

7-1980

A Case Study of the Recreational Needs & Interests of Rural Adults in Russell County, Kentucky

Bennett Bratcher
Western Kentucky University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/theses>



Part of the [Recreation Business Commons](#), [Recreation, Parks and Tourism Administration Commons](#), and the [Sports Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Bratcher, Bennett, "A Case Study of the Recreational Needs & Interests of Rural Adults in Russell County, Kentucky" (1980). *Masters Theses & Specialist Projects*. Paper 2182.
<https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/theses/2182>

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Masters Theses & Specialist Projects by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

Bratcher,

Bennett F.

1980

A Case Study of the Recreational
Needs and Interests of Rural Adults
in Russell County, Kentucky

A Thesis

Presented to

the Faculty of the Department of
Physical Education and Recreation
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Kentucky

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Science

by

Bennett F. Bratcher

July 1980

AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF THESIS

Permission is hereby

granted to the Western Kentucky University Library to make, or allow to be made photocopies, microfilm or other copies of this thesis for appropriate research or scholarly purposes.

reserved to the author for the making of any copies of this thesis except for brief sections for research or scholarly purposes.

Signed Bennett F. Bratcher

Date July 21, 1980

Please place an "X" in the appropriate box.

This form will be filed with the original of the thesis and will control future use of the thesis.

A Case Study of the
Recreational Needs and Interests
of Rural Adults
in Russell County, Kentucky

Recommended July 18 1980
(Date)

William F. Kummer
Director of Thesis

Arthur Hill

Thomas P. Quinn

Approved July 24, 1980
(Date)

Elmer Gray
Dean of the Graduate College

Acknowledgements

I would like to especially thank Dr. William Kummer, Dr. Alton Little, and Dr. Thomas Dunn for serving on my thesis committee and for giving me much guidance and support throughout this project.

Thanks also goes to Ms. Carolyn Marks for her help in the establishment of the survey instrument and its analysis.

A special thanks goes to the Graduate Research Committee, Dr. Gary Dillard, Dr. John O'Connor, and Dr. Robert Hoyt, who awarded this project a graduate research grant.

Finally, I would like to thank the citizens of Russell County, Kentucky, who made this study possible and to whom this study is dedicated.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments	iii
Abstract	v
Chapter 1 -- Introduction	7
Statement of the Problem	7
Purpose of the Study	7
Need for the Study	7
Setting of the Study	8
Definitions	9
Limitations	11
Delimitations	12
Questions in Lieu of a Hypothesis	12
Notes	13
Chapter 2 -- Review of Related Literature	14
Notes	29
Chapter 3 -- Procedures	32
Chapter 4 -- Analysis of Data	35
Chapter 5 --	
Findings	90
Conclusions	95
Recommendations	97
Appendices	
Appendix A	100
Appendix B	105
Bibliography	106

A Case Study of the Recreational Needs and Interests
of Rural Adults in Russell County, Kentucky

Bennett F. Bratcher July 1980 107 pages

Directed by: Dr. Thomas P. Dunn, Dr. William G. Kummer,
and Dr. Alton D. Little

Department of Physical Western Kentucky University
Education and Recreation

Russell County, Kentucky, is a small rural county, with a population of 11,900, located 85 miles east of Bowling Green, Kentucky. There were approximately 2800 adults between the ages of 25 and 45 living in the county during the summer of 1980. The problem of this study was twofold: (1) to assess the recreational needs and interests of 25 to 45 year old adults in Russell County, Kentucky, during the summer of 1980, and (2) to make recommendations based upon the findings of the study. A survey instrument was developed, with the aid of a jury of experts, to serve as the data gathering tool. The survey was mailed out to a random sample of 500 Russell Countians between the ages of 25 and 45. Two hundred twenty completed surveys were returned to the researcher. The survey instrument included questions dealing with present attitudes and interests toward recreation and also present locations of organized recreation pursuits. Also included were questions concerning needed programs and facilities for recreation. Surveys were analyzed and results were tabulated by the

Western Kentucky University Data Processing Center. Tabulations indicated a trend toward dissatisfaction with present recreational programs and facilities in Russell County and a definite need for increased governmental provisions of programs, facilities, and professional recreation leadership through a full-time director. Also it was observed that respondents were receptive to the idea of user fees for participation in desired programs. The researcher, based on the findings of the study, recommended that Russell County officials might wish to re-examine the importance, priority, and necessity of recreation to the 25 to 45 year old population both individually and collectively.

Chapter 1

Introduction

Statement of the Problem

The problem of this study was twofold:

- 1) to assess the recreation needs and interests of 25-45 year old adults in Russell County, Kentucky, during the summer of 1980.
- 2) to make recommendations based upon the findings of this study.

Purpose of the Study

The major purpose of this study was to investigate and to establish existing and needed recreational programs and facilities for 25-45 year old adults.

Need for the Study

Recreation Specialist Daniel Pelegrino stated, ". . . Despite the fact that much research has been done in the area of needs, further study must be undertaken to identify needs in particular communities."¹

The research coordinator served as Recreation Director of Russell County while doing an internship from Western Kentucky University during the summer of 1979. The particular group under study posed a problem in the planning and scheduling of activities. The difficulty stemmed from a

lack of practical knowledge concerning recreational needs and interests of the group. Since a recreation intern was allowed to work in the county, it is the belief of the researcher that Russell County citizens and officials are interested in the provision of recreation for all ages. This study could aid officials in the planning of recreation programs and facilities by assessing expressed needs and interests of citizens in the 25-45 year old range.

The area under study could easily qualify as one of the "communities" that Pelegrino alluded to and the researcher seized the opportunity to do some research that was both academically and practically appealing. This study should be beneficial to all concerned.

Setting of the Study

Much essential and pertinent information concerning Russell County was discovered in the Lake Cumberland Area Development District staff publication, Data Resources Volume II. For example, Russell County, Kentucky, had a population of 11,900 in 1977. The total population falling between the ages of 25-45 consisted of 1359 males and 1454 females for a total of 2813.² The mean family income was \$4,685 in 1969 and \$8,800 in 1978.³

The estimated numbers of individuals below the 1978 poverty level was 6377 or 54.63 percent of the total population.⁴

In Russell County, 1942 individuals were employed by industry (non-agricultural industry) in 1977. These people had an average weekly wage of \$141.51 in 1977. The Kentucky state average wage was \$200.00.⁵

Even though the population of the county has increased in the past ten years, the number of farms in the county has decreased.

TABLE 1⁶

Number of Farms		Percentage of Acres of Farm Land	
<u>1974</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1969</u>
1209	1504	66.4	76.7

Russell County also has 34,847 acres of Army Corps of Engineer Land, more than any other county in the Lake Cumberland Area Development District.⁷

Definitions

- 1) Russell County, Kentucky -- Russell County is located 82 miles east of Bowling Green, Kentucky, just off of the Cumberland Parkway. It consists of two major towns - Jamestown, the county seat, (pop. 1400) and

Russell Springs, (pop. 2800). The total population of the county is 11,900.⁸

- 2) Rural Area -- A rural area consists of both farmers and townspeople living in the same general area. There are both open country and business operations.
- 3) Recreation Needs and Interests -- Recreation needs and interests refer to those activities which individuals in a specific area and age range enjoy and wish to participate in during leisure time.⁹
- 4) Case-Study -- A case-study is an in depth investigation of a given social unit resulting in a complete, well-organized picture of that unit. Depending upon the purpose, the scope of the study may encompass an entire life cycle or only a selected segment. It may concentrate upon specific factors or take in the totality of elements and events.¹⁰
- 5) Jury of Experts -- A jury of experts is a body of recreation professionals in the field who, through their experience and reputation, have been chosen to advise, critique, and comment on the study itself and the survey instrument with the intention of adding validity and reliability to the study.
- 6) Leisure Time -- Leisure time is time which is not devoted to work or to work-related responsibility or to other forms of maintenance activity, and which

therefore may be regarded as discretionary or unobligated.¹¹

- 7) Survey Investigations -- The purposes of descriptive-survey investigations may be:
 - 1) to secure evidence concerning an existing situation or current condition.
 - 2) to identify standards or norms with which to compare present conditions, in order to plan the next step.
 - 3) to determine how to make the next step (having determined where one is and where one wishes to go).¹²
- 8) Mean -- The mean is another name for the arithmetic average.¹³
- 9) Frequency Distributions -- The frequency distribution often is used to make the handling of data easier and more meaningful. This distribution is a method to identify the highest and lowest scores, the most frequent scores and the concentration of scores toward the middle.¹⁴
- 10) Simple Frequency -- If simple frequency is used, only the scores need to be listed.¹⁵

Limitations

The study was limited:

- 1) by responses of randomly selected individuals through the mail.

