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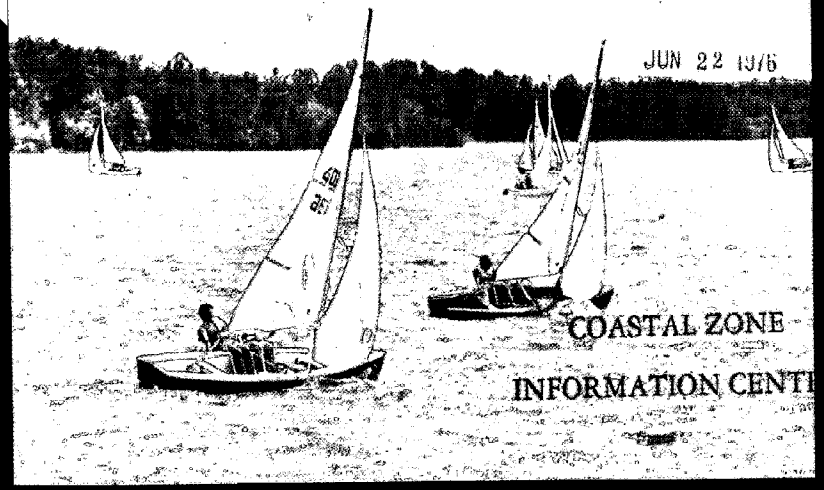

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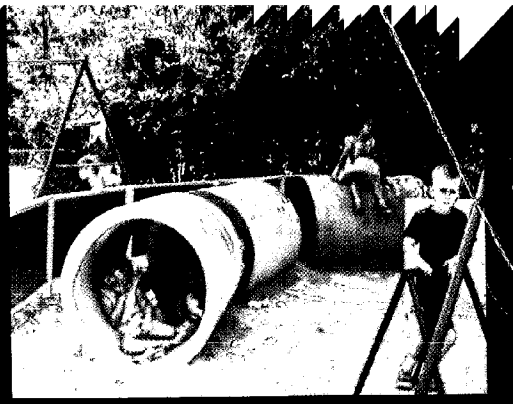

SUMMARY

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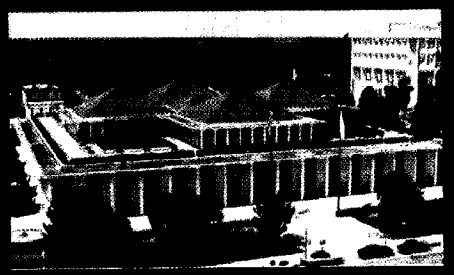
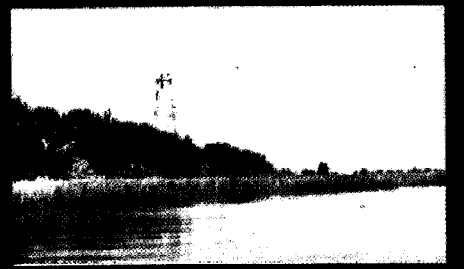
statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for North Carolina





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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

RALEIGH 27611

JAMES E. HOLSHOUSER, JR.
GOVERNOR

Our State has long been noted for its great variety of natural features and for the high quality of its outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The wise stewardship of these resources requires management programs based upon sound plans. I am pleased to endorse and present to you this report on the status of statewide outdoor recreation planning in North Carolina.

The results of our past efforts in the field of outdoor recreation are worthy of our pride; yet there are many remaining problems. This report outlines actions considered necessary for State government to undertake in an effort to solve many of these remaining problems.

Please review this report and share with us your reactions.

James E. Holshouser, Jr.
Governor of North Carolina

North Carolina Dept. of Natural + Economic Resources
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COASTAL ZONE
INFORMATION CENTER

JUN 22 1976

SUMMARY

statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for North Carolina

COASTAL ZONE
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The preparation of this document was financed in part through a planning grant from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Department of the Interior, under provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (Public Law 88-578).

AND WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

Recreation in North Carolina is mushrooming in importance as a factor in our daily lives. As a vital strand in the fabric of our society, recreation influences and is influenced by all aspects of our culture—economic, social, religious, educational, and health.

With this new emphasis on recreation, new demands are being placed on the resources of our State and nation. Private organizations, commercial enterprises, and governments—local, State, and Federal—are responding to these demands, although not always in a well-coordinated manner. Only through a cooperative response by all of these interests can we hope to achieve success in meeting the challenges of the expanding recreation market. The way these challenges are met today will determine the kind of future we can realistically anticipate. Our aim must be to satisfy recreation needs and aspirations with quality resources—now and in the future.

Recreation Planning

On a statewide basis, recreation planning must describe the existing supply of and demand for outdoor recreation opportunities in such a way that future needs can be identified and projected readily. These needs must be related to accepted objectives as well as to the policies and roles of existing organizations. Finally, the actions required to meet those needs must be identified.

This publication is a summary of the North Carolina outdoor recreation plan. It contains both identified needs and recommendations for actions to meet those needs. The actions it outlines are the culmination of an outdoor recreation planning program that contained the following major elements:

- An inventory designed to describe the present outdoor recreation supply in the State;
- A household survey of outdoor recreation demand; this was designed to measure the visits of North Carolina citizens to outdoor recreation sites and their participation in outdoor recreation activities;
- The development of outdoor recreation planning standards;
- An analysis of the needs for, and costs of, acquisition and development of outdoor recreation areas;
- An analysis of the outdoor recreation roles of the public, private, and commercial sectors; and
- Special studies concerning natural and scenic rivers; lakes and reservoirs; islands; the coastal zone; flood plains; resources for trails; scenic roads; attendance trends at selected outdoor recreation sites; the impact of non-residents; urban recreation problems; environmental quality; and the recreation needs of special populations.

The purpose of this publication is to report to the citizens of North Carolina the results of this statewide outdoor recreation planning program. You are invited to join our planning process through a thoughtful analysis of the action recommended herein. Plans derived without citizen participation are like so many compassless wanderings in the wilderness. Your reactions will be used to enrich the State's program for meeting the critical challenges of outdoor recreation for our future.

SUPPLY

There are presently 2,531 outdoor recreation areas in North Carolina serving a population of 5,082,059 as well as out-of-state tourists. These areas total 2,179,322 acres —nearly seven per cent of the total land of the State. They are made up of six major classes, according to a classification system developed by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, U. S. Department of the Interior.

Outdoor Recreation Area Classification

BOR Class I:
HIGH DENSITY RECREATION AREAS
Intensive development and recreation activities such as group sports. Usually within or near major urban populations.

Class I (High Density) outdoor recreation areas consist of the following:

- Neighborhood Emphasis Areas—those outdoor recreation areas that have a primary service area consisting of a neighborhood. This category includes areas designated as Mini-parks, Playgrounds, Neighborhood Parks and combined Neighborhood Park —Playgrounds.
- Community Emphasis Areas—those outdoor recreation areas that have a primary service area consisting of a community or group of neighborhoods but are less than city-wide in scope of service. This category includes areas designated as Playfields and Community Parks.
- City Parks—large parks that provide diversified recreation opportunities for an entire city. A large city may have more than one area of this type.

	SITES		ACRES	
OPERATOR	NUMBER	% OF TOTAL	NUMBER	% OF TOTAL
FEDERAL				
STATE	1	0.1	37	0.4
LOCAL GOV'T	688	73.6	8,247	83.2
PRIVATE & COMMERCIAL	246	26.3	1,631	16.4
TOTAL	935	100.0	9,915	100.0

BOR Class II:
GENERAL OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS
Generally less intensive and more remote than Class I areas. Interesting and attractive setting for activities such as camping, nature walks and outdoor sports.

	SITES		ACRES	
OPERATOR	NUMBER	% OF TOTAL	NUMBER	% OF TOTAL
FEDERAL	50	4	3,562	1.6
STATE	79	6	4,654	2.0
LOCAL GOV'T	87	6	21,864	9.6
PRIVATE & COMMERCIAL	1,135	84	197,813	86.8
TOTAL	1,351	100	227,893	100.0

Class II (General) outdoor recreation areas consist of the following:

- District Parks—intensively developed parks located in rural settings and designed to provide a variety of indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities to rural residents.
- County Parks—extensively developed parks that are designed to serve the residents of several municipalities or a large rural area.
- Specialized Outdoor Recreation Areas with low intensity use (SORA Low) such as zoos, golf courses and boat access areas.
- Specialized Outdoor Recreation Areas with medium intensity use (SORA Medium) such as flower gardens, arboretums, campgrounds, ski resorts, amusement and novelty resorts.
- Specialized Outdoor Recreation Areas with high intensity use (SORA High) such as outdoor theatres, stadiums, agricultural fairs and sport centers.

BOR Class III:
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AREAS
Weekend and vacation activities dependent on a natural setting such as nature study, sightseeing, hunting and fishing. Light facility development, access, trails and campsites.

OPERATOR	SITES		ACRES	
	NUMBER	% OF TOTAL	NUMBER	% OF TOTAL
FEDERAL	72	36.0	1,477,516	78
STATE	39	19.5	151,766	8
LOCAL GOV'T	1	0.5	22	0*
PRIVATE & COMMERCIAL	88	44.0	268,209	14
TOTAL	200	100.0	1,897,513	100

*Per cent so small it is considered insignificant

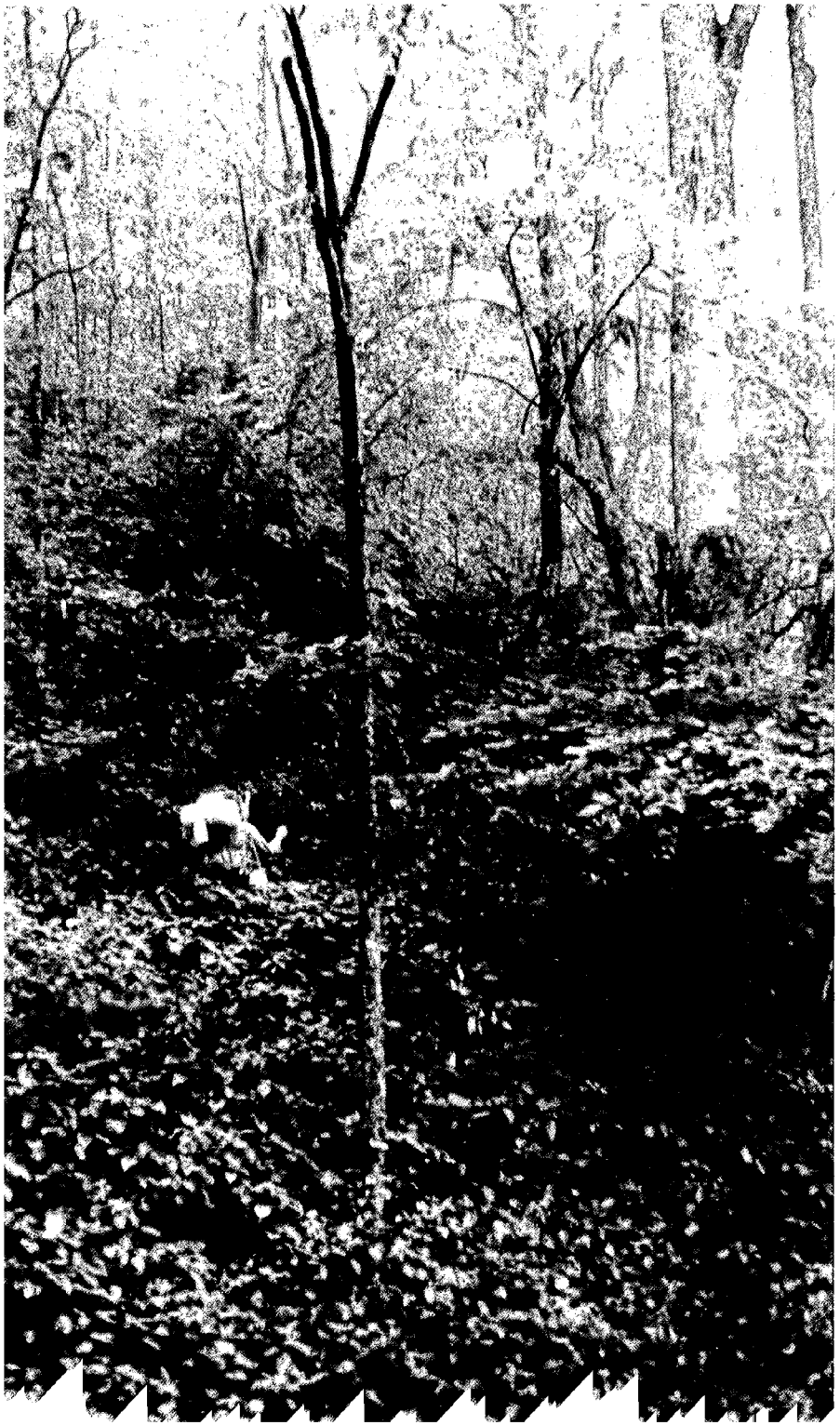
Class III (Natural) outdoor recreation areas consist of the following:

- III Specialized Outdoor Recreation Areas with low intensity use (III SORA Low) such as gamelands and agricultural land for hunting.
- State Parks—outdoor recreation areas with emphasis on providing a quality natural environment within a one-hour drive of regional population centers. These areas are usually developed to an extent that only 5% to 10% of the surface area is for intensive human use with the remainder being maintained in a natural state.
- Destination Parks—large outdoor recreation areas that are remote from large urban centers of population and that provide a wide range of extensive outdoor recreation opportunities. The primary service area for such parks might include a region of the nation consisting of several states, or it may include the entire nation.

