

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND NEEDS
IN WILMINGTON



College of Urban Affairs and Public Policy
University of Delaware
Newark, Delaware 19716

**RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND NEEDS
IN WILMINGTON**

Prepared for the
Department of Parks and Recreation
City of Wilmington, Delaware

by
Aklilu Kidanu
James H. Sills
and
Robert A. Wilson

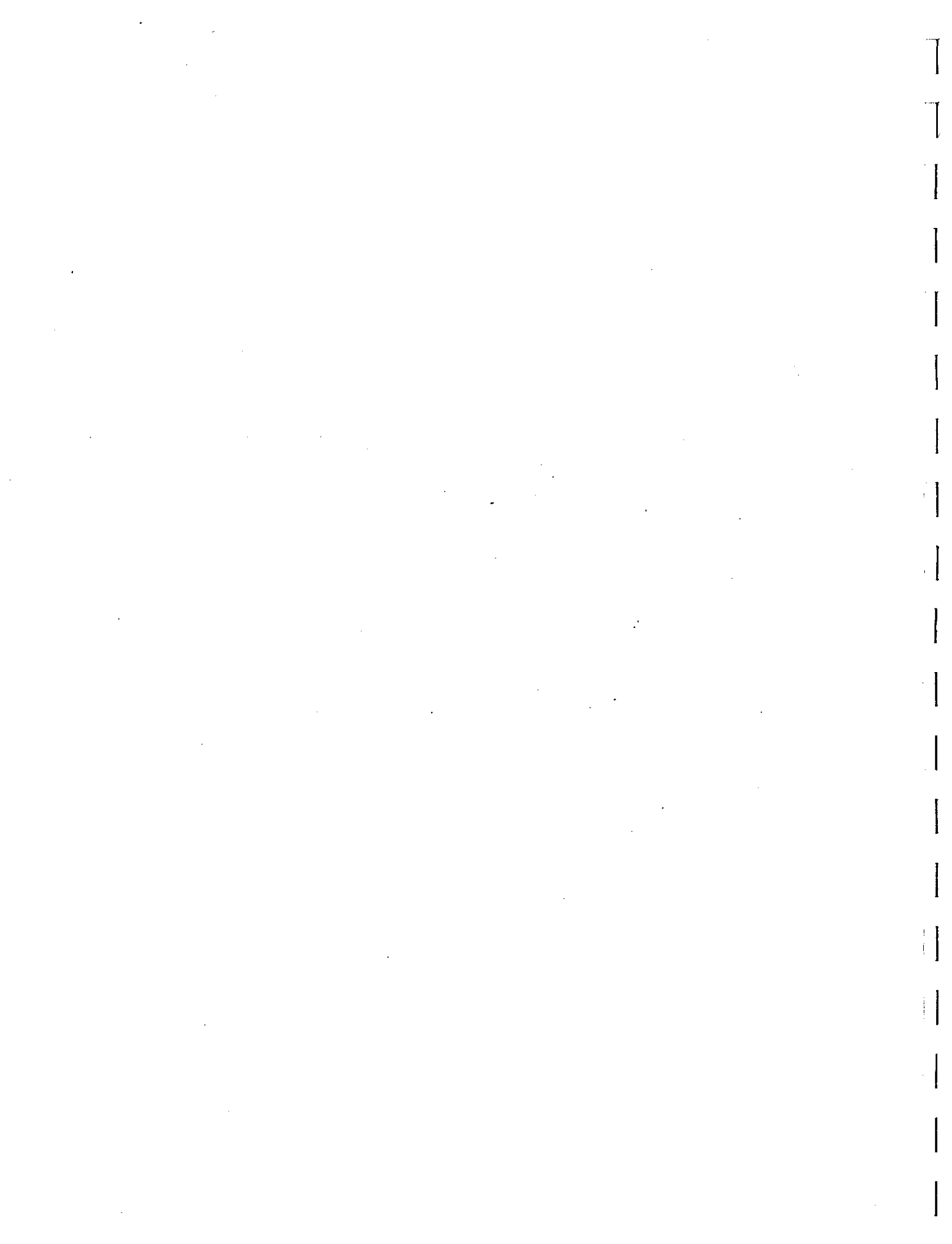
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
AND
REFLECTIONS FOR FUTURE PUBLIC POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

This executive summary highlights the major findings of the Wilmington parks and recreation study. These data findings, however, are presented in the context of some reflective thoughts and questions for future public policy consideration and directions.

The primary research objective of the study was to explore recreational preferences, needs, and interests of the various populations and socioeconomic groups presently residing in Wilmington. We believe this objective has been met. However, the data results are mixed with only a few trends and patterns that would justify the formulation of definitive recommendations about future public policy needs and choices. Much of this can be attributed to the fact that only 43 (or 14 percent) of the 300 respondents (randomly selected from the entire city population) had actually participated in any of the recreational activities provided by the Wilmington Department of Parks and Recreation. Some of the reasons for this can be readily seen in the 26.8 percent of those respondents who said they lacked information about city park/recreation activities; in the 28.4 percent of the respondents who said they were too busy to participate; and in the 10 percent of those respondents who cited personal and health problems for their non-participation. In short, with such a low respondent recreation-participation rate, it is not prudent to rely heavily upon the study data base as the focal point for suggesting future public policy planning and decision-making directions.

In spite of these limitations, some of the data results do help suggest that Parks and Recreation Department officials investigate and experiment with new programmatic and public policy approaches in order to improve the relevance and quality of park/recreation services to Wilmington residents. When the study data base is examined in relation to certain documented experiences/facts operative within the City of Wilmington, and in relation to selected national and regional research results,¹ it becomes plausible to identify some major questions and draw some inferences about future city park/recreation needs. In the sections below, there is a delineation of some selected programmatic, administrative and policy areas within the department which the research investigators deem to be in need of further study and/or change.

More Effective Promotion of Parks/Recreation Programs

The data results indicate the need for the Department of Parks and Recreation to review how it is promoting its services to the community. The fact that 257, or 85 percent, of the randomly selected respondents have not participated in any of the programs offered is surprisingly high -- particularly so when more than 40 percent of these same non-participating respondents indicate they have been residents of Wilmington for 25 years or longer. This relatively high percentage of long-time, non-participating Wilmington residents is explained to some extent by the significant 26.8 percent of non-participating respondents who said they lacked any information about city park/recreation programs.

It is perhaps revealing that those respondents who do participate in city-sponsored programs tend to get their information about such programs from very

¹ The data results from the 1982-83 National Recreational Survey, sponsored by the Survey Research Center, University of Maryland, were especially helpful to the investigators in their analysis of Wilmington parks/recreation data.

limited sources. In fact, 74.4 percent of these participating respondents learned about city park/recreation programs from either the newspaper or from friends and neighbors. Only 7 percent of these respondents came to know about such programs from city-published information.

In looking to the future, the study results seem to indicate that the city needs to diversify its promotional methods for disseminating information about park/recreational programs. There is also the question of whether the city needs to reach out to residents more directly with city-published materials, utilizing more consistently as conduits the schools, churches, social agencies etc. There can be no question, however, that non-participating city residents will need a new and better base of promotional information if they are to know about and begin to utilize city-provided parks/recreational services.

In this connection, city officials should consider devising different promotional and public relations strategies for different socioeconomic groups and even different neighborhood areas. The importance of both increased and diversified promotional efforts in the area of public relations has been highlighted in some research results which show that there is considerable ignorance of those parks and recreation facilities which are closest to people's homes (Hayward et al. 1980).