- 2) by a designated amount of money with which to conduct the study.
- 3) by the inability of the researcher to be in Russell County throughout the duration of the study period.

Delimitations

The study was delimited:

- 1) to adults 25-45 years of age.
- 2) to adults living in and registered to vote in Russell County as of May 28, 1980.

Questions in Lieu of a Hypothesis

- 1) At this time, are there adequate programs and facilities in Russell County as perceived by the group under study?
- 2) If not, what facilities and programs are needed?
- 3) As perceived by the group under study, what is the role of city/county government in providing recreation programs, facilities, and leadership?

Notes

Chapter 1

¹ Donald A. Pelegrino, Research Methods for Recreation: A Theoretical and Practical Guide (Dubuque, Iowa: Wm. C. Brown Co. Publishers, 1979), pp. 20-21.

² Lake Cumberland Area Development District, Data Resources, Vol. II (January, 1980), p. 48.

³ Ibid., p. 9.

⁴ Ibid., p. 12.

⁵ Ibid., p. 15.

⁶ Ibid., p. 26.

⁷ Ibid., p. 40.

⁸ Ibid., p. 48.

⁹ Reynold E. Carlson, Theodore K. Deppe, and Janet R. MacLean, Recreation in American Life (Belmont, Ca.: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1975), p. 209.

¹⁰ Stephen Isaac, William B. Michael, Handbook in Research and Evaluation (San Diego, Ca.: R. R. Knapp, 1971), p. 20.

¹¹ Richard Kraus, Recreation and Leisure in Modern Society (Pacific Palisades, Ca.: Goodyear Publishing Co., Inc., 1971), p. 266.

¹² Pelegrino, Research Methods, p. 82.

¹³ Ibid., p. 169.

¹⁴ Ibid., p. 168.

¹⁵ Ibid., p. 168.

Chapter 2

Review of Related Literature

President Lyndon Johnson once said, "The purpose of protecting the life of our Nation and preserving the liberty of our citizens is to pursue the happiness of our people. Our success in that pursuit is the test of our success as a Nation."¹ The President presented us with the challenge to use the wealth we have achieved to "enrich and elevate our national life, and to advance the quality of our American civilization."² He envisioned the "Great Society" where man can renew contact with nature, where leisure is a welcome chance to build and reflect, not a feared cause of boredom and restlessness. He warned that we must act to prevent an ugly America.³

This particular section of related literature deals with the term "leisure" as it applies to this study. It should be realized that "although it would seem a simple matter to find out how much free time a person has and what he does with it, problems crop up at every turn. Indeed a study giving us a complete account of a person's activities would be impossible."⁴

Lawrence H. Stevens, Assistant Director of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation said:

"Leisure is the blessing and could be the curse of a progressive, successful civilization. The amount of leisure already at hand is enough to have made many

Americans uneasy. Ours is a culture that has always been inclined to look upon idle time with some misgivings for reasons that trace to the Puritan tradition of industry - but which spring also from the historic and very practical need for hard work in the building of a nation."⁵

Sebastian deGrazia said that the concept of leisure is very ancient. He noticed that the Greek philosopher Aristotle said a curious thing in the Politics. The Spartans remained secure as long as they were at war; they collapsed as soon as they acquired an empire. They did not know how to use the leisure that peace brought.⁶ Seneca talked of Ancient Rome, ". . . the young and the old need leisure. No one can go without it. Only in leisure can one choose the model by which to direct his life."⁷

DeGrazia went on to discuss why we do what we do. He listed these factors as the most important: climate, diet, the air we breathe, health, age, money available, time and space, technology, shelter, architecture, and the type of work a population does.⁸ A catch-all phrase in sociology is customs and mores. It refers to all the ways and moral stances of a people, such as their kinds of family relationship and their ways of educating youth. A number of customs, like early marriage, have already been seen to shape the spending of free time. Division of labor between the sexes with almost all males going out to work and, as yet, most of the females staying in the house is another custom that continues to affect the use of free time. From some of the

points touched on previously one gathers why a serious problem of matrimony today is that the husband and wife each want to do different things: he often prefers to be or go off by himself; she would rather spend her free time with him.⁹

With time well secularized, the possibilities of choice seem to increase. One has a whole 24 hours a day and can fill them as he pleases. The lone obligation is to give the first and best part of the day to work, after that - freedom.¹⁰ Evening has always been one of the most faithful friends of free time. Other islands of free time rest upon meals. In the middle of the day, in the heat of the sun, in many parts of the agrarian world, labor ceases, shelter is sought, food and people come together, time out is called.¹¹ Almost all Americans who work have a vacation, another large island of time. Nearly half of all workers have two weeks a year, and nearly another half - three weeks. The seasonal character of agricultural labor grants months of free time or, as more typically put, enforces months of idleness.¹²

Adults sometimes say, "I don't know what to do with myself." This attitude can refer to their lack of education, their ignorance of the possibilities that exist, or to the uselessness, given nothing but small pieces of time, of heading in a new direction.¹³ To be bored a person must believe

that something both interesting to do and permissible exists somewhere. Either he hasn't the external means, or is prevented by morality, or hasn't the knowledge of what to do but believes that the knowledge exists somewhere. Some believe that rural communities do not experience boredom, this is doubtful. The mind of man must be exercised. If he has no problems - a rare situation - he seems to create them for himself. Small communities do contain bored persons.¹⁴

Traditionally, if a study of leisure activity among adults were conducted we would not be likely to find many reports of "nothing," for in most cases today "nothing" is an unacceptable answer. Nor would many reports of "thinking" be found for that is next to nothing, and not worth reporting if some more obvious or violent body movement is occurring at the same time. If a man is thinking and smoking, he would be described as a man smoking. So in our data the visibly active movements would predominate. It should be realized that it does not always give a full or accurate picture.¹⁵

Barbara P. Payne stated that a major assumption of her study was that "what people do most in their leisure time may not be what they enjoy most."¹⁶ She also assumed in her study that "residence no longer is a significant variable in explaining what leisure activities adults

pursue. It hypothesizes that residence is a significant variable in explaining the difference in the choice of the favorite activity and the meaning of that activity to the adult."¹⁷ Understanding the nature of the most enjoyed non-work activity of adults provides a basis for evaluating present facilities and planning adult leisure activities which include more options and increase the accessibility to these activities for small town and non-metro adults.¹⁸

Rhona and Robert Rapoport discuss the changing and traditional roles of husband and wife:

"In the traditional model, the husband is the provider, securely and permanently employed in a job that brings ever greater rewards until retirement; his wife is his help mate, a devoted housewife and mother whose external interests do not conflict with her basic job as homemaker, child-bearer and rearer. However, several changes are altering this picture:

- 1) Longevity and multiple careers have increased.
- 2) Mobility has increased.
- 3) Affluence levels have changed.
- 4) Changes in sex roles have a fundamental effect on the ideal concept of the conventional family."¹⁹

"Men's motivations in relation to work and family life are also changing. Increasingly, men acknowledge a domestic role - ranging from being a helper to a full participant."²⁰

The next area to be covered deals with rural America - definitions and explanations of it and the recreation problem as it relates to it. Former Kentucky Governor Edward T. Breathitt wrote ". . . Rural America symbolizes

- and always has symbolized - great and boundless opportunity, a place where a man may express himself to the fullest, unhampered by the restrictions of our cities Though rural America has achieved greatness, large portions of that dream for entirely too many people are as yet unfulfilled."²¹

He continued, ". . . I see in rural America hopelessness and dejection on the part of many people who have never found the good life they have a right to expect. I see in rural America a tendency on the part of young people to leave it all behind and go off and get swallowed up in a big city. I see the promise - yes. But I also see, and all who are not blind can see, the tremendous problems we face if rural life is to be productive, comfortable, and meaningful for all. Often our rural residents suffer sheer boredom because of isolation. They do not have the chance to be interested or motivated into productive endeavors that their city cousins have."²²

Harold Meyer and Charles Brightbill define rural as "an ever-expanding concept, including more and more interrelations between city and country and calling for ever-broadening views in rural and urban planning."²³ Meyer and Brightbill also point out that rural lifestyles are changing. Among new conditions producing these changes are:

