

Race Relations in Outdoor Recreation

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What is the extent of voluntary and involuntary racial segregation in the outdoor recreation facilities of the New York metropolitan area? To what extent do people stay away from certain facilities because they feel they would be out of place if they went.? In the large park areas are there informal lines separating areas for use by the races. Can any differential usage of facilities be accounted for by their being considered for the exclusive use of one race or another.

What provision is made for coping with the increased "middle-class" wants of the non-white population. The dispersion of middle class values and wants to the non-white population coupled with any voluntary or involuntary segregation of facilities would mean a particular scarcity of facilities available to non-whites for "middle-class" activities. Of particular interest here would be an examination of private facilities and a comparison of the

types of recreation they offer as against the public areas.

What differences in felt wants between whites and non-whites are present. On the one hand this might reflect differential the ~~availability~~ availability of resources caused by segregation of one type or another. On the other hand there might well be cultural differences which account for differential wants. It is particularly important that research sampling ~~be~~ is not confined to middle class whites for this reason. The large and growing proportion of Puerto Ricans in the area points ^{up} ~~out~~ an increased probability of differential cultural values. What can be done to particularly accomodate ~~up~~ the large Spanish-speaking population?

Which organizations -- governmental or nongovernmental -- have had the most successful experiences in dealing with race relations in outdoor recreation? There are several groups in the region which are particularly concerned with race relations, such as the COIR, the SCAD, the Citizens Union, and several settlement houses and youth boards.

The PAL ~~and other athletic~~, the little league, and other such organizations should have had to deal with these types

of problems at one time or another. The CYO, in 1953, did a large research on the recreation needs and wants of Puerto Rican youths in New York City. These and other organizations should be surveyed on their opinions which should offer a wealth of material which can be used in deciding in which ways expansion should take place and in ascertaining the true position of race relations in outdoor recreation today.

The relation of outdoor recreation to youth programs

ratio of

What is the therapeutic recreation to normal recreation

in the New York region. Is there any appreciable use being

made ~~max~~ of day-long facilities ~~max~~ in the treatment and

prevention of youth problems. What values do delinquents

~~max~~ hold about outdoor recreation? What types of outdoor

recreation might be classified as "therapeutic" and when

should they be so classified? What differences in

facilities and resources are required for the two types of

recreation? For example, what types of transportation

facilities must be provided so that existing facilities

can be fully utilized in therapeutic programs?

How far can recreation costs be expected to lower

police and other costs of delinquent behavior. This is

directly tied to the question of how effective outdoor

recreation is in combatting delinquency. More properly this

question might be stated How effective can outdoor recreation

be in combatting delinquency. There seems to be some ~~definite~~

~~trend of opinion in the literature towards accepting~~

general acceptance of the theory that outdoor recreation of several types should help as a therapeutic device for delinquency. There definitely remains the problem of assaying the situation in the region, especially the extent of need. There also needs to be done an analysis of the relationship between type of activity and therapy.

If there is some ~~new probable savings to be found~~ ~~by the~~ reduction of delinquency in the area it will be reflected in savings by police, penal institutions, and other ~~administrative~~ governmental agencies. On the other hand there might be extra costs connected with the full exploitation of outdoor recreation as therapy, including, of course, the problems of organization and administration. ~~It is this latter which is the~~

There can be no doubt that the New York Metropolitan region is desperately in need of methods with which to cope with the problem of juvenile delinquency. It is also in need of an expansion of its outdoor recreation facilities in general. Current theory ~~indicates~~ indicates that ~~there~~ might be some connection between the use of outdoor recreation

especially in a wholesome atmosphere other than city streets might be an effective therapeutic measure. The problem of efficiently developing and running a program and of supplying the proper and adequate facilities can be best done after sufficient research has been done to indicate which direction of action is proper.

