

Recreation in Beaufort County: Current Usage & Existing Barriers

Shivani Dave
Hayden Haberle
Aizhan Torehozina
Andrew Yosim

Capstone team members

Erin Wallace
Katie Orndahl
Virginia Weir
Lillian Wu

Outline

- Defining Recreation
- Our Clients
- Why Recreation?
- Recreation in Beaufort County
- Project Goals
- Methods
- Data and Results
- Recommendations
- Future Work

Defining Recreation

- Activities done for enjoyment that involve the participant being active
- Group or individual activities
- Organized and not organized
- Wide range of intensities
- Public recreation area

Our Clients:

- Resourceful Communities works with economically and socially distressed communities in NC
- Beaufort County's local government is interested in recreation as a form of economic development

Why Recreation?

- Benefits of Outdoor Recreation
 - Lower stress level
 - Increased activity
 - Less exposure to pollution
- Barriers to Recreation
 - Distance
 - Fees
 - Time
 - Knowledge
 - Lack of access
 - Safety



<http://www.mprnews.org/story/2009/09/29/missriver>

Recreation in Beaufort County

- Open spaces
- Waterfront
- Parks
- Historic sites
- “No exercise” rate of 31.8%
- Lack of access to and use of recreation facilities in Beaufort County

Our Research Goals

- Identify existing recreational areas
- Examine current usage of recreational areas
- Identify barriers of utilizing these areas
- Propose ideas and recommendations

Methods

- Survey
 - Washington, Belhaven, Bath, Chocowinity, Aurora
 - Convenience sample
 - Most popular types/areas
 - Barriers
 - Desired development
 - Participant mapping exercise
- Key Informant Interviews—county workers, community leaders

Survey Instrument

Thank you for participating in this study, conducted by students from UNC-Chapel Hill and supervised by faculty. This study seeks to understand use of recreational areas by Beaufort County residents.



We're interested in how people like you use your free time, particularly if it involves active recreation.

All responses are anonymous. If you have questions, please feel free to email andrewewj@gmail.com

1) What do you do for recreation? (Examples might include walking, biking, fishing, swimming, playing sports, visiting museums, etc.)

2) On average, how much time **each week** do you spend doing these activities? **Circle one**

a) Less than 30 mins b) 30 mins to 2 hours c) 2 hours to 5 hours d) More than 5 hours

3) Which of the following have you used in the last year? **Circle all that apply.**

- a) Neighborhood or local parks, playgrounds, dog parks
 b) Regional or state parks
 c) Walking or hiking trails or greenways
 d) Bicycle lanes or trails
 e) Waterway/waterfront/water access
 f) Community gardens or botanical gardens
 g) Outdoor sports fields/courts
 h) Indoor gym
 i) Community buildings/churches (outside of worship)
 j) None of the above
 k) Other (please specify) _____

4) Which of the following did you visit in the last year? **Circle all that apply**

- a) Goose Creek State Park
 b) Beaufort County Community Garden
 c) Beaufort County Waterfront
 d) Historic downtown Washington
 e) Aurora Fossil Museum
 f) Pantego Academy Historical Museum
 g) Beaufort County Arts Council
 h) Belhaven Memorial Museum
 i) North Carolina Estuarium
 j) Bath State Historic Site
 k) Other—please specify _____

5) How do you get to recreational areas? **Circle all that apply**

- a) Personal car
 b) Someone gives me a ride
 c) Public transport
 d) Walking or biking
 e) Other (please specify) _____
 f) I do not visit recreational areas

6) Which of the following would you like to see developed in Beaufort Co? **Please check up to 3**

- a) Parks _____
 b) Trails/greenways _____
 c) Bike lanes _____
 d) Waterway/waterfront access _____
 e) Community or botanical gardens _____
 f) Outdoor sports fields/courts _____
 g) Indoor gyms _____
 h) Community buildings/churches _____
 i) Other (please specify) _____

7) To what extent do the following factors limit your recreation? *Not at all* *Somewhat* *A lot*

a) Lack of info/knowledge of existing recreational areas			
b) Lack of interest			
c) Personal safety concerns			
d) Lack of time			
e) Cost			
f) Lack of access due to transportation			
g) Distance			

8) Have you ever had an experience in a public recreation area that made you feel uncomfortable? If so, please explain _____

9) What, if anything, would improve your experience in a recreational area?

