

# Needs Assessment Results

## Recreation Analysis – Survey and Focus Groups

### *Survey*

An important component of an area's strategic development plan is collecting information about residents' attitudes toward recreation. Residents' opinions are vital to public and private organizations because the information helps to determine the appropriate quantity and quality of recreation related programs and services to provide. A survey of residents' attitudes toward recreation was completed by 203 individuals. Below are the results of the survey separated into sections, which includes demographics, recreation, community life, quality of life, and funding preferences.

### *Demographics*

The majority of respondents reported they lived in the 29651 (47.3%) area zip code and the 29650 (37.4%) area zip code. The remaining respondents reported living in the 29687 (7.9%) area zip code, 29652 (2.0%) area zip code, and 5.4% reported they lived in other area zip codes (Table 1). Approximately 30.2% of respondents reported an age of 36-45 and the remaining respondents reported ages of 26-35 (24.8%), 46-55 (19.8%), 56-65 (10.9%), 66-75 (6.4%), 18-25 (3.5%), under 18 (1.00%), and 76 or more (3.50%) (Table 2). Out of these respondents 51.2% were female and 48.3% were male (Table 3). Approximately half (50.0%) of the respondents reported receiving garbage collection from the City of Greer (Table 4). The majority (64.3%) of respondents indicated they had dependent children living in their household; followed by 20.2% with 1 preschool aged child (Table 10), 26.6% with 1 elementary aged child (Table 11), 19.7% with 1 middle school aged child (Table 12), and 14.8% with 1 high school aged child (Table 13). The majority of respondents reported living in the City of Greer more than 20 years (23.9%). The remaining respondents reported years living in the City of Greer as 1-2 (8.0%), 3-5 (21.4%), 6-10 (22.4%), 11-20 (15.4%), and less than 1 year (9.0%) (Table 6). The majority (80.4%) of respondents are White/Non-Hispanic, followed by African American (10.6%), Hispanic (3.5%), Asian/Pacific Islander (1.5%), and American Indian/Alaskan Native (1.5%) (Table 7). The respondents reported an annual household income of \$50,000 to \$74,999 (27.2%), \$100,000 and above (24.7%), \$75,000 to \$99,999 (20.5%), \$25,000 to \$49,999 (18.5%), and under \$25,000 (8.7%) (Table 8).

### *Recreation Facilities*

The next section of the survey questioned respondents about the adequacy of the recreation facilities available in the City of Greer. Respondents were presented numerous examples of recreation facilities and asked to report whether the facilities "Meets My Needs (1)," "Available but Inadequate for My Needs/Important but not Available (2)," "Not Interested (3)," or "No Opinion (4)." The recreation facilities in the City of Greer with the highest percentage for "Meets My Needs" are Playgrounds (52.9%), Baseball Fields (42.2%), Community Parks (36.4%), Soccer Fields (36.0%), Softball Fields (33.9%), and Large Parks and Open Space (31.9%). Respondents reported several recreation facilities in the City of Greer are "Available but Inadequate for My Needs/Important but not available" which include: Trails/Greenways (66.3%), Walking/Jogging Paths (62.2%), Outdoor Community Pools (58.7%), Fitness/Recreation Centers (58.4%), Large Parks and Open Space (48.1%), Waterfront Park and Amenities (47.1%), and Theater/Cultural Arts Facilities (44.4%) (Table 16). Table 17 presents results from an open-ended question asking respondents to list the three most important recreation facilities that do not meet their needs. Responses listed the most by respondents were Trails and Greenways, Walking/Jogging Paths, Fitness/Recreation Center, Baseball/Softball Fields, Tennis Courts and Facilities, Theater/Cultural Arts Centers, Golf Course and Practice Facility, and Aquatic Facilities (Table 19). When asked to compare recreation facilities in the City of Greer to surrounding and other similar towns in South Carolina, 44.8% of the respondents indicated the City of Greer does not have adequate recreation facilities compared to other towns (Table 14).

