



NH OUTDOORS, 2003-2007

State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Public Advisory Committee Forum

Friday, June 21, 2002

8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The Common Man, Concord, NH

The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer. UNH, U.S. Department of Agriculture and N.H. counties cooperating

Introduction

The Office of State Planning and DRED – Division of Parks has assembled a public advisory group to assist our efforts in updating “New Hampshire Outdoors 2003-2007”, the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). One of the important components of this plan will be to identify and prioritize outdoor recreation issues in the state.

We’ve identified 4 broad, draft topics related to outdoor recreation in New Hampshire. These topics were developed based on information contained in the last SCORP and discussions (to date) with resource professionals. These topics encapsulate a wide range of issues, problems and concerns related to outdoor recreation. The public advisory group has been asked to this meeting to identify and prioritize the issues faced in New Hampshire under each of these 4 topical areas. Your input will help frame the content of New Hampshire’s SCORP and give guidance and direction in addressing a range of important recreation-related issues.

SCORP TOPICS

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

1. **One broad issue deals with the challenge of providing, and maintaining, a wide range of recreation opportunities for all citizens, regardless of socio-economic circumstances.**

A wide range of recreational preferences exists across age, ability, gender, ethnicity, etc. Issues exist related to the roles of state lands, federal lands, and local lands in providing these different, often competing, opportunities, as well as in understanding the role of private lands in public recreation provision. Park and facility maintenance, self-funding of parks are also important considerations.

PUBLIC USE AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION

2. **A second broad topic deals with balancing the conservation of natural and cultural resources with public access and tourism.**

This topic might include issues related to land and water conservation, open space protection, and public access. Access includes both motorized and non-motorized recreation. This topic also includes sustainable tourism development and the importance of natural and cultural resources in attracting tourism to New Hampshire. Resources include wetlands, lakes, rivers.

COMMUNITY RECREATION – COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING

3. **A third broad topic deals with promoting livable, healthy communities (and people) and supporting community-based recreation opportunities close to home.**

This topic includes understanding local priorities for Land and Water Conservation Fund monies, maintaining existing local facilities, developing new local recreation sites, and securing sufficient funds for local recreation needs. This topic also includes the importance of outdoor recreation in promoting healthy communities/families, Smart Growth concepts (i.e. move away from sprawl, focus on relationships between quality of life and development), and livable/walkable communities.

GREENWAYS, RECREATION CORRIDORS AND LINKAGES

4. **A fourth broad topic deals with promoting recreation corridors, greenways and linkages within a community, as well as linkages between communities and regions.**

This topic includes recreation and conservation issues related to trails, recreation corridors and greenways, across a range of motorized and non-motorized activities. This topic also includes the role that trails play in linking/connecting places within a community and between communities/regions. These corridors also play a role in promoting healthy communities/families, promoting Smart Growth concepts (i.e. move away from sprawl, focus on relationships between quality of life and development), and making more livable/walkable communities.

Detailed Agenda
NH Outdoors 2003 – 2007
State Advisory Committee Forum, June 21, 2002

8:30 Registration and Refreshments

9:00 Welcome, Introductions, and Background Information

9:15 Mosaic Activity

- What are New Hampshire's recreational assets for individuals of the ages ____ (see categories below)?
- What future recreation opportunities would you like to see for individuals of the ages ____ (see categories below)?
 - 0 – 11
 - 12 – 18
 - 19 – 35
 - 36 – 60
 - 60 and over

9:45 Small Group Discussions: Participants will be assigned to 1 of the following 4 groups by counting off. Facilitators will lead groups to meeting location. See below for description of topics.

- Group A: Discuss topics 1 and 3
- Group B: Discuss topics 2 and 4
- Group C: Discuss topics 1 and 4
- Group D: Discuss topics 2 and 3

** See attached sheet for description of topical issues*

9:55 Introductions & Sign-in Sheet

- Have each person give their name and tell something about them.
- Pass around the sign-in sheet for names and phone numbers. Be sure that your breakout group's topical issues are listed on the sign-in sheet.
- Go over ground rules (from poster).

10:05 Background:

- One of the important components of the state recreation plan will be to identify and prioritize outdoor recreation issues in the state. Your input will help to frame the content of New Hampshire's plan and provide guidance and direction in addressing a range of important recreation-related issues.
- The following questions were designed with the above needs in mind:

10:15 What are the current conditions and trends in NH (related to the first topic that your group is addressing)?

