

**2018 – 2022 SCORP
Addendum
Date: 2/6/18**

On December 14, 2017, Arizona State Parks and Trails received a request from the National Park Service (NPS) to provide more information regarding how public input was incorporated into the SCORP document. Below are responses to these inquiries.

The comments from the National Park Service are in blue text and numbered below.

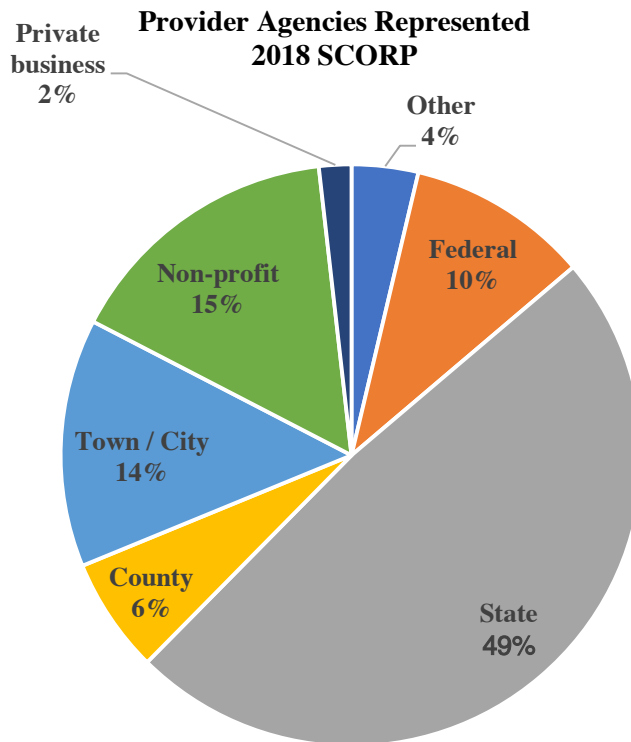
On the second page and first bullet of the responses to NPS document, it states "Land Managers reported not only on current use of public lands and public participation but also on future expected participation rates, indicating a measure of demand for outdoor recreation facilities and amenities to support the rates of participation." A summary is needed describing which types of jurisdictions the referenced land managers represent. Additionally, how were the current and expected participation rates ascertained and reported in the SCORP?

As requested by the NPS, below are the constituencies of the agencies whose employees participated in the 2018 SCORP Outdoor Recreation Providers Survey.

Attached is a copy of the questionnaire that was used (See Attachment 1).

Recreation providers were asked to indicate on a five-point scale (1=no current use to 5=high current use) how much visitors participate in each of 20 groups of activities at the sites they manage. Providers were then asked to indicate expected future participation on a scale of 1=no participation to 5=high participation.

A graph showing the results of these questions can be found in the SCORP document on page 11.



On the second page and second bullet of the responses to NPS document, it states "In addition, plans were reviewed from across Arizona that addressed local and regional demand for outdoor recreation facilities and amenities. The results of those reviews were integrated into the document." We would like to see a summary of the plans that were reviewed from across Arizona and addressed local and regional demand added to the SCORP or addendum. Adding this will further strengthen the SCORP.

Municipal, regional, state, and national documents were reviewed as part of the extensive literature review process. These documents included, but were not limited to, recreation and open space plans, tourism and visitor surveys, natural resource management plans, and economic impact reports. Information and data gathered from these reports was cited throughout the 2018 SCORP accordingly. Additionally, these documents were utilized as overarching resources in helping to identify and characterize relevant and emerging trends as well as changing social values within the recreational, economic, and environmental spheres.

The following documents were provided by our partners / SCORP Working Group members and were reviewed in preparation for the 2018 SCORP and contributed to the development of the document:

- Arizona Game & Fish Department (2012). Arizona Game & Fish Property Operational Management Plan Summary. Phoenix, AZ: Arizona Game & Fish Commission.
- Arizona Game & Fish Department (2014). Arizona Trends Regarding Wildlife. Phoenix, AZ: Arizona Game & Fish Commission.
- Arizona Hospitality Research and Resources Center, Northern Arizona University (2015). 2013-2014 Survey of Arizona State Park Visitors. Phoenix, AZ: Arizona State Parks and Trails Board.
- BBC Research and Consulting (2015). Economic Impacts of the Proposed Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument. Denver, CO: Center for Western Priorities.
- Burdick, G. (2011). Land Use Policy Research: Climate Adaptation and Public Health. Flagstaff, AZ: Author.
- City of Flagstaff (2015). City of Flagstaff Open Space Strategic Plan. Flagstaff, AZ: Author.
- City of Flagstaff (2015). Observatory Mesa Peak Democracy Survey Results. Flagstaff, AZ: Author.
- City of Flagstaff Sustainability Program (2015). Picture Canyon Natural and Cultural Preserve Management Plan. Flagstaff, AZ: Author.
- City of Mesa (2014). Mesa 2040 General Plan. Mesa, AZ: Author.
- HDR Engineering Inc (Updated 2012). Pima Regional Trail System Master Plan. Revision of 2010 Plan. Tucson, AZ: City of Tucson Parks and Recreation and Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation.
- Jones, M. (2011). Open Space Best Practices Memo. Flagstaff, AZ: Author
- Jones, M. (2013). Economic and Social Values of Open Space Preservation. Flagstaff, AZ: Author.
- Logan, Simpson Design, Inc. (2007). Pinal County Open Space and Trails Master Plan. Florence, AZ: Pinal County.
- Parkin, L., Bradley, C. (2016). Benson Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Master Plan. Benson, AZ: City of Benson.
- Pinal County Open Space and Trails Department (2015). Peralta Regional Park Master Plan. Florence, AZ: Pinal County in partnership with National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program.

- Social and Economic Sciences and Research Center (2015). Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area Visitor Survey. Washington D.C.: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.
- Social and Economic Sciences and Research Center. (2014). La Posa Long-Term Visitor Area Visitor Survey. Washington D.C., Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.
- Southwick Associates (2012). Economic Contributions of Outdoor Recreation on the Colorado River and Its Tributaries. Gunnison, CO: Protect the Flows.
- University of Idaho Park Studies Unit. (2011). Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness Area Visitor Survey
- University of Idaho Park Studies Unit. (2008). Coyote Buttes – Vermillion Cliffs NM Visitor Survey. Washington D.C.: Bureau of Land Management, US Department of the Interior.
- University of Idaho Park Studies Unit. (2009). Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument Visitor Survey. Washington D.C., Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Page 3 Public Input response section indicates there were one hundred and sixty-four comments from Facebook. A summary of these comments would be a great addition to your SCORP or appendices.

Summary of Public Responses as per NPS' SCORP Feedback

Summary of qualitative data including Facebook posts and online survey.

What recommendations do you have for outdoor recreation providers and agencies to manage and improve outdoor recreation resources?

Eleven respondents provided feedback regarding fees or passes. Although one respondent was satisfied with the opportunities offered by the current pass, others wished that passes were simplified, a sentiment that was echoed in the millennial focus group. One respondent suggested a discount or pass to encourage youth to visit parks, similar to that offered by the National Park Service available to fourth graders and their families.

The fee comments tended to suggest discounted fees for residents (n=2) or a decrease in fees (n=5). It was noted that although fees are increasing, wages are not, and that these changes may decrease access for low income individuals and families. These comments informed the SCORP document, resulting in the first paragraph on page 71, which explains that existing strategies for land management, including those for passes and fees have caused confusion amongst the visiting public. Some suggestions in the SCORP are for land managing agencies to work with each other to provide connectivity across jurisdictions and decrease customer confusion. In addition, in Arizona State Parks and Trails Strategic Plan, where SCORP issues have informed the agency direction, the agency has committed to review and simplify agency fees and annual passes, and to assess new fee suggestions (such as in-state discounts).

Eleven respondents proposed ideas regarding facilities and opportunities. One respondent noted that fees should be linked to the availability of facilities and amenities, and that the public should not be charged for access to undeveloped tracts of land. More family oriented activities and opportunities for unstructured play were recommended as well. Other respondents suggested an increase in rental opportunities at parks. In response, consistent with the Pillar of “Optimizing

System Vitality,” Arizona State Parks and Trails added tasks related to enhancing rental and concession opportunities into the Agency’s Strategic Plan. Additional facilities suggested were: rebuilding docks, water stations, cabins, yurts, shade structures, tent camping facilities separate from RV camping facilities, and beacons for emergency use. Arizona State Parks and Trails is also increasing group campsites and cabin sites as part of the Strategic Plan. Some respondents proposed solutions to budget and staff shortfalls that park and recreation agencies may be experiencing by proposing that agencies develop and communicate opportunities for members of the public to volunteer for site clean ups and other projects that would benefit park visitors.

