National Park Service
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# Congaree National Park Visitor Study

*2011-2012*

Natural Resource Report NPS/NRSS/EQD/NRR—2013/634

**ON THE COVER**
Canoer on Cedar Creek in Congaree National Park
Photograph courtesy of Congaree National Park

# Congaree National Park Visitor Study

*2011-2012*

Natural Resource Report NPS/NRSS/EQD/NRR—2013/634

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# Contents

Page

Executive Summary ..... v
Acknowledgements ..... vii
About the Authors ..... vii
Introduction ..... 1
Organization of the Report ..... 1
Presentation of the Results ..... 2
Methods ..... 3
Survey Design and Procedures ..... 3
Sample size and sampling plan ..... 3
Questionnaire design ..... 3
Survey procedure ..... 4
Data analysis ..... 5
Limitations ..... 6
Special conditions ..... 6
Checking Non-response Bias ..... 7
Results ..... 11
Group and Visitor Characteristics ..... 11
Visitor group size ..... 11
Visitor group type ..... 11
Visitors with organized groups ..... 12
United States visitors by state of residence ..... 14
Visitors from South Carolina and adjacent states by county of residence ..... 15
International visitors by country of residence ..... 16
Number of visits to Congaree NP in past 12 months ..... 17
Number of lifetime visits to Congaree NP ..... 17
Number of visits to other national parks in past 12 months ..... 18
Number of lifetime visits to other national parks ..... 18
Visitor age ..... 19
Visitor ethnicity ..... 20
Visitor race ..... 20
Visitors with physical conditions affecting access/participation ..... 21
Respondent level of education ..... 22
Respondent household income ..... 23
Respondent household size ..... 23
Awareness of park programs ..... 24
Park name change and decision to visit ..... 25
Knowledge of congressionally designated wilderness ..... 26
Awareness of park policy to remove non-native species ..... 27
Support for policy to remove non-native species ..... 27
Awareness of research and education in the park ..... 28
Trip/Visit Characteristics and Preferences ..... 29
Information sources prior to visit ..... 29
Park as destination ..... 32
Alternate recreation site ..... 33
Primary reason for visiting the park area ..... 36
Number of vehicles ..... 38
Overnight stays ..... 38
Accommodations used inside the park ..... 40
Accommodations used outside the park ..... 41
Length of stay in the park ..... 42
Length of stay in the park area ..... 43

# Contents (continued)

Page

Sites visited in the Congaree NP area....44
Activities within the park....47
Use of park trails....49
Ratings of Services, Facilities, Attributes, Resources, and Elements....50
Information services and facilities used....50
Importance ratings of information services and facilities....51
Quality ratings of information services and facilities....53
Mean scores of importance and quality ratings of information services and facilities....55
Visitor services and facilities used....56
Importance ratings of visitor services and facilities....57
Quality ratings of visitor services and facilities....59
Mean scores of importance and quality ratings of visitor services and facilities....61
Importance of protecting park resources and attributes....62
Elements that affected park experience....64
Expenditures....67
Total expenditures inside and outside the park....67
Number of adults covered by expenditures....68
Number of children covered by expenditures....68
Expenditures inside the park....69
Expenditures outside the park....71
Unpaid vacation/unpaid time off....76
Preferences for Future Visits....77
Likelihood of future visit....77
Preferred activities and programs on future visits....78
Preferred topics to learn on future visits....80
Overall Quality....81
Overall quality of facilities, services, and recreational opportunities....81
Visitor Comment Summaries....82
What visitors liked most....82
What visitors liked least....86
Significance of the park....89
Planning for the future....91
Additional comments....94
Visitor Comments....96
Appendix 1: The Questionnaire....205
Appendix 2: Additional Analysis....117
Appendix 3: Decision Rules for Checking Non-response Bias....119
References....120

# Executive Summary

This visitor study report compiles the profiles of four systematic random samples of Congaree National Park (NP) visitors during May 2-15, 2011, July 27-August 19, 2011, October 27- November 27, 2011, and January 27-March 7, 2012. These studies were conducted with a systematic, random sample of visitor groups that arrived at the park visitor center. The group respondent completed a mail-back questionnaire after their visit. A total of 1796 questionnaires were distributed to visitor groups. Of those, 1257 questionnaires were returned, resulting in a 69.9% response rate.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Group size and type** | Fifty percent of visitor groups consisted of two people. Sixty-two percent of visitor groups consisted of family groups. |
| **State or country of residence** | United States visitors were from 49 states and Washington, DC and comprised 95% of total visitation during the survey period, with 50% from South Carolina. International visitors were from 18 countries. |
| **Frequency of visits** | Seventy-eight percent of visitors visited the park once in the past 12 months and 66% were visiting the park for the first time in their lifetime. Fourteen percent had visited five or more times in their lifetime. |
| **Age, ethnicity, race, and educational level** | Thirty-nine percent of visitors were ages 51-70 years, 26% were 31-50 years old, 16% were ages 15 years or younger, and 5% were 71 years or older. Two percent of visitors were Hispanic or Latino. Most visitors (93%) were White, 3% were Asian, and 3% were Black or African American. Thirty-nine percent of respondents had completed a graduate degree and 36% had a bachelor's degree. |
| **Physical conditions** | Seven percent of visitor groups had members with physical conditions affecting their ability to access or participate in park activities and services. |
| **Awareness of park programs** | Fifty-eight percent of visitor groups were aware, prior to their visit, of the various programs offered at the park. |
| **Knowledge of congressional wilderness designation** | Fifty-six percent of respondents indicated they were aware of what congressionally designated wilderness was before visiting the park. Forty-eight percent of visitor groups said they learned about wilderness while at the park. |
| **Non-native species management** | Forty-eight percent of respondents were aware of the policy regarding removal of non-native species. Most visitor groups (87%) were in support of removal of non-native plants and 76% were supportive of removal of non-native animals. |
| **Scientific research and education in the park** | Forty-four percent of visitor groups noticed scientists working or scientific markers or equipment being used in the park. Through programs or products, 28% of the visitors learned about the results of scientific studies conducted at the park. |
| **Information sources** | Most visitors (93%) obtained information about the park prior to their visit. Of those visitor groups, 52% used the park website and 28% obtained information from friends/relatives/word of mouth. |
| **Park as destination** | Many visitor groups (71%) said the park was their primary destination and 25% said it was one of several destinations. |

**Executive Summary** (continued)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Primary reason for visiting the area** | Twenty-eight percent of visitor groups were residents of the area (within a 1-hour drive of the park). The most common primary reason for visiting the park area among nonresident visitor groups was to visit the park (61%). |
| **Overnight stays** | Thirty-nine percent of visitor groups stayed overnight away from home either in the park or the area. Of those visitors that stayed outside the park (within a 1-hour drive), 48% stayed one night and 21% stayed two nights. |
| **Accommodations** | Of those visitor groups that stayed outside the park (within 1-hour drive of the park), 74% stayed in a lodge, hotel, motel, cabin, rented condo/home, or B&B. |
| **Time spent at park and in the area** | The average length of stay in the park was 7.7 hours. The average length of stay in the area was 38.7 hours, or 1.6 days. |
| **Activities** | The most common visitor activities within the park were walking/hiking (83%) and visiting the visitor center (73%). |
| **Use of park trails** | The Elevated Boardwalk Trail was used by 80% of visitor groups and the Low Boardwalk Trail was used by 64%. |
| **Information services and facilities** | The information services and facilities most commonly used by visitor groups were park brochure/map (87%), assistance from park staff (84%), and visitor center exhibits (76%). |
| **Visitor services and facilities** | The visitor services and facilities most commonly used by visitor groups were boardwalks (89%), restrooms (88%), and parking areas (86%). |
| **Protecting park attributes, resources, and experiences** | The highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings of protecting park resources and attributes included clean water (92%), clean air (91%), and natural quiet/sounds of nature (91%). |
| **Elements affecting park experience** | Eighty-six percent of visitor groups experienced small numbers of visitors on trails, and of those, 37% felt this added to their park experience. Thirty-eight percent of visitor groups experienced airplane noise, and of those, 37% felt it detracted from their park experience. |
| **Expenditures** | The average visitor group expenditure (inside and outside the park within a 1-hour drive of the park) was $187. The median group expenditure (50% of groups spent more and 50% of groups spent less) was $55. The average total expenditure per capita was $88. |
| **Future visit** | Regarding future organized activities/programs of interest, visitor groups preferred canoeing/kayaking (65%) and the night walk/night sky program (53%). The most often preferred topics to learn about on a future visit were plants and animals (74%) and champion trees (60%). |
| **Overall quality** | Most visitor groups (96%) rated the overall quality of facilities, services, and recreational opportunities at Congaree NP as “very good” or “good.” No visitor groups rated the overall quality as “very poor.” |

For more information about the Visitor Services Project, please contact the Park Studies Unit at the University of Idaho at (208) 885-7863 or the following website http://www.psu.uidaho.edu.

## Acknowledgements

We thank Ally Begly for compiling the report, Lauren Gurniewicz, Corinne Fenner, and Nancy Holmes for overseeing the fieldwork, the staff and volunteers of Congaree NP for assisting with the surveys, and David Vollmer and Matthew Strawn for data processing.

## About the Authors

Ally Begly is a research assistant for the Visitor Services Project. Yen Le, Ph.D., is Director of the Visitor Services Project at the University of Idaho, and Steven Hollenhorst, Ph.D., was the Director of the Park Studies Unit, Department of Conservation Social Sciences, University of Idaho.

# Introduction

This report compiles the results of four visitor studies at Congaree National Park (NP) in Hopkins, SC, conducted May 2-15, 2011, July 27-August 19, 2011, October 27- November 27, 2011, and January 27-March 7, 2012 by the National Park Service (NPS) Visitor Services Project (VSP), part of the Park Studies Unit (PSU) at the University of Idaho.

As described in the National Park Service website for Congaree National Park: "Welcome to the largest remnant of old-growth floodplain forest remaining on the continent! Experience champion trees, towering to record size amidst astonishing biodiversity…Congaree National Park houses a museum quality exhibit area within the Harry Hampton Visitor Center, a 2.4 mile boardwalk loop trail, over 20 miles of backwoods hiking trails, canoeing, kayaking, fishing and more…As a designated Wilderness area, International Biosphere Reserve, Globally Important Bird Area, and the largest intact tract of old-growth floodplain forest in North America, Congaree National Park is home to a variety of ongoing research and education projects." (http://www.nps.gov/cong/index.htm, retrieved October, 2011).

## Organization of the Report

This report is organized into three sections.

Section 1: **Methods**
This section discusses the procedures, limitations, and special conditions that may affect the study results.

Section 2: **Results**
This section provides a summary for each question in the questionnaire and includes visitor comments to open-ended questions. The presentation of the results of this study does not follow the order of questions in the questionnaire.

Section 3: **Appendices**
Appendix 1: *The Questionnaire*. A copy of the questionnaire distributed to visitor groups.

Appendix 2: *Additional Analysis.* A list of sample questions for cross-references and cross comparisons. Comparisons can be analyzed within a park or between parks. Results of additional analyses are not included in this report.

Appendix 3: *Decision Rules for Checking Nonresponse Bias.* An explanation of how the nonresponse bias was determined.

# Presentation of the Results

Results are represented in the form of graphs (see Example 1 below), scatter plots, pie charts, tables, and text.

**KEY**

1. The figure title describes the graph's information.

2. Listed above the graph, the "N" shows the number of individuals or visitor groups responding to the question. If "N" is less than 30, "**CAUTION**!" is shown on the graph to indicate the results may be unreliable.

* appears when the total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding.

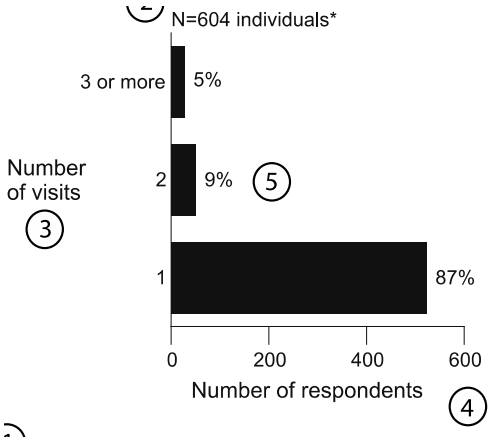
** appears when total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer choice.

3. Vertical information describes the response categories.

4. Horizontal information shows the number or proportion of responses in each category.

5. In most graphs, percentages provide additional information.

**Example 1**



# Methods

## Survey Design and Procedures

### *Sample size and sampling plan*

All VSP questionnaires follow design principles outlined in Don A. Dillman's book *Mail and Internet Surveys: The Tailored Design Method* (2007). Using this method, the sample size was calculated based on park visitation statistics of previous years.

Brief interviews were conducted with a systematic, random sample of visitor groups that arrived at the visitor center during May 2-15, 2011, July 27-August 19, 2011, October 27- November 27, 2011, and January 27-March 7, 2012. Visitors were surveyed between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. During these surveys, 1862 visitor groups were contacted and 1796 of these groups (96.5%) accepted questionnaires. (The average acceptance rate for 250 VSP visitor studies conducted from 1988 through 2011 is 91.5%.) Questionnaires were completed and returned by 1257 respondents, resulting in a 69.9% response rate for the four studies. (The average response rate for the 250 VSP visitor studies is 72.3%).

### *Questionnaire design*

The Congaree NP questionnaire was developed at a workshop held with park staff to design and prioritize questions. Some of the questions were comparable with VSP studies conducted at other parks while others were customized for Congaree NP. Many questions asked visitors to choose answers from a list of responses, often with an open-ended option, while others were completely open-ended.

No pilot study was conducted to test the Congaree NP questionnaire. However, all questions followed Office Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines and/or were used in previous surveys; thus, the clarity and consistency of the survey instrument have been tested and supported.

## *Survey procedure*

Visitor groups were greeted, briefly introduced to the purpose of the study, and asked to participate. If visitors agreed, they were asked which member (at least 16 years old) had the next birthday. The individual with the next birthday was selected to complete the questionnaire for the group. An interview, lasting approximately two minutes, was conducted with that person to determine group size, group type, age of the member completing the questionnaire, and how this visit to the park fit into their group's travel plans. These individuals were asked their names, addresses, and telephone numbers or email addresses in order to mail a reminder/thank-you postcard and follow-ups. Participants were asked to complete the questionnaire after their visit and return it in the Business Reply Mail envelope provided.

Two weeks following the survey, a reminder/thank-you postcard was mailed to all participants who provided a valid mailing address (see Tables 1 - 4). Replacement questionnaires were mailed to participants who had not returned their questionnaires four weeks after the survey. Seven weeks after the survey, a second round of replacement questionnaires was mailed to participants who had not returned their questionnaires.

**Table 1.** Spring follow-up mailing distribution

| Round | Mailing | Date | U.S. | International | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Postcards | May 23, 2011 | 423 | 18 | 441 |
| 1 | 1st replacement | June 7, 2011 | 198 | 8 | 206 |
| 1 | 2nd replacement | June 27, 2011 | 174 | 0 | 174 |

**Table 2**. Summer follow-up mailing distribution

| Round | Mailing | Date | U.S. | International | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Postcards | August 24, 2011 | 263 | 9 | 272 |
| 1 | 1st replacement | September 8, 2011 | 157 | 6 | 163 |
| 1 | 2nd replacement | September 28, 2011 | 140 | 1 | 141 |
| | | | | | |
| 2 | Postcards | September 6, 2011 | 162 | 8 | 170 |
| 2 | 1st replacement | September 20, 2011 | 88 | 4 | 92 |
| 2 | 2nd replacement | October 10, 2011 | 65 | 0 | 65 |

**Table 3**. Fall follow-up mailing distribution

| Round | Mailing | Date | U.S. | International | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Postcards | November 23, 2011 | 218 | 6 | 224 |
| 1 | 1st replacement | December 12, 2011 | 97 | 3 | 100 |
| 1 | 2nd replacement | January 3, 2012 | 94 | 0 | 94 |
| | | | | | |
| 2 | Postcards | December 12, 2011 | 178 | 0 | 178 |
| 2 | 1st replacement | December 23, 2011 | 76 | 0 | 76 |
| 2 | 2nd replacement | January 18, 2012 | 58 | 0 | 58 |

**Table 4**. Winter follow-up mailing distribution

| Round | Mailing | Date | U.S. | International | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Postcards | February 27, 2012 | 215 | 1 | 216 |
| 1 | 1st replacement | March 12, 2012 | 99 | 0 | 99 |
| 1 | 2nd replacement | April 2, 2012 | 68 | 0 | 68 |
| | | | | | |
| 2 | Postcards | March 9, 2012 | 124 | 2 | 126 |
| 2 | 1st replacement | March 21, 2012 | 53 | 2 | 55 |
| 2 | 2nd replacement | April 11, 2012 | 44 | 0 | 44 |
| | | | | | |
| 3 | Postcards | March 21, 2012 | 97 | 2 | 99 |
| 3 | 1st replacement | April 5, 2012 | 31 | 1 | 32 |
| 3 | 2nd replacement | April 25, 2012 | 20 | 0 | 20 |

## *Data analysis*

Returned questionnaires were coded and the responses were processed using custom and standard statistical software applications—Statistical Analysis Software® (SAS), and a custom designed FileMaker Pro® application. Descriptive statistics and cross-tabulations were calculated for the coded data; responses to open-ended questions were categorized and summarized. Double-key data entry validation was performed on numeric and text entry variables and the remaining checkbox (bubble) variables were read by optical mark recognition (OMR) software.

## *Limitations*

As with all surveys, this study has limitations that should be considered when interpreting the results.

1. This was a self-administered survey. Respondents completed the questionnaire after the visit, which may have resulted in poor recall. Thus, it is not possible to know whether visitor responses reflected actual behavior.

2. The data reflect visitor use patterns at the selected sites during the study periods of May 2-15, 2011, July 27-August 19, 2011, October 27-November 27, 2011, and January 27-March 7, 2012**.** The results present a 'snapshot in time' and do not necessarily apply to visitors during other times of the year.

3. Caution is advised when interpreting any data with a sample size of less than 30, as the results may be unreliable. Whenever the sample size is less than 30, the word **"CAUTION!"** is included in the graph, figure, table, or text.

4. Occasionally, there may be inconsistencies in the results. Inconsistencies arise from missing data or incorrect answers (due to misunderstood directions, carelessness, or poor recall of information). Therefore, refer to both the percentage and N (number of individuals or visitor groups) when interpreting the results.

## *Special conditions*

During the spring survey period (May 2-15, 2011), the weather was sunny, warm and humid, interspersed with occasional cool, rainy days. Temperatures ranged from 46 to 86 F. No special events occurred in the area that would have affected the type and amount of visitation to the park.

During the summer survey period (July 27-August 19, 2011), the weather was very hot with heat advisories for at least 10 days. Temperatures ranged from 66 to 100 F. There were only a couple days with significant cloud cover and brief storms. No special events occurred in the area that would have affected the type and amount of visitation to the park.

During the fall survey period (October 27-November 27, 2011), the weather during was generally sunny and cool with occasional cloud cover. Temperatures ranged from 60 to 80 F. No special events occurred in the area that would have affected the type and amount of visitation to the park.

During the winter survey period (January 27-March 7, 2012), the weather varied between sunny and warm to cool with occasional cloud cover and occasional rain. Temperatures ranged from low 30s F in the morning to 60 to 80 F in the afternoon. No special events occurred in the area that would have affected the type and amount of visitation to the park.

## *Checking Non-response Bias*

**Spring (May 2-15, 2011)**

Five variables were used to check non-response bias: participant age, group size, group type, how park fit in to travel plans, and participant proximity from home to the park. All variables were found to be significantly different between respondents and non-respondents (see Tables 4a – 4d). The results indicate some biases occurred due to non-response. Visitors at younger age ranges (especially 40 and younger), visitors traveling with friends, and visitors coming from the local area (within 50 miles radius) were underrepresented in the survey results. See Appendix 3 for more details of the non-response bias checking procedures.

**Table 4a.** Comparison of respondents and non-respondents by average age and group size

| Variable | Respondents | Non-respondents | p-value (t-test) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Age (years) | 50.21 (N=312) | 39.29 (N=136) | <0.001 |
| Group size | 2.43 (N=307) | 2.73 (N=133) | 0.027 |

**Table 4b.** Comparison of respondents and non-respondents by group type

| Group type | Respondents | Non-respondents | p-value (chi-square) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alone | 49 (16%) | 18 (13%) | |
| Family | 196 (64%) | 69 (51%) | |
| Friends | 47 (15%) | 34 (25%) | |
| Family and friends | 14 (5%) | 11 (8%) | |
| Other | 1 (0.3%) | 4 (3%) | |
| | | | 0.003 |

**Table 4c.** Comparison of respondents and non-respondents by how park fit in to travel plans

| Destination | Respondents | Non-respondents | p-value (chi-square) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Park as primary destination | 216 (70%) | 113 (84%) | |
| Park as one of several destinations | 74 (24%) | 18 (13%) | |
| Unplanned visit | 18 (6%) | 4 (3%) | |
| | | | 0.011 |

**Table 4d.** Comparison of respondents and non-respondents by distance from home to park

| Distance | Respondents | Non-respondents | p-value (chi-square) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Within 50 miles | 117 (39%) | 76 (57%) | |
| 51-100 miles | 30 (10%) | 12 (9%) | |
| 101-200 miles | 36 (15%) | 9 (7%) | |
| 201 miles or more | 108 (36%) | 32 (24%) | |
| International visitors | 12 (4%) | 5 (4%) | |
| | | | 0.009 |

**Summer (July 27-August 19, 2011)**

Five variables were used to check non-response bias: participant age, group size, group type, how park fit in to travel plans, and participant proximity from home to the park. All variables were found to be significantly different between respondents and non-respondents (see Tables 5a – 5d). The results indicate some biases occurred due to non-response. Visitors at younger age ranges (especially 35 and younger), visitors traveling with friends, visitors indicating the park was the primary destination, and visitors coming from the local area (within 50 miles radius) were underrepresented in the survey results. See Appendix 3 for more details of the non-response bias checking procedures.

**Table 5a.** Comparison of respondents and non-respondents by average age and group size

| Variable | Respondents | Non-respondents | p-value (t-test) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Age (years) | 47.40 (N=274) | 37.83 (N=174) | <0.001 |
| Group size | 2.87 (N=272) | 2.69 (N=167) | 0.271 |

**Table 5b.** Comparison of respondents and non-respondents by group type

| Group type | Respondents | Non-respondents | p-value (chi-square) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alone | 41 (15%) | 29 (17%) | |
| Family | 170 (63%) | 96 (52%) | |
| Friends | 32 (12%) | 38 (22%) | |
| Family and friends | 27 (9%) | 6 (3%) | |
| Other | 2 (1%) | 5 (3%) | |
| | | | 0.002 |

**Table 5c.** Comparison of respondents and non-respondents by primary destination

| Destination | Respondents | Non-respondents | p-value (chi-square) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Park as primary destination | 142 (53%) | 116 (67%) | |
| Park as one of several destinations | 111 (13%) | 52 (30%) | |
| Unplanned visit | 16 (6%) | 4 (2%) | |
| | | | 0.006 |

**Table 5d.** Comparison of respondents and non-respondents by distance from home to park

| Distance | Respondents | Non-respondents | p-value (chi-square) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Within 50 miles | 83 (49%) | 90 (33%) | |
| 51-100 miles | 14 (8%) | 29 (11%) | |
| 101-200 miles | 9 (5%) | 13 (5%) | |
| 201 miles or more | 55 (32%) | 129 (48%) | |
| International visitors | 10 (6%) | 9 (3%) | |
| | | | 0.006 |

**Fall (October 27-November 27, 2011)**

Four variables were used to check non-response bias: participant age, group size, group type, and how park fit in to travel plans. Due to large number of missing zip codes, participant proximity from home to the park was not used to test non-response bias. Respondents and non-respondents were not significantly different in all variables except for average age (see Tables 6a – 6c). The results indicated that respondents at younger age ranges (especially 40 and younger) may be underrepresented in the results. See Appendix 3 for more details of the non-response bias checking procedures.

**Table 6a.** Comparison of respondents and non-respondents by average age and group size

| Variable | Respondents | Non-respondents | p-value (t-test) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Age (years) | 51.18 (N=328) | 43.47 (N=123) | <0.001 |
| Group size | 2.75 (N=324) | 3.74 (N=120) | 0.353 |

**Table 6b.** Comparison of respondents and non-respondents by group type

| Group type | Respondents | Non-respondents | p-value (chi-square) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alone | 48 (15%) | 21 (5%) | |
| Family | 204 (63%) | 69 (15%) | |
| Friends | 47 (15%) | 27 (6%) | |
| Family and friends | 23 (7%) | 4 (1%) | |
| Other | 2 (1%) | 0 (0%) | |
| | | | 0.139 |

**Table 6c.** Comparison of respondents and non-respondents by how park fit in to travel plans

| Destination | Respondents | Non-respondents | p-value (chi-square) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Park as primary destination | 232 (75%) | 99 (22%) | |
| Park as one of several destinations | 81 (23%) | 19 (4%) | |
| Unplanned visit | 9 (3%) | 4 (1%) | |
| | | | 0.097 |

**Winter (January 27-March 7, 2012)**

Five variables were used to check non-response bias: participant age, group size, group type, how park fit in to travel plans, and participant proximity from home to the park. Respondents and non-respondents were not significantly different in terms of group size and primary reason for visiting the area but were significantly different in average age, group type, and proximity from home to the park (see Tables 7a - 7d). The results indicated that there are potential non-response biases in the survey results. Respondents at younger age ranges (especially 40 and younger) may be underrepresented in the results. Visitors traveling with friends and visitors living within 51 to 100 miles radius of the park may also be underrepresented. See Appendix 3 for more details of the non-response bias checking procedures.

**Table 7a**. Comparison of respondents and non-respondents by average age and group size

| Variable | Respondents | Non-respondents | p-value (t-test) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Age (years) | 52.36 (N=342) | 41.98 (N=103) | <0.001 |
| Group size | 2.41 (N=333) | 3.74 (N=100) | 0.148 |

**Table 7b.** Comparison of respondents and non-respondents by group type

| Group type | Respondents | Non-respondents | p-value (chi-square) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alone | 61 (18%) | 15 (15%) | |
| Family | 193 (58%) | 41 (41%) | |
| Friends | 54 (16%) | 38 (38%) | |
| Family and friends | 24 (7%) | 7 (7%) | |
| Other | 2 (1%) | 0 (0%) | |
| | | | 0.008 |

**Table 7c.** Comparison of respondents and non-respondents by how park fit in to travel plans

| Destination | Respondents | Non-respondents | p-value (chi-square) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Park as primary destination | 246 (73%) | 83 (19%) | |
| Park as one of several destinations | 75 (22%) | 17 (4%) | |
| Unplanned visit | 15 (4%) | 4 (1%) | |
| | | | 0.389 |

**Table 7d.** Comparison of respondents and non-respondents by distance from home to park

| Distance | Respondents | Non-respondents | p-value (chi-square) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Within 50 miles | 121 (37%) | 54 (13%) | |
| 51-100 miles | 37 (11%) | 14 (3%) | |
| 100-200 miles | 51 (16%) | 14 (3%) | |
| 201 miles or more | 116 (35%) | 20 (5%) | |
| International visitors | 3 (1%) | 2 (<1%) | |
| | | | 0.016 |

# Results

## Group and Visitor Characteristics

### *Visitor group size*

**Question 19b**
On this visit, how many people were in your personal group, including yourself?

Results
- 50% of visitor groups consisted of two people (see Figure 1).
- 16% were alone.

