

What is Move Forward Together Vermont?

Move Forward Together Vermont

The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) and the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) Program are leading the development of a shared vision, and a set of priorities and action steps for outdoor recreation in Vermont over the next five years.

FPR, VOREC, & partners will use these outcomes to guide and support decisions about where to focus energy and resources across the outdoor recreation landscape



Objectives

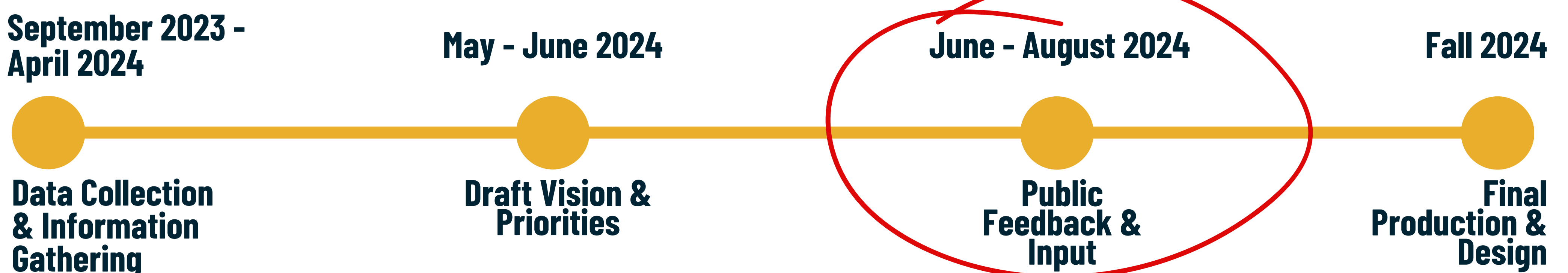
Gather a broad coalition to collaboratively develop a vision and set of priorities for Vermont outdoor recreation

Ensure engagement of historically underrepresented groups like BIPOC, LGBTQ+, low income, people who speak languages beyond English, and people with disabilities through targeted outreach

Create an action document that reflects the needs of Vermonters, public and private recreation providers, land managers, users, and other stakeholders in the outdoor recreation economy

Support the development of the vision and priorities with data and input from a broad set of stakeholders

Timeline



What is the SCORP & VOREC Action Plan?

A SCORP...

- Is a **Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan**
- Is a planning document that guides agencies in developing and provisioning future outdoor recreation opportunities
- Is required by states to complete every five years

The VOREC Action Plan...

- INSERT LANGUAGE BY JACKIE

Move Forward Together Vermont Draft Vision & Priorities Outreach

Introduction to MFTV
July 2024



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What is this Open House?

About the Open House

This 1.5 hour-long open house provides information about the Move Forward Together Vermont process and asks for your input about the initiative's Draft Vision and Priorities.

Feel free to browse the boards - read about the project's background, public outreach results, and Draft Vision and Priorities.

Provide your input and help design our outdoor recreation future!

Provide your Input!

Stations around the room include sticker dot exercises to help the MFTV Team gauge your thoughts and opinions of the Draft Vision and Priorities.

After reviewing the vision or a priority, place a sticker along its designated line that represents your opinion of it. Does it resonate with you? Do you believe it is relevant to your community or aligns with your vision of the future of outdoor recreation in Vermont?

MFTV Team Members are milling about the stations and are available for one-on-one conversations

An open comment box is also available at the sign-in station

How else can I be Involved in this Process?

Webinars

Monday, July 22nd
7 - 8:30 p.m.



Online Feedback Form

Meetings

Wednesday, July 7
7 - 8:30 p.m.
Johnson Elementary School
57 College Hill Road
Johnson



Check out MFTV's Website



Move Forward Together Vermont Draft Vision & Priorities Outreach

What is this Open House?
July 2024



Engagement Process

Public Outreach Included...

Two Statewide Recreation User Surveys



28 Focus Groups
Totaling **185**
Participants



A **Recreation Provider Survey**



A Day-Long **Summit Meeting** With
Vermont's Outdoor
Recreation Leaders



User Surveys

Two identical Recreation User Surveys were distributed and analyzed:

A restricted-sample random-selection **Representative Panel Survey** of Vermont Residents, totaling **565 responses**

An **Invested User Survey** that was widely distributed and available to anyone who wanted to provide input, totaling **1,831 responses**

Recreation Provider Survey

This survey aimed to understand how outdoor recreation is being delivered across Vermont and captured **36 responses** from Vermont's public, private, and non-profit recreation providers.

Focus Groups

28 Focus Groups Conducted

185 Participants

123 Organizations Represented

4 Guiding Questions Asked

Vision & Priorities Summit

In May 2024, FPR and VOREC hosted a day-long summit meeting with 40 outdoor recreation leaders from around the State.

Attendees reviewed data and collaborated to inform the development of a draft vision and set of priority actions for outdoor recreation in Vermont.

**Move Forward Together Vermont
Draft Vision & Priorities Outreach**

Engagement Process

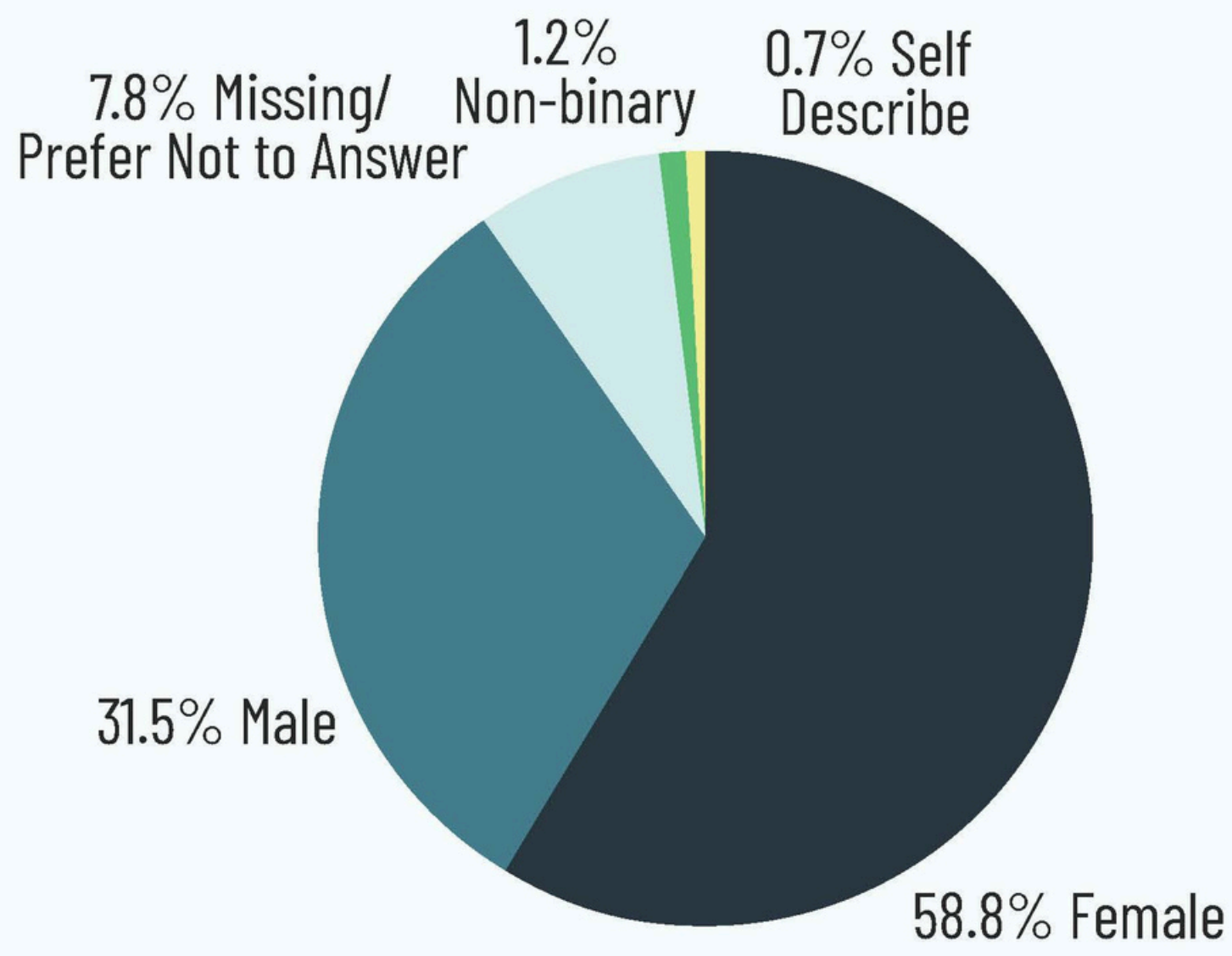
July 2024



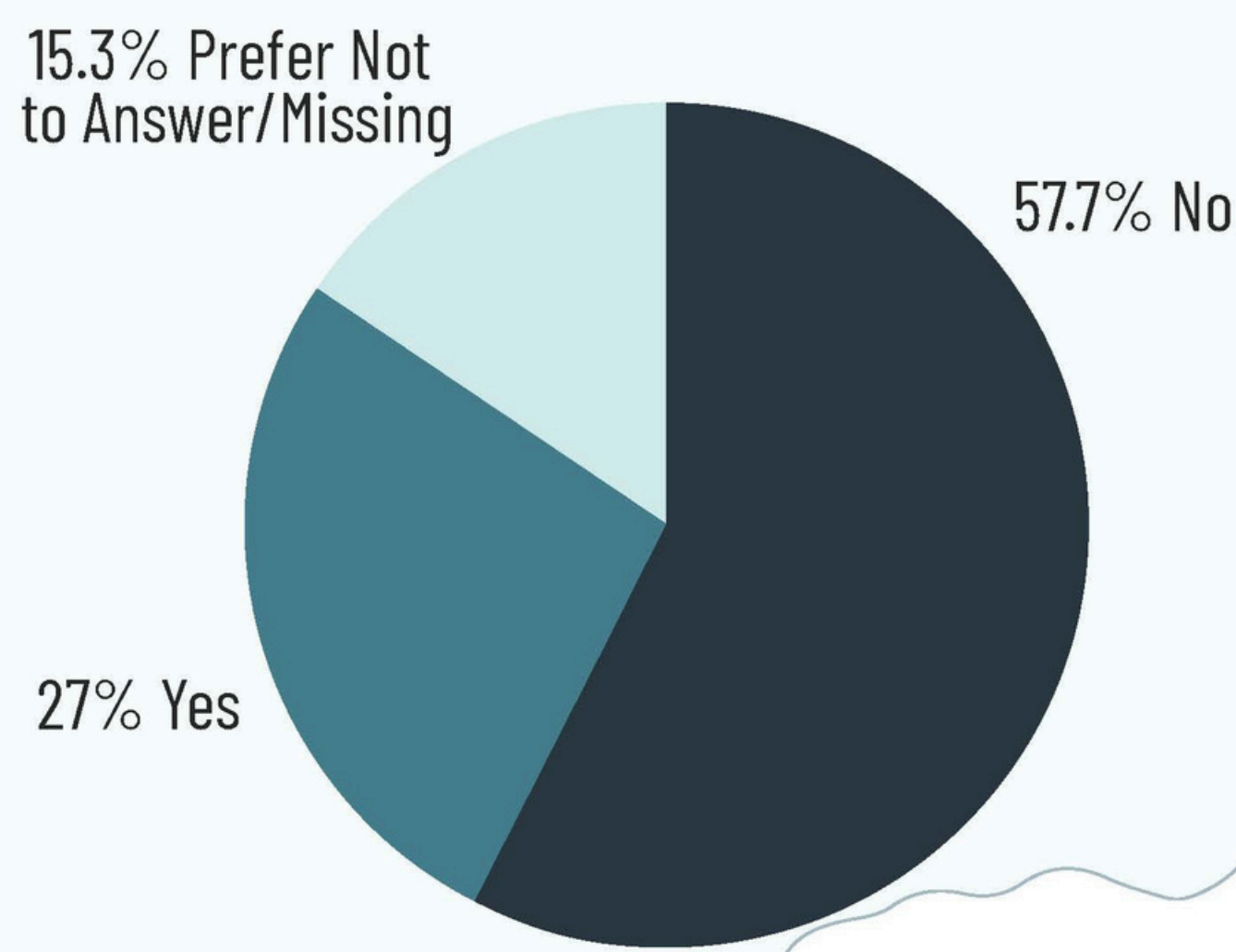
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Panel Survey Summary

