A Study on the Motivations and Attractions of Visiting Bowling Green’s City Park

Jeffrey Blumenthal
Bowling Green State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/hmsls_mastersprojects

Repository Citation

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Human Movement, Sport, and Leisure Studies at ScholarWorks@BGSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Masters of Education in Human Movement, Sport, and Leisure Studies Graduate Projects by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@BGSU.
A STUDY ON THE MOTIVATIONS AND ATTRACTIONS
OF VISITING BOWLING GREEN’S CITY PARK

Jeffrey Blumenthal

Master’s Project Proposal

In

Leisure and Tourism

Date: 4/14/2017

Project Advisor
Dr. Bob Lee

Second Reader
Becky Liu
Abstract

Community Parks have been recognized as a great asset to serve local residents for their health promotion, recreation participation, family and friend socialization and quality of life improvement. The municipal park at Bowling Green, Ohio has such capacity to provide a variety of opportunities for the local community to engage in family oriented recreational activities. Activities/venues include golf, horseshoe, swimming pool, outdoor park equipment, skate-park, gazebos, basketball, baseball/softball and plenty of yard space for desired lawn games. This study intends to investigate what the factors are that serve as the key motivations and attractions that draw individuals who are over the age of eighteen to Bowling Green’s City Park. Nearly 100 interview questionnaires were distributed in March of 2017. Interviewees were asked to identify their motivation to visit the park and primary activities they participated in while at the City Park. Through data analysis, the study found that many individuals visit the park for the purpose of spending time with their family (family cohesiveness), clearing their mind (relaxation) and body of stressors (enhanced health), and to provide their children with activities and space to run around freely (fun-seeking) and to be exposed to outdoor recreation away from the television and video games. At the end, research implications and limitations were discussed as well.
Introduction

As our society lives through the 21st century, we often misconstrue the similarities and meanings behind recreation and leisure activities. According to Merriam-Webster, recreation is defined as “refreshment of strength and spirits after work” whereas leisure is defined as “freedom provided by cessation of activities; especially time free from work or duties.” As one can read, these two terms can very easily be used interchangeably as recreation can be leisure and leisure can be recreation, depending on how one chooses to spend their time.

It is important to take note of the two different types of existing leisure; casual and serious. Casual leisure are activities such as “eating, sightseeing, relaxing, and watching television” (Scott, pg. 368), whereas serious leisure is broken down into six characteristics; “participants identify strongly with their pursuits, persevere and overcome difficulties, have careers, evince effort and utilize specialized knowledge and skills, pursue their avocations within leisure social worlds, and experience durable benefits” (Scott, 2012). When diving deep into the aspects of city parks, many if not all would fall under the casual leisure category. One’s leisure time is a huge component in attraction to a city park, much like that of Bowling Green, Ohio. Clarifying the types of leisure are essential as that is where most of a participant’s attraction to a park would stem from.

Seeing how though in this day in age most children rely on the use of technology and video games for their leisure pleasure, because of that parks, playgrounds and green spaces have
become much less relevant. Refshauge, Stigsdotter, Cosco (2012) of *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* states that “there is a growing concern about the increasing restriction of children’s independent access to outdoor play spaces, such as local parks, and the decrease of children’s outdoor play, especially in natural environments” which goes to show there is underlying motivation from adults to bring their kids to a park to participate in outdoor recreation and leisure activities. In the end, the question to be answered here are what are the motivations and attractions that draw people over the age of eighteen years old to attend Bowling Green’s City Park

**Literature Review**

*Family Cohesiveness*

Recreation and leisure activities are a great way for families to get together and enjoy their time together. What exactly does family recreation mean? According to Lee et al (2007), family recreation refers to the family participating in leisure activities together (Horning, 2005). A lot of families choose to spend their time together in front of a T.V. or around the dinner table only without taking the time to actually go out and enjoy the outdoors together and experience what outdoor recreation has to offer. According to West (2009), of the *Journal of Leisure Research*, outdoor recreation produces many kinds of highly valued social effects. Cohesiveness is used in multiple ways such as solidarity, morale, bonds of intimacy, and group unity (West & Merriam, 2009). Outdoor recreation enhances the bond between family members, being able to
be out in nature to enjoy time together away from work and stress related activities really enhances and strengthens the family ties. In order to improve communication throughout the recreating group, the *Journal of Leisure Research* provided six characteristics as outlined below:

1) Outdoor recreation is usually a part of a larger trip including planning, travel, and recollection—all of which provide occasions for reinforcing the bonds of intimacy. (Clawson and Knetsch 1963; Stone 1965 as cited in West & Merriam, 2009).