- 10:25 What are the barriers to meeting the current recreation needs of the state (related to the first topic that your group is addressing)?
- 10:35 What actions are necessary to improve the conditions in NH (related to the first topic that your group is addressing)?
- 10:45 What are the current conditions and trends in NH (related to the second issue topic that your group is addressing)?
- 10:55 What are the barriers to meeting the current recreation needs of the state (related to the second topic that your group is addressing)?
- 11:05 What actions are necessary to improve the conditions in NH (related to the second topic that your group is addressing)?

11: 15 Identification of Key Issues

- Select a spokesperson to present a brief summary of the information generated in the following steps to the large group.
- Have the group read all the sheets that you’ve posted around the breakout area with an eye for trends or overarching themes.
- Discuss the key issues that the state, communities, or regions face.
- Determine what the three most important issues are for each topic and record them neatly on easel paper in no more than 15 words for each issue. The following is an example of an acceptable issue statement: There is a lack of funding for small communities to maintain existing recreation facilities.

11:30 Report outs (No more than 3 minutes per group)

12:00 Lunch

12:15 Facilitators Combine Overlapping Issues

Lead Facilitator will work with the small group facilitators to copy the issues for each of the 4 topics onto 4 four easel sheets – one sheet for each area. Any duplication will be eliminated, since two groups addressed each topic area.

12:30 Voting

Forum Participants will be given four sticky dots. They will place one sticky dot next to an issue within each of the four topics that they perceive to be most important.

12:50 Wrap Up

Results of voting will be shared with participants and next steps for the development of the plan will be outlined. Remind participants that sheets are available for providing feedback about the breakout sessions and for adding additional issues that may not have been adequately addressed in their particular session.

1:00 Adjourn

Future Visioning Activity: The Purpose of the Visioning is to get the forum participants to begin thinking about the present recreation assets and future recreation opportunities in the State. The following were the responses to the questions framed in the Mosaic activity:

1. What are New Hampshire's recreational assets for individuals of the ages 0-11?

- playgrounds
- camps
- nature centers
- skate parks
- organized sports
- amusement parks
- downhill skiing
- agricultural fairs
- marshes/sanctuary
- community rec program
- beaches
- public pools
- skiing
- agriculture – see animals
- petting zoos
- ice skate
- state historic sites
- children's museum
- ballfields
- village/countryside
- riverwalks
- places to fish
- pick your own farms
- picnics/climb on rocks (formal/informal)
- woods for kicking around in
- portable outhouse – not enough
- room for parent & child
- hiking trails
- quiet road to bike
- boating
- campgrounds
- motorized trail use
- horseback riding
- after school programs

2. What future recreation opportunities would you like to see for individuals of the ages 0-11?

- education – specific rec. opportunities
- outdoor etiquette
- opportunities for whole families to get together
- education on environmental education, outdoor
- stroller access, universal design
- transportation/access to recreation facilities
- limited # of summer camps (affordable)
- better use and maintenance of existing facilities (schools in summer)
- more developmental opportunities for infants/toddlers
- family oriented opportunities natural/cultural
- educate parents to use swimmer diapers
- biking - more safe routes
- education/wellness
- geographically improve opps.
- daycare (more quality)
- unscheduled field space (not team)
- better balance in environmental educ
- arts and crafts
- more land protection/open space
- more access to public waters
- more places to involve family pet
- overnight camping on river
- better sidewalks, sidewalks
- safe environment for play
- safeway to school programs
- safe playgrounds
- better balance between land-use protection

1. What are New Hampshire’s recreational assets for individuals of the ages 12-18?

- skateboard parks
- organized sports
- appropriate supervision
- places like student-run arts center
- outdoor adventure opportunity
- camps “extreme sports”
- after school programs
- scouts
- education – importance of community service
- school sports teams

2. What future recreation opportunities would you like to see for individuals of the ages 12-18?

- alternative transportation besides car (independent transportation)
- funding
- nutrition/fitness guidance
- ropes courses for at risk kids
- expand and improve school/ community resources, fields, etc.
- trail programs (coordinate)
- apprenticeship programs
- bike routes
- more police interaction w/teens
- arts, music, intergrated recreation
- community service activities
- parenting programs specific for raising teens
- music – concerts, dance
- communication/education of parents for kids opportunity
- intergeneration opportunities
- connection to local businesses
- fish/hunt clubs – utilize clubs for education of kids
- pay attention to current trends
- promote outing club in high school
- more teen centers
- daily physical activity at school
- role models
- more age appropriate after school programs
- multicultural exchange
- stewardship programs for teens (liability)

