



Lake Myra County Park

Wake County, North Carolina

Community Forum #2

June 12, 2008

**Susan
Hatchell**

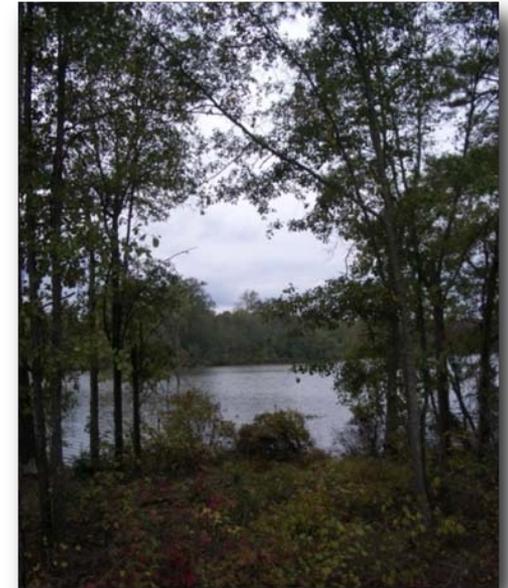
Landscape Architecture, PLLC



Welcome and Introduction

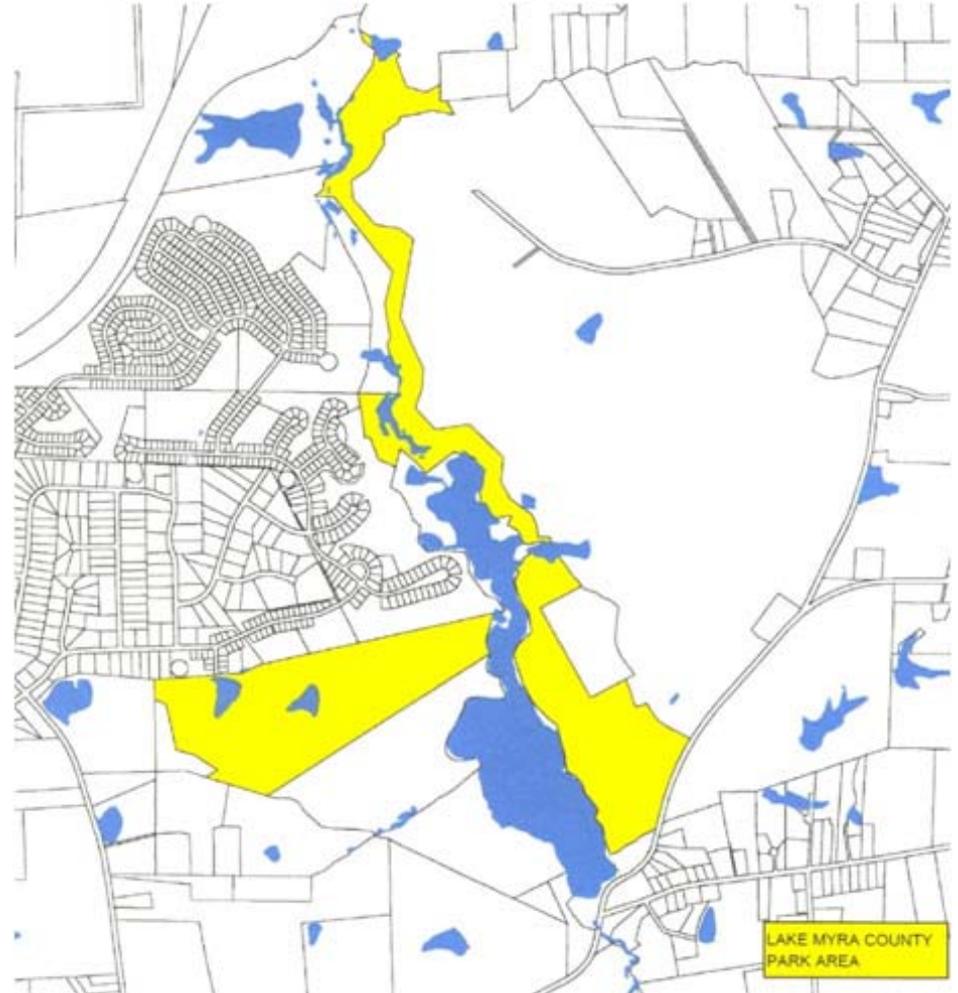
Meeting Agenda

- Welcome
- Introductions of Project Team
- Master Plan Process
- Community Forum #1 Updates
- Survey Results
- Park Programming
- Next Steps
- Citizen Discussion



