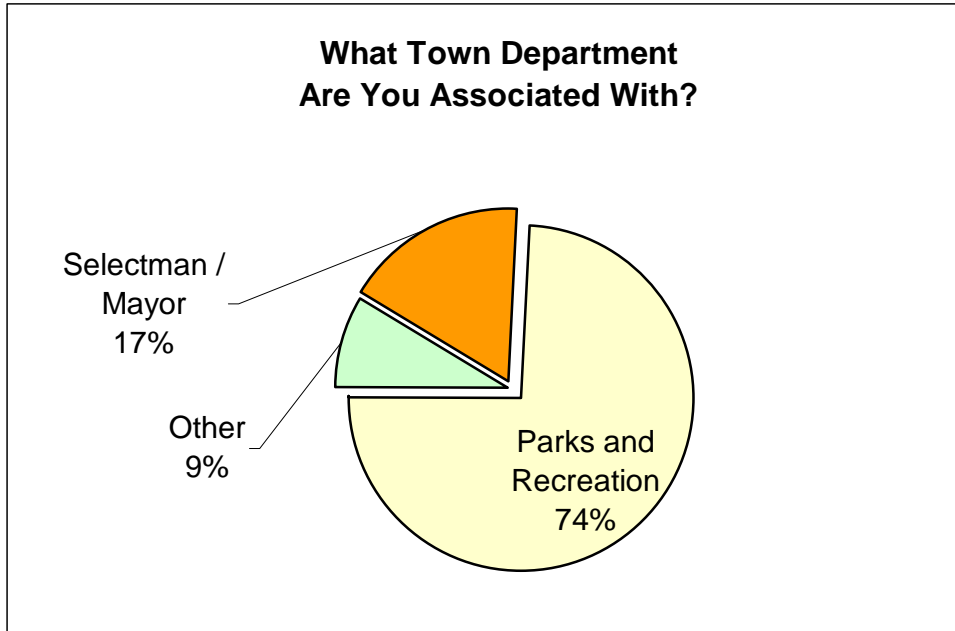
Figure 7-7 presents all thirty activities by decreasing order of the percentage of individuals participating. The five most popular activities are running/walking/hiking (72%), activities at the beach (64%), visiting historic sites and museums (57%), swimming in freshwater/saltwater (57%), and swimming in pools (56%). Over half of Connecticut's residents participate in each of these activities. The least popular among the surveyed activities are snorkeling/scuba diving (12%), water skiing/jet skiing (12%), football et al. (12%), motorized biking (11%), hunting/trapping (10%), and horseback riding (10%).

Some activities tend to be practiced by entire or substantially entire households, while others are enjoyed by an individual or by a few members of a household. By dividing the percent of participating households by the percent of participating individuals, the activities can be ranked in order of the activities most commonly practiced together as a household. The five highest household activities are activities at the beach, swimming (both in freshwater/saltwater and in pools), sledding, visiting historic sites, and overnight camping. The activities that tend to be practiced by individuals or by just a few members of a household are golf, hunting/trapping, football et al., saltwater fishing, horseback riding, and rollerblading.

Outdoor Recreational Activities	%	%
	Individuals	Households
Running, walking or hiking	72%	86%
Activities at the beach	64%	68%
Visiting historic sites or museums	57%	65%
Swimming in freshwater/saltwater	57%	62%
Swimming in pools	56%	60%
Road biking / biking in neighborhoods	38%	49%
Bird watching or wildlife viewing	37%	46%
Sledding	36%	40%
Overnight camping	31%	36%
Canoeing, kayaking, or tubing	27%	35%
Basketball or volleyball	24%	36%
Motor boating	24%	30%
Downhill skiing or snowboarding	23%	31%
Ice skating or hockey	23%	30%
Freshwater fishing or ice fishing	23%	34%
Golf	22%	39%
Tennis	21%	30%
Baseball or softball	19%	30%
Saltwater fishing	18%	30%
Rollerblading or skateboarding	18%	29%
Mountain biking or trail biking	18%	27%
Soccer	16%	25%
Cross country or snowshoeing	14%	21%
Sailing	13%	19%
Snorkeling or scuba diving	12%	19%
Water skiing or jet skiing	12%	18%
Football, lacrosse field hockey or rugby	12%	20%
Motorized biking	11%	18%
Hunting or trapping	10%	18%
Horseback Riding	10%	17%

**Figure 7-7**

### 7.2.5 Town Officials – Popular Local Activities



**Figure 7-8**

Town officials were asked to indicate what were the two most popular activities or resources for the following groups of people: families, pre-school children, children 5-12, adolescents, adults, and seniors. Ninety-five town officials from eighty-one of Connecticut's 169 municipalities responded to this online survey. Figure 7-8 shows that the majority of the responding town officials worked within the parks and recreation department of the participating town. For each age group, the town officials listed which activities and facilities are the most popular and, therefore, which are most important in meeting the needs of that age group.

**Families:**

- swimming
- sports
- playgrounds
- picnic areas

**Pre-School Children:**

- swimming
- recreation programs
- picnic areas
- playgrounds

**Children 5 – 12:**

- playgrounds
- recreation programs
- swimming
- sports

Adolescents:

- sports leagues
- recreation center
- skiing

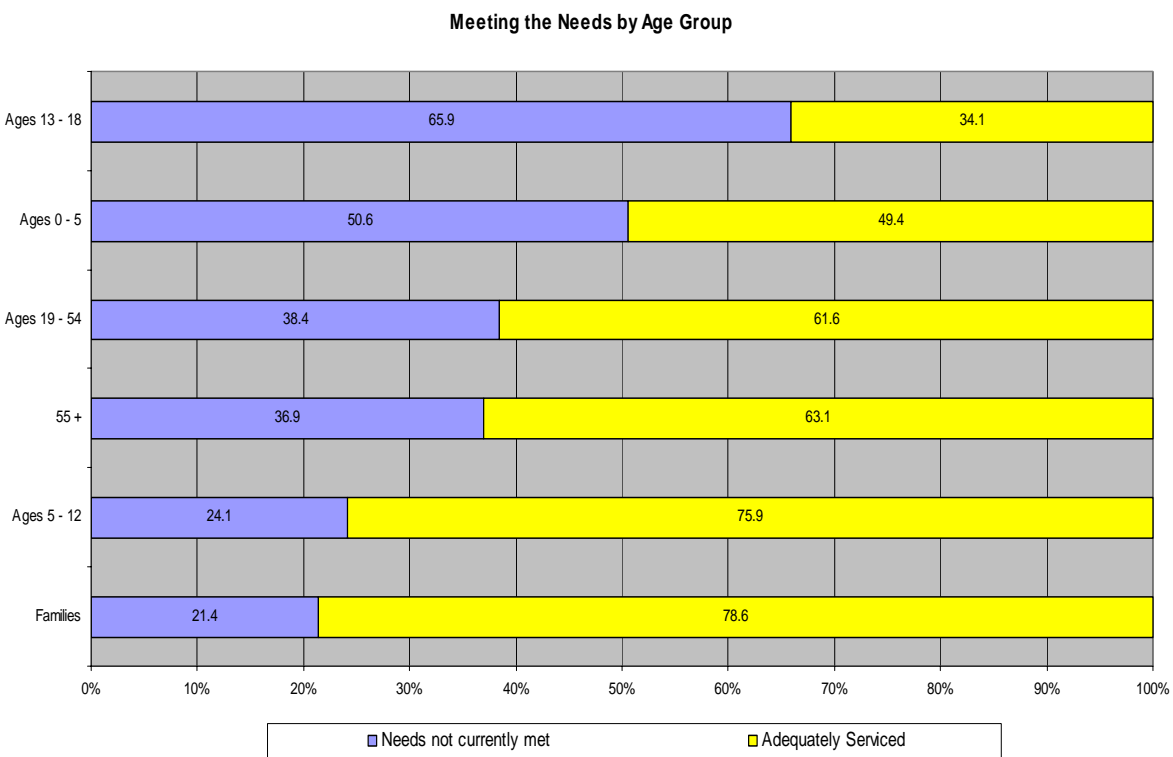
Adults:

- sports leagues
- fitness facilities
- walking and hiking trails
- swimming

Seniors:

- community center
- fitness facilities
- trips
- swimming
- walking trails

The town officials were also asked to indicate the extent to which they felt they were adequately serving or meeting the needs of each of the six groups. Figure 7-9 shows that, while the town officials felt they were servicing families and children 5-12 quite well, they rated their efforts to meet the needs of adolescents and young children as less than adequate.



**Figure 7-9**



Given the chance to expand on the needs of the most under-served groups, town officials focused on toddlers and teens. They indicated that, in most cases, their towns simply do not have adequate facilities or programs for toddlers. Many said that they tend to focus on children in the middle years rather than on the very young. They also cited the need for teen centers and for activities other than sports leagues as measures to improve the way their towns address the recreational needs of their teens.

### 7.2.6 Avid Users Survey

As described in the Chapter 4 discussion on methodology, avid users were asked to enter the five activities they participate in most often. As respondents were solicited from lists of user groups and through snowball sampling, this survey was not random. (The demographics of the sample are included in Appendix E.) The activities the respondents selected as their first choice are listed below.

<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>% of Respondents Selecting Activity as Their First Choice</u></b>
• horseback riding	21.7%
• bicycling	17%
• hiking	12.6%
• driving an ATV or motorized vehicle	11.7%
• bird watching	8.2 %
• hunting	4.7%
• walking	4.0%
• fishing	3.9%
• kayaking	2.3%
• rock climbing	2.3%
• trail running	2.1%
• target shooting	1.8%

These twelve activities were the first choice of 92.3 % of the avid user sample (n=1121). In addition, the respondents mentioned that they also enjoyed the activities listed in Figure 7-10, though they were not the first choices of many respondents.

## Other Activities of Avid Users

Dog walking	Basketball	Triathlon
Boating	Beach	Ballroom dancing
Camping	Boy Scouts	Caving
Swimming	Curves for Women	Cheerleading
Museums	Dressage	Downhill skiing
Picnicking	Driving in the country	Dragon-flying
Carriage driving	Exercise	Hang gliding
Cross country skiing	Falconry	Health club exercise
Golf	Football	Ice skating
Orienteering	Gardening	Paintball
RC airplanes	Letter boxing	Playgrounds
Sailing	Organized sports	Rollerblading
Softball	Picking mushrooms	Rugby
Tennis	Snowmobiling	Soccer
Archery	Snowshoeing	Volleyball
		Windsurfing

**Figure 7-10**

### *7.2.7 Frequency – How Often Do People Participate In Outdoor Recreation?*

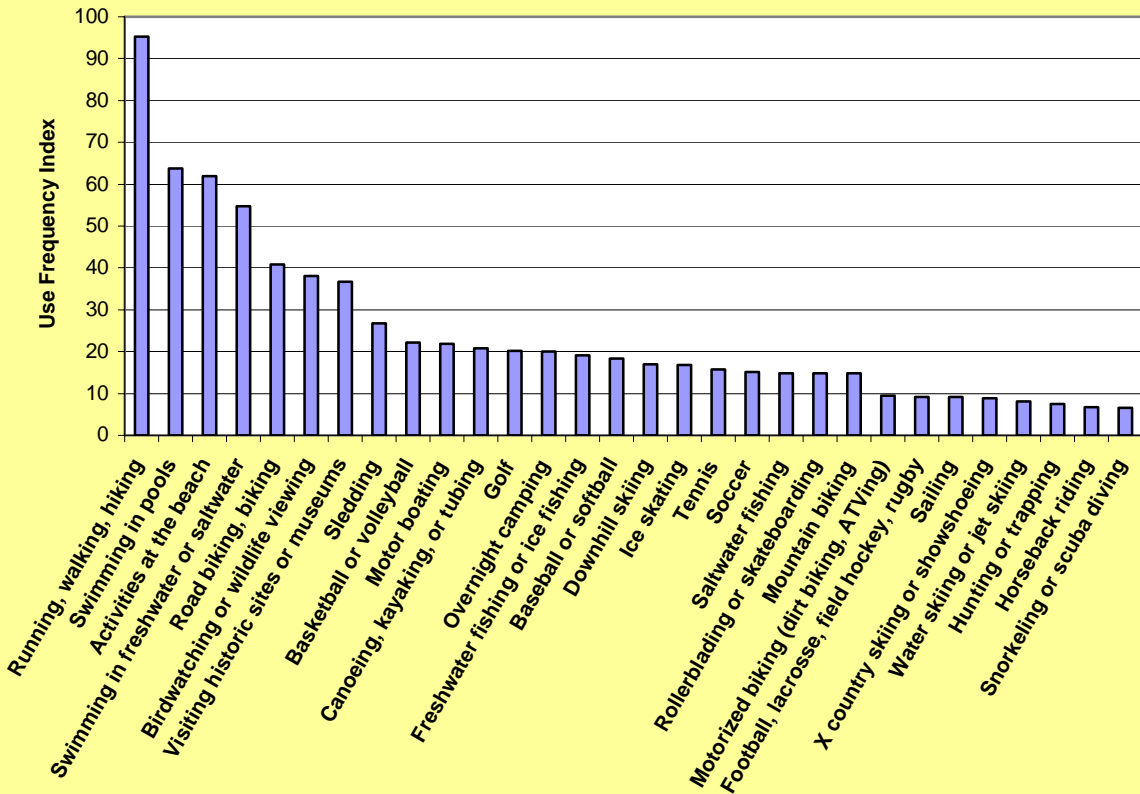
In the previous section of this chapter, data from the Citizen Demand Survey were analyzed to determine the percentage of Connecticut’s residents who participate in various land-based, water-based and winter activities. However, the participation rates as cited do not reflect the frequency of participation. If respondents participated in an activity once a year, they have been considered participants in that recreational activity. In this section, the survey data have been adjusted to reflect the frequency of use to provide a more complete picture of recreational usage.

Citizen Demand Survey respondents indicated how many household members participated in each of the thirty activities. Then, as a household, they indicated whether they practiced the activity: 1) seldom or never, 2) less than once a month, 3) at least once a month, 4) a few times per month, or 5) several times per week. Seasonal differences were ignored in this analysis and the responses provided by the citizens were assumed to be accurate. To compare the intensity of participation across the thirty activities, the Use/Frequency (UF) was computed and that measure was used to construct and to chart a Use Frequency Index (UFI).

These were the steps in the methodology:

1. Categories 1 and 2 were combined, i.e., “less than once a month” and “seldom or never” were combined and labeled as “seldom”.
2. The frequency level reported by the respondent was attributed to all members of the household. This introduced some error, but probably less error than if the respondents would have been asked to provide individual frequencies for each member of the household. The frequency of each activity may be somewhat overstated since the respondents may have been more inclined to note the participation rates of the household member most involved rather than least involved. However, there is no reason to assume that that error pertains to one activity more than any other.
3. The reported frequency level was multiplied by the number of participants for each activity. Summing these numbers for any one activity gives the UF. In this way, a participant that engages in an activity several times a week generated an UF of 4 while someone who practices the activity less than once a month produced an UF of 1. Similarly, an UF of 2 was assigned to a user participating at least once a month, and an UF of 3 to a user engaged several times per month in an activity.
4. The UF was then divided by the greatest possible UF (4 or “several times a week”) times the number of people in the sample ( $n= 6222$ ). In other words, if every single member of the sample did an activity several times a week, the UF for that activity would be 24,888 ( $4 \times 6222$ ). Dividing the UF by this number gives a clearer indication of the intensity of involvement for each activity. Since the highest quotient generated for any activity was .4765, all of the results were multiplied by 200. The number thus generated is here defined as the User Frequency Index or UFI and falls on a scale of 0 to 100. An UFI of 100 can be understood to be an activity that is practiced by 50% of all people several times a week. However, other combinations of use and frequency can also produce an UFI of 100. Still, the UFI permits comparison of the intensity of participation for all thirty activities. The results can then be generalized for the entire population of the state of Connecticut.

## Ranking of Thirty Activities by Use Frequency Index



**Figure 7-11**

Although the UFI is just an approximation of the frequency of use, it does provide a useful measure of the relative total involvement of Connecticut's residents in the thirty outdoor recreational activities listed in the survey. Figure 7-11, which graphs the UFIs of all thirty activities, clearly shows that running, walking and hiking is the most popular activity by far and, consequently, expresses the greatest demand. The next three most popular activities are all water-based and tend to be practiced by entire households.

Figure 7-12 provides a series of statistics for each of the thirty activities in descending order of UFI. The chart includes

1. Total UF.
2. Total UF of frequent users. (Frequent users are defined as those who participate at a frequency of several times per week.)
3. Total UF of Seldom Users. (Seldom users are defined as those that participate at a frequency of less than once a month.)
4. UFI.
5. Percent of UFI attributable to frequent users.
6. Percent of UFI attributable to moderate users. (Moderate users are defined as those that engage in the activity at least once a month but less than several times a week.)
7. Percent of UFI attributable to seldom users.
8. Percent of the population that engages in the activity regardless of intensity.
9. Total participants. The percentage of participants from the Citizen Demand Survey is generalized to the entire population of Connecticut to give a best estimate of the total number of Connecticut citizens that engage in the activity.

10-14. A breakdown of participants and non-participants. For each activity, estimates are given of the total number of participants who are frequent users, moderate users, seldom users, or non-participants.

By placing all thirty activities on an identical metric, the UFI provides a tool to compare the relative intensity of participation. At the same time, this report recognizes that there is a wide variation in usage and, consequently, demand among the participants. Figure 7-12 is a useful tool for comparing overall intensity of participation and for inferring demand among the thirty activities.

In addition, for each activity Figure 7-12 shows 1) the degree of total usage, 2) the percentage of participation by frequent users, moderate users, and seldom users, 3) the total number of participants, and 4) participants grouped by degree of participation. For example, swimming in pools has the second highest UFI with 1.9 million (56%) of Connecticut's residents participating. Forty-one percent of the use is by frequent users and forty-seven percent of the use is by moderate users, indicating that many people participate in this activity with some intensity. Twice as many people are frequent swimming pool users as compared to participants in beach activities, but more people are shown to be moderate and seldom users of beach activities than users of swimming pools. This likely reflects that pool users have pools locally available, whereas beach users often do not have beach opportunities similarly nearby. All thirty activities can be compared in this way. When planners consider the analysis of supply along with this analysis of demand, this data will be a valuable long term planning aid.

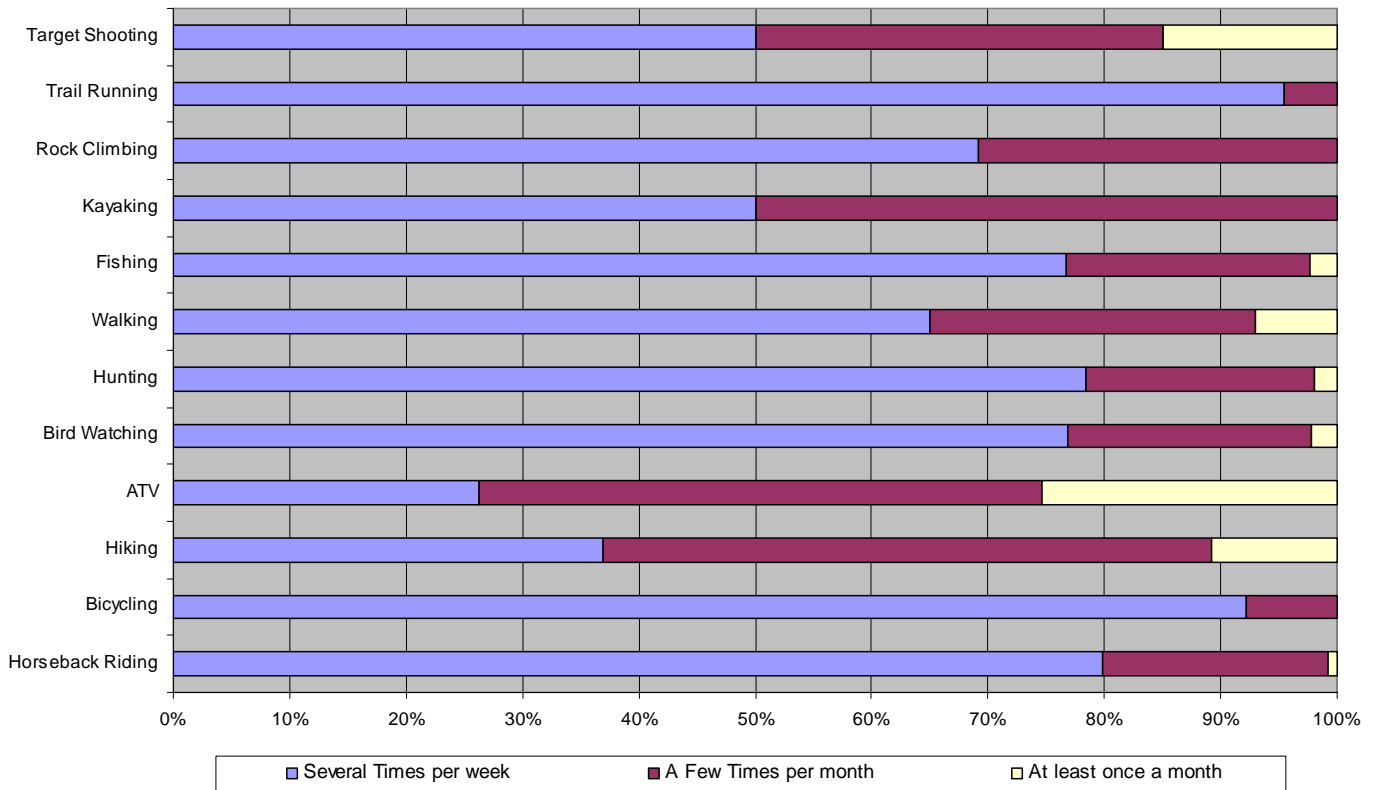
### Comparative Use Frequency Indices for Thirty Activities

Activity	UF			UFI	Percent of UFI			Percent of Population	N of Population	N of			Non Participants
	Total UF	Frequent	Seldom		Frequent	Moderate	Seldom			N Frequent	N Moderate	N Seldom	
Running, Walking, Hiking	11858	5990	607	95.3	50%	45%	5%	72%	2,452,007	815,516	1,304,254	332,237	953,558
Swimming in Pools	7925	3280	944	63.7	41%	47%	12%	56%	1,907,116	448,808	941,617	516,691	1,498,449
Activities at the Beach	7719	1644	1430	62.0	21%	60%	19%	64%	2,179,562	224,951	1,171,911	782,700	1,226,003
Swimming in Fresh or Saltwater	6905	1532	1286	54.7	23%	59%	19%	57%	1,941,172	209,626	1,027,964	703,882	1,464,393
Road Biking, Biking	5087	1484	619	40.9	29%	59%	12%	38%	1,294,115	203,058	752,252	338,805	2,111,450
Birding	4738	1820	758	38.1	38%	46%	16%	37%	1,260,059	249,034	596,140	414,886	2,145,506
Museums	4569	176	2222	36.7	4%	48%	49%	57%	1,941,172	24,082	700,895	1,216,195	1,464,393
Sledding	3337	260	1168	26.8	8%	57%	35%	36%	1,226,003	35,576	551,131	639,296	2,179,562
Basketball	2757	816	610	22.2	30%	48%	22%	24%	817,336	111,655	371,802	333,879	2,588,229
Motor Boating	2710	888	672	21.8	33%	42%	25%	24%	817,336	121,506	328,015	367,814	2,588,229
Canoing	2589	376	893	20.8	15%	51%	34%	27%	919,503	51,449	379,277	488,777	2,486,062
Golf	2517	636	562	20.2	25%	52%	22%	22%	749,224	87,025	354,593	307,606	2,656,341
Camping	2494	200	1286	20.0	8%	40%	52%	31%	1,055,725	27,366	324,476	703,882	2,349,840
Freshwater Fishing	2381	472	663	19.1	20%	52%	28%	23%	783,280	64,585	355,807	362,888	2,622,285
Baseball	2286	780	486	18.4	34%	45%	21%	19%	647,057	106,729	274,320	266,008	2,758,508
Downhill Skiing	2120	104	816	17.0	9%	53%	38%	23%	703,200	25,177	311,471	446,631	2,622,285
Ice Skating	2092	316	852	16.8	15%	53%	41%	23%	783,280	43,239	273,705	466,336	2,622,285
Tennis	1948	356	742	15.7	18%	44%	38%	21%	715,169	48,712	290,328	406,128	2,690,396
Soccer	1894	664	419	15.2	35%	43%	22%	16%	544,890	90,856	224,698	229,337	2,860,675
Saltwater Fishing	1858	364	587	14.9	20%	49%	32%	18%	613,002	49,807	241,905	321,290	2,792,563
Rollerblading	1837	400	566	14.8	22%	47%	31%	18%	613,002	54,733	248,473	309,796	2,792,563
Mountain Biking	1766	220	571	14.2	12%	55%	32%	18%	613,002	30,103	270,366	312,533	2,792,563
MotORIZED Biking	1184	284	363	9.5	24%	45%	31%	11%	374,612	38,860	137,067	198,685	3,030,953
Football	1149	336	436	9.2	29%	33%	38%	12%	408,668	45,975	124,051	238,641	2,996,897
Sailing	1147	180	532	9.2	16%	38%	46%	13%	442,723	24,630	126,908	291,186	2,962,842
X Country	1096	120	580	8.8	11%	36%	53%	14%	476,779	16,420	142,901	317,459	2,928,786
Water Skiing	1002	176	508	8.1	18%	32%	51%	12%	408,668	24,082	106,535	278,050	2,996,897
Hunting	939	200	404	7.5	21%	36%	43%	10%	340,557	27,366	92,064	221,126	3,065,009
Horseback Riding	841	176	461	6.8	21%	24%	55%	10%	340,557	24,082	64,149	252,325	3,065,009
Snorkeling	824	44	617	6.6	5%	20%	75%	12%	408,668	6,021	64,937	337,710	2,996,897

Figure 7-12

Figure 7-13 shows how often the respondents in the Avid Users Survey participate in their first choice activities. The majority of avid users who participate in trail running, rock climbing, fishing, walking, hunting, bird watching, bicycling, and horseback riding do those activities several times a week. Fifty percent or fewer of the avid users who participate in target shooting, kayaking, driving ATVs, and hiking do those activities several times a week.

**Frequency of Participation by Avid Users**



**Figure 7-13**

**7.2.8 Summary**

Participation rates indicate that the demand for outdoor recreation opportunities in Connecticut is high and likely to increase. Among the general population, participation in land-based activities is the highest, but participation in water-based and winter activities is also high. The frequency rates among avid users greatly surpass the frequency rates of the general population.

### 7.3 Measuring and Meeting The Demand

In addition to being surveyed on what outdoor recreational activities are practiced and the frequency of participation, citizens were asked to assess their need for outdoor recreational facilities. For each of the recreational facilities listed below, respondents were asked the following questions:

1. Does your household have a need for this type of facility?
2. If so, how well are your needs being met? Possible responses were 100%, 75%, 50%, 25%, or 0%.

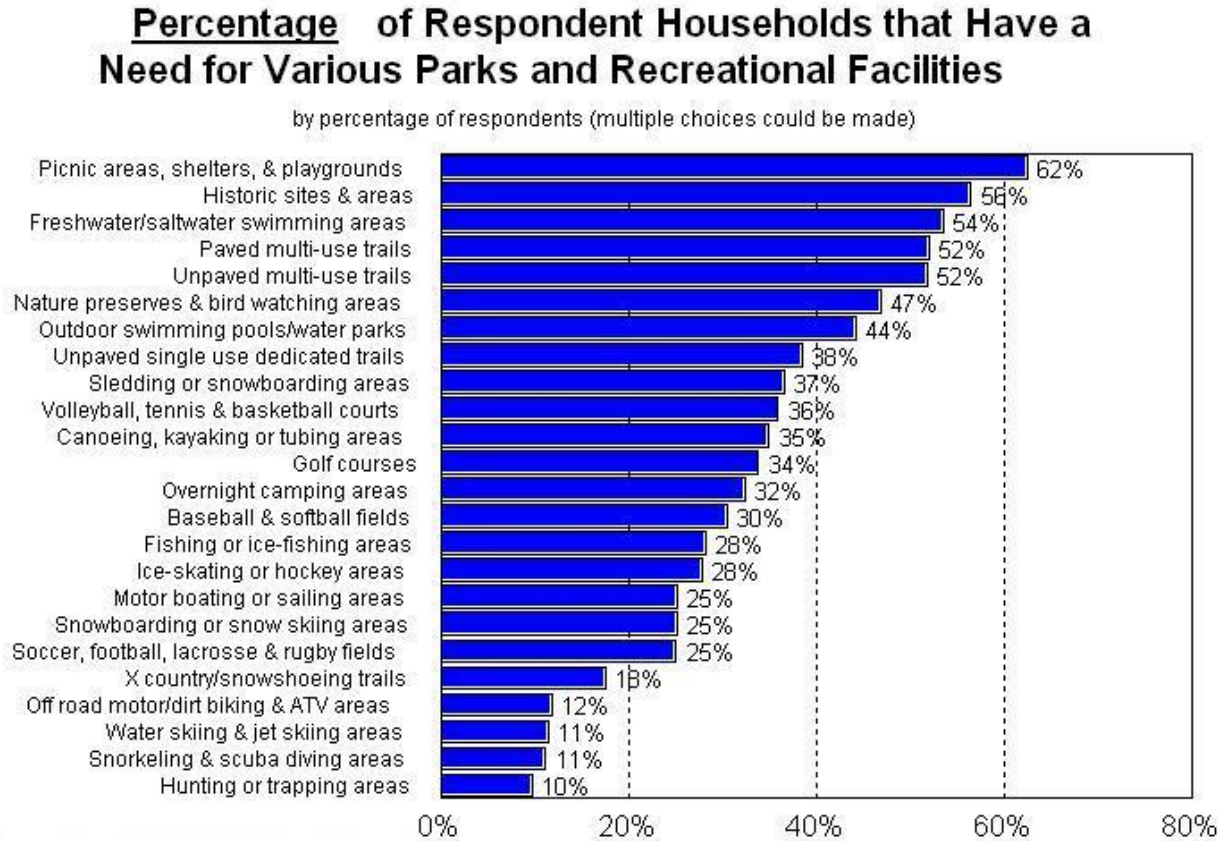
#### Recreational Facilities Surveyed

- paved multi-use trails
- unpaved multi-use trails
- cross-country skiing/snowshoeing trails
- off-road motor/dirt biking, and ATV areas
- unpaved single use dedicated trails
- picnic areas, shelters, and playgrounds
- baseball and softball fields
- soccer, football, lacrosse, and rugby fields
- volleyball, tennis, and basketball courts
- golf courses
- outdoor swimming pools/water parks
- freshwater/saltwater swimming areas
- motor boating or sailing areas
- water skiing and jet skiing areas
- snorkeling and scuba diving areas
- canoeing, kayaking or tubing areas
- nature preserves and bird watching areas
- historic sites and areas
- sledding or snowboarding areas
- ice-skating or hockey areas
- snowboarding or snow skiing areas
- overnight camping areas
- fishing or ice-fishing areas
- hunting or trapping areas



### 7.3.1 Quantification of the Demand for Facilities

Figure 7-14 presents the results of the first part of this survey. Respondents expressed the greatest need for picnic areas, shelters, and playgrounds, followed by historic sites and areas, freshwater/saltwater swimming areas, trails (both paved and unpaved), nature preserves, and outdoor swimming pools. A need for each of these types of facilities was expressed by over forty percent of respondent households.

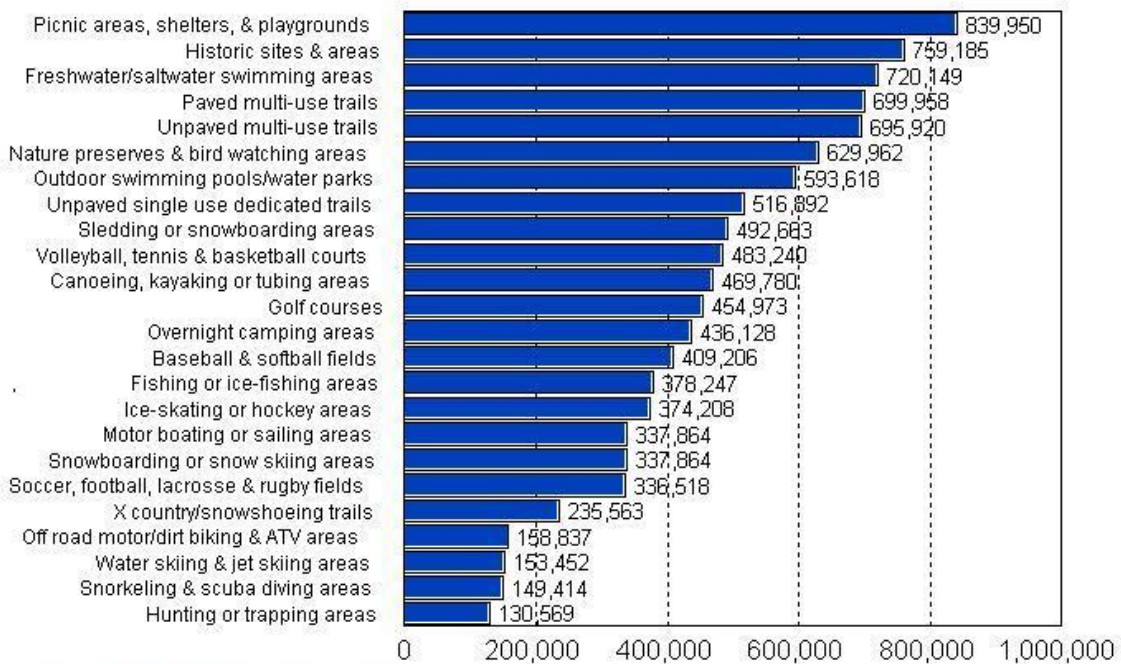


**Figure 7-14**

In Figure 7-15, the data from the survey sample is extrapolated to all Connecticut households. This shows that over 800,000 households (approximately 62%) have a need for picnic areas, shelters, and playgrounds. On the other hand, only about 130,000 households need hunting and trapping areas.

### **Number of Respondent Households that Have a Need for Various Parks and Recreational Facilities**

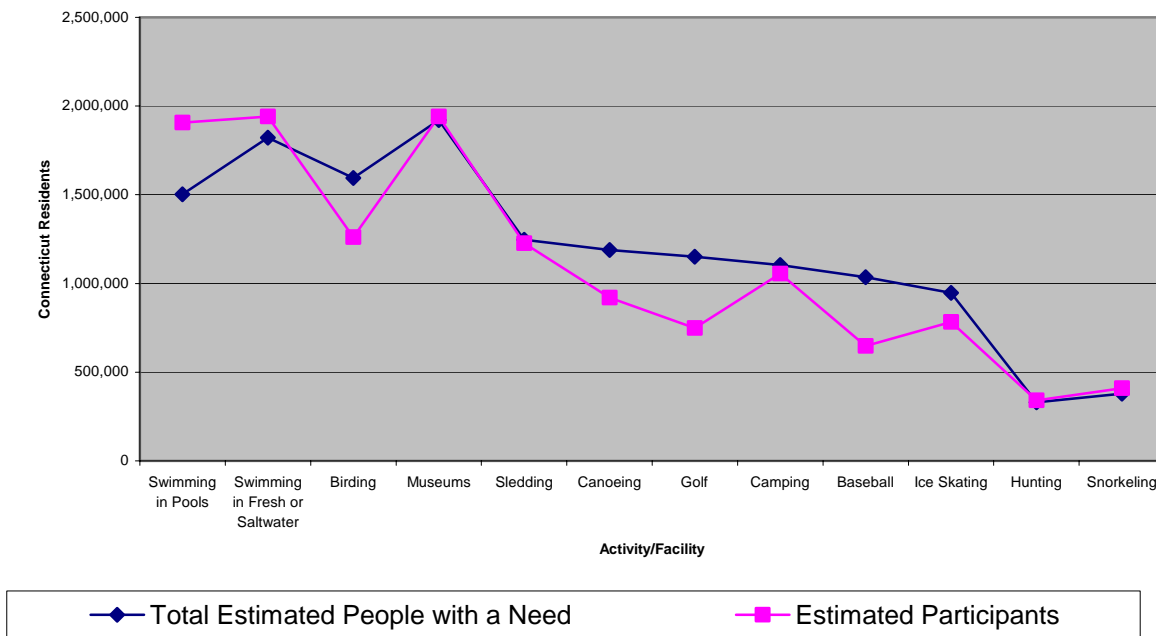
by number of households based on 1,346,073 households in the State of Connecticut



**Figure 7-15**

Figure 7-16 compares the estimated need for a type of a facility to the number of participants who would use that facility. Twelve different types of facilities are analyzed. Not all types of facilities could be included in this analysis because some may have multiple uses. For example, paved or unpaved multi-use trails may be used for walking, running, bicycling, or rollerblading. It is not possible to apportion the demand for facilities serving multiple uses among those activities. To estimate the number of people who need a facility, each household was assigned the Connecticut average number of occupants (2.53).

### Comparing Demand as Measured by Expressed Need and Participation



**Figure 7-16**

This analysis offers an internal validation for the survey results. The number of people who participate in an activity should theoretically be equal the number who have a need for that activity’s facility. Therefore, the similarity of the two lines is encouraging, given the correlation between the two estimates being 0.91. Several of the activities show variation between the estimates of the total statewide participants and the estimates of the total people who need facilities. For instance, the estimate of participants who swim in pools is higher than the estimate of people who need pools. Because swimming in pools is frequently a household activity, the number of people who need these facilities may be understated. For five other activities (birding, canoeing et al., golf, baseball, and ice skating), the estimates of people who need the facilities is higher than the estimate of individual participants. These five activities, especially golf, are activities that tend not to be total household activities. As such, the individual need for those facilities may be slightly overstated.

Nonetheless, the data show that, for a given type of facility, demand measured by number of participants is similar to demand measured by expressed need. The correlation of .91 for these two measures confirms that 1) demand has been measured with a high degree of internal validity within this sample, and 2) conclusions drawn from either index are valid.

### 7.3.2 Unmet Needs for Facilities

Next, survey participants were asked how well their needs for different types of facilities were being met. Possible responses were 1) Completely, 2) 75%, 3) 50%, 4) 25%, or 5) not at all met. Figure 7-17 shows the results for twenty-four different types of facilities. They are listed in descending order from the respondents' needs being best met to least met. For ten activities (historic sites, baseball and softball fields, boating or sailing, soccer/football, et. al, golf, fishing, picnic areas, nature preserves and bird watching areas, freshwater swimming, and unpaved multi-use trails), over 50% of the households indicated that that their needs are at least 75% met. Nonetheless, for these same activities, a substantial percentage of users expressed that their needs are met 50% or less. For example, 49% of the users of unpaved multi-use trails and 39% of the users of historic sites stated their needs were met 50% or less.

## How Well Parks and Recreational Facilities in Connecticut Meet the Needs of Respondent Households

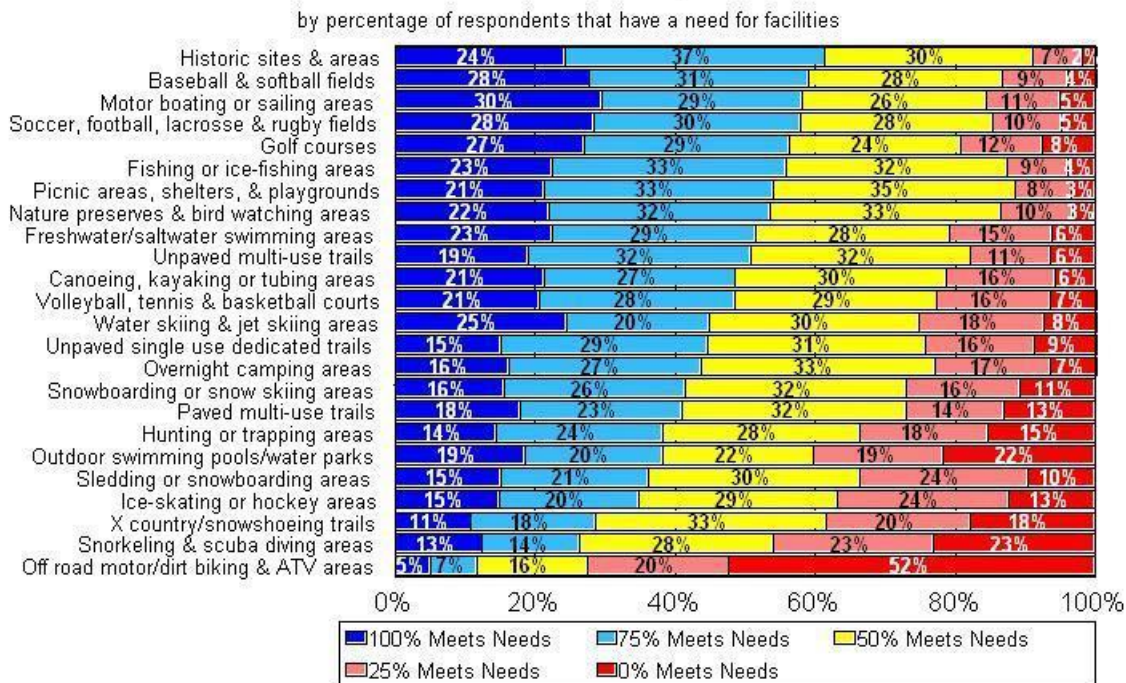


Figure 7-17

Figure 7-18 extrapolates the survey results to estimate the number of households in the state whose need for a given type of facility is 50% or more unmet. The largest single unmet need is for paved multi-use trails, with over 412,000 households having an unmet need. Further generalizing these findings to estimate the number of individuals rather than households indicates that the needs of over 1 million individuals are met 50% or less.

The second greatest unmet need is for picnic areas, shelters, and playgrounds. Despite this type of facility being listed among the ten highest-rated in terms of need being met, the unmet demand is still very high. This is because the overall need is so high, with over 800,000 households (approximately 2.13 million individuals) having a need for this type of facility. The



needs of 386,387 Connecticut households (977,559 individuals) are met 50% or less for these facilities.

The third largest unmet need is for outdoor swimming pools/water parks. The needs of 366,855 households (approximately 928,000 individuals) are met 50% or less. In addition, this type of facility had the greatest number of households and individuals suffering a *completely unmet* need. Of those households that expressed a need for outdoor swimming pools, twenty-two percent (130,596 households or approximately 330,000 individuals) do not have their needs met at all. Only 39% of the households with a need for outdoor swimming facilities stated that their needs were met 75% or more.

Several other types of facilities also have high rates of unmet need. Unpaved multi-use trails and unpaved single-use trails have, respectively, about 800,000 and 725,000 users with their need for that type of facility only being met 50% or less. Similar to swimming pool users, freshwater and saltwater swimmers expressed a high level of unmet need, with the needs of approximately 350,000 households being met 50% or less.

Although survey respondents also indicated that they had significant levels of unmet needs for all other types of facilities, it is clear that picnic areas, playgrounds, and shelters, all types of swimming facilities, and trails of all types are the greatest unmet needs of the people in Connecticut.

### Households in Connecticut Whose Needs for Facilities Are Only Being 50% Met or Less

by number of households based on 1,346,073 households in the State of Connecticut

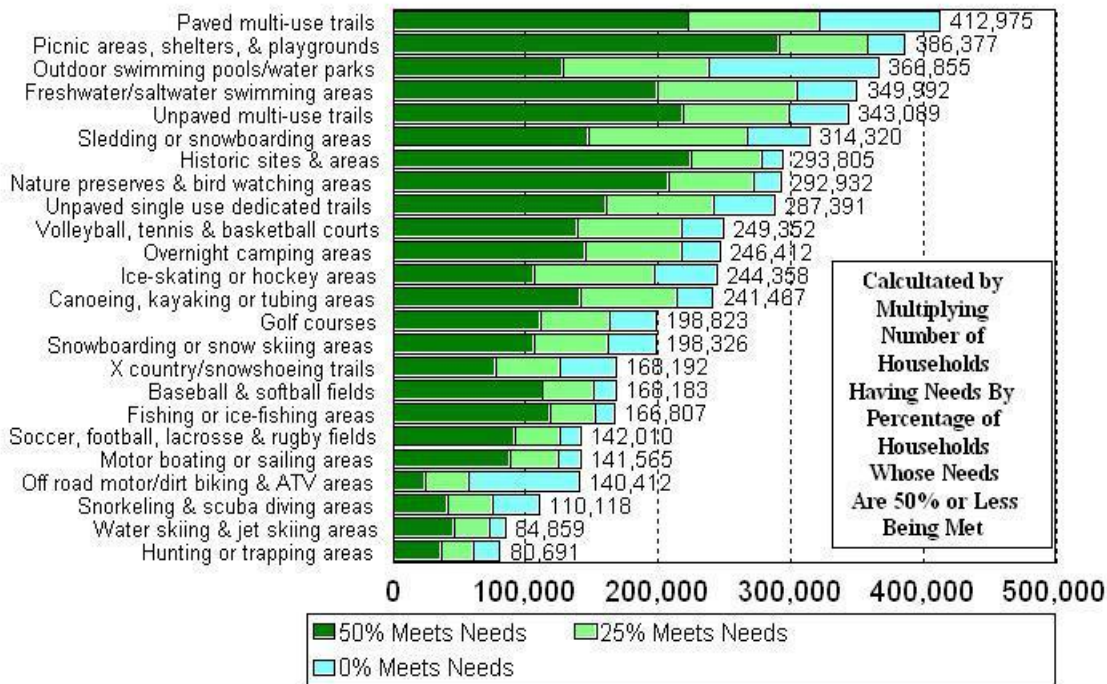


Figure 7-18

Some might argue that, as a state, Connecticut ought to concentrate on those facilities that have the highest percentage of users with a completely unmet need. In Figure 7-19, those facilities for which 10% or more of users say their needs are completely unmet are listed. For each facility, the percentage of users who say their needs are completely met is also listed.

The immediately striking statistic is that 52% of motorized bikers and ATV users express a completely unmet need. More than ten times as many users have a completely unmet need as those whose needs are completely met. No other facility even approaches this ratio. For many other activities, the ratio of completely unsatisfied to completely satisfied approaches or is less than one. In many cases, the distance of a facility from a participant may be more the source of dissatisfaction than the overall supply of that facility. Nonetheless, it is recognized that participants have a limited travel radius for recreational participation and that the unmet needs for the activities listed in this figure are very significant. For motorized bikes and ATVs, the 52% of the users expressing completely unmet needs yields a total population of unmet users of approximately 190,000 individuals. This is hardly an insubstantial number of individuals. However, by comparison, almost 420,000 individuals have a completely unmet need for outdoor swimming pools, while the needs of 230,000 individuals for paved multi-use trails are completely unmet.

