

Chapter 3: Outdoor Recreation – The Most Popular Activities of NSRE Participants (by activity group) in Wisconsin

Following is NSRE data on the percentage of participants (age 16+) in activities (by activity group) for the state of Wisconsin.

Table 3-1: 10 Most Popular Outdoor Recreation Activities

Activity	Percent participating	Number of participants (1,000s)
	%	#
Walk for pleasure	87.7	3,947
Gardening or landscaping for pleasure	65.4	2,944
View/photograph natural scenery	65.3	2,939
Attend outdoor sports events	65.0	2,926
Family gathering	63.5	2,858
Visit nature centers, etc.	63.5	2,858
View/photograph other wildlife	57.9	2,606
Driving for pleasure	52.8	2,377
View/photograph wildflowers, trees, etc.	52.4	2,359
Sightseeing	50.6	2,278

Table 3-2: Participation Rates, All Activities, Sorted by Popularity, Wisconsin

Activity	Percent participating	Number of participants (1,000s)
	%	#
Walk for pleasure	87.7	3,947
Gardening or landscaping for pleasure	65.4	2,944
View/photograph natural scenery	65.3	2,939
Attend outdoor sports events	65.0	2,926
Family gathering	63.5	2,858
Visit nature centers, etc.	63.5	2,858
View/photograph other wildlife	57.9	2,606
Driving for pleasure	52.8	2,377
View/photograph wildflowers, trees, etc.	52.4	2,359
Sightseeing	50.6	2,278
Bicycling	48.7	2,192
Boating (any type)	47.3	2,129
Picnicking	47.0	2,115
Visit historic sites	46.7	2,102
Snow/ice activities (any type)	45.9	2,066
Yard games, e.g., horseshoes	44.7	2,012
Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.	42.8	1,926
Visit a beach	42.3	1,904
Golf	41.8	1,881
Swimming in lakes, streams, etc.	41.7	1,877
View/photograph birds	41.7	1,877
Freshwater fishing	37.4	1,683
Day hiking	36.7	1,652
Motorboating	36.0	1,620
Visit a farm or agricultural setting	35.3	1,589
Swimming in an outdoor pool	34.5	1,553
Visit a wilderness or primitive area	33.7	1,517
Warmwater fishing	33.2	1,494
Attend outdoor concerts, plays, etc.	32.8	1,476
Running or jogging	32.1	1,445
Mountain biking	30.7	1,382
Sledding	28.2	1,269
View/photograph fish	26.7	1,202
Developed camping	25.4	1,143
Handball or racquetball outdoors	23.5	1,058
Visit other waterside (besides beach)	22.6	1,017
Hunting (any type)	22.2	999

Off-highway vehicle driving	19.8	891
Snowmobiling	18.3	824
Big game hunting	18.0	810
Canoeing	17.9	806
Visit prehistoric/archeological sites	15.5	698
Boat tours or excursions	13.9	626
Ice skating outdoors	13.5	608
Ice fishing	13.1	590
Waterskiing	13.0	585
Coldwater fishing	12.8	576
Primitive camping	11.4	513
Small Game hunting	11.3	509
Rafting	9.2	414
Cross country skiing	8.8	396
Horseback riding (any type)	8.7	392
Tennis outdoors	8.5	383
Backpacking	7.4	333
Kayaking	7.3	329
Rowing	7.2	324
Downhill skiing	7.0	315
Horseback riding on trails	6.6	297
Use personal watercraft	6.5	293
Snorkeling	6.2	279
Snowshoeing	6.1	275
Migratory bird hunting	4.1	185
Sailing	3.9	176
Rock climbing	3.8	171
Snowboarding	3.7	167
Mountain climbing	2.7	122
Caving	2.6	117
Inline skating	2.5	113
Orienteering	1.6	72
Scuba diving	1.1	50
Windsurfing	1.1	50
Surfing	1.0	45

Table 3-3: Participation Rates in All Activities, Sorted by Activity, Wisconsin

Activity	Percent participating	Number of participants (1,000s)
	%	#
Attend outdoor concerts, plays, etc.	32.8	1,476
Attend outdoor sports events	65.0	2,926
Backpacking	7.4	333
Bicycling	48.7	2,192
Big game hunting	18.0	810
Boat tours or excursions	13.9	626
Boating (any type)	47.3	2,129
Canoeing	17.9	806
Caving	2.6	117
Coldwater fishing	12.8	576
Cross country skiing	8.8	396
Day hiking	36.7	1,652
Developed camping	25.4	1,143
Downhill skiing	7.0	315
Driving for pleasure	52.8	2,377
Family gathering	63.5	2,858
Freshwater fishing	37.4	1,683
Gardening or landscaping for pleasure	65.4	2,944
Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.	42.8	1,926
Golf	41.8	1,881
Handball or racquetball outdoors	23.5	1,058
Horseback riding (any type)	8.7	392
Horseback riding on trails	6.6	297
Hunting (any type)	22.2	999
Ice fishing	13.1	590
Ice skating outdoors	13.5	608
Inline skating	2.5	113
Kayaking	7.3	329
Migratory bird hunting	4.1	185
Motorboating	36.0	1,620
Mountain biking	30.7	1,382
Mountain climbing	2.7	122
Off-highway vehicle driving	19.8	891
Orienteering	1.6	72
Picnicking	47.0	2,115