1. What are New Hampshire’s recreational assets for individuals of the ages 19-35?

- mountain biking trails/systems
- colleges
- daycare in programs/opportunities
- federal parks
- recreation rentals/facilities
- multi-day backpacking
- health clubs
- bicycle touring
- gliders/air sports
- rock/ice climbing
- birding
- horse back riding
- golf
- state parks/national forests
- extreme sports
- jet ski/faster boats
- social/civic clubs
- rivers/ponds – boating
- scuba
- hunting
- outdoor concerts

2. What future recreation opportunities would you like to see for individuals of the ages 19-35?

- adult sport leagues
- not family opportunities
- unscheduled fields for unorganized groups
- more/available open lands – not posted for public use
- education/outdoor ethics
- opportunities for singles
- updated websites
- space for less organized sports
- volunteer opportunities
- local biking/walking opportunities
- ultimate frisbee
- mentoring opportunities
- affordable ski opportunities
- more protected trailheads – existing and future
- also understanding of why some land aren't open or are restricted
- universal accessibility
- community service
- natural snow
- conservation subdivisions
- education economic development

1. What are New Hampshire's recreational assets for individuals of the ages 36+?

- Elder Hostel
- scenic and cultural byways
- wildlife viewing
- hunting/fishing
- symphony-plays
- senior hiking groups
- gst – free hunting/fishing
- cruises
- cultural heritage & historical tourism
- bus tours
- Audubon, birding
- retirement communities
- state run mooring – overnight (none/currently)

2. What future recreation opportunities would you like to see for individuals of the ages 36+?

- accessibility for ages
- share intergenerational – mentoring
- inn to inn biking opportunities
- encourage communities to raise funds locally
- pet access
- snowmobile trails (more)
- better cooperation – federal, state local agencies
- time appropriate activities – time when seniors actually want to go out
- affordable golf
- local gathering places
- clean, accessible restrooms
- livable/walkable communities
- transportation for seniors
- local opportunities – wildlife viewing

Breakout Group A **(Topics 1 and 3)**

Facilitator: Frank Mitchell

Participants: Jacquie Colburn, Bob Spoerl, Linda Day, Fred Murphy, Jason Rasmussen, Kim Pawlawski, Ben Haubrich, Dave Cabana, Fred Kacprzyński

1. Recreation opportunities for all

Conditions and trends:

- Tendency for more restriction – private and public
- Incorporate universal design techniques (elderly as well as youth)
- Less land available for recreation and more people recreating
- (smart growth planning) sprawl, exotic species
- More education – respect land owners and land
- Foreign constituency (cultural differences)
- Lack of incentives for landowners to provide access
- Lack of enforcement
- On users due to behavior – outside forces government regulations
- Balance between motorized and non-motorized (conflicting uses)
- Shortage of developed facilities and opportunities, balance between policies and use on access and resource protection has led to more restrictions and cost of opportunities and facilities
- Intro & inc of exotic species (e.g. Milfoil) (land and water)

Barriers:

- Funding
- No support for enforcement from the courts
- Lack of staff
- Landowner fear of liability
- No respect for private landowners
- Lack of cooperation between agencies
- No will to restrict land use activities (economic, social, political basis)
- Lack of understanding of the economic value of recreation
- Lack of the cost to provide these activities
- Fear of universal design (cost to apply) misunderstanding of the issues
- Balancing local resources vs. State needs
- Loss of local control
- Ability to examine multi-jurisdictional coordination (inter agency, interstate)
- Lack of education re exotic species
- Lack of access to the media
- Changing public attitude re public lands (more restrictive)
- Personal behavior (public misbehaviors)

Actions Needed:

- Public service announcements/campaign
- Recreational based lottery
- Trust fund for recreation
- LCHIP, LWCF – continuation, etc.
- Incentives for landowners with land in current use (tax breaks)
- Coordinated efforts aimed at volunteerism for facilities maintenance
- “Zoning” for recreation – special designations
- Organized user groups
- Scheduling to allow multi-use of same facilities
- Better understanding of the impacts of recreation on natural resources
- “what the public would accept” (need for more and better science)
- Better understanding of the land ethic
- More education solution based overall
- Designated funds for recreation (protected)

