Recreation in Beaufort County: Current Usage & Existing Barriers

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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

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 andrewey@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) Bath State Historic Site
   f) Aurora Fossil Museum
   g) Pangeo Academy Historical Museum
   h) 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

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
   Self ______ years old  Person 1 ______ 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 Hispanic ______ White ______
   American Indian ______ 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Recreation</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood or local parks, playgrounds, dog parks</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional or state parks</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiking or hiking trails or greenways</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle lanes or trails</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterway/waterfront/water access</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community gardens or botanical gardens</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor sports fields/courts</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor gym</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community buildings/churches (outside of worship)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** The chart above represents the number of respondents who used various recreational facilities in the past year.
Desired Developments in County

Number of Respondents

- Parks
- Trails/green-ways
- Bike lanes
- Waterway/waterfront/water access
- Community gardens or botanical gardens
- Outdoor sports fields/courts
- Indoor gyms
- Community buildings/churches
- Other
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

- Lack of information/knowledge
- Lack of interest
- Personal safety concerns
- Lack of time
- Cost
- Lack of access due to transportation
- Distance

Number of Respondents

Not discouraging
Somewhat discouraging
Very discouraging
Recreation Travelsheds
Recreation Travelsheds
Heat Map of Recreation Sites

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane North Carolina FIPS 3200
Units: Meter
Data Source: Beaufort County Residential Survey, ESRI Streetmap
Date Created: 19 November, 2013
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