

2011 VIRGINIA OUTDOORS SURVEY

Purpose of the Survey:

We want to identify the types of outdoor recreational activities in which Virginians participate. Even if you don't get outdoors for recreation often – or at all – it is very important that we hear from your household to get a complete picture of all Virginians.

What do we mean by outdoor recreation?

Outdoor recreation includes a wide variety of things people do outside, including simple things like walking for pleasure, using a playground, or going for a swim. We are also interested in learning about your visits to historic sites, campgrounds, and other open spaces.

General Instructions:

1. Circle the number of your response to the question or check the box or boxes that apply. Skip activities and items that do not pertain to you or others in your household. The last few questions provide classification information needed for all households, even those households where no one participates in outdoor recreation.
2. When you finish answering the questions, put your survey in the envelope provided, and drop it in any mailbox. **No postage is required.**

Who can participate?

1. An adult who is 18 or older must complete this questionnaire.
2. The person should be the one who is best qualified to report on the recreational activities in which all people living in your household participated during the last 12 months.

It's fast and easy.

1. It should only take 20-25 minutes for most people to complete.
2. There are no right or wrong answers.
3. You can stop and come back to a question later if you need to.

Completely confidential.

1. Your answers are completely confidential.
2. Your name or contact information will not be linked to your survey responses and will only be used to contact you for this survey.

For additional information contact:

1. Deborah Rexrode, Project Manager at the Center for Survey Research at dlr3r@virginia.edu or 434-243-1088
2. Janit Llewellyn, Department of Conservation and Recreation, at 804-786-0887 or Janit.Llewellyn@dcr.virginia.gov.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!

Access to Outdoor Recreation

As you answer the following questions, think about all the recreational areas that you and your household use. This includes both private and public areas. We are also interested in the recreational areas in your community, housing association, and neighborhood. When you think about participation, include activities that you may have done by yourself and activities that you did with others. We are also interested in activities that your child(ren) may have done on school trips. When asked for numbers, please give us your best estimate.

A1. In general, how important is it to you and any other persons living in your household to have access to outdoor recreation opportunities? *(Circle one number)*

- 1 Not important
- 2 Important
- 3 Very important

A2. In general, when do you and others in your household most often participate in outdoor recreation activities? *(Circle one number)*

- 1 Mostly on weekends
- 2 Mostly during the week
- 3 About equally on weekends and during the week

A3. How do you usually find out about outdoor recreation information and opportunities?

(Check all that apply)

- 1 Internet
- 2 Travel guides, pamphlets, and brochures
- 3 Magazine and newspaper articles
- 4 Advertisements
- 5 Word of mouth
- 6 Other (specify) _____

A4. Which of the following types of technology do you use in connection with your outdoor recreation activities? *(Check all that apply)*

- 1 Internet
- 2 Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- 3 Smart Phone (iPhone, Blackberry, etc.)
- 4 GPS (Global Positioning System) or personal locator beacons
- 5 Remote cameras, trail cameras, web cams
- 6 Google Earth, satellite imagery, or digital mapping
- 7 Other (specify) _____

A5. Did you (or anyone else in your household) visit any HISTORIC SITES in the last 12 months?

- 1 No (CONTINUE TO QUESTION A6)
- 2 Yes

Answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge.

A5a. How many days did one or more persons from your household visit historic sites?

_____ Total days in the last 12 months

A5b. How many persons from your household, including yourself, visited historic sites on a typical visit?

_____ Persons

A5c. Were most of the historic sites in Virginia?

- 1 No
- 2 Yes

A5d. Were most of the historic sites at mostly public or mostly privately owned places?

- 1 Public
- 2 Private
- 3 Don't know

A5e. On average, what was your travel time to visit historic sites? (*Estimate to the nearest 1/4 hour*)

_____ Hours

Natural Areas, Preserves, and Refuges

Natural areas, preserves, or refuges are places that are maintained primarily in a natural condition with minimal public facilities. Examples are state natural area preserves, state wildlife management areas, and national wildlife refuges.

A6. Did you (or anyone else in your household) visit a NATURAL AREA, PRESERVE, OR REFUGE in the last 12 months?