### How Well Parks and Recreational Facilities in Connecticut Meet the Needs of Respondent Households

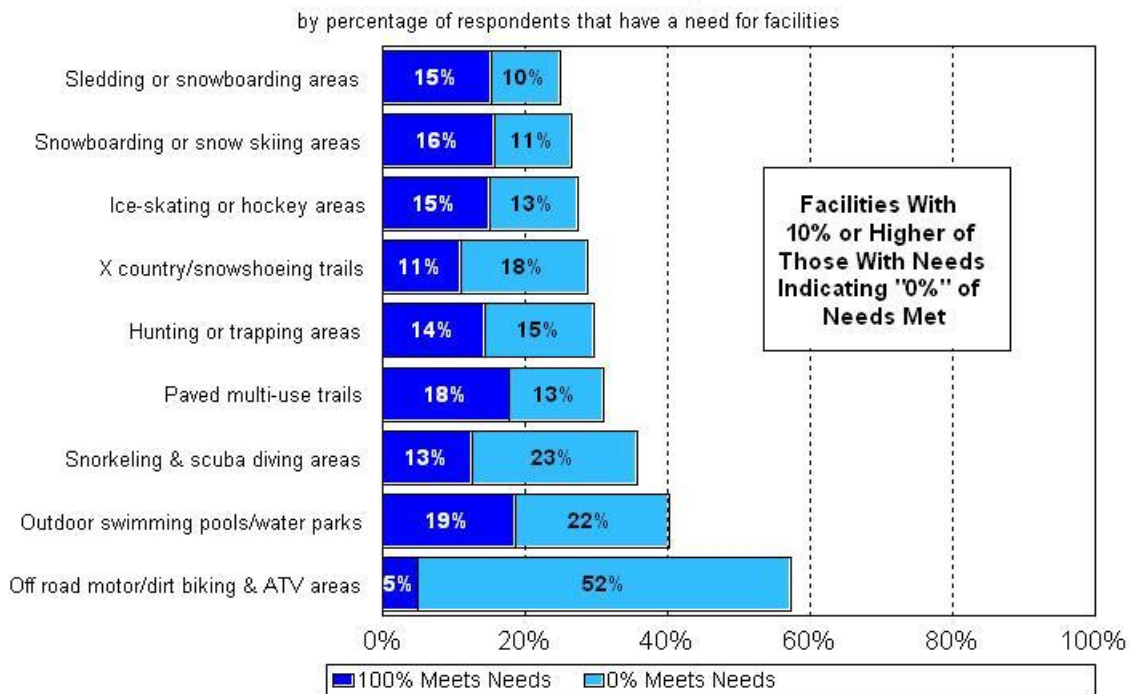
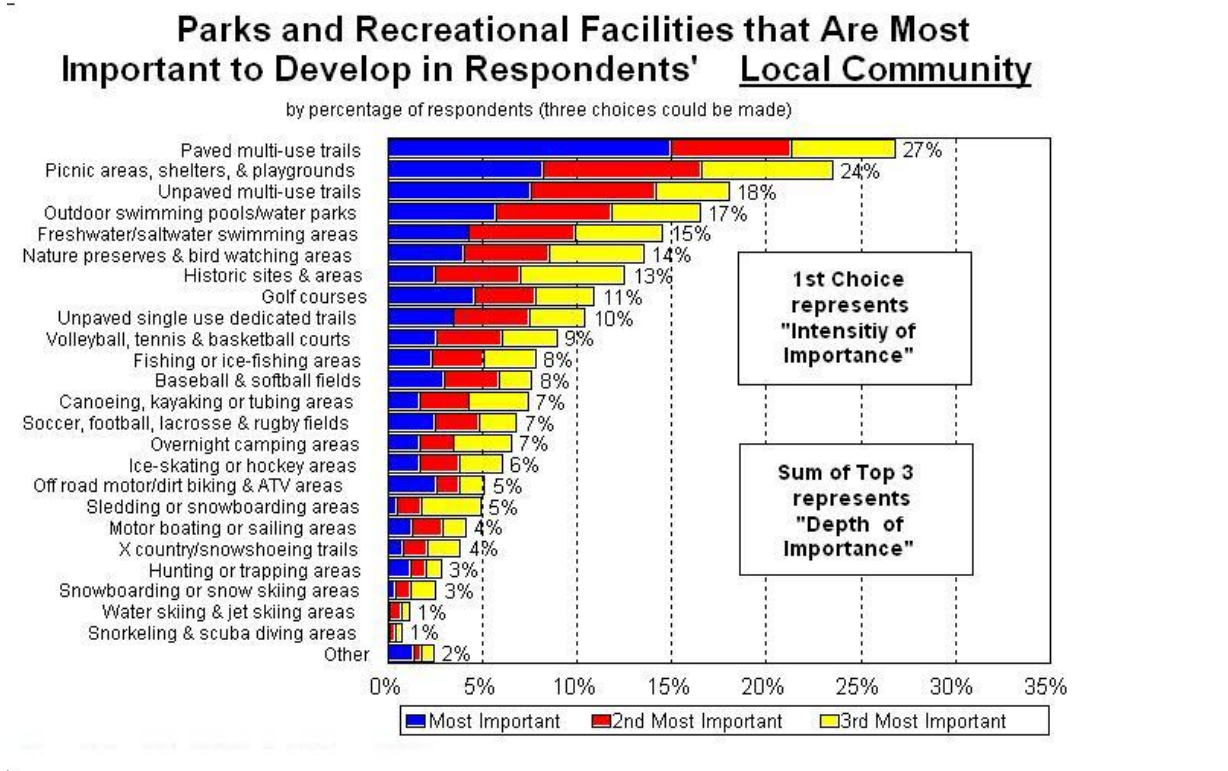


Figure 7-19

In order to clarify the priority of demand for facilities, respondents in the Citizen Demand Survey were asked: Which three of the twenty-four facilities listed above are most important to your household to develop in 1) your local community, and 2) in state parks or forests throughout the state of Connecticut? Whereas the earlier question asked respondents to indicate a need for each of the twenty-four facilities, these two questions asked respondents to list their top three choices. This resulted in a better assessment of the intensity of demand for each type of facility.

Figures 7-20 and 7-21 show the results. Paved multi-use trails were respondents' top choice of a facility to develop both locally and throughout the state. This was the *first* choice of the greatest number of individuals *and* households. This is not surprising since these trails are used by those who walk, run, hike, bike, roller-blade, and bird-watch. When considering the *sum* of the respondents' first, second, and third choices, the highest rated choice for development in local communities is still paved multi-use trails. In state parks, it is the third-rated cumulative choice, behind picnic areas, shelters and playgrounds and unpaved multi-use trails. Picnic areas and unpaved trails are the second and third choices for local parks.

In various forms, swimming facilities are the fourth choice for development in both local parks and state parks. In local areas, pools are the fourth choice followed closely by freshwater and saltwater areas. For state parks, only freshwater and saltwater swimming is highly noted. This may be because residents are aware that the state has few swimming pools. In both local and state parks, the next highest-rated new facility desired by respondents is nature preserves. These findings are consistent with usage and participation.

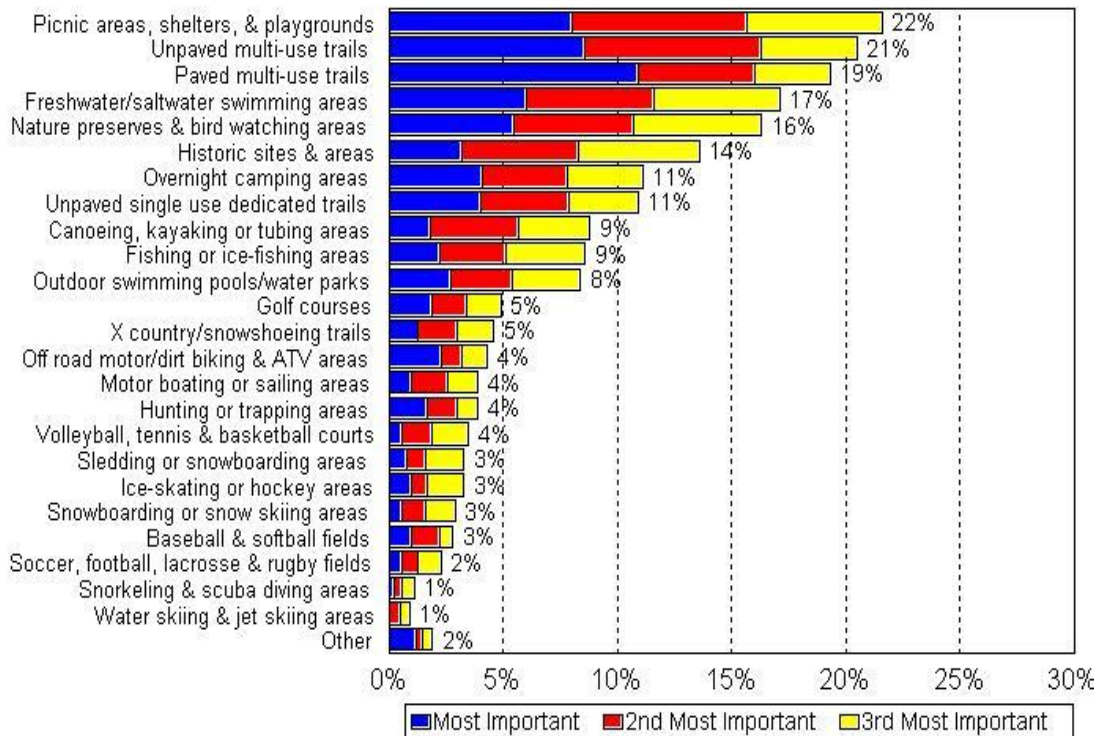


**Figure 7-20**



## Parks & Rec Facilities that Are Most Important to Develop in State Parks or Forests Throughout the State of Connecticut

by percentage of respondents (three choices could be made)



**Figure 7-21**

Figure 7-22 compares the results of analyzing the responses to the various survey questions on the demand for facilities. Whether the guiding principle is the intensity of use by Connecticut residents, the number of households expressing a need for a facility, or the first three choices selected for development, similar results are obtained. The citizens of Connecticut see the following facilities as being the most important to develop and to have available for their use:

1. Trails – paved, unpaved and, in some cases, dedicated single use.
2. Picnic Areas – areas with picnic areas, shelters and playgrounds
3. Swimming Facilities – in local areas most often pools, but also fresh and saltwater swimming. In state parks, mainly fresh and saltwater swimming
4. Nature Preserves – areas open to passive enjoyment, including birding.

## Comparative Ranking of Demand for Facilities

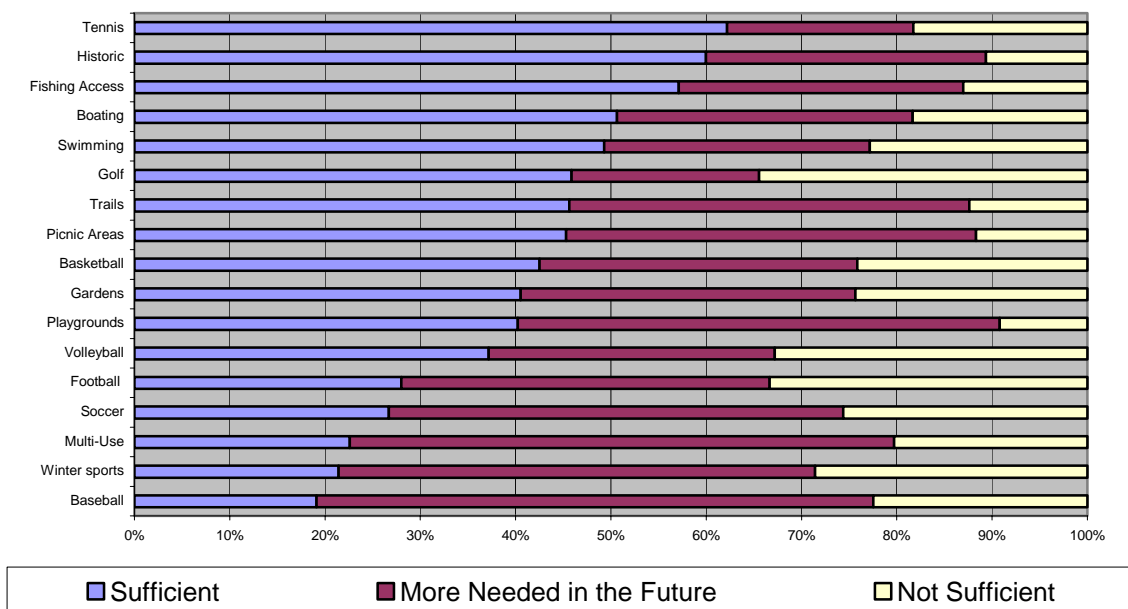
Type of Facility	Participation	Ranking of Household Number with a Need	Develop in	
	Ranking Based on UFI		Local Parks	Develop in State Parks
Picnic Areas	Not asked	1	2	1
Trails	1	4 or 5	1 or 3	2 or 3
Fresh or Saltwater Swimming	4	3	5	4
Nature Preserves	6	6	6	5
Outdoor Pools	2	7	4	11

**Figure 7-22**

### 7.3.3 Town Officials Discuss Needs for Facilities

In addition to surveying citizens, CPR asked town officials to indicate which facilities in their town were 1) sufficient, 2) more needed in the future or, 3) not sufficient. Figure 7-23 shows the results. In the view of the ninety-five responding town officials, the supply of the most needed facilities from the Citizen Demand Survey is overwhelmingly not sufficient. Fewer than 50% deem swimming facilities sufficient. Only 46% state that there are sufficient trails, 45% say there are sufficient picnic areas, and 40% indicate there are sufficient playgrounds. The town officials acknowledge the same needs as citizens; however, they perceive a greater need for athletic fields, including baseball, multi-use, soccer, and football fields, as well as for basketball and volleyball courts. They agree with the respondents to the Citizen Demand Survey that there is an immediate need for more winter sport facilities. Town officials also agree that there are not sufficient picnic areas, trails and swimming areas, even though they rank fields and courts as more highly needed.

### Town Officials Rank the Facilities in Their Towns



**Figure 7-23**

### 7.3.4 Avid Users Discuss Needs

Avid users discussed up to five activities in which they participate. For each activity, avid users indicated how often they participated and whether or not their needs were being met. Most avid users indicated that their needs were not being completely met for their first choice activity. The results were as follows:

completely met –22%  
partially met -- 49%  
somewhat met – 22%  
not at all met -- 7%

Avid users were also asked the following questions:

- If your needs relative to your favorite activity are not being completely met, please indicate what it is that you do need. What problems do you experience in your enjoyment of the activity? What would you like to see done to increase access or enjoyment?
- In your opinion, what are the most pressing needs of the recreation areas that you visit?
- What do you like most about the recreation areas you use?

Two independent raters coded the responses into the following categories:

#### 1. Needs

- more locations
- repairs or enhancements to existing facilities
- problems with safety or other annoyances
- expand existing sites to accommodate more users
- additional access to recreation areas

#### 2. Likes

- convenience of recreation
- ample facilities and resources
- serenity of locations
- sites being clean and well maintained
- natural beauty of sites

In answering the first of the three questions, avid users indicated that they would prefer to see more areas available for outdoor recreation. Additional access to recreational areas was the most frequent response; the development of more areas was second. Condition of the facilities, safety of the facilities, and additional components needed were cited only half as often as the first two.

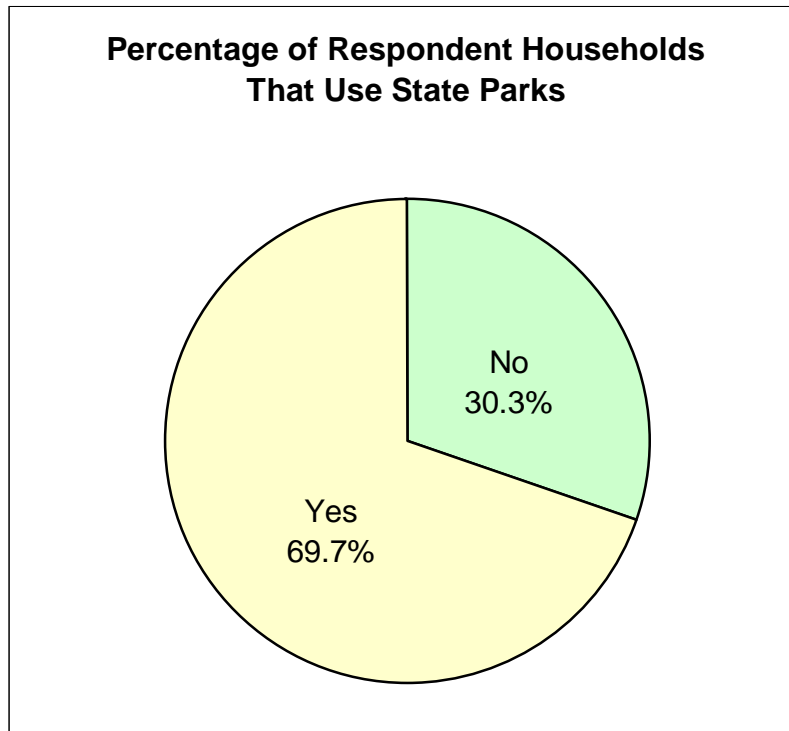
The second question allowed avid users to comment on the needs of the facilities in general. They cited repairs or enhancements as the greatest need.

In responding to the third question, avid users commented on what they most liked about outdoor recreational areas in Connecticut. Natural beauty was the most frequent response, followed by convenience, ample supply, and serenity. The lowest rated attribute was the condition of sites. They would prefer that the sites be better maintained.

### 7.3.5 Demand for State and Local Parks

Residents of the state of Connecticut use recreational facilities that are owned and managed by the state of Connecticut, by local governments, by institutions, and by private entities. There is a great deal of overlap between the activities practiced in state facilities and those practiced in local parks. For example, running, walking, hiking, biking, picnicking, and roller-blading are practiced in both state and local facilities. Freshwater and saltwater swimming opportunities are also provided at both the state and local levels. State parks and forests more often provide boating access, fishing, hunting, camping, or areas for birding than do local facilities. On the other hand, local facilities provide fields for organized sports, court sports, and swimming pools more often than state facilities. Still, in measuring demand, it is important to see what percentage of Connecticut's households and citizens use either state or local facilities and how often they use them.

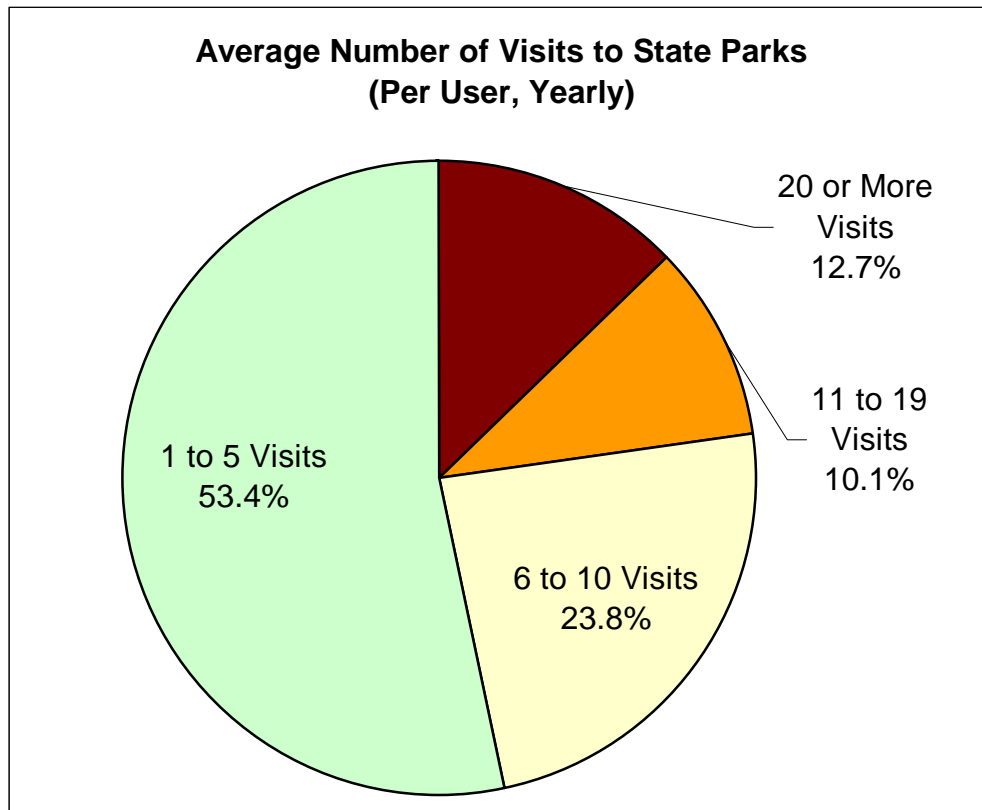
State parks and forests are used by over two-thirds of Connecticut's households. Figure 7-24 shows the percentage of the state's households that do or do not visit state parks.



**Figure 7-24**

Within this sample, the 69.7% of households that use state parks account for 68% of individuals. Given that the percentage of household use and individual use are virtually identical, it appears as though there is no difference in demand for state parks by household size.

In Figure 7-25, the demand for state parks is further shown by looking at the number of times per year these households visit the parks.



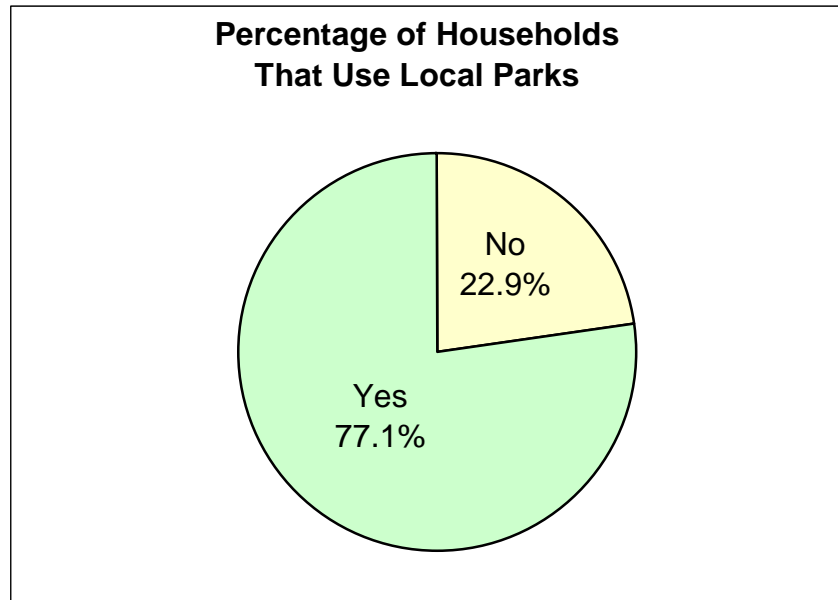
**Figure 7-25**

Among those households that visit state parks, about half (53.3%) visit those parks between once and five times per year. Nearly one quarter of households go to state parks between 6 and 10 times a year or approaching once a month. The remaining quarter visit state parks at least once a month, with 12.7% visiting more than 20 times per year. Again generalizing to the entire population based upon this survey, over 115,000 households representing 300,000 people visit state parks at frequencies of over 20 times per year. Demand for the state parks in Connecticut is very high.

At the same time, demand for local facilities is also high. In terms of number of households that recreate at local facilities, more people use local parks than state parks. The 77.1% of Connecticut's population who use local recreational facilities in the course of the year represent approximately 2.5 million of Connecticut's 3.4 million residents.

Many of the same people use both state and local parks. Of those who use state parks, 88.3% also indicated that they use local parks. Of those who use local parks, 80.2% also indicated using state parks. This overlap points to two findings. First of all, state and local facilities form a complementary recreational system, each supplying resources that citizens utilize in order to fulfill their entire need for outdoor recreation. Secondly, the demands of the population are varied. Although some people may only practice one or two activities, many engage in multiple recreational activities and visit different facilities so as to be able to take part in these varied activities.

Figure 7-26 shows the percentage breakdown of the population in terms of using or not using local facilities. As with the demand for state facilities, the demand for local recreational resources is very high.



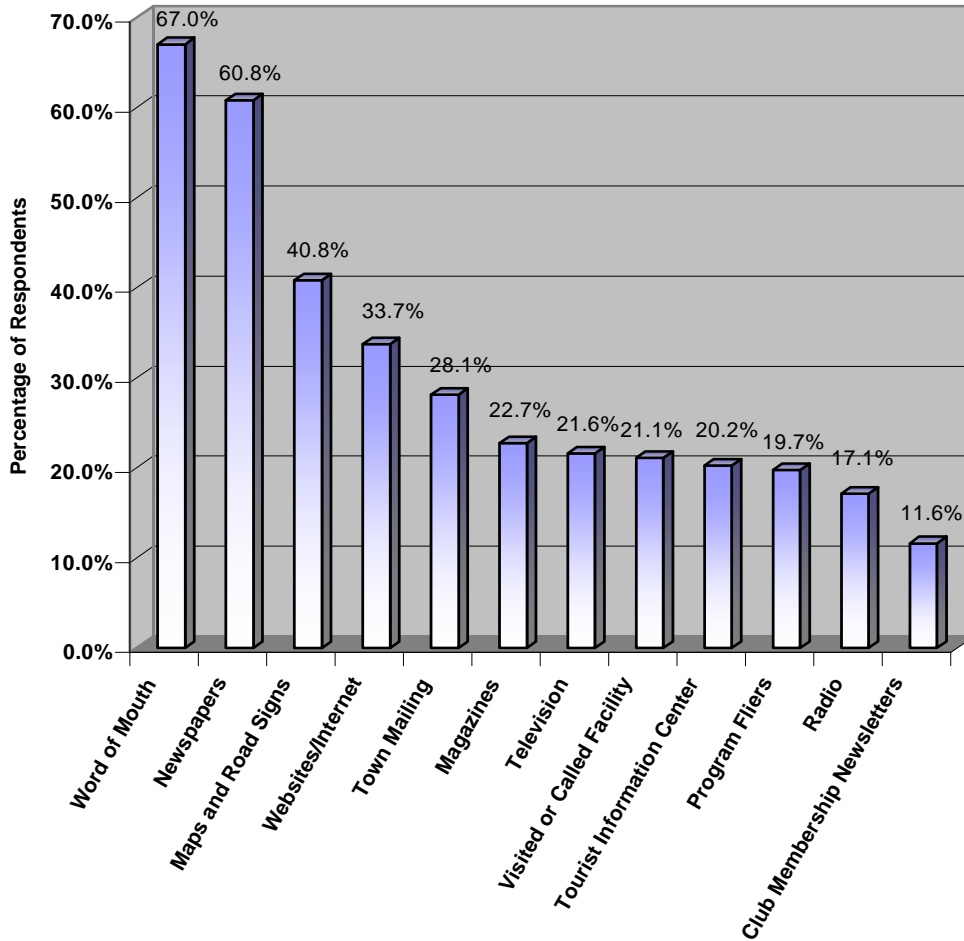
**Figure 7-26**

#### **7.4 Obstacles to Greater Participation in Outdoor Recreation**

In studying the demand for outdoor recreation and the degree to which current facilities meet that demand, the surveys have shown that the demand for multiple land-based, water-based, and winter activities among Connecticut’s residents is high. At the same time, it has been shown that many residents feel as though the extant facilities and resources do not meet their needs. In this section, the manner in which residents learn about outdoor recreational opportunities is investigated. In addition, using data from the Citizen Demand Survey, the various obstacles to greater participation in outdoor recreation are highlighted. Finally, using this data, several findings and associated recommendations are offered.

Figure 7-27 breaks down the ways citizens of the state of Connecticut learn about outdoor recreational facilities, resources, and activities. Currently, residents indicate that they learn about recreational opportunities most frequently through word of mouth (67%), followed by the newspaper (60.8%). The second cluster of informational vehicles includes maps and road signs (40.8%), the Internet (33.7%), and town mailings (28.1%).

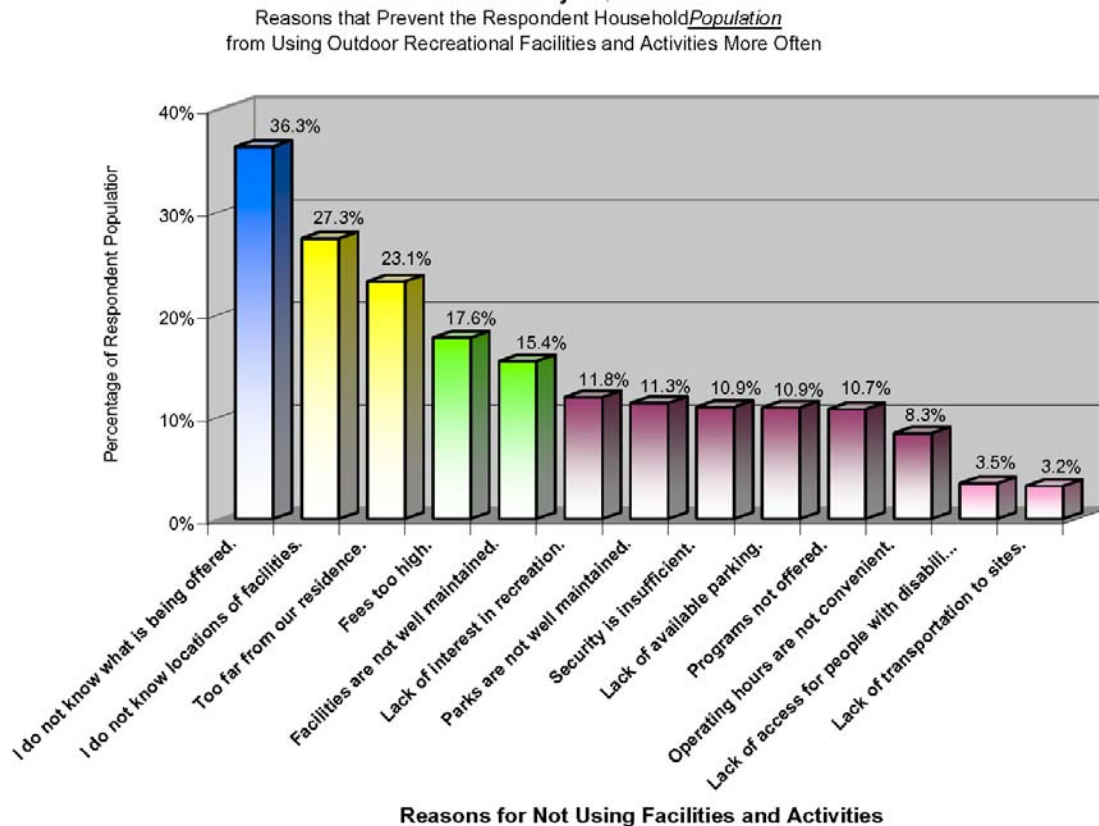
**How Respondents Learn About Recreational Facilities and Activities**



**Figure 7-27**

The data do not show exactly what information is being taken from the newspaper. The state does not advertise its resources in the five highest rated informational media, and, overall, very little expenditure of state dollars on information and publicity is occurring. In fact, it is fair to conclude that the state of Connecticut relies upon either low cost or free means to relay information to its citizens about outdoor recreation. In that the most cited source is word of mouth, it appears most citizens find out about outdoor recreation from their friends, neighbors, and co-workers. It is indeed possible that, to some degree, the unmet facilities needs detailed in this SCORP may be accommodated by better dissemination of information.





**Figure 7-28**

Figure 7-28 shows the reasons the respondents don't use the recreational facilities more often. The data reinforce the need for better communication. The reason cited by the largest single group of people is, "I do not know what is being offered." The second most cited obstacle to outdoor recreation in this list is, "I do not know the location of the facilities."

Indeed it appears the citizens of Connecticut are suffering from an information gap. A perfect flow of information is not guaranteed to reduce the level of unmet needs. However, it is reasonable to surmise that the needs of some households are not being met because they either do not know what is being offered or they do not know how to find the appropriate facility.

Consequently, this SCORP recommends addressing the recreational informational gap in several ways. First, now that the first comprehensive inventory of all publicly accessible outdoor recreational facilities in the state exists in the form of a town-by-town database, this SCORP recommends transforming that exhaustive database into an interactive searchable website. After all, one third of Connecticut's citizens already use the Internet to learn about recreational possibilities. In providing the supply database to the general public, Connecticut will in effect offer "one stop shopping" for state recreational users. In one database on one website the public could access not only all outdoor recreational sites, but also learn where they are and what components are available at each. Second, these findings point to a need to enhance the existing system of road signs and call for a renewed effort to provide maps and brochures for DEP facilities.

In these ways, the state can simultaneously address both the information gap and, perhaps to some degree, the substantial unmet facilities needs. The statewide recreational website will spur Internet usage rates for recreational purposes above the 33% of citizens already using the net to gather such information. As Internet usage continues to grow, more citizens will learn about what is being offered by the state, the local communities, and the publicly accessible private entities via this medium. The Internet offers an easy way to provide printable and accurate directions to the facilities. This strategy will effectively address the two greatest obstacles to outdoor recreation identified in Figure 7-28.

Finally, this SCORP notes that Connecticut residents primarily use the automobile to travel to outdoor recreational facilities. Although 10% cite parking difficulties, few respondents indicated transportation as an obstacle to access. This report recommends continuing to include additional parking as a highly rated need at appropriate facilities. Additionally, in that many of our users cite biking as a primary activity, this report supports installing bike racks at public outdoor recreational facilities so as to encourage biking to those facilities. Finally, in light of the evidence of lower usage rates among lower income residents, this SCORP supports considering the availability of public transportation to recreational sites when evaluating funding applications for proposed municipal projects, either for facility development or for site acquisition.

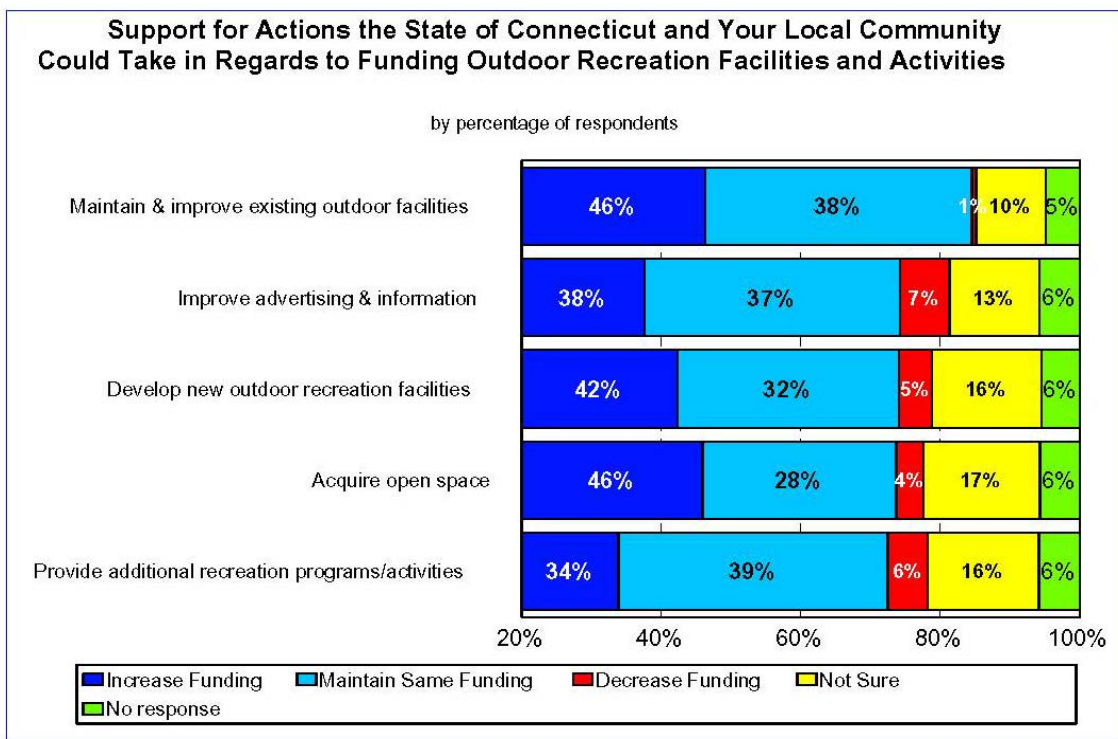
### **7.5 Priority Actions as Rated by Citizens**

This SCORP has shown that citizens in Connecticut have a high and increasing demand for outdoor recreation. Many citizens' current needs for outdoor recreation are unmet. Town officials and avid users concur on the need to increase the supply of recreational facilities as well as to enhance and improve existing facilities. As demonstrated in the online survey of avid users, there is support for both more recreational facilities and better access, as well as for land acquisition to protect and to preserve the beauty of the state for years to come. Citizens have indicated that, in some cases, they do not engage in outdoor recreation simply due to not knowing what is available or how to get there.

Anticipating some of these concerns, the Citizen Demand Survey provided respondents with five categories of actions that could be taken by either the state or local agencies to address outdoor recreation:

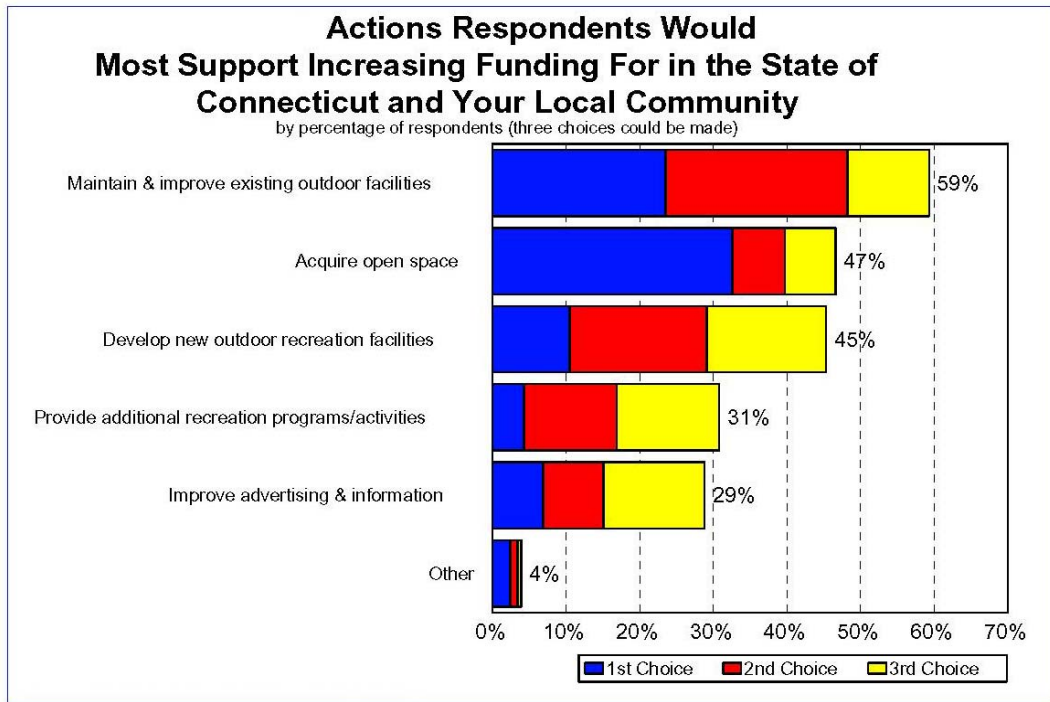
- Acquire open space
- Maintain and improve existing outdoor facilities
- Develop new outdoor recreational facilities
- Provide additional recreational programs and activities
- Improve advertising and information regarding existing outdoor facilities and programs.

As it turns out, these five categories or strategies encompass most of the recommendations of the respondents to the survey, and of avid users, town officials and the citizens that attended the public informational meetings. Figure 7-29 shows the results of asking respondents to indicate whether they were in favor of increasing funding, maintaining funding, or decreasing funding for these five strategies. In this question, respondents did not have to rank the five strategies in any way. Just less than half of all respondents are in favor of increasing funding for both maintaining and improving existing facilities and for acquiring open space. Few people were in favor of decreasing funding for any of the five strategies, but the strategy with the smallest percentage of respondents in favor of a spending reduction was maintaining and improving existing facilities. Approximately 40% of respondents favor increased funding for developing new facilities and for improving information, while about one third favor additional funding for new programs.



**Figure 7-29**

In order to determine both the *breadth* as well as the *intensity* of support among the citizens of the state for the different approaches, respondents were then asked to list their three top choices, thinking simultaneously about both the state and local areas, and to list them in order. Figure 7-30 shows that maintaining and improving existing outdoor facilities is the strategy most broadly supported as a top three choice. Clearly the citizens of the state of Connecticut support and are calling for enhancing the quality of the recreational resources that already exist. Town officials agree and indicate that they would like to improve or enhance restroom facilities and parking, to add shelters, and to enhance other attributes of existing facilities. This SCORP supports and recommends placing the capital maintenance and enhancement of existing facilities as a high priority for state and local resources.



**Figure 7-30**

The second most broadly supported action is acquiring open space. It was the single most often cited first choice in this survey. This finding indicates that those who support acquiring open space feel very strongly about that action. Evidence from the survey of avid users reveals that support for the acquisition of open space is particularly prevalent among members of this group. This group often stressed and supported the role of the state as a protector of the natural resource assets of Connecticut for their recreational and other values, not only for current citizens but also future generations. This SCORP concurs and calls for the systematic acquisition of open space to be a high priority.

The third broadest and third most intensely supported action is the development of new outdoor recreational facilities. The levels of demand demonstrated in this SCORP clearly show that new facilities are needed. The greatest needs are for facilities that support activities with the highest UFI's, i.e., the most intense levels of citizen participation, and those that are lacking within certain geographic areas. As spelled out in Chapter 8, this SCORP endorses not only the development of the most highly sought resources by the state but also the allocation of LWCF monies to municipalities that seek to supply the facilities citizens most need as identified in this SCORP.

Respondents also favor both additional programs and improved information. Town officials indicated the need for programs by age group. Although this report does not recommend allocating funds to assist in those efforts, it recommends that municipalities continue to consider the needs of currently inadequately served populations in designing and implementing new programs. The needs for more information and advertising will be addressed through the development of the statewide recreational website, improved highway signage, and the publication of informational brochures on DEP facilities.

## 7.6 Thirty Activities Analyzed by Use Frequency Index

Two distinct charts are provided for each of the following activities. In descending order of UFI,<sup>1</sup> the activities analyzed in the following charts are:

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>UFI</b>
• Running, walking, hiking-	95.3
• Swimming in pools-	63.7
• Activities at the beach-	62.0
• Swimming in fresh or saltwater-	54.7
• Road biking, biking-	40.9
• Bird watching or wildlife viewing-	38.1
• Visiting historic sites or museums-	36.7
• Sledding-	26.8
• Basketball or volleyball-	22.2
• Motor boating-	21.8
• Canoeing, kayaking or tubing-	20.8
• Golf-	20.2
• Overnight camping-	20.0
• Freshwater fishing or ice fishing-	19.1
• Baseball or softball-	18.4
• Downhill Skiing-	17.0
• Ice skating-	16.8
• Tennis-	15.7
• Soccer-	15.2
• Saltwater fishing-	14.9
• Rollerblading or skateboarding-	14.8
• Mountain biking-	14.2
• Motorized biking i.e. dirt biking, ATVing-	9.5
• Football, lacrosse, field hockey, or rugby-	9.2
• Sailing-	9.2
• X-country or snowshoeing-	8.8
• Water skiing or jet skiing-	8.1
• Hunting or trapping-	7.5
• Horseback riding-	6.8
• Snorkeling or scuba diving-	6.6

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<sup>1</sup> UFI is defined and explained in Section 7.2.7. Simply stated, UFI measures the overall intensity of participation by a subject population in a specific activity.

In the chart at the top of each page:

1. The statewide UFI is indicated in the left corner,
2. The UFI for each of the eight Connecticut counties is indicated in the center, and
3. The UFI for each of the five socioeconomic categories is indicated in the right corner.

In the chart at the bottom of each page:

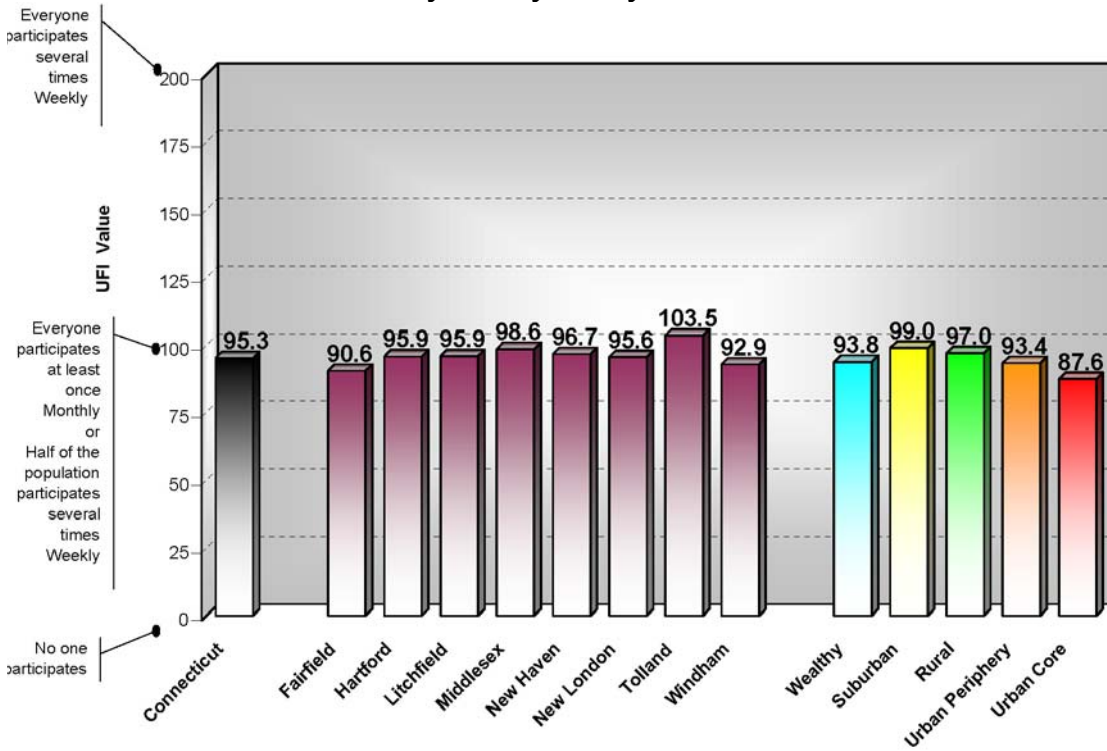
1. The overall statewide UFI from Chart I is divided among the six shown income brackets. In other words, the total UFI is divided and expressed as a percentage by income bracket.
2. For comparative purposes, the corresponding percentage of the sample population is displayed by income group.

Chart I allows the reader to compare the statewide UFI to the UFI of the eight counties as well as the UFI of the five socioeconomic groups (Five Connecticuts). The UFI can be used to predict need for facilities and demand for access to activities.