2) Outdoor recreation is often associated with a group struggle against the environment that induces a strong "we" feeling in the group. Stone has termed this the "Combat Metaphor" (Stone 1965, as cited in West & Merriam, 2009).

3) Outdoor recreation often isolates the group from its normal social world. This isolation may tend to intensify interaction (West & Merriam, 2009).

4) Outdoor recreation has norms of interaction which often call for spontaneity of interaction and the breakdown of normal social reserves (Neumeyer and Neumeyer 1958, as cited in West & Merriam, 2009).

5) Ritualization often occurs in outdoor recreation activities which can increase solidarity (Bossard & Boll, 1963 as cited in West & Merriam, 2009).

6) Families tend to turn to outdoor activities almost more than to any other type of activity when the whole family participates together (Nye 1958, Johannis 1958, West 1968 as cited in West and Merriam, 2009).
It is extremely essential to take into account the importance of family life satisfaction. Some factors that have been correlated with family life satisfaction are common goals and values among family members and good mental health (Sears, 1977 as cited in Agate, Zabriskie, Agate, Poff, 2009). What then is the importance of family leisure? It provides opportunities for families to bond with each other, problem solve, and strengthen their relationships (Agate, et al, 2009). The act of getting away from our stressors in life to spend time with those closest to us have a positive effect on family relationships and cohesiveness overall. According to Agate et al (2009), recent research has identified family benefits related to family leisure. Such benefits include increased communication skills, problem solving efficacy, development of life skills and social skills, and satisfaction with family life. All of the provided characteristics contribute to an overall benefit in the bond of a family. There is a positive correlation between stronger families and a stronger society, meaning that the stronger the family is, the stronger the society. According to Agate et al (2009), it is necessary that society provides avenues through which the family unit can be strengthened and supported, in this case that avenue is a source of outdoor recreation specifically city parks. Agate et al (2009) quotes Shaw & Dawson (2001), “family leisure is often purposive in nature, and parents consciously and deliberately plan and facilitate family leisure activities to improve family relationships,” this goes to show that families who spend quality time together away from the stresses of everyday life in an outdoor setting greatly benefit from it and families tend to do so quite often. There are numerous characteristics that are enhanced by outdoor recreation, “parents and adolescents who participated in challenging outdoor recreation together experienced increases in interaction, elevated levels of trust and support, improved communication, and increased affection and kindness” (Huff et al., 2003 as cited in
As outlined above, there are many characteristics and benefits for families participating in outdoor recreation such as increased communication skills, trust, support, affection, and kindness.

After exploring family cohesiveness on a larger level, there are factors to take into account when dealing with the youth-under the age of sixteen. Burns, Graefe, Lee (2006) state that family recreation is an effective channel in the development of family customs and promotion of healthy youth development. Family recreation not only strengthens family bonds and encourages family cohesion but also consolidates family values and traditions, which youth can carry for life. (Lee et al., 2006). Being able to expose youth to outdoor recreation and leisure activities only benefits them and the bond they have with their family long-term. What these activities do for individuals is “incorporate leisure activities that not only develop skills and require physical movement beneficial to health, but also teach perseverance, teamwork, and cooperation among family members (Smith 1997 as cited in Lee et al., 2006). Such activities also do a lot for the individuals with disabilities and also children with disabilities. Families participated in a wilderness program where they faced three challenges; hiking, building shelter and camping/cooking which took place over a four day period. What was found was that families worked through conflicts and their ability to complete each phase increased over the time of the program (Lee et al., 2006). In regards to individuals with disabilities, outdoor family recreation serves as a great outlet for them as well. It can help “build family unity, satisfaction, and members’ physical and mental health” (Mactavish & Schleien 1998 as cited in Lee et al., 2006). A study conducted in 2003 by School et al., studied twenty-four families with at least one child with a disability. They
were a part of a four-day outdoor skill training program which included canoeing, kayaking, dog sledding, and camping. The results showed an increase in family satisfaction and cohesion with a decrease in perceived constraints that prohibited whole-family recreation (Lee et al, 2006). As you can determine, all of the outcomes of participating in outdoor family recreation have been nothing but positive.