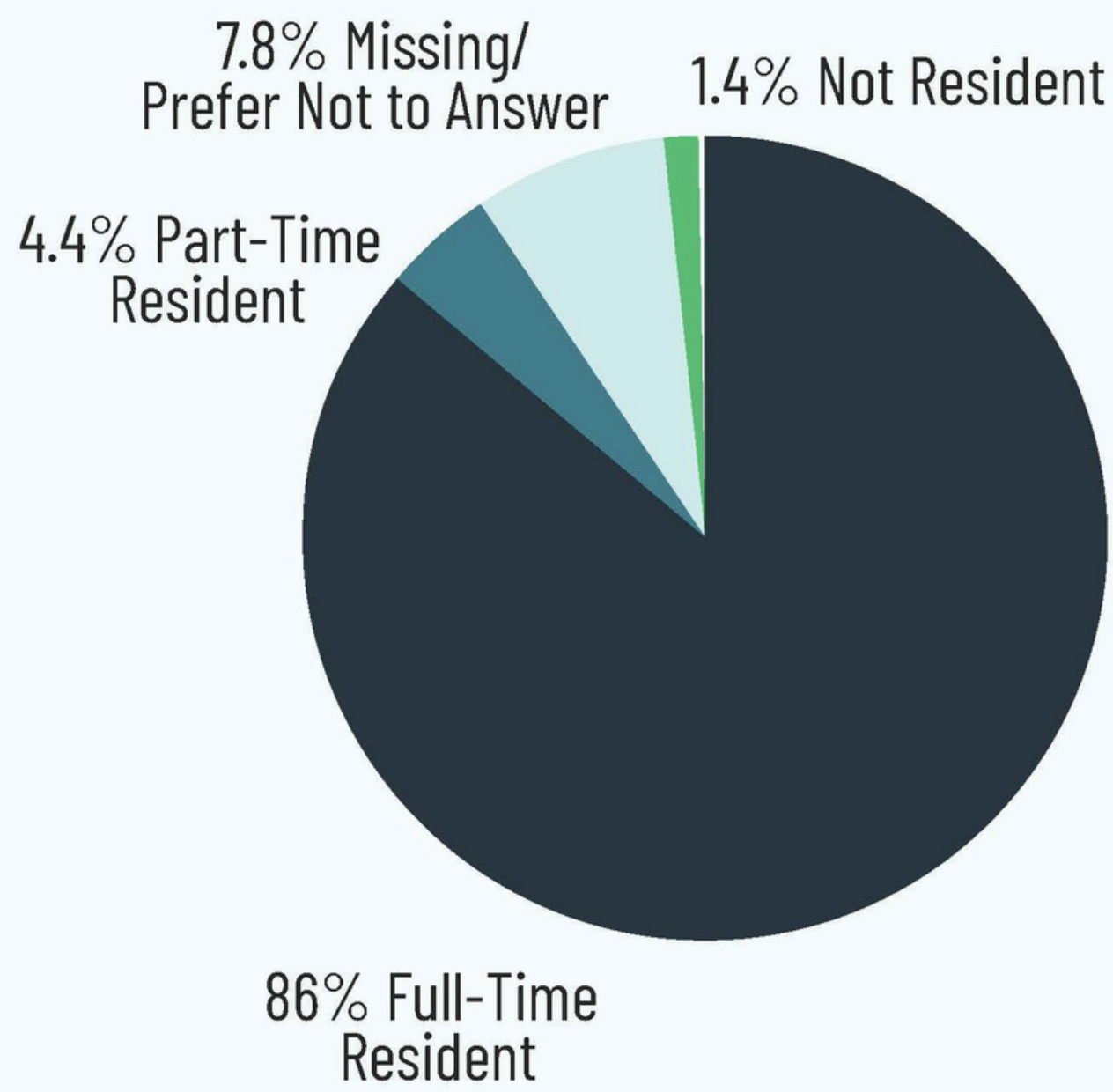
Gender



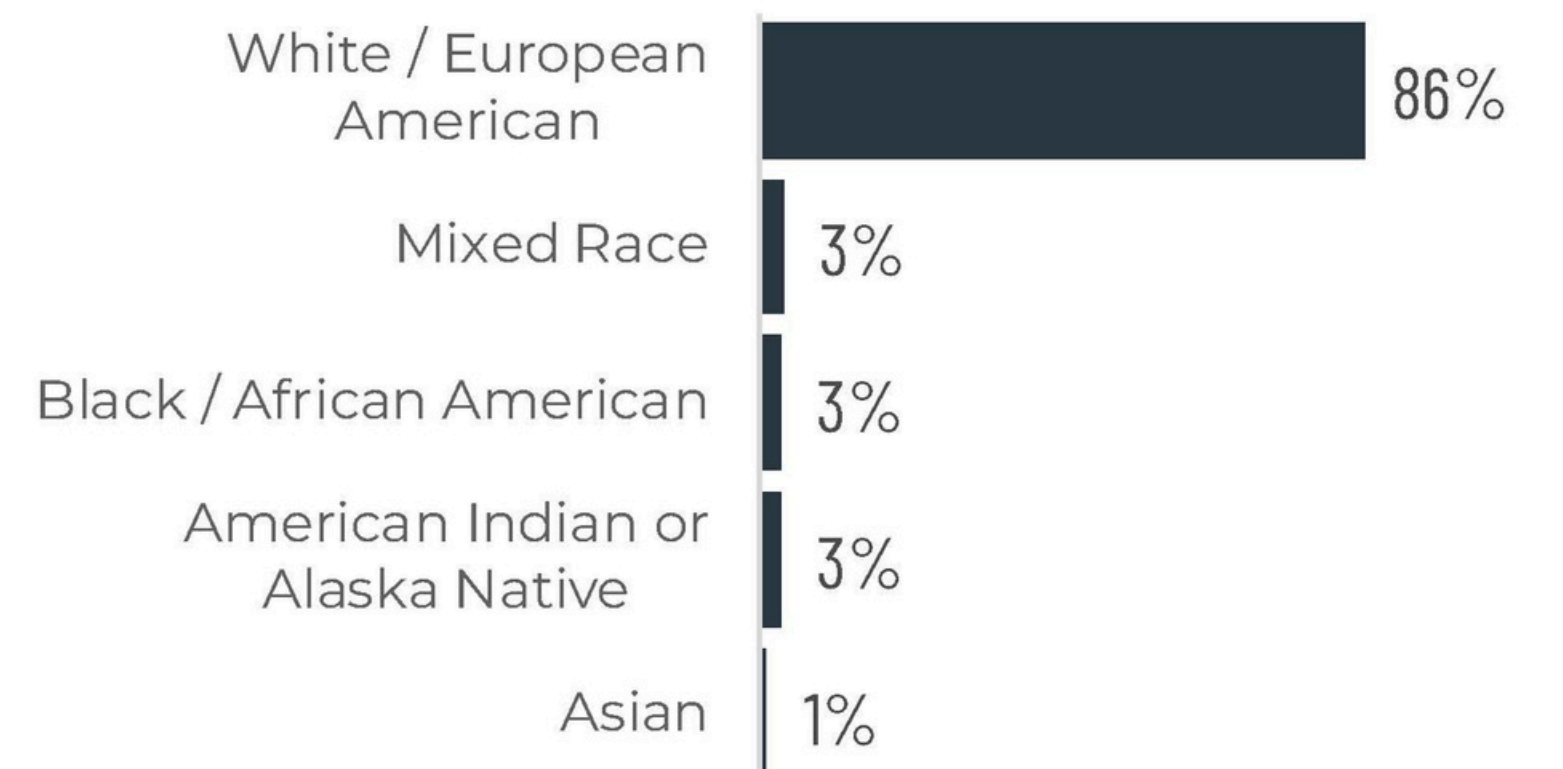
Disability Characteristics



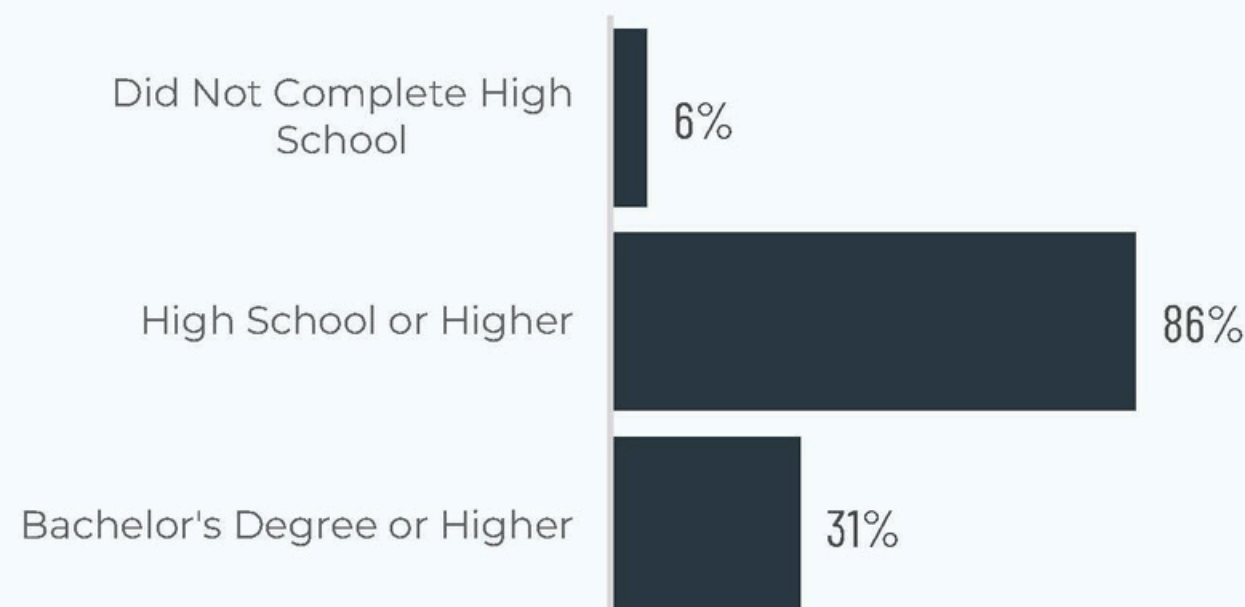
Residency



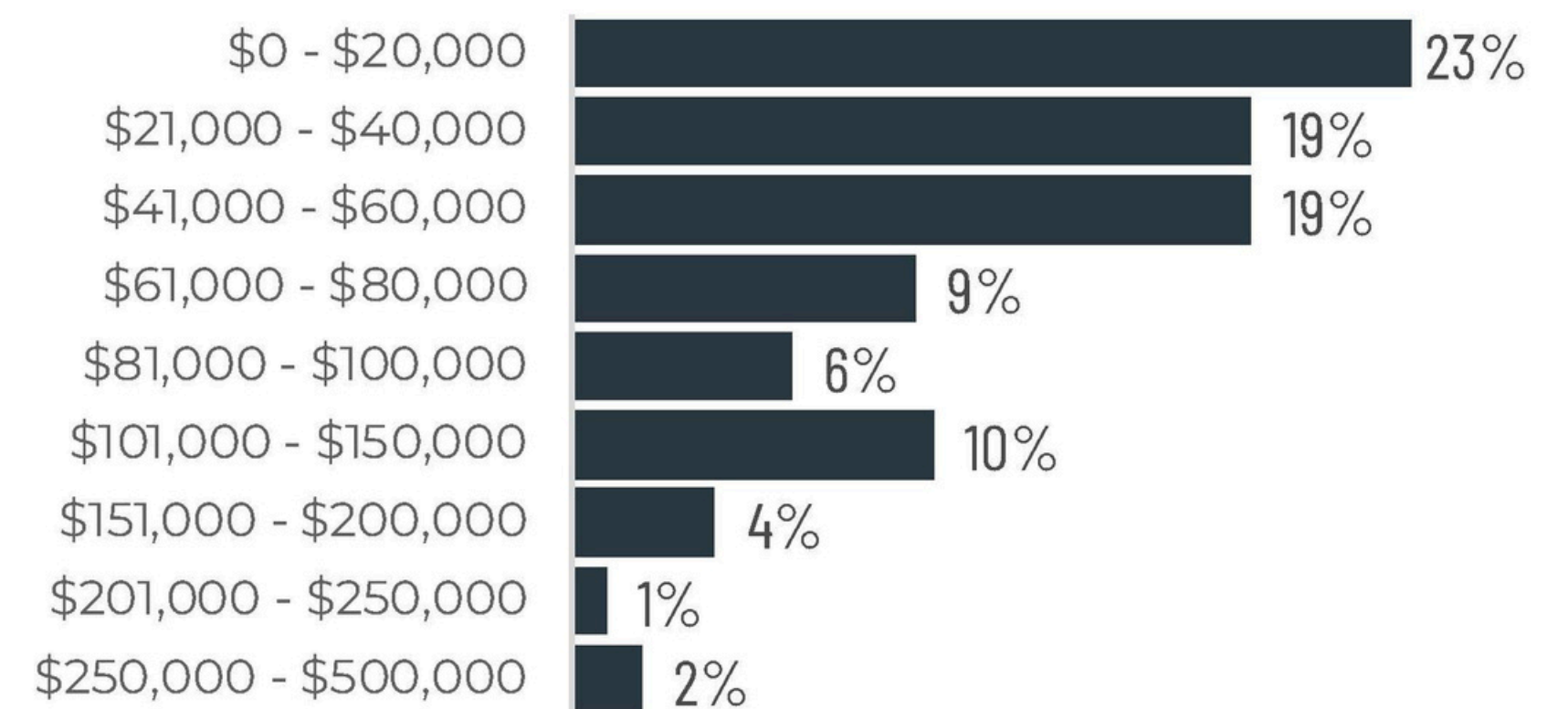
Race