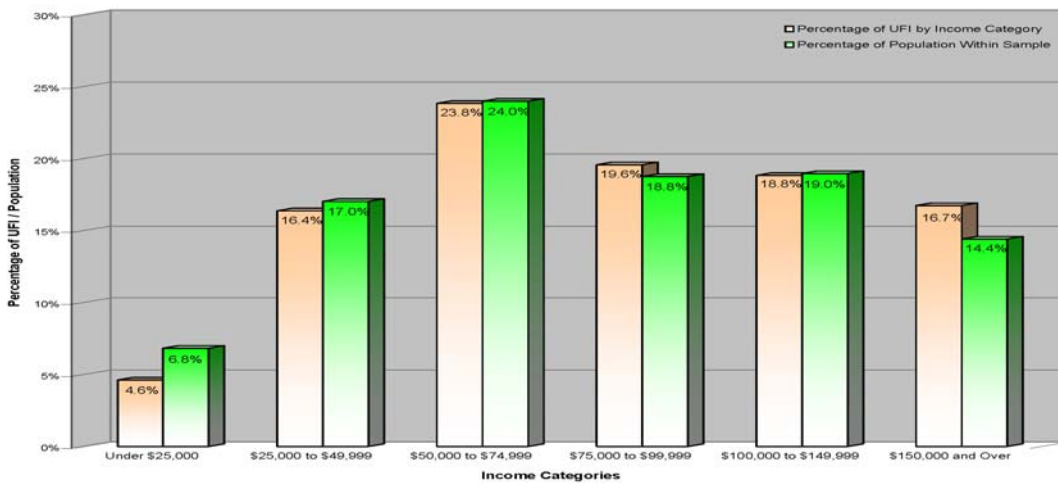
Chart II compares the percentage of respondents who fall into each income bracket to the percentage of the sample drawn from that income bracket. If income has no effect upon recreational participation, there would be little difference between the two bars per bracket. However, the charts display activities in which income does appear to be at least correlative if not necessarily causative. Also the careful reader will note the overall lack of participation in virtually all recreation among those in the lowest income bracket.

# Running Walking and Hiking

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*



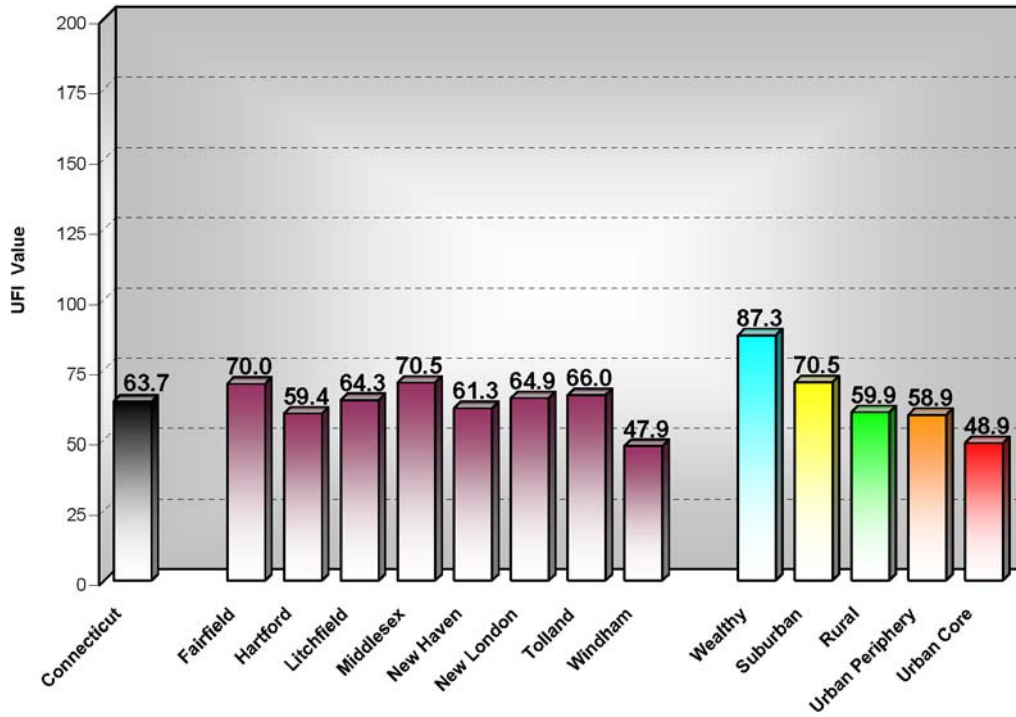
*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*



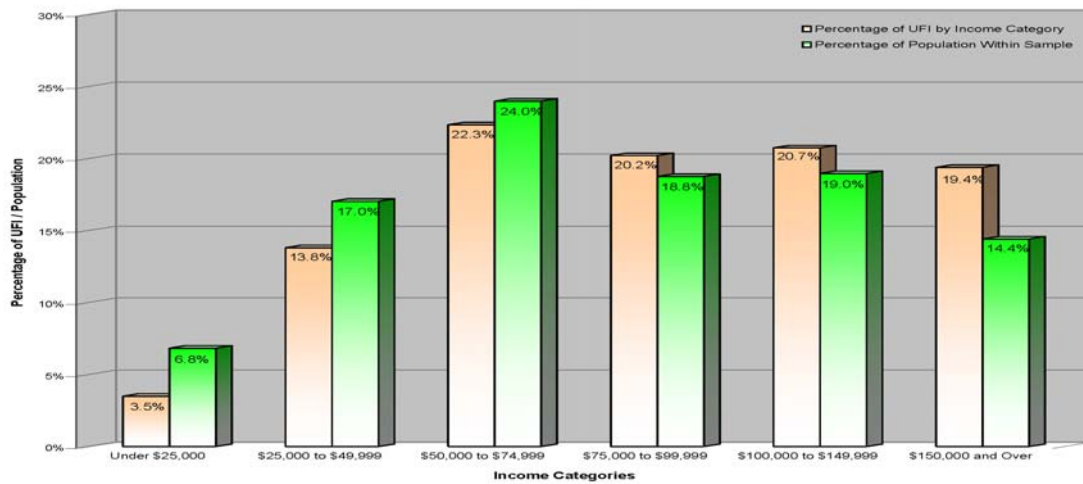


# Swimming in Pools

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticuts*

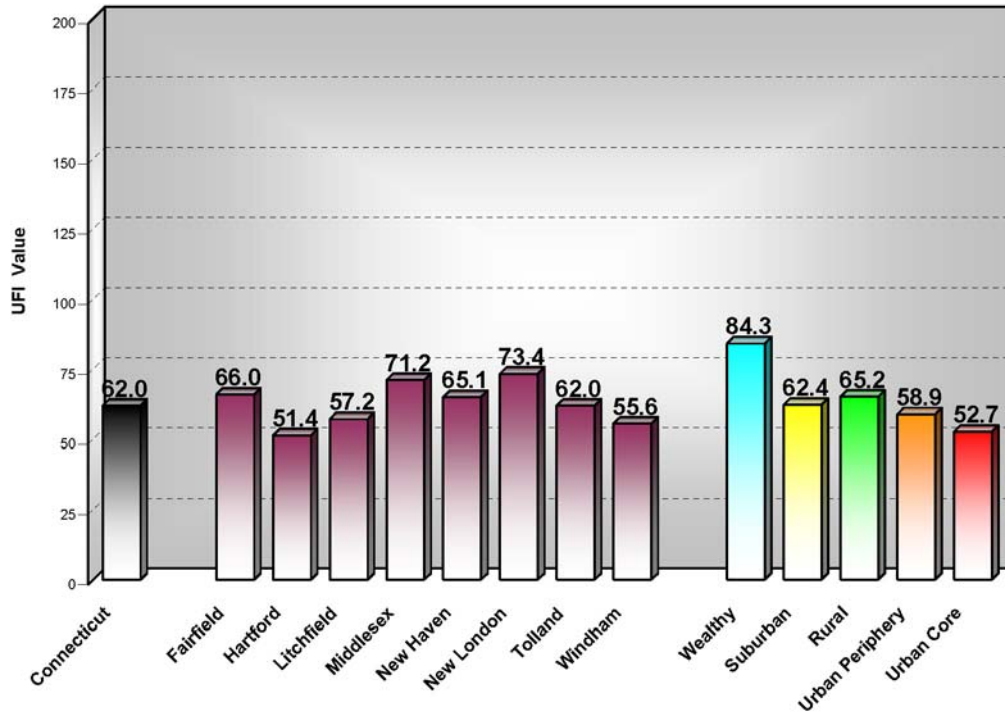


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

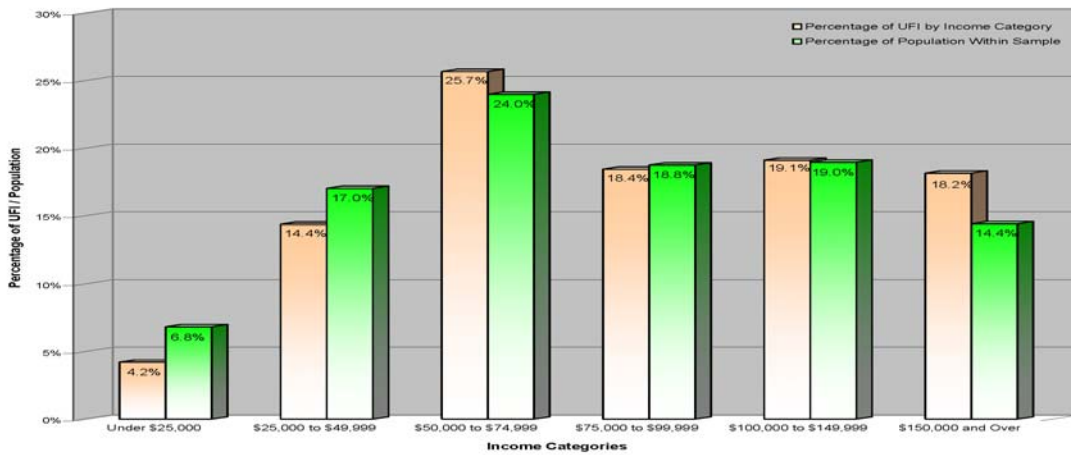


# Activities at the Beach

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*

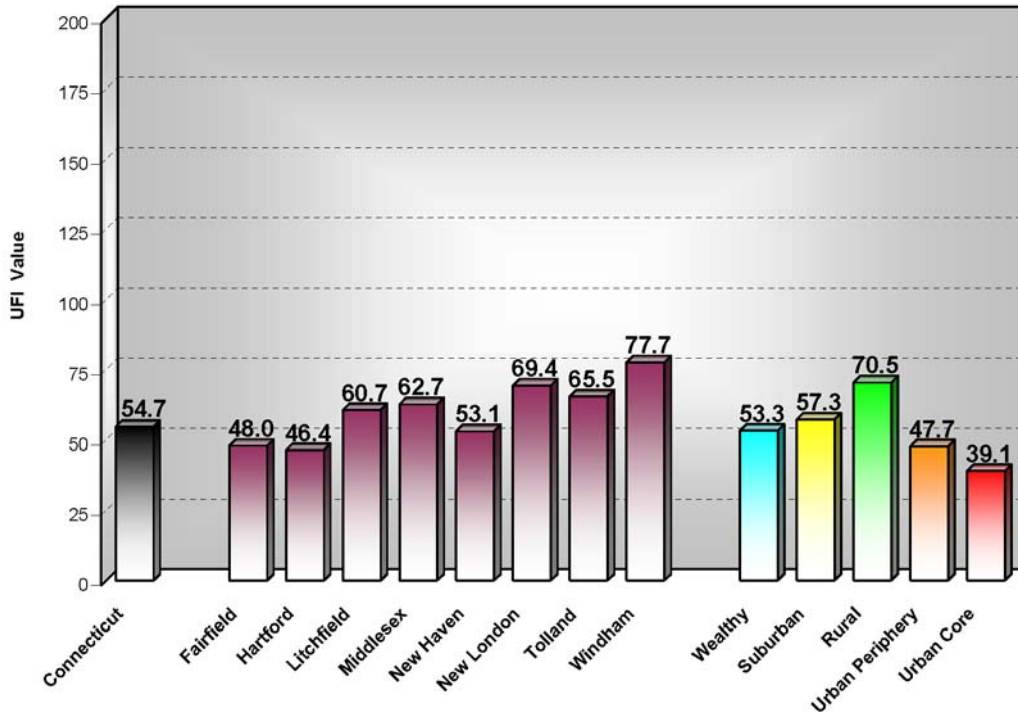


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

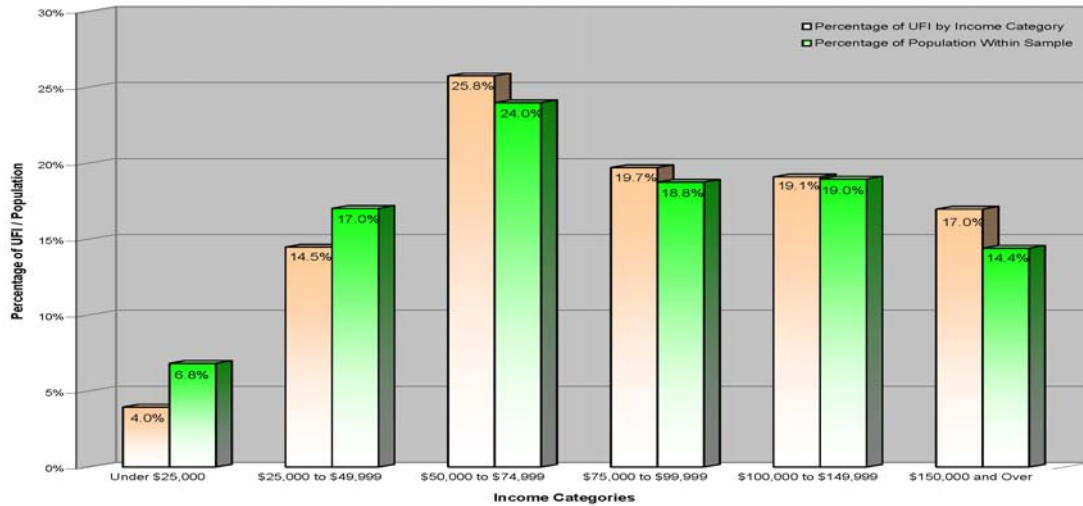


# Swimming in Freshwater/Saltwater

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*

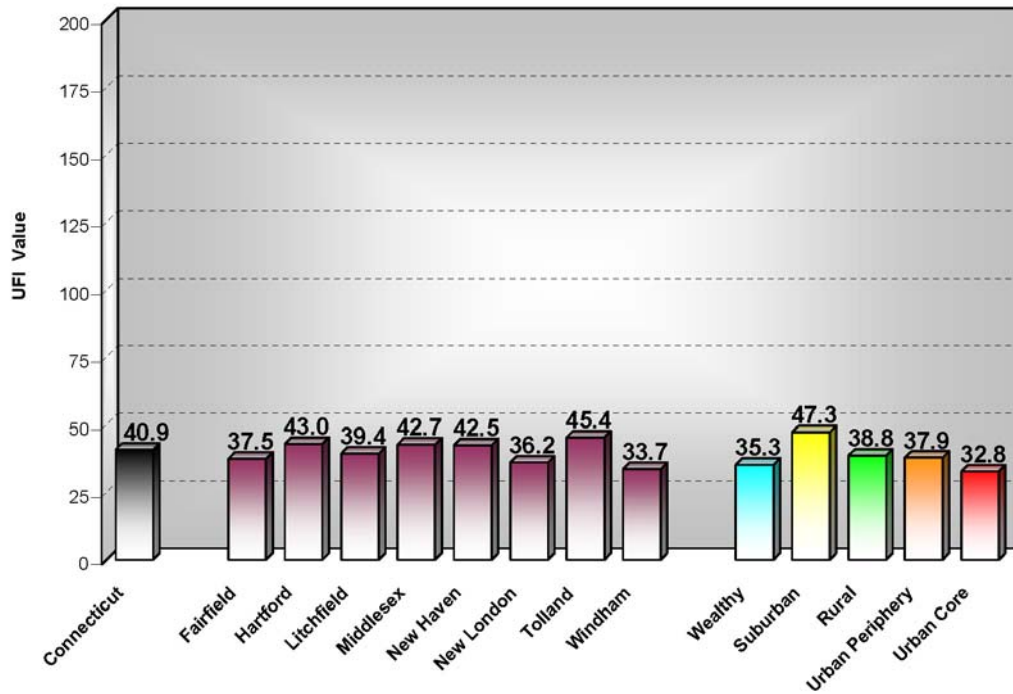


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

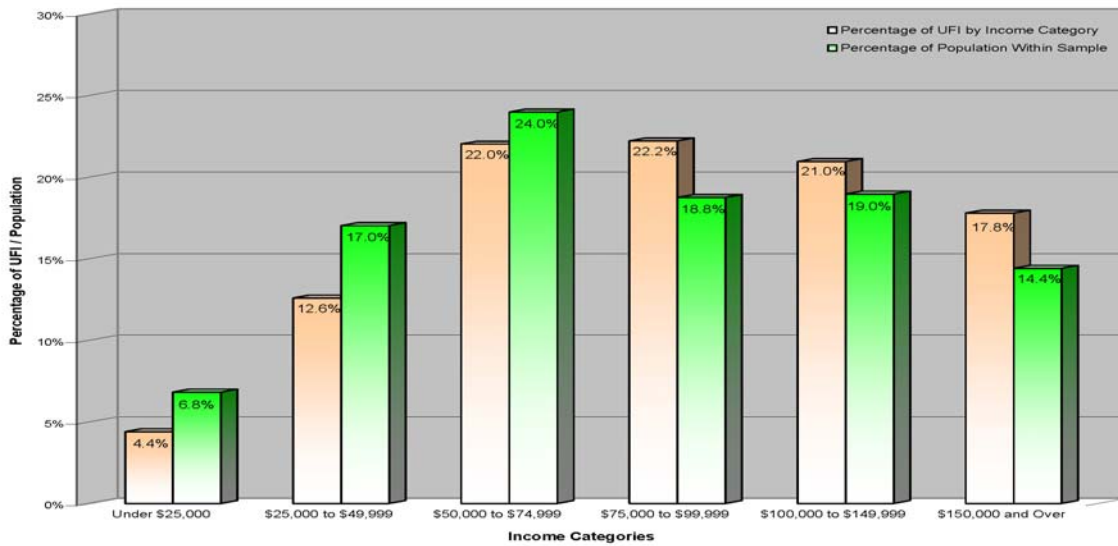


# Road Biking/Biking in Neighborhoods

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*

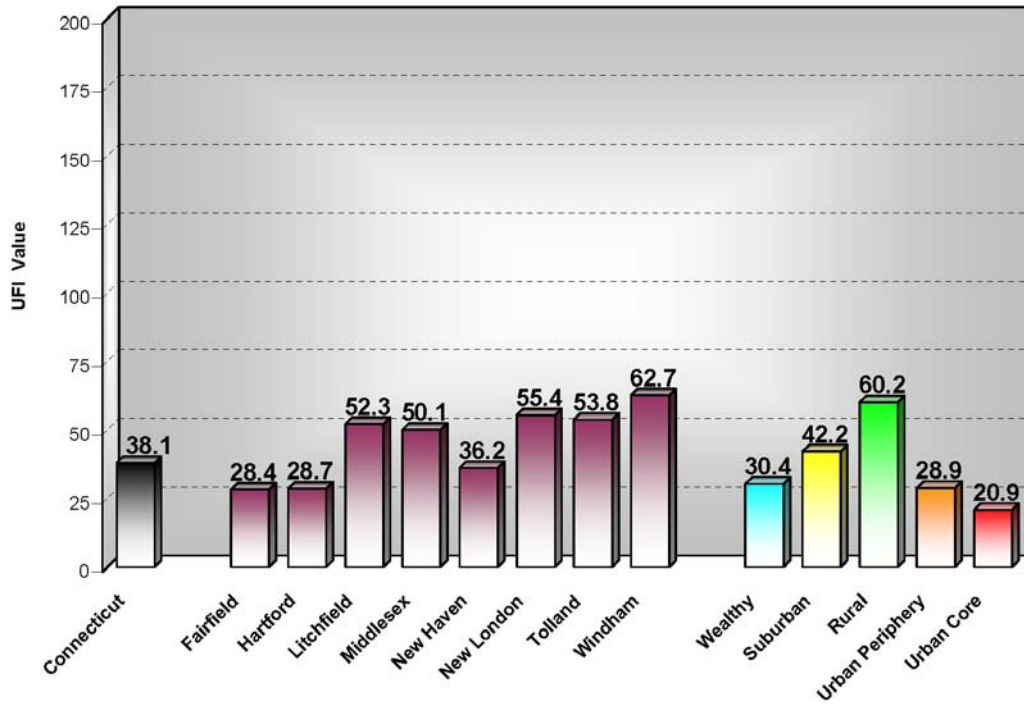


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

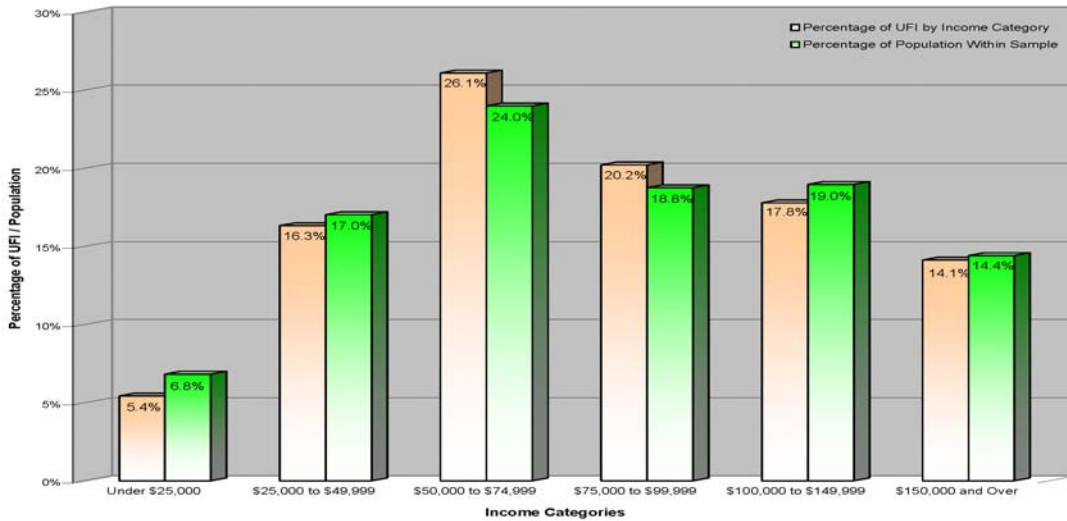


# Bird Watching or Wildlife Viewing

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*

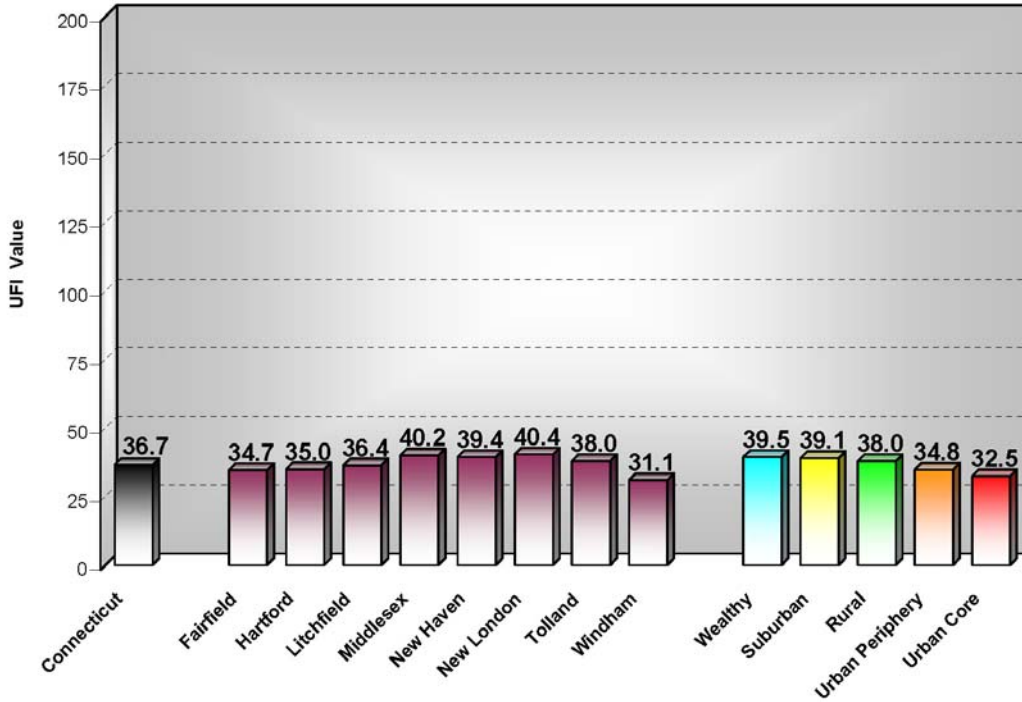


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

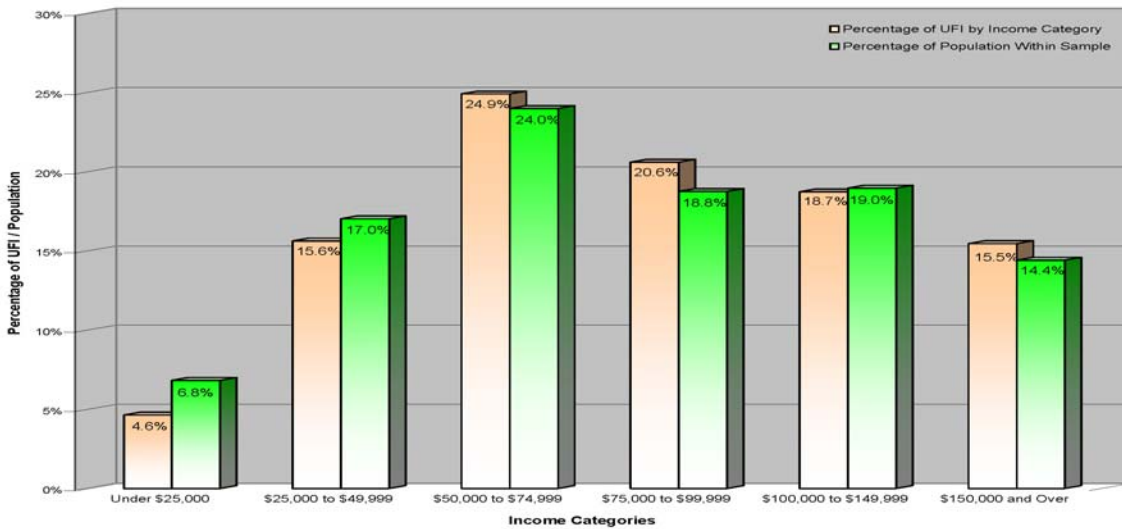


# Historic Sites and Museums

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*

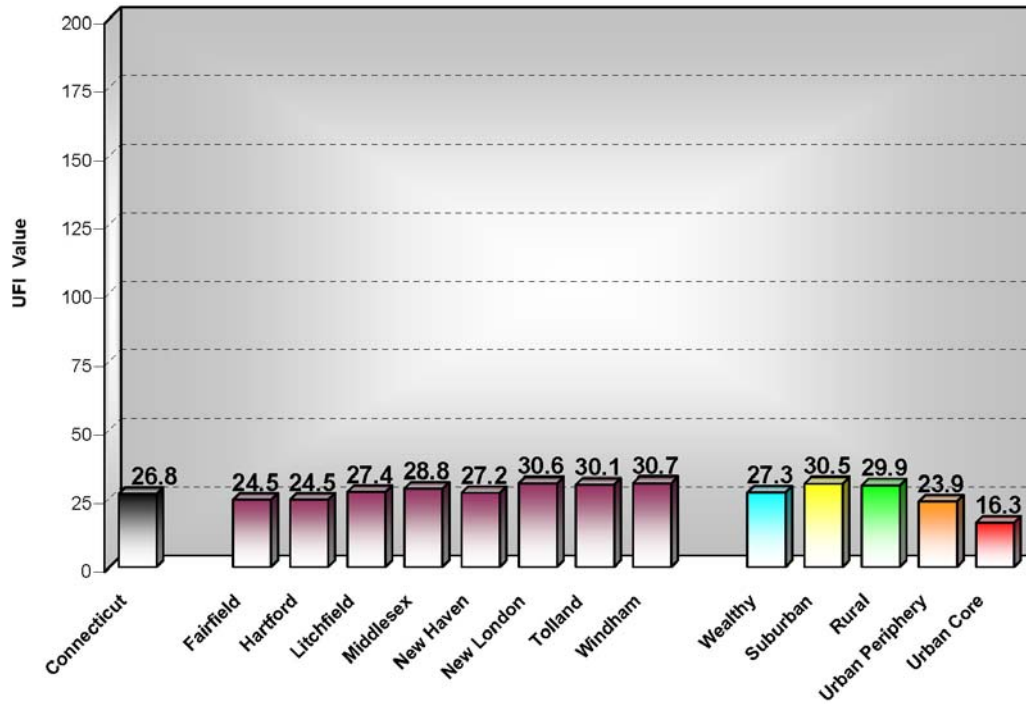


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

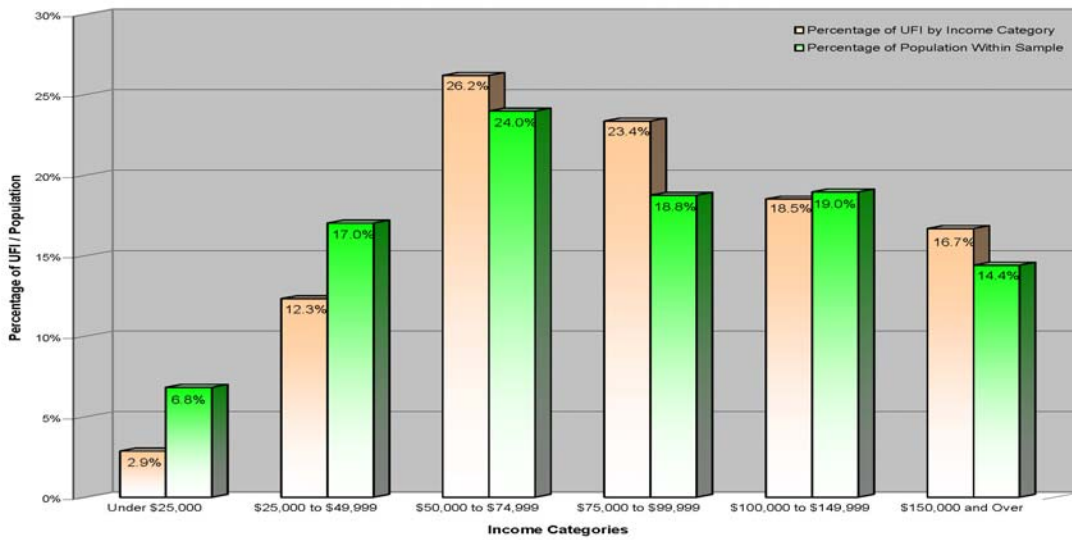


# Sledding

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*



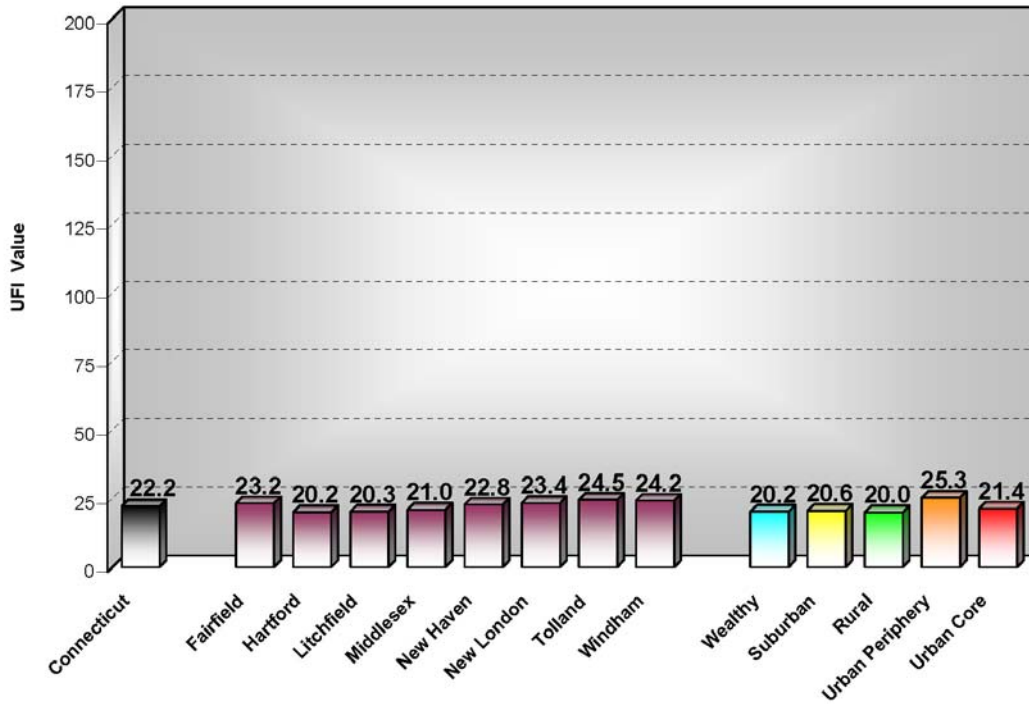
*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*