- "1) Universal schooling, creating a demand for higher standards of living.
- 2) the automobile and good roads, which lessen the need for small towns and tend to depopulate the less attractive areas in favor of more attractive ones.
- 3) the shorter working day in industry which draws farm people to what they believe is a better life in the city.
- 4) the development of commercial farming which, in some cases, virtually substitutes migratory laborers for settled families in the harvest and planting seasons.
- 5) the spread of electric power into farm areas.
- 6) the tendency of city interests to dominate the mass media in such a way as to produce a city-minded nation.
- 7) the continuing program of the federal government in the interest of rural people."²⁴

They also listed past factors which hindered growth of recreation in rural areas:

- 1) Isolation - sparseness of population
- 2) Economic factors
- 3) Lack of leadership
- 4) Leisure time availability
- 5) Lack of organization.²⁵

Howard Danford explained the attitude toward recreation in rural America:

"The average farm family and community suffers relative play poverty, principally because of a lack of play philosophy or a disbelief in the value of play, which is an old and persistent attitude of farmers; even where there is leisure it is not always utilized in positive play, but is spent in either play of negative character or in idleness."²⁶

In a paper by E. J. Niederfrank, it was explained that:

". . . today recreation has become a widely accepted concept. Part of this is due to the new emphasis given it as a source of income, and part is due to the increased interest in recreation as a human need brought about by the trends of the times; therefore the need for increased recreation facilities and opportunities for the people to enjoy. . . . Research indicates that it is the simple recreation pleasures that the great masses of people need and want."²⁷

The diversity of rural populations concerned Tom Bennet who wrote, "As our society changes we find an increasing number of people moving to the rural areas to escape the problems, frustrations, and congestion of big cities. This creates a diverse rural population. Providing proper recreation programs and facilities for such a heterogenous population is a full-time job."²⁸

Charles T. Vettiner wrote that many small towns have attempted to operate recreation programs. Many have failed due to two reasons: (1) insufficient revenue and (2) poor leadership. The problem of insufficient revenue may be solved by all small towns and villages joining together

to form a strong county unit.²⁹ He continued, ". . . the urge for recreation must come from the community to the (Recreation) Board. The Board must not take recreation to the county. If it is worth having it is worth coming after."³⁰ Vettiner attempted to define recreation authority in the following way:

". . . The 'wheel of rural recreation' must have a hub. The communities need to revolve about a central authority, empowered to assist in the progressive steps necessary to be taken for the realization of a sound over-all program. Such central authorities may be known as playground and recreation boards, commissions, or departments of recreation."³¹

Tom Bennet wrote that the single most important factor in the development of sound recreation programs for the total community is professional leadership. "Usually the rural population lacks a central rallying point around which a planned recreation program can be constructed. Therefore, it is important in rural communities to have professional recreation leadership sensitive to the needs of the total community."³² He continued:

"The professional recreator is a multi-skilled individual who can balance community needs and resources so that all areas of recreation programming are met. . . . The recreation professional is also adept at educating the public with regard to the importance of varied recreation opportunities. . . . The professional involves all segments and age groups of the community in program planning to insure that recreation is not just for the rich and not just for the children."³³

Leadership goes along with planning. Howard T. Ball wrote:

"Competent public officials surely need a long-range recreational philosophy. Civic and recreational planning are not recent devices of the 30's, 40's or 60's. A thousand years before Christ, we are told in the Old Testament, 48 cities were built to careful plans in the land of Israel. The utterly amazing feature of each was 800 cubits of green space set up around the city on all four sides, publicly owned never to be sold, set aside forever for community use and recreation."³⁴

Meyer and Brightbill attempted to define the problems of rural recreation:

"The problem is essentially one of organizing local resources, land, structures, and other facilities, and the interests, skills, and enthusiasms of the people need to be used for the enrichment of leisure. Voluntary and private agencies can be of assistance, but there can be no adequate program without public organization and support. Boards of county commissioners, boards of supervisors, district or county boards of education, park districts, county park and forestry departments, or other agencies of this nature must see their responsibilities and act. There should be permanent county or district recreation establishment."³⁵

The next section of literature review deals with urban versus rural leisure and recreation and the satisfaction levels of populations with respect to community services - recreation being a community service.

In a paper, Barbara P. Payne stated:

"Mass leisure is a social fact of American life in the seventies. . . . The impact of the mass media and the automobile on the small town, non-metropolitan adult's recreation and leisure activities has been to make urban types of activities accessible to them and to narrow the differences in the types of activities pursued by the small townner and city adult. It

has been observed as early as 1940 that rural and small town leisure activities and the moves concerning them tend to approximate those of the city."³⁶

Howard Danford wrote that there are a number of important factors strongly affecting the development of recreation in rural areas, factors that may not be so pronounced in urban communities. Among these factors are:

- 1) Attitude toward recreation - Faced with the necessity of earning a living in an economic struggle characterized by hard work in great amounts, a philosophy of life evolved in rural areas which glorified work and belittled play and recreation.
- 2) Lack of facilities - Rural areas are poor in "artificial" modes of recreation such as ball diamonds, tennis courts, community centers, etc., but are rich, however, in natural means for recreation.
- 3) Nonstandardization of working hours - In urban areas, programs can be planned with complete assurance that the working hours of most of the people who participate are fixed and certain. There is no such certainty or regularity about the work schedule of the farmer.
- 4) Sparsity of population - Cities have "blocks" of people in neighborhoods, whereas, rural people

may have to travel miles to form groups for participation in programs.

- 5) Nature and extent of work - The farmer works a longer day than does the average laborer in urban communities. Farm work is more physically draining than is, for example, industrial work due to longer hours and less power machinery. Industrial workers are simply laborers who can forget about their jobs when the "whistle blows." The farmer is both manager and laborer and his worries, cares, and responsibilities follow him wherever he goes. Farm work is challenging and industrial work is not.
- 6) Resistance to change - Rural families are set in their ways.
- 7) Lack of funds - One of the factors responsible for the retardation of recreation in rural communities has been the security of cash available for the financing of recreation.³⁷

These factors are similar to the problems stated by Carlson, Deppe, and MacLean in their work:

- 1) The heterogenous nature of rural residents due to the fact that they are not just farmers or small town workers is a problem.
- 2) Urbanization of rural culture through radio, television, metropolitan newspapers, improved

- highways have made recreation outlets of neighboring cities more accessible.
- 3) The attitudes of rural people in being reluctant to accept the need for the organization of recreation opportunities has been a deterrant to rapid growth of rural recreation.
 - 4) Even though better communication and transportation is available, the isolation of farm life has been accentuated. As farmers have prospered and farms enlarged, isolation of farmers has increased.
 - 5) There is a general lack of adequate facilities in rural areas.
 - 6) Leadership responsibility is ill-defined. Rural residents are not a cohesive group and the placement of responsibility for developing recreation programs is somewhat vague.
 - 7) There is a general reluctance to further tax for recreation, therefore, there is a lack of financial support.
 - 8) The nature of the rural population's work is a problem. The physical challenges and the irregularity of hours evolve difficulties in program scheduling that are almost absent in large cities.³⁸

Meyer and Brightbill suggested that although the purposes of urban and rural recreation may be the same, the

approaches are different. Hence, if urban recreation were transplanted to rural areas without modification, defeat of the primary aim would probably result.³⁹

Recreation should be considered as a community or county service. In a study done by John P. Kuehn, he stated:

"It is generally recognized that the kind, quality, and cost of public and private community services . . . are among the important influences upon rural development. The range in community services among rural localities, and among rural as compared with urban localities, tends to be very great."⁴⁰

A study done by the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Auburn University, stated that, "Of all the services considered, regardless of community group membership, the highest level of dissatisfaction was expressed in relation to recreation."⁴¹

In the Virginia Lambert and Gary Linn study, indoor recreation was voted lowest in villages and rural areas in Northwestern Wisconsin. "Places for outdoor recreation rated higher than facilities for indoor recreation, but, again, residents of rural areas gave less favorable rating than those of the cities."⁴²

John P. Kuehner, in his study, found that of the services mentioned to the respondents of the region under investigation, they were least satisfied with housing, public transportation, local road maintenance, and sports and recreation programs.⁴³

This chapter has given a broad overview of some of the literature which related to this particular study. To the researcher's knowledge, no previous study dealing with the recreation needs and interests of 25-45 year old adults had ever been attempted in Russell County, Kentucky. All of the sources cited were valuable in understanding rural America, rural recreation, and Russell County itself.

Notes

Chapter 2

¹Lawrence N. Stevens, Asst. Director, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Dept. of the Interior, "The Place of Purposeful Recreation in Rural America (Washington: July 7, 1964). (ERIC ED 020 070)

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴Sebastian deGrazia, Of Time, Work, and Leisure (Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday, 1962), p. 89.

