



PUBLIC OPINIONS AND ATTITUDES ON OUTDOOR RECREATION IN CALIFORNIA 2002

**An Element of the
California
Outdoor Recreation
Plan**

DECEMBER 2003



**PUBLIC OPINIONS AND
ATTITUDES ON
OUTDOOR RECREATION
IN CALIFORNIA
2002**

**An Element of the California
Outdoor Recreation
Plan**

DECEMBER 2003



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

This report is an element of the California Outdoor Recreation Planning Program, formulated under the provisions of Chapter 5099 of the California Public Resources Code.

**© 2003 by California State Parks. All rights reserved.
Printed in Sacramento, California**

For more information of additional copies contact:

**California State Parks
Planning Division
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, California 94296-0001**

(916) 653-9901, FAX (916) 653-4458

California State Parks does not discriminate against people with disabilities. To use the California Relay Service with TTY, call (888) 877-5378 or, without TTY, call (888) 877-5379. This publication is available in alternate formats by contacting the Planning Division at (916) 653-9901 or visiting www.parks.ca.gov/planning



Printed on recycled paper.

**PUBLIC OPINIONS AND
ATTITUDES ON
OUTDOOR RECREATION
IN CALIFORNIA
2002**

**An Element of the California
Outdoor Recreation
Plan**

**Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor**

**Michael Chrisman
Secretary for Resources**

**Ruth Coleman
Director of Parks and Recreation**



Table of Contents

List of Tables	iv
List of Charts	viii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	1
Findings from the 2002 Survey	1
Comparison with Hispanic and Hon-Hispanic Respondents	2
Youth Survey.....	3
INTRODUCTION.....	5
Background.....	5
Purpose of the Study	5
Changes in the 2002 Survey.....	6
Data Interpretation and Limitations	7
Demographics of the 2002 Sample	8
ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS OF CALIFORNIANS REGARDING OUTDOOR RECREATION.....	8
Importance of Areas and Facilities.....	8
Amount of Time Spent in Outdoor Recreation Activities	9
Factors Influencing Enjoyment of Recreation	9
Types of Areas Visited and Favorite Areas.....	12
Distances Traveled to Park and Recreation Areas.....	14
Use of Local and Non-Local Parks.....	15
Satisfaction with Public Outdoor Recreation Areas, Facilities and Services.....	15
General Attitudes Regarding Outdoor Recreation Lands and Facilities.....	21
<i>Resource Protection and Availability.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Crowding and Safety.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Community Benefits</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Entrepreneurial Activities.....</i>	<i>23</i>
OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND PARTICIPATION	24
Participation	24
Activity Participation Days	25
Activity Days for Participants.....	25
Latent or Unmet Demand and Public Support.....	27
Most Important Activity/Perceived Value of Recreation.....	33
Funding Outdoor Recreation Areas and Facilities.....	45
Priorities for Spending.....	46
Priorities for Possible Improvements to Park and Recreation Facilities and Services.....	51
Private Business Involvement in Public Recreation Areas	53
Preferred Information Sources	53
HISPANIC RECREATION PATTERNS.....	55
Visits to and Types of Areas Preferred.....	56

Attitudes Toward Recreation Lands and Facilities.....	56
Funding for Parks and Recreation Areas and Spending Changes.....	58
Changes in Park and Recreation Facilities and Services.....	62
Factors That Influence Recreation Enjoyment.....	62
Latent Demand For Recreation.....	65
Public Support for Government Spending on Recreation Opportunities.....	65
SURVEY OF CALIFORNIA YOUTH.....	67
Activity Participation.....	67
Average Number of Participation Days.....	67
Activity Days by Youth Who Participated.....	67
Latent Demand for Recreation Activities.....	72
Factors That Would Increase Youth Participation.....	72
APPENDIX A. CALIFORNIA OUTDOOR RECREATION TELEPHONE SURVEY - Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California – 2002.....	77
APPENDIX B. California Department of Parks and Recreation - OUTDOOR RECREATION QUESTIONNAIRE (Mail Survey for 2002).....	89
APPENDIX C. California Department of Parks and Recreation - OUTDOOR RECREATION YOUTH QUESTIONNAIRE (Mail Survey for 2002).....	103
APPENDIX D. Demographics of the Survey Sample.....	109

List of Tables

Table 1. Reasons that Californians spent less time in outdoor recreation activities in 2002 than 5 years ago.	11
Table 2. Opinions of Californians on factors influencing the enjoyment of their favorite activity.	12
Table 3. Frequency of visits to outdoor recreation areas by Californians - 2002.	13
Table 4. Types of outdoor recreation areas that Californians most enjoyed visiting – comparisons for 1987, 1992, 1997, and 2002.	14
Table 5. Travel times to park or recreation areas where Californians most often recreate.	15
Table 6. Travel times to the favorite park or recreation areas where Californians recreate.	15
Table 7. Satisfaction of Californians with public outdoor recreation areas, facilities, and services available WITHIN their local communities.	19
Table 8. Satisfaction of Californians with public outdoor recreation areas, facilities, and services available OUTSIDE their local communities.	19
Table 9. A comparison of the condition of public outdoor recreation areas, facilities and services available WITHIN Californians’ local communities today with those available five years ago.	20
Table 10. A comparison of the condition of public outdoor recreation areas, facilities and services available OUTSIDE Californians’ local communities today with those available five years ago.	20
Table 11. Californians’ attitudes concerning outdoor recreation lands and facilities - 2002.	22
Table 12. Percentage of Californians who reported participating in each of 55 outdoor recreation activities at least a portion of one day during 2002.	26
Table 13. Average (mean) number of days of participation in recreation activities by Californians during the past 12 months (based on all survey respondents)	30
Table 14. Average number of days of participation in recreation activities during 2002 by adult activity participants only, percent of Californians who participated, and rank based on mean participation by participants only.	31

Table 15. Latent demand for recreation activities that Californians would have done more often if opportunities had been available to them, and public support for government spending to improve those recreation opportunities in California 38

Table 16. Most important recreation activities that take place in government-operated park and outdoor recreation areas and facilities in California - 2002. 44

Table 17. Perceived dollar value of a day’s participation in recreation activities that were rated as one of the five most important by Californians - 2002. 46

Table 18. Support for and opposition to funding alternatives for park and recreation areas in California – 2002 Telephone Survey. 48

Table 19. Preferred funding sources for park and recreation agencies in California – 2002 Mail Survey. 49

Table 20a. Opinions of Californians regarding levels of emphasis that city and county government agencies should place on outdoor recreation areas, facilities and services WITHIN local communities in California - 2002. 50

Table 20b. Opinions of Californians regarding levels of emphasis that state and federal government agencies should place on outdoor recreation areas, facilities and services OUTSIDE local communities in California - 2002. 50

Table 21. Attitudes of Californians toward changes to park and recreation facilities and services WITHIN their local communities – 2002. 51

Table 22. Attitudes of Californians toward changes to park and recreation facilities and services OUTSIDE their local communities – 2002. 52

Table 23. Opinions of Californians regarding the role of the private sector in providing services in public parks and recreation areas – 2002 54

Table 24. Information sources that Californians prefer for receiving information about public parks and recreation areas and facilities – 2002. 54

Table 25. A comparison of Hispanic (H) and Non-Hispanic (NH) visits to outdoor recreation areas in California – 2002. 57

Table 26. Types of outdoor recreation areas preferred by Hispanics and Non-Hispanics in California – 2002 57

Table 27. Attitudes of Hispanics and Non-Hispanics concerning outdoor recreation lands and facilities in California – 2002. 59

Table 28. Preferences of Hispanics and Non-Hispanics for funding park and recreation areas in California – 2002 (Telephone Survey) 60

Table 29. Preferences for funding park and recreation areas by Hispanics and Non-Hispanics in California – 2002 (Mail-Back Survey)	61
Table 30a. Preferences for spending changes for parks and recreation areas, facilities and programs WITHIN local communities in California by Hispanics and Non-Hispanics – 2002.	63
Table 30b. Preferences for spending changes for parks and recreation areas, facilities and programs OUTSIDE local communities by Hispanics and Non-Hispanics in California – 2002.	63
Table 31. Opinions regarding the importance of factors that influence the overall enjoyment of the favorite recreation activities of Hispanics and Non-Hispanics in California – 2002.	64
Table 32. Latent demand by Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Californians for the top five recreation activities that they would have probably done more often or would like to have tried if good opportunities, facilities and programs had been available to them – 2002.	66
Table 33. Public support by Hispanic and Non-Hispanic survey respondents for government spending to improve outdoor recreation opportunities for them and their family members – 2002	66
Table 34. Percentage of California youth who participated in recreation activities during the past 12 months	68
Table 35. Average number of recreation activity days for all California youth during the past twelve months.	70
Table 36. Average number of activity days per year for California youth (activity participants only)	73
Table 37. Recreation activities that California youth would like to do more often	75
Table 38. Factors that would increase participation by California youth.	76
Table A.1. Demographics of the 2002 telephone sample of Californians	110
Table A.2. Demographic comparisons of the 2002 telephone sample with the California adult population estimates for 2002.	113

List of Charts

Chart 1. Importance of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities to Californians and their families	9
Chart 2. Importance of outdoor recreation areas and facilities to the quality of life of Californians and their families (1987, 1992, 1997, and 2002) (by percent). . . .	9
Chart 3. Comparison of time spent in outdoor activities today with five years ago	11
Chart 4. Types of outdoor recreation areas that Californians most enjoy visiting – 2002 . .	14
Chart 5. Use of LOCAL and NON-LOCAL parks by Californians during the past 12 months	16
Chart 6a. Satisfaction with public outdoor recreation areas WITHIN local communities in California – 2002.	17
Chart 6b. Comparison of the condition of public outdoor recreation areas WITHIN the local communities today with five years ago in California.	17
Chart 6c. Satisfaction with public outdoor recreation areas OUTSIDE local communities in California – 2002.	18
Chart 6d. Comparison of the condition of public outdoor recreation areas OUTSIDE the local Communities today with five years ago in California	18
Chart 7. Percentage of Californians who participated in 55 recreation activities – 2002. . .	28
Chart 8. Average (mean) number of days of participation (all survey respondents) – 2002.	34
Chart 9. Average number of days of participation (activity participants only) – 2002	36
Chart 10. Latent demand for recreation activities that Californians would have done more often if facilities were available – 2002.	40
Chart 11. Public support for government spending to provide recreation activities – 2002.	42
Chart 12. Hispanic population growth in California – 1990-2002	55

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The California Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for the preparation and periodic revision of a comprehensive California Outdoor Recreation Plan. This plan provides policy guidance and basic information of value to all public agencies – federal, state, local, and special districts – engaged in providing outdoor recreational lands, facilities and services throughout the state. A public opinion survey was undertaken to obtain the information needed for the California Outdoor Recreation Plan, and partially replicates previous surveys completed for 1987, 1992, and 1997.

The 2002 survey focused on (1) public attitudes, opinions, and values regarding key areas of interest relating to outdoor recreation opportunities in California; and (2) public participation interests in different types of outdoor recreation activities, including latent or unfulfilled demand. This survey was based on a random telephone sample of 2,512 California adults and was administered in both English and Spanish. The telephone sample represents the opinions and attitudes of California adults within +/-2.1%. Each respondent was interviewed for an average of 12 minutes, and 610 responded to a follow-up mail questionnaire that included questions too complex or detailed to be asked during the telephone interview.

Findings from the 2002 Survey

In general, the findings from the 2002 survey were consistent with those from the 1997 survey. Some of the major findings from the 2002 survey include the following:

- Most (84.1%) Californians believe that public outdoor recreation areas and facilities are important to them and their families.
- More than two-thirds (69.1%) of Californians reported spending the same or more time in outdoor recreation activities than five years ago.
- Being able to relax, feeling safe and secure, being in the outdoors, and beauty of the area were the four most important factors that affect Californians' overall enjoyment of their favorite recreation activity.
- Of five broad types of outdoor recreation areas, highly developed parks and recreation areas in or near urban areas were used by the largest percentage of Californians (93.3%).
- Developed nature-oriented parks and recreation areas were listed as the favorite type of area by the largest percentage of Californians.
- Most (69.7%) Californians were satisfied with public outdoor recreation areas, facilities and services currently available **within** their local community, and most (83.6%) said their satisfaction is the same as or better than five years ago.
- About three-fourths (73.7%) of Californians said they were satisfied or very satisfied with public outdoor recreation areas, facilities and services currently available **outside** their local communities, and 82.0% said their satisfaction is the same as or better than five years ago.
- Almost all Californians (96.7%) agreed or strongly agreed that maintaining the natural environment in outdoor recreation areas is important to them. A majority strongly agreed that (1) outdoor recreation areas and programs help improve the health and welfare of people in their community, (2) fees collected at each park, wildlife and recreation area should be spent on that area, (3) outdoor recreation areas and programs help reduce crime and juvenile delinquency in their community, and (4) outdoor recreation areas and facilities increase property values in their community.

- More than 90% of Californians participated in walking for fitness and fun at least once in 2002. Other activities with high percentages of participants included driving for pleasure, visiting historic or cultural sites, attending outdoor cultural events, beach activities, and visiting outdoor nature museums, zoos or arboretums.
- A needs analysis based on the 2002 survey data revealed that camping in developed sites, trail hiking, walking for fitness and fun, and wildlife viewing were the four top activities that Californians (1) would have done more often if facilities had been available and (2) would support government spending to improve those opportunities.
- The recreation activities with the highest perceived dollar value for a day's participation were those that require specialized equipment and special skills – using personal watercraft, hunting, sailboating, water skiing, and off-road vehicle use.
- The funding alternatives for parks and recreation with the highest support included fundraisers, reallocating lottery monies, reallocating general fund monies, and using bonds to buy land and improve facilities. Increasing use fees and increasing taxes received far less support in the 2002 survey.
- Most Californians favor private businesses providing some services in public park and recreation areas including the sale of ready-to-eat food and beverages, equipment rental, sponsorship of contests and special events, and operation of marinas and boat launching facilities. Most do not favor privatization of law enforcement, educational activities, and total operation and management of areas.
- A majority of Californians said they prefer to receive information about public parks and recreation areas and facilities from (1) friends and family, (2) the Internet, and (3) brochures. Most (83.9%) said their households have Internet access.

Comparison with Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Respondents

Comparisons of responses by Hispanics and respondents from other ethnic groups revealed several important similarities and differences that are summarized below.

- Both Hispanics and other respondents indicated that developed nature-oriented parks and recreation areas were their most preferred types of areas. However, significantly fewer Hispanics said they visited natural, undeveloped areas than did members of other ethnic groups.
- A significantly larger percentage of Hispanics strongly or moderately agreed that (1) more community parks were needed near them, (2) more parks were needed in urban areas, (3) more recreation areas were needed by lakes, and (4) outdoor parks were too crowded.
- A significantly larger percentage of Hispanics support increasing taxes and use fees to fund park and recreation areas than members of the other ethnic groups.
- Changes in park and recreation facilities and services that were favored by a significantly higher percentage of Hispanics included more emphasis on (1) buying additional parkland and open space for recreation purposes, (2) maintaining or caring for park and recreation areas, (3) providing educational programs, (4) building new facilities, (5) remodeling and improving existing facilities, (6) protecting natural resources, (7) protecting historic resources, and (8) providing more organized activities and special events.

- Four activities that a significantly larger percentage of Hispanics said they would do more often if opportunities were available and for which they would support government spending included (1) walking for fitness and fun, (2) driving for pleasure, (3) soccer, football or rugby, and (4) softball and baseball.

Youth Survey

A survey of California youth was conducted for the first time through the mail portion of the 2002 survey. Adults who participated in the telephone survey and indicated that (1) they were willing to complete the mail follow-up survey, and (2) they had children age 17 or younger living in their households were sent a questionnaire for their children to complete. A total of 144 completed youth surveys were returned. Since this sample size has a sampling error of +/- 9.5%, the data should be interpreted as trend data. Some of these trends include the following:

- Walking for fitness and fun, pool swimming, visiting water sites other than beaches, beach activities, and visiting outdoor nature museums, zoos or arboretums were the recreation activities with the largest percentage of youth participation.
- Walking for fitness and fun, jogging and fitness running, bicycling on paved surfaces, pool swimming, and using play equipment were the youth activities with the highest average number of days of participation.
- The activities that California youth would like to do more often if opportunities were available included beach activities, swimming in freshwater lakes, rivers and/or streams, saltwater fishing, camping in developed sites, and bicycling on paved surfaces.

INTRODUCTION

Background

The California Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for the preparation and periodic revision of a comprehensive California Outdoor Recreation Plan. This plan provides policy guidance and basic information of value to all public agencies – federal, state, local and special districts – engaged in providing outdoor recreational lands, facilities and services throughout the state.

The information this public opinion survey provides is an essential element to the California Outdoor Recreation Plan. It serves to update the guidelines to the Open Project Selection Process, may be used to guide various grant programs and will lend support for assessing local park and recreation needs. Similar surveys were undertaken in 1987, 1992 and 1997.

The 2002 telephone (Appendix A) and mail (Appendix B) surveys added several statements to the original lists, as well as split questions into those that focused on parks and outdoor recreation areas **within** local communities and those **outside** the local communities. Added statements were designed to provide additional inquiry related to participation in recreation activities and to clarify trends. The splitting of questions between “**within** and **outside**” local communities was done to get a better idea as to the use, satisfaction, condition and management emphasis for parks and recreation areas among cities, counties and local districts versus regional, state and federal providers. In addition, a youth mail survey (Appendix C) was developed and completed for the first time. The telephone and mail surveys were developed by the Program for Applied Research and Evaluation at California State University, Chico, in close consultation with staff representatives from the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The telephone survey was conducted by the Social Science Research Center at California State University, Fullerton. The adult and youth mail surveys, data analyses and report of findings were completed by the Program for Applied Research and Evaluation at California State University, Chico.

Purpose of the Study

This study focused on two major areas of inquiry:

- Public attitudes, opinions, and values regarding key areas of interest relating to outdoor recreation opportunities in California.
- Public participation interests in different types of outdoor recreation activities, including latent or unfulfilled demand.

Specifically, the study aimed to:

1. Determine the frequency of engaging in specific outdoor recreation activities;
2. Determine the frequency of visiting different types of outdoor recreation areas and preferences for using them;
3. Identify changes in activity patterns and compare activities against available national findings;
4. Evaluate cultural/ethnic differences in user participation in outdoor recreation activities, support facilities and services;



5. Identify the importance of outdoor recreation lands, facilities and services in meeting quality-of-life and healthy life-style standards in California;
6. Determine the degree of satisfaction with the available supply and condition of outdoor recreation opportunities;
7. Identify preferred means or mechanisms for funding the acquisition, development, operation and maintenance of outdoor recreation facilities and services; and,
8. Identify preferences for and perceived personal value of certain outdoor recreation activities.

Changes in the 2002 Survey

Most of the questions included in the 1997 mail and telephone surveys were also included in the 2002 surveys. However, several changes were made in the 2002 telephone survey. The following summarizes those changes:

- The series of questions regarding use, satisfaction, condition, and management emphasis for park and recreation areas and facilities asked in 1997 was split into a set of questions for areas and facilities **within** respondents' local communities and for areas and facilities **outside** their **local** communities in the 2002 survey. Therefore, data for these questions are not comparable between 1997 and 2002.
- Questions that solicited the opinions of survey respondents regarding management emphases for parks and recreation in the 1997 survey were split into questions for city and county government, and state and federal government agencies in the 2002 survey. In addition, two question items were added: protecting historical resources and providing more organized activities and special events.
- Two questions regarding travel times to park and recreation areas were added to the 2002 survey. Respondents were asked how long it takes them to travel from their home to (1) the park or recreation area where they most often recreate, and (2) their favorite park or recreation area.
- Funding preferences for public park and recreation agencies were measured utilizing nine question items in 1997. This list was reduced to six in the 2002 telephone survey.
- Sixteen attitudinal questions regarding outdoor lands and facilities in California were included in the 2002 telephone survey. These questions were not included in the 1997 telephone survey, but instead had been included in the mail survey. In addition, two of the 1997 questions were dropped, and several others were modified.
- Demographic questions were modified to match those of the 2000 U. S. Census.

Several changes were also made in the 2002 mail survey:

- Questions regarding participation in outdoor recreation on the 1997 survey included 43 activities. In the 2002 survey, eleven activities were added to the list, along with an "other" category.

- A list of thirteen possible changes to park and recreation facilities and services were included in both the 1997 and the 2002 surveys. However, wording on several of the items was changed for the 2002 survey, and the response choices were changed from a five-point scale of strongly disagree to strongly agree in 1997 to a ten-point scale from low priority to high priority for the 2002 survey.
- The 1997 survey respondents were asked to rank the ten recreation activities they would probably have done more often, or would like to have tried, if good public opportunities, facilities and programs had been available. They were then asked to rank the five most important and to indicate how much they would be willing to pay for one day's worth of each. In the 2002 survey, respondents were asked to rank the five activities that were most important to them and to estimate the value of one day's worth of each activity to them.
- Two factors that could affect the overall enjoyment of respondents' favorite outdoor recreation activities were added to the 2002 mail survey.
- The list of activities and services that could be offered by private, profit-making firms in public park and recreation areas was expanded from six in the 1997 survey to nine in the 2002 survey.
- A list of sixteen possible funding sources for public park and recreation agencies was added to the 2002 mail survey.

In addition to the above changes, several questions that had been included on the mail survey in 1997 were moved to the telephone survey in 2002 to increase the number of respondents. Only a portion of the telephone respondents agreed to and actually completed the 2002 mail survey. Therefore, a decision was made to include as many questions as possible on the telephone survey, with the remaining questions included on the mail survey.

Data Interpretation and Limitations

A total of 2,512 telephone interviews were completed for the 2002 survey. Of the 2,512, a total of 326 (13%) were completed in Spanish. A sample of 2,512 has an associated sampling error of +/-2.1% with 95% confidence. In other words, one can be 95% sure that the data from the survey sample represents the characteristics, behaviors and opinions of the population from which it was selected (California adults age 18 and over) within +/-2.1%. Table A.2 in Appendix D presents a comparison of 2002 estimates for key California demographics with the demographics for the 2002 telephone survey sample. As shown in the table, the survey sample does not perfectly represent the demographic estimates for California.

- The survey over-represents females.
- Asians are under-represented, primarily because of differences in ethnic classifications used in the 2002 California estimates and the telephone survey that used the same classifications as the 2000 U. S. Census. In addition, the survey was not conducted in any Asian languages.
- The survey under-represents households with incomes of less than \$20,000 per year, and over-represents households with incomes of \$50,000 or more per year.

Follow-up mail surveys were completed by 610 California adults. A sample of 610 has an associated sampling error of +/-4.1%. In addition, a total of 144 youth (persons age 17 and younger) completed the youth mail survey. The sampling error associated with a sample of 144 is +/-9.5%.

Statistical differences in characteristics, behaviors and opinions of survey respondents are discussed in this report. These statistical differences were determined by the Pearson chi-square statistic for crosstabulation results. Significant statistical differences in response patterns were determined to exist if the Pearson chi-square statistic was equal to or less than .05. In other words, a Pearson chi-square of equal to or less than .05 for a set of response patterns on a pair of questions means that one can be 95% sure the differences in those response patterns are due to actual differences in opinions and not due to random chance.

Demographics of the 2002 Sample

A complete set of demographics for the 2002 telephone sample of 2,512 Californians is shown in Table A.1 (Appendix D). A comparison of key sample demographics with estimates for the 2002 California population is shown in Table A.2 (Appendix D). The following is a summary of key demographics of the adult survey respondents.

- 49.6% were White, 27.1% were Hispanic, 5.2% were African American, 5.0% were Asian, 9.3% were mixed race, and 3.8% were some other race.
- 22.3% held a bachelor's degree and 14.0% held at least one advanced degree.
- 26.0% were couples with one or more children under 18 living at home, and 7.4% were single persons with children under 18 at home.
- The median household size was 3 persons.
- The median annual household income range was \$50,000 to \$59,999.
- The average length of residence in California was 30 years, and the average length of residence in their current community was 16.5 years.

Telephone survey subsamples are sufficiently large to provide reliable estimates for the adult sub-populations represented in this survey.

ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS OF CALIFORNIANS REGARDING OUTDOOR RECREATION

The results of this study on the public opinions and attitudes about outdoor recreation in California are in general agreement with past editions of this study. Californians think outdoor recreation areas and facilities are very important to their quality of life, and about two-thirds of the respondents were very satisfied or satisfied with available public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Over half indicated the condition of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities in California were the same or better than they were five years ago.

Importance of Areas and Facilities

Californians were asked to consider any and all public outdoor areas and facilities operated by **any** level of government. Over eight out of ten (84.1%) believed outdoor recreation areas and facilities were "important" or "very important" to them and their families. An additional 12.7% believed they were "somewhat important," while only 3.3% considered them "not at all important" (Chart 1). The total percentage of Californians who rated outdoor recreation as important or very important remained about the same between 1997 and 2002 (Chart 2).

Chart 1. Importance of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities to Californians and their families.

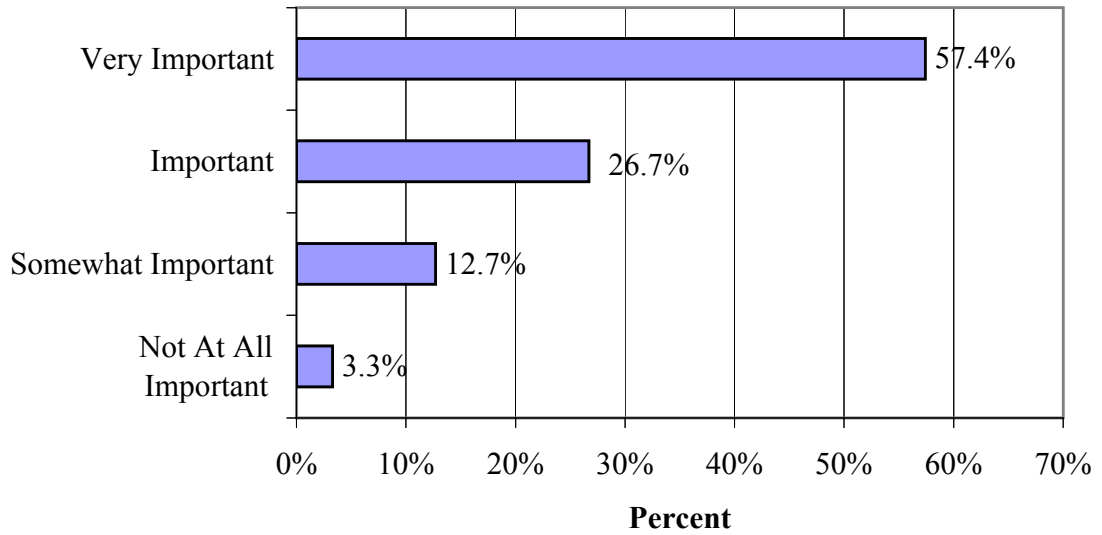
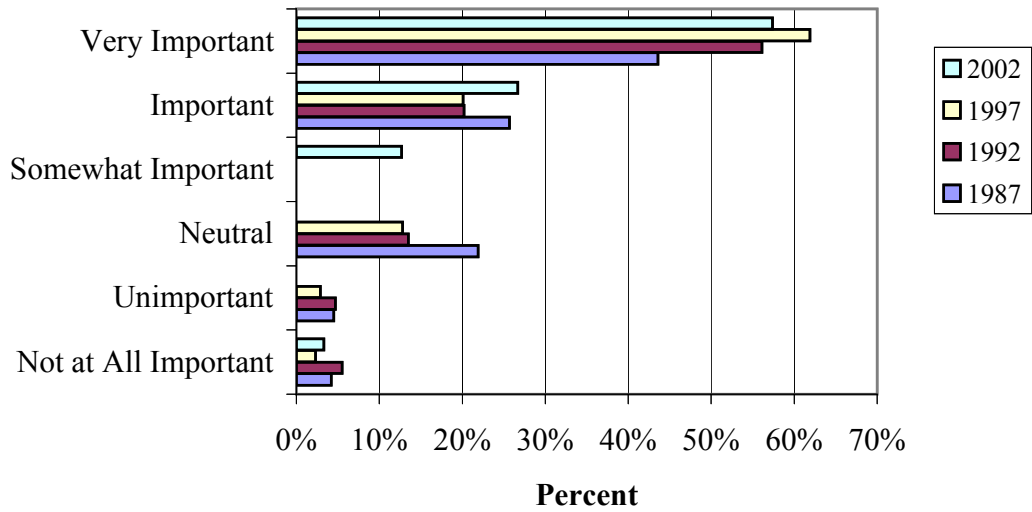


Chart 2. Importance of outdoor recreation areas and facilities to the quality of life of Californians and their families (1987, 1992, 1997, and 2002) (by percent).