BOR Class IV:
OUTSTANDING (UNIQUE) NATURAL AREAS
Outstanding natural features that merit special attention and preservation. Activities limited to those that preserve the setting. Minimum development outside the immediate area of the unique features.

OPERATOR	SITES		ACRES	
	NUMBER	% OF TOTAL	NUMBER	% OF TOTAL
FEDERAL	3	37.5	16,040	77.4
STATE	2	25.0	4,310	20.8
LOCAL GOV'T	—	—	—	—
PRIVATE & COMMERCIAL	3	37.5	364	1.8
TOTAL	8	100.0	20,714	100.0

Classes IV (Unique Natural), V (Primitive) and VI (Historic) have not been further divided into sub-classes.

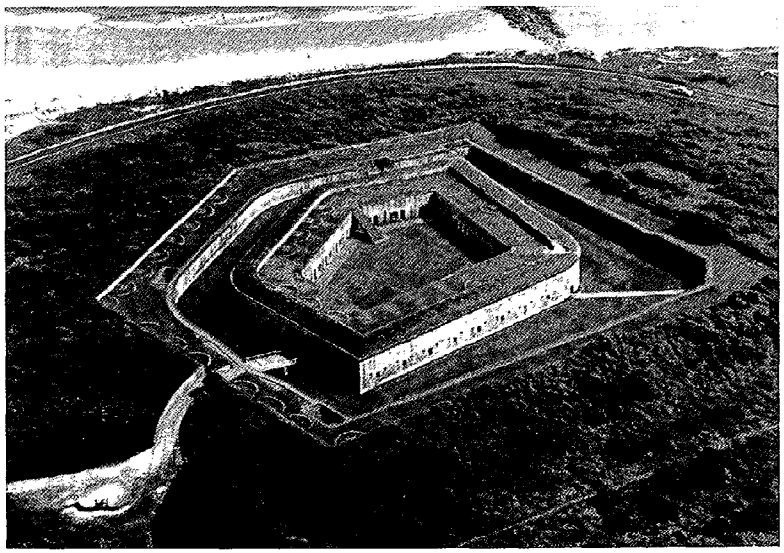


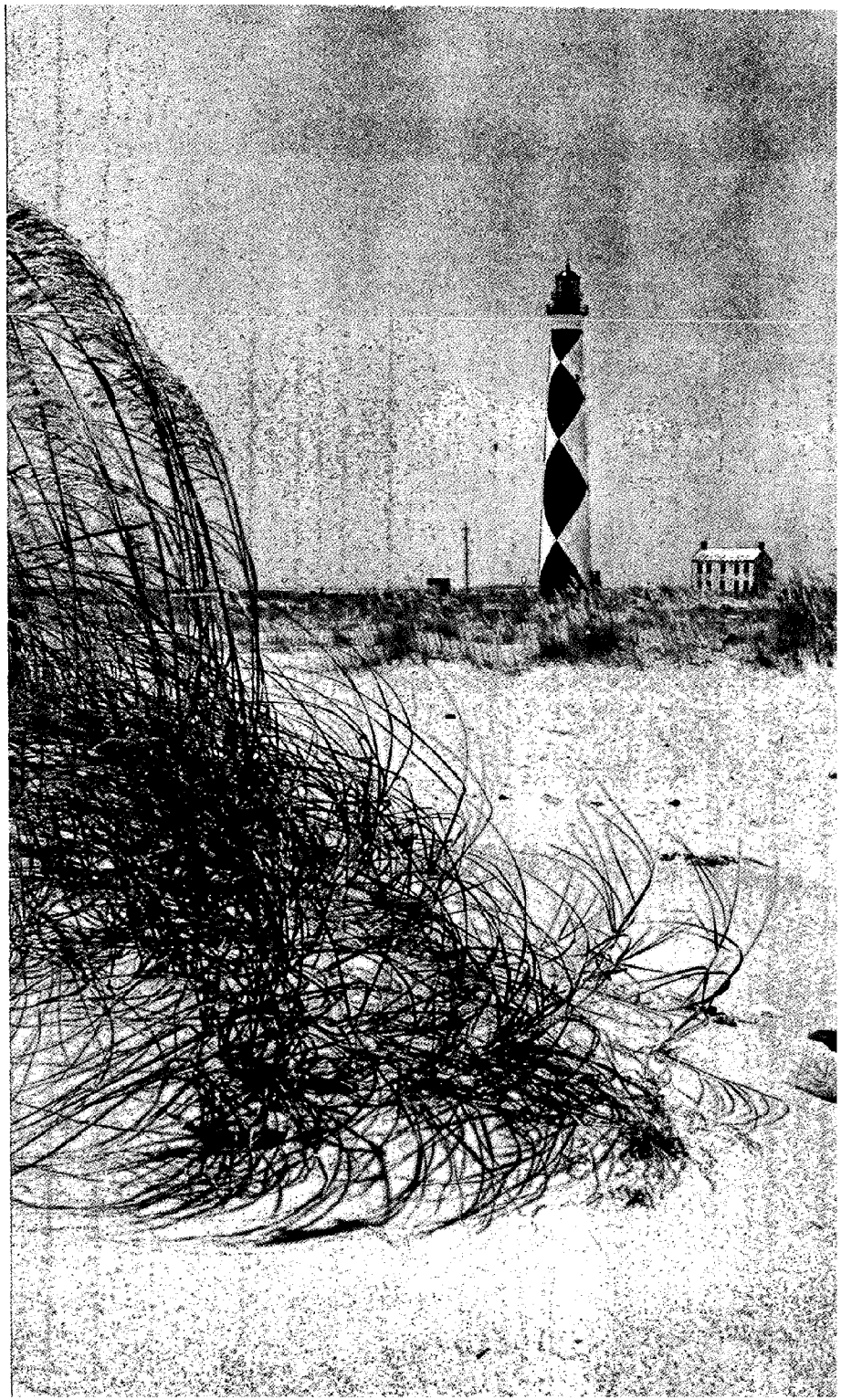
BOR Class V:
PRIMITIVE AREAS
Wild and undeveloped areas removed from the effects of civilization. Activities limited to those requiring a minimum of conveniences and equipment. No development of recreation facilities except trails.

OPERATOR	SITES		ACRES	
	NUMBER	% OF TOTAL	NUMBER	% OF TOTAL
FEDERAL	2	100	20,915	100
STATE	—	—	—	—
LOCAL GOV'T	—	—	—	—
PRIVATE & COMMERCIAL	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	100	20,915	100

BOR CLASS VI:
HISTORIC AND CULTURAL SITES
Sites associated with history, tradition or cultural heritage that merit preservation or restoration. Activities such as sightseeing and study of features. Development not to detract from value of site.

	SITES		ACRES	
OPERATOR	NUMBER	% OF TOTAL	NUMBER	% OF TOTAL
FEDERAL	3	8.6	695	29.3
STATE	18	51.4	1,442	60.8
LOCAL GOV'T	6	17.1	123	5.2
PRIVATE & COMMERCIAL	8	22.9	112	4.7
TOTAL	35	100.0	2,372	100.0

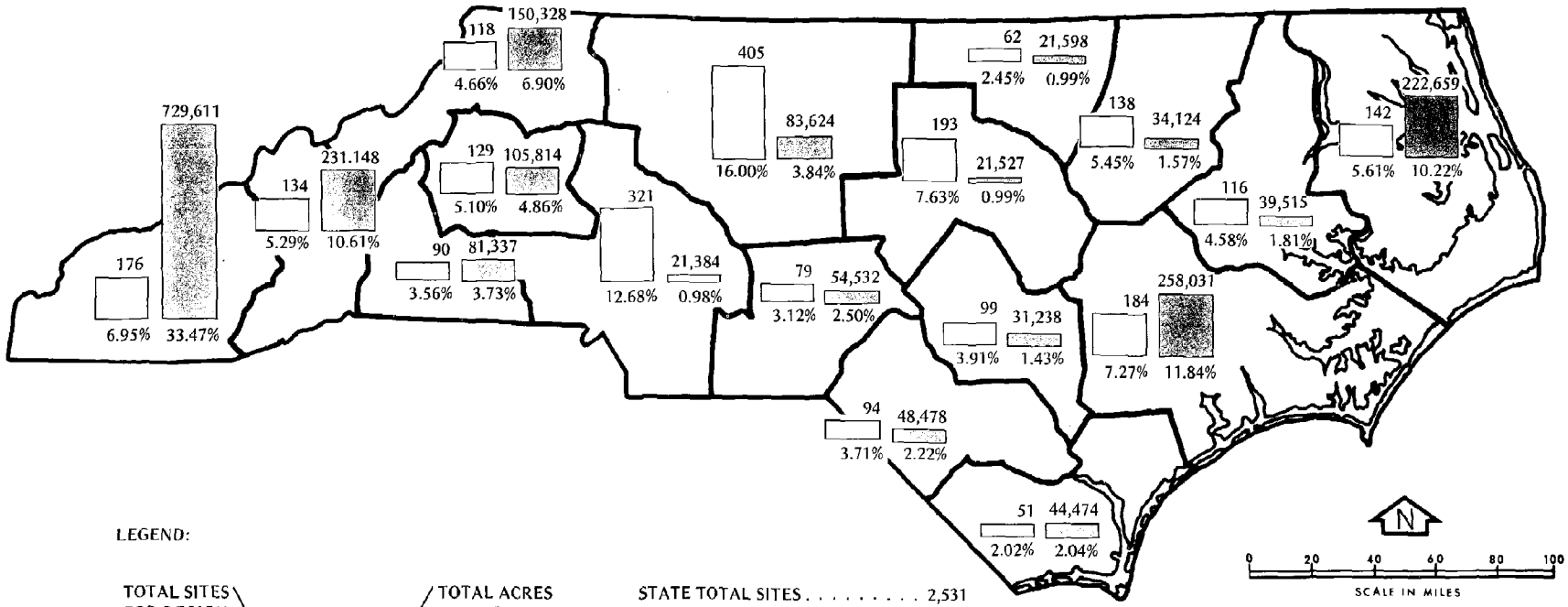




SUPPLY OF NORTH CAROLINA OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS BY CLASS AND GEOGRAPHIC REGION

CLASS	MOUNTAIN*		PIEDMONT**		COAST***		STATE	
	Sites	Acres	Sites	Acres	Sites	Acres	Sites	Acres
Class I High Density	55	799	600	7,054	280	2,062	935	9,915
Class II General	389	91,274	521	76,574	441	60,045	1,351	227,893
Class III Natural	64	1,078,480	52	216,228	84	602,805	200	1,897,513
Class IV Unique Natural	4	8,304	2	210	2	12,200	8	20,714
Class V Primitive	1	13,350	1	7,565			2	20,915
Class VI Historic	5	80	13	856	17	1,436	35	2,372
TOTAL	518	1,192,287	1,189	308,487	824	678,548	2,531	2,179,322

*MOUNTAIN—Regions A, B, C, D
**PIEDMONT—Regions E, F, G, H, J, K
***COAST—Regions L, M, N, O, P, Q, R



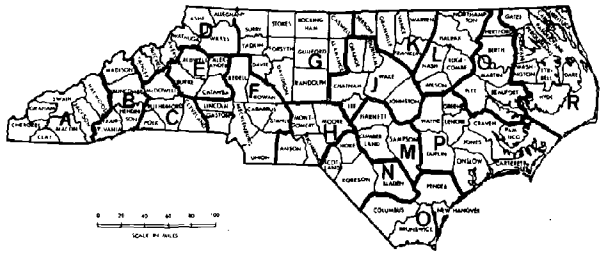
LEGEND:

TOTAL SITES FOR REGION — 000 — TOTAL ACRES FOR REGION

REGION PERCENT OF STATE TOTAL NUMBER OF SITES — 0.00% SITES — 00.00% ACRES — REGION PERCENT OF TOTAL STATE ACREAGE

STATE TOTAL SITES 2,531

STATE TOTAL ACRES 2,179,322



TOTAL OUTDOOR RECREATION SUPPLY BY REGIONS, SITES AND ACRES

MULTI-COUNTY PLANNING REGIONS

REGION A

This region is composed of the counties of Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, and Swain. There are 176 outdoor recreation areas with a total of 729,611 acres in this region. It has 10 Class I areas, 142 Class II areas, 20 Class III areas, 1 Class IV area, no Class V areas, and 3 Class VI areas. In terms of types of operators; 37 sites are operated by Federal agencies, 2 sites by State agencies, 8 sites by local government agencies, 113 sites by commercial interests, and 16 sites by private interests. The total annual visitor-day attendance at these sites was approximately 6,650,000 in 1971.