⁵Stevens, "Purposeful Recreation."

⁶deGrazia, Of Time, p. 9.

⁷Ibid., p. 21.

⁸Ibid., pp. 160-167.

⁹Ibid., p. 175.

¹⁰Ibid., p. 292.

¹¹Ibid., p. 108.

¹²Ibid., p. 109

¹³Ibid., p. 405.

¹⁴Ibid., p. 405.

¹⁵Ibid., p. 89.

¹⁶Barbara P. Payne, "The Meaning of Non-Work Activities to Small Town - Non Metropolitan Residents of the Piedmont Region: Paper presented to the Rural Sociology Society, University of Maryland (College Park, Maryland, August 23, 1973), p. 1. (ERIC ED 081 538)

¹⁷Ibid., p. 2.

¹⁸Ibid., p. 16.

¹⁹Rhona and Robert Rapoport, Leisure and the Family Life Cycle (Boston: Rutledge and K. Paul 1975), pp. 186-189.

²⁰Ibid., p. 190.

²¹Edward T. Breathitt, former Governor of Kentucky, "The Status of Rural America:" Paper presented to the President's Commission on Rural Poverty (Washington: Oct. 23, 1967). (ERIC ED 015 075)

²²Ibid.

²³Harold Meyer, Charles Brightbill, Community Recreation: A Guide to Its Organization, 3rd Edition (Englewood, N. J.: Prentice-Hall, 1964), p. 101.

²⁴Ibid., p. 101.

²⁵Ibid., p. 106.

²⁶Howard Danford, Recreation in the American Community (New York: Harper, 1953), p. 48.

²⁷E. J. Niederfrank, "Purposeful Recreation for Personal Growth in Rural Areas, the Education-Extension Role" (July 8, 1964). (ERIC ED 020 072)

²⁸Tom Bennett, "Professional Leadership: The Key to Successful Rural Recreation Programs," Kentucky Recreation and Parks, Vol. XXVII, No. 2 (Lexington, Ky.: May, 1979).

²⁹Charles J. Vettiner, Rural Recreation for America (Louisville, Ky.: 1949), p. 46.

³⁰Ibid., p. 24.

³¹Ibid., p. 9.

³²Bennett, "Professional Leadership," p. 7.

³³Ibid., p. 8.

³⁴Howard T. Ball, "The County's Responsibilities for Recreation," Parks and Recreation, Vol. III, No. 10 (Oct., 1968), p. 36.

³⁵Meyer and Brightbill, Community Recreation, p. 108.

³⁶Payne, "Meaning of Non-Work," pp. 1-2.

³⁷Danford, Recreation in the American Community, pp. 50-52.

³⁸Reynold E. Carlson, Theodore K. Deppe, and Janet R. MacLean, Recreation in American Life (Belmont, Ca.: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1975), p. 209.

³⁹Meyer and Brightbill, Community Recreation, p. 102.

⁴⁰John P. Kuehn, "Satisfaction with Community Services in Northwest Virginia," Bulletin 649 (October, 1976), p. 4. (ERIC ED 141 062)

⁴¹Sally R. Purohit, Joseph J. Molnar, "A Longitudinal Analysis of Satisfaction with Selected Community Services in a Non-Metropolitan Area:" Study done by the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Auburn University (Auburn, Ala.: April, 1978), p. 14. (ERIC ED 152 468)

⁴²Virginia Lambert, Gary Linn, "Community Problems in Five West Central Counties," Report No. 7 of a series on Quality of Life and Development in Northwestern Wisconsin (February, 1976). (ERIC ED 135 574)

⁴³Kuehn, "Satisfaction," p. 4.

Chapter 3

Procedures

In conducting this study the following procedures were followed:

- 1) It was decided that a mail out survey would be the most effective way of conducting this study. Male and female adults between the ages of 25-45 were eligible to participate as survey respondents. The survey was constructed to collect information in the following areas:
 - a) The degree of knowledge and satisfaction of existing recreation programs and facilities.
 - b) The locations and types of present recreation endeavors.
 - c) The role city/county government should play in the provision of recreation.
 - d) The types of recreation activities and facilities needed.
 - e) The willingness of individuals to pay user fees and the types of activities they would pay to participate in.
 - f) The most effective ways of reaching the public with recreation information.
- 2) A jury of experts was selected in an attempt to validate and build reliability into the survey instrument.

The comments and suggestions of the following recreation professionals, who served on this jury, were incorporated into the survey: They are listed in Appendix B.

- 3) Corrections were made on the surveys as deemed necessary by the jury of experts and the thesis committee. A copy of the final survey instrument appears in Appendix A.
- 4) A list of those people falling into the 25-45 year old age group was compiled from the Russell County Board of Elections registered voter roster. This information was gathered with the help of Mr. Terry Stevens, Russell County Court Clerk. The list contained names, birthdates, and mailing addresses of all registered voters in the county.
- 5) A random sample was then selected by arbitrarily choosing names from the list that started with different letters of the alphabet. According to Mr. Stevens, Russell County Court Clerk, the individuals randomly selected appeared to represent a strong cross section of the county in terms of resident location.
- 6) A graduate research grant was applied for and awarded to the researcher for this study. The grant helped to absorb the mailing costs in distributing the surveys.
- 7) Explanatory cover letters and surveys were then distributed through the mail to 500 randomly selected individuals falling into the 25-45 year old age range.

Stamped, return addressed envelopes were also included in the mailing. Recipients were requested to return the surveys within a two week period.

- 8) During the return period, 62 undeliverable surveys were returned to the researcher from the post office for various reasons. Following the designated return period these returned surveys became part of another 100 that were hand administered by the researcher to random individuals attending the Jamestown Independence Day Celebration in Russell County.
- 9) At the completion of the survey period, responses were tabulated and transferred to computer program cards for analysis at the Western Kentucky University Computer Center.
- 10) Analysis of the data was accomplished through frequency distributions, percentages, and rank order analysis.
- 11) The findings were published based upon the analysis of the data; conclusions were drawn based upon the findings; and recommendations were made based upon the conclusions.

Chapter 4

Analysis of Data

The data collected in the survey were analyzed by considering each question individually and analyzing each individual response in relation to the question. In addition, some data were considered collectively when important information was evident to the researcher.

The statistical treatment of the data was handled by computer analysis through simple frequencies, percentages, and numerical ranking based on the type of information asked in the question. There were 50 questions on the survey itself divided into four sections. (see Appendix A). Even though several of the "questions" were not stated in interrogative form, responses were requested, therefore, each was called a question.

Section I (Questions one through seven)

Question One-Two: What is your age?

The 220 individuals who participated in this survey were broken down into the following ages between 25-45 (see Table 2 on following page). The average age of those who participated in the survey was 33.9. The most frequently occurring age was 37 years.

TABLE 2

Age

Age	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Total
*24	2	0.9
25	15	6.8
26	16	7.3
27	11	5.0
28	15	6.8
29	11	5.0
30	14	6.4
31	8	3.6
32	12	5.5
33	10	4.5
34	9	4.1
35	6	2.7
36	9	4.1
37	17	7.7
38	4	1.8
39	7	3.2
40	7	3.2
41	6	2.7
42	9	4.1
43	13	5.9
44	9	4.1
45	10	4.5
	220	100

*The two people listed as 24 year olds had their 25th birthdays just after the survey testing period.

Question Three: What is your sex?

One hundred six or 48.2 percent of those surveyed were males. One hundred fourteen or 51.8 percent of those surveyed were females (see Table 3 below).

TABLE 3

Sex

Sex	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Total
Male	106	48.2
Female	114	51.8
	220	100

Question Four: I feel recreational activities are very important to me.

Eighty-eight percent of the individuals surveyed either agreed or strongly agreed that recreation was very important to them personally (see Table 4 on following page).

TABLE 4

Importance of Recreational Activities

Degree of Response	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
Strongly Agree	70	31.8
Agree	124	56.4
No Opinion	21	9.5
Disagree	4	1.8
Strongly Disagree	1	0.5
	220	100

Question Five: I am presently aware of year round recreational programs and facilities in Russell County.

If "no" was the answer, the respondent was instructed to go on to Section II starting with question eight. If "yes" was the answer, the respondent was instructed to continue answering questions six and seven.

One hundred twenty-eight individuals or 58.2 percent of those surveyed were presently aware of year round recreational programs and facilities. Ninety two or 41.8

percent were not aware of such year round programs and facilities (see Table 5 below).

TABLE 5

Present Awareness Facilities

Response	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
Yes	128	58.2
No	92	41.8
	220	100

Question Six: I am satisfied with present programs.