### *Recreation Programs*

The next section of the survey asked respondents about the adequacy of recreation programs available in the City of Greer. Respondents were presented several examples of recreation programs and asked to report whether the programs "Meets My Needs (1)," "Available but Inadequate for My Needs/Important but not Available (2)," "Not Interested (3)," or "No Opinion (4)." The recreation programs in the City of Greer with the highest percentage for "Meets My Needs" are Sports Team Play (38.7%), Special Events (26.3%), Concerts (25.9%), Sports Instruction (25.6%), and Performing Arts (25.0%). Respondents reported several recreation

programs in the City of Greer are “Available but Inadequate for My Needs/Important but not Available” which include: Fitness Classes (47.6%), Open Gyms (47.2%), Swimming Instruction (44.8%), Adult Activities (44.0%), Concerts (43.2%), Outdoor Adventure Camps (42%), Nature Programs (41.4%), Sports Instruction (40.5%), Weight Training (40.3%), Outdoor Adventure Activities (39.7%), Cardiovascular Equipment Use (39.1%), and Water Aerobics (38.5%) (Table 19). Table 20 presents results from an open-ended question asking respondents to list any recreation programs that would like to see developed. Responses listed the most by respondents were Weight Training/Fitness Programs, Water Aerobics, Bike Trails, Swimming Instruction and Teams, Nature Programs/Day Camps, Concerts and Shows, and Senior Programs. (Table 20). When asked if the City of Greer’s Parks and Recreation Department has improved its programs and facilities in the last three years, the majority (62.7%) of respondents indicated the City of Greer’s Park and Recreation Department has improved its programs and facilities. (Table 15).

### ***Elements of Community Life***

The next section of the survey asked respondents to consider different aspects of community life. Respondents were asked to indicate how important various elements of community life are to them on a scale of 1 to 3, with 1 representing Very Important/Important, 2 representing Neither Important nor Unimportant, and 3 representing Very Unimportant/Unimportant. Results from the analysis revealed the most important elements of community life are Police Protection/Public Safety (99%), Fire Protection/EMS Service (96.6%), Medical/Health Care Facilities (95.9%), Parks and Open Space (95.8%), Libraries (93.3%), Public Recreation Programs (90.7%), and A Feel of Community Pride (90.1%) (Table 22). Respondents were also asked to indicate how satisfied they are with each of the previous listed elements of community life on a scale of 1 to 3, with 1 representing Very satisfied/satisfied, 2 representing Neither Satisfied nor Unsatisfied, and 3 representing Very unsatisfied/satisfied. Results from the analysis indicated the elements of community life that respondents are most satisfied with are Fire protection/EMS Service (83.2%), Police Protection/Public Safety (80.3%), Public Works (79.6%), Medical/Health Care Facilities (78%), Libraries (77.5%), and Public Schools (65.9%) (Table 22). Comparing the responses from both questions about the various elements of community life revealed several elements that are important to the City of Greer residents: Police Protection/Public Safety (99%), Fire Protection/EMS Services (96.6%), Medical/Health Care Facilities (95.9%), Parks and Open Space (95.8%), Libraries (93.3%), Public Recreation Programs (90.7%), and a Feel of Community Pride (90.1%). However, residents reported being somewhat unsatisfied with these specific elements: Public Transportation (29.3%), Parks and Open Spaces (28%), Entertainment/Commercial Recreation (23.6%), and Public Recreation Programs (21.7%) (Table 22).

### ***Quality of Life***

Respondents were asked to consider the contributions parks and recreation programs and facilities can have to a community’s quality of life and indicate their level of agreement with several statements on a scale of 1 to 3, with 1 representing Strongly Agree/Agree, 2 representing Neither Agree or Disagree, and 3 representing Strongly Disagree/Disagree. Residents of the City of Greer most agreed with the statements parks and recreation “Provide Community Opportunities for Fun and Celebration” (91.5%), “Promote Health and Wellness” (91.2%), “Strengthen Community Image and Sense of Place” (89.5%), and “Attracts New Residents and Businesses” (87.8%) (Table 21).

