

THE MOST AND LEAST
OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITIES
IN AMERICA RANKED

July 2024 | The Full Report

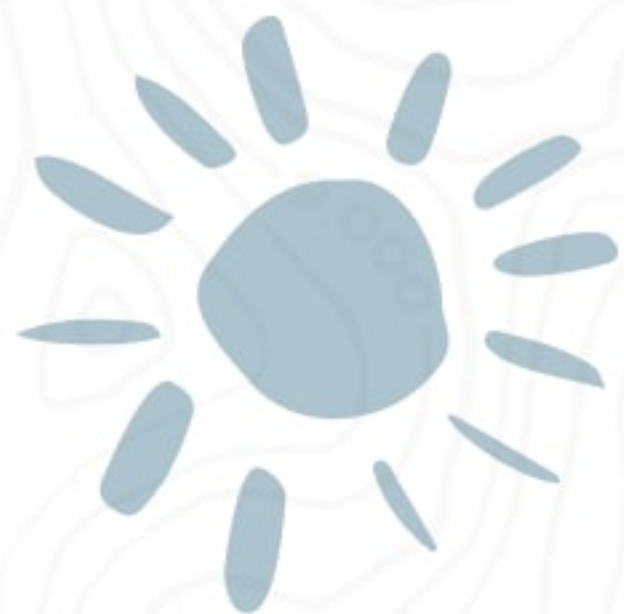


ABOUT THIS RESEARCH

Leading the list of the least outdoor-friendly cities, based on the rankings using both objective and subjective measures, Houston is considered "not-so-great" when it comes to outdoor recreation followed by Rochester, NY, and Hartford, CT. By contrast, Seattle and Denver top the most outdoorsy cities using the previously mentioned methodology.

The findings are based on a mix of objective and subjective measurements, ensuring a reliable and meaningful analysis. Cairn Consulting Group developed a participation index by applying weights to various measurements and standardizing the results. This approach ensured that the final rankings were consistent across different geographies and demographic compositions.

Additionally, Cairn Consulting Group reviewed existing data sets on access to outdoor recreation in the major U.S. cities. This allowed us to objectively assess how access to outdoor recreation opportunities affects participation rates. In the final phase, the firm used the survey results as the foundation for the rankings and overlaid objective considerations to identify gaps between perceptions, access, and behavior.



THE TOP 10 MOST AND LEAST OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITIES:

Leading the list of the least outdoorsy cities, based on the rankings using both objective and subjective measures, Houston is considered least outdoorsy, followed by Rochester, NY, and Hartford, CT. By contrast, Seattle and Denver top the most outdoorsy cities using the previously mentioned methodology.

MOST OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITIES

- 1** → Seattle, Washington
- 2** → Denver, Colorado
- 3** → Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 4** → Miami, Florida
- 5** → Portland, Oregon
- 6** → Nashville, Tennessee
- 7** → San Francisco, California
- 8** → Richmond, Virginia
- 9** → Los Angeles, California
- 10** → Charlotte, North Carolina

LEAST OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITIES

- 1** → Houston, Texas
- 2** → Rochester, New York
- 3** → Hartford, Connecticut
- 4** → Tulsa, Oklahoma
- 5** → Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- 6** → Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- 7** → Detroit, Michigan
- 8** → Buffalo, New York
- 9** → Raleigh, North Carolina
- 10** → Fresno, California