Only those individuals who answered "yes" to Question Five were requested to answer Questions Six and Seven. There were 128 "yes" responses on Question Five, therefore, only those 128 answered Questions Six and Seven. Nearly sixty percent of those responding to question six disagreed or strongly disagreed as to their satisfaction with present recreational programs (see Table 6 on following page).

TABLE 6

Program Satisfaction

Degree of Response	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
Strongly Agree	4	3.1
Agree	34	26.6
No Opinion	15	11.7
Disagree	60	46.9
Strongly Disagree	15	11.7
	128	100

Question Seven: I am satisfied with present facilities.

As was stated in Question Six, only those individuals who answered "yes" to Question Five were requested to answer Question Seven. Seventy-seven percent of the responses were either "disagree" or "strongly disagree." (see Table 7 on following page).

TABLE 7

Facility Satisfaction

Degree of Response	Number of Satisfactions	Percentage of Total
Strongly Agree	5	3.9
Agree	21	16.4
No Opinion	3	2.3
Disagree	75	58.9
Strongly Disagree	24	18.5
	220	100

Section II (Questions eight through thirty-three)

The answers to Questions eight through 14 were in response to the following question:

Most of my present organized recreational activity is associated with which three of the following. Place a "1" beside the place you are most active, a "2" beside the next most, and a "3" beside the third most.

The following table shows how each of the listed responses to this question compare to the others. The

frequency counts (number of responses) shown indicate the number of first, second, and third combined responses each choice received (see Table 8 below).

TABLE 8

Present Recreational Locations

Place	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
8. Church	78	13.6
9. Recreation Board	21	3.7
10. Work/Place of Employment	73	12.7
11. Summer Softball Leagues	42	7.3
12. Personal or Individual	122	21.3
13. Family	144	25.1
14. Spectating at activities	93	16.2
	573	100

There were 573 total responses to Questions eight through fourteen. Each was analyzed further by examining the individual responses separately.

Question Eight: Church

Seventy-eight individuals responded to "church" as one of their three primary places of recreation (see Table 9 below).

TABLE 9

Church

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	31	39.7
2nd Choice	16	20.5
3rd Choice	31	39.7
	78	100

Question Nine: Recreation Board

Twenty-one respondents listed "Recreation Board" as one of their three places of recreation (see Table 10 on following page).

TABLE 10

Recreation Board

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	7	33.3
2nd Choice	7	33.3
3rd Choice	7	33.3
	21	100

Question Ten: Work/Place of Employment

Seventy-three individuals responded to "Work/Place of Employment" as their first, second, or third place of recreation (see Table 11 on following page).

TABLE 11

Work/Place of Employment

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	27	37.0
2nd Choice	22	30.1
3rd Choice	24	32.9
	<hr/> 73	<hr/> 100

Question Eleven: Summer Softball Leagues

Forty-two individuals chose "Summer Softball Leagues" as one of their three main areas of organized recreation (see Table 12 on following page).

TABLE 12

Softball Leagues

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	20	47.6
2nd Choice	13	31.0
3rd Choice	9	21.4
	<hr/> 42	<hr/> 100

Question Twelve: Personal or Individual

One hundred twenty-two respondents chose "Personal or Individual" as their main area of recreation (see Table 13 on following page).

TABLE 13

Personal

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	40	32.8
2nd Choice	46	37.7
3rd Choice	36	29.5
	122	100

Question Thirteen: Family

One hundred forty-four surveys showed "Family" as one of three major sources of recreation (see Table 14 on following page).

TABLE 14

Family

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	58	40.3
2nd Choice	50	34.7
3rd Choice	36	25.0
	144	100

Question Fourteen: Spectating at Activities

Ninety-three individuals chose "Spectating at Activities" as one of their three major sources of recreation (see Table 15 on following page).

TABLE 15

Spectating

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	12	12.9
2nd Choice	37	39.8
3rd Choice	44	47.3
	93	100

Question Fifteen: I believe City/County government should hire a (1) Full-time Recreation Director; (2) Part-time Recreation Director; (3) Consultant for Recreation Services; (4) None of the Above.

Two hundred fifteen out of the original 220 responded to this question. After subtracting the five surveys with no response, the adjusted tabulations were compiled. Ninety-nine (46 percent) people wanted a Full-time Recreation Director hired by City/County government. A Full or a Part-time Director was desired by 74.8 percent of the total respondents (see Table 16 on following page).

TABLE 16
Recreation Hiring

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
Full-time Director	99	46.0
Part-time Director	62	28.8
Consultant for Recreation Services	21	9.8
None of the Above	33	15.3
	215	100

Question Sixteen: I believe the City/County government has a responsibility to offer year round recreational programs and facilities.

Two hundred eighteen out of 220 responded to this question. Tabulations were adjusted accordingly. Of the responses recorded, 56.9 percent of the respondents agreed that City/County government has a responsibility to offer year round recreation programs and facilities. Another 22 percent strongly agreed with the statement with only 7.8 percent in disagreement (see Table 17 on following page).

TABLE 17

Year Round Recreation

Degree of Response	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
Strongly Agree	48	22.0
Agree	124	56.9
No Opinion	29	13.3
Disagree	9	4.1
Strongly Disagree	8	3.7
	218	100

The answers to Questions seventeen through twenty-five were in response to the following question:

I believe more emphasis should be placed on which three of the following recreational programs for my age group. Place the number one beside the activity most preferred, the number two beside the next most preferred, and a three beside the third most.

The following table shows how each of the listed responses to this question compare to the others. The frequency counts (number of responses) shown indicate the

number of first, second, and third combined responses each choice received (see Table 18 below).

TABLE 18

Program Emphasis

Programs	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
Arts and Crafts	73	12.8
Drama	23	4.0
Dance	25	4.4
Music	40	7.0
Special Interest Activities	94	16.5
Social Events	63	11.1
Nature/Out-of-doors	79	13.9
Sports/Athletics	115	20.2
Aquatics	57	10.0
	569	100

There were 569 total responses in Questions seventeen through twenty-five. Each question was analyzed further by examining the individual responses separately.

Question Seventeen: Arts and Crafts

Seventy-three individuals responded to "Arts and Crafts" as their first, second, or third choice of programs in which more emphasis should be placed (see Table 19 below).

TABLE 19

Arts and Crafts

Choice	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	29	39.7
2nd Choice	16	21.9
3rd Choice	28	38.4
	73	100

Question Eighteen: Drama

Twenty-three individuals chose "Drama" as their first, second, or third choice of programs in which more emphasis should be placed (see Table 20 below).

TABLE 20

Drama

Choice	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	8	34.8
2nd Choice	5	21.7
3rd Choice	10	43.5
	<hr/> 23	<hr/> 100

Question Nineteen: Dance

Twenty-five individuals chose "Dance" as either their second or third choice of programs in which more emphasis should be placed. There were no respondents who chose "Dance" as their first preference (see Table 21 below).

TABLE 21

Dance

Choice	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	0	0.0
2nd Choice	12	52.0
3rd Choice	13	48.0
	25	100

Question Twenty: Music

Forty individuals chose "Music" as their first, second, or third choice of programs which should be emphasized more. (see Table 22 below).

TABLE 22

Music

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	9	22.5
2nd Choice	17	42.5
3rd Choice	14	35.0
	40	100

Question Twenty-One: Special Interest Activities

Ninety-four individuals chose "Special Interest Activities" as their first, second, or third choice of programs in which more emphasis should be placed (see Table 23 below).

TABLE 23

Special Interest Activities

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	24	25.5
2nd Choice	31	33.0
3rd Choice	39	41.5
	<hr/> 94	<hr/> 100

Question Twenty-Two: Social Events

Sixty-three individuals believed "Social Events" was the program in need of more emphasis and so they listed it either first, second, or third (see Table 24 below).

TABLE 24

Social Events

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	16	25.4
2nd Choice	20	31.7
3rd Choice	27	42.9
	63	100

Question Twenty-Three: Nature/Out-of-doors

Seventy-nine respondents chose "Nature/Out-of-doors" as their first, second, or third choice of programs needing more emphasis (see Table 25 below).

TABLE 25

Nature/Out-of-doors

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	24	30.4
2nd Choice	34	43.0
3rd Choice	21	26.6
	79	100

Question Twenty-Four: Sports/Athletics

One hundred fifteen respondents chose "Sports/Athletics" as their first, second, or third choice of programs in need of more emphasis (see Table 26 below).