Amount of Time Spent in Outdoor Recreation Activities

When Californians were asked if they were spending more time, about the same amount of time, or less time in outdoor recreation activities than five years ago, 69.1% reported the “same” or “more time” and 29.5% reported “less time” (Chart 3). When compared with results of the 1997 survey, the number who said they were spending more time did not change. However, the number who said they were spending about the same amount of time increased from 28.7% in 1997 to 36% in 2002. Thus, the data show that the amount of time spent in outdoor recreation remained relatively stable between 1997 and 2002.

Survey respondents who said they were spending less time in outdoor recreation activities than five years ago were asked an open-ended question regarding why they were spending less time. Reasons were coded into two categories: (1) those that are more personal and cannot be addressed by an agency, and (2) those that might possibly be addressed by a park and recreation agency. As shown in Table 1, a total of 715 (96%) of the 741 respondents who said they were spending less time outdoors provided reasons. Of the reasons given, 605 (81.6%) were reasons beyond the managerial ability of park and recreation agencies to change. The remaining 111 reasons were judged to possibly be within the ability of park and recreation agencies to change. For example, 40 (36.4%) of these reasons related to security and enforcement concerns in park and recreation areas. Another 31 (27.3%) related to a perceived lack of facilities, and 14 (12.7%) concerned crowding.

Factors Influencing Enjoyment of Recreation

Californians were asked to consider their favorite recreation activity and the importance of each of seventeen factors to their overall enjoyment of that activity. The factor considered very important by the largest percentage of respondents (75.9%) was “being able to relax.” This was the only factor that was rated as very important by more than seventy percent of the respondents. Three other factors were rated “very important” by more than 60 percent of the respondents. They included: “feeling safe and secure” (68.3%); “being in the outdoors” (67.4%); and “beauty of the area” (61.8%). As



found in the 1997 version of this study, meeting new people appeared to be the least important to Californians' enjoyment of their favorite activity (Table 2). Clearly, most Californians want to relax in the outdoors escaping the crowding and tension of their every day lives while feeling safe and secure.

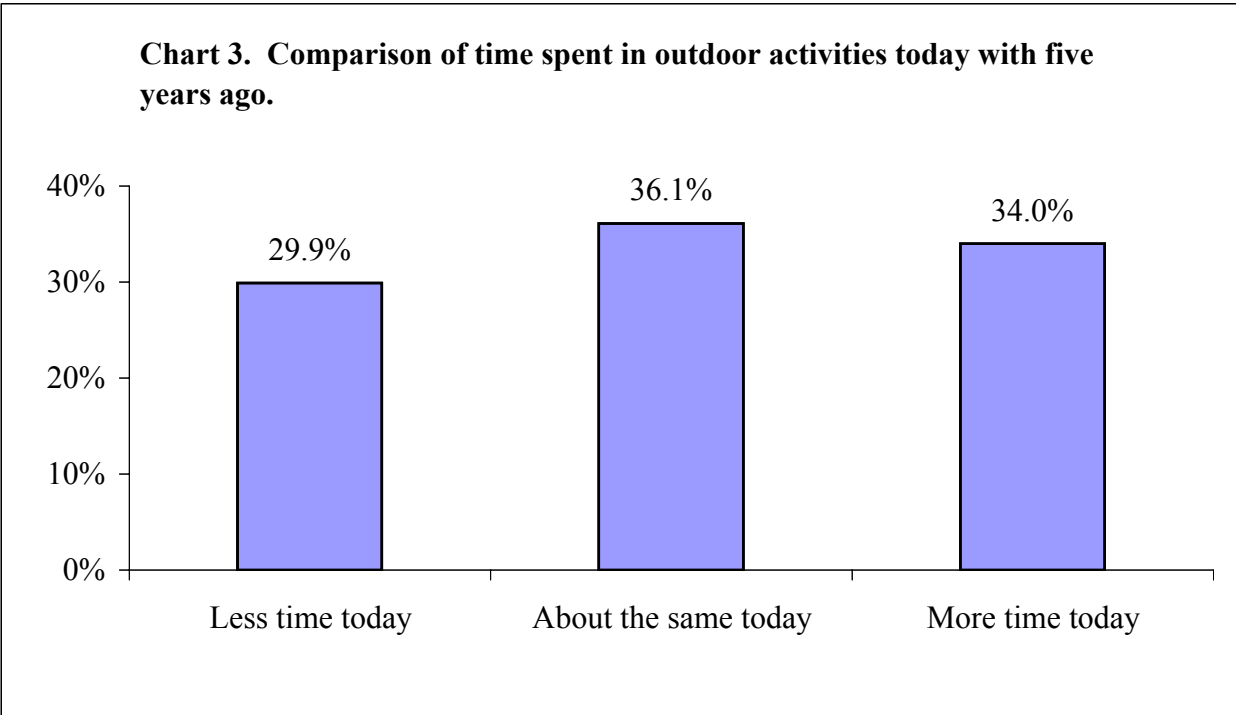


Table 1. Reasons that Californians spent less time in outdoor recreation activities in 2002 than 5 years ago.

Reasons for Spending Less Time	Number	Percent
Issues that cannot be controlled by parks and recreation agencies		
Work schedule	209	34.5%
Other (personal and/or work-related constraints)	115	19.0%
Age	110	18.2%
Children grew up and moved out	58	9.6%
Health/illness	54	8.9%
Other commitments	28	4.6%
School commitments	17	2.8%
Activities/Interests	14	2.3%
Issues that can be controlled by parks and recreation agencies		
Security and Enforcement Issues	40	36.4%
Lack of appropriate facilities	30	27.3%
Crowding	14	12.7%
Activities not available	12	10.8%
Poor Maintenance	8	7.3%
Entrance Costs and Fees	6	5.5%

Table 2. Opinions of Californians on factors influencing the enjoyment of their favorite recreation activity.

Factor Influencing Enjoyment	Very important	Somewhat important	Somewhat unimportant	Very unimportant
Being able to relax.	75.9%	14.6%	3.0%	6.6%
Feeling safe and secure.	68.3%	17.8%	6.0%	7.8%
Being in the outdoors.	67.4%	20.8%	5.9%	5.9%
Beauty of the area.	61.8%	25.5%	6.9%	5.8%
Getting away from crowded situations.	59.7%	24.5%	10.5%	5.3%
Releasing or reducing tension.	59.3%	26.4%	7.7%	6.6%
Quality of the natural setting.	58.4%	27.6%	8.4%	5.6%
Being with family and friends.	57.1%	27.5%	9.9%	5.6%
Doing something your children enjoyed.	55.6%	20.2%	8.1%	16.1%
Having a change from daily routine.	53.0%	29.2%	11.4%	6.4%
Keeping fit and healthy.	50.5%	31.4%	11.7%	6.4%
Feeling of harmony with nature.	49.3%	28.1%	15.6%	6.9%
Availability of facilities.	43.8%	37.1%	12.2%	6.9%
Availability of water features (lakes, reservoirs, rivers, wetlands).	43.8%	34.7%	13.0%	8.6%
Achieving spiritual fulfillment.	33.7%	26.1%	23.3%	16.9%
Experiencing challenge and excitement.	23.5%	38.3%	25.5%	12.6%
Meeting new people.	13.2%	26.2%	34.3%	26.4%

610 Respondents

Types of Areas Visited and Favorite Areas

Based on five broad types of outdoor recreation areas, Californians were asked to indicate how often they visited each. Table 3 indicates that “highly developed parks and recreation areas in or near urban areas” are visited by the largest percentage of Californians (93.3%), followed closely by “developed nature-oriented parks and recreation areas located outside of or on the fringe of urban areas” (90.1%) and “historical and cultural buildings, sites, or areas, regardless of their location” (86.7 %).



Table 3. Frequency of visits to outdoor recreation areas by Californians - 2002.

Types of Outdoor Recreation Areas	Did not Visit at All	Once or Twice a Year	Several Times a Year	Once or Twice a Month	Once a Week	Two or More Times Each Week
Highly developed parks and recreation areas in or near urban areas.	6.8%	16.3%	29.6%	18.3%	14.5%	14.6%
Private, not public, outdoor recreation areas and facilities.	24.7%	26.2%	26.4%	12.1%	5.5%	5.1%
Developed nature-oriented parks and recreation areas located outside of or on the fringe of urban areas.	9.9%	22.2%	38.4%	18.9%	6.3%	4.3%
Natural and undeveloped areas.	17.2%	31.3%	29.5%	13.9%	4.0%	4.1%
Historical and cultural buildings, sites, or areas, regardless of their location.	13.2%	36.4%	37.9%	9.3%	1.8%	1.3%

612 Respondents

However, Chart 4 reveals that Californians most enjoyed visiting “developed nature-oriented parks and recreation areas located outside of or on the fringe of urban areas” (35.4 %) and “natural and undeveloped areas” (29.6%). “Highly developed parks and recreation areas in or near urban areas” and cultural buildings, sites, or areas, regardless of their location” (8.3%) were a distant third and fourth. Californians rated “private, not public, outdoor recreation areas and facilities” last among the five broad types of areas they most enjoyed visiting (6.7%). Thus, park or recreation areas in or near urban areas are the **most frequently used**, and the developed nature-oriented areas are the **favorite type** of park and recreation area for the largest percentage of Californians.

The selection of developed nature-oriented park and recreation areas as the favorite type by the largest percentage of Californians in 2002 (35.4%) was a significant change from the 1997 survey (Table 4). Natural and undeveloped areas were selected as the favorite type of area by 40.7% of the 1997 survey respondents. This change may be due to changes in the demographics of the state. For example, the state’s Hispanic population grew from 25% of the total in 1995 to 34% in 2002. A total of 40.3% of Hispanics selected developed nature-oriented areas as their favorite type of area, and another 16.4% selected natural and undeveloped areas. In contrast, 34.9% of non-Hispanics selected developed nature-oriented areas, and 31.8% said that natural and undeveloped areas were their favorite type.



Chart 4. Types of outdoor recreation areas that Californians most enjoy visiting - 2002.

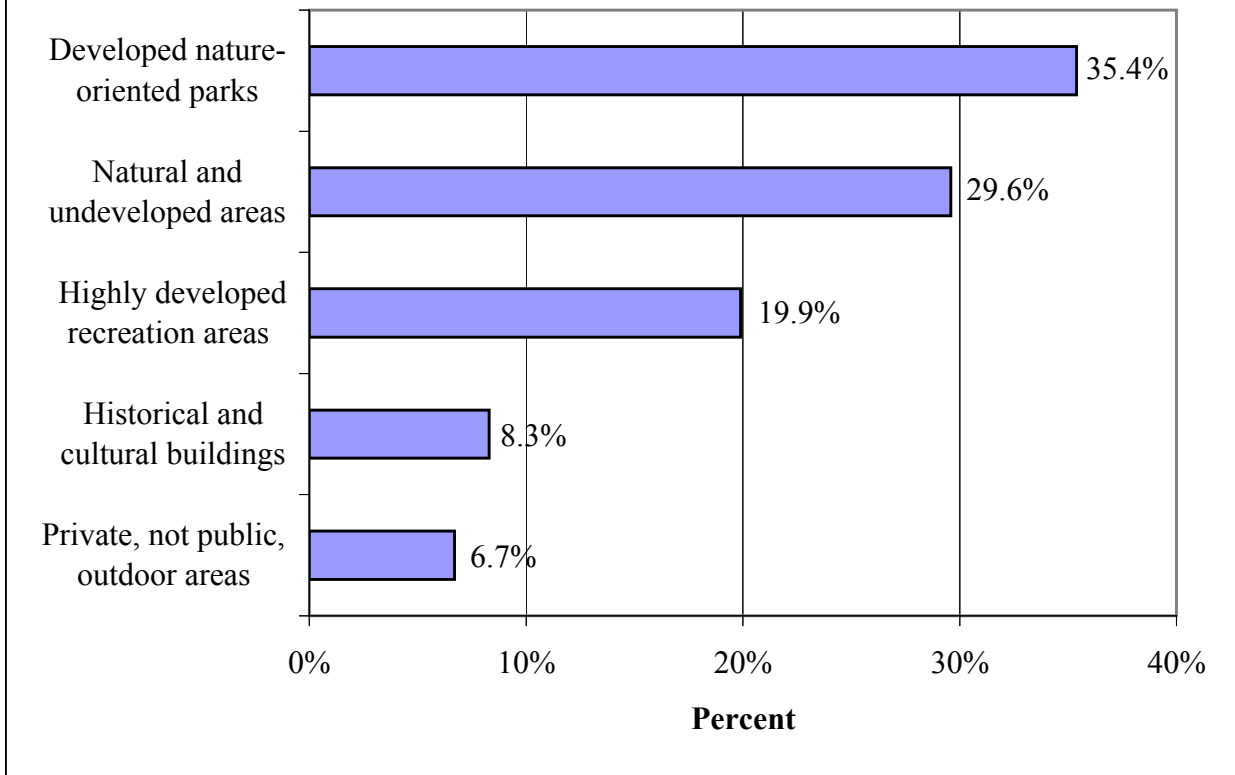


Table 4. Types of outdoor recreation areas that Californians most enjoyed visiting – comparisons for 1987, 1992, 1997, and 2002.

Types of Areas	1987	1992	1997	2002
Developed nature-oriented parks and recreation areas	29.2%	26.3%	30.0%	35.4%
Natural and undeveloped areas	26.5%	41.8%	39.4%	29.6%
Highly developed parks and recreation areas	21.1%	14.2%	10.2%	19.9%
Historical or cultural buildings, sites or areas	9.3%	7.1%	9.3%	8.3%
Private, not public, outdoor recreation areas and facilities	9.8%	10.6%	11.1%	6.7%

Distances Traveled to Park and Recreation Areas

Californians were asked how long it takes them to get from their homes to the park or recreation area where they most often recreate. As shown in Table 5, 84.5% travel 20 minutes or less to the park or recreation area where they most often recreate. The average (mean) travel time is 18 minutes. The travel time to their favorite park or recreation area averages 45 minutes with 86.3% saying they travel 60 minutes or less (Table 6).

Table 5. Travel times to park or recreation areas where Californians most often recreate.

Travel Times	Number	Percent
5 minutes or less	1123	45.9%
6 – 10 minutes	519	21.2%
11 – 20 minutes	426	17.4%
21 – 60 minutes	281	11.5%
More than 60 minutes	99	4.0%
TOTAL	2448	100.0%

Mean travel time = 18 minutes

Table 6. Travel times to the favorite park or recreation areas where Californians recreate.

Travel Times	Number	Percent
5 minutes or less	546	22.9%
6 – 10 minutes	402	16.9%
11 – 20 minutes	487	20.4%
21 – 60 minutes	623	26.1%
More than 60 minutes	327	13.7%
TOTAL	2385	100.0%

Mean travel time = 45 minutes

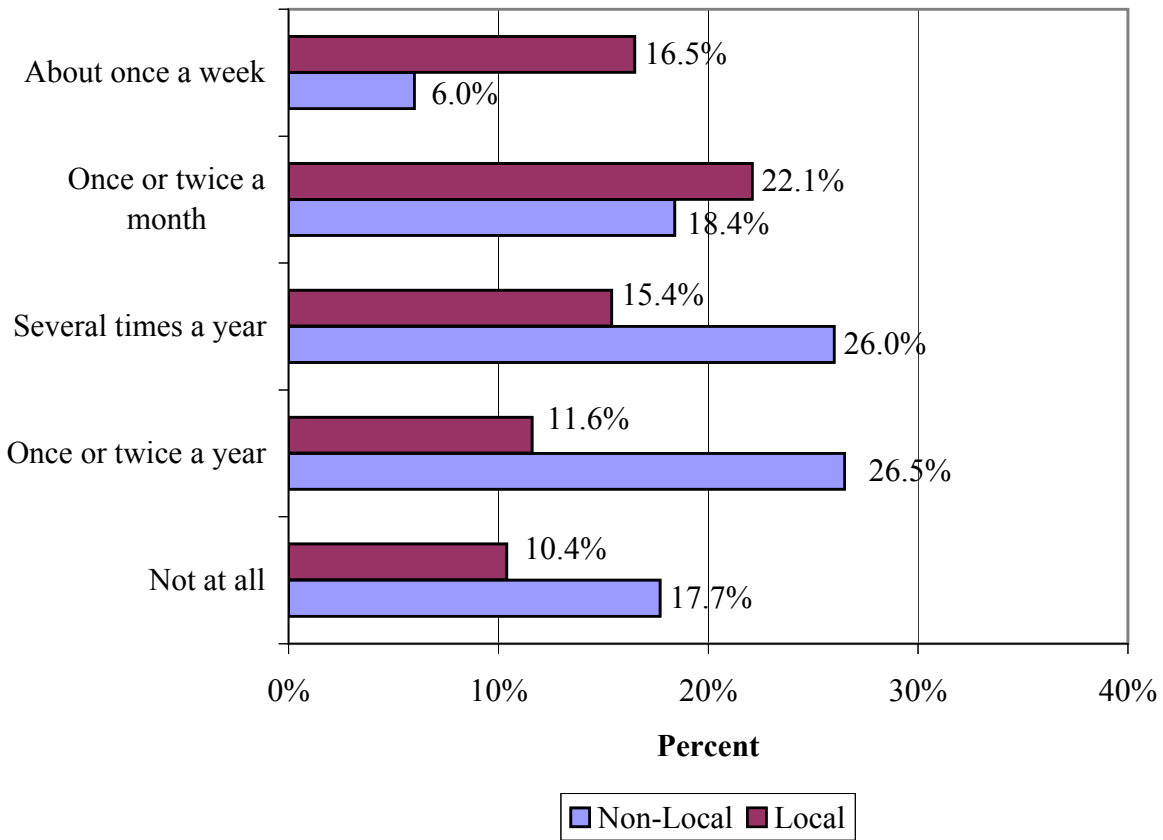
Use of Local and Non-Local Parks

Chart 5 presents data on the use of **local** and **non-local** parks during 2002. A total of 89.6% of Californians visited a local park some time during the year, and 38.6% reported using local parks at least once or twice a month. In addition, 82.3% of Californians traveled to visit a park some distance from where they lived. Just over half (50.4%) said they used non-local parks several times or more in 2002. Thus, proximity of park and recreation areas affects frequency of use. For example, local parks are much more frequently used than non-local parks, though highly developed parks and recreation areas in or near urban areas were the favorite type of area listed by the largest percentage of Californians.

Satisfaction with Public Outdoor Recreation Areas, Facilities and Services

Californians were asked a series of questions regarding their opinions about park and recreation areas, facilities and services **within** and **outside** their local communities. Survey respondents were permitted to determine what they considered within their local area versus outside their local community when providing their responses. People typically think of their local community as the area near where they live and recreate.

Chart 5. Use of LOCAL and NON-LOCAL parks by Californians during the past 12 months.



When Californians were asked to rate their satisfaction with public outdoor recreation areas, facilities and services currently available **within their local community**, 69.7% said they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied.” An additional 24.3% were “somewhat satisfied,” and only 6.0% indicated they were “not at all satisfied” (Chart 6a). Chart 6b shows that 83.5% reported local park conditions were the “same as” or “better than” five years ago, while 16.5% reported they were “not as good” as five years ago.

In a later question, Californians were asked to rate their satisfaction with public outdoor recreation areas, facilities and services currently available **outside their local community**. As Chart 6c indicates, 73.7% reported they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied.” An additional 23.1% were “somewhat satisfied,” and 3.2% said they were “not at all satisfied.” Chart 6d shows that 82.0% reported non-local park conditions were the “same as” or “better than” five years ago, while 18.0% reported they were “not as good” as five years ago.



Overall, satisfaction with outdoor recreation areas, facilities and services showed little change in 2002 when compared with 1997 (Table 7 and Table 8). However, the percentage of Californians who said that areas, facilities and services were not as good as five years ago slightly decreased in 2002 when compared with 1997, while those who said they were about the same increased (Table 9 and Table 10). Thus, most Californians believe that conditions of parks and recreation areas, facilities and services remained relatively the same between 1997 and 2002.

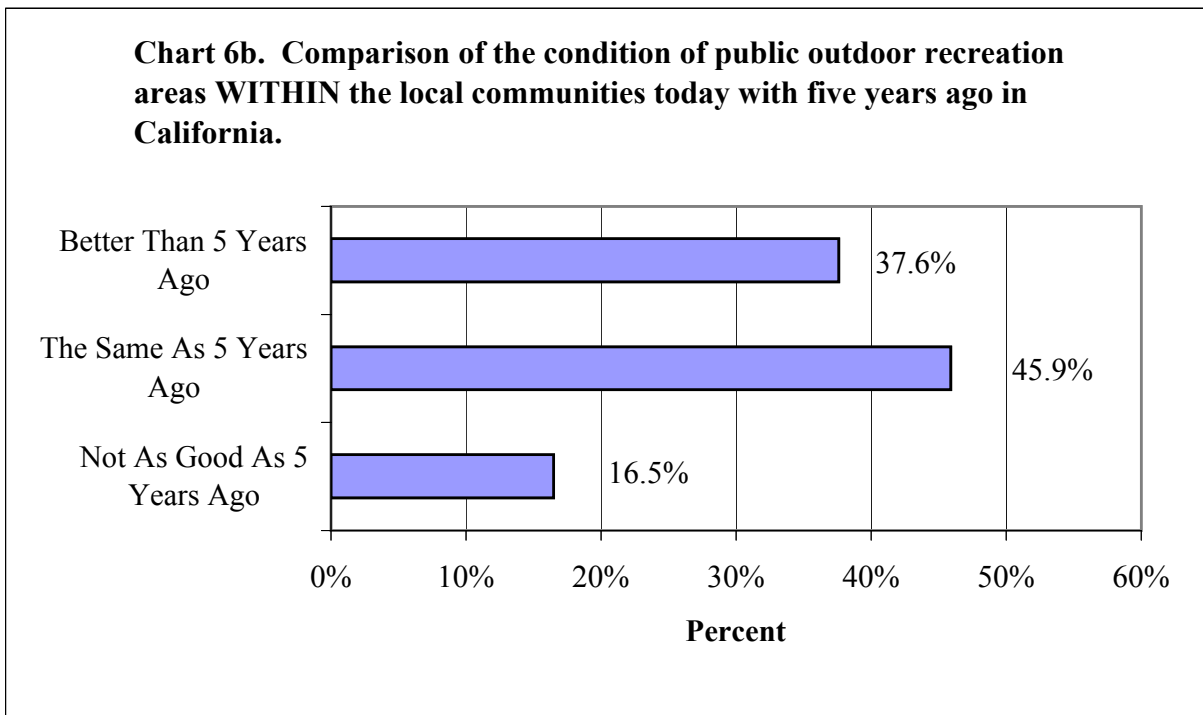
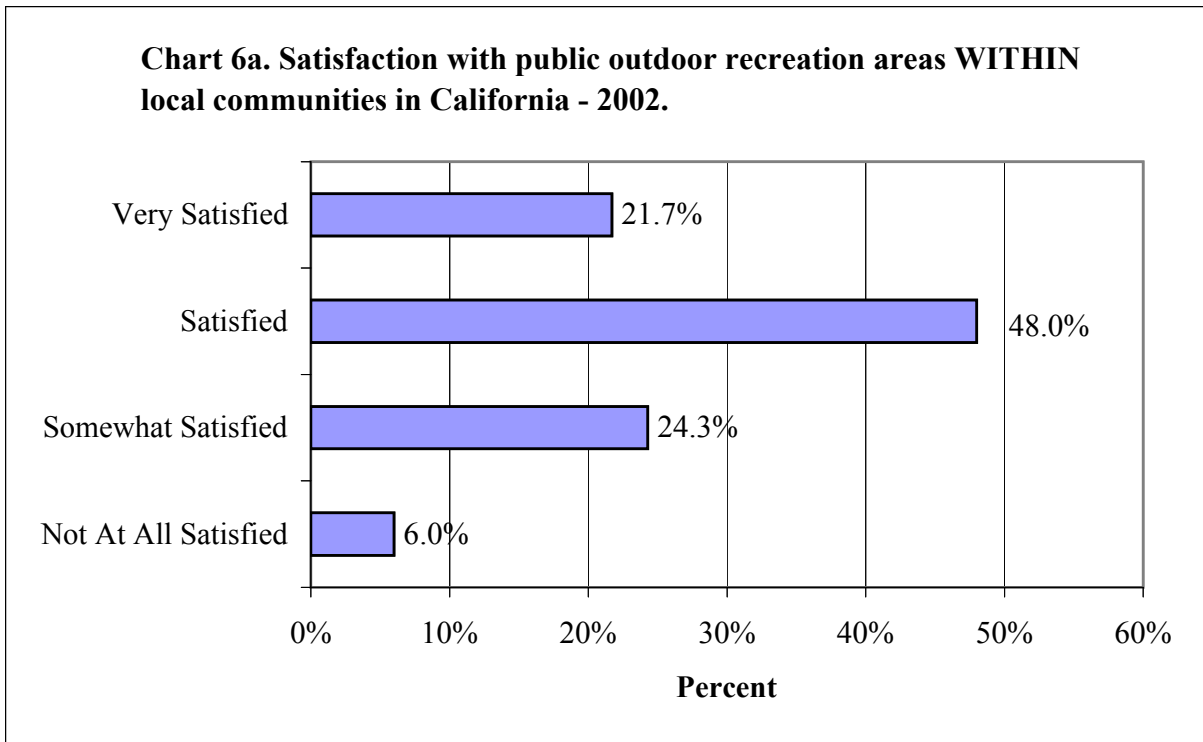


Chart 6c. Satisfaction with public outdoor recreation areas OUTSIDE local communities in California - 2002.

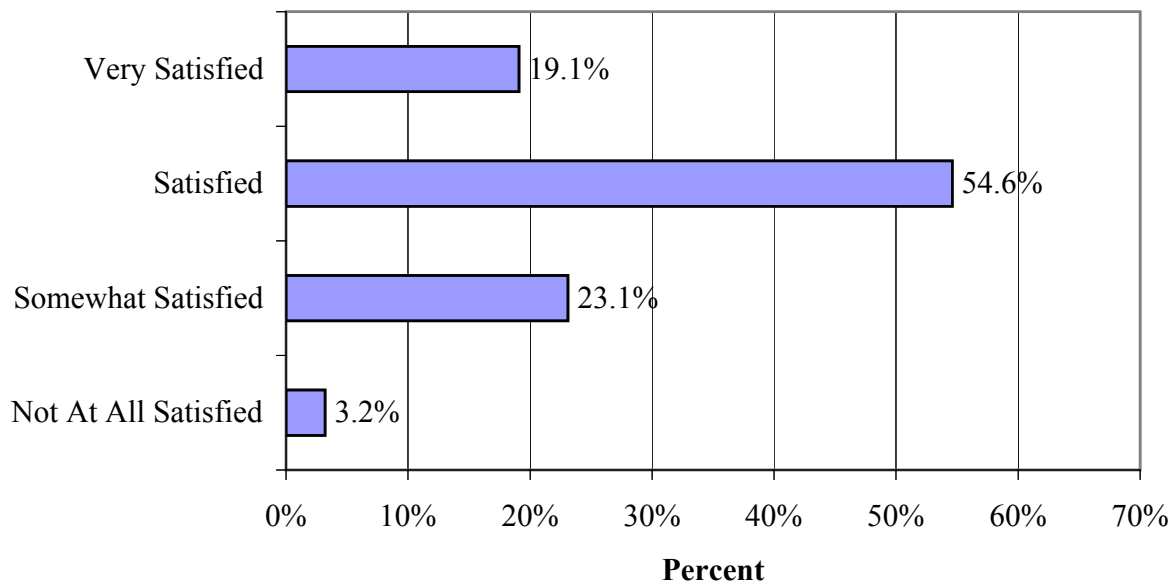


Chart 6d. Comparison of the condition of public outdoor recreation areas OUTSIDE the local communities today with five years ago in California.