ALL CITIES INCLUDED IN THE ANALYSIS

Rank	City	Mean Ranking						
1	Seattle, Washington	11.9	18	Atlanta, Georgia	24.7	36	Austin, Texas	28.8
2	Denver, Colorado	12.2	19	Providence, Rhode Island	25.1	37	San Diego, California	29.1
3	Grand Rapids, Michigan	12.7	20	Washington DC	25.5	38	Cleveland, Ohio	29.4
4	Miami, Florida	13.5	21	Salt Lake City, Utah	25.6	39	Birmingham, Alabama	30.4
5	Portland, Oregon	15.2	22	Baltimore, Maryland	25.7	40	Tampa, Florida	31.3
6	Nashville, Tennessee	15.6	23	Virginia Beach, Virginia	25.8	41	Sacramento, California	31.7
7	San Francisco, California	16.3	24	New York City, New York	25.8	42	Dallas, Texas	32.0
8	Richmond, Virginia	16.5	25	Memphis, Tennessee	26.0	43	Fresno, California	32.6
9	Los Angeles, California	17.5	26	Columbus, Ohio	26.4	44	Buffalo, New York	32.8
10	Charlotte, North Carolina	18.9	27	Cincinnati, Ohio	26.8	45	Raleigh, North Carolina	32.8
11	Boston, Massachusetts	19.9	28	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	27.0	46	Detroit Michigan	33.2
12	St Louis, Missouri	22.2	29	Chicago, Illinois	27.4	47	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	34.2
13	Louisville, Kentucky	22.8	30	Indianapolis, Indiana	28.2	48	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	35.2
14	San Antonio, Texas	23.7	31	Phoenix, Arizona	28.2	49	Tulsa, Oklahoma	37.7
15	Orlando, Florida	23.8	32	Tucson, Arizona	28.4	50	Hartford, Connecticut	37.8
16	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	23.8	33	Las Vegas, Nevada	28.5	51	Rochester, New York	39.2
17	Minneapolis, Minnesota	24.5	34	Kansas City, Missouri	28.6	52	Houston, Texas	41.2
			35	Jacksonville, Florida	28.7			

HOW WERE THE RANKINGS DETERMINED?

The final rankings for the cities needed to take into account the relative importance each area of measurement has on the scoring. For example, even though intuitively it may seem that the average number of days residents participate in outdoor recreation would be an important determinant, in fact, it is the least important predictor. What is most important are visits to public parks and lands, having access to Federal outdoor recreation opportunities, and whether residents and guests identify the city as offering great outdoor access and branded as an outdoor destination.

From each of these categories, the measurements were standardized to ensure that all cities were placed on equal footing, and no location had an advantage due to having an overabundance of one type of recreation based on climate or seasonality. Next, each item was weighted based on relative importance and contribution to the overall summary score. And finally, each of the contributing factors was ranked, which ultimately determined the final ranking for each of the cities, which again, minimizes the impact of having a location with an unfair advantage in a single category and each city having a set of both objective and subject outcomes determine their place on the list.

The full breakdown of how the most and least outdoor-friendly cities were determined include:

- Number of days participate in outdoor rec
- Visits to public parks & land
- Use of outdoor apps and planning tools
- Types of activities participate in
- Equipment owned for outdoor rec
- Nights Camping/RVing/Glamping
- Days spent at nature-based spaces
- Membership in outdoor groups
- Visits from travelers from other regions for the purpose of outdoor rec
- Rankings for access to outdoor rec
- Rankings for views on being outdoor-friendly
- Proximity and access to state & municipal parks & trails
- Proximity and access to federal lands (e.g., national parks, BLM land, national forests, wilderness areas)

A panoramic view of the Seattle skyline at dusk, featuring the Space Needle, various skyscrapers, and Mount Rainier in the background. The sky is a mix of blue and orange.

Most Outdoor-Friendly Cities

A stylized white graphic of a city skyline with various building shapes, including a dome, positioned in the bottom left corner.

THE FULL BREAKDOWN

WHY IS SEATTLE THE MOST OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITY?

[Seattle](#) earns the top ranking across all large cities by scoring in the upper tier across most categories of outdoor recreation and only lags in overnights for camping, out-of-region visits for outdoor rec, and days spent outdoors. Yet they are above the 50th percentile in every category and the upper 90th percentile in seven of the categories.