- 1 No (CONTINUE TO QUESTION A7)
- 2 Yes

A6a. How many days did someone from your household visit a natural area, preserve, or refuge?

_____ Total days in the last 12 months

A6b. How many persons from your household, including yourself, visited a natural area, preserve, or refuge on a typical trip?

_____ Persons

A6c. Were most of the natural areas, preserves, or refuges in Virginia?

- 1 No
- 2 Yes

A6d. Did you and your household members mostly visit publicly owned natural areas, preserves, or refuges, or were most privately owned?

- 1 Public
- 2 Private
- 3 Don't know

A6e. On average, what was your travel time to visit a natural area, preserve, or refuge?
(Estimate to the nearest ¼ hour)

_____ Hours

A7. Did you (or anyone else in your household) go CAMPING in the last 12 months?

- 1 No (SKIP TO QUESTION A8)
- 2 Yes

A7a. How many days did one or more persons from your household go CAMPING?

_____ Total days in the last 12 months

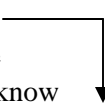
A7b. How many persons from your household, including yourself, went camping on a typical trip?

_____ Persons

A7c. Did you and your household members CAMP mostly in Virginia?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

A7d. Did you and your household members CAMP at mostly public or mostly privately owned places?

- 1 Public
 - 2 Private
 - 3 Don't know
- 

A7e. IF MOSTLY PUBLIC: What kind of public camp did you use?

- 1 Federal
- 2 State
- 3 Local
- 4 Don't know

A7f. What is the average travel time from home to where you went CAMPING? (Estimate to the nearest 1/4 hour)

_____ Hours

A7g. What type of camping equipment did you and your household members use most often in the past year? (Circle only one answer)

- 1 Tent
- 2 Pop-up tent trailer
- 3 Travel trailer
- 4 Motor home
- 5 Other (specify) _____

A7h. Which kind of campsite do you and members of your household generally prefer?

- 1 Backpacking/Walk-in sites with a parking pad
- 2 Backpacking/Walk-in sites without a parking pad
- 3 Drive-in Campground with a parking pad
- 4 Drive-in Campground without a parking pad
- 5 Other (specify) _____

A7i. Do you prefer to camp in a publicly owned campground (such as in a state or national park or forest), in a privately owned campground, or have no preference between publicly and privately owned campgrounds?

- 1 Publicly owned campgrounds
- 2 Privately owned campgrounds
- 3 No preference between publicly and privately owned campgrounds

A8. (Skip this question if you never go camping or if you only use backpacking/walk-in sites.) **How important are each of the following amenities to you and your family members, when camping at a drive-in campground in Virginia state parks and other public campgrounds?** (Circle one number in each row.)

AMENITIES	IMPORTANCE		
	Not important	Important	Very important
a. Sewer hookups	1	2	3
b. Electric/water hookups	1	2	3
c. Flush toilets	1	2	3
d. Showers	1	2	3
e. Paved roads	1	2	3
f. Camp store	1	2	3
g. Restaurant	1	2	3
h. Security patrol	1	2	3
i. Other (specify)_____	1	2	3

The next three questions are for all respondents.

A9. Although privately owned campgrounds may be available in the vicinity, should public campgrounds be developed in Virginia’s state parks?

- 1 No
- 2 Yes
- 3 Don’t know

A10. Please indicate which of the following outdoor RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES, if any, you feel are MOST NEEDED in Virginia. (Check all that apply.)

- 1 Access to historic areas
- 2 Access to natural areas
- 3 Outdoor playing courts for tennis and basketball
- 4 Playing fields for outdoor sports such as softball, baseball, football, and soccer
- 5 Public access to state waters for fishing, swimming, and beach use
- 6 Public access to state waters for non-motorized boating such as canoeing or kayaking
- 7 Public access to state waters for motorized boating
- 8 Public pools
- 9 Trails for bicycling
- 10 Trails for hiking and walking
- 11 Trails for wildlife watching and nature study
- 12 Trails for horseback riding
- 13 Trails for motorized off road vehicles
- 14 Other (specify) _____

A11. Do you prefer developed parks with recreational facilities such as ball fields, campgrounds, picnic areas, and multi-use trails; or do you prefer natural areas with limited recreational facilities such as parking, hiking, trails and observation points? (Circle one number.)