Expansion of Linkages with Selected Nonprofit Agencies

The Wilmington Department of Parks and Recreation offers a wide array of services through the use of buildings of a number of Wilmington public and private agencies. These include community centers, public schools, and senior-citizen apartment buildings. The data suggest the possibility of selectively expanding this arrangement. Among the non-participating respondents, 24 percent

were fulfilling their recreational needs in settings other than those funded or provided by the city. The nature of the agencies frequented by these non-participating respondents is indeed varied -- with the YMCA/YWCA and senior centers (as differentiated from senior-citizen apartment buildings) accounting for a relatively high percentage. In fact, of the 63 non-participating respondents who visit recreational programs unrelated to the city, approximately 16 percent are involved in recreational programs sponsored by YMCA's or YWCA's. Both of these organizations should be considered for expansion of certain city recreational services.

Both the Wilmington downtown YMCA and YWCA have a long history of attracting to their well equipped physical fitness programs -- during the noonday period -- a regular contingent of professionals, mostly white, from the downtown corporate business community. It may be in the city's best interest to help subsidize these existing YMCA/YWCA programs frequented by city residents or perhaps to help with the cost of expanding such programs. The short-range objective would be using public monies to help for recreational services utilized by city residents. The long-range objective, however, would be to establish a city presence with these participants and to encourage them subsequently to know more about and become involved in other city-sponsored recreational programs.

Experimental Boating/Fishing Programs

Running through the heart of Wilmington are the Brandywine Creek and the Christiana River -- two natural and valuable resources that offer considerable potential for accommodating new and experimental fishing and boating programs. The newly constructed fishing, crabbing, and boating piers adjacent to the East Fourth Street park only add to the already existing opportunity for more water-based recreational programs. The question of what should be the nature of these

suggested experimental boating and fishing programs cannot be answered from the data base of this study. City resident responses having to do with fishing and boating were almost non-existent.

There are some factors which are known, nonetheless, and which help justify the undertaking of experimental fishing and boating recreational programs. First, it is commonly known (and can be seen) many Wilmington citizens already engage in fishing and crabbing from the banks of the Brandywine and Christiana. Many others -- perhaps many from Wilmington's large retired elderly population -- might have an interest in doing so if instructional help were provided on how and where to fish and/or crab and if small boats and related instructional help were made available.

Nationally, fishing as an outdoor sport is rapidly attracting an enthusiastic following -- with 37 percent of all adults over age 18 having "often" fished in 1984 (Bryant 1987). Fishing also is becoming to be increasingly recognized as a complex sport, given the many different kinds of rods, reels, and lures/bait that are required under various circumstances and conditions. It would thus appear that some structured instructional city-sponsored program may be necessary in order to induce more Wilmington residents to participate in a fishing/boating program.

Neighborhood Park/Outdoor Recreational Activity For the Elderly

Wilmington has an escalating elderly population growth. Recently published data reveal that slightly more than one of every five persons living in Wilmington is 50 years of age or older (The Morning News, B.3). Sensitive to these trends, Department of Parks and Recreation officials have been successful in designing and putting into place a number of innovative recreational programs

to meet the needs of the elderly: leisure time/special bus trip programs offered at many of the senior citizen apartment buildings; a special senior physical fitness program at the West Center City Community Center; a special Ms. Senior Citizen Wilmington Pageant Program; and others.

The paramount questions are whether these efforts have been sufficient in relation to current senior citizen recreational needs and demands, many of which admittedly are often unarticulated, and whether the elderly might have more interest in expanding their participation in neighborhood park/outdoor recreation activities. Of the respondents who were participants in city-sponsored recreational programs, 17 percent were age 55 or older. Among the non-participating respondents, 32.3 percent were 50 years of age or older. From these data, there is no discernible response pattern among the elderly as to their future needs and demands.

Nationally, however, there is some evidence that the parks/recreational needs of elderly citizens may be going dramatic changes. The rate of participation of elderly people in many recreational activities has increased at the same time the participation rate for younger people has declined. A 1982 national recreational survey found that 80 percent of 12 to 17 year olds and 67 percent of 18 to 24 year olds reported participating in swimming activities during the past year. While these figures are higher than for other age groups in the 1982 survey, they are lower than the rates were for these same age groups in a similar national study done in 1965.

In contrast, participation rate for 45 to 64 year olds rose from 27 percent in 1965 to 33 percent in 1982 and nearly doubled (from 6 to 11 percent) for those aged 65 or older. The 65-plus age group also reported higher participation rates for bicycling, walking for pleasure, bird watching, and attending outdoor

concerts. Similar increases in participation at the national level are found for those aged 45 to 64 (Robinson 1987).

It is difficult fully to assess these national statistics in relation to local Wilmington senior citizen recreational needs. We suggest that further study and research are needed on these questions -- especially in terms of better documenting the extent elderly citizens desire to participate in neighborhood park and outdoor recreational activities. Nationally, elderly citizens are becoming much more involved in outdoor parks and recreational activities. The Wilmington Department of Parks and Recreation should therefore seek to determine, through further research or through the use of project experiments or demonstrations, whether there are some selected park and outdoor recreational programs that would appeal to the interest of many local senior citizens.

Plans/Priorities for Park Picnic/Cooking Area

This study provides no direct insight into how Wilmington residents feel about park picnic/cooking areas. The subject was hardly mentioned in the responses of either participants or non-participants. This absence of any major interest reflected in picnic/cooking activity is important and warrants some interpretation. The results of national recreational research help provide some understanding of this matter. The percentage of Americans who participate in picnicking activities has declined from 60 percent in 1965 to 48 percent in 1982 (Robinson 1987, 36). The authors of this national study point out that the decline in picnicking does not mean a lessening of citizen interest in outdoor recreational pursuits. What it does mean, however, is that many U.S. citizens have shifted their outdoor recreational preferences. In the last 15 years or so, people have become less interested in passive recreational activities and more interested in activities that are action and participatory-oriented, like

bicycling, jogging, skiing etc.

The declining interest in passive recreational activities such as picnicking has public policy implications. Most of the Wilmington parks appear to have a generous supply of picnic/cooking areas. Given the lessening interest nationally in this particular activity, we suggest that, as new park facilities are developed or existing ones expanded in Wilmington, the installation of picnic/cooking areas should be kept to minimum. In some of those instances where picnic/cooking equipment needs to be replaced, consideration should be given to utilizing the park space for other recreational purposes -- such as jogging, bicycling, and cross-country skiing.

Cultural/Historical Activities

Not surprisingly, the most popular recreational activity of the participating respondents proved to be outdoor sports -- the kinds which normally played in neighborhood park areas. Most respondents (88.4 percent) go to the activities directly from their homes, with a slight majority, 51.2 percent, indicating that they walk to such activities. From these particular data, as well as from other data in the report, inferences can be made about the value of neighborhood parks to adjacent neighborhoods and about high level of satisfaction which most people derive from their participation in neighborhood park activities. Both participating respondents and non-participating respondents consistently referred to the neighborhood parks in expressing their future preferences for various kinds of recreational activities. Preferences for musical programs and youth activities were high. In short, most city residents seem to feel good about neighborhood parks and perceive them as making major contributions to the quality of life at the neighborhood level.

Because of all of the above noted factors, it appears that neighborhood parks could be used for new and expanded activity. In a number of American cities, plans for using neighborhood parks to recognize the historical contributions of black leaders are being considered or implemented. Many of these developments are of recent origin and reflect the belief of many that the accomplishments of black leaders have been deliberately ignored, in terms of statutes and plaques located in highly visible and often frequented public places. The tentative plans of the Philadelphia City Council to use a portion of Fairmont Park to house a series of statutes of great black leaders of the past is a case in point. The same rationale would apply in using parks in other ethnic neighborhoods to commemorate the achievements of leaders of those other ethnic groups.

One objective of using neighborhood parks to highlight the history and cultural backgrounds of certain racial and ethnic groups would be to generate, among the park attenders, a greater sense of neighborhood pride and personal sense of neighborhood identity and ownership. A second objective would be to facilitate personal communication and educational dialogue among those who frequent the parks.

