

## CHAPTER 1 The Surveys

This chapter covers changes in Indiana since the 2011-2015 SCORP. It looks briefly at state and national trends that affect how we use and provide outdoor recreation. The chapter also examines the backbone of this SCORP: the surveys done by our third-party surveyors, the methods they used, and the results.

Indiana's SCORPs differ from those created by other states.

1. We try to directly "count" (via local government self-reported data) public outdoor recreation acreage, both by county and by level of government.
2. We hire third-party surveyors. We ensure these surveyors are objective, unbiased and professional.
3. We ask members of the public their preferences for outdoor recreation activities and ask professional outdoor recreation providers for their opinions and ideas, too.

This approach allows this SCORP to show what public outdoor recreation acreage actually exists, both geographically, and by cumulative "type" of acreage. SCORP readers can cross-compare against their peers in multiple ways. Surveying both the public and outdoor recreation professionals this way allows the DNR to look at what real people actually want to do for outdoor

recreation, as well as how recreation professionals provide those activities. The method also reveals the needs and challenges both groups face.

Indiana's SCORP continues to be a multi-purpose information source for many groups. Researchers use it for data on recreation preferences. Park professionals use it when writing park plans or strategic documents. Local government leaders use it to compare their community to local and regional competition. And interested members of the public use it to learn what activities their friends and neighbors enjoy doing while visiting public outdoor recreation sites.

Just as previous Indiana SCORPs, this SCORP used three main surveys:

- The Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey, which
  - o Asks members of the the public about their outdoor recreation activities and frequency of use.
- The Trail User Survey, which
  - o Asks members of the the public about how they use one of our most popular amenities.
- The Local Parks and Recreation Provider Survey, which
  - o Asks professional and non-profit local outdoor recreation providers about their challenges, issues, and solutions.

## THE OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION SURVEY

### Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey Methods:

- Survey used paper intercept surveys.
- The questionnaire asks 22 regular questions, and one large, multi-part question containing 49 separate recreational-activity categories.
- The estimated time needed to take the survey was 8-10 minutes.
- Paper survey results were manually entered into the database.
- Respondents were chosen on a next-available basis.
- People younger than 17 were not discouraged from taking the survey, but were not actively recruited.
- The survey was conducted at county fairs, libraries, and other public locations throughout the state.
- The survey took place from May 2014 through September 2014.
- The completed respondent database consists of 6,381 valid respondents.

### Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey Demographic Results:

- Respondents were 57.9% female, 42.1% male.
- Average age of respondents was 40.3 years.

- Every county in Indiana was represented in the data.
- 58% of survey respondents were married, 24% were single (never married), and 7% were single (divorced). [All results are somewhat comparable to U.S. Census demographic data for Indiana.]
- 82% of respondents reported themselves as white, 12% as black, 3% as Hispanic/Latino, and 1% as multi-racial.
- 70% of respondents stated that they had between two and four family members living in their household.
- 57% of respondents reported having no persons younger than 18 living in their household.

### Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey Results:

- The top three reasons why respondents participate in outdoor recreation were
  - To be with Family and Friends ..... 41%
  - Physical Health ..... 31%
  - Mental Health ..... 27%
- The top five outdoor recreation activities that respondents wanted to do in the future were:
  - Walking/Hiking/Jogging/Running (pedestrian activities)
  - Camping
  - Fishing
  - Swimming
  - Canoeing/Kayaking/Tubing