- 1 Developed parks
- 2 Natural areas
- 3 Both developed parks and natural areas equally
- 4 No preference

A12. For each of the following *outdoor activities* check those that YOU OR PERSONS LIVING IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD participated in during the last 12 months. Then provide all other information to the right of the items checked.

ACTIVITIES	Check if anyone did this	Total # of days	# of persons on a typical day	Did the activity occur MOSTLY in VA? (Circle one)		Did the activity MOSTLY occur in public places (PUB), privately-owned places (PVT), or you don't know (DK)? (Circle one)			How much time was needed to get from home to where activity occurred? (Estimate to nearest ¼ hr)
				Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	
a. Walking for pleasure	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours
b. Jogging/running	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours
c. Hiking/backpacking	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours
d. Fitness Trail (not jogging)	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours
e. Horseback riding	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours
f. Using a playground	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours
g. Other (specify)_____	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours

A13. For each of the following *organized sports activities* check those that YOU OR PERSONS LIVING IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD participated in during the last 12 months. Then provide all other information to the right of the items checked.

ACTIVITIES	Check if anyone did this	Total # of days	# of persons on a typical day	Did the activity occur MOSTLY in VA? (Circle one)		Did the activity MOSTLY occur in public places (PUB), privately-owned places (PVT), or you don't know (DK)? (Circle one)			How much time was needed to get from home to where activity occurred? (Estimate to nearest ¼ hr)
				Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	
a. Softball	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours
b. Baseball	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours
c. Soccer	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours
d. Basketball	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours
e. Football	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours
f. Volleyball	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours
g. Tennis	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours
h. Golf	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours
i. Other (specify)_____	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours

A14. For each of the following *water-related activities* check those that YOU OR PERSONS LIVING IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD participated in during the last 12 months. Then provide all other information to the right of the items checked.

ACTIVITIES	Check if anyone did this	Total # of days	# of persons on a typical day	Did the activity occur MOSTLY in VA? <i>(Circle one)</i>		Did the activity MOSTLY occur in public places (PUB), privately-owned places (PVT), or you don't know (DK)? <i>(Circle one)</i>			How much time was needed to get from home to where activity occurred? <i>(Estimate to nearest ¼ hr)</i>
				Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	
a. Fresh water fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	____ hours
b. Salt water fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	____ hours
c. Sunbathing/relaxing on a beach	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	____ hours
d. Jet ski/personal watercraft	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	____ hours
e. Power boating	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	____ hours
f. Sailing/sail boarding	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	____ hours
g. Canoeing/kayaking/rowing	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	____ hours
h. Water skiing or towed on water	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	____ hours
i. Rafting	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	____ hours
j. Tubing on water	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	____ hours
k. Swimming/pool	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	____ hours
l. Swimming/beach	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	____ hours
m. Other (specify)_____	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	____ hours

A15. For each of the following activities check those that YOU OR PERSONS LIVING IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD participated in during the last 12 months. Then provide all other information to the right of the items checked.

ACTIVITIES	Check if anyone did this	Total # of days	# of persons on a typical day	Did the activity occur MOSTLY in VA? <i>(Circle one)</i>		Did the activity MOSTLY occur in public places (PUB), privately-owned places (PVT), or you don't know (DK)? <i>(Circle one)</i>			How much time was needed to get from home to where activity occurred? <i>(Estimate to nearest 1/4 hr)</i>
				Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	
a. Off-road/multi-use bicycling	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	____hours
b. Single track bicycling	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	____hours
c. Driving 4-wheel off road	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	____hours
d. Driving motorcycle off road	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	____hours
e. Driving motorcycle, ATV, or UTV off road	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	____hours
f. Skateboarding	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	____hours
g. In-line skating	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	____hours
h. Other (specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	____hours

A16. For each of the following *activities* check those that YOU OR PERSONS LIVING IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD participated in during the last 12 months. Then provide all other information to the right of the items checked.