Long-Range Plans and Goals

Much of what has been presented above -- in terms of proposed recreational experiments -- very much relate to future goals and objectives. These are never easy to develop. Leadership, vision and a credible planning process are three essential elements to getting started. As Wilmington becomes more diversified in its population make-up, changes spearheaded by the recent arrival of new banking and financial institutions, goals become important to insure that public resources are congruent with community values and future citizen aims and

directions.

How could major city-wide parks -- Brandywine, Rockford, Rodney, etc. -- be used more effectively to promote Wilmington as a progressive metropolis and to facilitate better communication and cultural exchange between urban and suburban communities? What recreational interests and skills do we desire that our children and families have in the future, and for what reasons? And most importantly, how should we use future public resources in relation to what park-recreational priorities, and in relation to what sectors of the community? The answers to these questions are very much akin to the continued need for Wilmington to function as the central social, cultural and economic hub of New Castle County. Viable and innovative parks and recreational activities have a major role in helping Wilmington to fulfill this need in the future.

To assist city Parks and Recreation Department officials in developing future long-range plans, we propose a two-day Wilmington Parks and Recreation Planning Conference. We suggest a selected panel of 20 people from each Wilmington councilmanic district be invited to this conference as well as a panel of 20 people from the city at large. The work of this group could be supplemented by the technical expertise of professionals invited from the New Castle County Recreation Department and the state Recreation Division. Packets of materials should be sent to all of the invitees describing the status of the park-recreational activities in Wilmington, along with a list of questions concerning future park-recreational plans and goals. These questions would in effect represent the conference agenda.

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the study is to document the recreational preferences, needs and interests of the various population and socio-economic groups presently residing in Wilmington. By creating a new base of information, the study can contribute to the planning of more effective programs by the City of Wilmington's Department of Parks and Recreation.

The specific objectives of the study were to answer the following questions: Who is currently participating in the recreational activities or programs provided by Wilmington Department of Parks and Recreation? Where do those who participate get information about the activities? How do they rate the activities and the staff? Why are people not taking advantage of the activities provided? What suggestions do they have to increase their participation in the activities? The information obtained from the study can help the Department determine where recreational activities could be held for optimal attendance and what the needs and interests of the general public for recreational programs are.

Background

The Wilmington Department of Parks and Recreation presently serves the population of Wilmington through a variety of recreational, athletic and leisure time activities. During the past decade, however, the city has experienced significant demographic changes that may have significant implications on the effectiveness of the programs which the Department of

Parks and Recreation provides.

First, between 1970 and 1980, the city's total population decreased from 80,381 to 70,095 - a 12.7 percent decline. During this ten-year span, the city's black population increased from 43.6 percent to 51.1 percent and its Hispanic population from 2.2 percent to 4.9 percent. Median family income dropped from \$15,939 in 1970 to \$14,435 in 1980 (a 9.4 percent decline); the percentage of Wilmington families with below poverty level income went from 16.0 percent to 20.2 percent.

Second, in spite of these demographic developments, Wilmington's central business district has experienced rapid growth and the city has become a banking and financial center. As a result of the passage of the 1981 Delaware Financial Center Development Act, more than thirteen new banks and financial institutions have chosen to locate in Wilmington. In the process, many other business support firms have been newly established or expanded. Wilmington's job market has become decidedly more financially and technologically oriented, and, as a consequence, a sizeable number of professionally trained individuals and their families have moved to Wilmington and taken up residence in neighborhoods adjacent or near to Wilmington's business district.

Third, Wilmington has experienced shifts in recreational programs and human service delivery systems at the neighborhood level. In 1970, most of the neighborhoods had social service agencies -- such as Peoples Settlement Association, Kingswood Community Center, Christiana Community Center, and West End Community Center -- that offered a variety of recreational and athletics programs for youth and young adults. In the ensuing years, many of these agencies, influenced by changing national priorities and federal budgetary flow, significantly reduced their involvement in recreational programs and now

focus many of their programs and budget allocations on the special needs of senior citizen groups and pre-school children. As a result, local government agencies, including the Department of Parks and Recreation, had to increase their recreational services to children and youth.

Finally, some neighborhoods in Wilmington are increasingly being confronted with a restless, and sometimes disruptive, teenage and young adult population. Adversely affected by a cutback of youth recreational services from private agencies and frustrated over their inability to compete in many of the newly emerging high-tech jobs, many Wilmington youth are complaining to public officials that they have "nothing to do." There is substantial evidence to indicate that many of these Wilmington youth have sought relief from their tensions and frustrations by aligning themselves with organized groups or gangs and by engaging in increased drug-related activities at the neighborhood level.

This study was conducted to provide a new base of information which may reflect the recreational needs and preferences of the changing Wilmington population.

Methodology

The method to collect information employed in the study was the telephone interview. Questions were asked of a sample of 300 people and their answers recorded during the conversation. This method was used because it makes it possible to obtain data in a relatively rapid and simple fashion. The 300 telephone numbers were randomly drawn from a computer-generated list of the residents of Wilmington.

The questionnaire has 67 questions which cover four general topics. The first

questions ask whether respondents have participated in any of the recreational activities provided by the Department in the last twelve months, how they heard about the activities, and other similar questions. These are followed by questions as to how the respondents who have participated in the recreational activities rate the operation of the activities and the performance of the staff. The third group asks what things should be done to improve the programs or to encourage participation in the programs provided by the Department. The final questions ask for demographic data (Table 1).

Table 1
Topics by Question Numbers

Topics	Question Numbers
1. Questions on participation	1-29
2. Questions on ratings	30-44
3. Questions on suggestions	45-56
4. Demographic questions	57-67

Major Findings

In general, the 300 respondents may be divided into two groups: 43 respondents were twelve years old or older and had actually participated in at least one of the recreational activities provided by the Department of Parks and Recreation; 257 respondents had not participated in any of the recreational activities provided by the Department. The responses of both groups are summarized briefly below. The second section of the report provides a more complete account of the participating respondents' answers; the third section, of the non-participating respondents' answers. In addition 24 of the adult respondents (8 percent of the total people interviewed) had

children under twelve who participated in the recreational activities provided by the Department of Parks and Recreation. Those respondents' answers about their children's participation are discussed in the fourth section.

Who is currently using the services of the Department of Parks and Recreation?

The respondents who participated in the recreational activities provided by the Department tended to be black (60.5 percent) and female (53.5 percent). They were also relatively highly educated: 32.6 percent had finished college and another 25.6 percent had finished high school. Close to half of the participating respondents owned their houses or apartments (46.5 percent) and worked full time (41.9 percent)

Where do people get their information about the programs? The two major sources of information about the activities of the Department were newspapers and friends or neighbors. Other sources -- churches, schools, and posted notices -- were also mentioned. Only 7 percent mentioned materials published by the city as their source of information.

How do people rate the activities and the staff? Participating respondents seem to be quite favorably impressed with the Department's programs. Over 50 percent of the respondents who participated in the activities rated the overall conditions and the quality of staff services "good" and 35 percent rate them "excellent." More specifically, convenience to home, amount of safety conditions, and cleanliness enjoyed the highest ratings, whereas parking areas and restrooms received the lowest ratings. The knowledgeability and helpfulness of the staff were also rated high.

Why are people not taking advantage of the activities? A large majority of the people interviewed indicated that they had not participated in the

activities provided by the Department. The most frequently mentioned reasons for non-participation were lack of information about the activities (26.8 percent), being too busy to go (28.4 percent), and personal health problems (10.5 percent). Other reasons included lack of interesting activities, inconvenient timing, and safety conditions.

