

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Whitpain Township
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Regional Adviser



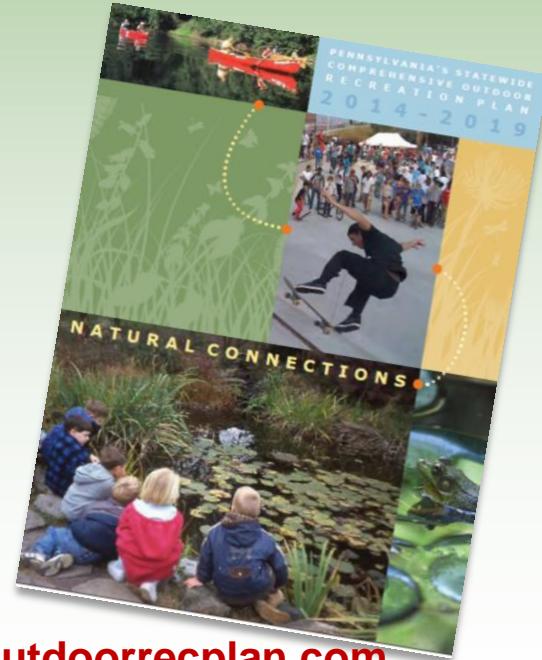
PENNSYLVANIA'S OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN



Understanding Outdoor Recreation

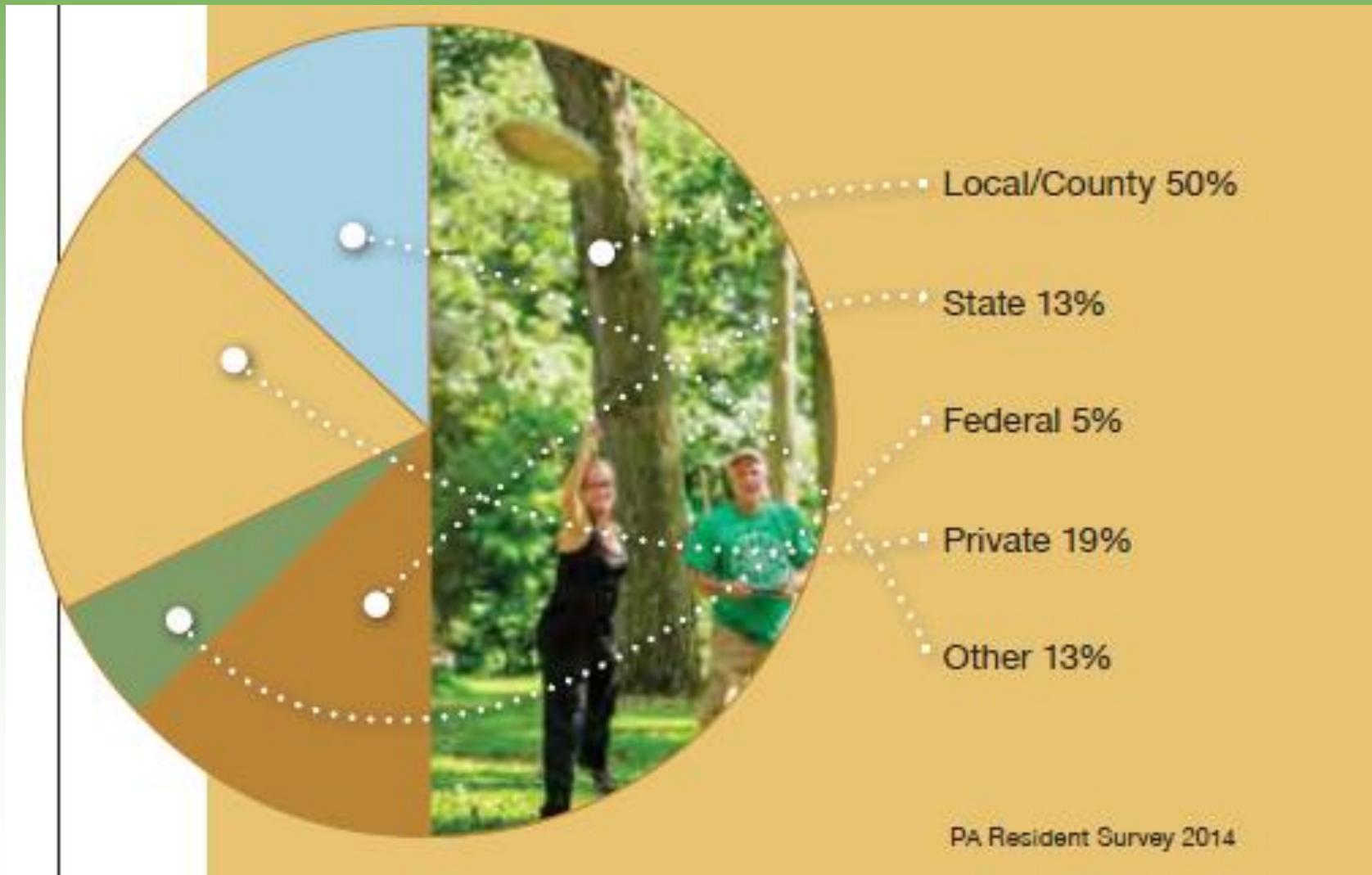
2014-2019 PA Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