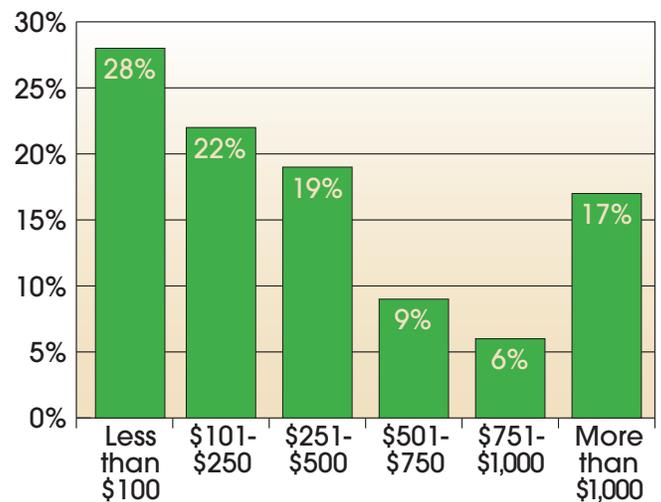


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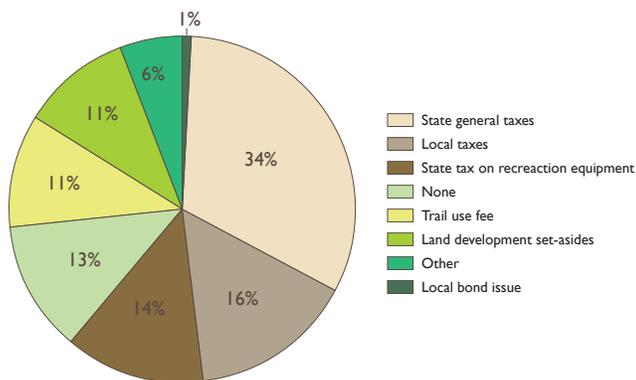
- The top five outdoor recreation activities participated in more than once per week by the survey respondent and/or by others in the household were:
  - o Walking/Hiking/Jogging/Running
  - o Gardening/Landscaping
  - o Relaxation/Spiritual Renewal
  - o Bicycle Touring (casual, tour, or both)
  - o Outdoor Pool Swimming or Water Park
  
- The top methods of travel used to reach the outdoor recreation activity they participated in the most were:
  - o Car/Truck ..... 74%
  - o Walk/Jog/Run ..... 17%
  - o Bike..... 5%
  - o Other..... 4%
  - o Motorcycle ..... 2%
  - o Horseback ..... 2%
  
- For the question "...in which county in Indiana do you most often participate in outdoor recreation activities?", counties with the highest population were the most common answers.
  
- Asked: if their family members could walk, bike, ride a horse or use other non-motorized transportation, how likely would they be to use outdoor recreation facilities more often; respondents said:
  - o Very likely ..... 24%
  - o Somewhat likely ..... 28%
  - o Uncertain..... 22%
  - o Not likely ..... 26%

- Asked whether they used non-motorized transportation to get to outdoor recreation facilities, responders answered:
  - o Doesn't matter ..... 44%
  - o No ..... 30%
  - o Yes ..... 26%
  
- Asked how much money they were willing to spend per year on their favorite outdoor recreation (including cost of equipment, training, travel, etc.), respondents said:

**FIGURE 1.1** How much money respondents were willing to spend yearly on their favorite outdoor recreation



**FIGURE 1.2 Preferred sources for funding development of new outdoor recreation facilities**



• Asked what primary sources for funding the operations/maintenance of existing outdoor recreation facilities, (after first pursuing all federal funds, grants, and donations), responders preferred:

- o State General Taxes ..... 28%
- o Local Taxes ..... 20%
- o State Tax on Recreation Equipment..... 18%
- o Trail Use Fee ..... 15%
- o None ..... 15%
- o Other ..... 8%

• Asked how far they were willing to travel one way to participate in their favorite outdoor recreation activity, responders said:

- o 0-5 miles..... 13%
- o 6-10 miles..... 12%
- o 11-15 miles ..... 13%
- o 16-25 miles ..... 11%
- o 26-35 miles ..... 6%
- o 36-50 miles ..... 13%
- o 51-75 miles ..... 10%
- o 76-100 miles..... 5%
- o More than 100 miles ..... 18%

• Asked how far they were willing to travel one way to participate in their favorite outdoor recreation activity if they were using non-motorized transportation, the answers changed to:

- o 0-5 miles..... 62%
- o 6-10 miles..... 19%
- o 11-15 miles ..... 7%
- o 16-25 miles ..... 4%
- o 26-35 miles ..... 2%
- o 36-50 miles ..... 3%
- o 51-75 miles ..... 1%
- o 76-100 miles..... 1%
- o More than 100 miles ..... 2%

• The main reason given why respondents did not participate in outdoor recreation activities more often was:

- o None, I participate as much as I want to ..... 42%

- o Personal barriers, no time, no motivation, lack of skills, physical, mental or emotional health, etc. .... 19%
- o Cost barriers, lack of money/ economic factors ..... 15%
- o No recreation facilities close to my home ..... 10%
- o Social barriers, no one to participate with, family conflict, responsibilities to others, etc. .... 8%
- o Structural barriers, Poor setting/physical environment, lack of facilities or programs, transportation, safety, etc. .... 5%
- o Disability-related access prevents me from participating as much as I would like. .... 5%
- o Other Reasons ..... 4%
- o Customs, Cultural Barriers, etc..... 1%

• Asked if they or any of their immediate family have any type of physical or intellectual disability that prevents them from participating in outdoor recreation activities, 17% said yes, 83% said no (comparable to U.S. Census statistics on the percentage of Indiana residents with a disability).

• Respondents who answered “yes” to the previous question reported having the following type(s) of disability:

- o Walking ..... 60%
- o Seeing..... 7%
- o Hearing..... 9%
- o Breathing..... 29%
- o Lifting - ..... 17%
- o Bending..... 18%
- o Other..... 11%

## THE LOCAL PARK AND RECREATION PROVIDER STUDY

### Local Park and Recreation Provider Study Methods:

- Survey used both an online and a mail-in survey with a ZIP code question to group responses by region.
- The questionnaire had about 30 questions.
- The estimated time needed to take the online survey was 10 minutes.
- Survey results were entered into a survey database and tabulated.
- The survey took place from January 2014 through August 2014.
- The completed database consists of 93 respondents representing the entire state.

**TABLE 1.1 Total Acres Managed**

# of Acres	Mail Frequency	Online Frequency	Total Frequency n=93/ Percentages
0	1	0	1/1%
1-100	35	4	39/42%
101-200	2	3	5/5%
201-300	4	4	8/9%
301-400	1	0	1/1%
401-500	1	3	4/4%
501 & up	12	6	18/19%

**TABLE 1.2 Forest Acres Managed**

# of Acres	Mail Frequency	Online Frequency	Total Frequency n=93/ Percentages
0	8	1	9/10%
1-100	12	15	27/29%
101-200	3	3	6/6%
201-300	3	0	3/3%
301-400	1	2	3/3%
401-500	1	1	2/2%
501 & up	5	2	7/8%

**TABLE 1.3 Water Bodies Acres Managed**

# of Acres	Mail Frequency	Online Frequency	Total Frequency n=93/ Percentages
0	10	1	11/12%
1-100	17	21	38/41%
101-200	0	0	0/0%
201-300	1	0	1/1%
301-400	1	0	1/1%
401-500	1	0	1/1%
501 & up	3	1	4/4%

**TABLE 1.4 Open Green Space Acres**

# of Acres	Mail Frequency	Online Frequency	Total Frequency n=93/ Percentages
0	6	0	6/6%
1-100	31	13	44/47%
101-200	2	6	8/9%
201-300	1	1	2/2%
301-400	1	3	4/4%
401-500	1	0	1/1%
501 & up	2	1	3/3%

**TABLE 1.5 Total Budget 2013**

Dollars in Budget	Mail Frequency	Online Frequency	Total Frequency n=93/ Percentages
0	4	0	4/4%
1-5,000	6	0	6/6%
5,001-10,000	4	0	4/4%
10,001-15,000	2	0	2/2%
15,001-20,000	0	0	0/0%
20,001 & up	38	2	40/43%

**TABLE 1.6 Total Revenue**

Dollars in Budget	Mail Frequency	Online Frequency	Total Frequency n=93/ Percentages
0	14	1	15/16%
1-5,000	9	1	10/11%
5,001-10,000	5	0	5/5%
10,001-15,000	1	0	1/1%
15,001-20,000	3	0	3/3%
20,001 & up	18	1	19/20%

**TABLE 1.7 Percent of local tax that goes to park/recreation**

	Mail Frequency	Online Frequency	Total Frequency n=93/ Percentages
<1%	28	12	40/43%
1%-2%	12	7	19/20%
2%-5%	7	3	10/11%
>5%	3	2	5/5%

**TABLE 1.8 Does Your Facility Use Non-Reverting Funds?**

	Mail Frequency	Online Frequency	Total Frequency n=93/ Percentages
Yes	28	22	50/54%
No	26	6	32/34%