3. Community Recreation, Health and Wellbeing**Conditions and Trends:**

- Sprawl – encourages vehicle dependency
- Uses of land that are unavailable for recreation or wildlife
- Community cultural/diversity changes (attitudes toward land use/recreation)
- Lack of developed/undeveloped facilities
- Sustainable community development incorporating developed & undeveloped facilities/programs

Barriers:

- Local land use regulations
- State policies/enabling legislation
- Lack of public transportation
- Private property owners unwillingness to allow access year-round (uneducated as to their role)
- Conflict between private and public/personal rights and the community interest
- universal design (lack of)
- “American Dream” – house with 5 acres
- Liability – private landowners, golf courses
- New owners/residents don’t respect existing character/natural resources

Actions Needed:

- Apartment buildings
- Regulations that mitigate sprawl (smart growth)
- Planned development between open space and common land
- State assistance to local land use groups/trusts (includes coordination)
- Public transportation
- Solution(s) must be community-based
- Universal design
- Education re benefits of open space

Breakout Group B **(Topics 2 and 4)**

Facilitator: Michele Gagne

Participants: Rich Tichko, Lindsey Santaniello, Susan Francher, Tom Jameson, Peter Pohl, Gladi Hartford, Greg Dodge, Marge Swope, Adam Schmidt

2. Public Use and Resource Conservation

Conditions and Trends:

- Huge trend in terrestrial motorized recreation in last five years
- Huge trend in motorized boating too
- Huge trend in posting land (especially in south)
- Urban/rural (south/north) differences in attitudes about hunting (guns, etc and public access in general)
- Liability issues - need more education (landowners)
- Regulate deer herd in southern area
- Northern tier – more tourism, more land open
- Educate people on public trust doctrine
- Educate people about NH's feeling about access , people move in and don't know our traditions and laws
- Owners post land because of litter and misuse of motorized vehicles
- Need outdoor etiquette
- Burden on law enforcement and NHFG conservation officer/local police
- Need detailed study on posting issue – (UNH proposal)
 - Get idea on incentives needed to discourage posting
- Need ATV trails
- Need mountain bike trails
- Articulate when use exceeds capacity for range of different uses
 - We need benchmarks for appropriate level of use
- More accessible waterways – especially non-motorized
- Safety concerns –ATV gates and barriers, educate public
- Fish & Game program – public access
- Land trusts – extensive efforts to preserve land – access not always there
- Current use law –incentive (20%) to allow traditional recreation (hunt, fish, walking, non-motorized)
- State parks
- NHFG acquires lands for endangered species, etc.
- State Forests – recreation opportunities
- WMNF – wide range of opportunities
- Scenic and cultural byways
- Rail corridors – rail/trail

Barriers:

- People fight limits/standards
- Less (public land) in south accessible open space and more people
- Fees for use, might be a barrier for fixed income, low income (WMNF, beaches)
- Invasive species on lakes
 - lake owners resist public access development near their property
 - need more education
- Resistance of some with means/land to open lands to public. Less philanthropic efforts to protect lands (Squam Lake)
- Private landowners do not want access promoted
- Some parts of state are not as focused on tourism promotion
- Tourism – public perception of resources available
- Map available for nh public access pts and accessibility (also on website)
- Encourage other access points to provide information on accessibility
- Barrier – afraid of liability
 - town doesn't want to develop water access
 - public perception not aware of land
- Do not have good understanding of conflicting uses
- NHFG and DOT – NHFG pays for signs/DOT puts them up
- Money for installation and maintenance of signs (boating/bike paths)

Actions needed:

- Money
 - 1st to analyze what situations exist – problems that exist
 - 2nd to implement
- Acquisition programs – for open space not necessarily parks
- Focus efforts on education of private landowners
- Easements
- Involve local groups (Boy Scouts) to monitor or “police” private lands to make landowners more comfortable with access (median age of current use landowners –66 yrs.)
- Educate users – adopt a trail
 - Model after adopt a highway program
 - Focus on community service
- Private ownership – public should have public entry that can be monitored
- Enforceability overall is huge issue
- Landowner to landowner education
- Mandatory landowners notification (user notified landowner)
- Hunt/fish education needs to focus on ethics
- Further outreach to realtors about selling lands in current use
- Role of UNH extension in landowners education (have been programs that incorporate public access issues)
- UNH Extension needs to develop link with realtors
 - brochures in place