- Elevate the importance of statewide outdoor recreation planning
- Identify high priority issues, needs, policies, investments
- Develop collaborative relationships
- 18-month process
- Guided by a STRONG interagency committee
- Multi-faceted public outreach
- Action oriented implementation strategy

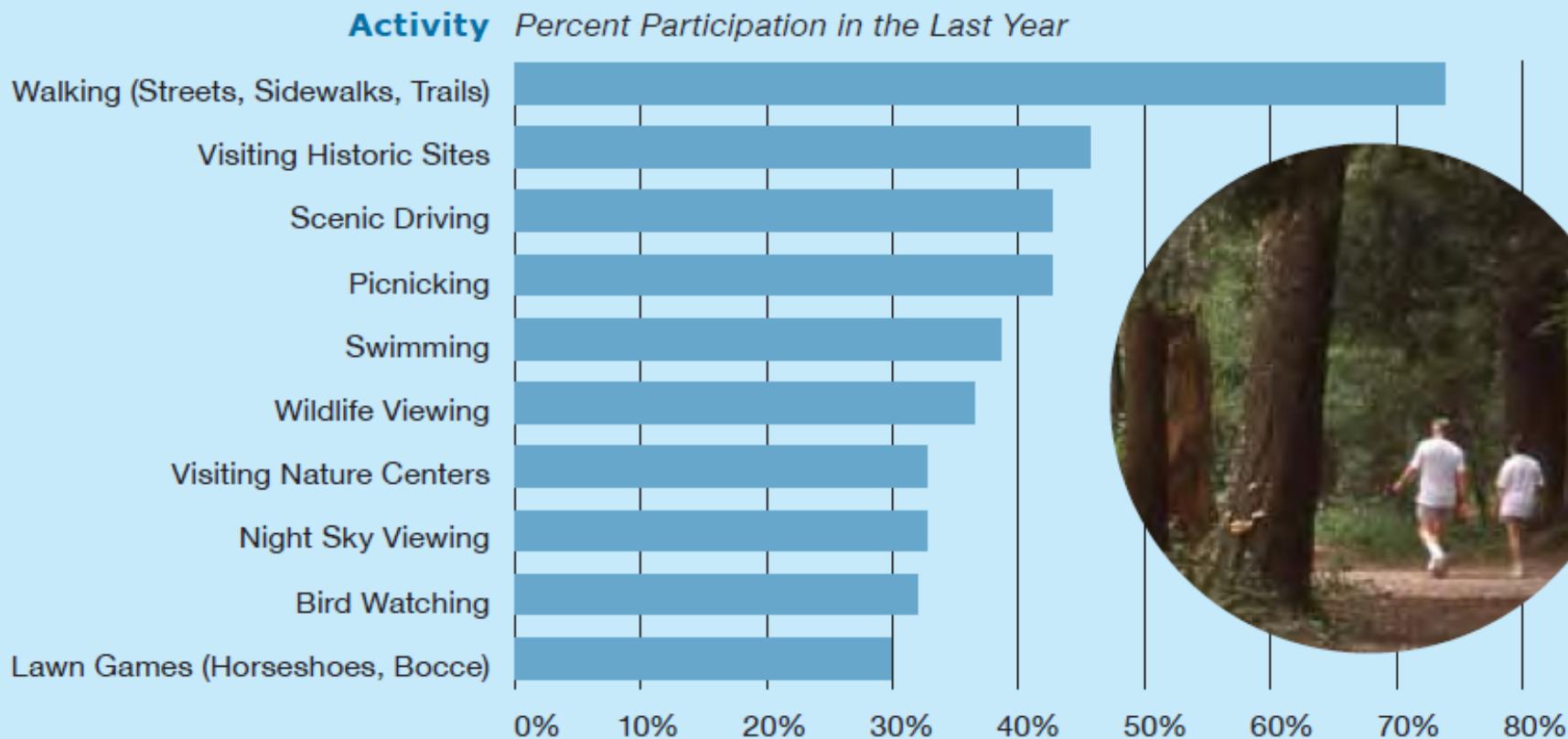


www.paoutdoorrecplan.com

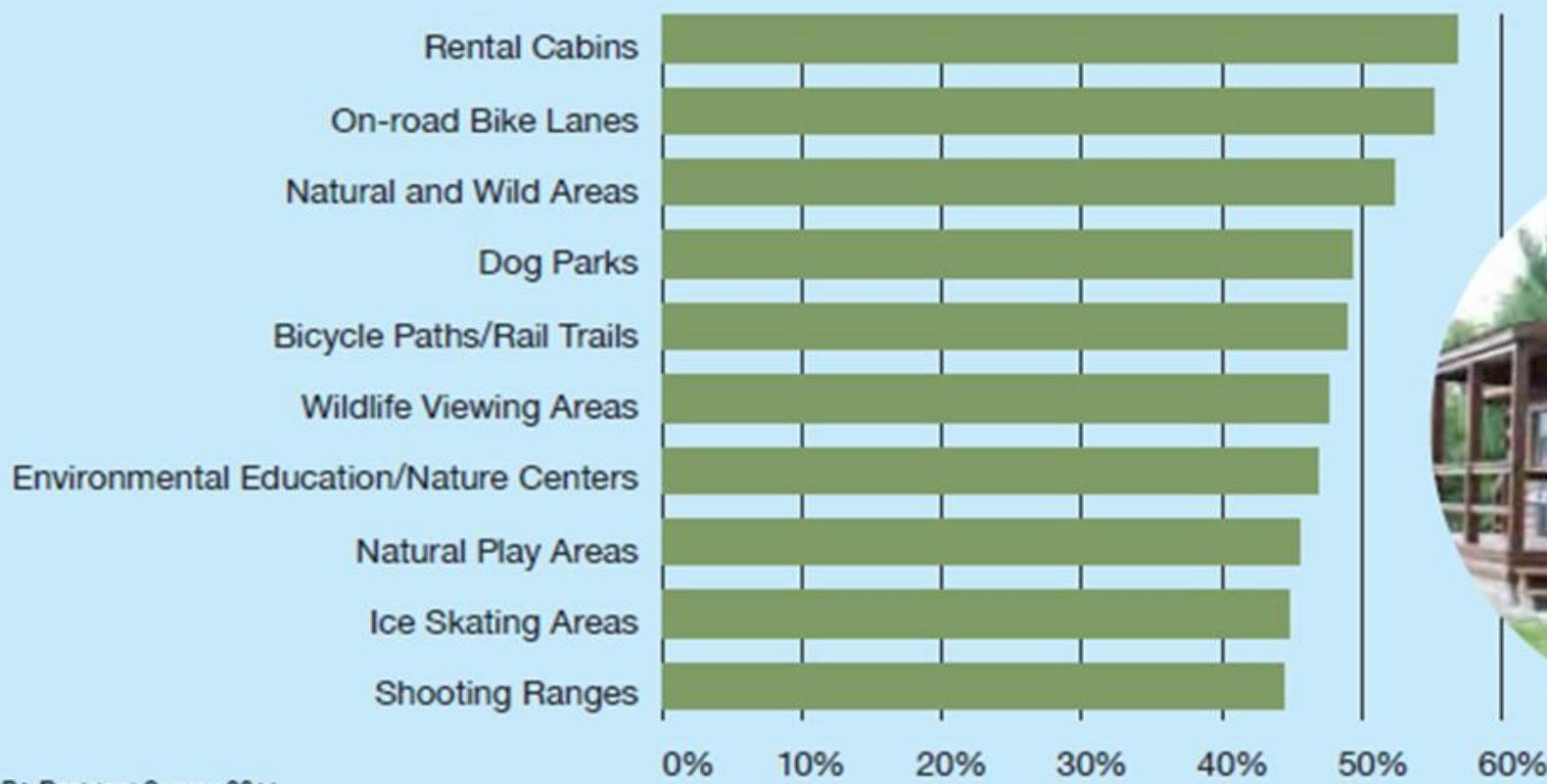
Resident Survey Results: Where do Pennsylvanians participate in Outdoor Recreation?