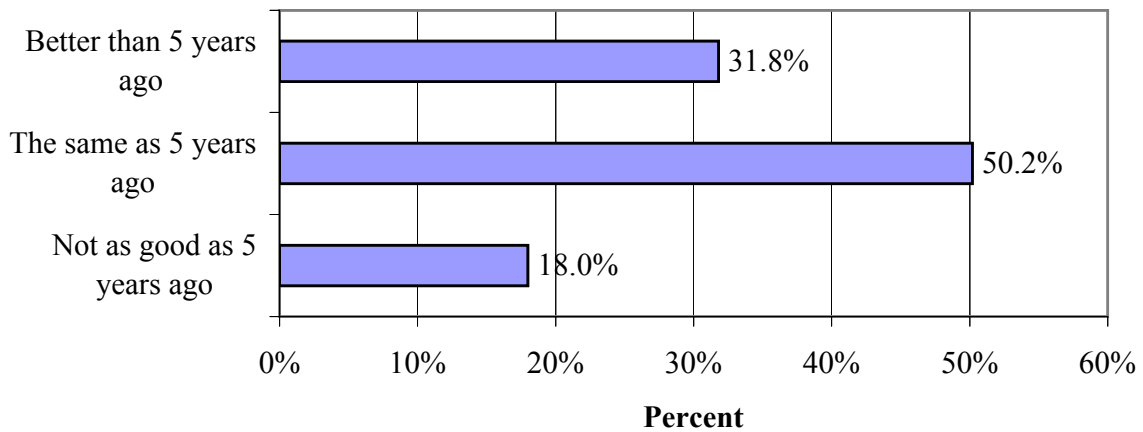


Table 7. Satisfaction of Californians with public outdoor recreation areas, facilities, and services available WITHIN their local communities.

Satisfaction with Local Areas, Facilities and Services	1987	1992	1997	2002
Very satisfied	28.7%	21.4%	27.3%	21.7%
Satisfied	34.0%	28.2%	32.7%	48.0%
Somewhat satisfied				24.3%
Neutral	27.7%	34.8%	29.2%	
Unsatisfied	6.4%	9.8%	7.5%	
Not at all satisfied	3.1%	5.8%	3.4%	6.0%

NOTE: Outdoor recreation within and outside local communities was split into two separate questions for the 2002 survey. In addition, the scale was modified in 2002 by adding “somewhat satisfied” and dropping the “neutral” and “unsatisfied” response categories. Therefore, comparisons of the 2002 data with prior years must be made with caution.

Table 8. Satisfaction of Californians with public outdoor recreation areas, facilities, and services available OUTSIDE their local communities.

Satisfaction with Areas, Facilities and Services	1987	1992	1997	2002
Very satisfied	28.7%	21.4%	27.3%	19.1%
Satisfied	34.0%	28.2%	32.7%	54.6%
Somewhat satisfied				23.1%
Neutral	27.7%	34.8%	29.2%	
Unsatisfied	6.4%	9.8%	7.5%	
Not at all satisfied	3.1%	5.8%	3.4%	3.2%

NOTE: Outdoor recreation within and outside local communities was split into two separate questions for the 2002 survey. In addition, the scale was modified in 2002 by adding “somewhat satisfied” and dropping the “neutral” and “unsatisfied” response categories. Therefore, comparisons of the 2002 data with prior years must be made with caution.

Table 9. A comparison of the condition of public outdoor recreation areas, facilities and services available WITHIN Californians' local communities today with those available five years ago.

Comparison of Today with 5 Years Ago	1987	1992	1997	2002
Better than 5 years ago	37.8%	28.7%	34.6%	37.6%
The same as 5 years ago	36.2%	32.1%	35.9%	45.9%
Not as good as 5 years ago	18.2%	32.9%	25.8%	16.5%
Not here 5 years ago	7.7%	6.4%	3.7%	*

* The 2002 survey respondents were asked how many years they had lived in their local communities. The 24.9% who said they had lived in their local communities less than 5 years were not asked their opinions on this issue.

NOTE: In the three previous studies (1987, 1992 and 1997), this item was asked as a single question. For the 2002 study, this item was split into conditions of outdoor recreation (1) within local communities, and (2) outside local communities.

Table 10. A comparison of the condition of public outdoor recreation areas, facilities and services available OUTSIDE Californians' local communities today with those available five years ago.

Comparison of Today with 5 Years Ago	1987	1992	1997	2002
Better than 5 years ago	37.8%	28.7%	34.6%	31.8%
The same as 5 years ago	36.2%	32.1%	35.9%	50.2%
Not as good as 5 years ago	18.2%	32.9%	25.8%	18.0%
Not here 5 years ago	7.7%	6.4%	3.7%	*

* The 2002 survey respondents were asked how many years they had lived in California. The 6.4% who said they had lived in California less than 5 years were not asked their opinions on this issue.

NOTE: In the three previous studies (1987, 1992 and 1997), this item was asked as a single question. For the 2002 study, this item was split into conditions of outdoor recreation (1) within local communities and (2) outside local communities.

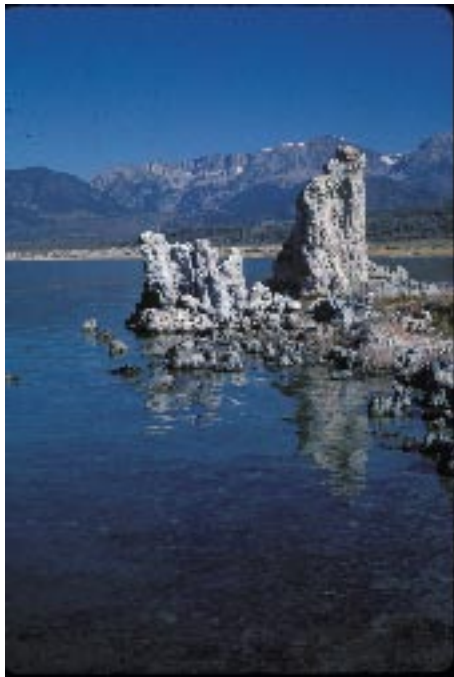


General Attitudes Regarding Outdoor Recreation Lands and Facilities

Californians were asked sixteen attitudinal questions regarding outdoor recreation lands and facilities in California. They were asked to “strongly disagree,” “moderately disagree,” “moderately agree” or “strongly agree” with each attitudinal statement. These sixteen statements have been grouped into four categories for discussion – resource protection and availability, crowding and safety, community benefits, and entrepreneurial activities.

Resource Protection and Availability

As in past versions of this survey, Californians generally supported resource protection and availability of outdoor recreation lands and facilities in the 2002 survey. Almost all (96.7%) moderately or strongly agreed that maintaining the natural environment in outdoor recreation areas was important to them (Table 11).



Most Californians supported additional outdoor recreation lands and facilities. A majority moderately or strongly agreed that more of the following are needed (Table 11):

- Recreation and open space lands in or close to urban areas
- Recreational facilities at lakes and reservoirs
- Outdoor recreation areas for camping or overnight use
- Developed campgrounds with hot showers and electric and water hook-ups
- Neighborhood and community parks close to where they live

These findings are consistent with the types of outdoor recreation areas that survey respondents said they visited most often (highly developed park and recreation areas in or near urban areas).

Crowding and Safety

In general, most Californians felt safe using parks and outdoor recreation areas, but would like the enforcement of rules and regulations to receive more attention. In addition, they felt park and

Table 11. Californians' attitudes concerning outdoor recreation lands and facilities - 2002.

Attitudinal Statement	Strongly disagree	Moderately disagree	Moderately agree	Strongly agree
Maintaining the natural environment in outdoor recreation areas is important to me.	1.7%	1.6%	20.5%	76.2%
Outdoor recreation areas and programs help improve the health and welfare of people in my community.	2.5%	2.6%	29.8%	65.0%
Fees collected at each park, wildlife and recreation area should be spent on that area.	4.9%	5.6%	28.3%	61.3%
Outdoor recreation areas and programs help reduce crime and juvenile delinquency in my community.	9.3%	8.9%	29.8%	52.0%
Outdoor recreation areas and facilities increase property values in my community.	5.2%	6.6%	37.6%	50.7%
More recreation and open space lands are needed in or close to urban areas.	8.3%	9.9%	32.0%	49.8%
More outdoor recreational facilities are needed at lakes and reservoirs, such as picnic and camping sites.	7.9%	11.8%	34.5%	45.8%
Better enforcement of rules and regulations is needed in parks and outdoor recreation areas.	8.1%	13.1%	35.2%	43.5%
More outdoor recreation areas are needed for camping or overnight use.	9.7%	14.1%	33.1%	43.0%
Outdoor recreation areas and facilities create jobs and help the economy in my community.	6.2%	11.5%	41.9%	40.4%
More developed campgrounds with hot showers and electrical and water hook-ups are needed in outdoor recreation areas.	13.9%	16.8%	30.2%	39.1%
Outdoor recreation areas and facilities should be used to promote tourism.	10.6%	11.5%	40.2%	37.8%
Outdoor recreation areas and facilities in California are too crowded when I want to use them.	11.4%	20.4%	33.7%	34.5%
More neighborhood and community parks close to where I live are needed.	18.7%	21.0%	29.2%	31.1%
Private businesses should provide some of the outdoor recreation services at government-owned facilities.	19.7%	16.6%	34.1%	29.6%
I do not feel safe using outdoor recreation areas and facilities.	42.6%	26.0%	18.9%	12.4%

2512 Respondents

recreation areas were too crowded when they want to use them (Table 11).

- Less than one-third (31.3%) agreed that they do not feel safe using outdoor recreation areas and facilities.
- Just over two-thirds (68.2%) agreed that outdoor recreation areas and facilities in California are too crowded when they want to use them.
- More than three-fourths (78.7%) agreed that better enforcement of rules and regulations was needed in parks and outdoor recreation areas.

The desire for safe and secure areas was also expressed in the series of questions regarding the importance of several factors to respondents' overall enjoyment of their favorite recreation activity. A total of 68.3% of the mail survey respondents said that feeling safe and secure is very important to their overall enjoyment of their favorite recreation activity. Other data shows that lack of crowding is also very important to overall enjoyment of recreation. A total of 59.7% of the mail survey respondents said that getting away from crowded situations is very important to the enjoyment of their favorite activity, and 24.5% said that it is somewhat important to them.



Community Benefits

Three attitudinal statements addressed the value of outdoor areas, facilities and programs to the local community. Most Californians agreed that outdoor recreation areas and facilities benefitted their local communities (Table 11).

- Californians overwhelmingly agreed (94.8%) that outdoor recreation areas and programs helped to improve the health and welfare of people in their community.
- Most (88.3%) agreed that outdoor areas, facilities and programs increased property values.
- A total of 82.3% agreed that local outdoor areas, facilities and programs created jobs and helped the economy.
- Most (81.8%) agreed that areas, facilities and programs helped reduce crime and juvenile delinquency in their community.

Thus, most Californians believe there are social as well as individual benefits from the outdoor recreation areas, facilities and programs in their local communities.

Entrepreneurial Activities

A majority of Californians supported the use of entrepreneurial principles in the management of government-owned outdoor recreation areas and facilities (Table 11).

- Most (89.6%) agreed that park or recreation fees collected at a particular area should be spent on that area.
- A majority (63.7%) agreed that private businesses should provide some of the outdoor recreation services at government-owned facilities.
- More than three-fourths (78.0%) agreed that outdoor areas and facilities should be used to promote tourism.

However, their support of entrepreneurial activities in public park and recreation areas was limited. A majority of the mail survey respondents said that private firms should (1) provide food services,

(2) sponsor contests, races and special events, (3) provide rental of recreation equipment, and (4) operate marinas and boat launching facilities. Most did not support private firms providing (1) general maintenance of facilities and grounds, (2) law enforcement duties, (3) guided nature walks and education activities, (4) operation and maintenance of campgrounds and other lodging facilities, and (5) total operation and management of public park and recreation areas. Thus, most Californians want traditional park and recreation functions in public areas to remain the responsibilities of the managing public agencies.

OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND PARTICIPATION

Californians were very active in outdoor recreation and participated in a number of activities. In this 2002 survey, 54 outdoor activities were presented along with an “other” category for a total of 55 outdoor activity choices. Mail survey respondents were asked to estimate the total number of days they had participated in each activity during the 12 months prior to the survey.

Participation

The percentage of respondents who participated a portion of one or more days in each of the 55 recreation activities is presented in Table 12 and Chart 7. Walking for fitness and fun was the activity with the highest percentage of participants (91.1%), followed closely by driving for pleasure, sightseeing, and driving through natural scenery (90.2%). Windsurfing showed the lowest percentage participation (3.4%), with snowmobiling and orienteering/geo-caching tied for next lowest (4.6%). Fifty percent or more of the respondents participated in 11 of the 55 recreation activities at least one day during the 12 months prior to the survey. Alternatively, only eight activities had participation by less than 10 percent of the survey respondents.



The percentage of Californians who reported participating in fitness-related activities, such as walking for fitness and fun, jogging for fitness and fun, and pool swimming increased significantly in 2002 over 1997. This may be the result of an aging population that is becoming increasingly aware and concerned about weight gain and the need for better fitness. Opportunities for these activities are usually available close to where people live, thus making participation easier.

The percentage of Californians who reported having visited historic or cultural sites and museums, and outdoor cultural events increased significantly in 2002 over 1997. Some of this change may be due to the aftermath of September 11, 2001, with more people being unwilling to travel to other countries. Instead, more Californians may be spending their recreation time closer to home and visiting more “local” attractions.

Activity Participation Days

Table 13 and Chart 8 present the average number of recreation activity days per year for **all** survey respondents (i.e., non-participants for each activity are included in calculating the average). In essence, it represents the average number of days of participation in 2002 for each activity choice per adult California resident. The average number of days of participation varied greatly from activity to activity. Walking for fitness and fun had the highest average number of days (94.4 days) of participation. The other four activities with the highest number of participation days included walking a pet (34.8 days), driving for pleasure, sightseeing, and driving through natural scenery (31.3 days), wildlife viewing, bird watching, and viewing natural scenery (25.3 days), and jogging and fitness running (23.1 days). None of the other 50 recreation activities averaged more than 20 activity days during the 12-month period prior to the survey.

Activity Days for Participants

The average number of days of participation for only those Californians who participated in each recreation activity is shown in Table 14 and Chart 9. For example, while only 3.2 skateboarding days were recorded for the average of all the California adult population (Table 13), those respondents who did skateboard during the past 12 months spent an average of 35.2 days skateboarding. From a rank ordering point of view, skateboarding is number 32 on the overall activity days list (Table 13) and



number six (6) on the participants' activity days list (Table 14). Though few of the activity choices changed their rank order position this much, many of the recreation activities with low average participation rates appeared to have a small group of fairly avid participants who engaged in these activities numerous days during 2002. This indicates specialization and frequent participation in one or a few recreation activities by some recreation users.



Walking for fitness and fun (102.8 days), walking a pet (79.9 days), jogging and fitness running (65 days), other (49.7 days) and bicycling on paved surfaces (42.9 days) were the recreation activities with the highest number of days of participation by Californians who participated in these activities (Table 14). The activities with the highest participation rates were those that can be done near where Californians live and without the necessity of specialized facilities. Most (walking, jogging, and bicycling) are also fitness-related.

Since "other" moved from 17th on the average activity participation days table (6.5 days) to fourth (4th) on the participants' activity days table (49.7 days), future studies should attempt to determine the activities in this category that have avid participants for addition in future activity choice listings.

Table 12. Percentage of Californians who reported participating in each of 55 outdoor recreation activities at least a portion of one day during 2002.

Recreation Activity	Percent Who Participated	Rank
Walking for fitness and fun.	91.1%	1
Driving for pleasure, sightseeing, driving through natural scenery	90.2%	2
Visiting historic or cultural sites, museums	85.5%	3
Attending outdoor cultural events (festivals, fairs, concerts, historical reenactments, outdoor theater)	82.6%	4
Beach activities (including sun bathing), surf play	82.2%	5
Visiting outdoor nature museums, zoos or arboretums	80.1%	6
Picnicking in developed sites	76.7%	7
Wildlife viewing, bird watching, viewing natural scenery	75.1%	8
Trail hiking	68.7%	9
Using open turf areas (casual and unstructured activities-games, relax, sunning, etc.)	65.5%	10
Pool swimming	59.5%	11
Camping in developed sites with facilities such as toilets and tables	49.8%	12
Swimming in freshwater lakes, rivers and/or streams	46.7%	13
Bicycling on paved surfaces	45.8%	14
Walking a pet	43.5%	15
Using play equipment, tot-lots	39.0%	16
Swimming in saltwater, snorkeling, scuba diving	38.1%	17
Jogging and fitness running	35.6%	18
Fishing – freshwater	34.0%	19
Motor boating	29.1%	20
Camping at a primitive site without facilities	28.0%	21
Softball and baseball	27.1%	22
Basketball	25.2%	23
Bicycling on unpaved surfaces and trails, mountain biking	24.0%	24
Soccer, football or rugby	23.1%	25
Golf	23.0%	26
Paddle sports (kayaking, rowing, canoeing, and rafting)	23.0%	27
Winter sports (non-mechanized – sledding, snow play, ice skating)	23.0%	28
Backpack camping	20.1%	29
Camping in trailer or RV sites with hookups	19.9%	30
Off-road vehicle use – four-wheel drive	19.8%	31
Horseback riding, horse shows and events	19.2%	32
Tennis	18.8%	33
Downhill (Alpine) skiing	18.0%	34
Fishing – saltwater (including catching abalone, clams, crabs, etc.)	17.8%	35
Volleyball	17.5%	36
Gathering mushrooms, berries or other natural products	17.4%	37
Off-road vehicle use – motorcycles, ATV's, dune buggies	16.7%	38
Target shooting (including pistol and skeet)	16.5%	39
Rock climbing/bouldering	14.8%	40

Table 12. Percentage of Californians who reported participating in each of 55 outdoor recreation activities at least a portion of one day during 2002 (cont'd.).

Recreation Activity	Percent Who Participated	Rank
Using personal watercraft	13.6%	41
Other activities	13.2%	42
In-line skating	12.9%	43
Surfing	12.4%	44
Water skiing	10.6%	45
Sailboating	10.4%	46
Snowboarding	10.2%	47
Skateboarding	9.1%	48
Hunting (large and small game)	9.0%	49
Wakeboarding	8.1%	50
Cross-country skiing	7.1%	51
Archery (hunting and target shooting)	6.4%	52
Orienteering/geo-caching	4.6%	53
Snowmobiling	4.6%	54
Windsurfing	3.4%	55

Latent or Unmet Demand and Public Support

Californians were asked a series of questions to determine their unmet outdoor recreational demands and their support for public funding to provide additional public facilities for these recreation activities. Unmet demand was determined by asking survey respondents to identify and rank those activities for which they would most probably increase their participation if good opportunities, facilities and programs were available. Mail survey respondents were asked to list and rank their top five activities from a list of 54 possible activities. The rankings were weighted by assigning a first place ranking a score of 10; second was given a weighted score of 6.67; third was assigned a weight of 4.45; fourth was weighted at 2.96; and, fifth was given a weight of 1.98. Unranked activities received a weight of zero. This weighting gave each higher rank 1.5 times the weight of the previous rank. This process followed the method used in *Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California* (1987, 1992 and 1997) and the *Tennessee Statewide Recreational Study* (1983).

Based on the rankings and assigned weights for each recreation activity, an index number was computed for each activity. Each index number was derived by multiplying the number of respondents who gave first, second, third, fourth and fifth place rankings for an activity by the respective weighted scores. The first through fifth ranking scores for each activity were added together to provide an index number for that activity. Table 15 and Chart 10 present this index number for each of the 54 recreation activities. The five activities with the highest index numbers were: (1) camping in developed sites with facilities such as toilets and tables; (2) trail hiking; (3) walking for fitness and fun; (4) wildlife viewing, bird watching, viewing natural scenery; and, (5) bicycling on paved surfaces. These are the types of facilities and opportunities that are available in the two types of areas visited by more than 90% of Californians – (1) highly developed parks and recreation areas in or near urban areas, and (2) developed nature-oriented parks and recreation areas located outside of or on the fringe of urban areas (see Table 4).

Chart 7. Percentage of Californians who participated in 55 recreation activities - 2002.

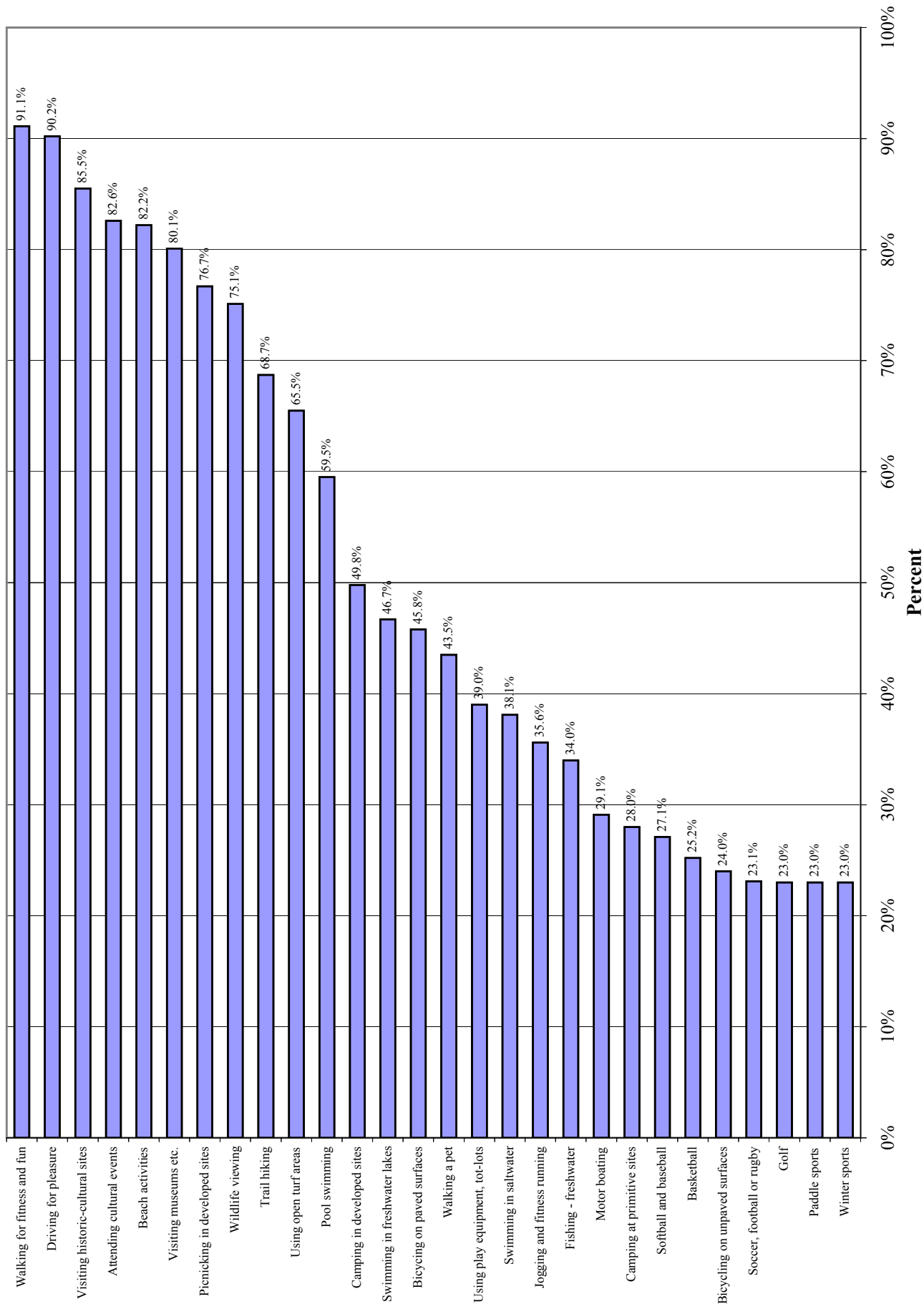


Chart 7. Percentage of Californians who participated in 55 recreation activities - 2002 (cont'd.).

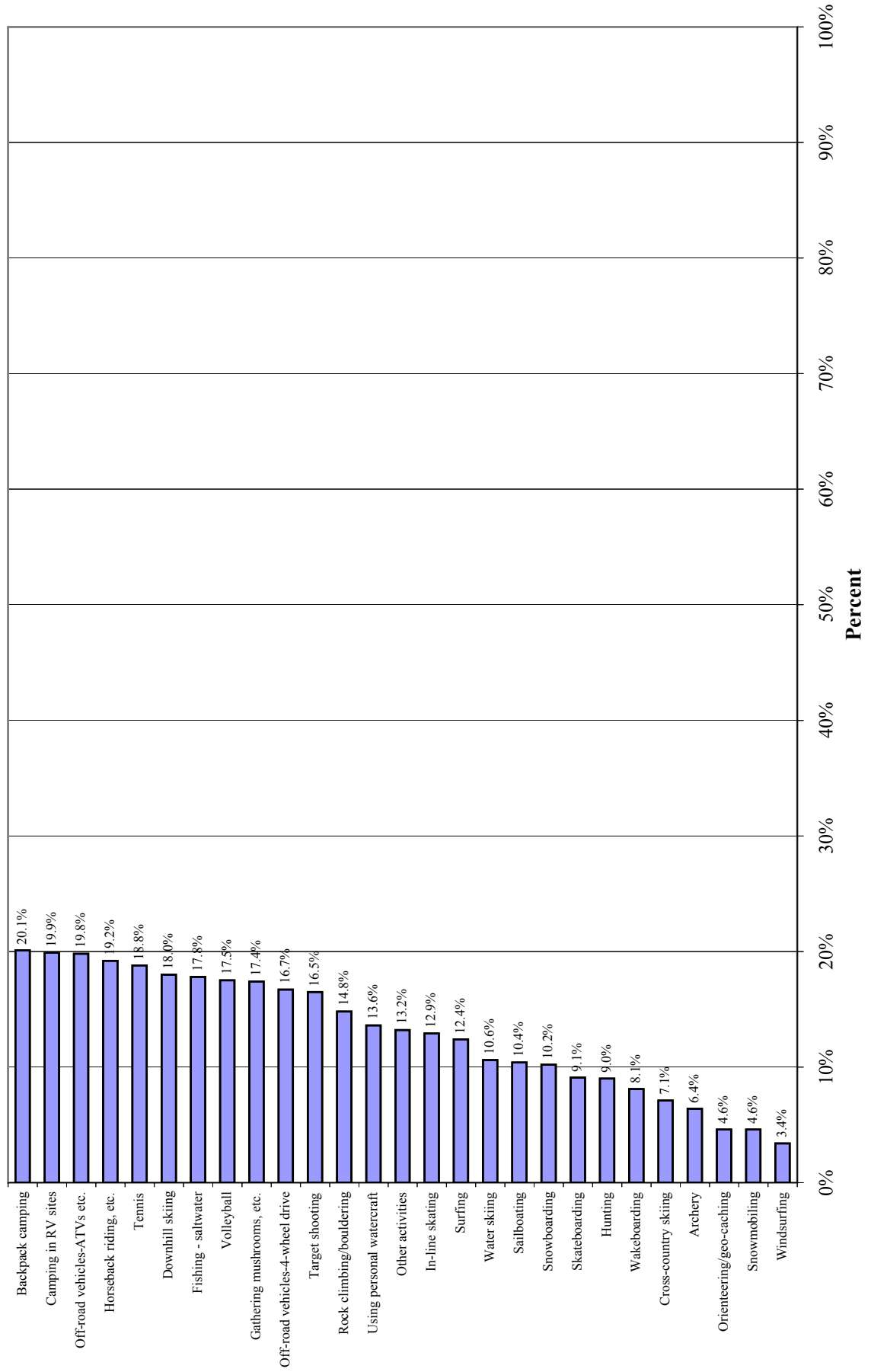


Table 13. Average (mean) number of days of participation in recreation activities by Californians during the past 12 months (based on all survey respondents).