- expand education programs
- UNH Extension workshops in counties – address liability
 - have NHFG conservation officer participate
- Safety zone signs successful
- Partnership with associations – organized user groups are key
 - snowmobile group for example
- Outreach to user groups
- Developing relationship between groups and landowners
- Coalitions of users for landowner outreach and keep users “in line” too

4. Greenways, Recreation Corridors and Linkages

Conditions and Trends:

- Current Use lands – network of private land
- Audubon – green infrastructure program – target to communities
- Minimum Impact Develop Partnership
 - Separate one community’s infrastructure from the next
- Land trusts making sincere efforts to develop greenways
- Forest Legacy program – easements require access
- NHFG– try to acquire land that builds off existing holdings. Access is part of acquisition
- Make sure groups know where other open space holdings are (ownership across all groups) to build linkages.
- Heritage Trail program (it’s faded in past few years)
- Some RPCs doing open space plans
 - Encourage others to do the same
 - Legislation
- Connections are informal – not secure (need easements to formalize connections)
- Towns/cities – if municipalities have facilities should be encouraged to open up to public
 - DES might play role in town’s rationale for no access

Barriers:

- Sprawl, traditional development
- Conflicting uses of land (snowmobile in winter/can’t use atv on trail in summer)
- Mountain biking – impacts
- Money for purchase of conservation land proactive before crisis
- Money for maintenance and monitoring safety
- Lack of recreation and open space planning
 - especially local
 - still not an issue in some towns because lots of open space
 - don’t want to spend money now if not needed
- Encourage all towns to use land use change tax monies for land conservation. This is now done in 118 towns.

Actions Needed:

- NH Wildlife Federation/other nonprofit/CLCA
- Educate towns on value of open space \$, sense of open space & cost of community services
- State and community plan and where trails are needed
- Trails gap analysis
- Funding overlapping to multi-communities
- Identify priorities – funding max come from other sources
- Community services – encourage partnerships, variety of different clubs could work together
- Many high schools have community service requirements
- Still need coordination – how to organize?
- State agency coordination needed
 - incorporate local parks and recreation department
 - RPC's

Breakout Group C **(Topics 1 and 4)**

Facilitator: Phil Auger

Participants: Ron Johnson, Gayle Beaudoin, Tina Kasim, Pat Schlesinger, Brian Hart, Jeff Thurston, Joshua Levesque, Judy Silverberg

1. Recreation Opportunities for All

Conditions and Trends:

- Lack of funding for maintenance of existing facilities
- Lack of meeting space
- Local parks focus more on youth
- Lack of horse activities/opportunities
- Perception that any type of recreation opportunities can happen on any public land
- Inequality for recreation uses
- Basic recreation services are present
- Lack of education for responsible recreation and stewardship
- All recreation facilities on public land must be self-supporting (trend more user fees)
- Trend toward awareness of sustainable development
- Trend toward larger boats
- Less \$ for town programs private sector being promoted
- Reliance on organized programs
- Lack of multicultural programs
- Lack of marketing

Barriers

- Education funding
- Bureaucracy
- Method of taxation
- Lack of communication
- Lack of open mindedness
- Affordability
- Lack of undeveloped land
- Currently held values
- Local/regional opportunities are scarce
- Lack of regional cooperation
- Lack of understanding of responsibility to community service
- Poor recreational planning on the community level
- Lack of regional connections for parks and trails
- Increased tourism from outside the state
- Resistance to community budget planning for recreation purposes

Actions needed:

- Leadership at the highest level of government
- More local education on the benefits of recreation opportunities

- Develop a model recreation impact fee ordinance
- More money needed
- Mandated integration of conservation education into school curriculum
- Stewardship
- Move away from self funding for state parks
- Reassess age oriented fee structure at state parks
- Better use of existing communication means
- More public/private partnerships
- More grant opportunities for facilities development
- More use of volunteers
- Adult education for recreation user groups
- Mandatory education for recreational activities that require registration
- More river dynamics education for riparian owners and users
- Sunset review process for any publicly funded rec program
- More staff needed
- Promote benefits of parks and recreation at FS levels
- Scientifically based impact studies
- Purchase of land specifically for recreational purposes as opposed to conservation land
- General education on the importance of water quality and quantity
- Commitment for funding
- Set clearer policies for state lands for their uses

