

Benton County Community Health Improvement Planning

Natural Environment

A vibrant, accessible natural environment is a foundation for good community health. Access to natural areas, parks, forests, and rivers provides opportunities for exercise and relaxation.

Key Health Data

- 45 percent of Benton County community members live within 1/2 mile of a park, forest, or natural area.
- 30 percent of Benton County community members get the recommended amount of exercise.
- 51 percent of high school students spend at least 3 hours a day on television, phones, computers, and video games.

Focus on: Access to natural areas

Access to natural areas is not equal among all Benton County community members. Visitors to McDonald Forest have higher average incomes and more education than Benton County community members as a whole.

Average income:

Forest visitors	\$69,000
Benton County	\$50,000

Percent of individuals with a college degree or higher:

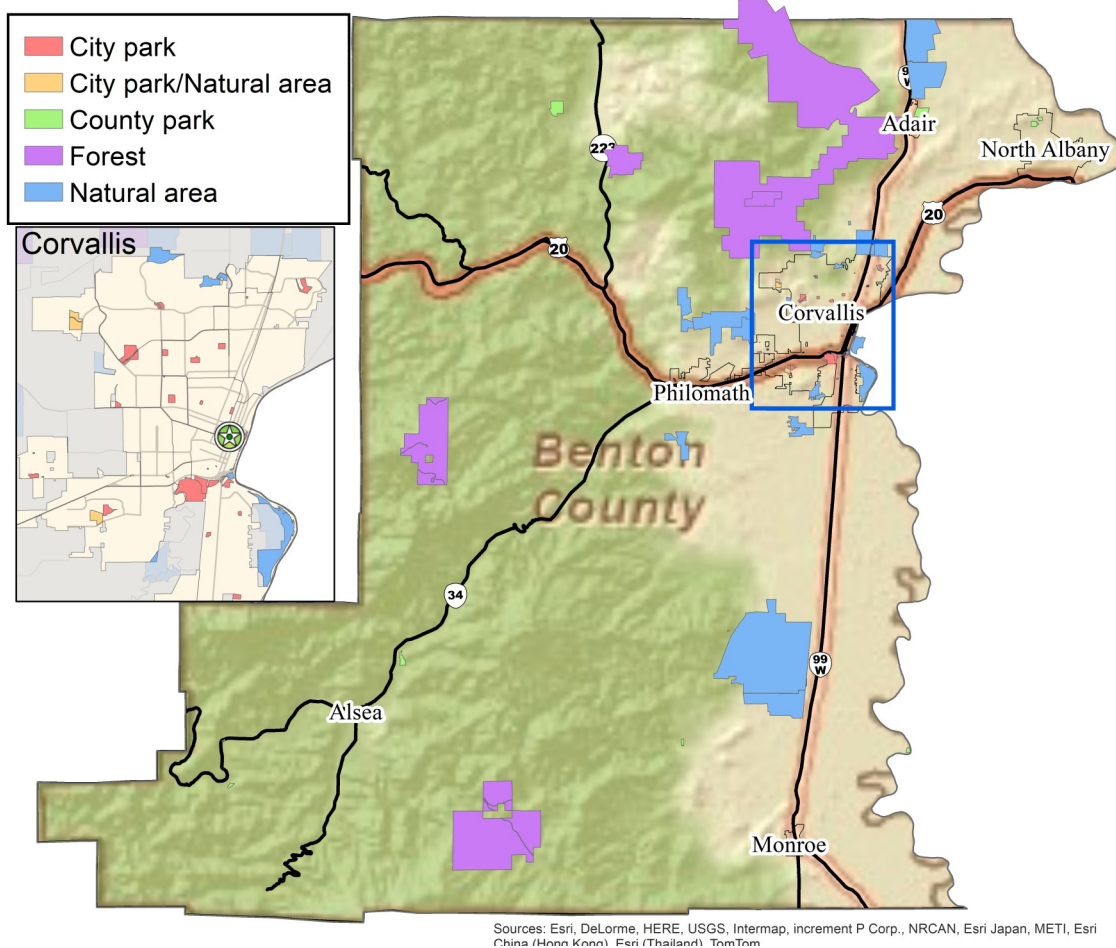
Forest visitors	80%
Benton County	50%



Keep in mind that this data about McDonald Forest is not a criticism of the management of the forest - it is just the best data that we have about access to natural areas.

Focus on: Recreation areas in Benton County

Benton County has a wealth of city parks, county parks, natural areas, and forests. This map shows the location of most of the publically accessible, outdoor recreation areas in Benton County.



To learn more:

Visit this website: bit.ly/BentonCountyCHIP to see all seven themes in an interactive webpage.

Read the [2017 Community Health Assessment](#) on the Benton County Health Department website for much more data.

Take this survey to help us prioritize 3 themes for our Community Health Improvement Plan: www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018CHIPpriorities.