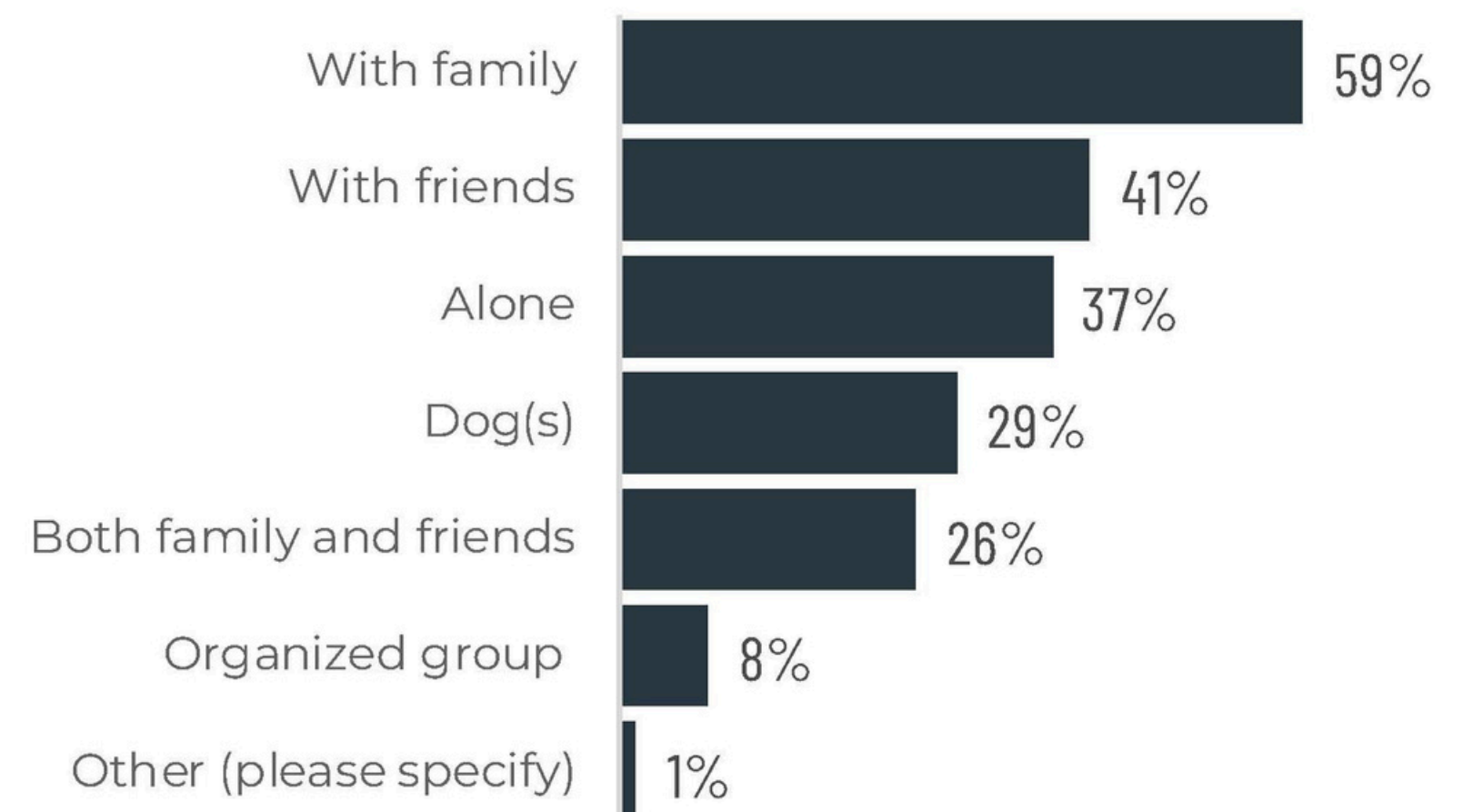
Education



Household Income



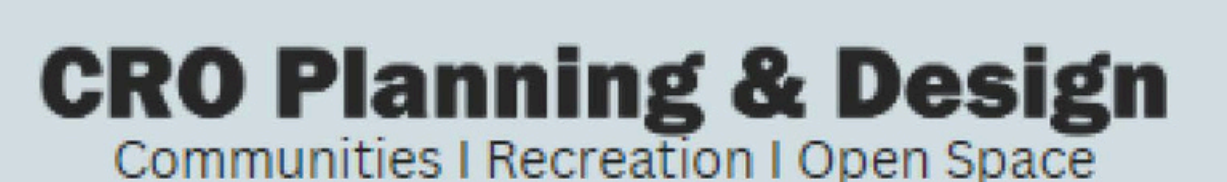
Social Setting



Mean Age
45
years old

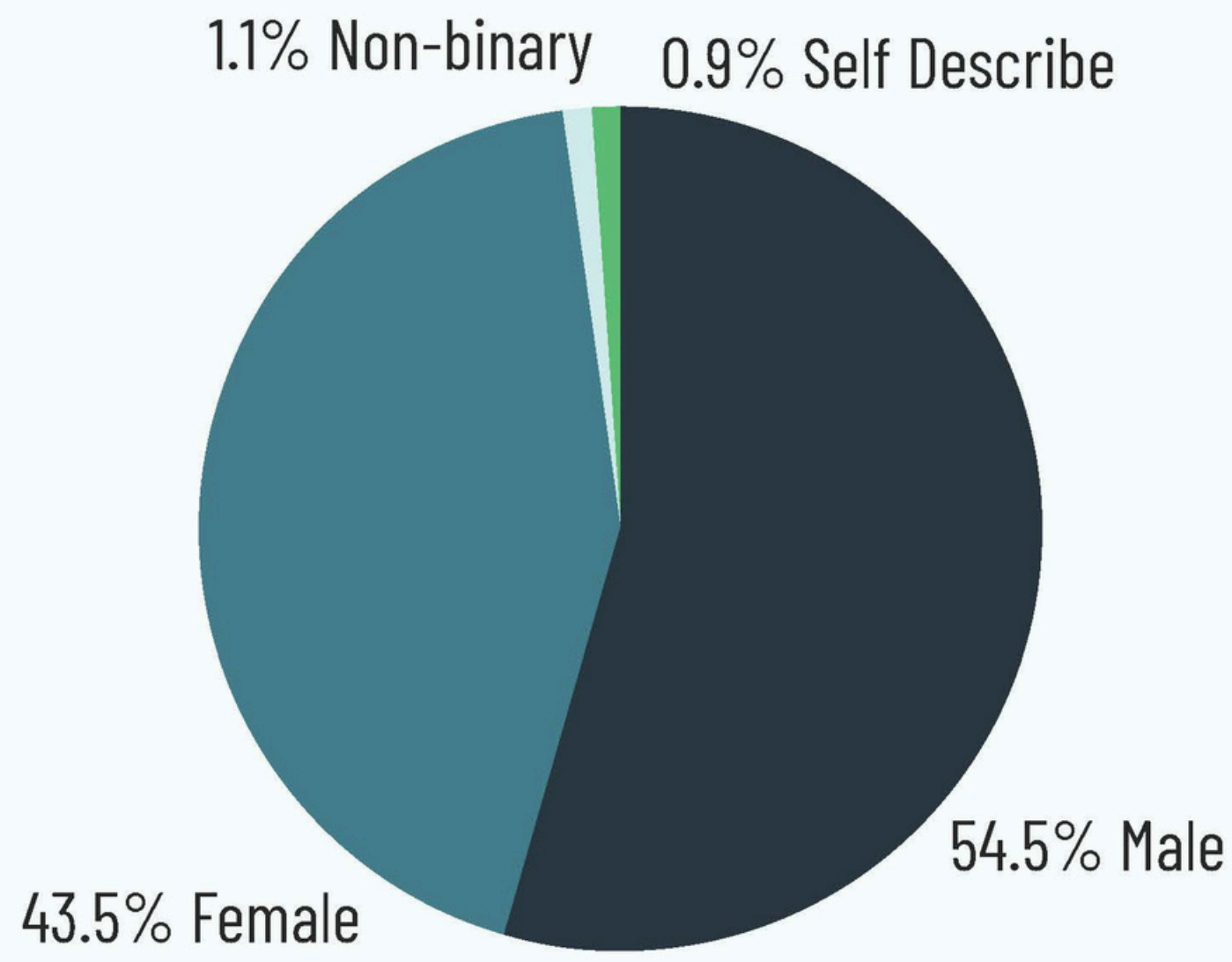
Move Forward Together Vermont
Draft Vision & Priorities Outreach