Visits to public parks & land	5
Use of apps and planning tools	5
Variety of outdoor activities	8
Types of equipment owned	7
Nights spent camping	23
Number of days in outdoor recreation	20
Number of days in nature based spaces	16
Group memberships	12
Out of region visits	20
Best access to outdoor rec	10
Perceived as "outdoor-friendly"	8
State and municipal access	9
Federal lands access	12

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE . . .

Seattle is renowned for its access to diverse outdoor recreation. The city is surrounded by water, mountains, and forests, offering activities like hiking, kayaking, and skiing. Iconic spots include the Olympic and Cascade mountain ranges, [Mount Rainier National Park](#), and Puget Sound.

WHY IS DENVER THE 2ND MOST OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITY?

[Denver](#) is not far behind Seattle in all measurements, and ranks first in access to state and municipal outdoor recreation opportunities. The city is ranked highly by residents and guests as having great access to outdoor recreation and being identified as an outdoor destination.

Visits to public parks & land	8
Use of apps and planning tools	17
Variety of outdoor activities	29
Types of equipment owned	10
Nights spent camping	9
Number of days in outdoor recreation	14
Number of days in nature based spaces	11
Group memberships	18
Out of region visits	26
Best access to outdoor rec	5
Perceived as "outdoor-friendly"	3
State and municipal access	1
Federal lands access	7

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE . . .

[Denver](#) is a gateway to the Rocky Mountains. It offers extensive outdoor recreation, from [hiking](#) and mountain biking to skiing and snowboarding. The city's proximity to [Rocky Mountain National Park](#) and numerous other natural areas makes it a prime location for nature enthusiasts.

WHY IS GRAND RAPIDS THE 3RD MOST OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITY?

[Grand Rapids](#) may be for some a surprising entrant into the top 10, but does so due to consistent rankings that fall into the upper tier, whether it's being ranked first for state and municipal outdoor recreation access, or in the 90th percentile for seven other areas, only falling out of the top 50th percentile for the number of days residents participate in outdoor recreation.

Visits to public parks & land	22
Use of apps and planning tools	18
Variety of outdoor activities	14
Types of equipment owned	9
Nights spent camping	4
Number of days in outdoor recreation	30
Number of days in nature based spaces	20
Group memberships	9
Out of region visits	7
Best access to outdoor rec	7
Perceived as "outdoor-friendly"	6
State and municipal access	1
Federal lands access	18

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE . . .

[Grand Rapids](#) boasts a variety of outdoor activities, with the Grand River running through the city providing opportunities for kayaking and fishing. The city's park system, along with nearby Lake Michigan and numerous hiking and biking trails, enhances its outdoor appeal.

WHY IS MIAMI THE 4TH MOST OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITY?

Another large city that may surprise as the fourth most outdoor-friendly city is [Miami](#), yet the city has several areas of top-tier rankings. Indeed, Miami is in the 90th percentile in eight measurement areas and falls below the top 50th percentile in days residents participate in outdoor rec and membership in outdoor rec groups. The city is viewed by residents and guests alike as having great access to outdoor rec, and the city's image as an outdoors destination.

Visits to public parks & land	16
Use of apps and planning tools	15
Variety of outdoor activities	9
Types of equipment owned	17
Nights spent camping	8
Number of days in outdoor recreation	34
Number of days in nature based spaces	21
Group memberships	29
Out of region visits	6
Best access to outdoor rec	4
Perceived as "outdoor-friendly"	4
State and municipal access	9
Federal lands access	4

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE . . .

Miami offers [unique outdoor recreation](#) with its coastal location. The city is famous for its beaches, water sports, and the nearby [Everglades National Park](#). Activities such as boating, snorkeling, and wildlife viewing are popular, making Miami a great destination for outdoor enthusiasts.

WHY IS PORTLAND THE 5TH MOST OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITY?

[Portland, Oregon](#) is ranking in the top fifth in fourth critical determinants of the rankings, including visits to public parks and land, the number of activities they participate in, having the gear for their activities, and the number of days spent in nature-based spaces. The only categories they lag in are camping nights and membership in outdoor rec groups.