ACTIVITIES	Check if anyone did this	Total # of days	# of persons on a typical day	Did the activity occur MOSTLY in VA? <i>(Circle one)</i>		Did the activity MOSTLY occur in public places (PUB), privately-owned places (PVT), or you don't know (DK)? <i>(Circle one)</i>			How much time was needed to get from home to where activity occurred? <i>(Estimate to nearest ¼ hr)</i>
				Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	
a. Hunting	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours
b. Picnicking away from home	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours
c. Nature study/Nature programs	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours
d. Visiting gardens/arboretums	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours
e. Bird watching away from home	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours
f. Visiting natural preserves	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours
g. Visiting parks (local, state & national)	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours
h. Visiting historic areas	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours
i. Geocaching or letterboxing	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours
j. Other (specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	_____ hours

A17. For each of the following *outdoor winter activities* check those that YOU OR PERSONS LIVING IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD participated in during the last 12 months. Then provide all other information to the right of the items checked.

ACTIVITIES	Check if anyone did this	Total # of days	# of persons on a typical day	Did the activity occur MOSTLY in VA? <i>(Circle one)</i>		Did the activity MOSTLY occur in public places (PUB), privately-owned places (PVT), or you don't know (DK)? <i>(Circle one)</i>			How much time was needed to get from home to where activity occurred? <i>(Estimate to nearest ¼ hr)</i>
				Y	N	PUB	PVT	DK	
a. Downhill skiing/snow boarding	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____ hours
b. Cross country, snowshoeing	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____ hours
c. Snow sledding/tubing	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____ hours
d. Ice skating (outdoor)	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____ hours
e. Other (specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>			Y	N	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____ hours

B. Virginia's State Parks

B1. Which of the following do you and members of your household consider to be the top THREE most important reasons for having the Virginia system of state parks? (Check the top three only.)

- 1 Conserving natural resources
- 2 Providing places for people to explore and enjoy nature and their cultural heritage
- 3 Providing large natural areas which offer recreation opportunities
- 4 Providing places for families and friends to spend time together
- 5 Providing places for walking, running, and other activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle
- 6 Providing special places for quiet contemplation
- 7 Attracting visitors to rural areas and helping the local economy
- 8 Other (specify) _____

B2. Which, if any, of the following reasons prevented you or members of your household from using Virginia state parks in the past year? (Check all that apply)

- 1 Lack of information
- 2 Too crowded
- 3 Lack of desired activities or facilities
- 4 Too far away from home/household or no public transportation
- 5 Too expensive
- 6 Not interested in state parks
- 7 Public safety/security concerns
- 8 Not enough personal, family time
- 9 Other (specify) _____

B3. What style of lodging would you prefer in state parks? (Circle one number.)

- 1 Rustic one room cabin
- 2 One bedroom cabin
- 3 Two-three bedroom cabin
- 4 Six bedroom cabin
- 5 Hotel style room
- 6 No preference
- 7 Other (specify) _____

B4. If you were to camp in a state park, what type of campsite would you prefer? (Circle one number.)

- 1 Campsite with water/electric hookups
- 2 Campsite for tent only
- 3 Backcountry pack-in campsite
- 4 Water-access campsites (canoe-in, boat-in)
- 5 Equestrian camp sites
- 6 Never use campsites
- 7 Other (specify) _____

B5. Would you feel comfortable swimming at a state park lakefront or river swimming area if lifeguards were NOT on duty?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Don't know

B6. How important is it that Virginia state parks provide each of the following?

(Circle one number in each row.)

AMENITIES	IMPORTANCE		
	Not important	Important	Very important
a. Cabins	1	2	3
b. Camping facilities	1	2	3
c. Boating water access	1	2	3
d. Visitor centers	1	2	3
e. Nature programs	1	2	3
f. Cultural/historic programs	1	2	3
g. School programs	1	2	3
h. Snack bars	1	2	3
i. Boat/canoe/kayak rentals	1	2	3
j. Gifts, souvenirs, camp store	1	2	3
k. Swimming pool	1	2	3
l. Lake/beach swimming	1	2	3
m. Playgrounds	1	2	3
n. Hiking trails	1	2	3
o. Family bicycle trails	1	2	3
p. Horse trails	1	2	3
q. Multiple use trails	1	2	3
r. Hunting	1	2	3
s. Fishing	1	2	3
t. Hotel-style accommodation	1	2	3
u. Golf courses	1	2	3
v. Places for weddings, receptions, and meetings	1	2	3
w. WiFi and/or cell phone coverage	1	2	3
x. Other (specify) _____	1	2	3

B7. In general, is it ACCEPTABLE to you and other members of your household for state parks to charge additional FEES for the following? (Circle one number in each row.)