Region A has within its boundaries a total of 29,789 acres in lakes of 100 acres or more surface area.

REGION B

The counties of Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania make up Region B. It has 134 outdoor recreation areas with a total of 231,148 acres. There are 13 Class I areas, 104 Class II areas, 15 Class III areas, 1 Class IV area, no Class V areas, and 1 Class VI area. In terms of types of operators; 22 sites are operated by Federal agencies, 3 sites by State agencies, 8 sites by local government agencies, 41 sites by commercial interests, and 60 sites by private interests. The total annual visitor-day attendance at these sites was approximately 2,680,000 in 1971.

There are four reservoirs of 100 or more acres surface area located in Region B. They total 1,244 acres and are all in the 100 to 499 acre size category.

REGION C

This region is composed of the counties of Cleveland, McDowell, Polk, and Rutherford. Its 90 outdoor recreation areas have a total of 81,337 acres. There are 13 Class I areas, 69 Class II areas, 5 Class III areas, 2 Class IV areas, no Class V areas, and 1 Class VI area. In terms of types of operators; 4 sites are operated by Federal agencies, 3 sites by State agencies, 11 sites by local government agencies, 38 sites by commercial interests, and 34 sites by private interests. The total annual visitor-day attendance at these sites was approximately 2,160,000 in 1971.

Region C has three reservoirs of 100 or more acres completely within the region and one partially within the region for a total of 4,772 surface acres within the region.

REGION D

The counties of Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Mitchell, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yancey make up Region D. The 118 outdoor recreation areas in this region have a total of 150,328 acres. There are 19 Class I areas, 75 Class II areas, 24 Class III areas, no Class IV, V, or VI areas. In terms of types of operators; 24 sites are operated by Federal agencies, 8 sites by State agencies, 12 sites by local government agencies, 43 sites by commercial interests, and 31 sites by private interests. The total annual visitor-day attendance at these sites was approximately 6,031,000 in 1971.

There is one lake of 100 or more surface acres in Region D—a 1,470 acre reservoir under Federal operation.

REGION E

This region is composed of the counties of Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba. It has 129 outdoor recreation areas with a total of 105,814 acres. There are 37 Class I areas, 83 Class II areas, 7 Class III areas, 1 Class IV area, 1 Class V area, and no Class VI areas. In terms of types of operators; 12 sites are operated by Federal agencies, 5 sites by State agencies, 21 sites by local government agencies, 41 sites by commercial interests, and 50 sites by private interests. The total annual visitor-day attendance at these sites was approximately 2,125,000 in 1971.

Four reservoirs completely within the region and three which lie on the regional boundaries make up the total 19,790 acres in lakes of 100 or more acres in surface area in Region E.

REGION F

This region is composed of the counties of Cabarrus, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly, and Union. Its 321 outdoor recreation areas have a total of 21,284 acres. There are 196 Class I areas, 115 Class II areas, 7 Class III areas, no Class IV areas, no Class V areas, and 3 Class VI areas. In terms of types of operators; no sites are operated by Federal agencies, 7 sites are operated by State agencies, 170 sites by local government agencies, 44 sites by commercial interests, and 100 sites by private interests. The total annual visitor-day attendance at these sites was approximately 8,307,000 in 1971.

This region contains a total of 49,990 surface acres in lakes 100 or more acres in size. This acreage is distributed among 5 reservoirs completely within the region and 8 reservoirs which lie on the regional boundaries.

REGION G

The counties of Alamance, Caswell, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Guilford, Randolph, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin make up Region G. There are 405 outdoor recreation areas with a total of 83,624 acres in this region. It has 208 Class I areas, 180 Class II areas, 12 Class III areas, 1 Class IV area, no Class V areas, and 4 Class VI areas. In terms of types of operators; 5 sites are operated by Federal agencies, 13 sites by State agencies, 174 sites by local government agencies, 72 sites by commercial interests, and 141 sites by private interests. The total annual visitor-day attendance at these sites was approximately 10,654,000 in 1971.

The 16,434 surface acres in 100+ acre lakes in the region are distributed among 13 reservoirs completely within the region and 3 reservoirs partially within the region.

REGION H

Region H is composed of the counties of Anson, Montgomery, Moore, and Richmond. The 79 outdoor recreation areas in this region have a total of 54,532 acres. There are 30 Class I areas, 36 Class II areas, 11 Class III areas, no Class IV areas, no Class V areas, and 2 Class VI areas. In terms of types of operators; 3 sites are operated by Federal agencies, 8 sites by State agencies, 13 sites by local government agencies, 13 sites by commercial interests, and 42 sites by private interests. The total annual visitor-day attendance at these sites was approximately 640,000 in 1971.

The region has 9 reservoirs of 100 or more surface acres completely within its boundaries and 4 which fall partially within it, making a total of 10,393 surface acres within the region boundary.

REGION J

The counties of Chatham, Durham, Johnston, Lee, Orange, and Wake make up Region J. It has 193 outdoor recreation areas with a total of 21,527 acres. There are 115 Class I areas, 69 Class II areas, 5 Class III areas, no Class IV areas, no Class V areas, and 4 Class VI areas. In terms of types of operators; no sites are operated by Federal agencies, 9 sites are operated by State agencies, 109 sites by local government agencies, 22 sites by commercial interests, and 53 sites by private interests. The total annual visitor-day attendance at these sites was approximately 4,187,000 in 1971.

Eleven 100+ acre reservoirs with a combined acreage of 3,211 are in this region.

REGION K

This region is composed of the counties of Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance, and Warren. It has 62 outdoor recreation areas with a total of 21,598 acres. There are 14 Class I areas, 38 Class II areas, 10 Class III areas and no Class IV, V, or VI areas. In terms of types of operators; no sites are operated by Federal agencies, 9 sites are operated by State agencies, 7 sites by local government agencies, 11 sites by commercial interests, and 35 sites by private interests. The total annual visitor-day attendance at these sites was approximately 1,154,000 in 1971.

Region K has 4 reservoirs of 100 or more acres within its boundaries and 3 that straddle the boundaries, making up a total surface water area of 26,132 acres within the region.

REGION L

This region is composed of the counties of Edgecombe, Halifax, Nash, Northampton, and Wilson. Its 138 outdoor recreation areas have a total of 34,124 acres. There are 62 Class I areas, 60 Class II areas, 12 Class III areas, no Class IV areas, no Class V areas, and 4 Class VI areas. In terms of types of operators; no sites are operated by Federal agencies, 7 sites are operated by State agencies, 62 sites are operated by local government agencies, 16 sites by commercial interests, and 53 sites by private interests. The total annual visitor-day attendance at these sites was approximately 1,500,000 in 1971.

There are 6 reservoirs of 100 or more acres completely within Region L, and one such reservoir partially within the region. These reservoirs cover a total of 10,985 acres within the region.

REGION M

The counties contained in Region M are Cumberland, Harnett, and Sampson. The 99 outdoor recreation areas in this region have a total of 31,238 acres. There are 55 Class I areas, 36 Class II areas, 7 Class III areas, no Class IV areas, no Class V areas, and 1 Class VI area. In terms of types of operators; no sites are operated by Federal agencies, 6 sites are operated by State agencies, 51 sites by local government agencies, 12 sites by commercial interests, and 30 sites by private interests. The total annual visitor-day attendance at these sites was approximately 1,231,000 in 1971.

There are 12 reservoirs of 100 acres or more in Region M and they cover a total of 1,755 surface acres.

REGION N

This region is composed of the counties of Bladen, Hoke, Robeson, and Scotland. It has 94 outdoor recreation areas with a total of 48,478 acres. There are 33 Class I areas, 50 Class II areas, 11 Class III areas and no Class IV, V, or VI areas. In terms of types of operators; 3 sites are operated by Federal agencies, 10 sites by State agencies, 23 sites by local government agencies, 14 sites by commercial interests, and 44 sites by private interests. The total annual visitor-day attendance at these sites was approximately 1,032,000 in 1971.

The 18 reservoirs over 100 acres in this region cover a total of 6,383 acres.

REGION O

The counties of Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover, and Pender make up this region. It has 51 outdoor recreation areas with a total of 44,474 acres. There are 15 Class I areas, 31 Class II areas, 2 Class III areas, no Class IV or V areas, and 3 Class VI areas. In terms of types of operators; 1 site is operated by a Federal agency, 4 sites are operated by State agencies, 12 sites are operated by local government agencies, 15 sites by commercial interests, and 19 sites by private interests. The total annual visitor-day attendance at these sites was approximately 1,156,000 in 1971.

There are 5 reservoirs over 100 acres in Region O. They total 10,103 acres.

REGION P

This region is composed of the counties of Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, and Wayne. It has 184 outdoor recreation areas with a total of 258,031 acres. There are 63 Class I areas, 106 Class II areas, 12 Class III areas, no Class IV or V areas, and 3 Class VI areas. In terms of types of operators; 9 sites are operated by Federal agencies, 16 sites by State agencies, 57 sites by local government agencies, 48 sites by commercial interests, and 54 sites by private interests. The total annual visitor-day attendance at these sites was approximately 3,574,000 in 1971.

This region has six reservoirs over 100 acres in size which have a total of 5,770 surface acres.

REGION Q

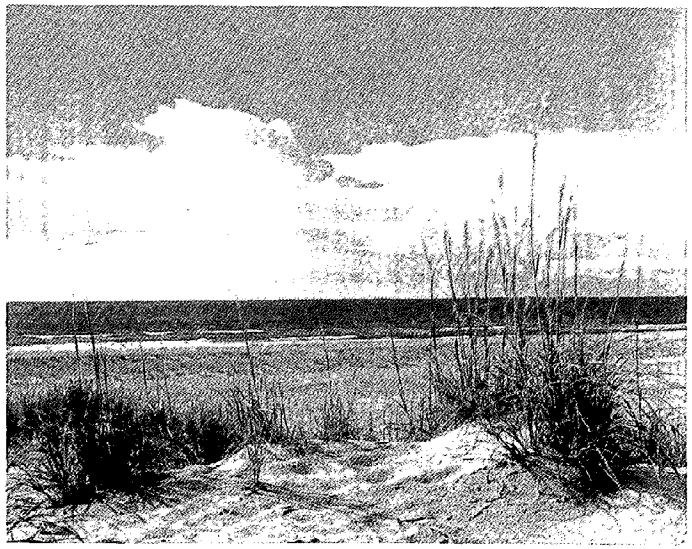
The counties of Beaufort, Bertie, Hertford, Martin, and Pitt make up Region Q. It has 116 outdoor recreation areas with a total of 39,515 acres. There are 41 Class I areas, 61 Class II areas, 12 Class III areas, no Class IV areas, no Class V areas, and 2 Class VI areas. In terms of types of operators; no sites are operated by Federal agencies, 8 sites are operated by State agencies, 36 sites by local government agencies, 27 sites by commercial interests, and 45 sites by private interests. The total annual visitor-day attendance at these sites was approximately 992,000 in 1971.

There is one 100 or more acre reservoir in Region Q—a 200-acre lake under private ownership/operation.

REGION R

This region is composed of the counties of Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington. Its 142 outdoor recreation areas have a total of 222,659 acres. There are 11 Class I areas, 97 Class II areas, 28 Class III areas, 2 Class IV areas, no Class V areas, and 4 Class VI areas. In terms of types of operators; 9 sites are operated by Federal agencies, 21 sites by State agencies, 9 sites by local government agencies, 65 sites by commercial interests, and 38 sites by private interests. The total annual visitor-day attendance at the sites was approximately 3,604,000 in 1971.

Nine reservoirs over 100 acres each and totaling 71,380 acres are located in this region.