Other respondents suggested environmental education, outdoor recreation skill-building and other fun opportunities for youth and visitors to public lands (n=16). Some respondents specifically recommended that youth oriented programs, some including Leave No Trace land ethics and trail etiquette, be incorporated into outdoor recreation programming. Some respondents would like to see more guided hikes as well. These comments are integrated into primarily two sections of the SCORP document: Youth – as an emerging theme during this process and the priority issue “Marketing, Communication and Education Opportunities” (Section 5.6 of the SCORP document). In addition, one of the goals in Arizona State Parks and Trails’ Strategic Plan is to foster stewardship through education, awareness and engagement. Actions and tasks to accomplish this goal include: Collaborating with local schools and youth serving organizations to provide opportunities to develop interactive interpretive and environmental education programs that communicate the value of parks and open space, and participating with state and local groups to foster program services for youth. Finally, the agency also offers Family Campouts which provide families with the opportunity to learn camping skills and participate in resource conservation and recreation skill-building activities.

Also included under the “Marketing, Communication and Education Opportunities” issue is the distribution of information from public land managing agencies to the public. Some respondents pointed out that there is a need for more, timely information distributed using in the most effective manners noted that quick, family-friendly access to information regarding trails, trailhead locations, trail difficulty and other outdoor recreation opportunities would be helpful. Others stated that there are many who don’t know about all of the opportunities at parks, and that finding a way to communicate this information is key. Another respondent recommended that more communication is needed regarding the benefits, social, mental and physical that outdoor recreation supports. Arizona State Parks and Trails has included in its Strategic Plan, communicating and marketing amenities, facilities and programs through the agency webpage, newsletters, social media and other emerging technologies as needed. However, millennials who participated in the focus group indicated that they are not receiving information about opportunities on public lands, despite the fact that some public land managing agencies are posting to social media and attempting to use other technologies whenever possible. A closer look at the disconnect between this generation and land manager uses of technology would be valuable.

Two respondents suggested that public land managers develop an app for trails and natural features. Land managers were asked if they have used apps in the last five years to engage constituents, market your services and provide outdoor recreation opportunities on a scale of 1=Never to 5=Always. The mean on this item was 2.79 – below the middle of the scale. The only technology used less were emerging technologies such as Pokemon Go!, virtual or augmented

reality, etc. In addition, more than 50% of land manager respondents chose ratings of 1 or 2 on this scale indicating little to no use of apps in the past.

Millennials who participated in the SCORP focus group (see attachment A for focus group questions) reported that they weren't receiving adequate information about public lands in a format that is easily available to them despite land managers' use of social media to communicate. They also reported accessing the following information using apps or other smart phone technologies during outdoor recreation: 1) for navigation - Google Maps, and GPS; 2) for Social media – Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat; 3) For fitness – fitness tracker, Strava; 4) information guides: Wildlife sounds app, White House Parks, site specific apps, wildlife sounds app, eBird app, iNaturalist app, Audio ID, All Trails app, weather app; 5) other uses of smart phone: music, photography, games (e.g., Pokemon Go!). Land managers may need more information regarding how to reach out to millennials and other underrepresented populations using technology.

Given this feedback, in the SCORP document, potential projects to address Preservation and Conservation include “Development of apps that identify legal trail routes or recreation opportunities versus unauthorized recreation opportunities or wildcat trail routes.” Additionally, Arizona State Parks and Trails has included a task in its strategic plan, “Increase online services where appropriate/convenient for agency customers.” Although Arizona State Parks and Trails does currently provide an app for users, the 2018-2019 Marketing Plan (also a task in the ASPT Strategic Plan) includes plans to update the app to include more opportunities to engage technology in outdoor experiences and to be even more useful to ASPT visitors.

Also, as is suggested by the literature review in the SCORP document, preservation is very important to Arizonans. The need for preservation, and the necessity of continued funding to do so was also mentioned by four respondents. Some of these respondents expressed concern about the increasing amount of public lands being managed by private businesses, and lack of taxpayer funding allocated to these lands. In response to these concerns, Arizona State Parks and Trails has included resource protection goals in its Agency Strategic Plan. As stated in the SCORP (pg. 68), the agency will attempt to enhance communication of regional natural and cultural resource status via regularly scheduled meetings with local partners & stakeholders, and draft and implement an Environmental Sustainability Plan for the agency. In addition, to address funding shortfalls, the agency will seek alternative energy sources and efficiencies in land management operations to reduce waste. Finally, the agency is seeking to use Geographic Information System (GIS) tools to plan, implement and visualize progress toward preservation and conservation goals. These strategies will support progress towards the goal of preserving Arizona's special places for generations to come.