10) How many of the following does your household own?

Car/Truck _____	Motorcycle/moped _____
Boat _____	RV _____
Bicycle _____	Other, please specify _____

11) If public transportation were available, would you use it to travel to recreation areas? **Circle one**

Very Unlikely Unlikely Somewhat Likely Likely Very Likely

12) What is the age of each member in your household?

Self _____ years old	Person 5 _____ years old
Person 2 _____ years old	Person 6 _____ years old
Person 3 _____ years old	Person 7 _____ years old
Person 4 _____ years old	Person 8 _____ years old

13) Please name a road intersection close to your house:

_____ and _____

14) What is your race? **Circle all that apply**

African-American	Asian	White
American Indian	Hispanic	Other

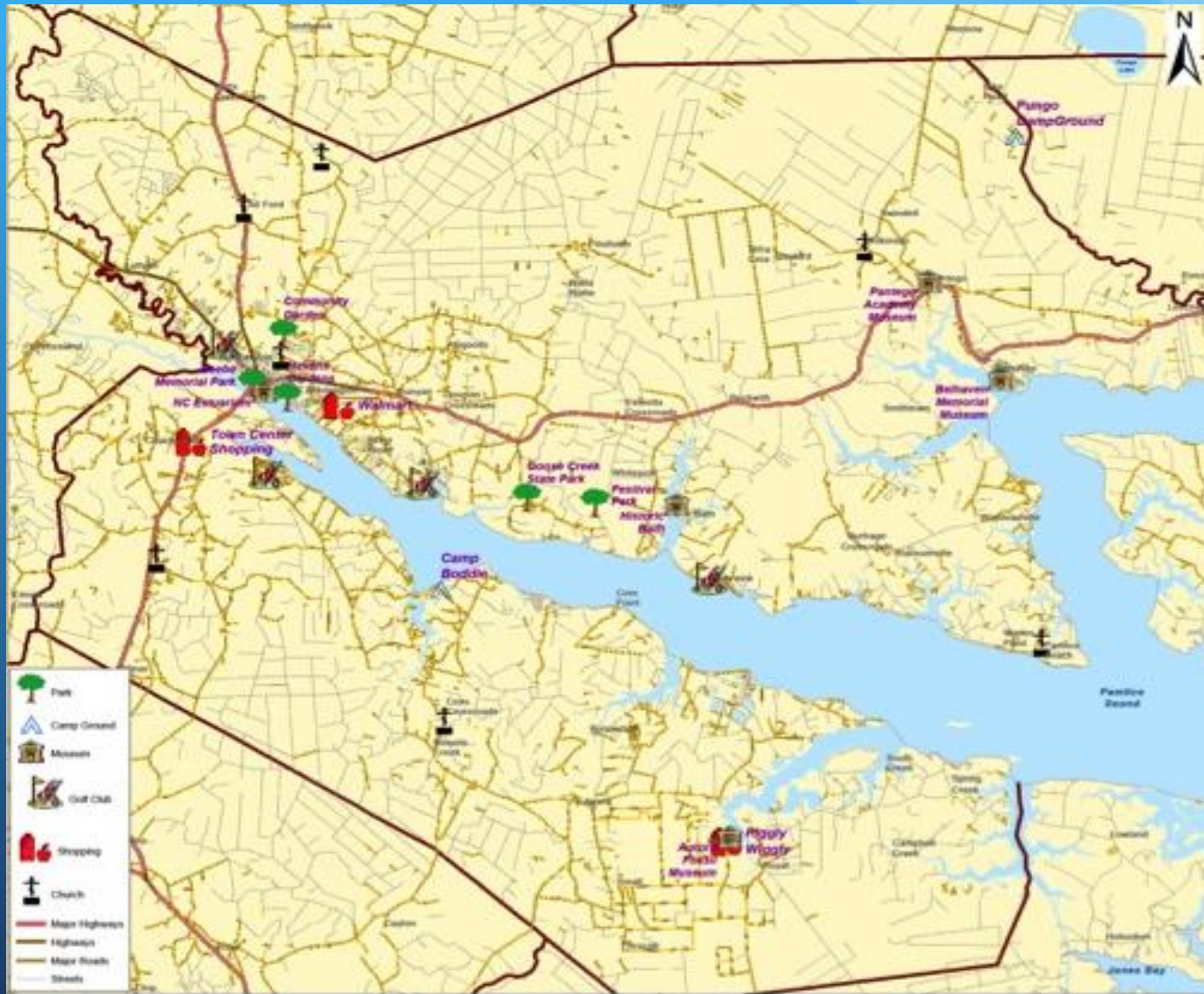
15) What is your gender? Male _____ Female _____

16) Are there any additional comments or concerns that you would like to share?