**Improved Health via Outdoor and Family Based Nature Activities**

It has been discussed that outdoor recreation enhances family cohesiveness, it also promotes an increase in ones’ health whether it be physically, mentally, socially or emotionally. Individuals’ engagement with the natural environment can impact aspects of health: physical, psychological, and social (Izenstark, Oswald, Holman, Mendez, Greder, 2016). Mothers described a desire to keep their family healthy by engaging in family based nature activities that predominately included walking outside, going to parks, and ritualized family experiences in nature (Izenstark et al., 2016). It is vital to take into account the financial stabilization of the family as that has an effect on what they are capable of doing. Mothers said that “walking in nature was the predominant activity as it is something the family can do as a whole regardless of the child’s age or the family’s financial constraints” (Izenstark et al., 2016). Walking often takes place at a park, school track or farm roads. The “how” always has a “why.” In this case, mothers do so to be a positive role model, “Hannah from California described how she and her husband struggled with weight loss growing up and were concerned about their child struggling the same way” (Izenstark et al., 2016). In addition, it limits the amount of television a child is exposed to, parents would much rather have their children outside running around and being
According to Izenstart et al., when talking about promoting a healthy development, mothers described the importance of getting their children outside and being active to enhance healthy lifestyles and child development while giving the children an outlet to work off extra energy.

Quality of life is enhanced when you add parks and recreation into the equation. Quality of life is defined as the “good that is present in a person’s life” (Szali, 1980 as cited in Bricker, Hendricks & Aschenbrenner, 2016). There is a positive and direct correlation between participation in recreation and physical health, individuals who are physically active are less likely to be overweight or obese (Blaire & Brodney, 1999 as cited in Hendricks et al., 2016). Those individuals who are active have less chance of decreased life expectancy as a result of chronic diseases like diabetes, cardiac issues and different forms of cancer. According to Williams (2007) as cited in Hendricks et al., (2016), recreational opportunities and positive environmental attributes are related to physical activity levels and outdoor recreation participants are more likely to be active if they are surrounded by an aesthetic setting. In terms of psychological factors and benefits, mood, concentration, attention and memory are all positively impacted by exposure to nature (Bratman, Hamilton and Daily, 2012 as cited in Hendricks et al., 2016). Moreover, there is a positive relationship to decreased anxiety, depression and perceived stress.
**Motivations and Attractions, Benefits Behind Visiting**

Every decision that we make as an individual has some type of outcome/benefit whether it be positive or negative. Benefits are viewed as driving decision about individual choices and behaviors, and it is the notion of providing opportunities for people and society to receive benefits from recreation and leisure engagement (Brown, 2016). The types of benefits that came from our engagement in recreation and leisure activities are “physical and mental health, rejuvenation of the mind and body, learning about people and places and bonding with family and friends along with health, economic and community building (Brown, 2016). There are always factors that influence the type and amount of use that a park receives such as park design and park quality in addition to the environment that the park is in (Banda, Wilcox, Colabianchi, Hooker, Kaczynski, & Hussey, 2014). In addition to those characteristics listed previously, individuals often rely on park size and available park resources. One is more likely to visit a park if it is convenient to them and offers the services that they are looking for, if they don’t see it as a use to them, chances are they will not visit that location (park demographics). As of late, it is becoming a concern that children do not have the available resources to be physically active outdoors. Generations ago children were outside everyday both because it was a natural thing to do but also because it was necessary due to lack of space in the home (Refshauge, Stigsdotter, & Cosco, 2012). As of today, children have access to much more indoor spaces and there is a fear of parents for having their children play outside such as strangers, gangs and traffic accidents. Enabling children to visit playgrounds and parks on a regular basis is important as it has many benefits such as improved cognitive, social and emotional wellbeing (Refshauge et al., 2012). Additionally, there is motivation to get kids out to a park because it lowers children’s stress.
levels and creates a positive cycle meaning when children grow older they will do the same to bring their families to parks and green spaces. As mentioned above, parents have a fear of sending their children to play outdoors due to criminal activity such as gangs and strangers but also fear of injury so that raises the questions of how do parents then decide where to send their kids for them to be physically active outside? Parents rely on activities available and unique pieces of equipment, renovated, safety, social interaction, and experience of nature/peacefulness as important characteristics (Refshauge et al., 2012). Also, motivation for parents to visit parks lies within being able to be with their family and children while their children have the opportunity to be physically active. As you can see, all three topics hit on in this review of literature come full circle. Family cohesiveness and health benefits both contribute to motivations, attractions and benefits of visiting.