Visits to public parks & land	1
Use of apps and planning tools	21
Variety of outdoor activities	2
Types of equipment owned	3
Nights spent camping	32
Number of days in outdoor recreation	10
Number of days in nature based spaces	4
Group memberships	29
Out of region visits	18
Best access to outdoor rec	17
Perceived as "outdoor-friendly"	14
State and municipal access	27
Federal lands access	19

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE . . .

[Portland is celebrated](#) for its green spaces and proximity to outdoor activities. The city is close to the Columbia River Gorge, Mount Hood, and numerous parks and [trails](#). Portland's commitment to sustainability and biking culture further enhances its outdoor recreation reputation.

WHY IS NASHVILLE THE 6TH MOST OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITY?

Nashville is a city that, much like the others in the top 10, excels in several key areas such as access to state and municipal outdoor rec opportunities, visits to public spaces, and participation in activities, yet is in the lower tier for number of days its residents participate in outdoor rec and is in the lower 50th percentile in out of region visits for outdoor recreation.

Visits to public parks & land	4
Use of apps and planning tools	13
Variety of outdoor activities	4
Types of equipment owned	6
Nights spent camping	20
Number of days in outdoor recreation	42
Number of days in nature based spaces	10
Group memberships	29
Out of region visits	31
Best access to outdoor rec	14
Perceived as "outdoor-friendly"	16
State and municipal access	1
Federal lands access	13

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE . . .

Nashville offers a variety of outdoor activities with its parks, rivers, and lakes. The nearby Great Smoky Mountains provide excellent hiking and camping opportunities. The city's greenways and the Cumberland River offer additional recreational activities such as biking and kayaking.

WHY IS SAN FRANCISCO THE 7TH MOST OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITY?

[San Francisco](#) may not necessarily be seen as an outdoor city, its residents tend to participate in a variety of outdoor rec activities and do so as part of outdoor rec groups. While they are less likely to be campers, they tend to be a relatively avid group of outdoors participants.

Visits to public parks & land	9
Use of apps and planning tools	7
Variety of outdoor activities	6
Types of equipment owned	14
Nights spent camping	36
Number of days in outdoor recreation	12
Number of days in nature based spaces	6
Group memberships	4
Out of region visits	16
Best access to outdoor rec	15
Perceived as "outdoor-friendly"	27
State and municipal access	36
Federal lands access	24

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE . . .

San Francisco provides [exceptional outdoor recreation](#) with its unique geography. The city is surrounded by water and hills, offering activities such as sailing, hiking and biking. Nearby Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Muir Woods, and Point Reyes National Seashore are popular destinations.

WHY IS RICHMOND THE 8TH MOST OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITY?

Richmond is quite possibly the most contrasted and conflicted city on the list, yet still performs well enough in the important categories to land in the top 10. The city is ranked first for participation in a variety of activities, using technology to access the outdoors, and having the equipment for participation. They rank second in camping and the number of days spent in nature-based spaces. By contrast, the city is ranked near the bottom in access to state and municipal outdoor rec opportunities and suffers from lower rankings as a destination, views toward access and being labeled as an outdoor city.

Visits to public parks & land	3
Use of apps and planning tools	1
Variety of outdoor activities	1
Types of equipment owned	1
Nights spent camping	2
Number of days in outdoor recreation	4
Number of days in nature based spaces	2
Group memberships	45
Out of region visits	33
Best access to outdoor rec	35
Perceived as "outdoor-friendly"	32
State and municipal access	45
Federal lands access	10

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE . . .

Richmond offers a mix of urban and natural outdoor recreation. The James River Park System provides opportunities for whitewater rafting, kayaking, and rock climbing. The city's numerous parks and trails, combined with its historical sites, make Richmond a versatile outdoor destination.

WHY IS LOS ANGELES THE 9TH MOST OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITY?