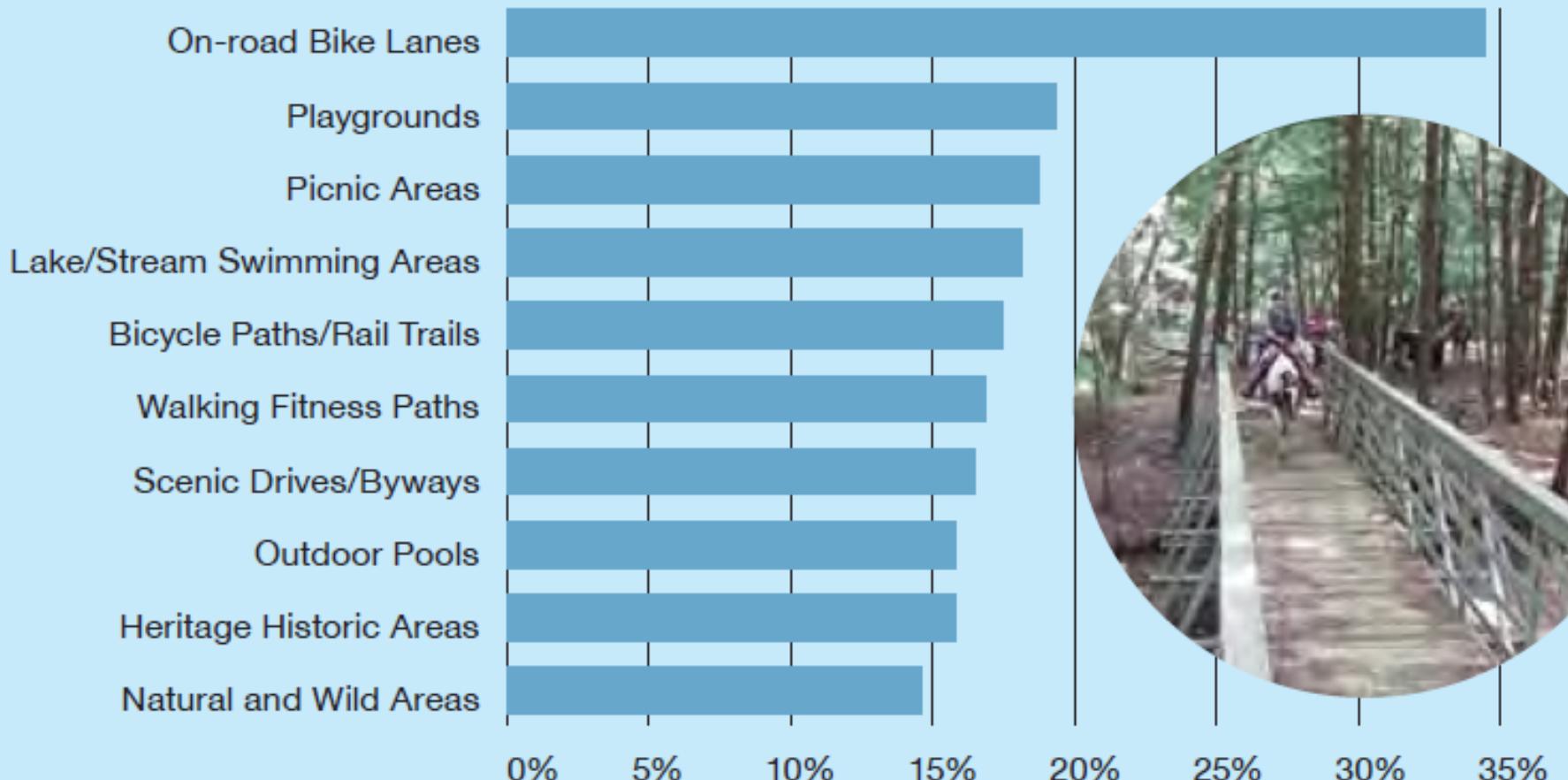
Resident Survey Results: The Top 10 Outdoor Recreation Activities