4. Greenways, Recreation Corridors and Linkages

Conditions and Trends:

- Illegal use of trails by motorized vehicles
- Conservation community are not networking enough to create linkages
- There are some examples of communication
- Communities are bonding \$ for open land and LCHIP \$
- Rails To Trails Program
- Increased ATV sales
- Trend toward increased demand for greenways, etc.
- Loss of open space
- Growing discussion about smart growth
- Regional planning commission are doing regular open space plans
- Increased use of pwc over jet skis on permitted lakes
- Wellness and physical education

Barriers:

- Public/private competition for open space
- To recreation users on some protected open space
- Zoning regulations that prohibit smart growth
- Liability coverage limiting some recreational uses (NH RSAs) on private lands
- Lack of understanding of the differences between conservation corridor vs recreation corridor

Action needed:

- Change the name of this section to: “Conservation, Recreation and Regional Corridors”
- Develop a listserv for conservation and recreation community
- Better marketing of this issue
- Make a plan to aid low tax base commission to fund protection of green space
- Develop zoning regulations that promote smart growth and connections
- Educating commission of benefits of this
- Increase awareness of federal lands
- 20 year vision of public land protection plan
- encourage improve NH signage
- use good land husbandry (stewardship)
- develop specific funding programs for trails/corridors
- replicate the Great Bay Partnership in other parts of the state
- amend LCHIP to help low tax based towns
- % of rooms and meals tax and apply to conservation and recreation

Breakout Group D **(Topics 2 and 3)**

Facilitator: Charlie French

Participants: Johanna Lyons, Bruce Clendenning, Moe Stimpson, Diane Lewis, Linda Wilson, Margaret Watkins, Vickie Smith, John J. Irwin, Ken Roos, Rob Robertson

2. Public Use and Resource Conservation

Conditions and Trends:

- Land conservation hasn't anticipated broad range of society's desires/needs
- Lack analysis of appropriate use of types of lands has not been done
- Competition between tourism/conservation public access
- Lack education/etiquette among user groups
- Inappropriate assumption that all public lands are open to all uses
- Lack education about land conservation historic/cultural preservation
- Education about what handicapped access means
- There are a lot of groups that address education/conservation
- LCHIP/Moose Plate
- Lack of reinvestment from fees collected from specific recreation

Barriers:

- Need for more land conservation to create more recreation opportunities
- Maintenance upkeep/enforcement funding for above is not there
- Restrooms
- Inadvertent damage to archaeological resources
- Publicity
- Tourism negative impact to communities
- Revenue structure
- Lack of funding ...reinvestment
- No integrated land management/resource management
- Integrate policies across agencies
- Lack stewardship initial planning
- Balance need to accommodate, need for conservation
- Accommodate outside populations
- Lack communication of rules of use
- Lack communication between user groups and understanding
- Lack outreach/education to new user groups (i.e. Inner city youth)
- Disconnect between destination & specific facilities/quality of what NH has to offer (marketing)
- Universal accessibility "NIMBY"
- Small communities don't feel connected to tourism/marketing

Action Needed:

- Review of statutes to make sure they're meeting recreation/conservation needs
- Increased funding – new acquisitions/maintenance
- Improved tax structure

- Identify economic engines
- Identify rules/laws not being implemented due to lack of agency resources
- Lack of coordination between all levels of government
- Integration of local, state, regional planning (i.e. ADA compliance)
- Citizen advocacy – volunteerism
- Opportunities for local vision/controls
- Education/communication (integrated) at all levels – schools, community, government
- More land conservation as needed and appropriate
- Better use of historic resources

3. Community Recreation, Health and Well Being

Conditions and Trends:

- Trend towards sprawl and car-based systems
- Census indicate that people don't live-work in same community (especially s. Nh)
- Dual working parents > don't have time to volunteer in schools/sports
 - there are also parents who *do* volunteer
- Some towns communicate opportunities for involvement more than others
- Perception that it is not safe for kids – vice versa
- Time schedules of programs/activities difficult to manage
- 12,000 + acre of open space is lost to development (per year)
- Current recognition of need to create bicycle lanes/cycling, walking trails
- Liability issues on both public/private side
- Counter productive regulations
- NH has recognized need for (LCHIP) moose plate

Barriers:

- Better planning on community level to accomplish goals of topic
- Money and personnel
- Universal internet access (telecommuting). Need to increase volunteerism
- Competing priorities among agencies and funding groups
- Education – people don't understand why its important
- Thoughtless incremental change
- No bicycle – pedestrian access to facilities (private land use)
- Cultural mentality towards car instead of walking/biking
- Tough restrictions on farmers
- Regulations/liability prevent kids from walking
- Lack of sidewalks reduces accessibility

Actions needed:

- Decentralize workspaces to increase telecommuting
- Flex-time
- Upper management needs to consider quality of life issues
- Need more work with planning boards – LWC Smartgrowth
- “systems thinking”

- Think about “NH” as the community would help all of above
- Focus on “small business” i.e. insurance
- Insure all communities have basic recreation open spaces

Priority Issues Identified by Break-out Groups

Topic 1: Range of Recreation Opportunities (addressed by Breakout Groups A and C)

- Shortage of facilities (develop, cost, use, maintenance)
- Balance between (policies, use patterns, resource protection) including that this has led to restricted use
- Incorporate Universal Design
- Balance conflicting uses
- Need for education of recreation users
- Need for promotion of benefits of recreation and open space for N.H. communities
- To protect more land for diverse recreational activities
- Need for increased funding and evaluation of the funding mechanisms (e.g. Self funded state parks)

Topic 2: Public Use and Resource Conservation (addressed by Breakout Groups B and D)

- Not enough land permanently available with rights for public access
- Outreach to users and landowners (users –law & etiquette, landowners, benefits of public access, liability, education)
- The need for enforcement of laws
- Need to determine how to wisely invest, whether it be in tourism or recreation, given that we have limited resource (need to expand financial resources)
- Need to make sure that statutes meet existing recreation and conservation needs
- Given that we have limited resource (assets & income) we need to determine how to increase education and communication about recreation/conservation issues, while protecting the resource base

Topic 3: Community Recreation, Health and Well-Being (addressed by Breakout Groups A & D)

- We need to bring about social change/perception so we think about our own communities/lifestyle in a different way (for example, the challenges of increasing diversity)
- Establish a broad-based revenue structure and improve attitudes towards reinvestment to encourage appropriate kinds of land use/development
- Ensure that recreation facilities and open spaces are available to all (without cars) communities
- Sustainable development (of resources, communities, including develop/un – facilities, spaces, programs)
- Sprawl

Topic 4: Greenways, Recreation Corridors and Linkages (addressed by Breakout Groups B & C)

- Comprehensive plan for statewide land/water protection and recreation
- Promote smart growth thru master plan: zoning that encourages greenway/corridor connections

- Need for clear vision for stewardship requirements for maintaining green spaces we propose to create
- Planning needed to identify what exists, identify gaps, identify needs
- Town planning and zoning approaches impede successful development of greenways, recreation corridors, linkages
- Lack of coordinated funding and resources to address this topic

Prioritization of Issues through Voting (all groups combined)

- Need for increased funding and evaluation of the funding mechanisms to protect more land for diverse recreation opportunities and develop facilities **(17 votes)**
- Need to balance policies resource protection and recreation uses **(4 votes)**
- Need to incorporate universal design **(6 votes)**
- Need to educate recreation users **(10 votes)**
- Need to educate N.H. communities about multiple benefits of recreation and open space
- Increased education and communication especially to users and landowners about recreation/conservation issues (i.e., current laws, user etiquette) **(21 votes)**
- Make sure statutes meet existing recreation/conservation needs **(3 votes)**
- Enforcement of laws **(4 votes)**
- Not enough land permanently available with rights for public access **(5 votes)**
- Determine how to wisely invest in tourism or recreation given how we have limited resources **(7 votes)**
- Sustainable development (resources, communities and developed/undeveloped) **(16 votes)**
- Need social change/perception for example: challenges of increasing diversity
- Need a broad-based revenue structure and reinvestment to encourage appropriate land use **(5 votes)**
- Ensure recreation facilities and open spaces are available to all communities without depending on cars **(11 votes)**
- Comprehensive plan for statewide land and water protection and recreation specific to greenways, corridors and linkages **(9 votes)**
- Need for promotion of smart growth planning and zoning approaches that encourage greenways, corridors and linkage connections at town and regional level **(19 votes)**
- Need for establishing good stewardship practices for maintaining the green spaces we propose to create **(3 votes)**
- Lack of coordinated funding and resources to address greenways, corridors and linkages **(3 votes)**