What are the suggestions of respondents to improve/include activities? Only 17 (39.5 percent) of the participating respondents gave suggestion as to how to improve the recreational activities. Their suggestions included better supervision, better instructors, and adequate parking facilities. They also suggested more publicity about the activities. Forty-three (16.7 percent) of the non-participating respondents provided suggestions as to what improvements in the recreational activities would encourage them to participate. Their suggestions included swimming lessons, physical fitness programs, and arts and crafts. Other suggestions included sports such as baseball, soccer, karate and so forth.

II. PARTICIPATING YOUTH AND ADULT RESPONDENTS

This section provides information on respondents who have actually participated in at least one of the recreational activities provided by the Department of Parks and Recreation last year.

Social Characteristics

Respondents who had participated in the activities tended to be black and to be female, although there was a strong white male presence. There was minimal representation of other races (Table 2).

A majority of the participating respondents were young (32 years old or younger) but there was also a moderate (17 percent) presence of older people (55 years and older). About 40 percent of them have lived in Wilmington more than 26 years. Participating respondents were relatively well educated: 32.6 percent had college degrees. More than half of this group were single (55.8 percent), while almost one-third were married (32.6 percent) (Table 2).

Over 70 percent of the participating respondents lived in two zip code areas (801 and 802).

Economic Characteristics

Although a significant percentage of participating respondents (44.2 percent) either refused to answer the question about income or indicated that they didn't know, 27.9 percent indicated an annual income of between \$20,000 and \$29,000. Slightly more than 9 percent of them make more than \$30,000 a year.

Most participating respondents were employed either full-time (41.9 percent) or part-time (25.6 percent). Only 4.7 percent of these respondents indicated that they were unemployed, while 14 percent indicated that they have retired; 11.6 percent were full-time students. Equal numbers of participating respondents rented and owned their homes (Table 3).

Participation in Activities

The most popular recreational categories for participating respondents were sports (37.2 percent) and special events (34.9 percent). The 'sports' category includes such games as volleyball, soccer and tennis; special events include activities like trips seminars and concerts. Arts and crafts and music were mentioned by 11.6 percent each (Table 4).

Participating respondents found out about the Department's activities through newspapers (37.2 percent) and friends or neighbors (37.2 percent). Other sources such as parents and schools also provided some information, but not to a significant degree. Only 7 percent of those people who participated indicated that information published by the city was their source of information (Table 5).

A majority of this group of respondents (51.2 percent) indicated that they walked to the activities, whereas 4.7 percent indicated that they used public transportation. Most went to these activities directly from their homes (88.4 percent) rather than from work (9.3 percent) or school (2.3 percent) (Table 6). Together with the fact that 94 percent of the participating respondents said it took them less than ten minutes to get to the activities, this may indicate that most people go to the recreational activities close to their homes.

About 40 percent of the participating respondents went to the recreational activities weekly; 23.3 percent daily and 11.6 percent monthly (Table 7). More than half of them (53.3 percent) indicated that they usually went to the activities in the evenings and almost three-fourths (74.4 percent) usually went in the summer (Table 8). A significant number of the participating respondents (41.9 percent) went to the activities with friends (Table 9).

Evaluation of Activities

Participating respondents indicated general satisfaction with the overall environment of the recreational activities. The two exceptions were parking and restroom conditions. The most highly rated feature was convenience to home: 37.2 percent of participating respondents rated it 'excellent' and 53.5 percent 'good' (Table 10). Other features with high combined 'excellent' and 'good' ratings were amount of space (79.1 percent), cleanliness (76.8 percent), and hours of operation (74.4 percent).

The respondents were also generally satisfied with the performance of the staff. Over 50 percent indicated that the staff's helpfulness, quality of supervision, and knowledgeability were 'good' or 'excellent' (Table 11). Overall, 85 percent of the respondents rated the activities and staff performance as either 'good' or 'excellent' (Table 12).

Seventeen participating respondents (39.5 percent) indicated that there was something about the activities that they particularly liked. Among the things respondents particularly liked were that the recreational activities were lots of fun (17.6 percent), that they were free (11.8 percent), and that they were diverse in nature (5.9 percent). Only 13 participating respondents (30.2 percent) indicated things that they particularly disliked about the

recreational activities. Among the things they particularly disliked were inadequate police protection (15.4 percent), inconsistent starting times (7.7 percent), and referee absentism (7.7 percent). Tables 13 and 14 provide a complete list of respondents' likes and dislikes, respectively, about the recreational activities provided by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Suggestions for Improving Activities

Seventeen participating respondents (39.5 percent) provided suggestions to improve the quality of the recreational activities provided by the Department of Parks and Recreation. There are indications that participating respondents suggest improvements in the areas in which they had participated most often. Their suggestions included more publicity about the recreational activities (11.8 percent), better supervisions and instructions (11.8 percent each), and more basketball games and better lighting systems (5.9 percent each). Other suggestions included more concerts, more publicity, and more barbecue pits. (For a complete list of suggestions, see Table 15.)

Table 2
Social Characteristics
(Participating Respondents, N=43)

Age Group	Percent	Sex	Percent	Race	Percent
12-16	14.0	Female	53.5	Black	60.5
17-24	25.6	Male	46.5	White	32.6
25-32	14.0			Native American	2.3
33-40	14.0			Other	2.3
41-50	16.3			Refused	2.3
51-65	11.6				
66 +	4.7				

Last grade Completed	Percent	Marital Status	Percent
Less than grade 8	9.3	Single	55.8
High school incomplete	16.3	Married	32.6
High school complete	25.6	Divorced	4.7
College incomplete	14.0	Widow	4.7
College complete	32.6	Refused	2.3
Refused to answer	2.3		

Table 3

Economic Characteristics
(Participating Respondents, N=43)

Annual Income	Percent	Tenure	Percent	Employment	Percent
Under \$5,000	4.7	Own	46.5	Full-time	41.9
\$5,000 to \$9,999	4.7	Rent	46.5	Part-time	25.6
\$10,000 to \$14,999	4.7	Other	7.0	Retired	14.0
\$15,000 to \$19,999	4.7			Student	11.6
\$20,000 to \$29,999	27.9			Unemployed	4.7
\$30,000 to \$39,999	2.3			Other	2.3
\$40,000 or more	7.0				
Refused to tell	23.3				
Don't know	20.9				

Table 4

Q.3 In which category did you participate most often?
(Participating Respondents, N=43)

Recreational Category	Percent Respondents
Sports	37.2
Special events	34.9
Music	11.6
Arts/crafts	11.6
Fitness	2.3
Other	2.3

Table 5

Q.4 Where did you find out about this activity?
(Participating Respondents, N=43)

Source of Information	Percent Respondents
Newspaper	37.2
Friends/neighbors	37.2
Other *	16.3
City-published information	7.0
Television	2.3

* Seven other sources which include church, parents, location etc.