Resident Survey Results: Top Requested Facilities to INCREASE



Resident Survey Results: Top Requested Facilities to IMPROVE



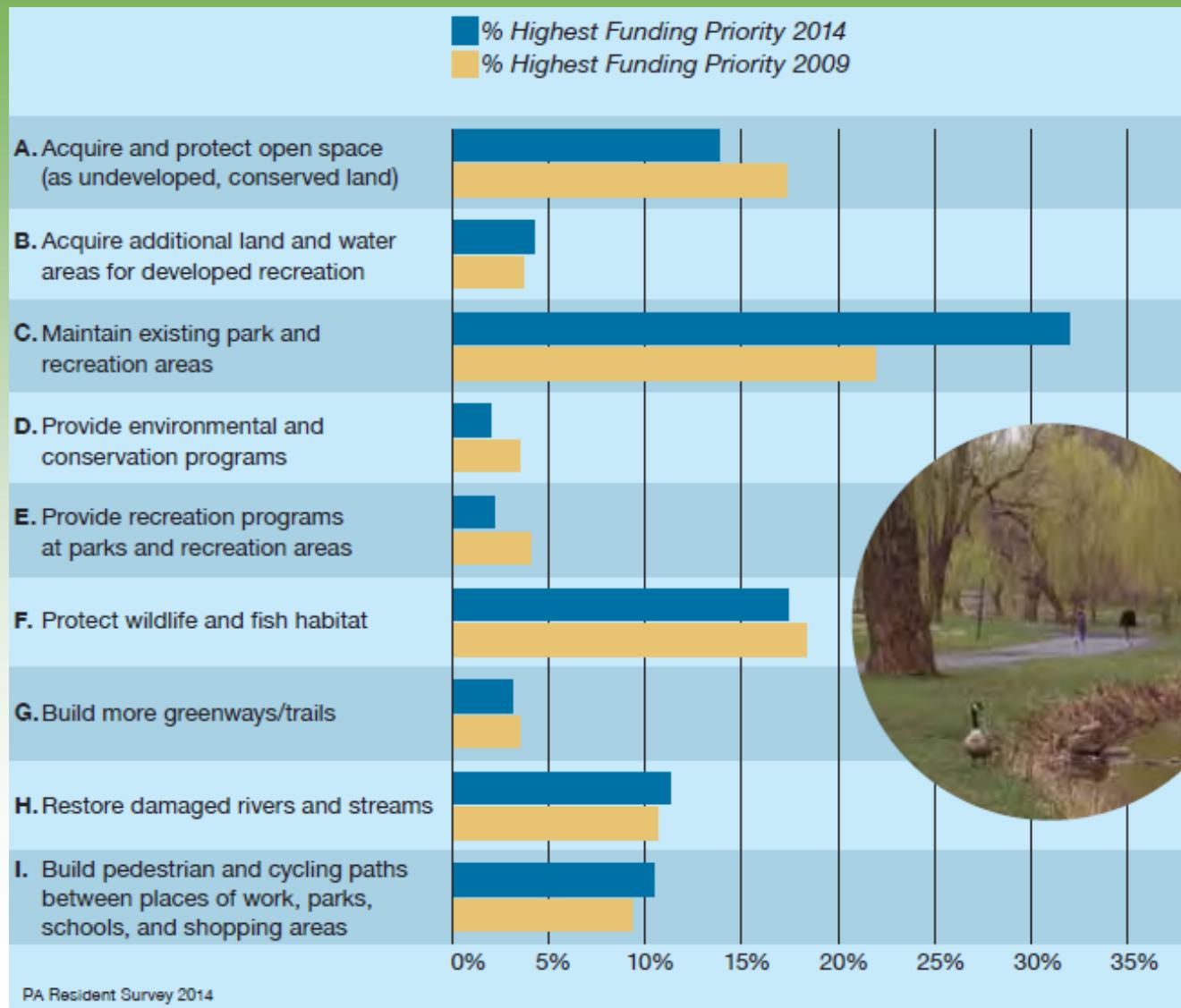
Resident Survey Results

Factors influencing where people go

Cleanliness/condition of facilities and safety/security of the area were the most important factors influencing outdoor recreation participation



Resident Survey Results: Funding Priorities—2009 vs 2014



Why Do People Value Parks and Recreational Facilities

Recreation provides **Health** and **Quality-of-Life** Benefits

- Improved Physical and Mental Health of Residents
- Makes the community a more desirable place to live
- Provides opportunities for recreation based businesses
- Preserved Open Spaces provide educational opportunities for the next generation