Several more comments addressed access issues. Some respondents recommended increasing multi-use access points for popular areas to reduce crowding at parking lots and trailheads. Also suggested were: increasing services to native communities and improving access from urban areas that are available through public transportation. Issues of accessibility and inclusion were generalized across comments and included in the section that addresses Accessibility and Inclusion in the SCORP document (Section 4.2, pg 57). As a result of access related concerns, Arizona State Parks and Trails has included the following objective in our 2018 Strategic Plan – “Collaborate with underrepresented groups and agencies to understand the barriers, needs and

preferences of all current and potential user groups.” One of the methods that we will use to do this is to collect online survey information to identify gaps in services and needs.

Tell us what you think about the future of recreation for today’s youth.

Respondents are also concerned about the lack of participation in outdoor recreation reportedly engaged in by youth. Some reasons given for this concern include: 1) physical and mental health benefits of spending time in nature, 2) need to grow the next generation of conservationists; 3) an increasing number of sedentary or passive activities, some of which include the use of technology (using computers, smart phones, social media, etc.) competing for time that could be spent outdoors. In order to address these issues, Arizona State Parks and Trails have included the following tasks in their Strategic Plan: 1) Develop interpretive programs that inform the public about the value of parks and open space; 2) Encourage local schools to bring classes to parks.

Respondents agree that early exposure to outdoor recreation is important and will provide a baseline of appreciation for nature that will be continued in future generations. This is supported by recent data released by the Outdoor Industry Association, which stated that those who engaged in outdoor recreation earlier in life were twice as likely to participate in adulthood as those who had not. One of the tasks included in the Strategic Plan for Arizona State Parks and Trails that addresses this concern is the development and implementation of interactive activities to teach youth about resource conservation, wildlife habitat & protection, etc. (e.g., geocaching, letterbox/scavenger hunts, Pokemon Go type of activity, A Cubic Foot, etc....) and celebrating Global Youth Service Day annually (April 21-23).

What do you think are the most important issues in outdoor recreation in Arizona?

Below are some of the issues that respondents identified as important to outdoor recreation in Arizona. Similar issues are combined and some comments were included in multiple categories below.

Education/Public Involvement:

Types of programs/materials:

Populations/locations to focus on:

- For youth -to appreciate nature
- Support outdoor recreation by education and exposure in schools.

Topics:

- About the desert and thriving ecosystems
- Make information available at historic settings to explain significance
- Pollution and other resource issues
- Stewardship
 - Leave No Trace principles
 - How important it is to be an active steward/caretaker of the land
 - Recreationists, be it newbies or veterans, need to really internalize that LNT principles, especially cleaning up after themselves and their animals. I'd like to

eventually see this go a step further where people care so much that they even pick up trash they see that others may have forgotten/dropped.

- Sustainability
- Trail etiquette
- Abide by posted rules, regulations, etc.
- Safety – be prepared (especially in regards to having enough water for the trip, sunscreen, etc.), be aware of dangers and surroundings (having a map, knowing what wildlife you may encounter, etc.)
- History of park system, why it was established
- Finding a way to better communicate to and involve the public - including transparency and education on how and why decisions are made.
- It is most difficult to plan because the parks are listed by name and not location. So it would be helpful to have a name of a close by town to be able to plan to go to desired parks rather than try and look up where the park is !!
- Making sure the public knows what's out there and encouraging them to get out and explore. Too many people stay inside and don't get out. I think people don't realize how much there is to do and explore in our state.
- Maps
- Better signage

This input from respondents was incorporated into the SCORP document under the Marketing, Communication and Education Opportunities on page 72. This section includes specific references to some of the information above, and tasks that Arizona State Parks and Trails will engage in to address the input from respondents including more marketing and outreach, providing information using media that is easier to access, preservation and other educational opportunities.

Funding / Fees

- The most important issues are funding and public support for maintaining and improving our parks
- Fees too high for:
 - Group camps
 - State parks as compared to federal lands
 - Seniors

Funding issues are addressed in the SCORP on page 73. Arizona State Parks and Trails has also incorporated some of these concerns into the agency Strategic Plan to address them. For example, the agency will review its fees proposed discounts and promotions annually.