Recreation Activity	Mean Participation	Rank
Walking for fitness and fun	94.4	1
Walking a pet	34.8	2
Driving for pleasure, sightseeing, driving through natural scenery	31.3	3
Wildlife viewing, bird watching, viewing natural scenery	25.3	4
Jogging and fitness running	23.1	5
Bicycling on paved surfaces	19.6	6
Pool swimming	18.5	7
Using open turf areas (casual and unstructured activities-games, relax, sunning, etc.)	17.8	8
Trail hiking	16.6	9
Beach activities (including sun bathing), surf play	14.0	10
Using play equipment, tot-lots	13.0	11
Picnicking in developed sites	9.0	12
Softball and baseball	8.6	13
Soccer, football or rugby	7.8	14
Attending outdoor cultural events (festivals, fairs, concerts, historical reenactments, outdoor theater)	7.2	15
Visiting historic or cultural sites, museums	7.1	16
Other activities	6.5	17
Basketball	6.2	18
Visiting outdoor nature museums, zoos or arboretums	6.0	19
Fishing – freshwater	5.8	20
Camping in developed sites with facilities such as toilets and tables	5.6	21
Golf	5.5	22
Swimming in freshwater lakes, rivers and/or streams	5.2	23
Bicycling on unpaved surfaces and trails, mountain biking	5.1	24
Swimming in saltwater, snorkeling, scuba diving	4.5	25
Motor boating	4.1	26
Horseback riding, horse shows and events	3.9	27
Volleyball	3.6	28
Tennis	3.6	29
In-line skating	3.5	30
Gathering mushrooms, berries or other natural products	3.2	31
Skateboarding	3.2	32
Camping in trailer or RV sites with hookups	3.0	33
Camping at a primitive site without facilities	2.8	34
Target shooting (including pistol and skeet)	2.6	35
Off-road vehicle use – motorcycles, ATV's, dune buggies	2.5	36
Wakeboarding	2.4	37
Backpack camping	2.3	38
Fishing – saltwater (including catching abalone, clams, crabs, etc.)	2.2	39
Off-road vehicle use – four-wheel drive	2.2	40

Table 13. Average (mean) number of days of participation in recreation activities by Californians during the past 12 months (based on all survey respondents) (cont'd.).

Recreation Activity	Mean Participation	Rank
Surfing	2.1	41
Paddle sports (kayaking, rowing, canoeing, and rafting)	1.9	42
Hunting (large and small game)	1.9	43
Using personal watercraft	1.7	44
Water skiing	1.6	45
Sailboating	1.2	46
Downhill (Alpine) skiing	1.2	47
Archery (hunting and target shooting)	1.1	48
Winter sports (non-mechanized – sledding, snow play, ice skating)	1.0	49
Rock climbing/bouldering	.8	50
Snowboarding	.70	51
Windsurfing	.50	52
Cross-country skiing	.5	53
Orienteering/geo-caching	.5	54
Snowmobiling	.25	55

Table 14. Average number of days of participation in recreation activities during 2002 by adult activity participants only, percent of Californians who participated, and rank based on mean participation by participants only.

Recreation Activity	Mean Participation For Participants Only	Rank
Walking for fitness and fun	102.8	1
Walking a pet	79.9	2
Jogging and fitness running	65.0	3
Other activities	49.7	4
Bicycling on paved surfaces	42.9	5
Skateboarding	35.2	6
Driving for pleasure, sightseeing, natural scenery	34.7	7
Soccer, football or rugby	33.7	8
Wildlife viewing, bird watching, natural scenery	33.7	9
Using play equipment, tot-lots	33.4	10
Softball and baseball	31.6	11
Pool swimming	31.1	12
Wakeboarding	29.5	13
Using open turf areas (casual and unstructured)	27.2	14
In-line skating	26.7	15
Basketball	24.6	16
Golf	24.1	17
Trail hiking	24.1	18

Table 14. Average number of days of participation in recreation activities during 2002 by adult activity participants only, percent of Californians who participated, and rank based on mean participation by participants only (cont'd.).

Recreation Activity	Mean Participation For Participants Only	Rank
Bicycling unpaved surfaces and trails, mtn. biking	21.3	19
Hunting (large and small game)	20.7	20
Volleyball	20.5	21
Horseback riding, horse shows and events	20.0	22
Tennis	19.3	23
Gathering natural products, mushrooms, berries, etc.	18.2	24
Beach activities (including sun bathing), surf play	17.0	25
Fishing – freshwater	17.0	26
Archery (hunting and target shooting)	16.8	27
Surfing	16.5	28
Target shooting (including pistol and skeet)	15.7	29
Windsurfing	15.0	32
Off-road vehicle use – motorcycles, ATV's, dune buggies	14.7	33
Motor boating	13.9	34
Using personal watercraft	12.4	35
Fishing – saltwater (include catching abalone/ clams/crabs)	12.1	36
Swimming in saltwater, snorkeling, scuba diving	11.8	37
Picnicking in developed sites	11.7	38
Camping in trailer or RV sites with hookups	15.4	30
Water skiing	15.2	31
Backpack camping	11.3	39
Camping in developed sites with facilities	11.2	40
Swimming in freshwater lakes, rivers and/or streams	11.2	41
Sailboating	11.2	42
Off-road vehicle use – four-wheel drive	11.2	43
Orienteering/geo-caching	10.4	44
Camping at a primitive site without facilities	10.1	45
Attending outdoor events (festivals, fairs, etc.)	8.7	46
Visiting historic or cultural sites, museums	8.3	47
Paddle sports (kayaking, rowing, canoeing, rafting)	7.7	48
Visiting outdoor nature museums, zoos or arboretums	7.5	49
Cross-country skiing	7.2	50
Downhill (Alpine) skiing	6.7	51
Snowboarding	6.7	52
Rock climbing/bouldering	5.6	53
Snowmobiling	5.0	54
Winter sports (non-mech./ snowplay/ ice skating)	4.1	55

Next, public support for funding outdoor recreational needs was assessed by asking respondents to identify and rank those activities that government should give the highest priority when spending public money. Respondents were asked to rank their top five activities for public support. These rankings were weighted exactly as the unmet demand rankings were weighted, and an index number for each activity was computed. Table 15 and Chart 11 present estimates for public support of public funding for the 54 recreation activities included in the survey. The five activities with the highest index numbers were: (1) camping in developed sites with facilities such as toilets and tables; (2) trail hiking; (3) walking for fitness and fun; (4) wildlife viewing, bird watching, viewing natural scenery; and, (5) picnicking in developed sites. Four of these five activities were the same activities that ranked highest on the latent demand index, and are activities for which opportunities have traditionally been offered by public park and recreation agencies. Visiting historic or cultural sites and museums, and visiting outdoor nature museums, zoos or arboretums also received a high degree of public support based on the public support index.

Needs index scores for recreation activities were computed by adding the unmet demand index score and the public support index score for each activity. As shown in Table 15, the top five activities identified through this combined needs index were: (1) camping in developed sites with facilities such as toilets and tables; (2) trail hiking; (3) walking for fitness and fun; (4) wildlife viewing, bird watching, viewing natural scenery; and, (4) bicycling on paved surfaces. Note that scores for wildlife viewing and bicycling on paved surfaces were



the same, which created a tie for the fourth ranked activity. These activities are traditionally available in (1) highly developed parks and recreation areas in or near urban areas, and (2) developed nature-oriented parks and recreation areas located outside of or on the fringe of urban areas. More than 90% of Californians reported having visited each of these types of areas at least once during the 12 months prior to the survey.

Most Important Activity/Perceived Value of Recreation

Californians were asked which activities that take place on government-operated park and outdoor recreation areas and facilities were most important to them. More specifically, they were asked to select the five most important activities from the list of 54 and to rank order these five from the most important to the least important. Table 16 summarizes their responses that were scored in the same manner as the method utilized for latent demand. Walking for fitness and fun was ranked first in importance followed by beach activities, wildlife viewing, driving for pleasure, and trail hiking.

Chart 8. Average (mean) number of days of participation (all survey respondents) - 2002.

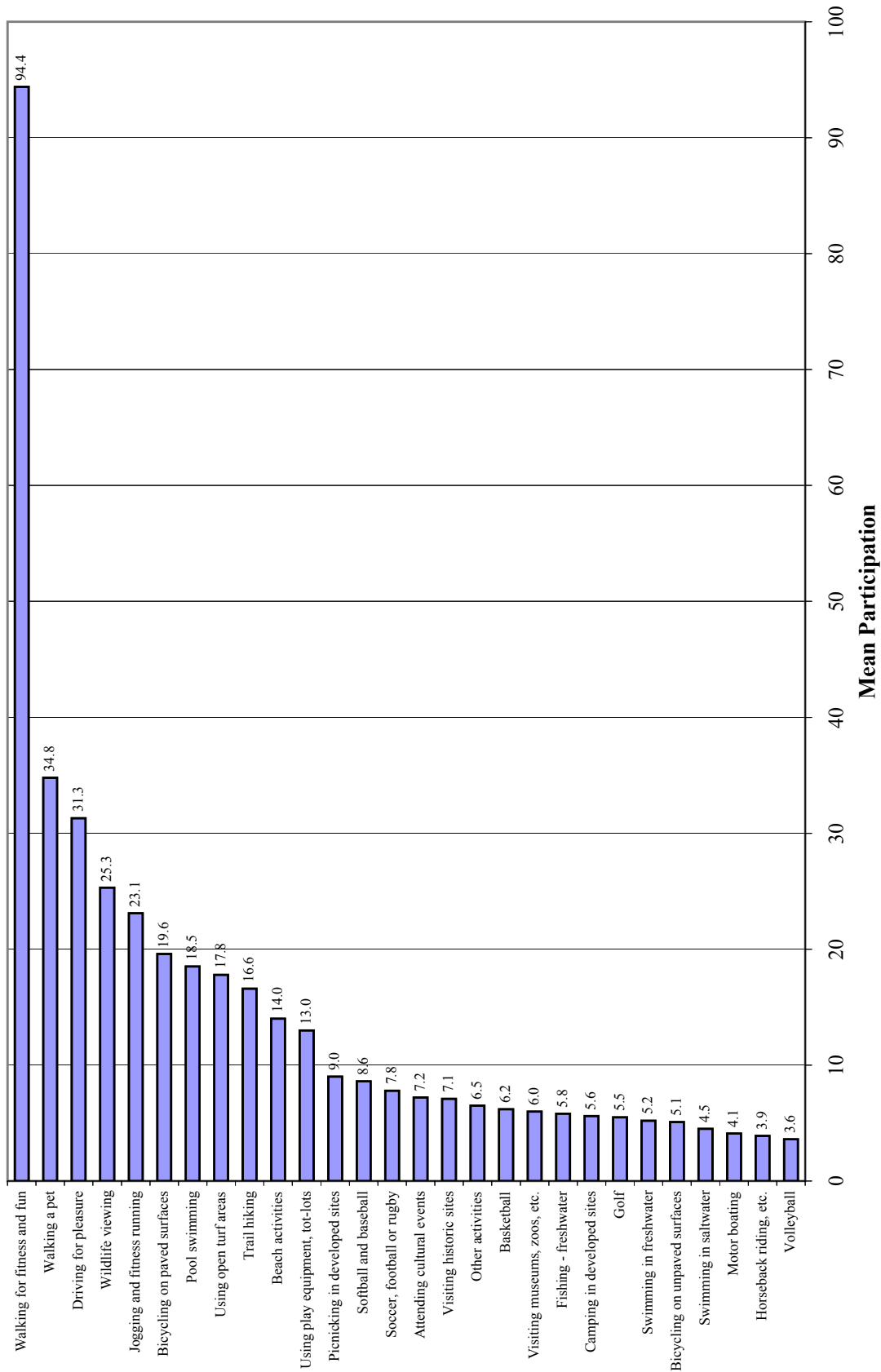


Chart 8. Average (mean) number of days of participation (all survey respondents) - 2002 (cont'd.).

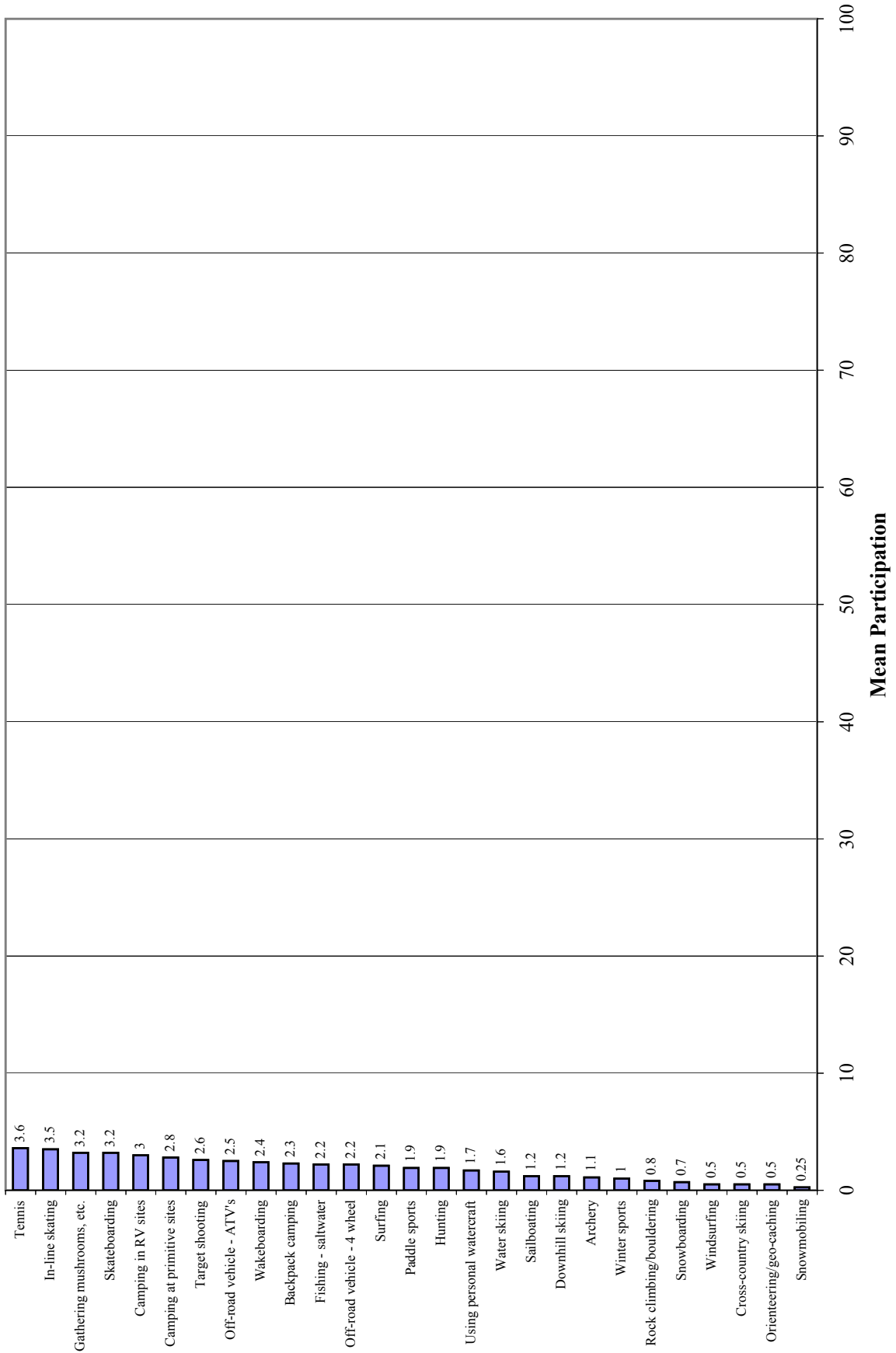


Chart 9. Average number of days of participation (activity participants only) - 2002.

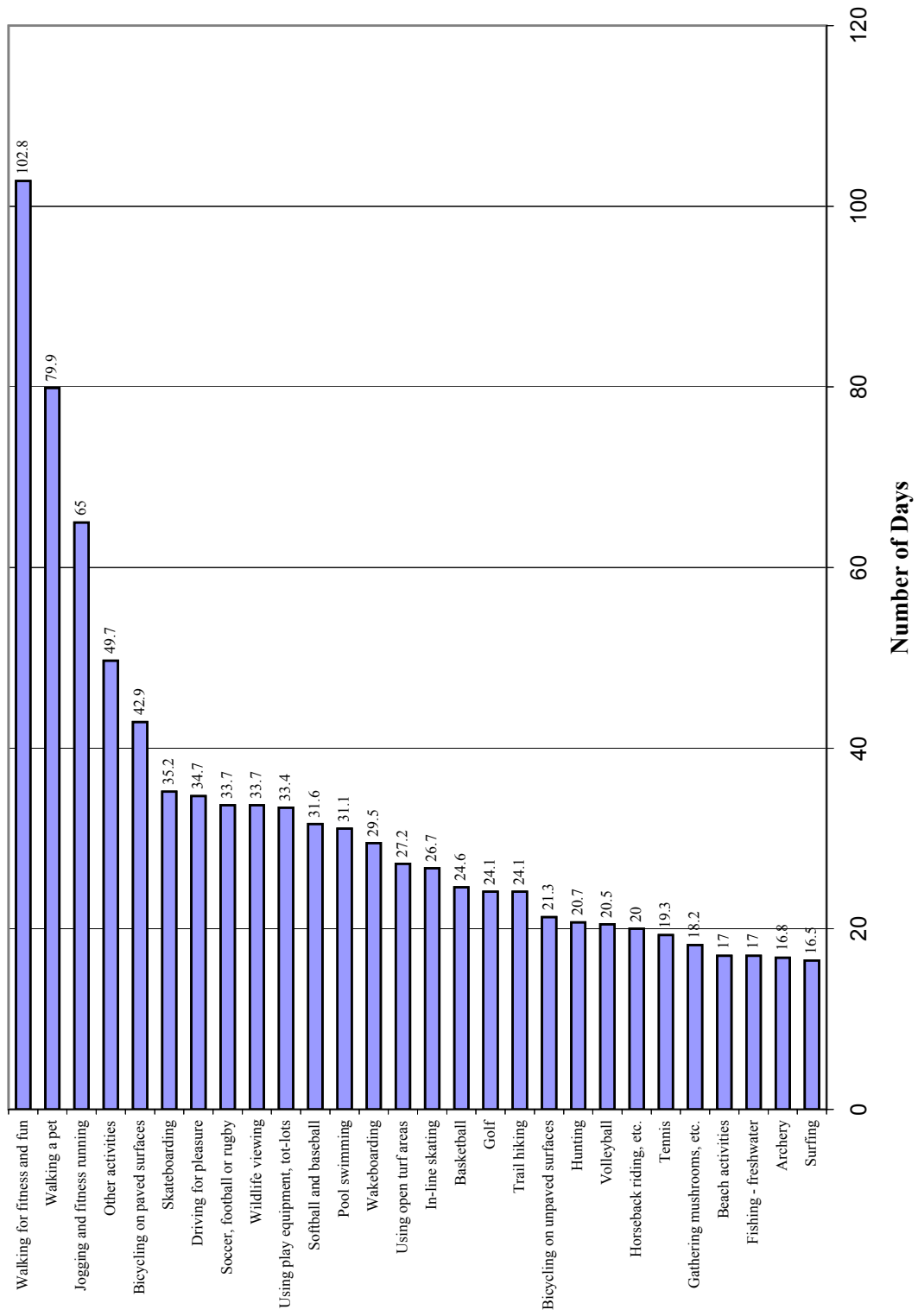
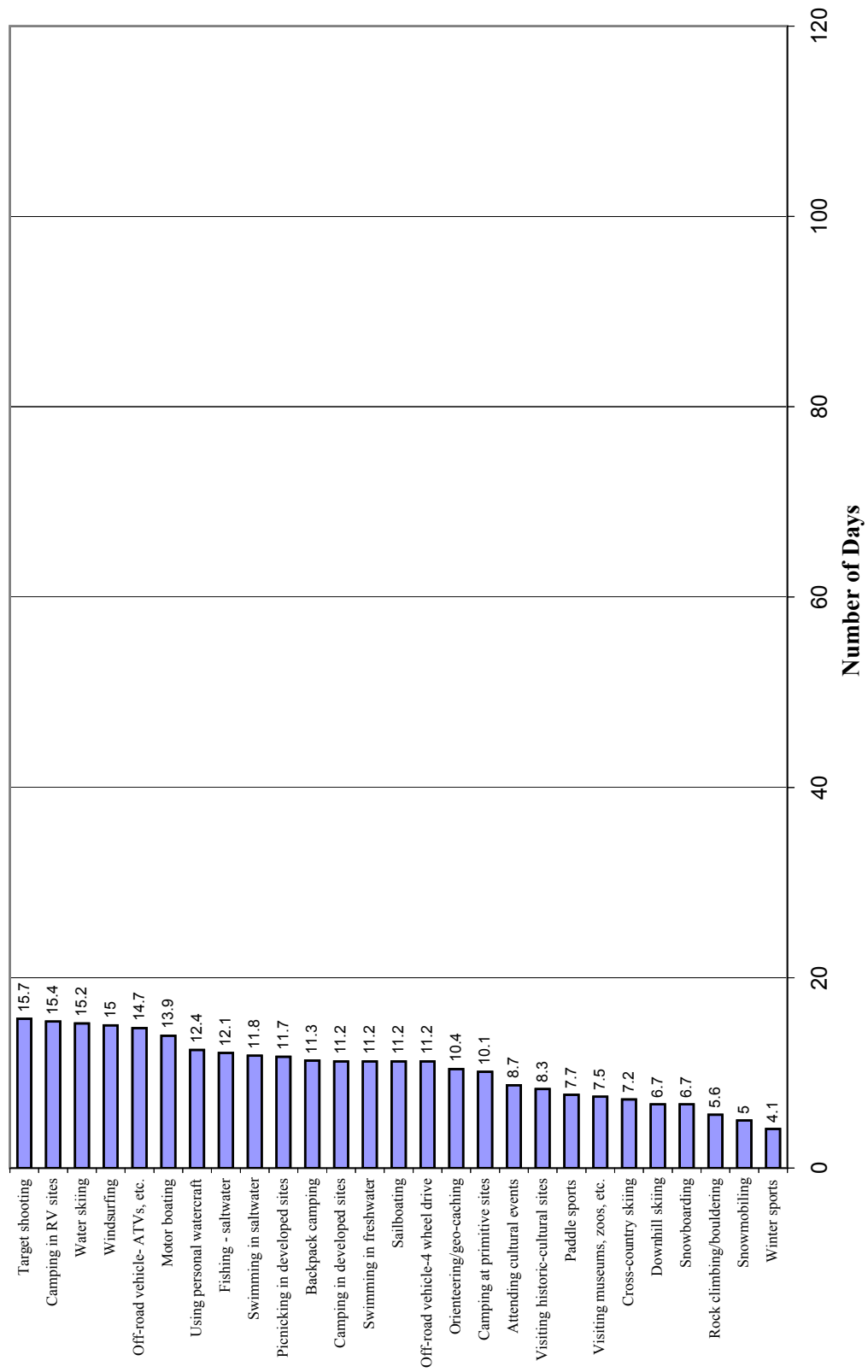


Chart 9. Average number of days of participation (activity participants only) - 2002 (cont'd.).



**Table 15. Latent demand for recreation activities that Californians would have done more of-
ten if opportunities had been available to them, and public support for government
spending to improve those recreation opportunities in California.**

Recreation Activity	Latent Demand Index	Public Support Index	Combined (Needs) Index	Combined Index Rank	Participation Rank
Camping in developed sites with facilities such as toilets and tables	920.85	1374.87	2295.72	1	12
Trail hiking	796.42	1077.81	1874.23	2	9
Walking for fitness and fun	522.07	785.75	1307.82	3	1
Wildlife viewing, bird watching, viewing natural scenery	489.72	612.66	1102.38	4	8
Bicycling on paved surfaces	464.03	516.02	980.05	5	14
Picnicking in developed sites	395.76	576.30	972.06	6	7
Visiting outdoor nature museums, zoos or arboretums	409.24	533.21	942.45	7	6
Visiting historic or cultural sites, museums	362.09	539.86	901.95	8	3
Fishing – freshwater	442.03	380.66	822.69	9	19
Attending outdoor cultural events (festivals, fairs, concerts, historical reenactments, outdoor theater)	439.66	378.77	818.43	10	4
Beach activities (including sun bathing), surf play	292.95	491.58	784.53	11	5
Camping at a primitive site without facilities	356.93	380.59	737.52	12	21
Horseback riding, horse shows and events	433.31	272.14	705.45	13	32
Camping in trailer or RV sites with hookups	229.09	411.11	640.20	14	30
Driving for pleasure, sightseeing, driving through natural scenery	296.65	335.56	632.21	15	2
Pool swimming	317.98	296.03	614.01	16	11
Backpack camping	288.02	243.57	531.59	17	29
Swimming in freshwater lakes, rivers and/or streams	268.63	219.97	488.60	18	13
Bicycling on unpaved surfaces and trails, mountain biking	252.22	236.09	488.31	19	24
Using play equipment, tot-lots	116.72	357.38	474.10	20	16
Paddle sports (kayaking, rowing, canoeing, and rafting)	341.63	115.76	457.39	21	27
Using open turf areas (casual and unstructured activities-games, relax, sunning, etc.)	166.00	259.86	425.86	22	10
Walking a pet	186.70	206.87	393.57	23	15

Table 15. Latent demand for recreation activities that Californians would have done more often if opportunities had been available to them, and public support for government spending to improve those recreation opportunities in California (cont'd.).

Recreation Activity	Latent Demand Index	Public Support Index	Combined (Needs) Index	Combined Index Rank	Participation Rank
Target shooting (including pistol and skeet)	199.82	141.79	341.61	24	39
Soccer, football or rugby	120.80	219.32	340.12	25	25
Swimming in saltwater, snorkeling, scuba diving	192.69	128.65	321.34	26	17
Jogging and fitness running	127.93	180.07	308.00	27	18
Off-road vehicle use – motorcycles, ATV’s, dune buggies	148.97	136.95	285.92	28	38
Basketball	127.59	130.56	258.15	29	23
Tennis	133.37	118.09	251.46	30	33
Rock climbing/bouldering	176.36	70.04	246.40	31	40
Softball and baseball	83.75	161.09	244.84	32	22
Golf	161.19	78.43	239.62	33	26
Hunting (large and small game)	112.50	108.30	220.80	34	49
Gathering mushrooms, berries or other natural products	181.96	36.45	218.41	35	37
Skateboarding	49.28	150.32	199.60	36	48
Fishing – saltwater (including catching abalone, clams, crabs)	116.24	81.78	198.02	37	35
Motor boating	119.45	78.44	197.89	38	20
Off-road vehicle use – four-wheel drive	94.10	78.81	172.91	39	31
Winter sports (non-mechanized – sledding, snow play, ice skating)	103.23	56.33	159.56	40	28
Archery (hunting and target shooting)	124.87	33.98	158.85	41	52
Volleyball	94.48	63.98	158.46	42	36
Downhill (Alpine) skiing	114.83	42.37	157.20	43	34
Snowmobiling	127.71	16.06	143.77	44	54
Sailboating	92.77	47.18	139.95	45	46
Surfing	95.84	43.84	139.68	46	44
Other activities	74.84	61.12	135.96	47	42
Cross-country skiing	100.02	34.33	134.35	48	51
Using personal watercraft	90.28	40.90	131.18	49	41
Snowboarding	66.82	45.83	112.65	50	47
In-line skating	75.96	34.10	110.06	51	43
Water skiing	58.79	29.02	87.81	52	45
Windsurfing	55.44	18.41	73.85	53	55
Wakeboarding	47.19	21.61	68.80	54	50
Orienteering/geo-caching	40.04	4.45	44.49	55	53

Chart 10. Latent demand for recreation activities that Californians would have done more often if facilities were available - 2002.