**TABLE 1.9 Funding Alternatives Tried and Used**

Funding Types	% Who tried/used a funding type	% Who plan to try/use a funding type (future)	% who did not use or plan to use a funding type
Worked with Park Foundation	48.44	25	26.56
Levied Taxes	32.79	16.39	50.82
Bond Fund	25.45	18.18	56.36
Engaged in Fundraising	56.92	27.69	15.38
Approach Small Local Businesses for Funds	61.76	25	13.24
Pursued Non-Park Foundations	53.33	23.33	23.33
Closed Facilities	10.45	29.85	59.70
Received Donations	80	18.75	1.25
Applied for Grants	67.44	25.58	6.97
Pursued Public-Private Partnership	50.88	17.54	31.58
Sold Ad Space to Local Businesses	49.15	18.64	32.20
Private Funding for Naming Rights	20.45	31.82	47.73

**TABLE 1.10 Do you currently have this facility in your park system?**

Type of Facility	Yes	No	Total Responses	Percent "Yes"
Sports Fields (baseball, soccer, etc.)	48	34	82	59%
Playground	74	13	87	85%
Picnic Area	82	3	85	96%
Campground	13	63	76	17%
Hard-surface courts (basketball, tennis, etc.)	62	20	82	43%
Skate Park	16	58	74	22%
Dog Park	17	56	73	23%
Swimming Pool/Spray Park	26	47	73	36%
Other	24	9	33	73%

**TABLE 1.11 Do you currently offer programs at this facility in your park system?**

Type of Programmed Facility	Yes	No	Percent "Yes"
Sports Fields (baseball, soccer, etc.)	36	33	52%
Playground	19	49	28%
Picnic Area	25	43	37%
Campground	6	55	10%
Hard-surface courts (basketball, tennis, etc.)	21	39	4%
Skate Park	4	50	7%
Dog Park	6	48	11%
Swimming Pool/Spray Park	15	40	27%
Other	24	9	73%

**TABLE 1.12 Funding options tried/used or planned over the last five years?**

Type of Funding	Funding source tried or used	Funding source planned	Source not used or planned
Worked with Park Foundation	31	16	17
Levied Taxes	20	10	31
Bond Fund	14	10	31
Engaged in Fundraising	37	18	10
Approached Small Local Business for Funding	42	17	9
Pursued Non-Park Foundations	32	14	14
Closed Facilities	7	2	38
Received Donations	64	14	2
Applied for Grants	58	22	6
Pursued Public-Private Partnership	29	10	18
Sold Ad Space to Local Businesses (sponsorship)	29	44	19
Private Funding for Naming Rights	9	14	21

**TABLE 1.13 Methods used to add or fund staff for parks or programs?**

Type of Funding Method	Funding source tried or used	Funding source planned	Source not used or planned
Used/Increased Volunteers	62	18	7
Worked with 'Friends of Parks' Groups	34	20	18
Worked with Community Centers	8	7	39
Worked with Youth Sports Leagues	39	12	30
Partnering with Other Government Agencies	41	12	4
Partnering with Local Educational Programs	35	13	17
Partnering with Local for Profit Agencies	27	13	20
Local Business Donations of People/Staff time	39	17	14
Local Business Donations of Equipment	32	15	14
Local Non-Profit Organizations	42	14	12
Private Funding for Naming Rights	9	14	21

**TABLE 1.14 Land Acquisition funding sources for local parks and recreation?**

Type of Land Acquisition Funding	Funding source tried or used	Funding source planned	Source not used or planned
Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant used to Purchase Land	18	16	25
Partner with Local Schools for Public Use of their Land or Recreational Facilities	17	9	32
Utility Corridors or rights of Way	17	10	25
Land Trust or Other Nonprofit Landowners	13	11	33
Conservation Easement with Other Landowners	13	9	31
Cooperation with Private Landowners	14	7	28
Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources Grant Programs (other than LWCF)	24	20	17

**NOTE:** To obtain the entire dataset from any of the SCORP surveys, please contact the Division of Outdoor Recreation: Greg Beilfuss (317) 232-4071; gbeilfuss@dnr.IN.gov or Division of Outdoor Recreation, 402 W. Washington St., W271, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2782.