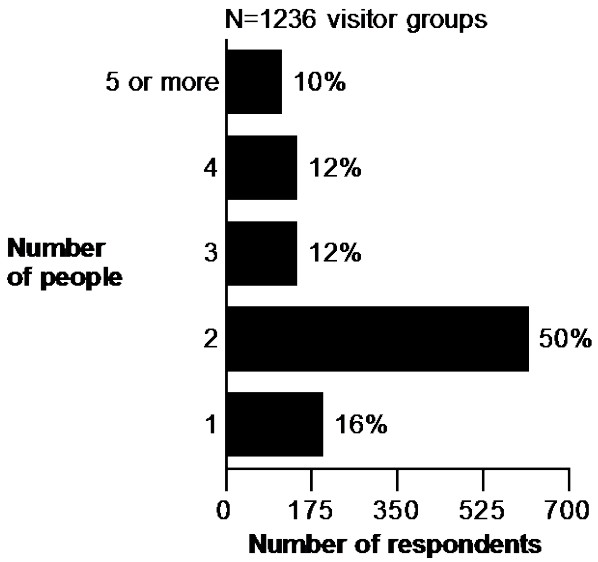



**Figure 1.** Visitor group size

### *Visitor group type*

**Question 19a**
On this visit, what kind of personal group (not guided tour/school/other organized group) were you with?

Results
- 62% of visitor groups consisted of family members (see Figure 2).
- "Other" group types (1%) were:

  Club Atlanta Outdoor Club
  Co-workers
  Hiking group
  Richland Recreation trip

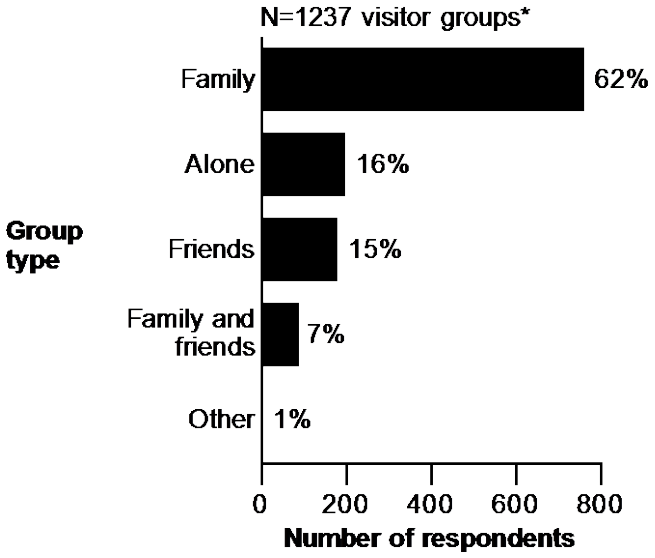



**Figure 2.** Visitor group type

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Visitors with organized groups*

**Question 18a**
On this visit, were you and your personal group with a commercial guided tour group?

Results
- 1% of visitor groups were with a commercial guided tour group (see Figure 3).

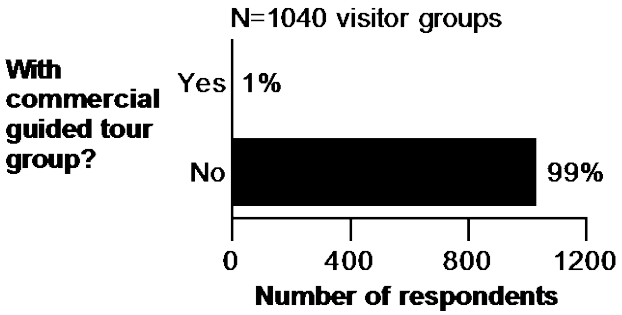



**Figure 3.** Visitors with a commercial guided tour group

**Question 18b**
On this visit, were you and your personal group with a school/ educational group?

Results
- 3% of visitor groups were with a school/educational group (see Figure 4).

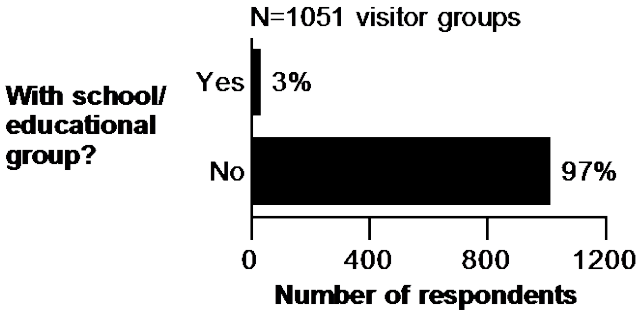



**Figure 4.** Visitors with a school/educational group

**Question 18c**
On this visit, were you and your personal group with an "other" organized group (scouts, work, church, etc.)?

Results
- 5% of visitor groups were with an "other" organized group (see Figure 5).

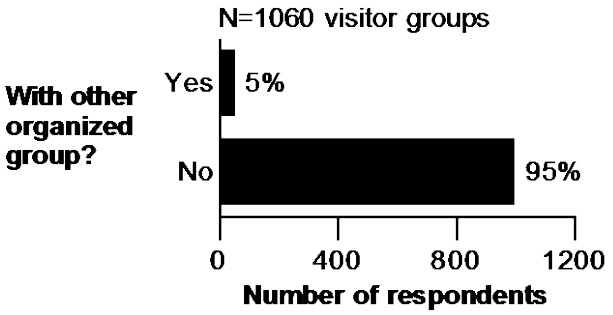



**Figure 5.** Visitors with an "other" organized group

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

**Question 18d**

If you were with one of these organized groups, how many people, including yourself, were in this group?

Results

- 40% of visitor groups who traveled with an organized group were composed of 10 or fewer people (see Figure 6).
- 40% were composed of 11-20 people.

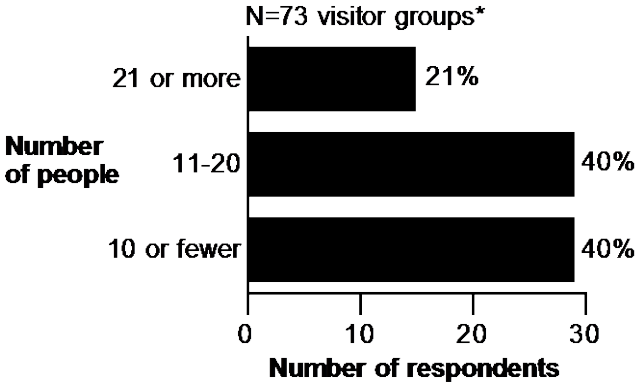



**Figure 6.** Organized group size

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *United States visitors by state of residence*

**Question 20b**
For you and your personal group on this visit, what is your state of residence?

Note: Response was limited to 7 members from each visitor group.

Results

- U.S. visitors were from 49 states and Washington, DC and comprised 95% of total visitation to the park during the survey period.
- 50% of U.S. visitors came from South Carolina (see Table 8 and Figure 7).
- 8% came from North Carolina, 4% were from Florida, and 4% were from Georgia.
- Smaller proportions came from 45 other states and Washington, DC.

**Table 8.** United States visitors by state of residence

| State | Number of visitors | Percent of U.S. visitors N=2788 individuals* | Percent of total visitors N=2920 individuals |
|---|---|---|---|
| South Carolina | 1389 | 50% | 48% |
| North Carolina | 217 | 8% | 7% |
| Florida | 121 | 4% | 4% |
| Georgia | 99 | 4% | 3% |
| Pennsylvania | 81 | 3% | 3% |
| Ohio | 76 | 3% | 3% |
| California | 71 | 3% | 2% |
| Michigan | 58 | 2% | 2% |
| New York | 56 | 2% | 2% |
| Virginia | 50 | 2% | 2% |
| Tennessee | 48 | 2% | 2% |
| Maryland | 47 | 2% | 2% |
| 37 other states and Washington, DC | 475 | 17% | 16% |

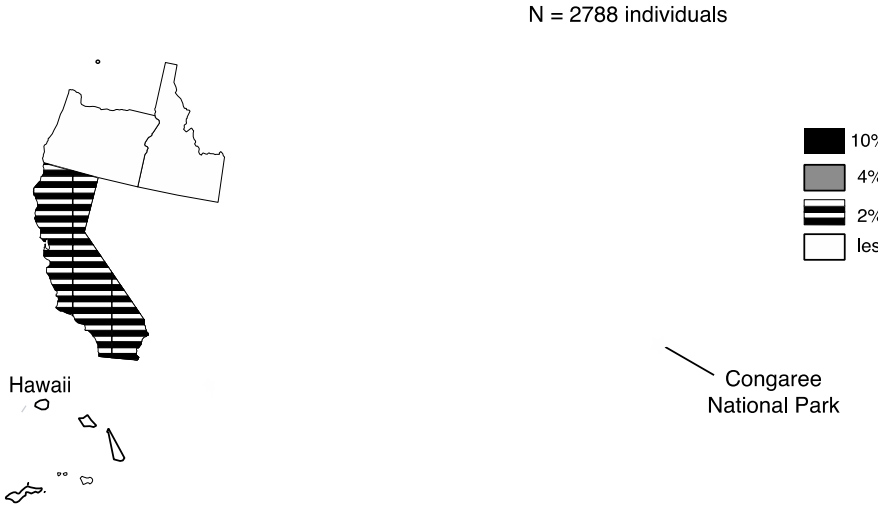



**Figure 7.** United States visitors by state of residence

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Visitors from South Carolina and adjacent states by county of residence*

Note: Response was limited to 7 members from each visitor group.

Results

- Visitors from South Carolina and adjacent states were from 96 counties and comprised 61% of the total U.S. visitation to the park during the survey period.
- 33% came from Richland County, SC (see Table 9).
- 20% came from Lexington County, SC.
- Smaller proportions of visitors came from 94 other counties in South Carolina and adjacent states.

**Table 9.** Visitors from South Carolina and adjacent states by county of residence

| County, State | Number of visitors N=1702 individuals | Percent* |
|---|---|---|
| Richland, SC | 565 | 33 |
| Lexington, SC | 344 | 20 |
| Mecklenburg, NC | 61 | 4 |
| Greenville, SC | 46 | 3 |
| Sumter, SC | 45 | 3 |
| Kershaw, SC | 44 | 3 |
| Charleston, SC | 33 | 2 |
| Aiken, SC | 32 | 2 |
| Spartanburg, SC | 28 | 2 |
| Buncombe, NC | 26 | 2 |
| Beaufort, SC | 23 | 1 |
| Orangeburg, SC | 23 | 1 |
| Anderson, SC | 18 | 1 |
| Oconee, SC | 18 | 1 |
| Fulton, GA | 17 | 1 |
| Horry, SC | 17 | 1 |
| Pickens, SC | 15 | 1 |
| Florence, SC | 14 | 1 |
| Berkeley, SC | 13 | 1 |
| Greenwood, SC | 12 | 1 |
| York, SC | 12 | 1 |
| Gaston, SC | 11 | 1 |
| Jasper, SC | 11 | 1 |
| Cherokee, SC | 10 | 1 |
| Dorchester, SC | 10 | 1 |
| Guilford, NC | 10 | 1 |
| Newberry, SC | 10 | 1 |
| 69 other counties | 234 | 14 |

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *International visitors by country of residence*

**Question 20b**
For you and your personal group on this visit, what is your country of residence?

Note: Response was limited to 7 members from each visitor group.

Results

- International visitors were from 18 countries and comprised 5% of the total visitation to the park during the survey period.
- 25% of international visitors came from Germany (see Table 10).
- 11% came from Australia and 11% came from Canada.
- 8% came from France and 8% came from Italy.
- Smaller proportions of international visitors came from 13 other countries.

**Table 10**. International visitors by country of residence

| Country | Number of visitors | Percent of international visitors N=132 individuals* | Percent of total visitors N=2920 individuals |
|---|---|---|---|
| Germany | 33 | 25% | 1% |
| Australia | 15 | 11% | 1% |
| Canada | 15 | 11% | 1% |
| France | 10 | 8% | <1% |
| Italy | 10 | 8% | <1% |
| United Kingdom | 8 | 6% | <1% |
| Bangladesh | 7 | 5% | <1% |
| Denmark | 7 | 5% | <1% |
| Switzerland | 7 | 5% | <1% |
| Estonia | 4 | 3% | <1% |
| India | 3 | 2% | <1% |
| Israel | 3 | 2% | <1% |
| The Netherlands | 3 | 2% | <1% |
| Austria | 2 | 2% | <1% |
| United Arab Emirates | 2 | 2% | <1% |
| Czech Republic | 1 | 1% | <1% |
| Finland | 1 | 1% | <1% |
| Ukraine | 1 | 1% | <1% |

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Number of visits to Congaree NP in past 12 months*

**Question 20c**
For you and your personal group on this visit, how many times have you visited Congaree NP in the past 12 months (including this visit)?

Note: Response was limited to 7 members from each visitor group.

Results
- 78% of visitors visited the park once in the past 12 months (see Figure 8).
- 10% visited two times.

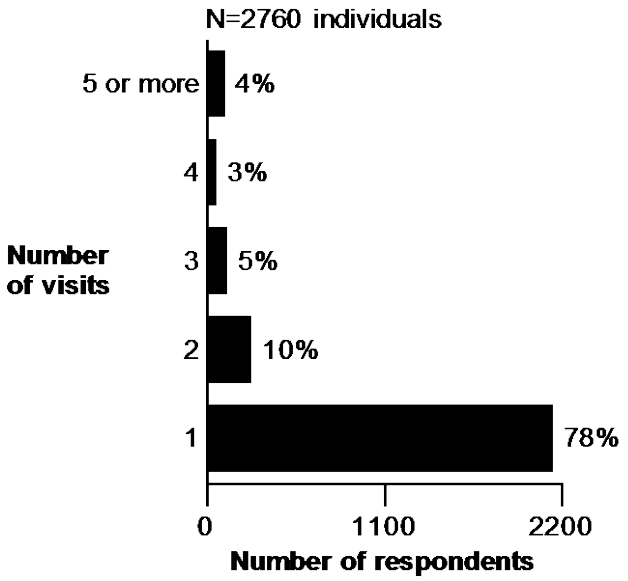



**Figure 8.** Number of visits to park in past 12 months

## *Number of lifetime visits to Congaree NP*

**Question 20d**
For you and your personal group on this visit, how many times have you visited Congaree NP in your lifetime (including this visit)?

Note: Response was limited to 7 members from each visitor group.

Results
- 66% of visitors were visiting the park for the first time (see Figure 9).
- 14% had visited five or more times.

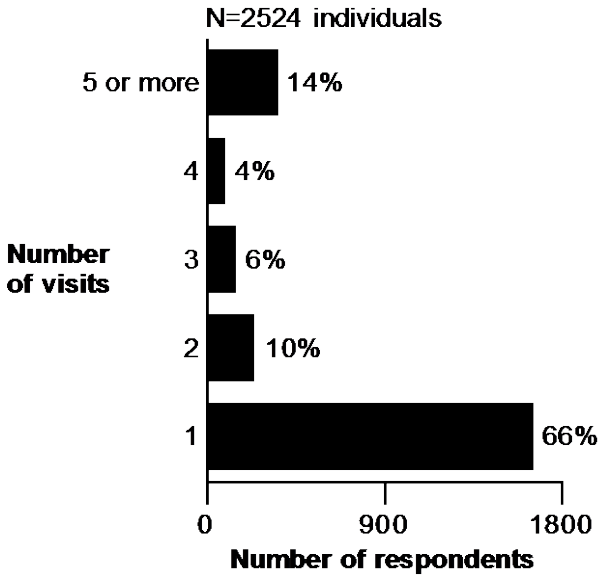



**Figure 9.** Number of visits to park in lifetime

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Number of visits to other national parks in past 12 months*

**Question 20e**
For you and your personal group on this visit, how many times have you visited other national parks in the past 12 months (including this visit)?

Note: Response was limited to 7 members from each visitor group.

Results
- 31% of visitors had visited other national parks once in the past 12 months (see Figure 10).
- 25% had visited other national parks five or more times.

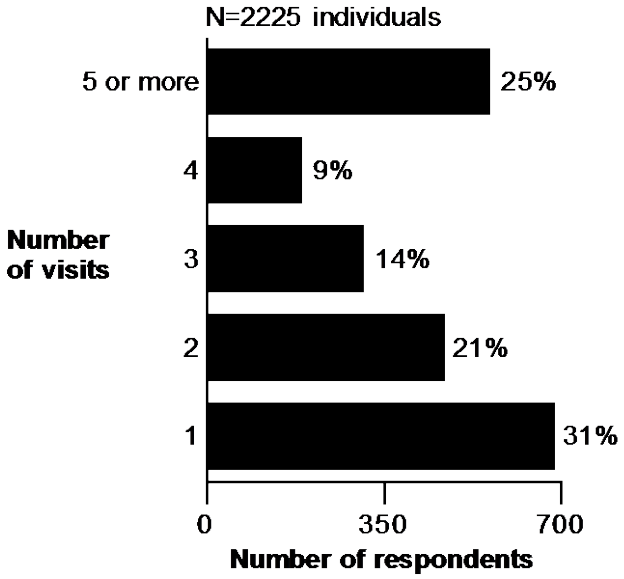



**Figure 10.** Number of visits to other national parks in past 12 months

## *Number of lifetime visits to other national parks*

**Question 20f**
For you and your personal group on this visit, how many times have you visited other national parks in your lifetime (including this visit)?

Note: Response was limited to 7 members from each visitor group.

Results
- 74% of visitors had visited other national parks five or more times in their lifetime (see Figure 11).
- For 8% of visitors, this was their first visit to a national park.

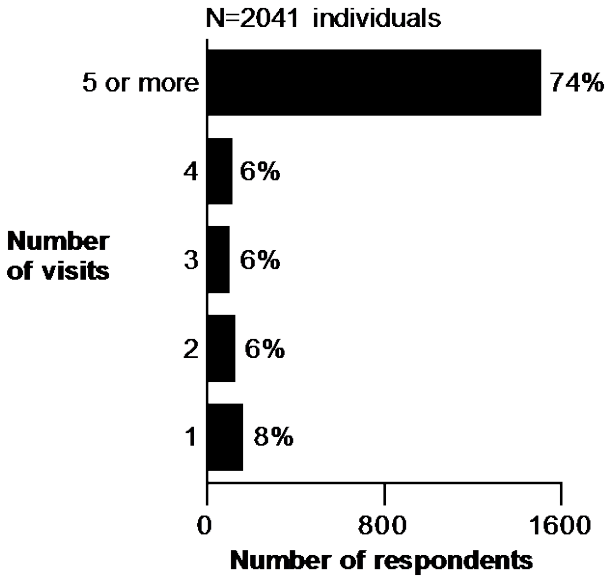



**Figure 11.** Number of visits to other national parks in lifetime

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Visitor age*

**Question 20a**

For you and your personal group on this visit, what is your current age?

Note: Response was limited to 7 members from each visitor group.

Results

- Visitor ages ranged from one to 97 years.
- 39% were 51-70 years old (see Figure 12).
- 26% were 31-50 years old.
- 16% were 15 years or younger.
- 5% were 71 years or older.

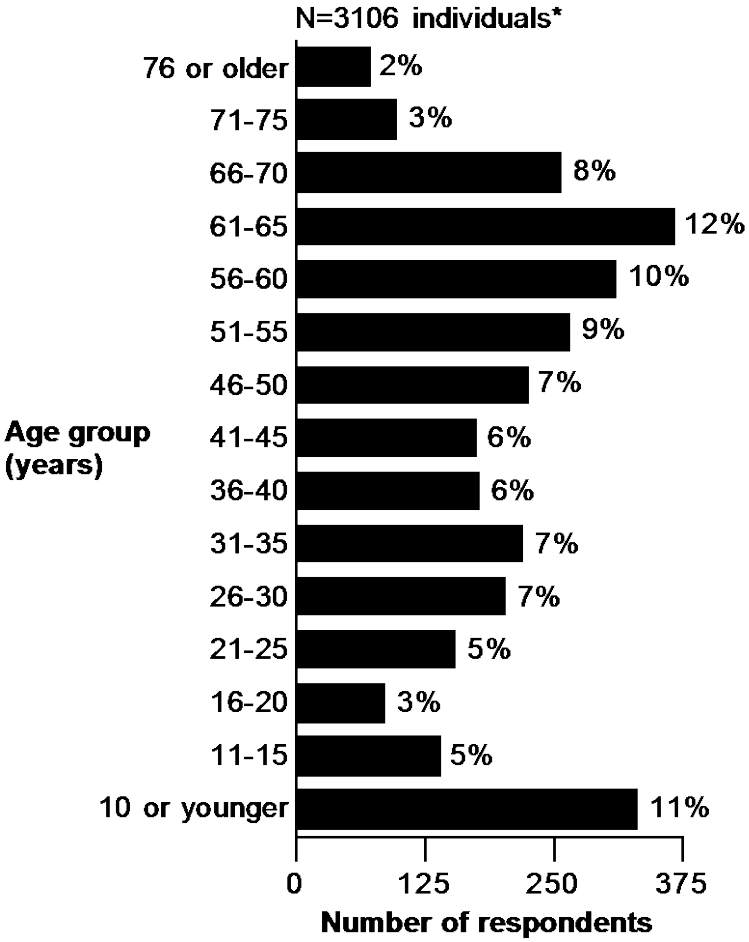



**Figure 12.** Visitor age

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Visitor ethnicity*

**Question 23a**
Are you or members of your personal group Hispanic or Latino?

Note: Response was limited to 7 members from each visitor group.

Results
- 2% of visitors were Hispanic or Latino (see Figure 13).

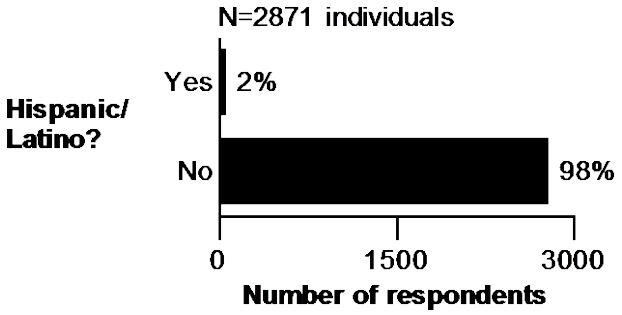



**Figure 13.** Visitors who were Hispanic or Latino

## *Visitor race*

**Question 23b**
What is your race? What is the race of each member of your personal group?

Note: Response was limited to 7 members from each visitor group.

Results
- 93% of visitors were White (see Figure 14).
- 3% were Asian.
- 3% were Black or African American.

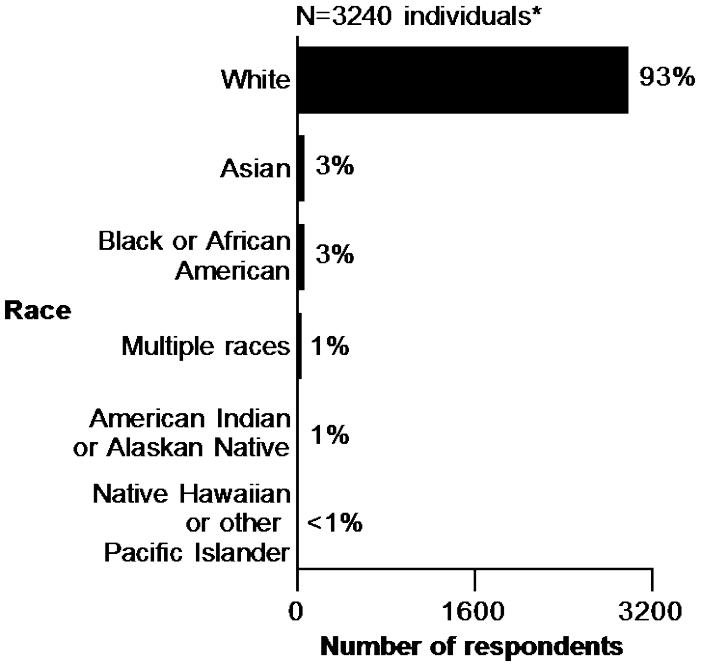



**Figure 14.** Visitor race

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Visitors with physical conditions affecting access/participation*

**Question 22a**

Does anyone in your personal group have mobility or other physical impairments?

Results

- 7% of visitor groups had members with mobility or other physical conditions (see Figure 15).

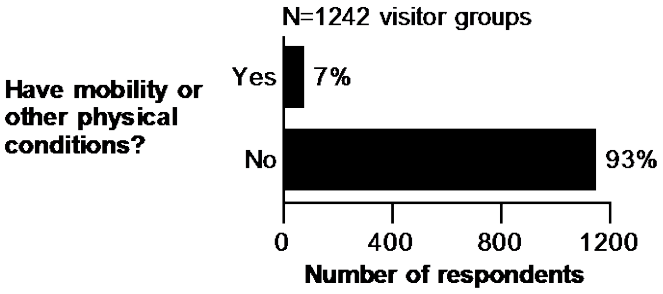



**Figure 15.** Visitor groups that had members with mobility or other physical conditions

**Question 22b**

If YES, did anyone in your personal group have a physical condition that made it difficult to access or participate in park activities or services?

Results**:**

- Of those visitor groups with members with physical conditions, 23% had difficulty accessing services or participating in park activities (see Figure 16).

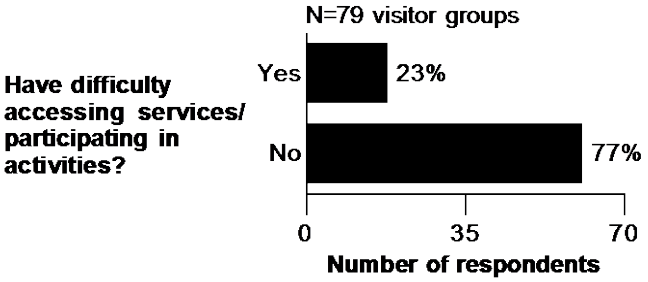



**Figure 16.** Visitor groups that had a member with physical conditions affecting access to services or participation in park activities

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Respondent level of education*

**Question 21**

For you only, what is the highest level of education you have completed?

Results

- 39% of respondents had a graduate degree (see Figure 17).
- 36% of respondents had a bachelor's degree.