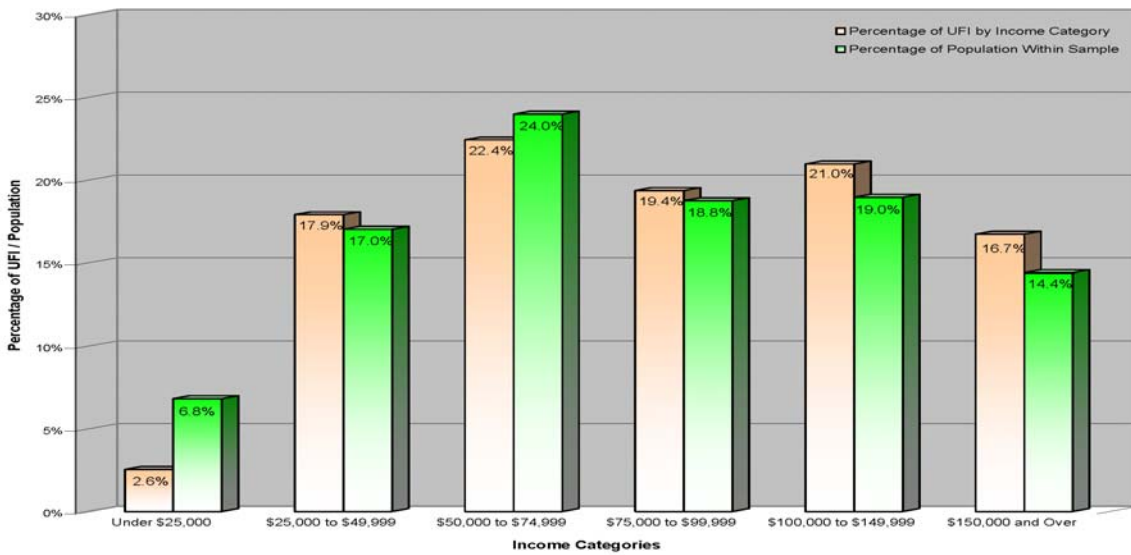


# Basketball or Volleyball

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*

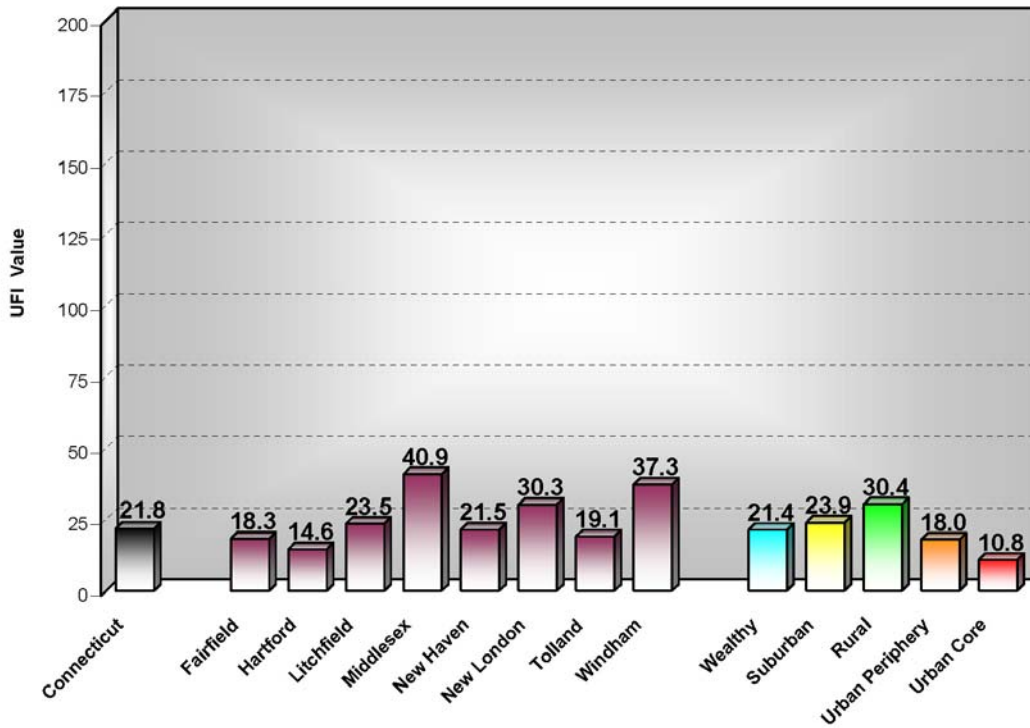


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

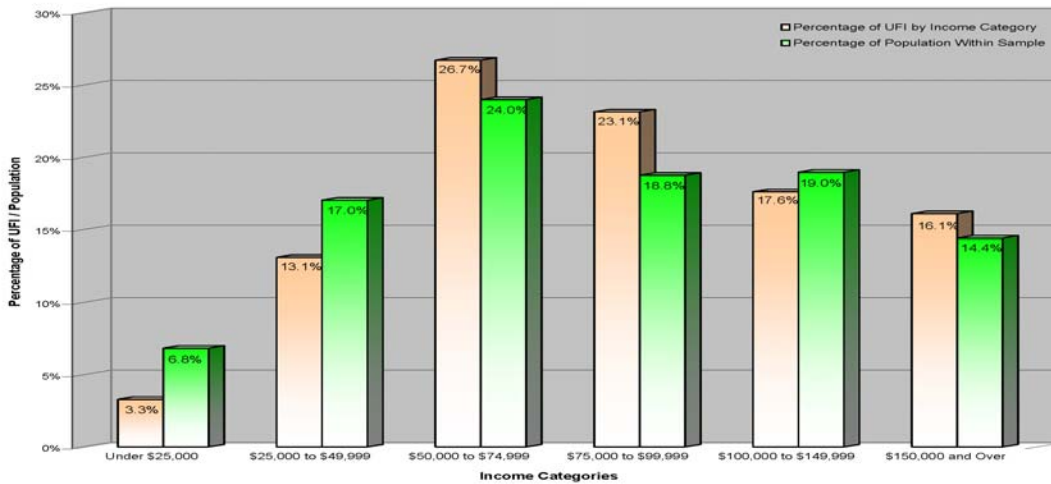


# Motor Boating

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*

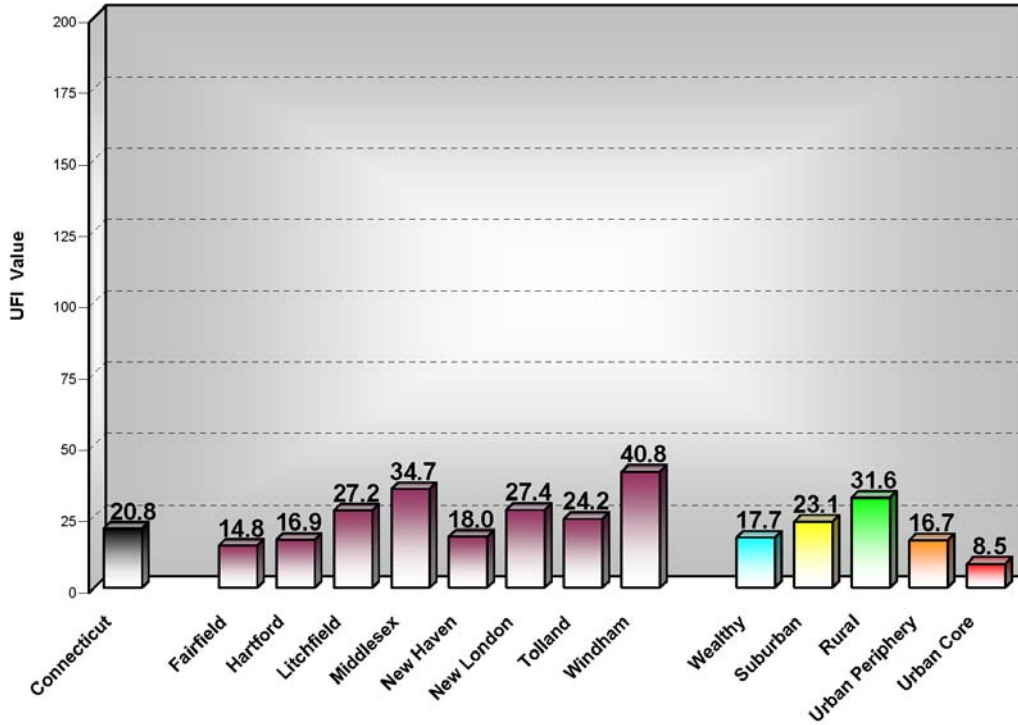


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

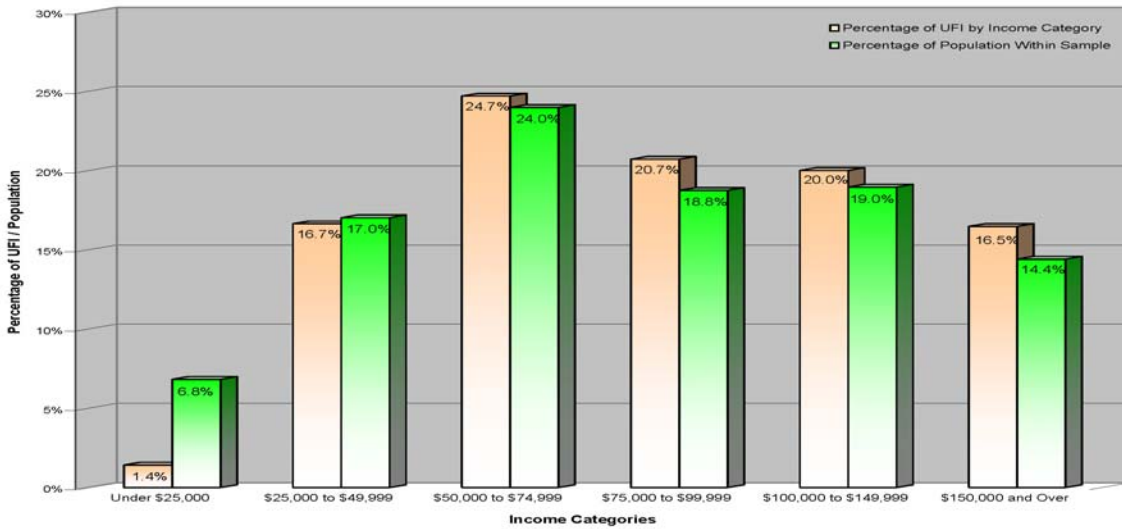


# Canoeing, Kayaking, or Tubing

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*

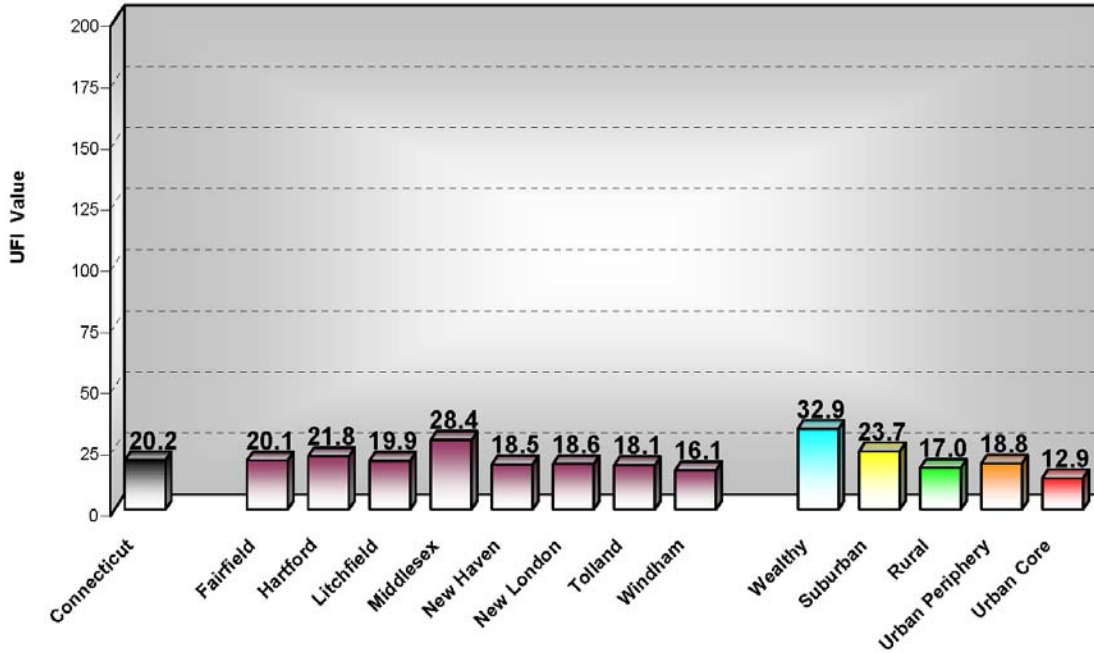


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

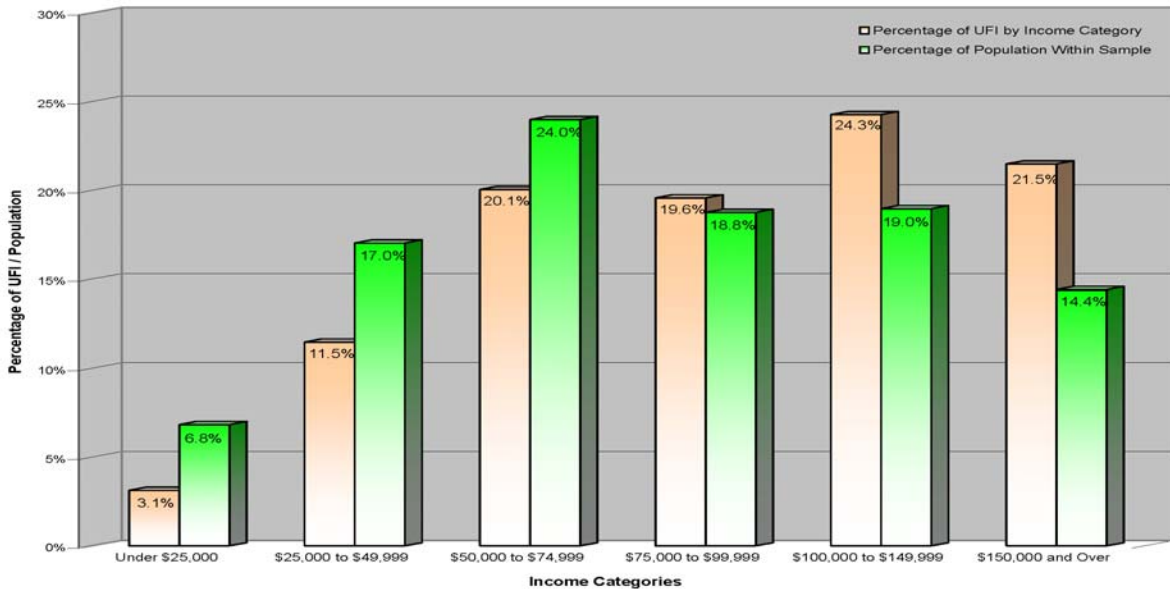


# Golf

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*

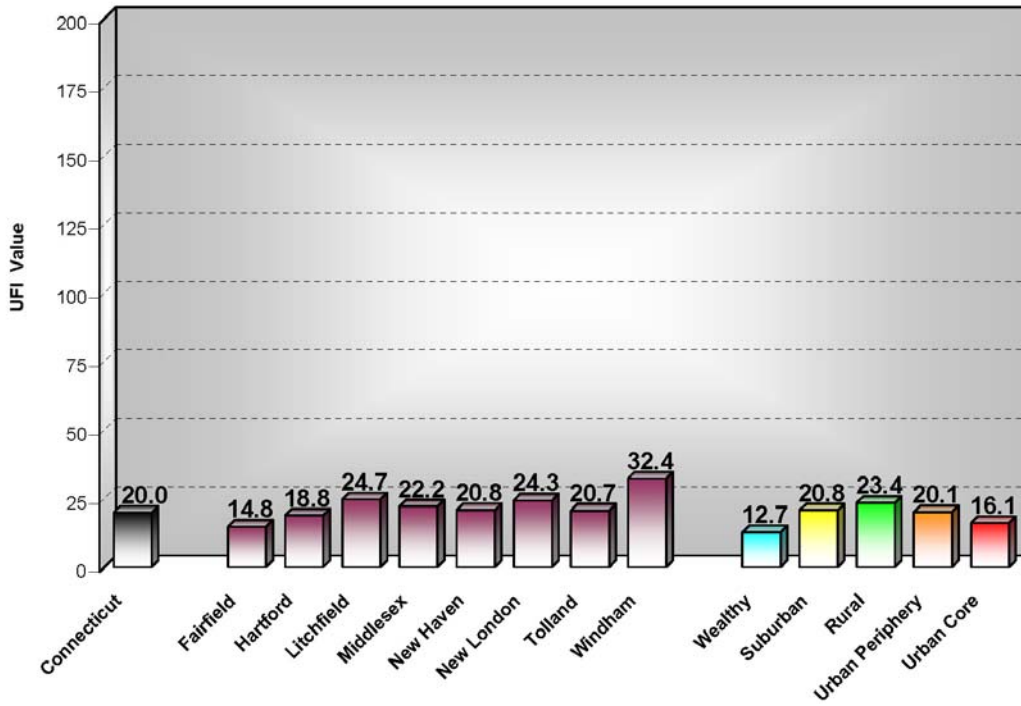


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

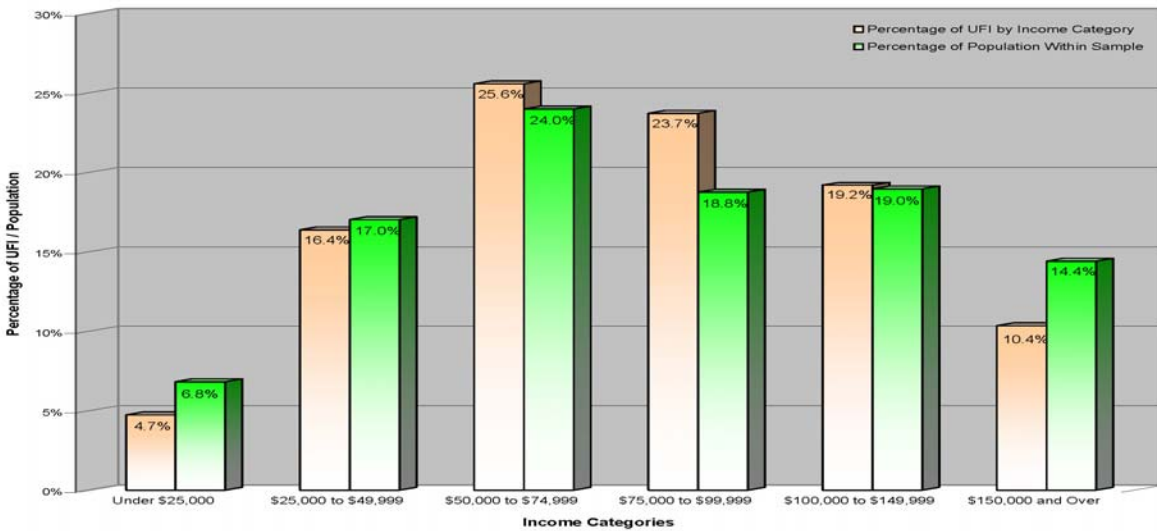


# Overnight Camping

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*

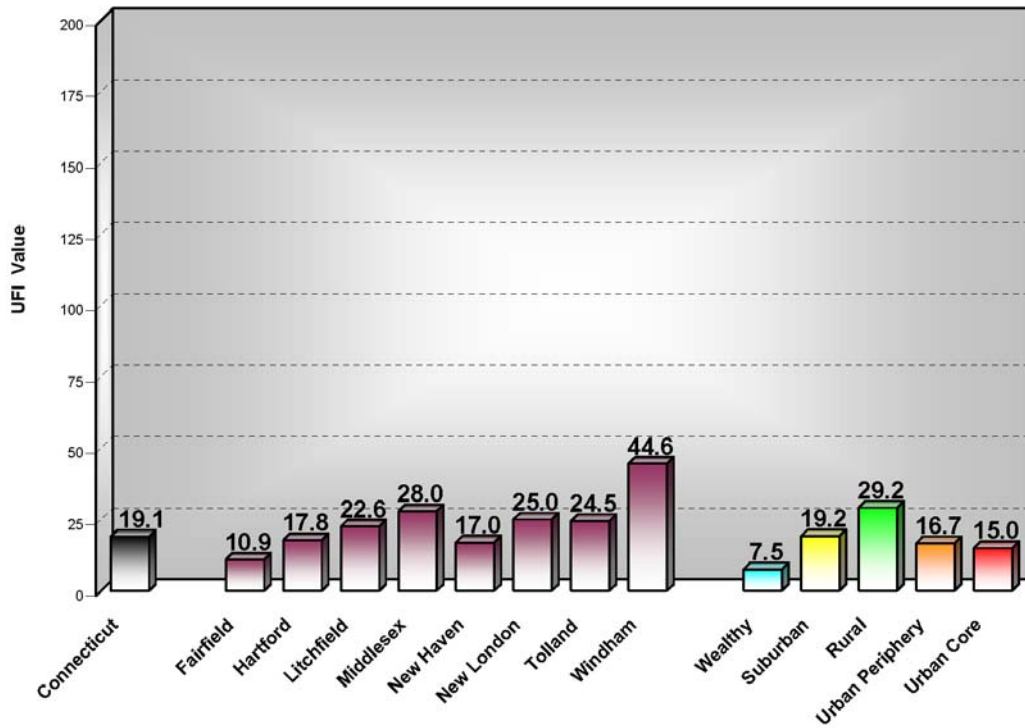


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

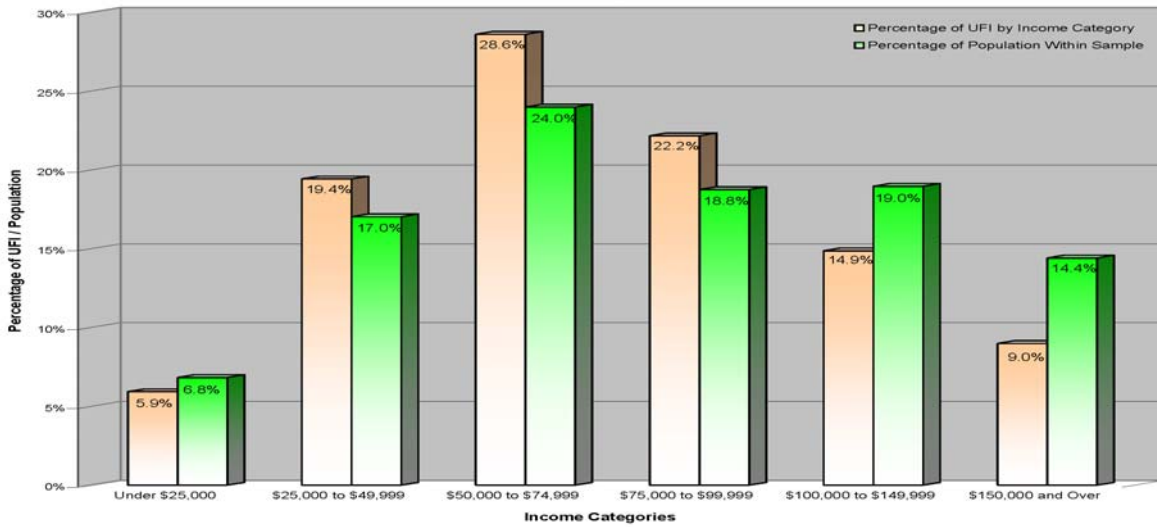


# Freshwater or Ice Fishing

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*

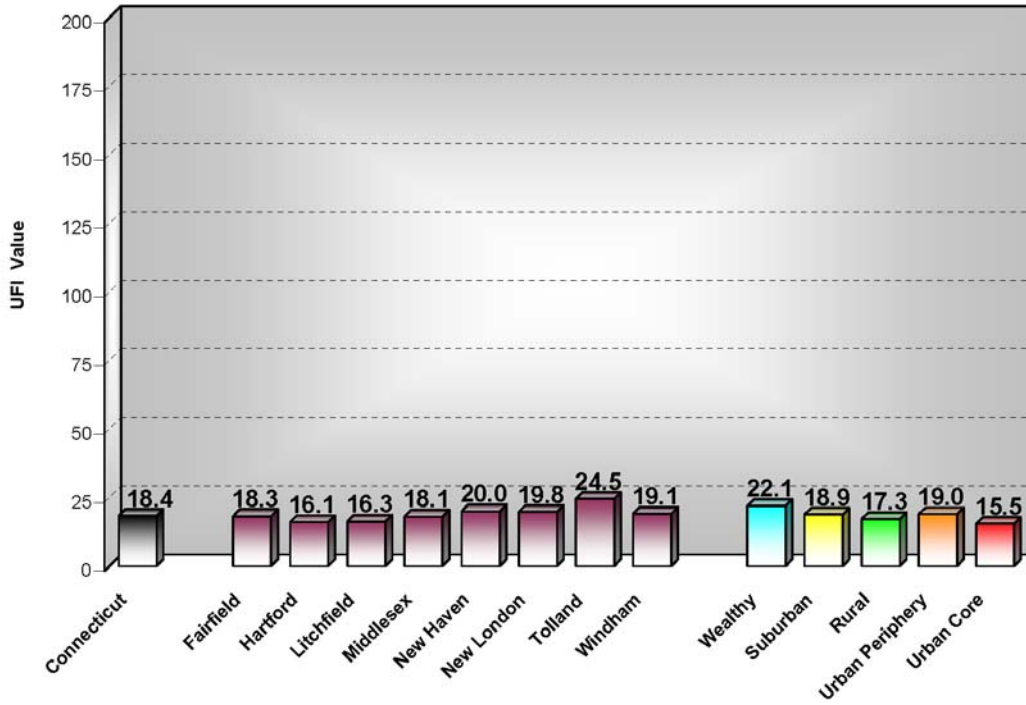


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

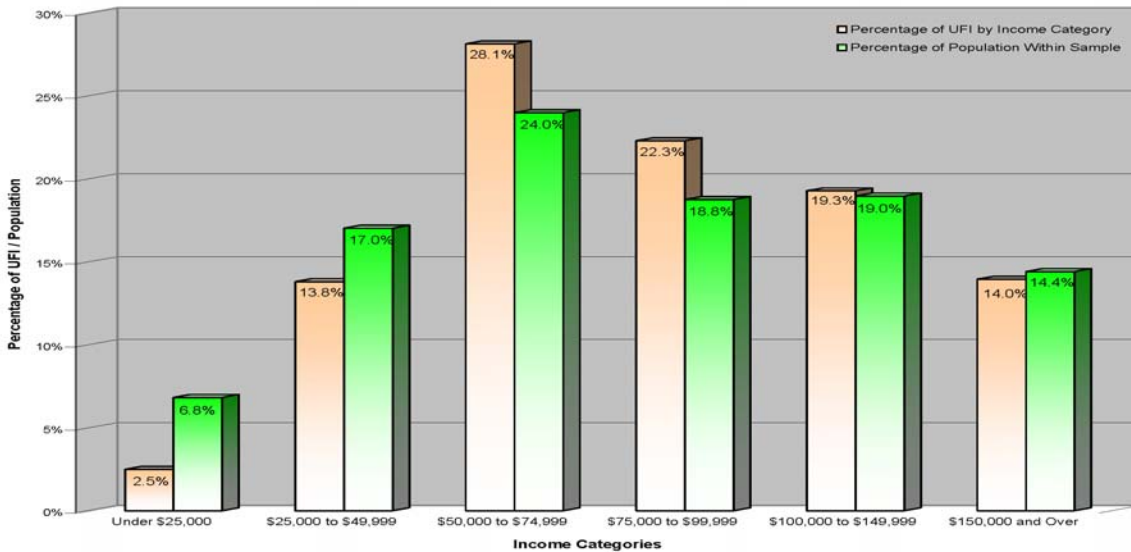


# Baseball or Softball

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*



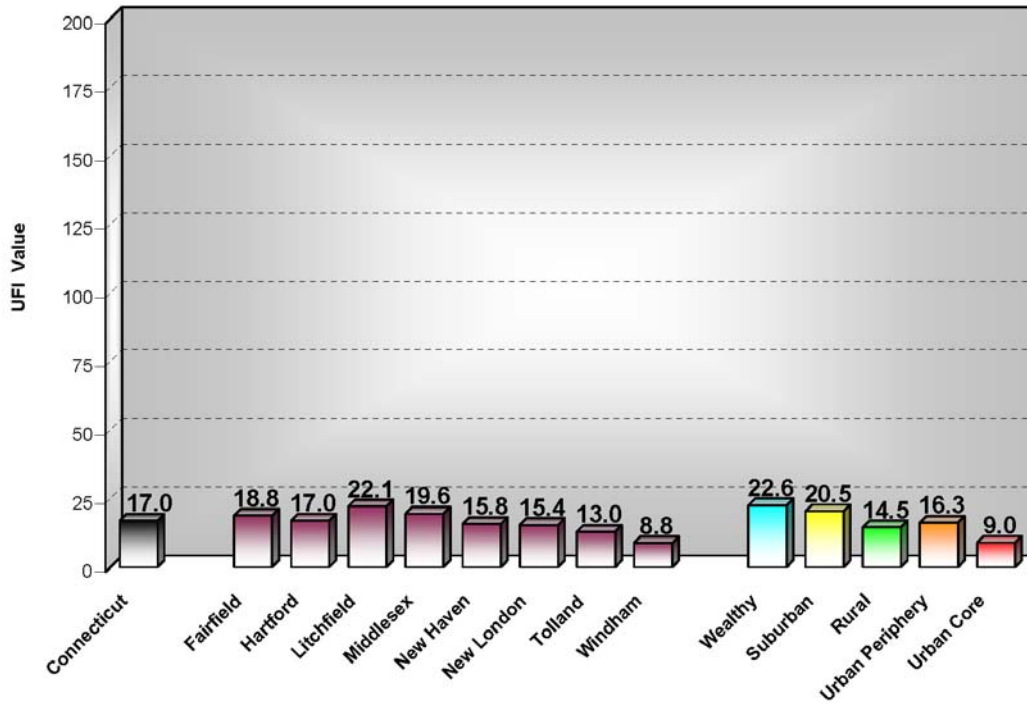
*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*



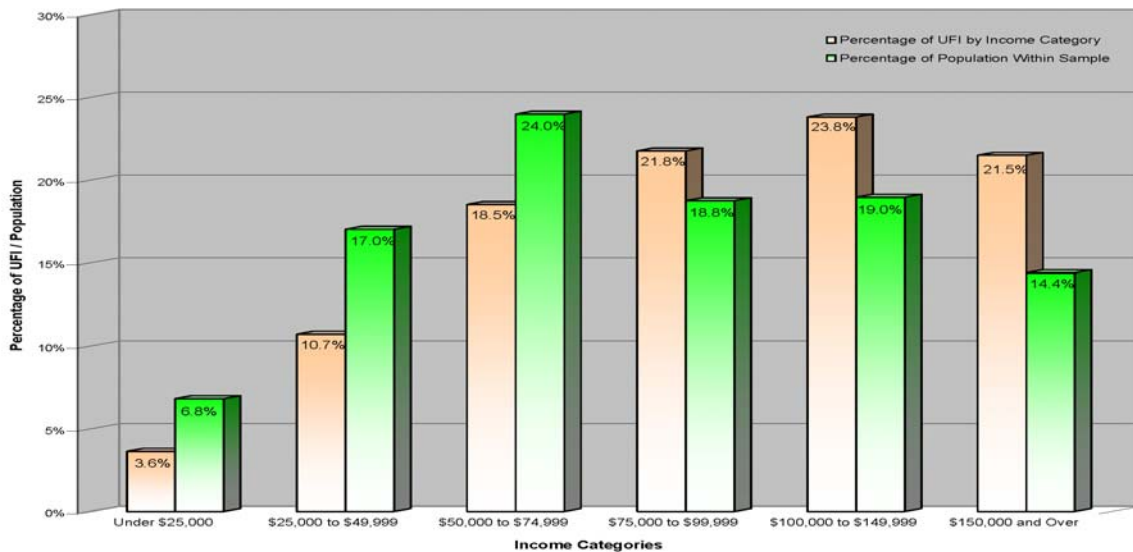


# Downhill Skiing and Snowboarding

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*

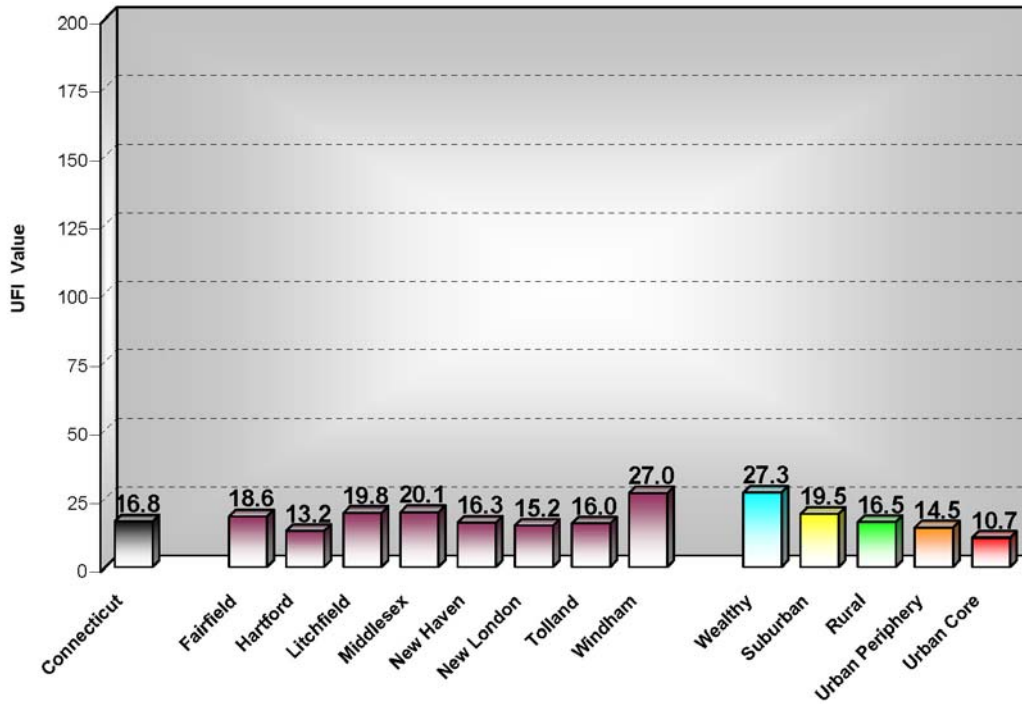


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

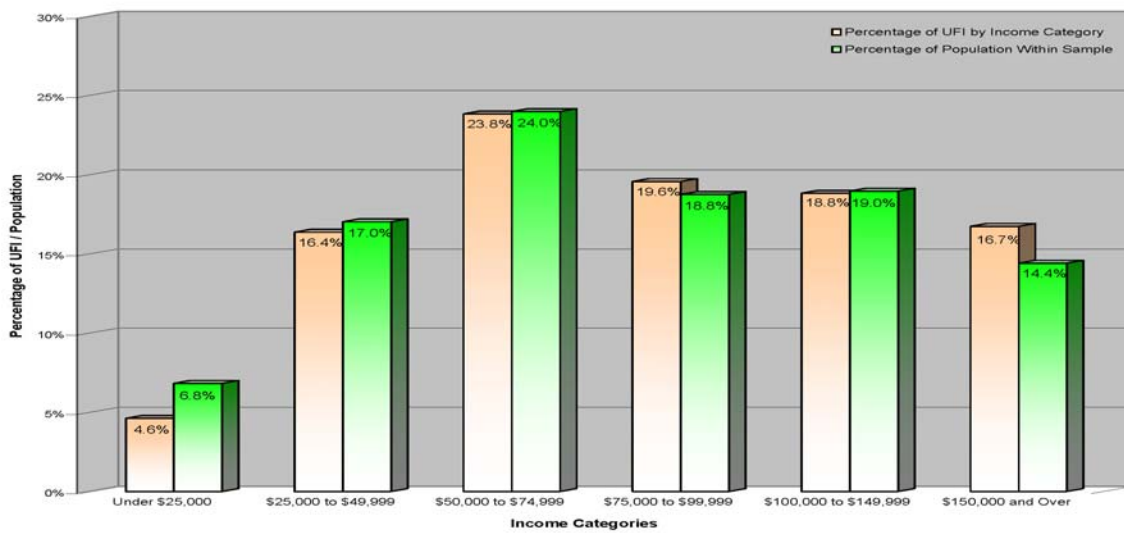


# Ice Skating and Hockey

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*

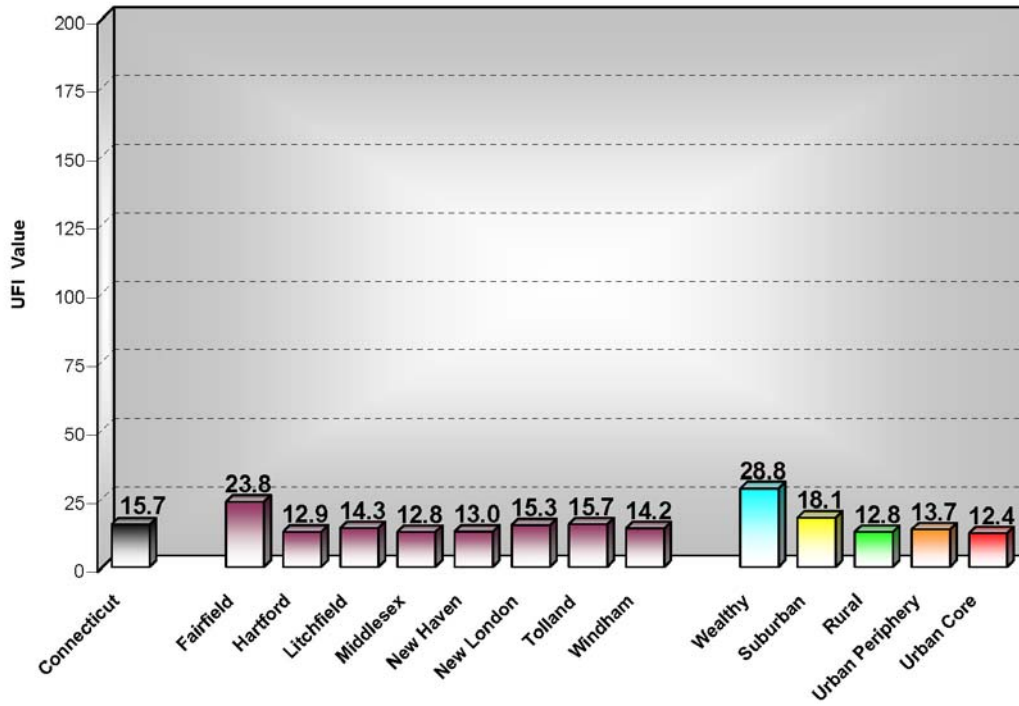


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

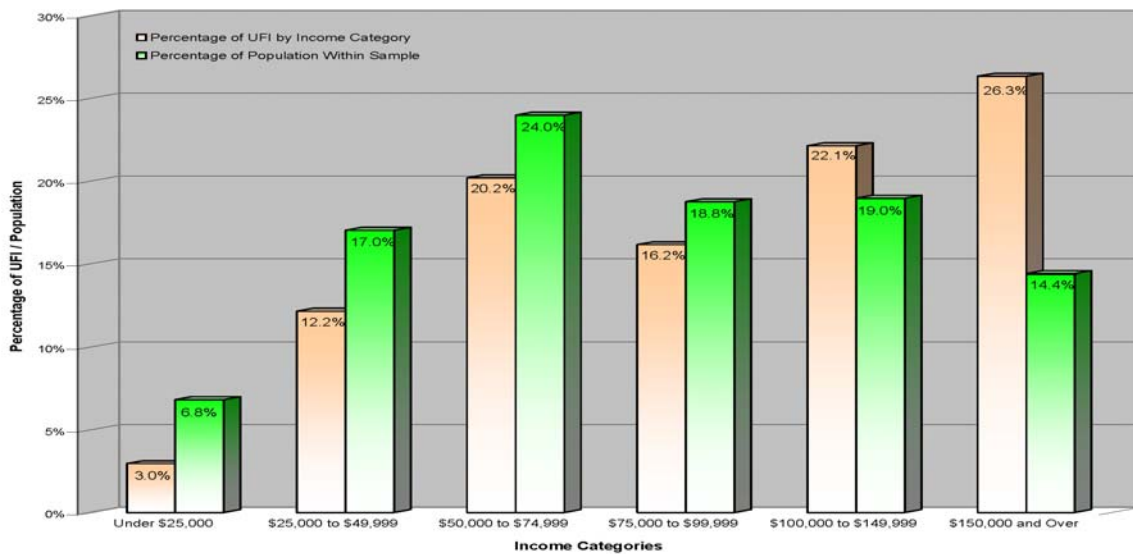


# Tennis

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*

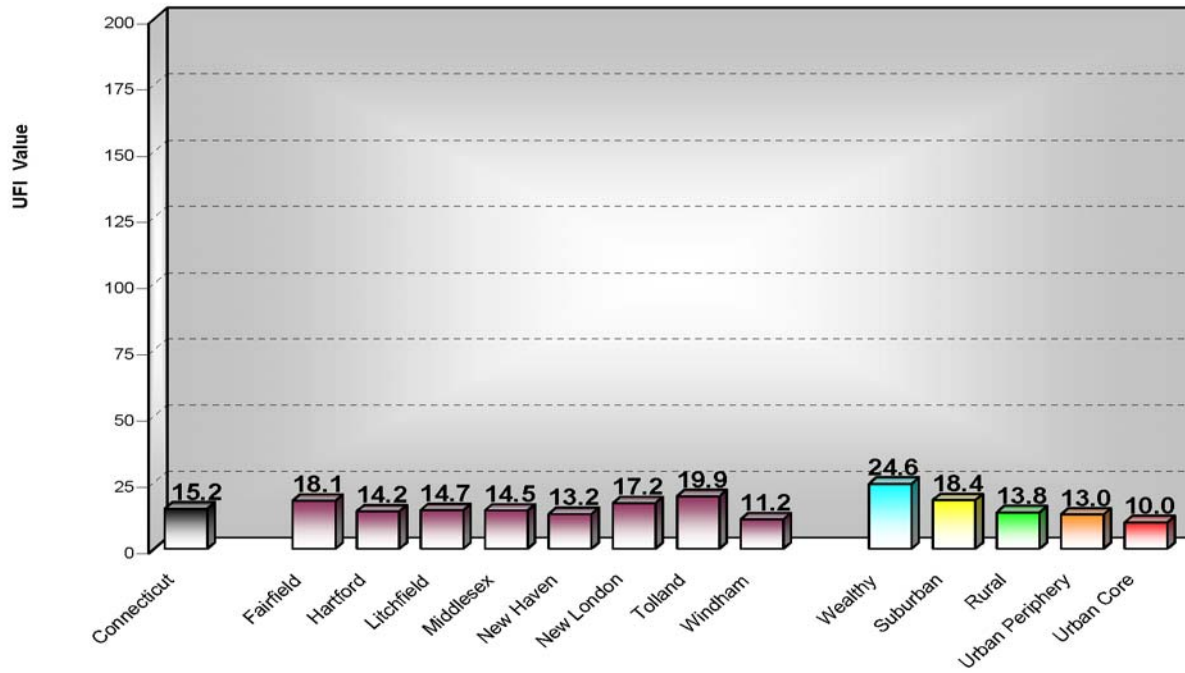


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

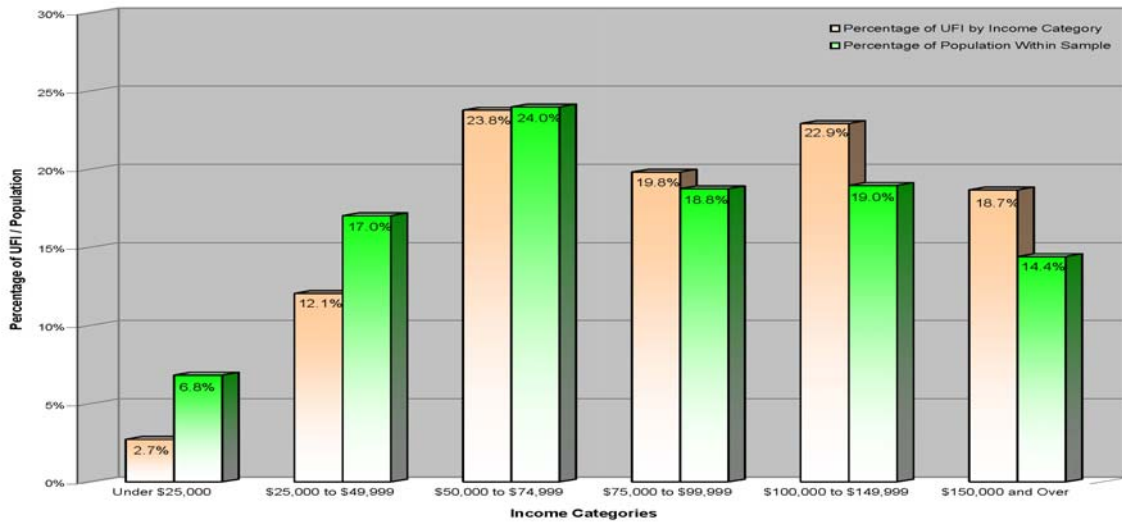


# Soccer

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*

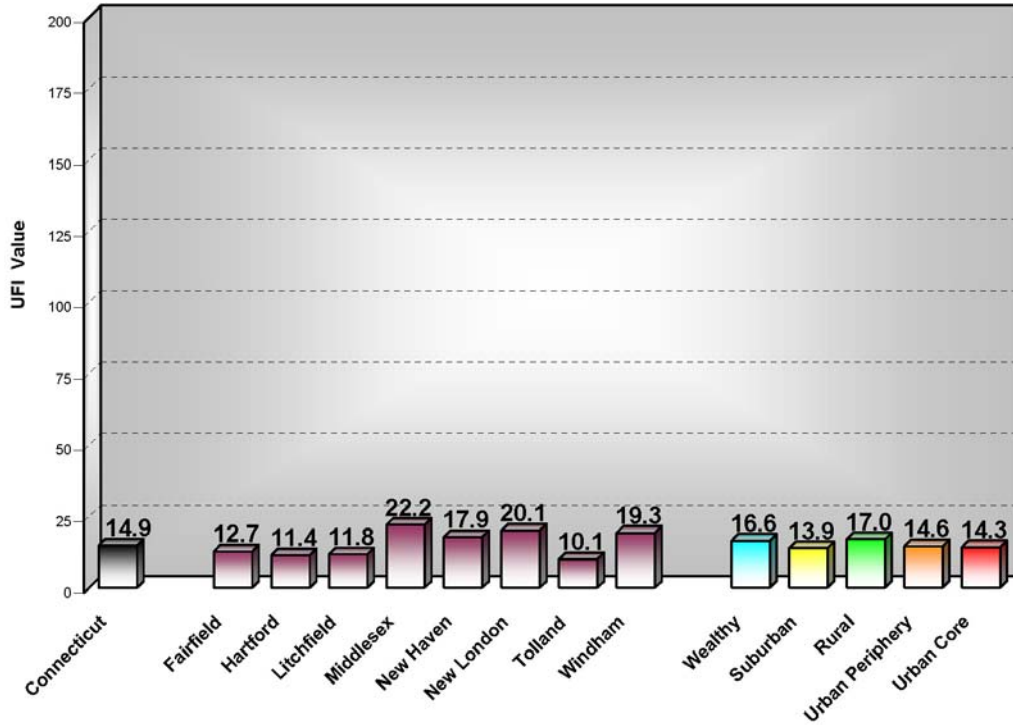


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

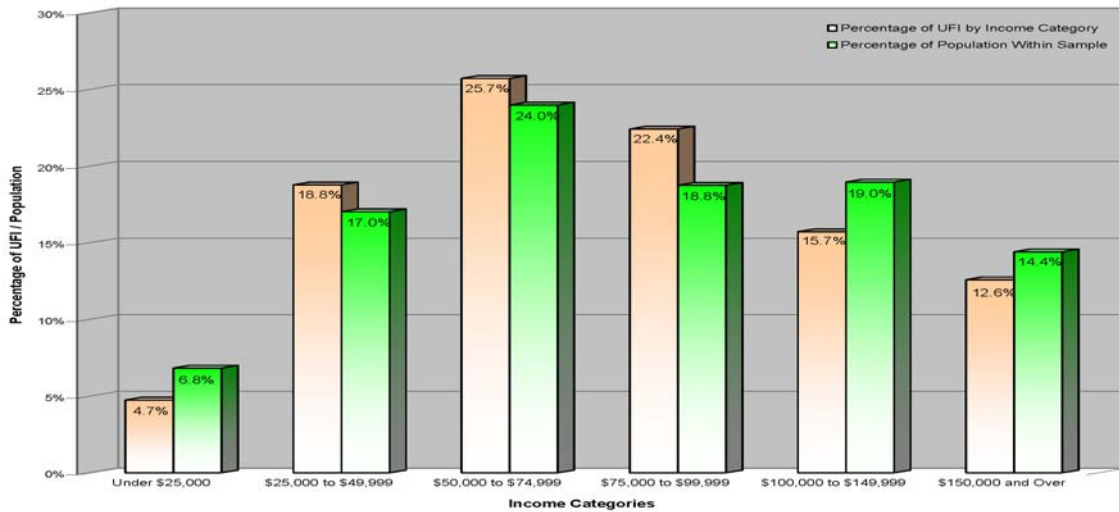


# Saltwater Fishing

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*

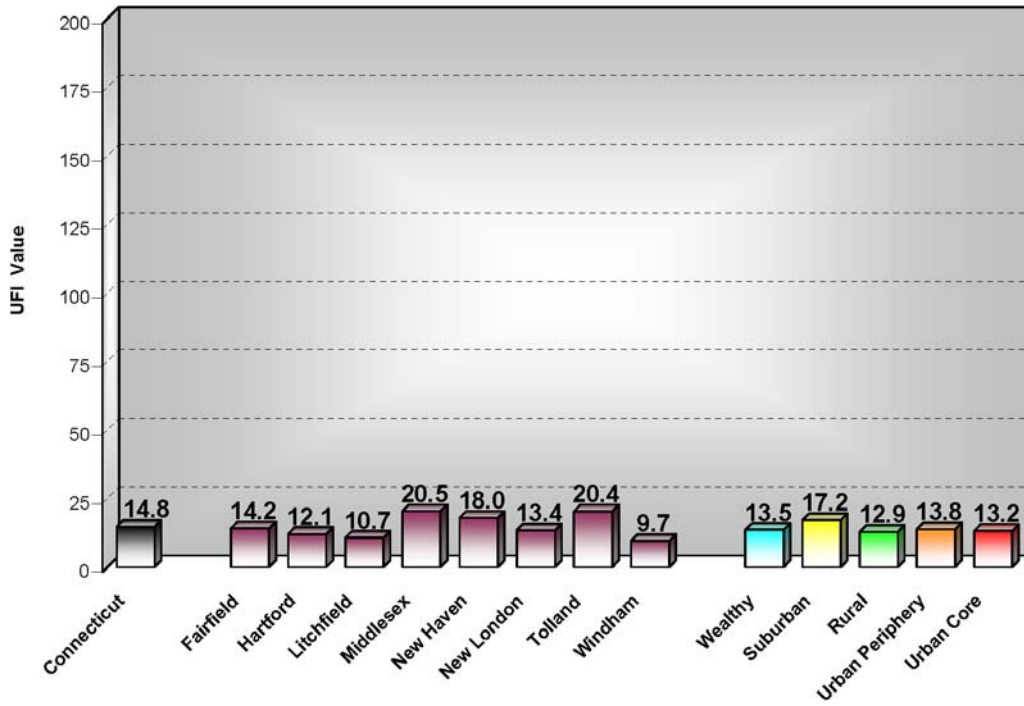


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

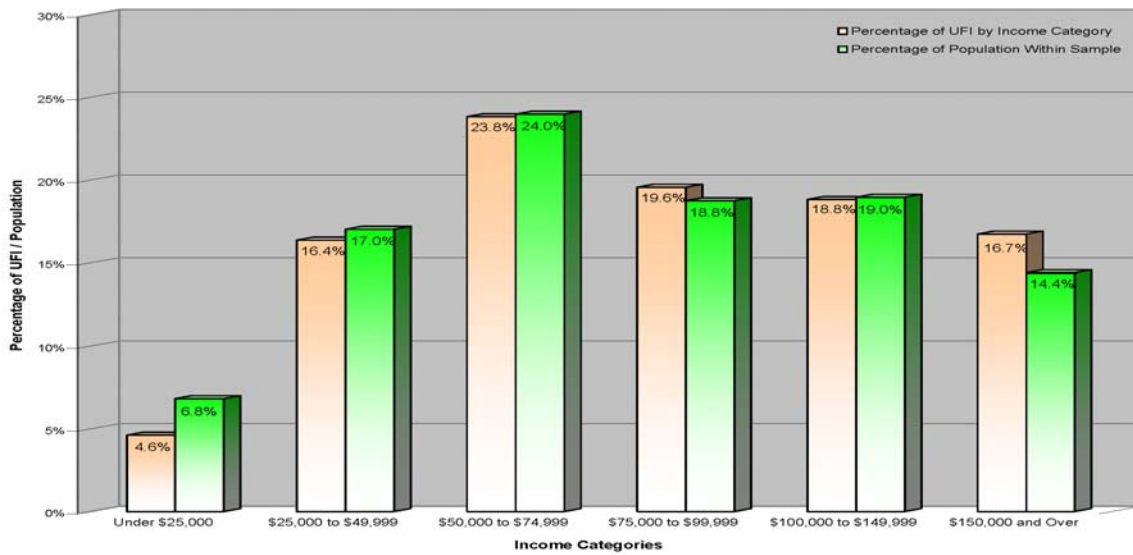


# Rollerblading and Skateboarding

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*

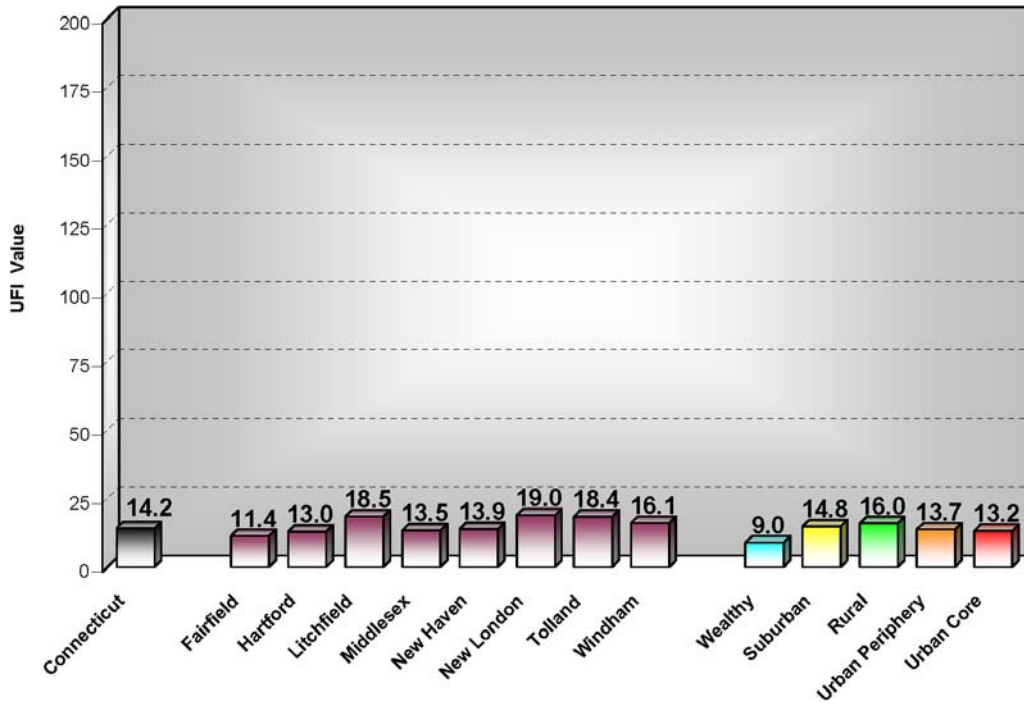


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

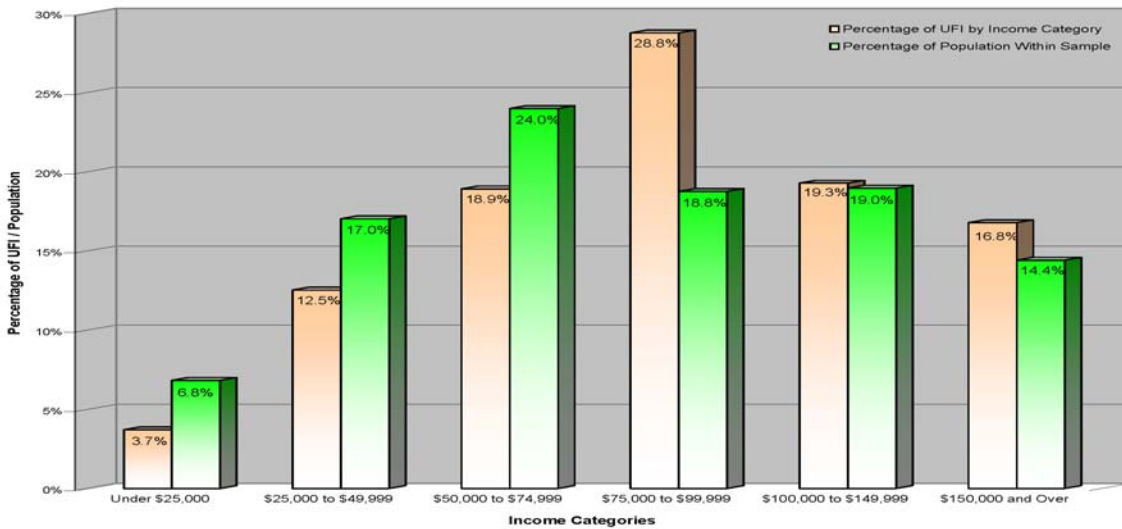


# Trail Biking

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*



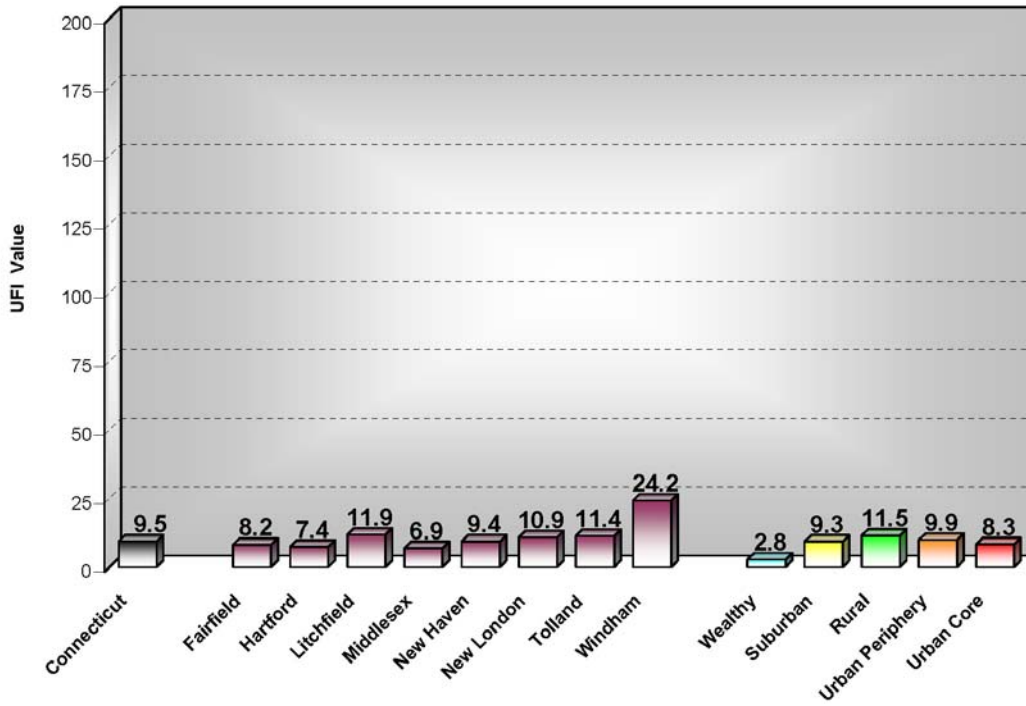
*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*