TABLE 26

Sports/Athletics

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	77	67.0
2nd Choice	25	21.7
3rd Choice	13	11.3
	115	100

Question Twenty-Five: Aquatics

Fifty-seven individuals responded to "Aquatics" as the first, second, or third choice of programs needing more emphasis (see Table 27 below).

TABLE 27

Aquatics

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	10	17.5
2nd Choice	29	50.9
3rd Choice	18	31.6
	57	100

The answers to Questions twenty six through thirty two were in response to the following question:

I think the following three recreational facilities should be considered by City/County government. Place the number one beside the facility most preferred, the number two beside the next most preferred, and the number three beside the third most.

The following table shows how each of the listed responses to this question compare to the others. The

frequency counts (number of responses) shown indicate the number of first, second, and third combined responses each choice received (see Table 28 below).

TABLE 28

Needed Recreational Facilities

Facility	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
Community Centers	140	24.9
Gymnasiums	116	20.6
Municipal Golf Course	30	5.3
Municipal Swimming Pool	130	23.1
Tennis Courts	45	8.0
Softball Fields	77	13.7
Other	25	4.4
	563	100

There were 563 total responses to questions twenty-six through thirty-two. Each question was then analyzed further by examining the individual responses separately.

Question Twenty-Six: Community Centers

One hundred forty individuals chose "Community Centers"

as one of their three main choices of needed facilities
(see Table 29 below).

TABLE 29

Community Centers

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	83	59.3
2nd Choice	28	20.0
3rd Choice	29	20.7
	<hr/> 140	<hr/> 100

Question Twenty-Seven: Gymnasiums

One hundred sixteen respondents chose "Gymnasiums as one of the three major facilities needed (see Table 30 below).

TABLE 30

Gymnasiums

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	20	17.2
2nd Choice	53	45.7
3rd Choice	43	37.1
	116	100

Question Twenty-Eight: Municipal Golf Course

"Municipal Golf Course" was chosen by 30 individuals as one of the three main facilities needed (see Table 31 below).

TABLE 31

Golf Course

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	6	20.0
2nd Choice	11	36.7
3rd Choice	13	43.3
	30	100

Question Twenty-Nine: Municipal Swimming Pool

"Municipal Swimming Pool" was chosen by 130 respondents as one of the three major facilities needed (see Table 32 below).

TABLE 32

Swimming Pool

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	49	37.7
2nd Choice	44	33.8
3rd Choice	37	28.5
	<hr/> 130	<hr/> 100

Question Thirty: Tennis Courts

Forty-five thought "tennis courts" were one of the facilities needed (see Table 33 below).

TABLE 33

Tennis Courts

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	4	8.9
2nd Choice	19	42.2
3rd Choice	22	48.9
	<hr/> 45	<hr/> 100

Question Thirty-One: Softball Fields

"Softball Fields" was recorded by 77 individuals as one of the three most needed facilities (see Table 34 below).

TABLE 34

Softball Fields

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	28	36.4
2nd Choice	28	36.4
3rd Choice	21	27.3
	<hr/> 77	<hr/> 100

Question Thirty-Two: Other

Other facilities than those listed were preferred by 25 respondents (see Table 35 below).

TABLE 35

Other

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	12	48.0
2nd Choice	2	8.0
3rd Choice	11	44.0
	25	100

Sixteen individuals marked "Other" but did not state the facility they preferred. Seven people chose an outdoor theater as their first choice. Two respondents wrote in a skeet shooting area or range as their second choice.

Question Thirty-Three: Would you be willing to pay a small fee to participate in some recreational activities?

If "yes" was the answer recorded, respondents were instructed to go to Section III (Question thirty-four).

If "no" was recorded, respondents were instructed to go to Section IV (Question forty-four).

Two hundred sixteen out of the original 220 responded to this question. Of 181 responses to this question, 83.8 percent said, "yes, they would be willing to pay a small fee for participation in recreational programs" (see Table 36 below).

TABLE 36

Willingness to Pay Fees

Response	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
Yes	181	83.8
No	35	16.2
	216	100

Section III (Questions thirty-four through forty-three)

The answers to questions thirty-four through forty-three were in response to the following question:

Which three of the following activities would you be willing to pay a small fee to participate in?

Place a number "1" beside your first choice, a number

"2" beside your second choice, and a number "3"
beside your third choice.

The following table shows how each of the listed responses to this question compare to the others. The frequency counts (number of responses) shown indicate the number of first, second, and third combined responses each choice received (see Table 37 on following page).

TABLE 37

Willingness to Pay for Specific Activity

Activity	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
Arts and Crafts	60	12.0
Athletics/Sports	92	18.5
Drama	20	4.0
Dance	19	3.8
Music	41	8.2
Nature/Out-of-doors	54	10.8
Social Activities	59	11.8
Special Interest Activities	79	15.9
Aquatics	60	12.0
Other:	14	2.8
	498	100

There were 498 total responses to questions thirty-four through forty-three. Each question was analyzed further by examining the individual responses separately.

Only those individuals who responded "yes" in question thirty-three were instructed to proceed with Section III (Questions thirty-four through forty-three). One hundred

eighty-one "yes" responses were recorded, so those 181 should have proceeded to answer Section III. However, only 172 responses were recorded in Section III, nine below the proper amount. Since this miscalculation was not discovered prior to computer analysis, 172 became the total number of cases examined.

Question Thirty-Four: Arts and Crafts

Sixty individuals said they would pay a small fee for an Arts and Crafts program as a first, second, or third choice of activities (see Table 38 below).

TABLE 38

Arts and Crafts

Choice	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	29	48.3
2nd Choice	12	20.0
3rd Choice	19	31.7
	60	100

Question Thirty-Five: Athletics/Sports

Ninety-two respondents chose "Athletics" as one of the three activities in which they would be willing to pay a small fee for participation. Fifty-seven or 62 percent of those made it their first choice (see Table 39 below).

TABLE 39

Athletics/Sports

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	57	62.0
2nd Choice	19	20.7
3rd Choice	16	17.4
	92	100

Question Thirty-Six: Drama

Twenty individuals agreed to pay a small fee for drama and made it one of their three choices (see Table 40 below).

TABLE 40

Drama

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	6	30.0
2nd Choice	8	40.0
3rd Choice	6	30.0
	<hr/> 20	<hr/> 100

Question Thirty-Seven: Dance

Nineteen respondents chose "Dance" as the second or third activity in which they would pay for participation. There were no "first choice" responses to this question (see Table 41 below).

TABLE 41

Dance

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	0	0.0
2nd Choice	10	52.6
3rd Choice	9	47.4
	19	100

Question Thirty-Eight: Music

Forty-one individuals chose "Music" as one of the three activities they would agree to pay for participation (see Table 42 below).

TABLE 42

Music

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	11	26.8
2nd Choice	14	34.1
3rd Choice	16	39.0
	41	100

Question Thirty-Nine: Nature/Out-of-doors

Fifty-four respondents would pay a small fee to participate in nature activities as one of their three favorite choices (see Table 43 below).

TABLE 43

Nature/Out-of-doors

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	14	25.9
2nd Choice	25	46.3
3rd Choice	15	27.8
	54	100

Question Forty: Social Activities

"Social Activities" was chosen by fifty-nine respondents as one of three activities they would pay for participation (see Table 44 below).

TABLE 44

Social Activities

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	11	18.6
2nd Choice	23	39.0
3rd Choice	25	42.4
	59	100

Question Forty-One: Special Interest Activities

Seventy-nine individuals chose "Special Interest Activities" as one of three activities they would pay in order to participate (see Table 45 below).

TABLE 45

Special Interest Activities

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	14	17.7
2nd Choice	28	35.4
3rd Choice	37	46.8
	<hr/> 79	<hr/> 100

Question Forty-Two: Aquatics

Sixty individuals picked "Aquatics" as one of the three programs in which they would pay for participation (see Table 46 below).

TABLE 46

Aquatics

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	21	35.0
2nd Choice	24	40.0
3rd Choice	15	25.0
	<hr/> 60	<hr/> 100

Question Forty-Three: Other

Other activities not listed were chosen by 14 respondents. Ten individuals marked "Other" but did not list the activity. Four individuals wrote hunting and fishing as other choices.

TABLE 47

Other

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	9	64.3
2nd Choice	1	7.1
3rd Choice	4	28.6
	14	100

Section IV (Questions forty-four through fifty)

The answers to questions forty-four through fifty were in response to the following question:

I would be most apt to hear of recreational activities in Russell County through which three of the following. Place a number "1" beside the best way,

a number "2" beside the second best, and a number "3" beside the third best.