17) Would you indicate on this map any areas you and your family use for active recreation?

THANK YOU! We appreciate your time and interest

Inventory of Recreational Spaces



Data and Results: Demographics

- 95 survey respondents
- 84% identified as Caucasian,
4% African American
- Most respondents between 40-50
- Female : Male = 2:1

Survey Findings

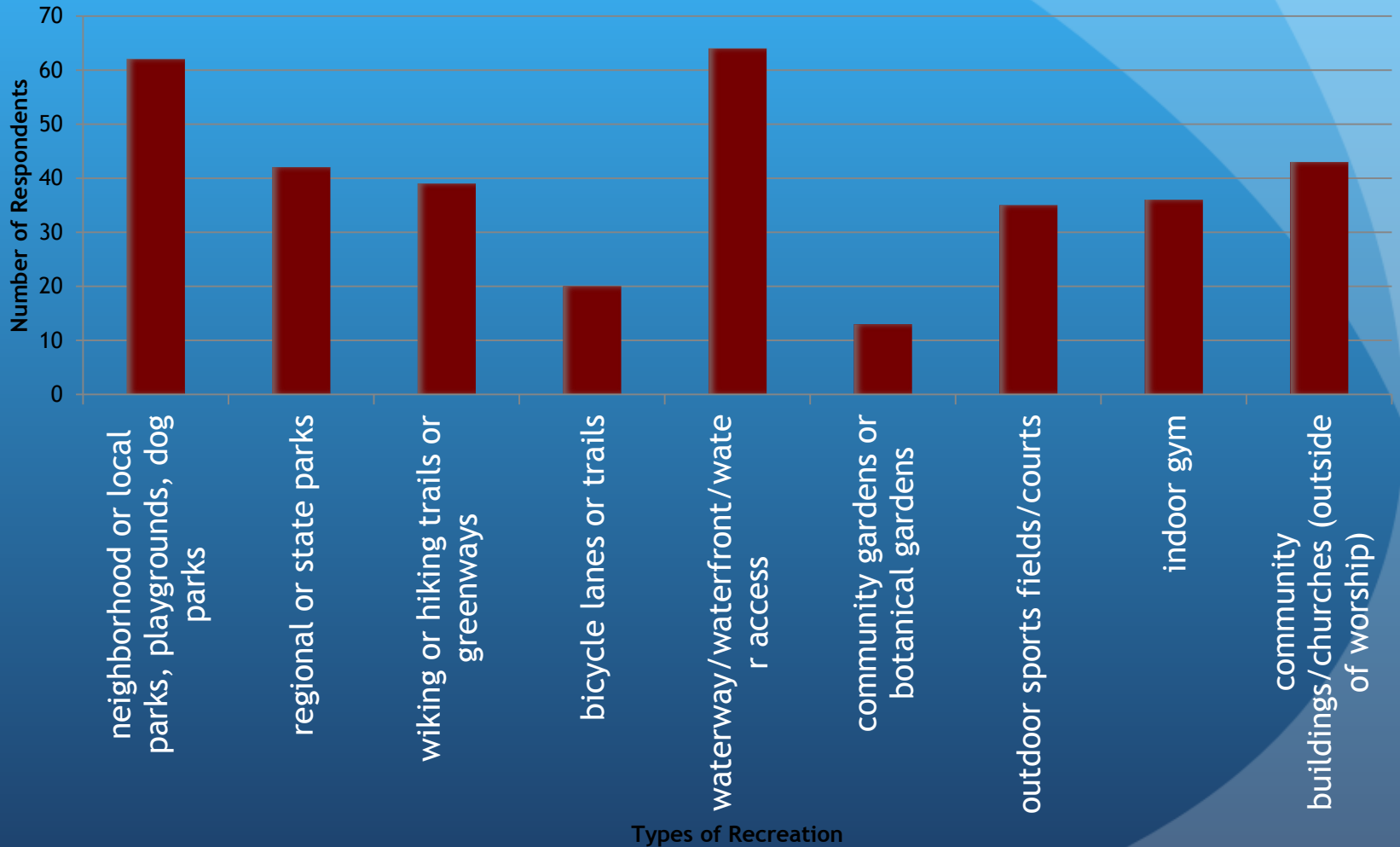
- Waterways/water front
 - 70% use waterways
 - 79% visited waterfront
 - 48% want development
- Parks
 - 67% used
 - 52% want development
- Bike lanes/trails
 - 40% want development
 - Many write-ins