RECREATION SUPPLY BY MULTI-COUNTY PLANNING REGION

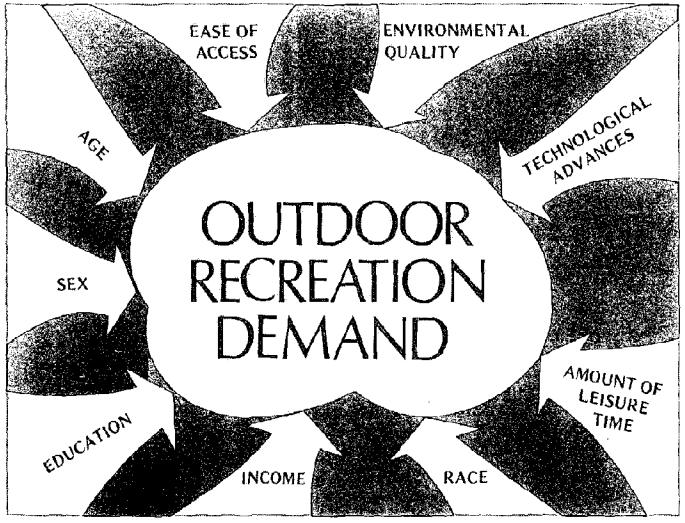
Region	Total Land Area Including Large Water Bodies	Total Population	Total Outdoor Recreation Acreage	Acres of Outdoor Recreation Facilities Per Capita	Number of Outdoor Recreation Sites	Total Acres of Water in Lakes*
A	1,982,188	115,024	729,611	6.34	176	29,789
B	1,191,721	223,576	231,148	1.03	134	1,244
C	1,098,048	162,276	81,337	0.50	90	4,772
D	1,615,398	139,364	150,328	1.08	118	1,470
E	1,068,338	227,402	105,814	0.47	129	19,790
F	2,389,676	870,150	21,284	0.02	321	49,990
G	3,506,008	981,393	83,624	0.09	405	16,434
H	1,422,013	121,692	54,532	0.45	79	10,393
J	2,125,130	540,599	21,527	0.04	193	3,211
K	1,376,032	133,997	21,598	0.16	62	26,132
L	1,725,628	246,842	34,124	0.14	138	10,985
M	1,428,544	306,663	31,238	0.10	99	1,755
N	1,621,888	154,684	48,478	0.31	94	6,383
O	1,886,440	172,305	44,474	0.26	51	10,103
P	3,671,382	410,123	258,031	0.63	184	5,770
Q	2,046,912	178,667	39,515	0.22	116	200
R	3,600,064	97,302	222,659	2.29	142	71,380
STATE TOTALS	33,755,410	5,082,059	2,179,322	0.43	2,531	269,801

*one-hundred (100) acres or more in total water surface area.

DEMAND

Outdoor recreation demand is defined as participation in outdoor recreation activities. It represents what people are doing with a part of their leisure time, and is usually measured in terms of visitor-days or activity-days. A **"visitor-day"** is a measure indicating the use of an outdoor recreation **area** or **facility** by one person for any part or all of one day. An **"activity-day"** is a measure indicating participation in one outdoor recreation **activity** by one person for any part or all of one day.

Factors Affecting Demand



Participation in outdoor recreation activities is affected by a combination of factors. This makes it difficult to draw conclusions concerning outdoor recreation demand. The "costs" of participation in terms of time, energy, money, and skill vary considerably. Listed below are some major factors contributing to participation or nonparticipation in outdoor recreation activities in North Carolina.

INCOME

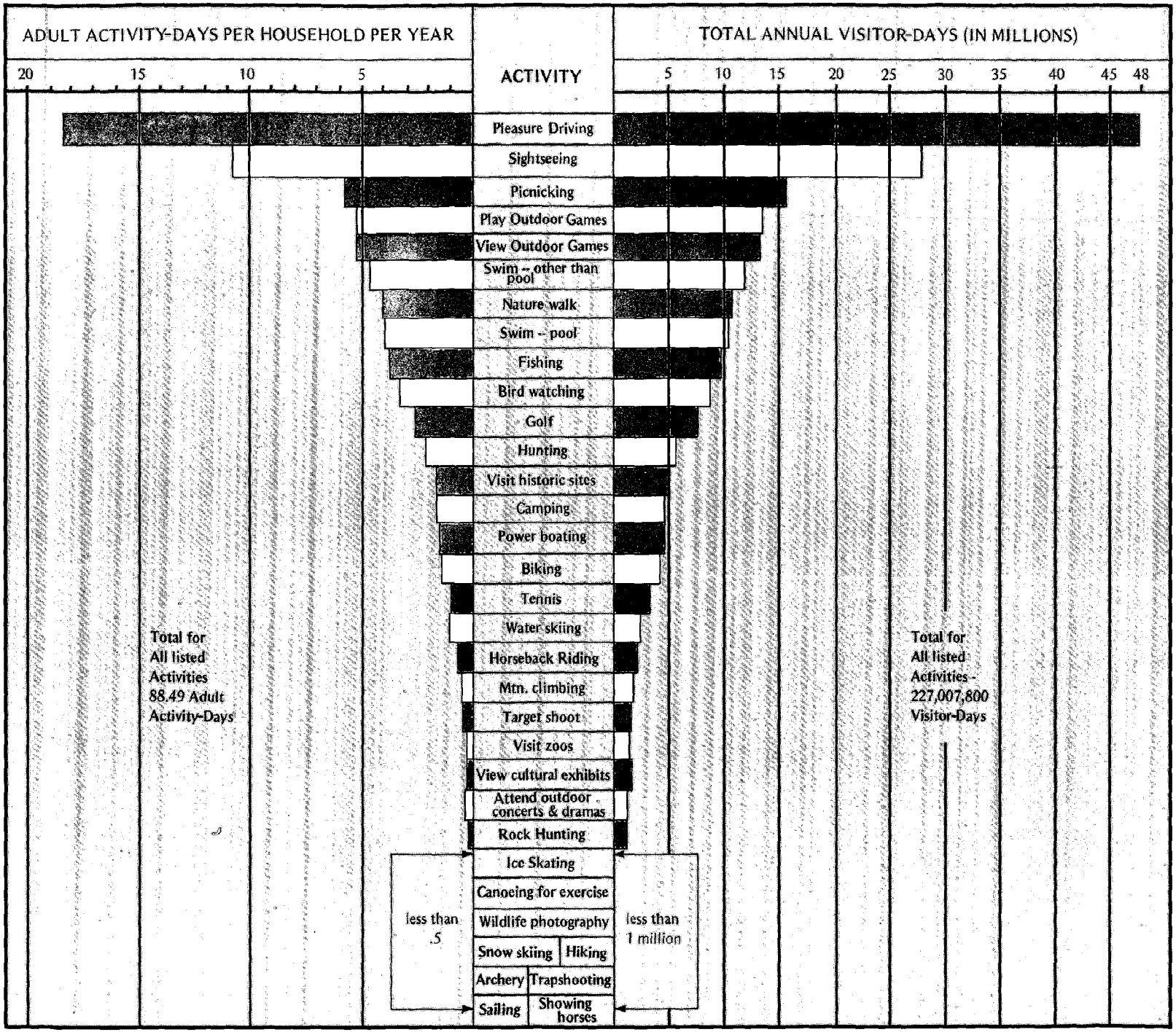
There are many positive relationships between activity participation and household income level. Those activities in which barriers of high costs are minimal are engaged in by more households in all income categories than are high cost activities. A similar relationship exists for income and vacation trip behavior; the higher the income, the greater the probability of a vacation trip.

RACE

There is a noticeable disparity between white and nonwhite vacation behavior; non-whites take vacations involving outdoor recreation at about half the rate of whites.

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES

Most of the advances in technology have resulted in increased levels of outdoor recreation demand. Common examples are snowmobiles, self-contained campers, powered boats, and improvements in outdoor lighting. In North Carolina, the development of artificial snowmaking equipment has brought about greatly increased snow skiing activity and the development of recreation areas for winter vacations.


ADULT ACTIVITY-DAYS PER HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR
20
15
10
5
ACTIVITY
TOTAL ANNUAL VISITOR-DAYS (IN MILLIONS)
5
10
15
20
25
30
35
40
45
48
Pleasure Driving
Sightseeing
Picnicking
Play Outdoor Games
View Outdoor Games
Swim -- other than pool
Nature walk
Swim -- pool
Fishing
Bird watching
Golf
Hunting
Visit historic sites
Camping
Power boating
Biking
Tennis
Water skiing
Horseback Riding
Mtn. climbing
Target shoot
Visit zoos
View cultural exhibits
Attend outdoor concerts & dramas
Rock Hunting
Ice Skating
Canoeing for exercise
Wildlife photography
Snow skiing
Hiking
Archery
Trapshooting
Sailing
Showing horses
Total for All listed Activities 88.49 Adult Activity-Days
Total for All listed Activities - 227,007,800 Visitor-Days
less than .5
less than 1 million

TOTAL VISITOR-DAYS PARTICIPATION AT OUTDOOR RECREATION SITES BY NORTH CAROLINA HOUSEHOLDS

Outdoor Recreation Area Class and Subclass	VISITOR DAYS					
	TYPE of TRIP					
		Non-Vacation				
	Vacation*	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Total
Class I Mini-Park						
Playground (PG)						
Neighborhood Park (NP)			127,500			130,250
Combination NP & PG						
Playfield			127,500	263,500	144,500	547,000
Community Park						
City Park	85,000	272,000	161,500	481,500	297,500	1,693,500
Class II District Park						
County Park			76,500	204,000	119,000	408,000
Specialized O.R. Area—						
Low Intensity	1,360,000	4,335,000	3,519,000	6,451,500	4,590,000	20,694,500
Specialized O.R. Area—						
Medium Intensity	5,848,000	2,167,500	2,856,000	8,848,500	3,264,000	23,482,000
Specialized O.R. Area—						
High Intensity		323,000	161,500	493,000	790,500	1,806,000
Class III III Spec. O.R. Area—						
Low Intensity	144,500	833,000	238,000	204,000	357,000	1,815,000
State Park	229,500	467,500	204,000	1,130,500	688,500	2,779,000
Destination Park	977,500	501,500	238,000	1,300,500	1,147,500	4,255,250
Class IV Unique Natural Area			34,000		119,000	156,500
Class V Wilderness					34,000	34,000
Class VI Historic	374,000	408,000	535,500	986,000	391,000	2,750,000
Out of State	19,805,000	4,292,500	4,420,000	8,236,500	4,496,500	42,145,000
Total	28,825,200	13,625,500	12,743,200	28,913,600	16,399,900	100,507,400

*Average length of vacation — 5.91 days
*Average vacation party — 3.78 persons

Note: The Household Demand Survey did not provide enough information from which to determine demand for some types of areas.
Note: Detail may not add to total due to rounding.

Attitudes

Attitudes concerning the adequacy of outdoor recreation facilities and the desires for outdoor recreation opportunities are varied. The age groups for which existing facilities are felt to be the least satisfactory are—in descending order of magnitude—ages 13 to 19, 65 and older and ages 1 to 12. Less than 19% of all North Carolinians feel that outdoor recreation opportunities for **any** age group are "very satisfactory".