AMENITIES	ACCEPTANCE	
	Not acceptable	Acceptable
a. Entrance/parking	1	2
b. Swimming facilities	1	2
c. Boat launch	1	2
d. Nature programs	1	2
e. Picnic shelter reservations	1	2
f. Special events	1	2
g. Camping	1	2
h. Cabins	1	2
i. Wedding and meeting facilities	1	2

C. Protection of Virginia's natural areas and open space resources

C1. Should the state spend public funds to acquire land to prevent the loss of natural areas and open spaces?

- 1 No
- 2 Yes
- 3 Don't know

C2. How important do you feel it is to protect Virginia's natural and open space resources?

- 1 Very important
- 2 Important
- 3 Not important
- 4 Don't know

C3. Do you feel that Virginia's natural and open space resources are adequately protected?

- 1 No
- 2 Yes
- 3 Don't know

C4. In your opinion, when spending public monies to protect Virginia's natural areas and open space resources from development, which protection strategy is the best? (Please circle one number.)

- 1 Purchase of easements that reduce development rights but leave the land in private ownership with no public use.
- 2 Purchase of easements that reduce development rights but leave the land in private ownership with some public use allowed.
- 3 Outright purchase from willing sellers of the property, and then management as a natural area or park for public use.
- 4 Other (specify) _____

ABOUT VIRGINIA'S NATURAL AREA PRESERVES

Virginia has a Natural Area Preserve System of lands designed to protect and provide public access to the most intact natural places (old growth forests, pristine wetlands, coastal dunes and beaches, native grasslands, etc.) and to maintain habitats for rare and endangered species

C5. Have you heard of Virginia's Natural Area Preserve System before now?

- 1 No
- 2 Yes
- 3 Don't know

C6. How familiar are you with Virginia's Natural Area Preserve System?

- 1 Very familiar
- 2 Somewhat familiar
- 3 Not familiar at all

C7. How important is it to you for Virginia to have a state Natural Area Preserve System?

- 1 Very important
- 2 Somewhat important
- 3 Not important at all
- 4 Don't know about Virginia's Natural Area Preserve System

D. General Information

D1. Do you own or rent the home in which you are living?

- 1 Own
- 2 Rent

D2. Please write the name of the independent city or county and ZIP code in which your household is located.

City or County _____ ZIP code _____

D3. In what year were you born? _____

D4. For each of the following age categories, how many males and females are in your household (including yourself)?

	Males	Females
a. 4 years old or less		
b. 5 to 13 years old		
c. 14 to 17 years old		
d. 18 to 24 years old		
e. 25 to 39 years old		
f. 40 to 64 years old		
g. 65 years and older		

D5. Do you consider yourself to be of Hispanic/Latino origin?

- 1 No
- 2 Yes

D6. Which of the following best describes your race?

- 1 White or Caucasian
- 2 Black or African American
- 3 Native American/American Indian
- 4 Asian/Pacific Islander
- 5 Other (specify) _____

D7. What is your gender?

- 1 Female
- 2 Male

D8. Which of the following income categories most closely describes your total household income in 2010 before taxes, including wages and all other income?

- 1 Less than \$10,000
- 2 \$10,000 - \$24,999
- 3 \$25,000 - \$49,999
- 4 \$50,000 - \$74,999
- 5 \$75,000 - \$99,999
- 6 \$100,000-\$149,999
- 7 \$150,000-\$199,999
- 8 \$200,000 or more
- 9 Prefer not to answer

D9. If you have additional comments or suggestions, please write them in the space below.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire!

Your contributions to this effort are greatly appreciated.

**No postage is required to mail this survey.
Please use the envelope provided.**

Lost your envelope?

Please return the survey to us at:

**Center for Survey Research
University of Virginia
P.O. Box 400767
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4767**