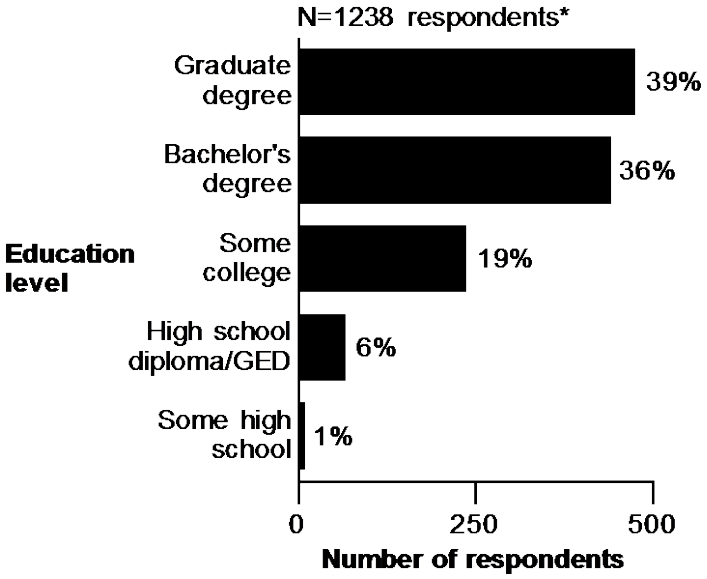



**Figure 17.** Respondent level of education

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Respondent household income*

**Question 25a**
Which category best represents your annual household income?

Results
- 39% of respondents had an income between $50,000 and $99,999 (see Figure 18).

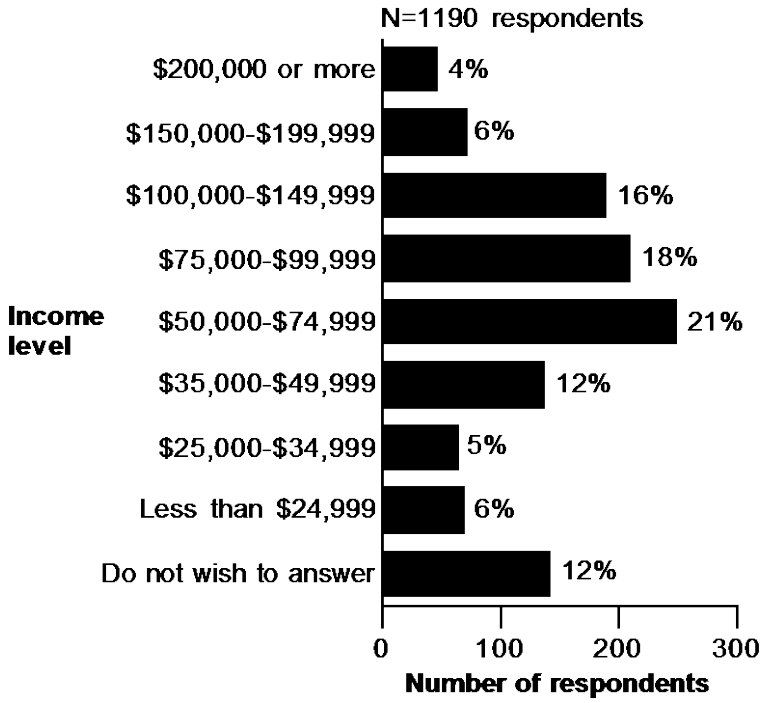



**Figure 18.** Respondent household level of income

## *Respondent household size*

**Question 25b**
How many people are in your household?

Results
- 49% of respondents had two people in their household (see Figure 19).
- 18% had one person in their household.

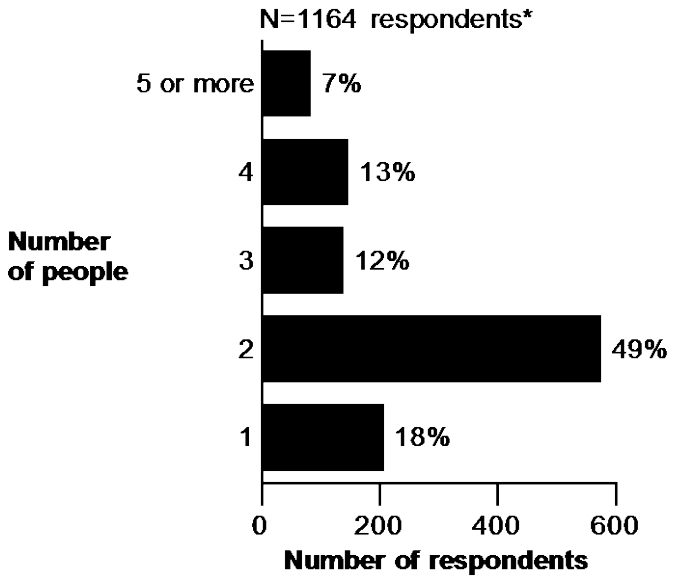



**Figure 19.** Number of people in respondent household

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Awareness of park programs*

**Question 2**

Prior to your visit, were you and your personal group aware of programs (ranger-led walks, canoe trips, presentations, school group tours, etc.) offered in Congaree NP?

Results

- 58% of visitor groups were aware of programs offered at the park (see Figure 20).

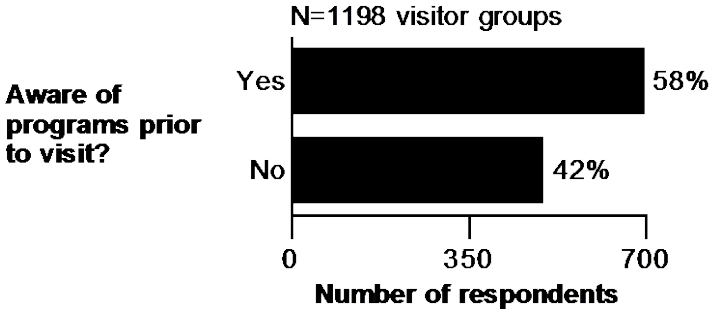



**Figure 20.** Visitor groups that were aware of programs in Congaree NP

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Park name change and decision to visit*

**Question 3a**

In 2003, Congaree Swamp National Monument became Congaree NP. Did this name change have any effect on your decision to visit?

Results

- 17% of respondents said their decision to visit was affected by the name change (see Figure 21).

**Question 3b**

If YES, what effect did it have? (Open-ended)

Results

- 216 respondents commented on the effect of the park's name change (see Table 11).

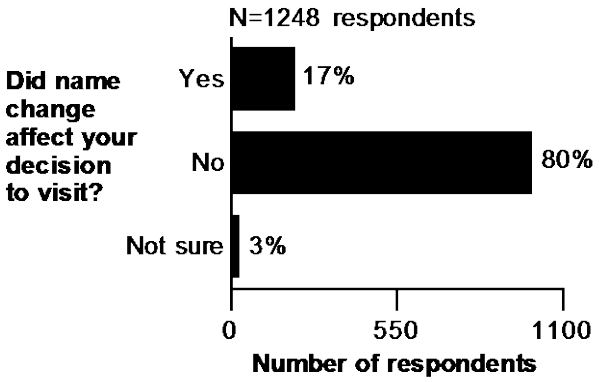



**Figure 21.** Respondents for whom the name change affected their decision to visit

**Table 11.** Effect of name change on decision to visit
(N=218 comments; some visitor groups made more than one comment)

| Comment | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| Goal is to visit all parks/as many parks as possible | 84 |
| National park status is more appealing | 25 |
| More interested in visiting a national park | 19 |
| National park seems more important | 16 |
| Increased desire to visit | 15 |
| Increased pride/prestige | 7 |
| More likely to visit a national park than a national monument | 7 |
| Site and facility improvements as a national park | 5 |
| Word "swamp" is not appealing | 5 |
| Raised awareness | 4 |
| Always visit a national park if in the area | 3 |
| Glad there is a local national park | 3 |
| Visit prompted by name change | 3 |
| Designation increased media coverage | 2 |
| Found it in list of national parks | 2 |
| I love national parks | 2 |
| Only visit national parks | 2 |
| Appears on a national park map | 1 |
| Association between outdoor activities and national parks | 1 |
| Didn't know there was a national park in South Carolina | 1 |
| Had great experiences with other national parks | 1 |
| Increased financial security | 1 |

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

**Table 11.** Effect of name change on decision to visit (continued)

| Comment | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| Looked for national parks near our route | 1 |
| National park #1 fan | 1 |
| National park rangers can answer all questions on what I want to see | 1 |
| Other national park experiences make visit worthwhile | 1 |
| Our 48th national park | 1 |
| Strict regulations preserve natural character | 1 |
| Swamp | 1 |
| Wanted to support it even more | 1 |
| Wanted to visit a new national park | 1 |

## *Knowledge of congressionally designated wilderness*

**Question 4a**

Prior to your visit, were you aware of what congressionally designated wilderness is?

Results

- 56% of respondents were aware of congressionally designated wilderness (see Figure 22).

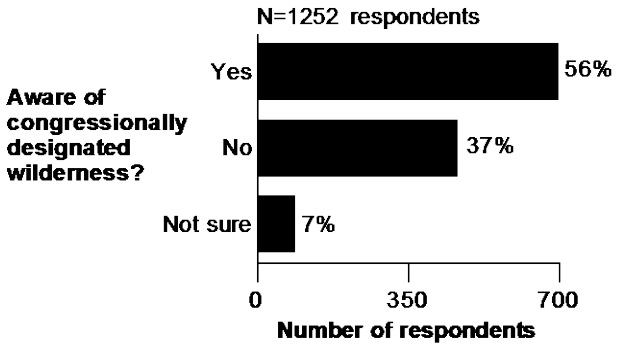



**Figure 22.** Respondents who were aware of congressionally designated wilderness

**Question 4b**

If NO, did you and your personal group learn about congressionally designated wilderness during your visit?

Results

- 48% of visitor groups said they learned about congressionally designated wilderness at Congaree NP during their visit (see Figure 23).

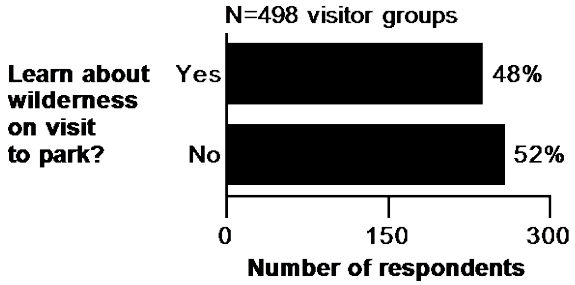



**Figure 23.** Visitor groups that learned about congressionally designated wilderness at park

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Awareness of park policy to remove non-native species*

**Question 5**

The National Park Service has a policy to control or remove non-native plants and animals from within park boundaries. Non-native species occupy an area that is not part of their natural, historic range, and often originated from another continent or region. Many of these species are invasive and damage park resources. Were you aware of this policy prior to your visit to Congaree NP?

Results

- 48% of respondents were aware of the park policy to remove non-native species (see Figure 24).

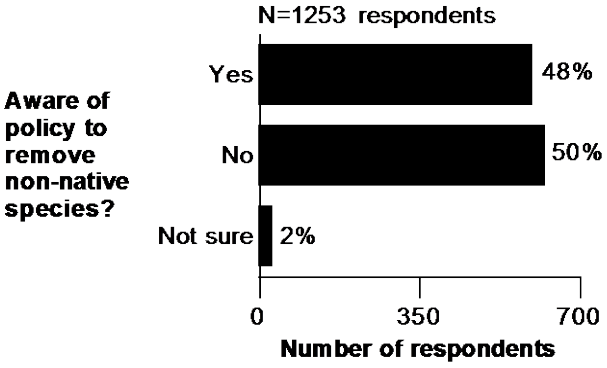



**Figure 24.** Respondents aware of park policy to remove non-native species

## *Support for policy to remove non-native species*

**Question 6**

Would you and your personal group be supportive of the control and removal of non-native species at Congaree NP?

Results

- 87% of visitor groups were supportive of the removal of non-native plants (see Figure 25).
- 76% were supportive of the removal of non-native animals (see Figure 26).

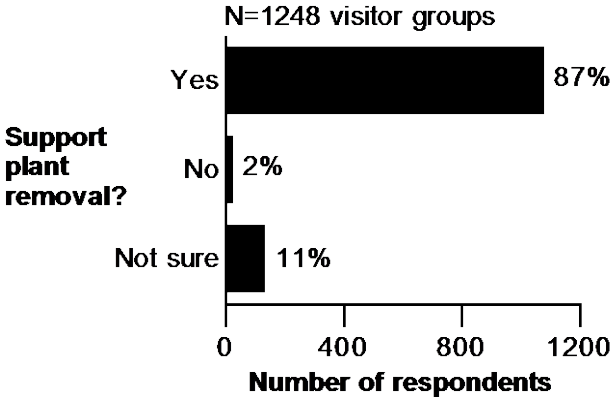



**Figure 25.** Visitor groups supporting the removal of non-native plants

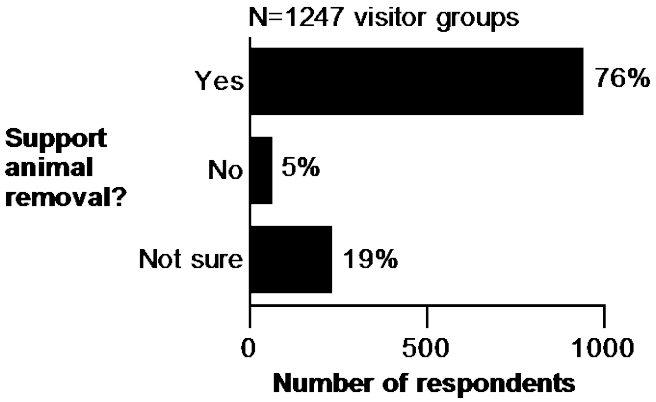



**Figure 26.** Visitor groups supporting the removal of non-native animals

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Awareness of research and education in the park*

**Question 15a**

Prior to this visit, were you and your personal group aware that Congaree NP is the home to the Old-Growth Bottomland Forest Research and Education Center, one of 21 centers nationwide?

Results

- 23% of visitor groups were aware of the Old-Growth Bottomland Forest Research and Education Center before their visit (see Figure 27).

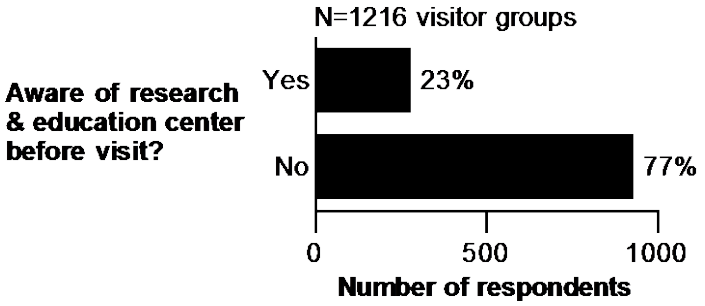



**Figure 27.** Visitor groups that were aware of the Old-Growth Bottomland Forest Research and Education Center before visit

**Question 15b**

Did you and your personal group notice any scientists, scientific markers, or scientific equipment at work while you were in the park?

Results

- 44% of visitor groups noticed scientists, scientific markers, or scientific equipment at work in the park (see Figure 28).

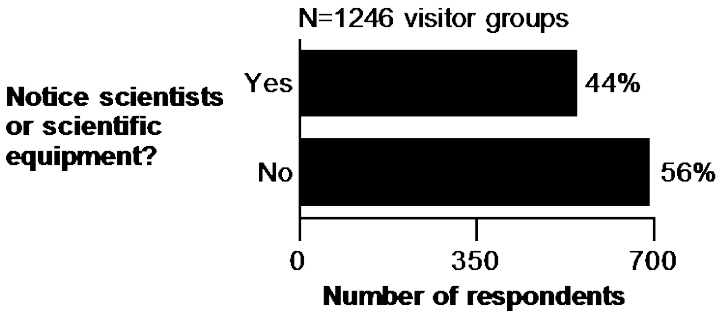



**Figure 28.** Visitor groups that noticed scientists, scientific markers, or scientific equipment at work during this visit

**Question 15c**

Did you and your personal group – through programs and products – learn about actual results of scientific studies at the park?

Results

- 28% of visitor groups learned about research results through programs and products while in the park (see Figure 29).

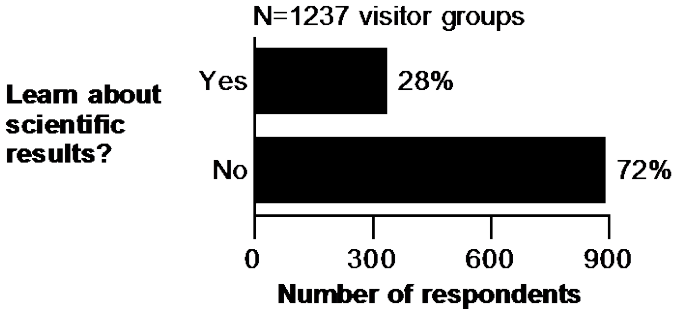



**Figure 29.** Visitor groups that learned about scientific results in the park

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

# Trip/Visit Characteristics and Preferences

## *Information sources prior to visit*

**Question 1**

Prior to your visit, how did you and your personal group obtain information about Congaree NP?

Results

- 93% of visitor groups obtained information about Congaree NP prior to their visit (see Figure 30).
- As shown in Figure 31, among those visitor groups that obtained information about Congaree NP prior to their visit, the most common sources were:

  52% Park website
  28% Friends/relatives/word of mouth
  24% Previous visits

- 7% used other websites (see Table 12).
- "Other" sources of information (6%) are shown in Table 13.

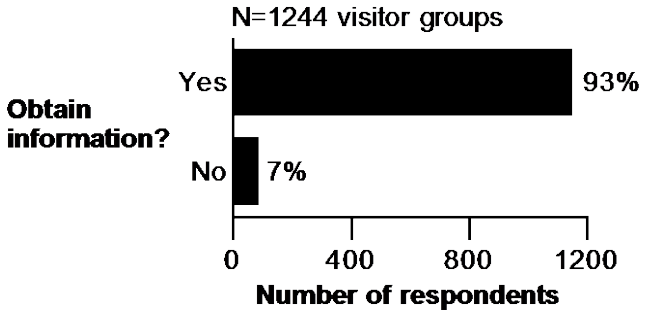



**Figure 30.** Visitor groups that obtained information prior to visit

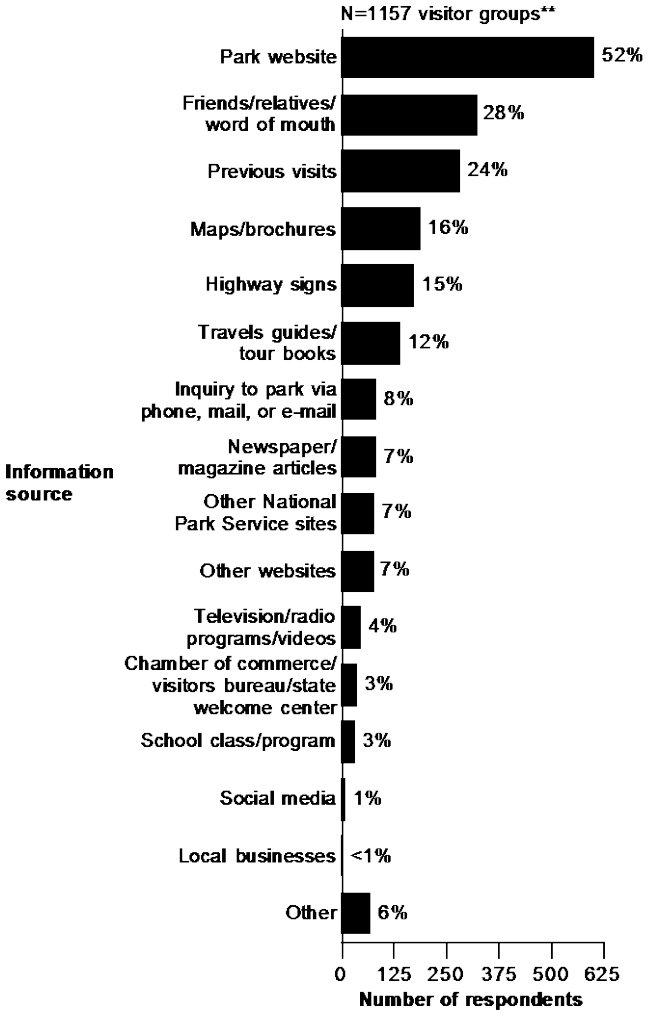



**Figure 31.** Sources of information

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

**Table 12.** Other websites used as information sources prior to visit
(N=70 comments; some visitor groups made more than one comment)

| Website | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| google.com | 16 |
| wikipedia.org | 9 |
| maps.google.com | 4 |
| mapquest.com | 3 |
| southcarolinaparks.com | 3 |
| tripadvisor.com | 3 |
| friendsofcongaree.org | 2 |
| parkstamps.org | 2 |
| sctrails.net | 2 |
| trails.com | 2 |
| backpack.com | 1 |
| Birding websites | 1 |
| birdsource.org | 1 |
| columbiacbv.com/visitors | 1 |
| columbia4kids.com | 1 |
| congareeriver.org | 1 |
| discoversouthcarolina.com | 1 |
| exploregeorgia.org | 1 |
| latimes.com | 1 |
| lincon.com/nps/nps_sites.htm | 1 |
| nationalgeographic.com | 1 |
| nationalparkstraveler.com | 1 |
| noca.org | 1 |
| peddler.net | 1 |
| scan.com | 1 |
| scgreatoutdoors.com | 1 |
| sciway.com | 1 |
| terragaleria.com | 1 |
| volunteer.gov | 1 |
| waterdata.usgs.gov | 1 |
| wildlifesouth.com | 1 |
| usa.reise.de | 1 |
| yahoo.com | 1 |
| youtube.com | 1 |

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

**Table 13.** "Other" sources of information used prior to visit
(N=66 comments; some visitor groups made more than one comment)

| Other information source | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| National Park Passport | 20 |
| National Parks Book | 5 |
| Book | 4 |
| Boy scouts | 3 |
| National Parks app | 3 |
| GPS | 2 |
| South Carolina State Fair | 2 |
| Air National Guard that constructed roof | 1 |
| Artwork of nephew on display | 1 |
| Bicycle group from Columbia | 1 |
| Big T's Barbecue | 1 |
| Book on South Carolina gardens | 1 |
| Church | 1 |
| Columbia Parks | 1 |
| Congaree Pottery | 1 |
| Fort Jackson | 1 |
| Friends of Congaree Swamp | 1 |
| Great Cypress Swamps book | 1 |
| Joan Maloof book | 1 |
| Junior Ranger program | 1 |
| Ken Burns' *National Parks* | 1 |
| *National Parks* by National Geographic | 1 |
| National Parks of the U.S. | 1 |
| New English Hiking Holidays | 1 |
| Outfitters | 1 |
| Ranger Program at Master Gardener meeting | 1 |
| Richland recreation trip | 1 |
| Santee birding festival | 1 |
| Senior group trip | 1 |
| Teacher ranger program | 1 |

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Park as destination*

**Question from on-site interview**

A two-minute interview was conducted with each individual selected to complete the questionnaire. During the interview, the question was asked: "How did this visit to Congaree NP fit into your personal group's travel plans?"

Results

- 71% of visitor groups indicated that the park was their primary destination (see Figure 32).
- 25% said the visit to Congaree NP was one of several destinations.

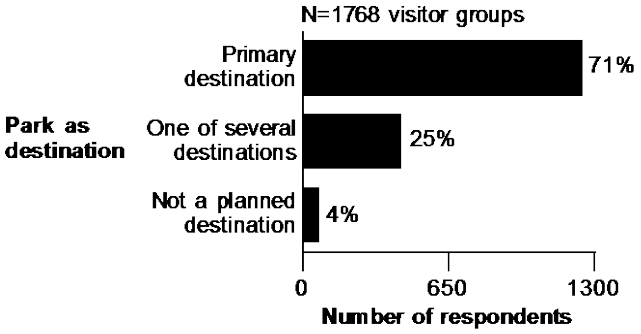



**Figure 32.** How visit to park fit into visitor groups' travel plans

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Alternate recreation site*

**Question 24a**

On this trip, if you and your personal group had not chosen to visit Congaree NP, what other recreation site would you have visited instead? (Open-ended)

Results

- 58% of visitor groups (N=725) responded to this question.
- Table 14 lists the places that visitor groups indicated as potential alternate sites they would have visited instead of Congaree NP.

**Table 14.** Alternate recreation site
(N=801 comments; some visitor groups made more than one comment)

| Alternate recreation site | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| None | 161 |
| Riverbanks Zoo | 45 |
| Harbison State Forest | 42 |
| Unsure | 33 |
| Sesquicentennial State Park | 27 |
| Lake Murray | 26 |
| Other State Park | 21 |
| Columbia Riverwalk | 17 |
| Poinsett State Park | 15 |
| Charleston, SC | 14 |
| South Carolina State Museum | 14 |
| Zoo | 14 |
| Other park | 13 |
| Peachtree Rock Preserve | 13 |
| Other South Carolina State Park | 12 |
| Francis Beidler Forest | 11 |
| Fort Sumter National Monument | 10 |
| Great Smoky Mountains | 10 |
| Great Smoky Mountains National Park | 9 |
| Museum | 9 |
| Other National Park | 9 |
| Santee National Wildlife Refuge | 8 |
| Beach | 6 |
| Myrtle Beach | 6 |
| Saluda Shoals Park | 6 |
| Three Rivers Greenway | 6 |
| Places to hike | 5 |
| Caesars Head State Park | 4 |
| Columbia Museum of Art | 4 |
| Lake Wateree | 4 |
| Ninety-Six National Historic Site | 4 |
| Saluda River | 4 |
| State Capitol | 4 |

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

**Table 14.** Alternate recreation site (continued)

| Alternate recreation site | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| Broad River | 3 |
| City parks | 3 |
| Congaree Creek Heritage Preserve | 3 |
| Congaree River | 3 |
| Finlay Park | 3 |
| Francis Marion National Forest | 3 |
| Jones Gap State Park | 3 |
| Okeefenokee | 3 |
| Plantation (within SC) | 3 |
| Riverfront Park | 3 |
| Riverwalk | 3 |
| Sumter National Forest | 3 |
| Bowling | 2 |
| Campground | 2 |
| Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge | 2 |
| Cowpens | 2 |
| Crowders Mountain State Park | 2 |
| Dreher Island State Park | 2 |
| Everglades | 2 |
| Florida | 2 |
| Fort Jackson | 2 |
| Historic sites | 2 |
| Hot Springs National Park | 2 |
| Huntington Beach State Park | 2 |
| Landsford Canal State Park | 2 |
| Lee State Park | 2 |
| Manchester State Forest | 2 |
| Mountains | 2 |
| North Carolina State Park | 2 |
| Outer Banks | 2 |
| Palmetto Trail | 2 |
| Pisgah National Forest | 2 |
| Shenandoah National Park | 2 |
| Table Rock State Park | 2 |
| Other sites | 163 |

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

**Question 24b**

How far is this alternative site from your home?

Results

- 54% of visitor groups indicated that they would travel up to 50 miles from their home to visit the alternate site (see Figure 33).
- 33% would travel 151 or more miles.