ATTITUDES REGARDING THE ADEQUACY OF EXISTING OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR AGE GROUPS

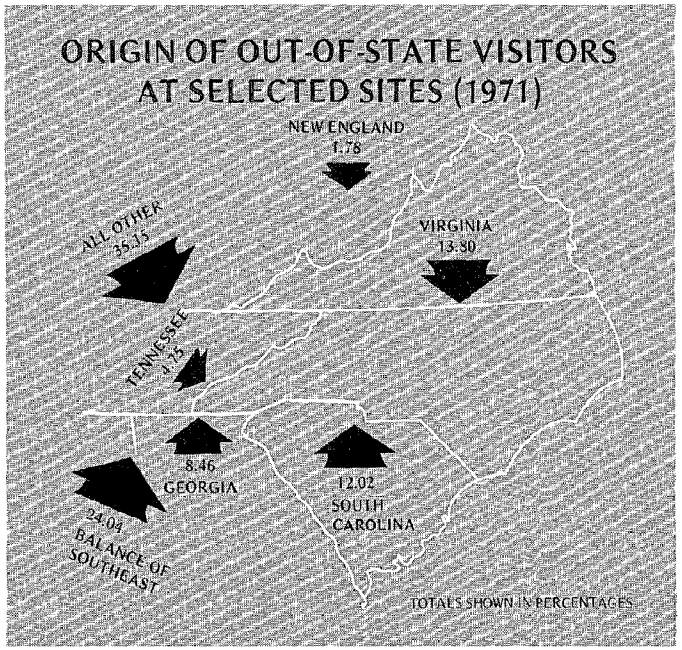
Age	Per cent of households responding per category		
	Very Satisfactory	Somewhat Satisfactory	Not Very Satisfactory
1-12	14.9	37.6	47.3
13-19	14.2	33.6	51.8
20-44	17.1	46.7	36.1
45-64	18.5	43.8	37.4
65+	16.0	34.5	49.1

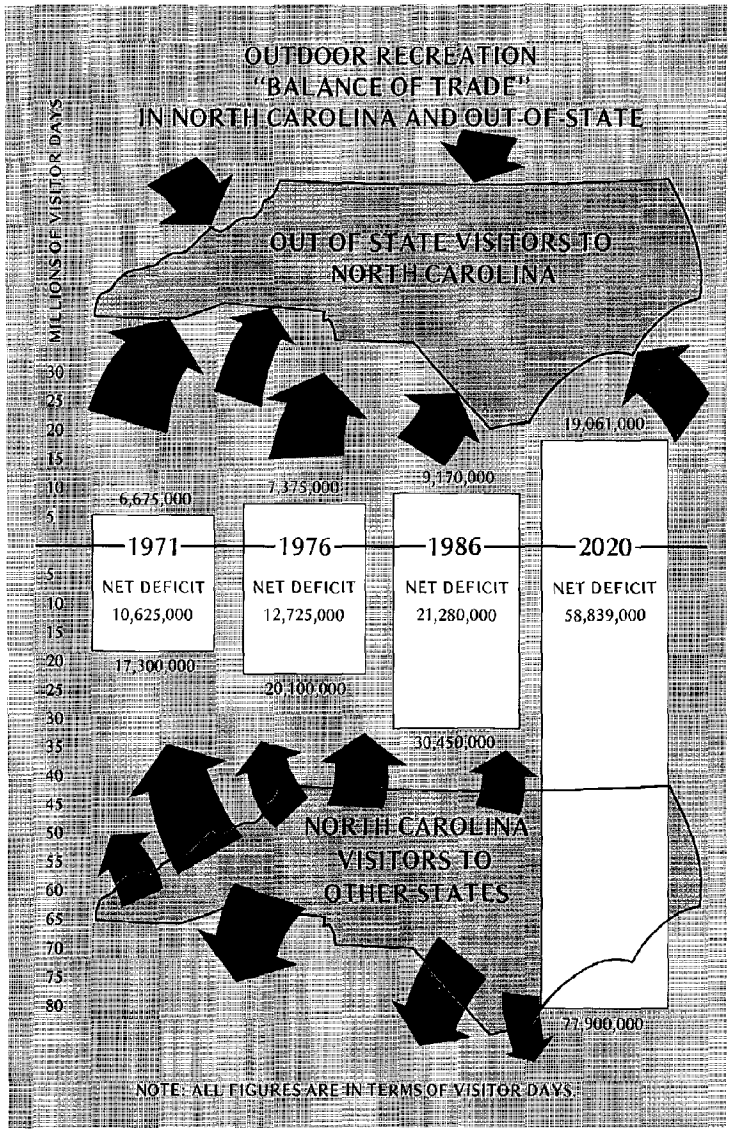
Most people feel that if facilities were closer to them, allowing easier access, their participation in outdoor recreation would increase significantly. In response to the question "What one change would most affect your outdoor recreation participation?", 37.1% indicated closer facilities with easier access. Other responses and the per cent responding were: more leisure time—28.6%; higher income—23.1%; and improved facilities—6.8%. A small number—4.5% of those responding—feel that nothing would change their rate of participation.

The preferences North Carolinians have for outdoor recreation activities in which they do not now participate are—in descending order of magnitude—snow skiing, golf, fishing, tennis, camping, and horseback riding on trails.

Impact of Out-of-State Visitors

Those states which border North Carolina contribute nearly 40% of the total number of out-of-state visitors to North Carolina outdoor recreation sites. The balance of the southeastern states contribute nearly 25%. Less than 2% are from New England, and all other states contribute 35%.





The major outdoor recreation interests of out-of-state visitors are Federal and State operated recreation areas. Federal sites, and some better-known State sites, have well over half of their patronage from outside North Carolina.

Outdoor Recreation "Balance of Trade" for North Carolina

A special analysis was made to compare (1) the annual number of outdoor recreation visitor-days spent in North Carolina by out-of-state visitors and (2) the annual number of outdoor recreation visitor-days spent by North Carolinians outside the State. This relationship is illustrated in the opposite column.

ANNUAL ATTENDANCE TRENDS AT SELECTED AREAS

Area	Per Cent Increase in Total Attendance; 1965-1969	Annual Per Cent Increase in Per Capita Attendance	
		Years	Per Cent
State Parks	19.4	1957-1969	3
Great Smoky Mountains National Park	6.3	1960-1969	3
Blue Ridge Parkway	65.2	1963-1969	9.8
John H. Kerr Reservoir	1.8	1954-1969	2
Cape Hatteras National Seashore	4.9	1964-1969	None

Attendance trends at selected outdoor recreation sites indicate that there is an increase in per capita attendance as well as in total attendance.

Projected Outdoor Recreation Demand

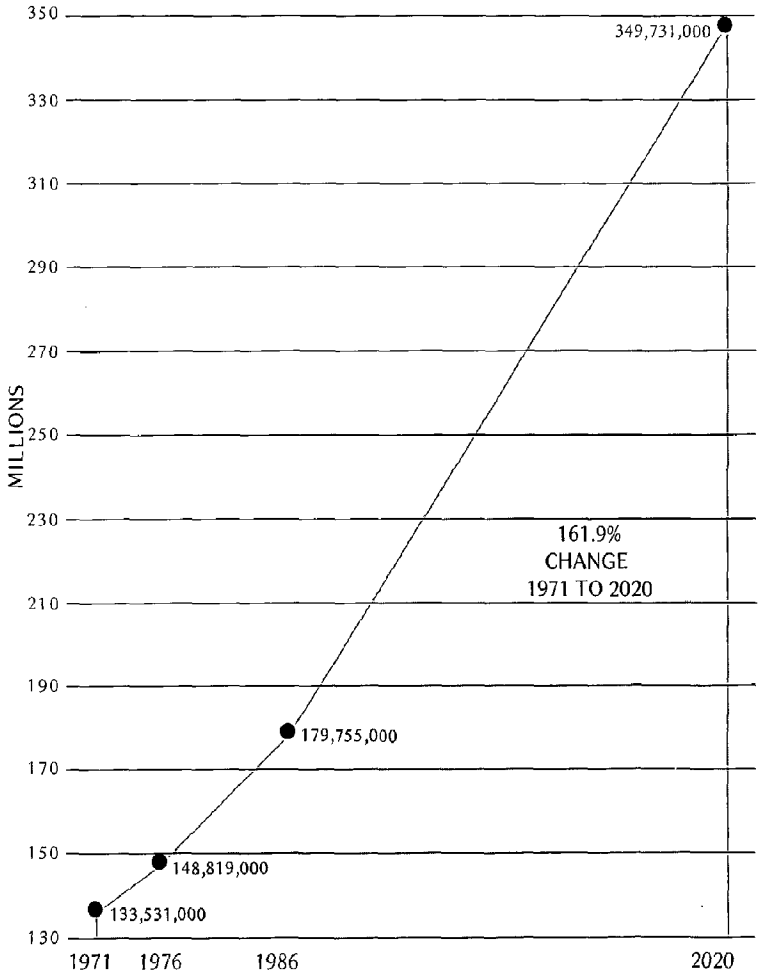
Three basic factors were considered in projecting future levels of outdoor recreation demand: population, income, and leisure time. The following assumptions regarding these factors were applied in the demand projections:

1. Population will increase at expected rates determined by the Bureau of Economic Analysis;
2. Increases in income and leisure time will occur at expected rates as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics;
3. The degree and direction of present relationships between income and demand will continue for the near future; and
4. Recreation demand will increase directly proportional to increases in population, income, and leisure time.

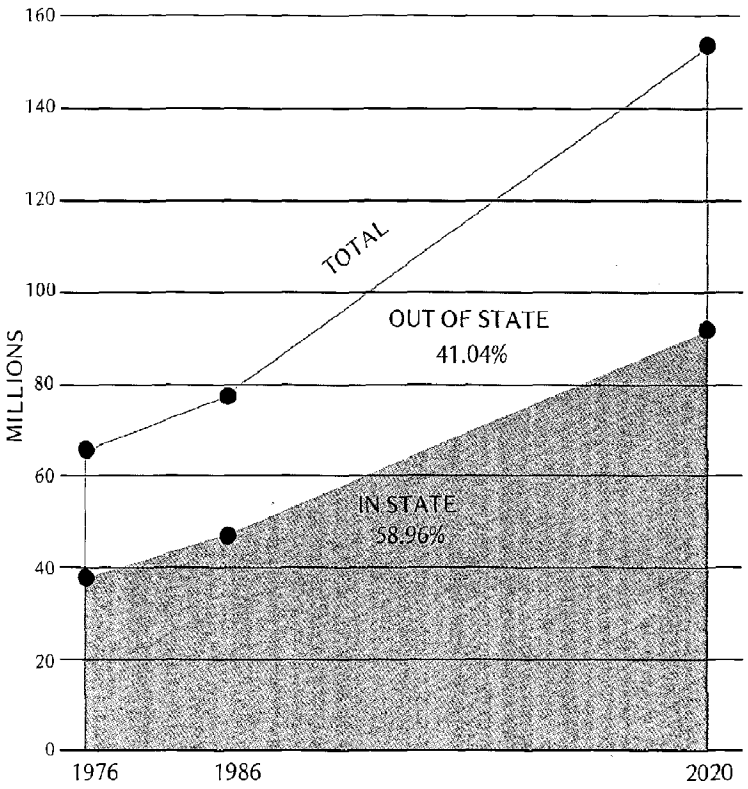
The year 1971 was used as a base year for projecting demand. The population is expected to increase 7.39% by 1976, 20.7% by 1986, and 87.4% by 2020. Income is expected to increase at a rate of 0.25% per year and leisure time by 0.50% annually.

The application of these factors to population and demand data indicates that the total annual adult outdoor recreation activity-days will be 148 million in 1976. This is projected to increase to 179 million in 1986 and to nearly 350 million in 2020. On a per-household (the average household is 3.3 persons) basis, the projections for adult activity days are: 91.84 in 1976, 98.69 in 1986, and 123.67 in 2020.

PRESENT AND PROJECTED TOTAL ANNUAL ADULT ACTIVITY DAYS



PROJECTED ADULT VISITOR-DAYS PARTICIPATION
AT OUTDOOR RECREATION SITES
BY NORTH CAROLINA HOUSEHOLDS

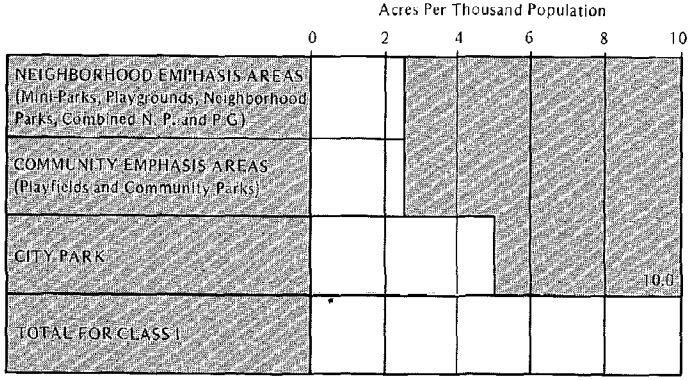


STANDARDS

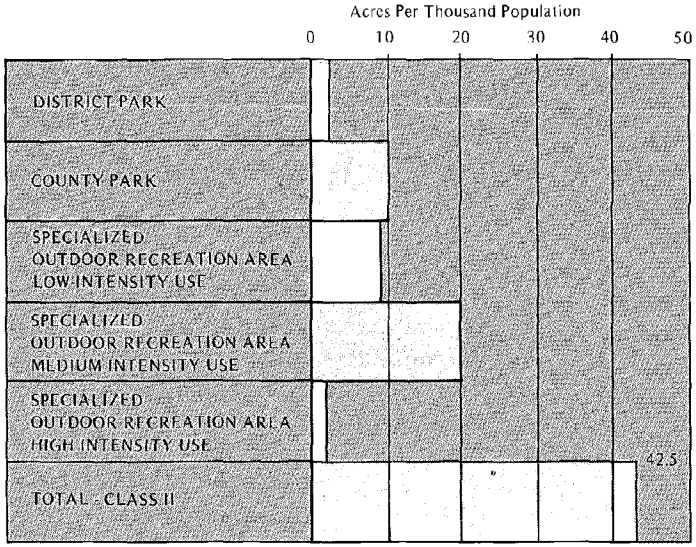
Planning **standards** provide a yardstick or benchmark to compare with **supply** in order to determine **needs.** Planning standards, stated in terms of acres-per-thousand population, were developed through a process of comparing certain supply and demand data. This process is suitable for BOR Classes I (High Density), II (General), and III (Natural Environment) areas because the development of these is not entirely dependent on specific characteristics of a piece of land.