BIKING

**TABLE 1.15 Who is your parks and recreation competition for revenue and/or use?**

Type of Competing Facility	Competition for Revenue?	Competition for Public Users?	Not applicable in my park system
Privately-Owned Neighborhood Parks in HOA/Subdivisions	1	15	32
Private For-Profit Providers	13	16	27
Non-Profit Provider (e.g. YMCA, etc.)	16	26	23
School Systems providing recreation	7	28	19
State Properties	7	14	24
Federal Properties	6	5	29

**Local Park and Recreation Survey demographic results in the communities surveyed:**

- 77% have a Park Board or Parks and Recreation Board.
- 65% have a Parks and Recreation Department with paid staff.
  - 40% have a "Friends of Parks" or similar non-governmental management group.
- 18% have an agency (other than a park department) that manages local public parks and recreation.
  - Other agencies managing local parks: Town Councils, DNR, County Parks and Recreation, Local Towns, and Township Park Boards.

**Who were the respondents?**

- 30% are employees of municipal park departments.
- 16% are employees of county park departments.
- 5% are employees of township park departments.
- 23% are employed by "other units of local government."
- 29% have been in the parks and recreation field fewer than 5 years.
- 17% have between 6 and 10 years of time in the parks and recreation field.
- 22% have between 31 and 40 years of time in the parks and recreation field.
- 29% were park superintendents.

**TABLE 1.16 Does your park system collaborate or partner actively with other providers of recreational opportunity in your community?**

Type of Partner Facility	Yes, We partner with this group.	No, We do not partner with this group.
Privately-Owned Neighborhood Parks in HOA/Subdivisions	8	18
Private For-Profit Providers	20	48
Non-Profit Provider (e.g. YMCA, etc.)	35	34
School Systems providing recreation	48	23
State Properties	17	50
Federal Properties	4	61

**NOTE:** Only 67% of respondents report that their local park department has a 5-year, system-wide parks and recreation master plan, but the majority of these are still within their 5-year lifespan.

- 15% were park board members.
- 13% were park directors.
- 9% had various municipal government positions.
- Of those who answered the Question: "What was your highest level of education?"
  - 56% of male respondents finished a college degree, while 35% of females did.
  - 35% of female respondents finished a graduate-level college degree while 32% of males did.

**Local Park and Recreation Provider Survey Results:**

- Which units of government provide local recreation in your community?
  - 83% reported that their community had municipal-provided parks and recreation facilities.
  - 37% reported that their community had county-provided parks and recreation facilities.
  - 25% reported that their community had township-provided parks and recreation facilities.
  - 13% reported that their community had "other" organizations or groups that provided parks and recreation facilities.
  - Respondents reported operating park systems from as small as 1.5 acres up to park systems of more than 10,000 acres.

- o Respondents reported 2013 budgets ranging from \$15,800 up to \$3.9 million.
- o Respondents also reported earning revenues ranging from \$2,249 up to \$2 million.

## THE TRAILS USER SURVEY

### Trails User Survey Methods:

- The estimated time needed to take the survey was between 3 and 6 minutes.
- Paper survey results were manually entered into the database post-survey.
- Respondents were always chosen on a next available basis.
- People under 17 were not discouraged from taking the survey, but they also were not actively recruited.
- The survey was conducted at county fairs, libraries, and other public locations throughout the state.
- The survey took place from March through July of 2014.
- The completed database consists of 1,043 respondents.

### Trails User Survey Demographic Results:

- 47.3% of respondents were male, and 52.7% were female.
- Average age of respondents was 39.9.
- 77.7% of respondents were white (non-Hispanic), 16.4% black/African-American and 2.1% Hispanic.
- Every county statewide across Indiana was represented in the data.

