

Chapter 15: Recreational Resources

Survey Results

1. What kind of recreational activities do you believe are **most** popular with the residents of your community at public or private facilities? (Scores of 7 to 10 are highlighted in yellow.)

Activity	Age of recreation participant		
	Under 18	Adult	Over 65
Basketball	10	3	1
Bicycling	8	7	2
Boating	0	5	3
Bowling	0	7	4
Camping	3	7	0
Children's day camps	6	2	0
Exercise (aerobics, yoga, martial arts, etc.)	4	8	5
Dancing	4	5	2
Field Sports (baseball, soccer, etc)	10	5	1
Fishing	3	5	8
Golf	1	10	7
Horseback Riding	9	7	2
Hunting	5	8	7
Motorcycles/ATVs	9	6	3
Nature Appreciation (bird watching, etc.)	0	4	7
Picnicking	6	7	7
Sight-Seeing/Pleasure Driving	0	1	6
Swimming	7	7	3
Tennis	3	8	4
Walking/Hiking	3	10	10
Winter sports (ice skating, skiing, etc.)	5	4	1

Other:

- Skate boarding for young people
- Family events and activities, after school programs
- Concerts and events, skateboard facilities, shooting/archery range, model airplane flying

Summary: Results show that active recreation such as team sports are more popular with the young. Passive recreation is more popular with the elderly. The importance of this is that the active sports (such as basketball, bicycling) require constructed infrastructure, or in the case of ATV riding, significant land management. The passive

recreation activities (like fishing or hiking) require maintaining undeveloped larger scale natural areas and ensuring access to them.

The results also show that there are popular activities - such as walking, ATV, horseback riding and bicycling – which share similar facilities and could have potential user conflicts. Consideration should be given to how accommodate these diverse uses.

2. Are more local parks needed in your community? **4** Yes **3** No **2** Not Sure

Why?

- No, we are working on one.
- Not sure, the County Park takes care of open space needs. Schools should be the focus of organized recreation. We need more facilities near concentrated development.
- Yes, new residents from suburban area want parks, and that would be a way to get them to meet the long-time residents. Community crafts and education class would also help.
- Yes, to develop community gathering places.
- Yes, we need more variety and accessibility.
- Yes, more parks would increase access via bicycle and avoid having to drive to a park. With more parks people can make spontaneous visits.

Summary: Results suggest there is not a strong consensus, but the argument for more parks tends to focus on creating community centers, more so than protecting resources or providing sports fields.

3. What facilities are currently used (or would be used if available) in your community? Please check all that apply. (Scores of 7 to 10 are highlighted in yellow.)

Facility	Used	Would be used
Team sports fields (Baseball, soccer, etc.)	7	4
Tennis/basketball courts	6	6
Swimming pools	2	3
boating docks – Access to Streams and Rivers	3	3
Trails	5	8
Small Community Playgrounds	4	7
Indoor Community Centers	3	6
Nature Centers	2	5

Other:

- Trails and greenways linked to parks and shopping areas would be used.

Summary: Results show that the facilities that would be most frequently used are fields, trails, and playgrounds. What all these features have in common is that they can be used for multiple activities.

4. Would you support new or additional public funding for these recreation initiatives?

Recreation Initiative	Yes	No	Not Sure
Land acquisition	6	3	0
Constructing and maintaining recreation facilities	6	1	3
Hiring professional recreation staff	2	4	3
Recreational activities programs (classes, festivals, etc.)	4	2	2

Other:

- Yes, develop ordinances to fund recreation based on real estate transactions.
- Yes, nature trails and greenways

Summary: Results show more interest in capital improvements like acquiring and building parks, compared with upgrading or staffing existing facilities. Acquisition is usually easier in less dense areas where land is cheaper and large parcels are available, but this needs to be balanced with the need to serve more dense areas, which tend to have more children and elderly.

5. What are the major concerns your residents have regarding parks and trails?

- Safety
- Liability and maintenance
- Cost
- Use of facilities by non-residents, when residents provide the funding
- Safety, trash, trespassing to adjacent properties and handicapped access.

Summary: As in most communities, safety is the primary concern. There will need to be a discussion on how to balance safety with limited staffing.

6. What do you see as the most important strength and/or weakness of recreation planning in the Oxford Region?

- Lack of direction and coordination between leagues, OARA, and the schools.
- We need to know what kind recreation is appropriate for rural communities and what works best for the borough.
- OARA would work better if it included all municipalities in the region.
- Municipalities rely on OARA, but it cannot generate sufficient funds.
- Parks ought to be serving as meeting places to build a sense of community.
- Access and parking, membership requirements, and parks you need to drive to use.
- We need more upkeep and connectivity. Some trails dead end onto busy roads.

Summary: Results focus mostly on regional management, coordination, and access, indicating a desire to more economically operate existing and potential new facilities. It is noteworthy that a few comments focused on a regional park approach, rather than proposing that there are - or should be - strong separate municipal park systems, as is more common in older suburbanized communities.

Other Comments:

- Having good park facilities in Oxford Bough that attract people from the surrounding municipalities would make people view it in a more positive light and help restore the borough as well.

Summary: This comment raises the important issue of the economic impact of recreation facilities, which is commonly mentioned in recreation plans, but could be emphasized as a critical central element for the Oxford Region Plan. Furthermore, this approach would require you to travel to the borough which would also require parking or trails/sidewalks or both.

Please contact **Jake Michael** with any questions or comments: 610-344-6285 or jmichael@chesco.org