Open Space and Parks are Productive Assets

Green Communities:



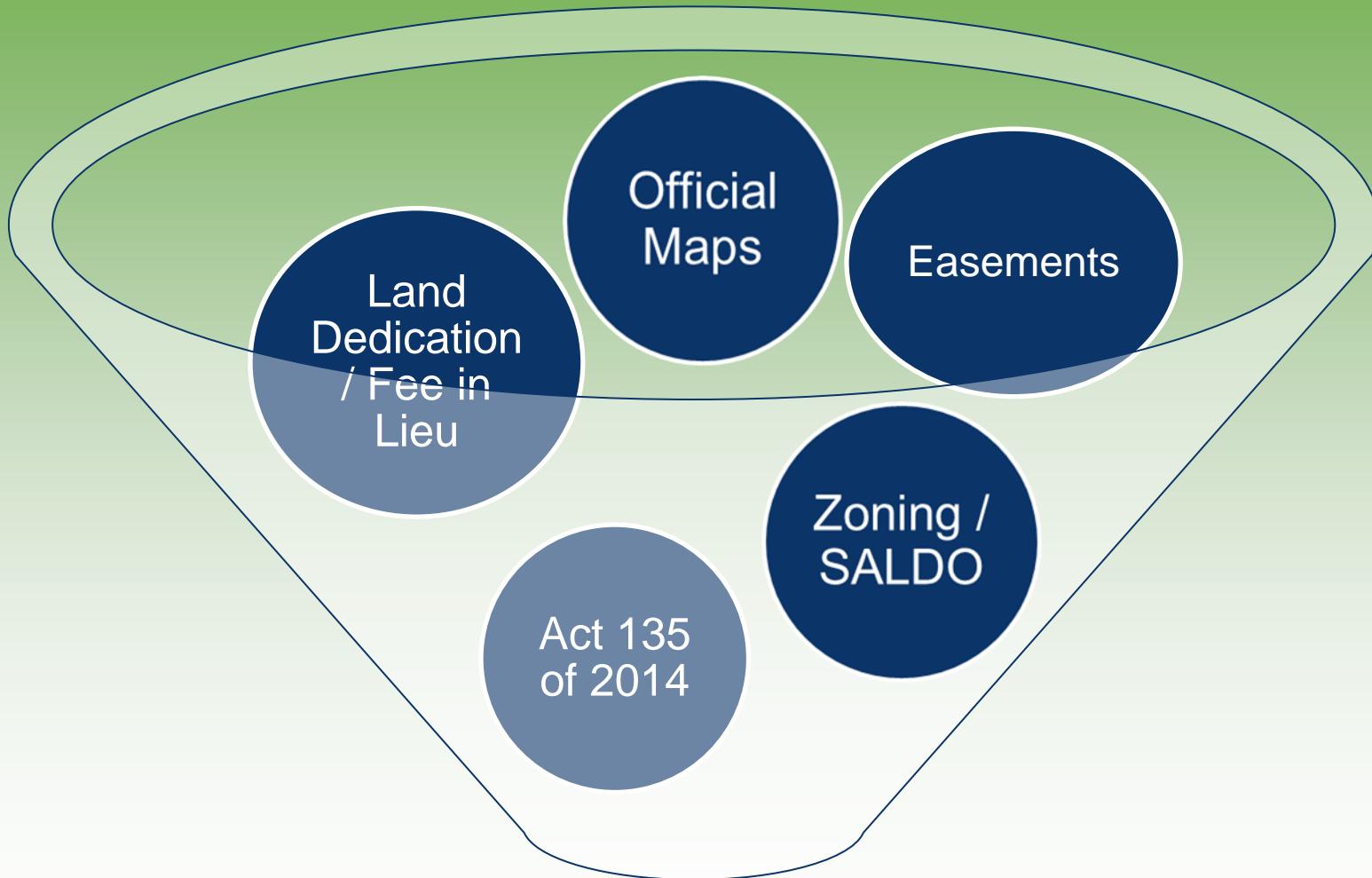
- Increase property values
- Attract business
- Increase health and well being
- Improve air quality
- Provide environmental services

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/library/economicimpact/index.htm>