Sites are:

- Accessible to all groups
 - Balancing preservation with public access.
 - Better, easier access to all recreation areas (including remote areas, and across private lands)
 - Having sites available to your veterans especially those disabled
 - Available for multiple uses

- Additional State Parks and other recreation sites are needed

Issues of accessibility are addressed on page 69 of the SCORP as are some of the tasks that ASPT is engaging in to address these issues. One example found in the agency strategic plan is to collect communicate accessibility related information on all properties managed by Arizona State Parks and Trails. This information will allow visitors to make informed decisions about appropriate recreation opportunities. In addition, the agency is committed to working with underrepresented groups to address barriers to participation. In addition, Arizona State Parks and Trails is pursuing strategic partnerships in order to provide recreation resources in underserved communities in the State.

- Taking care of sites:
 - Keeping our state clean, safe and affordable
 - Fire prevention
- People can have the type of experience they are looking for:
 - Facilities
 - Scattered sites
 - RVs w/ hook-ups
 - Accessibility – good roads
 - Amenities
 - Facilities at rivers
 - Trailhead parking
 - More RV spaces especially in the higher elevations of Southern Arizona. Shade in the lower elevations.
 - Good, clean well looked after trails
 - Green spaces in cities available to all residents
 - More cabins

Facilities mentioned by the respondents are consistent with data from providers, which is reported on page 11 of the SCORP. In response to these reports of participation and priorities, ASPT is engaging in activities to support the development and access to these activities through its Strategic Plan. For example, the agency is assessing properties to determine where additional group campsites and cabins would be beneficial. In addition, the agency is seeking to double the number of campsites available at State Parks and Trails, many of which will have hookups as requested above. Partnerships and alternative funding sources are also being sought that will result in additional amenities and facilities at parks.

- Types of recreation areas:
 - Quiet areas – relaxing peace & quiet
 - Not being hassled by law enforcement / hosts
 - Stock lakes and rivers with fish
 - Off-roading
 - Hiking and cycling
 - Access to sites for water-related recreation
 - Natural settings, wilderness areas, natural beauty

Again, the activities mentioned above and facilities that support those activities are consistent with provider reports of participation and are being addressed through infrastructure renewal and development projects, many of which are driven by goals, objectives, actions and tasks found in the agency Strategic Plan.

- Services
 - Park staff to monitor for negative issues/behavior
 - Respect
 - Safety
 - Use of guns on public lands
 - Maintenance of the trails and recreation sites. / I think it is important to continue to support outdoor recreation by maintaining parks.
 - I think it is important to continue to support outdoor recreation by having events.
- Protection of Resources
 - Open undeveloped spaces
 - Protection of wildlife and plant life habitat and paleontological areas.
 - Maintenance and preservation of nature.
 - Open space. The recognition of the value that undeveloped natural public land has to our populations well being as well as the health of our local economies thru tourism.
 - Protecting available facilities/amenities/sites
 - If camping, leave the grounds cleaner than when found.
 - Stay on trails so as not to widen and therefore abuse the area surrounding trails.
 - OHV Use
 - Limit off-road vehicles to ONLY designated areas.
 - Environmental protection from overuse by motorized vehicles, ATVs, etc.
 - Balance between use and protection
 - Conservation, education, appreciation. I think overall we've done better about communicating the value of our lands and the resources they protect, but we need to be careful not to "love them to death". How do we instill that desire to experience while not impacting the environment...
 - Balancing the need to get more people outdoors, so they too can fall in love with our spaces & protect them, yet not becoming overcrowded and everything that follows with that (trash, graffiti, trail damage etc).

One of the pillars of the 2018 SCORP is the Preservation and Conservation of Resources. Consistent with the feedback above, the literature review includes references to concerns addressed above on page 52. Public responses are highlighted on page 54. On page 68, recommendations regarding issues of preservation are addressed, including acquiring property to preserve natural, cultural resources and open space, assessing site carrying capacities, developing and renovating trails and sites to make them more sustainable. In order to address these issues, the agency has included in its Strategic Plan responsibilities to connect and communicate with other regional natural and cultural resource organizations to work together and increase impact of efforts. In addition, the agency will collaborate with partners to provide more programs on parks, including Leave No Trace and other environmental ethics programs.