Recreation Survey Data
July 2024

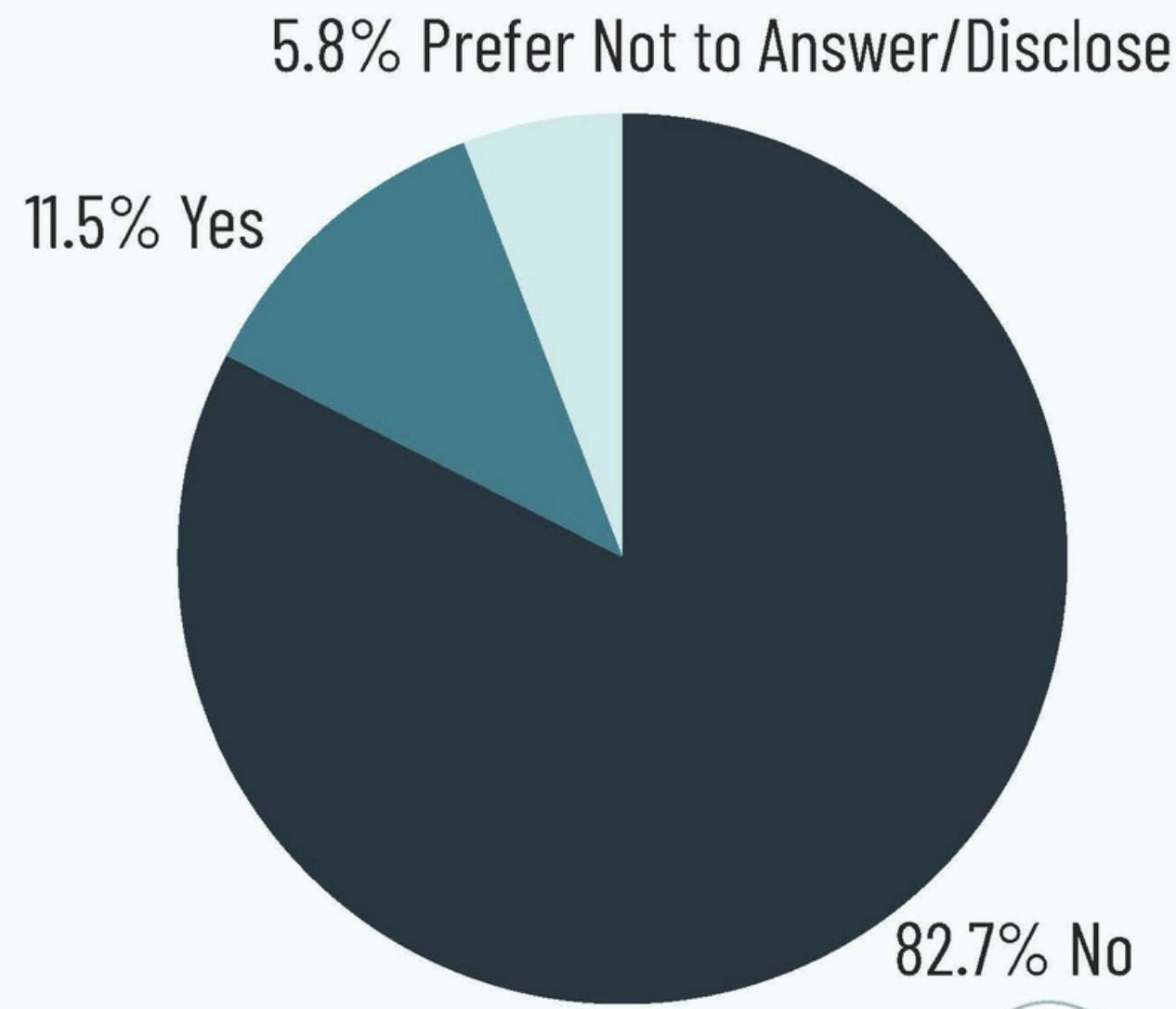


Invested User Survey Summary

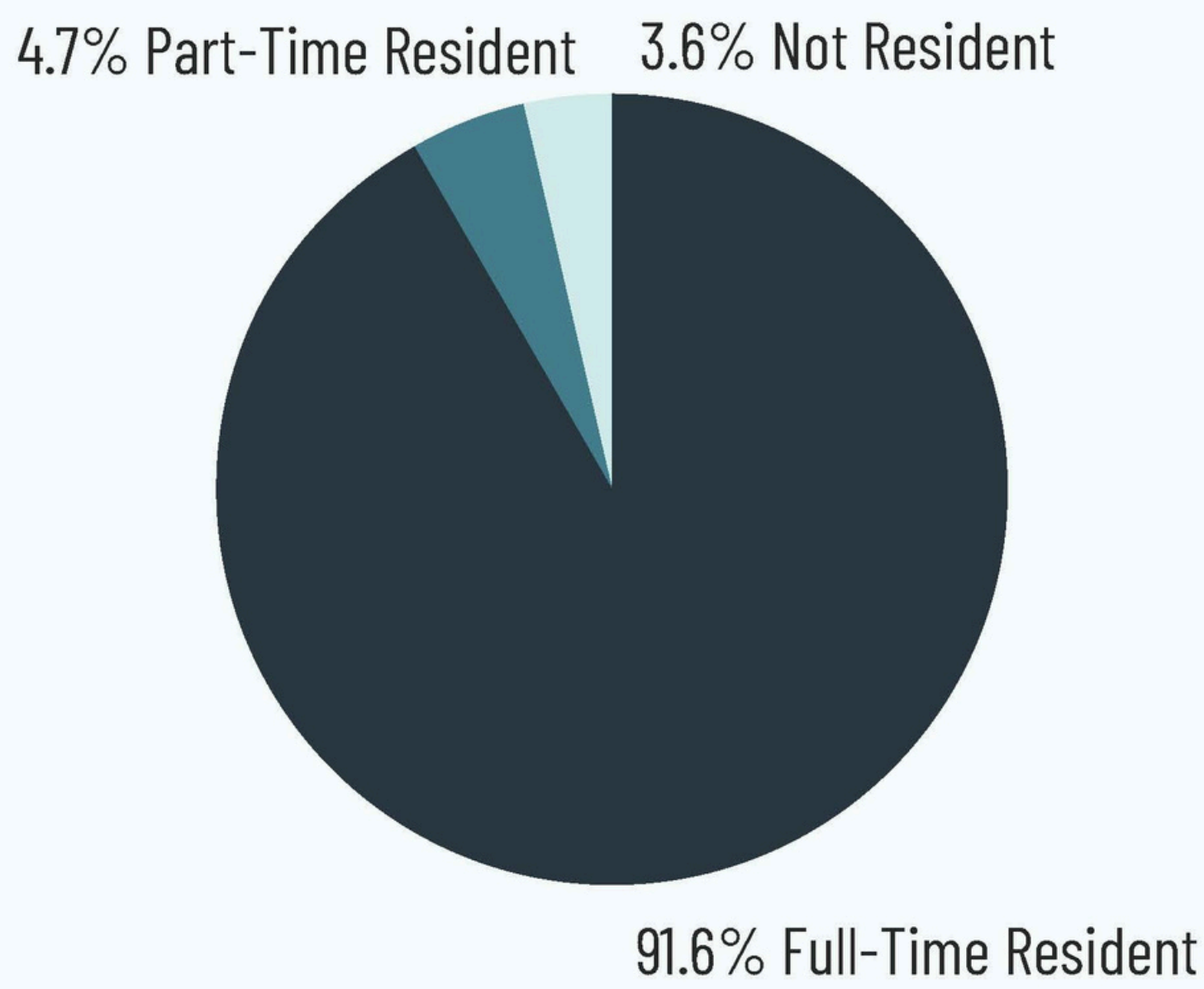
Gender



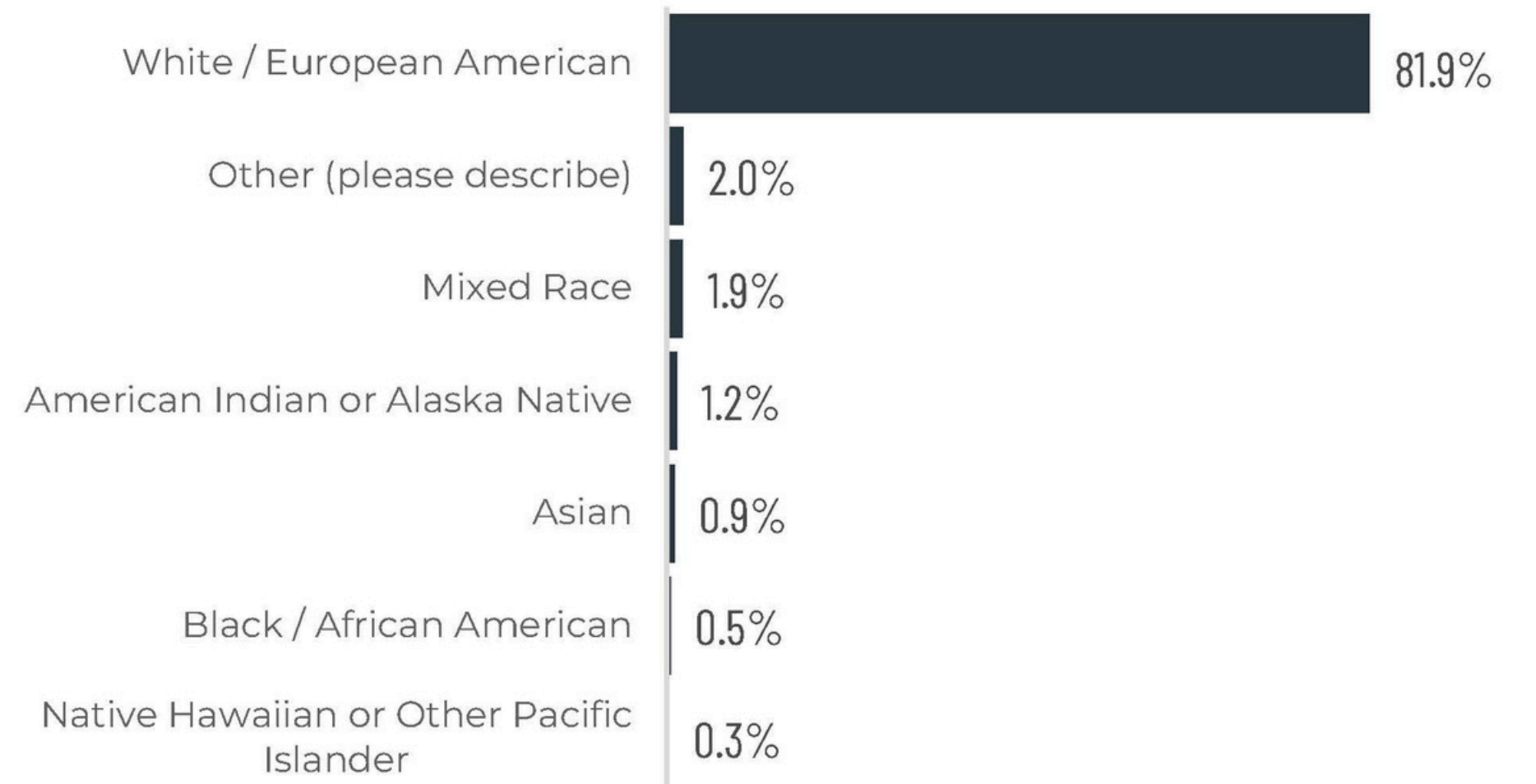
Disability Characteristics



Residency



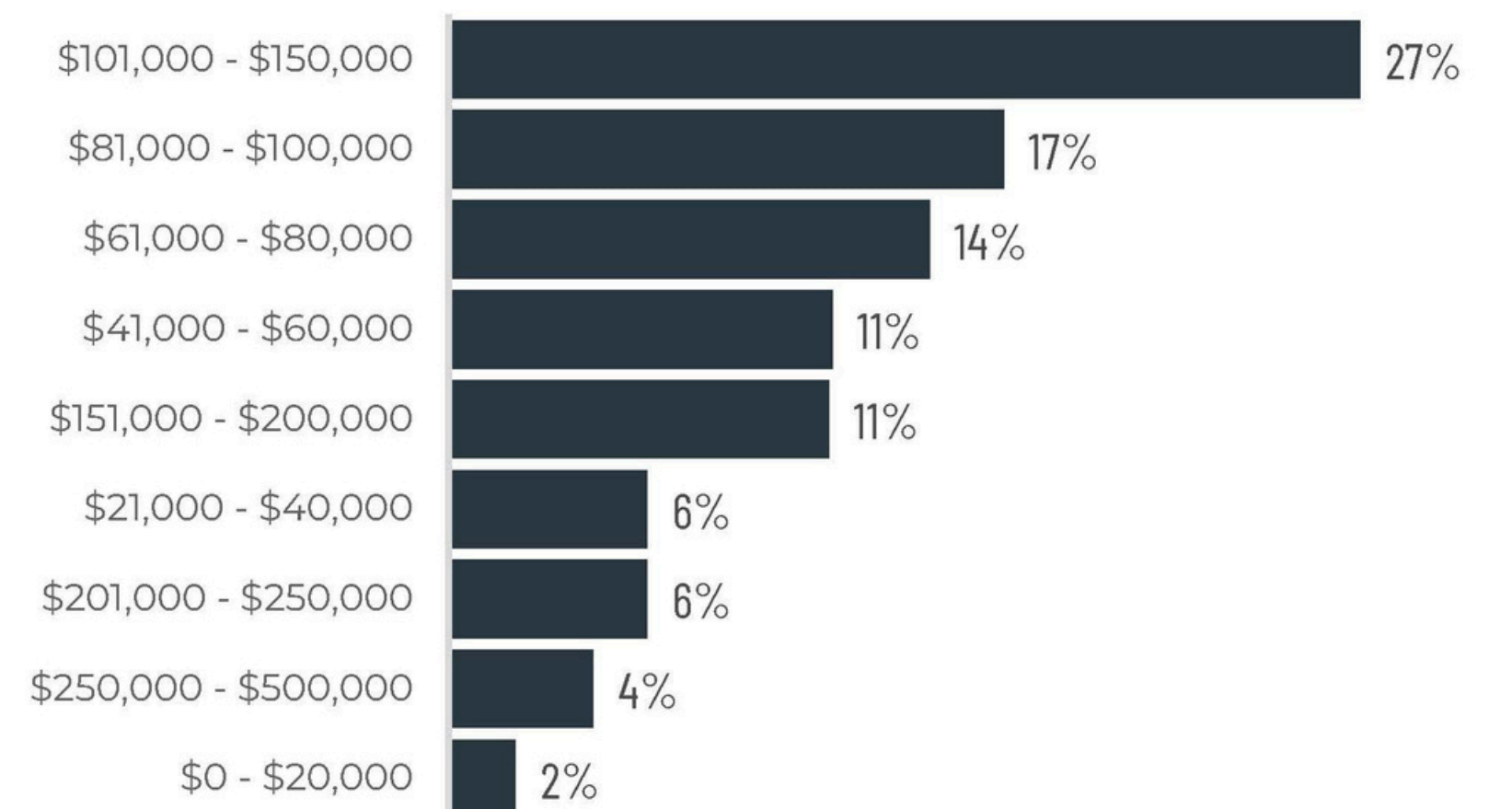
Race



Education



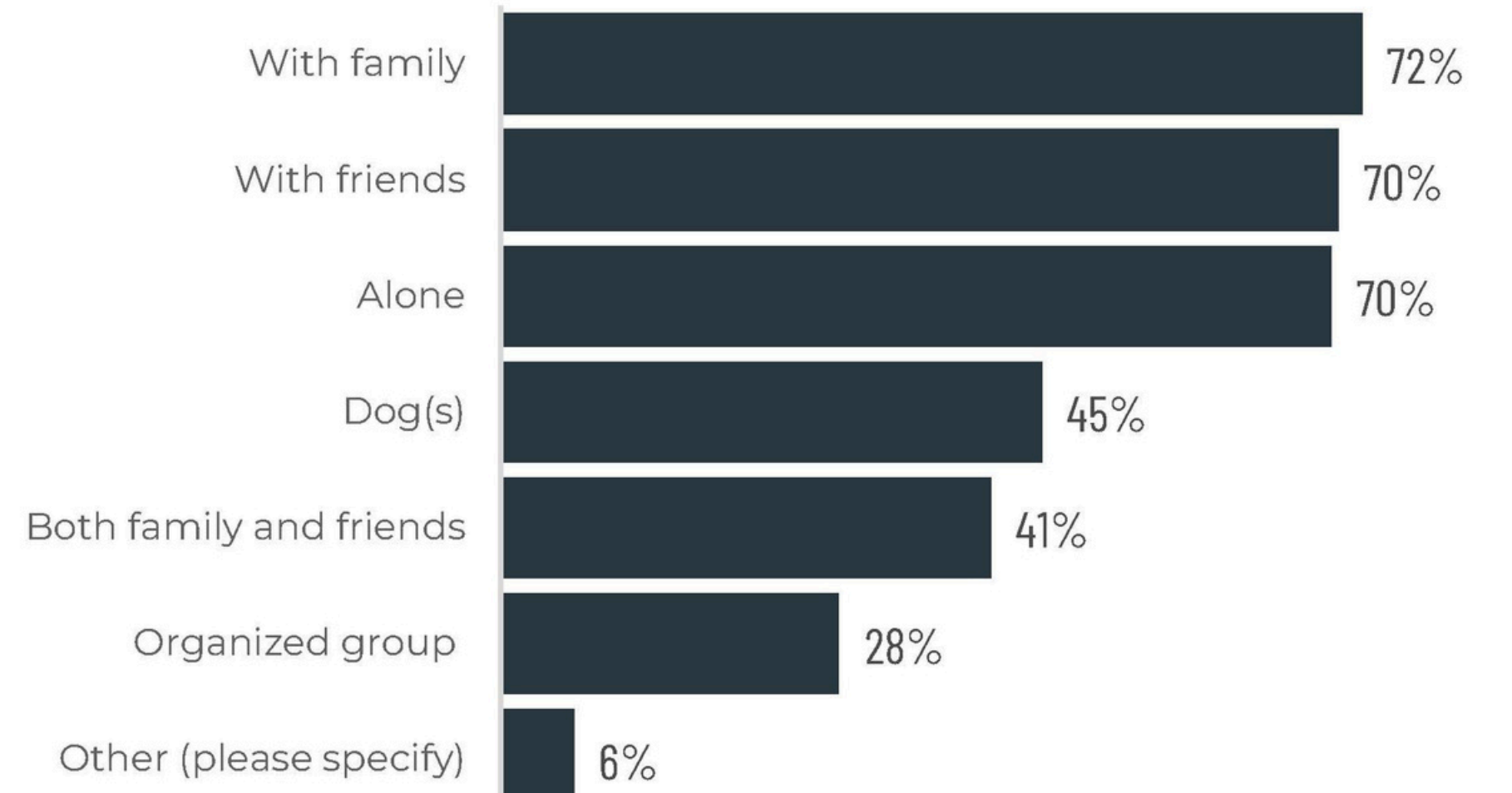
Household Income



Mean Age

53
years old

Social Setting



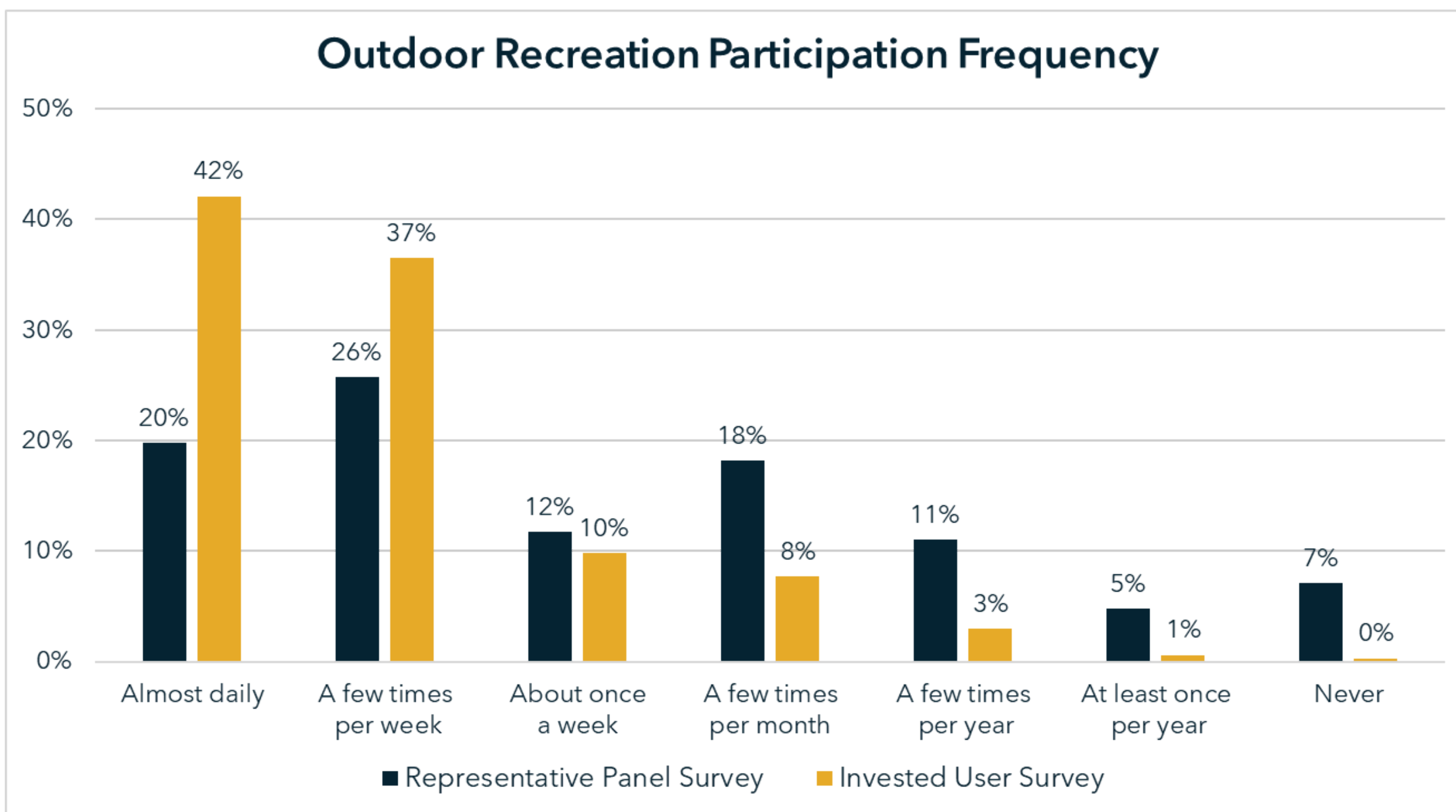
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Draft Vision & Priorities Outreach

Recreation Survey Data
July 2024



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Recreation Participation



Vermonters like to recreate! Over 90% of respondents from both surveys recreated in the past year, with the majority of respondents recreating once a week or more.

TOP TEN ACTIVITIES BY PARTICIPATION: REPRESENTATIVE PANEL SURVEY

Rank	Activity	% Participation	Rank	Activity	% Participation
1	Walking (on sidewalks, paved paths, gravel roads, etc.)	84%	6	Yard Games (cornhole, horseshoes, bocce ball, etc.)	33%
2	Swimming or Wading (outdoors, natural area)	52%	7	Swimming or Wading (outdoors, pool)	33%
3	Hiking (on trails)	52%	8	Picnicking	32%
4	Private Gardening	38%	9	Night Sky Viewing	31%
5	Playground Activities	37%	10	Outdoor Concerts or Events	28%



99% Invested User Survey respondents participated in outdoor recreation in the past 12 months



93% Representative Panel Survey respondents participated in outdoor recreation in the past 12 months



TOP TEN ACTIVITIES BY PARTICIPATION: INVESTED USER SURVEY

Rank	Activity	% Participation	Rank	Activity	% Participation
1	Walking (on sidewalks, paved paths, gravel roads, etc.)	84%	6	Off Trail Hiking/Bushwhacking	45%
2	Hiking (on trails)	83%	7	Snowshoeing	44%
3	Swimming or Wading (outdoors, natural area)	68%	8	Wildlife/Nature Watching	43%
4	Canoeing/Kayaking/Row boating (flatwater)	57%	9	Outdoor Concerts or Events	42%
5	Private Gardening	51%	10	Night Sky Viewing	37%

Motivations and Barriers

Survey respondents were asked to describe their motivations and barriers to outdoor recreation. What encourages people to go out and recreate, and what is stopping them from enjoying Vermont's outdoors?

MOTIVATIONS TO RECREATE

Rank	Representative Panel Survey	Invested User Survey
1	Improve mental health	Improve mental health
2	Relax and recharge	Be close to nature
3	Experience calm & peace	Relax & recharge
4	View scenic beauty	View scenic beauty
5	Get away from the usual demands of life	Improve physical health

Many recreate outdoors to improve mental health, relax, be close to nature, and view the Green Mountain State's scenic beauty.

BARRIERS TO OUTDOOR RECREATION

Common obstacles to participating in outdoor recreation include the cost, sanitation concerns, availability of sites and parking, and crowding.

Rank	Representative Panel Survey	Invested User Survey
1	The cost of gear, equipment, and/or appropriate clothing is too high	The cost of gear, equipment, and/or appropriate clothing is too high
2	I choose to do other things in my free time	There is limited or unsecure parking
3	I am concerned about sanitation, lack of bathroom facilities, or encountering human waste	It is difficult to find available sites
4	Use/entrance fees are too high	There are too many people/it is too crowded