The following table shows how each of the listed responses to this question compares to the others. The frequency counts (number of responses) shown indicate the number of first, second, and third combined responses each choice received (see Table 48 below).

TABLE 48

Ways of Communication

Response	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
County Newspapers	182	30.6
Radio Station	155	26.1
Posters	91	15.3
Newsletters	75	12.6
Speakers/Personal Contact	55	9.2
Announcements at other events	34	5.7
Other	3	0.5
	595	100

There was a total of 595 responses to questions forty-four through fifty. Each question was analyzed further by examining the individual responses separately.

Question Forty-Four: County Newspapers

One hundred eighty-two respondents thought the "County Newspapers" was one of the three best ways to distribute recreational news. One hundred (54.9 percent) called it the best way (see Table 49 below).

TABLE 49

County Newspapers

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	100	54.9
2nd Choice	65	35.7
3rd Choice	17	9.3
	182	100

Question Forty-Five: Radio Station

One hundred fifty-five respondents thought the radio station was one of the three best ways to reach the people (see Table 50 below).

TABLE 50

Radio Station

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	64	41.3
2nd Choice	75	48.4
3rd Choice	16	10.3
	<hr/> 155	<hr/> 100

Question Forty-Six: Posters

Ninety-one respondents felt "Posters" was one of the three best ways to distribute information((see Table 51 below).

TABLE 51

Posters

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	4	4.4
2nd Choice	25	27.5
3rd Choice	62	68.1
	91	100

Question Forty-Seven: Newsletters

Seventy-five individuals thought newsletters were one of the three best ways of reaching the public (see Table 52 below).

TABLE 52

Newsletters

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	15	20.0
2nd Choice	16	21.3
3rd Choice	44	58.7
	75	100

Question Forty-Eight: Personal Contact/Speakers

"Personal Contact/Speakers" was considered as one of the three best ways of reaching the public by 55 respondents (see Table 53 below).

TABLE 53

Personal Contact

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	11	20.0
2nd Choice	13	23.6
3rd Choice	31	56.4
	55	100

Question Forty-Nine: Announcements at Other Events

Thirty-four people thought "Announcements at other events" was one of the three best ways of informing people (see Table 54 below).

TABLE 54

Announcements

Choices	Number of Responses	Percentage of Total
1st Choice	9	26.5
2nd Choice	6	17.6
3rd Choice	19	55.9
	34	100

Question Fifty: Other

Three respondents marked "Other" as their third choice but did not qualify their answers.

Chapter 5

A. Findings

Several of the questions analyzed can be grouped together in order to assess the findings of the study.

Questions One, Two, and Three

Every age within the population under study was represented with a mean of 33.9 years. Also, a virtually even distribution of males and females occurred (106 males, 114 females). There is a direct correlation between these numbers and the total number of 25 to 45 year old males and females living in Russell County.

Question Four

Of the 220 individuals responding to the survey, only 26 or 11.8 percent did not agree that recreational activities were important to them personally. Over eighty percent agreed to some degree that recreation was important.

Questions Five, Six, and Seven

About 58 percent of the respondents said they were aware of present recreational programs and facilities, 42 percent were not aware of either. Of those who were aware, 51.6 percent were not satisfied with present programs and 62.1 percent were not satisfied with present facilities in the county.

Questions Eight through Fourteen

The attempt was made to locate and identify the settings of most organized recreational activity for this age group. Based on simple frequency distribution (total number of responses), the three most popular settings were (1) Family, (2) Personal or Individual, and (3) Spectating at activities. Recreation Board sponsored activities had the least number of total responses.

Respondents were instructed to list their three favorite settings in order of preference (first, second, and third choices). "Family" received the most first and second choice responses and "Spectating at Activities" received the most third choice responses.

Questions Fifteen and Sixteen

Question fifteen dealt with whether or not City/County government should hire a director of recreation and, if so, what type of service should he provide.

A full-time director was desired by 46 percent of the respondents. A part-time director was desired by 28.8 percent and a consultant for recreation services was favored by 9.8 percent. Only 15.3 percent wanted none of these choices.

In question sixteen, 56.9 percent, of those surveyed, agreed that City/County government had a responsibility to offer year round recreational programs and facilities.

Questions Seventeen through Twenty-Five

Through the responses to these questions, an attempt was made to discover programs which needed more emphasis in dealing with the desires of the population under study. Based on simple frequency distributions (total number of responses), the three programs needing more emphasis were (1) Sports/Athletics, (2) Special Interest Activities, and (3) Nature/Out-of-doors Activities. Dance and Drama received the least number of responses.

Respondents were instructed to consider these needed programs in order of preference (first, second, and third choices). "Sports and Athletics" received the most first choices, "Nature and Out-of-doors" received the most second choices, and "Special Interest Activities" received the most third choices.

Questions Twenty-Six through Thirty-Two

Responses to these questions dealt with recreational facilities which were needed in the county. Based on simple frequency distributions (total number of responses) the three facilities needed most were (1) Community Centers, (2) Municipal Swimming Pool, and (3) Gymnasiums. Municipal Golf Course was the least favored choice listed.

Respondents were, again, instructed to consider their choices in order of preference (first, second, or

third choice). "Community Centers" received the most first choices, while Gymnasiums received the most second and third choices.

Questions Thirty-Three through Forty-Three

In question thirty-three respondents were asked if they would be willing to pay a small fee for recreational activities. Of those who responded, 83.8 percent said they would be willing to pay a nominal fee for participation.

Questions thirty-four through forty-three were an attempt to find out which activities respondents would be willing to pay for participation. Based on simply frequency distributions (total number of responses), Sports/Athletics, Special Interest Activities, Arts and Crafts, and Aquatics were the four most frequently chosen responses in order of preference.

Respondents were instructed to list their three choices in order of preference (first, second, and third choice). Sports/Athletics received the most first choices, Nature/Out-of-doors Activities received the most second choices, and Special Interest Activities received the most third choices.

Questions Forty-Four through Fifty

The goal of these questions was to establish the best ways of reaching the public concerning recreational

activities. Based on simple frequency distributions (total number of responses), County Newspapers, Radio Station, and Posters were the three that received the most total responses.

The tabulation of respondent preferences showed that County Newspapers received the most first choices, Radio Station received the most second choices, and Posters received the most third choices.

B. Conclusions

Based upon the findings of the study, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- 1) Most of the 25-45 year old adults who responded to this survey agreed that recreational activities are important to them personally.
- 2) Many respondents were not aware of any present recreational programs and activities. The majority of the respondents who were aware showed great dissatisfaction with both programs and facilities.
- 3) Most 25-45 year old adults participate in organized recreation through their families, individually, or by spectating at various activities. "Family" was the first choice of recreational settings by most of the respondents.
- 4) A full or part-time Recreational Director was desired by nearly 75 percent of those surveyed. These individuals also agreed that City/County government has a responsibility to offer recreation on a year round basis.
- 5) According to those surveyed, Sports/Athletics, Special Interest Activities, and Nature Oriented Activities were the three recreational programs which needed more emphasis.

- 6) Based on responses, Community Centers, Municipal Swimming Pool, and Gymnasiums were the three facilities needed most in the county.
- 7) Almost every respondent agreed that they would be willing to pay a small fee for participation in certain recreational activities. The four activities they agreed to pay for were Athletics/Sports, Special Interest Activities, Arts and Crafts, and Aquatics.
- 8) County Newspapers, Radio Station, and Posters were deemed the three most effective ways of reaching the public concerning recreation activities.

C. Recommendations

Based upon the conclusions, certain recommendations can be suggested:

- 1) The Recreation Board might consider implementing family oriented recreation offerings in addition to traditional age group programs.
- 2) Since the majority of respondents showed a belief that recreation was important to them and indicated their dissatisfaction with present programs and facilities, Russell County government may wish to re-examine its priorities in regard to recreation and its importance to the county and to the citizens.
- 3) Russell County might wish to consider the hiring of a full or part-time recreation director for year round programming of recreational activities.
- 4) Since funding is a major problem and since the majority of respondents to this survey agreed to pay a small fee for needed activities and programs, a lack of money should not be a deterrent to beginning new forms of recreation. The charging of fees could be justified and could be considered as an income supplement.
- 5) A consideration of certain new facilities (Community Centers, Municipal Swimming Pool, and Gymnasiums) is clearly justified.

- 6) More emphasis could be placed on activities specifically offered for 25-45 year old adults. Some of those activities were listed in this study.
- 7) Similar studies dealing with recreation needs and interests of other groups in the county might be undertaken so that eventually a more comprehensive recreation program can be established to meet the needs and interests of the entire county. Such studies might center around (1) the elderly, (2) the handicapped, and (3) the cultural arts.