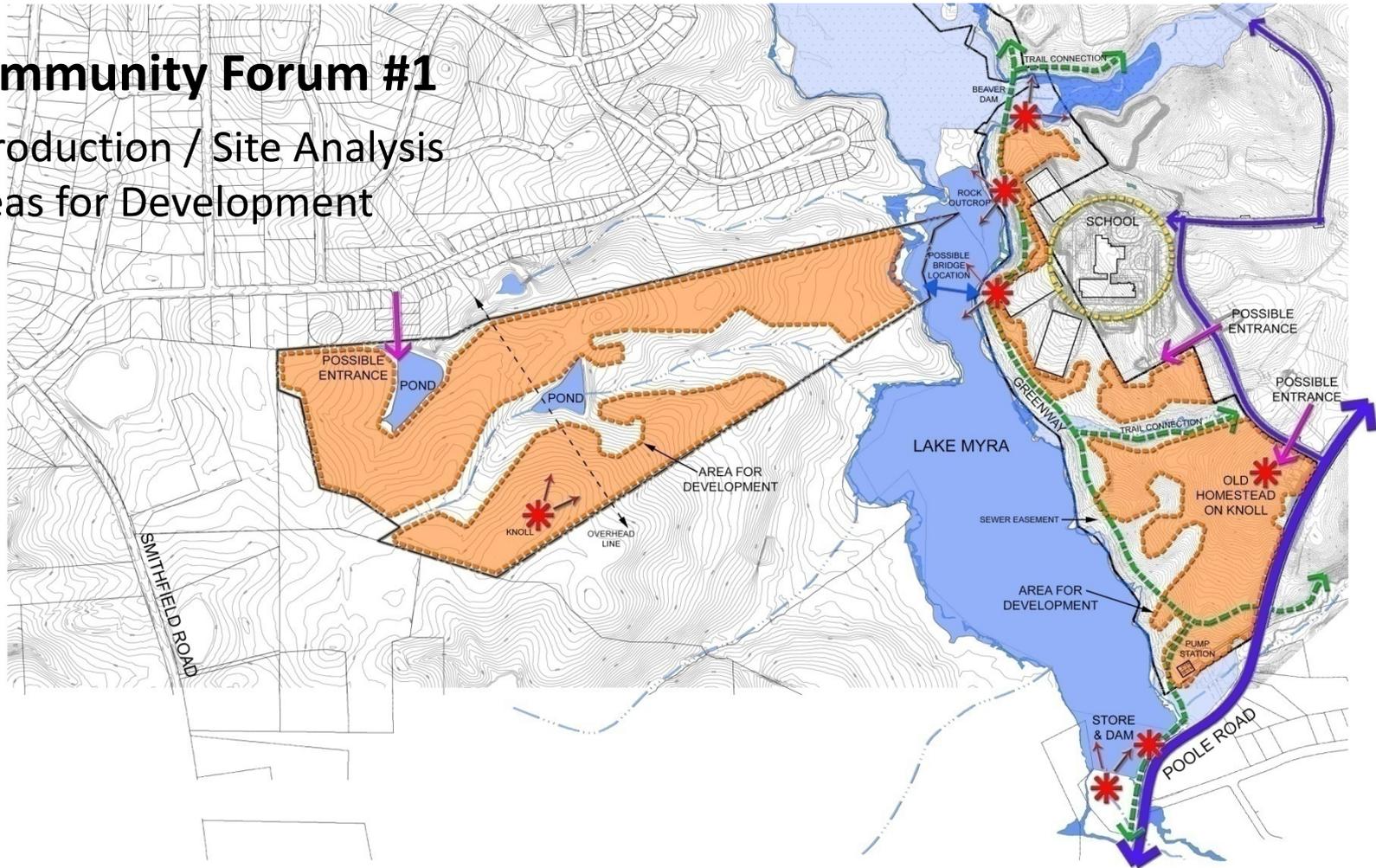
Master Plan Process

- Marks Creek Watershed
- Lake Myra County Park



Community Forum #1

Introduction / Site Analysis
Areas for Development



Master Plan Process

Five Community Forums

#1 – Introduction and Site Analysis

#2 – Programming / Visioning

#3 – Design Alternatives

#4 – Draft Master Plan

#5 – Final Master Plan

Master Plan Complete – Fall 2008



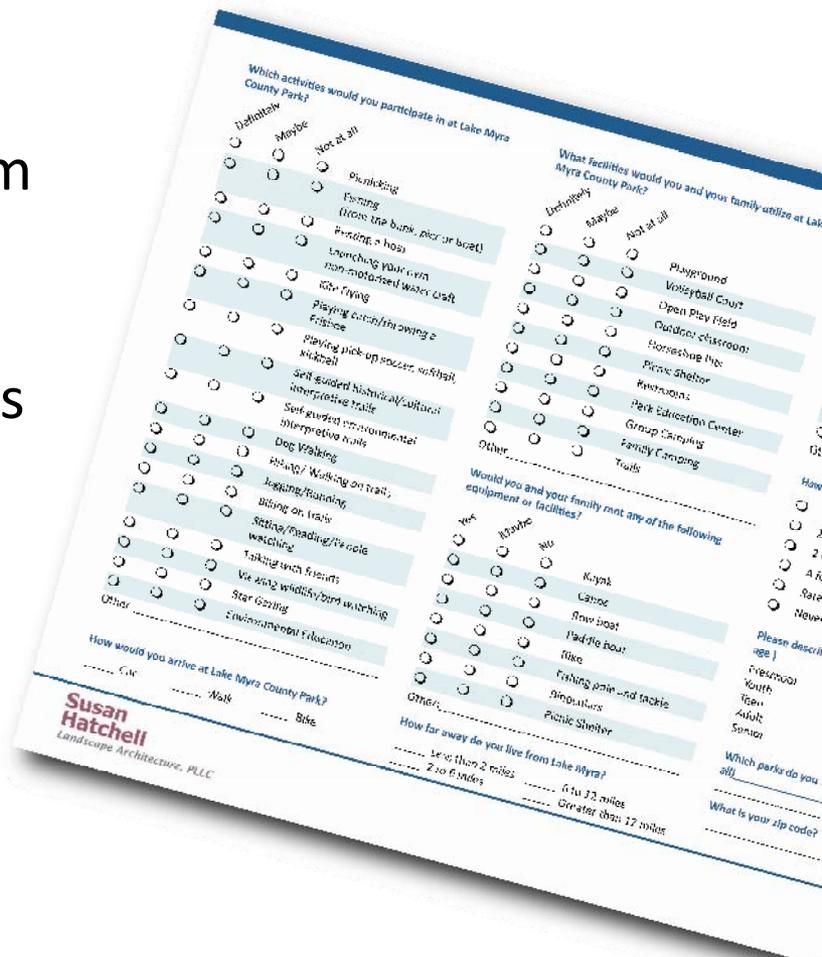
Community Forum #1 Update

- Update on Additional Areas
 - Use of the lake
 - Additional land
 - Other Marks Creek Acquisitions
- Sedimentation & Erosion
 - Ongoing monitoring & inspections
 - Study to document sedimentation
- Trails and Connectivity
 - Meetings with municipalities and special use groups ongoing
- History
 - We need your help!
 - Photos, stories, etc...



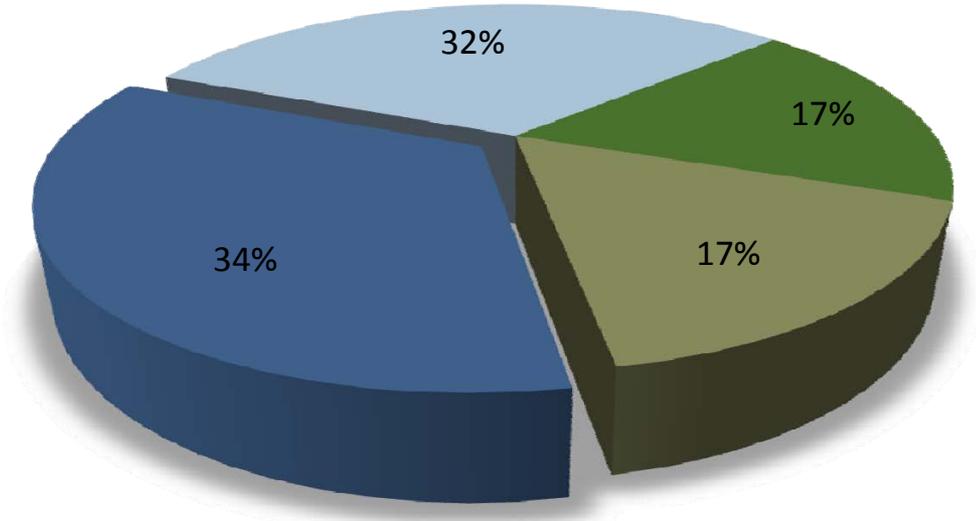
Survey Results

- Survey was out for public input from April 29 to May 24, 2008
- Data was collected from the surveys
- They were handed in, received by mail, and taken online
- 224 responses collected



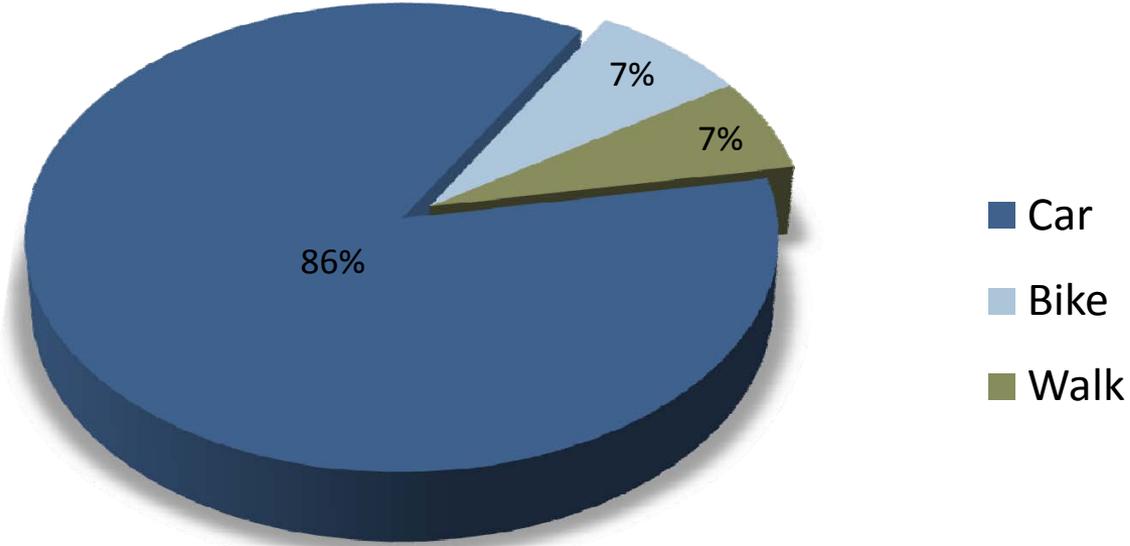
How far away do you live from Lake Myra?

- Greater than 12 miles
- 2 to 6 miles
- 6 to 12 miles
- Less than 2 miles



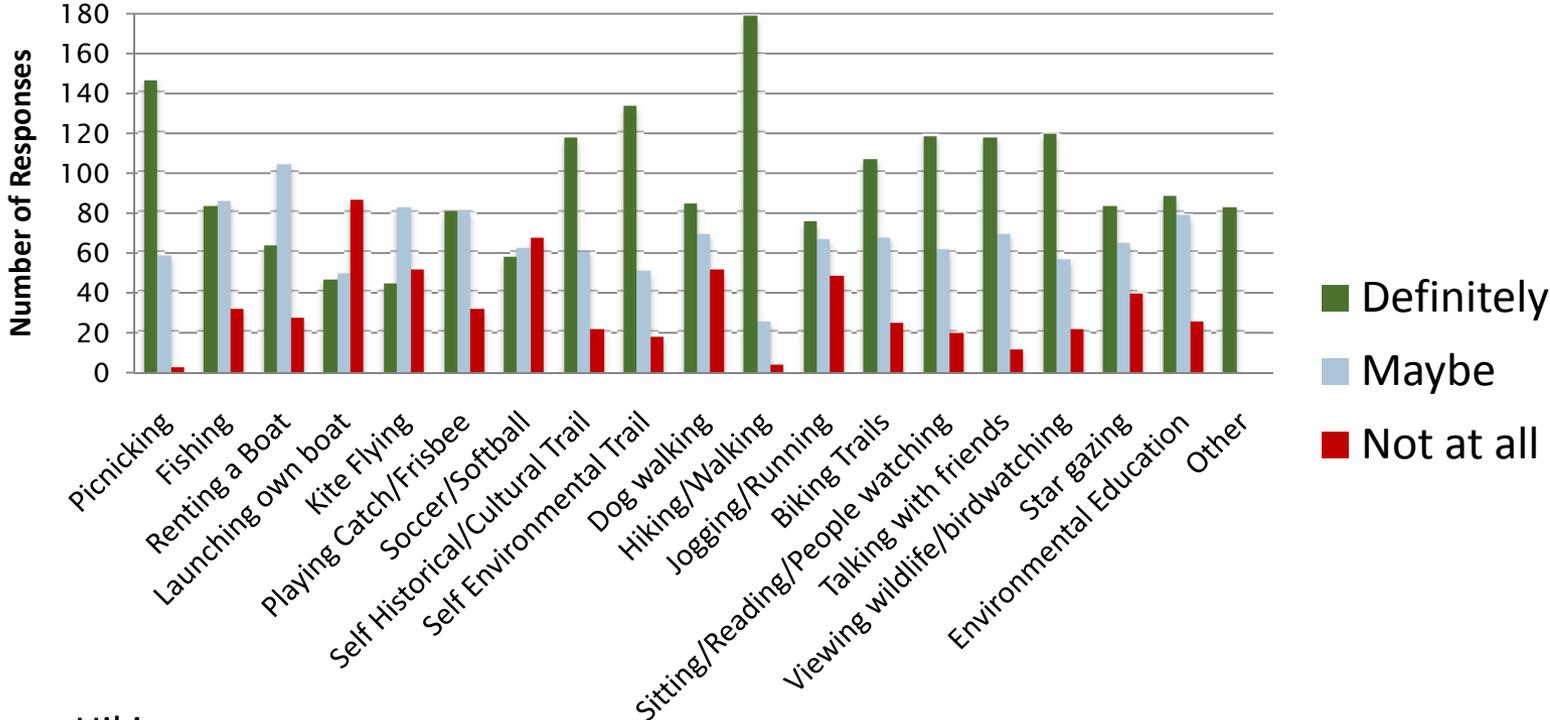
- 34% live further away than 12 miles
- 32% live 2 to 6 miles away
- 17% live less than 2 miles away

How would you arrive at Lake Myra County Park?