### ***Development Preferences and Funding***

The majority (59.6%) of respondents indicated they prefer that the City of Greer provide a balance of larger community parks and small neighborhood parks compared to development of centralized and/or decentralized facilities (Table 24). Respondents also indicated that they prefer the City of Greer fund the development of recreation facilities through a combination of taxes and user fees (71.7%) compared to using strictly taxes (14.6%) or strictly through user fees (13.6%) (Table 26). Results from the analysis also revealed respondents feel the Riverside/Pelham (South 14) area is in the most need for recreational facilities (39.8%) compared to the Blueridge (North 14) area (28.5%), the Spartanburg (East 29) area (19.9%), and the Greenville (West 29) area (11.8%) (Table 25).

### ***Focus Groups***

The purpose of conducting focus groups is to give additional opportunities for citizens to provide input in the planning process. In this case, the main goal of conducting these interviews was to gauge the validity of the results of the needs assessment survey. Five focus group interviews were conducted. These interviews included the parks and recreation department’s program and facilities staffs, the recreation commission, and

two, open community input sessions. Examples of similarities to survey data include, overwhelming agreement that while Greer’s recreation department has improved over the past 3 to 5 years, there are still improvements that need to be made. There was a consensus across all groups that current facilities need upgrades and renovations and additional facilities are needed. An obvious preference for large, centralized facilities among focus group members emerged. From a programming perspective, focus group members indicated there is a need for young adult and adult programs. Suggestions and ideas provided by focus group members supported the survey results.

**Appendix A - Corresponding Tables for Recreation Analysis**

**Table 1: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by Zip Code**

ZIP CODE	PERCENT
29650	37.4
29652	2
29651	47.3
29687	7.9
Other	5.4

**Table 2: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by Age**

AGE	PERCENT
Under 18	1
18 to 25	3.5
26 to 35	24.8
36 to 45	30.2
46 to 55	19.8
56 to 65	10.9
66 to 75	6.4
76 or more	3.5

**Table 3: Frequency Distribution of City of Greer Respondents by Gender**

GENDER	PERCENT
Male	48.3
Female	51.2

**Table 4: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by garbage collection from the City of Greer**

AGE	PERCENT
Yes	50
No	50

**Table 5: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by Residency in the City limits**

YEARS	PERCENT
Yes	33.3
No	64.8

**Table 6: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by Year Lived in the City.**

YEARS	PERCENT
Less than 1	9
1 to 2	8
3 to 5	21.4
6 to 10	22.4
11 to 20	15.4
More than 20	23.9

**Table 7: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by Ethnic Background**

ETHNICITY	PERCENT
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1.5
Black/Non-Hispanic	10.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.5
Hispanic	3.5
White/Non-Hispanic	80.4
Other	2.5

**Table 8: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by Annual Household Income**

ANNUAL INCOME	PERCENT
Under \$25,000	8.7
\$25,000 to \$49,999	18.5
\$50,000 to \$74,999	27.2
\$75,000 to \$99,999	20.5
\$100,000 and above	24.7

**Table 9: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by Dependent Children Living at Home**

DEPENDENT CHILDREN	PERCENT
Yes	64.3
No	35.7

**Table 10: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by Preschool Aged (under 5 years old) Children**

NUMBER OF CHILDREN	PERCENT
0	75.4
1	20.2
2	3.9
3	0.5

**Table 11: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by Elementary Aged (5 to 10 years old) Children**

NUMBER OF CHILDREN	PERCENT
0	62
1	26.6
2	8.9
3	2
4	0.5

**Table 12: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by Middle School Aged (11 to 13 years old) Children**

NUMBER OF CHILDREN	
0	78.8
1	19.7
2	1.5

**Table 13: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by High School Aged (14 to 19 years old) Children**

NUMBER OF CHILDREN	PERCENT
0	81.3
1	14.8
2	3.9

**Table 14: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by the Adequacy of current Recreation Facilities**

	PERCENT
Yes, the City of Greer has adequate recreation facilities	31.5
No, the City of Greer does not have adequate recreation facilities	44.8
Undecided	23.6

**Table 15: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by Improvement of the Parks and Recreation Programs in the past 3 years**