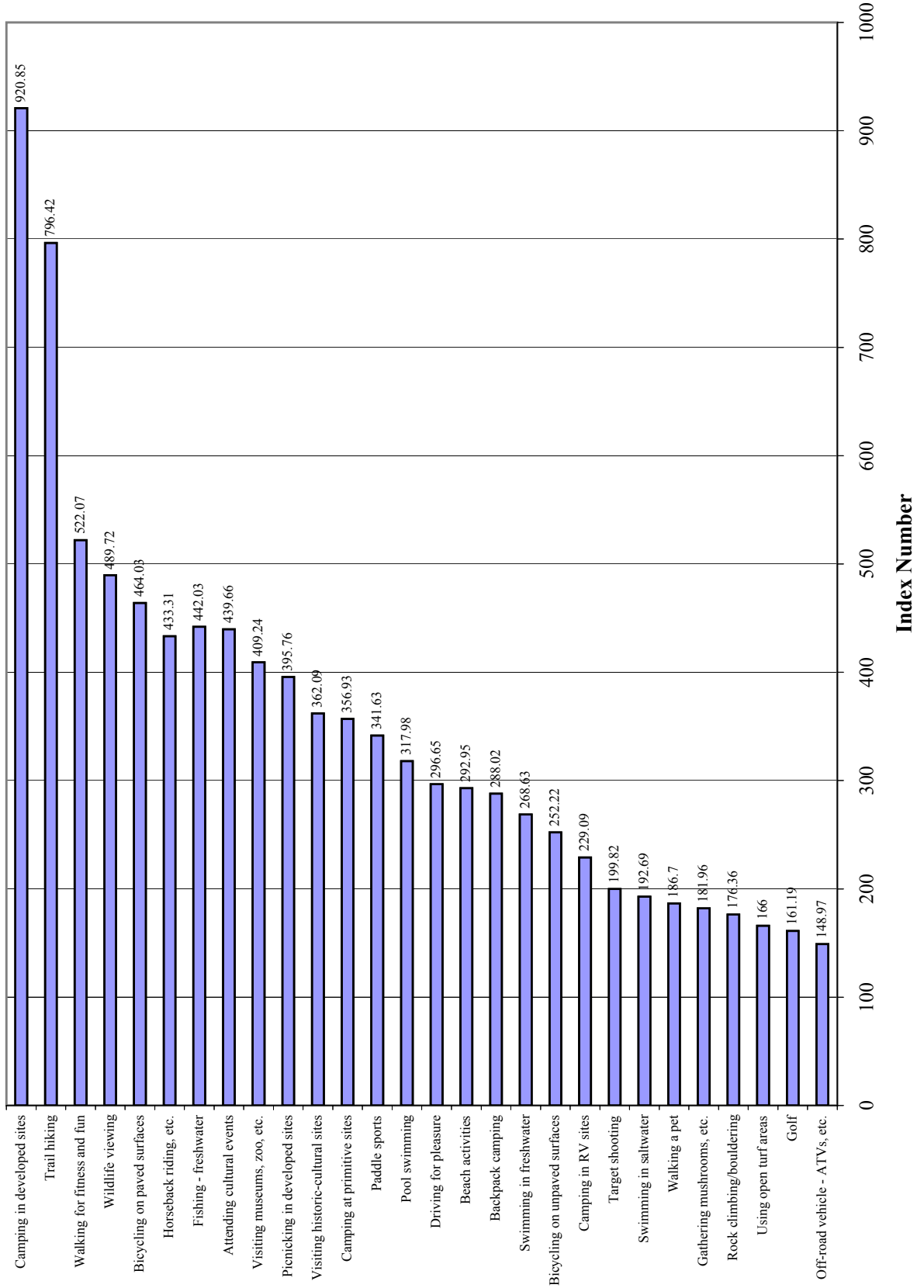


Chart 10. Latent demand for recreation activities that Californians would have done more often if facilities were available - 2002 (cont'd.).

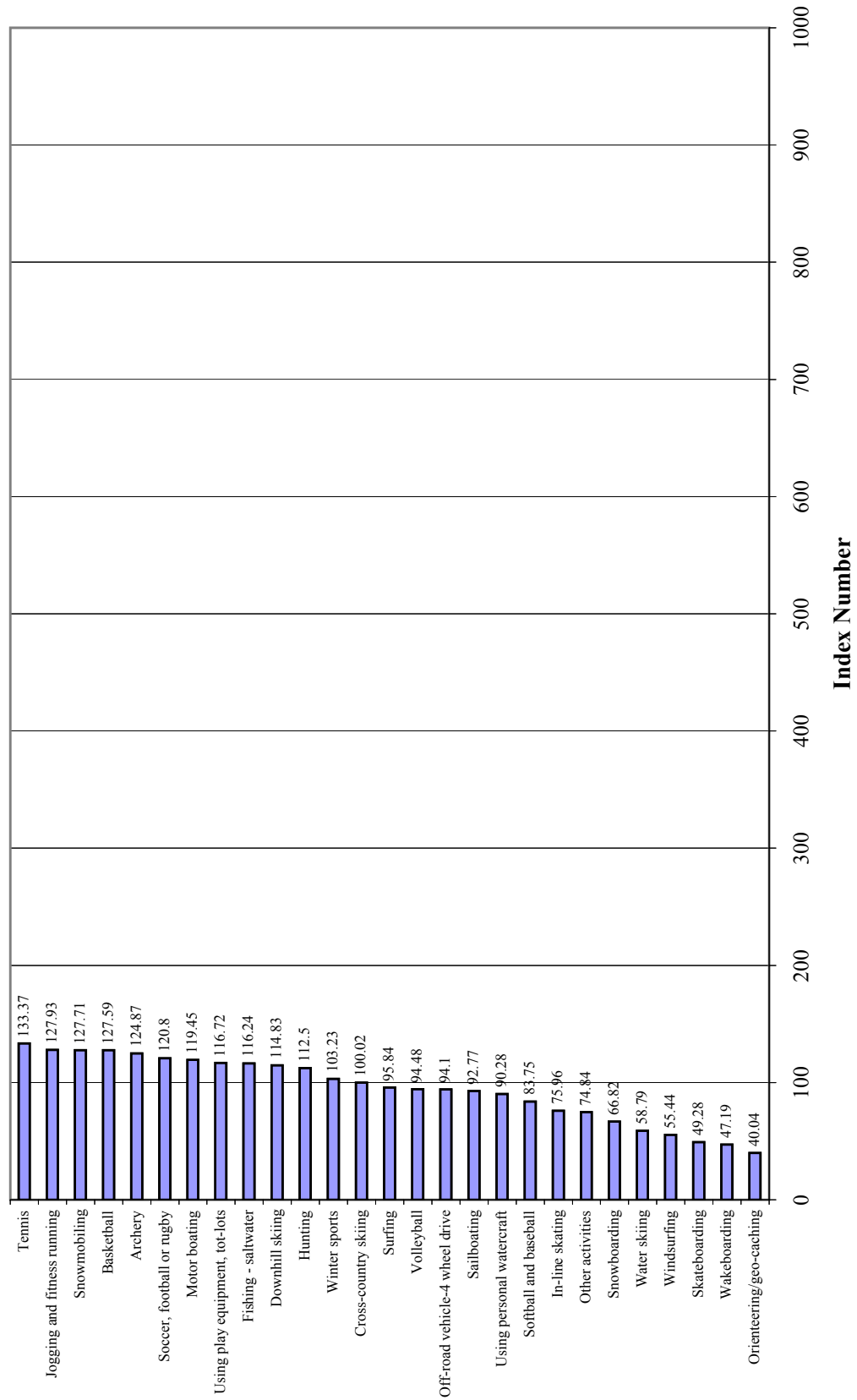


Chart 11. Public support for government spending to provide recreation activities - 2002.

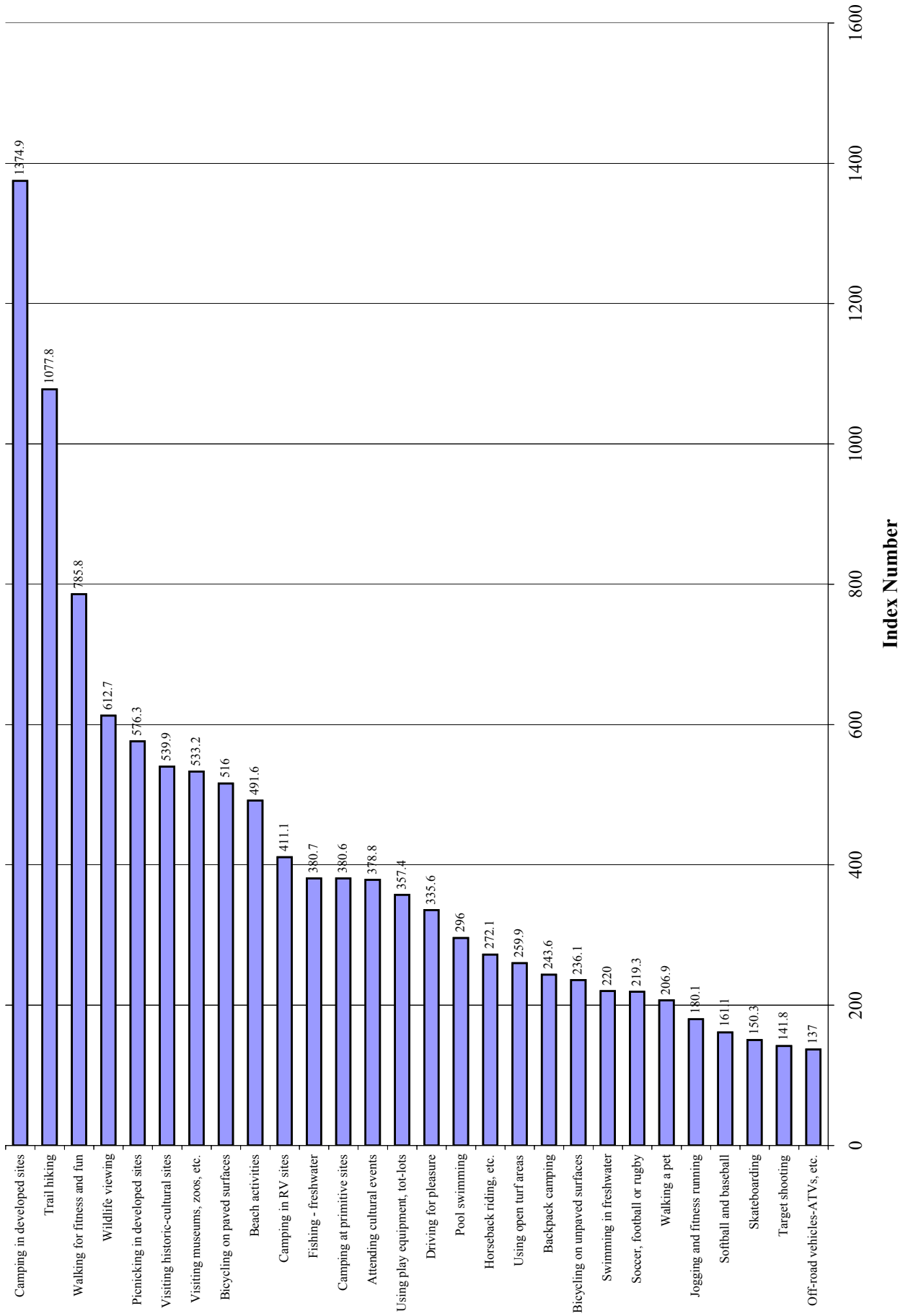


Chart 11. Public support for government spending to provide recreation activities - 2002 (cont'd.).

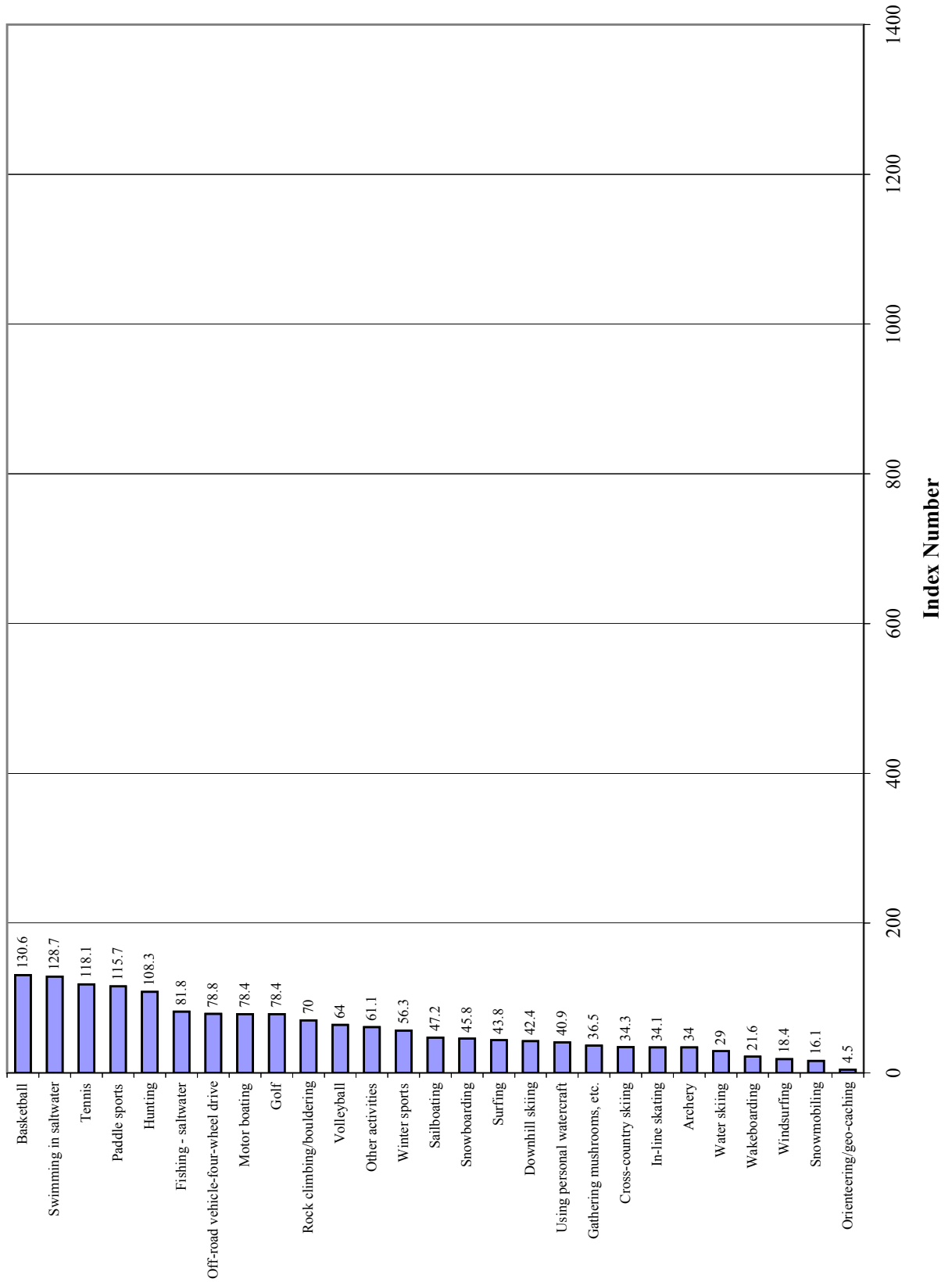


Table 16. Most important recreation activities that take place in government-operated park and outdoor recreation areas and facilities in California - 2002.

Recreation Activity	Index Number	Rank
Walking for fitness and fun	2093.44	1
Beach activities (including sun bathing), surf play	1796.51	2
Wildlife viewing, bird watching, viewing natural scenery	1658.14	3
Driving for pleasure, sightseeing, driving through natural scenery	983.92	4
Trail hiking	817.07	5
Camping in developed sites with facilities such as toilets and tables	767.43	6
Attending outdoor cultural events (festivals, fairs, concerts, historical reenactments, outdoor theater)	507.56	7
Visiting historic or cultural sites, museums	504.71	8
Bicycling on paved surfaces	503.21	9
Walking a pet	464.50	10
Jogging and fitness running	457.07	11
Fishing – freshwater	395.94	12
Picnicking in developed sites	384.32	13
Visiting outdoor nature museums, zoos or arboretums	363.19	14
Pool swimming	315.09	15
Using play equipment, tot-lots	312.47	16
Camping at a primitive site without facilities	287.65	17
Camping in trailer or RV sites with hookups	281.45	18
Softball and baseball	258.61	19
Golf	254.37	20
Using open turf areas (casual and unstructured activities-games, relax, sunning, etc.)	226.43	21
Soccer, football or rugby	191.30	22
Off-road vehicle use – motorcycles, ATV's, dune buggies	173.77	23
Horseback riding, horse shows and events	166.33	24
Basketball	157.35	25
Fishing – saltwater (including catching abalone, clams, crabs, etc.)	150.35	26
Swimming in freshwater lakes, rivers and/or streams	150.11	27
Motor boating	149.58	28
Swimming in saltwater, snorkeling, scuba diving	146.97	29
Backpack camping	142.54	30
Bicycling on unpaved surfaces and trails, mountain biking	142.06	31
Tennis	127.20	32
Hunting (large and small game)	116.59	33
Other activities	106.45	34
Off-road vehicle use – four-wheel drive	97.09	35
Volleyball	82.48	36
Paddle sports (kayaking, rowing, canoeing, and rafting)	72.14	37
Downhill (Alpine) skiing	59.41	38
Target shooting (including pistol and skeet)	57.43	39
Wakeboarding	51.12	40

Table 16. Most important recreation activities that take place in government-operated park and outdoor recreation areas and facilities in California - 2002 (cont'd.).

Recreation Activity	Index Number	Rank
Using personal watercraft	48.41	41
Surfing	46.80	42
Snowboarding	44.24	43
Winter sports (non-mechanized – sledding, snow play, ice skating)	38.78	44
Gathering mushrooms, berries or other natural products	36.70	45
Sailboating	34.34	46
Rock climbing/bouldering	31.24	47
Skateboarding	30.75	48
In-line skating	28.66	49
Water skiing	27.79	50
Archery (hunting and target shooting)	23.49	51
Cross-country skiing	8.90	52
Orienteering/geo-caching	4.45	53
Windsurfing	0	54
Snowmobiling	0	54

After ranking the five most important activities that took place at government-operated recreation areas and facilities, survey participants were asked to indicate the value of one day’s worth of each of those five activities. They were asked to assume the facilities would be of high quality and uncrowded. Table 17 presents the average dollar value for each activity. Note that windsurfing, snowmobiling, and orienteering/geo-caching were not ranked in the top five by any survey respondents and therefore do not have a dollar value. The recreation activities with the highest perceived values included: (1) using personal watercraft (\$87.84 per day); (2) hunting (\$53.51 per day); (3) sailboating (\$52.25 per day); (4) water skiing (\$50.00 per day); and, (5) off-road vehicle use (\$48.47 per day). Please keep in mind that this is not a willingness to pay index, but is a personal value index as perceived by individual survey respondents. It should be noted that the top activities with the highest perceived value are those requiring specialized or costly equipment and a relatively high degree of skill.

Funding Outdoor Recreation Areas and Facilities

Californians were asked to express their support for or opposition to a number of methods for funding public outdoor recreation areas and facilities on the 2002 telephone survey (Table 18). Most Californians “strongly support” or “somewhat support” holding “fund raisers” for parks and recreation, reallocating money from the State Lottery for parks and recreation, reallocating money in the state general fund for parks and recreation, and using bonds to buy land and to improve facilities.

A majority strongly or somewhat supported increasing taxes for parks and recreation, and increasing “use” fees for parks and recreation. A more detailed set of funding options was presented on the 2002 mail survey. As shown in Table 19, funding from the state lottery, fund raising activities and special events, reallocating general fund monies, the state income tax check-off, and an additional tax on tobacco products were the most heavily favored alternatives. As was the case in the 1997

study, Californians appeared to continue to most strongly support methods for funding public recreation that are not paid directly by the recreation users, but instead shift the burden of payment to discretionary types of funding (e.g., fundraisers and lottery monies).

Priorities for Spending

A set of questions was asked to identify priorities for public spending on outdoor recreation in local and non-local facilities, areas and services. Table 20a summarizes the findings for these **WITHIN** the local communities. Overall, Californians most heavily favored protecting and maintaining existing resources rather than building new ones. A majority of the survey respondents supported placing more emphasis on all eight categories of facilities, areas and services listed. More than 60 percent of respondents favored placing more emphasis on: (1) protecting natural resources (69.8%); (2) protecting historic resources (65.7%); (3) providing educational programs (66.7%); and, (4) remodeling and improving existing facilities (63.0%). The two categories that received the lowest support included (1) providing more organized activities and special events (55.6%), and (2) building new facilities (56.8%). Though only 57.4% of the respondents supported more emphasis on maintaining or caring for park and recreation areas, when the percentage of those who said that “about the same emphasis” should be placed on maintenance was added to “more emphasis,” this category moved to the first place ranking with a total of 97.8% of the respondents saying that more or about the same emphasis should be placed on maintenance and care of areas. All eight categories received more than 85% support when responses of “more emphasis” and “about the same emphasis” were combined.

Table 17. Perceived dollar value of a day’s participation in recreation activities that were rated as one of the five most important by Californians - 2002.

Recreation Activity	Average Dollar Value	Rank
Using personal watercraft	\$87.84	1
Hunting (large and small game)	\$53.51	2
Sailboating	\$52.25	3
Water skiing	\$50.00	4
Off-road vehicle use – four-wheel drive	\$48.47	5
Snowboarding	\$45.57	6
Golf	\$37.28	7
Downhill (Alpine) skiing	\$32.37	8
Fishing – freshwater	\$25.90	9
Motor boating	\$25.18	10
Camping in developed sites with facilities such as toilets and tables	\$24.69	11
Off-road vehicle use – motorcycles, ATV’s, dune buggies	\$23.46	12
Horseback riding, horse shows and events	\$22.95	13
Target shooting (including pistol and skeet)	\$22.77	14
Fishing – saltwater (including catching abalone, clams, crabs, etc.)	\$22.58	15
Paddle sports (kayaking, rowing, canoeing, and rafting)	\$21.21	16
Attending outdoor cultural events (festivals, fairs, concerts, etc.)	\$20.30	17
Driving for pleasure, sightseeing, driving through natural scenery	\$19.93	18
Camping in trailer or RV sites with hookups	\$18.42	19

Table 17. Perceived dollar value of a day's participation in recreation activities that were rated as one of the five most important by Californians - 2002 (cont'd.).

Recreation Activity	Average Dollar Value	Rank
Visiting outdoor nature museums, zoos or arboretums	\$16.62	20
Gathering mushrooms, berries or other natural products	\$16.63	21
Visiting historic or cultural sites, museums	\$15.43	22
Wakeboarding	\$14.64	23
Wildlife viewing, bird watching, viewing natural scenery	\$12.42	24
Backpack camping	\$12.03	25
Camping at a primitive site without facilities	\$11.90	26
Bicycling on unpaved surfaces and trails, mountain biking	\$11.56	27
Archery (hunting and target shooting)	\$11.11	28
In-line skating	\$10.96	29
Swimming in saltwater, snorkeling, scuba diving	\$10.65	30
Pool swimming	\$10.40	31
Volleyball	\$10.10	32
Beach activities (including sun bathing), surf play	\$9.91	33
Picnicking in developed sites	\$9.82	34
Swimming in freshwater lakes, rivers and/or streams	\$8.37	35
Softball and baseball	\$8.12	36
Winter sports (non-mechanized – sledding, snow play, ice skating)	\$6.95	37
Jogging and fitness running	\$6.87	38
Tennis	\$6.85	39
Using open turf areas (casual and unstructured activities)	\$6.71	40
Cross-country skiing	\$6.31	41
Walking for fitness and fun	\$6.25	42
Bicycling on paved surfaces	\$5.56	43
Trail hiking	\$4.97	44
Rock climbing/bouldering	\$4.89	45
Soccer, football or rugby	\$4.87	46
Using play equipment, tot-lots	\$4.36	47
Basketball	\$4.23	48
Walking a pet	\$4.13	49
Surfing	\$3.54	50
Skateboarding	\$2.14	51
Windsurfing	nr	
Snowmobiling	nr	
Orienteering/geo-caching	nr	
Other activities	nr	

nr = no ratings for this activity

Table 20b summarizes the findings for outdoor recreation facilities, areas and services that are traditionally provided by state and federal government agencies OUTSIDE local communities. Again, more Californians favored protecting and maintaining existing resources over acquiring new ones. A majority wanted more emphasis on all eight of the categories listed, and more than 60 percent of respondents preferred more emphasis on (1) protecting natural resources (71.4%) and (2) protecting historic resources (67.5%). Though only 61.1% of respondents preferred more emphasis on maintaining or caring for park and recreation areas, when those who preferred “about the same emphasis” were added to those who preferred “more emphasis,” this category moved to the first place ranking with 98.1% of the respondents saying that more or about the same emphasis should be placed on this category. Overall, more than 80% of all survey respondents said that “more emphasis” or “about the same emphasis” should be placed on all eight categories of outdoor recreation facilities, areas and services by state and federal government agencies.

Table 18. Support for and opposition to funding alternatives for park and recreation areas in California – 2002 Telephone Survey.

Funding Methods	Strongly Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Somewhat Support	Strongly Support
Holding fundraisers for parks and recreation.	6.5%	5.5%	31.7%	56.4%
Reallocating lottery monies for parks and recreation.	15.4%	7.9%	25.3%	51.4%
Reallocating general fund for parks and recreation.	12.8%	10.8%	40.0%	36.4%
Using bonds to buy land and improve facilities.	17.4%	11.6%	36.9%	34.1%
Increasing use fees for parks and recreation.	26.3%	19.6%	34.4%	19.7%
Increasing taxes for parks and recreation.	25.3%	19.3%	36.8%	18.6%



Table 19. Preferred funding sources for park and recreation agencies in California – 2002 Mail Survey.

Funding Sources	Mean Score*
Do you support or oppose designating money from the state lottery as a funding source for park and recreation agencies?	3.29
Do you support or oppose fund raising activities and special events in parks as a funding source for park and recreation agencies?	3.27
Do you support or oppose designating a larger share of the state's general fund for parks and recreation as a funding source for park and recreation agencies?	3.19
Do you support or oppose designating a dollar on your state income tax return as a funding source for park and recreation agencies?	3.16
Do you support or oppose an additional tax on tobacco products as a funding source for park and recreation agencies?	3.06
Do you support or oppose designating a portion of the existing state sales tax as a funding source for park and recreation agencies?	2.91
Do you support or oppose an additional tax on alcoholic beverages as a funding source for park and recreation agencies?	2.85
Do you support or oppose increasing fees for specialized facilities such as RV hook-ups, marinas, etc., at public parks and recreation areas as a funding source for park and recreation agencies?	2.73
Do you support or oppose designating a portion of the hotel/motel occupancy tax for parks and recreation as a funding source for park and recreation agencies?	2.71
Do you support or oppose passing a voter approved bond measure as a funding source for park and recreation agencies?	2.59
Do you support or oppose designating a portion of the tax on the sale of homes and other real estate to parks and recreation as a funding source for park and recreation agencies?	2.42
Do you support or oppose increasing the tax on oil, mining and timber operations as a funding source for park and recreation activities?	2.41
Do you support or oppose charging higher fees for organized sports activities such as soccer, softball, etc., as a funding source for park and recreation agencies?	2.22
Do you support or oppose charging higher entrance or activity fees for parks and recreation as a funding source for park and recreation agencies?	2.15
Do you support or oppose increasing the tax on sporting goods and recreation equipment as a funding source for park and recreation agencies?	1.98
Do you support or oppose increasing vehicle license fees for park purposes as a funding source for park and recreation activities?	1.92

*NOTE: 1 = strongly oppose
 2 = somewhat oppose
 3 = somewhat support
 4 = strongly support

Table 20a. Opinions of Californians regarding levels of emphasis that city and county government agencies should place on outdoor recreation areas, facilities and services WITHIN local communities in California - 2002.

Category	More emphasis	About the same	Less emphasis
Protecting natural resources.	69.8%	26.5%	3.7%
Providing educational programs.	66.7%	27.8%	5.5%
Protecting historic resources.	65.7%	31.3%	3.0%
Remodeling and improving existing facilities.	63.0%	32.6%	4.4%
Buying additional parkland and open space for recreation purposes.	57.7%	34.8%	7.4%
Maintaining or caring for park and recreation areas.	57.4%	40.4%	2.2%
Building new facilities.	56.8%	33.8%	9.4%
Providing more organized activities and special events.	55.6%	37.3%	7.2%

610 Respondents

Table 20b. Opinions of Californians regarding levels of emphasis that state and federal government agencies should place on outdoor recreation areas, facilities and services OUTSIDE local communities in California - 2002.

Spending Priorities	More emphasis	About the same	Less emphasis
Protecting natural resources.	71.4%	25.3%	3.3%
Protecting historic resources.	67.5%	29.5%	3.0%
Remodeling and improving existing facilities.	64.7%	31.6%	3.7%
Providing educational programs.	63.7%	31.0%	5.3%
Maintaining or caring for park and recreation areas.	61.1%	37.0%	2.0%
Buying additional parkland and open space for recreation purposes.	57.0%	34.0%	9.1%
Providing more organized activities and special events.	56.3%	36.3%	7.4%
Building new facilities.	54.9%	36.0%	9.1%

610 Respondents

Priorities for Possible Improvements to Park and Recreation Facilities and Services

Californians were asked to assign a priority score from 1 (low priority) to 10 (high priority) for thirteen possible improvements to park and recreation facilities and services **WITHIN** their local communities. An average priority score (mean rating) was computed for each possible improvement. As shown in Table 21, ten of the thirteen received average scores above 6.0. The highest average rating was for constructing trails for jogging, biking and fitness walking (7.57). Other possible improvements with high mean scores included developing day use facilities for school programs, after-school programs, and youth activities (7.49), constructing play activity areas for tots and young children (6.90), and developing multi-use turf areas for field sports such as softball, soccer, or football (6.68). Thus, three of the four possible improvements with the highest priority ratings were for youth, and the fourth was for fitness.