- 86% would arrive by car

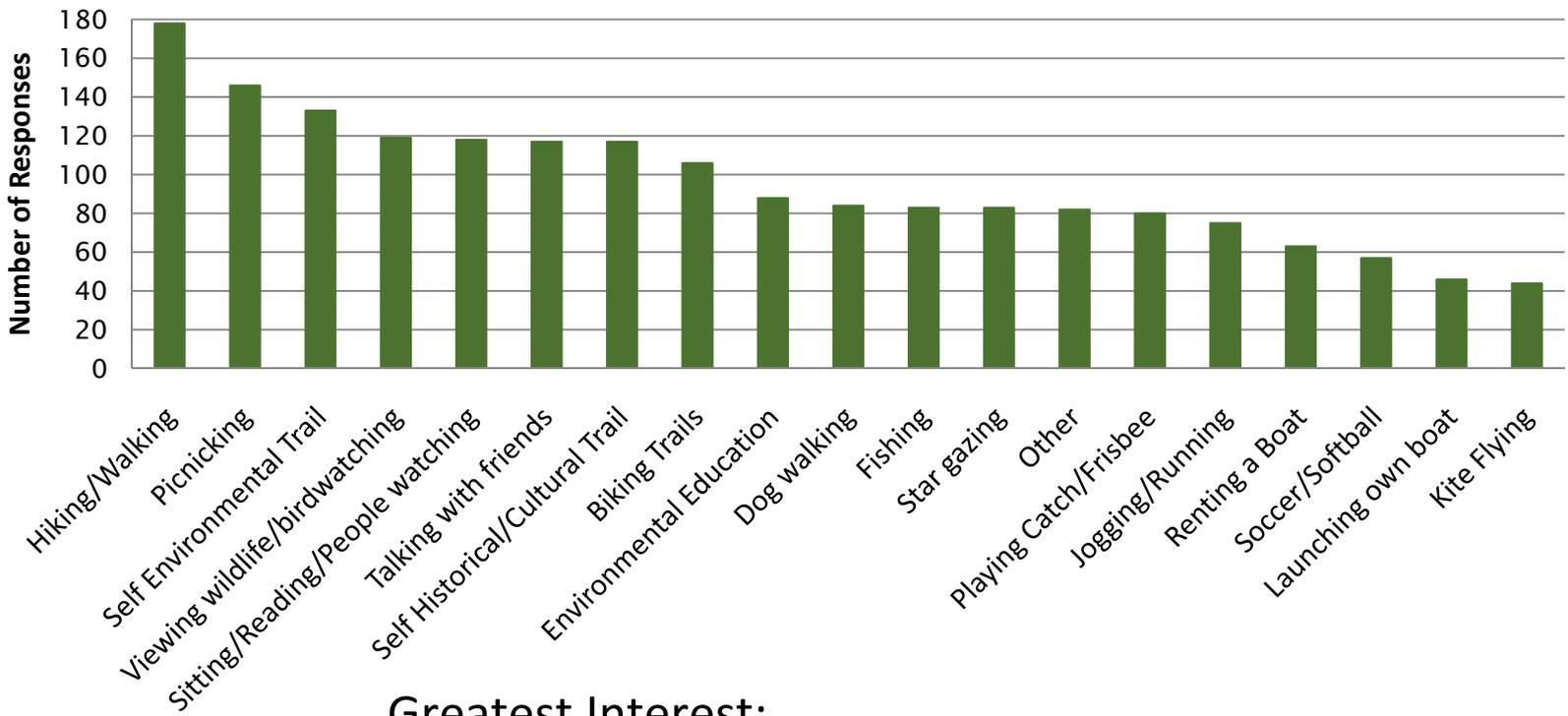
Which activities would you participate in at Lake Myra County Park?



- Hiking
- Picnicking
- Self interpretative environmental trail

- Viewing wildlife/bird-watching
- Sitting/Reading/People-watching

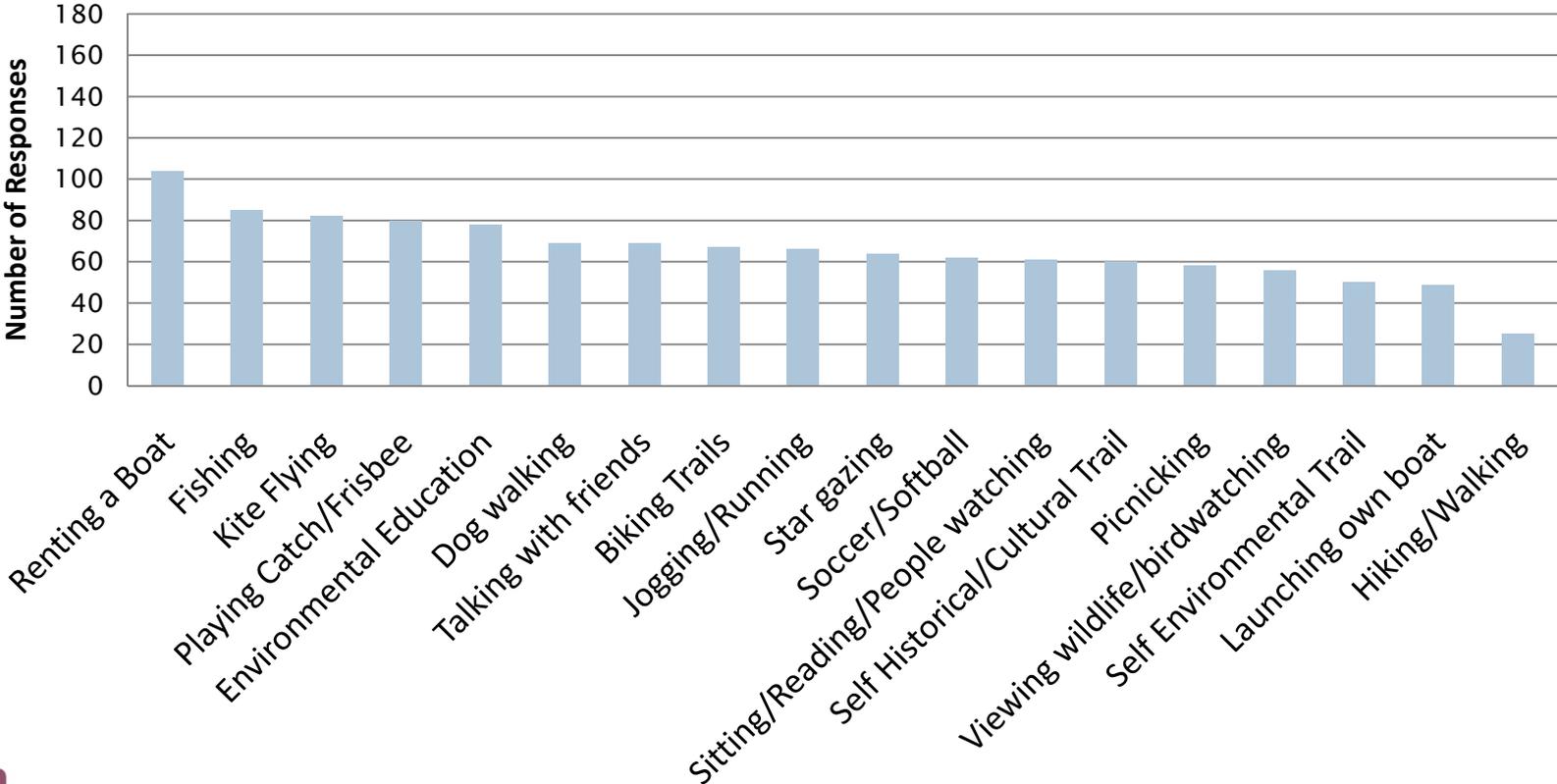
Which activities would you participate in at Lake Myra County Park? - Definitely