Dear Dr. DeGrazia,

Re: ~~10~~ The relationship of Outdoor Recreation to the transportation businesses:

In looking over your suggestions it became evident to me that I had no material or thoughts relevant to the specific content of the section which you had outlined. My thoughts were rather on the relation of transportation problems and policies to outdoor recreation problems and policies. Thus questions of the following kind evolve.

1. Almost all transportation to and from day-long recreation facilities in this area is currently by automobile. This ~~xxxxxxxx~~ necessarily restricts the type of users to those segments of the population who have access to automobile transportation. What can be done to allviate this situation. How can transportation be arranged so that the underprivileged segments of the population can have greater access. This is tied in with the problems of youth therapy and race relations. In particular, youth in general has limited access to automobiles. Those sections of youth not allowed by law to drive must come with, as a rule, their families. Thus family relations are forced into the picture. Thus is differential usage of outdoor facilities regulated, through transportation, to family situations. Direct attacks on the problem of making available alternate methods of transportation and of popularizing these methods among those peoples most concerned should be outlined and studied. Furthur, what policies of bus companies, train companies, and whatever other relevant types of transportation is possible must be changed or adopted. Of particular interest here might be the relative success and failure of the recent policies of the NYC transit authority with its Rockaway extension which permits fairly cheap subway travel to Rockaway Beach.

2. How can highway programs be better integrated with recreation programs. Mutual planning for future sites would include the placement of seemingly useless exits ~~at~~ on toll roads, ~~the~~ leaving large, natural areas alone by not running highways directly through them so as to realize an immediate savings in land costs, running highways near prospective sites, not defacing areas through the erection of business sites which would be out of step with future development for recreation purposes.

I think that in particular the problem of popularization and of attitudes towards using different kinds of transportation for the purposes of getting to and from day-long facilities must be stressed.

3. The difference in transportation needs by area of residence. Suburbanites should "have it much easier" in terms of getting to facilities which should be much closer to them than to city-dwellers. On the other hand certain communities which are far away from facilities and where there is little access to central transportation facilities have particular problems. Again this ties in with Youth and Race problems. What must be stressed is that the transportation problem is not the same for every living district. It is not even the same for all "suburban" districts. Each districts particular problem must be analysed itself before a truly comprehensive program can be developed. ~~The~~ an intraarea survey of users of particular recreation facilities might be very useful here. For example, if we found that many users of a certain facility in Westchester come from a certain area in Long Island we would have to know why. Also if certain areas are generally underrepresented in relation to other areas with roughly equivalent socio-economic situation this would be significant.

The Determination of Outdoor Recreation Policy in the New York Metropolitan Area

Who makes decisions concerning outdoor recreation in the area? The immediacy of this problem is evidenced by the title which Robert C. Wood has given a study he is working on concerning the area. It is called 1400 Governments. Since this is a tri-state region no one state government can impose general decisions. Legal problems concerning jurisdiction also enter into consideration here.

What are the connections, if any, between non-governmental and governmental leaders. Non-governmental groups such as the Regional Plan Association on the regional level and businessmen organizations, Chambers of Commerce, and the Citizens Union, on a more local level, are concerned with the problem of outdoor recreation. Nevertheless, the Regional Plan Association reports that "leadership in the region's central cities is becoming increasingly concerned with problems of a particular area,,,,,....rather than with problems of a regional nature," and that "the Regional Plan Association as presently constituted

is out of ~~proportion~~ scale with the problems which come before it. The further step of analysing the contact these groups have with governmental leaders has not been undertaken.

How does the Federal government enter the decision-making set-up? Through the Federal highway Program, its watershed provisions, its effect on suburban redevelopment through its housing agencies and underwriting institutions, and the work of the U.S. Army Engineers, and other agencies the Federal government has a potentially big say in land use even now. What is being done to relate its decision-making to the recreation problem and to incorporate its thinking with that of the other involved agencies. An additional type of function which the Federal government can fulfill in the decision-making process is typified by its support for the National Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, and the effect which the report of such a commission will have on decision-making by any concerned agency.