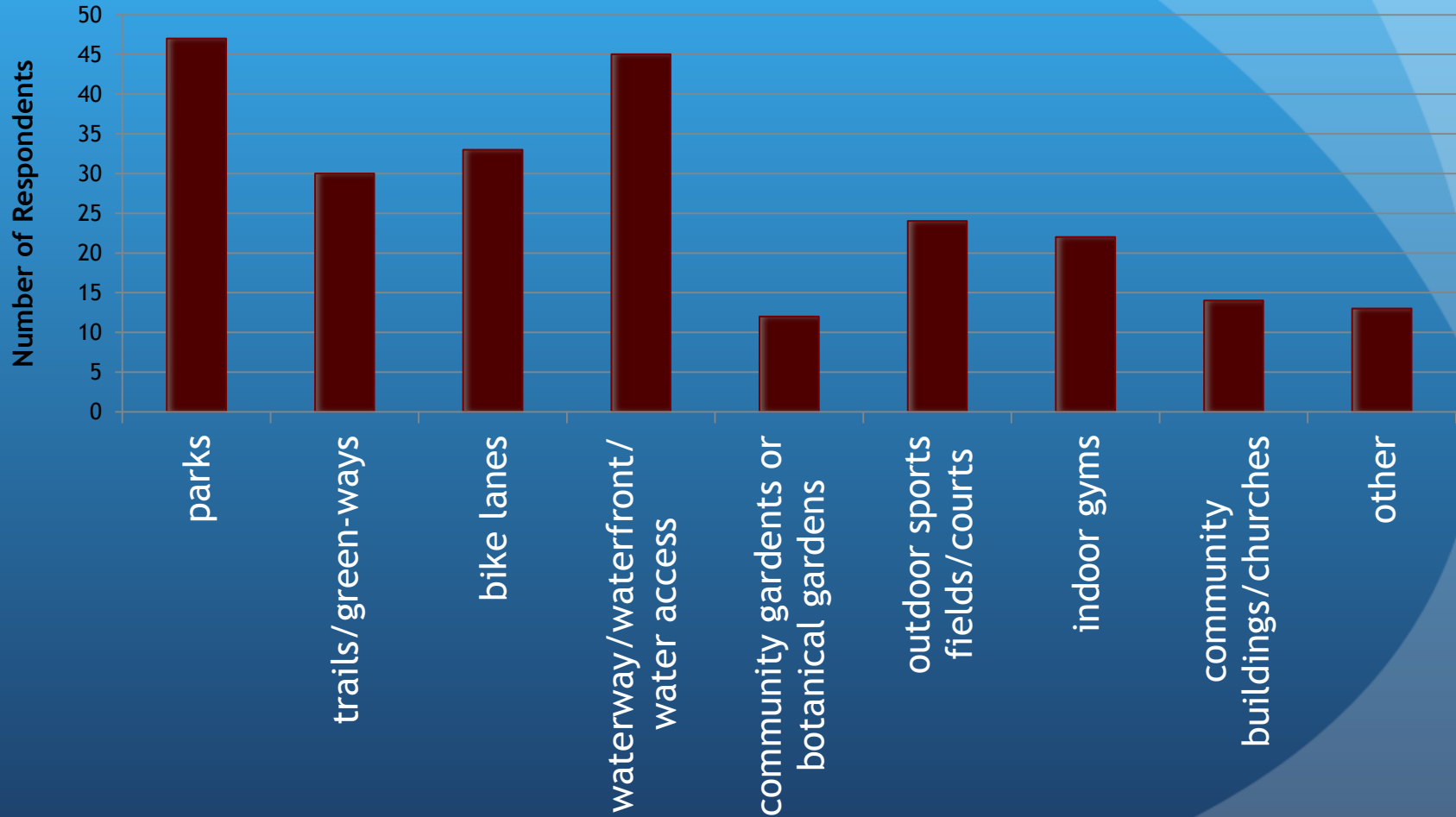
Photos from:

http://www.therichcompany.com/area_photos.asp, <http://kbr.org/content/beaufort-county>,
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goose_Creek_State_Park