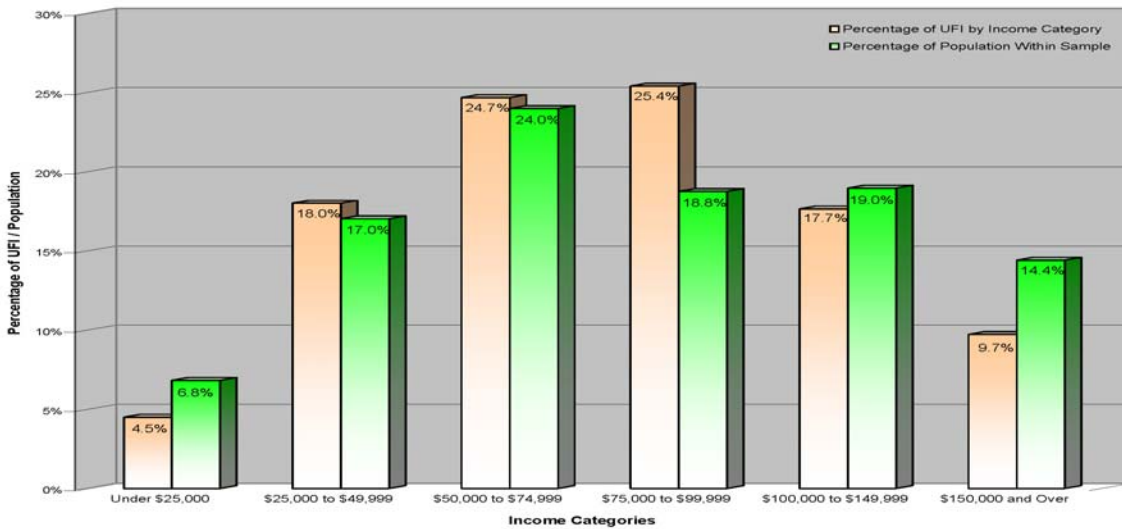


# Motorized Biking, i.e. Dirt Biking, ATVing

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*

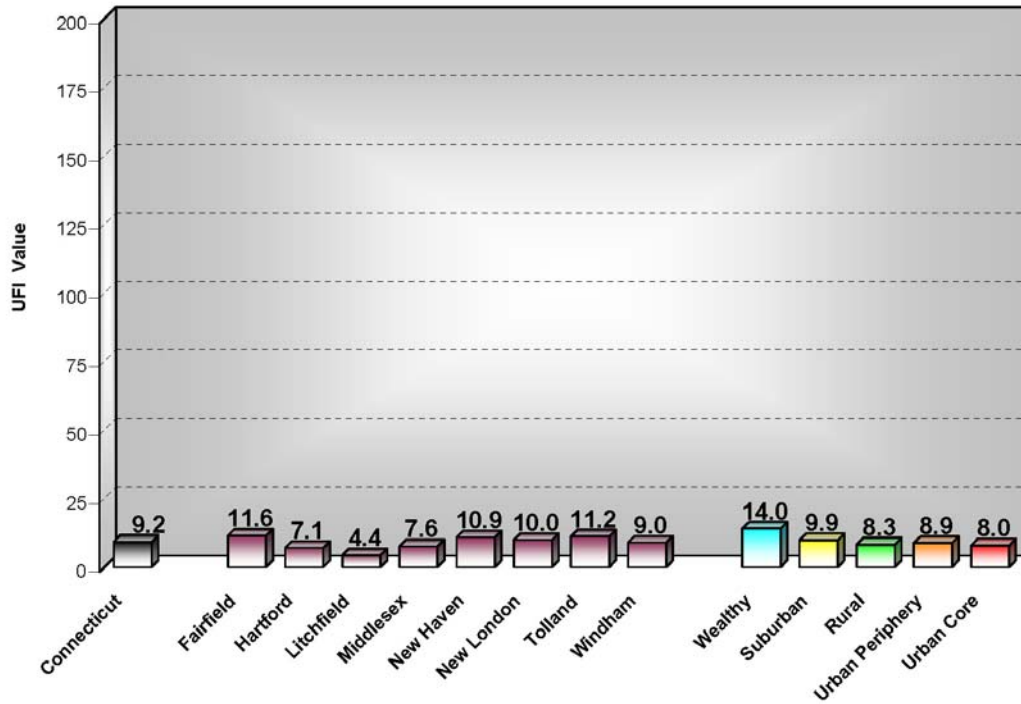


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

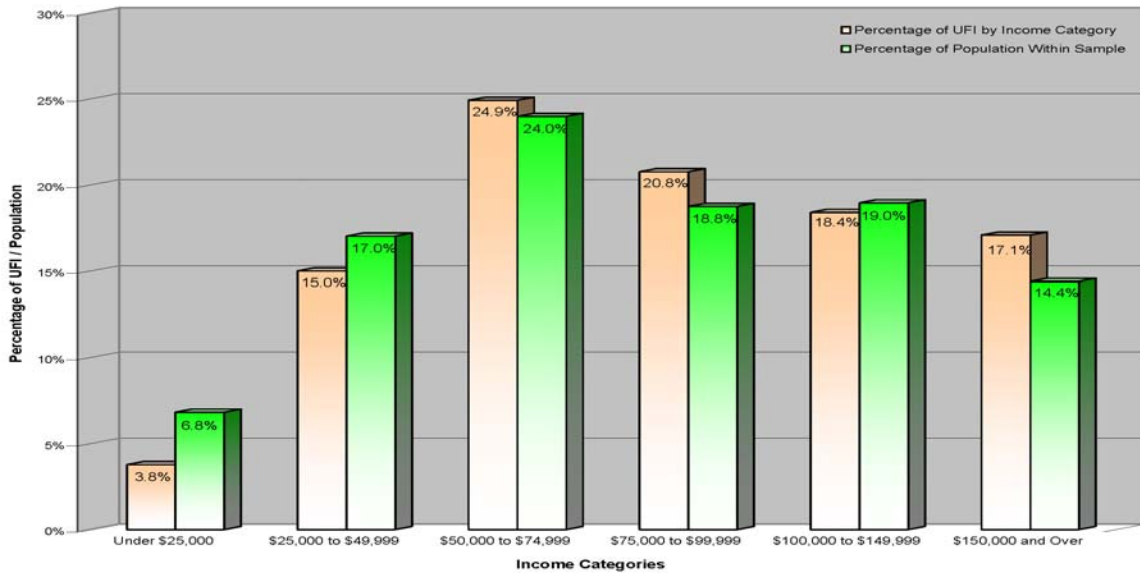


# Football, Lacrosse, Field Hockey and Rugby

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*

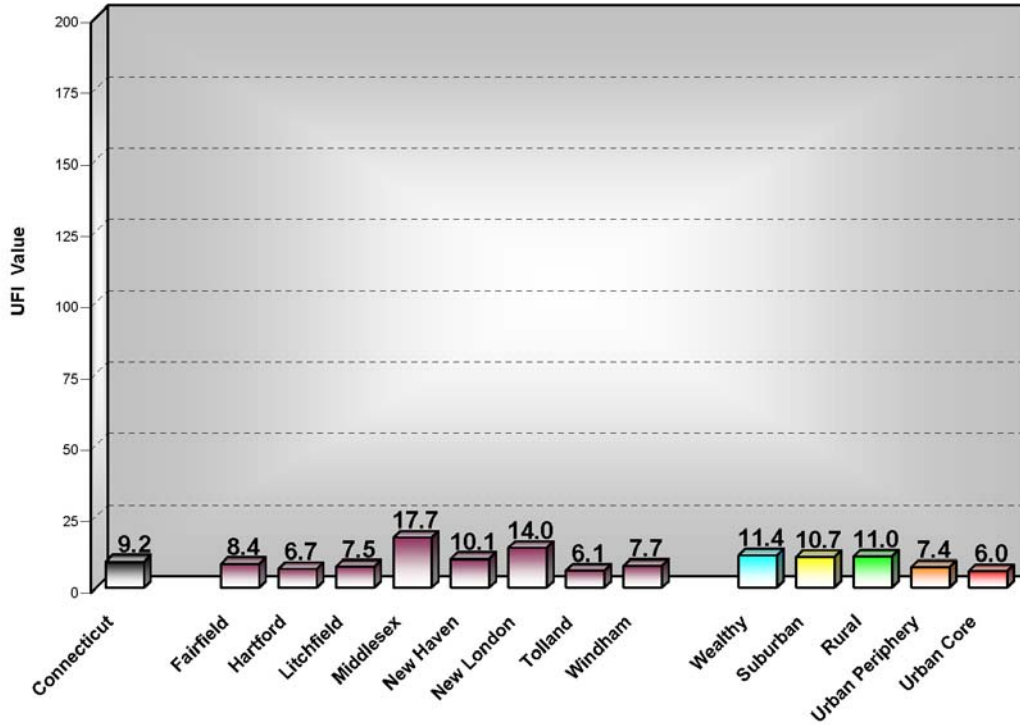


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

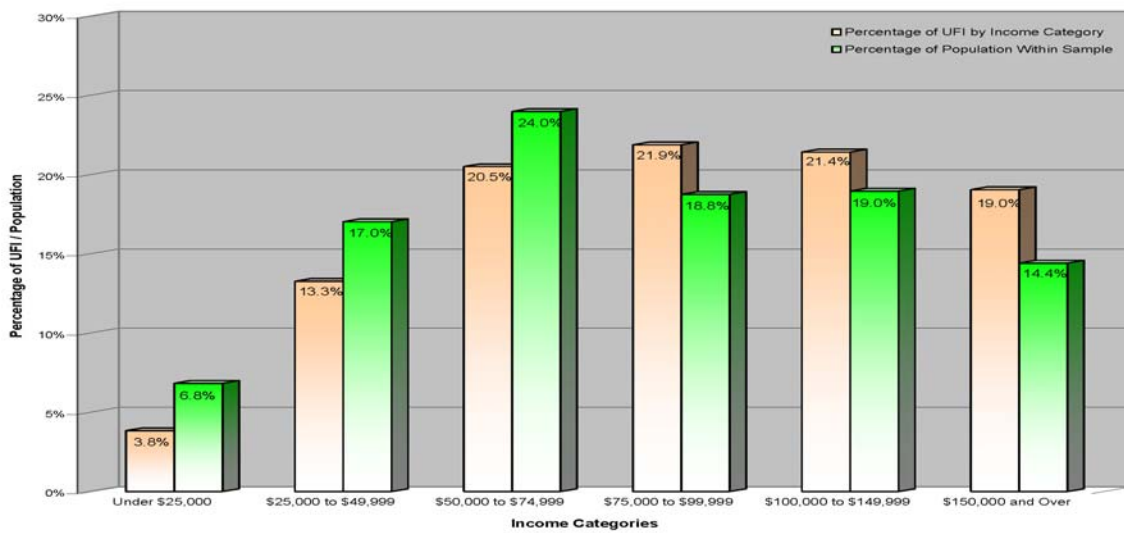


# Sailing

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*

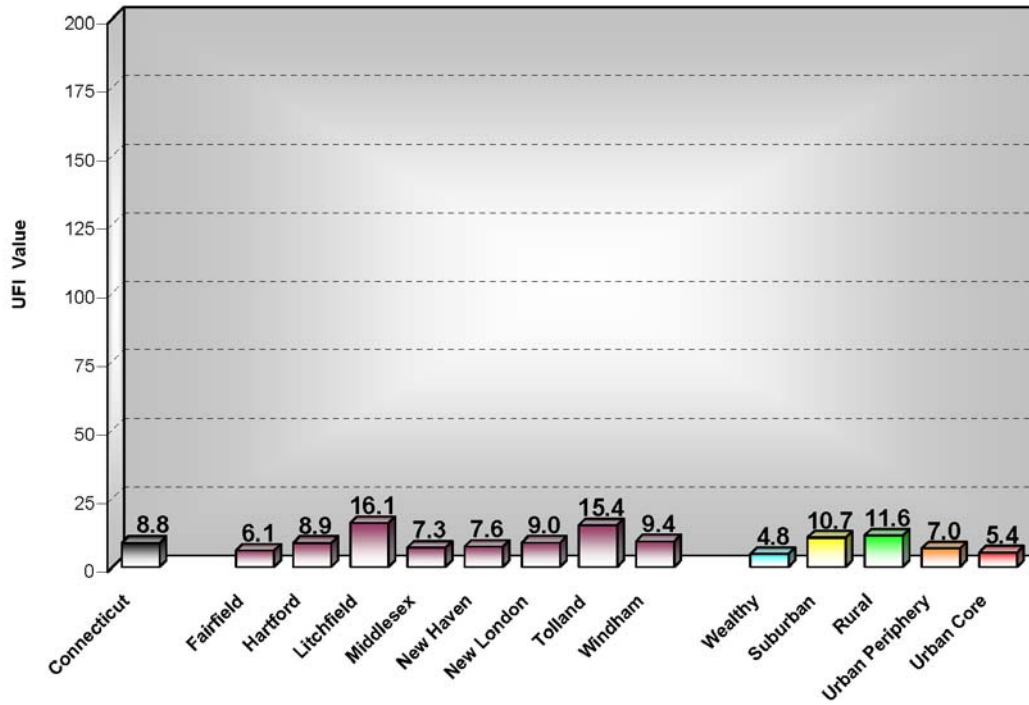


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

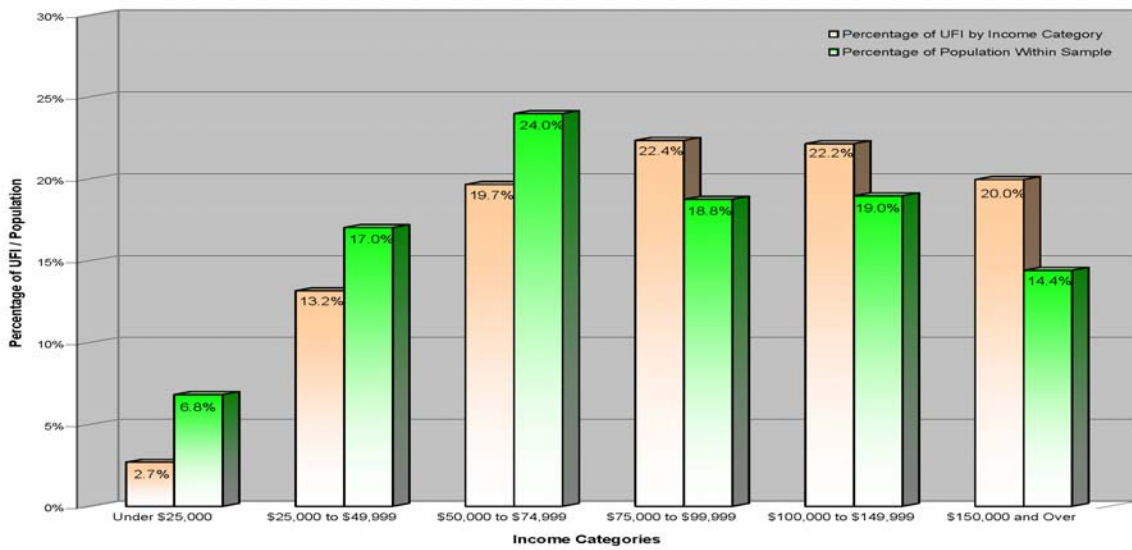


# Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*

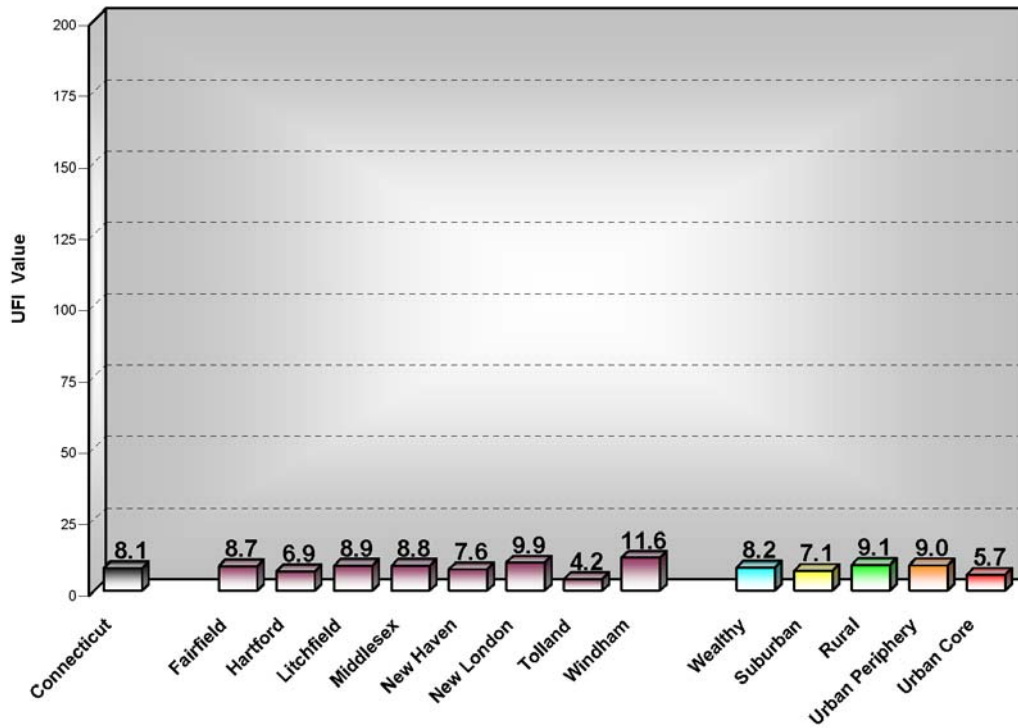


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

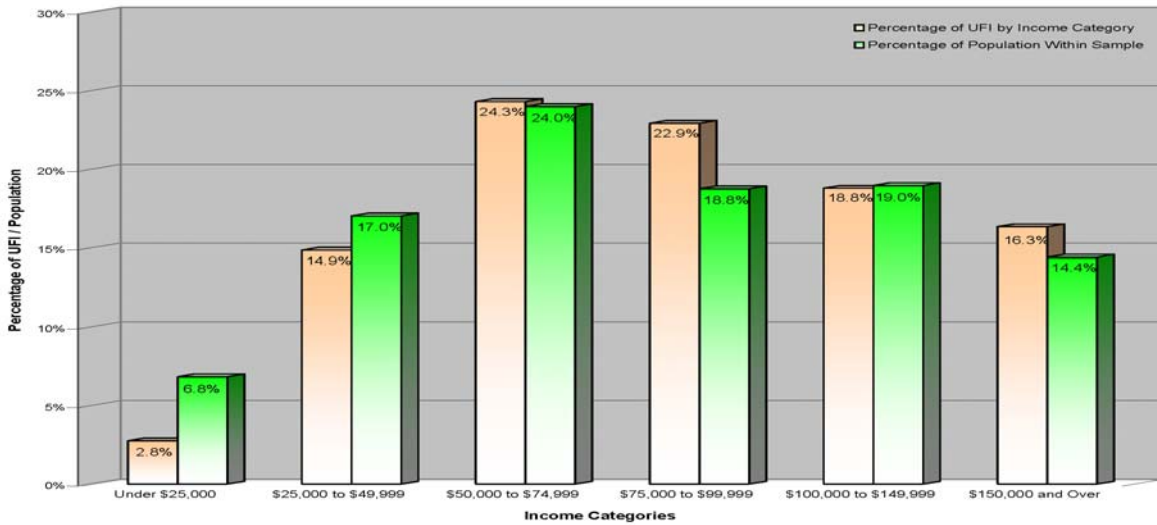


# Water Skiing or Jet Skiing

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*

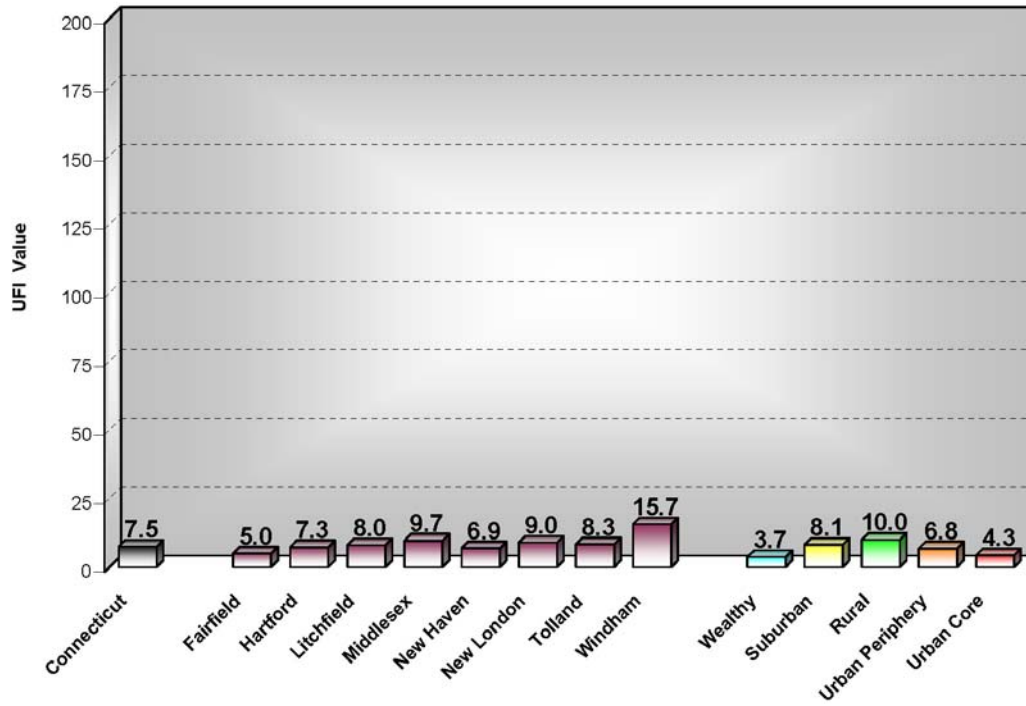


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

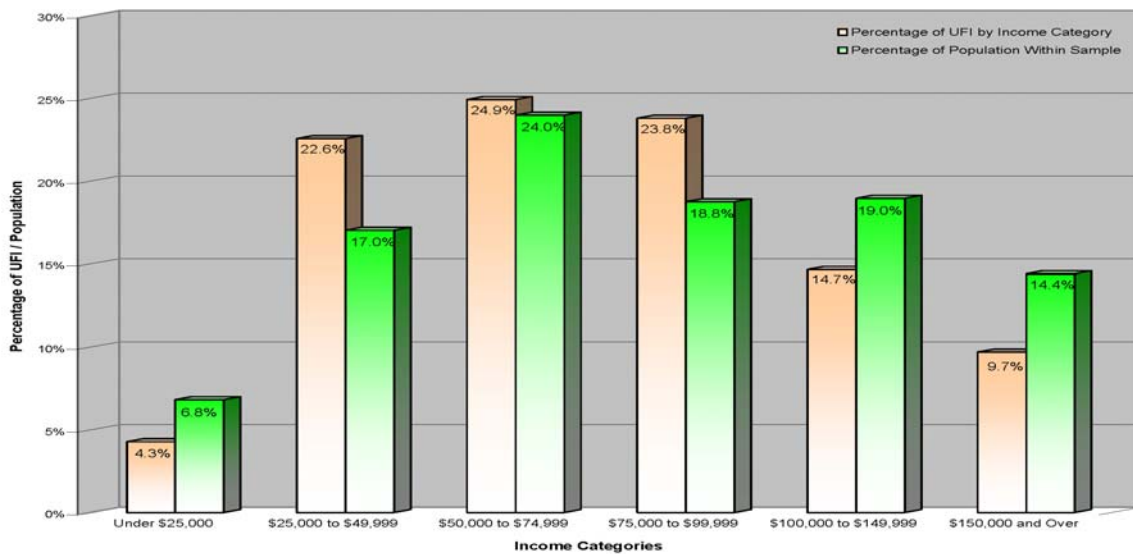


# Hunting and Trapping

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*

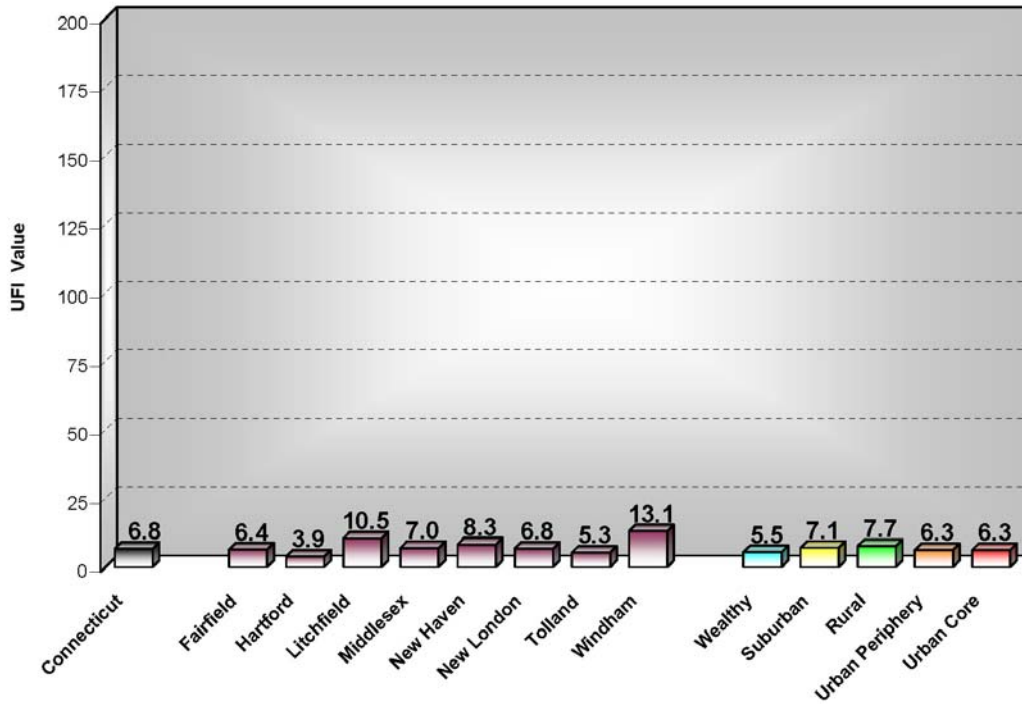


*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*

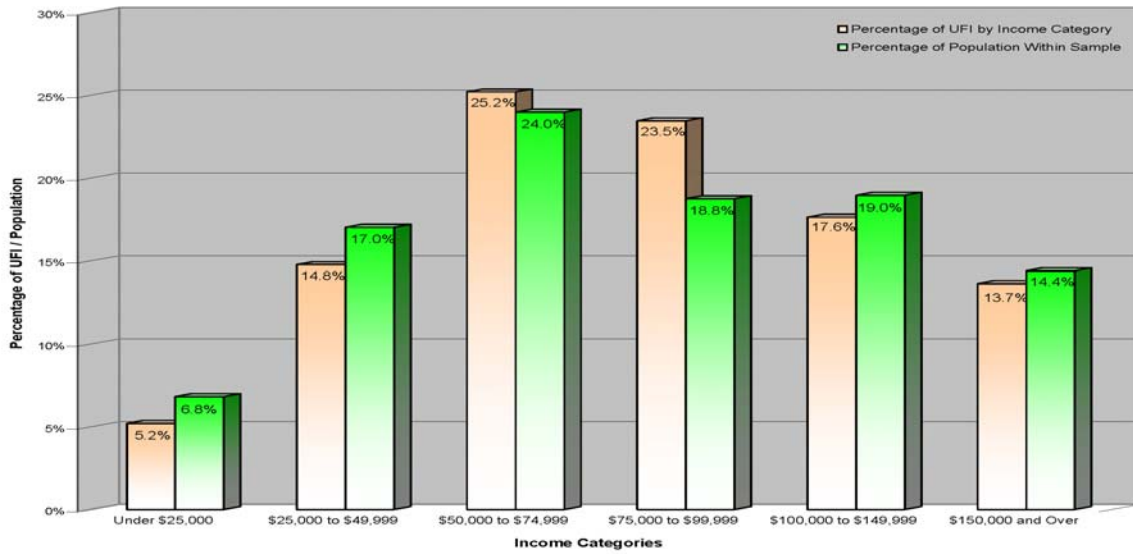


# Horseback Riding

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*



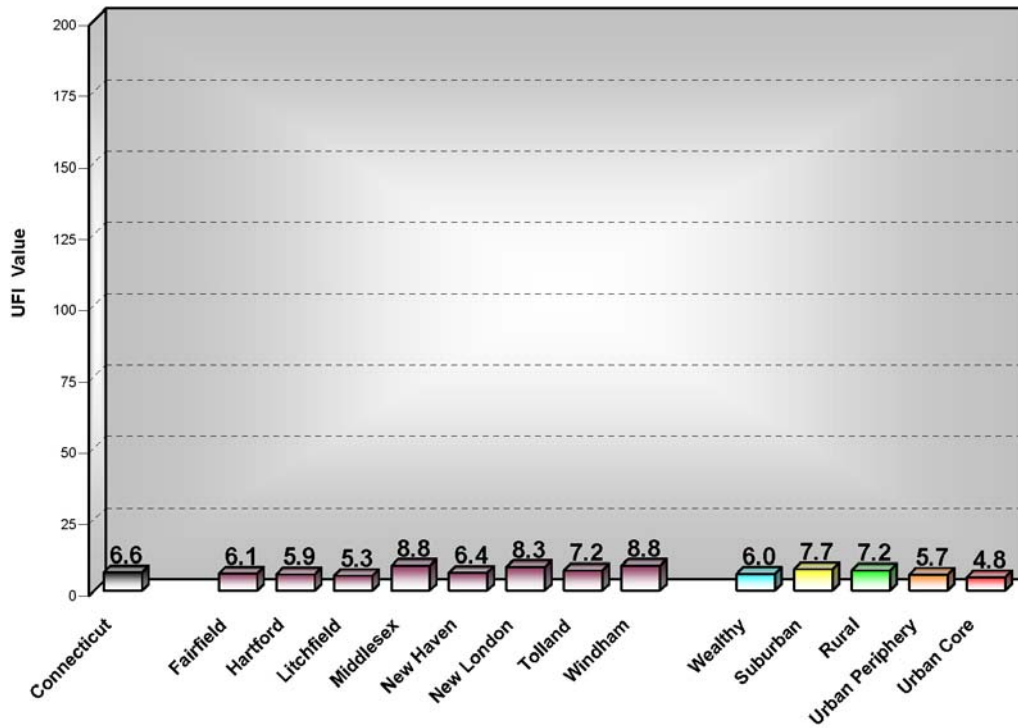
*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*



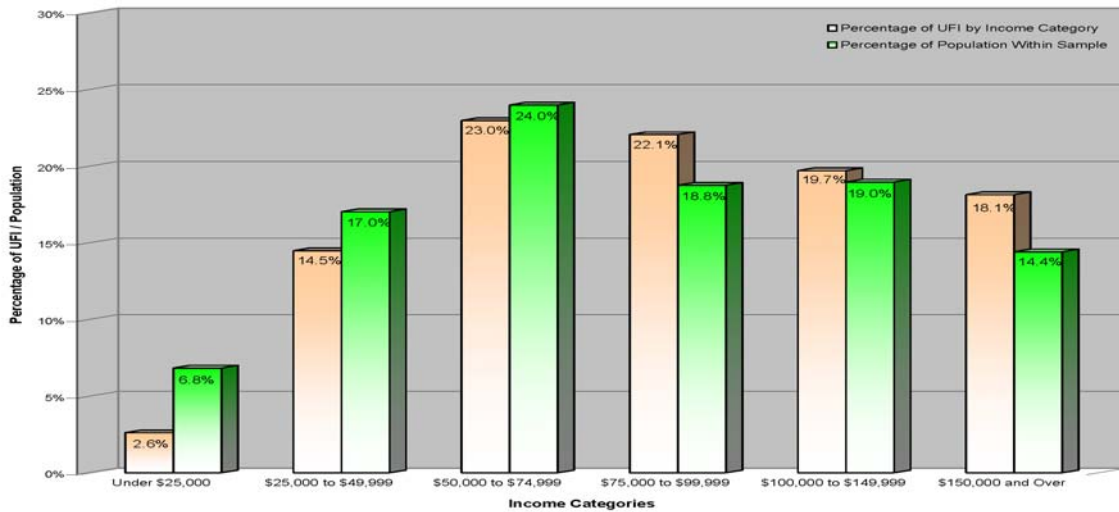


# Snorkeling or SCUBA Diving

*UFI by County and by Five Connecticut*



*Percentage of UFI by Population and Income*



## 7.7 Key Findings

1. Connecticut's residents participate in multiple land-based, water-based, and winter activities.
2. Connecticut's residents have a need for a wide range of parks and facilities.
3. The needs of Connecticut's residents for a wide range of parks and facilities are not being fully met.
4. Picnic areas, shelters, playgrounds, and unpaved/paved multi-use trails are the most important facilities to develop in state parks and forests.
5. Paved multi-use trails and picnic areas, shelters, and playgrounds are the most important facilities to develop in local communities.
6. Avid recreational users would like to see more recreational access and resources statewide.
7. The vast majority of households use automobiles as their primary method of travel to outdoor recreational facilities.
8. Word of mouth, newspapers, and maps/road signs are the principal ways residents currently learn about outdoor recreational facilities.
9. Lack of knowledge regarding what is being offered and what is available at individual sites are the primary reasons residents do not take advantage of existing outdoor recreational facilities in Connecticut.
10. A majority of residents supports maintaining or increasing funding for maintenance, information, development, acquisition, and programs.
11. Maintaining and improving existing outdoor facilities is the highest priority cited by Connecticut's residents.
12. Town officials find that adolescents and toddlers are the least well-served age groups.
13. Town officials rate improvements added to existing facilities as their greatest need. Among the needed improvements, restrooms and shelters rank the highest.
14. Town officials recognize the need to improve the condition of existing facilities and to develop additional resources to meet an increasing recreational demand.
15. Sixty-nine percent of Connecticut households visit state parks and forests.
16. Eighty-five percent of users rate the condition of state parks and forests as excellent or good.
17. Over seventy-five percent of Connecticut households visit local parks/recreation areas in their local communities.
18. Eighty-one percent of visitors to parks and recreation areas in local communities rate conditions as excellent or good.
19. Recreational usage and demand varies more by socioeconomic status than by geographic location.

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## Chapter 8: Recommendations, Strategies, and Priorities

### 8.1 Introduction

Through the SCORP development process, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection has made a detailed assessment of the supply of and demand for outdoor recreational facilities in Connecticut. The supply inventory took both a quantitative and qualitative look at the state, local, and private outdoor recreational facilities available in Connecticut. While the inventory of DIRPs is not 100% complete, it represents the best accounting of outdoor recreational facilities ever compiled for Connecticut. The demand information for outdoor recreational needs came directly from the users and would-be users of these facilities, as well as from town officials supplying recreational facilities and programs at the local level. In light of the findings of the two preceding chapters, DEP has assessed the steps that need to be taken to more closely reconcile supply and demand. The following sections present the guiding principles that will frame DEP's efforts to provide outdoor recreational opportunities to the citizens of Connecticut (8.2), discuss the distinct roles of the state and its municipalities in meeting Connecticut's recreational needs (8.3), and detail six categories of specific recommendations arising from the research contained in this SCORP, the input of the SCORP Advisory Board, and the experience of DEP employees (8.4-8.9).

### 8.2 Departmental Goals for Outdoor Recreation

The nine goals set forth here provide the foundation upon which the specific recommendations in the following sections are built. As such, these nine goals can be collectively seen as a mission statement guiding the outdoor recreational planning efforts and the allocation of resources of the Department in its efforts to provide our citizens and other visitors with the types of facilities and experiences they rightfully expect to find at a Connecticut state park or state forest.

It is the goal of the Department of Environmental Protection to provide a broad spectrum of natural resource-based outdoor recreational activities for all segments of Connecticut's citizenry, and to maximize public access to DEP's outdoor recreational facilities and the opportunities offered.

It is the goal of the Department of Environmental Protection to provide safe, clean, and affordable facilities for the use and enjoyment of Connecticut's citizens and other visitors to our state parks, state forests, and other management areas.

It is the goal of the Department of Environmental Protection to promote healthy lifestyles for all of Connecticut's citizens, and especially children, by encouraging them to incorporate outdoor recreation into their daily lifestyles, and to fully recognize the physical and emotional benefits of outdoor recreation.

It is the goal of the Department of Environmental Protection to continue to implement *The Connecticut Green Plan: Open Space Acquisition* by pursuing its identified goals for

property ownership by the State, municipalities, land trusts, and other landholding entities, and to acquire properties designated as priority acquisitions in the Plan.

It is the goal of the Department of Environmental Protection to provide multiple recreational opportunities at its facilities wherever possible so as to maximize the recreational capacity and public utilization of DEP's holdings and facilities.

It is the goal of the Department of Environmental Protection to protect valuable natural, cultural, and historic resources so as to encourage their enjoyment by the public while preserving and, where appropriate, enhancing those resources for future generations.

It is the goal of the Department of Environmental Protection to increase state park and forest usage by eliminating obstacles which inhibit or restrict usage. Limitations can arise from lack of information, capacity constraints including insufficient parking or sanitary facilities, physical barriers to usage, or state of maintenance.

It is the goal of the Department of Environmental Protection to promote the maintenance of Connecticut's current inventory of outdoor recreational facilities throughout the state, whether owned and managed by the State, local communities, or private non-profit trusts.

It is the goal of the Department of Environmental Protection to create equal access for people with disabilities in all of its programs and facilities, consistent with or in excess of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Connecticut human rights statutes. This will include the provision of communications aids and services, accessible parking, adequate toilet facilities, appropriate signage, and access to water bodies, trail opportunities, shelters, and picnic areas.

### **8.3 State and Municipal Roles in Connecticut Recreation**

It is the mission of the Department of Environmental Protection to offer natural resource-based recreational facilities and experiences wherein the nature of the setting contributes added value to the activity. The Department will continue to assist municipalities in fulfilling their roles to provide for more intensive forms of recreation such as sports, field and court-based activities, and organized recreational programs. However, the Department sees a clear distinction in its recreational mission from that of the municipalities in that it provides for forms of recreation that cannot be recreated in equal quality in other locations lacking the specific resources and qualities that the settings of our facilities offer. Except in very limited instances, the Department does not intend to nor seek to duplicate the recreational facilities commonly provided for at the municipal level such as basketball or tennis courts, baseball fields or playscapes.

The Department does envision some evolution in its traditional role in that it has become more involved in providing for cultural and historic activities in recent years. This role is likely to continue and to increase. Examples of such activities are accommodating events such as civil war re-enactments, rentals of historic or other facilities for weddings, festivals and charitable

events, acquiring and developing a major new historic state park, and offering greater access to historical sites on existing DEP properties.



In defining its role in outdoor recreation, the Department will continue to respect the distinct role served by commercial providers of recreational facilities and services. The Department does not seek to become a provider of recreational activities requiring intensive development or those commonly provided on a commercial basis. In some instances, there may be limited exceptions to this rule, particularly if the Department should acquire a property which has pre-existing recreational facilities which DEP will continue to operate.

A greater level of partnering with municipalities, other state agencies, businesses, and non-profit entities is envisioned during the planning horizon of this SCORP. Such partnerships could involve the acquisition of properties or easements or the management of properties. Partnering with certain recreational organizations to manage particular activities on DEP lands has proven successful to date and is envisioned to play an increasing role.

#### **8.4 Capital Maintenance Recommendations**

It is the goal of the Department of Environmental Protection to provide safe, clean, and well-maintained facilities for the use and enjoyment of Connecticut's citizens and other visitors to our state parks, state forests and other management areas. Coincidentally, the Department seeks to provide a sufficient capacity of recreational facilities to accommodate the existing and increasing levels of demand placed upon our park and forest recreational infrastructure.

The Citizen Demand Survey conducted as an element of this SCORP effort revealed that only 16% of the 2,238 responding citizens rated the condition of Connecticut's state parks as excellent. This is about half of the typical percentage that nationally rate their state parks to be in excellent condition. When combined with the 66% of citizens who rate the conditions of the state parks as good, 82% see the parks as being in adequate condition. Seventeen percent, however, rated Connecticut state parks as being in fair or poor condition. These findings are in agreement with both anecdotal feedback from park users and the experience of DEP staff.

The 2004 survey of the National Association of State Park Directors found that Connecticut has the lowest level of spending as a percentage of the state budget for the operation and maintenance of its state parks and forests of any New England state. Connecticut was one of three states tied for 46<sup>th</sup> place nationally in that category at 0.09% of its state budget allocated to operating its state parks. The other New England states spend an average of 0.20% of their state budgets on park operations and maintenance.



The Department has an obligation to maintain its existing facilities in a state of good repair and safe for public use. The Department also recognizes that some facilities fail to meet the public's need and expectations because they do not provide sufficient capacity. DEP attaches a high priority for capital funding to meet the needs of infrastructure maintenance and to enhancements of existing facilities which will provide more capacity for recreation. Foremost examples of the later include bathhouses, rest rooms, campsites, parking capacity, and ADA access enhancements.

To more precisely define the capital maintenance and infrastructure needs of DEP's state park and forest recreational areas, the Department undertook the Connecticut State Parks Infrastructure Conditions Assessment, released in December 2003. This assessment, performed by an outside consultant, detailed the maintenance needs in fifty-one of Connecticut's most popular state parks and forests to maintain a state of good repair and to meet identified demands upon those facilities. The findings of this extensive six-volume study indicated that a total of \$186,810,000 of repairs and enhancements are needed at these facilities. The Connecticut State Parks Infrastructure Conditions Assessment is a blueprint for addressing the physical deficiencies of DEP facilities and will serve as the basis for committing funding DEP receives under the 2010 Plan, a twelve-year investment plan announced in 1997 to provide \$114 million for park facilities improvements, or monies from other sources. Funding received from the Land and Water Conservation Fund would be an important means of meeting the needs identified in this assessment, and a large share of any LWCF monies received by the State of Connecticut during the 2005-2010 time frame covered by this SCORP would be directed to projects identified in the assessment.



Within the above needs, the Department notes that the parks with the most critical needs are several that are within or proximate to urban areas. Specifically, West Rock Ridge State Park in New Haven, Wharton Brook State Park in Wallingford, Silver Sands State Park in Milford, and Sherwood Island State Park in Westport merit mention as having the most urgent infrastructure and maintenance needs. Other state parks which have pressing infrastructure needs and which would be among those selected for early remedial action or facility replacement or expansion are Dinosaur, Hammonasset, Rocky Neck, Gillette Castle, Sleeping Giant, Mashamoquet Brook, Black Rock, Squantz Pond, and Kent Falls. Peoples State Forest and the Austin Hawes Campground within American Legion State Forest also have pressing needs.

It is the Department's goal to maintain handicapped access features so they can adequately serve to provide access to facilities and natural resources for recreational users with disabilities.



## 8.5 Acquisition Recommendations

The property acquisition efforts of the Department will be directed toward fulfilling the specific objectives described below.

The Department of Environmental Protection will pursue implementation of *The Connecticut Green Plan* to the extent that available funding sources will allow. The Department's property acquisition efforts will be guided by the goals for the six categories of property acquisitions proposed in the plan. These six categories and their respective acreage goals, not necessarily in priority order, are:

- Water access properties (10,000 acres)
- Natural areas (15,000 acres)
- Scenic and historically significant properties (15,000 acres)
- Greenways (20,000 acres)
- Forests (50,000 acres)
- Special opportunity purchases (10,000 acres).

Though traditionally water access and water-based recreational opportunities have been the highest acquisition priority of the Department and were so recognized in previous SCORPs, the increased popularity of trail-based activities in today's recreational environment must be recognized and addressed. The Department will place a high priority on properties which allow for multi-use trail development and particularly for the elimination of gaps in individual trails or within the state's trail network. Connectivity of trail systems, both to each other and to designated bike routes, will also be pursued through acquisitions.

The Department will address trailhead needs by seeking to acquire suitable properties for development of trailhead facilities including sufficient parking and restroom facilities. For trails which provide for either equestrian or motorized use, the parking areas need to be of sufficient size to accommodate trailers.

The Department will target coastal property acquisitions in those areas identified in the Connecticut Coastal Access Survey Project as having the greatest user demand, or in the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Plan as possessing significant ecological values, offering coastal access, or having coastal resource or cultural heritage value.

The Department will target for acquisition in-holdings within Department properties. Elimination of privately held in-holdings will increase the efficiency of management by DEP and will eliminate potential conflicts between user groups and in-holding owners.

The Department will pursue multi-use properties as a high acquisition priority so as to optimize the degree to which recreational demands can be met within available funding.

The Department will look for opportunities to pursue cost-shared property acquisitions and joint ownership with land trusts and other non-profit entities where appropriate to maximize progress toward realizing the above acquisition goals.

## 8.6 Development Recommendations

Water-based recreational needs represent the Department's highest development priority. DEP will proceed with the development of Silver Sands State Park in Milford as our fourth major coastal park. Development of this park will proceed in accordance with the Silver Sands State Park Master Plan, developed in 1992. This 310-acre park will add a peak daily capacity of 6,700 to 8,100 people and will increase Connecticut's coastal park capacity, based on vehicles, from 13,400 parking spaces at the three existing parks to 15,000 spaces. To date, improvements constructed at Silver Sands have consisted of an access road, parking for 220 cars in addition to a small parking lot for fishermen, and the boardwalk. The next scheduled phase of construction will add utilities, a restroom/changing room building, a ticket booth, additional parking for 565 vehicles, a maintenance structure, and an extension of the boardwalk to connect with a similar walkway built along the Town of Milford's Walnut Beach.

The Clough Harbour Infrastructure Assessment identified several high priority projects needed to maintain or to increase capacity at other coastal state parks. These include the replacement of the main pavilion at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison as well as the expansion of the boardwalk to connect the existing West Beach boardwalk to the eastern area of the park, the replacement of the main pavilion at Sherwood Island State Park in Westport, and the replacement of six campground toilet buildings at Rocky Neck State Park in East Lyme. Replacement of antiquated and failing underground utilities for water, electric, and sewer is a pressing need at Sherwood Island State Park. Underground utilities at Hammonasset and Rocky Neck are also in need of replacement in the near term.

Inland swimming areas are also under considerable usage pressure, and demand often exceeds capacity. Squantz Pond, Wadsworth Falls, Chatfield Hollow, Wharton Brook, and Indian Well State Parks all experience multiple peak days when park capacity is reached and visitors routinely must be turned away. Developmental priorities to meet some of this excess demand include the development of a beach and swimming area at Gardner Lake in Salem, the reinstatement of additional parking at Squantz Pond in New Fairfield, and the expansion of parking and construction of rest rooms at Millers Pond State Park in Durham. The small swimming area at Pattaconk Lake in Cockaponset State Forest in Chester offers an opportunity for expansion, while Higganum Reservoir in Haddam is another water body which could provide additional freshwater swimming capacity.

The Department places a high priority on multi-use trail development and recognizes the range of activities trails support and the high usage they receive. It is the goal of the Department to move toward implementation of the Connecticut Recreational Trails Plan. Protection of the integrity and the continuity of the existing trail systems is the highest general priority for trails. The foremost specific developmental needs of Connecticut's trail system are multi-use trails which enhance the connectivity of the trail network, special use trails,



and adequate trailhead facilities including toilet facilities and increased parking, for both general use and trailers. There is a definite need to develop one or more all terrain vehicle (ATV) trails on state, municipal, or private land, which is specifically mandated by section 23-26c of the Connecticut General Statutes. Any trail development on state land shall be consistent with the ATV Policy established by the DEP in 2003. In considering trail development projects, the Department will favor developmental opportunities that can be undertaken in conjunction with management assistance from volunteer groups.