Table 6

Q.5 Where do you go to the activity from?
Q.6 What is the main method of transportation to get there?
(Participating Respondents, N=43)

Leave From	Percent Respondents	Method of Transportation	Percent Respondents
Home	88.3	Walk	51.2
Work	9.3	Own car	41.9
School	2.3	Public transportation	4.7
		Other*	2.3

* Includes bicycle and ride

Table 7

Q.9 Frequency of Participation
(Participating Respondents, N=43)

Frequency	Percent Respondents
Weekly	39.5
Daily	23.3
Yearly	23.3
Monthly	11.6
Biweekly	2.3

Table 8

Q.8 What season of the year do you participate in the activity?
Q.13 Time of the day in which you participate?
(Participating Respondents, N=43)

Season of the Year	Percent Respondents	Time of the Day	Percent Respondents
Summer	74.4	Evening	53.5
Spring	14.0	Afternoon	37.2
Fall	9.3	Morning	14.0
Winter	2.3		

Table 9

Q.14 Whom do you go to the activity with?
(Participating respondents, N=43)

Relationship	Percent Respondents
Friend	41.9
Alone	23.3
Relative	14.0
Spouse	14.0
Child	4.7
Other	2.3

Table 10

Q.30-Q.37, Q.39-Q.40. Ratings of the General Environment
(Participating Respondents, N=43)

Park Feature	Percent of Respondents				
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	D/K
Convenience to home	37.2	53.5	2.3	2.3	4.7
Cleanliness	34.9	41.9	16.3	2.3	4.7
Amount of space	34.9	44.2	14.0	2.3	4.7
Hours of operation	27.9	46.5	18.6	0.0	7.0
Safety conditions	25.6	48.8	14.0	7.0	4.7
Physical attractiveness	25.6	48.8	14.0	7.0	4.7
Conditions of equipment	23.3	41.9	14.0	4.7	16.3
Availability of equipment	20.9	37.2	16.3	4.7	20.9
Variety of programs	20.9	44.2	20.9	2.3	11.6
Restrooms	11.6	27.9	18.6	14.0	27.9
Parking area	7.0	34.9	23.3	23.3	11.6

Table 11

Q.38, Q.42-Q.44 Ratings of Staff
(Participating Respondents, N=43)

Staff Characteristics	Percent of Respondents				D/K
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	
Helpfulness/attitude	18.6	39.5	16.3	7.0	18.6
Knowledgeability	18.6	37.2	9.3	0.0	34.9
Amount of supervision	16.3	41.9	7.0	4.7	30.2
Quality	16.3	44.2	7.0	4.7	27.9

Table 12

Q.9 Overall, how would you rate the activity you participated in?
(Participating respondents, N=43)

All Characteristics	Percent of Respondents				D/K
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	
Overall rating	34.9	51.2	11.6	0.0	2.3

Table 13

Q.46: Is there anything else you particularly like about this activity? If yes, what is it?
 (Participating respondents, N=43)
 (Valid cases, N=17)

Activities Liked	Frequency	Percent Respondents	Percent Valid
Diversity of programs	1	2.3	5.9
Exercise	2	4.7	11.8
Opportunity to relax and enjoy	1	2.3	5.9
Gives children opportunity to play in activities they enjoy	1	2.3	5.9
It's free	2	4.7	11.8
Lots of fun	3	7.0	17.6
Availability of sports	2	4.7	11.8
Younger people able to meet people	1	2.3	5.9
Friendliness of the staff	1	2.3	5.9
Like working with children	1	2.3	5.9
Culture	1	2.3	5.9
Being outdoors	1	2.3	5.9
Total	17	39.5	100.0

Table 14

Q.48: Is there anything else you particularly dislike about this activity? If yes, what is it?
 (Participating Respondents, N=43)
 (Valid cases, N=13)

Activities Disliked	Frequency	Percent Respondents	Percent Valid
Starting times are not consistent	1	2.3	7.7
New lines need to be painted on the courts	1	2.3	7.7
Referee doesn't always show up	1	2.3	7.7
Not enough concerts	1	2.3	7.7
Does not have the transportation to get other children there	1	2.3	7.7
Referee	1	2.3	7.7
Management is not very good	1	2.3	7.7
Not enough police protection	2	4.7	15.4
Too many big boys playing basketball but they too need a place to go	1	2.3	7.7
Staff does not work together very well, need to be more cooperative	1	2.3	7.7
Parking	1	2.3	7.3
No activities on weekends	1	2.3	7.7
Total	13	30.2	100.0

Table 15

Q. 51: Do you have any suggestions for improving this activity?
 If yes, what is it?
 (Participating Respondents, N=43)
 (Valid cases, N=17)

Respondents Suggestion	Frequency	Percent Respondents	Percent Valid
Better supervision	2	4.7	11.8
Need better instructors	2	4.7	11.8
More publicity (advertisement)	2	4.7	11.8
Need more concerts	1	2.3	5.9
More area and more activity	1	2.3	5.9
Need more basketballs and better lighting system	1	2.3	5.9
Get more in-put from people who are participating	1	2.3	5.9
Better parking	1	2.3	5.9
Help get transportation for children	1	2.3	5.9
More game time	1	2.3	5.9
Should have a director they could meet with	1	2.3	5.9
Increase the security	1	2.3	5.9
Dance classes	1	2.3	5.9
Have more appropriate culture activities the elderly can enjoy	1	2.3	5.9
Total	17	39.5	100.0

III. NON-PARTICIPATING YOUTH AND ADULT RESPONDENTS

This section presents some of the demographic characteristics of respondents who have not participated in city sponsored recreational activities. It also presents their suggestions for changes that might increase their participation.

Social Characteristics

Non-participating respondents were older than participating respondents: 32.3 percent of the non-participating respondents were 50 years or older compared to 16.3 percent of participating respondents (Table 16). Similarly, only 41.2 percent of the non-participating respondents were below 33 years of age compared to 53.6 percent of participating respondents.

Non-participating respondents were predominately female (74.3 percent). Unlike the participating respondents, a majority of the non-participating respondents (51 percent) were white. Like participating respondents, more than 40 percent of the non-participating respondents have lived in Wilmington 25 years or longer.

There also seems to be some disparity in the level of education between the non-participating respondents and participating respondents. Participating respondents were relatively better educated. Among the non-participating respondents, 49.1 percent had completed high school but only 16 percent of those had also completed college. Among the participating respondents, 58.2 percent had finished high school, and 32.6 percent who these had also

completed college (Table 16).

The data also reveal that there were more married couples and widows among the non-participating respondents than among the participating respondents. Given the generally elderly nature of the non-participating respondents, this finding may not be surprising.

Economic Characteristics

About a fourth (23.8 percent) of the non-participating respondents reported an annual income of less than \$15,000. By way of contrast, only 14.1 percent of the participating respondents had annual incomes of less than \$15,000. However, a larger proportion of the non-participant respondents owned the houses or apartments they lived in (56.7 percent) than was case for the participating respondents (46.5 percent). A large group of non-participating respondents (45.9 percent) were full-time employees, whereas 18.7 percent were retired (Table 17).

Reasons for Non-participation

Non-participating respondents indicated that a number of reasons were responsible for their non-participation in recreational activities provided by the Department of Parks and Recreation. The most frequently given reasons were the respondents' lack of information about these activities (26.8 percent) and the fact that non-participating respondents viewed themselves as too busy to go to these recreational activities (28.4 percent). Other reasons for not participating included uninteresting programs, personal health, parking problems and so forth (Table 18).

Sixty-three of the non-participating respondents (24 percent) revealed that

they went to other places where agencies provided recreational activities. Among the agencies mentioned by the respondents are the YMCA at Washington and 11th Street (14.3 percent), the Boy's Club at Union Street (9.5 percent), and the West End Neighborhood House at Lincoln Street (4.8 percent). For a complete list of names and addresses of other agencies mentioned, see Table 19.

Suggestions for Increasing Participation

Forty-three of the non-participating respondents (16.7 percent) provided suggestions as to the kind of recreational activities or programs that they would like to see in order to be encouraged to participate. Activities suggested range from organizing gospel groups (2.3 percent) to lessons in karate (2.3 percent). Other activities suggested include developing programs for teenagers (7 percent percent), rollerskating (4.7 percent), and ceramics (2.3 percent). Table 20 shows a complete list of the suggestions.