	PERCENT
Yes	62.7
No	19.9
No Opinion	17.4

**Table 16: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by Adequacy of Current Recreation Facilities**

**1 - Meets my Needs, 2 - Available but Inadequate for my needs/Important but not available, 3 - Not Interested, 4 - No Opinion (Values given are percentages)**

RECREATION FACILITY	1	2	3	4
Trails/Greenways	8.4	66.3	8.9	16.3
Walking/Jogging Paths	16.6	62.2	5.2	16.1
Outdoor Community Pools	6.5	58.7	13	21.7
Fitness/Recreation Centers	13.5	58.4	8.1	20
Indoor Aquatic Centers	6.3	58.2	14.3	21.2
Large parks/Open Space	31.9	48.1	3.8	16.2
Waterfront Parks and Amenities	7.6	47.1	15.1	30.3
Theatre/Cultural Arts Facilities	16.2	44.4	16.8	22.7
Small Community Parks	36.4	42.3	4.8	16.6
Community Centers	19.9	35.4	17.7	27.1
Dog Parks	8.2	35.3	25	31.5
Shooting Sports Facilities	2.7	31.9	30.8	34.6
Golf Practice Facilities	11.4	28.8	31	28.8
Tennis Courts/Facilities	27.7	27.6	15.4	29.3
Fishing	13.9	26.7	25.1	34.2
Playgrounds	52.9	26.2	6.4	14.4
Indoor Basketball Courts	16.6	25.1	21.4	36.9
Outdoor Basketball Courts	18.2	25	21	35.8
Golf Courses	16.3	24.4	28.8	30.4
Rollerblade/Skateboarding Rinks	4.9	22.4	37.7	35
Baseball Fields	42.2	21.4	12	24.5
Football Fields	25	20.7	21.2	33.2
Disc/Frisbee Golf Courses	13	20.7	30.4	35.9
Boat Ramps/Dock/Water Access	13.1	19.7	29.5	37.7

RECREATION FACILITY	1	2	3	4
Softball Fields	33.9	17.2	18.8	30.1
Soccer Fields	36	12.9	22	29

**Table 17: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by Most Important Recreation Facilities**

<u>TYPE OF FACILITY DESIRED</u>	<u>RESPONSES</u>
<b>Aquatic</b>	
Aquatic Facilities	23
Indoor Aquatic Centers	17
Water Parks	13
Outdoor	10
Boat Ramps/Docks/Water Access	2
<b>Sporting Facilities</b>	
Baseball/Softball	23
Golf Courses & Practice Areas	21
Tennis Courts/Facilities	18
Sport Shooting Ranges	11
Biking Trails	10
Football Fields	9
Rollerblade/Skateboard Facility	7
Basketball (Indoor/Outdoor)	6
Soccer Fields	5
Sports Facilities/Complex	4
Disc/Frisbee Golf Courses	3
Fishing	1
Ping Pong	1
Lighted Multi-Purpose Practice Fields	1
Horseback Riding Facility	1
<b>Centers</b>	
Theater/Cultural Arts Facilities	21
Fitness/Recreation Centers	15
Community Centers	10
Kids' Planet	3
Senior Centers	2
Disabled Facilities	1
<b>Outdoor/Nature</b>	
Walking/Jogging Paths	37
Trails/Greenways	27
Dog Parks	14
Small Community Parks	12
Playgrounds	12
Large Parks/Open Space	12
Parks with Camping	1

**Table 18: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer by Facilities needed in the City of Greer**

<b>TYPE OF FACILITY DESIRED</b>	<b>RESPONSES</b>
<b>Aquatic</b>	
Water Parks for All Ages	7
<b>Sporting Facilities</b>	
Bike Routes/Mountain Bike Routes	6
Hockey Rink/Skating Rink	5
Sport Shooting Ranges	2
Baseball	2
BMX Biking	2
Volleyball Courts	2
Racquetball/ Handball Courts	2
Bowling	1
Golf Course	1
Bathroom Facilities at all Sporting Facilities	1
Race Car Park	1
Cheerleading Practice Area	1
Horseback Riding Arena	1
Ping Pong Tables	1
Rock Climbing	1
Tennis (Indoor)	1
<b>Centers</b>	
Cinemas/Theaters of All Forms	6
Gym/Fitness Center	2
Community Center	2
Senior Center	2
Children's Center	1
Public Library	1
Police Substation	1
Recycling Center	1
<b>Outdoor/Nature</b>	
Wildlife Viewing Area/Sanctuaries/Trails	4
Parks	3
Sidewalks	2
Picnic Areas	1
<b>Other</b>	
Shopping Mall	1
Blockbuster Video Store	1
Saturday Bus Trips	1
Restaurants	1