5	Overall cost of trips to visit natural areas is too high	I do not have enough time due to work

Move Forward Together Vermont
Draft Vision & Priorities Outreach

Recreation Survey Data
July 2024



Outdoor Recreation Investment Priorities

Survey respondents were asked to describe their priorities for outdoor recreation investments in Vermont. What should the State prioritize as they invest in outdoor recreation for the next five years?

VOREC INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

Rank	Representative Panel Survey	Invested User Survey
1	Programs that help Senior Vermonters to stay active outdoors	Support for non-profit organizations that steward trail systems
2	Outdoor recreation projects that serve low-income and historically underserved populations	Recovery funds for trails and other recreational infrastructure that experience significant damage from natural disasters
3	Programs that address mental or physical health needs through outdoor activities	K-12 programs focused on outdoor activities
4	K-12 programs focused on outdoor career pathways	Support for municipal organizations that maintain recreational resources
5	K-12 programs focused on outdoor activities	Investments in climate-resilient trails and other recreational infrastructure

PROGRAM INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

Rank	Representative Panel Survey	Invested User Survey
1	Seniors' activity centers	Youth clubs (mountain biking, skiing, etc.)
2	Community gardens	Outdoor sports for youth (golf, tennis, leagues, etc.)
3	Outdoor sports for youth (golf, tennis, leagues, etc.)	Community gardens
4	Outdoor concerts or movies	Seniors' activity centers
5	Educational activities (environmental, health, historic tours, etc.)	Adult clubs (mountain biking, skiing, etc.)

Topics relating to health and wellness and environmental stewardship were top investment priorities for Vermonters.

Investing in programs that encourage comradery and engage youth, adults, and seniors with the outdoors were important to respondents.

CAMPGROUND INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

Rank	Representative Panel Survey	Invested User Survey
1	State parks & public developed campgrounds	State parks & public developed campgrounds
2	Cabins or yurts	Boat/Paddle in site
3	Drive-in tent sites	Remote/dispersed camping opportunities
4	Remote/dispersed camping opportunities	Dispersed boat/paddle in site
5	Boat/paddle-in sites	Hike-in tent site

FACILITY INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

Rank	Representative Panel Survey	Invested User Survey
1	Clean & well-maintained park facilities	Clean & well-maintained park facilities
2	Trailhead or park restrooms	Natural/soft surface trails
3	Directional signs & details about trails	Directional signs & details about trails
4	Accessibility & opportunities for people with disabilities	Acquiring new park land and recreation areas
5	Lighting and/or security cameras in key places	Trailhead or park restrooms

Investing in state park and developed camping opportunities were a top priority for both respondent groups, in addition to clean and well-maintained park facilities

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Recreation Survey Data
July 2024



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Recreation Provider Survey