Table 16
Social Characteristics
(Non-Participating Respondents, N=257)

Age Group	Percent	Sex	Percent	Race	Percent
12-16	5.4	Female	74.3	White	51.0
17-24	17.5	Male	25.7	Black	42.8
25-32	18.3			Hispanic	1.9
33-40	16.0			Native American	1.9
41-50	10.5			Asian	.8
51-65	14.4			Other	.4
66 +	17.9			Refused	1.2

Last grade Completed	Percent	Marital Status	Percent
Less than grade 8	5.8	Single	38.5
High school incomplete	22.6	Married	35.4
High school complete	33.1	Widow	13.6
Trade or technical school	6.2	Divorced	7.4
College incomplete	11.7	Separated	4.7
College complete	16.0	Refused	.4
Graduate school	4.3		
Refused	.4		

Table 17

Economic Characteristics
(Non-Participating Respondents, N=257)

Annual Income	Percent	Tenure	Percent	Employment	Percent
Under \$5,000	4.7	Own	56.0	Full-time	45.9
\$5,000 to \$9,999	7.8	Rent	42.0	Part-time	12.1
\$10,000 to \$14,999	11.3	Other	2.0	Retired	18.7
\$15,000 to \$19,999	9.7			Unemployed	10.5
\$20,000 to \$29,999	16.3			Student	7.0
\$30,000 to \$39,999	6.2			Housewife	5.8
\$40,000 or more	10.1				
Refused to tell	20.2				
Don't know	12.8				

Table 18

Q.52 What are your reasons for not participating?
(Non-Participating Respondents, N=257)

Reasons	Percent Respondents
Too busy to go	28.4
Don't know about activities/programs	26.8
Personal health	10.5
Activities not interesting	4.7
Too old	3.9
Just not interested	3.5
Not open the right time	1.2
It is too crowded	1.2
Too dangerous there	1.2
Just moved here	1.2
Don't like other users	0.8
Have no small children	0.8
No reason	0.8
No means of transportation	0.8
Too far away	0.4
Too hot	0.4
Not safe in evening for the elderly	0.4
Not allowed to go	0.4
Too many police	0.4
Parking problem	0.4
Need more supervision	0.4
Had baby recently	0.4
Work shift, not convenient	0.4
No activity after work	0.4
Afraid of insects	0.4
Don't know	9.7

Table 19

Q.54. List of other agencies and addresses
 where participate in activities.
 (Non-Participating Respondents, N=257)
 (Valid Cases, N=63)

Agencies and Addresses	Frequency	Percent Respondents	Percent Valid
YMCA, Washington and 11th Sts	9	3.5	14.3
Boys Club, Union St. Elsmere	6	2.3	9.5
YMCA, 10th and Walnut Sts	5	1.9	7.9
Kirkwood Fitness Club, Market St.	4	1.6	6.3
YWCA, King St	4	1.6	6.3
West End Neighborhood House, Lincoln Street	3	1.2	4.8
YWCA, Concord Pike	2	.8	3.2
Edgemoor Community Center	2	.8	3.2
Girls Club, 1019 Brown St	2	.8	3.2
Del Castle Rec Center	2	.8	3.2
Elks Swim Club, Foulk Rd	2	.8	3.2
Salvation Army, Shipley/5th St.	1	.4	1.6
West End Recreation Center	1	.4	1.6
St Hedwig Senior Center, Linden and Harrison Streets	1	.4	1.6
Delaware Assoc for the Blind	1	.4	1.6
Salvation Army, 3rd/French St.	1	.4	1.6
Wilmington Country Club	1	.4	1.6
Timberlane Swim Club	1	.4	1.6
George Gray School	1	.4	1.6
Candy Park, Clayton/Cedar St.	1	.4	1.6
Graham Center, Gilpin Ave	1	.4	1.6
Girls Club in Claymont	1	.4	1.6
Girls Scouts	1	.4	1.6
YMCA, Mt Lebanon Rd	1	.4	1.6
Casual Fitness Club, 10th/Market	1	.4	1.6
St Thomas Senior Center	1	.4	1.2
Country Swim Club, Centerville Road	1	.4	1.2
Jewish Community Center, Garden of Eden Road	1	.4	1.2
Ingleside Ret Home, North Franklin Street	1	.4	1.2
Frane Senior Center	1	.4	1.2
YWCA, Arden	1	.4	1.2
Mancus Foundations, 29th/Jessup	1	.4	1.2
Speakman Park	1	.4	1.2
Total	63	24.5	100.0

Table 20

Q.56: Are there any recreational activities or programs, not currently offered by the city, that you would like to see which would encourage you to participate?

If yes, what is it?

(Not-Participating Respondents, N=257)

(Valid Cases, N=43)

(Group 2 N=233)

Programs Would like to see	Frequency	Percent Respondents	Percent Valid
Programs for teenagers	3	1.2	7.0
Rollerskating in Parks	2	.8	4.7
Swimming lessons, arts and crafts	1	.4	2.3
Aerobics and exercise	1	.4	2.3
Gospel groups	1	.4	2.3
Music and sports (but first make them safer by stopping the ones with drugs and alcohol in the parks)	1	.4	2.3
Musicals, activities for young children	1	.4	2.3
Adult supervision in pools and parks	1	.4	2.3
Rides for small children	1	.4	2.3
More programs for girls ages 16 to 20, girls teams in sports	1	.4	2.3
Swimming on Sat and Evenings for children also summer camps for 3 to 6 years old	1	.4	2.3
Country and Folk music groups	1	.4	2.3
A good amusement park and a large zoo, have to go out of state for these	1	.4	2.3
Aerobics and activities that children and parents can do together	1	.4	2.3
Softball games	1	.4	2.3
Music programs for youths, also arts and crafts	1	.4	2.3
Band concerts in Brandywine Park	1	.4	2.3
Walking tours of city. (They could be scheduled in cooperation with other agencies such as garden clubs, and historical society	1	.4	2.3
More sports for younger children	1	.4	2.3
Volley Ball for adults and aerobics	1	.4	2.3
Tennis and swimming available at West center	1	.4	2.3
Black music, think parks are too segregated and blacks can't feel comfortable going to most of them	1	.4	2.3
A lot more programs in the summer for youth	1	.4	2.3
Offer activities at Stubbs School	1	.4	2.3

Exercise for the senior citizen	1	.4	2.3
Swimming	1	.4	2.3
Piano lessons	1	.4	2.3
Start singing groups	1	.4	2.3
Better advertisement and more concerts	1	.4	2.3
Rowing crew	1	.4	2.3
More programs for the PM hours to get kids off the streets	1	.4	2.3
Ceramics	1	.4	2.3
If activities are offered at Kosciuszko Park would consider going	1	.4	2.3
More needs to be offered, ex. sports, arts arts and craft	1	.4	2.3
Crafts	1	.4	2.3
Sports	1	.4	2.3
Karate	1	.4	2.3
Day trips and flower arrangements	1	.4	2.3
Send out information before a happening, usually read about it after the fact	1	.4	2.3
Creative movements for adults	1	.4	2.3
Total	43	16.7	100.0

IV. PARTICIPATING CHILDREN

The following information about participating children who are eleven or younger was provided by their parents. Only 24 parents (8 percent) indicated that they have at least one child who is eleven years old or younger and who has participated in one of the recreational activities provided by the Department of Parks and Recreation. A majority of the parents (58.3 percent) were responding on behalf of children who were five to eight years old; many more parents (70.8 percent) were responding for male than for female children (Table 21).

According to the information provided by their parents, the children participated in sports programs (37.5 percent), arts and crafts (20.8 percent), and special events (8.3 percent). Other recreational activities mentioned (33.3 percent) include sports (12.5 percent), day camps, picnics, summer recess, Easter egg hunts, special groups, and swimming (Table 22).

The main sources of information about the recreational activities for the participating children were friends or neighbors (33.3 percent), newspaper (12.5 percent), and other sources (54.2 percent). These sources included proximity to location of recreational activities (29.2 percent), parents, parks and recreation sponsors, people who work at recreational centers, and schools (Table 23).