Primitive camping	11.4	513
Rafting	9.2	414
Rock climbing	3.8	171
Rowing	7.2	324
Running or jogging	32.1	1,445
Sailing	3.9	176
Scuba diving	1.1	50
Sightseeing	50.6	2,278
Sledding	28.2	1,269
Small Game hunting	11.3	509
Snorkeling	6.2	279
Snow/ice activities (any type)	45.9	2,066
Snowboarding	3.7	167
Snowmobiling	18.3	824
Snowshoeing	6.1	275
Surfing	1.0	45
Swimming in an outdoor pool	34.5	1,553
Swimming in lakes, streams, etc.	41.7	1,877
Tennis outdoors	8.5	383
Use personal watercraft	6.5	293
View/photograph birds	41.7	1,877
View/photograph fish	26.7	1,202
View/photograph natural scenery	65.3	2,939
View/photograph other wildlife	57.9	2,606
View/photograph wildflowers, trees, etc.	52.4	2,359
Visit a beach	42.3	1,904
Visit a farm or agricultural setting	35.3	1,589
Visit a wilderness or primitive area	33.7	1,517
Visit historic sites	46.7	2,102
Visit nature centers, etc.	63.5	2,858
Visit other waterside (besides beach)	22.6	1,017
Visit prehistoric/archeological sites	15.5	698
Walk for pleasure	87.7	3,947
Warmwater fishing	33.2	1,494
Waterskiing	13.0	585
Windsurfing	1.1	50
Yard games, e.g., horseshoes	44.7	2,012

Table 3-4: Participation Rates for NATURE-BASED LAND ACTIVITIES, Wisconsin

Activity	Percent participating	Number of participants (1,000s)
	%	#
Day hiking	36.7	1,652
Visit a wilderness or primitive area	33.7	1,517
Mountain biking	30.7	1,382
Developed camping	25.4	1,143
Hunting (any type)	22.2	999
Off-highway vehicle driving	19.8	891
Big game hunting	18.0	810
Primitive camping	11.4	513
Small Game hunting	11.3	509
Backpacking	7.4	333
Horseback riding on trails	6.6	297
Migratory bird hunting	4.1	185
Rock climbing	3.8	171
Mountain climbing	2.7	122
Orienteering	1.6	72

**Table 3-4: Participation Rates for DEVELOPED-SETTING LAND ACTIVITIES,
Wisconsin**

Activity	Percent participating	Number of participants (1,000s)
	%	#
Walk for pleasure	87.7	3,947
Gardening or landscaping for pleasure	65.4	2,944
Family gathering	63.5	2,858
Driving for pleasure	52.8	2,377
Bicycling	48.7	2,192
Picnicking	47.0	2,115
Yard games, e.g., horseshoes	44.7	2,012
Attend outdoor concerts, plays, etc.	32.8	1,476
Horseback riding (any type)	8.7	392

Table 3-5: Participation Rates for VIEWING/LEARNING ACTIVITIES, Wisconsin

Activity	Percent participating	Number of participants (1,000s)
	%	#
View/photograph natural scenery	65.3	2,939
Visit nature centers, etc.	63.5	2,858
View/photograph other wildlife	57.9	2,606
View/photograph wildflowers, trees, etc.	52.4	2,359
Sightseeing	50.6	2,278
Visit historic sites	46.7	2,102
Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.	42.8	1,926
View/photograph birds	41.7	1,877
Visit a farm or agricultural setting	35.3	1,589
View/photograph fish	26.7	1,202
Visit prehistoric/archeological sites	15.5	698
Boat tours or excursions	13.9	626
Caving	2.6	117

Table 3-6: Participation Rates for WATER-BASED ACTIVITIES, Wisconsin

Activity	Percent participating	Number of participants (1,000s)
	%	#
Boating (any type)	47.3	2,129
Visit a beach	42.3	1,904
Swimming in lakes, streams, etc.	41.7	1,877
Freshwater fishing	37.4	1,683
Motorboating	36.0	1,620
Swimming in an outdoor pool	34.5	1,553
Warmwater fishing	33.2	1,494
Visit other waterside (besides beach)	22.6	1,017
Canoeing	17.9	806
Waterskiing	13.0	585
Coldwater fishing	12.8	576
Rafting	9.2	414
Kayaking	7.3	329
Rowing	7.2	324
Use personal watercraft	6.5	293
Snorkeling	6.2	279
Sailing	3.9	176
Windsurfing	1.1	50
Scuba diving	1.1	50
Surfing	1.0	45

Table 3-7: Participation Rates for SNOW & ICE-BASED ACTIVITIES, Wisconsin

Activity	Percent participating	Number of participants (1,000s)
	%	#
Snow/ice activities (any type)	45.9	2,066
Sledding	28.2	1,269
Snowmobiling	18.3	824
Ice skating outdoors	13.5	608
Ice fishing	13.1	590
Cross country skiing	8.8	396
Downhill skiing	7.0	315
Snowshoeing	6.1	275
Snowboarding	3.7	167

Table 3-8: Participation Rates for Outdoor Sports, Wisconsin

Activity	Percent participating	Number of participants (1,000s)
	%	#
Attend outdoor sports events	65.0	2,926
Golf	41.8	1,881
Running or jogging	32.1	1,445
Handball or racquetball outdoors	23.5	1,058
Tennis outdoors	8.5	383
Inline skating	2.5	113