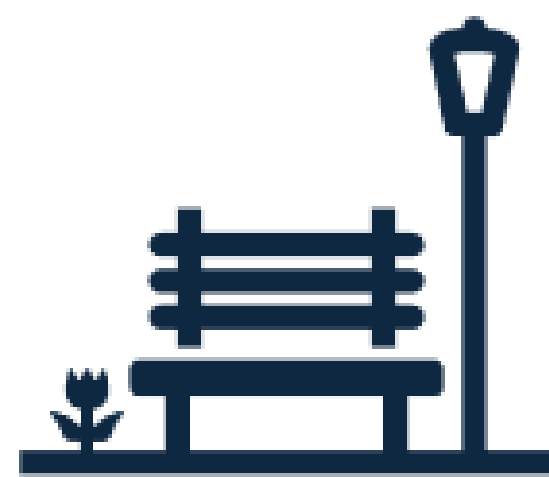
Led by the Vermont Recreation & Parks Association, the Vermont State of Recreation Survey started in 2019 to obtain valuable information about Vermont's recreation providers.

In Fall 2023, the survey was expanded in collaboration with the State of Vermont, the Vermont Outdoor Economic Collaborative (VOREC), and the Vermont Trails & Greenways Council to better serve the Move Forward Together Vermont process.

VT State of Recreation Survey by the Numbers



36 survey respondents from towns, non-profits, businesses, statewide agencies, and organizations.



Respondents manage 7 individual parks/trail systems and 11 miles of trail, on average.



The average park or trail maintained by survey respondents was 56 acres.



Most common programs managed by recreation providers included team sports (70%), summer camps (60%), and themed special events.



Half of respondent agencies have grown in the past five years, while 45% have stayed the same size. Only 8% of agencies have decreased.



Slightly over half of respondent agencies intend to expand programs; 74% intend to expand their park, facility, and/or asset offerings.



89% of agencies with paid staff intend to expand their staff in the next 5 years. None of the all-volunteer agencies plan to add any paid staff.



A strong majority (70%) of respondents indicate that increased funding or financial support was needed to meet their agency's mission.



Trails, pickleball, and pump tracks are the highest ranked offerings that respondents intend to expand.

**Move Forward Together Vermont
Draft Vision & Priorities Outreach**

Recreation Provider Survey Data

July 2024






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Focus Groups

Between November 2023 and April 2024, the FPR Program Manager and the VOREC Program Manager conducted 26 focus groups for the Move Forward Together Vermont process (MFTV) and the Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance (VOBA) conducted 2 business-focused discussions.

Focus groups were designed to engage people and perspectives who hadn't been engaged in planning processes in the past and to solicit expert voices from across Vermont's outdoor recreation landscape.

28   

Focus groups conducted between November 2023 & April 2024

185   

Focus group participants

Over 185 individuals participated in the 28 discussions. Participants were from 123 organizations including state government, regional and municipal government, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and private businesses as well as 8 unaffiliated individuals.

123   

Organizations represented

- 45** Non-profit organizations
- 28** Private businesses
- 23** Towns and regional planning commissions
- 10** State government agencies/departments
- 8** Unaffiliated individuals
- 6** Educational institutions

Focus group topics were chosen to represent a variety of cross-sector stakeholders from across the outdoor recreation landscape in Vermont.

Participants were asked the following:

-  What are the specific opportunities for outdoor recreation in Vermont?
-  Where are there gaps in strengthening outdoor recreation?
-  What resources are needed to be successful?
-  What does success look like in the next five years?