Appendices

Appendix A

PARKS AND RECREATION INTEREST SURVEY

In an attempt to better serve your recreation needs and interests, please take a few minutes and carefully complete this survey. It is specifically geared toward the 25--45 year old age group in Russell County, Kentucky. Through this study, future programs can be designed especially for you and other adults your age. This study is also part of the graduate thesis of Ben Bratcher, graduate student at Western Kentucky University and former recreation intern in Russell County. With your help and participation, this survey can be a great success for everyone. Your completed survey should be returned in the enclosed envelope as soon as possible. Thank you for your help and cooperation.

- I. 1-2. What is your age? _____
3. What is your sex?
- _____ (1) Male
- _____ (2) Female
4. I feel recreational activities are very important to me.
- _____ (1) Strongly Agree
- _____ (2) Agree
- _____ (3) No Opinion
- _____ (4) Disagree
- _____ (5) Strongly Disagree
5. I am presently aware of year round recreational programs and facilities in Russell County.
- _____ (1) Yes
- _____ (2) No

If no is your answer please skip to Section II.

If yes is your answer please continue.

6. I am satisfied with present programs.

- _____ (1) Strongly Agree
- _____ (2) Agree
- _____ (3) No Opinion
- _____ (4) Disagree
- _____ (5) Strongly Disagree

7. I am satisfied with present facilities.

- _____ (1) Strongly Agree
- _____ (2) Agree
- _____ (3) No Opinion
- _____ (4) Disagree
- _____ (5) Strongly Disagree

II. Most of my present organized recreational activity is associated with which 3 of the following. Place the number 1 beside the organization with which you are most active, a 2 beside the next most, and a 3 beside the third most.

- _____ 8. Church
- _____ 9. Recreation Board
- _____ 10. Work/Place of Employment
- _____ 11. Summer Softball Leagues
- _____ 12. Personal or Individual
- _____ 13. Family
- _____ 14. Spectating at activities

15. I believe City/County government should hire a

- _____ (1) Full-time Recreation Director

- _____ (2) Part-time Recreation Director
 _____ (3) Consultant for Recreation Services
 _____ (4) None of the Above

16. I believe the City/County government has a responsibility to offer year round recreational programs and facilities.

- _____ (1) Strongly Agree
 _____ (2) Agree
 _____ (3) No Opinion
 _____ (4) Disagree
 _____ (5) Strongly Disagree

I believe more emphasis should be placed on which of the following recreational programs for my age group. Place the number 1 beside the activity most preferred, a 2 beside the next most preferred, and a 3 beside the third most.

- _____ 17. Arts and Crafts
 _____ 18. Drama
 _____ 19. Dance
 _____ 20. Music
 _____ 21. Special Interest Activities
 _____ 22. Social Events
 _____ 23. Nature and Out-of-doors
 _____ 24. Sports and Athletics
 _____ 25. Aquatics

I think the following 3 recreational facilities should be considered by City/County government. Place the number 1 beside the facility most preferred, a 2 beside the next most preferred, and a 3 beside the third most.

- _____ 26. Community Centers
- _____ 27. Gymnasiums
- _____ 28. Municipal Golf Course
- _____ 29. Municipal Swimming Pool
- _____ 30. Tennis Courts
- _____ 31. Softball Fields
- _____ 32. Other: _____

33. Would you be willing to pay a small fee to participate in some recreational activities?

_____ (1) Yes

_____ (2) No

III.

Which three of the following activities would you be willing to pay a small fee to participate in? Place a number 1 beside your first choice, a number 2 beside your second choice, and a 3 beside your third choice.

- _____ 34. Arts and Crafts
- _____ 35. Athletics and Sports
- _____ 36. Drama
- _____ 37. Dance
- _____ 38. Music
- _____ 39. Nature and Out-of-doors
- _____ 40. Social Activities
- _____ 41. Special Interest Activities
- _____ 42. Aquatics
- _____ 43. Other: _____

IV. I would be most apt to hear of recreational activities in Russell County through which 3 of the following. Place a number 1 beside the best way, a 2 beside the second best, and a 3 beside the third best.

- _____ 44. County Newspapers
- _____ 45. Radio Station
- _____ 46. Posters
- _____ 47. Newsletters
- _____ 48. Personal Contact/Speakers
- _____ 49. Announcements at other events
- _____ 50. Other: _____

Appendix B

The following recreation professionals served on the jury of experts for this study:

- a) Mr. Fred Hynson
Director - Lexington/Fayette County
Parks and Recreation
Lexington, Kentucky
- b) Mr. Jim Fyke
Director - Metro Parks and Recreation
Nashville, Tennessee
- c) Mr. Charles Spears
Superintendent - Parks and Recreation
Board
Minneapolis, Minnesota
- d) Mr. John Dance
Director - Palm Beach County Parks and
Recreation
Lake Worth, Florida
- e) Mr. Mike Aune
Assistant Director - Bowling Green
Parks and Recreation
Bowling Green, Kentucky
- f) Mr. Roger Brown
Director - Parks and Recreation
Greensboro, North Carolina
- g) Ms. Edith Upchurch
Program Coordinator - Parks and Recreation
Department
Montgomery, Alabama
- h) Ms. Dorothy Abrams
Park and Recreation Manager
Metro Dade County Park and Recreation
Department
Miami, Florida
- i) Mr. Bill Scott
Director - Scotland County Parks and
Recreation
Laurinburg, North Carolina

Bibliography

- Ball, Howard T. "The County's Responsibilities for Recreation," Parks and Recreation, Volume III, Number 10, October, 1968.
- Bennett, Tom. "Professional Leadership: The Key to Successful Rural Recreation Programs," Kentucky Recreation and Parks, Volume XXVIII Number 2, May, 1979.
- Breathitt, Edward T. "The Status of Rural America," Educational Resources Information Center, Number ED 015 075. Washington: October 23, 1967.
- Carlson, Reynold E., Theodore K. Deppe, and Janet R. MacLean. Recreation in American Life. Belmont, California: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1975.
- Danford, Howard. Recreation in the American Community. New York: Harper, 1953.
- DeGrazia, Sebastian. Of Time, Work, and Leisure. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1962.
- Isaac, Stephen and William B. Michael. Handbook in Research and Evaluation. San Diego, California: R. R. Knapp, 1971.
- Kraus, Richard. Recreation and Leisure in Modern Society. Pacific Palisades, California: Goodyear Publishing Company, Inc., 1971.
- Kuehn, John R. "Satisfaction With Community Services in Northwest Virginia," Educational Resources Information Center, Number ED 141 062, October, 1976.
- Lake Cumberland Area Development District. Data Resources, Volume II, Jamestown, Kentucky, January 1980.
- Lambert, Virginia and Gary Linn. "Community Problems in Five West Central Counties," Report Number 7 of a Series on Quality of Life and Development in Northwestern Wisconsin, Educational Resources Information Center, Number ED 135 574, February, 1976.
- Meyer, Harold and Charles Brightbill. Community Recreation: A Guide to Its Organization, Third Edition. Englewood, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1964.

- Niederfrank, E. J. "Purposeful Recreation for Personal Growth in Rural Areas, the Education-Extension Role," Educational Resources Information Center, Number ED 020 072.
- Payne, Barbara P. "The Meaning of Non-Work Activities to Small Town - Non-Metropolitan Residents of the Piedmont Region," Educational Resources Information Center, Number ED 081 538. College Park, Maryland: University of Maryland, August 23, 1973.
- Pelegriano, Donald A. Research Methods for Recreation: A Theoretical and Practical Guide. Dubuque, Iowa: Wm. C. Brown Company, 1979.
- Purohit, Sally R. and Joseph J. Molnar. "A Longitudinal Analysis of Satisfaction with Selected Community Services in a Non-Metropolitan Area," Educational Resources Information Center, Number ED 152 468. Auburn, Alabama: Auburn University, April, 1978.
- Rapoport, Rhona and Robert Rapoport. Leisure and the Family Life Cycle. Boston: Rutledge and K. Paul, 1975.
- Stevens, Lawrence. "The Place of Purposeful Recreation in Rural America," Educational Resources Information Center, Number 020 070. Washington: Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, July 7, 1964.
- Vettiner, Charles J. Rural Recreation for America. Louisville, Kentucky, 1949.

Additional References

- Dunn, Thomas P. Department of Sociology, Western Kentucky University.
- Kummer, William G. Department of Recreation, Western Kentucky University.
- Little, Alton D. Department of Recreation, Western Kentucky University.