What coordinating changes have been proposed and are possible. An enumeration of all the "coordinating" bodies active in the region

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active in the area has been compiled by the Regional Plan Association. They are fairly large in number and range from the Metropolitan Regional Council through the large number of study commissions which have had at one time or another large amounts of influence on decision makers. Despite these organizations, however, the Regional Plan Association concluded that "The tri-state metropolitan areas greatest need today is better coordination of the activities and policies of its many governmental and non-governmental action agencies." It should be particularly noted that ~~no~~ ~~liberal~~ a large measure of whatever coordination is present today is achieved solely through the person of Robert Moses and his multiple positions in state and city agencies. This type of coordination can last only as long as Mr. Moses can continue his service and a more formal substitute method will have to be found.

In general the ~~work~~ ^{research} of F. Lloyd Hunter in Atlanta gives important hints as to the kinds of research which can best answer what ^{form} + ^{direction} coordinating and governmental agencies should take.

The Limits of "Need" and "Want" Data in Outdoor Recreation Planning by Governmental and Non-Governmental Agencies

What do depth interviews of a cross-section of New York Metropolitan area residents reveal as to the true place of outdoor recreation in their lives. Standard surveys of use of established facilities tell us something but not much about the forms and locations of ^{new} needed outdoor facilities. They reflect the needs only of present users and are biased towards the type of facilities already in use. Stanley Tankel, project manager of the Park, Recreation and Open Space Project has said that "we are plagued by the great lack of evidence of what people want and need."

The usual type of survey research where people are simply asked "what kinds of recreation facilities they would like to have", usually yields somewhat obvious and utopian kinds of information. In general people want more of everything...they might get to use it sometimes. Much more to the point would be some discovery of what they would actually use if it were available. One approach to

this problem has been through diaries, or reports of actual behavior. Even more to the point would be diaries ~~of~~ which reported the number of times they thought of going someplace for outdoor recreation but decided against it. Ideally this would also contain information concerning why they decided against it. The difference here lies in the fact that diaries reflect to a large extent the kinds of facilities which are available. The retrospective reports usually concentrate on "typical days" and rarely would a day-long outing be considered typical.

Depth interviews, on the other hand, would be uniquely capable of eliciting information concerning frustrations ~~in~~ of general desires for outdoor recreation, and, on another level, psychological needs which ~~■~~ could be satisfied by various types of activities. At this juncture the help of competent psychiatric personnel could be utilized in ascertaining the import of avinced desires .

What motives and stimuli diminish or increase the felt need for outdoor recreation. For example, it might be true that knowledge of reachable facilities increases desire to

use the facilities. Now big a discouraging factor is the crowded condition of most facilities? ~~At~~ Questions such as these should be answered.

On a more basic level testing of hypotheses such as those given by Marion Clawson is imperative. What are the effects of "population factors", "per capita income growth", "reduction in working hours", and "increased travel"? Even more specifically, what will be the effects of these factors in the future. Thus the question might be asked of a man, "if you had Mondays off as well as Saturdays and Sundays next year what would you do on some of them?" Other theories which might emerge must also be tested.

What are the salient prime categories of outdoor recreation needs. It might well be that several different types of outdoor activities will all satisfy the same basic need which is felt by the person. If only basketball and not football were available everyone might be satisfied to play basketball

underlying need which

which satisfies the ~~need for~~ is for outdoor athletic competition. On the other hand neither basketball nor football might be able to substitute for swimming, or

having a green place to lie down in. Thus, if one ~~would~~ had only enough space to build two facilities and had to choose among a basketball court, a swimming pool, and a football field either the basketball court or the football field should not be built. This is just the grossest of examples, but it becomes very pertinent when one realizes the many alternative facilities which can be given high priority such as skiing slopes, hiking paths, secluded floral gardens, etc.. Some definition of the various categories which are salient in terms of ~~use~~ needs is essential for enlightened decision-making in this area.