**Methods**

The data was collected in March of 2017 out at the Bowling Green City Park and also around the community that consists of roughly 30,000 community members and 19,500 students via 73 surveys that consisted of seventeen questions, some of which were open ended and some were closed-response. Those questions that were closed-response were answered via a numerical scale, 1 represented “not important” and 5 represented “extremely important.” Within the survey, questions were asked to gather demographics, characteristics of visitation, motivations to attend, activities participated in and also their overall satisfaction of the park and their visit. Each respondent was asked to indicate their motivation(s) to visit the park, such as “to get away from routine life” or “to let my kids play outside, etc.” These were measured via the
5-point scale mentioned above. Visitation characteristics and demographics were measured with a single item selection from multiple lists (i.e. for group make up, respondent was asked to indicate whether they come to the park ___alone, ___with family, ___with friends, etc. while demographics were asked via age 18-20___, 21-30___, highest level of education, less than high school___, high school graduate ___, some college__ etc.). Finally, an open-ended question was asked to determine any suggestions a visitor may have to enhance their experience at Bowling Green’s City Park (pictures 3.1, 3.2).

All participants answered 100% of the questions without backing out at any given time. Participants were approached in such a manner where they were told the purpose of me approaching them followed by an explanation of the type of study I was conducting. Out of the 73 participants, 39.7% were male and 60.3% were female with the majority of the participants being between the ages of 18 and 40 years old. Once data was collected via the 73 survey questionnaires, it was then inserted into SPSS 13.0 statistical software. The closed response questions were analyzed using analysis that were both descriptive and inferential such as (improve landscape, add more drinking fountains, more trash cans, update basketball courts). Once data was inserted into SPSS, frequency tests were ran to determine averages and percentages. All surveys were coded using a numerical scale to differentiate responses.
Results

Results were distinguished by looking at four different groupings: demographics and visitor characteristics, activities participated in, motivation to attend, and lastly the visitor’s overall satisfaction and suggestions for Bowling Green’s City Park (pictures provided for suggestions. Primary park users were female at 60.3% with males sitting at 39.7%. Out of the 73 respondents, an overwhelming 79.5% fell within the age range of 18-40 years old with 75.3% of them being residents of Bowling Green, Ohio which allows the conclusion to be drawn that the primary park users consisted of young females who are residents of Bowling Green. Taking the demographics of the respondents one step further, educational background was taken into consideration as well. A whopping 39.7% of respondents have completed some amount of college while 19.2% of respondents possess a bachelor degree, 15.1% are a high school graduate, 12.3% attain a master degree, 8.2% an associate degree and lastly 5.2% have a doctoral degree. In addition, visitor characteristics were measured by visitor frequency, composition of the group and duration of visit. Most visitors attend the park almost every day as represented by the 30.1% of respondents, 21.9% of users attend the park 4-6 times a week while 20.5% of users attend the park twice a month, making up the top three frequency groups. Out of the 73 respondents, the majority of users attended the park with their friends at 41.1%, family and friends at 26%, 16.4% with family, which allows us to draw the conclusion that the young population that use the park the most attends for reasons to be with their friends and family. Duration of visit was overwhelmingly between 1-2 hours at 68.5% followed by 2-4 hours at 16.4% and 15.1% at less than an hour.
Table 1.1 Visitor Demographics (N=73)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>60.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-40</td>
<td>79.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-70</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resident</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>75.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Degree</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor Degree</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master degree</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral degree</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1.2 Composition of Visitor Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Composition</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alone</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>41.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family And friends</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organized group</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When looking at the second group of results, activity participation while at the park was offered by giving various different activities such as watching my kids play, walking or hiking.
relaxation, sports, picnicking, socialization, running or jogging, bird watching or walking the dog. Respondents were asked to pick all activities that applied to them by checking the box, results were measured in a yes or no format which is depicted by graph 2.1 below.

Graph 2.3
Motivation to attend was one of the biggest measures of this study. Multiple different characteristics were offered and averages were taken of those characteristics as shown in graph 2.4. Those characteristics included being outdoors, relaxation, escaping the routine of life, letting kids be outside, family recreation, physical exercise, being with friends, challenge of sport and lastly developing skills. Just about 4.5% of respondents’ reason/motivation to attend the park was due to wanting to be outdoors with their friends and family which feeds into socialization with others.

