

Park User After Questionnaire 2016

Introduction

- 1) Approach each passing park user (next-to-pass method), including walkers, joggers, runners, cyclists, Rollerblade, etc., and say:
 - a. **“Excuse me! Hello. Did you know this park is Massasauga Rattlesnake habitat?”** Y or N or Unk
- 2) Regardless of their response, say:
 - a. **“My name is (_____) from Wildlife Preservation Canada. We are following-up with park users after the recent installation of Massasauga awareness signage in this park. Did you happen to notice the new signage?”** Y or N or UNK
Comments: _____
- 3) Regardless of their response, say:
 - a. **“I’d like to offer you the chance to share your thoughts and opinions on the subject via a brief questionnaire. It’s completely voluntary and answers will remain anonymous. Is that alright?”**
 - a.i. If Yes → Proceed with questionnaire
 - a.ii. If No → Ask: **“Is it because you did the questionnaire last month?”**
 - a.ii.1. If Yes → **“Before and after responses are actually very important to the success of this study”**
 - a.ii.2. If No/still not interested → **“Thank you for your time”**

Questionnaire

(If unsure, ask the person if they are at least 18 years of age before beginning the questionnaire)

(Please answer any detailed questions about Massasaugas after the questionnaire)

(All text to be read out loud is in **bold**)

- 1) **Are you supportive of protecting natural habitats in this area, in general?** Y or N or UNK
- 2) **Are you supportive of recovering endangered species in this area, in general?** Y or N or UNK
- 3) **Are you supportive of recovering Massasauga Rattlesnakes in this area** (e.g., restoring habitat, reducing threats, monitoring, and increasing abundance)? Y or N or UNK
Comments: _____
- 4) **Aside from Massasaugas, do you know of any other species of snakes that live nearby?** Y or N
Circle all that apply: Don't Know, Gartersnake, Butler's Gartersnake, Foxsnake, Brownsnake, Red-bellied snake, Watersnake, Queensnake, Other: _____
- 5) **Have you, or a member of your family, encountered any snakes in this park this year?** Y or N or UNK. **If Yes, what type(s)/species?** Circle all that apply: Don't Remember, Don't know, None

seen, Gartersnake, Butler's Gartersnake, Foxsnake, Massasauga, Brownsnake, Red-bellied snake, Watersnake, Other: _____

- a. [If YES to Q5], Did you consider any of these encounters to be problematic? Y or N
Notes: _____

6) Are you aware of any snake species that have legal protection in Ontario? Y or N or UNK
Circle all that apply: Don't Know, Butler's Gartersnake, Foxsnake, Massasauga,
Other: _____

7) Did you know that Massasaugas are endangered locally? Y or N or UNK

8) What do you think has caused Massasaugas to become endangered? Circle all that apply: Don't know, Poaching, Road Mortality, Habitat Loss/Destruction, Small Population, Killing/Persecution, Other: _____

9) Would you call someone if you saw a rattlesnake while in the park, and if so, who would you call? Y or N or UNK, Circle all that apply: Don't Know, City/Town, Police, Fire, ONC, spouse/family member, leave it alone, Other: _____

10) How and when did you first find out this park is Massasauga Rattlesnake habitat?
Circle all that apply: today, x<1 yr., 2<x>5 yrs., 5<x>10 years, x>10years, Always known,
other/notes: _____

11) On a scale of 1 to 5, how safe do you feel using a park with rattlesnake habitat (5 = extremely safe, 1 = extremely unsafe)? 1 2 3 4 5

12) What would you do in the event of a Massasauga bite to:

a. Yourself or a loved one? Circle all that apply: Don't know, Call 911, Go to Hospital, Other _____

b. Your pet dog? Circle all that apply: Don't know, n/a, Call Vet, Go to Vet, Other _____

13) We are considering various approaches to recovering Massasaugas and preventing snake bites. I'm going to list a few options and please let me know if you are supportive or not supportive of each option:

a. The installation of awareness signage at all trail heads in local parks with Massasauga habitat? Y or N or UNK,
other/notes: _____

b. The creation of brush (i.e., log, woody debris) piles for Massasauga shelter and reproduction? Y or N or UNK,
other/notes: _____

- c. **Barrier fencing in strategic locations to prevent rattlesnakes from leaving the park and accessing busy roads or entering residential areas?** Circle all that apply: Y or N or UNK, depends on aesthetics, depends on location, other/notes: _____
- d. **The release of captive-bred Massasaugas at this park to increase the population size?** Y or N or UNK, other/notes: _____

14) **What could you do to reduce the risk of a Massasauga bite to:**

- a. **Yourself or a loved one?** Circle all that apply: Don't know, Stay on trail, Don't pick up snakes, Wear long pants, Other: _____
- b. **Your pet dog?** Circle all that apply: Don't know, n/a, Keep on leash, Keep away from snakes, Other: _____

15) **Did you participate in this questionnaire last month?** Y or N or UNK

Comments: _____

16) **Did you have an opportunity to read the new Massasauga Habitat signs in this park?** Y or N or UNK. Comments: _____

17) **Do you have any other questions, comments or concerns regarding Massasauga recovery work in this park?** Y or N

(If person requests additional information, provide them with an outreach package)

18) **And help us better understand who uses the park, here are a few demographic questions:**

- a. Gender (do not ask) M or F
- b. In what year were you born? _____
- c. What is your postal code? _____
- d. Have you ever walked a dog at this park? Y or N
- e. Have you ever brought young children to this park? Y or N
- f. On average, how often do you visit this park: Daily, Weekly, Monthly or Yearly?
Other/notes: _____

That concludes our questionnaire. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME!!