Additional boat launch facilities are needed in both coastal and inland areas. Trailered and car-top boat launch facilities are particularly needed in the eastern half of Connecticut's coast and on major rivers and inland waterbodies. The Department will evaluate opportunities for additional ramps as suitable properties become available for acquisition. One example of such a property is the new Eagle Landing State Park on the Connecticut River in Haddam which was recently acquired largely for its ability to support a boat launch facility. Additionally, there is substantial demand for enhancements at the more heavily used ramp locations. Publicly desired improvements include toilet facilities, docks, ramp improvements, greater water depth at the ramps, and ADA access enhancements.

Paralleling these specific developmental needs for coastal parks, inland swimming, trails, and boating access, the Citizen Demand Survey identified a wide range of user demands to satisfy unmet needs for a spectrum of outdoor activities. Other recreational pursuits and facilities for which there are significant unmet needs are picnic areas/shelters/playgrounds; winter sports including sledding, snowmobiling, ice skating, hockey, snowboarding, downhill and cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing; historical attractions; nature preserves and bird and wildlife viewing areas; volleyball, tennis and basketball courts; and overnight camping facilities. Each of these needs have been identified as unmet demands for 200,000 or more Connecticut households. General development to accommodate these needs will be pursued as opportunities arise and funding becomes available and in accordance with the state and municipal roles outlined in section 8.3 of this chapter.

The Department will pursue opportunities for development of 'blended' projects which can combine funding from multiple programs to meet several needs at a site or at adjacent sites. Examples of such projects might include the use of Boating Fund monies to acquire and to develop a boat ramp site at which DEP will use its funds to construct a picnic area, or adjacent to which a municipality seeks to construct a waterfront access point for picnicking or nature viewing. Trails connecting urban areas to natural resource areas may be acquired and developed with a mix of federal, state, and local dollars. An example of a cooperative project tapping several funding sources is the Thames Maritime Heritage Park which used state, municipal and non-profit funds to develop this facility.

## **8.7 Access Recommendations**

Access recommendations highlight specific steps that can be taken to address the obstacles citizens cited as preventing greater participation in outdoor recreation. These hindrances are discussed in Section 7.4 of this SCORP. It is the goal of the Department to identify and eliminate, to the extent possible, these constraints which prevent Connecticut's

citizens from being able to use our state parks and forests and other facilities. The constraints identified in the SCORP surveys of citizens and municipal officials include a lack of information about the programs and facilities and about the locations of DEP parks and forests, the distances of facilities from user residences, a lack of facilities to accommodate the desired recreational activity, a lack of parking, a lack of toilet facilities, insufficient hours of operation, a lack of transportation or transit access, a lack of access for people with disabilities, and the level of parking fees. Our efforts to develop and maintain appropriate facilities and to acquire new properties will not yield optimal results unless our citizens can get to these facilities and partake of the opportunities offered there.

To address the most commonly cited access hindrance, it is the goal of the Department to provide greater access to information about DEP's facilities and other recreational facilities in order to encourage their use by our citizens. To this end, DEP will pursue the development of a one-stop, comprehensive web page capable of providing information on all DEP facilities by geographic location or type of activity. It is further the goal of this Department to include real time features such as the extent to which parking capacity remains available at the more popular state parks in order to facilitate trip planning and to avoid trips to parks which are closed due to capacity constraints. Accessibility information and features of interest to users with disabilities would also be included on this site. Ultimately, it is the intent of the Department to include municipal facilities and even private facilities on this site.

Further measures to eliminate the 'information gap' prominently identified in the Citizen Demand Survey will include publication of maps and park brochures, improved highway signage to direct travelers to our parks, and enhanced marketing efforts, especially in cooperation with the Commission on Culture and Tourism.



The Department also seeks to address the constraints presented by a shortage of parking capacity and toilet facilities at both state and municipal recreational facilities. While not traditionally considered as recreational infrastructure, it has been clearly communicated by citizens and municipal officials that a lack of adequate parking capacity and toilet facilities are *bona fide* obstacles to full utilization of the public investments made in other recreational facilities. Addressing these deficiencies is one of the clearest, best demonstrated strategies to enhance participation rates and facility utilization for recreation that has been identified in several surveys including the Citizen Demand Survey, the Town Officials' Survey, and the Connecticut Coastal Access Survey.

The Department will continue to identify and eliminate physical barriers which prevent disabled members of our recreational community from fully accessing and enjoying our facilities. Recent examples of such efforts are the retrofitting of virtually all buildings at Fort Trumbull State Park including adding accommodations for the sight-impaired and hearing-impaired and the installation of an elevator in the fort itself; building accessible rest rooms at Sherwood Island State Park; constructing handicapped accessible campsites at Hammonasset Beach State Park with electrical outlets to recharge motorized wheelchairs; the provision of



beach wheelchairs at all coastal state parks; and the construction of handicapped-accessible fishing piers at thirty-three inland and nine marine locations around the state. Future efforts will include the construction of a wheelchair accessible path at Kent Falls State Park and the construction of a new handicapped accessible visitors' center at Hammonasset Beach State Park.

Longer hours of operation at certain facilities, transit access to recreational facilities, and lower fees have also been cited as barriers to full access of state and municipal parks. Opportunities for longer hours of operation, which basically require more staffing or overtime, will be implemented when appropriate and as funding allows, but under current personnel constraints, these opportunities will be limited. The ranking system that is currently used to award state grants to municipalities gives preference to projects that are accessible by transit. This practice will be continued, and if warranted, increased weight can be assigned to this consideration. Regarding the level of park fees, the Department would prefer not to increase use fees to our facilities, and it has no current plans to do so. However, funding sources beyond our control may affect this preference. The Department is considering reducing weekday fees in the foreseeable future. In the meantime, DEP will increase its efforts to communicate the value and savings offered by our season parking passes.

The Department will explore the idea of the creation of a Universal Access Council made up of a majority of members who are people with various disabilities who participate in recreation or who are knowledgeable about the requirements of the ADA. The input of such a Council would be valuable in overcoming the physical barriers which often prevent citizens from enjoying or fully utilizing DEP facilities.



The Department will also install bicycle racks at all developed state parks and forests. The provision of bicycle racks will enhance residents' access to our parks, as well as encourage exercise as an element of the overall park visit. A five-mile travel radius for non-avid cyclists, which is considered a reasonable standard, would expand the eligible pool of visitors for many of our parks, especially those located in or near urban or older suburban neighborhoods. The availability of bicycle racks would also provide extra opportunities for visits by more accomplished cyclists to more remotely located DEP facilities. In conjunction with the currently progressing installation of bicycle racks on most public transit bus systems in Connecticut, the effective bicycle travel radius to state parks and forests is further enhanced. An additional benefit of providing bicycle racks to encourage bicycle access to DEP parks is the breakdown of community barriers to the enjoyment of our facilities by more user groups. In addition, since there is no charge for entering state parks by non-motorized means, greater use of bicycles to access parks could reduce the barrier represented by parking fees and thus further spur attendance while saving visitors money.

While these issues do not fall within the purview of the Department of Environmental Protection, the cycling advocates on the SCORP Advisory Board articulated a need for a more

substantial network of designated bicycle lanes in order to meaningfully encourage bicycle travel or intermodal trips involving bicycles, whether these be trips for recreational or other purposes. Furthermore, parked vehicles or delivery trucks, especially in more urban areas, compromise the effectiveness of established bicycle lanes. Enhanced enforcement of such violations will be necessary if bicycle transportation is to be fostered.

Public input has shown that equestrians and cyclists are not fully aware that all forest roads within the state forests are open to use for horseback riding and biking, even if those roads are incorporated into the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail system. Increased understanding of the availability of these roads for equestrian and cycling use will enhance the effective supply of these resources on DEP lands. DEP will seek to promote a broader awareness of the availability of forest roads for these uses and will evaluate, in cooperation with the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, the incorporation of an additional identifying trail blaze to indicate multi-purpose sections of Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails.

## **8.8 Management Recommendations**

The Department will move to finalize and to adopt the Connecticut Recreational Trails Plan, which will serve not only as a blueprint to developing the recreational trail system in Connecticut, but also as a vehicle to reduce use conflicts on some trails through development of an ATV trails policy and other measures in the Plan.

It is further the goal of the Department to increase the use of volunteer patrols and management, especially on trails. Current examples of cooperative trail management between DEP and user groups include agreements with the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, the Connecticut Horse Council, the New England Mountain Bike Association, and the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Though these agreements all pertain to trail management, cooperative agreements with and among other user groups will be pursued whenever this is mutually advantageous.

The Department recognizes its need to better identify and maintain its property boundaries. Both a lack of surveyors to identify the boundaries and a lack of manpower to mark the boundaries cause confusion for forest and park users and, more importantly, for property administration. Encroachment onto DEP properties from neighboring lands range from the extension of lawns and gardens onto DEP land to developments as significant as permanent structures, including residences, being partially or totally on state land. Prevention of encroachment, and enforcement actions against existing violations on all lands held for public trust, will require increased capabilities within the department to survey, to mark, and to defend our boundaries.

The Department will evaluate appropriate opportunities to open additional acreage for hunting opportunities and to attain management objectives for species such as white-tailed deer. The declining availability and accessibility of private lands for hunting, due to development and changing ownership patterns, has placed an increased pressure on state properties to meet this need. The Department recognizes the unmet demand for hunting opportunities and the benefits of regulated hunting as a wildlife management tool, and it will consider appropriate measures to

increase the supply of its lands available for hunting activity. Also, as new lands are acquired, DEP routinely conducts assessments to evaluate hunting opportunities on those properties with the intent of identifying new lands for hunting opportunities and wildlife management.

The Department will strive to obligate LWCF funds as quickly as possible to expedite the delivery of recreational facilities to the public. This goal is applicable to both DEP projects and grants to municipalities for LWCF funds awarded by competitive grant applications.

It is the goal of the Department to continue to update the supply database developed as an element of this SCORP in order to keep it as relevant and useful as possible, both to DEP and the public, and in order to expedite the preparation of the succeeding SCORP.

### **8.9 Municipal Recommendations**

As set forth in Connecticut General Statutes section 22a-22(c), 25% of the federal funds received for recreational development shall be disbursed to the municipalities of the state. This practice will be adhered to during the term of this SCORP. While specific development proposals must originate at the municipal level, the Department will favor those proposals which meet identified statewide needs. Consequently, project rating and scoring systems for municipal outdoor recreational grants will give priority to municipal proposals for multi-use trails; swimming access at freshwater, saltwater or pools; picnic areas, shelters or playgrounds; boating access; and toilet and parking facilities. The latter, though not strictly recreational facilities, have been clearly identified in the SCORP surveys as facilities whose lack is constraining the usage rates at municipal recreational facilities.

The Department will also favor proposals for the development of facilities which are accessible from local transit routes.

### **8.10 Implementation of the SCORP Recommendations, Strategies and Priorities**

Upon approval of Connecticut's SCORP by the National Park Service, the Department will develop an Open Project Selection Process (OPSP) to implement the recommendations, strategies and priorities laid out in the preceding sections of this chapter. This OPSP will include the project rating and ranking criteria which will be used to select state and municipal proposals for which LWCF support will be sought and the mechanism by which those criteria will be applied to candidate projects.







## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix A Citizen Demand Survey**

**Appendix B Town Officials Survey**

**Appendix C Avid Users Survey**

**Appendix D Avid Users Survey in Spanish**

**Appendix E Demographics of the Avid Users Survey**

**Appendix F SCORP Advisory Board Membership and Meeting Dates**

**Appendix G Wetlands Regulation in Connecticut**

**Appendix H Summary of Norwich, Waterbury and West Hartford Public Meetings**

**Appendix I Statewide Summary of Outdoor Recreation Facilities (DIRPs)**

**Appendix J Summary of Outdoor Recreation Facilities by Five Connecticut**

**Appendix K Summary of Outdoor Recreation Facilities by County**

**Appendix L Summary of Outdoor Recreation Facilities by Town**



The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection would like your input to help determine **OUTDOOR** parks and recreation priorities for our State. This survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. When you are finished, please return your survey in the enclosed postage-paid, return-reply envelope. We greatly appreciate your time.

1. Counting yourself, how many people live in your household? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Counting yourself, how many people in your household are?

Under 5 years \_\_\_\_\_ 15 - 19 years \_\_\_\_\_ 35 - 44 years \_\_\_\_\_ 65+ years \_\_\_\_\_  
 5 - 9 years \_\_\_\_\_ 20 - 24 years \_\_\_\_\_ 45 - 54 years \_\_\_\_\_  
 10 - 14 years \_\_\_\_\_ 25 - 34 years \_\_\_\_\_ 55 - 64 years \_\_\_\_\_

3. Listed below are various **OUTDOOR LAND BASED** recreation activities that State of Connecticut residents can participate in within their local home communities or throughout the State. For each **OUTDOOR LAND BASED** recreation activity please indicate how many members of your household have participated in the activity over the past 12 months and approximately how often you participated in the **OUTDOOR LAND BASED** recreation activity. [If more than one person in your household participated in the program or activity, record the average frequency that all members of your household participate.] If you do not participate in an activity or program, write "0" for the # of household users.

<u><b>OUTDOOR LAND BASED ACTIVITIES</b></u>	# of household participants	IF YOU PARTICIPATED IN PAST 12 MONTHS HOW OFTEN?				
		Seldom or Never	Less than Once/Month	At Least Once/Month	A few times Per Month	Several times Per Week
		1	2	3	4	5
(A) Running, walking, or hiking .....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(B) Road biking/biking in neighborhoods.....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(C) Mountain biking or trail biking.....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(D) Rollerblading or skateboarding .....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(E) Horseback riding.....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(F) Motorized biking, i.e. dirt biking, ATVing.....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(G) Downhill skiing or snowboarding.....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(H) X Country or snowshoeing .....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(I) Sledding .....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(J) Ice skating or hockey .....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(K) Overnight camping.....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(L) Bird watching or wildlife viewing .....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(M) Visiting historic sites or museums .....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(N) Hunting or trapping.....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(O) Tennis.....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(P) Basketball or volleyball .....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(Q) Football, lacrosse, field hockey or rugby.....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(R) Baseball or softball .....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(S) Soccer.....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(T) Golf.....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(U) Other: _____	_____	1	2	3	4	5

4. Listed below are various **OUTDOOR WATER BASED** recreation activities that State of Connecticut residents can participate in within their local home communities or throughout the State. For each **OUTDOOR WATER BASED** recreation activity please indicate how many members of your household have participated in the activity over the past 12 months and approximately how often you participated in the **OUTDOOR WATER BASED** recreation activity. [If more than one person in your household participated in the program or activity, record the average frequency that all members of your household participate.] If you do not participate in an activity or program, write "0" for the # of household users.

**OUTDOOR WATER BASED ACTIVITIES**

	# of household participants	IF YOU PARTICIPATED IN PAST 12 MONTHS <u>HOW OFTEN?</u>				
		Seldom or Never	Less than Once/Month	At Least Once/Month	A few times Per Month	Several times Per Week
(A) Swimming in pools .....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(B) Swimming in freshwater/saltwater .....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(C) Activities at the beach.....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(D) Motor boating.....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(E) Sailing .....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(F) Canoeing, kayaking, or tubing .....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(G) Water skiing or jet skiing.....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(H) Snorkeling or scuba diving .....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(I) Freshwater fishing or ice-fishing .....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(J) Saltwater fishing .....	_____	1	2	3	4	5
(K) Other: _____ .....	_____	1	2	3	4	5

5. Have you or members of your household visited any Connecticut State Parks or Forests during the past year?

\_\_\_\_(1) Yes [please answer questions #5a & #5b]      \_\_\_\_ (2) No [please go to question #6]

5a. Approximately how often did you or members of your household visit Connecticut State Parks or Forests during the past 12 months?

\_\_\_\_(1) 1 to 5 visits      \_\_\_\_ (4) 20 or more visits  
 \_\_\_\_ (2) 6 to 10 visits      \_\_\_\_ (5) Don't know  
 \_\_\_\_ (3) 11 to 19 visits

5b. Overall, how would you rate the physical condition of ALL the Connecticut State Parks or Forests you visited?

\_\_\_\_(1) Excellent      \_\_\_\_ (3) Fair  
 \_\_\_\_ (2) Good      \_\_\_\_ (4) Poor

6. Have you or members of your household visited any parks, or recreation areas, in the local community where you live during the past year?

\_\_\_\_(1) Yes [please answer questions #6a]      \_\_\_\_ (2) No [please go to question #7]

6a. Overall, how would you rate the physical condition of ALL the parks you visited in your local community?

\_\_\_\_(1) Excellent      \_\_\_\_ (3) Fair  
 \_\_\_\_ (2) Good      \_\_\_\_ (4) Poor

7. Please indicate if YOU or any member of your HOUSEHOLD has a need for each of the parks and recreational facilities listed below by circling the YES or NO next to the recreational facility.

If YES, on a scale of 5 to 1, where 5 means "100% Needs Met" and 1 means "Needs Not Met" of your household, please indicate how much your need is being met by circling the corresponding number.

<u>Does your household have a need for:</u>	<u>Circle</u>		<i>.. IF YES, HOW WELL ARE YOUR NEEDS BEING MET</i>				
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>100%</u> <i>Meets Needs</i>	<u>50%</u> <i>Meets Needs</i>	<u>0%</u> <i>Does Not Meet Needs</i>		
(A) Paved multi-use trails.....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(B) Unpaved multi-use trails.....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(C) X country/snowshoeing trails .....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(D) Off road motor/dirt biking & ATV areas.....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(E) Unpaved single use dedicated trails.....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(F) Picnic areas, shelters, and playgrounds.....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(G) Baseball and softball fields .....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(H) Soccer, football, lacrosse, and rugby fields ....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(I) Volleyball, tennis & basketball courts.....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(J) Golf courses .....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(K) Outdoor swimming pools/water parks .....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(L) Freshwater/saltwater swimming areas .....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(M) Motor boating or sailing areas .....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(N) Water skiing and jet skiing areas .....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(O) Snorkeling and scuba diving areas.....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(P) Canoeing, kayaking or tubing areas.....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(Q) Nature preserves and bird watching areas .....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(R) Historic sites and areas.....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(S) Sledding or snowboarding areas .....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(T) Ice-skating or hockey areas.....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(U) Snowboarding or snow skiing areas .....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(V) Overnight camping areas .....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(W) Fishing or ice-fishing areas.....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(X) Hunting or trapping areas.....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1
(Y) Other: _____ .....	Yes	No	5	4	3	2	1

8. Which **THREE** of the facilities listed above in Question #7 are *most important* to your household to develop in your local community? [Write in the letters below for your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices, or circle 'NONE'.]

1st: \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_\_ NONE

9. Which **THREE** of the facilities listed above in Question #7 are *most important* to your household to develop in State Parks or Forests throughout the State of Connecticut? [Write in the letters below for your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices, or circle 'NONE'.]

1st: \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd: \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd: \_\_\_\_\_ NONE

**10. Please check ALL the ways that you and members of your household travel to use OUTDOOR recreation facilities in your local community and throughout the State of Connecticut.**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Automobile | <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Buses or trains |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Bicycle    | <input type="checkbox"/> (5) Other: _____    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Walk       |  |

**11. Please check ALL the reasons that prevent you and members of your household from using OUTDOOR recreation facilities and activities in the State of Connecticut more often.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (01) Facilities are not well maintained  | <input type="checkbox"/> (08) Operating hours are not convenient          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (02) Parks are not well maintained       | <input type="checkbox"/> (09) Lack of transportation to sites             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (03) Lack of available parking           | <input type="checkbox"/> (10) Programs not offered                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (04) Security is insufficient            | <input type="checkbox"/> (11) I do not know locations of facilities       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (05) Lack of interest in recreation      | <input type="checkbox"/> (12) Too far from our residence                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (06) I do not know what is being offered | <input type="checkbox"/> (13) Lack of access for people with disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (07) Fees are too high                   | <input type="checkbox"/> (14) Other: _____                                |

**12. Please check ALL the ways you learn about OUTDOOR recreation facilities and activities in your local community and throughout the State of Connecticut.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (01) Newspaper                   | <input type="checkbox"/> (08) Television                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (02) Club membership newsletters | <input type="checkbox"/> (09) Radio                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (03) Program fliers              | <input type="checkbox"/> (10) Town mailings                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (04) Websites/Internet           | <input type="checkbox"/> (11) Visited or called parks/recreation office |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (05) Tourist Information Center  | <input type="checkbox"/> (12) Word of mouth                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (06) Maps and road signs         | <input type="checkbox"/> (13) Other: _____                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (07) Magazines                   |   |

**13. Following are a list of actions that the State of Connecticut and your local community fund to provide OUTDOOR recreation facilities and activities in Connecticut. Please indicate if you feel that the State of Connecticut and your local community should increase funding, maintain the same funding, decrease funding, or you are not sure for each action by circling the number next to the action.**

	Increase Funding	Maintain Same Funding	Decrease Funding	Not Sure
(A) Acquire open space.....	1	2	3	4
(B) Maintain and improve existing outdoor facilities.....	1	2	3	4
(C) Develop new outdoor recreation facilities.....	1	2	3	4
(D) Provide additional recreation programs and activities .....	1	2	3	4
(E) Improve advertising and information regarding existing outdoor facilities and programs .....	1	2	3	4
(F) Other: _____ .....	1	2	3	4

**14. Which THREE of the actions listed above in Question #13 would you most support increasing funding for in the State of Connecticut and your local community? [Write in the letters below for your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices, or circle 'NONE'.]**

1st:\_\_\_\_ 2nd:\_\_\_\_ 3rd:\_\_\_\_ NONE



**15. Improvements to OUTDOOR recreation facilities and activities may increase operating costs.**

**15A) Which ONE of the following statements BEST describes your level of support for implementing or increasing the fees for outdoor recreation facilities, programs and services that you use in State Parks and Forests to help pay for increased operating expenses?**

- (1) Very supportive
- (2) Somewhat supportive
- (3) Not sure
- (4) Not supportive

**15B) Which ONE of the following statements BEST describes your level of support for implementing or increasing the fees for outdoor recreation facilities, programs and services that you use in your local community to help pay for increased operating expenses?**

- (1) Very supportive
- (2) Somewhat supportive
- (3) Not sure
- (4) Not supportive

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

**17. What is your home zip code?** \_\_\_\_\_

**18. Your Gender:**  (1) Male  (2) Female

**19. What is your age?** \_\_\_\_\_

**20. Are you or other members of your household of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish ancestry?**

- (1) Yes
- (2) No

**21. Which of the following best describes your race?** (Check all that apply)

- (1) African American/Black
- (2) Asian/Pacific Islander
- (3) Native American
- (4) White/Caucasian
- (5) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**22. What is your annual household income?** (check one)

- (1) Under \$25,000
- (2) \$25,000-\$49,999
- (3) \$50,000-\$74,999
- (4) \$75,000-\$99,999
- (5) \$100,000-\$149,999
- (6) \$150,000 and over

**23. What is the highest level of education you have received?** (check one)

- (1) Less than high school graduate
- (2) High school graduate
- (3) Some college or trade school
- (4) College graduate
- (5) Post graduate degree

**Please turn to the last page!**

**24. Do you or other members of your household have any of the following health conditions?**

(Check all that apply.)

- (1) Blindness or a vision impairment that requires the use of readers, a guide animal or equipment while walking
- (2) Deafness or hearing loss that requires the use of a hearing aid or other devices.
- (3) Physical or mobility limitation that makes walking or climbing steps difficult, or requires the use of a wheelchair, cane, walker or other aide

**This concludes the survey. Thank you for your time!**

Please Return Your Completed Survey in the Enclosed Postage Paid Envelope Addressed to:  
ETC Institute, 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, KS 66061

## Appendix B Town Officials Survey



University of Connecticut

As part of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, we ask you to respond to the following questions about the condition of resources, their use, and your town's needs and priorities.

1. **Select the town that you represent or will comment on.**

Andover

2. **What town department are you associated with?**

- a. Parks and Recreation
- b. Planning
- c. Engineering
- d. Selectman/Mayor's office
- e. Conservation
- f. Board of Education
- g. Other

3. **If you are directly employed by, or associated with a town agency, indicate your title.**

4. **If you are not directly associated with, or employed by a town agency, but you are associated with an independent organization or state agency that has information on recreation, please indicate the name of the organization.**

5. **In the following table please indicate the overall condition of each type of recreational facility that your community offers.**

	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Poor	Not applicable
a. Baseball/Softball Fields	-	-	-	-	-
b. Basketball Courts					
c. Boating					

- d. Camping
- e. Fishing Access
- f. Football Fields
- g. Gardens
- h. Golf Courses
- i. Historic/Educational Sites
- j. Hunting
- k. Multi-Use Fields
- l. Picnic Areas
- m. Playgrounds
- n. Soccer Fields
- o. Swimming
- p. Tennis Courts
- q. Trails
- r. Volleyball Courts
- s. Winter Sports

6. Now considering the same group of facilities, please indicate, based upon both your research and the comments of the community, whether or not your community has sufficient resources of each type to meet the demand.

	Sufficient -	More needed in the future -	Not sufficient
a. Baseball/Softball Fields			
b. Basketball Courts			
c. Boating			
d. Camping			
e. Fishing Access			
f. Football Fields			
g. Gardens			
h. Golf Courses			
i. Historic/Educational Sites			
j. Hunting			
k. Multi-Use Fields			
l. Picnic Areas			
m. Playgrounds			
n. Soccer Fields			
o. Swimming			

- p. Tennis Courts
  - q. Trails
  - r. Volleyball Courts
  - s. Winter Sports
- 

- 7. Now, thinking about the various age groups or clusters of people you service, please indicate whether or not you are currently able to adequately meet their needs. Following this question you will have an opportunity to indicate the problems you face in servicing each group.**

Adequately Serviced - Needs not currently met

- a. Families
  - b. Ages 0 -5
  - c. Children aged 5 - 12
  - d. Adolescents, Age 13 - 18
  - e. Adults, Age 19 - 54
  - f. Seniors, Age 55+
- 

- 8. For any group that you indicated that their needs were not being adequately met, please specify what is lacking.**
- 

- 9. What are the two most popular resources or activities you supply for Families?**
- 

- 10. What are the two most popular resources or activities you supply for pre-school children?**
- 

- 11. What are the two most popular resources or activities you supply for children, aged 5 - 12?**

---

**12. What are the two most popular resources or activities you supply for Adolescents?**

---

**13. What are the two most popular resources or activities you supply for Adults?**

---

**14. What are the two most popular resources or activities you supply for Seniors?**

---

**15. State which outdoor recreation activity(s) that you traditionally provide has/have shown a decrease over the past 5 -10 years, if any.**

---

**16. State which outdoor recreation activity(s) you predict will gain in popularity in your area over the next 5 years.**

---

**17.**

State which outdoor recreation facilities, trails, or programs that are not currently provided in your area should be provided.

---

18. Please indicate which if any of the following support components are inadequate at any of the facilities in your area. Select all that apply.

- a.  Public restrooms
- b.  Parking
- c.  Handicap Accessibility
- d.  Shelter
- e.  Public Transportation to the Facility

---

19. Thinking about the needs your area has for additional outdoor recreational facilities, resources and programs, please rate the following in order of importance with 1 being the most urgent and 5 being the least pressing.

1 2 3 4 5

- a. Maintenance of Existing Facilities
- b. Increased Staffing
- c. Improvements Added to Existing Facilities
- d. Development of New Facilities
- e. Offer additional Programs

Submit





## Appendix C Avid Users Survey

This survey is part of the development of a new Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). In order to include the viewpoints of as many of Connecticut's residents as possible, you are invited to share your thoughts and experiences on recreation in our state. Your participation in this survey is voluntary. All answers are confidential and you will not be contacted due to your participation. This information will become part of the SCORP and your participation may benefit all Connecticut residents who enjoy outdoor recreation.

---

- 1. Please begin by thinking about the various recreational activities you and other members of your household enjoy. We will provide space for you to comment on the FIVE activities that you do most frequently, are most important to you or to which you are most devoted.**

- 
- 2. The first activity that comes to mind or the activity that you most frequently practice or is most important to you we will call "Activity Number One." Please indicate that activity here.**

- 
- 3. Thinking about the activity you listed as "Activity Number One", in the past twelve months or during its "season", how often did you participate in the activity?**
    - Several times per week
    - A few times per month
    - At least once a month
    - Less than once a month
    - Seldom or Never

---

**4. Now thinking about where you go to enjoy this activity, please check all the different types of places where you practice this activity.**

- a.  State Park or Forest
- b.  Local Park
- c.  Local School
- d.  Public Lands or Roads not designated as a Park
- e.  Commercial Establishment
- f.  Other

---

**5. If "Other", please describe. (e.g. location, terrain, services)**



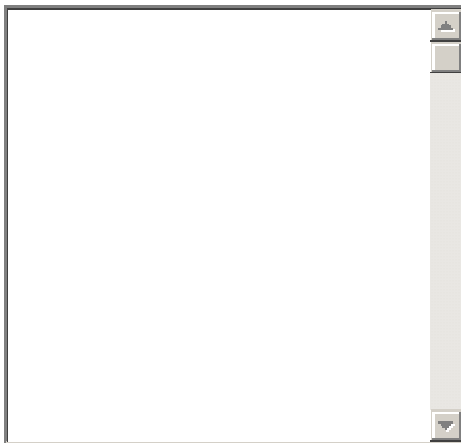
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**6. In your use of these facilities or resources for "Activity Number One", would you say your needs are: completely met, partially met, somewhat met, or not at all met?**

- a.  Completely Met
- b.  Partially Met
- c.  Somewhat Met

- c.  Somewhat Met
  - d.  Not at all Met
- 

**7. If your needs relative to "Activity Number One" are not being completely met, please indicate what it is that you do need. What problems do you experience in your enjoyment of the activity? What would you like to see done to increase access or enjoyment?**



---

**8. We will now repeat the same four questions for up to four more activities. Comment on up to five activities. Should you choose to comment on less than five activities, you may skip to question #33 at any point.**

---

**9. Activity Number Two**

---

**10. Thinking about the activity you listed as "Activity Number Two" in the past twelve months or during its "season"**

**Two", in the past twelve months or during its "season", how often did you participate in the activity?**

- a.  Several times per week
  - b.  A few times per month
  - c.  At least once a month
  - d.  Less than once a month
  - e.  Seldom or Never
- 

**11. Now thinking about where you go to enjoy this activity, please check all the different types of places where you practice this activity.**

- a.  State Park or Forest
  - b.  Local Park
  - c.  Local School
  - d.  Public Lands or Roads not designated as a Park
  - e.  Commercial Establishment
  - f.  Other
- 

**12. If "Other", please describe.**


---

**13. In your use of these facilities or resources for "Activity Number Two", would you say your needs are: completely met, partially met, somewhat met, or not at all met?**

- a.  Completely met
- b.  Partially met
- c.  Somewhat met
- d.  Not at all met

---

**14. If your needs relative to "Activity Number Two" are not being completely met, please indicate what it is that you do need. What problems do you experience in your enjoyment of the activity? What would you like to see done to increase access or enjoyment?**



---

**15. Activity Number Three**

**16. Thinking about the activity you listed as "Activity Number Three", in the past twelve months or during its "season", how often did you participate in the activity?**

- a.  Several times per week
- b.  A few times per month
- c.  At least once a month
- d.  Less than once a month
- e.  Seldom or Never

---

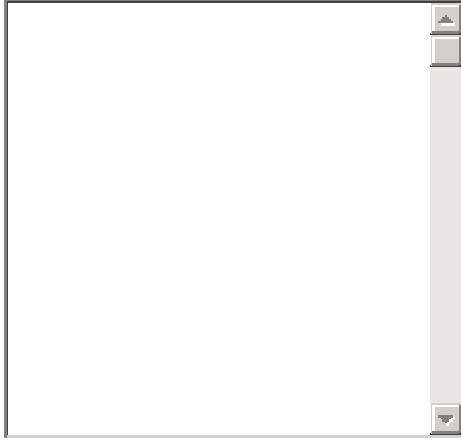
**17. Now thinking about where you go to enjoy this activity, please check all the different types of places where you practice this activity.**

- a.  State Park or Forest
- b.  Local Park
- c.  Local School
- d.  Public Lands or Roads not designated as a Park
- e.  Commercial Establishment
- f.  Other

---

**18. If "Other", please describe.**

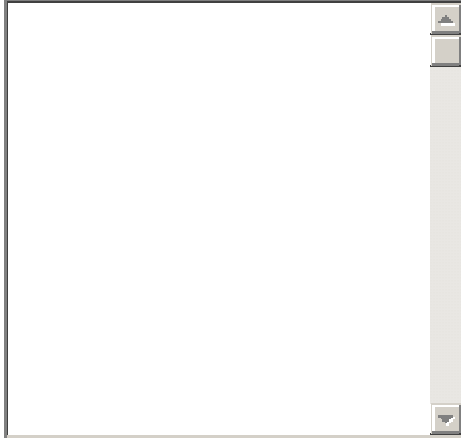




**19. In your use of these facilities or resources for "Activity Number Three", would you say your needs are: completely met, partially met, somewhat met, or not at all met?**

- a.  Completely met
  - b.  Partially met
  - c.  Somewhat met
  - d.  Not at all met
- 

**20. If your needs relative to "Activity Number Three" are not being completely met, please indicate what it is that you do need. What problems do you experience in your enjoyment of the activity? What would you like to see done to increase access or enjoyment?**



---

**21. Activity Number Four**

---

**22. Thinking about the activity you listed as "Activity Number Four", in the past twelve months or during its "season", how often did you participate in the activity?**

- a.  Several times per week
- b.  A few times per month
- c.  At least once a month
- d.  Less than once a month
- e.  Seldom or Never

---

**23. Now thinking about where you go to enjoy this activity, please check all the different types of places where you practice this activity.**

- c.  Local School
  - d.  Public Lands or Roads not designated as a Park
  - e.  Commercial Establishment
  - f.  Other
- 

**24. If "Other", please describe.**



---

**25. In your use of these facilities or resources for "Activity Number Four", would you say your needs are: completely met, partially met, somewhat met, or not at all met?**

- a.  Completely met
  - b.  Partially met
  - c.  Somewhat met
  - d.  Not at all met
- 

**26. If your needs relative to "Activity Number Four" are not**

**access or enjoyment?**



---

**27. Activity Number Five**

---

**28. Thinking about the activity you listed as "Activity Number Five", in the past twelve months or during its "season", how often did you participate in the activity?**


- a.  Several times per week
- b.  A few times per month
- c.  At least once a month
- d.  Less than once a month
- e.  Seldom or Never

---

**29. Now thinking about where you go to enjoy this activity, please check all the different types of places where you practice this activity.**

- c.  Local School
  - d.  Public Lands or Roads not designated as a Park
  - e.  Commercial Establishment
  - f.  Other
- 

**30. If "Other", please describe.**



---

**31. In your use of these facilities or resources for "Activity Number Five", would you say your needs are: completely met, partially met, somewhat met, or not at all met?**

- a.  Completely met
  - b.  Partially met
  - c.  Somewhat met
  - d.  Not at all met
- 

**32. If your needs relative to "Activity Number Five" are not**

**access or enjoyment?**



---

**33. Overall, how would you rate the physical condition of ALL the parks and recreation areas you visit in your local community?**

- a.  Excellent
- b.  Good
- c.  Fair
- d.  Poor

---

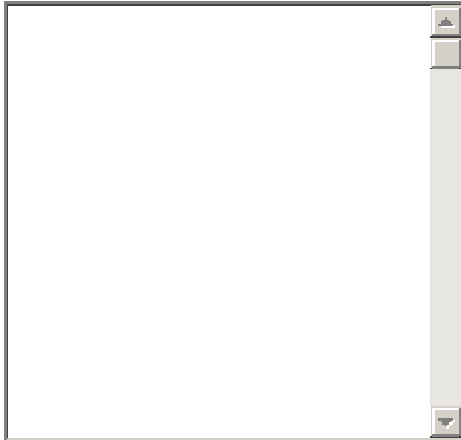
**34. Overall, how would you rate the condition of state parks and forests that you visit?**

- a.  Excellent
- b.  Good
- c.  Fair
- d.  Poor

---

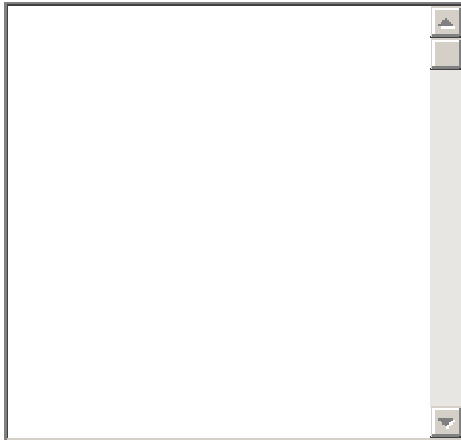
**35. What are the most pressing needs in your opinion of the**

**recreation areas that you visit?**



---

**36. What do you like most about the recreation areas you use?**



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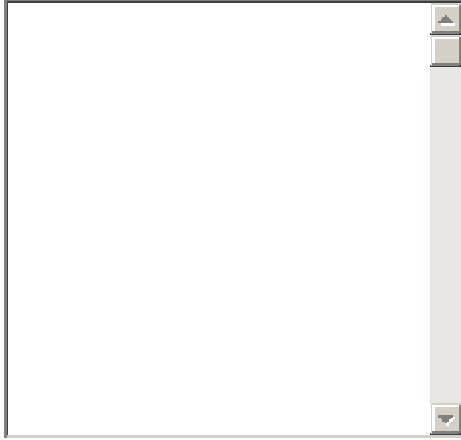
**37. Are you a member of a club or organization whose purpose or mission is the enjoyment or support of some form of outdoor recreation?**

- a.  yes    b.  no

---

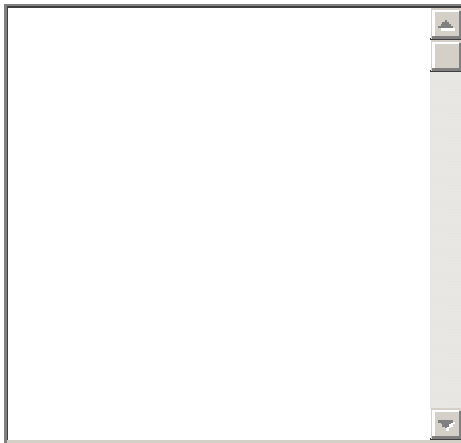
**38. If yes, please describe the purpose or goals of the organization.**





---

**39. Is there anything else you would like to say about your current or future outdoor recreation usage and needs?**



---

**40. For statistical purposes, please answer the following demographic questions.**

---

**41. What is your home zip code?**

---

**42. What is your gender?**

- a.  Male
- b.  Female

---

**43. What is your age?**

---

**44. Are you or other members of your household of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish ancestry?**

- a.  yes
- b.  no

---

**45. Which of the following best describes your race? (Check all that apply)**

- a.  African-American/Black
- b.  Asian/Pacific Islander
- c.  Native American
- d.  White/Caucasian
- e.  Other

---

**46. What is your annual household income?**

- a.  Under \$25,000
- b.  \$25,000 to \$49,999
- c.  \$50,000 to \$74,999
- d.  \$75,000 to \$99,999

- d.  \$75,000 to \$99,999
  - e.  \$100,000 to \$149,999
  - f.  \$150,000 and over
- 

**47. What is the highest level of education you have received?**

- a.  Less than high school graduate
  - b.  High school graduate
  - c.  Some College or Trade school
  - d.  College graduate
  - e.  Post graduate degree
- 

**48. Do you or other members of your household have any of the following health conditions? (Check all that apply)**

- a.  Blindness or a vision impairment that requires the use of readers, a guide animal or equipment while walking
- b.  Deafness or hearing loss that requires the use of a hearing aid or other devices
- c.  Physical or mobility limitation that makes walking or climbing steps difficult, or requires the use of a wheelchair, cane, walker or other aide.

## Appendix D Avid Users Survey in Spanish

Ésta encuesta es parte del desarrollo de un *plan estatal abarcador de recreación al aire libre* (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, SCORP). Para que podamos incluir los puntos de vista de tantos residentes de Connecticut que se nos haga posible, acepte nuestra invitación a compartir sus ideas y experiencias con respecto a las facilidades recreativas en nuestro estado. Su participación en ésta encuesta es voluntaria. Sus contestaciones son confidenciales. Nadie se pondrá en contacto con usted debido a su participación. Ésta información pertenecerá a SCORP, y su participación beneficiará a todos los residentes de Connecticut que tomen parte en actividades recreativas al aire libre.

- 1. Piense, por favor, en todas las actividades recreativas que disfrutan usted y otros miembros de su familia. Le proveemos espacio para que comente acerca de las CINCO actividades en las que participa con más frecuencia, las que son de mayor importancia para usted o las que guarda con mayor devoción.**
  
- 2. La primera actividad que se le viene a la mente, practica más frecuentemente o es más importante para usted le llamará la “Actividad Número Uno”. Por favor, indique cual es ésta actividad.**
  
- 3. Piense acerca de la actividad que enumeró como la “Actividad Número Uno”. En los pasados doce meses o durante la “temporada”, ¿Cuántas veces participó en ésta actividad?**
  - a. Varias veces a la semana
  - b. Pocas veces a la semana
  - c. Por lo menos una vez al mes
  - d. Menos de una vez al mes
  - e. Rara vez o nunca
  
- 4. Ahora piense en todos los lugares que visita para disfrutar de ésta actividad. Escoja todos los distintos lugares en donde practica ésta actividad.**
  - a. Parque o bosque estatal.
  - b. Parque local
  - c. Escuela local
  - d. Parcelas públicas o carreteras que no están designadas como parques.
  - e. Establecimientos comerciales
  - f. Otros

5. Si seleccionó “Otros”, por favor, descríballo. (Por ejemplo, localización, terreno, servicios)
6. Al usar éstas facilidades o recursos para llevar a cabo la “Actividad Número Uno”, ¿Diría usted que sus necesidades son: Satisfechas a plenitud, parcialmente satisfechas, un tanto satisfechas o de ninguna manera satisfechas?
  - a. Completamente satisfechas
  - b. Parcialmente satisfechas
  - c. Un tanto satisfechas
  - d. De ninguna manera satisfechas
7. Si sus necesidades relativas a la “Actividad Número Uno” no son de ninguna manera satisfechas, indique por favor, cuáles son sus necesidades. ¿Qué problemas confronta al participar en la actividad? ¿Qué le gustaría ver hecho para aumentar su nivel de acceso y complacencia?
8. Ahora repetiremos las mismas preguntas para hasta un máximo de cuatro actividades. Comente acerca de cinco actividades, como máximo. Si escoge comentar acerca de menos de cinco, salte a la pregunta #33 en cualquier momento.
9. Actividad Número Dos
10. Piense acerca de la actividad que enumeró como la “Actividad Número Dos”. En los pasados doce meses o durante la “temporada”, ¿Cuántas veces participó en ésta actividad?
  - a. Varias veces a la semana
  - b. Pocas veces a la semana
  - c. Por lo menos una vez al mes
  - d. Menos de una vez al mes
  - e. Rara vez o nunca
11. Ahora piense en todos los lugares que visita para disfrutar de ésta actividad. Escoja todos los distintos lugares en donde practica ésta actividad.
  - a. Parque o bosque estatal.
  - b. Parque local
  - c. Escuela local
  - d. Parcelas públicas o carreteras que no están designadas como parques.
  - e. Establecimientos comerciales
  - f. Otros

- 12. Si seleccionó “Otros”, por favor, descríballo. (Por ejemplo, localización, terreno, servicios.**
- 13. Al usar éstas facilidades o recursos para llevar a cabo la “Actividad Número Dos”, ¿Diría usted que sus necesidades son: Satisfechas a plenitud, parcialmente satisfechas, un tanto satisfechas o de ninguna manera satisfechas?**
- a. Completamente satisfechas
  - b. Parcialmente satisfechas
  - c. Un tanto satisfechas
  - d. De ninguna manera satisfechas
- 14. Si sus necesidades relativas a la “Actividad Número Dos” no son de ninguna manera satisfechas, indique por favor, cuáles son sus necesidades. ¿Qué problemas confronta al participar en la actividad? ¿Qué le gustaría ver hecho para aumentar su nivel de acceso y complacencia?**
- 15. Actividad Número Tres**
- 16. Piense acerca de la actividad que enumeró como la “Actividad Número Tres”. En los pasados doce meses o durante la “temporada”, ¿Cuántas veces participó en ésta actividad?**
- a. Varias veces a la semana
  - b. Pocas veces a la semana
  - c. Por lo menos una vez al mes
  - d. Menos de una vez al mes
  - e. Rara vez o nunca
- 17. Ahora piense en todos los lugares que visita para disfrutar de ésta actividad. Escoja todos los distintos lugares en donde practica ésta actividad.**
- a. Parque o bosque estatal.
  - b. Parque local
  - c. Escuela local
  - d. Parcelas públicas o carreteras que no están designadas como parques.
  - e. Establecimientos comerciales
  - f. Otros
- 18. Si seleccionó “Otros”, por favor, descríballo. (Por ejemplo, localización, terreno, servicios.**

**19. Al usar éstas facilidades o recursos para llevar a cabo la “Actividad Número Tres”, ¿Diría usted que sus necesidades son: Satisfechas a plenitud, parcialmente satisfechas, un tanto satisfechas o de ninguna manera satisfechas?**

- a. Completamente satisfechas
- b. Parcialmente satisfechas
- c. Un tanto satisfechas
- d. De ninguna manera satisfechas

**20. Si sus necesidades relativas a la “Actividad Número Tres” no son de ninguna manera satisfechas, indique por favor, cuáles son sus necesidades. ¿Qué problemas confronta al participar en la actividad? Qué le gustaría ver hecho para aumentar su nivel de acceso y complacencia?**

**21. Actividad Número Cuatro**

**22. Piense acerca de la actividad que enumeró como la “Actividad Número Cuatro”. En los pasados doce meses o durante la “temporada”, ¿Cuántas veces participó en ésta actividad?**

- a. Varias veces a la semana
- b. Pocas veces a la semana
- c. Por lo menos una vez al mes
- d. Menos de una vez al mes
- e. Rara vez o nunca

**23. Ahora piense en todos los lugares que visita para disfrutar de ésta actividad. Escoja todos los distintos lugares en donde practica ésta actividad.**

- a. Parque o bosque estatal.
- b. Parque local
- c. Escuela local
- d. Parcelas públicas o carreteras que no están designadas como parques.
- e. Establecimientos comerciales
- f. Otros

**24. Si seleccionó “Otros”, por favor, descríbalos. (Por ejemplo, localización, terreno, servicios.**

**25. Al usar éstas facilidades o recursos para llevar a cabo la “Actividad Número Cuatro”, ¿Diría usted que sus necesidades son: Satisfechas a plenitud, parcialmente satisfechas, un tanto satisfechas o de ninguna manera satisfechas?**

- a. Completamente satisfechas
- b. Parcialmente satisfechas
- c. Un tanto satisfechas
- d. De ninguna manera satisfechas

**26. Si sus necesidades relativas a la “Actividad Número Cuatro” no son de ninguna manera satisfechas, indique por favor, cuáles son sus necesidades. ¿Que problemas confronta al participar en la actividad? ¿Qué le gustaría ver hecho para aumentar su nivel de acceso y complacencia?**

**27. Actividad Número Cinco**

**28. Piense acerca de la actividad que enumeró como la “Actividad Número Cinco” ¿En los pasados doce meses o durante la “temporada”, cuántas veces participó en ésta actividad?**

- a. Varias veces a la semana
- b. Pocas veces a la semana
- c. Por lo menos una vez al mes
- d. Menos de una vez al mes
- e. Rara vez o nunca

**29. Ahora piense en todos los lugares que visita para disfrutar de ésta actividad. Escoja todos los distintos lugares en donde practica ésta actividad.**

- a. Parque o bosque estatal.
- b. Parque local
- c. Escuela local
- d. Parcelas públicas o carreteras que no están designadas como parques.
- e. Establecimientos comerciales
- f. Otros

**30. Si seleccionó “Otros”, por favor, descríbalos. (Por ejemplo, localización, terreno, servicios.**

**31. Al usar éstas facilidades o recursos para llevar a cabo la “Actividad Número Cinco”, ¿Diría usted que sus necesidades son: Satisfechas a plenitud, parcialmente satisfechas, un tanto satisfechas o de ninguna manera satisfechas?**

- a. Completamente satisfechas
- b. Parcialmente satisfechas
- c. Un tanto satisfechas
- d. De ninguna manera satisfechas



- 32. Si sus necesidades relativas a la “Actividad Número Cinco” no son de ninguna manera satisfechas, indique por favor, cuáles son sus necesidades. ¿Que problemas confronta al participar en la actividad? ¿Qué le gustaría ver hecho para aumentar su nivel de acceso y complacencia?**
- 33. En general, ¿Cómo juzga las condiciones de TODOS los parques y áreas recreativas locales, a las cuales visita en su comunidad?**
- a. Excelentes
  - b. Buenas
  - c. Regulares
  - d. Pobres
- 34. En general, ¿Cómo juzga la condición de los parques y bosques estatales que visita?**
- a. Excelentes
  - b. Buenas
  - c. Regulares
  - d. Pobres
- 35. En su opinión, ¿Cuáles son las necesidades recreativas de más urgencia en las facilidades que visita?**
- 36. ¿Que le gusta más acerca de las facilidades recreativas que visita?**
- 37. ¿Pertenece a algún club u organización que tiene el propósito ó la misión de promover algún tipo de actividades recreativas al aire libre?**
- a. Sí
  - b. No
- 38. Si contestó “Sí”, describa el propósito ó las metas de dicha organización.**
- 39. ¿Queda algún otro comentario que le gustaría añadir acerca de sus necesidades de uso de facilidades recreativas en el presente o el futuro?**
- 40. Para el propósito de estadísticas, conteste por favor las próximas preguntas demográficas.**
- 41. ¿Cuál es el código postal (zip code) de su residencia?**

**42. ¿Cuál es su sexo?**

- a. Masculino
- b. Femenino

**43. ¿Cuál es su edad?**

**44. ¿Es usted, u otros miembros de su hogar, de descendencia hispana, latina o española?**

- a. Sí
- b. No

**45. ¿Cual, entre las siguientes, es la mejor descripción de su raza? (seleccione todas las que correspondan)**

- a. Africano(a) - americano(a) / moreno(a)
- b. Asiático(a) / Islas del Pacífico
- c. Indio nativo - americano
- d. Blanco / caucásico
- e. Otro(a)

**46. ¿Cuál es su ingreso anual?**

- a. Menos de \$25,000
- b. De 25,000 a \$49,999
- c. De 50,000 a \$74,999
- d. De 75,000 a \$99,999
- e. De 100,000 a 149,999
- f. De \$150,000 y más

**47. ¿Cuál es su nivel de educación?**

- a. Menos de escuela superior
- b. Graduado(a) de escuela superior
- c. Alguna universidad o escuela técnica
- d. Graduado(a) de universidad
- e. Grado post-graduado

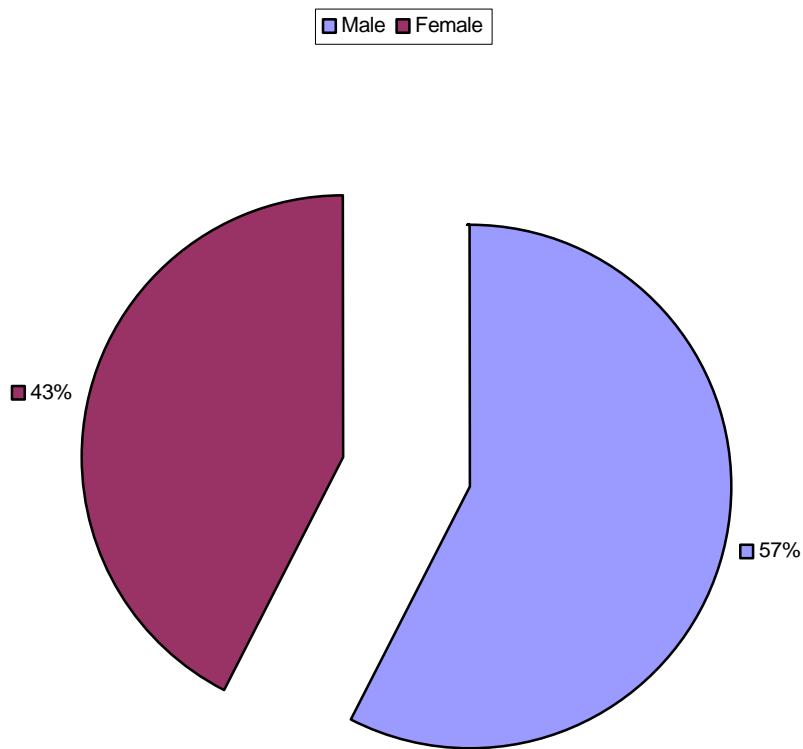
**48. ¿Tiene usted, o alguien en su hogar, alguna de las siguientes condiciones físicas? (Seleccione todas las que correspondan)**

- a. ¿Ceguera o impedimento visual que requiere el uso de lectores, animal guía de ciegos o equipo para caminar?
- b. ¿Sordera o pérdida de audición que requiere el uso de audífono u otro aparato?
- c. ¿Limitación física o de movilidad que dificulta el caminar o subir escalones, o requiere el uso de silla de ruedas, bastón, andador u otro aparato?