Recreational Use in the Past Year



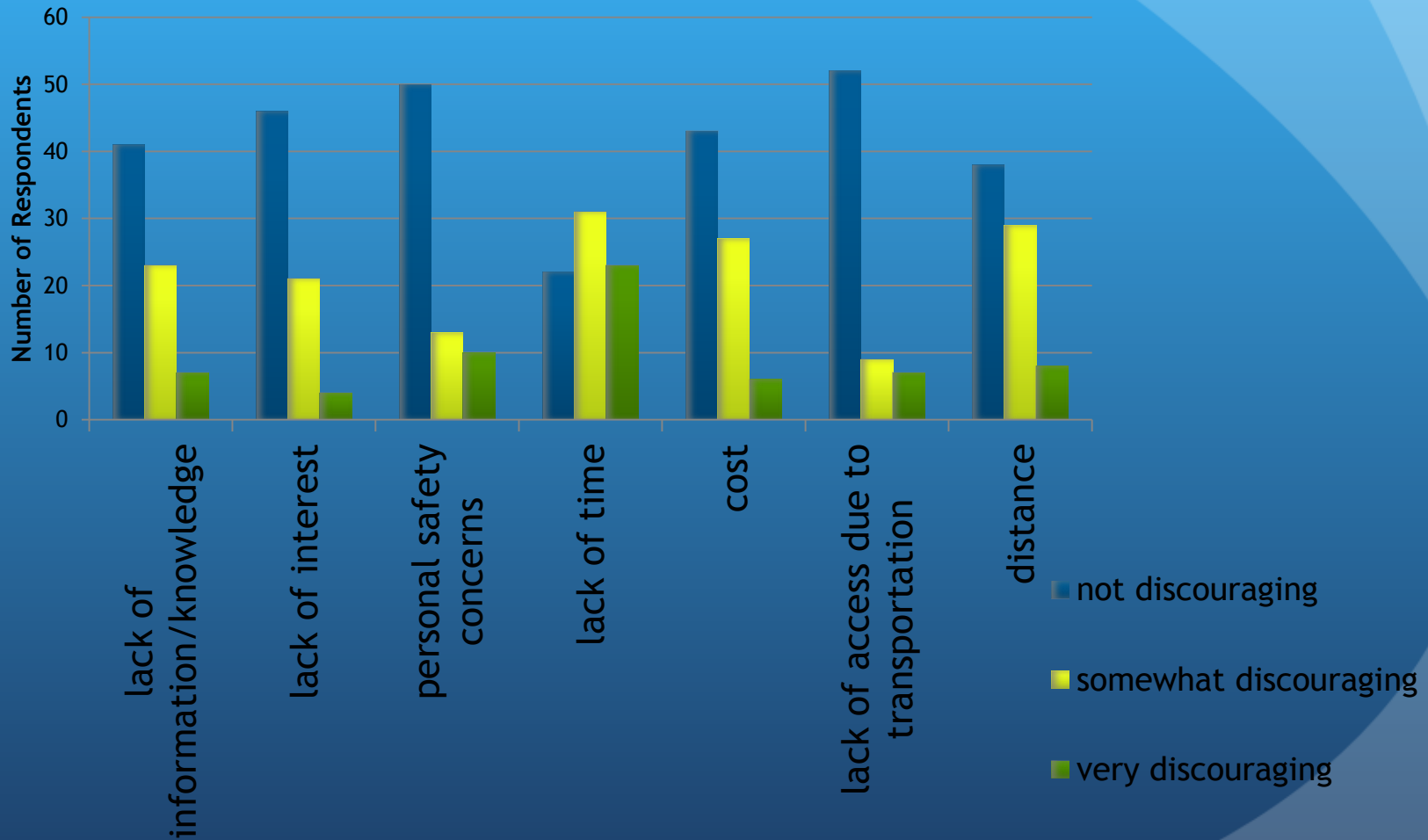
Desired Developments in County



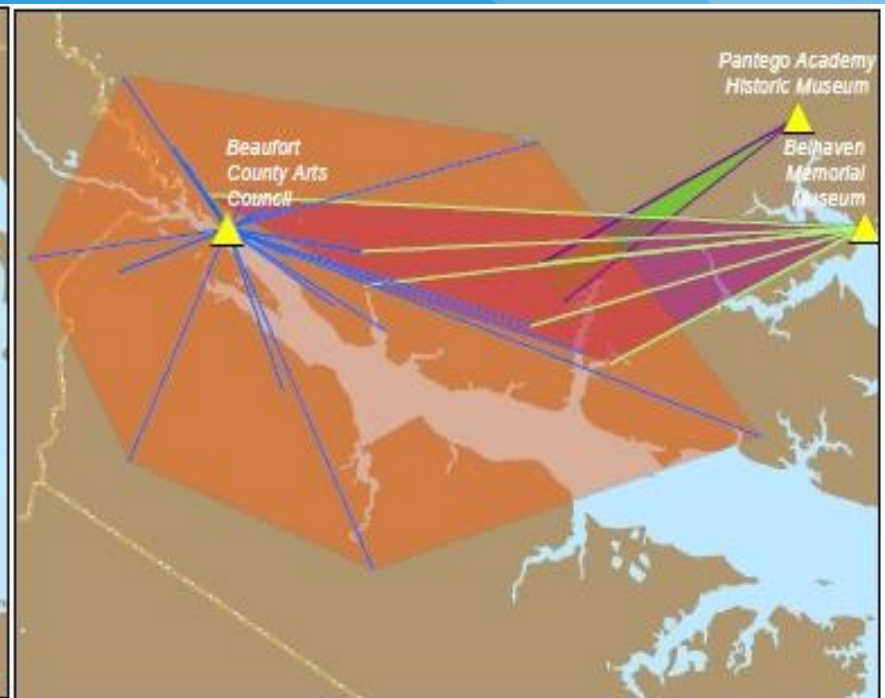
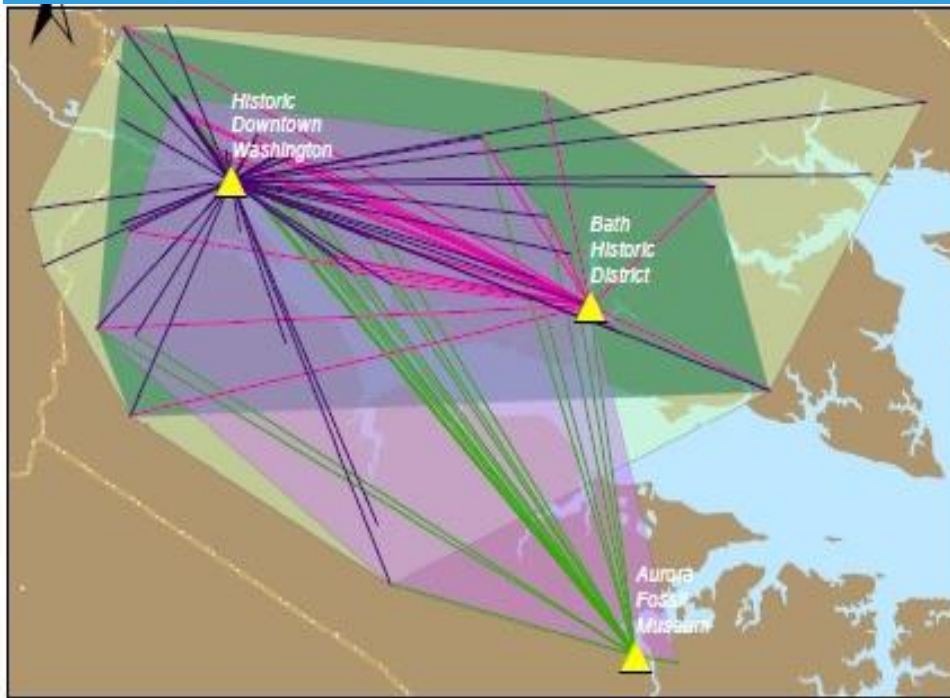
Survey Findings

- 95% used cars for transportation, 26% walked or biked
- 30% 'very unlikely' to use public transportation
- Barriers:
 - Lack of time
 - Safety concerns
 - Distance
 - Cost
 - Lack of knowledge