When Californians were asked to assign a priority score for fifteen possible improvements to park and recreation facilities and services **OUTSIDE** their local communities, nine received average priority scores (mean ratings) above 6.0 (Table 22). These included (1) providing more open space in urban areas (7.29); (2) providing more public use opportunities at lakes and reservoirs (6.88); (3) constructing more developed campgrounds with flush toilets, hot showers and food lockers (6.82); (4) increasing the number of wilderness type areas where no vehicles or developments were allowed (6.78); and, (5) constructing more basic campgrounds with picnic tables, cold water, and pit toilets (6.73).

Table 21. Attitudes of Californians toward changes to park and recreation facilities and services WITHIN their local communities – 2002.

Possible Changes in Facilities and Services	Mean Rating
Constructing trails for jogging, biking and fitness walking.	7.57
Developing day use facilities for school programs, after-school programs, and youth activities.	7.49
Constructing play activity areas for tots and young children.	6.90
Developing multi-use turf areas for field sports such as softball, soccer, or football.	6.68
Providing opportunities and facilities in the local community that can be used for day camps and short overnight campouts.	6.51
Providing areas and facilities for environmental education programs.	6.49
Constructing multi-purpose buildings that can be used for meetings, cultural events, senior, or teen centers or multi-purpose buildings.	6.48
Constructing courts for activities such as tennis, basketball, and volleyball.	6.44
Developing small group picnic sites.	6.26
Developing large group picnic sites that accommodate 20 or more persons.	6.01
Constructing swimming pools.	5.77
Constructing skateboard parks.	5.05
Providing off leash dog parks.	4.87

Priority score: 1 = low priority, 10 = high priority.



Table 22. Attitudes of Californians toward changes to park and recreation facilities and services OUTSIDE their local communities - 2002.

Possible Changes in Facilities and Services	Mean Rating
Providing more open space in urban areas.	7.29
Providing more public use opportunities at lakes and reservoirs.	6.88
Constructing more developed campgrounds with flush toilets, hot showers and food lockers.	6.82
Increasing the number of wilderness type areas where no vehicles or developments are allowed.	6.78
Constructing more basic campgrounds with picnic tables, cold water, and pit toilets.	6.73
Developing more local community parks in rural areas.	6.50
Developing more multi-use, non-motorized trails for horseback riding, hiking, and/or mountain biking.	6.48
Providing more education programs and services in parks and outdoor recreation areas.	6.39
Increasing the presence of uniformed law enforcement personnel.	6.36
Providing sheltered lodging facilities such as rustic cabins, tent cabins, etc.	5.90
Increasing parking at day use picnic sites.	5.89
Providing more group picnic sites that accommodate large families or groups of 20 or more persons.	5.70
Constructing RV campgrounds with electrical and water hookups, sewer dump stations, and pull-through sites.	5.39
Providing more areas for the legal use of off-road vehicles such as motorcycles, dune buggies, 4-wheel drive vehicles, and all terrain vehicles.	4.42
Providing more hotels, motels, restaurants, shops, and gas stations within public park and outdoor recreation areas.	4.36

Priority score: 1 = low priority, 10 = high priority.

Private Business Involvement in Public Recreation Areas

Table 23 summarizes Californians' opinions about the role of the private sector in providing services in public parks and recreation areas. A majority of Californians approved of privatization of the sale of ready-to-eat food and beverages (72%); rental of recreational equipment such as boats and camping equipment (68.2%); sponsorship of contests, races and special events (61.5%); and, operation of marinas and boat launching facilities (50.3%). Close to an even percent of Californians approved/disapproved of privatization of maintenance of facilities and grounds (44.4% said yes versus 42.3% said no) and operation and maintenance of campgrounds and other lodging facilities (42.8% yes versus 43.3% no). A majority of Californians disapproved of privatization of patrol and law enforcement duties (59.6%) and providing guided nature walks and educational activities (55%). Most Californians disapproved of privatization of total operation and management of public park or recreation areas (70.9%).

Based on comparisons of findings from the 1997 and 2002 surveys, public approval for the sale of ready-to-eat foods and the sponsorship of contests, races and special events in public park and recreation areas remained fairly constant during this period. However, the approval ratings for private business involvement decreased for maintenance of facilities and grounds (62.0% to 44.4%), patrol and law enforcement (44.8% to 30.2%), providing guided nature walks (55.4% to 30.3%), and undertaking total operation and maintenance (23.6% to 16.5%). This downward trend in approval of private business involvement in public park and recreation areas appears to demonstrate increased support for the efforts of public park and recreation agencies in meeting public expectations.

Overall, Californians favored private businesses providing concession-type services in public park and recreation areas, such as food and beverages. However, a majority opposed private businesses taking over the activities that have traditionally been performed by the public agencies that managed these areas.

Preferred Information Sources

Californians were asked how they prefer to receive information about public parks and recreation areas and facilities. Survey respondents were permitted to select multiple information sources. As shown in Table 24, the largest percentage said they prefer word of mouth from family and friends (59.0%) followed by the Internet (54.1%) and brochures (53.4%). When survey respondents were asked if their household has Internet access, 83.9% said "yes."



Table 23. Opinions of Californians regarding the role of the private sector in providing services in public parks and recreation areas - 2002.

Types of Services	Yes	No	Not Sure
Sale of ready-to-eat food and beverages.	72.0%	14.3%	0.2%
Rental of recreational equipment such as boats and camping equipment.	68.2%	19.7%	12.1%
Sponsorship of contests, races, and special events.	61.5%	21.1%	17.4%
Operation of marinas and boat launching facilities.	50.3%	29.6%	20.0%
Maintenance of facilities and grounds.	44.4%	42.3%	13.3%
Operation and maintenance of campgrounds or other lodging facilities.	42.8%	43.3%	13.8%
Patrol and law enforcement duties.	30.3%	59.6%	10.1%
Providing guided nature walks, educational activities.	30.2%	55.0%	14.8%
Total operation and management of the park or recreation area.	16.5%	70.9%	12.6%

610 Respondents

Table 24. Information sources that Californians prefer for receiving information about public parks and recreation areas and facilities – 2002.

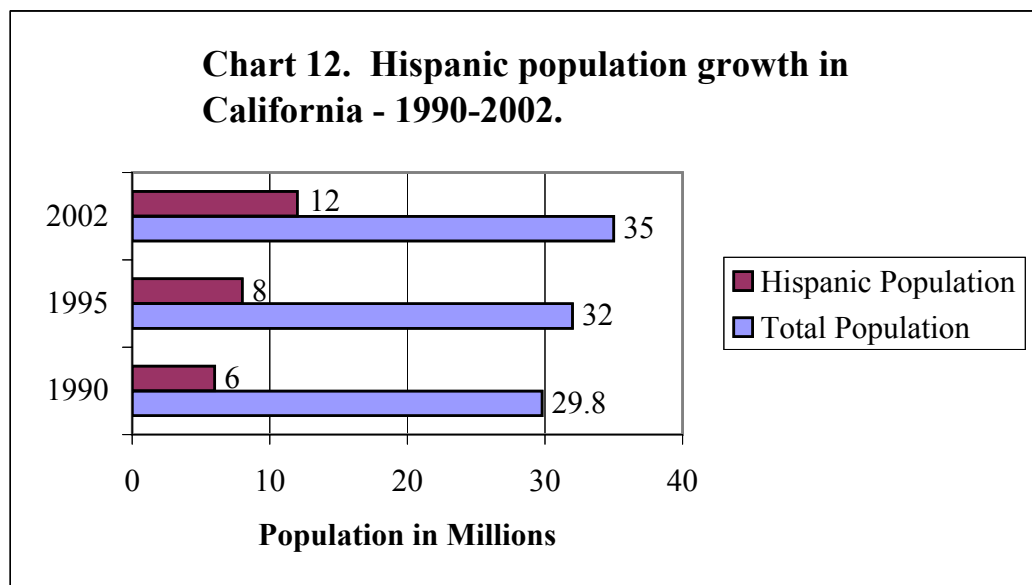
Information Sources	Number	Percent
Word of Mouth	360	59.0%
Internet	330	54.1%
Brochures	326	53.4%
Television	294	48.2%
Magazines & Newsletters	280	45.9%
Radio	196	32.1%
Maps	179	29.3%
Trade Shows	84	13.8%
Other	25	4.1%

HISPANIC RECREATION PATTERNS

In California, the changes in ethnicity patterns are changing the character of outdoor recreation. Much of this change is attributed to rapid growth in the Hispanic population. In 1990, there were about 6 million Hispanics (20.1%) in California's total population of 29.8 million, and by 1995 this figure had increased to about 8 million (25%) of the state's total population of about 32 million people. U. S. Census Bureau estimates place the population of California at 35,116,033 as of July 1, 2002. The population of Californians of Hispanic origin totaled 11,936,707, or 34% of the state's population. Projections made in the 1997 version of this report estimated that 30-35 percent of California's population would be of Hispanic origin within a 20-25 year period. However, based on U. S. Census Bureau 2002 estimates, this 20-25 year projection was met within a five-year period (1997 to 2002) (Chart 12).

The rapid growth in the Hispanic population is an important factor, since this ethnic group will heavily influence recreation participation patterns. To address the effects of growth in the Hispanic population on outdoor recreation in California, a comparison of the attitudes, preferences and recreation behaviors between Hispanics and non-Hispanics is presented in this section of findings. Hispanic survey respondents are those who identified themselves as Mexican-American or Other Hispanic (e.g., Central or South American). Respondents who selected one of the remaining ethnic categories were aggregated into the non-Hispanic group of respondents. This same procedure was utilized in the pilot study presented in *Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California – 1997*.

The telephone and mail portions of the 2002 survey were conducted in both English and Spanish. Of the 644 telephone interviews completed with Hispanics in 2002, 323 (50.2%) were conducted in English and 321 (49.8%) were conducted in Spanish. This section presents a discussion of similarities and differences in opinions and attitudes of Hispanics and non-Hispanics concerning park and recreation issues.



Visits to and Types of Areas Preferred

In the 1997 version of this study, fewer Hispanics stated that they visited natural, undeveloped areas than did members of other ethnic groups. Slightly more than one-fifth (20.6%) of Hispanic respondents stated they had not visited natural, undeveloped areas, as compared to 7.7% of respondents from all other ethnic groups. In the 2002 study, the percentages of respondents who had not visited these types of areas increased to 27.2% for Hispanics and 15.6% for non-Hispanics (Table 25). A crosstabulation of the frequencies of visitations by Hispanics and non-Hispanics showed that a significantly larger percentage of Hispanics than non-Hispanics do not visit natural and undeveloped areas.

Two other types of areas that were different in 1997 as compared with 2002 showed a narrowing in differences and some changes in direction. In 1997, about one quarter of Hispanic respondents (24.7%) said they did not visit historic or cultural buildings, as compared to 10.7% of members of all other ethnic groups. In 2002, these percentages had dropped to 19.0% for Hispanics and rose to 12.5% for members of all other ethnic groups. A larger change occurred in visits to private, not public, outdoor recreation areas and facilities. In 1997, nearly half of the Hispanic respondents (46.4%) stated they did not visit these areas, whereas only about one-fifth of respondents from other ethnic groups (22%) said they had not visited. In 2002, Hispanic respondents who had not visited private outdoor recreation areas and facilities decreased to 29.6%, while the percentage of respondents from other ethnic groups increased to 23.8% (Table 25). These differences between Hispanics and non-Hispanics in the 2002 were not statistically significant.

Both Hispanics and non-Hispanics indicated that “developed nature-oriented parks and recreation areas” were their most preferred types of areas. When comparisons of the types of areas preferred in the 1997 study were made with the 2002 study, the percentage of Hispanic respondents who said “developed nature-oriented parks and recreation areas” were their preferred type of area increased from 26.8% to 40.3%. The percentage of non-Hispanics who preferred these types of areas increased slightly from 31.1% to 34.9% (Table 26). In contrast, Hispanic respondents who said “natural and undeveloped areas” were their preferred type of outdoor recreation area dropped from 28.7% in 1997 to 16.4% in 2002. A similar decrease was seen for non-Hispanic respondents (40.9% in 1997 to 31.8% in 2002). These differences between Hispanics and non-Hispanics were not statistically significant.

Attitudes Toward Recreation Lands and Facilities

Table 27 presents comparisons of the attitudes of Hispanics and non-Hispanics concerning outdoor recreation lands and facilities in California expressed in the 2002 survey. The following is a summary of statistically significant differences in attitudes of Hispanics versus non-Hispanics regarding land and facilities. Statistical differences were determined by crosstabulating the attitudes of Hispanics and non-Hispanics, then utilizing the Pearson chi-square statistic to determine if differences in the attitudinal responses were significant. The criterion for determining statistical significance was a Pearson chi-square of .05 or less. As shown below, attitudes of Hispanics were significantly different from those of non-Hispanics on twelve of the sixteen questions that were asked about recreation land and facilities.

Table 25. A comparison of Hispanic (H) and Non-Hispanic (NH) visits to outdoor recreation areas in California - 2002.

Types of Areas and Facilities	Not At All		Once or Twice a Year		Several Times a Year		Once or Twice a Month		Once a Week		Two or More Times Each Week	
	H %	NH %	H %	NH %	H %	NH %	H %	NH %	H %	NH %	H %	NH %
Highly developed parks and recreation areas in or near urban areas	4.9	7.4	11.1	17.3	35.8	28.3	22.2	18.1	12.3	14.7	13.6	14.3
Developed nature-oriented parks and recreation areas located outside of or on the fringe of urban areas	13.6	9.4	23.5	22.2	37.0	38.6	17.3	19.2	6.2	6.0	2.5	4.6
Natural and undeveloped areas	27.2	15.6	39.5	30.4	18.5	30.8	11.1	14.4	2.5	4.4	1.2	4.4
Historical and cultural buildings, sites or areas, regardless of their location	19.0	12.5	38.0	36.3	31.6	38.6	6.3	10.0	2.5	1.8	2.5	8.0
Private, not public, outdoor recreation areas and facilities	29.6	23.8	27.2	26.3	27.2	26.7	8.6	12.4	6.2	5.4	1.2	5.4

Table 26. Types of outdoor recreation areas preferred by Hispanics and Non-Hispanics in California - 2002.

Types of Outdoor Recreation Areas	Hispanics	Non-Hispanics
Highly developed parks and recreation areas	29.9%	18.8%
Developed nature-oriented parks and recreation areas	40.3%	34.9%
Natural and undeveloped areas	16.4%	31.8%
Historical or cultural buildings, sites or areas	9.0%	8.4%
Private, not public, outdoor recreation areas and facilities	4.5%	6.1%

- A total of 74.9% of Hispanics strongly or moderately agreed that more community parks are needed near them as compared with 55.4% of non-Hispanics.
- More Hispanics (85.7%) than non-Hispanics (80.9%) moderately or strongly agreed that more parks are needed in urban areas.
- Most (87.9%) of Hispanics strongly or moderately agreed that more recreation areas are needed by lakes, compared with 77.8% of non-Hispanics.
- More than three-fourths (78.3%) of Hispanics strongly or moderately agreed that outdoor parks are too crowded. In contrast, 64.9% of non-Hispanics said that outdoor parks are too crowded.
- More Hispanics (58.5%) than non-Hispanics (50.2%) strongly agreed that outdoor parks help reduce crime.
- More Hispanics (69.2%) than non-Hispanics (64.1%) strongly agreed that outdoor parks help improve health.
- A total of 45.3% of Hispanics moderately or strongly agreed that they do not feel safe using outdoor parks, while 25.8% of non-Hispanics moderately or strongly agreed.
- A significantly higher percentage of Hispanics (49.5%) than non-Hispanics (37.5%) strongly agreed that outdoor parks create jobs.
- A significantly larger percentage of Hispanics (47.1%) than non-Hispanics (34.9%) strongly agreed that outdoor parks should promote tourism.
- Most (90.5%) Hispanics moderately or strongly agreed that better enforcement of rules (in park and recreation areas) is needed, compared with 74.9% of non-Hispanics.
- Most (82.2%) Hispanics moderately or strongly agreed that additional developed campgrounds are needed. About two-thirds (65.6%) of non-Hispanics moderately or strongly agreed.
- Just over three-fourths (77.3%) of Hispanics moderately or strongly agreed that private businesses should provide services in parks as compared with 59.6% of non-Hispanics.

Funding for Parks and Recreation Areas and Spending Changes

Two sets of questions regarding funding preferences for parks and recreation were presented in the 2002 survey. The first set consisted of six question items asked of all survey respondents in the telephone survey (Table 28). The second set of sixteen questions was included on the mail survey (Table 29).

Statistically significant differences in levels of support by Hispanics and non-Hispanics were found for five of the six funding options presented in the 2002 telephone survey. These differences are presented in Table 28, and the following summarizes those differences:

- A larger percentage of non-Hispanics than Hispanics somewhat or strongly oppose increasing taxes for parks and recreation.
- A larger percentage of Hispanics than non-Hispanics strongly support increasing use fees for parks and recreation.
- A larger percentage of Hispanics than non-Hispanics somewhat or strongly support reallocating general fund money for parks and recreation.

Table 27. Attitudes of Hispanics and Non-Hispanics concerning outdoor recreation lands and facilities in California - 2002.

Statement	Strongly disagree		Moderately disagree		Moderately agree		Strongly agree	
	H %	NH %	H %	NH %	H %	NH %	H %	NH %
More community parks are needed near me.	10.8	20.9	14.2	23.7	30.1	29.0	44.8	26.4
More parks are needed in urban areas.	6.9	8.4	7.5	10.7	32.4	32.1	53.3	48.8
More parks are needed for camping/overnight.	8.1	9.9	9.1	15.9	32.9	33.1	50.0	41.1
More recreation areas are needed by lakes.	5.5	8.5	6.6	13.6	30.8	35.5	57.1	42.3
Maintaining a natural environment is important.	1.6	1.7	0.9	1.8	18.0	21.2	79.5	75.4
Outdoor parks are too crowded.	8.7	12.2	13.0	22.9	32.4	34.2	45.9	30.7
Outdoor parks help reduce crime.	9.1	9.0	6.6	9.6	25.7	31.3	58.5	50.2
Outdoor parks help improve health.	2.1	2.3	1.4	2.9	27.3	30.6	69.2	64.1
I do not feel safe using outdoor parks.	30.9	47.1	23.7	27.1	26.1	16.3	19.2	9.5
Outdoor parks create jobs.	5.5	5.7	6.8	13.3	38.2	43.5	49.5	37.5
Outdoor parks should promote tourism.	7.0	11.2	8.6	12.4	37.2	41.5	47.1	34.9
Outdoor parks increase property values.	5.7	4.8	7.1	6.5	32.9	39.2	54.4	49.5
Better enforcement of rules is needed.	4.2	9.2	5.3	16.0	29.1	37.7	61.4	37.2
Additional developed campgrounds are needed.	8.3	15.0	9.6	19.4	27.7	31.0	54.5	34.6
Fees collected by parks should be retained.	4.6	5.0	4.3	6.1	27.5	28.5	63.7	60.4
Private businesses in parks should provide services.	11.8	21.7	10.8	18.7	33.4	34.6	43.9	25.0

- Almost two-thirds of Hispanics (62.4%) strongly support reallocating lottery money for parks and recreation. In contrast, about half (48.1%) of non-Hispanics strongly support this funding option.
- A larger percentage of Hispanics (44.7%) than non-Hispanics (30.7%) strongly support selling bonds to pay for parks and recreation areas and facilities.
- Almost 90% of Hispanics and non-Hispanics said they somewhat or strongly support holding fundraisers for parks and recreation.

Findings from the mail portion of the 2002 study also show that Hispanics are significantly more supportive than non-Hispanics of using some funding options to provide monies for park and recreation areas. Table 29 and the following discussion present a summary of significant differences between Hispanics and non-Hispanics in their levels of support for funding options.

- Just over three-fourths (76.3%) of Hispanics strongly support designating money from the State Lottery as a funding source for park and recreation agencies. In contrast, 59.4% of non-Hispanics strongly favor this funding option.
- Hispanics more strongly support an additional tax on tobacco products than do non-Hispanics.
- A total of 60% of Hispanics strongly support an additional tax on alcoholic beverages as a funding source. In contrast, one-third (33%) of non-Hispanics favor this funding option.

There were no significant differences in support by Hispanic and non-Hispanic respondents for the other thirteen funding options.

Table 28. Preferences of Hispanics and Non-Hispanics for funding park and recreation areas in California - 2002, (Telephone Survey).

Statement	Strongly Oppose		Somewhat Oppose		Somewhat Support		Strongly Support	
	H %	NH %	H %	NH %	H %	NH %	H %	NH %
a. Increasing taxes for parks and recreation.*	20.0	26.2	14.6	21.1	40.6	36.2	24.8	16.5
b. Increasing use fees for parks and recreation.*	21.9	27.5	18.3	20.2	34.2	34.5	25.6	17.8
c. Reallocate general fund for parks and recreation.*	11.2	12.8	7.7	12.0	42.4	39.1	38.7	36.2
d. Reallocate lottery for parks and recreation.*	6.4	17.9	3.3	9.4	27.9	24.6	62.5	48.1
e. Using bonds to buy land and improve facilities.*	10.1	18.9	6.4	13.7	38.8	36.7	44.7	30.7
f. Holding fundraisers for parks and recreation.	6.0	6.2	3.7	6.1	33.7	31.3	56.7	56.3

* Denotes statistically significant differences in levels of support. The criterion for statistical significance is a Pearson chi-square of .05 or less.

Table 29. Preferences for funding park and recreation areas by Hispanics and Non-Hispanics in California - 2002, (Mail-Back Survey).

Funding Option	No Opinion		Strongly Oppose		Somewhat Oppose		Somewhat Support		Strongly Support	
	H %	NH %	H %	NH %	H %	NH %	H %	NH %	H %	NH %
Designating a dollar on your state income tax return	13.6	5.6	11.1	12.2	6.2	6.8	32.1	28.0	37.0	47.4
Designating money from the state lottery*	6.2	3.2	6.2	13.3	4.9	6.0	11.1	20.0	71.6	57.5
Increasing the tax on oil, mining, and timber operations	18.5	7.6	24.7	28.5	24.7	19.2	16.0	20.0	16.0	24.6
Additional tax on tobacco products*	7.5	5.8	5.0	18.7	8.8	11.4	10.0	16.1	68.8	48.0
Additional tax on alcoholic beverages*	10.3	5.0	5.1	18.1	7.7	16.7	23.1	28.9	53.8	31.3
Charging higher entrance or activity fees for parks and recreation	7.8	0.8	41.6	31.5	26.0	28.5	19.5	29.3	5.2	10.0
Designating a portion of the existing state sales tax as a funding source for park and recreation agencies	9.5	4.6	10.8	13.5	14.9	12.1	39.2	43.5	24.3	26.0
Passing a voter-approved bond measure	25.6	10.6	10.3	21.9	14.1	14.5	38.5	33.1	11.5	19.9
Increasing vehicle license fees for park purposes	16.7	4.2	33.3	41.9	29.5	27.2	14.1	19.4	6.4	7.3
Increasing the tax on sporting goods and recreation equipment	9.2	3.2	43.4	37.9	27.6	28.3	13.2	23.7	6.6	6.9
Fundraising activities and special events in parks	7.7	3.6	3.8	5.6	7.7	8.7	33.3	36.2	47.4	45.9
Increasing fees for specialized facilities such as RV hook-ups, marinas, etc., at public parks and recreation areas	12.8	2.6	19.2	14.5	19.2	22.2	33.3	34.1	15.4	26.6
Charging higher fees for organized sports activities such as soccer, softball, etc.	12.8	4.2	33.3	24.8	29.5	34.3	16.7	26.0	7.7	10.7
Designating a larger share of the state's general fund for parks and recreation	9.1	5.0	6.5	7.0	9.1	7.8	32.5	39.6	42.9	40.4
Designating a portion of the tax on the sale of homes and other real estate to parks and recreation	14.1	6.3	20.5	27.8	10.3	17.9	29.5	31.3	25.6	16.7
Designating a portion of the hotel-motel occupancy tax for parks and recreation	12.8	6.2	10.3	18.1	12.8	14.1	38.5	40.4	25.6	21.1

* Denotes statistically significant differences in levels of support. The criterion for statistical significance is a Pearson chi-square of .05 or less.

Changes in Park and Recreation Facilities and Services

The 1997 version of this survey asked opinions about spending changes for parks and recreation. No distinction was made between local and non-local park and recreation areas, facilities and programs. In the 2002 survey, questions were asked regarding preferences for levels of emphasis on facilities, areas and programs by (1) city and county government agencies within local communities, and (2) state and federal government agencies outside local communities in California. This section presents a summary of finding from these two sets of questions.

The 2002 survey respondents were asked how much emphasis city and county government agencies that normally provide outdoor recreation areas and facilities within local communities should place on eight types of areas, facilities and programs. A crosstabulation of opinions of Hispanics compared with non-Hispanics for each of these eight types of areas, facilities and programs revealed statistically significant differences in the preferred emphases for all eight items (Pearson chi-square = .000). More specifically, a significantly larger percentage of Hispanics than non-Hispanics say that more emphasis should be placed on (1) buying additional parkland and open space for recreation purposes; (2) maintaining or caring for park and recreation areas, (3) providing educational programs, (4) building new facilities, (5) remodeling and improving existing facilities, (6) protecting natural resources, (7) protecting historic resources, and (8) providing more organized activities and special events (Table 30a).

The 2002 survey respondents were also asked how much emphasis state and federal government agencies that normally provide outdoor recreation areas and facilities outside local communities in California should place on eight types of areas, facilities and programs. As with preferences expressed for emphases within local communities, crosstabulation of opinions of Hispanics compared with non-Hispanics for each of these eight types of areas, facilities and programs outside the local communities revealed statistically significant differences in the preferred emphases for all eight items (Pearson chi-square = .000). A significantly larger percentage of Hispanics than non-Hispanics say that more emphasis should be placed on (1) buying additional parkland and open space for recreation purposes, (2) maintaining or caring for park and recreation areas, (3) providing educational programs, (4) building new facilities, (5) remodeling and improving existing facilities, (6) protecting natural resources, (7) protecting historic resources, and (8) providing more organized activities and special events by state and federal government agencies outside their local communities (Table 30b).

Factors That Influence Recreation Enjoyment

Californians who participated in the 2002 survey were asked to rate the importance of seventeen factors to their overall enjoyment of their favorite outdoor recreation activity. Opinions regarding their importance were significantly different between Hispanics and non-Hispanics for only one (importance of the quality of the natural setting). A total of 45% of Hispanics rated quality of the natural setting as very important to their overall enjoyment of their favorite recreation activity. In contrast, 60.6% of non-Hispanics rated this factor as very important (Pearson chi-square = .014) (Table 31).

Table 30a. Preferences for spending changes for parks and recreation areas, facilities and programs WITHIN local communities in California by Hispanics and Non-Hispanics – 2002.

Types of Areas, Facilities and Programs	More emphasis		About the same		Less emphasis	
	H	NH	H	NH	H	NH
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Local-emphasis on acquiring parkland.*	67.7	54.4	28.6	37.2	3.7	8.4
Emphasis on maintaining parks.*	71.1	52.6	26.7	45.3	2.2	2.0
Emphasis on educational programs.*	83.9	60.8	14.3	32.8	1.8	6.4
Emphasis on building new facilities.*	75.6	50.6	20.6	38.7	3.8	10.7
Emphasis on improving existing facilities.*	75.3	59.2	22.7	36.1	2.1	4.7
Emphasis on protecting natural resources.*	81.7	66.3	17.2	29.4	1.1	4.3
Emphasis on historic resources.*	79.3	61.0	19.3	35.8	1.4	3.2
Emphasis on organized activities.*	75.0	49.0	22.3	43.0	2.7	8.0

* Denotes statistically significant differences in opinions regarding levels of emphasis. The criterion for statistical significance is a Pearson chi-square of .05 or less.