**Table 19: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by Adequacy of Recreation Programs**

**N=number of respondents; 1 - Meets my Needs, 2 - Available but Inadequate for my needs/Important but not available, 3 - Not Interested, 4 - No Opinion (Values given are percentages)**

RECREATION PROGRAMS	1	2	3	4
Fitness Classes	14.2	47.6	16.9	21.3
Open Gyms	15.9	47.2	12.1	24.7
Swimming Instruction	9.9	44.8	21	24.3
Adult Activities	14.7	44	13	28.3
Concerts	25.9	43.2	13.5	17.3
Outdoor Adventure Camps	11	42	16.6	30.4
Nature Programs	9.4	41.4	18.2	30.9
Sports Instruction	25.6	40.5	12.8	21.1
Weight Training	13	40.3	20.7	26.1
Outdoor Adventure Activities	7.8	39.7	20.1	32.4
Cardiovascular Equipment Use	15.6	39.1	18.4	26.8
Water Aerobics	12.6	38.5	22.5	26.4
Teen Activities	7.2	37.2	22.2	33.3
Cultural Arts	20	36.1	17.2	29.7
Performing Arts	25	35.8	18.5	20.7
Sports Team Play	38.7	33.7	9.4	18.2
Child Development Activities	10.1	30.9	20.8	38.2
Activities for Older Adults/Seniors	12.4	30.8	18.9	37.8
Before and After School Activities	12.4	29.8	23	34.8
Special Events	26.3	29.6	11.7	32.4
Arts and Crafts	19.8	29.6	26.9	23.6
Day Camps	19.3	28.2	18.8	33.7
Recreation Programs for the Disabled	7.3	27.4	21.2	44.1
Pre-Kindergarten Programs	10.1	25.8	27	37.1
Dances	15.1	25.1	31.3	28.5

**Table 20: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by Desired Recreation Programs**

<b>TYPE OF FACILITY DESIRED</b>	<b>RESPONSES</b>
<b>Health/Aerobic Programs</b>	
Weight Training/Fitness Programs	4
Water Aerobics	3
Open Gyms	1
<b>Recreational Programs (All Ages)</b>	
Bike Trails	3
Swimming/Swim Teams/Instruction	3
Gymnastics/Tumbling	2
Basketball	1
Dance	1
Windsurfing/Sailing	1
Badminton	1
Shooting/Trap Skeet Shooting	1
NASCAR	1
Softball Camps	1
Volleyball	1
<b>Continuing Education Courses</b>	
Gardening/Master Gardener/Junior Gardener	2
Basket Making	1
Pottery	1
Painting	1
Car Maintenance	1
<b>Children/Youth Programs</b>	
Nature Programs/Day Camps/Outdoor Adventure Camps	7
After School Programs	2
Teen Activities	2
<b>Adult/Senior Activities</b>	
Concert/Shows	6
Senior Programs	3
Disabled Programs	2
Adult Community Theatre	1
<b>Other</b>	
Dog Park	1

**Table 21: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by Agreement with Potential Contributions Parks and Recreation Programs Impact Quality of Life**

1 - Strongly Agree/Agree, 2 - Neither Agree nor Disagree, 3 - Disagree/Strongly Disagree (Values given are percentages)