Planning for Success: Gathering Public Support



Planning for Success: Planning Tools for Local Park Systems



**Plans or Tools
Useful for Implementation?**

Planning for Success: Demographic Trends

- Population growth centered in east and south central PA.
- Philadelphia population increased for first time in 50 years
- Montgomery County Population
 - 1990 – 680,000
 - 2010 – 801,000



Planning for Success: Demographic Trends

- From 2000 to 2030, PA is projected to experience a substantial increase in the following age groups :
19 and under
65 and over
- These age groups will require facilities that are easily accessible and meet ADA guidelines
- From 2000 to 2010, PA's ethnic population grew 33%



Planning for Success: Building Political & Public Support

- How to get local officials excited about parks & recreation?
 - Committees
 - Letters of support
 - Identify special interests / hobbies
 - Ask for Assistance Identifying Funding Opportunities (*municipal and other*)
 - Ask Residents to Reach Out



Key Considerations: Community & Neighborhood Needs

- Educate residents about SCORP and state priorities.
- Assess community needs:
 - ADA
 - Existing Facilities
 - Potential New Facilities
 - Alternative Transportation
 - Community connections
- Consider most appropriate location(s)
- Determine best recreation potentials for undeveloped (*municipal owned*) land



Key Considerations: Transportation & Community Connections

- Connect facilities /assets with alternative transportation (*multi-municipal*)
- Provide pedestrian and bicycle routes—on and off road
- Integrate recreation facilities into new /rehab transportation & development projects
- Provide for optimum ADA Accessibility
- Connect people to key community features (*schools, libraries, event venues, water access points, historic sites, commercial corridors etc.*)



Key Considerations: Building a Sense of Place

- Engage the community to determine interests and needs.
- Offer recreation areas to host sponsored events.
- Engage municipal departments to support and monitor events
- Invest in short term events (*fund raising, farmers markets*) AND long term uses (*community gardens, environmental education*)
- Invested citizens become energetic stewards



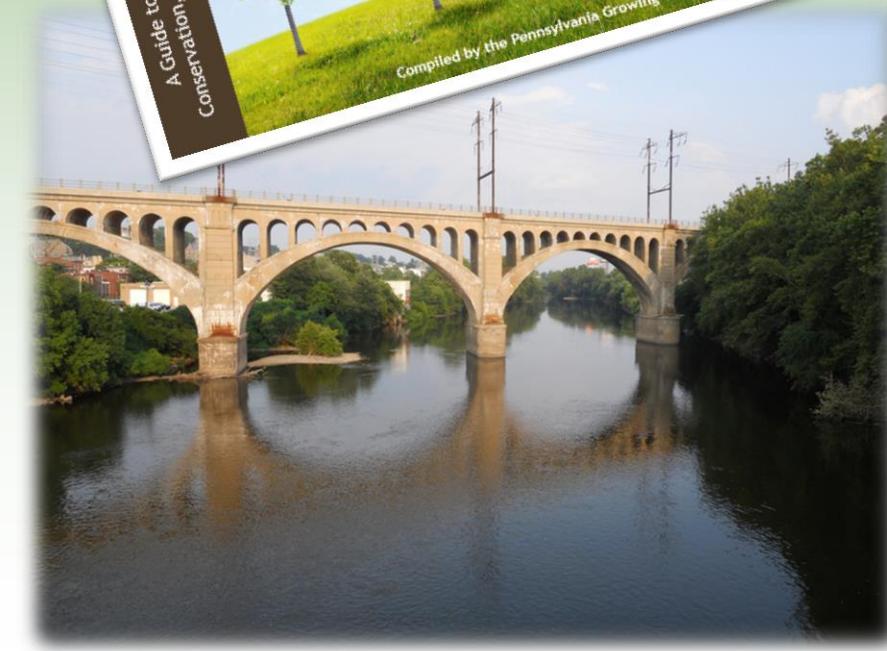
Making it Happen: Partnerships

- Top Area Employers
- Existing Community Groups
- Primary Users
- Community Groups Representing Typical Non-Users
- National, State, Regional Recreation Organizations



Unique Partnerships

Making it Happen: Funding



- State Agencies
- County Grants
- Local funding
- Local Foundations
- Private Businesses
- Individual Partnerships
- Community Fund Raising Events
- Equipment Manufacturers and Suppliers

**Funding Opportunities or Strategies
that have been successful**

Making it Happen: Stewardship

- Who to engage?
- Who to partner with?
- Long term programs vs. single events
- Special events



**Local volunteer efforts
that have benefitted parks**

Questions?



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