[Los Angeles](#) is not typically viewed as an outdoor haven, and the ratings reinforce that notion, given the lower level of scoring on how the city is viewed for both access and being outdoor-friendly. However, the residents and guests of LA are upper 75th percentile in several areas, and the city itself offers exceptional access to state and municipal outdoor recreation.

Visits to public parks & land	15
Use of apps and planning tools	10
Variety of outdoor activities	20
Types of equipment owned	32
Nights spent camping	31
Number of days in outdoor recreation	21
Number of days in nature based spaces	22
Group memberships	3
Out of region visits	10
Best access to outdoor rec	25
Perceived as "outdoor-friendly"	31
State and municipal access	1
Federal lands access	7

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE . . .

Los Angeles boasts a [wide range of outdoor activities](#) due to its diverse landscape. From the beaches of Santa Monica to the trails of Griffith Park and the nearby San Gabriel Mountains, residents and visitors can enjoy hiking, surfing, and skiing. The city's mild climate allows for year-round outdoor recreation.

WHY IS CHARLOTTE THE 10TH MOST OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITY?

Charlotte is relatively consistent in its rankings, mostly falling into the upper 75th percentile. Its residents, however, are somewhat less likely to be avid participants on a day-to-day basis yet are likely to visit public parks and land more often.

Visits to public parks & land	6
Use of apps and planning tools	4
Variety of outdoor activities	12
Types of equipment owned	11
Nights spent camping	12
Number of days in outdoor recreation	38
Number of days in nature based spaces	29
Group memberships	14
Out of region visits	25
Best access to outdoor rec	18
Perceived as "outdoor-friendly"	21
State and municipal access	27
Federal lands access	29

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE . . .

Charlotte offers ample outdoor recreation with its parks, greenways, and proximity to the U.S. National Whitewater Center. The city's numerous lakes, such as Lake Norman, provide boating and fishing opportunities. Additionally, the nearby Appalachian Mountains offer hiking and camping options.

Least Outdoor-Friendly Cities

THE FULL BREAKDOWN



WHY IS HOUSTON THE LEAST OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITY?

Houston's ranking of being the least outdoor-friendly is heavily impacted by residents' low levels of participation in outdoor recreation overall and little variety of outdoor recreation activities, including having the equipment for participating in outdoor rec. Houston also scores lowest for proximity to Federal lands used for recreation, and is near the bottom in out-of-region visits for outdoor recreation.

Visits to public parks & land	37
Use of apps and planning tools	39
Variety of outdoor activities	51
Types of equipment owned	52
Nights spent camping	46
Number of days in outdoor recreation	48
Number of days in nature based spaces	27
Group memberships	36
Out of region visits	48
Best access to outdoor rec	23
Perceived as "outdoor-friendly"	30
State and municipal access	47
Federal lands access	52

BUT ON THE BRIGHT SIDE...

Houston offers numerous outdoor recreation opportunities with various parks, nature centers, and trails. The city boasts over 370 parks and more than 200 green spaces, including Memorial Park and Hermann Park. Additionally, nearby national forests and coastal areas provide ample opportunities for hiking, biking, and water sports.

WHY IS ROCHESTER THE 2ND LEAST OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITY?

Rochester is ranked first in proximity to state and municipal recreation resources, second in the number of days its residents participate in outdoor recreation, yet last in camping and attracting out-of-region guests for outdoor rec.

Visits to public parks & land	49
Use of apps and planning tools	52
Variety of outdoor activities	41
Types of equipment owned	43
Nights spent camping	52
Number of days in outdoor recreation	2
Number of days in nature based spaces	50
Group memberships	51
Out of region visits	52
Best access to outdoor rec	43
Perceived as "outdoor-friendly"	40
State and municipal access	1
Federal lands access	34

BUT ON THE BRIGHT SIDE...

Rochester provides access to several parks and outdoor activities. The city's Highland Park is known for its extensive gardens, while the nearby Finger Lakes region offers hiking, boating, and fishing. Additionally, Letchworth State Park, often called the "Grand Canyon of the East," is within driving distance, offering scenic views and numerous trails.