On the other hand, BOR Classes IV (Unique Natural), V (Primitive), and VI (Historic/Cultural) exist as a matter of fact. They are not necessarily the result of some conscious decision to create them. Therefore, standards are not considered appropriate for Classes IV, V, and VI.

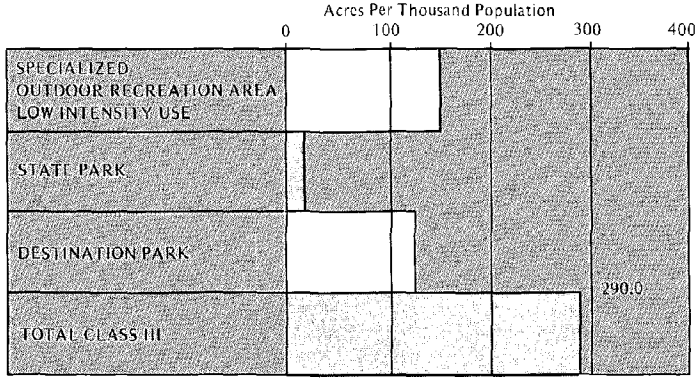
OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING STANDARDS
CLASS I -- HIGH DENSITY OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS



OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING STANDARDS
CLASS II GENERAL OUTDOOR RECREATION AREAS



OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING STANDARDS
CLASS III NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AREAS



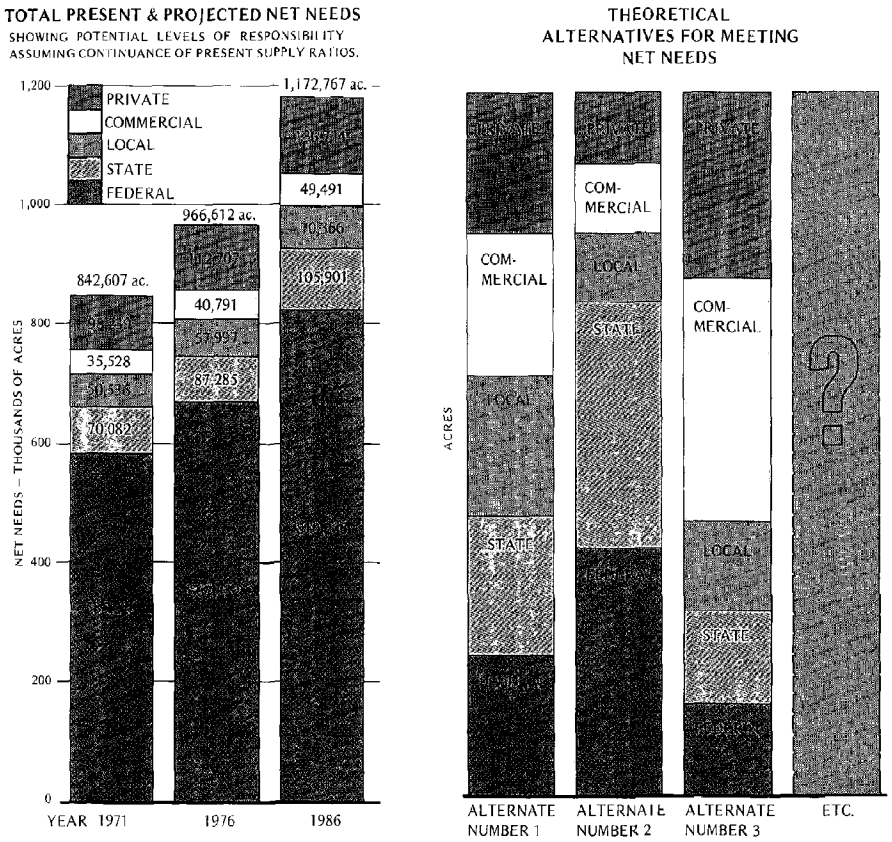
NEEDS

Needs for outdoor recreation areas were calculated by applying the planning standards to population and subtracting present supply. The result is the additional quantity of recreation acreage that should be provided by all levels of government and the private and commercial sectors combined.

In 1971, over 842,000 additional acres were needed in the State to meet the standards. By the year 1986, the needs will increase to 1,173,000 acres. A summary of gross needs, present supply, net needs and cost estimates is provided in the following table.

BOR Site Class	Sub-Class	Gross Needs 1971	Supply 1971	Present Net Needs and Cost		Net Needs 1976	Net Needs 1986
				Needs 1971	Cost Estimate Millions		
I	*Neighborhood* Emphasis	7,476	3,193	4,283	45,635	4,561	5,119
	Community Emphasis	7,905	3,908	3,997	35,685	4,252	4,759
	City Park	12,992	2,726	10,266	89,478	10,949	12,293
	Sub-Total	28,373	9,827	18,546	170,789	19,762	22,170
II	District Park	8,533	2,212	6,321	113,772	6,750	7,601
	County Park	59,180	20,768	38,412	94,378	40,789	45,564
	SORA Low	89,121	86,538	2,583	17,040	2,853	3,289
	SORA Med	143,117	92,797	50,320	243,197	53,391	59,796
	SORA High	10,177	2,488	7,689	—	8,168	9,170
	Sub-Total	310,128	204,803	105,325	468,387	111,954	125,420
III	III SORA Low	1,899,041	1,521,854	377,187	188,594	409,938	473,174
	State Park	95,296	49,120	46,176	44,651	48,948	55,246
	Destination Park	635,262	339,889	295,373	—	376,010	496,757
	Sub-Total	2,629,599	1,910,863	718,736	233,245	834,896	1,025,177
	State Total	2,968,100	2,125,493	842,607	872,421	966,612	1,172,767

The following bar graph depicts graphically the total net needs in acres as well as potential levels of responsibility for meeting those needs. These potential levels of responsibility simply reflect how outdoor recreation acreage is presently supplied by the various types of operators (suppliers). In other words, if the various types of operators continue to provide the same relative amount of outdoor recreation supply, then each would be "responsible" for securing the additional acreage indicated in the graph.



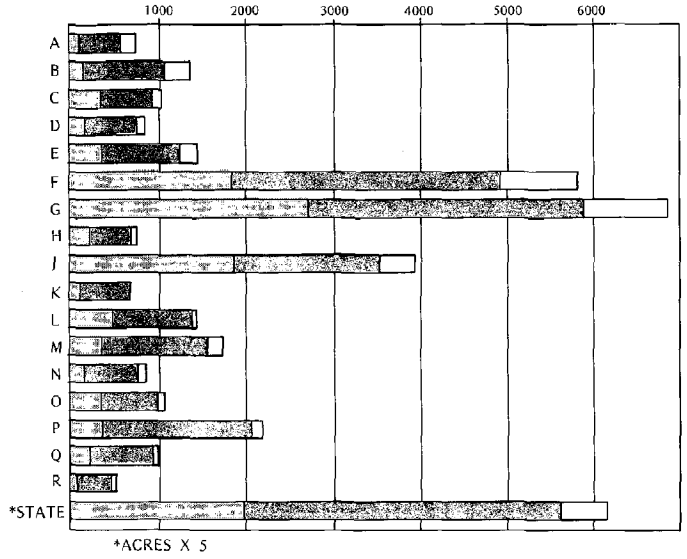
Logic dictates that acceptance of such levels of responsibility is highly improbable—some operator categories will be able to accept more of the responsibility than indicated while others will be incapable of providing but a portion of the amount shown. A major policy question facing decision-makers is just what part of the total net needs should reasonably and conscionably be met by each of the various types of suppliers.

Only the State's urban population—45% of the total population—was used in determining needs for Class I (High Density) areas. On this basis, the present needs for Class I areas total 18,546 acres. It will require an investment of about 171 million dollars to acquire and develop this acreage.

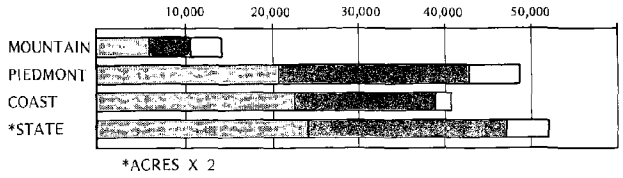
The needs for Class II (General) sites total 105,325 acres. Needs for District Parks, a sub-class within this category, considered only rural and rural-non-farm population—55% of the total. In calculating the cost for acquisition and development of Class II acreage, SORA High areas were omitted. Subtracting SORA High acreage from the total Class II acreage leaves a balance of 97,636 acres. The acquisition and development cost estimate for this acreage is about 468 million dollars.

There is a present need for 718,736 acres in Class III (Natural) sites. In figuring the cost for acquisition and development of Class III acreage, Destination Parks were omitted. Due to the nature of such sites, cost estimates were considered impractical. Therefore, subtracting needed acreage in the Destination Park category—295,373—from the total needed acreage in Class III leaves a balance of 423,363 acres. The cost estimate to acquire and develop this acreage is 233 million dollars. To help interpret the nature of Class III needs, it should be pointed out that III SORA Low areas are of the nature that fee acquisition is not always necessary or desirable for them.

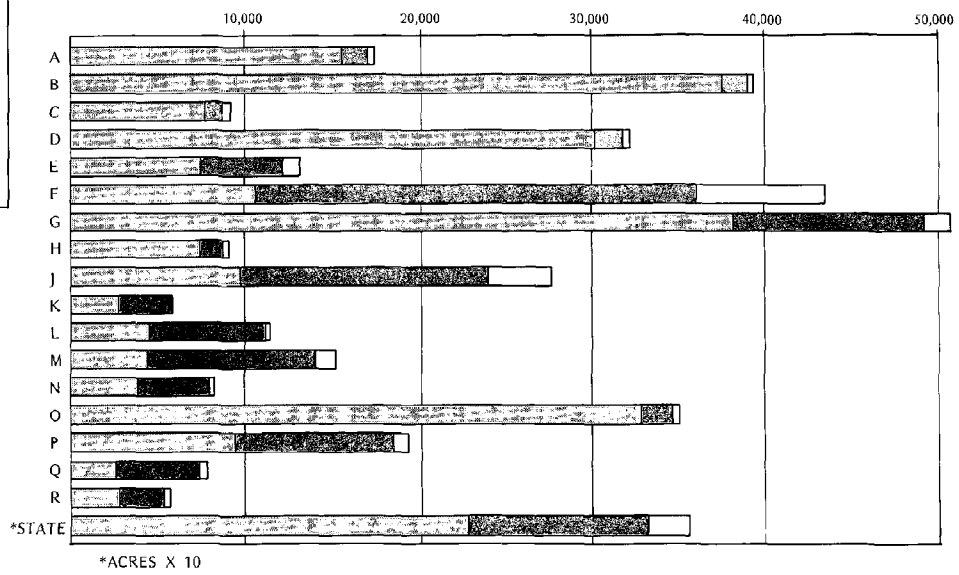
SUPPLY – NEEDS CLASS I

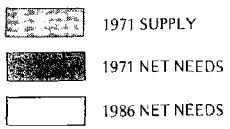


STATE PARKS



SUPPLY – NEEDS CLASS II





PRESENT ROLES

No single sector—public, private, or commercial—and no single level of government—Federal, State, or local—can meet the total needs for outdoor recreation. It takes the cooperative efforts of all. Each sector has established precedents for its specific share of the total outdoor recreation load. The following is a brief description of the contribution in areas and facilities that each sector makes to outdoor recreation.

Public Sector

FEDERAL

Federal agencies directly or indirectly responsible for the provision of outdoor recreation opportunities in North Carolina include the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife; the National Park Service; the Tennessee Valley Authority; the United States Army Corps of Engineers; the Soil Conservation Service; the United States Forest Service; the Farmers Home Administration; the Department of Housing and Urban Development; the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; the Department of Transportation; and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

In terms of present supply of outdoor recreation areas by BOR Classes, the Federal government is the only supplier of Class V (Primitive) areas in the State. The Federal government operates most of the Class IV (Unique Natural) **acreage** in the State and an equal percentage of the number of such **sites** as does the private sector (37.5%). Similarly, the Federal government operates the greatest number of **acres** in Class III (Natural Environment) areas, although the private sector operates the greater number of **sites** in this class. A significant percentage (29.3%) of the total acreage in Class VI (Historic and Cultural) **sites** in the State are under Federal operation. Only a small percentage of Class II (General Outdoor Recreation) sites are under Federal operation.