All focus groups were asked the same four questions with ensuing discussion facilitated by FPR and VOREC staff. Detailed notes were taken for all discussions.

Focus Groups - Analysis

Using the notes taken during focus group conversations, staff from VOREC and FPR created a list of 160 actions. They then tagged and sorted each actions with a “Category of Action”, an “Action Tag”, and the focus group who supported the action.

Categories of Action

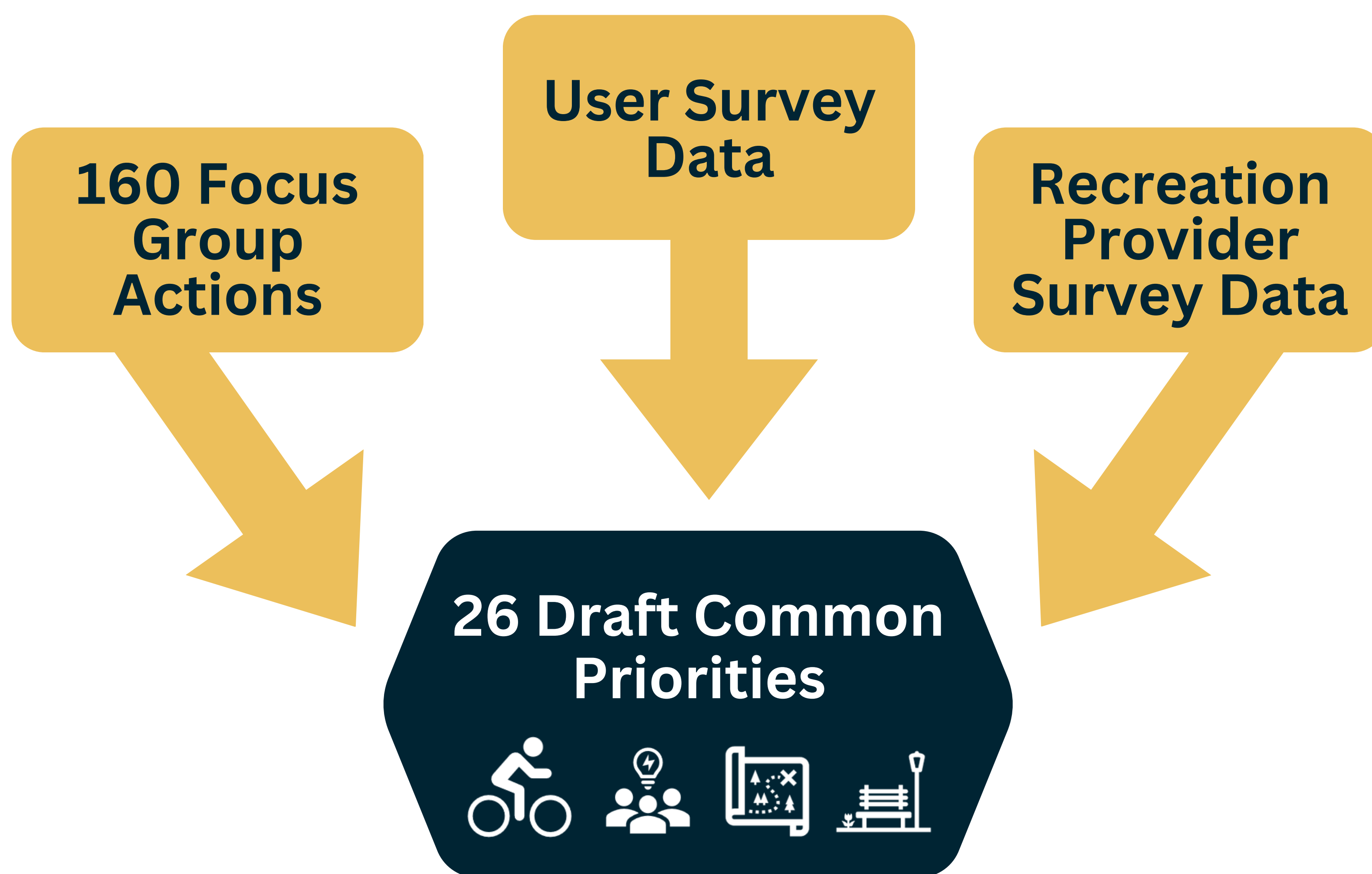
- ❖ Education and Information
- ❖ Funding
- ❖ Infrastructure
- ❖ Partnership Building
- ❖ Planning and Management
- ❖ Policy
- ❖ Programming

Action Tags

- ❖ Community convening
- ❖ Conservation
- ❖ Cross-sector
- ❖ Data
- ❖ Equitable access
- ❖ Inclusive communication
- ❖ Increased access
- ❖ Increased capacity
- ❖ Low barrier access
- ❖ Marketing
- ❖ Off site communication
- ❖ On site communication
- ❖ Professionalism
- ❖ Sector innovation
- ❖ Site stewardship
- ❖ Stewardship ethic
- ❖ Technical assistance
- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ Universal access



In March, the actions from the focus groups, and the results of the surveys were reviewed and combined to create 26 common priorities for assessment and review by the Move Forward Together Vermont Advisory bodies.



Move Forward Together Vermont Draft Vision & Priorities Outreach

Focus Group Data
July 2024



Vision & Priorities Summit

Overview

In May 2024, FPR and VOREC hosted a day-long summit meeting with 40 outdoor recreation leaders from around the State, including members of the VOREC Steering Committee, the Technical Advisory Committee for the SCORP, and others, at the Calvin Coolidge Homestead in Plymouth.

Summit Goals

- 1) Review survey and focus group data 
- 2) Collaborate to inform the development of a draft vision and set of priority actions for outdoor recreation in Vermont 



Priorities

Attendees assessed the 26 shared priorities identified by FPR and VOREC staff, and considered the alignment of the 26 shared priorities with two “Key Lenses,” Equity and Climate Resilience & Adaptation.

Equity

Move Forward Together Vermont views equitable outdoor recreation as all people, regardless of race, cultural background, ability, location, or income, having access to outdoor spaces, activities and programs that meet their needs. Equitable outdoor recreation is also related to environmental justice, ensuring all people have access to clean air and water, green spaces, and transportation networks and protecting communities from disproportionate environmental burdens such as polluted air and water, and climate impacts.

Climate Resilience & Adaptation

Move Forward Together Vermont recognizes that climate in Vermont is changing. In the past year alone (2023 – 2024) Vermont has experienced severe flooding and warmer winter temperatures. In the next five years, we anticipate facing more large-scale and extreme rain events, shorter winter seasons, more rain in winter, and more variable weather patterns. Investments must be made now in order to ensure that our communities are resilient as the climate changes.

After suggesting edits to the 26 priorities and identifying which priorities were the strongest on Climate and Equity, participant groups were given six 'votes' each and asked to select their top priorities.

Top Priorities Identified

Priority

Group Votes

Invest in stewarding and upgrading existing recreational infrastructure to better accommodate modern use and impacts from climate change



Cultivate a stewardship ethic amongst Vermonters and visitors



Identify and invest in regional outdoor recreation planning by strengthening partnerships between organizations, groups, and businesses working at the local level with regional organizations



Create suite of technical assistance resources, including in-person support, for developing and managing recreation, including for climate resilience, that works for municipalities and non-profits



Fill gaps in experiences and distribution across the state by creating new recreation infrastructure including winter access, water access, more and longer accessible and adaptive experiences, and accessible skiing.



Centralize and improve informational resources about outdoor recreation events, and opportunities.



**Move Forward Together Vermont
Draft Vision & Priorities Outreach**

Vision & Priorities Summit
July 2024



Feedback - Draft Vision

Vision

Foster Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Outdoor Recreation

By focusing on outdoor recreation as an avenue for fostering healthy and vibrant communities over the next five years we will support partnerships, projects, and programs at the local, regional and statewide scale that protect Vermont's healthy, functioning environment, establish and maintain high-quality and inviting outdoor recreation spaces, and cultivate communities that are diverse in the people they engage and the opportunities they support.

How well is this vision statement aligned with your vision for outdoor recreation in Vermont? Place a sticker below!



Not very aligned with my vision for outdoor recreation in VT

Very aligned with my vision for outdoor recreation in VT

What, if anything, could improve the vision, or description of the vision? Write your thoughts here!

**Move Forward Together Vermont
Draft Vision & Priorities Outreach**

Draft Vision Feedback
July 2024



Feedback - Guiding Principles

Who we are

When “we” is used in the context of MFTV, it is intended to encompass municipal, state, and federal government staff and programs, outdoor businesses, educational institutions, and outdoor recreation non-profits anyone else who shares the goal of fostering healthy and vibrant communities through outdoor recreation.

Is the definition of “Who we are” clear?

Not at all clear

Perfectly clear

What community means

Communities are not defined by population size and are the social foundation of both the least populated and most urban parts of Vermont. Communities also form through shared values, experiences, and identities. For our work, an inclusive definition of community will allow us to truly foster vibrancy in all of Vermont’s many forms of community.

Is the definition of “What community means” clear?

Not at all clear

Perfectly clear

Principle #1

Collaboration

Strong partnerships require us to listen and learn from each other as well as to be thoughtful in our planning. Outdoor recreation projects involve many stakeholders and are most successful when informed by diverse perspectives.

Principle #2

Inclusion

Through our work together, we will create spaces and places for all people in the outdoors, no matter their background or ability. Collectively, we can advance our goals much farther than we can separately.

Principle #3

Data-driven

We will collect and assess information related to each of our priorities as we advance them. This will allow us to be flexible and adapt to the changing needs of our communities.

Please rate the Guiding Principles for how well they align with how you would like outdoor recreation stakeholders to work together for the next five years:

Very unaligned

Very Aligned

**Move Forward Together Vermont
Draft Vision & Priorities Outreach**

Guiding Principle Feedback
July 2024



Feedback - Common Objectives

Equity

Our objective is to **collectively expand opportunities** and **reduce barriers** so that all people feel welcome in Vermont's outdoors. As we move forward with our work, we will **regularly assess** our actions to ensure that they advance outdoor equity and are grounded in listening to people and groups who have been and continue to be marginalized.

Climate Resilience

Our objective is to **collectively strengthen** the sustainability, flexibility, and resilience of our communities so that we can weather the impacts of climate change. Throughout the next five years, we will regularly **evaluate** our actions to ensure they **build resilience** and adjust them as we and others hone best practices for infrastructure and community building.

Please rate the Common Objectives of "Equity" and "Climate Resilience" for how well they align with your objectives for outdoor recreation in the next five years.



How well do you understand why we called out "Equity" and "Climate Resilience" as Common Objectives?



What, if anything, could improve the Common Objectives?

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Draft Vision & Priorities Outreach**

Common Objectives Feedback
July 2024



Priority Actions - Overview

Stewardship

Vermont's landscape, from mountains, forests, to streams and lakes, fundamentally shapes our communities, parks, water access, and trails. Investing in our existing recreational infrastructure and open spaces as well as the organizations tasked with stewarding them is critical as we face a changing climate and more people seeking the outdoors. Using these priorities, we will ensure that we protect the health of our environment and cultivate and preserve high quality outdoor recreation experiences.