Graph 2.4
As presented in the results above, primary users of the park are young females who make up the majority of the users. The reason why so many respondents feel between the ages of 18 and 40 years old is due to the population and demographical breakdown of Bowling Green. Bowling Green, Ohio is a college town that is strongly made up of young adults who are in their college years. The results show that many young families populate Bowling Green and use the park quite frequently as 30.1% of users attend the park daily with 68.5% of users attending for at least 2 hours. Lastly, attendees satisfaction of the park was nothing but positive. On a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being “not satisfied at all” and 10 being “extremely satisfied,” 30.1% of respondents answered with a response of 8 which goes to show that the community and the users of the park are very happy with what it has to offer. When users were asked for suggestions to improve the park, many answered with “no response” while many others answered with suggestions such as improving landscape (picture 3.1), adding more drinking fountains, updating the basketball courts and park equipment (picture 3.2) and lastly unlocking the bathrooms year round (they were locked in March of 2017). Overall, after analyzing the data, the study found that many individuals visit the park for the purpose of spending time with their family, clearing their mind and body of stressors, and to provide their children with activities and space to run around freely (fun-seeking) while being exposed to outdoor recreation away from the television and video games.
The picture above is taken from the park entrance and is where most of the greenspace is in the park. As one can see, the grass does not look well-groomed and flowers, plants and other landscape scenery is lacking. With this being the park entrance, it is the first part of the park visitors see on their way in and the last thing on their way out. The town of Bowling Green in the opinion of many should spruce up this area with items that would catch the eye, bright colors and pretty landscape.
Picture 3.2 gives a distant view capturing the park equipment for kids. Most parents suggested that this equipment be updated. When up close, this equipment looks like it has been around for quite some time. It didn’t have anything to do with safety per say but rather it is outdated. A lot of the parents surveyed who said that their kids have attended the park a lot when younger also said that a lot of the park has been the same over many of years without updates. Members would like to see some changes and updates made to the overall look of the park.
Discussion

The purpose of this study was to look at the motivation and attractions that draw individuals over the age of eighteen to Bowling Green’s City Park. The results were exactly what were anticipated. Although many individuals participated and many respondents have different perspectives as to why they attend the park, there were many similarities that hold true that are also backed by the literature provided. Respondents elected to spend time at Bowling Green’s City Park for reasons that have much to do with family recreation, relaxation and also letting their kids enjoy the outdoors. Spending quality time with your family has nothing but positive effects on them. Such effects include increased communication skills, problem solving, increased life skills and social skills and lastly overall increased satisfaction with family life (Agate et al, 2009).

Additionally, outdoor recreation allows for improved health in many ways, key aspects include physically, mentally, socially and emotionally. As stated by the Journal of Leisure Research, Individuals’ engagement with the natural environment can impact aspects of health: physical, psychological, and social (Izenstark, Oswald, Holman, Mendez, Greder, 2016). This study determined that 41.1% of individuals visited the park along with friends (socially), while 69.9% of visitors came to relax and to clear their mind (mentally/emotionally), and 54.8% said they attend for sports/physical activity (physically). Hendricks et al (2016) cited Bratman et al. 2012) by saying we as people are impacted psychologically in a handful of different ways including mood, concentration, attention and memory. All characteristics are enhanced when we are exposed to nature and participate in outdoor recreation activities.
**Limitations and Implications**

There were a handful of limitations and implications that were apparent in this study. Starting with limitations, the weather did not always cooperate with me. With this study completed primarily out at the park, I needed there to be weather well enough where people attend the park. It took me roughly two weeks to get all 73 surveys completed. In addition, the park population was mostly made up of teenagers under the age of 18 which caused the process to take longer with having to search for individuals old enough to participate. Bowling Green is a relatively small town so the park is on the complete other part of town for some members, individuals may also attend Carter Park which is another park in town. Bowling Green’s City Park has an outdoor water park as well, with it being March, the water park was not open which decreased its users and available people to survey. Lastly, a lot of respondents who were parents whose kids attended the park a lot more often when they were younger leading parents to ask the question “Do I answer in terms of back when my kids were younger or present day?” They were told present day. Every study has some sort of implications, in this one it can be implied that most attendees visited to relax, escape their daily routine, and to be in a setting to socialize with their friends. This park is a great place to recreate with many different activities such as basketball, golf, swim, baseball, softball etc. allowing for there to be something to do for many different people. Lastly this park is very important to its users. As mentioned before, parents mentioned their kids came to the park a lot when they were little and continue to do so today. With that being said, families and individuals have some level of attachment to this park. This study showed that 97.3% of people would recommend this park to a friend and 49.3% said that this park was “important” to this them.
Conclusion