### Trails User Survey Results:

- Walking is the trail activity participated in the most.
- The general public is three to four times more likely to use trails for walking than for most other activities.
- More than 80% of respondents use trails for walking sometime during the year.
- The top three trail activities are:
  - o Walking
  - o Bicycle Touring (casual, tour, or both)
  - o Using trails for alternative transportation routes



SKEET SHOOTING

- The top three reasons why respondents used trails were:
  - o Pleasure, Relaxation, Recreation (53%)
  - o Health/Physical Training (32%)
  - o Family or Social Outing (35%)
- Asked what trail activity they would like to participate in at least 12 times per year in the future, respondents said:
  - o Walking/Running/Jogging (69%)
  - o Bicycle Touring (casual, touring or both) (41%)
  - o Hiking/Backpacking (39%)
- 64% of respondents said there was a trail within 5 miles or 10 minutes of their home.
- 35% prefer native soil as their trail surface, 29% selected asphalt.
- 79% of those who had an opinion either strongly or somewhat agreed that trail connectivity should be an important part of a community's infrastructure.
- Respondents believed that trail connectivity was extremely important for:
  - o Personal Health (60%)
  - o Community Health (55%)
  - o Environmental Health (44%)
  - o Alternative Transportation Corridors (30%)
- Word of mouth was the top way that respondents find out about trail opportunities; trail websites was second; signage at parks was third.
- Asked why they do not use trails as much as they would like, respondents said:
  - o Personal barriers (no time, no motivation, lack of skills, physical /mental and emotional health, ability level, etc.) were cited by 35% of respondents.
  - o 29% of respondents said they participated as much as they wanted.
  - o 19% of respondents said that there were no trails close to their home.



ARCHERY EDUCATION

- Respondents who reported being limited in participating in trail activities by health factors cited issues with walking as their most common limitation. Breathing issues were the second most cited limitation.
  - 33% of respondents said there were no improvements that would increase their use of trails; 24% would like to see better trail surfaces, and another 20% would like to see walking, biking or riding clubs.
  - 49% of respondents are only willing to spend less than \$100 annually on trail activities; 24% are willing to spend between \$100 and \$500.
  - Asked the distance trail users are willing to travel (one way) to participate in trail activities;
    - o 19% said 0-5 miles
    - o 14% said 6-10 miles
    - o 14% said 36-50 miles
  - Asked what primary sources for funding the development of new trails, (after first pursuing all Federal federal funds, grants, and donations) responders preferred:
    - o State general General Taxes ..... 25%
    - o Land Development Set-asides ..... 18%
    - o State Tax on Recreation Equipment ..... 16%
    - o None ..... 15%
    - o Trail Use Fee ..... 14%
    - o Local Taxes ..... 14%
    - o Other ..... 7%
    - o Local Bond Issue ..... 5%
  - Asked what primary sources for funding the operations/maintenance of existing trails, (after first pursuing all federal funds, grants, and donations) responders preferred:
    - o State General Taxes ..... 25%
    - o State Tax on Recreation Equipment ..... 20%
    - o Trail Use Fee ..... 18%
    - o Local Taxes ..... 18%
    - o None ..... 16%
    - o Other ..... 9%
- The next chapter will compare and contrast these datasets along with selected research from outside sources. Emergent themes and trends as well as the limitations of the surveys will be discussed.

**TABLE 1.17 Respondents were asked how well the current supply of trails in Indiana met their needs:**

Type of Trails	Supply is more than enough	Supply is just right	Supply is OK for now but needs to be increased in the future	Supply does not meet my needs	Uncertain, don't know current
Using Trails for Alternative Transportation Routes	5.2%	8.0%	17.9%	13.5%	9.4%
Walking/Running/Jogging	10.0%	21.8%	28.6%	9.2%	6.4%
Hiking/Backpacking	5.9%	12.2%	20.9%	10.3%	8.4%
Bicycle Touring (casual, tour or both)	5.6%	13.1%	21.6%	11.7%	29.8%
Mountain Biking	3.6%	5.8%	10.7%	7.1%	8.3%
In-line Skating	2.4%	5.3%	6.1%	5.0%	8.6%
Cross Country Skiing	1.7%	2.6%	5.2%	5.8%	9.5%
Snowmobiling	1.8%	2.9%	4.3%	5.7%	9.4%
Off-road Vehicle Riding (motorcycle, 4-wheel, ATV, etc.)	2.9%	5.5%	8.0%	8.2%	9.7%
Canoeing/Kayaking on water trails or blueways	3.6%	9.4%	10.7%	9.7%	10.7%
Horseback Riding	2.5%	5.5%	7.2%	8.1%	10.2%

OUTDOOR RECREATION  
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SURFING

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