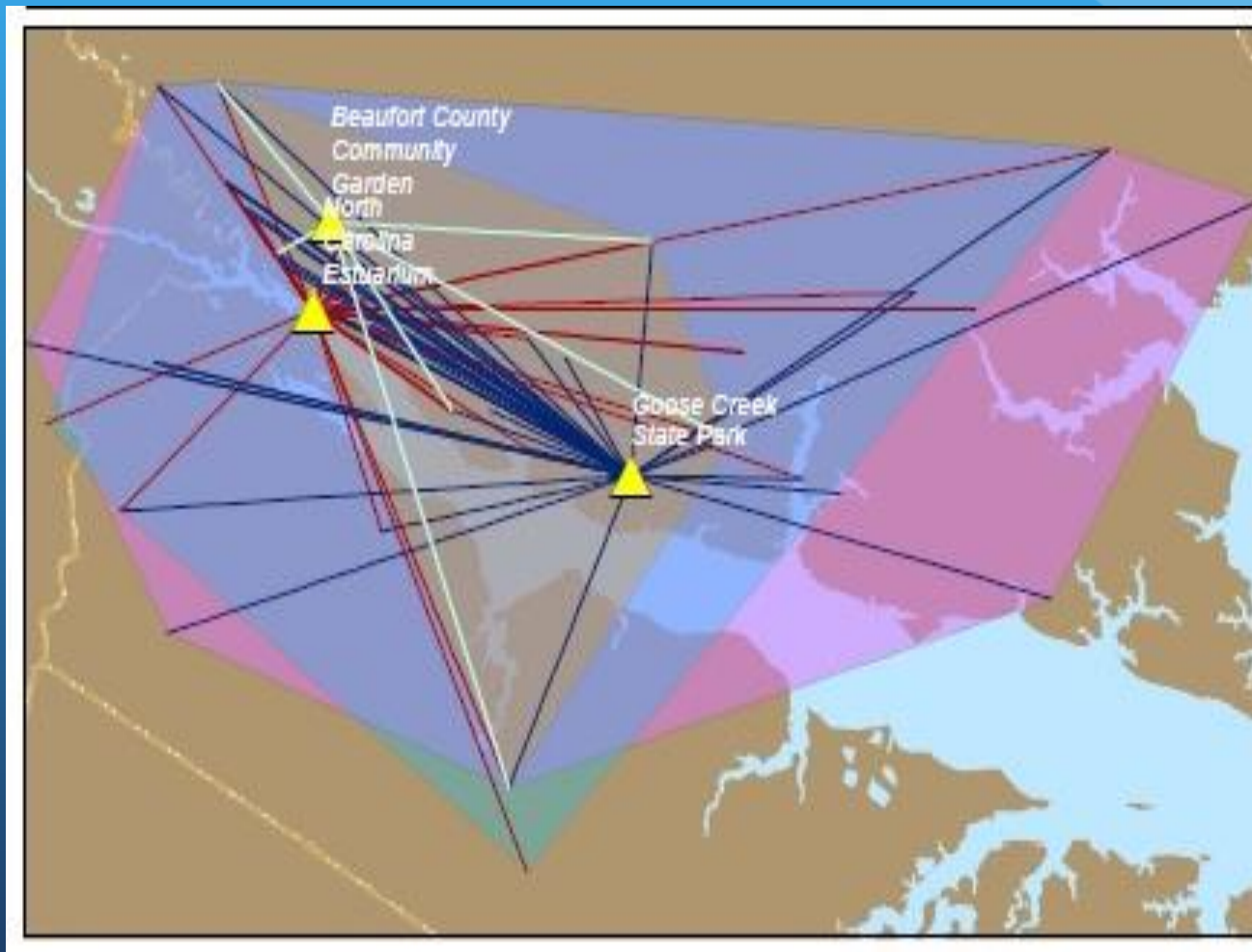
Factors that Limit Recreation



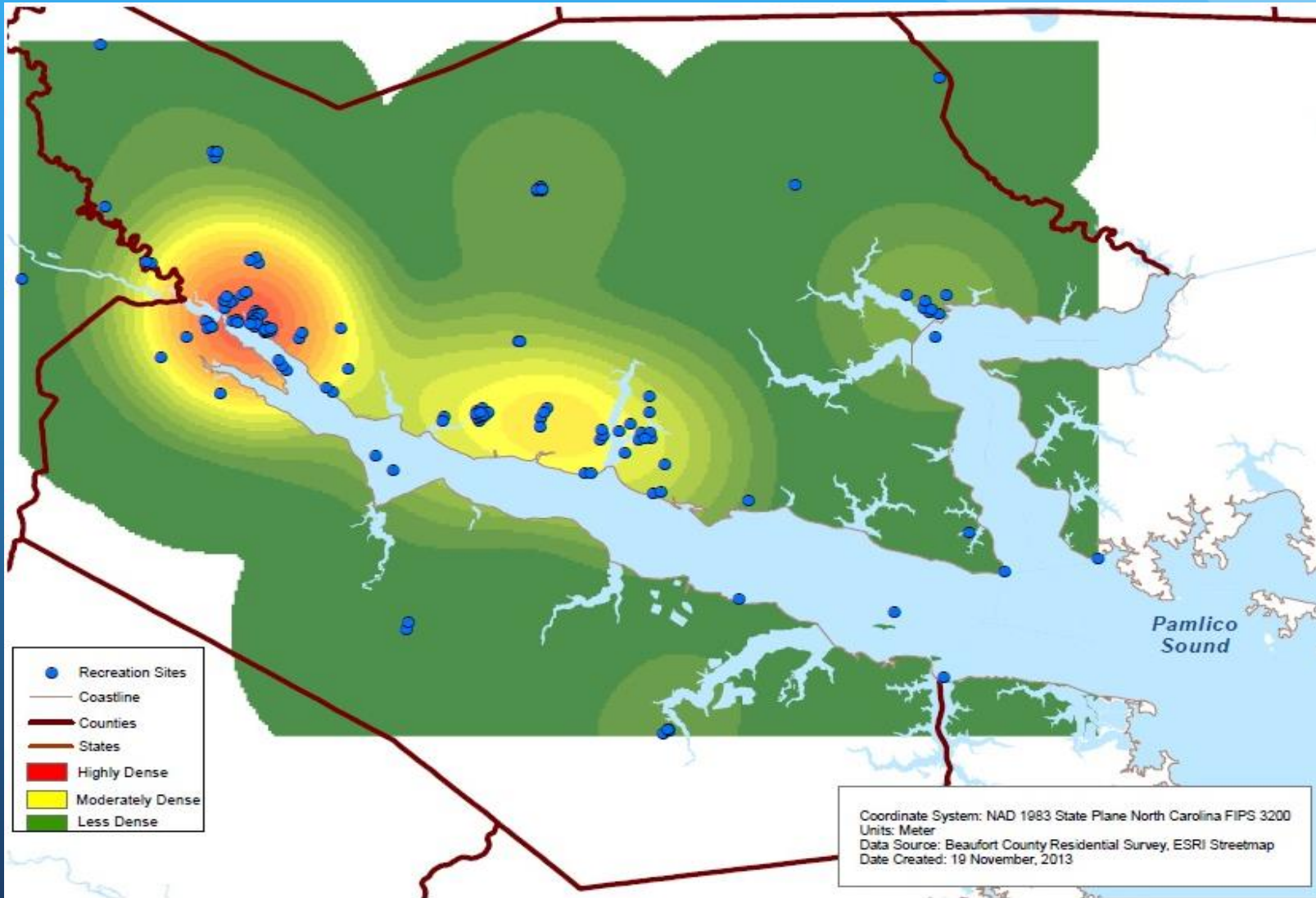
Recreation Travelsheds



Recreation Travelsheds



Heat Map of Recreation Sites



Disadvantaged Populations



Key Informant Results

- Pinetown and Pantego have limited to no recreation
- Waterway access considered important and popular
- Beach closing
- Only Washington has a recreation department

Key Findings

- Most Popular: parks, **waterfront**, bike lanes/paths
- Main Barriers: time, safety, **distance**, **cost**, **knowledge**
- High travel times to recreation
- Most disadvantaged: around Washington, Belhaven, Chocowinity
- High population density: Washington, Belhaven
- Lack of county level coordination

Recommendations

- Information dissemination (info boards)
- Waterfront access
- County-wide recreation group
- Development of recreation around Belhaven, Chocowinity, Pinetown, and Pantego



Future Work

- Random survey
- Representative sample
- Parcel level data
- Private spaces

Thank you!

- **Resourceful Communities**
 - Margaret Conrad
 - Monica McCann
- **Beaufort County**
 - Robert Heuts
 - Lynn Lewis
 - Catherine Glover
- **Advisors**
 - Elizabeth Shay
 - Susan Caplow