WHY IS HARTFORD THE 3RD LEAST OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITY?

Hartford tends to have lower-tier participation by its residents and suffers from a low level of endorsement as a city with good outdoor access and a destination focused on outdoor recreation.

Visits to public parks & land	48
Use of apps and planning tools	41
Variety of outdoor activities	19
Types of equipment owned	28
Nights spent camping	38
Number of days in outdoor recreation	45
Number of days in nature based spaces	35
Group memberships	29
Out of region visits	43
Best access to outdoor rec	50
Perceived as "outdoor-friendly"	48
State and municipal access	20
Federal lands access	48

BUT ON THE BRIGHT SIDE...

Hartford is close to many state parks and natural areas. Elizabeth Park within the city is famous for its rose gardens, while Talcott Mountain State Park and Sleeping Giant State Park offer hiking and panoramic views. The city's proximity to the Connecticut River also allows for various water-based activities.

WHY IS TULSA THE 4TH LEAST OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITY?

[Tulsa](#) has several lower tier results for outdoor activity participation and suffers from a relatively negative reputation.

Visits to public parks & land	37
Use of apps and planning tools	25
Variety of outdoor activities	12
Types of equipment owned	39
Nights spent camping	49
Number of days in outdoor recreation	27
Number of days in nature based spaces	46
Group memberships	45
Out of region visits	50
Best access to outdoor rec	49
Perceived as "outdoor-friendly"	49
State and municipal access	20
Federal lands access	42

BUT ON THE BRIGHT SIDE...

Tulsa has a range of outdoor recreational options, including the extensive River Parks system along the Arkansas River, which features trails for biking and walking. Nearby [Osage Hills State Park](#) and Keystone State Park provide opportunities for hiking, fishing, and camping. The city's Gathering Place Park is a notable urban green space with numerous amenities.



WHY IS MILWAUKEE THE 5TH LEAST OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITY?

Milwaukee is a lower tier city primarily due to lack of participation among its residents in terms of engagement in outdoor rec. However, the city has high levels of participation overall, and has a relatively solid reputation as a pro-outdoors location.

Visits to public parks & land	51
Use of apps and planning tools	51
Variety of outdoor activities	52
Types of equipment owned	47
Nights spent camping	37
Number of days in outdoor recreation	7
Number of days in nature based spaces	36
Group memberships	42
Out of region visits	43
Best access to outdoor rec	26
Perceived as "outdoor-friendly"	18
State and municipal access	32
Federal lands access	15

BUT ON THE BRIGHT SIDE...

Milwaukee provides outdoor recreation through its many parks and access to Lake Michigan. The Milwaukee County Park system includes over 150 parks with trails, golf courses, and picnic areas. The city's lakefront offers activities such as sailing, fishing, and walking or biking along the scenic paths.

WHY IS OKLAHOMA CITY THE 6TH LEAST OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITY?

[Oklahoma City](#) is dragged down into the lower tier based on the proximity to federal outdoor rec resources, but also in how it is viewed as having access to outdoor rec and as an outdoors-centric city. These views appear to be contributing to a lack of out of region guests for outdoor recreation as well.

Visits to public parks & land	31
Use of apps and planning tools	39
Variety of outdoor activities	31
Types of equipment owned	29
Nights spent camping	16
Number of days in outdoor recreation	32
Number of days in nature based spaces	14
Group memberships	48
Out of region visits	50
Best access to outdoor rec	45
Perceived as "outdoor-friendly"	43
State and municipal access	20
Federal lands access	47

BUT ON THE BRIGHT SIDE...

[Oklahoma City offers outdoor activities](#) with several parks, such as the expansive Myriad Botanical Gardens and Lake Hefner, which provides trails, sailing, and fishing. The nearby Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge is a popular destination for hiking, rock climbing, and observing wildlife.

WHY IS DETROIT THE 7TH LEAST OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITY?