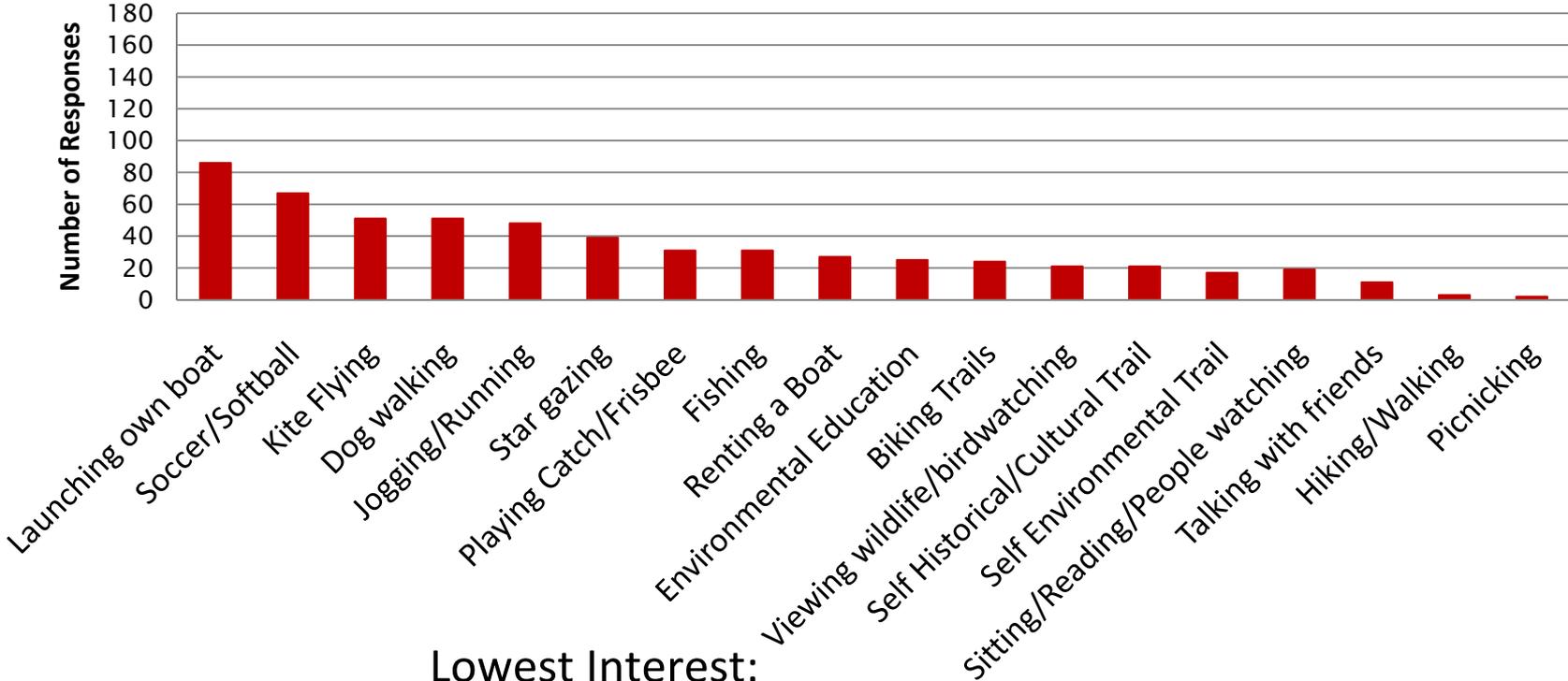
Greatest Interest:

- Hiking - 80%
- Picnicking - 65%
- Self Interpretive Environmental Trail - 59%

Which activities would you participate in at Lake Myra County Park? - Maybe



Which activities would you participate in at Lake Myra County Park? – Not at all



Lowest Interest:

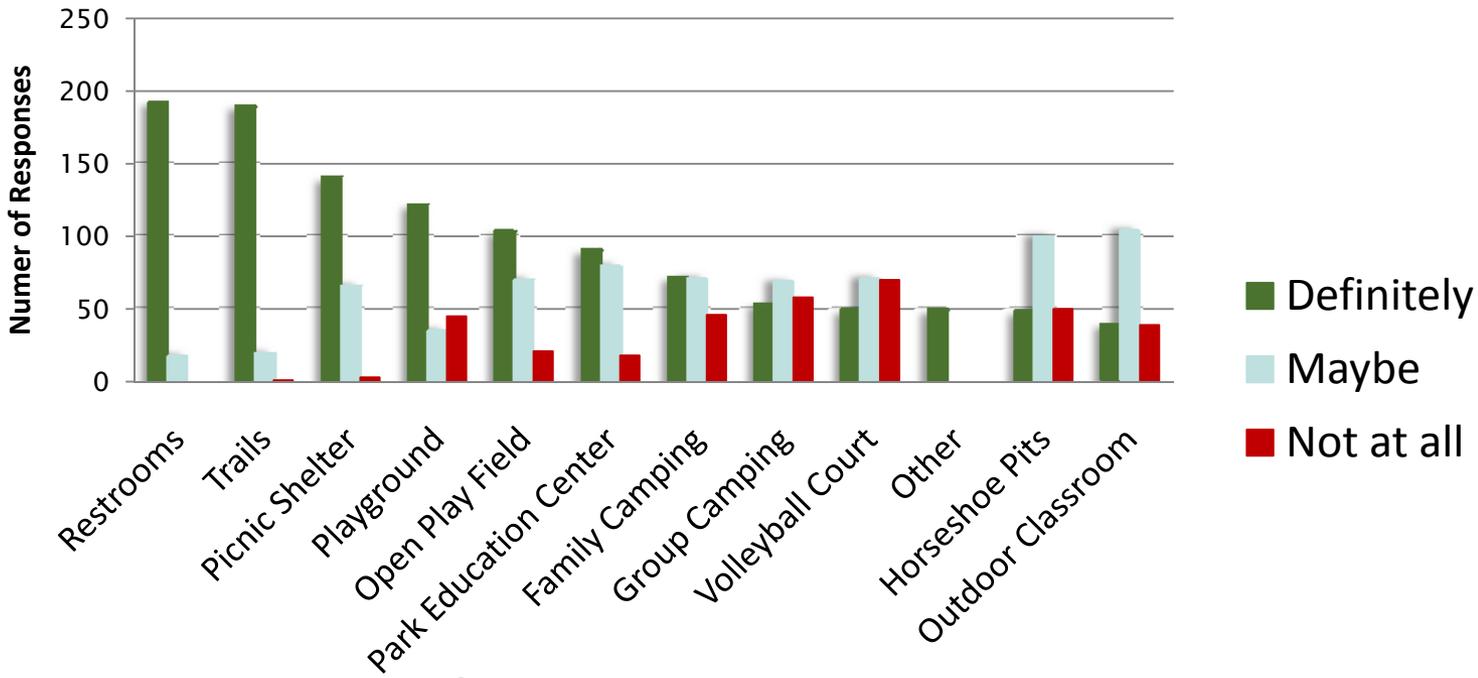
- Launching own boat - 38%
- Soccer/Softball field - 30%
- Kite Flying - 23%

Which activities would you participate in at Lake Myra County Park? - Other

- Equestrian Trails - 13%
- Playground - 5%
- Accommodate Special Needs - 5%
- Mountain Bike Trails - 3%
- Sand Volleyball - 2%
- Concerts/Festivals/Movies - 1%
- Swimming - 1%
- Camping -1%
- Bike/Pedestrian Connections - 1%
- Rollerblading - 1%

- Dog Park, Dancing, Duck Feeding, Art Program

What facilities would you and your family utilize at Lake Myra County Park?



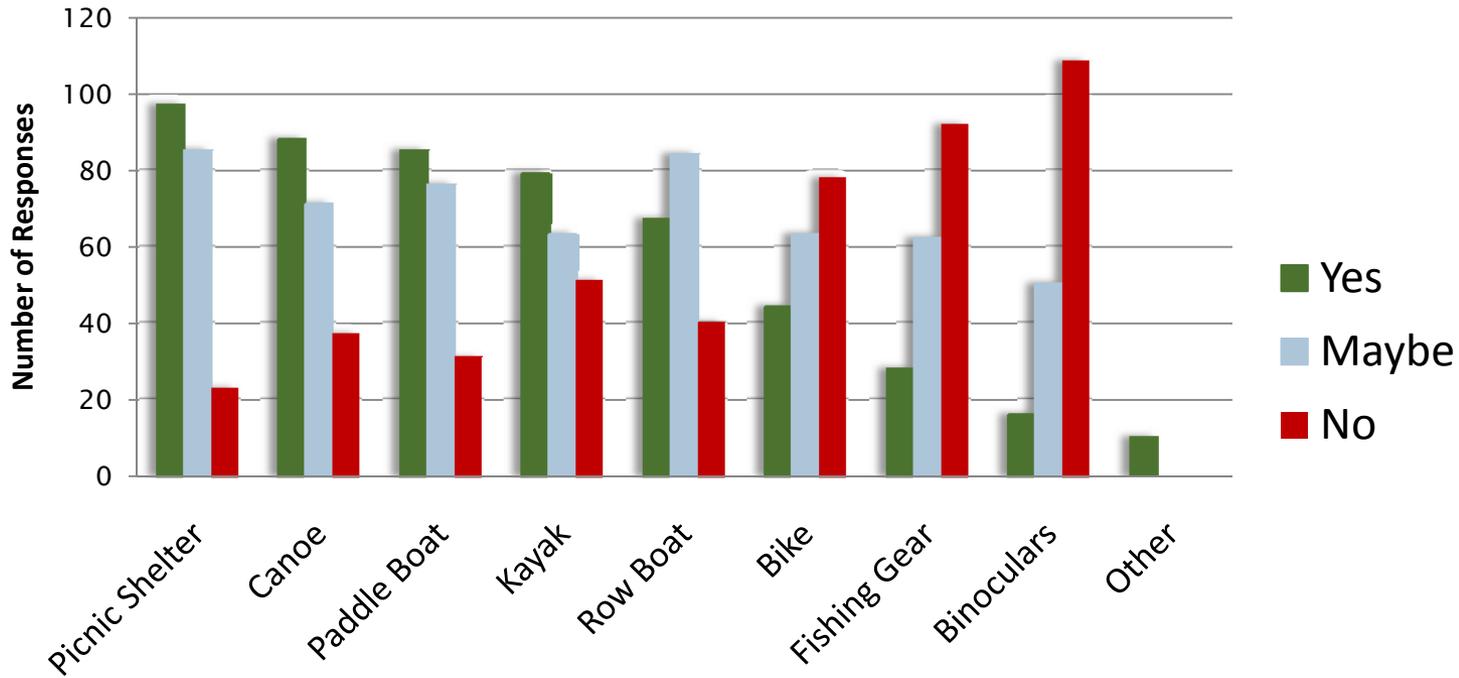
- Greatest Interest:
- Restrooms - 86%
 - Trails - 84%
 - Picnic Shelter - 63%

What facilities would you and your family utilize at Lake Myra County Park? - Other

- Equestrian Trails - 6%
- Accessible Playground/Facilities - 4%
- Camping - 2%
- Concession/Vending - 2%
- Mountain Biking - 1%
- Baseball/Softball Fields - 1%
- Disc Golf - 1%

- Planetarium, Restore Dam/Mill/Store, Dog Park, Ropes Course

Would you or your family rent any of the following equipment or facilities?