The information above illustrates some of the open-ended responses received by Arizona State Parks and Trails and Arizona State University that were integrated into the SCORP document and also action items that Arizona State Parks and Trails is engaging in to assure the public that their voices are being heard.

Page 3 Public Input response section indicates eleven open public meetings throughout the process. A summary of these meetings would be a great addition to your SCORP or appendices.

Presentations were provided to the boards and advisory committees listed below throughout the process to inform members of progress on the project and provide opportunities for public input.

- Arizona State Parks Board (ASPTB)
- Arizona Outdoor Recreation Coordinating Commission (AORCC)
- Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT)
- Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Group (OHVAG)
- State Recreational Trails Advisory Group (SRTAC)

Agendas, meeting presentation and notes can be found at:

<https://azstateparks.com/arizona-state-parks-board/>

<https://azstateparks.com/advisory-committees/>

Dates on which the SCORP was presented:

- May 3, 2016 (AORCC)
- July 20, 2016 (ASPTB)
- October 26, 2016 (AORCC)
- November 16, 2016 (ASPT Board)
- December 2, 2016 (ASCOT)
- February 20, 2017 (OHVAG)
- March 21, 2017 (AORCC)
- March 31, 2017 (ASPT Board)
- April 8, 2017 (SRTAC)
- October 6, 2017 (AORCC)
- October 25, 2017 (ASPT Board)

On the third page and the first bullet, it states "Plans submitted by partner land managing agencies, which include local and regional public involvement were reviewed, included in the document and informed agency priorities, action items and tasks." This section could also be expanded upon, with a summary of the plans and how they informed agency priorities, action items and tasks.

For response to this point, please see Point #2 response above. The plans that were reviewed and integrated into the literature review for the document are listed above. In addition, the SCORP document and its conclusions drawn from the influence and summary of these and other documents was used as a basis for the formation of the Arizona State Parks and Trails Strategic Plan, which generated goals, objectives, actions and tasks to address some of the issues identified in plans. Several of the actions and tasks are reviewed above.

Approved SCORP Focus Group Questions 9.24.16

Introductions:

Participants will be provided a note card and will be asked to write their age, gender, urban/rural/suburban, education level, experience in the outdoors.

- 1) Tell us a little bit about yourselves....backgrounds, age, where you live, what type of neighborhood do you live in (urban, suburb, rural).

Enjoyment:

- 2) How much do you enjoy participating in outdoor activities? What influences this enjoyment?
 - a. How do you rate your level of participation in outdoor activities? 1 -10
 - b. Did you grow up participating in outdoor activities?
 - c. What kinds of things did you do outdoors as a child?
 - d. What is your favorite activity to do?

Time spent

- 3) How much time do you spend outdoors now? How important is it for you to increase your time spent engaging in outdoor activities in the future?

How spend time:

- 4) How much free time do you have and how do you like to spend it? Why do you/do you not spend more of it participating in outdoor recreation?
- 5) When you are outside, how do you spend your time in nature or outdoors? (backyard, at school, park, neighborhood, fields, vacant lots, woods?)
 - Free and imaginative?
 - Structured or programmed?
 - By yourself?
 - With others? Family, friends, classmates?
 - Utilizing technology?
- 6) How important is it for you to spend time participating in outdoor activities alone? With others? (family members, friends, others) Explain.

Benefits:

- 7) What types of personal benefits do you think you get from participating in outdoor activities?

Probe - why do you participate in outdoor activities?

- 8) Are there any types of societal benefits your engagement in outdoor activities achieves?

Barriers:

- 9) What obstacles, restrictions or barriers keep you from participating in outdoor activities or in participating in MORE outdoor activities?
- 10) What obstacles, restrictions or barriers do you think keep other Millennials from participation in outdoor activities?

Challenge or relaxation:

- 11) How important is it for you to feel challenged physically and/or mentally in the outdoors?
How important is it for you to feel relaxed in the outdoors? How important is it for you to feel a connection to nature or being “one with nature” in the outdoors?

Technology:

- 12) How important is it for you to use technology while engaging in outdoor activities?
 - a. Would you consider technology to be a driving motivation for you to engage in outdoor activities (eg. social media posts/photos, pokeman go, Strava)?
 - b. What types of technology do you use?
- 13) Are there any types of technology resources and/or services which would enhance your outdoor experience?

Suggestions:

- 14) How can society/recreation providers/parents/peers encourage you to get outdoors?
- 15) What other ideas do you have?