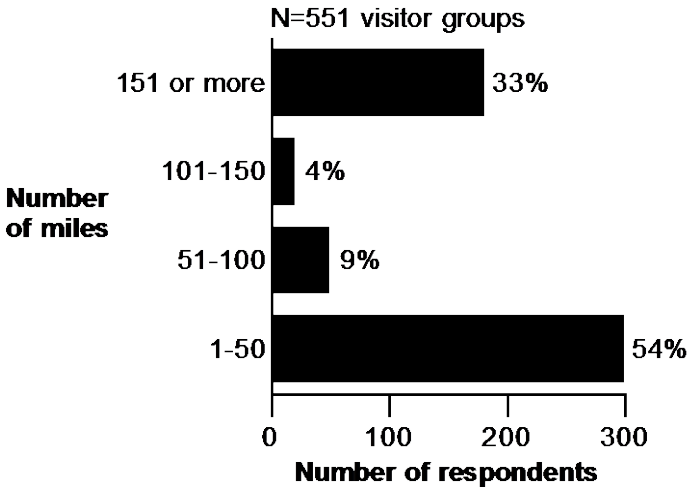



**Figure 33.** Number of miles to alternate recreation site

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Primary reason for visiting the park area*

**Question 7**

On this trip, what was the primary reason that you and your personal group came to the Congaree NP area (within 1-hour drive of the park)?

Results

- 28% of visitor groups were residents of the area (see Figure 34).
- As shown in Figure 35, the most common primary reason for visiting the area (within 1-hour drive of the park) among nonresident visitor groups were:

  61% Visit the park
  13% Visit friends/relatives in the area

- "Other" primary reasons (6%) are listed in Table 15.

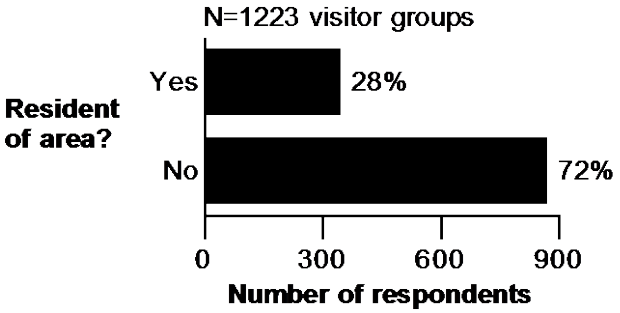



**Figure 34.** Residents of the area (within 1-hour drive of the park)

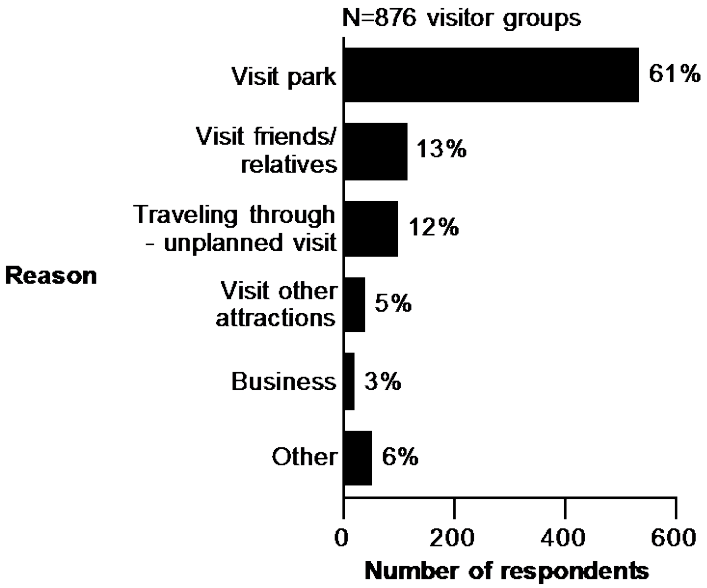



**Figure 35.** Primary reason for visiting the park area (within 1-hour drive of the park)

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

**Table 15. "**Other" reason for visiting the park area
(N=63 comments; some visitor groups made more than one comment)

| Reason for visit | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| Traveling through - planned visit | 14 |
| Basic training graduation | 4 |
| Church event | 4 |
| Boy Scout trip | 3 |
| Canoe trip | 3 |
| Hiking | 3 |
| Bringing son to college at USC | 2 |
| Conference | 2 |
| Enjoy nature with family/friends | 2 |
| Exercise | 2 |
| Photography | 2 |
| School | 2 |
| Attend hike posted on www.meetup.com/c-o-a-n | 1 |
| Big trees | 1 |
| Brought students to observe filming crew | 1 |
| Camping en route to other destination | 1 |
| Camping trip | 1 |
| Columbia, SC Repticon Show | 1 |
| Conference | 1 |
| Expose students to potential research topics | 1 |
| Family fun | 1 |
| Five Points | 1 |
| Junior Ranger Camp program registration | 1 |
| Limestone College science field trip | 1 |
| Military trip in the area | 1 |
| Mountain biking | 1 |
| RV overnight parking | 1 |
| See nephew's artwork | 1 |
| Stress release | 1 |
| USC graduation | 1 |
| Vacation | 1 |
| Wetland delineation class | 1 |

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Number of vehicles*

**Question 12**

On this visit, how many vehicles did you and your personal group use to arrive at the park?

Results

- 92% of visitor groups used one vehicle to arrive at the park (see Figure 36).

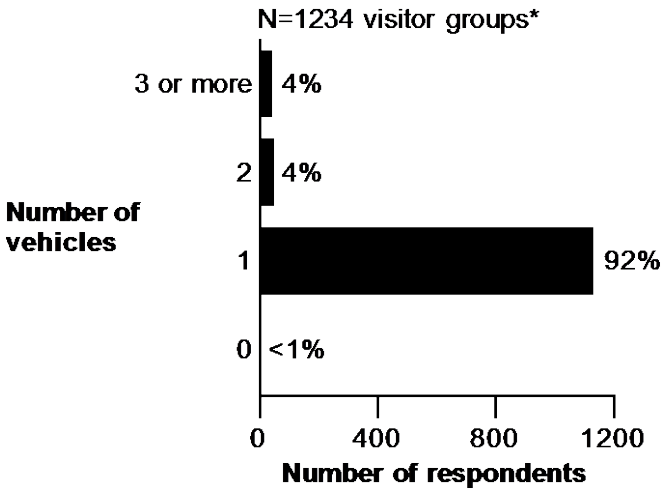



**Figure 36.** Number of vehicles used to arrive at the park

## *Overnight stays*

**Question 9a**

On this trip, did you and your personal group stay overnight away from your permanent residence either inside Congaree NP or within the nearby area (within 1-hour drive of the park)?

Results

- 39% of visitor groups stayed overnight away from home either in the park or the nearby area (see Figure 37).

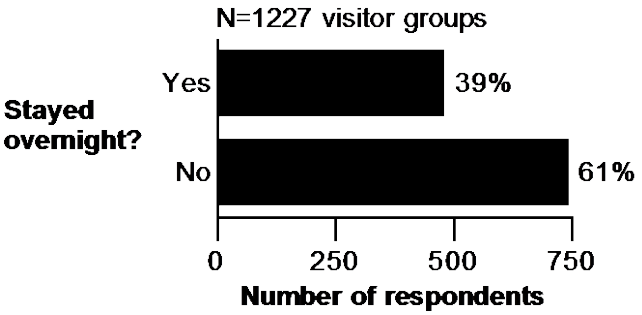



**Figure 37.** Visitor groups that stayed overnight in the park or within 1-hour drive of the park

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

**Question 9b**

If YES, how many nights did you and your personal group spend inside the park?

Results

- 50% of visitor groups spent one night in the park (see Figure 38).
- 43% spent two or three nights inside the park.

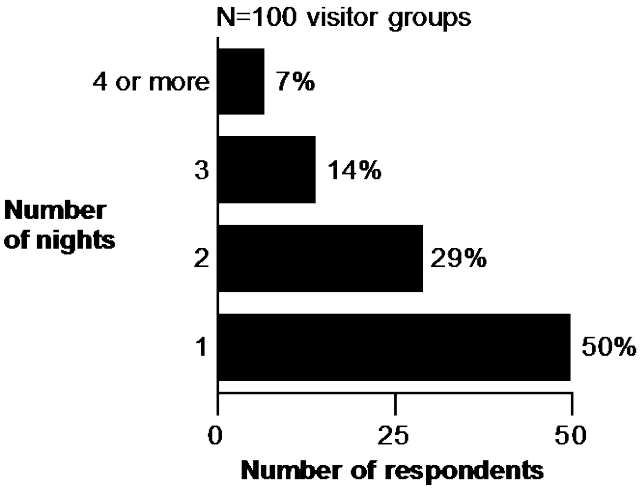



**Figure 38.** Number of nights spent inside the park

**Question 9c**

If YES, how many nights did you and your personal group spend outside the park within 1-hour drive?

Results

- 48% of visitor groups stayed one night outside the park within 1-hour drive of the park (see Figure 39).
- 34% stayed two or three nights.

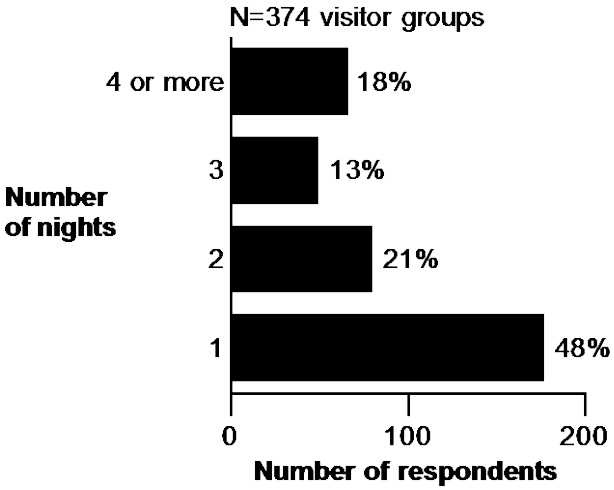



**Figure 39.** Number of nights spent in the area outside the park (within 1-hour drive of the park).

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Accommodations used inside the park*

**Question 9b**

In which types of accommodations did you and your personal group spend the night(s) inside the park?

Results

- As shown in Figure 40, the most common types of accommodations used by visitor groups inside the park were:

  55% Tent camping
  27% RV/trailer camping

- "Other" types of accommodations (1%) were:

  Van in parking lot
  Motorhome
  VW Eurovan camper

- Table 16 shows the number of nights spent in accommodations inside the park. Accommodations specified by fewer than 30 visitor groups should be interpreted with **CAUTION!**

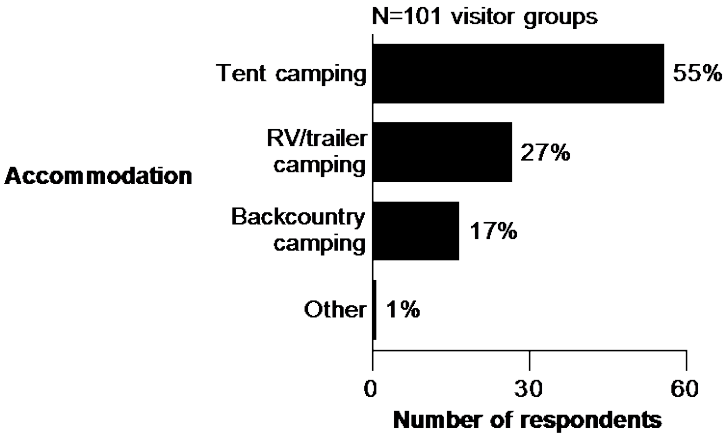



**Figure 40.** Accommodations used inside the park

**Table 16.** Number of nights spent in accommodations inside the park (N=number of visitor groups)

| | | Number of nights (%)* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Accommodation** | **N** | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 or more |
| RV/trailer camping – **CAUTION!** | 27 | 48 | 19 | 15 | 19 |
| Tent camping | 55 | 40 | 40 | 16 | 4 |
| Backcountry camping – **CAUTION!** | 17 | 88 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Other – **CAUTION!** | 1 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 |

Note: Some visitor groups indicated they used an accommodation without specifying the number of nights; therefore, the Ns in Figure 40 and Table 16 are different.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Accommodations used outside the park*

**Question 9c**

In which types of accommodations did you and your personal group spend the night(s) outside park within 1-hour drive?

Results

- 74% of visitor groups stayed overnight in a lodge, hotel, motel, cabin, rented condo/home, or bed & breakfast (see Figure 41).
- 15% stayed in a residence of friends or relatives.
- "Other" types of accommodations (1%) were not specified
- Table 17 shows the number of nights spent in accommodations outside the park within a 1-hour drive of the park. Accommodations specified by fewer than 30 visitor groups should be interpreted with **CAUTION!**

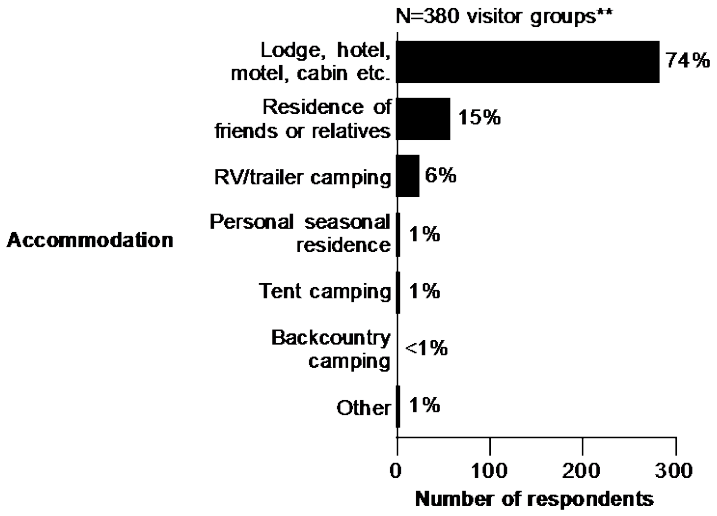



**Figure 41.** Accommodations used outside the park within 1-hour drive

**Table 17.** Number of nights spent in accommodations outside the park within 1-hour drive (N=number of visitor groups)

| | | Number of nights (%) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Accommodation** | **N** | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 or more |
| Lodge, hotel, motel, cabin, rented condo/home, or bed & breakfast | 280 | 54 | 20 | 13 | 13 |
| RV/trailer camping – **CAUTION!** | 24 | 33 | 29 | 17 | 21 |
| Tent camping – **CAUTION!** | 5 | 20 | 60 | 20 | 0 |
| Backcountry camping – **CAUTION!** | 1 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Personal seasonal residence – **CAUTION!** | 4 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 50 |
| Residence of friends or relatives | 56 | 27 | 23 | 14 | 36 |
| Other types of accommodations – **CAUTION!** | 4 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 50 |

Note: Some visitor groups indicated they used an accommodation without specifying the number of nights; therefore, the Ns in Figure 41 and Table 17 are different.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Length of stay in the park*

**Question 13b**
On this visit, how long did you and your personal group spend visiting Congaree NP?

Results

Number of hours if less than 24

- 53% spent 3-4 hours in the park (see Figure 42).
- 26% of visitor groups spent 1-2 hours.
- The average length of stay for visitor groups that spent less than 24 hours was 3.4 hours.

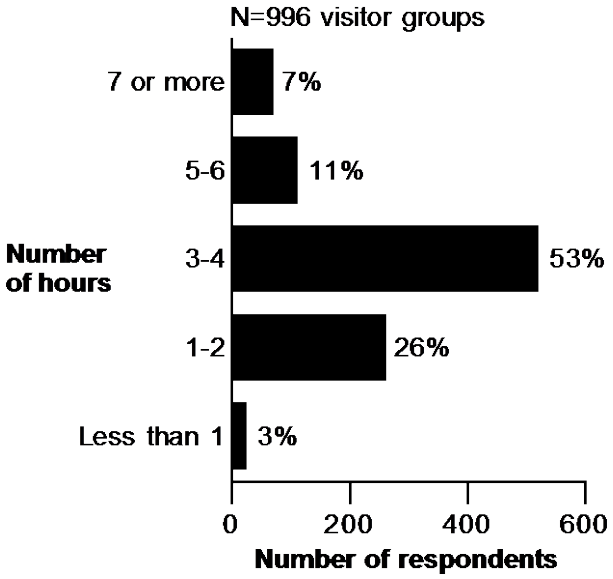



**Figure 42.** Number of hours spent in the park

Number of days if 24 hours or more

- 44% of visitor groups spent 2 days in the park (see Figure 43).
- The average length of stay for visitor groups that spent more than 24 hours was 2.4 days.

Average length of stay for all visitors

- The average length of stay in the park for all visitor groups was 7.7 hours, or 0.3 days.

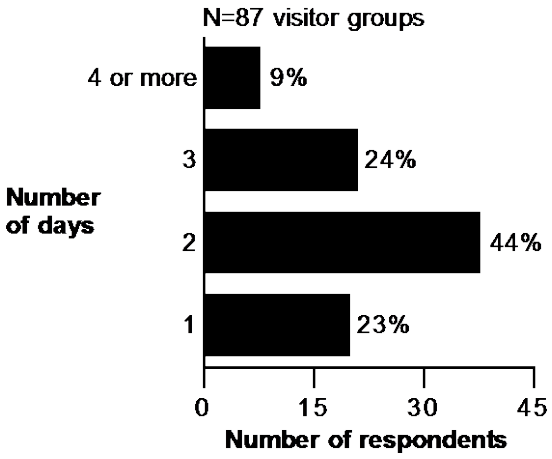



**Figure 43.** Number of days spent in the park

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Length of stay in the park area*

**Question 13a**

How long did you and your personal group stay in the Congaree NP area (within 1-hour drive of the park)?

Results

- 29% of visitor groups were residents of the area (within 1-hour drive of the park) (see Figure 44).

Number of hours if less than 24

- 39% of visitor groups spent 3-4 hours in the park area (see Figure 45).
- 29% spent 1-2 hours.
- The average length of stay in the area for visitor groups who spent less than 24 hours was 4.6 hours.

Number of days if 24 hours or more

- 33% of visitor groups spent 2 days in the park area (see Figure 46).
- 23% spent 3 days.
- The average length of stay for visitor groups that spent 24 hours or more was 4.1 days.

Average length of stay for all visitors

- The average length of stay for all visitor groups was 38.5 hours, or 1.6 days..

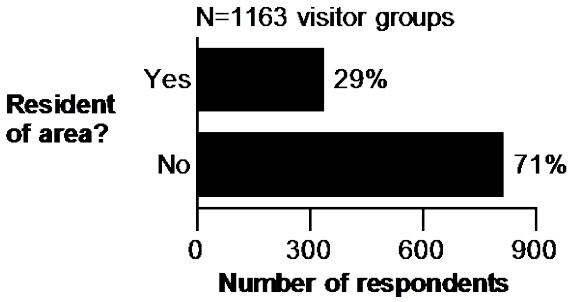



**Figure 44.** Residents of the area (within a 1-hour drive of the park)

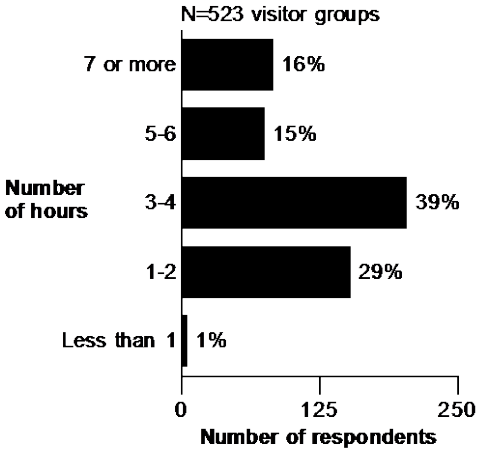



**Figure 45.** Number of hours spent in the park area (within a 1-hour drive of the park)

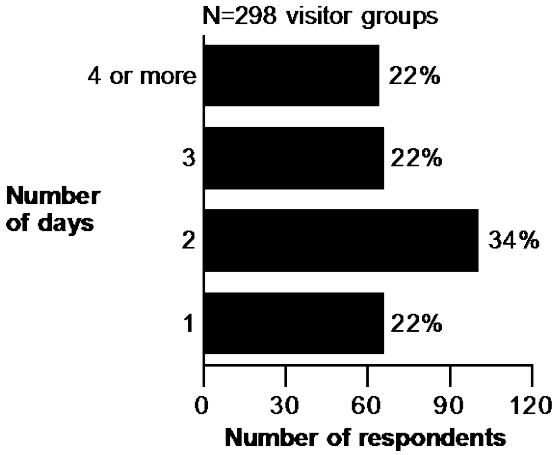



**Figure 46.** Number of days spent in the park area (within a 1-hour drive of the park)

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Sites visited in the Congaree NP area*

**Question 8**

On this visit, which sites did you and your personal group visit in the Congaree NP area (within 1-hour drive of the park)?

- As shown in Figure 47, the sites most commonly visited in the Congaree NP area were:

  23% The State Capitol
  22% University of South Carolina
  20% South Carolina State Parks

- The least visited site was:

  1% National Advocacy Center

- "Other" sites (26%) visited are shown in Table 18.

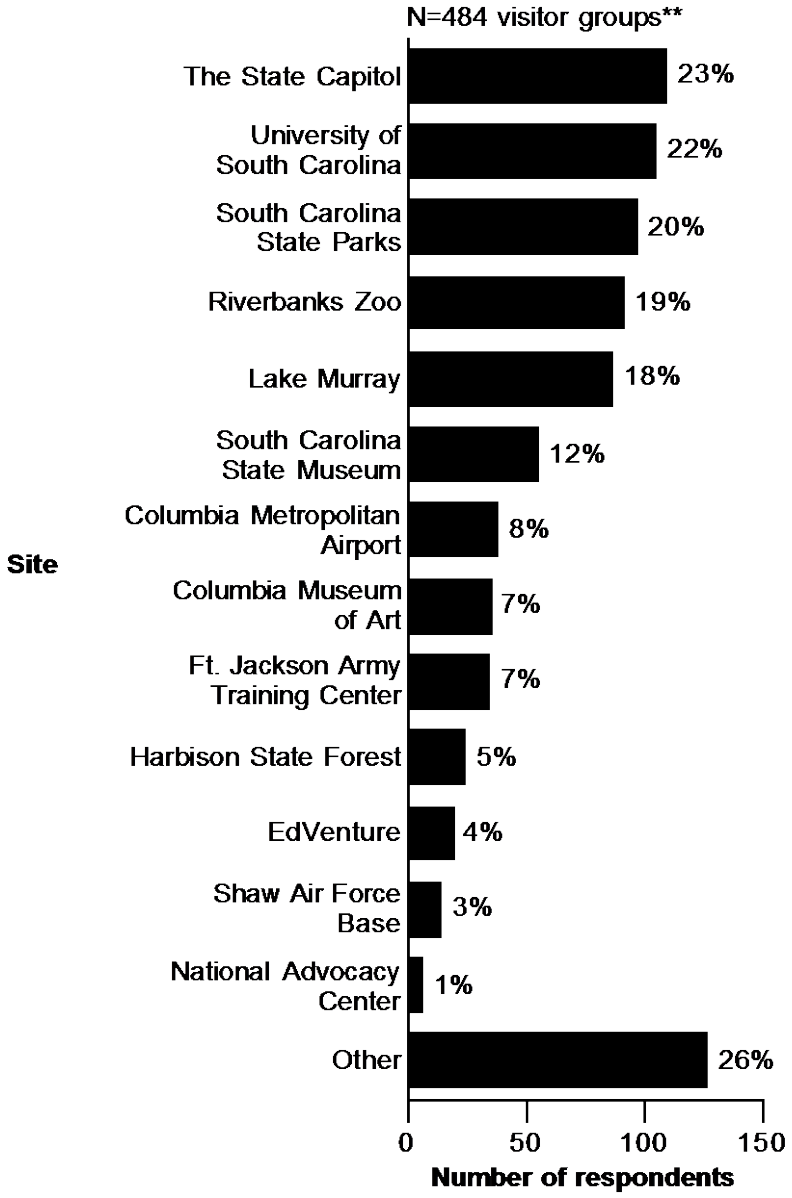



**Figure 47.** Sites visited in the park area (within 1-hour drive of the park)

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

**Table 18.** "Other" sites visited in the park area
(N=91 comments; some visitor groups made more than one comment)

| Site | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| Columbia, SC | 5 |
| Columbia Riverfront Park | 4 |
| Darlington Raceway | 4 |
| Santee National Wildlife Refuge | 4 |
| Congaree River | 3 |
| Eastover, SC | 2 |
| Edisto Memorial Gardens | 2 |
| Francis Beidler Forest | 2 |
| Lexington County Museum | 2 |
| Santee, SC | 2 |
| South Carolina farmers market | 2 |
| South Carolina Philharmonic | 2 |
| Swan Lake | 2 |
| Aircraft carrier Yorktown | 1 |
| Blue Ridge Mountains | 1 |
| Boardwalk trail | 1 |
| Broad River | 1 |
| Camden, SC | 1 |
| Carel Walk | 1 |
| Carolina Sandhills Wildlife | 1 |
| Cayce Park | 1 |
| Cedar Creek | 1 |
| Chapin, SC | 1 |
| City Roots food trucks | 1 |
| Civil War Museum in Columbia | 1 |
| Clemson Sandhill Research and Education Center | 1 |
| Columbia Airport | 1 |
| Columbia Fire Department Museum | 1 |
| Congress Swamp | 1 |
| Cowpens | 1 |
| Downtown historic homes | 1 |
| Edisto River | 1 |
| Five Point | 1 |
| Folley Beach | 1 |
| G-Mart | 1 |
| Geographic center of SC | 1 |
| Granby Park | 1 |
| Greenway Riverwalk | 1 |
| Harbison Mall | 1 |
| Historical churches in Columbia, SC | 1 |
| Kensington Mansion | 1 |
| Kohl's department store | 1 |
| Lake Francis Marion | 1 |

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

**Table 18.** "Other" sites visited in the park area (continued)

| Site | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| Maurice's BBQ | 1 |
| Miyabi Restaurant | 1 |
| National battlefields | 1 |
| National Guard Museum | 1 |
| Nickelodeon | 1 |
| Orangeburg, SC | 1 |
| Poinsett State Park | 1 |
| Richmond County Library | 1 |
| Riverbanks Botanical Gardens | 1 |
| Rivers Bridge State Historic Site | 1 |
| Riverwalk | 1 |
| Saint Matthews | 1 |
| Saluda River | 1 |
| Santee Wildlife Refuge | 1 |
| Shopping, job fairs | 1 |
| State Capitol Building | 1 |
| State fair grounds garage sale | 1 |
| Steeplechase in Camden (Colonial Cup) | 1 |
| The Vista | 1 |
| Three Rivers Walk | 1 |
| Tony's Restaurant | 1 |
| USC campus | 1 |
| Weston Lake | 1 |
| Woodgone Woodworking Store | 1 |

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Activities within the park*

**Question 11**

On this visit, in which activities did you and your personal group participate within Congaree NP?

Results

- As shown in Figure 48, the most common activities in which visitor groups participated were:

  83% Walking/hiking
  73% Visiting the visitor center

- "Other" activities (6%) are shown in Table 19.