In conclusion, this study investigated the various types of motivations and attractions that draw people over 18 years old to the city park. The conclusion was made that the demographics of the users were made up of mostly females, individuals in between the ages of 18-40 who were there to recreate with their friends and family for reasons of relaxation, improving family bonds, socialization, enhancing health, and being outdoors. Some considerations for a future study would be to conduct this with a longitudinal approach. Being able to survey the users over an extended period of time would allow me to see if the users change or if activity participation and motivations begins to differ. Also, I would survey from “the other side” meaning I would like to find out more of why people do not attend the park and look at it from that side. By conducting this study, I now know what the reasons are behind why people attend Bowling Green’s City Park.
References


Lee, B. D. A study of family recreation in a community. *Journal of Sport and Leisure, 1*, 21-36


Appendix

BG’s City Park User Survey – 2017

1. How often do you visit to BG’s City Park?
   _____ every day, _____ 4-6 times/week, _____ 1-3 times/week, _____ less than 1 time/week
   _____ 2 times/month, _____ 1 time/month, _____ this is my first visit to BG City’s Park

2. When you visit BG’s City Park, on average, how long is your stay?
   _____ less than 1 hr  _____ 1-2 hrs  _____ 2-4 hrs

3. During which seasons do you typically visit BG’s City Park [check all that apply]
   _____ winter  _____ spring  _____ summer  _____ fall

4. Which of the following best describes the composition of your group? [check one]
   _____ Alone  _____ Family  _____ Friends  _____ Family & friends
   _____ Organized group (club or other organization) [please specify]
   ________________________________________________________________
   _____ Other [please specify] ______________________________________

5. In what activities on this list did you participate (or will you participate) during this recreation visit to
   BG’s City Park? [check all that apply]

   **Question 5 answers**
   - Watching my kid(s) play
   - Walking or Hiking
   - Relaxation
   - Sports
   - Picnicking
   - Socialization
   - Running or jogging
   - Bird watching
   - Walking my dog
   - Other (specify ________________________________)

6. Here is a list of possible reasons why people might choose to visit BG’s City Park. Please tell us how
   important each item is to you as a reason for going to BG’s City Park.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REASON</th>
<th>Not at all Important</th>
<th>Somewhat Important</th>
<th>Moderately Important</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Extremely Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To be outdoors</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For relaxation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To get away from the routine life</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To let kid(s) being outdoors  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5
For family recreation       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5
For physical exercise       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5
To be with my friends       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5
For the challenge or sport  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5
To develop my skills        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5
Other                        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5
(specify____________________)

7. Which of the following is the **most** important reason for visiting BG’s City Park? [please check only one]
   ___ I went there because I enjoy the place itself
   ___ I went there because it’s a good place to do the outdoor activities I enjoy
   ___ I went there because I wanted to spend more time with my kids
   ___ I went there because I wanted to spend more time with my companions
   ___ Other (specify ______________________)

8. These next questions address your feelings about BG’s City Park. Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neither Agree nor Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A) This park means a lot to me</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B) I enjoy recreating at this park than in any other park</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C) I am very attached or have some level of attachment to this park</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D) This park is the best park for what I like to do</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E) The major reasons I choose this park is that it is near where I live</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F) I had the opportunity to recreate at this park without feeling crowded</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G) I could find areas at BG’s City Park to recreate without conflict from other visitors</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H) I get more satisfaction out of visiting this park than from any other park</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I) I feel no commitment to this park</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. We would like to know how satisfied you are with your overall experience at BG’s City Park. On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being most satisfied, how satisfied are you with this trip to BG’s City Park?

________

10. How important is BG’s City Park to you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not at all Important</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11. Did you feel the facilities at BG’s city park were well maintained? ___ Yes, ___ No (If no, why not? ______________________________________________________________________)

12. If you could ask the people who manage BG’s City Park to improve the facilities and services available at the area, what would you suggest that they change?

__________________________________________________________________________________

13. Are you a local resident? ____ yes, ____ No, if no what is your home ZIP code? ______________

14. Would you recommend BG’s City Park to a friend? ____ yes ____ no

15. What is your age? ____ 18-20, ____ 21-30, ____ 31-40, ____ 41-50, ____ 51-60, ____ 61-70

16. What is your gender? ____ Male ____ Female

17. What is the highest education you have completed?
   ____ Less than high school
   ____ High school Graduate
   ____ some college
   ____ associate degree
   ____ Bachelor’s degree
   ____ Master ‘s degree
   ____ Doctoral degree
   ____ other (please specify ______________)

Thank you