CONTRIBUTIONS OF PARKS AND RECREATION	1	2	3
Support Economic Development	84.9	13.5	1.6
Strengthen Safety and Security	77.7	16.6	5.7
Promote Health and Wellness	91.2	7.3	1.6
Foster Human Development	83.3	14.6	2
Strengthen Community Image and Sense of Place	89.5	7.8	2.6
Increase Cultural Unity	80.8	12.8	6.4
Protect Environmental Resources	78.3	18.5	3.2
Facilitate Community Problem Solving	66.1	27.6	6.2
Provide Community Opportunities for Fun and Celebration	91.5	7.9	0.5
Provide Opportunities for Lifelong Learning	79	16.8	4.2
Attracts New Residents and Businesses	87.8	9	3.2

This table should be used to determine mission areas the department can key in on in evaluating and marketing programs, facilities, and services. While mission areas were rated as strongly agree or agree, Providing Community Opportunities for Fun and Celebration and Promote Health and Wellness were the top two mission areas.

**Table 22: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by Importance/Satisfaction of Elements on Community Life**

**1 - Very Important/Important, 2 - Neither Important nor Unimportant, 3 - Unimportant/Very Unimportant, 1 - Very Satisfied/Satisfied, 2 - Neither Satisfied nor Unsatisfied, 3 - Unsatisfied/Very unsatisfied (Values given are percentages)**

ELEMENTS OF COMMUNITY LIFE	IMPORTANCE			SATISFACTION			GAP
	1	2	3	1	2	3	
Parks and Open Space	95.8	3.6	0.5	53.5	18.5	28	42.3
Entertainment/Commercial Recreation	84.8	11.5	3.7	40.9	35.5	23.6	43.9
Public Recreation Programs	90.7	7.3	2	47.1	31.2	21.7	43.6
Public Schools	89.9	6.4	3.7	65.9	21.8	12.3	24
Opportunities to Become Familiar with Other Residents	74.8	23.2	2	38	45.8	16.1	36.8
Public Transportation	56.5	29	14.5	18.3	52.4	29.3	38.2
Fire Protection/EMS Services	96.6	2.6	0	83.2	13.6	3.1	13.4
Police Protection/Public Safety	99	1	0	80.3	14.5	5.2	18.7
Social and Human Services	85.5	11.4	3.1	47.9	44.8	7.3	37.6
Medical/Health Care Facilities	95.8	4.2	0	78	15.7	6.3	17.8
Public Works (Water, Sewer, Electric, Gas, Solid Waste)	95.9	3.6	0.5	79.6	15.1	5.2	16.3
A Feel of Community Pride	90.1	9.4	0.5	60.9	30.7	8.3	29.2
Libraries	93.3	6.2	0.5	77.5	14.1	8.4	15.8

This importance/satisfaction analysis shows larger gaps between the importance level and satisfaction levels residents place on recreation related elements of community life (parks and open space, entertainment/commercial recreation, public recreation programs). The gap is calculated by subtracting the percentage of individuals who ranked an element as very important/important from the percentage of residents who indicated they are very satisfied/satisfied. The highest gaps indicate areas where a community should make investments. In addition, the fact that the community values the mission areas/contributions of parks and recreation outlined in the previous table (Table 21), demonstrates that residents understand that investing in parks and recreation programs, facilities and services is an important community development strategy.

**Table 23: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by Current Location of the Recreation Facilities**

	PERCENT
Very Conveniently Located	15.5
Conveniently Located	56.5
Inconveniently Located	14
Very Inconveniently Located	5
No Opinion	9

**Table 24: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by Future Development Preferences**

	PERCENT
Develop centralized facilities and amenities (larger parks in 3 or 4 locations)	31.1
Develop decentralized facilities and amenities (small community / neighborhood parks)	9.3
Provide a balance of larger community parks and small neighborhood parks	59.6

**Table 25: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by Areas in Most Need for Recreation Facilities**

	PERCENT
North 14 (Blueridge)	28.5
South 14 (Riverside/Pelham)	39.8
East 29 (Spartanburg)	19.9
West 29 (Greenville)	11.8

**Table 26: Frequency Distribution of the City of Greer Respondents by Funding Preference for future developments of Recreation Facilities and Programs**

	PERCENT
Strictly through taxes	14.6
Strictly through user fees	13.6
Combination of taxes and user fees	71.7