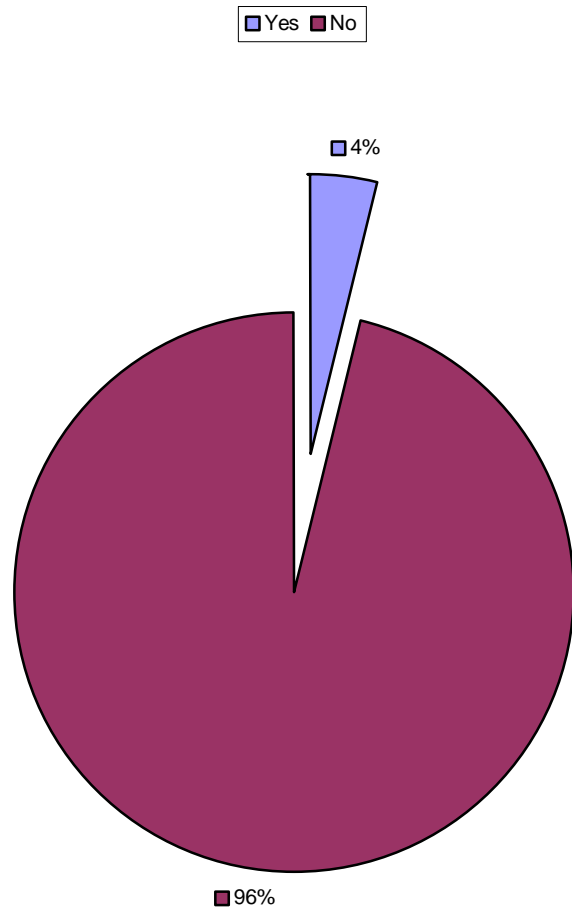
## Appendix E Demographics of the Avid Users Survey

### Avid Users - Gender



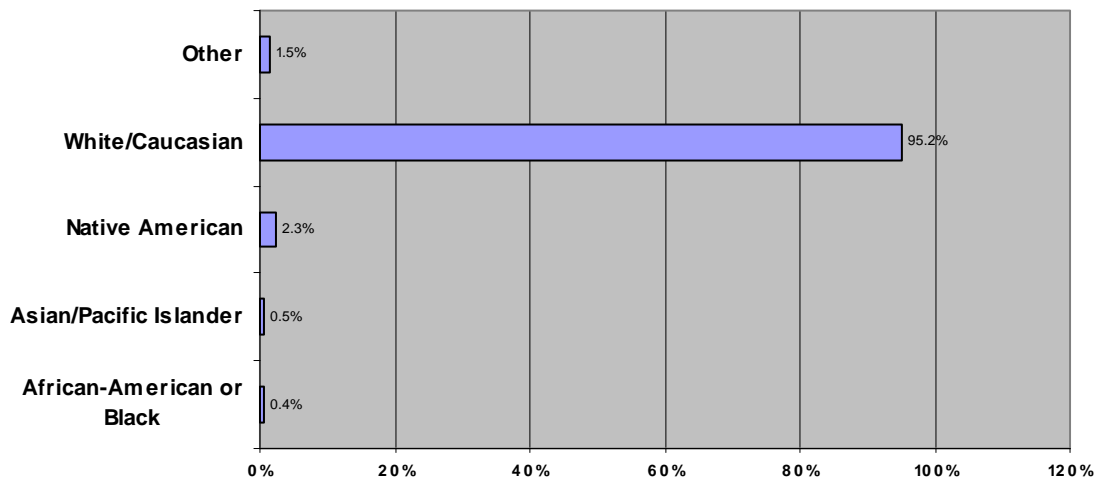
Among the respondents to the Avid User Survey, males were significantly more heavily represented than in the population of Connecticut as a whole, which is 49% male.

### Avid Users - Hispanic Ancestry



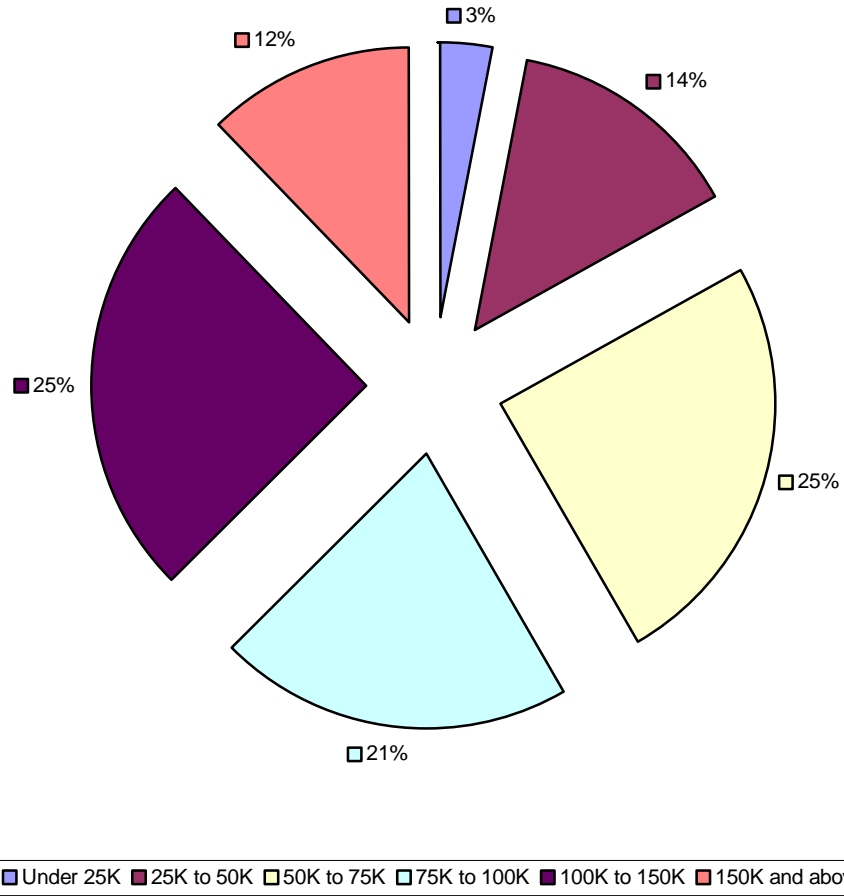
Hispanics represent 9.4% of the population of Connecticut. Thus, the Avid User Survey respondent group contained slightly less than half the statewide percentage of Hispanics.

## Avid Users - Race



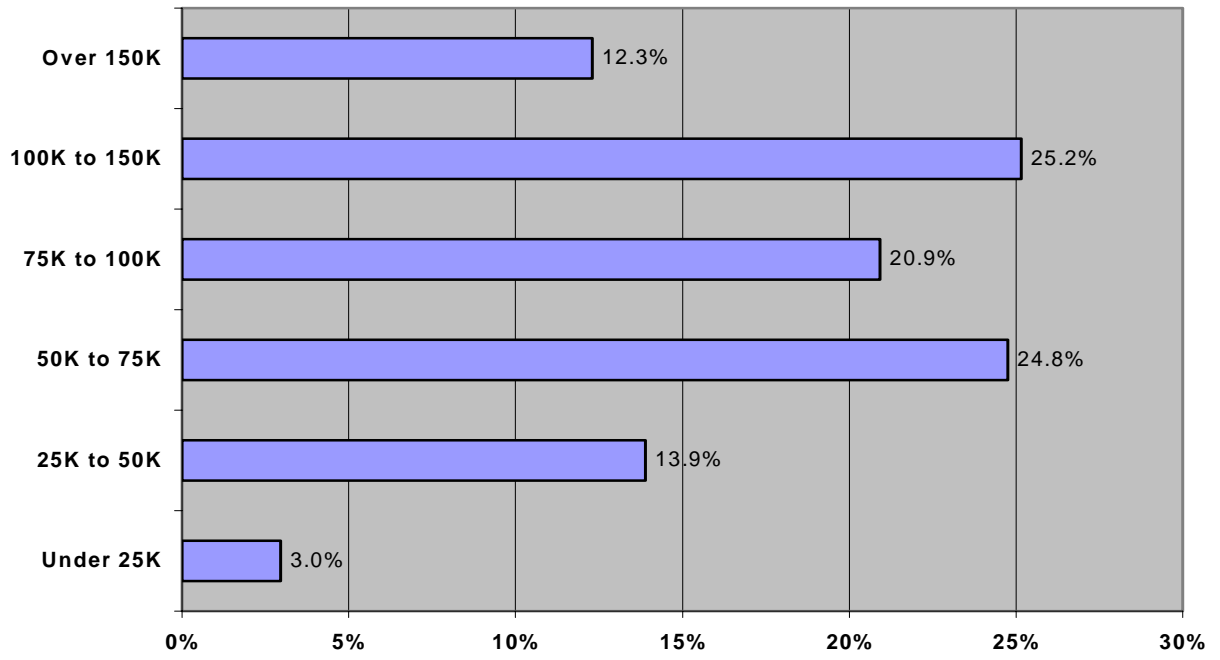
The 95.2% of Avid User Survey respondents who are white compares to 78.3% of Connecticut's population that is non-Hispanic white. Conversely, Black and Hispanic groups are under-represented compared to the 9.4% share of the state's population that each of these groups constitutes. Asian-Americans are also under-represented among the Avid Users.

## Avid Users - Income



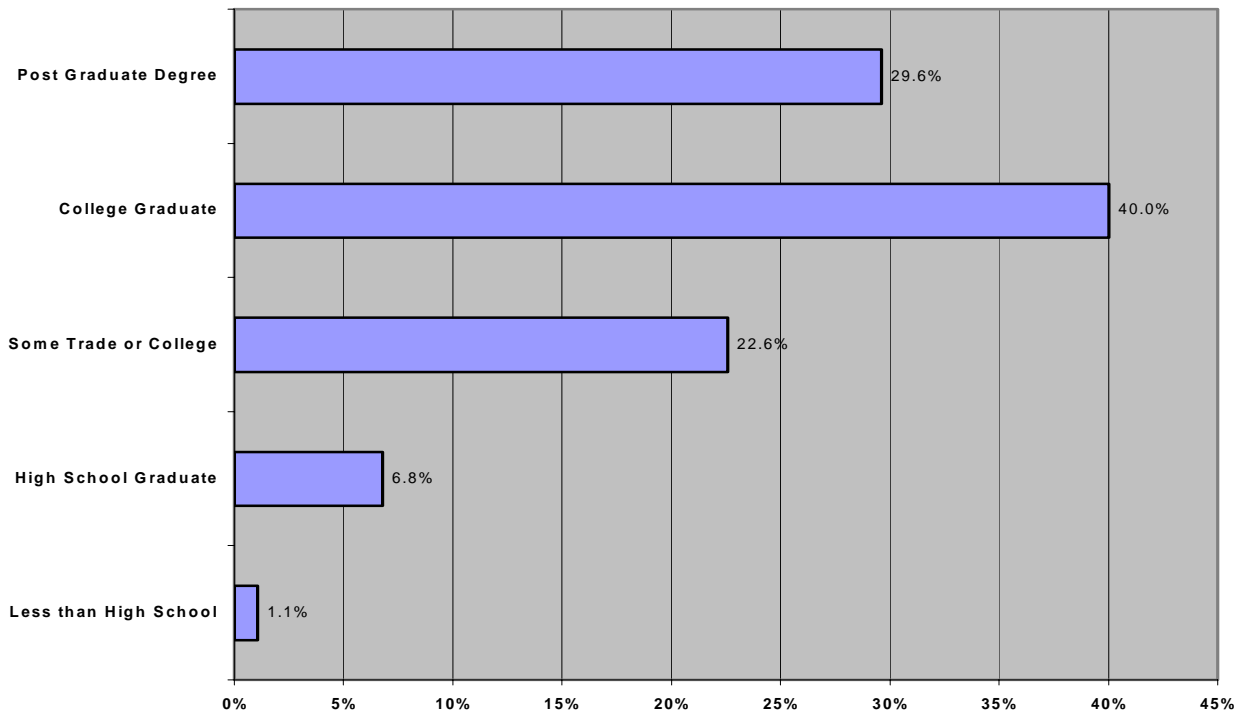
The Avid User Survey respondents are considerably more affluent than is Connecticut's population as a whole. The median household income in Connecticut in 2000 was slightly under \$54,000.

## Avid Users - Income





## Avid Users - Educational Attainment



The Avid Users group is significantly more highly educated than is Connecticut's population as a whole.

**Appendix F**  
**SCORP Advisory Board**  
**Membership and Meeting Dates**

SCORP Advisory Board Members and Affiliations:

- David Boone, Appalachian Mountain Club
- Elanah Sherman, Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, and the ADA Coalition of Connecticut
- Ray Hanley, Citizen Advisory Committee to DEP
- Robert Levine, Director of Parks and Recreation, City of New Haven
- Ray Rauth, Connecticut Bicycle Coalition
- Gian-Carl Casa, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities
- Karl Wagener, Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality
- Adam Moore, Connecticut Forest and Park Association
- Diane Ciano, Connecticut Horse Council
- Grant Westerson, Connecticut Marine Trades Association
- Elaine LaBella, Housatonic Valley Association
- John Hibbard, Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Review Board
- Diana McMasters, Friends of Connecticut State Parks
- John Turchi, New England Mountain Bike Association
- David Sutherland, The Nature Conservancy, Connecticut Chapter
- Paul Norris, Connecticut Park and Recreation Association
- Henry Reeves, Connecticut Riders, LLC
- Tim Northrup, Trust for Public Land

The SCORP Advisory Board met on the following dates:

2004: January 12, March 1, April 12, May 25, June 22, August 31, October 5, November 16

2005: January 24, February 28, April 4, May 2, June 6



## **Appendix G Wetlands Regulation in Connecticut**

### **G.1 Introduction**

Many years ago when Connecticut's lands were being settled, farmers claimed large tracts for agricultural use. Although lands used for field crops and grazing were high and dry, farmers always attempted to locate near a stream or pond for water for irrigation or watering livestock. Even hundreds of years ago, those vocations depended upon the land for survival. Farmers recognized the need for preserving clean water to supply basic needs and to maintain a certain quality of life in the surrounding community.

As the state and the country progressed, agricultural concerns gave way to manufacturing and residential development. Waterways, as well as those "swampy areas", were viewed as great waste eliminators. Sewage and manufacturing wastes were dumped directly into streams, turning them into large flowing cesspools. Wetland areas were viewed as nuisance areas and often turned into local dumps. Wetlands which did not become dumps were filled or dug out and turned into buildable land.

In recent years, the roles of streams and wetlands have become more fully understood. The need for resource protection has become more apparent as our non-renewable resources become depleted. The damage that occurred in the past will haunt us for many years. Wetlands preservation and restoration has moved in a positive direction through prudent legislation and strict enforcement of regulations. The wholesale contamination of streams has been brought under control through federal and state legislation. More recently, regulations concerning tidal and inland wetlands protection have been promulgated at all governmental levels.

It is the intent of the aforementioned regulations to protect the state's potable fresh water supplies from the dangers of drought, overdraft, pollution, misuse, and mismanagement. The regulations do this by providing an orderly process to balance the demands of economic growth and the related use of state land with the need to protect its environment and ecology in order to forever guarantee to the people of the state the safety of its natural resources.

## **G.2 Emergency Wetlands Resources Act Of 1986**

On October 14th 1986, Congress voted to approve Senate Bill 740 entitled "Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986" (ERWA). The purpose of the Act is: to promote, in concert with other federal and state statutes and programs, the conservation of the wetlands of the nation in order to maintain the public benefits they provide and to help fulfill international obligations contained in various migratory bird treaties and conventions with Canada, Mexico, Japan, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and with the various countries in the Western Hemisphere by:

- 1) intensifying cooperative efforts among private interests and local, state, and federal governments for the management and conservation of wetlands and
- 2) intensifying efforts to protect the wetlands of the nation through acquisition in fee, easements, or other interests and methods by local, state, and federal governments and the private sector.

The law was designed to protect those wetland areas not currently covered under existing federal regulations. This will be accomplished through several different avenues. The first step on the federal level was to complete the National Wetlands Inventory and mapping program and to review a September 1987 report regarding trends of wetlands throughout the United States. The report contains an analysis of the factors responsible for wetlands destruction, protection, and enhancement; a summary of existing federal legislation and regulations regarding wetlands; an analysis of funding programs or tax provisions which might induce wetlands destruction; an analysis of public and private patterns of ownership and recommendations for the conservation of wetland resources. As a result of the study, regulations would most probably be strengthened, additional financial assistance would be provided for soils conservation programs, and more coordination would take place. In addition, the law recognizes the wetlands as an important outdoor recreation resource and thus has extended the Land and Water Conservation Fund program provisions to include the purchase of wetlands for enjoyment and protection.

Under the EWRA, each state which accepts money from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program must prepare a wetlands priority plan in consultation with the state's fisheries and wildlife bureaus. The plan prepared by the DEP must be consistent with the National Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan and is required by the National Park Service to maintain eligibility for Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF). Any LWCF purchases of wetlands by the state must comply with the approved wetland priority plan.

### **G.3 The Functions Of Wetlands**

Wetlands play a vital role in maintaining environmental stability and improving our quality of life. Among the principal functions wetlands support are flood control, water purification, nutrient and sediment trapping, habitat, recreation, and education.

Flood Control: Wetlands act as storage basins during times of high water flow. Functioning like giant sponges, they absorb and hold copious quantities of water. Studies over the years have shown that certain types of wetlands can hold up to 150,000 gallons per acre without affecting adjacent lands. Wetlands also slow down the velocity of flood water, minimize erosion, and drastically reduce destruction during flooding. Wetlands later release water slowly and provide moisture to surrounding areas in time of drought.

Controlling flooding is perhaps the most important function a wetland can perform in Connecticut today. Streets, buildings, and parking lots eliminate the absorption capability of the ground, and concentrate rainfall and runoff. Many towns in Connecticut learned a hard lesson during recent flooding events. Areas that had never experienced flooding sustained damage that mounted into the millions of dollars because there were no wetlands to absorb and hold back flood waters.

Water Purification: Wetlands aid in the purification of surface and ground water. They have a "self cleaning" ability which, if not overtaxed, can filter or process pollutants from runoff before they enter an aquifer or an adjoining watercourse. In many respects, wetlands function much like sophisticated sewage treatment plants by removing nutrients and other pollutants prior to discharge to a waterway or the ground. The water which

returns to the ground recharges or replenishes the aquifers that provide the water used in our homes, in agriculture or in industry.

Nutrient and Sediment Trapping: In addition to being pollution fighters, wetlands are able to trap sediments resulting from natural and man-induced erosion. However, increased development along many of the state's watercourses can hinder the wetlands' capability to trap these sediments. Often special measures need to be taken to decrease the sediment runoff in urbanizing areas.

Oxygen Production: Through the process of photosynthesis, green plants produce oxygen, which all higher forms of life require for their existence. The oxygen gas is released into the atmosphere for the benefit of all oxygen users. Tidal marshes and inland wetland areas are capable of producing tons of "excess" oxygen each day. In view of the fact that the human race has created so many chemicals and machines which use up our valuable oxygen supplies, it would stand to reason that those resources which supply us with fresh oxygen, free of charge, should be protected.

Habitat Marshes and Swamps: These are among our most productive biological systems. Although humans usually do not directly use the wetlands' nutrients, they benefit from those forms of life for which wetlands are an important part of their habitat and food chain. Fur-bearing mammals, including muskrat and beaver, and birds, such as geese, ducks and numerous songbirds, utilize wetlands as feeding grounds and nesting areas. Numerous finfish and shellfish breed (or depend on wetlands for at least part of the reproductive cycle) in or near both tidal and fresh water marshes. These species support commercial and sport fisheries in the state. Wetlands also support a wide diversity of flora.

Recreational Wetlands: These areas provide some of the best recreational resources in the state. Sportfishing is, of course, the obvious activity associated with the open water wetlands. Recreational hunting of wetland-dependent mammals and of waterfowl are also prominent activities associated with wetlands. Birdwatching and nature walks are becoming a popular leisure time activity. The most popular and highest in demand outdoor recreational activities in Connecticut often involve wetlands areas. Large flat expanses of floodplain and miles of shoreline beaches provide much-desired swimming, boating, and numerous other water-related activities for hundreds of

thousands of participants annually. The state's largest and most popular parks are located in the floodplains of the major rivers and along the shore. Additionally, hundreds of public boat ramps are available to provide access to these resources.

Wetlands serve as resources for scientific study and education. Marshes become endless laboratories for research on productivity, nutrient recycling, and photosynthesis. Wetlands also become outdoor classrooms for teaching ecology and the role of wetland systems. Many of Connecticut's shoreline parks have established nature centers and interpretive trails with trained staffs to help educate the public. Several of the state's inland parks also have nature centers with associated trails directing students through wetland areas. The Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby is currently working in cooperation with the Resource, Conservation and Development Area and the Soil Conservation Service to construct and to develop a pond and wetlands area to serve as an outdoor classroom for the environmental center.

As discussed earlier in this section, wetlands play a key role in Connecticut's commercial and recreational fisheries in terms of habitat and breeding areas. Wetlands, indirectly or directly, contribute a substantial dollar amount to Connecticut's economy through commercial and sport fisheries. Recent estimates suggest that the combined sports and commercial fisheries provide Connecticut with a 138+ million dollar industry. Connecticut's commercial landings (those finfish and shellfish including crustaceans and mollusks which are landed on Connecticut shores) total about 15.5 million dollars annually. This does not necessarily reflect all of the fish commercially caught in Connecticut. Often fish caught in this state are landed in neighboring states. The additional dollar amount expended on commercial equipment, boats, labor, and fuel would increase the real value of commercial fisheries in Connecticut to more than 38 million dollars according to DEP Fisheries Bureau estimates.

Placement of a value on Connecticut's recreational fisheries is considerably more difficult than determining the value of commercial fisheries. Precise information on landings is virtually impossible to obtain as there is no reporting system for recreational fishermen. Party boat information is available because the poundage amounts are reported by the vessels. Individual catches from private pleasure boats are not reported. The Department of Environmental Protection Fisheries Division estimates (based on



reported party boat landings and estimated private catches) the dollar value of recreational and sports fishing landings to be 21 million dollars. When the value of boat and equipment sales are added to this figure, the dollar value skyrockets to \$100 million annually.

#### **G.4 Consultation And Coordination**

It is of the utmost importance that the efforts of all agencies involved in wetlands regulation be coordinated so that wetlands protection may continue in a fair and consistent manner. Protection of the state's water resources falls to a number of federal, state, and local agencies in the state. The primary coordinator for all of the programs is the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

The following agencies are involved in water resources protection in Connecticut.

##### Federal Agencies

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Regulates filling and dredging activities in the state's wetlands, watercourses, coastal zone, and navigable waterways.

U.S. Department of the Interior

*National Park Service* - Promotes wetlands resource planning in all states.

*Fish & Wildlife Service* – Administers the Dingell-Johnson program (funding for fisheries research, education, and fishing access areas).

Participates in restoration programs and administers major provisions of the Endangered Species Act.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - The Environmental Protection Agency has begun a national effort to identify priority wetlands and waterbodies across the country. EPA will use its regulatory authorities to protect these areas more vigorously and consistently.

U.S. Department of Commerce

*National Marine Fisheries Service* – Manages programs for marine species including marine mammals and endangered species and oversees cooperative efforts in anadromous fisheries programs.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

*Soil Conservation Service* - Performs soils mapping on a statewide basis. Provides towns with necessary information to make informed land use decisions. Reviews sites for ponds and participates in the farmland preservation program.

State Agencies

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

*Bureau of Water Management*

*Inland Water Resources Management Division* - Administers the Inland Wetlands Program, Stream Channel Encroachments, Flood Management, Water Diversion Policy Act, and Dam Safety. Duties include monitoring flood levels, early flood warnings, dams and dam safety, low flow enforcement, water diversion permitting, Clean Water Act certification for federal permit programs, oversight of local Inland Wetlands programs and flood insurance.

*Water Engineering and Enforcement Division* - Dispatches all water pollution complaints and is the permitting agent for discharges to surface and ground water.

*Office of Long Island Sound Programs* - Responsible for monitoring all activities which occur in the designated Connecticut coastal zone.

*Tidal Wetlands* – Administers tidal wetlands regulation, structures, and dredging in tidal and navigable waters.

*Bureau Of Waste Management*

*Waste Engineering and Enforcement Division* - Responsible for disposal, cleanup, and illegal activities involving any hazardous materials. Manages solid waste disposal permits in Connecticut. Carries out enforcement actions against all landfill and other disposal violations.

*Oil and Chemical Spills Division* - Monitors and participates in the cleanup of any spills which occur involving petrochemical and other bulk chemical substances.

*Pesticide Compliance and PCB Management Division* - Handles permitting for pesticide applications (including aquatic), enforces pesticide product bans and existing permits, handles all pesticide violations.

*Bureau of Outdoor Recreation*

*Land Acquisition & Management Division* - Purchases land for the State of Connecticut. Administers Land and Water Conservation Fund disbursements.

*State Parks Division* - Manages all state park recreation programs. These programs include swimming areas, nature trails, and boating areas.

*Bureau of Natural Resources*

*Forestry Division* - Manages all forestry operations in Connecticut (i.e., timber sales, reforestation, cord wood cuts). Oversees skidding operations in forest areas to ensure that wetlands and streams are not disturbed.

*Wildlife Division* - Manages all wildlife species programs. Conducts research and implements habitat improvement programs and statewide pheasant stocking programs. Performs species counts and censuses. Promulgates hunting regulations and policies for Connecticut.

*Fisheries Division* - Monitors the recreational and commercial harvest of and investigates the population dynamics of fresh and saltwater fish and shellfish. Initiated the Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program. The Fisheries Bureau produces and distributes 800,000 trout to 263 streams and 75 ponds. Promulgates regulations that protect fisheries resources. Conducts public education programs.

*Law Enforcement Bureau* - Enforces fish, wildlife, and boating regulations to protect resources and habitats and to control users. Reviews boating regulations to ensure that they are consistent with the safe use of waters. Conducts public education programs on boating safety.

*Bureau of Environmental Services*

*Natural Resource Center* - Handles all collection, cataloging, and distribution of natural resource information to all users.

*Education and Publications* - Conducts environmental education programs. Water conservation and wetlands education are a priority in the DEP's education system.

Connecticut State Department of Health

*Environmental Health Division* - Tests and approves potable water supplies, both public and private (state licensed sanitarians perform much of the field work) and sewage disposal systems.

### Regional Planning Agencies

Assists towns in each Regional Planning Area in water distribution planning, sewer system planning, and developmental planning. Many of the planning agencies are currently involved in regional watershed protection planning.

### Municipal Agencies

Conservation Commissions, Planning & Zoning Commissions, Inland Wetland Agencies, municipal commissions, and municipal agencies promulgate and enforce regulations that govern the activities of private citizens and local governments that affect inland wetlands and watercourses. Eighty percent of the 169 municipalities in Connecticut utilize regulatory upland review setbacks or buffers surrounding wetlands and watercourse areas for buildings and septic systems.

### Private Sector

Until recently, only those organizations connected with environmental concerns (for example, Sierra Club and The Audubon Society) took an active interest in the protection of wetlands. Through better education and increased media attention, many non-environmental organizations have now become aware of how wetlands function and of how important wetlands preservation is. The private sector has become more sensitive to avoiding wetlands encroachment. Where wetlands disturbance or destruction cannot be avoided, many companies, developers, and businesses are attempting to mitigate adverse impacts from construction. Other private involvement includes a few instances where wetland areas have been donated to towns or to non-profit environmental groups for research.

As more information regarding wetlands significance is conveyed to the public and a protective sentiment grows, the private sector will most assuredly take a more active role than it has in the past. It will be the function of the Connecticut DEP to ensure that the public and private sectors are kept apprised of wetlands protection regulations and preservation programs. It will also be up to

the DEP to suggest ways in which the private sector might contribute to the protection of Connecticut's wetland resources.

## **G.5 Resource Assessment**

Historical figures regarding wetlands in Connecticut vary considerably. This is due, in part, to the lack of a clear (or any) definition of "wetlands" or the lack of technical expertise in wetland identification. Additionally, it is not clear if the figures were based on a biological definition or a soils interpretation.

Figures for tidal wetlands are more readily available than are those for inland areas. The earliest figures found were from 1914. At that time it was estimated that there were 40,000 acres of tidal wetlands in Connecticut. Figures from 1926 estimated that there were only 26,000 acres. The accuracy of these figures is dubious as there is no information on how they were obtained. Today, through highly accurate biological and soils mapping techniques, it is known that Connecticut has 17,500 acres of tidal wetlands. Few of these have been altered or destroyed since the approval of the Tidal Wetlands Act in 1969.

Inland wetland figures are more difficult to obtain. Wetlands are classified either by soil or vegetation types. Niering and Goodwin in the 1983 publication *Inland Wetland Plants of Connecticut* state that, "In 1969, based on soils types, it was estimated that there were 800,000 acres of inland wetlands." More recent soils mapping indicates that there are 435,158± acres of poorly drained and very poorly drained soils as well as flood plains. There are an additional 31,030 acres of inland open water for a total inland wetlands figure of 466,188± acres.

The recently completed National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) figures show a much lower acreage figure for the inland wetland areas. The NWI indicates that there are 259,044 acres of wetlands. This figure does not include flood plain soils, open water, or linear waterways. The discrepancy between the NWI and the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) figures can be attributed to the different methodologies used to map the wetlands units. The SCS utilized soils scientists to walk each county and actually field map the soils types. Notes were made on air photographs and then maps were

constructed from the compiled photographs. The NWI mapped the wetlands areas through an aerial photography technique rather than ground survey. The state was flown and then the wetlands were mapped by a photo-interpreter. The map-able wetland units that can be discerned in the air photo method must be an acre or more in size, otherwise the unit cannot be detected. Those which are mapped by actual field work are certainly much less than an acre. The result is a reduced number of acres of wetlands using the air photography method.

In 1987, the Water Resources Unit estimated the annual loss of inland wetlands in Connecticut to be between 1,000 and 1,500 acres per year. Much of the loss is due to past statewide highway construction projects. The remaining loss is attributed to industrial, commercial, and home construction projects. The DEP is striving to reduce the statewide loss through education programs, priority setting, implementation of new legislation, and early involvement of the DEP in state DOT highway planning projects.

Historical figures on existing wetlands at the time of European settlement would be "guesstimates" at best. Between one quarter (801,440 acres) and one third (1,057,900 acres) of the state acreage was believed to be wetlands. These figures would include tidal areas as well as inland wetlands.

## **G.6 Protection Strategies**

### ***Protection Through Regulation***

Since the Tidal Wetlands Act of 1969, the Commissioner of the DEP has regulated Connecticut's tidal wetlands and coastal waters through the Water Resources Unit - Tidal Wetlands Section. Due to the extensive pre-1969 development and the extreme pressure for further development, it was felt that a strong, consistent authority must oversee the protection of the tidal areas on a statewide basis. The authority for tidal wetlands protection was placed with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection where it has remained to this day.

The regulation of Connecticut's tidal wetlands has been among the most successful in the nation. Since the program was enacted in 1969, less than one tenth of one per cent of tidal wetlands has been lost to development.

The Inland Wetlands Act of 1972 established conditions and restrictions on the use of the state's wetlands and watercourses. The Legislature gave the state's 169 towns the right to govern their own inland wetlands provided that a town program was reviewed and approved by the DEP Inland Wetlands Unit. "Home Rule" was a logical route to follow in terms of inland wetlands protection. As a rule of thumb, inland wetlands make up about 16 percent of the land mass in each town. Effective regulation by one agency would be nearly impossible. By allowing each town to regulate itself, the job can be performed more efficiently as there are more wetland "watchdogs" to regulate permitted activities. Towns appreciate the opportunity to protect their own resources and plan for their own futures. Applicants are more likely to accept stipulations placed upon them by local boards because they realize that local wetlands agencies will be able to scrutinize the work more closely and at a greater frequency than could a more remote agency. Violators are more easily stopped before problems grow to monumental proportions.

Delegating the authority for wetlands protection to the 169 separate authorities does have drawbacks. The obvious problem is that regulation and enforcement are not consistent throughout the state. Some towns are more stringent than others. Some towns have full time, professional staff to assist in enforcement; others rely on volunteers; and almost all towns vary on their interpretation of state and local regulations. Those towns



which did not have an inland wetlands agency or which were unable to properly regulate their wetland resources were managed by the DEP. All municipalities now have wetlands agencies to regulate their wetland resources and have regular reporting requirements to DEP.

Regulation of wetlands is also done by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Army Corps regulates placement of fill and dredged materials into waters of the United States and their adjacent wetlands pursuant to Section 404 of the 1977 Federal Clean Water Act. Under the Federal 404 legislation, the Corps of Engineers regulates filling in inland wetlands and watercourses, tidal wetlands and watercourses, as well as navigable waters in Connecticut.

Other state and local agencies participate in protecting the waters and wetlands of Connecticut for future generations. Their functions are discussed in the consultation and coordination section of this chapter.

### ***Protection Through Education***

The best form of protection is through public education. The more the public learns about and understands the importance of wetlands and the role they play in preserving the quality of life, the easier it will become to protect this valuable resource. Public pressure is the most effective tool in bringing about change.

The DEP, along with the Soil Conservation Service, the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions, state universities, and conservation groups continues to sponsor workshops, seminars, and courses in order to educate wetlands officials, town officials, and the public about wetlands protection. As a result of changes to the State Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act in 1996, the DEP has expanded its annual wetlands training program for municipal wetland commissioners and staff. The DEP Education and Publications Division has formulated a curriculum for grade schools that teaches the importance of wetlands to children at an early age.

## **G.7 Wetlands Priorities**

In 1985, the U .S. Environmental Protection Agency began the national effort to identify wetlands of special concern. Toward this goal, each state was asked to submit a preliminary listing based on existing information. The listing was not meant to set priorities but rather to identify those wetlands which represented unique habitats, were rare in character, were threatened, or were of significant environmental value. A two-tiered approach was used for this listing. A general category was designed for generic items of concern and broadly defined geographical regions. A second category was intended for entire or partial river or lake systems or particular wetlands of concern.

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection has established a committee that is reviewing Connecticut's wetlands in accordance with the information provided in the National Wetlands Inventory. This committee is charged with the responsibility to prepare a listing of wetlands of state significance that will, among other things, set wetlands acquisition priorities.

Although a listing of significant wetlands already exists, it was felt that until priorities were set through the committee, a more generalized form of priority should be set for the purposes of SCORP. In the interim, the DEP Inland Water Resources Division, which is responsible for regulation of inland wetlands, has assisted the Environmental Conservation Planning Division and the Land Acquisition Division in establishing general wetlands priority categories. These categories not only reflect the DEP's current priority status but also agree in principle with the values the DEP Wetlands Assessment Committee has derived in its biological evaluation of wetlands.

It is expected that work on a broader list of state priorities for wetlands protection will take at least a year to complete. The following wetlands priority categories have been established for SCORP and will be used when justifying the acquisition of wetlands under the federal Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986.

1. *Tidal Wetlands*: The tidal wetlands are considered to be the most productive of all wetlands in the state in terms of environmental balance and recreation. They are the least abundant due to past development. Only 17,500 acres remain

statewide. Any additional loss would likely cause serious environmental consequences. Hence, DEP has placed the tidal wetlands in the highest protection category.

*2. Large Riverine and Floodplain Systems:* Rivers, streams, and their smaller tributaries form branching patterns, which cover the entire state. Adjacent to the streams are the marsh and swamp habitats, which support numerous wetland-related species. The floodplains associated with the streams provide land on which much of the state's recreation depends. Many efforts are being directed toward protection of the streambelts and their associated wetland regime.

*3. Inland Wetlands in Urban or Medium Development Areas:* These wetlands are becoming a rare commodity in areas which have been heavily developed or are undergoing rapid growth. Wetlands importance often falls by the wayside in favor of economic growth. Wetlands' roles in habitat and flood protection are recognized only after it is too late. Urban wetland areas have become a valuable resource that deserves protection.

*4. Large Inland Wetlands in Rural Areas:* Wetlands three or more acres in size, which encompass large tracts of land, are especially significant in terms of their functional and recreational significance.

*5. Open Water Wetlands Lakes:* Ponds, open water swamps, and marshes provide extensive habitat for waterfowl species. Recreation is a priority on lakes and ponds. While expensive to purchase, these areas add an important measure to the quality of life in Connecticut.

*6. Unique Areas:* This category has been established in order to protect those wetlands areas which are: a) unique to Connecticut, b) provide habitat for rare or endangered species and c) are historically significant. This category would include all black spruce bogs, Great Salt Marsh, and Hammonasset Marsh. Each area would have to be evaluated based on the above criteria. If it fits one or more of these requirements, it would be granted a high priority status in the above list.

## **G.8 Marsh Management for Northern Pike Spawning**

The DEP Fisheries Division manages marsh systems on Bantam Lake and the Connecticut River for the production of northern pike fingerlings. The northern pike is Connecticut's largest freshwater gamefish. Pike were first stocked into the Connecticut River in the early 1800's and have since become established throughout much of the river system. They were stocked into Bantam Lake in 1971. Northern pike presently support popular sport fisheries in both waters. In addition, the Fisheries Division is attempting to establish a pike population and fishery in Mansfield Hollow Reservoir.

Northern pike spawn in flooded marsh areas during the early spring. The Fisheries Division has enhanced pike populations by managing spawning marshes adjacent to both Bantam Lake and the Connecticut River. In these marshes, water levels are maintained at optimal levels by a series of dikes and control structures. Selective cutting has enhanced grassy vegetation, the preferred spawning substrate for pike. Adult northern pike are captured in nets during and just after ice-out and are released into the marshes where they spawn naturally. Once spawning is completed, the adult pike are removed and returned to the lake or river. Juvenile pike remain in the marshes until late June, when they reach a length of 3 to 4 inches, and the marshes are drained. The young pike are captured, counted, measured and released.

There are presently three managed marshes adjacent to Bantam Lake (11 acres) and two on the Connecticut River (40 acres). In addition, approximately 30 acres of marsh area is being flooded on Mansfield Hollow Reservoir to provide potential spawning habitat. Production from the marshes on Bantam Lake and the Connecticut River ranges from 5,000 to 20,000 juvenile pike per year. Up to 4,500 pike fingerlings are being stocked annually into Mansfield Hollow Reservoir.

The Fisheries Division will be evaluating additional waters to determine their suitability for northern pike. As part of this process, potential spawning marshes will be identified. Priority for future attempts to establish pike populations and fisheries will be given to those areas having wetlands suitable for the development of spawning marshes.

Potential spawning marshes will be given high priority when considering purchases or protective regulations.

## Appendix H SCORP Public Meetings

The Department of Environmental Protection conducted a series of three public meetings to present the findings and draft recommendations of the SCORP process and to receive public input. The hearing times, dates and locations were:

- Monday, May 23, 7:00 PM at Three Rivers Community College, Norwich
- Monday, June 1, 7:00PM at Naugatuck Valley Community College, Waterbury
- Monday, June 6, 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM at Univ. of Connecticut, West Hartford campus.

At each meeting, the SCORP findings and recommendations were presented by DEP and UConn staff using a PowerPoint format. Public comments and questions were then invited. The afternoon session of the West Hartford meeting was televised by CTN, the Connecticut Network. Sign language interpreters were provided at both West Hartford meeting sessions.

Three comments were received at the Norwich public meeting. One speaker was concerned about the noise and visual impact of having a boat launch ramp in her neighborhood, and she questioned the use of LWCF or other public funds for these facilities. A second speaker complimented the DEP website for having the best information showing which parks have handicapped accessible facilities. She had compared DEP's website to those of other states and found DEP's to be superior in this regard. A third speaker represented a multi-town land trust. She cited the lack of a standard definition of open space that all municipalities could use. She also expressed a concern that DEP could force inappropriate public access standards on her land trust that would force it to allow incompatible or inconsistent activities on its properties. DEP assured her that this was not the case.

Three attendees spoke at the Waterbury meeting. A town recreation director asked if DEP worked with the regional tourist districts to promote visitation to its parks. She recommended more cooperation with the State Commission on Culture and Tourism. She also found the SCORP findings to be interesting and useful for municipal recreation planning. Of the other speakers, one expressed her support for open space acquisition, while the other participates in hiking and kayaking and supports the provision of facilities for those activities. A reporter covering the Waterbury hearing produced an extensive article for the following day's paper.

The major points expressed at the West Hartford sessions were a desire to have the SCORP findings available to municipalities, support for an aggressive open space acquisition program (two speakers), difficulties using boat ramps for launching canoes or kayaks if larger trailered boats were also using the sites, opposition to hunting on Sundays, the need for a location to accommodate ATV use, and a presentation by the Connecticut Disc Golf Association about their sport. Two members of this organization spoke on the growing popularity of this sport and their desire to work with DEP to locate one or more disc golf courses on DEP land, with Association members maintaining the courses. They cited examples of the installation of disc golf courses as cooperative ventures in municipal parks and on Corps of Engineers land in Connecticut and in a state park in Massachusetts.