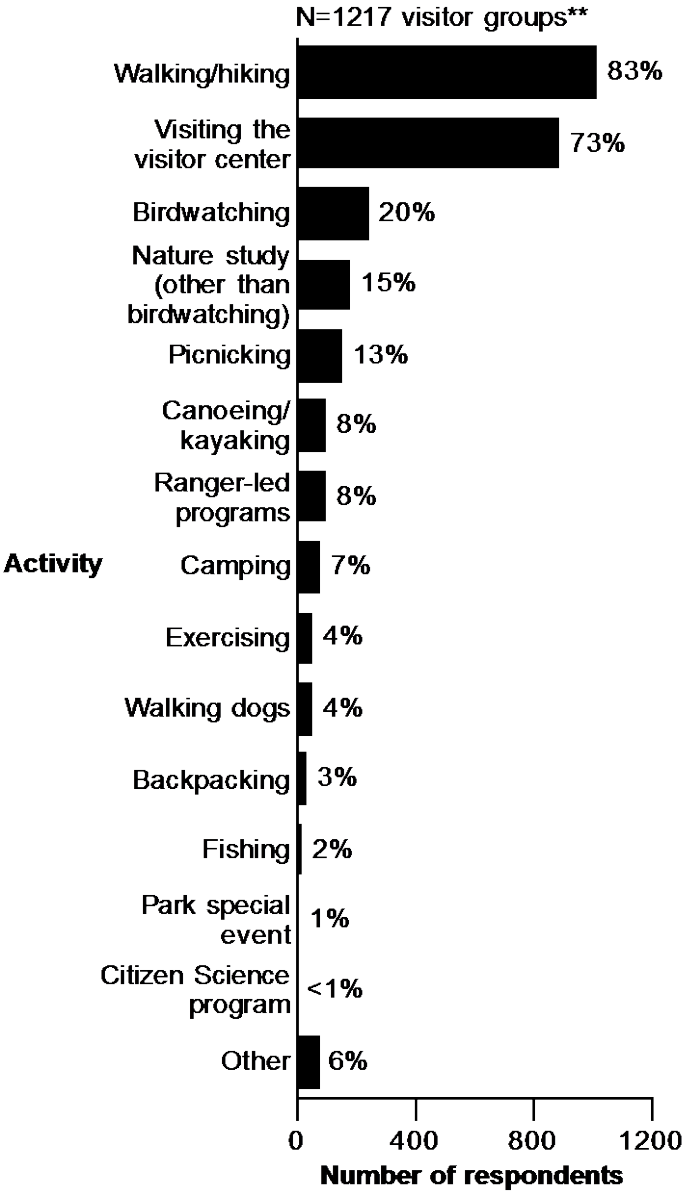



**Figure 48.** Activities on this visit

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

**Table 19.** "Other" activities participated in
(N=81 comments; some visitor groups made more than one comment)

| Activity | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| Photography | 31 |
| Junior Ranger program | 18 |
| View park film | 6 |
| View wildlife | 4 |
| Enjoying nature | 3 |
| Obtain National Park Passport stamp | 3 |
| Guided tour | 2 |
| School event | 2 |
| Bible study | 1 |
| Boardwalk | 1 |
| Drawing | 1 |
| Eating paw paws | 1 |
| Living History tour | 1 |
| Met with park ranger for help with school project | 1 |
| Plan future trip | 1 |
| Quiet | 1 |
| Reading maps/information charts, collected trail maps for future use | 1 |
| Self-guided tour | 1 |
| View plants | 1 |
| Volunteer-led walk | 1 |

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Use of park trails*

**Question 10a**

On this visit to Congaree NP, did you and your personal group walk/ canoe/ kayak any park trails?

Results

- 94% of visitor groups used a park trail in Congaree NP (see Figure 49).

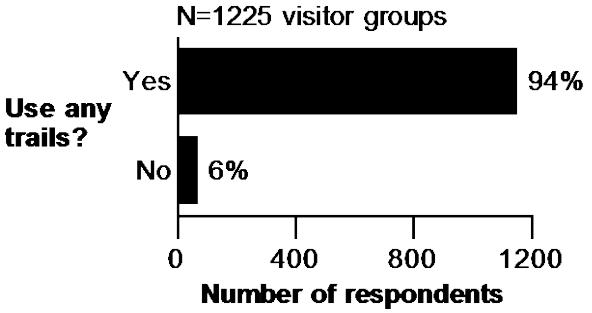



**Figure 49.** Visitor groups that used park trails

**Question 10b**

If YES, which of the following trails did you and your personal group walk/ canoe/kayak on this visit?

Results

- As shown in Figure 50, of those visitor groups that used park trails, the most commonly used trails were:

  80% Elevated Boardwalk Trail
  64% Low Boardwalk Trail
  34% Weston Lake Loop Trail

- The least used trail was the Kingsnake Trail (3%).

- "Other" trails (1%) were:

  Dog trails
  Wise Lake
  All trails around visitor center
  Bannister Bridge Canoe Trail
  Big Tree guided walk
  Big Tree Hill
  Champion Tree Trail
  From visitor center to campground
  Harry Hampton Tree
  Looped down to river

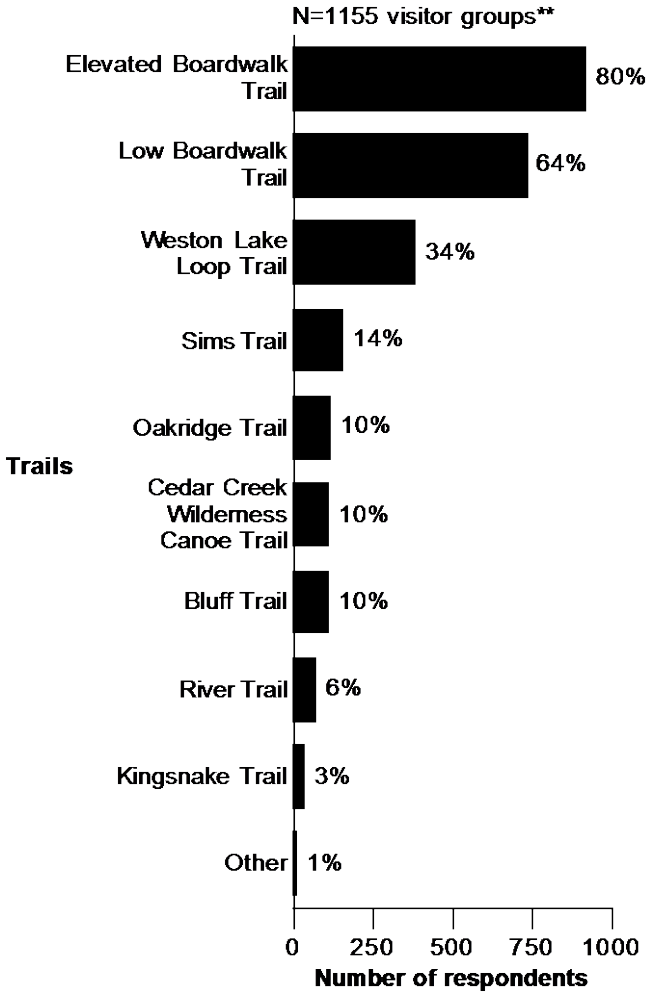



**Figure 50.** Trails used in Congaree NP

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

# Ratings of Services, Facilities, Attributes, Resources, and Elements

## *Information services and facilities used*

**Question 16a**

Please indicate all of the information services and facilities that you or your personal group used at Congaree NP during this visit.

Results

- As shown in Figure 51, the most common information services and facilities used by visitor groups were:

  87% Park brochure/map
  84% Assistance from park staff
  76% Visitor center exhibits

- The least used services/facilities were:

  6% Junior Ranger program
  6% Ranger-guided canoe tours

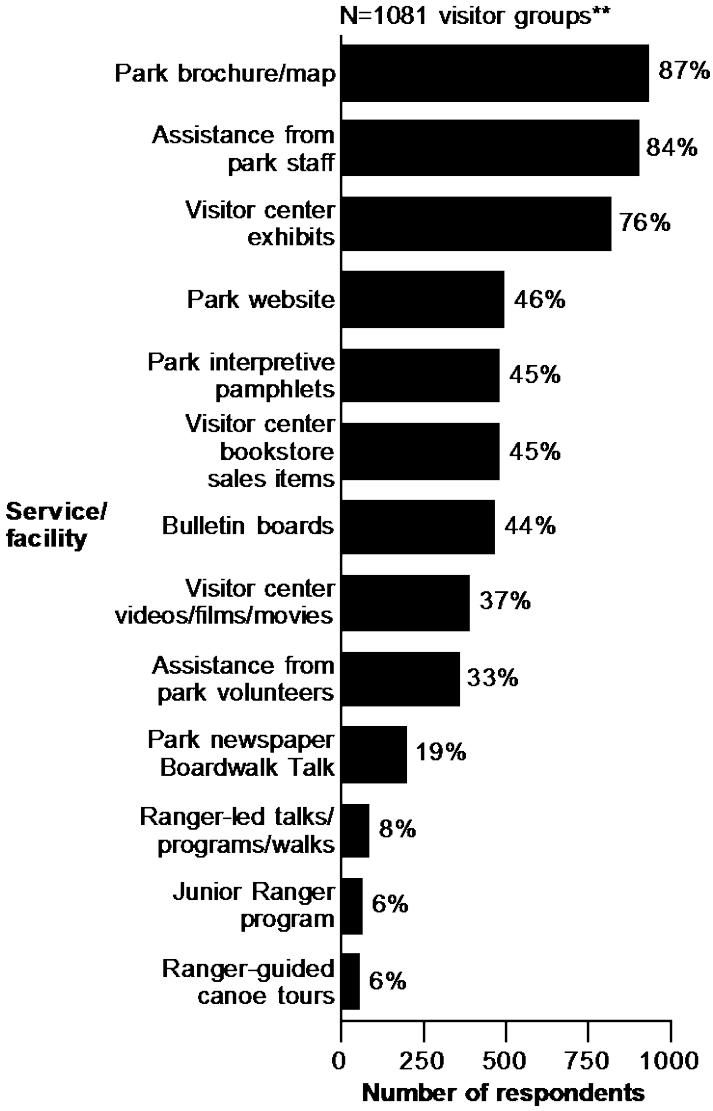



**Figure 51.** Information services and facilities used

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Importance ratings of information services and facilities*

**Question 16b**

For only those services and facilities that you or your personal group used, please rate their importance to your visit from 1-5.

1=Not important
2=Somewhat important
3=Moderately important
4=Very important
5=Extremely important

Results

- Figure 52 shows the combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings of information services and facilities that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- The services and facilities receiving the highest combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings were:

  98% Ranger-guided canoe tours
  91% Park brochure/map
  87% Ranger-led talks/programs/walks
  87% Park website

- Table 20 shows the importance ratings of each service and facility.
- The service/facility receiving the highest "not important" rating that was rated by 30 or more visitor groups was:

  9% Junior Ranger program

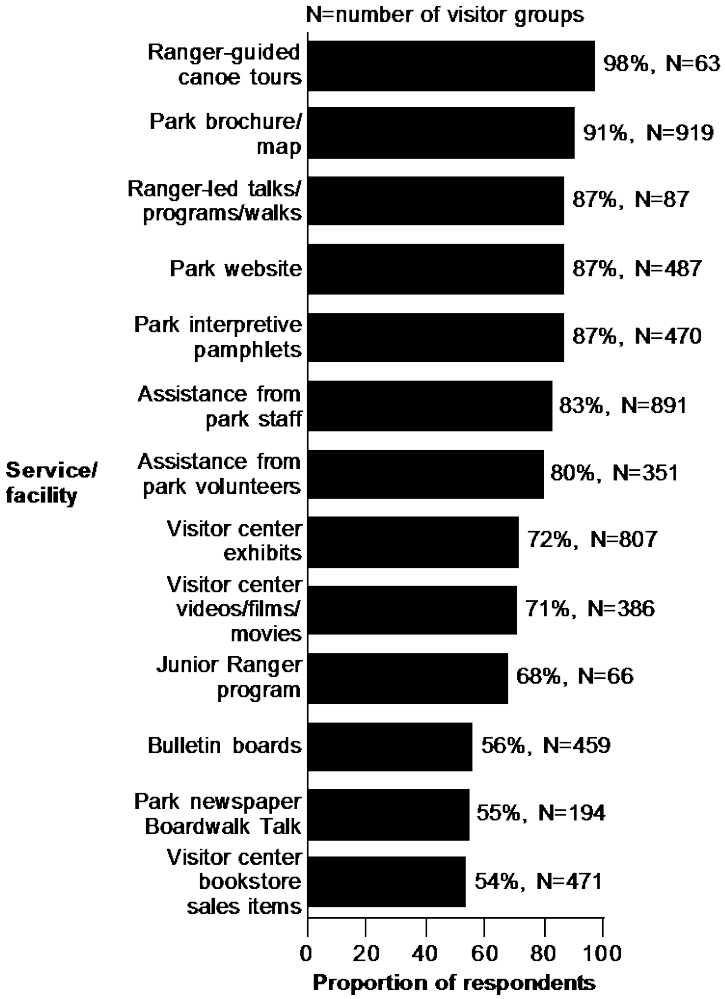



**Figure 52.** Combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings of information services and facilities

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

**Table 20.** Importance ratings of information services and facilities
(N=number of visitor groups)

| | | Rating (%)* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Service/facility** | **N** | Not important | Somewhat important | Moderately important | Very important | Extremely important |
| Assistance from park staff | 891 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 41 | 42 |
| Assistance from park volunteers | 351 | 1 | 6 | 13 | 41 | 39 |
| Bulletin boards | 459 | <1 | 9 | 35 | 36 | 20 |
| Junior Ranger program | 66 | 9 | 6 | 17 | 27 | 41 |
| Park brochure/map | 919 | <1 | 2 | 7 | 32 | 59 |
| Park interpretive pamphlets | 470 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 39 | 48 |
| Park newspaper *Boardwalk Talk* | 194 | 3 | 10 | 31 | 34 | 21 |
| Park website (nps.gov/cong) | 487 | <1 | 1 | 12 | 35 | 52 |
| Ranger-led talks/ programs/walks | 87 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 30 | 57 |
| Ranger-guided canoe tours | 63 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 22 | 76 |
| Visitor center bookstore sales items | 471 | 3 | 14 | 28 | 33 | 21 |
| Visitor center videos/films/movies | 386 | 0 | 7 | 22 | 37 | 34 |
| Visitor center exhibits | 807 | <1 | 5 | 22 | 38 | 34 |

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Quality ratings of information services and facilities*

**Question 16c**

For only those services and facilities that you or your personal group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

1=Very poor
2=Poor
3=Average
4=Good
5=Very good

Results

- Figure 53 shows the combined proportions of "very good" and "good" ratings of information services and facilities that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- The services and facilities receiving the highest combined proportions of "very good" and "good" ratings were:

  98% Ranger-guided canoe tours
  97% Assistance from park staff
  96% Assistance from park volunteers

- Table 21 shows the quality ratings of each service and facility.
- The services/facilities receiving the highest "very poor" ratings that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups were:

  <1% Assistance from park volunteers
  <1% Park brochure/map
  <1% Park website
  <1% Visitor center bookstore sales items
  <1% Visitor center videos/films/movies

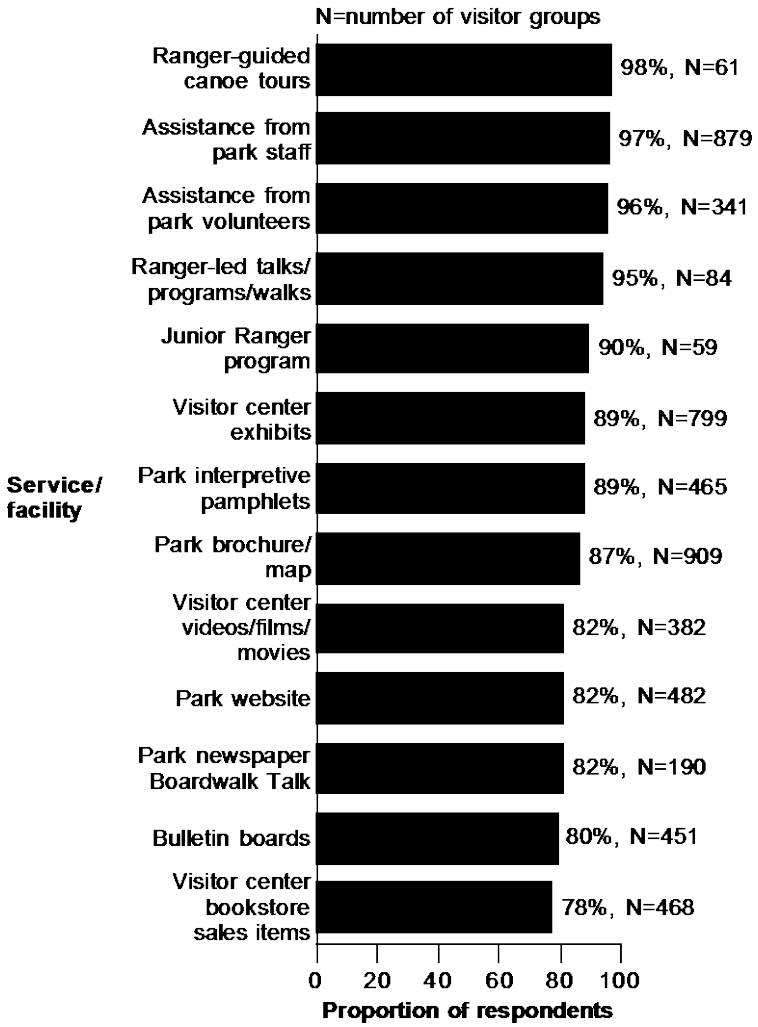



**Figure 53.** Combined proportions of "very good" and "good" ratings of information services and facilities

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

**Table 21.** Quality ratings of information services and facilities
(N=number of visitor groups that rated each service and facility)

| | | Rating (%)* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Service/facility** | **N** | Very poor | Poor | Average | Good | Very good |
| Assistance from park staff | 879 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 82 |
| Assistance from park volunteers | 341 | <1 | 1 | 3 | 19 | 77 |
| Bulletin boards | 451 | 0 | 1 | 19 | 41 | 39 |
| Junior Ranger program | 59 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 31 | 59 |
| Park brochure/map | 909 | <1 | 2 | 11 | 32 | 55 |
| Park interpretive pamphlets | 465 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 35 | 54 |
| Park newspaper *Boardwalk Talk* | 190 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 39 | 43 |
| Park website (nps.gov/cong) | 482 | <1 | 1 | 16 | 41 | 41 |
| Ranger-led talks/ programs/walks | 84 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 20 | 75 |
| Ranger-guided canoe tours | 61 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 16 | 82 |
| Visitor center bookstore sales items | 468 | <1 | 2 | 20 | 35 | 43 |
| Visitor center videos/films/movies | 382 | <1 | 3 | 15 | 37 | 45 |
| Visitor center exhibits | 799 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 34 | 55 |

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Mean scores of importance and quality ratings of information services and facilities*

- Figures 54 and 55 show the mean scores of importance and quality ratings of information and facilities that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- All information services and facilities were rated above average.

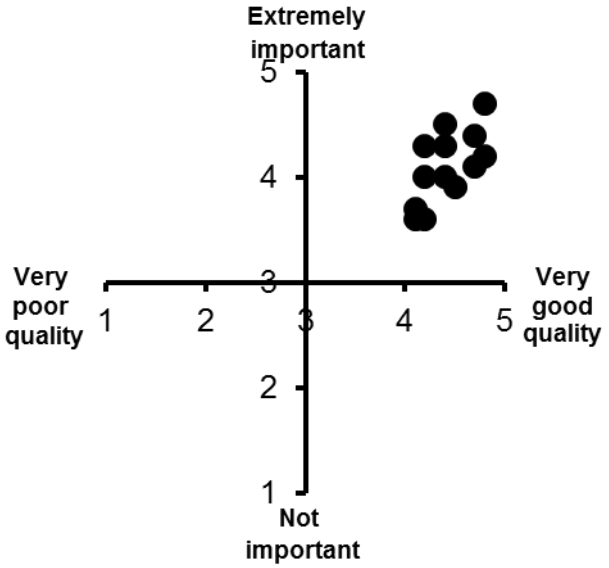



**Figure 54.** Mean scores of importance and quality ratings of information services and facilities

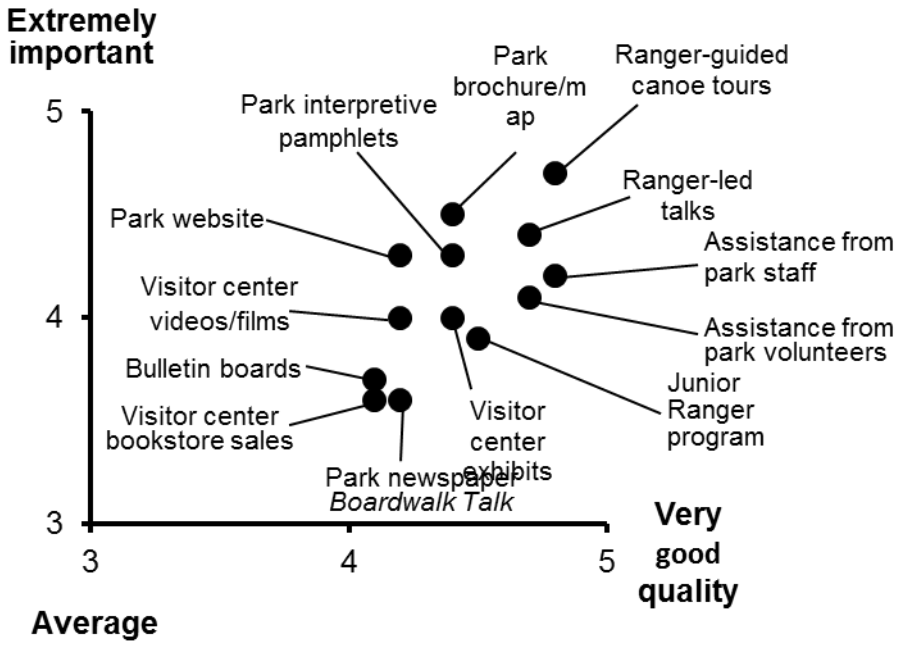



**Figure 55.** Detail of Figure 54

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Visitor services and facilities used*

**Question 17a**

Please indicate all of the visitor services and facilities that you or your personal group used at Congaree NP during this visit.

Results

- As shown in Figure 56, the most common visitor services and facilities used by visitor groups were:

  89% Boardwalks
  88% Restrooms
  86% Parking areas

- The least used service/facility was:

  3% Backcountry camping

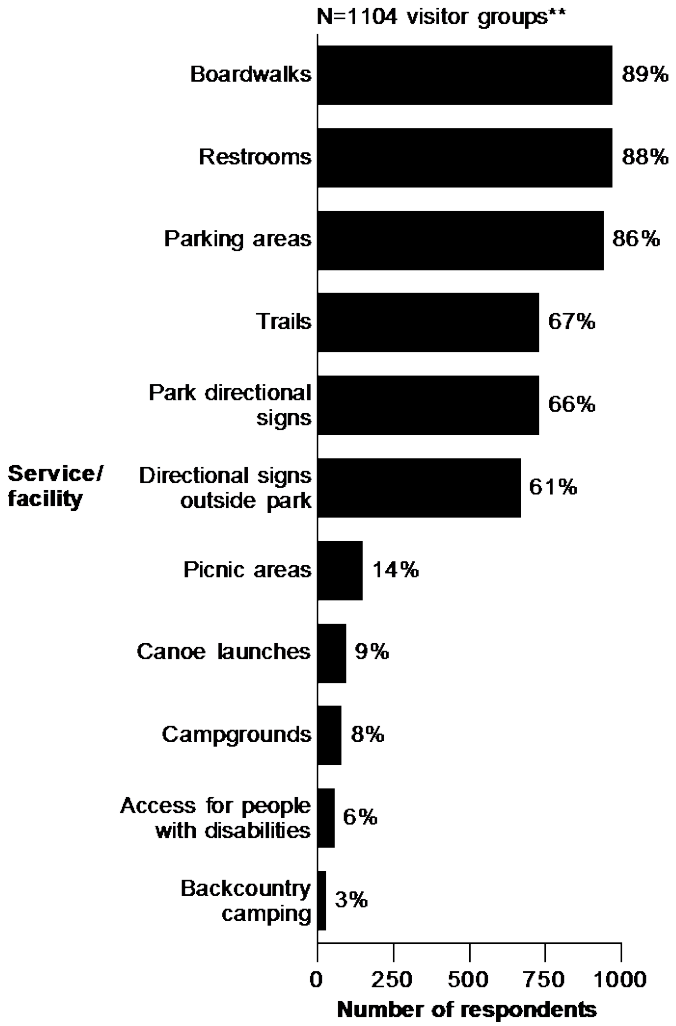



**Figure 56.** Visitor services and facilities used

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Importance ratings of visitor services and facilities*

**Question 17b**

For only those services and facilities that you or your personal group used, please rate their importance to your visit from 1-5.