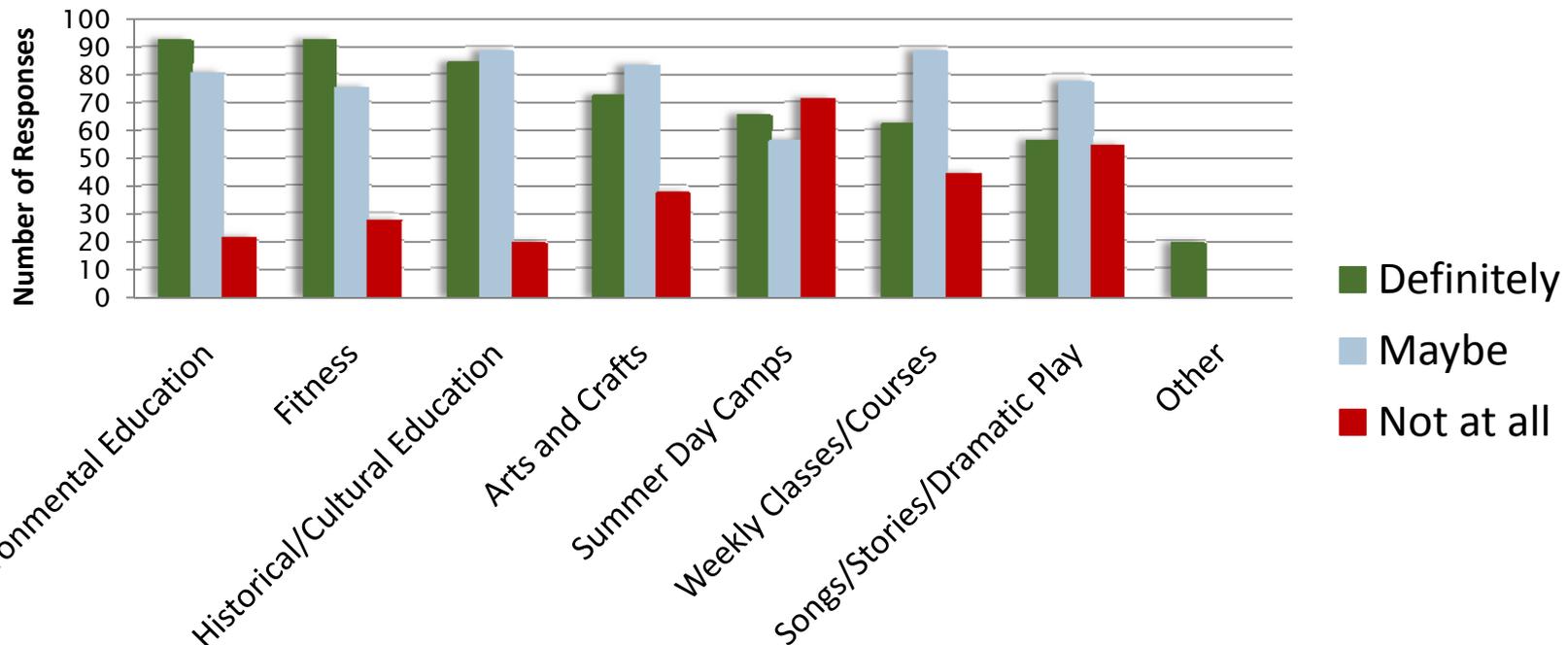
Greatest Interest:

- Picnic Shelter - 43%
- Canoe - 39%
- Paddle Boat - 38%

Would you or your family rent any of the following equipment or facilities? - Other

- Formal Event Facilities (Birthdays, Weddings) - 1%
- Animal Feed, Bocce Sets, Badminton, Horse Areas, Park Tram

What types of programs would you or your family like to participate in at Lake Myra County Park?



Greatest Interest:

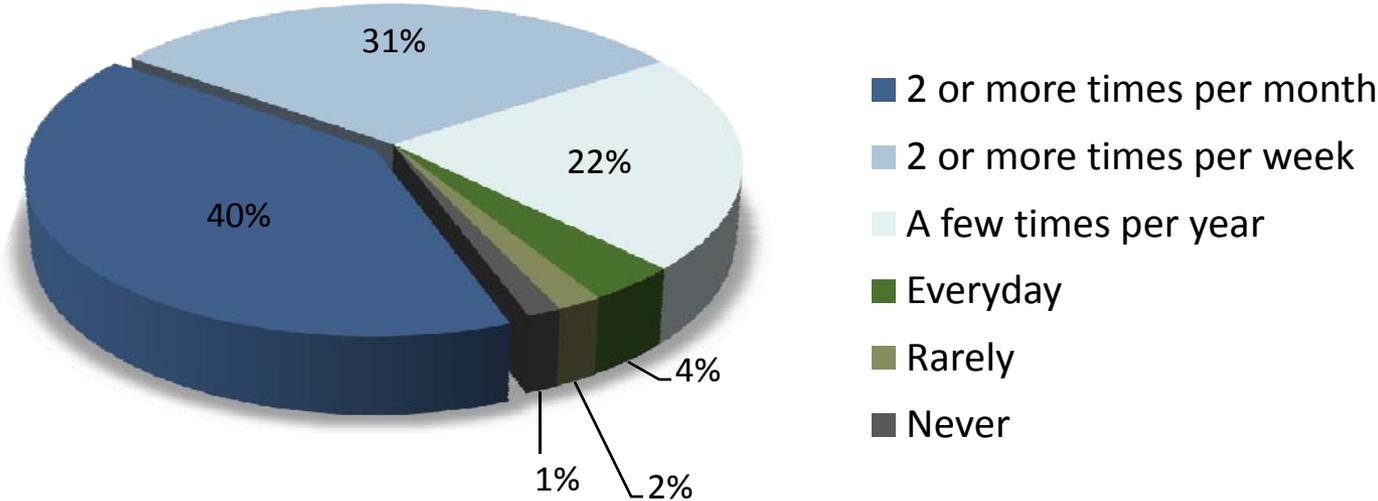
- Environmental Education - 41%
- Fitness - 41%
- Historical/Cultural Education - 38%

What types of programs would you or your family like to participate in at Lake Myra County Park? - Other

- Fine Arts - 1%
- Scout Program - 1%
- Ropes Course - 1%
- Outdoor Movies - 1%

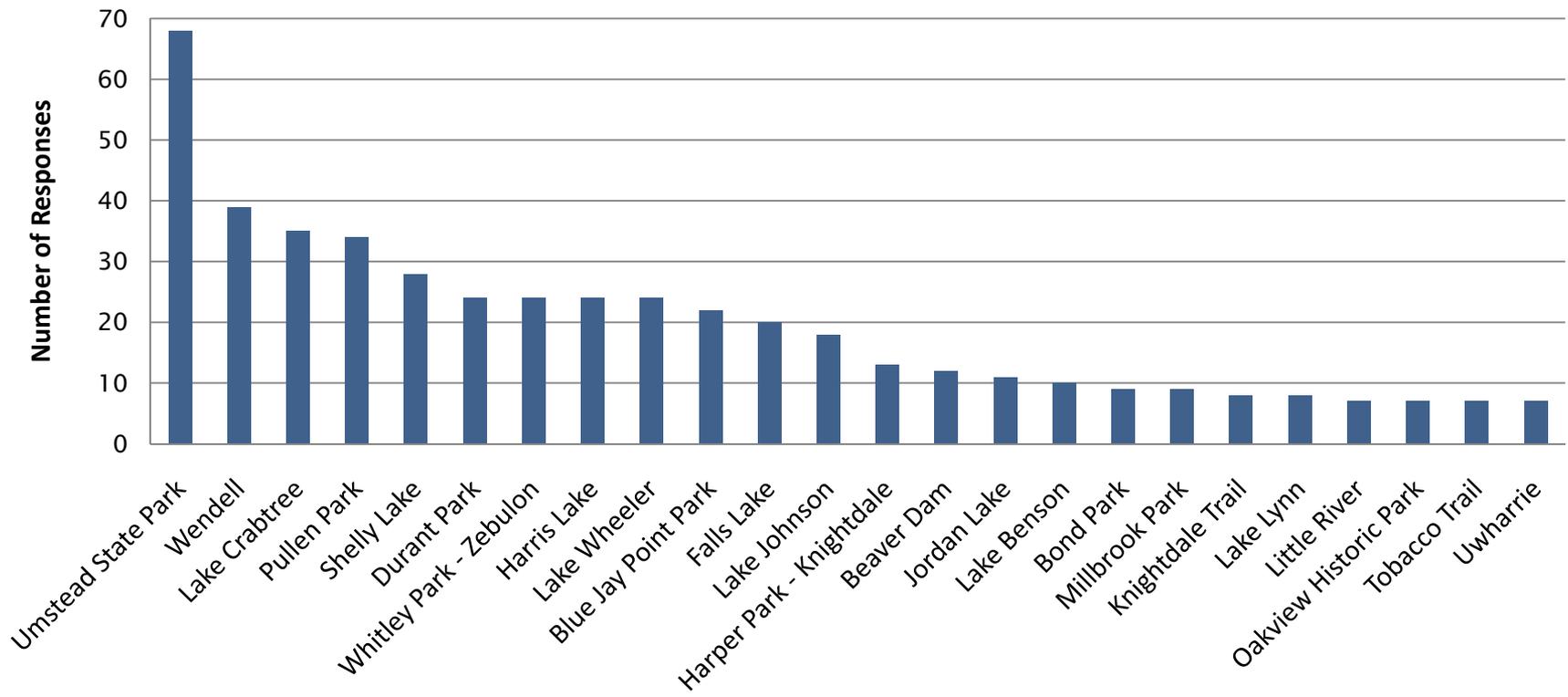
- Special Needs Program, Senior Program, Dancing, Storytelling, Horse Rides, Boating Instruction