The Federal government operates 5.1% of the total number of outdoor recreation sites and 69.8% of the total outdoor recreation acreage in the State.

STATE

There are several State agencies that directly or indirectly provide outdoor recreation opportunities in North Carolina. Among these are the Office of Archives and History, the Office of Forest Resources, the Division of State Parks, the Kerr Reservoir Development Commission, the Recreation Division, the Department of Transportation, the Office of Water and Air Resources, the Wildlife Resources Commission, the Person-Caswell Lake Authority, and the Office of Mental Health.

The State is the primary supplier of Class VI (Historic and Cultural) outdoor recreation areas. It also provides areas in Class II (General Outdoor Recreation), Class III (Natural Environment), and Class IV (Unique Natural). The State operates 5.5% of the total number of outdoor recreation **sites** in North Carolina and 7.4% of the total **acreage.** There are seventeen State Parks in the State. In addition, there are two natural areas administered by the Division of State Parks. The total acreage of these nineteen areas is 47,000 acres. The Office of Archives and History administers the State's sixteen State Historic Sites.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local governmental agencies directly or indirectly providing outdoor recreation opportunities in the State are numerous and quite varied in size and function. Among the more obvious local suppliers are the sixty-plus full-time municipal recreation departments and the twenty full-time county recreation departments in the State.

Local governments in North Carolina are the primary suppliers of Class I (High Density) outdoor recreation areas. They also provide Class VI (Historic and Cultural), Class II (General Outdoor Recreation), and Class III

(Natural Environment) areas. Local governments operate 30.9% of the total number of outdoor recreation **sites** in the State and 1.4% of the total **acreage.**

Private Sector

COMMERCIAL

Commercial providers of outdoor recreation opportunities in North Carolina include operators of golf courses, campgrounds, amusement and novelty parks, theme parks, ocean piers, marinas, and a myriad of other types of profit-making enterprises.

PRIVATE

Private providers of outdoor recreation opportunities in the State are primarily non-profit interests such as religious organizations, clubs, youth agencies, and fraternal organizations.

COMBINED COMMERCIAL-PRIVATE SECTOR

Together the private and commercial sectors are the major suppliers of Class II (General Outdoor Recreation) in terms of sites and acreage. They are also the major suppliers of Class III (Natural Environment) sites. They supply Class I (High Density) areas and Class VI (Historic and Cultural) areas as well as a share of the Class IV (Unique Natural) sites that is equal to that of the Federal government—37.5%. They are the operators of 58.5% of the total number of outdoor recreation **sites** in the State of 21.4% of the total outdoor recreation **acreage.** The majority of private-sector outdoor recreation opportunities are provided by private (non-profit) interests, as opposed to commercial interests.

OBJECTIVES

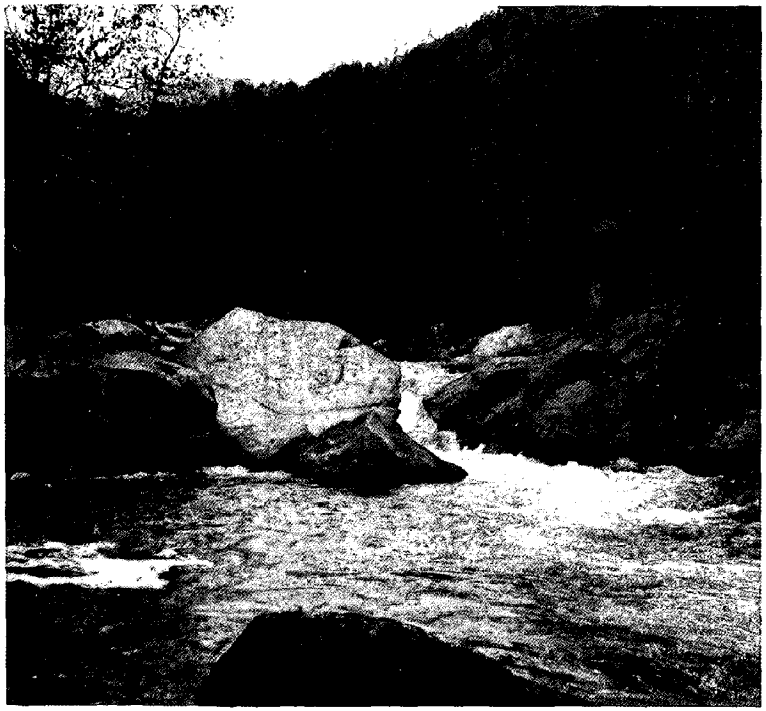
For the State of North Carolina to meet the outdoor recreation needs of its citizens, a series of specific objectives must be established.

The compatibility of those objectives with existing roles and policies of State agencies must be considered. Strict adherence to these objectives through comprehensive planning and administrative management efforts will help assure their attainment.

The State should provide, or help to provide outdoor recreation opportunities for all citizens and visitors. There should be a wide variety of quality recreation opportunities readily accessible to all and under the leadership and administration of competent personnel. Outdoor recreation should be recognized as a necessary public expense at all governmental levels, and outdoor recreation investment by the private and commercial sectors should be encouraged.

In addition, education and research efforts should be devoted to recognizing and meeting outdoor recreation needs and desires.

The State should acquire adequate examples of natural outdoor recreation features and preserve them in as close to a natural state as is feasible. Such natural features should be made accessible to the public for the purpose of outdoor recreation to the extent that such use does not destroy or degrade the resource.

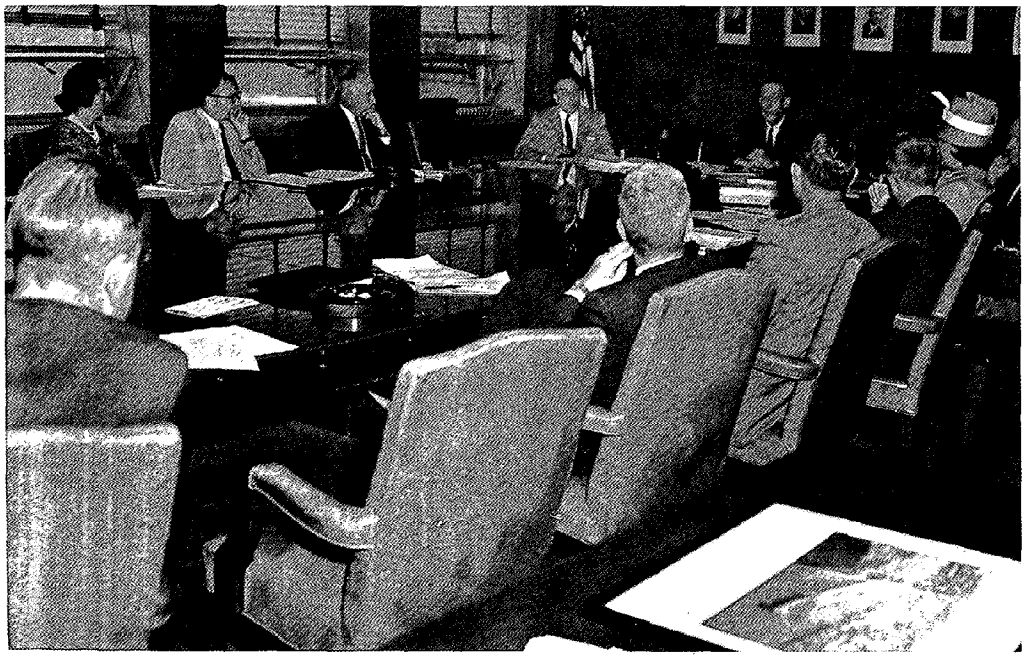


Adequate amounts of recreation areas should be made available to the increasing urban population of the State; areas of public access should be provided along the shores of streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries, sounds, and the ocean; and development and growth should be planned and accomplished with an awareness of ecological principles and through adherence to development and management criteria that eliminate, or mitigate, detrimental effects on the environment.

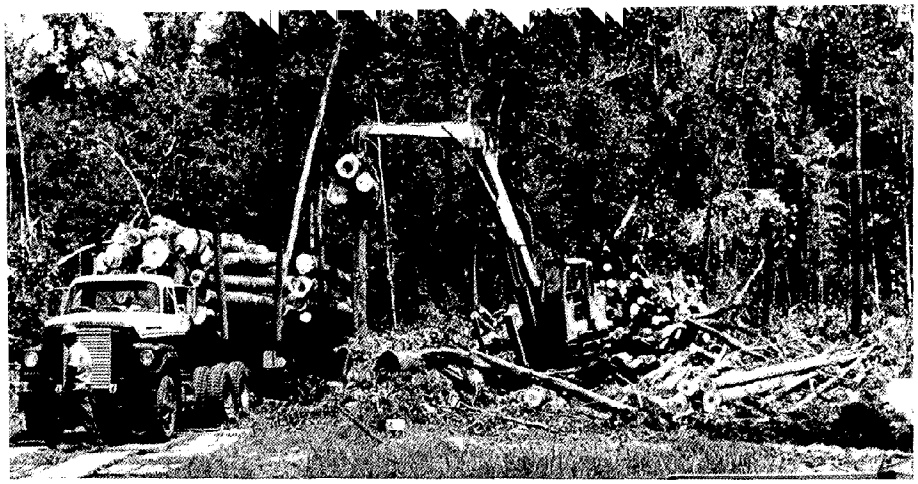
The State should maintain a continuing planning program for outdoor recreation and use the products of this program as guides for decision-making in the management of State outdoor recreation programs and services.

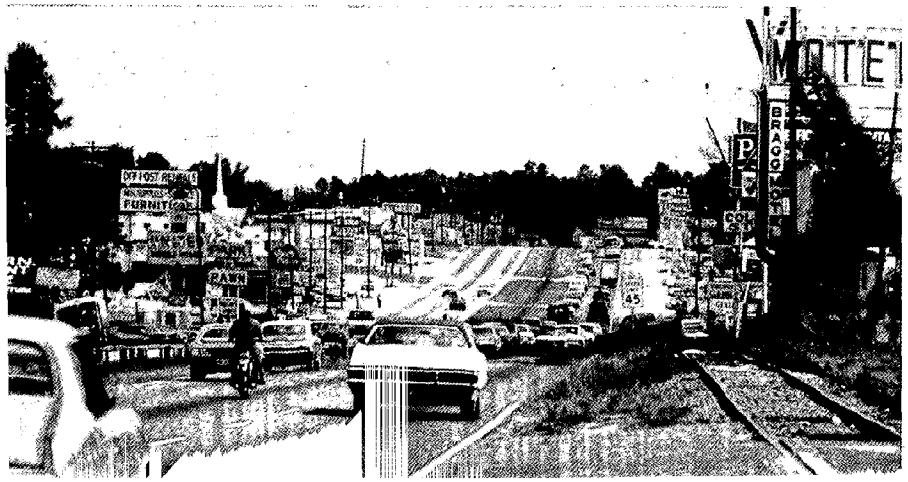
All levels of government, the private sector and the commercial sector should work cooperatively and without duplication to meet identified outdoor recreation needs.

The State should provide technical and advisory services in helping to achieve these objectives.



RECREATION
DIVISION
N.C. DEPT.
OF
NATURAL
AND
ECONOMIC
RESOURCES





PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Outdoor recreation needs, in terms of number and types of areas, have been documented in preceding sections of this report. Our effectiveness in meeting these needs will depend on many factors and conditions. A somewhat elementary analysis of such factors has been made which considered area and facility needs; outdoor recreation roles of public and private sectors; objectives of the State concerning outdoor recreation; and recommendations of the special studies listed in the introduction. This analysis resulted in the grouping of factors influencing the delivery of outdoor recreation services into the following major areas of concern.

1. Financial Support

The future progress of outdoor recreation in North Carolina is dependent on finding ways to provide adequate funds for acquisition, development, and management of recreation areas and services. This problem necessitates proper timing, a reasonable level of funding, and the coordination of planning and expenditures for other services and programs.

2. Land-Use Planning

The lack of land-use controls currently allows continuing despoilation and exploitation of vital natural areas that are important for many beneficial uses, including outdoor recreation. Effective controls must be preceded by well-conceived and accepted plans.