1=Not important
2=Somewhat important
3=Moderately important
4=Very important
5=Extremely important

Results

- Figure 57 shows the combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings of visitor services and facilities that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- The visitor services and facilities receiving the highest combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings were:

  98% Trails
  93% Access for people with disabilities
  91% Park directional signs
  91% Campgrounds

- Table 22 shows the importance ratings of each service and facility.
- The services/facilities receiving the highest "not important" ratings that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups were:

  1% Boardwalks
  1% Parking areas

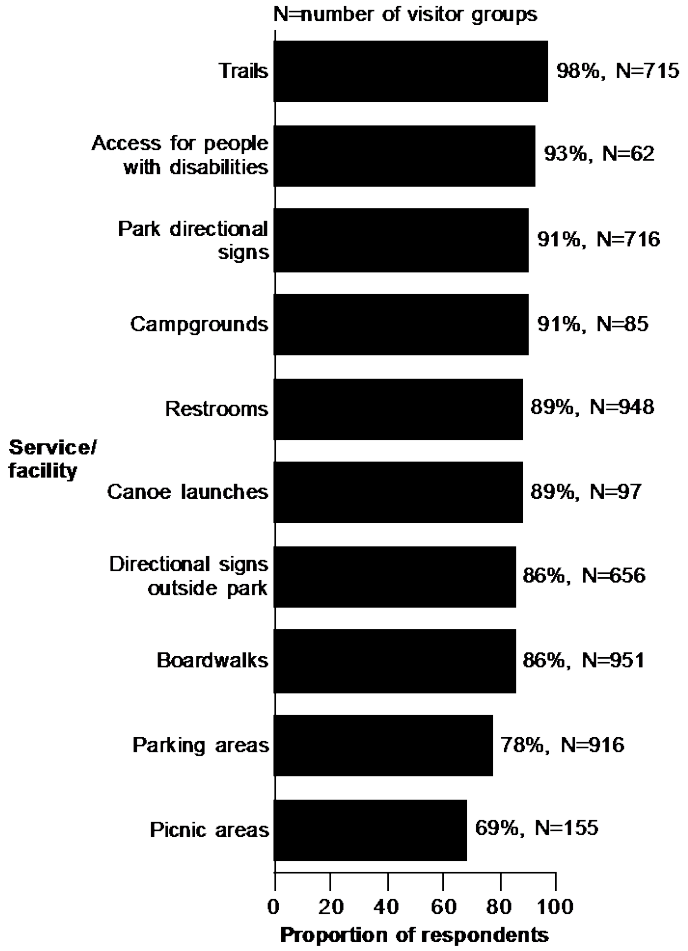



**Figure 57.** Combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings of visitor services and facilities

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

**Table 22.** Importance ratings of visitor services and facilities
(N=number of visitor groups)

| | | Rating (%)* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Service/facility** | **N** | Not important | Somewhat important | Moderately important | Very important | Extremely important |
| Access for people with disabilities | 62 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 24 | 69 |
| Backcountry camping - **CAUTION!** | 29 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 69 |
| Boardwalks | 951 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 29 | 57 |
| Campgrounds | 85 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 31 | 60 |
| Canoe launches | 97 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 33 | 56 |
| Directional signs outside park | 656 | <1 | 2 | 11 | 29 | 57 |
| Park directional signs | 716 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 32 | 59 |
| Parking areas | 916 | 1 | 4 | 17 | 35 | 43 |
| Picnic areas | 155 | 0 | 3 | 28 | 38 | 31 |
| Restrooms | 948 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 24 | 65 |
| Trails | 715 | <1 | <1 | 2 | 22 | 76 |

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Quality ratings of visitor services and facilities*

**Question 17c**

For only those services and facilities that you or your personal group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

1=Very poor
2=Poor
3=Average
4=Good
5=Very good

Results

- Figure 58 shows the combined proportions of "very good" and "good" ratings of visitor services and facilities that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- The services and facilities receiving the highest combined proportions of "very good" and "good" ratings were:

  96% Boardwalks
  95% Trails
  95% Restrooms

- Table 23 shows the quality ratings of each service and facility.
- The service/facility receiving the highest "very poor" rating that was rated by 30 or more visitor groups was:

  5% Campgrounds

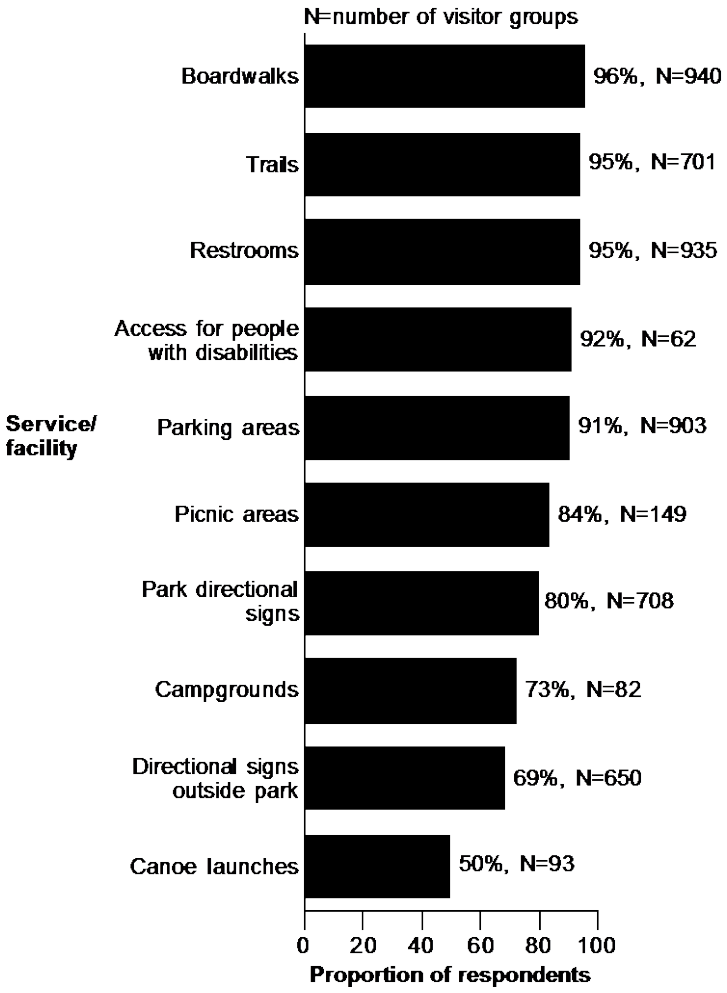



**Figure 58.** Combined proportions of "very good" and "good" ratings of visitor services and facilities

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

**Table 23.** Quality ratings of visitor services and facilities
(N=number of visitor groups)

| | | Rating (%)* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Service/facility** | **N** | Very poor | Poor | Average | Good | Very good |
| Access for people with disabilities | 62 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 29 | 63 |
| Backcountry camping - **CAUTION!** | 28 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 39 | 39 |
| Boardwalks | 940 | <1 | <1 | 3 | 21 | 75 |
| Campgrounds | 82 | 5 | 5 | 17 | 34 | 39 |
| Canoe launches | 93 | 2 | 15 | 33 | 23 | 27 |
| Directional signs outside park | 650 | 3 | 8 | 20 | 31 | 38 |
| Park directional signs | 708 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 34 | 46 |
| Parking areas | 903 | <1 | <1 | 8 | 29 | 62 |
| Picnic areas | 149 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 37 | 47 |
| Restrooms | 935 | <1 | 1 | 4 | 24 | 71 |
| Trails | 701 | <1 | 1 | 4 | 28 | 67 |

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Mean scores of importance and quality ratings of visitor services and facilities*

- Figures 59 and 60 show the mean scores of importance and quality ratings of visitor services and facilities that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- All visitor services and facilities were rated above average.

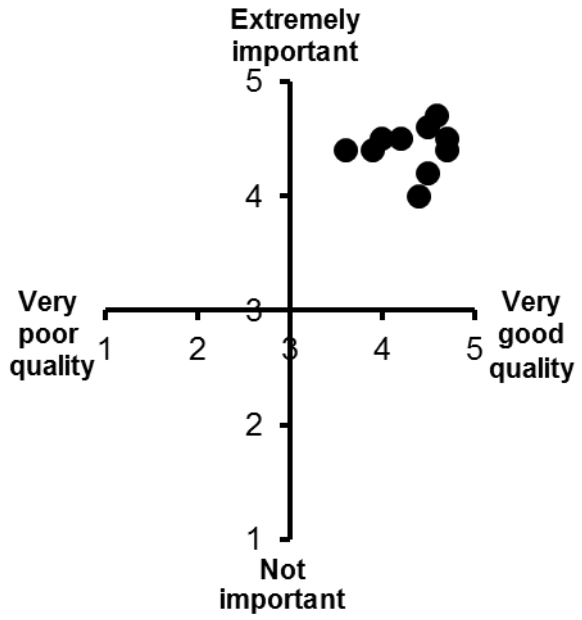



**Figure 59.** Mean scores of importance and quality of visitor services and facilities

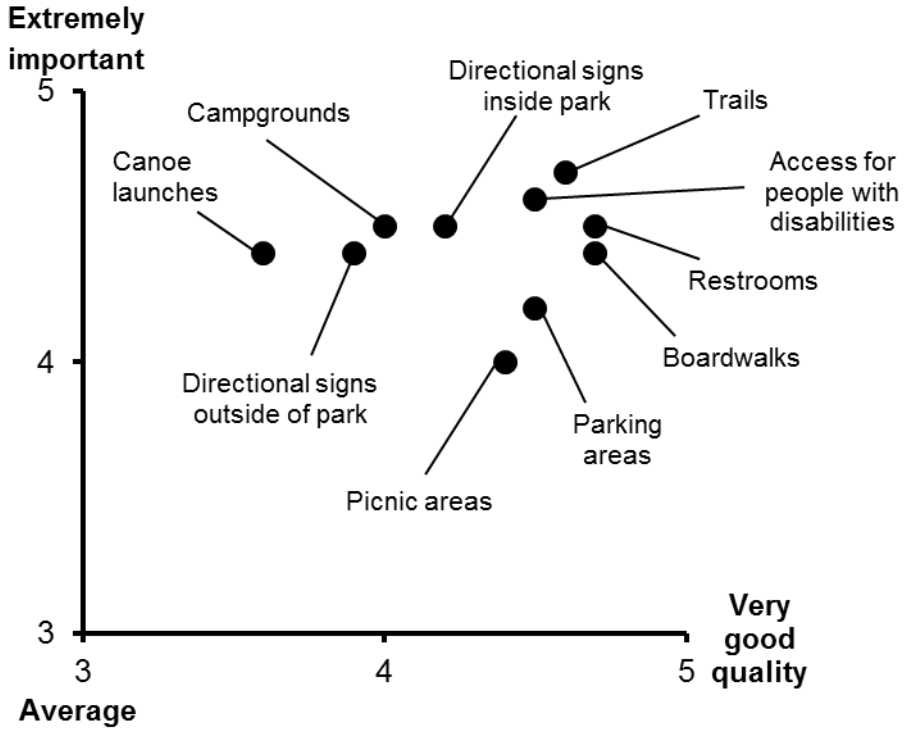



**Figure 60.** Detail of Figure 59

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Importance of protecting park resources and attributes*

**Question 14**

It is the National Park Service's responsibility to protect the natural, scenic, and cultural resources of Congaree NP while at the same time providing for public enjoyment. How important is protection of the following resources/attributes in the park to you and your personal group?

1=Not important
2=Somewhat important
3=Moderately important
4=Very important
5=Extremely important

Results

- As shown in Figure 61, the highest combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings of protecting park resources and attributes were:

  92% Clean water
  92% Clean air
  91% Natural quiet/sounds of nature

- Table 24 shows the importance ratings of each resource/attribute.

- The resource/attribute receiving the highest "not important" rating was:

  8% Clear night sky (stargazing)

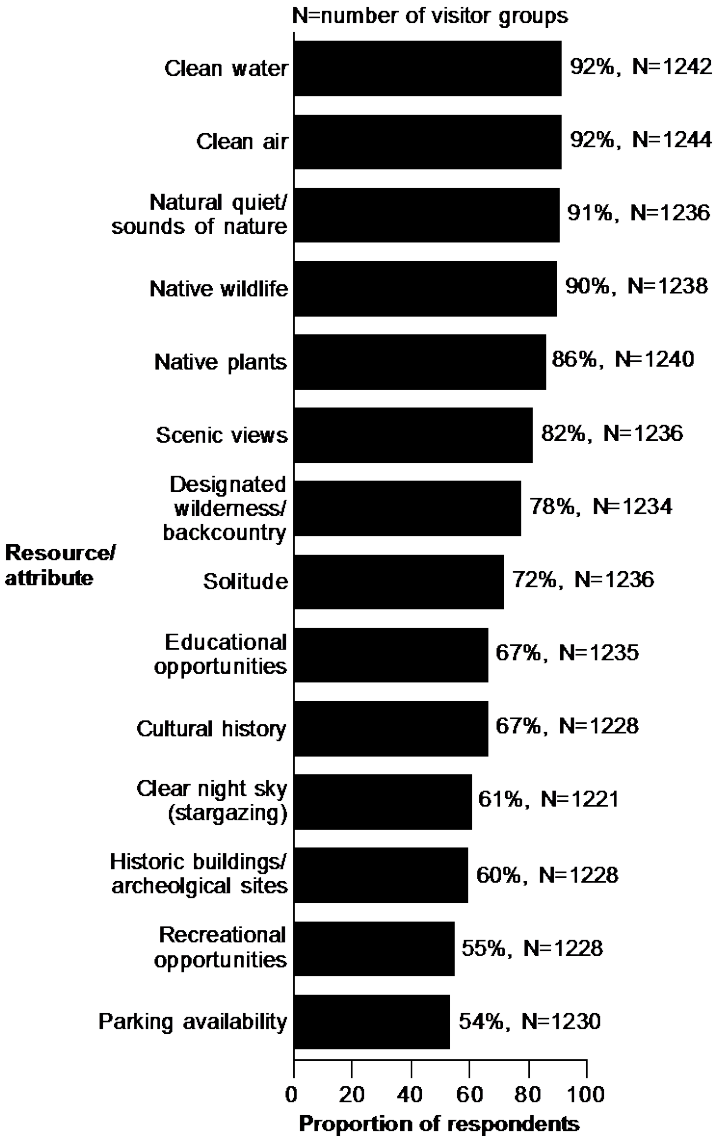



**Figure 61.** Combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings of protecting park resources and attributes

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

**Table 24.** Importance of protecting park resources and attributes
(N=number of visitor groups)

| | | Rating (%)* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Resource/attribute** | **N** | Not important | Somewhat important | Moderately important | Very important | Extremely important |
| Clean air (visibility) | 1244 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 36 | 56 |
| Clean water | 1242 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 32 | 60 |
| Clear night sky (stargazing) | 1221 | 8 | 8 | 23 | 29 | 32 |
| Cultural history (photographs/artifacts/ oral histories) | 1228 | 2 | 7 | 25 | 39 | 28 |
| Designated wilderness/ backcountry | 1234 | 2 | 5 | 15 | 33 | 45 |
| Educational opportunities | 1235 | 2 | 7 | 24 | 39 | 28 |
| Historic buildings/ archeological sites | 1228 | 3 | 9 | 28 | 34 | 26 |
| Native plants | 1240 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 36 | 50 |
| Native wildlife | 1238 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 35 | 55 |
| Natural quiet/sounds of nature | 1236 | <1 | 1 | 7 | 30 | 61 |
| Parking availability | 1230 | 2 | 12 | 32 | 36 | 18 |
| Recreational opportunities | 1228 | 3 | 13 | 29 | 36 | 19 |
| Scenic views | 1236 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 40 | 42 |
| Solitude | 1236 | 2 | 5 | 21 | 33 | 39 |

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Elements that affected park experience*

**Question 29**

Please indicate how the following elements may have affected you and your personal group's park experience during this visit to Congaree NP?

Results

- As shown in Table 25, the elements that most added to visitors' experience were small numbers of visitors on trails (37%) and wild pigs (30%).
- The elements that detracted most from visitors' experience were airplane noise (37%) and large numbers of visitors on trails (26%).
- "Other" elements (35%) that added to visitors' experiences are shown in Table 26.
- "Other" elements (41%) that detracted from visitors' experiences are shown in Table 27.

**Table 25.** Effects of different elements on the park experience
(N=number of visitors that responded to the question)
$n_1$ = number of visitor groups that rated each element
$n_2$ = number of visitor groups that did not experience each element)

| | | Rating (%)* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Element** | **Total N** | $n_1$ | Detracted from | No effect | Added to | **Did not experience** $n_2$ | % of total |
| Airplane noise | 1202 | 456 | 37 | 62 | 2 | 746 | 62 |
| Automobile noise | 1205 | 360 | 13 | 87 | <1 | 845 | 70 |
| Gunshots from neighboring lands | 1205 | 241 | 24 | 73 | 3 | 964 | 80 |
| Noise from park staff activities | 1205 | 272 | 11 | 88 | <1 | 933 | 77 |
| Train noise | 1203 | 224 | 9 | 85 | 5 | 979 | 81 |
| Other visitors' activities | 1200 | 862 | 13 | 80 | 7 | 338 | 28 |
| Small number of visitors on trails | 1203 | 1032 | 2 | 60 | 37 | 171 | 14 |
| Large number of visitors on trails | 1187 | 356 | 26 | 71 | 4 | 831 | 70 |
| Small number of visitors canoeing/kayaking | 1188 | 243 | 2 | 72 | 27 | 945 | 80 |
| Large number of visitors canoeing/kayaking | 1185 | 159 | 13 | 82 | 4 | 1026 | 87 |
| Impact of wild pigs | 1199 | 367 | 25 | 45 | 30 | 832 | 69 |
| Other | 389 | 148 | 41 | 24 | 35 | 241 | 62 |

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

**Table 26. "**Other" elements that added to visitors' experiences
(N=62 comments; some visitor groups made more than one comment)

| Element | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| Wildlife | 9 |
| Birds | 8 |
| Park staff | 7 |
| Clean park | 3 |
| Quiet | 3 |
| Snakes | 3 |
| Deer | 2 |
| Sounds | 2 |
| Turtles | 2 |
| Barred owl | 1 |
| Beautiful surroundings | 1 |
| Dog trail | 1 |
| Eastern cottonmouth snake | 1 |
| Elevated boardwalk trail | 1 |
| Frogs | 1 |
| Golden Orb Weaver spider | 1 |
| Historical markers | 1 |
| Interpretive steps on boardwalk | 1 |
| Lack of visitors | 1 |
| Large spiders on large webs | 1 |
| Lizards on the boardwalk | 1 |
| Nice weather | 1 |
| Owls | 1 |
| Park brochure | 1 |
| Park volunteers | 1 |
| People fishing along river | 1 |
| Smell of woods | 1 |
| Trees | 1 |
| Visitor center | 1 |
| Warm weather | 1 |
| Wild pig sightings | 1 |
| Woodpecker | 1 |

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

**Table 27. "**Other" elements that detracted from visitors' experiences
(N=81 comments; some visitor groups made more than one comment)

| Element | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| Mosquitoes | 17 |
| Loud voices | 5 |
| Visitors with dogs | 5 |
| Noisy school children | 4 |
| Loud children | 3 |
| Rain | 3 |
| Campground facilities | 2 |
| Litter | 2 |
| Noise | 2 |
| Poor map | 2 |
| Poor signage | 2 |
| Better definition of "old growth" | 1 |
| Bicycle on boardwalk | 1 |
| Canoe trip canceled due to storm | 1 |
| Chiggers | 1 |
| Children | 1 |
| Double stroller on narrow boardwalk | 1 |
| Drought | 1 |
| Exotic plants | 1 |
| Extremely hot weather | 1 |
| Fire ants | 1 |
| Had hard time finding trails and directions | 1 |
| Inability to rent canoes | 1 |
| Inexperienced canoers | 1 |
| Lack of access to fishing | 1 |
| Lack of canoe program | 1 |
| More specific signage for dog access on trails | 1 |
| No water at campsite | 1 |
| Not enough staff | 1 |
| Not enough wild pigs | 1 |
| Outhouses at campground | 1 |
| Owls | 1 |
| People smoking on boardwalk | 1 |
| Runners on the boardwalk | 1 |
| Scouts | 1 |
| Slippery mud | 1 |
| Spider webs on trail | 1 |
| Spiders | 1 |
| Trail numbering on boardwalk | 1 |
| Tree creaking | 1 |
| Unable to use boardwalk - too hot to leave dogs in car | 1 |
| Unexpected water on Oakridge Trail | 1 |
| Very slippery boardwalks | 1 |
| Wide trails | 1 |
| Would like to see more wildlife | 1 |

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

# Expenditures

## *Total expenditures inside and outside the park*

**Question 26**

For you and your personal group, please estimate all expenditures for the items listed below for this visit to Congaree NP and the surrounding area (within 1-hour drive of the park).

Results

- 65% of visitor groups spent $1-$200 (see Figure 62).
- 12% spent $201-$400.
- The average visitor group expenditure was $187.
- The median group expenditure (50% of groups spent more and 50% of groups spent less) was $55.
- The average total expenditure per person (per capita) was $88.
- As shown in Figure 63, the largest proportions of total expenditures inside and outside the park were:

  31% Lodges, hotels, motels, cabins, B&B, etc.
  21% Gas and oil
  20% Restaurants and bars

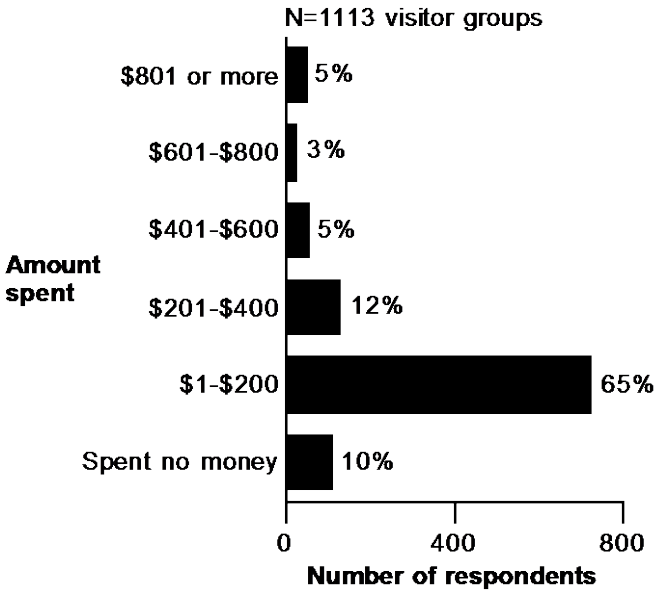



**Figure 62.** Total expenditures inside and outside the park

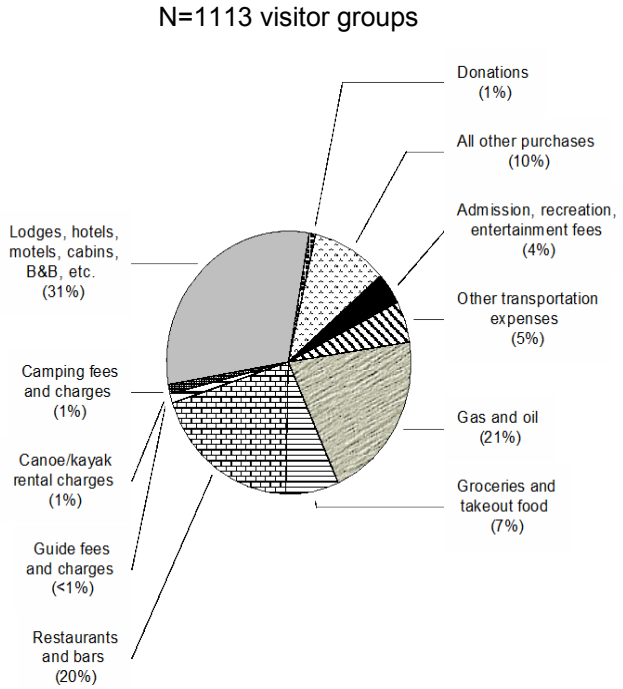



**Figure 63.** Proportions of total expenditures inside and outside the park.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Number of adults covered by expenditures*

**Question 26c**
How many adults (18 years or older) do these expenses cover?

Results
- 59% of visitor groups had two adults covered by expenditures (see Figure 64).
- 21% had one adult covered by expenditures.

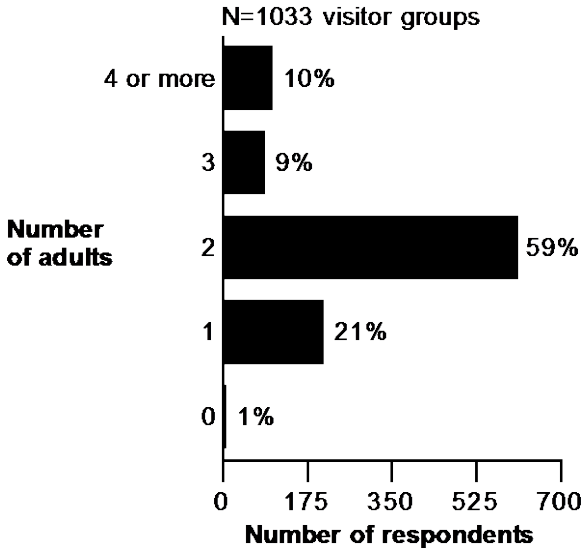



**Figure 64.** Number of adults covered by expenditures

## *Number of children covered by expenditures*

**Question 26c**
How many children (under 18 years) do these expenses cover?

Results
- 75% of visitor groups had no children covered by expenditures (see Figure 65).

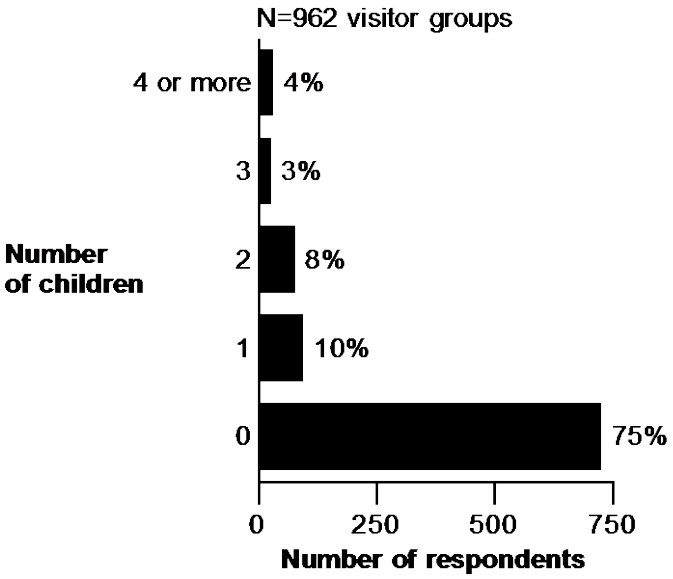



**Figure 65.** Number of children covered by expenditures

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Expenditures inside the park*

**Question 26a**

Please list your personal group's total expenditures inside Congaree NP.

Results

- 43% of visitor groups spent $1-$25 (see Figure 66).
- 42% spent no money inside the park.
- The average visitor group expenditure inside the park was $13.
- The median group expenditure (50% groups spent more and 50% of groups spent less) was $4.
- The average total expenditure per person (per capita) was $10.
- As shown in Figure 67, the largest proportion of total expenditures inside the park was:

  81% All other purchases

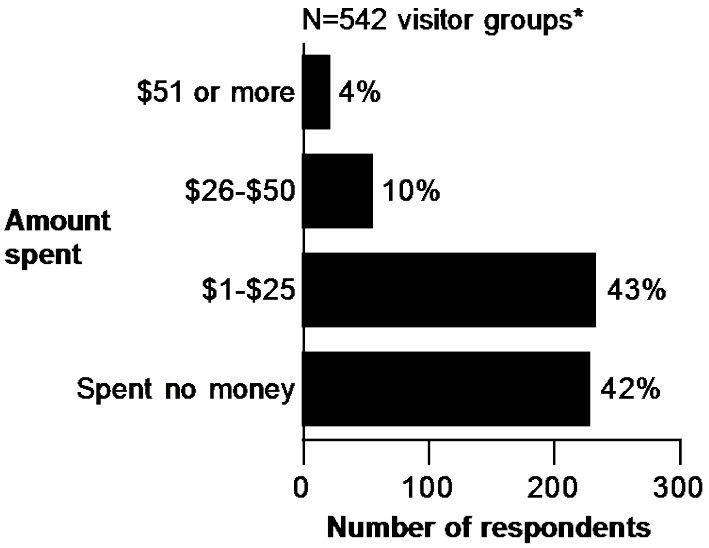



**Figure 66.** Total expenditures inside the park

N= 542 visitor groups

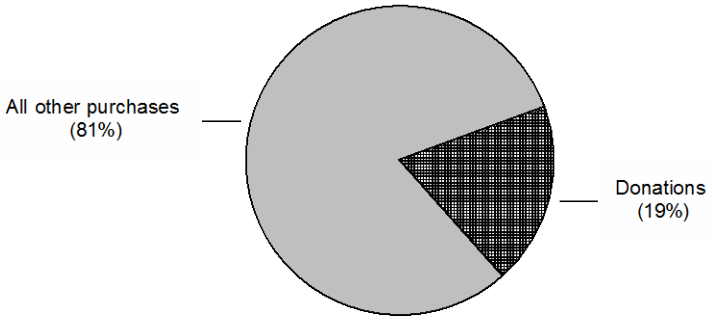



**Figure 67.** Proportions of total expenditures inside the park

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

All other purchases (souvenirs, film, books, sporting goods, clothing, etc.)