Wellness

Individual wellness is a cornerstone of the health and vibrancy of our communities. Many Vermonters, including young people and seniors, face mental and physical health challenges that can be improved through recreating outdoors. Using these priorities, we will create and steward places and connections that welcome all people and allow them to heal, learn, grow, and live their lives fully.

Economic Development

Economic activity connects outdoor recreation resources, participation in the outdoors, and the businesses and organizations that strengthen our communities. To capture and sustain the benefits of outdoor recreation we need to clearly communicate its positive economic impact and create opportunities for entrepreneurship, learning, and innovation. Using these priorities, we will support communities to be proactive in using outdoor recreation to create a sustainable, vibrant, future.

Move Forward Together Vermont
Draft Vision & Priorities Outreach

Priority Action Overview
July 2024



Feedback - Stewardship Priority Actions

Please rate the **Stewardship Priority Actions** for how well they align with what you think the priorities should be for outdoor recreation in the next five years.

Priority Action & Description

Example Projects

Invest in stewarding and upgrading existing recreational infrastructure to better accommodate modern use and impacts from climate change.

Many of the parks and trail systems in Vermont were built before modern recreational design standards and are susceptible to erosion from severe rain events, flooding, and compaction. Investing in upgrading and maintaining these resources will ensure that people in Vermont will continue to access the outdoors for decades to come.

Install waterbars along a hiking trail to divert water off the trail, reduce erosion, and improve water quality in high elevation streams.

Very unaligned

Very aligned

Strengthen guidance and education about climate resilient strategies that help communities interact with their rivers and water bodies with particular focus on public access, conservation, and healthy ecosystems.

Open space conservation that includes water access and recreation opportunities is a critical tool for increasing resilience in communities along rivers. Support for conserving and managing these spaces will allow communities to make informed decisions that safeguard their residents and protect the environment.

Organize trailside work days for eliminating invasive plants and planting native riparian trees and shrubs.

Very unaligned

Very aligned

Cultivate and promote a stewardship ethic among Vermonters and visitors that promotes respectful behavior, shared use, and service to land and community.

Recreation is growing and changing in Vermont. More people are going outside in both traditional and novel ways. In order to protect our natural, cultural and infrastructure resources through this growth, we need to work together to elevate service and stewardship as a critical foundation of the outdoor recreation community.

Develop a trail adopter program for a town forest trail system where businesses and individuals who enjoy the trails can give back by maintaining them.

Very unaligned

Very aligned

Identify and support regional outdoor recreation planning and partnership to build capacity, promote high-quality planning, and strengthen partnerships between existing regional organizations and organizations, groups, and businesses working at the local level.

Supporting work at the regional level through regional organizations and initiatives can strengthen planning and management for regional recreation resources, add planning capacity to municipalities, facilitate better information sharing, and create more opportunities for community building and placemaking.

Distribute a destination guide for the Connecticut River for multi-day trips highlighting water access in multiple communities.

Very unaligned

Very aligned

Move Forward Together Vermont
Draft Vision & Priorities Outreach

Priority Actions Review

July 2024



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Feedback - Stewardship Priority Actions

Please rate the **Stewardship Priority Actions** for how well they align with what you think the priorities should be for outdoor recreation in the next five years.

Priority Action & Description

Example Projects

Create and promote a suite of technical assistance resources that will increase the skills and expertise of non-profits, municipalities, and businesses who conserve and manage recreation and open spaces, recreation infrastructure, and recreation-related programming

In order to protect our recreational and natural resources, it is critical that we develop Vermont-specific expertise and share national-level best practices for recreation and open space management with the whole recreation management community.

Advance Vermont-specific universal best management practices for trails.



Very unaligned

Very aligned

Reinforce and sustain recreation on private lands through policy improvement, education, and support for private landowners

Public landowners host thousands of miles of trails and allow for hunting and fishing on tens of thousands of acres. Although they are well-protected from lawsuits by Vermont's landowner liability statute, more needs to be done in both policy and education to support private landowners who host public recreation.

Distribute messaging to realtors to share with new landowners about the value of allowing for public access on private land.



Very unaligned

Very aligned

What, if anything, could improve the current priority actions under the Stewardship Theme?

**Move Forward Together Vermont
Draft Vision & Priorities Outreach**

Priority Actions Review

July 2024



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Feedback - Wellness Priority Actions

Please rate the **Wellness Priority Actions** for how well they align with what you think the priorities should be for outdoor recreation in the next five years.

Priority Action & Description

Example Projects

Develop recreational infrastructure and conserve open spaces that strategically fill gaps in experiences and distribution across the state, identified by public outreach, assessment, and planning

Developing close-to-home recreation opportunities for different skill levels is critical for providing thousands the opportunity to capture the physical, mental and social benefits of outdoor recreation.

Conserve a parcel of land and develop a walking trail adjacent to a multi-family housing development.

Very unaligned

Very aligned

Create safe, welcoming, and environmentally sustainable entry spaces into the outdoors by improving signage, parking, mapping, bathroom facilities, and accessibility at trailheads, parks, and water access areas

Investing in clear signage in multiple languages, detailed maps, clean bathroom facilities, adequately sized parking areas, and designing for accessibility including designated parking spaces will help people, particularly those new to outdoor recreation or exploring a new activity, to feel safe, prepared and welcome.

Expand a parking area for a popular city park in order to add designated ADA parking, lighting and adequate stormwater filtration.

Very unaligned

Very aligned

Centralize, improve, and make more accessible informational resources about outdoor recreation opportunities and events

Detailed information about parks, trails, and access as well as participating in organized events and workshops is critical to building skills, finding community and having successful adventures. Although some central information resources exist, more needs to be done to ensure anyone who wants to get outside can find out how and feel comfortable once they get there.

Create a shared calendar to which all organizations offering workshops and group events can add content that is hosted on a statewide website.

Very unaligned

Very aligned

Support programs that reduce the costs of outdoor recreation including gear libraries, no- or low-cost recreation programming and rentals, and accessible transportation

The cost of gear was the largest barrier to recreating for folks who participated in both recreation user surveys. Lowering this barrier is critical to ensuring that people can go recreate, as well as making sure people feel welcome outdoors, no matter their income level.

Create a gear exchange for young people where they can exchange bikes, hiking shoes, backpacks, etc., that don't fit for a new or used version of the correct size.

Very unaligned

Very aligned

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Feedback - Wellness Priority Actions

Please rate the **Wellness Priority Actions** for how well they align with what you think the priorities should be for outdoor recreation in the next five years.

Priority Action & Description

Example Projects

Strengthen connections between outdoor recreation providers, public health providers, educational programs, senior centers, and local community resources that cater to wellness

Building more connections between "silos" will strengthen and enhance the availability and quality of programs and projects for helping address mental health and physical challenges.

Expand the prescriptions for state parks program so more health providers can provide access to state parks to their patients.

Very unaligned

Very aligned

Strengthen community awareness about improved health and wellness outcomes through outdoor recreation

Many public health and recreation studies have shown the mental and physical health benefits of regularly going outside. By promoting these benefits, improving access to the outdoors, and building better connections between recreation and health providers / organizations, we can help people make connections between outdoor recreation and their personal health.

Promote regular outdoor events highlighting different ways you can improve your mental health by going outside.

Very unaligned

Very aligned

What, if anything, could improve the current priority actions under the Wellness Theme?

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Feedback - Economic Development Priority Actions

Please rate the **Economic Development Priority Actions** for how well they align with what you think the priorities should be for outdoor recreation in the next five years.

Priority Action & Description

Example Projects

Develop information and resources that can be used to demonstrate the ways in which outdoor recreation resources and vibrant local economies are connected

Data and models can help communicate the value of outdoor recreation; however, this information is lacking. Higher-quality and more detailed information is needed to create shared investment in outdoor recreation.

Lift up and celebrate successful outdoor recreation projects through local media and share with other communities regionally and statewide.

Very unaligned

Very aligned

Strengthen the capacity of municipalities to engage in the outdoor recreation economy including recreation management, community planning for local and regional development, and local business support

Municipalities across Vermont are limited on capacity, especially the municipalities serving the most rural and low-income parts of the state. Capacity through technical assistance, investments in support at the local and regional level, and the consolidation of informational resources can fill the gaps for municipalities.

Create a guide to selecting federal and state level funding opportunities for municipalities and outdoor recreation partners.

Very unaligned

Very aligned

Strengthen workforce opportunities in Vermont's outdoor sector by supporting partnerships and programs that define clear career pathways and support a highly skilled workforce

Creating well-defined pathways into careers such as bike / ski mechanics, guiding, and trail building will better engage young Vermonters looking to work in the outdoors and support communities who are developing their recreational resources.

Research outdoor recreation sector workforce needs and publish assessment data to inform educators, employers, state agencies, etc.

Very unaligned

Very aligned

Foster resilience and flexibility in outdoor recreation communities, organizations, and businesses to withstand both major weather events and a variable climate by investing in planning, knowledge sharing, education opportunities, and/or expanding programming

Investments in planning, knowledge sharing, education opportunities and/or expanding programming are needed to support faster recovery when a physical or economic impact happens and create flexibility in what a program or business is able to offer to the public.

Invest in a non-profit providing winter programs like Nordic skiing or snowshoeing to research and expand their curriculum and the programs they offer.

Very unaligned

Very aligned

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Feedback - Economic Development Priority Actions

Please rate the **Economic Development Priority Actions** for how well they align with what you think the priorities should be for outdoor recreation in the next five years.

Priority Action & Description

Example Projects

Invest in organizations and businesses led by and serving non-white Vermonters, LGBTQ+, Veterans, Seniors, Vermonters who are low-income, and Vermonters with adaptive needs to strengthen outdoor recreation opportunities and participation

In order to create more welcoming and inclusive opportunities to participate, learn, and work in outdoor recreation in Vermont we must invest funding, resources, and energy into the success of organizations and businesses who have lived experience with the communities they support and work with.

Develop criteria for federal and state funded grant programs that prioritize funding for organizations and businesses led by and representing marginalized communities.



Very unaligned

Very aligned

Support innovation in Vermont's outdoor sector by supporting entrepreneurship and new small businesses, providing resources to businesses exploring new climate-friendly technologies, and businesses seeking year-round employment solutions

Businesses who establish themselves in Vermont need technical assistance support and financial assistance to innovate the products and services they offer.

Provide funding assistance to businesses who are exploring innovations in where and how they source products and the materials they use in their products to become more climate friendly.



Very unaligned

Very aligned

What, if anything, could improve the current priority actions under the Economic Development Theme?

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Closing & General Feedback

How well does the plan overall align with what you want for the future of outdoor recreation in Vermont?



Does not align

Perfectly aligns

Please rate your excitement level to start working together toward the vision and priority actions



I am not at all excited

I am bursting with excitement!

Is there anything we missed that is a priority for you or your community that you think should be considered for the final plan?

Thank you for your feedback! We truly appreciate the time you have given to help us create the future of outdoor recreation in Vermont! If you have any last thoughts, please share them here.

**Move Forward Together Vermont
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