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HASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

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What does Outdoor Recreation in Massachusetts Look Like?













Initial Goals / Priorities:

- Promote: Outdoor Recreation in Massachusetts. We want more visitors coming and playing in the Massachusetts, and more residents staying and playing in the state.
- Include: Outdoor Recreation for All. We want Massachusetts to be one of the most welcoming, inclusive, diverse, equitable, and accessible place to recreate.
 - Sustain: Promote restorative outdoor recreation research, principles and practices. We want to grow our natural capital as we also work to grow our community and economic capital.

Grow: MOOR

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Why?

- Economy: Outdoor Recreation plays a critical role in Massachusetts' economy, adding \$11.7 billion to our GDP and directly supporting 102,000 jobs. Further investment will create jobs, sustain local communities, and boost tourism and retention.
 - Massachusetts ranked 16th among states in OR value added and 12th in OR value-added growth.
 - OR value added grew 17.1% in 2022, ranking 13th among states.
- Public Health: Outdoor Recreation improves both physical and mental health.
 - When residents have access to safe parks and trails, they are 21% more likely to be physically active.
 - A 2016 national study found outdoor recreational opportunities is associated with a rise in physical activity.
 - Green spaces also reduce heat island impacts, cooling neighborhoods, and provide refuge from heat.
 - Outdoor green spaces result in metal health benefits including lower levels of stress, anxiety, and depression.
- Environmental Justice: Access to outdoor recreation opportunities and spaces in an environmental equity issue.



2022—Massachusetts

Value added [gross domestic product]		Employment		Compensation	
ORSA total	Share of state	ORSA total	Share of state	ORSA total	Share of state
\$11.8 billion	1.7%	102,687 jobs	2.7%	\$6.0 billion	1.5%

Value Added by Select ORSA Activity [Thousands of dollars]								
Activity	2020	2021	2022	State rank				
Boating / fishing	921,342	731,552	727,954	16				
RVing	202,424	267,765	293,284	31				
Hunting / shooting / trapping	237,526	256,814	239,015	17				
Motorcycling / ATVing	99,985	131,226	139,157	24				
Snow activities	82,884	103,983	135,315	15				
Climbing / hiking / tent camping	117,671	116,622	130,433	16				
Recreational flying	9,715	11,213	59,928	15				
Equestrian	52,521	52,533	56,198	35				
Bicycling	35,561	44,521	43,388	19				

Outreach and listening: Inter-agency

- Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Department of Fish and Game / Fish and Wildlife
- Mass Office of Travel and Tourism (And RTCs)
- Mass Office of Rural Communities
- Department of Public Health / Mass in Motion

Adjacent:

• MassTrails, LWCF/PARC, DEP, ...











Outreach and listening: Diverse / Accessible

- Environmental Justice Council
- Latino Outdoors / local Chapters
- Outdoor Afro
- Black Outside
- MA Indigenous Nations
- Venture Out
- All Out Adventures
- Waypoint Adventures

- Unpaved Trails for All
- Ground Works
- Big City Mountaineers
- Greenagers
- Elevate Youth
- Outside Mind
- First Seeds Sown
- Great Malden
 Outdoors

Outreach and listening: Private Businesses

- REI
- New Balance
- Patagonia
- North Point Brands
- Outside, Inc.
- Thunder Mt.
- Wachusett Mountain
- Crab Apple Whitewater
- Adventure East
- Marine Trades Assoc.
- Marina Assoc. and Retailers

- Mass RV Dealers
- MA Golf
- Motorcycle Industry Assoc.
- NEMO Indust.
- Campground Owners
- Ski Areas
- Chambers of Commerce
- Zoar
- Create an OREC Alliance

Outreach and listening: Non-Profits

- Appalachian Mt Club Reservations / Chapters Charles River
- NEMBA
- MassBike
- WalkMA
- Snowmobile Association of MA
- American Whitewater
- The Trustees of

Mass Audubon

Watershed

- Trout Unlimited / Anglers
- Sportsman's Clubs
- Bay State Trail Riders
 Land Trust Coalition / Land Trusts
 - MA Assoc. Conservation Voters

Massachusetts' "Competitive Advantages" Brainstorming

Coast to Mountains	Ocean	Lakes, Ponds, and Rivers	Whitewater	Native Fishing Streams
Cape and the Islands	Remote and Dark Highlands	Working Farms and Forests	Rural landscapes and communities	Strong local food, drink economy
Strong Creative Economy – Outdoor Dance, Arts and Music	LGBTQ+ welcoming	Great rural biking roads / gravel	Snow and Ice	Others?

The Future of Recreation on Public Lands: A Horizon Scan

Lynne M. Westphal



Instagram

A

🗄 Insights



outsidemass Edit profile View Archive 0

91 followers 159 following 8 posts

Paul Jahnige

Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation



On the Media

Initial Pilot Projects



Stand up an MA Outdoor Recreation Business Alliance

Build a network of OREC businesses, users, landowners, and affinity groups



Grant Support for Inclusive Outdoor Rec Events

Grant funding to support boosting existing or creating new events that focus on including non-traditional and new audiences, and breaking down barriers in language, transportation, and/or gear.

A Focus on Supporting Diverse Outdoor Rec Events

Provide Event Organization Support

Translation Services

Transportation

Paddling en la Ciudad at the Watershops Pond



SATURDAY, JULY 22, 2023 10 am – 12 pm | FREE Springfield College East Campus 701 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA

Come celebrate Latino Conservation Week with us! Life jackets, canoes, and paddles will be provided!



Connecticut Rive Conservancy

Facilitate and Stand Up an MA Outdoor Recreation Business Alliance

Outdoor business alliances across the country—from Alaska to New Mexico, North Carolina to Maine, Michigan to Idaho—have joined forces to elevate the vital importance of a thriving outdoor industry.



OUTDOOR BUSINESSES WORKING TOGETHER FOR VERMONT

The Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance (VOBA) is a statewide non-profit organization of outdoor recreation businesses. VOBA works to educate Vermonters about outdoor recreation



MAINE

OUTDOOR BRANDS

BRANDS BECOME A M

ELEVATING

OUTDOOR

INDUSTRY

MAINE'S

MEAMEMBER NEWS + EVENTS



Potential Initiatives (developing)



Connecting Transit to Outdoor Recreation Opportunities (MBTA, Keolis, Regional Transit Authorities, Reg. Planning Agencies, etc.)



Policy Initiatives (Open Water Swimming, Dispersed Camping, Walk-in/Bike-in Camping, Streamlined Guide Permitting, etc.)



Integrating into DFG Strategic Plan



Advancing Gateway City Outdoor Recreation Opportunities and Initiatives (Great Malden Outdoors, Holyoke Pilot, etc.)