- 47% of visitor groups spent no money on other purchases inside the park (see Figure 68).
- 24% spent $1-$10.

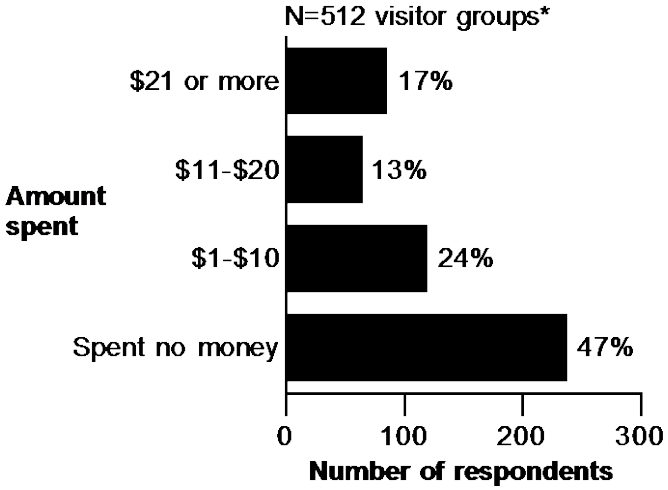



**Figure 68.** Expenditures for all other purchases inside the park

Donations

- 78% of visitor groups spent no money on donations inside the park (see Figure 69).
- 11% spent $1-$5.

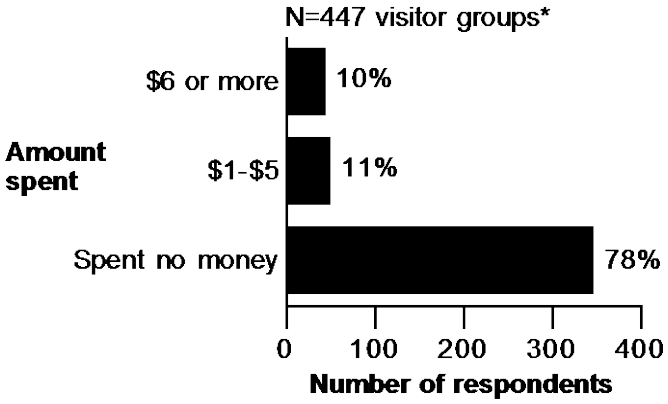



**Figure 69.** Expenditures for donations inside the park

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Expenditures outside the park*

**Question 26b**

Please list your personal group's total expenditures in the surrounding area outside the park (within 1-hour drive of park).

Results

- 62% of visitor groups spent $1-$200 (see Figure 70).
- 13% spent no money.
- The average visitor group expenditure outside the park was $187.
- The median group expenditure (50% of groups spent more and 50% of groups spent less) was $50.
- The average total expenditure per person (per capita) was $97.
- As shown in Figure 71, the largest proportions of total expenditures outside the park were:

  32% Lodges, hotels, motels, cabins, B&B, etc.
  22% Gas and oil
  20% Restaurants and bars

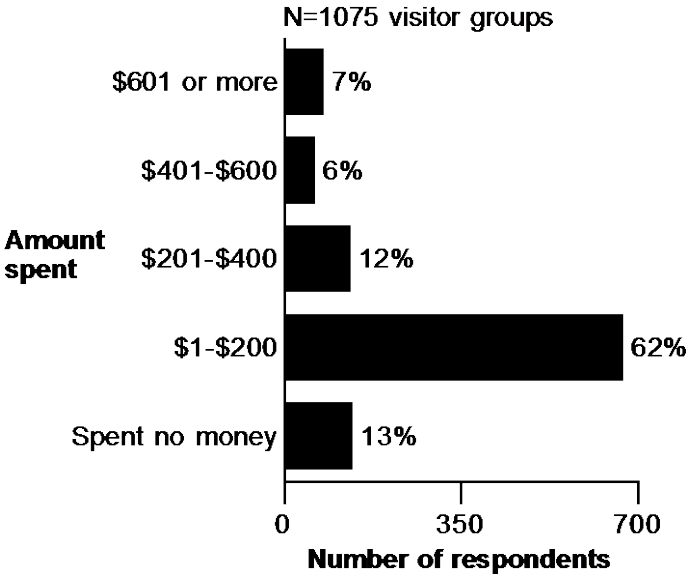



**Figure 70.** Total expenditures outside the park within a 1-hour drive

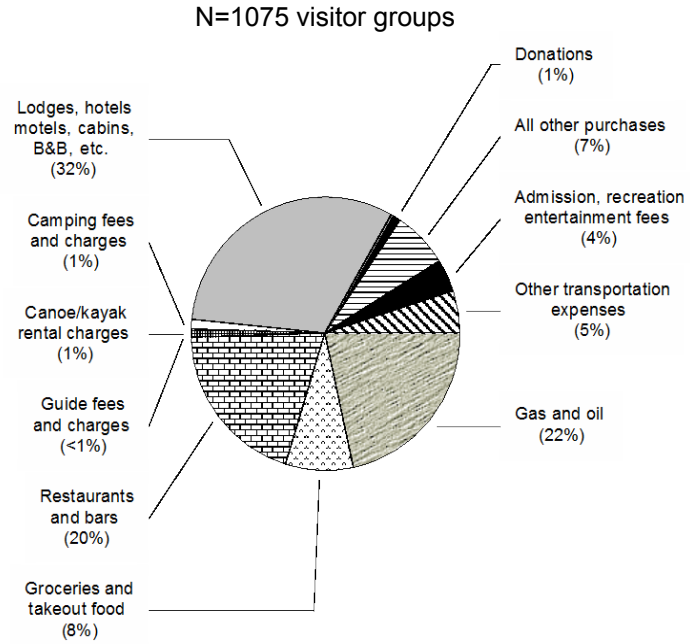



**Figure 71.** Proportions of total expenditures outside the park within a 1-hour drive

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

Lodges, hotels, motels, cabins, B&B, etc.

- 66% of visitor groups spent no money on lodging outside the park (see Figure 72).
- 13% spent $1-$100.

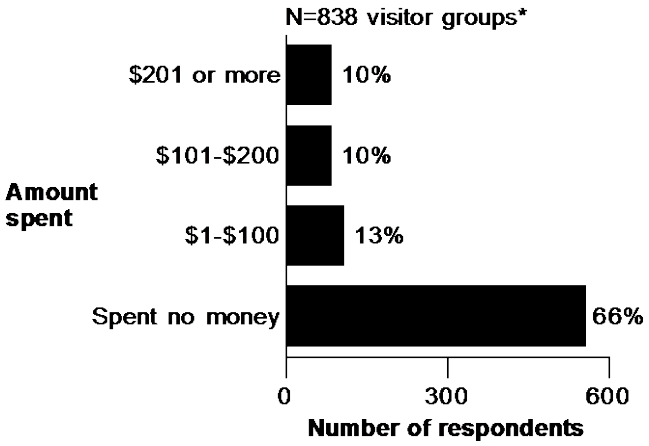



**Figure 72.** Expenditures for lodging outside the park

Camping fees and charges

- 95% of visitor groups spent no money on camping fees and charges outside the park (see Figure 73).

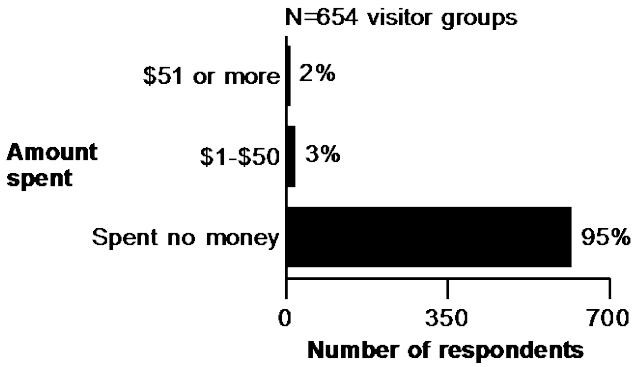



**Figure 73.** Expenditures for camping fees and charges outside the park

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

Canoe/kayak rental charges

- 98% of visitor groups spent no money on canoe/kayak rental charges outside the park (see Figure 74).

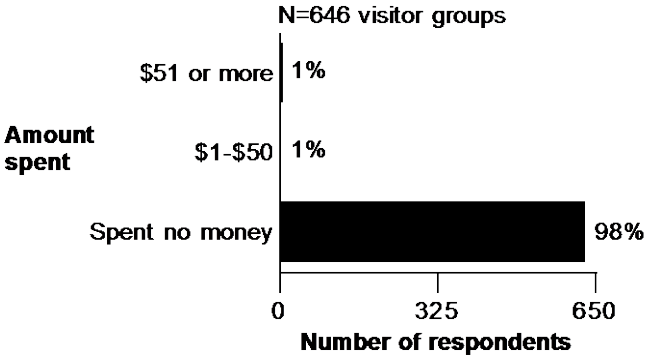



**Figure 74.** Expenditures for canoe/kayak rental charges outside the park

Guide fees and charges

- Nearly 100% of visitor groups spent no money on guide fees and charges outside the park (see Figure 75).

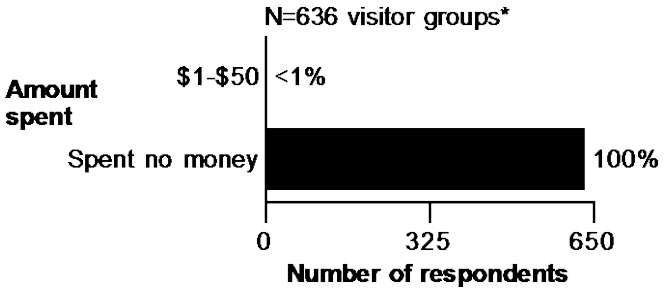



**Figure 75.** Expenditures for guide fees and charges outside the park

Restaurants and bars

- 45% of visitor groups spent no money on restaurants and bars outside the park (see Figure 76).
- 35% spent $1-$50.

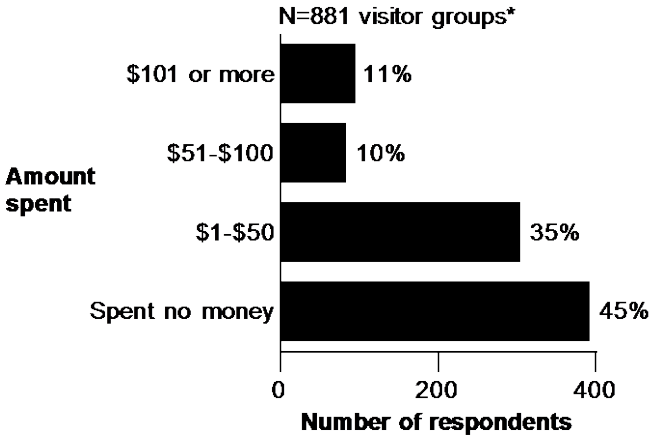



**Figure 76.** Expenditures for restaurants and bars outside the park

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

Groceries and takeout food

- 55% of visitor groups spent no money on groceries and takeout food outside the park (see Figure 77).
- 36% spent $1-$50.

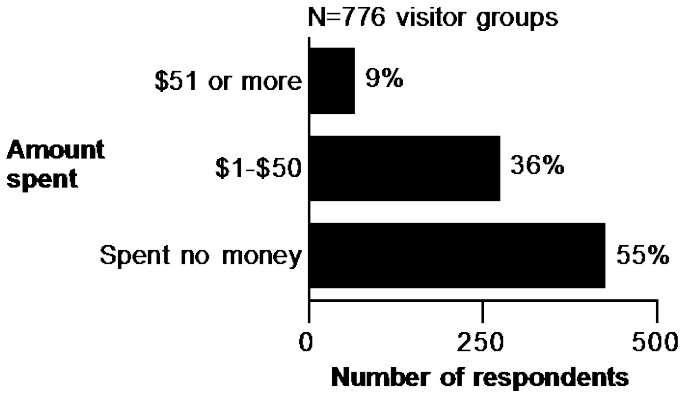



**Figure 77.** Expenditures for groceries and takeout food outside the park

Gas and oil (auto, RV, boat, etc.)

- 60% of visitor groups spent $1-$50 on gas and oil outside the park (see Figure 78).
- 17% spent no money.

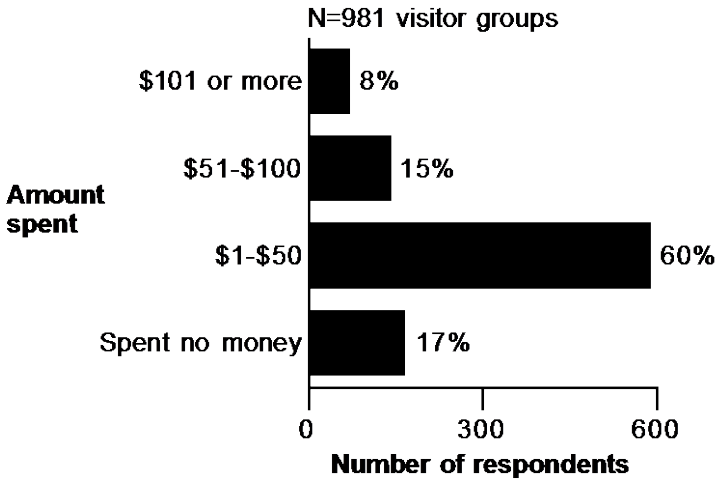



**Figure 78.** Expenditures for gas and oil outside the park

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

Other transportation (rental cars, taxis, auto repairs, but NOT airfare)

- 90% of visitor groups spent no money on other transportation outside the park (see Figure 79).
- 6% spent $51 or more.

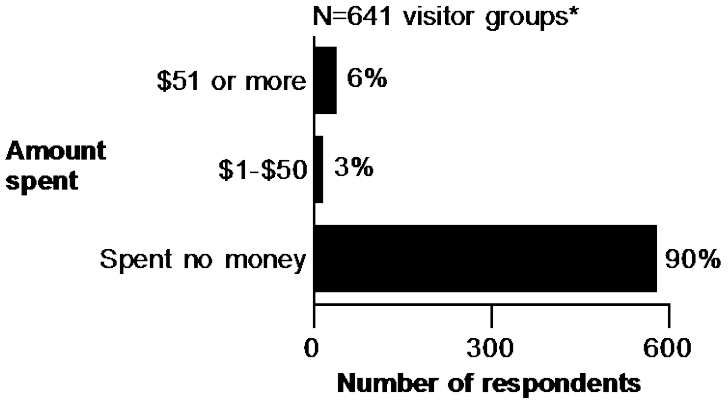



**Figure 79.** Expenditures for other transportation outside the park

Admission, recreation and entertainment fees

- 89% of visitor groups spent no money on admission, recreation and entertainment fees outside the park (see Figure 80).
- 9% spent $1-$50.

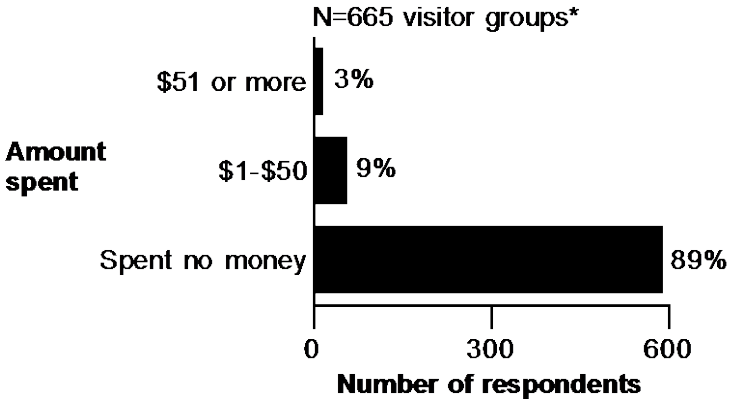



**Figure 80.** Expenditures for admission, recreation, and entertainment fees outside the park

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

All other purchases (souvenirs, film, books, sporting goods, clothing, etc.)

- 73% of visitor groups spent no money on all other purchases outside the park (see Figure 81).
- 20% spent $1-$50.

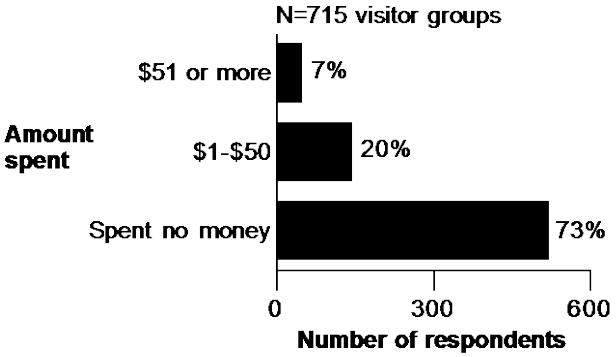



**Figure 81.** Expenditures for all other purchases outside the park

Donations

- 93% of visitor groups spent no money on donations outside the park (see Figure 82).

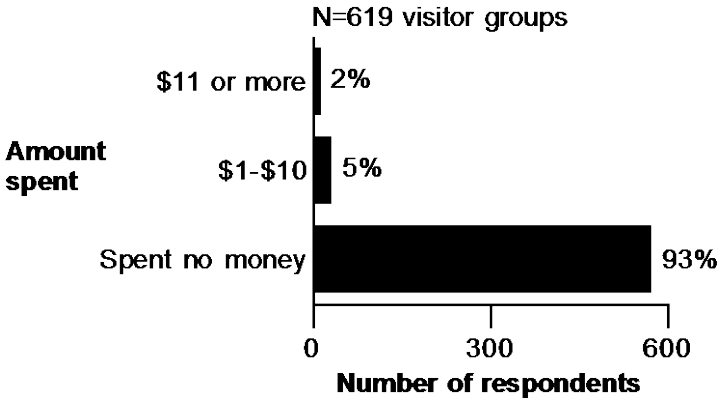



**Figure 82.** Expenditures for donations outside the park

## *Unpaid vacation/unpaid time off*

**Question 25c**

Did your household take any unpaid vacation or take unpaid time off of work to come on this trip?

Results

- 13% of respondents took unpaid vacation or unpaid time off work to come on this trip (see Figure 83).

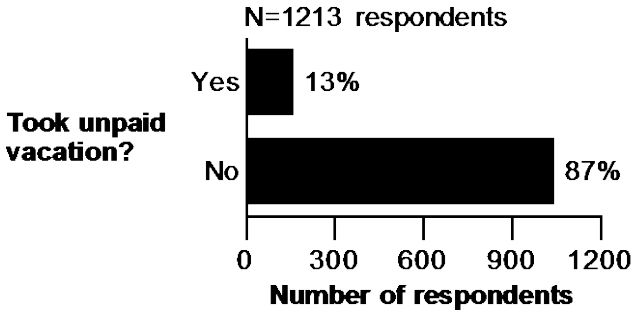



**Figure 83.** Respondents that took unpaid vacation/time off to make trip

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

# Preferences for Future Visits

## *Likelihood of future visit*

**Question 28**
Would you and your group be likely to visit Congaree NP again in the future?

Results
- 79% of visitor groups indicated that they would be likely to visit Congaree NP again in the future (see Figure 84).
- 16% were not sure about visiting the park in the future.

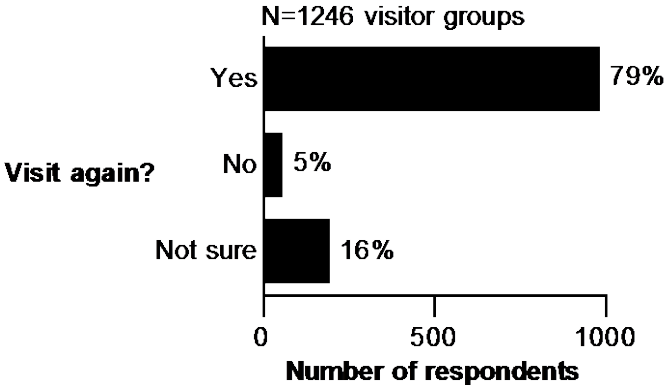



**Figure 84.** Visitor groups that would likely visit Congaree NP in the future

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Preferred activities and programs on future visits*

**Question 30**

If you were to visit Congaree NP in the future, which types of organized activities and programs would you and your personal group like to have available?

Results

- 81% of visitor groups were interested in attending organized activities or programs on a future visit to the park (see Figure 85).
- As shown in Figure 86, of those visitor groups that wanted organized activities/programs, the most preferred were:

  65% Canoeing/ kayaking
  53% Night walk/night sky program
  52% Owl prowls

- "Other" activities/programs (4%) are listed in Table 28.

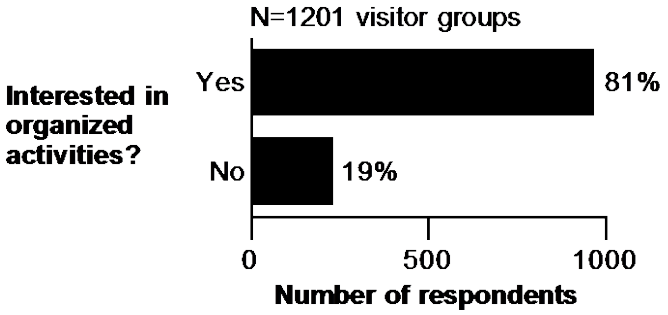



**Figure 85.** Visitor groups interested in activities and programs

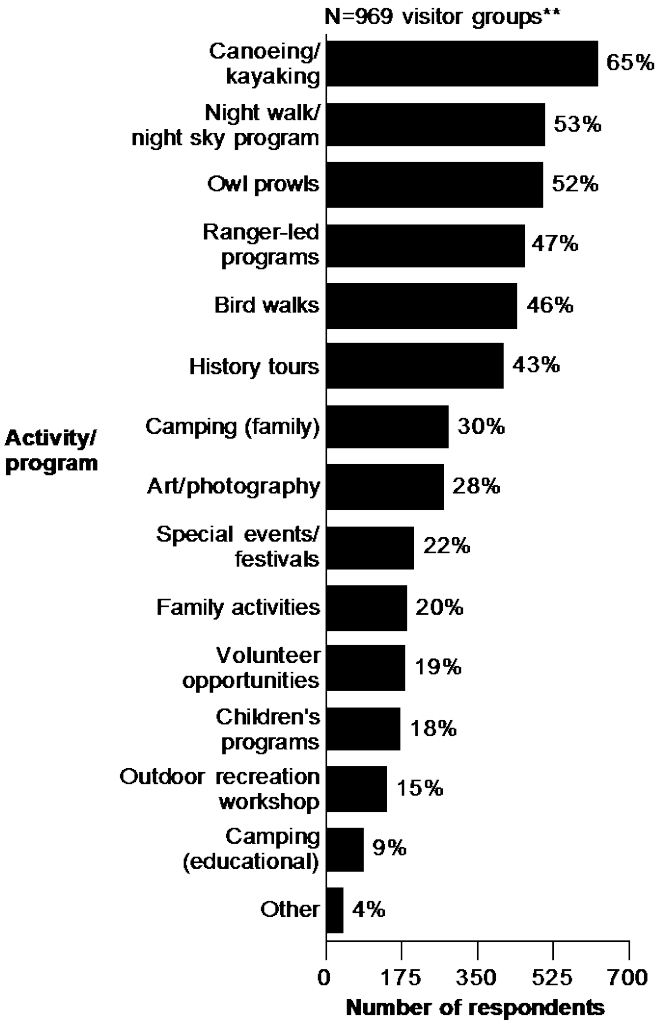



**Figure 86.** Preferred activities and programs

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

**Table 28. "**Other" activities/programs in which visitor groups expressed interest on future visits (N= 42 comments; some visitor groups made more than one comment)

| Activity | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| Fishing | 3 |
| Backpacking | 2 |
| Hiking | 2 |
| Nature walks | 2 |
| Activities including leashed dogs | 1 |
| Archaeological tours | 1 |
| Biking trails | 1 |
| Camping | 1 |
| Canoe rentals | 1 |
| Canoe shuttle | 1 |
| Citizen Science program | 1 |
| Cub scouts | 1 |
| Dog-friendly walk | 1 |
| Ecology-based workshop | 1 |
| Entomology education | 1 |
| Firefly walks | 1 |
| Full time canoe/kayak rentals without guide | 1 |
| Guided hikes off-trail during winter when snakes are not active | 1 |
| Horseback riding | 1 |
| Hunting license | 1 |
| Hunting to help manage hogs | 1 |
| Interpretive hikes | 1 |
| More technical exhibits in visitor center | 1 |
| Narrated boat tour (not canoe) | 1 |
| Pig tours | 1 |
| Plant identification | 1 |
| Research lectures | 1 |
| Science tours | 1 |
| Snake tour | 1 |
| Specimen tree walking tour with ranger | 1 |
| Study of wildlife - snakes | 1 |
| Technical presentations by experts | 1 |
| Trails open to mountain biking | 1 |
| Tree and plant identification | 1 |
| Tree identification | 1 |
| Tree top tour | 1 |
| Video about the park and region | 1 |

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

## *Preferred topics to learn on future visits*

**Question 31**

If you were to visit Congaree NP in the future, which subjects would you and your personal group like to learn about?