Table 30b. Preferences for spending changes for parks and recreation areas, facilities and programs OUTSIDE local communities by Hispanics and Non-Hispanics in California – 2002.

Types of Areas, Facilities and Programs	More emphasis		About the same		Less emphasis	
	H	NH	H	NH	H	NH
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Non-local-emphasis on acquiring parkland.*	63.7	54.4	31.6	35.6	4.7	10.0
Emphasis on maintaining parks.*	72.2	57.3	26.4	40.6	1.3	2.1
Emphasis on educational programs.*	82.8	56.7	16.2	36.7	1.0	6.6
Emphasis on building new facilities.*	73.6	48.9	22.9	40.5	3.5	10.7
Emphasis on improving existing facilities.*	76.9	60.6	21.4	35.3	1.7	4.1
Emphasis on protecting natural resources.*	82.7	67.8	16.1	28.3	1.2	3.9
Emphasis on historic resources.*	80.4	63.3	18.1	33.6	1.5	3.2
Emphasis on organized activities.*	76.0	49.7	22.0	41.5	2.0	8.7

* Denotes statistically significant differences in opinions regarding levels of emphasis. The criterion for statistical significance is a Pearson chi-square of .05 or less.

Table 31. Opinions regarding the importance of factors that influence the overall enjoyment of the favorite recreation activities of Hispanics and Non-Hispanics in California - 2002.

Factors	Very Important		Somewhat Important		Somewhat Unimportant		Very Unimportant	
	H %	NH %	H %	NH %	H %	NH %	H %	NH %
Being able to relax.	77.5	76.1	10.0	14.8	3.8	2.8	8.8	6.3
Keeping fit and healthy.	59.5	49.4	25.3	32.3	7.6	12.1	7.6	6.2
Experiencing challenge and excitement.	32.1	22.7	35.9	38.4	19.2	26.7	12.8	12.2
Meeting new people.	17.5	12.5	28.8	26.6	31.3	34.1	22.5	26.8
Being with family and friends.	66.3	56.0	20.0	28.5	7.5	10.1	6.3	5.3
Doing something your children enjoyed.	67.5	54.0	14.3	21.0	5.2	8.5	13.0	16.5
Releasing or reducing tension.	66.3	59.3	20.0	26.6	6.3	7.7	7.5	6.3
Having a change from daily routine.	57.5	52.8	25.0	29.6	10.0	11.5	7.5	6.2
Getting away from crowded situations.	51.3	60.8	26.3	24.4	17.5	9.5	5.0	5.3
Being in the outdoors.	58.8	69.1	25.0	19.8	6.3	5.9	10.0	5.1
Feeling of harmony with nature.	46.8	49.8	26.6	28.5	20.3	15.4	6.3	6.3
Achieving spiritual fulfillment.	34.2	34.4	26.6	25.4	24.1	23.7	15.2	16.5
Beauty of the area.	48.1	63.8	32.9	24.3	11.4	6.3	7.6	5.5
Availability of facilities.	46.8	43.0	30.4	38.6	15.2	11.9	7.6	6.5
Quality of the natural setting.*	45.0	60.6	32.5	26.9	16.3	7.1	6.3	5.3
Availability of water features (lakes, reservoirs, rivers, wetlands).	45.0	44.0	31.3	35.2	16.3	12.3	7.5	8.5
Feeling safe and secure.	77.5	67.2	10.0	18.7	3.8	6.5	8.8	7.7

* Denotes statistically significant differences in opinions regarding levels of importance. The criterion for statistical significance is a Pearson chi-square of .05 or less.

Latent Demand For Recreation

In the 2002 survey, respondents were presented a list of 54 recreation activities and asked to identify and rank in order the five recreation activities that they would have probably done more often or would like to have tried if good opportunities, facilities and programs had been available to them. Table 32 presents a comparison of the percentage of Hispanic and non-Hispanic respondents who ranked each activity in their list of five. A crosstabulation of the percentage of Hispanic and non-Hispanic respondents who selected and ranked each activity revealed that a significantly larger percentage of Hispanics said they would have participated in or liked to have tried the following seven recreation activities if good opportunities, facilities and programs had been available to them.

- Walking for fitness and fun
- Bicycling on unpaved surfaces and trails, mountain biking
- Driving for pleasure, sightseeing, driving through natural scenery
- Soccer, football or rugby
- Softball and baseball
- Basketball
- Snowboarding

There were no significant differences between Hispanics and non-Hispanics for the other 47 recreation activities.

Public Support for Government Spending on Recreation Opportunities

Survey respondents in 2002 were asked to select the five recreation activities from the list of 54 that they think government agencies should spend public money on to improve opportunities for them and their families. Table 33 presents a comparison of the percentage of Hispanic and non-Hispanic respondents who ranked each activity in their list of the five most important activities. A crosstabulation of the percentage of Hispanic and non-Hispanic respondents who selected and ranked each activity revealed that a significantly larger percentage of Hispanics said that government agencies should spend more on the following eight recreation activities.

- Walking for fitness and fun
- Driving for pleasure, sightseeing, driving through natural scenery
- Soccer, football or rugby
- Softball and baseball
- Basketball
- Skateboarding
- In-line skating
- Snowboarding

A significantly larger percentage of non-Hispanics than Hispanics said that government agencies should spend more money to create opportunities for trail hiking. There were no significant differences between Hispanics and non-Hispanics for the other 45 recreation activities.

Table 32. Latent demand by Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Californians for the top five recreation activities that they would have probably done more often or would like to have tried if good opportunities, facilities and programs had been available to them – 2002.

Recreation Activity	Hispanic %	Non-Hispanic %
Walking for fitness and fun*	20.8	10.4
Bicycling on unpaved surfaces and trails, mountain biking*	13.0	6.3
Driving for pleasure, sightseeing, driving through natural scenery*	18.2	7.7
Soccer, football or rugby*	14.3	2.4
Softball and baseball*	9.1	1.8
Basketball*	10.4	2.6
Snowboarding*	6.5	1.8

* Denotes statistically significant differences in levels of support. The criterion for statistical significance is a Pearson chi-square of .05 or less.

Table 33. Public support by Hispanic and Non-Hispanic survey respondents for government spending to improve outdoor recreation opportunities for them and their family members – 2002.

Recreation Activity	Hispanic %	Non-Hispanic %
Walking for fitness and fun*	27.3	16.9
Trail hiking*	15.6	28.2
Driving for pleasure, sightseeing, driving through natural scenery*	16.9	8.8
Soccer, football or rugby*	11.7	4.5
Softball and baseball*	10.4	3.9
Basketball*	10.4	2.8
Skateboarding*	7.8	3.3
In-line skating*	5.2	1.0
Snowboarding*	5.2	1.0

* Denotes statistically significant differences in levels of support. The criterion for statistical significance is a Pearson chi-square of .05 or less.

SURVEY OF CALIFORNIA YOUTH

Adults who agreed to participate in the mail survey were asked if they had children under the age of 18 living in their household. Those who answered “yes” were then asked if they would agree to have a short youth questionnaire included with their adult survey. Of the 610 adults who returned the mail survey, 144 also returned the youth survey. The 2002 Youth Mail Survey was the first time the California Department of Parks and Recreation had attempted a youth survey. The following is a summary of findings from this survey.

Care should be exercised when interpreting statistics from this small sample with an associated sampling error of +/-9.5%. The most meaningful use of these statistics is to assess general trends in youth participation.

Activity Participation

California youth are very active in outdoor recreation and participate in a number of activities. In this survey, 54 outdoor activities were considered along with an “other” category for a total of 55 outdoor activity choices. Youth who responded to the survey were asked to provide the estimated number of days of participation in each of the 55 activities during the past 12 months.

The percentage of youth who indicated one or more days of participation in each of the 55 recreation activities is presented in Table 34. Walking for fitness and fun was undertaken by the largest percentage of youth (92.0%), followed by pool swimming (80.7%), visiting water sites other than beaches (79.3%), and beach activities (including sunbathing) (78.7%), and visiting outdoor nature museums/zoos/arboretums (78.4%). Snowmobiling was undertaken by the lowest percentage of youth (3.9%), with windsurfing as the next lowest (4.7%). Fifty percent or more of the youth who responded to the survey reported having participated in 19 of the 55 recreation activities. Alternatively, only four activities reflected participation by less than 10 percent of California youth.

Average Number of Participation Days

Table 35 shows the average number of activity days per year for all California youth who responded to the survey (i.e., non-participants in the activity are included in calculating the mean). As the table indicates, the average number of days of participation varies significantly from activity to activity. Walking for fitness and fun was the activity with the largest average number of days of participation (76.1 days). The other top five activities are jogging and fitness running (40.5 days), bicycling on paved surfaces (35.7 days), pool swimming (33.9 days), and using play equipment (32.4 days). In essence, Table 2 represents the average number of days of participation in 2003 for each activity choice for all California youth.

Activity Days by Youth Who Participated

Average activity days for only those California youth who participated in each recreation activity are shown in Table 36. For example, while 32.4 days were spent using play equipment/tot lots for the average of all California youth (Table 35), those youth who did use play equipment/tot lots spent

Table 34. Percentage of California youth who participated in recreation activities during the past 12 months.

Recreation Activities	Percent Participating	Rank
Walking for fitness and fun	92.0%	1
Pool swimming	80.7%	2
Visiting water sites other than beaches	79.3%	3
Beach activities (including sun bathing), surf play	78.7%	4
Visiting outdoor nature museums, zoos or arboretums	78.4%	5
Attending outdoor cultural events (festivals, fairs, concerts, historical reenactments, outdoor theater)	76.3%	6
Visiting historic or cultural sites, museums	75.2%	7
Picnicking in developed sites	72.3%	8
Bicycling on paved surfaces	72.1%	9
Using open turf areas (casual and unstructured activities-games, relax, sunning, etc.)	69.6%	10
Driving for pleasure, sightseeing, driving through natural scenery	68.4%	11
Wildlife viewing, bird watching, viewing natural scenery	64.7%	12
Trail hiking	64.2%	13
Using play equipment, tot-lots	61.5%	14
Basketball	60.5%	15
Camping in developed sites with facilities such as toilets and tables	59.6%	16
Swimming in freshwater lakes, rivers and/or streams	56.7%	17
Jogging and fitness running	54.3%	18
Soccer, football or rugby	50.0%	19
Softball and baseball	48.1%	20
Walking a pet	47.8%	21
Swimming in saltwater, snorkeling, scuba diving	43.7%	22
Fishing – freshwater	40.2%	23
Winter sports (non-mechanized – sledding, snow play, ice skating)	37.1%	24
Motor boating	34.8%	25
Skateboarding	34.6%	26
Bicycling on unpaved surfaces and trails, mountain biking	33.1%	27
Camping at a primitive site without facilities	32.6%	28
Paddle sports (kayaking, rowing, canoeing, and rafting)	31.8%	29
In-line skating	29.5%	30
Off-road vehicle use – motorcycles, ATV's, dune buggies	29.0%	31
Volleyball	28.5%	32
Camping in trailer or RV sites with hookups	28.0%	33
Horseback riding, horse shows and events	28.0%	33
Rock climbing/bouldering	27.9%	34

Table 34. Percentage of California youth who participated in recreation activities during the past 12 months (cont'd.).

Recreation Activities	Percent Participating	Rank
Backpack camping	25.2%	35
Golf	23.7%	36
Tennis	20.9%	37
Gathering mushrooms, berries or other natural products	20.8%	38
Target shooting (including pistol and skeet)	20.6%	39
Surfing	19.2%	40
Snowboarding	19.1%	41
Water skiing	17.7%	42
Downhill (Alpine) skiing	17.7%	42
Other activities	25.9%	42
Using personal watercraft	16.2%	43
Fishing – saltwater (including catching abalone, clams, crabs)	15.5%	44
Wakeboarding	12.4%	45
Sailboating	12.4%	45
Cross-country skiing	6.9%	46
Archery (hunting and target shooting)	11.6%	46
Hunting (large and small game)	11.5%	47
Orienteering/geo-caching	5.4%	48
Windsurfing	4.7%	49
Snowmobiling	3.9%	50

144 Respondents

Table 35. Average number of recreation activity days for all California youth during the past twelve months.

Recreation Activities	Mean Participation	Rank
Walking for fitness and fun	76.1	1
Jogging and fitness running	40.5	2
Bicycling on paved surfaces	35.7	3
Pool swimming	33.9	4
Using play equipment, tot-lots	32.4	5
Basketball	30.7	6
Walking a pet	26.4	7
Driving for pleasure, sightseeing, driving through natural scenery	25.2	8
Using open turf areas (casual and unstructured activities-games, relax, sunning, etc.)	23.6	9
Soccer, football or rugby	22.2	10
Softball and baseball	19.9	11
Skateboarding	19.8	12
Other activities	17.3	13
Wildlife viewing, bird watching, viewing natural scenery	16.3	14
Beach activities (including sun bathing), surf play	15.2	15
Visiting water sites other than beaches	13.2	16
Bicycling on unpaved surfaces and trails, mountain biking	11.4	17
Trail hiking	11.8	17
Volleyball	11.4	18
Picnicking in developed sites	10.7	19
Attending outdoor cultural events (festivals, fairs, concerts, historical reenactments, outdoor theater)	9.5	20
Camping in developed sites with facilities such as toilets and tables	7.8	21
Visiting historic or cultural sites, museums	6.9	22
Swimming in freshwater lakes, rivers and/or streams	6.3	23
Off-road vehicle use – motorcycles, ATV’s, dune buggies	6.2	24
Fishing – freshwater	5.7	25
Visiting outdoor nature museums, zoos or arboretums	5.7	25
In-line skating	5.6	26
Golf	5.3	27
Swimming in saltwater, snorkeling, scuba diving	5.1	28
Motor boating	5.1	28
Camping at a primitive site without facilities	5.0	29
Camping in trailer or RV sites with hookups	5.0	29
Rock climbing/bouldering	4.9	30
Backpack camping	4.5	31
Target shooting (including pistol and skeet)	4.4	32

Table 35. Average number of recreation activity days for all California youth during the past twelve months (cont'd.).

Recreation Activities	Mean Participation	Rank
Tennis	3.9	33
Horseback riding, horse shows and events	3.8	34
Archery (hunting and target shooting)	3.6	34
Gathering mushrooms, berries or other natural products	3.5	35
Wakeboarding	3.0	36
Surfing	2.9	37
Winter sports (non-mechanized – sledding, snow play, ice skating)	2.3	38
Paddle sports (kayaking, rowing, canoeing, and rafting)	2.0	39
Fishing – saltwater (including catching abalone, clams, crabs)	1.9	40
Hunting (large and small game)	1.6	41
Orienteering/geo-caching	1.5	42
Water skiing	1.5	42
Snowboarding	1.4	43
Using personal watercraft	1.4	43
Sailboating	1.2	44
Cross-country skiing	.2	45
Snowmobiling	.2	45
Windsurfing	.50	45
Downhill (Alpine) skiing	.9	46

144 Respondents

an average of 52.0 days participating in this activity (Table 36). From the rank ordering point of view, using play equipment/tot lots is number 5 on the overall activity days list and number 5 on the participants' activity days list. However, the rankings for other activities changed based on participation (Table 35) and the average number of days spent participating in each activity (Table 36). For example, trail hiking ranked 17 based on the percentage of youth participating, but 26 based on the number of days of participation. Some activities with low overall participation rates, such as golf, skateboarding, wakeboarding, hunting and target shooting, appear to have small groups of avid core participants who participate several days or more each year.

Walking for fitness and fun (82.6 days), jogging and fitness running (74.6 days), skateboarding (57.3 days), walking a pet (55.3 days), and using play equipment/tot lots (52.0 days) were the top five activities in terms of the average number of days of participation by youth who participated in each of these activities. Other activities with high averages for days of participation included basketball (50.8 days), bicycling on paved surfaces (49.5 days), soccer/football/rugby (43.7 days), pool swimming (42.0 days), and softball/baseball (41.4 days) (Table 36).

Latent Demand for Recreation Activities

California youth were asked to list the five recreation activities they would like to do more often. As shown in Table 37, beach activities (including sunbathing) (22.3%); swimming in freshwater lakes, rivers and/or streams (21.6%); fishing – saltwater (including catching abalone, clams, crabs, etc.) (18.1%); camping in developed sites with facilities such as toilets and tables (18.0%); and, bicycling on paved surfaces (15.4%) were the five activities most frequently listed.

Factors That Would Increase Youth Participation

California youth were asked what would allow them to participate more often in the five recreation activities they said they would like to do more often. As shown in Table 38, the top three factors that would lead to greater participation were (1) more free time (31.9%), (2) more money/less expense (22.9%), and (3) more parks, facilities or events closer to home (16.7%).

Table 36. Average number of activity days per year for California youth (activity participants only).

Recreation Activities	Mean Participation	Rank
Walking for fitness and fun	82.6	1
Jogging and fitness running	74.6	2
Skateboarding	57.3	3
Walking a pet	55.3	4
Using play equipment, tot-lots	52.0	5
Basketball	50.8	6
Other activities	49.7	7
Bicycling on paved surfaces	49.5	8
Soccer, football or rugby	43.7	9
Pool swimming	42.0	10
Softball and baseball	41.4	11
Volleyball	39.0	12
Driving for pleasure, sightseeing, driving through natural scenery	36.8	13
Bicycling on unpaved surfaces and trails, mountain biking	34.5	14
Using open turf areas (casual and unstructured activities-games, relax, sunning, etc.)	33.9	15
Archery (hunting and target shooting)	30.7	16
Wildlife viewing, bird watching, viewing natural scenery	24.9	17
Wakeboarding	24.2	18
Golf	22.6	19
Target shooting (including pistol and skeet)	21.6	20
Off-road vehicle use – motorcycles, ATV’s, dune buggies	21.2	21
Beach activities (including sun bathing), surf play	19.3	22
In-line skating	18.9	23
Camping in trailer or RV sites with hookups	18.7	24
Backpack camping	18.5	25
Tennis	18.5	25
Trail hiking	18.4	26
Rock climbing/bouldering	17.7	27
Gathering mushrooms, berries or other natural products	17.5	28
Visited water sites other than beaches	16.7	29
Camping at a primitive site without facilities	15.4	30
Surfing	15.1	31
Picnicking in developed sites	14.6	32
Motor boating	14.6	32
Fishing – freshwater	14.3	33
Horseback riding, horse shows and events	13.5	34
Hunting (large and small game)	13.5	34
Camping in developed sites with facilities such as toilets and tables	12.9	35

Table 36. Average number of activity days per year for California youth (activity participants only) (cont'd.).

Recreation Activities	Mean Participation	Rank
Attending outdoor cultural events (festivals, fairs, concerts, historical reenactments, outdoor theater)	12.5	36
Fishing – saltwater (including catching abalone, clams, crabs, etc.)	12.2	37
Swimming in saltwater, snorkeling, scuba diving	11.6	38
Swimming in freshwater lakes, rivers and/or streams	11.2	39
Windsurfing	10.8	40
Orienteering/geo-caching	10.4	41
Sailboating	9.6	42
Visiting historic or cultural sites, museums	9.1	43
Using personal watercraft	8.9	44
Water skiing	8.4	45
Visiting outdoor nature museums, zoos or arboretums	7.3	46
Snowboarding	7.1	47
Paddle sports (kayaking, rowing, canoeing, and rafting)	6.4	48
Winter sports (non-mechanized – sledding, snow play, ice skating)	6.3	49
Snowmobiling	4.8	50
Downhill (Alpine) skiing	4.8	50
Cross-country skiing	3.1	51

144 Respondents

Table 37. Recreation activities that California youth would like to do more often.

Recreation Activities	Percent	Rank
Beach activities (including sun bathing), surf play	22.3%	1
Swimming in freshwater lakes, rivers and/or streams	21.6%	2
Fishing – saltwater (including catching abalone, clams, crabs, etc.)	18.1%	3
Camping in developed sites with facilities such as toilets and tables	18.0%	4
Bicycling on paved surfaces	15.4%	5
Cross-country skiing	14.9%	6
Basketball	14.9%	6
Soccer, football or rugby	14.4%	7
Walking for fitness and fun	14.0%	8
Walking a pet	10.9%	9
Using personal watercraft	10.5%	10
Swimming in saltwater, snorkeling, scuba diving	10.5%	10
Off-road vehicle use – four-wheel drive	10.0%	11
Horseback riding, horse shows and events	10.0%	11
Surfing	9.5%	12
Driving for pleasure, sightseeing, driving through natural scenery	8.3%	13
Snowboarding	8.1%	14
Visiting outdoor nature museums, zoos or arboretums	7.0%	15
Motor boating	7.2%	16
Wildlife viewing, bird watching, viewing natural scenery	7.4%	17
Archery (hunting and target shooting)	7.6%	18
Bicycling on unpaved surfaces and trails, mountain biking	7.6%	18
Skateboarding	7.7%	19
Trail hiking	7.9%	20
Camping at a primitive site without facilities	6.9%	21
Visiting historic or cultural sites, museums	6.5%	22
Hunting (large and small game)	6.0%	23
Rock climbing/bouldering	5.8%	24
Attending outdoor cultural events (festivals, fairs, concerts, historical reenactments, outdoor theater)	5.8%	24
Picnicking in developed sites	5.8%	24
Fishing – freshwater	5.1%	25
Using play equipment, tot-lots	5.1%	25
Pool swimming	5.1%	25
Tennis	5.1%	25
Jogging and fitness running	4.9%	26
In-line skating	4.6%	27
Softball and baseball	4.4%	28
Sailboating	4.4%	28

Table 37. Recreation activities that California youth would like to do more often (cont'd.).

Recreation Activities	Percent	Rank
Water skiing	4.4%	28
Wakeboarding	4.2%	29
Golf	4.2%	29
Volleyball	3.9%	30
Backpack camping	3.7%	31
Gathering mushrooms, berries or other natural products	3.5%	32
Target shooting (including pistol and skeet)	3.2%	33
Snowmobiling	2.8%	34
Other activities	3.0%	34
Camping in trailer or RV sites with hookups	3.0%	34
Using open turf areas (casual and unstructured activities-games, relax, sunning, etc.)	3.0%	34
Downhill (Alpine) skiing	2.1%	35
Off-road vehicle use – motorcycles, ATV’s, dune buggies	1.4%	36
Windsurfing	0.9%	37
Winter sports (non-mechanized – sledding, snow play, ice skating)	0.7%	38
Paddle sports (kayaking, rowing, canoeing, and rafting)	0.0%	39
Orienteering/geo-caching	0.0%	39

144 Respondents

Table 38. Factors that would increase recreation participation by California youth.

Factors Affecting Participation	Number	Percent
More free time	46	31.9%
More money/less expensive	33	22.9%
More parks/facilities/events near home	24	16.7%
More facilities/areas	14	9.7%
Better access to facilities/areas	8	5.6%
Better maintenance/sanitation of facilities	5	3.5%
Better safety/enforcement in facilities/areas	5	3.5%
Better facilities/parks	5	3.5%
Transportation	4	2.8%
Less crowding	3	2.1%
Facilities open longer	1	0.7%

144 Respondents

APPENDIX A

CALIFORNIA OUTDOOR RECREATION TELEPHONE SURVEY

**Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California
2002**

CALIFORNIA OUTDOOR RECREATION TELEPHONE SURVEY
Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California
Telephone Survey Instrument 1/27/03

SHELLO Hello. My name is ____ and I'm calling from the Social Science Research Center at CSU Fullerton conducting a survey for the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Have I reached [READ RESPONDENT'S TELEPHONE NUMBER]?

1. CONTINUE
2. DISPOSITION SCREEN

SELSUBJ May I speak to the person who had the most recent birthday who is 18 years of age or older?

1. YES [SKIP TO SINTRO2]
2. NO

CALLBAK3 Can you suggest a better time to call back and reach that person?

SINTRO2 This survey is being conducted to obtain your ideas on how to improve recreation opportunities for the citizens of California. It will take about 15 minutes to complete. You are not required to answer any question you do not wish to answer, and your responses will remain completely anonymous and confidential.

I should mention that this call may be monitored by my supervisor for quality control purposes only. If it all right with you, I would like to ask you the survey questions now.

1. YES [SKIP TO Q1]
2. NO

CALLBAK2 Can you suggest a better time for us to call you back?

Q1. I'd like to begin by asking how many years you have lived in California?

1. SPECIFY>
777. DON'T KNOW/ NO RESPONSE
997. REFUSED

[IF Q1=Less than one year; SKIP TO CONCLUD]

Q1a. How many years have you lived in your current community?

1. SPECIFY>
777. DON'T KNOW/ NO RESPONSE
999. REFUSED

Q2. How important are public outdoor recreation areas and facilities to you and your family? That is, recreation areas and facilities managed by any government agency – city, county, state and federal. Would you say that they are...

1. Not at all important,
2. Somewhat important,
3. Important, or
4. Very important?
7. DON'T KNOW/ NO RESPONSE
9. REFUSED

Q3. In general, do you spend more time, about the same amount of time or less time in outdoor recreation activities than you did 5 years ago?

1. MORE TIME [SKIP TO Q4]
2. ABOUT THE SAME [SKIP TO Q4]
3. LESS TIME [CONTINUE]
7. DON'T KNOW/ NO RESPONSE [SKIP TO Q4]
9. REFUSED

Q3a. If you're spending less time, can you tell us why?

1. SPECIFY>
7. DON'T KNOW/ NO RESPONSE
9. REFUSED

TRANS1 These next few questions focus on your recreation participation WITHIN your local community.

Q4. How frequently did you use one or more park or recreation areas WITHIN your local community during the last 12 months?

1. Two or more times per week
2. About once a week
3. Once or twice a month
4. Several times a year
5. Once or twice a year, or
6. Not at all
7. DON'T KNOW/ NO RESPONSE
9. REFUSED

Q5. Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with public outdoor recreation areas, facilities and services currently available to you WITHIN your local community? Would you say that you are...

1. Not at all satisfied,
2. Somewhat satisfied,
3. Satisfied, or
4. Very satisfied?
7. DON'T KNOW/ NO RESPONSE
9. REFUSED

[ASK IF Q1a EQ 5 YEARS OR MORE]

Q6. Now, I'd like you to think about the overall condition and operation of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities WITHIN your local community. Would you say their condition today is...

1. Better than 5 years ago
2. The same as 5 years ago, or
3. Not as good as they were five years ago?
7. DON'T KNOW/ NO RESPONSE
9. REFUSED

Q7. Do you think that city and county government agencies that normally provide outdoor recreation areas and facilities WITHIN your community should place more, about the same, or less emphasis on each of the following:

- a. Buying additional parkland and open space for recreation purposes
- b. Maintaining or caring for park and recreation areas
- c. Providing educational programs
- d. Building new facilities
- e. Remodeling and improving existing facilities
- f. Protecting natural resources
- g. Protecting historic resources
- h. Providing more organized activities and special events

1. More emphasis
2. About the same
3. Less emphasis
7. DON'T KNOW/ NO RESPONSE
9. REFUSED

TRANS2 The next few questions focus on recreation OUTSIDE your local community.

Q8. How frequently did you use one or more parks or recreation areas OUTSIDE your local community during the past 12 months?

1. Two or more times per week
2. About once a week
3. Once or twice a month
4. Several times a year
5. Once or twice a year
6. Not at all
7. DON'T KNOW/ NO RESPONSE
9. REFUSED

Q9. Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with public outdoor recreation areas, facilities and services currently available to you OUTSIDE your local community? Would you say that you are...

1. Not at all satisfied
2. Somewhat satisfied
3. Satisfied
4. Very satisfied
7. DON'T KNOW/ NO RESPONSE
9. REFUSED

[ASK IF Q1 EQ 5 YEARS OR MORE]

Q10. Now, I'd like you to think about the overall condition and operation of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities OUTSIDE your local community. Would you say their condition today is...

1. Better than 5 years ago,
2. The same as 5 years ago, or
3. Not as good as they were five years ago?
7. DON'T KNOW/ NO RESPONSE
9. REFUSED

Q11. Do you think that state and federal government agencies that normally provide outdoor recreation areas and facilities OUTSIDE your local community should place more, about the same, or less emphasis on each of the following:

- a. Buying additional parkland and open space for recreation purposes
- b. Maintaining or caring for park and recreation areas
- c. Providing educational programs
- d. Building new facilities
- e. Remodeling and improving existing facilities
- f. Protecting natural resources
- g. Protecting historic resources
- h. Providing more organized activities and special events

1. More emphasis
2. About the same
3. Less emphasis
7. DON'T KNOW/ NO RESPONSE
9. REFUSED

TRANS3 These next few questions focus on all public park and recreation areas and facilities – both those within your local community and outside your community.