How often do you and your family visit parks?



- 40% visit 2 or more times per month
- 31% visit 2 or more times per week
- 22% visit a few times per year
- 4% visit everyday

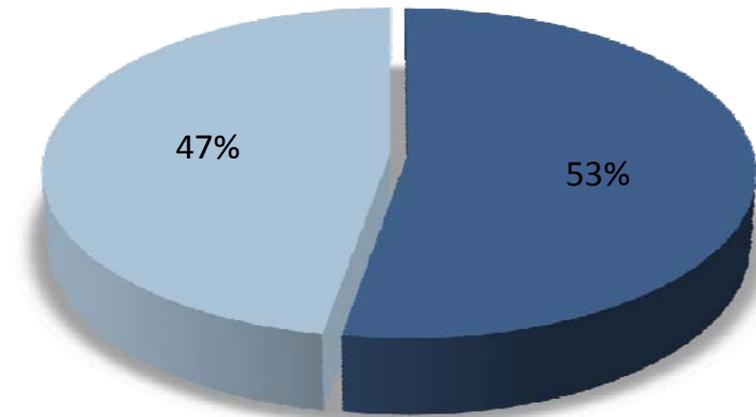
What parks do you and your family frequent now?



- Umstead State Park - 30%
- Wendell Community Park - 17%
- Lake Crabtree County Park- 16%

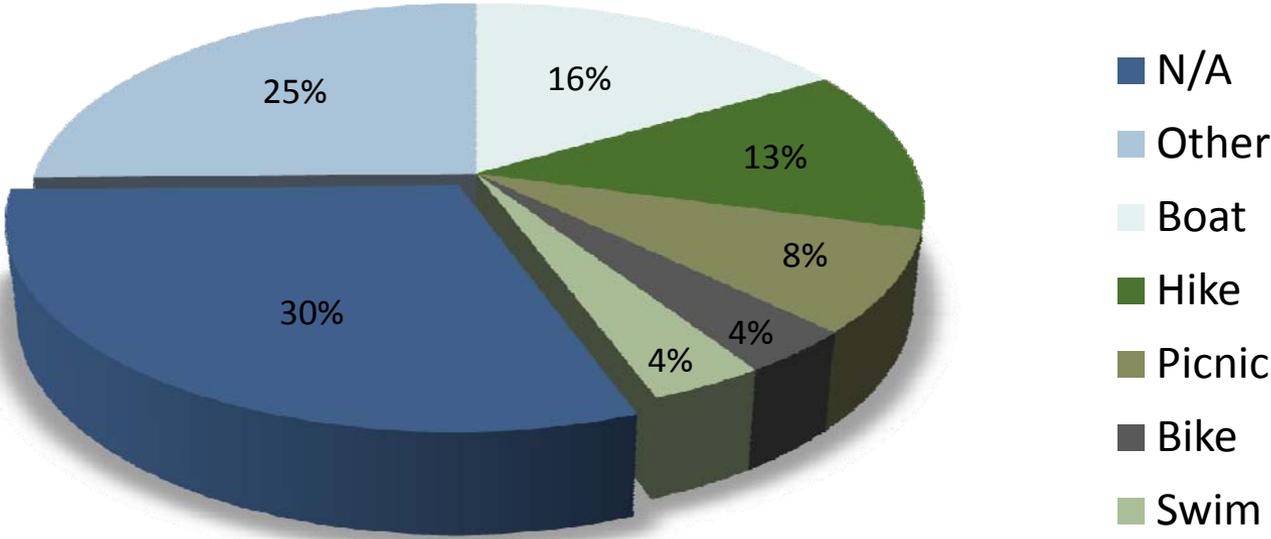
Have you or your family ever visited Lake Myra in the past?

■ No ■ Yes



- 53% have not visited Lake Myra in the past
- 47% have visited Lake Myra

If you have visited Lake Myra in the past, did you?



- Boat - 16%
- Hike - 13%
- Picnic - 8%
- Other - 25%

If you have visited Lake Myra in the past, did you? - Other

- Fish - 12%
- Enjoy scenery/nature - 6%
- Horseback ride - 5%
- Walk - 2%
- Swimming - 1%
- Hunting - 1%

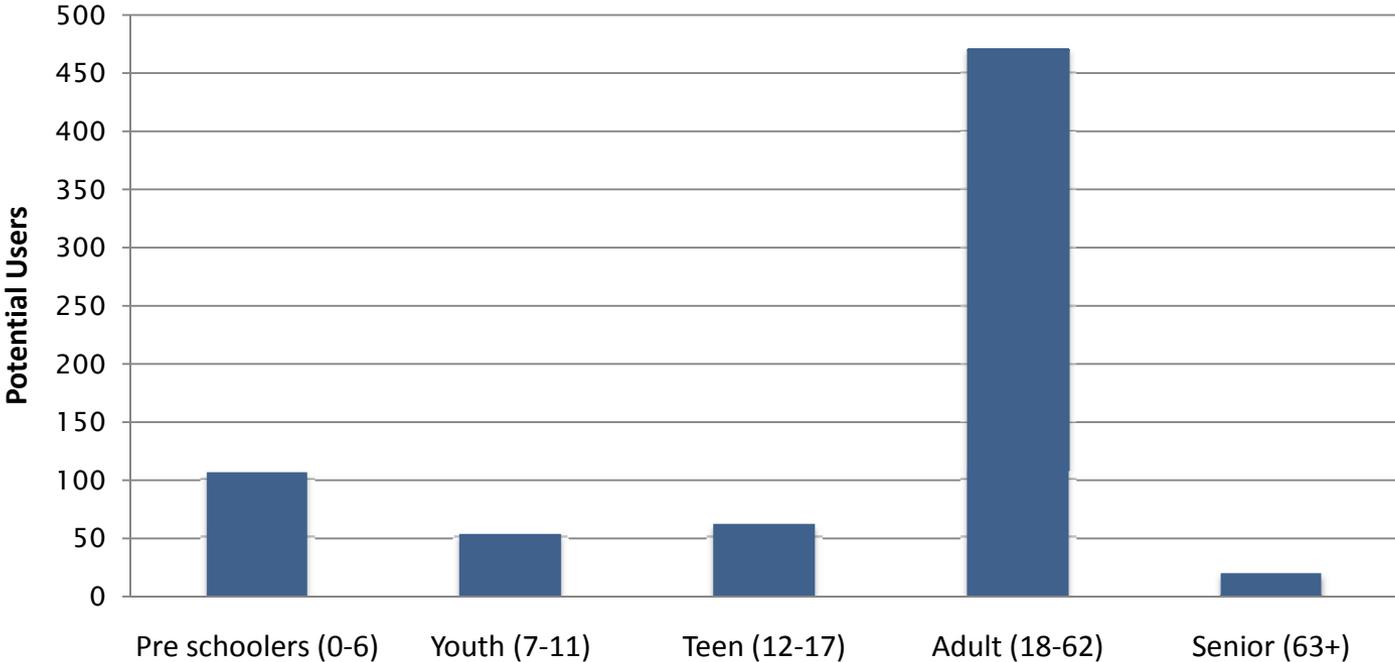
- Kayaking, Camping

Do you have any photos or memories to share with us about Lake Myra?

- “Have just found it to be a very meditative, peaceful place. Not many places left like that.”
- “I remember fishing up by the dam and hearing my dad tell me stories about him and his brothers doing the same. Many generations of my family have enjoyed this lake in the past and I hope that can continue in the future.”
- “Early morning drives on Poole Rd, coming into those tight curves and seeing the mist coming off the water. It was like driving through a movie scene and then back to normal.”
- “Purchasing a snack from the old country store on the lake... beside the dam.”