[Detroit](#) is placed near the bottom of the rankings due to its residents accessing public parks, being connected to technology for outdoor rec, and most importantly, the city's image which is dead last for being viewed as having access to outdoor rec and viewed as an outdoor-friendly destination.

Visits to public parks & land	46
Use of apps and planning tools	47
Variety of outdoor activities	45
Types of equipment owned	36
Nights spent camping	10
Number of days in outdoor recreation	9
Number of days in nature based spaces	23
Group memberships	20
Out of region visits	14
Best access to outdoor rec	52
Perceived as "outdoor-friendly"	52
State and municipal access	51
Federal lands access	26

BUT ON THE BRIGHT SIDE...

Detroit offers a mix of urban parks and access to natural areas. Belle Isle Park on the Detroit River provides trails, a conservatory, and a zoo. Nearby state parks such as [Highland Recreation Area](#) offer hiking, biking, and winter sports. The Detroit Riverfront is also a popular spot for walking and cycling.

WHY IS BUFFALO THE 8TH LEAST OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITY?

Buffalo residents are above average in their visits to public parks and lands yet have lower levels of participation in other activities and importantly, being viewed as a city with good access to outdoor recreation, or simply viewed as an outdoors city.

Visits to public parks & land	13
Use of apps and planning tools	48
Variety of outdoor activities	47
Types of equipment owned	34
Nights spent camping	25
Number of days in outdoor recreation	29
Number of days in nature based spaces	24
Group memberships	41
Out of region visits	24
Best access to outdoor rec	38
Perceived as "outdoor-friendly"	39
State and municipal access	36
Federal lands access	28

BUT ON THE BRIGHT SIDE...

Buffalo provides access to numerous parks and outdoor activities. Delaware Park is part of the city's park system designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. Additionally, Niagara Falls State Park is a short drive away, offering stunning views and hiking trails. The nearby Letchworth State Park also provides extensive outdoor opportunities.

WHY IS RALEIGH THE 9TH LEAST OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITY?

[Raleigh](#) doesn't seem to excel in any single category and is dragged down by falling into the lower tier across several measures, including visits to public parks, the use of planning apps, having equipment for outdoor rec, and not having an outdoors focused brand.

Visits to public parks & land	46
Use of apps and planning tools	50
Variety of outdoor activities	34
Types of equipment owned	45
Nights spent camping	22
Number of days in outdoor recreation	16
Number of days in nature based spaces	9
Group memberships	36
Out of region visits	40
Best access to outdoor rec	39
Perceived as "outdoor-friendly"	38
State and municipal access	12
Federal lands access	39

BUT ON THE BRIGHT SIDE...

[Raleigh is known for its green spaces and access to outdoor activities](#). The city boasts numerous parks, including the extensive William B. Umstead State Park, which offers hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Additionally, the nearby Falls Lake State Recreation Area provides water-based activities such as boating and fishing.

WHY IS FRESNO THE 10TH LEAST OUTDOOR-FRIENDLY CITY?

Fresno excels at proximity to Federal recreation, visits to public parks & land, and somewhat surprisingly, the number of days residents participate in outdoor recreation. However, Fresno appears to have less access/proximity to state and municipal recreation and is nearly last in how the city is viewed for having outdoor access or as being outdoor-friendly.

Visits to public parks & land	2
Use of apps and planning tools	20
Variety of outdoor activities	42
Types of equipment owned	34
Nights spent camping	41
Number of days in outdoor recreation	5
Number of days in nature based spaces	38
Group memberships	45
Out of region visits	37
Best access to outdoor rec	51
Perceived as "outdoor-friendly"	51
State and municipal access	52
Federal lands access	6

BUT ON THE BRIGHT SIDE...

Fresno is a gateway to some of the nation's most famous national parks. Yosemite National Park is approximately 60 miles away, offering world-renowned hiking, rock climbing, and sightseeing. Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Park are also nearby, providing further opportunities for outdoor recreation in stunning natural settings.