3. Distribution of Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Complete equality in the distribution of outdoor recreation opportunities is virtually impossible. For example, the same relative ease of access to a wilderness cannot be provided to all persons. Some will live further away than others. Thus, the distance and time factors involved will differ. Some may not have sufficient financial resources, physical strength, or skill to become involved fully in a "wilderness experience." Nonetheless, there are many ways to improve the distribution of outdoor recreation opportunities within the State. Many of these improvements are desperately needed.

4. Effective and Efficient Administration of State Outdoor Recreation Services

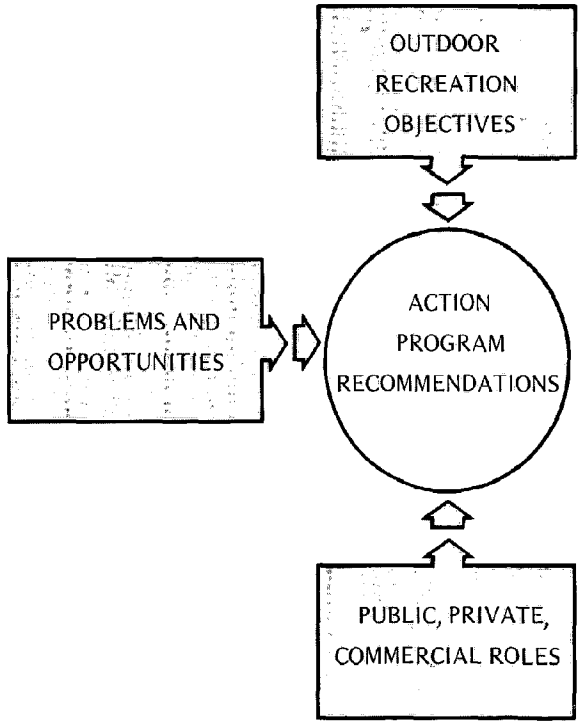
Accelerating needs and mushrooming demands for outdoor recreation facilities increase the importance of effective and efficient administration of outdoor recreation services.

The preceding categories are used as the format for presenting recommendations. Thus, the following section containing recommendations will serve to amplify these areas of concern and outline courses of action directed to the solution of specific problems within each area of concern.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for State actions concerning outdoor recreation were developed through an analysis of (1) objectives; (2) problems and opportunities; and (3) the roles of public, private, and commercial sectors in providing opportunities.

FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ACTION PROGRAM



The recommendations are designed to help the State of North Carolina attain its outdoor recreation objectives.

Although they are oriented to State actions only, they do provide a framework within which other sectors can operate.

1. Financial Support for Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor recreation acquisition and development needs are becoming more and more critical. As needs increase, so do costs. Efforts need to be made to secure additional funding and to use available funds more efficiently.

RECOMMENDATIONS
State Support

● To help meet the needs of recreation in North Carolina, an appropriation of $16,122,400 is needed for the State Parks Capital Improvement Budget for 1973-1975. (Note: The 1973 Session of the General Assembly appropriated $14,000,000 for State Parks — $11,500,000 for acquisition and $2,500,000 for development.)

● Increased funds should be made available for the State historic preservation program, State Forests recreation areas, the State Wildlife Resources program, and the addition of recreation areas on reservoirs.

● Improvements are needed in State fiscal planning and control for recreation and in the coordination of budgeting State funds for recreation.

Local Support

● The establishment of a State grant-in-aid program for acquisition of areas at the local level would facilitate improvement of recreation facilities. Proposals to obtain increased financial support for recreation at the local level from public funds must be strongly supported.

Private Support

● Efforts should be made to obtain funds other than governmental appropriations from sources such as foundations, fund-raising campaigns, business contributions, and fees and charges for recreation activities.

2. Land-Use Planning

Increasing attention is being given to statewide land-use planning. Outdoor recreation is a significant land-use in the State; already additional outdoor recreation acreage is needed. Land-use planning now will help meet the even greater needs of the future.

North Carolina outdoor recreation planners should be involved in statewide land-use planning to assure attention to outdoor recreation objectives and goals.

RECOMMENDATIONS
Land Classification

● Statewide land-use planning will most likely involve the development of some type of land classification system. Planners representing various recreation-related interests within State and local government should be invited to participate actively in the formulation of a statewide land classification system at the policy and decision-making level. Management personnel, representative of all classes of outdoor recreation sites, should also be invited to join in this effort.

Natural Areas

● Many natural areas of the State have been converted into developments of various types. These activities are increasing at an alarming rate. In response to this, a natural areas inventory has been undertaken. A work

schedule should be developed and implemented for the completion of the inventory and cataloguing tasks of the State Natural Areas Program by June 30, 1976.

Land Management

● The mounting burdens being placed upon recreation areas by increased use intensifies the need for well-conceived management programs. Land-use management principles and procedures should be developed (in a manner similar to the unit management plans developed by the U. S. Forest Service) for each park or recreation area operated or managed by the State. These principles and procedures should be submitted to the Department of Natural and Economic Resources' review process for environmental impact statements. Then the procedures should be implemented by the appropriate agency of State government.

● Additionally, an information packet should be developed as a part of the State's technical assistance program to guide recreation administrators in using sound ecological principles and practices in managing recreation areas.

Lakes and Reservoirs

● The increasing attractiveness of large bodies of water for outdoor recreation is evidenced by large increases in attendance at lakes and reservoirs. There are numerous proposals for reservoir development throughout the State, yet there is no clearly defined State policy concerning recreation planning for and access to existing and proposed reservoirs in the State. In addition, proposed reservoirs are evaluated on a project-by-project basis with little or no consideration given to the interrelationships between projects. Finally, there is a State policy concerning State-owned lakes; however, expanding private and commercial developments on the shorelines of some of these lakes threaten the assurance of public access to the water.

—A clear policy statement should be developed and approved concerning access to and planning for recreation use of lakes and reservoirs. A recreation plan should be required by the State for all reservoirs with a surface area of 1,000 acres or more.

—An evaluation is necessary to determine the present and potential recreation needs capable of being satisfied by the various reservoir proposals in the State.

—In order to receive State approval, water resource development projects should be required to provide adequate land for public access.

—Clarification and strict enforcement of the State policy for State-owned lakes are mandatory in order to assure public access to them.

3. Distribution of Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

In many instances outdoor recreation areas and services are inequitably distributed in terms of population distribution. In addition, there are inequities in the sharing of the total outdoor recreation responsibility among the various types of operators. Another inequity is the additional burden—and sometimes impossibility—of access which the handicapped person often encounters at recreation sites and within the programs and activities.

A final aspect of the inequitable distribution of outdoor recreation opportunities is that some resources are being used to their limit and beyond while others are not used to optimum capacity. This places a disproportional burden on some resources while preventing the most efficient use of others.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Improving Local Capabilities

Capabilities of local units of government for meeting identified outdoor recreation needs should be improved through the following means:

- Assisting local governments in identifying recreation needs.
- Providing administrative flexibility for local governments through amendments to the recreation enabling law, especially in clarifying the authority of local governments to acquire, develop, and administer recreation areas, facilities, and programs outside their boundaries. (Note: This was done by the 1973 Session of the General Assembly).
- Sponsoring and financing a grant-in-aid program to supplement Federal and local financial programs for outdoor recreation at the local level. (Same as grant proposal under Finances, above.)
- Clarifying existing legislation concerning the provision of outdoor recreation areas by developers of residential subdivisions.
- Adopting legislation that, for recreation purposes, would provide for the purchase of land that is being developed at raw land value.
- Encouraging solicitations for supplemental funds and other support such as gifts, bequests, and foundation grants.
- Developing, through the State's technical assistance service, a program to assist local governments in ways of increasing efficiency, thus making existing funds go further in providing services. Such a program should include guidance in securing grant assistance.

Improving State Capabilities

In expanding the number and variety of State-administered outdoor recreation opportunities, the State should be guided by current outdoor recreation needs data and the following directives:

- Acquire, develop, and administer public water access areas at intervals on the coast and other places in the coastal area.
- Acquire, develop, and administer access sites to rivers, lakes, streams, and reservoirs.
- Implement the State Natural Rivers Act.
- Expand the system of State-administered natural areas, following completion of the inventory and cataloguing.
- Establish a statewide trails system and assure the perpetuation of public access to the Appalachian Trail in the State.
- Accelerate efforts to identify, acquire, and preserve (or restore) areas and facilities of statewide historic/cultural significance, and acquire additional trained personnel to plan and implement historic restoration and preservation programs, including research to determine what is of statewide historic significance.
- Establish a natural areas trust and a natural areas preservation program.
- Develop and implement a system of scenic roads and highways, including practical methods to protect, restore, and enhance corridors of scenic value traversed by highways, and to control unsightly features.
- To the extent practical, eliminate architectural barriers to the handicapped from outdoor recreation projects.
- Attain optimum use of existing and potential recreation resources through methods such as:
  —Developing and implementing optimum carrying

capacities for various classes and types of outdoor recreation areas;
—Establishing criteria for development of recreation areas to sustain optimum use:
—Remaining alert to improvements in materials and techniques for development, construction, and maintenance of recreation areas and facilities; and
—Attaining greater compatibility with natural phenomena through use of floodplains for recreation.

4. Effective and Efficient Administration of State Outdoor Recreation Services

The State is getting less than optimum results, in terms of effectiveness and efficiency in the administration of outdoor recreation services. Various outdoor recreation functions are dispersed throughout State government. These fragmented functions include the following: (1) outdoor recreation planning, (2) Land and Water Conservation Fund project administration, and (3) outdoor recreation project implementation. For greatest efficiency all outdoor recreation activities within State government should be brought into a common thrust for an aggressive outdoor recreation program.

The State's technical assistance program for recreation requires continuous improvement. Information regarding recreation is the "stock in trade" of this program. This information must be kept up-to-date. This updating requires the use of effective data gathering activities, refined analytical techniques, the efficient storage of information, and effective methods of presenting data.

The participation by, and coordination with, all persons concerned with the planning, development, and administration of recreation opportunities and services in the State is a continuing need.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Agency Responsibility

For the reasons listed above, responsibility for major outdoor recreation functions of State government should be placed in one department. Effective outdoor recreation planning capabilities should be increased.

Citizen Input for Planning

In order to gain more effective citizen input to the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), a series of public conferences or hearings should be scheduled sequentially throughout the State. These conferences would provide a forum for citizen evaluation of the present SCORP and provide further guidance for the continuing development of an effective recreation planning program for the State.

Coordination of Effort

A study should be undertaken to determine the need for and benefits of the institution of an annual meeting of representatives from the varied recreation interests in the State.

A task force for recreation resources in North Carolina should be established. This task force should recommend policies and procedures to guide the administration and implementation of the State's recreation services.

The State's outdoor recreation planning staff should be represented on all major and significant recreation undertakings in the State.

Technical Assistance

The State's technical assistance service should develop and implement a system to disseminate information about recreation matters that may be of concern to citizens and recreation professionals in the State.

Continuing efforts should be made to strengthen and improve the present technical assistance service of the State in recreation.

The State's technical assistance service should continue diligent efforts to encourage and assist in coordinating recreation programs and efforts of, and with, the local governmental sector.

Education for Recreation

The quantity and quality of recreation staffing should be continually improved through such methods as manpower studies, in-service training programs, improvement in recreation curricula and recreation research.

Intensified efforts should be made to instill a better knowledge of, and appreciation for, the State's outdoor recreation resources and their proper use.

Additional copies of this report may be obtained from:
State Liaison Officer *to*
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation
Department of Administration
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

or:

Recreation Division
Office of Recreation Resources
Department of Natural and Economic Resources
Box 27687
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

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LEGAL AUTHORITY AND AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Governor of North Carolina, the Honorable James E. Holshouser, Jr., has designated William L. Bondurant, Secretary, Department of Administration as the State Liaison Officer to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. The Recreation Division, Office of Recreation Resources, Department of Natural and Economic Resources has been assigned a responsibility for administering the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. This includes assistance to local governments in grant applications and maintaining the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Coordination among State and Federal agencies is effected through the customary working relationships established with such agencies by the Recreation Division.

Governor Holshouser has certified that this third revision is the official Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan in his letter to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation dated 15 June 1973.

COASTAL ZONE
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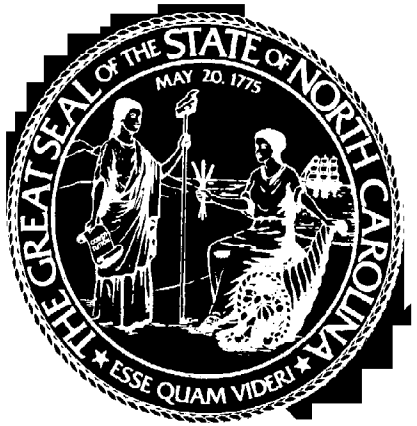

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