Their parents also indicated that a vast majority of the participating children (88.3 percent) walked to the recreational activities (Table 24). They

almost always went to the the activities daily (91.7 percent) and in the summer (91.7 percent). The children preferred to go to the activities during the afternoon (79.2 percent) and with a friend (66.7 percent). There was a strong indication that the participating children walk to nearby recreational areas since their parents (79.2 percent) indicated that it takes them five to ten minutes to get there.

Table 21

Participating Children Who are Twelve Years Old or Younger
(Information from Parents of Participating Children, N=24)

Age Group	Percent	Sex	Percent
Less than 4 years	4.2	Male	70.8
5 to 8 years	58.3	Female	29.2
9 to 12 years	37.5		

Table 22

Q.34. In Which category did participating children under 12
years participate most often?
(Respondents of Participating Children, N=24)

Category	Percent Respondents
Sports	37.5
Other*	33.3
Arts/Crafts	20.8
Special Events	8.3

* Includes sports (12.5 percent), day camps, picnics, summer sessions
Easter egg hunt, and special groups (all 4.2 percent each)

Table 23

Q.36. Where did they find out about this activity?
(Respondents of Participating Children, N=24)

Source of Information	Percent Respondents
Other*	54.2
Friends/neighbors	33.3
Newspaper	12.5

* Includes proximity to recreational centers (29.2 percent), parents and parks and recreation sponsors (8.3 percent each), people who work at the parks (4.2 percent), and schools (4.2 percent)

Table 24

Q.40. What is the main method of transportation they use to get there?
(Respondents of Participating Children, N=24)

Method of Transportation	Percent Respondents
Walk	83.3
Other person's car	12.5
Bicycle	4.2

Table 25

Q.9 Frequency of participation of children under 12 years
(Respondents of Participating Children, N=24)

Frequency	Percent Respondents
Daily	91.7
Weekly	4.2
Yearly	4.2

Table 26

Q.43. What season of the year do they go to the activities?
Q.44. Time of the day in which they participate?
(Respondents of Participating Children, N=24)

Season of Year	Percent	Time of Day	Percent
Spring	8.3	Morning	62.6
Summer	91.3	Afternoon	79.2
		Evening	8.3

Table 27

Q. 53. Whom do they go to the activity with?
(Respondents of Participating Children, N=24)

Company	Percent Respondents
Friend	66.7
Alone	16.7
Relative	8.3
Parents	8.3



APPENDIX: TELEPHONE SURVEY INSTRUMENT

Interview Number: -----

DELAWARE HOUSEHOLD SURVEY - APRIL, 1986

(Parks and Recreation - 152W)

Phone Number: ----- Interview Date:-----

Interviewer: ----- Starting Time:----- Ending Time:-----

Comments: -----

Hello, my name is ----- from the University of Delaware Household Survey Project. We are undertaking a survey of the services provided by Wilmington Parks and Recreation Department. All information you provide will be confidential.

(a) Would you please help by answering a few questions.

---- Yes (Ask the following question)

---- No (Thank you; end interview)

(b) Are you 12 years of age or older?

---- Yes (Skip to (d))

---- No (Ask the following question)

(c) Is the mother, father or adult of the household at home?

---- Yes (Ask to speak to one of them; ask (a), and (d))

---- No (Thank you; end interview)

(d) Do you live in Wilmington city?

---- Yes (Go to Q. 1)

---- No (Thank you; end interview)

(FOR THE INTERVIEWER : PLEASE ASK EVERY THIRD PERSON IF HE/SHE HAS A
A CHILD OR CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE)

1. Have you participated in one of the recreational activities provided by the Wilmington Parks and Recreation Department in the last 12 months?

---- (1) Yes ----- (2) No (Go to Q.15)

---- (3) Don't remember (Go to Q.15)

2. In which category do you participate?

(PLEASE READ RESPONSE)

---- (1) Fitness category (aerobics, yoga, karate etc.)

---- (2) Sports/athletics (volleyball, soccer, tennis etc.)

---- (3) Arts and crafts

---- (4) Music

---- (5) Special events (trips, seminars, concerts etc.)

---- (6) Other; specify -----

---- (7) Refused ----- (8) Not Applicable ----- (9) Don't Know

3 Which activity do you participate in most often?

---- (7) Refused ----- (8) Not Applicable ----- (9) Don't Know

4. Where did you find out about this activity?

---- (01) Newspaper

---- (02) Television

---- (03) Radio

---- (04) INFO (Univ. of Delaware radio)

---- (05) Friends and neighbors

---- (06) City published information

---- (07) Phone book

---- (08) Other; specify -----

---- (97) Refused ----- (98) Not Applicable ----- (99) Don't Know

5. Do you go to the activity, (PLEASE READ RESPONSE)

- (1) Directly from where you live?
- (2) From work?
- (3) From school?
- (4) Other; specify -----
- (7) Refused ---- (8) Not Applicable ---- (9) Don't Know

6. What is the main method of transport you use to get there?

- (1) Own car
- (2) Other person's car
- (3) Public transport (bus, cab etc.)
- (4) Bicycle
- (5) Walk
- (6) Other; specify -----
- (7) Refused ---- (8) Not Applicable ---- (9) Don't Know

7. Where is the activity located? (Name of park or recreation center)

-
- (97) Refused ---- (98) Not Applicable ---- (99) Don't Know

8. What season of the year do you participate in the activity ?

- (1) Fall
- (2) Spring
- (3) Winter
- (4) Summer
- (7) Refused ---- (8) Not Applicable ---- (9) Don't Know

9. Do you participate in the activity, (PLEASE READ)

---- (1) Daily ---- (2) Weekly
---- (3) Monthly ---- (4) Yearly
---- (7) Refused ---- (8) Not Applicable ---- (9) Don't Know

10. How long does it take you to get there?

---- (97) Refused ---- (98) Not Applicable ---- (99) Don't Know

11. How long do you usually stay there?

---- (97) Refused ---- (98) Not Applicable ---- (99) Don't Know

12. Which day of the week do you usually participate in in the activity?

Monday	---- (1) Checked	----- (2) Not checked
Tuesday	---- (1) Checked	----- (2) Not checked
Wednesday	---- (1) Checked	----- (2) Not checked
Thursday	---- (1) Checked	----- (2) Not checked
Friday	---- (1) Checked	----- (2) Not checked
Saturday	---- (1) Checked	----- (2) Not checked
Sunday	---- (1) Checked	----- (2) Not checked

---- (97) Refused ---- (98) Not Applicable ---- (99) Don't Know

13. Do you participate in the activity mostly in the, (PLEASE READ)

Morning ---- (1) Checked ----- (2) Not checked
Afternoon ---- (1) Checked ----- (2) Not checked
Evening ---- (1) Checked ----- (2) Not checked
---- (7) Refused ---- (8) Not Applicable ---- (9) Don't Know

14. Whom do you go to the activity with?

---- (1) Alone ----- (2) Friend ----- (3) Relative
---- (4) Spouse ----- (5) Child ----- (6) Other; Specify-----
---- (7) Refused ----- (8) Not Applicable ---- (9) Don't Know

(SKIP TO Q.30)

15. Do you have a child (or children) below 12 years old who participates in the activities provided by the Department of Parks and Receptions?