Please contact us with more stories and photographs!

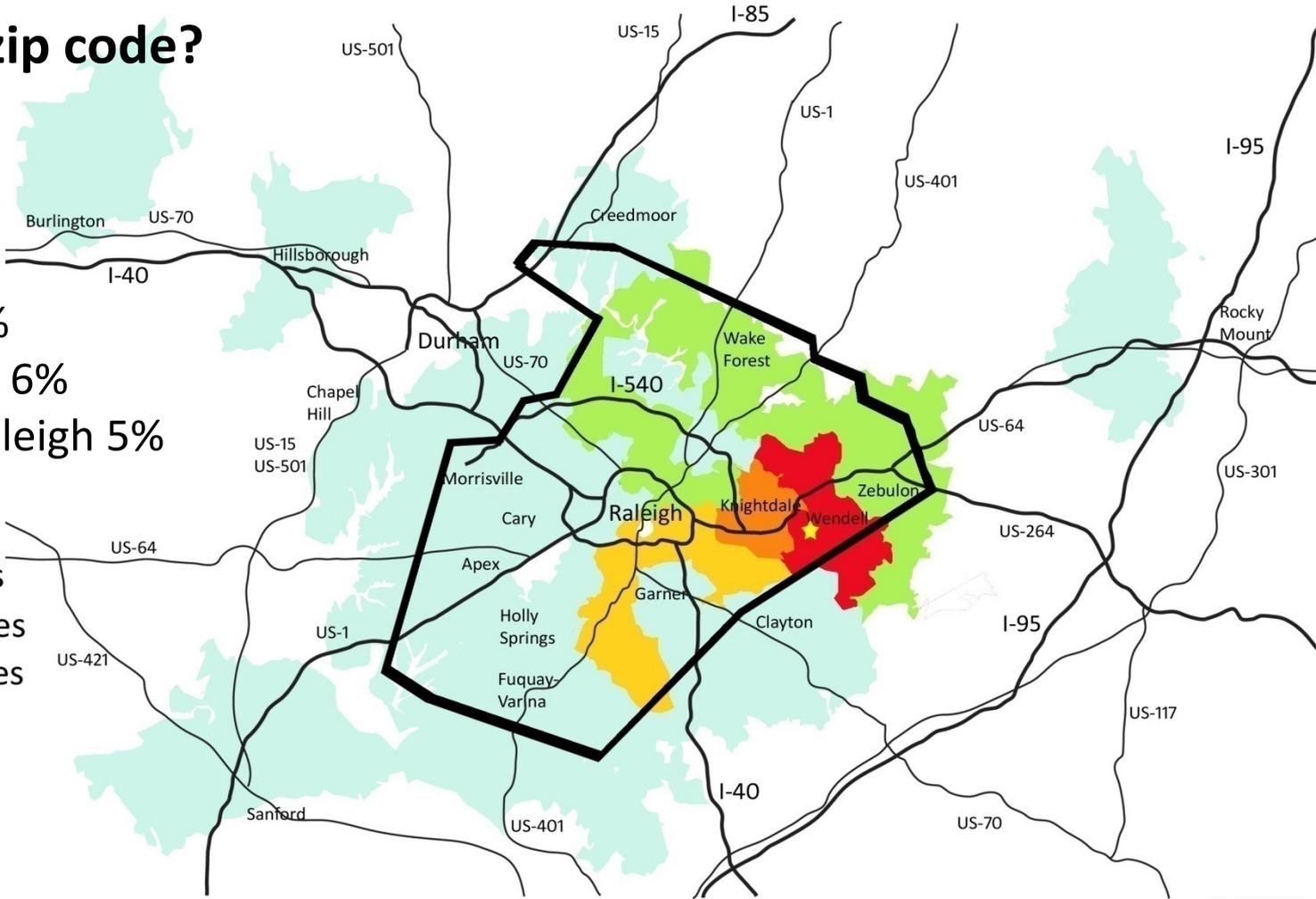
Age Groups of Potential Users



- The majority identified their household as being composed of mostly adults.
- Families with preschoolers were the second highest group identified.

What is your zip code?

- Wendell 35%
- Knightdale 9%
- South Raleigh 6%
- South-East Raleigh 5%



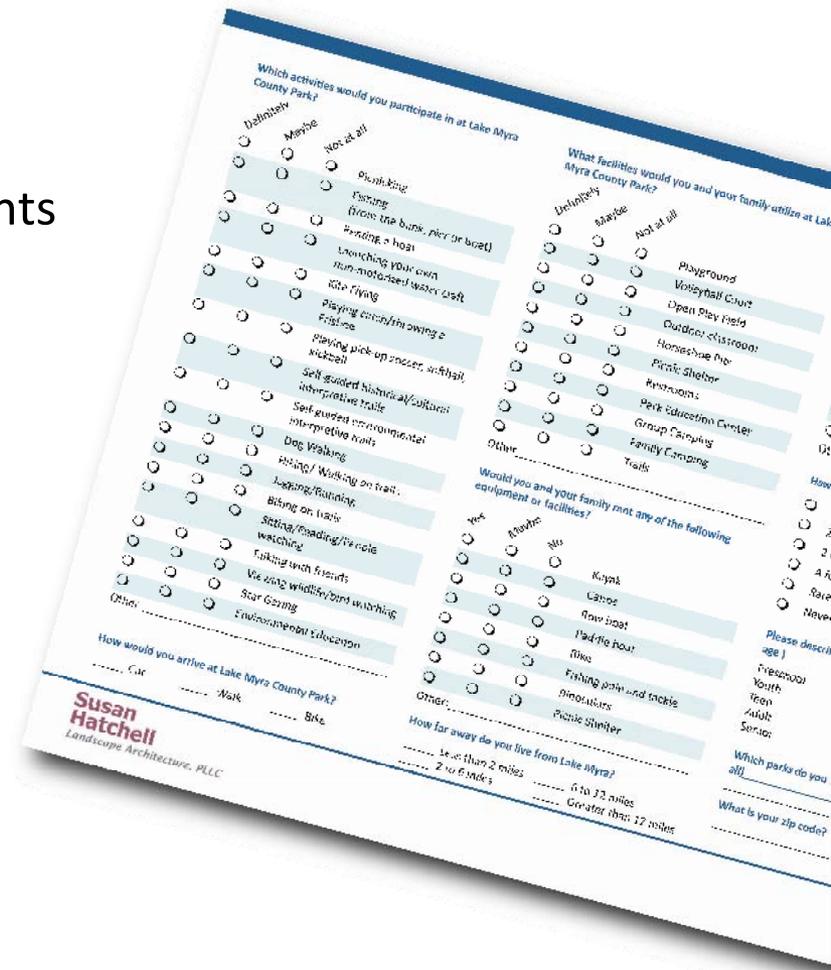
Comments:

There were 91 comments, here is a sample of a few of those:

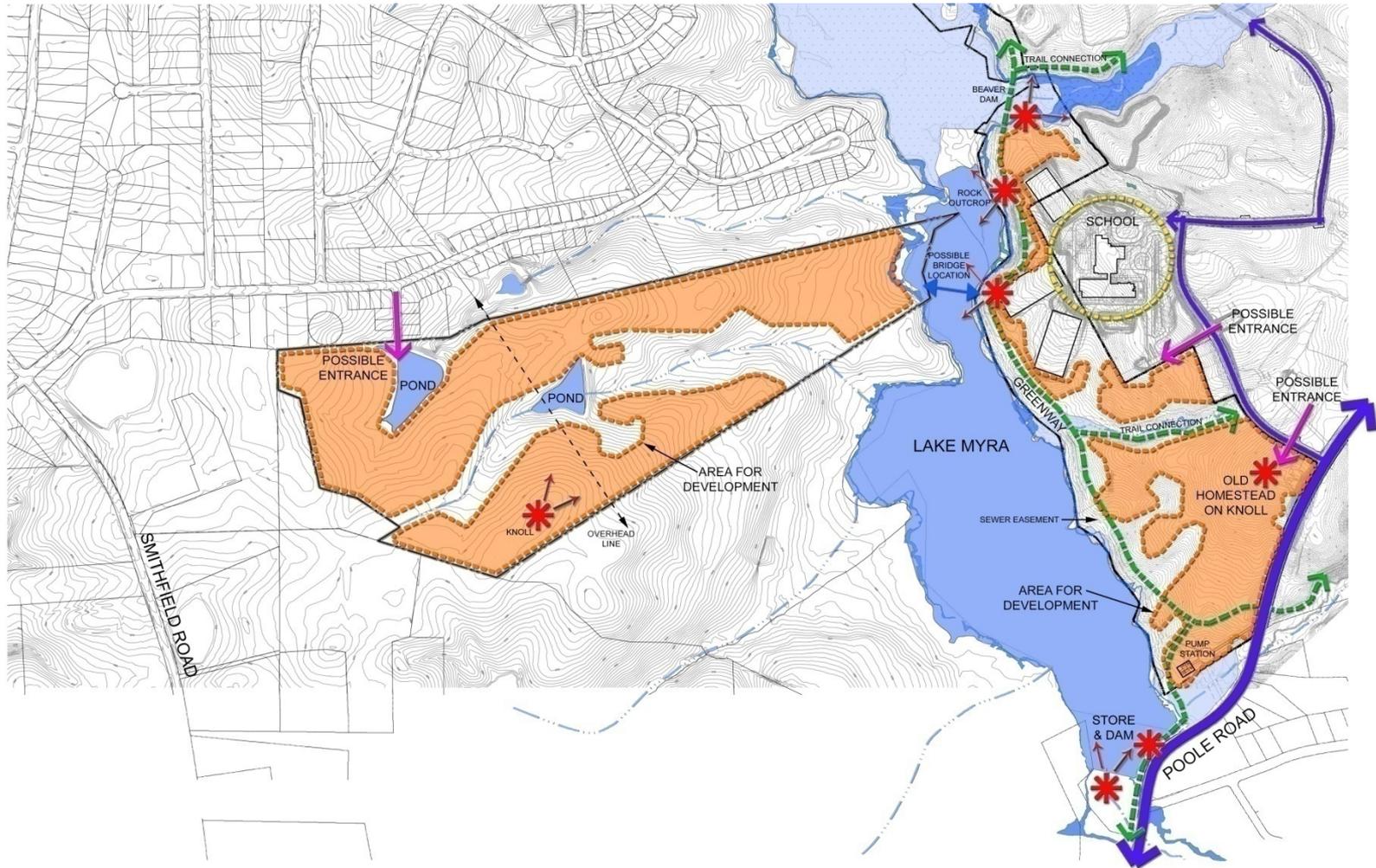
- “This is a beautiful site, lots of wildlife. Please maintain and preserve that.”
- “Picnic shelters to rent, walking trails, and group camping would be great for this area.”
- “Please conserve the trees and current natural habitat as much as possible. It would be heart breaking to see such a beautiful lake and surroundings destroyed by the hands of man. I would prefer hiking, biking, and horseback trails to any softball/soccer fields, basketball courts, etc.”
- “Keep open space open!”
- “I would like to see adaptive play equipment for handicap or disabled kids and adults.”