Q12. How long does it take you to get from your home to the park or recreation area where you **most often recreate**?

1. SPECIFY MINUTES>
777. DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE
999. REFUSED

Q13. How long does it take you to get from your home to your **favorite** park or recreation area?

1. SPECIFY MINUTES>
777. DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE
999. REFUSED

Q14. Due to budget cuts, additional sources of funds to help public park and recreation agencies to buy, develop, and take care of park and recreation areas and facilities may be needed. Please tell me if you strongly oppose, somewhat oppose, somewhat support, or strongly support each of the following possible funding sources.

- a. Increasing taxes for parks and recreation.
- b. Increasing “use” fees for parks and recreation.
- c. Reallocating money in the state general fund for parks and recreation.
- d. Reallocating money from the State lottery for parks and recreation
- e. Using bonds to buy land and improve facilities
- f. Holding “fund raisers” for parks and recreation

- 1. Strongly oppose
- 2. Somewhat oppose
- 3. Somewhat support
- 4. Strongly support
- 7. DON'T KNOW/ NO RESPONSE
- 9. REFUSED

Q15.

The following is a list of statements concerning outdoor recreation lands and facilities in California. Please tell me if you strongly disagree, moderately disagree, moderately agree, or strongly agree with each statement.

- a. More neighborhood and community parks close to where I live are needed
- b. More recreation and open space lands are needed in, or close to, urban areas.
- c. More outdoor recreation areas are needed for camping or overnight use.
- d. More outdoor recreation facilities are needed at lakes and reservoirs, such as picnic and camping sites.
- e. Maintaining the natural environment in outdoor recreation areas is important to me.
- f. Outdoor recreation areas and facilities in California are too crowded when I want to use them.
- g. Outdoor recreation areas and programs help reduce crime and juvenile delinquency in my community.
- h. Outdoor recreation areas and programs help improve the health and welfare of people in my community.
- i. I do not feel safe using outdoor recreation areas and facilities.
- j. Outdoor recreation areas and facilities create jobs and help the economy in my community.
- k. Outdoor recreation areas and facilities should be used to promote tourism.
- l. Outdoor recreation areas and facilities increase property values in my community.
- m. Better enforcement of rules and regulations is needed in parks and outdoor recreation areas.
- n. More developed campgrounds with hot showers and electrical and water hook-ups are needed in outdoor recreation areas.
- o. Fees collected at each park, wildlife and recreation area should be spent on that area.
- p. Private businesses should provide some of the outdoor recreation services at government owned facilities.

- 1. Strongly disagree
- 2. Moderately disagree
- 3. Moderately agree
- 4. Strongly agree
- 7. DON'T KNOW/ NO RESPONSE
- 9. REFUSED

Q16. First, what is the highest grade or level of education you have completed?

1. Did not graduate high school
2. High school graduate
3. Some college but no degree
4. Associate degree
5. Bachelor's degree
6. Master's degree
7. Professional degree
8. Doctorate degree
77. DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE
99. REFUSED

Q17. Including yourself, how many persons live in your household?

1. SPECIFY>
777. DON'T KNOW/ NO RESPONSE
999. REFUSED

Q17a. How many of those are under age 18?

1. SPECIFY>
777. DON'T KNOW/ NO RESPONSE
999. REFUSED

Q18. Which of the following best describes your household?

1. Living alone
2. Couple with no children under 18 at home
3. Couple with one or more children under 18 at home
4. Single person(s) with children under 18 at home
5. Another living situation > SPECIFY
7. DON'T KNOW/ NO RESPONSE
9. REFUSED

Q19. Which of the following categories best describes your total annual household income. That is the total combined incomes for all members of your household before taxes? Please stop me when I read the category that best describes that income. Is it...

1. Under \$20,000
2. \$20,000 to \$34,999
3. \$35,000 to \$49,999
4. \$50,000 to \$74,999
5. \$75,000 to \$99,999
6. \$100,000 to \$149,999
7. \$150,000 to \$199,999
8. \$200,000 or more
77. DON'T KNOW/NO RESPONSE
99. REFUSED

Q20. Which of the following racial or ethnic backgrounds best describes your household? Is it...?

1. Hispanic or Latino of Mexican Descent
2. Other Hispanic or Latino, e.g., Guatemalan
3. White (non-Hispanic)
4. Black or African American
5. Asian
6. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
7. American Indian or Alaska Native
8. Some other race
9. MIXED
77. DON'T KNOW/ NO RESPONSE
99. REFUSED

Q21. What is your ZIP code at your home?

SPECIFY>

77777. DON'T KNOW/ NO RESPONSE

99999. REFUSED

MAILER We'd like to send you a brief follow-up questionnaire with more questions concerning outdoor recreation issues, which you can fill out and mail back to us. In return for your doing this, we'll send you a free day use pass to most California State Parks. Would you be willing to participate in this follow-up survey?

1. YES
2. NO [SKIP TO CONCLUD]

MAILKID Since you have children under 18 living at home, may we also include a very short questionnaire about youth activities?

1. YES
2. NO

MLABEL What is your name and mailing address?

1. SPECIFY >

CONCLUD That concludes our survey. Thank you very much for your time and cooperation!

INTERVIEWER CODE GENDER

APPENDIX B

California Department of Parks and Recreation OUTDOOR RECREATION QUESTIONNAIRE (Mail Survey for 2002)

***California Department of Parks and
Recreation***
OUTDOOR RECREATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Conducted for



by

**Program for Applied Research and Evaluation
Office of Sponsored Programs
University Research Foundation
California State University, Chico
Chico, California 95929-0201**



California Department of Parks and Recreation
OUTDOOR RECREATION QUESTIONNAIRE



Thank you for completing the telephone survey on outdoor recreation in California. This questionnaire includes additional questions about your participation in recreation. The information is very important to the planning and management of outdoor recreation in California. Please complete this questionnaire and return it in the enclosed postage paid envelope.

Q1. For park and recreation facilities and services within your local community, please assign a priority score for the following possible improvements. Please circle your priority with 1 being extremely low priority and 10 being an extremely high priority.

	Low Priority					High Priority				
a. Providing areas and facilities for environmental education programs.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
b. Developing day use facilities for school programs, after-school programs, and youth activities.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
c. Developing multi-use turf areas for field sports such as softball, soccer or football	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
d. Constructing multi-purpose buildings that can be used for meeting, cultural events, senior, or teen centers or multi-purpose building	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
e. Constructing play activity areas for tots and young children . . .	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
f. Constructing courts for activities such as tennis, basketball, and volleyball.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
g. Providing opportunities and facilities in the local community that can be used for day camps and short overnight campouts .	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
h. Providing off leash dog parks.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
i. Constructing swimming pools	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
j. Constructing skateboard parks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
k. Developing large group picnic sites that accommodate 20 or more persons	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
l. Developing small group picnic sites	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
m. Constructing trails for jogging, biking and fitness walking.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Q2. For park and recreation facilities and services **away from your local community**, please assign a priority score for the following possible improvements. Please circle your priority with 1 being extremely low priority and 10 being an extremely high priority.

	Low Priority					High Priority				
Providing more educational programs and services in parks and outdoor recreation areas.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Constructing more basic campgrounds with picnic tables, cold water, and pit toilets.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Constructing more developed campgrounds with flush toilets, hot showers and food lockers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Constructing RV campgrounds with electrical and water hookups, sewer dump stations, and pull-through sites.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Providing sheltered lodging facilities such as rustic cabins, tent cabins, etc.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Developing more local community parks in rural areas	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Providing more hotels, motels, restaurants, shops, and gas stations within public park and outdoor recreation areas	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Increasing the presence of uniformed law enforcement personnel.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Providing more areas for the legal use of off-road vehicles such as motorcycles, dune buggies, 4-wheel drive vehicles, and all terrain vehicles.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Developing more multi-use, non-motorized trails for horseback riding, hiking and/or mountain biking.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Increasing the number of wilderness type areas where no vehicles or developments are allowed.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Providing more open space in urban areas.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Providing more group picnic sites that accommodate large families or groups of 20 or more persons	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Increasing parking at day use picnic sites.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Providing more public use opportunities at lakes and reservoirs.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

(Please go on to the next page.)

Listed below are 54 outdoor recreation activities commonly enjoyed by Californians. Using this list, please answer Questions 3 - 6.

Q3. For each activity, please give your best estimate of the total number of days that you participated in that activity *during the last 12 months*. Include even those days when you did the activity for only a short period of time. Write your best estimate on the line to the right of each activity.

For this question, include ALL of your outdoor recreation activities that took place at PRIVATE and PUBLIC facilities.

Outdoor Recreation Activity	Number of Days
01 Walking for fitness and fun.	_____
02 Walking a pet.	_____
03 Trail Hiking.	_____
04 Jogging and fitness running.	_____
05 Bicycling on paved surfaces	_____
06 Bicycling on unpaved surfaces and trails, mountain biking	_____
07 Driving for pleasure, sightseeing, driving through natural scenery.	_____
08 Picnicking in developed sites	_____
09 Backpack camping.	_____
10 Camping at a primitive site without facilities	_____
11 Camping in developed sites with facilities such as toilets and tables	_____
12 Camping in trailer or RV sites with hookups	_____
13 Wildlife viewing, bird watching, viewing natural scenery	_____
14 Gathering mushrooms, berries or other natural products	_____
15 Using open turf areas (casual and unstructured activities-games, relax, sunning, etc.). . . .	_____
16 Using play equipment, tot-lots	_____
17 Soccer, football or rugby	_____
18 Softball and baseball.	_____
19 Basketball	_____
20 Volleyball.	_____
21 Golf.	_____
22 Tennis	_____
23 Skateboarding.	_____
24 In-line skating	_____
25 Horseback riding, horse shows and events.	_____

<u>Outdoor Recreation Activity</u>	<u>Number of Days</u>
26 Beach activities (including sun bathing), surf play.	_____
27 Pool swimming	_____
28 Swimming in freshwater lakes, rivers and/or streams	_____
29 Surfing	_____
30 Swimming in saltwater, snorkeling, scuba diving.	_____
31 Motor boating.	_____
32 Using personal watercraft	_____
33 Water Skiing	_____
34 Wakeboarding	_____
35 Sailboating.	_____
36 Windsurfing	_____
37 Paddle Sports (kayaking, rowing, canoeing, and rafting)	_____
38 Fishing – freshwater.	_____
39 Fishing - saltwater (includes catching abalone, clams, crabs, etc.).	_____
40 Downhill (Alpine) skiing	_____
41 Snowboarding.	_____
42 Cross-country skiing	_____
43 Winter sports (non-mechanized – sledding, snow play, ice skating).	_____
44 Snowmobiling.	_____
45 Off-road vehicle use –motorcycles, ATV's, dune buggies	_____
46 Off-road vehicle use – four-wheel drive.	_____
47 Attending outdoor cultural events (festivals, fairs, concerts, historical reenactments, outdoor theater)	_____
48 Visiting historic or cultural sites, museums	_____
49 Visiting Outdoor Nature Museums, Zoos or Arboretums.	_____
50 Hunting (large and small game).	_____
51 Target shooting (including pistol and skeet)	_____
52 Archery (hunting and target shooting).	_____
53 Rock climbing/bouldering.	_____
54 Orienteering/geo-caching	_____
55 Other _____	_____

For all of the remaining questions, consider **ONLY** outdoor recreation activities which took place in public government-operated park and outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

Q4. Of the 55 activities listed in Q3 above, please ***select up to 5 activities that are most important to you*** and place the activity numbers in the spaces provided. **Next**, please indicate how much one day of each of those five activities is worth to you. Assume the facilities will be of high quality and uncrowded. ***Please indicate the value for each activity in the space provided.***

Most important activity# _____ The value to me is \$ _____ per day.
Second most important.# _____ The value to me is \$ _____ per day.
Third most important.# _____ The value to me is \$ _____ per day.
Fourth most important# _____ The value to me is \$ _____ per day.
Fifth most important.# _____ The value to me is \$ _____ per day.

Q5. Using the above list of 55 activities in Q3, please ***select up to 5 which you probably would have done more often or would like to have tried if good opportunities, facilities and programs had been available to you.*** Place the activity numbers in the spaces below with the most important in the first box, followed by the second most important, etc.

Most important activity# _____	Fourth most important# _____
Second most important.# _____	Fifth most important.# _____
Third most important.# _____	

Q6. Please help us plan to meet outdoor recreation needs. We would like to know ***which activities you think government agencies should spend public money on to improve outdoor recreation opportunities for you and your family members.*** Using the list of 55 activities listed in Q3, please select up to 5 activity numbers and place them in the boxes below. Place the activity numbers in the spaces below with the most important in the first box, followed by the second most important, etc.

Most important activity# _____	Fourth most important# _____
Second most important.# _____	Fifth most important.# _____
Third most important.# _____	

Q7. Considering *your favorite outdoor recreation activity*, how important were the following factors to your overall enjoyment of that activity? Please circle the number that best describes your importance rating with 1 = very important (VI), 2 = somewhat important (SI), 3 = somewhat unimportant (SU), and 4 = very unimportant (VU).

	VI	SI	SU	VU
a. Being able to relax.	1	2	3	4
b. Keeping fit and healthy	1	2	3	4
c. Experiencing challenge and excitement	1	2	3	4
d. Meeting new people	1	2	3	4
e. Being with family and friends.	1	2	3	4
f. Doing something your children enjoyed.	1	2	3	4
g. Releasing or reducing tension.	1	2	3	4
h. Having a change from daily routine.	1	2	3	4
i. Getting away from crowded situations	1	2	3	4
j. Being in the outdoors	1	2	3	4
k. Feeling of harmony with nature	1	2	3	4
l. Achieving spiritual fulfillment.	1	2	3	4
m. Beauty of the area.	1	2	3	4
n. Availability of facilities	1	2	3	4
o. Quality of the natural setting	1	2	3	4
p. Availability of water features (lakes, reservoirs, rivers, wetlands).	1	2	3	4
q. Feeling safe and secure	1	2	3	4

(Please go on to the next page.)

Q8. During the past year, **how often did you visit each of the following types of outdoor recreation areas?** For each of the following, please tell us if you did not visit at all, visited once or twice a year, several times a year, once or twice a month, once a week, or two or more times a week. Please circle the number below your answer choice for each type of outdoor recreation area.

Types of Outdoor Recreation Areas	Did Not Visit at All	Once or Twice a Year	Several Times a Year	Once or Twice a Month	Once a Week	Two or More Times Each Week
a. <u>Highly developed parks and recreation areas</u> , in or near urban areas. They may include playgrounds, sports facilities, and highly developed beaches. City parks and county parks are examples.	0	1	2	3	4	5
b. <u>Developed nature-oriented parks and recreation areas</u> , located outside of or on the fringe of urban areas, including developments such as trails, picnic areas, campgrounds, and information centers. Generally, they're national, state, or large county and regional parks, beaches, reservoirs, and state and national areas.	0	1	2	3	4	5
c. <u>Natural and undeveloped areas</u> , that is, large areas in a natural or nearly natural condition, with few developments; for example, forests, deserts, mountains, wetlands, and seashores.	0	1	2	3	4	5
d. <u>Historical or cultural buildings, sites, or areas</u> , regardless of their location.	0	1	2	3	4	5
e. <u>Private, not public, outdoor recreation areas and facilities</u> , such as private campgrounds, hunting preserves, amusement parks, golf clubs, tennis or swimming facilities at clubs or in homeowners or residential complexes such as apartments or condos.	0	1	2	3	4	5

Q9. Of the five types of areas listed in Question 8 above, which one do you **most enjoy** visiting? This may not necessarily be the one you visit most often. **Would you say that you most enjoy visiting highly developed parks and recreation areas in or near urban areas; developed nature-oriented parks and recreation areas; natural and undeveloped areas; historical or cultural buildings, sites or areas; or private, not public, outdoor recreation areas and facilities?** Please write the letter beside the area above in the blank below.

Area _____ (a – e)

Q10. Many government outdoor recreation agencies contract out some of their work and services to private, profit-making firms. **Which of the following activities or services do you think are appropriate for a private firm to provide in public park and recreation areas?** Please circle your answer for each question.

Work or Services	Should be Provided by a Private Firm		
	Yes	No	Unsure
Food services such the sale of ready-to-eat food and beverages.	Yes	No	Unsure
Sponsorship of contests, races and special events.	Yes	No	Unsure
General maintenance of facilities and grounds	Yes	No	Unsure
Patrol and law enforcement duties.	Yes	No	Unsure
Guided nature walks, educational activities.	Yes	No	Unsure
Operation and maintenance of campgrounds or other lodging facilities	Yes	No	Unsure
Rental of recreational equipment such as boats, camping equipment	Yes	No	Unsure
Total operation and management of the park or recreation area.	Yes	No	Unsure
Operation of marinas and boat launching facilities	Yes	No	Unsure

Q11. Due to budget cuts, additional sources of funds to help public park and recreation agencies to buy, develop, and take care of park and recreation areas and facilities may be needed. **Please tell us if you strongly oppose, somewhat oppose, somewhat support, or strongly support each of the following possible funding sources.** Please circle the number below your answer choice for each funding source.

Possible Funding Sources	Strongly Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Somewhat Support	Strongly Support	No Opinion
a. Designating a dollar on your state income tax return.	1	2	3	4	0
b. Designating money from the state lottery.	1	2	3	4	0
c. Increasing the tax on oil, mining, and timber operations.	1	2	3	4	0
d. An additional tax on tobacco products.	1	2	3	4	0

Possible Funding Sources	Strongly Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Somewhat Support	Strongly Support	No Opinion
e. An additional tax on alcoholic beverages.	1	2	3	4	0
f. Charging higher entrance or activity fees for parks and recreation.	1	2	3	4	0
g. Designating a portion of the existing state sales tax.	1	2	3	4	0
h. Passing a voter approved bond measure.	1	2	3	4	0
i. Increasing vehicle license fees for park purposes.	1	2	3	4	0
j. Increasing the tax on sporting goods and recreation equipment.	1	2	3	4	0
k. Fund raising activities and special events in parks.	1	2	3	4	0
l. Increasing fees for specialized facilities such as RV hook-ups, marinas, etc. at public parks and recreation areas.	1	2	3	4	0
m. Charging higher fees for organized sports activities such as soccer, softball, etc.	1	2	3	4	0
n. Designating a larger share of the state's general fund for parks and recreation.	1	2	3	4	0
o. Designating a portion of the tax on the sale of homes and other real estate to parks and recreation.	1	2	3	4	0
p. Designating a portion of the hotel/motel occupancy tax for parks and recreation.	1	2	3	4	0

Q12. From which of the following sources would you prefer to receive information about public parks, recreation areas and facilities? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth (family, friends, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> TV |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brochures | <input type="checkbox"/> Maps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Magazines, Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trade Shows | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify.) _____ | |

Q13. Does your household have access to the Internet?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

(Please go on to the next page.)

APPENDIX C

California Department of Parks and Recreation OUTDOOR RECREATION YOUTH QUESTIONNAIRE (Mail Survey for 2002)

***California Department of Parks and
Recreation***
**OUTDOOR RECREATION YOUTH
QUESTIONNAIRE**

Conducted for



by

**Program for Applied Research and Evaluation
Office of Sponsored Programs
University Research Foundation
California State University, Chico
Chico, California 95929-0201**



California Department of Parks and Recreation
OUTDOOR RECREATION YOUTH
QUESTIONNAIRE



1. Listed below are 54 outdoor recreation activities commonly enjoyed by Californians. For each recreation activity, please estimate of the total number of days that you participated in that activity in the last 12 months. Include even those days when you did the activity for only a short period of time. Write your best estimate on the line to the right of each activity.

For this question, include ALL of your outdoor recreation activities that took place at PRIVATE and PUBLIC recreation facilities.

<u>Outdoor Recreation Activity</u>	<u>Number of Days</u>
01 Walking for fitness and fun.	_____
02 Walking a pet	_____
02 Trail hiking	_____
03 Jogging and fitness running	_____
04 Bicycling on paved surfaces.	_____
05 Bicycling on unpaved surfaces and trails, mountain biking	_____
06 Driving for pleasure, sightseeing, driving through natural scenery.	_____
07 Picnicking in developed sites	_____
08 Backpack camping on trails	_____
09 Camping at a primitive site without facilities.	_____
10 Camping in developed sites with facilities such as toilets and tables.	_____
11 Camping in trailer or RV sites.	_____
12 Wildlife viewing, bird watching, viewing natural scenery	_____
13 Gathering mushrooms, berries or other natural products	_____
14 Use of open turf areas (casual and unstructured activities-games, relax, sunning, etc.) ...	_____
15 Use of play equipment, tot-lots	_____
16 Soccer, football or rugby.	_____
17 Softball and baseball.	_____
18 Basketball	_____
19 Volleyball.	_____
20 Golf	_____
21 Tennis	_____
22 Skateboarding.	_____

23	In-line skating	_____
24	Horseback riding, horse shows and events	_____
25	Beach activities (including sun bathing), surf play.	_____
26	Visiting water sites other than beaches	_____
27	Pool swimming	_____
28	Swimming in freshwater lakes, rivers and/or streams.	_____
29	Surfing.	_____
30	Swimming in saltwater, snorkeling, scuba diving	_____
31	Motor boating	_____
32	Personal watercraft (jet skis, wave runners).	_____
33	Water skiing	_____
34	Wakeboarding.	_____
35	Sailboating	_____
36	Windsurfing.	_____
37	Paddle Sports (kayak, row, canoe, and raft).	_____
38	Fishing - freshwater	_____
39	Fishing - saltwater (includes catching abalone, clams, crabs, etc.)	_____
40	Downhill (Alpine) skiing.	_____
41	Snowboarding.	_____
42	Cross-country skiing.	_____
43	Winter sports (non-mechanized – sledding, snow play, ice skating)	_____
44	Snowmobiling.	_____
45	Off-road vehicle use – four-wheel drive, motorcycles, ATV's, dune buggies.	_____
46	Attending outdoor cultural events (festivals, fairs, concerts, historical reenactments, outdoor theater).	_____
47	Visiting historic or cultural sites, museums.	_____
48	Visiting outdoor nature museums, zoos or arboretums.	_____
49	Hunting (large and small game)	_____
50	Target shooting (including pistol and skeet).	_____
51	Archery (hunting and target shooting)	_____
52	Rock climbing/bouldering.	_____
53	Orienteering/geo-caching.	_____
54	Other_____	_____

2. Using the above list of activities, which five would you like to do more often?

3. What would allow you to participate in these five activities more often?

Thank you for completing the survey. Please give this questionnaire back to your parents and ask them to mail it with their completed questionnaire.



APPENDIX D

Demographics of the Survey Sample

Table A.1. Demographics of the 2002 telephone sample of Californians.

Demographic	Number	Percent
Regions of the State		
Los Angeles County	596	25.2%
Other Southern California	684	28.9%
Central Valley	462	19.6%
San Francisco Bay Area	419	17.7%
Other California	202	8.5%
TOTAL	2363	100.0%
Gender		
Male	1,055	42.1%
Female	1,449	57.9%
TOTAL	2,504	100.0%
Ethnic Background		
Hispanic-Mexican Descent	555	23.4%
Other Hispanic	89	3.7%
White	1177	49.6%
African American	124	5.2%
Asian	118	5.0%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	22	.9%
American Indian/Alaska Native	26	1.1%
Some other race	43	1.8%
Mixed	220	9.3%
TOTAL	2374	100.0%
Level of Education		
Did not graduate high school	268	10.9%
High school graduate	501	20.4%
Some college, but no degree	579	23.5%
Associate degree	219	8.9%
Bachelor's degree	550	22.3%
Master's degree	226	9.2%
Professional degree	64	2.6%
Doctorate degree	54	2.2%
TOTAL	2461	100.0%
Household Description		
Living alone	344	14.2%
Couple with no children under 18 at home	632	26.0%
Couple with one or more children under 18 at home	873	35.9%
Single person(s) with children under 18 at home	181	7.4%
Another living situation	400	16.5%
TOTAL	2430	100.0%

Table A.1. Demographics of the 2002 telephone sample of Californians (cont'd.).

Demographic	Number	Percent
Number in Household		
1	338	13.7%
2	691	28.0%
3	482	19.6%
4	476	19.3%
5	286	11.6%
6	111	4.5%
7 or more	80	3.3%
TOTAL	2464	100.0%
Number in Household Under Age 18		
0	1289	52.3%
1	426	17.3%
2	448	18.2%
3	191	7.7%
4	79	3.2%
5 or more	32	1.3%
TOTAL	2465	100.0%
Annual Household Income		
Less than \$20,000 per year	277	15.3%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	172	9.5%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	227	12.5%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	179	9.9%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	174	9.6%
\$60,000 - \$69,999	142	7.8%
\$70,000 - \$79,999	139	7.7%
\$80,000 - \$89,999	102	5.6%
\$90,000 - \$99,999	88	4.9%
\$100,000 - \$124,999	148	8.2%
\$125,000 - \$149,999	62	3.4%
\$150,000 - \$174,999	55	3.0%
More than \$175,000	45	2.5%
TOTAL	1810	100.0%

Table A.1. Demographics of the 2002 telephone sample of Californians (cont'd.).

Demographic	Number	Percent
Number of Years in California		
1 – 5	212	8.5%
6 – 10	164	6.6%
11 – 15	220	8.8%
16 – 20	264	10.6%
21 – 25	265	10.7%
26 – 30	245	9.8%
31 – 35	172	6.9%
36 – 40	258	10.4%
41 – 45	186	7.5%
46 – 50	186	7.5%
51 – 55	113	4.5%
56 – 60	97	3.9%
61 – 99	106	4.3%
TOTAL	2488	100.0%
Number of Years in Local Community		
1 – 5	730	29.5%
6 – 10	423	17.1%
11 – 15	316	12.8%
16 – 20	246	9.9%
21 – 25	196	7.9%
26 – 30	162	6.6%
31 – 35	85	3.4%
36 – 40	111	4.5%
41 – 45	58	2.3%
46 – 50	58	2.3%
51 – 55	40	1.6%
56 – 60	22	.9%
61 – 99	26	1.1%
TOTAL	2473	100.0%

Table A.2. Demographic comparisons of the 2002 telephone sample with the California adult population estimates for 2002.

Demographic	2002 California Estimate*		2002 Phone Survey Sample	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Gender				
Male	12,257,274	49.8%	1,055	42.1%
Female	12,355,726	50.2%	1,449	57.9%
TOTAL	24,613,000	100.0%	2,504	100.0%
Ethnicity				
White	12,185,000	49.5%	1,177	49.6%
Hispanic or Latino	7,579,000	30.8%	644	27.1%
Black or African American	1,437,000	5.8%	124	5.2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3,107,000	12.6%	140	5.9%
Some other race	305,000	1.2%	69	2.9%
Mixed			220	9.3%
TOTAL	24,613,000	99.9%**	2,374	100.0%
Average Household Size	2.9		3.17	
Hispanic	4.0		4.0	
White	2.4		2.6	
African American	2.6		2.8	
Asian	3.1		3.3	
Percent of Households Under Age 18		28.6%		30.6%
Annual Household Income				
Less than \$20,000	2,386,000	20.0%	277	15.3%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	1,343,000	11.3%	172	9.5%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	1,350,000	11.3%	227	12.5%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	1,138,000	9.5%	179	9.9%
\$50,000 or more	5,720,000	47.9%	955	52.8%
TOTAL	11,937,000	100.0%	1,810	100.0%

*Source: *California Current Population Survey Report – March 2002 Data*. California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit. Sacramento, California, June 2003.

** Does not equal 100.0% due to rounding error.

Project Manager: Eric Natti, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist

Project Team: Dave Cox, Staff Park and Recreation Specialist
Keith Demetrak, Chief, Planning Division

Contributors: Bruce Kennedy, Senior Park and Recreation Specialist
Linda McDonald, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist
Philomene Smith, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist
Laura Westrup, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist

Special thanks to the Program for Applied Research and Evaluation at California State University, Chico:

James E. Fletcher, Ph.D., Director

Roger H. Guthrie, Ph.D., Professor

Joleen Barnhill, Project and Fiscal Coordinator

A portion of the survey was conducted by the Social Science Research Center at California State University, Fullerton.