---- (1) Yes
---- (2) No (Go to Q.52)
---- (8) Not Applicable

(IF YES, PLEASE ASK ABOUT THE CHILD WHOSE BIRTHDAY IS NEXT)

16. What is his/her age? ----

---- (97) Refused ---- (98) Not Applicable

17 What is his/her sex?

---- (1) Male ---- (2) Female
---- (7) Refused ---- (8) Not Applicable

18. In which category do he/she/ participate most often?

(PLEASE READ RESPONSE)

- (1) Fitness category (aerobics, yoga, karate etc.)
- (2) Sports/athletics (volleyball, soccer, tennis etc.)
- (3) Arts and crafts
- (4) Music
- (5) Special events (trips, seminars, concerts etc.)
- (6) Other; specify -----
- (7) Refused ---- (8) Not Applicable ---- (9) Don't Know

19. Where did he/she find out about these activities?

- (01) Newspaper
- (02) Television
- (03) Radio
- (04) INFO (Univ. of Delaware radio)
- (05) Friends and neighbors
- (06) City published information
- (07) Phone book
- (08) Other; specify -----
- (97) Refused ---- (98) Not Applicable ---- (99) Don't Know

20. Does he/she go to the activity, (PLEASE READ RESPONSE)

- (1) Directly from where you live?
- (2) From work?
- (3) From school?
- (4) Other; specify -----
- (7) Refused ---- (8) Not Applicable ---- (9) Don't Know

21. What is the main method of transport he/she uses to get there?

- (1) Own car
- (2) Other person's car
- (3) Public transport (bus, cab etc.)
- (4) Bicycle
- (5) Walk
- (6) Other; specify -----
- (7) Refused ---- (8) Not Applicable ---- (9) Don't Know

22. Where is the activity located?(Name of park or rec centers)

-
- (97) Refused ---- (98) Not Applicable ---- (99) Don't Know

23. What season of the year does he/she participate in the activity ?

- (1) Fall ---- (2) Spring
- (3) Winter ---- (4) Summer
- (7) Refused ---- (8) Not Applicable ---- (9) Don't Know

24. Does he/she participate in the activity, (PLEASE READ)

- (1) Daily ---- (2) Weekly
- (3) Monthly ---- (4) Yearly
- (7) Refused ---- (8) Not Applicable ---- (9) Don't Know

25. On the average how long does it take him/her to get there?

-
- (97) Refused ---- (98) Not Applicable ---- (99) Don't Know

26. On the average how long does he/she usually stay there?

---- (97) Refused ---- (98) Not Applicable ---- (99) Don't Know

27. Which day of the week does he/she usually participate in in the activity?

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

Monday ---- (1) Checked ----- (2) Not checked

Tuesday ---- (1) Checked ----- (2) Not checked

Wednesday ---- (1) Checked ----- (2) Not checked

Thursday ---- (1) Checked ----- (2) Not checked

Friday ---- (1) Checked ----- (2) Not checked

Saturday ---- (1) Checked ----- (2) Not checked

Sunday ---- (1) Checked ----- (2) Not checked

---- (97) Refused ---- (98) Not Applicable ---- (99) Don't Know

28. Does he/she participate in the activity mostly in the, (PLEASE READ AND

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

Morning ---- (1) Checked ----- (2) Not checked

Afternoon ---- (1) Checked ----- (2) Not checked

Evening ---- (1) Checked ----- (2) Not checked

---- (7) Refused ---- (8) Not Applicable ---- (9) Don't Know

29. Whom does he/she go to the activity with? (PLEASE READ AND CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- (1) Alone ----- (2) Friend
- (3) Relative ----- (4) Parents
- (6) Other; specify -----
- (7) Refused ---- (8) Not Applicable ---- (9) Don't Know

(SKIP TO Q. 52)

How would you rate the following? (PLEASE READ)

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Ref</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>DK</u>	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
30. Hours of operation	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
31. Cleanliness	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
32. Condition of equipment	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
33. Availability of equipment	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
34. Amount of space	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
35. Safety conditions (including feeling of security)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
36. Physical attractiveness	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
37. Variety of programs	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
38. Helpfulness and attitude of personnel	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
39. Parking area	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
40. Restrooms	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
41. Convenience to your home	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
42. Amount of supervision	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
43. Quality of staff	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
44. Knowledgeability of staff	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	

45. Is there anything else you particularly like about this activity?

---- (1) Yes ---- (2) No ---- (7) Ref ---- (8) N/A ---- (9) D/K

46. If Yes, what is it?

---- (97) Refused ---- (98) Refused ---- (99) Don't know

47. Is there anything else you particularly dislike about this activity?

---- (1) Yes ---- (2) No ---- (7) Ref ---- (8) N/A ---- (9) D/K

48. If Yes, what is it?

---- (97) Refused ---- (98) Refused ---- (99) Don't know

49. Overall, how would you rate this activity that you participated in?

(PLEASE READ)

---- (1) Excellent

---- (2) Good

---- (3) Fair

---- (4) Poor

---- (7) Refused ---- (8) Not Applicable ---- (9) Don't Know

50. Do you have any suggestions for improving this activity?

---- (1) Yes ---- (2) No ---- (7) Ref ---- (8) N/A ---- (9) D/K

51. If Yes, what is it?

---- (97) Refused ---- (98) Not Applicable ---- (99) Don't know

(PLEASE SKIP Q.52 IF ANSWER TO Q.1 IS YES)

52. Would you tell me the reason why during the last 12 months you did not participate in the activities provided by the Wilmington Parks and Receptions Department?

---- (01) Don't know about activities or programs

---- (02) Not open the right times

---- (03) Too far away

---- (04) It's too crowded

---- (05) It's not attractive

---- (06) Costs too much to go there

---- (07) Too dangerous there

---- (08) Don't like other users

---- (09) Personal health/handicap

---- (10) Activities not interesting

---- (11) Too busy

---- (12) Other; specify -----

---- (97) Refused ---- (98) N/A ---- (99) Don't Know

53. Do you go to any other agencies where recreational activities are provided?

---- (1) Yes ---- (2) No ---- (7) Refused ---- (9) Don't Know

If Yes,

54. Please tell me the name and address of agency.

---- (997) Refused ---- (998) N/A ---- (999) Don't Know

55. Are there any recreational activities or programs, not currently offered by the city, that you would like to see which would encourage you to participate?

---- (1) Yes ---- (2) No ---- (7) Refused ---- (9) Don't Know

56. If Yes, what is it?

---- (97) Refused ---- (98) N/A ---- (99) Don't know

57. How long have you lived in the city of Wilmington?

---- (97) Refused ---- (99) Don't Know

58. What is your age?

---- (97) Refused ---- (99) Don't Know

59. What is your marital status?

- (1) Single
- (2) Married
- (3) Separated
- (4) Divorced
- (5) Widow
- (7) Refused

60. Could you tell me something about your work? (PLEASE READ)

Are you,

- (1) Working full time
- (2) Working part-time
- (3) Retired
- (4) Unemployed/Not working
- (5) Housewife/Not working outside home
- (6) In full-time education
- (7) Refused

61. If (1) what is your Occupation?

-
- (997) Refused

62. What was the last grade or class you completed in school?

- (01) Grade 8 or less
- (02) High school, incomplete
- (03) High school, completed
- (04) Technical, trade or business
- (05) College, university, incomplete
- (06) College, university, graduate
- (07) Graduate school
- (97) Refused ---- (99) Don't Know

63. Do you own or do you rent the place you live in?

- (1) Own
- (2) Rent
- (7) Refused
- (9) Don't know

64. Which of the following groups best represents the members of your family?

(PLEASE READ RESPONSES)

- (1) White/Caucasians
- (2) Black
- (3) Hispanic
- (4) Native American
- (5) Asian/Oriental
- (6) Other
- (7) Refused

65. Would you please tell me which of the following best describes your annual family income? (PLEASE READ RESPONSES)

---- (01) Under \$5,000

---- (02) \$5,000 - \$9,999

---- (03) \$10,000 - \$14,999

---- (04) \$15,000 - \$19,999

---- (05) \$20,000 - \$29,999

---- (06) \$30,000 - \$39,999

---- (07) \$40,000 - \$49,999

---- (08) \$50,00 or more

---- (97) Refused ---- (98) Not Applicable ---- (99) Don't know

66. Would you please tell me your zip code (of your residence)?

---- (997) Refused ---- (999) Don't know

67. (For the interviewer): ---- (1) Male ---- (2) Female

THANK YOU

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