

# PROPERTY PLANNING COMMON ELEMENTS

## COMPONENTS OF MASTER PLANS

### RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

#### Bicycling – Touring

##### *Desired Experiences and Site Selection Considerations*

Bicycle touring includes riding on roads (particularly those with wide shoulders and bike lanes), rail-trails, and other paved or crushed stone-surfaced paths or trails. Bicycle touring is generally appropriate for all ability levels and bikes with narrow tires. Participants often choose locations based on associated amenities such as campgrounds, parks, interesting sites, and restaurants and taverns. Length of trips can range from a few hours to a few weeks. There is some cross-over with people using these same facilities for bicycle transportation (non-recreation) purposes.

##### *Notable Differences in Participation or Opportunities Across the State*

Availability of bicycle facility infrastructure (“bikeways”) vary across the state, with stronger infrastructure investment generally located closer to urban areas. Wisconsin has more than 1,000 miles of rail-trails, which are found in many parts of the state. Rail-trails in the northern part of the state tend to also allow motorized vehicles such as ATVs and UTVs.

##### *Notable Times of the Year of High or Low Participation*

Summer and fall are generally higher participation due to favorable weather, although late spring, depending on trail conditions for non-paved facilities, can also be popular. Winter participation will depend largely on the maintenance (snow removal) of facilities; but regardless will be low compared to other times of the year.

#### **Participation**

##### Participation Rate and Frequency

Based on a 2016 survey of Wisconsin residents conducted for the development of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), it is estimated that 48% of adult Wisconsin residents participate in bicycling on roads while 34% participate on bicycling on rail-trails or other developed trails (note: there is overlap in these participants). These ranked #12 and #20, respectively, out of 64 activities evaluated.

Days/year	% of Bicyclists on Roads	% of Bicyclists on Rail-trails/ Developed Trails
1 to 2	20	28
3 to 9	30	34
10 to 29	25	23
30 or more	25	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

In terms of frequency, participants that engaged in bicycle touring were among the most frequent participants of any activity (it ranked #4 in frequency out of 64 activities evaluated).



## Estimated Trends

According to the National Household Travel Survey, the number of trips made by bicycle more than doubled from 2001 to 2009. Another national survey shows a near 63% increase in bicycle participant rate, an increase of 34.9 million participants, from 1982 – 2009 (Cordell et al. 2009). These upward trends in bicycling participation are projected to continue; specifically, growth in bicycling on trails is anticipated as the population ages (Grabow et al. 2010).

## Demographics

As can be seen from the SCORP survey results in the table below, participants in bicycling on roads, rail-trails, and other developed paths and trails in Wisconsin are similar, tend to be represented across the age spectrum, and are somewhat more urban.

Demographic Category	Demographic Group	% Participation Rate Within Demographic Category	% Composition of Demographic Category (sums to 100%)
Age	18-29	41	25
	30-39	43	23
	40-49	44	19
	50-59	36	19
	60-69	23	11
	70 and older	11	4
	<b>Total</b>	--	<b>100</b>
Gender	Female	32	47
	Male	37	53
	<b>Total</b>	--	<b>100</b>
Residence	Rural	31	44
	Urban	37	56
	<b>Total</b>	--	<b>100</b>

## **References**

Cordell, K.H., G.T. Green, and C.J. Belt. 2009. *Long-term National Trends in Outdoor Recreation Activity Participation – 1980 to Now*. Internet Research Information Series. USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station and Forestry Sciences Laboratory, Athens, GA, University of Georgia – Athens, and University of Tennessee – Knoxville. <https://srs.fs.usda.gov/trends/pdf-iris/IRISRec12rptfs.pdf>

Grabow, M, M. Hahn, and M. Whited. 2010. *Valuing Bicycling's Economic and Health Impacts in Wisconsin*. Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