Thursday, June 23, 2005

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Statewide Totals

Total Acreage:	328,404
Sites with Restrooms:	980
Sites with Handicap Access:	1,241
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1,806
Total Football Fields:	189
Total MultiUse Fields:	847
Total Soccer Fields:	860
Total Basketball Courts:	830
Total Tennis Courts:	1,186
Total Volleyball Courts:	90
Total Golf Courses:	125
Sites with Playground Areas:	1,065
Sites with Swimming Pool:	137
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	176
Sites with Picnic Areas:	677
Sites with Fishing Access:	669
Sites with Boating Access:	285
Sites with Hunting:	88
Sites with Camping:	88
Sites with Trails:	896
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	238
Historic or Educational Sites:	99
Sites with Gardens:	109

End of Report





# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Wealthy	Number of Towns in Group 8
Total Acreage:	10,297
Sites with Restrooms:	97
Sites with Handicap Access:	66
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	51
Total Football Fields:	6
Total MultiUse Fields:	41
Total Soccer Fields:	18
Total Basketball Courts:	14
Total Tennis Courts:	20
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	6
Sites with Playground Areas:	42
Sites with Swimming Pool:	5
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	16
Sites with Picnic Areas:	54
Sites with Fishing Access:	43
Sites with Boating Access:	24
Sites with Hunting:	2
Sites with Camping:	6
Sites with Trails:	113
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	15
Historic or Educational Sites:	10
Sites with Gardens:	18

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Suburban	Number of Towns in Group <b>61</b>
Total Acreage:	84,866
Sites with Restrooms:	369
Sites with Handicap Access:	480
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	305
Total Football Fields:	43
Total MultiUse Fields:	234
Total Soccer Fields:	180
Total Basketball Courts:	164
Total Tennis Courts:	131
Total Volleyball Courts:	26
Total Golf Courses:	45
Sites with Playground Areas:	294
Sites with Swimming Pool:	33
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	61
Sites with Picnic Areas:	248
Sites with Fishing Access:	221
Sites with Boating Access:	94
Sites with Hunting:	23
Sites with Camping:	28
Sites with Trails:	324
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	107
Historic or Educational Sites:	26
Sites with Gardens:	39

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Rural	Number of Towns in Group <b>63</b>
Total Acreage:	190,594
Sites with Restrooms:	243
Sites with Handicap Access:	302
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	177
Total Football Fields:	25
Total MultiUse Fields:	145
Total Soccer Fields:	101
Total Basketball Courts:	96
Total Tennis Courts:	64
Total Volleyball Courts:	20
Total Golf Courses:	32
Sites with Playground Areas:	160
Sites with Swimming Pool:	25
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	49
Sites with Picnic Areas:	172
Sites with Fishing Access:	251
Sites with Boating Access:	111
Sites with Hunting:	55
Sites with Camping:	48
Sites with Trails:	252
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	69
Historic or Educational Sites:	28
Sites with Gardens:	13

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Urban Periphery	Number of Towns in Group 30
Total Acreage:	34,805
Sites with Restrooms:	215
Sites with Handicap Access:	292
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	359
Total Football Fields:	56
Total MultiUse Fields:	167
Total Soccer Fields:	158
Total Basketball Courts:	273
Total Tennis Courts:	132
Total Volleyball Courts:	22
Total Golf Courses:	34
Sites with Playground Areas:	383
Sites with Swimming Pool:	54
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	34
Sites with Picnic Areas:	136
Sites with Fishing Access:	134
Sites with Boating Access:	46
Sites with Hunting:	8
Sites with Camping:	6
Sites with Trails:	161
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	40
Historic or Educational Sites:	27
Sites with Gardens:	31

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Urban Core	Number of Towns in Group 7
Total Acreage:	7,842
Sites with Restrooms:	56
Sites with Handicap Access:	101
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	92
Total Football Fields:	24
Total MultiUse Fields:	37
Total Soccer Fields:	38
Total Basketball Courts:	98
Total Tennis Courts:	37
Total Volleyball Courts:	6
Total Golf Courses:	8
Sites with Playground Areas:	186
Sites with Swimming Pool:	20
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	16
Sites with Picnic Areas:	67
Sites with Fishing Access:	20
Sites with Boating Access:	10
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	46
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	7
Historic or Educational Sites:	8
Sites with Gardens:	8



# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Totals by County

Fairfield	Number of Towns in County 23
Total Acreage:	32,216
Sites with Restrooms:	205
Sites with Handicap Access:	195
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	181
Total Football Fields:	29
Total MultiUse Fields:	138
Total Soccer Fields:	81
Total Basketball Courts:	101
Total Tennis Courts:	84
Total Volleyball Courts:	12
Total Golf Courses:	23
Sites with Playground Areas:	239
Sites with Swimming Pool:	26
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	47
Sites with Picnic Areas:	163
Sites with Fishing Access:	125
Sites with Boating Access:	57
Sites with Hunting:	6
Sites with Camping:	19
Sites with Trails:	221
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	48
Historic or Educational Sites:	29
Sites with Gardens:	37



# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Totals by County

Hartford	Number of Towns in County 29
Total Acreage:	36,613
Sites with Restrooms:	183
Sites with Handicap Access:	263
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	281
Total Football Fields:	42
Total MultiUse Fields:	133
Total Soccer Fields:	148
Total Basketball Courts:	189
Total Tennis Courts:	103
Total Volleyball Courts:	22
Total Golf Courses:	32
Sites with Playground Areas:	309
Sites with Swimming Pool:	57
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	6
Sites with Picnic Areas:	116
Sites with Fishing Access:	82
Sites with Boating Access:	29
Sites with Hunting:	5
Sites with Camping:	2
Sites with Trails:	153
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	53
Historic or Educational Sites:	14
Sites with Gardens:	29

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Totals by County

Litchfield	Number of Towns in County
Total Acreage:	72,832
Sites with Restrooms:	120
Sites with Handicap Access:	194
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	73
Total Football Fields:	7
Total MultiUse Fields:	74
Total Soccer Fields:	44
Total Basketball Courts:	49
Total Tennis Courts:	35
Total Volleyball Courts:	6
Total Golf Courses:	11
Sites with Playground Areas:	74
Sites with Swimming Pool:	8
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	26
Sites with Picnic Areas:	94
Sites with Fishing Access:	120
Sites with Boating Access:	45
Sites with Hunting:	22
Sites with Camping:	17
Sites with Trails:	100
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	42
Historic or Educational Sites:	18
Sites with Gardens:	4

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Totals by County

Middlesex	Number of Towns in County 15
Total Acreage:	37,757
Sites with Restrooms:	101
Sites with Handicap Access:	118
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	40
Total Football Fields:	8
Total MultiUse Fields:	18
Total Soccer Fields:	26
Total Basketball Courts:	30
Total Tennis Courts:	15
Total Volleyball Courts:	5
Total Golf Courses:	10
Sites with Playground Areas:	34
Sites with Swimming Pool:	7
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	14
Sites with Picnic Areas:	55
Sites with Fishing Access:	70
Sites with Boating Access:	40
Sites with Hunting:	2
Sites with Camping:	6
Sites with Trails:	64
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	14
Historic or Educational Sites:	10
Sites with Gardens:	4

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Totals by County

New Haven	Number of Towns in County 27
Total Acreage:	31,540
Sites with Restrooms:	189
Sites with Handicap Access:	261
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	225
Total Football Fields:	39
Total MultiUse Fields:	108
Total Soccer Fields:	101
Total Basketball Courts:	163
Total Tennis Courts:	88
Total Volleyball Courts:	11
Total Golf Courses:	18
Sites with Playground Areas:	227
Sites with Swimming Pool:	18
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	40
Sites with Picnic Areas:	115
Sites with Fishing Access:	94
Sites with Boating Access:	25
Sites with Hunting:	8
Sites with Camping:	8
Sites with Trails:	122
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	32
Historic or Educational Sites:	11
Sites with Gardens:	20

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Totals by County

New London	Number of Towns in County 21
Total Acreage:	57,881
Sites with Restrooms:	107
Sites with Handicap Access:	117
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	90
Total Football Fields:	14
Total MultiUse Fields:	87
Total Soccer Fields:	36
Total Basketball Courts:	61
Total Tennis Courts:	28
Total Volleyball Courts:	12
Total Golf Courses:	15
Sites with Playground Areas:	99
Sites with Swimming Pool:	11
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	20
Sites with Picnic Areas:	72
Sites with Fishing Access:	77
Sites with Boating Access:	41
Sites with Hunting:	19
Sites with Camping:	17
Sites with Trails:	97
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	14
Historic or Educational Sites:	11
Sites with Gardens:	8

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Totals by County

Tolland	Number of Towns in County 13
Total Acreage:	30,007
Sites with Restrooms:	49
Sites with Handicap Access:	55
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	54
Total Football Fields:	9
Total MultiUse Fields:	36
Total Soccer Fields:	37
Total Basketball Courts:	33
Total Tennis Courts:	17
Total Volleyball Courts:	5
Total Golf Courses:	9
Sites with Playground Areas:	43
Sites with Swimming Pool:	5
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	15
Sites with Picnic Areas:	32
Sites with Fishing Access:	56
Sites with Boating Access:	25
Sites with Hunting:	9
Sites with Camping:	6
Sites with Trails:	76
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	23
Historic or Educational Sites:	2
Sites with Gardens:	3

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Totals by County

Windham	Number of Towns in County 15
Total Acreage:	29,555
Sites with Restrooms:	26
Sites with Handicap Access:	38
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	40
Total Football Fields:	6
Total MultiUse Fields:	30
Total Soccer Fields:	22
Total Basketball Courts:	19
Total Tennis Courts:	14
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	7
Sites with Playground Areas:	40
Sites with Swimming Pool:	5
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	8
Sites with Picnic Areas:	30
Sites with Fishing Access:	45
Sites with Boating Access:	23
Sites with Hunting:	17
Sites with Camping:	13
Sites with Trails:	63
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	12
Historic or Educational Sites:	4
Sites with Gardens:	4

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Andover

Total Acreage:	752
Sites with Restrooms:	0
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	0
Sites with Fishing Access:	0
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	2
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	1



# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Ansonia

Total Acreage:	761
Sites with Restrooms:	2
Sites with Handicap Access:	9
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	6
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	6
Total Soccer Fields:	4
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	5
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	4
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	1
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Ashford

Total Acreage:	201
Sites with Restrooms:	3
Sites with Handicap Access:	3
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	2
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping	1
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Avon

Total Acreage:	2,011
Sites with Restrooms:	5
Sites with Handicap Access:	16
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	8
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	12
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	5
Total Tennis Courts:	4
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	7
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	6
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	9
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	5
Historic or Educational Sites:	2
Sites with Gardens:	2

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### **Barkhamsted**

Total Acreage:	12,817
Sites with Restrooms:	9
Sites with Handicap Access:	10
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	5
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	2
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	7
Sites with Fishing Access:	12
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	3
Sites with Camping:	3
Sites with Trails:	7
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	4
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Beacon Falls

Total Acreage:	4,633
Sites with Restrooms:	2
Sites with Handicap Access:	7
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	2
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	4
Sites with Fishing Access:	1
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	5
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Berlin

Total Acreage:	1,496
Sites with Restrooms:	17
Sites with Handicap Access:	21
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	8
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	6
Total Soccer Fields:	5
Total Basketball Courts:	5
Total Tennis Courts:	4
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	9
Sites with Swimming Pool:	3
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	5
Sites with Fishing Access:	4
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	9
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	3
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Bethany

Total Acreage:	247
Sites with Restrooms:	0
Sites with Handicap Access:	0
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	0
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	0
Sites with Fishing Access:	0
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Bethel

Total Acreage:	1,222
Sites with Restrooms:	5
Sites with Handicap Access:	5
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	8
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	6
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	6
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	4
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	6
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	6
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0



# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Bethlehem

Total Acreage:	120
Sites with Restrooms:	2
Sites with Handicap Access:	2
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	0
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	3
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	1
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	2
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Bloomfield

Total Acreage:	3,390
Sites with Restrooms:	10
Sites with Handicap Access:	8
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	6
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	9
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	7
Total Tennis Courts:	4
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	13
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	6
Sites with Fishing Access:	5
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	8
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	2
Sites with Gardens:	8

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Bolton

Total Acreage:	681
Sites with Restrooms:	4
Sites with Handicap Access:	4
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	4
Sites with Fishing Access:	5
Sites with Boating Access:	4
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Bozrah

Total Acreage:	496
Sites with Restrooms:	1
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	0
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	0
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	2
Sites with Trails:	2
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### **Branford**

Total Acreage:	1,515
Sites with Restrooms:	10
Sites with Handicap Access:	8
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	13
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	13
Total Soccer Fields:	7
Total Basketball Courts:	5
Total Tennis Courts:	3
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	8
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	4
Sites with Picnic Areas:	6
Sites with Fishing Access:	11
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Bridgeport

Total Acreage:	1,386
Sites with Restrooms:	12
Sites with Handicap Access:	23
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	12
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	36
Sites with Swimming Pool:	2
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	3
Sites with Picnic Areas:	14
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	5
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	6
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	2

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### **Bridgewater**

Total Acreage:	44
Sites with Restrooms:	2
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	1
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Bristol

Total Acreage:	912
Sites with Restrooms:	8
Sites with Handicap Access:	17
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	17
Total Football Fields:	4
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	6
Total Basketball Courts:	5
Total Tennis Courts:	7
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	18
Sites with Swimming Pool:	2
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	6
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	5
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0



# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Brookfield

Total Acreage:	1,228
Sites with Restrooms:	8
Sites with Handicap Access:	9
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	4
Total Soccer Fields:	5
Total Basketball Courts:	4
Total Tennis Courts:	3
Total Volleyball Courts:	2
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	5
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	13
Sites with Fishing Access:	6
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	2
Sites with Trails:	13
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	11
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	4

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Brooklyn

Total Acreage:	1,863
Sites with Restrooms:	0
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	2
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	4
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	1
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	6
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Burlington

Total Acreage:	1,858
Sites with Restrooms:	8
Sites with Handicap Access:	12
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	6
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	4
Total Soccer Fields:	6
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	3
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	3
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	5
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	2
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	3
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Town Totals	
<b>Canaan</b>	
Total Acreage:	54
Sites with Restrooms:	1
Sites with Handicap Access:	3
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	2
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	0
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Canterbury

Total Acreage:	322
Sites with Restrooms:	1
Sites with Handicap Access:	0
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	0
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	0
Sites with Fishing Access:	1
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	1
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Canton

Total Acreage:	770
Sites with Restrooms:	8
Sites with Handicap Access:	12
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	5
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	3
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	3
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	4
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	5
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	2
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Chaplin

Total Acreage:	778
Sites with Restrooms:	1
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	0
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	0
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Cheshire

Total Acreage:	398
Sites with Restrooms:	4
Sites with Handicap Access:	17
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	6
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	6
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	3
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	8
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	6
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	1



# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Chester

Total Acreage:	183
Sites with Restrooms:	3
Sites with Handicap Access:	5
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	2
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	3
Sites with Picnic Areas:	6
Sites with Fishing Access:	6
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Clinton

Total Acreage:	455
Sites with Restrooms:	9
Sites with Handicap Access:	8
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	2
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	3
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	2
Sites with Picnic Areas:	6
Sites with Fishing Access:	5
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	2
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Colchester

Total Acreage:	8,707
Sites with Restrooms:	4
Sites with Handicap Access:	9
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	5
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	3
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	4
Sites with Fishing Access:	6
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	4
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	5
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### **Colebrook**

Total Acreage:	8,116
Sites with Restrooms:	3
Sites with Handicap Access:	4
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	2
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	5
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Columbia

Total Acreage:	1,281
Sites with Restrooms:	1
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	0
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	2
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	0
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	2
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	8
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Cornwall

Total Acreage:	5,696
Sites with Restrooms:	3
Sites with Handicap Access:	5
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	0
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	5
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	1
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Coventry

Total Acreage:	1,727
Sites with Restrooms:	0
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	4
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Cromwell

Total Acreage:	369
Sites with Restrooms:	6
Sites with Handicap Access:	4
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	4
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	0
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	3
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	3
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	5
Sites with Fishing Access:	0
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	6
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0



# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Danbury

Total Acreage:	1,771
Sites with Restrooms:	0
Sites with Handicap Access:	0
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	6
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	17
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	15
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	14
Sites with Swimming Pool:	4
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	11
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Darien

Total Acreage:	371
Sites with Restrooms:	9
Sites with Handicap Access:	3
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	4
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	5
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	2
Sites with Picnic Areas:	4
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	17
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Deep River

Total Acreage:	515
Sites with Restrooms:	6
Sites with Handicap Access:	6
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	0
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	0
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	2
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Derby

Total Acreage:	490
Sites with Restrooms:	1
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	2
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	5
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Durham

Total Acreage:	1,810
Sites with Restrooms:	6
Sites with Handicap Access:	9
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	5
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### East Granby

Total Acreage:	1,167
Sites with Restrooms:	7
Sites with Handicap Access:	9
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	2
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### East Haddam

Total Acreage:	3,950
Sites with Restrooms:	5
Sites with Handicap Access:	3
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	0
Sites with Swimming Pool:	2
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	4
Sites with Fishing Access:	11
Sites with Boating Access:	7
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	3
Historic or Educational Sites:	2
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### East Hampton

Total Acreage:	1,881
Sites with Restrooms:	6
Sites with Handicap Access:	6
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	0
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	2
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	7
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	1



# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### East Hartford

Total Acreage:	998
Sites with Restrooms:	7
Sites with Handicap Access:	0
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	21
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	0
Total Soccer Fields:	6
Total Basketball Courts:	23
Total Tennis Courts:	9
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	22
Sites with Swimming Pool:	7
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	11
Sites with Fishing Access:	0
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	11
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### East Haven

Total Acreage:	132
Sites with Restrooms:	0
Sites with Handicap Access:	0
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	0
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	0
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	0
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	4
Sites with Picnic Areas:	0
Sites with Fishing Access:	0
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	1
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### East Lyme

Total Acreage:	1,066
Sites with Restrooms:	11
Sites with Handicap Access:	9
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	0
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	2
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	7
Sites with Boating Access:	6
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	2
Sites with Trails:	2
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	5
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### East Windsor

Total Acreage:	47
Sites with Restrooms:	2
Sites with Handicap Access:	4
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	9
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	4
Total Basketball Courts:	7
Total Tennis Courts:	3
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	4
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	0
Sites with Fishing Access:	1
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	2
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Eastford

Total Acreage:	13,392
Sites with Restrooms:	2
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	2
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	3
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Easton

Total Acreage:	2,102
Sites with Restrooms:	1
Sites with Handicap Access:	0
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	0
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	7
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	9
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	3
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Ellington

Total Acreage:	163
Sites with Restrooms:	4
Sites with Handicap Access:	5
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	5
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	4
Total Soccer Fields:	4
Total Basketball Courts:	4
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	2
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	0
Sites with Fishing Access:	0
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	1
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Enfield

Total Acreage:	244
Sites with Restrooms:	10
Sites with Handicap Access:	10
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	19
Total Football Fields:	4
Total MultiUse Fields:	4
Total Soccer Fields:	9
Total Basketball Courts:	17
Total Tennis Courts:	6
Total Volleyball Courts:	5
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	18
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0



# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Essex

Total Acreage:	679
Sites with Restrooms:	4
Sites with Handicap Access:	10
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	0
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	0
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	0
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	9
Sites with Boating Access:	8
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Fairfield

Total Acreage:	2,160
Sites with Restrooms:	13
Sites with Handicap Access:	17
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	18
Total Football Fields:	3
Total MultiUse Fields:	8
Total Soccer Fields:	11
Total Basketball Courts:	4
Total Tennis Courts:	13
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	4
Sites with Playground Areas:	30
Sites with Swimming Pool:	3
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	7
Sites with Picnic Areas:	6
Sites with Fishing Access:	13
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	2
Sites with Trails:	20
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	3
Historic or Educational Sites:	4
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Farmington

Total Acreage:	804
Sites with Restrooms:	1
Sites with Handicap Access:	5
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	4
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	9
Total Soccer Fields:	4
Total Basketball Courts:	3
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	10
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	10
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	5
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Franklin

Total Acreage:	1,349
Sites with Restrooms:	4
Sites with Handicap Access:	4
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	0
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	3
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	1
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	2
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	2
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Glastonbury

Total Acreage:	1,404
Sites with Restrooms:	13
Sites with Handicap Access:	11
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	16
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	12
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	13
Sites with Swimming Pool:	3
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	9
Sites with Fishing Access:	8
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	13
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	4
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	3

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Goshen

Total Acreage:	2,128
Sites with Restrooms:	6
Sites with Handicap Access:	5
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	2
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	4
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	2
Sites with Trails:	6
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	4
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Granby

Total Acreage:	202
Sites with Restrooms:	3
Sites with Handicap Access:	8
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	4
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	6
Total Soccer Fields:	4
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	3
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	1
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Greenwich

Total Acreage:	2,124
Sites with Restrooms:	16
Sites with Handicap Access:	6
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	11
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	6
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	7
Total Tennis Courts:	8
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	3
Sites with Playground Areas:	10
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	4
Sites with Picnic Areas:	17
Sites with Fishing Access:	5
Sites with Boating Access:	12
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	2
Sites with Trails:	15
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	6
Historic or Educational Sites:	3
Sites with Gardens:	4



# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Griswold

Total Acreage:	827
Sites with Restrooms:	1
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	4
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	1
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Groton

Total Acreage:	2,086
Sites with Restrooms:	12
Sites with Handicap Access:	10
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	11
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	13
Total Soccer Fields:	4
Total Basketball Courts:	13
Total Tennis Courts:	5
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	5
Sites with Playground Areas:	19
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	4
Sites with Picnic Areas:	10
Sites with Fishing Access:	6
Sites with Boating Access:	6
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	7
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Guilford

Total Acreage:	1,325
Sites with Restrooms:	17
Sites with Handicap Access:	15
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	10
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	7
Total Soccer Fields:	8
Total Basketball Courts:	5
Total Tennis Courts:	4
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	6
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	4
Sites with Picnic Areas:	5
Sites with Fishing Access:	8
Sites with Boating Access:	4
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	8
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	5
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Haddam

Total Acreage:	16,516
Sites with Restrooms:	4
Sites with Handicap Access:	5
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	6
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	2
Sites with Trails:	5
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Hamden

Total Acreage:	1,753
Sites with Restrooms:	13
Sites with Handicap Access:	14
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	10
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	7
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	7
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	10
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	1
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Hampton

Total Acreage:	2,495
Sites with Restrooms:	0
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	2
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	0
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	1
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Hartford

Total Acreage:	1,997
Sites with Restrooms:	1
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	17
Total Football Fields:	5
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	10
Total Basketball Courts:	16
Total Tennis Courts:	6
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	3
Sites with Playground Areas:	53
Sites with Swimming Pool:	4
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	11
Sites with Fishing Access:	0
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	1
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	2

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Hartland

Total Acreage:	5,992
Sites with Restrooms:	2
Sites with Handicap Access:	11
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	4
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	5
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0



# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Harwinton

Total Acreage:	179
Sites with Restrooms:	2
Sites with Handicap Access:	5
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	0
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	2
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Hebron

Total Acreage:	1,646
Sites with Restrooms:	5
Sites with Handicap Access:	5
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	5
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	5
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	4
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Kent

Total Acreage:	4,188
Sites with Restrooms:	5
Sites with Handicap Access:	7
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	2
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	6
Sites with Fishing Access:	9
Sites with Boating Access:	4
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	2
Sites with Trails:	7
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Killingly

Total Acreage:	1,516
Sites with Restrooms:	2
Sites with Handicap Access:	3
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	4
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	5
Sites with Fishing Access:	8
Sites with Boating Access:	6
Sites with Hunting:	2
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Killingworth

Total Acreage:	474
Sites with Restrooms:	4
Sites with Handicap Access:	4
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Lebanon

Total Acreage:	2,948
Sites with Restrooms:	2
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	0
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	2
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	2
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	5
Sites with Camping:	2
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Ledyard

Total Acreage:	1,212
Sites with Restrooms:	8
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	8
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	8
Total Soccer Fields:	4
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	2
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	10
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	7
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	13
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Lisbon

Total Acreage:	167
Sites with Restrooms:	0
Sites with Handicap Access:	0
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	2
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	0
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	2
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	1
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0



# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Litchfield

Total Acreage:	1,386
Sites with Restrooms:	11
Sites with Handicap Access:	16
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	6
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	4
Total Basketball Courts:	5
Total Tennis Courts:	3
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	5
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	2
Sites with Picnic Areas:	7
Sites with Fishing Access:	9
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	2
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	3
Historic or Educational Sites:	2
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Lyme

Total Acreage:	5,842
Sites with Restrooms:	2
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	0
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	4
Sites with Boating Access:	4
Sites with Hunting:	3
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Madison

Total Acreage:	2,003
Sites with Restrooms:	12
Sites with Handicap Access:	13
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	2
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	5
Sites with Swimming Pool:	2
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	4
Sites with Picnic Areas:	6
Sites with Fishing Access:	4
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	2
Sites with Trails:	6
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Manchester

Total Acreage:	1,246
Sites with Restrooms:	1
Sites with Handicap Access:	2
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	23
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	2
Total Soccer Fields:	9
Total Basketball Courts:	16
Total Tennis Courts:	3
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	21
Sites with Swimming Pool:	7
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	6
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	16
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	10
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	2

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Mansfield

Total Acreage:	3,407
Sites with Restrooms:	1
Sites with Handicap Access:	4
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	6
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	4
Total Soccer Fields:	6
Total Basketball Courts:	5
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	4
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	5
Sites with Fishing Access:	5
Sites with Boating Access:	4
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	23
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	6
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Marlborough

Total Acreage:	534
Sites with Restrooms:	2
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	2
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	1
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	1
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Meriden

Total Acreage:	2,763
Sites with Restrooms:	17
Sites with Handicap Access:	6
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	21
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	0
Total Soccer Fields:	4
Total Basketball Courts:	12
Total Tennis Courts:	5
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	13
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	5
Sites with Fishing Access:	10
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Middlebury

Total Acreage:	523
Sites with Restrooms:	7
Sites with Handicap Access:	11
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	6
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	5
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	4
Total Tennis Courts:	4
Total Volleyball Courts:	2
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	6
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	3
Sites with Picnic Areas:	5
Sites with Fishing Access:	8
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	6
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	1



# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Middlefield

Total Acreage:	717
Sites with Restrooms:	5
Sites with Handicap Access:	5
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	2
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	0
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Middletown

Total Acreage:	990
Sites with Restrooms:	14
Sites with Handicap Access:	21
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	10
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	4
Total Soccer Fields:	7
Total Basketball Courts:	9
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	9
Sites with Swimming Pool:	3
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	9
Sites with Fishing Access:	10
Sites with Boating Access:	4
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	10
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	4
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Milford

Total Acreage:	1,119
Sites with Restrooms:	1
Sites with Handicap Access:	3
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	16
Total Football Fields:	3
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	7
Total Basketball Courts:	13
Total Tennis Courts:	8
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	23
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	4
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	7
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	3

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Monroe

Total Acreage:	907
Sites with Restrooms:	5
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	4
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	5
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	4
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	2
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	4
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	6
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Montville

Total Acreage:	393
Sites with Restrooms:	3
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	6
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	9
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	1
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	2
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Morris

Total Acreage:	533
Sites with Restrooms:	1
Sites with Handicap Access:	3
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	2
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	1
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	2
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Naugatuck

Total Acreage:	648
Sites with Restrooms:	17
Sites with Handicap Access:	17
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	8
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	10
Total Basketball Courts:	7
Total Tennis Courts:	3
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	10
Sites with Swimming Pool:	3
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	1
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	2
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### **New Britain**

Total Acreage:	0
Sites with Restrooms:	7
Sites with Handicap Access:	7
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	10
Total Football Fields:	3
Total MultiUse Fields:	7
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	6
Total Tennis Courts:	4
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	9
Sites with Swimming Pool:	5
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	1



# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### New Canaan

Total Acreage:	749
Sites with Restrooms:	0
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	5
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	5
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	1
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	2

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### New Fairfield

Total Acreage:	1,374
Sites with Restrooms:	2
Sites with Handicap Access:	6
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	4
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	4
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	3
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	4
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	2
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	4
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	7
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	2

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### **New Hartford**

Total Acreage:	2,024
Sites with Restrooms:	2
Sites with Handicap Access:	10
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	2
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	4
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	4
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	5
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	3
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### New Haven

Total Acreage:	3,361
Sites with Restrooms:	22
Sites with Handicap Access:	51
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	20
Total Football Fields:	7
Total MultiUse Fields:	5
Total Soccer Fields:	9
Total Basketball Courts:	26
Total Tennis Courts:	9
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	27
Sites with Swimming Pool:	2
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	17
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	14
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	4
Historic or Educational Sites:	7
Sites with Gardens:	2

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### New London

Total Acreage:	21
Sites with Restrooms:	2
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	10
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	0
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	9
Total Tennis Courts:	3
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	11
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	2
Sites with Picnic Areas:	7
Sites with Fishing Access:	1
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	16
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### **New Milford**

Total Acreage:	1,210
Sites with Restrooms:	11
Sites with Handicap Access:	20
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	5
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	6
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	4
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	6
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	10
Sites with Fishing Access:	11
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	11
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Newington

Total Acreage:	560
Sites with Restrooms:	5
Sites with Handicap Access:	3
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	11
Total Football Fields:	3
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	7
Total Basketball Courts:	12
Total Tennis Courts:	3
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	10
Sites with Swimming Pool:	3
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	1
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### **Newtown**

Total Acreage:	1,809
Sites with Restrooms:	4
Sites with Handicap Access:	8
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	9
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	4
Total Soccer Fields:	6
Total Basketball Courts:	7
Total Tennis Courts:	3
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	7
Sites with Swimming Pool:	2
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	4
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0



# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Norfolk

Total Acreage:	1,405
Sites with Restrooms:	0
Sites with Handicap Access:	4
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	2
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### North Branford

Total Acreage:	295
Sites with Restrooms:	5
Sites with Handicap Access:	5
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	5
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	2
Sites with Trails:	2
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### North Canaan

Total Acreage:	211
Sites with Restrooms:	2
Sites with Handicap Access:	8
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	2
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	4
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	2
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	0
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### North Haven

Total Acreage:	1,763
Sites with Restrooms:	9
Sites with Handicap Access:	8
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	9
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	7
Total Soccer Fields:	4
Total Basketball Courts:	5
Total Tennis Courts:	6
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	9
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	8
Sites with Fishing Access:	1
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	6
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	2

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### North Stonington

Total Acreage:	944
Sites with Restrooms:	1
Sites with Handicap Access:	0
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	0
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	0
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	6
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	0
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Norwalk

Total Acreage:	1,086
Sites with Restrooms:	7
Sites with Handicap Access:	2
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	27
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	14
Total Soccer Fields:	6
Total Basketball Courts:	21
Total Tennis Courts:	16
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	25
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	4
Sites with Picnic Areas:	9
Sites with Fishing Access:	12
Sites with Boating Access:	6
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	2
Sites with Trails:	2
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	6
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Norwich

Total Acreage:	1,157
Sites with Restrooms:	19
Sites with Handicap Access:	38
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	15
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	18
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	15
Total Tennis Courts:	3
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	15
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	6
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Old Lyme

Total Acreage:	1,728
Sites with Restrooms:	3
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	4
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	3
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	3
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	3
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	1
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	5
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0



# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Old Saybrook

Total Acreage:	737
Sites with Restrooms:	14
Sites with Handicap Access:	14
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	5
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	7
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	3
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	2
Sites with Picnic Areas:	7
Sites with Fishing Access:	7
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Orange

Total Acreage:	854
Sites with Restrooms:	0
Sites with Handicap Access:	0
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	6
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	0
Total Soccer Fields:	4
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	0
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	6
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Oxford

Total Acreage:	553
Sites with Restrooms:	5
Sites with Handicap Access:	8
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	4
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	4
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	4
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	5
Sites with Fishing Access:	4
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	2
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	2

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Plainfield

Total Acreage:	2,011
Sites with Restrooms:	1
Sites with Handicap Access:	2
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	5
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	3
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	6
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	1
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	3
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	6
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Plainville

Total Acreage:	201
Sites with Restrooms:	5
Sites with Handicap Access:	12
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	6
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	4
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	5
Total Tennis Courts:	4
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	7
Sites with Swimming Pool:	2
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	1
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Plymouth

Total Acreage:	1,403
Sites with Restrooms:	9
Sites with Handicap Access:	10
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	5
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	6
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	3
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	6
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	2
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	6
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Pomfret

Total Acreage:	2,067
Sites with Restrooms:	2
Sites with Handicap Access:	2
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	2
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	1
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Portland

Total Acreage:	8,375
Sites with Restrooms:	10
Sites with Handicap Access:	10
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	5
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	2
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	3
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	4
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites: Sites with Gardens:	1



# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Preston

Total Acreage:	259
Sites with Restrooms:	3
Sites with Handicap Access:	2
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	4
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	2
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	4
Sites with Swimming Pool:	2
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	2
Sites with Trails:	1
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Prospect

Total Acreage:	28
Sites with Restrooms:	0
Sites with Handicap Access:	4
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	2
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	2
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	3
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	4
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	4
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	1
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Putnam

Total Acreage:	24
Sites with Restrooms:	3
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	1
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	2
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Redding

Total Acreage:	1,612
Sites with Restrooms:	4
Sites with Handicap Access:	6
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	2
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	4
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	6
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	2
Sites with Trails:	6
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	3
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Ridgefield

Total Acreage:	778
Sites with Restrooms:	24
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	13
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	10
Total Soccer Fields:	8
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	8
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	4
Sites with Fishing Access:	6
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	2
Sites with Trails:	25
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Rocky Hill

Total Acreage:	422
Sites with Restrooms:	2
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	6
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	4
Total Basketball Courts:	5
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	4
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	0
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Roxbury

Total Acreage:	51
Sites with Restrooms:	3
Sites with Handicap Access:	2
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	0
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	2
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Salem

Total Acreage:	154
Sites with Restrooms:	3
Sites with Handicap Access:	0
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	4
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	2
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0



# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Salisbury

Total Acreage:	1,475
Sites with Restrooms:	8
Sites with Handicap Access:	7
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	0
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	6
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Scotland

Total Acreage:	1,489
Sites with Restrooms:	1
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	3
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Seymour

Total Acreage:	881
Sites with Restrooms:	1
Sites with Handicap Access:	7
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	7
Total Football Fields:	3
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	3
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	7
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	5
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Sharon

Total Acreage:	11,043
Sites with Restrooms:	5
Sites with Handicap Access:	6
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	2
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	6
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	2
Sites with Camping:	2
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Shelton

Total Acreage:	1,296
Sites with Restrooms:	15
Sites with Handicap Access:	17
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	12
Total Football Fields:	3
Total MultiUse Fields:	6
Total Soccer Fields:	7
Total Basketball Courts:	6
Total Tennis Courts:	3
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	11
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	2
Sites with Picnic Areas:	10
Sites with Fishing Access:	9
Sites with Boating Access:	4
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	6
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Sherman

Total Acreage:	1,776
Sites with Restrooms:	4
Sites with Handicap Access:	5
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	2
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	4
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	3
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### **Simsbury**

Total Acreage:	5,596
Sites with Restrooms:	12
Sites with Handicap Access:	20
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	8
Total Football Fields:	3
Total MultiUse Fields:	11
Total Soccer Fields:	4
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	5
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	11
Sites with Swimming Pool:	2
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	11
Sites with Fishing Access:	7
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	2
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	10
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	5
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Somers

Total Acreage:	696
Sites with Restrooms:	7
Sites with Handicap Access:	10
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	4
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	5
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0



# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### South Windsor

Total Acreage:	266
Sites with Restrooms:	9
Sites with Handicap Access:	8
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	10
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	5
Total Soccer Fields:	8
Total Basketball Courts:	9
Total Tennis Courts:	3
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	5
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	0
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	1
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Southbury

Total Acreage:	1,564
Sites with Restrooms:	7
Sites with Handicap Access:	8
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	6
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	8
Total Soccer Fields:	4
Total Basketball Courts:	4
Total Tennis Courts:	3
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	3
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	4
Sites with Fishing Access:	4
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	2
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	6
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	3
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Southington

Total Acreage:	720
Sites with Restrooms:	10
Sites with Handicap Access:	26
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	7
Total Football Fields:	3
Total MultiUse Fields:	8
Total Soccer Fields:	5
Total Basketball Courts:	4
Total Tennis Courts:	4
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	3
Sites with Playground Areas:	12
Sites with Swimming Pool:	2
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	5
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	3
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Sprague

Total Acreage:	496
Sites with Restrooms:	1
Sites with Handicap Access:	0
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	2
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	5
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Stafford

Total Acreage:	6,233
Sites with Restrooms:	9
Sites with Handicap Access:	4
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	9
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	6
Sites with Swimming Pool:	2
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	4
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	8
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	2
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Stamford

Total Acreage:	1,736
Sites with Restrooms:	16
Sites with Handicap Access:	24
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	21
Total Football Fields:	3
Total MultiUse Fields:	8
Total Soccer Fields:	7
Total Basketball Courts:	12
Total Tennis Courts:	10
Total Volleyball Courts:	3
Total Golf Courses:	3
Sites with Playground Areas:	22
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	5
Sites with Picnic Areas:	11
Sites with Fishing Access:	5
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	7
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	2
Sites with Gardens:	3

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### **Sterling**

Total Acreage:	60
Sites with Restrooms:	0
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	2
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	0
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	2
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	2
Sites with Trails:	2
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Stonington

Total Acreage:	1,684
Sites with Restrooms:	13
Sites with Handicap Access:	13
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	8
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	7
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	2
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	8
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	8
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	6
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0



# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Stratford

Total Acreage:	763
Sites with Restrooms:	5
Sites with Handicap Access:	4
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	2
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	21
Sites with Swimming Pool:	4
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	2
Sites with Picnic Areas:	6
Sites with Fishing Access:	4
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	9
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Suffield

Total Acreage:	862
Sites with Restrooms:	11
Sites with Handicap Access:	4
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	5
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	5
Total Soccer Fields:	9
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	4
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	2
Sites with Picnic Areas:	4
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	7
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Thomaston

Total Acreage:	6,239
Sites with Restrooms:	6
Sites with Handicap Access:	5
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	3
Total Tennis Courts:	3
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	6
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	2
Sites with Picnic Areas:	4
Sites with Fishing Access:	4
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	2
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	3
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Thompson

Total Acreage:	2,663
Sites with Restrooms:	4
Sites with Handicap Access:	5
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	2
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	5
Sites with Fishing Access:	10
Sites with Boating Access:	4
Sites with Hunting:	2
Sites with Camping:	2
Sites with Trails:	9
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Tolland

Total Acreage:	2,488
Sites with Restrooms:	2
Sites with Handicap Access:	3
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	6
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	2
Total Soccer Fields:	5
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	3
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	2
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	3
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	6
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Torrington

Total Acreage:	4,123
Sites with Restrooms:	6
Sites with Handicap Access:	27
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	9
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	6
Total Soccer Fields:	7
Total Basketball Courts:	9
Total Tennis Courts:	5
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	12
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	2
Sites with Picnic Areas:	8
Sites with Fishing Access:	8
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	3
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	6
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	3
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Trumbull

Total Acreage:	1,795
Sites with Restrooms:	8
Sites with Handicap Access:	2
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	8
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	6
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	4
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	11
Sites with Swimming Pool:	3
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	8
Sites with Fishing Access:	5
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	13
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	2
Sites with Gardens:	3

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Union

Total Acreage:	10,236
Sites with Restrooms:	2
Sites with Handicap Access:	4
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	1
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	5
Sites with Boating Access:	5
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0



# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Vernon

Total Acreage:	472
Sites with Restrooms:	11
Sites with Handicap Access:	12
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	11
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	6
Total Soccer Fields:	5
Total Basketball Courts:	9
Total Tennis Courts:	3
Total Volleyball Courts:	2
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	11
Sites with Swimming Pool:	2
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	3
Sites with Picnic Areas:	10
Sites with Fishing Access:	10
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	14
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	7
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	2

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Voluntown

Total Acreage:	25,431
Sites with Restrooms:	3
Sites with Handicap Access:	2
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	0
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	0
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	6
Sites with Boating Access:	5
Sites with Hunting:	2
Sites with Camping:	4
Sites with Trails:	2
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Wallingford

Total Acreage:	2,346
Sites with Restrooms:	21
Sites with Handicap Access:	20
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	23
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	5
Total Basketball Courts:	12
Total Tennis Courts:	7
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	16
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	9
Sites with Fishing Access:	4
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	2
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	12
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	2

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Warren

Total Acreage:	4,332
Sites with Restrooms:	1
Sites with Handicap Access:	3
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	0
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Washington

Total Acreage:	298
Sites with Restrooms:	4
Sites with Handicap Access:	6
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	2
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	4
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	5
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Waterbury

Total Acreage:	803
Sites with Restrooms:	12
Sites with Handicap Access:	18
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	22
Total Football Fields:	6
Total MultiUse Fields:	11
Total Soccer Fields:	7
Total Basketball Courts:	24
Total Tennis Courts:	10
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	28
Sites with Swimming Pool:	4
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	13
Sites with Fishing Access:	5
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	2
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Waterford

Total Acreage:	915
Sites with Restrooms:	11
Sites with Handicap Access:	22
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	10
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	8
Total Soccer Fields:	4
Total Basketball Courts:	3
Total Tennis Courts:	4
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	6
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	3
Sites with Picnic Areas:	9
Sites with Fishing Access:	6
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	13
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	5
Historic or Educational Sites:	2
Sites with Gardens:	5

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Watertown

Total Acreage:	732
Sites with Restrooms:	11
Sites with Handicap Access:	11
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	9
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	8
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	5
Total Tennis Courts:	3
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	7
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	3
Sites with Picnic Areas:	5
Sites with Fishing Access:	6
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	3
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	1



# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### West Hartford

Total Acreage:	1,114
Sites with Restrooms:	7
Sites with Handicap Access:	8
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	22
Total Football Fields:	3
Total MultiUse Fields:	5
Total Soccer Fields:	20
Total Basketball Courts:	5
Total Tennis Courts:	8
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	19
Sites with Swimming Pool:	5
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	4
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	10
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	3

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### West Haven

Total Acreage:	274
Sites with Restrooms:	0
Sites with Handicap Access:	0
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	10
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	5
Total Basketball Courts:	16
Total Tennis Courts:	3
Total Volleyball Courts:	2
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	22
Sites with Swimming Pool:	2
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	9
Sites with Picnic Areas:	4
Sites with Fishing Access:	5
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	3
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Westbrook

Total Acreage:	108
Sites with Restrooms:	5
Sites with Handicap Access:	8
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	0
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	3
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	2
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	2
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Weston

Total Acreage:	2,034
Sites with Restrooms:	4
Sites with Handicap Access:	7
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	2
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	6
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	3
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	5
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Westport

Total Acreage:	796
Sites with Restrooms:	39
Sites with Handicap Access:	47
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	13
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	9
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	4
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	6
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	8
Sites with Picnic Areas:	16
Sites with Fishing Access:	16
Sites with Boating Access:	6
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	17
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	9

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Wethersfield

Total Acreage:	610
Sites with Restrooms:	3
Sites with Handicap Access:	11
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	12
Total Football Fields:	3
Total MultiUse Fields:	0
Total Soccer Fields:	6
Total Basketball Courts:	12
Total Tennis Courts:	4
Total Volleyball Courts:	1
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	8
Sites with Swimming Pool:	2
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	2
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	2
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	1

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Willington

Total Acreage:	225
Sites with Restrooms:	3
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	1
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	1
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	5
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	2
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Wilton

Total Acreage:	1,344
Sites with Restrooms:	4
Sites with Handicap Access:	1
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	4
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	0
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	5
Sites with Fishing Access:	4
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	22
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	3
Sites with Gardens:	1



# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Winchester

Total Acreage:	1,290
Sites with Restrooms:	6
Sites with Handicap Access:	9
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	7
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	9
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	4
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	5
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	2
Sites with Picnic Areas:	8
Sites with Fishing Access:	7
Sites with Boating Access:	3
Sites with Hunting:	2
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	2
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	3
Historic or Educational Sites:	3
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Windham

Total Acreage:	601
Sites with Restrooms:	4
Sites with Handicap Access:	13
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	10
Total Football Fields:	2
Total MultiUse Fields:	8
Total Soccer Fields:	4
Total Basketball Courts:	4
Total Tennis Courts:	6
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	9
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	2
Sites with Fishing Access:	4
Sites with Boating Access:	4
Sites with Hunting:	1
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	9
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	3
Historic or Educational Sites:	3
Sites with Gardens:	4

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Windsor

Total Acreage:	927
Sites with Restrooms:	6
Sites with Handicap Access:	11
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	5
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	7
Total Tennis Courts:	5
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	3
Sites with Playground Areas:	8
Sites with Swimming Pool:	1
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	6
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	6
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	4
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	1
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	2

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Windsor Locks

Total Acreage:	264
Sites with Restrooms:	1
Sites with Handicap Access:	4
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	10
Total Football Fields:	1
Total MultiUse Fields:	2
Total Soccer Fields:	4
Total Basketball Courts:	7
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	11
Sites with Swimming Pool:	2
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	1
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	1
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Wolcott

Total Acreage:	415
Sites with Restrooms:	4
Sites with Handicap Access:	11
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	2
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	1
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	1
Sites with Playground Areas:	4
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	2
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	1
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	1
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Woodbridge

Total Acreage:	93
Sites with Restrooms:	0
Sites with Handicap Access:	0
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	4
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	3
Total Soccer Fields:	3
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	2
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	4
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	0
Sites with Picnic Areas:	0
Sites with Fishing Access:	0
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	7
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	2

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Woodbury

Total Acreage:	1,737
Sites with Restrooms:	1
Sites with Handicap Access:	5
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	3
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	5
Total Soccer Fields:	0
Total Basketball Courts:	0
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	0
Sites with Playground Areas:	1
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	1
Sites with Picnic Areas:	1
Sites with Fishing Access:	2
Sites with Boating Access:	0
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	0
Sites with Trails:	6
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	5
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0

# Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Facilities

## Town Totals

### Woodstock

Total Acreage:	73
Sites with Restrooms:	2
Sites with Handicap Access:	3
Total Baseball and Softball Fields:	2
Total Football Fields:	0
Total MultiUse Fields:	2
Total Soccer Fields:	1
Total Basketball Courts:	2
Total Tennis Courts:	0
Total Volleyball Courts:	0
Total Golf Courses:	2
Sites with Playground Areas:	2
Sites with Swimming Pool:	0
Sites with Beach/Pond/Lake Swimming:	2
Sites with Picnic Areas:	4
Sites with Fishing Access:	3
Sites with Boating Access:	2
Sites with Hunting:	0
Sites with Camping:	1
Sites with Trails:	1
Sites with Winter Sports Access:	0
Historic or Educational Sites:	0
Sites with Gardens:	0