Summary of Survey Results

- The majority of survey of survey respondents want to preserve the property as much as possible.
- Greatest interest in the more passive activities such as:
 - Hiking -80%
 - Picnicking – 65%
 - Self Interpretive Environmental Trail – 59%
 - Environmental Education – 41%
 - Boat Rental – 39%



Areas for Development



Draft Park Program

- A Park Program is a written document that outlines the type of facilities that will be included in a park
- We held two meetings with various stakeholders
- We are meeting individually with municipalities and user groups (and these meetings are ongoing)
- We have tabulated the survey and taken that into consideration
- Draft Program Statement is summarized for your review tonight



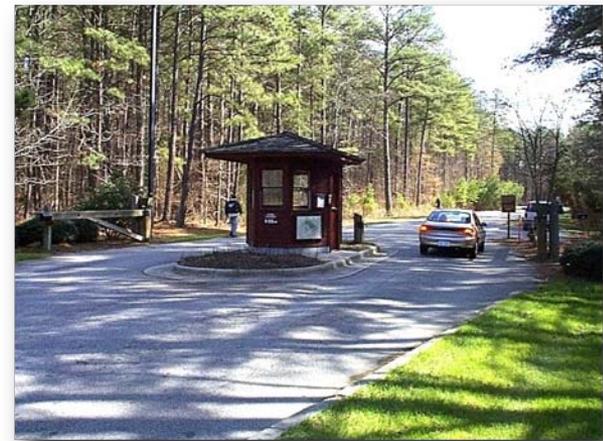
Conservation Easement

- The eastern property has a Conservation Easement on it held by the Southeast Regional Land Conservancy
- This property has limitations on the amount of impervious surface that is allowed, as well as maximum square footages for buildings and parking lots
- This assures the property will be:
 - developed in an environmentally sensitive way
 - the property will remain a passive environmentally focused park



Park Entrances

- Possibility of providing separate entrances for the main park and the maintenance facility to keep those distinct uses segregated
- Reduce the number of entrances to eliminate confusion – we have to have two – one east, one west
- Investigating a way to have a vehicular connection to Smithfield Road on the western property so we are not cutting through the existing neighborhood



Park roads need to be designed:

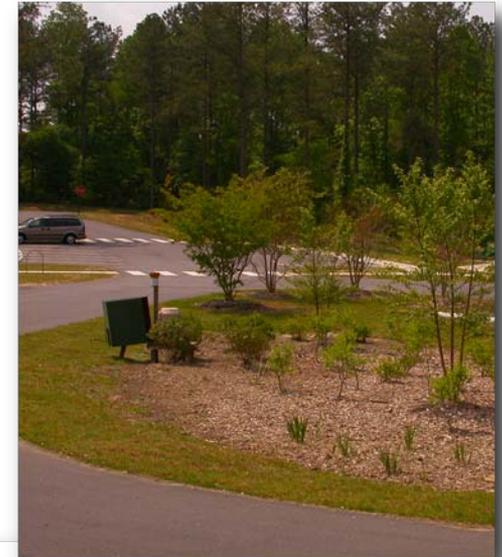
- To prevent speeding
- To allow bicycle and pedestrian access
- To provide a pleasant arrival with a progression of views
- To provide easy to understand internal circulation
- To minimize clearing and grading
- To protect environmentally sensitive areas



Park Parking Lots

Parking lots need to be designed to:

- Reduce environmental impact
- Prevent large expanses of pavement
- Minimize clearing and grading
- Maintain shade as much as possible
- Use effective stormwater management techniques
- Provide an aesthetically pleasing arrival



Environmental Education Center

The Environmental Education Center is a building that will provide the following:

- A focal point/hub for the Park and Marks Creek area
- The park office
- Public restrooms
- Rooms for classes, meetings, education, “Discovery Room,” storage
- Site sensitivity, perhaps views of lake
- “Green” architecture
- May function as the trailhead
- Drop-off area for visitors from cars or buses
- Shaded parking for cars and bikes



Park Maintenance Facility

This facility is the headquarters for park maintenance. It will include:

- Offices for maintenance staff
- Workshop and storage for supplies
- Private restroom and break room for maintenance staff
- Maintenance yard for delivery and storage of equipment and supplies
- Parking for maintenance staff as well as maintenance vehicles and equipment
- Facility should be small, and away from public view
- Possibility of a separate entrance



Open Space – Western Property

The western property has been used for farming, so it has existing open space. This property will:

- Maintain existing knolls, long vistas
- Area can be used for environmental education using the meadow and allowing natural succession
- Mountain bike trails
- Disc golf
- Public art



Open Play Fields – Eastern Property

Three fields are being built on the eastern property :

- Looking into a joint use agreement with the Wake County Public School System and the Town of Wendell
- Sports use of the fields would be programmed by the Town of Wendell
- Open play/pick up games
- Large area for group play, festivals, tents
- Environmental education
- Provide benches or shelters



Day Use Areas

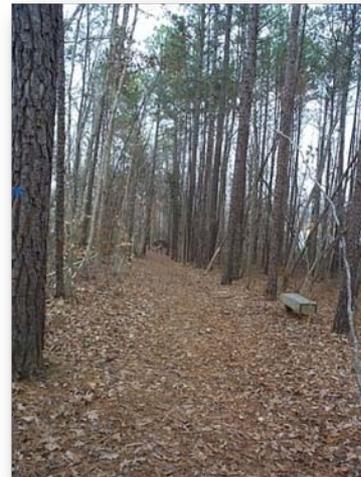
Day Use Areas are picnic areas often used by school groups, as well as others

- Located near the Environmental Education Center
- Picnic Shelters
- Restrooms
- Individual picnic areas nearby
- Playgrounds
- Shelters can be used for:
 - family events
 - outdoor classrooms
 - an amphitheater for performing
 - for dances
- Grills, tables, water and electricity



Multi-Use Trails

- Connects to larger trail system, to neighborhoods, and across the lake
- Both paved and natural surface trails
- Bridges may be needed in several locations
- Overlooks, rest stops, educational and historical trails
- Measure the trails for fitness use



Boardwalks

Boardwalks may be required in areas of environmental sensitivity

- Elevated wooden walkways above wetland areas
- Connections to the larger trail system for the region
- Provide overlooks, rest stops, opportunities for fishing and environmental education
- Prefer use of recycled wood products



Fishing

- Piers or platforms will be provided for fishing
- Close proximity to parking for accessibility



Boat Rental Facility

The Boat Rental Facility is a building, a beach area and a dock for renting boats.

- The boathouse is where you check in with staff to rent a boat and pick up your gear
- Plan to offer non motorized boats only:
 - Canoes
 - Kayaks
 - Paddle boats
 - Rowboats
- Facility needs to be accessible and close to parking
- No boat ramp will be provided for launching boats



Utilities needed include:

- Water
- Sewer
- Electrical
- Phone
- Gas
- All will be underground
- Utility corridors will be designed to also serve as trails when possible to reduce the amount of clearing needed
- Stormwater management may include design of permanent Best Management Practices (BMPs) that can be used for education



Planting

- Native and non-invasive plants
- Drought tolerant species
- Vegetated buffers required around property boundaries, streams and wetlands
- Wildlife habitat enhancement
- Environmental education purposes



Conversation, Questions and Comments



Next Steps

Community Forum #3 - Design Alternatives

Thursday – July 31, 2008

Community Forum #4 - Draft Master Plan

Tuesday – September 9, 2008

Community Forum #5 – Final Master Plan

Tuesday – October 21, 2008

Starts at 7:00 pm in the
Wendell Community Center



Areas for Development