Results

- 92% of visitor groups were interested in learning about the park on future visits (see Figure 87).
- As shown in Figure 88, of those visitor groups that were interested in learning about the park, the most common subjects were:

  74% Plants/animals
  60% Champion trees
  59% Old growth floodplain forest

- "Other" subjects (1%) were:

  Invasive species
  Everything
  Number of annual visitors
  Pigs
  Politics of management
  Science of management
  Wildflower and tree identification

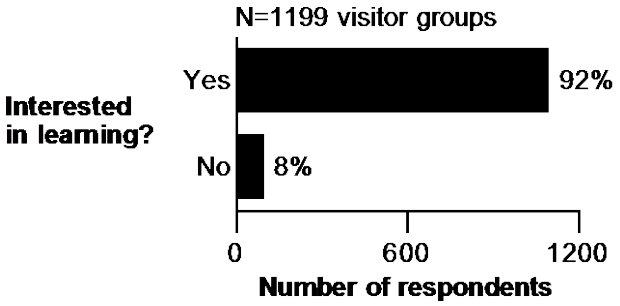



**Figure 87.** Visitor groups that were interested in learning about the park

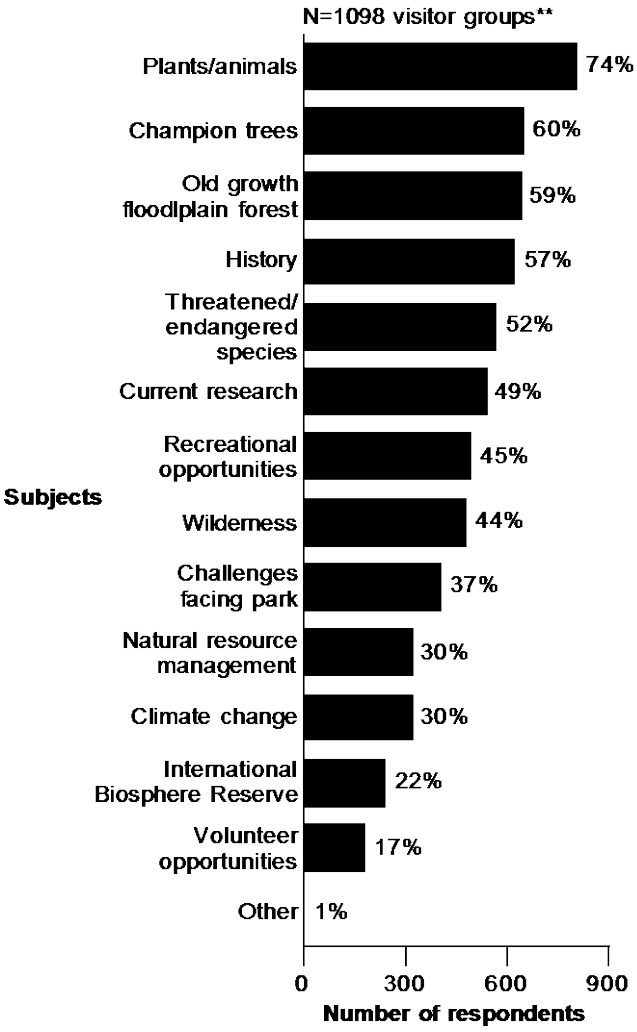



**Figure 88.** Subjects to learn on future visit

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

# Overall Quality

## *Overall quality of facilities, services, and recreational opportunities*

**Question 27**

Overall, how would you rate the quality of facilities, services, and recreational opportunities provided to you and your personal group at Congaree NP during this visit?

Results

- 96% of visitor groups rated the overall quality of facilities, services, and recreational opportunities as "very good" or "good" (see Figure 89).
- 1% rated the quality as "poor."
- No visitor groups rated the quality as "very poor."

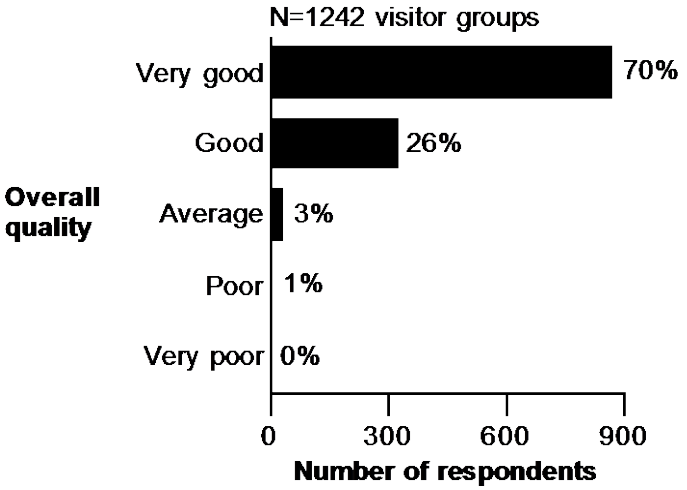



**Figure 89.** Overall quality rating of facilities, services, and recreational opportunities

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

****total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer**

# Visitor Comment Summaries

## *What visitors liked most*

**Question 32a**
What did you and your personal group like most about your visit to Congaree NP? (Open-ended)

Results
- 90% of visitor groups (N=1131) responded to this question.
- Table 29 shows a summary of visitor comments. The transcribed open-ended comments can be found in the Visitor Comments section.

**Table 29.** What visitors liked most
(N=1933 comments; some visitor groups made more than one comment)

| Comment | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| **PERSONNEL (6%)** | |
| Friendly park staff | 28 |
| Helpful park staff | 28 |
| Park staff | 26 |
| Knowledgeable park staff | 18 |
| Talking with staff and volunteers | 4 |
| Friendly park volunteers | 3 |
| Knowledgeable volunteers | 3 |
| Outstanding interactions with staff | 2 |
| Ranger on guided canoe trip | 2 |
| Other comments | 7 |
| **INTERPRETIVE SERVICES (7%)** | |
| Guided canoe trip | 16 |
| History of park/area | 11 |
| Self-guided boardwalk tour | 9 |
| Self-guided tour | 9 |
| Educational experience | 8 |
| Trail guide brochure | 7 |
| Brochures | 6 |
| Film | 6 |
| Mosquito Meter | 6 |
| Boardwalk brochure | 4 |
| Exhibits | 4 |
| Guided tours | 4 |
| Junior Ranger program | 4 |
| Learning about trees | 4 |
| Ranger-led canoe trip | 4 |
| Information | 3 |
| Canoe trip | 2 |
| Interpretive signs | 2 |
| Learning about ecosystem | 2 |
| Learning about the park | 2 |
| Maps | 2 |
| Mural in visitors center | 2 |

**Table 29.** What visitors liked most (continued)

| Comment | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| **INTERPRETIVE SERVICES** (continued) | |
| Naturalist talk | 2 |
| Visitor center exhibits | 2 |
| Other comments | 21 |
| | |
| **FACILITIES/MAINTENEANCE (21%)** | |
| Boardwalk | 207 |
| Trails | 96 |
| Cleanliness | 28 |
| Visitor center | 19 |
| Trail signs | 6 |
| Campground | 5 |
| Well-maintained boardwalks | 5 |
| Well-marked trails | 5 |
| Clean trails | 3 |
| Good trails | 3 |
| Well-maintained trails | 3 |
| Bridges | 2 |
| Clean restrooms | 2 |
| Remoteness | 2 |
| Other comments | 23 |
| | |
| **POLICY/MANAGEMENT (3%)** | |
| Uncrowded | 24 |
| Wilderness | 9 |
| Fees | 4 |
| Ability to bring dogs on trails | 3 |
| Free admission | 3 |
| Free camping | 3 |
| Park is well organized/laid out | 2 |
| Other comments | 11 |
| | |
| **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (26%)** | |
| Trees | 73 |
| Big trees | 52 |
| Wildlife | 50 |
| Old growth forest | 29 |
| Cypress/cypress knees | 25 |
| Birds | 24 |
| Unique environment | 20 |
| Natural diversity | 13 |
| Plants | 13 |
| Spiders | 12 |
| Swamps | 12 |
| Turtles | 10 |
| Wild pigs | 10 |
| Bird sounds/songs | 8 |
| Fresh air | 8 |
| Champion trees | 7 |

**Table 29.** What visitors liked most (continued)

| Comment | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (continued)** | |
| No bugs | 7 |
| Woodpeckers | 7 |
| Different/interesting types of vegetation | 6 |
| Floodplain | 6 |
| Forest | 6 |
| Wilderness | 6 |
| Loblolly pines | 5 |
| Bird sightings/watching | 4 |
| Forest sounds | 4 |
| Lizards | 4 |
| Unaltered nature | 4 |
| Environment/ecosystem | 3 |
| Flora | 3 |
| Old trees | 3 |
| Owls | 3 |
| Pristine conditions | 3 |
| Snakes | 3 |
| Squirrels | 3 |
| Giant pines | 2 |
| Herd of deer | 2 |
| Natural habitat/surroundings | 2 |
| Seeing pileated woodpeckers | 2 |
| Seeing wild pigs | 2 |
| Sounds of nature | 4 |
| The forest | 2 |
| Wilderness | 2 |
| Untouched forest | 2 |
| Weston Lake | 2 |
| Other comments | 38 |
| | |
| **GENERAL (37%)** | |
| Quiet | 119 |
| Solitude | 95 |
| Beauty | 72 |
| Peace | 53 |
| Nature | 51 |
| Hiking | 36 |
| Canoeing | 18 |
| Scenery | 17 |
| Walking | 16 |
| Family experience | 12 |
| Unique environment | 12 |
| Kayaking | 9 |
| Weather | 9 |

**Table 29.** What visitors liked most (continued)

| Comment | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| **GENERAL (continued)** | |
| Camping | 8 |
| Everything | 8 |
| Quiet hike | 8 |
| Beauty of fall foliage | 7 |
| Remoteness | 7 |
| Accessibility | 5 |
| Cedar Creek | 5 |
| Interesting park | 5 |
| Outdoors | 8 |
| Atmosphere | 7 |
| Exposure to new/unique ecosystem | 4 |
| Cedar Creek canoe/kayak trip | 3 |
| Different ecosystem | 3 |
| Exercise | 3 |
| Freedom | 3 |
| Convenience | 2 |
| Discovering the park existed | 2 |
| Fishing | 2 |
| Getting away from people/civilization | 2 |
| Park is close to home | 4 |
| Peaceful hike | 2 |
| Photography opportunities | 2 |
| Relaxing | 2 |
| Serenity | 2 |
| Other comments | 87 |

## *What visitors liked least*

**Question 32b**
What did you and your personal group like least about your visit to Congaree NP? (Open-ended)

Results
- 62% of visitor groups (N=785) responded to this question.
- Table 30 shows a summary of visitor comments. The transcribed open-ended comments can be found in the Visitor Comments section.

**Table 30.** What visitors liked least
(N=858 comments; some visitor groups made more than one comment)

| Comment | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| **PERSONNEL (1%)** | |
| Intrusive park rangers/police | 3 |
| Other comments | 4 |
| | |
| **INTERPRETIVE SERVICES (8%)** | |
| Self-guiding markers hard to see | 5 |
| Poor map | 4 |
| Shortage of canoe tours | 4 |
| Hot weather canceled ranger program | 3 |
| Lack of detailed information and education | 3 |
| Crowded canoe trips | 2 |
| Hauling canoes to launch | 2 |
| No canoe tour available | 2 |
| No signs identifying plants | 2 |
| Unable to take guided canoe trip | 2 |
| Other comments | 40 |
| | |
| **FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE (26%)** | |
| Improve/clarify trail markers | 27 |
| Litter | 14 |
| Lack of restrooms | 6 |
| Need bathhouse at campground | 6 |
| Kayak/canoe launch site | 5 |
| Lack of drinking water | 5 |
| Lack of parking | 5 |
| Fallen trees on trail | 4 |
| No after hours restroom facilities | 4 |
| More trails | 3 |
| Not enough benches | 3 |
| Slippery boardwalk | 3 |
| Boardwalk needed maintenance | 2 |
| Campgrounds need upgrading | 2 |
| Lack of water at campground | 2 |
| Restrooms | 2 |
| Other comments | 47 |

**Table 30.** What visitors liked least (continued)

| Comment | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| **POLICY/MANAGEMENT (18%)** | |
| Loud visitors on trails | 22 |
| Aircraft noise | 20 |
| Lack of directional signs to park | 18 |
| Dogs in the park | 7 |
| Dogs not allowed | 7 |
| Park is difficult to locate | 7 |
| Noisy school groups | 5 |
| Train noise | 5 |
| Crowded | 4 |
| Disruptive children | 4 |
| Bikes on boardwalk | 3 |
| Visitor survey | 3 |
| Inadequate signage for park on Bluff Road from Columbia | 2 |
| Lack of canoes available | 2 |
| Limited food/drink options | 2 |
| Smoking near visitor center | 2 |
| The survey | 2 |
| Unable to kayak or canoe | 2 |
| Other comments | 40 |
| **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (19%)** | |
| Mosquitoes | 97 |
| Impact of wild pigs | 17 |
| Did not see much wildlife | 14 |
| Insects | 7 |
| Spiders | 7 |
| Snakes | 5 |
| Few birds seen | 4 |
| Did not get to see wild pigs | 3 |
| Dry streams | 3 |
| Chiggers | 2 |
| Dead trees | 2 |
| Did not see many plants blooming | 2 |
| Other comments | 17 |
| **GENERAL (37%)** | |
| Nothing to dislike | 134 |
| Hot weather | 29 |
| Not enough time | 29 |
| Rain | 16 |
| Humid weather | 14 |
| Other visitors' noise/loud talking | 8 |
| Cold weather | 4 |
| Surrounding area | 4 |
| Spider webs across trail | 3 |
| That we had to leave | 3 |
| Feet hurt | 2 |

**Table 30.** What visitors liked least (continued)

| Comment | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| **GENERAL** (continued) | |
| Lack of restaurants close to park | 2 |
| Long drive to visit | 2 |
| Other visitors | 2 |
| Unsure | 2 |
| Other comments | 50 |

## *Significance of the park*

**Question 33**

Congaree NP was established because of its significance to the nation. In your opinion, what is the national significance of this park? (Open-ended)

Results

- 77% of visitor groups (N=963) responded to this question.
- Table 31 shows a summary of visitor comments. The transcribed comments can be found in the Visitor Comments section.

**Table 31.** Significance of the park
(N=1266 comments; some visitor groups made more than one comment)

| Comment | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| Old growth forest | 159 |
| Unique environment | 112 |
| Preservation of old growth forest | 97 |
| Preservation of environment | 60 |
| Historic value | 55 |
| Last of old growth forests | 37 |
| Generally significant | 33 |
| Trees | 28 |
| Biodiversity | 27 |
| Swamp | 26 |
| Champion trees | 25 |
| Large trees | 25 |
| Beauty | 22 |
| Pristine area | 20 |
| Wildlife | 18 |
| Educational value | 17 |
| Preservation | 17 |
| Cypress trees/knees | 15 |
| Preservation of a unique area | 15 |
| Preservation of wildlife | 15 |
| Availability for future generations | 14 |
| Floodplain ecosystem | 14 |
| Preservation of swamp | 13 |
| Unsure | 13 |
| Ecological significance | 12 |
| Preservation of wilderness | 11 |
| Protection of ecosystem | 11 |
| Preservation of natural resources | 10 |
| Protection of wilderness | 10 |
| Nature | 9 |
| Preservation for the future | 9 |
| Preservation of forest | 9 |
| Forest | 8 |
| Historic preservation | 8 |
| Wilderness area | 8 |
| Natural setting | 7 |
| Preservation of trees | 7 |

**Table 31.** Significance of the park (continued)

| Comment | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| Protection of old growth forest | 7 |
| Wetland environment | 7 |
| A protected area in South Carolina | 6 |
| Birds | 6 |
| Old trees | 6 |
| Tall trees | 5 |
| Accessibility | 5 |
| Closest park to a metropolitan area | 5 |
| High forest canopy | 5 |
| Preservation of untouched nature | 5 |
| Biosphere | 4 |
| Conservation | 4 |
| Preservation of old growth forest | 4 |
| Great park | 3 |
| Last remaining river bottom land | 3 |
| Loblolly pines | 3 |
| Lowland forest | 3 |
| Natural habitat | 3 |
| Protection | 3 |
| Protection of floodplain | 3 |
| Recreational opportunity | 3 |
| Revolutionary War history | 3 |
| Significance to South Carolina | 3 |
| Solitude | 3 |
| A preserved area in South Carolina | 2 |
| Bottomland floodplain | 2 |
| Demonstrates human impact | 2 |
| Habitat | 2 |
| Important natural resource | 2 |
| Location of park | 2 |
| Mangrove forest | 2 |
| Protection of trees | 2 |
| Protection of wildlife | 2 |
| Quiet | 2 |
| Size of ecosystem | 2 |
| Size of the forest | 2 |
| Southern swamp | 2 |
| Trails | 2 |
| Other comments | 139 |

## *Planning for the future*

**Question 34**

If you were a manager planning for the future of Congaree National Park, what would you and personal group propose? (Open-ended)

Results

- 77% of visitor groups (N=963) responded to this question.
- Table 32 shows a summary of visitor comments. The transcribed comments can be found in the Visitor Comments section.

**Table 32.** Planning for the future
(N=1026 comments; some visitor groups made more than one comment.)

| Comment | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| **PERSONNEL (2%)** | |
| Increase staff and volunteers | 10 |
| Other comments | 9 |
| | |
| **INTERPRETIVE SERVICES (22%)** | |
| Expand educational opportunities | 24 |
| More guided canoe tours | 18 |
| Increase activities | 15 |
| More ranger-led tours | 12 |
| Improve park video | 9 |
| More information on wildlife | 8 |
| Improve/update website | 7 |
| Label/identify plants and trees | 7 |
| More cultural/historical interpretation | 6 |
| Canopy tour | 5 |
| Expand/improve kayak and canoe activities | 5 |
| More interpretive programs/educational activities | 5 |
| More exhibits | 4 |
| Improved maps | 3 |
| More children's educational programs | 3 |
| More outreach programs | 3 |
| More self-guided tours | 3 |
| Emphasize negative impact of litter | 2 |
| Expand gift shop/book selection | 2 |
| Family activities | 2 |
| Improve boardwalk signage | 2 |
| More guided kayak tours | 2 |
| More information about champion trees | 2 |
| More information stations on boardwalk | 2 |
| More Native American history/perspective | 2 |
| More ranger-led activities | 2 |
| Night tours | 2 |
| Other comments | 70 |

**Table 32.** Planning for the future (continued)

| Comment | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| **FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE (27%)** | |
| Expand trail system | 43 |
| Extend boardwalks | 29 |
| Campgrounds with facilities | 18 |
| Expand campgrounds | 17 |
| Improve trail signage | 17 |
| Add RV campground | 15 |
| More interpretive signs along the boardwalk | 11 |
| Boardwalk maintenance | 10 |
| Backcountry campsites | 6 |
| Bike trails | 5 |
| Observation/canopy tower | 5 |
| Improve campground facilities | 8 |
| Trail maintenance | 4 |
| Easier access to river | 3 |
| Sell mosquito repellent | 3 |
| Add access to wilderness areas/other park areas | 2 |
| Add bathrooms along trails | 2 |
| Clear debris from trails/boardwalk | 2 |
| Easier/more fishing access | 2 |
| Expand/improve visitor center | 2 |
| Improve canoe launch | 2 |
| Improve hiking trails | 2 |
| Improve signage | 2 |
| Increase signage | 2 |
| Pick up litter | 2 |
| Other comments | 60 |
| **POLICY/MANAGEMENT (29%)** | |
| Increase awareness of park | 77 |
| Expand park | 63 |
| Continue to protect park/environment | 38 |
| Increase directional signage to the park | 16 |
| Canoe/kayak rental and shuttles | 6 |
| Improve directional signage to the park | 5 |
| Add food/lodging | 4 |
| Engage the community | 4 |
| Improve access | 4 |
| Limit plane/train noise | 4 |
| Continue exotic species work | 3 |
| Lodging in the park | 3 |
| Add another entrance | 2 |
| Charge entrance fee | 2 |
| Continue allowing visitation | 2 |
| Balance recreation with resource protection | 2 |
| Coordinate with nearby resources | 2 |

**Table 32.** Planning for the future (continued)

| Comment | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| **POLICY/MANAGEMENT** (continued) | |
| Food services | 2 |
| Maintain/increase funding | 2 |
| More recreational opportunities | 2 |
| Prohibit dogs | 2 |
| Shorter questionnaire | 2 |
| Other comments | 55 |
| | |
| **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (8%)** | |
| Keep it as natural as possible | 16 |
| Remove/control non-native plant and animal species | 15 |
| Eliminate wild pigs | 11 |
| Preserve natural ecosystem | 9 |
| Manage wild pigs | 8 |
| Control Mosquitoes | 2 |
| Maintain the wilderness | 2 |
| Protect upstream water quality | 2 |
| Reduce visitor impact | 2 |
| Other comments | 20 |
| | |
| **GENERAL (12%)** | |
| Keep it as it is | 61 |
| Keep up the good work | 21 |
| Unsure | 6 |
| Canoeing | 4 |
| Expand | 2 |
| Other comments | 27 |

## *Additional comments*

**Question 35**

Is there anything else you and your personal group would like to tell us about your visit to Congaree National Park? (Open-ended)

Results

- 53% of visitor groups (N=663) responded to this question.
- Table 33 shows a summary of visitor comments. The transcribed comments can be found in the Visitor Comments section.

**Table 33**. Additional comments
(N=914 comments; some visitor groups made more than one comment.)

| Comment | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| **PERSONNEL (17%)** | |
| Park staff was helpful | 57 |
| Park staff was friendly | 38 |
| Park staff was great | 24 |
| Park staff was knowledgeable | 18 |
| Enjoyed the staff | 9 |
| Other comments | 9 |
| **INTERPRETIVE SERVICES (9%)** | |
| Educational experience | 6 |
| Improve information on exhibits | 5 |
| Enjoyed visitor center exhibits | 4 |
| Enjoyed owl prowl | 3 |
| Love the mosquito meter | 3 |
| Guided canoe tour was great | 2 |
| Ranger-led activities were great | 2 |
| Other comments | 54 |
| **FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE (9%)** | |
| Enjoyed boardwalk | 12 |
| Facilities nice/well maintained | 7 |
| Park/facilities are clean | 4 |
| More trail signage | 3 |
| Very clean restrooms | 3 |
| Great trails | 2 |
| Improve accessibility of boardwalk maps | 2 |
| Improve signage on trails | 2 |
| Other comments | 37 |
| **POLICY/MANAGEMENT (6%)** | |
| Improve signage to and from the park | 14 |
| More advertising | 4 |
| Shorten survey | 4 |
| Leave it alone | 3 |
| Charge entrance fee | 2 |

**Table 33**. Additional comments (continued)

| Comment | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---|
| **POLICY/MANAGEMENT (continued)** | |
| Glad that the park is free | 2 |
| Good use of tax dollars | 2 |
| Other comments | 34 |
| | |
| **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (4%)** | |
| Too many mosquitoes | 4 |
| Enjoyed seeing wildlife | 3 |
| Enjoyed the trees | 2 |
| Other comments | 23 |
| | |
| **GENERAL (56%)** | |
| Enjoyed visit | 159 |
| Will return | 52 |
| Thank you | 51 |
| Love the park | 41 |
| Keep up the good work | 28 |
| Great park | 25 |
| Beautiful park | 20 |
| Great experience | 10 |
| Park is a gem/treasure | 9 |
| Fun | 7 |
| Peaceful | 4 |
| Favorite place to visit | 3 |
| Quiet | 3 |
| Wonderful | 3 |
| Good job | 2 |
| Interesting and unique park | 2 |
| Love the national parks | 2 |
| Love the swamp | 2 |
| Park is accessible | 2 |
| Staff was friendly and informative | 2 |
| Thankful for efforts to create/preserve park | 2 |
| Visit regularly | 2 |
| Other comments | 79 |

## Visitor Comments

This section contains visitor responses to open-ended questions.

**Q32a.** What did you and your personal group like most about your visit to Congaree NP?

- A chance to walk through old growth floodplain forest
- A perfect Sunday afternoon walk
- A quiet place to hike and visit with each other
- A walk with nice scenery
- Able to bring our dogs hiking with us
- Able to visit the only national park in South Carolina
- Abundance of cypress, boardwalk
- All of it was great, enjoyed it very much
- Always clean, great place to bring company/visitors
- An ecosystem very different from home in California; sparse visitation compared to major parks
- An interesting and different national park
- Animal life
- Areas of unaltered natural wilderness
- As always, the uniqueness of it - the bird life, massive trees, otters
- Assistance from park staff
- Atmosphere
- Atmosphere and hiking trails
- Awareness of variety of plant and animal life
- Awesome spiders
- Backcountry trails
- Bald cypress, alligators, birds
- Beautiful
- Beautiful and peaceful, welcoming rangers
- Beautiful day, fresh air, quiet
- Beautiful facilities blending into the environment; wonderful boardwalk trail
- Beautiful fall foliage as well as fallen leaves
- Beautiful landscape and super friendly staff and rangers
- Beautiful park, sound of woodpeckers, solitude, scenery, park staff
- Beautiful park, well operated
- Beautiful scenery
- Beautiful scenery
- Beautiful scenery
- Beautiful scenery
- Beautiful scenery and boardwalk
- Beautiful scenery on Cedar Creek
- Beautiful spot
- Beautiful tall trees
- Beautiful trails
- Beautiful trees - I've never seen a landscape like this

- Beautiful trees, pair of pileated woodpeckers feeding young, clean fresh smell and sounds of forest
- Beautiful weather, wonderful canoe trip
- Beautiful, peaceful, clean
- Beautiful, quiet, interesting
- Beauty
- Beauty
- Beauty
- Beauty and peacefulness
- Beauty and piece of the park as experienced on the elevated boardwalk
- Beauty of a diverse ecosystem, biodiversity
- Beauty of fall foliage, streams
- Beauty of nature
- Beauty of park
- Beauty of trees in park
- Beauty, bird songs, wildness, quiet from manmade noise (absence of), park open 24 hours
- Beauty, condition, solitude
- Beauty, no crowds
- Beauty, quiet, canoeing opportunity
- Being able to be in nature on the boardwalk and having an easy travel
- Being able to see an old growth forest as no other prominent ones seem to exist in the eastern US
- Being able to walk trails, friendliness/helpfulness of park staff
- Being away from the city
- Being in the woods
- Being outdoors in a really unique forest
- Being outdoors on a beautiful fall day. Nice fresh air and peaceful scenery
- Being outdoors with a nice trail and self-guided activities
- Being outdoors, quiet, nice facilities, clean
- Being outdoors, trees, no Mosquitoes
- Being together in a beautiful place
- Being together is a beautiful natural environment that is not crowded with people
- Being with family in nature
- Big trees
- Big trees
- Big trees and floodplain forest ecosystem
- Big trees, knees
- Biodiversity and the interpretive guide for the boardwalk to help explain what we saw
- Birds - sightings and songs
- Birds, trees, lake
- Birds and turtle activity
- Birds, fauna, flora
- Birds, trees
- Boardwalk
- Boardwalk
- Boardwalk

- Boardwalk
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- Boardwalk
- Boardwalk
- Boardwalk
- Boardwalk
- Boardwalk
- Boardwalk
- Boardwalk
- Boardwalk - 80 year olds did not want to go off walk
- Boardwalk allowed us to get unto the swamp and the self-guided boardwalk numbers/items were fascinating
- Boardwalk and available wheelchair made the area accessible to physically challenged
- Boardwalk and helpfulness of staff
- Boardwalk and hiking trails
- Boardwalk and staff assistance
- Boardwalk and visitor center
- Boardwalk hike
- Boardwalk hikes
- Boardwalk signage
- Boardwalk through the swamp/forest
- Boardwalk to the lake. Our 4 year old loved seeing all the spiders and walking sticks
- Boardwalk trail
- Boardwalk trail
- Boardwalk trail
- Boardwalk trail
- Boardwalk trail
- Boardwalk trail
- Boardwalk trail
- Boardwalk trail was top notch
- Boardwalk trail, bald cypress
- Boardwalk trail, very quiet and peaceful
- Boardwalk trails
- Boardwalk trails
- Boardwalk trails - elevated and low
- Boardwalk trails - nice and relaxing. Great looking at scenery.

- Boardwalk trails self-guided tours
- Boardwalk walk
- Boardwalk with explanation map
- Boardwalk, accompanied by educational map/trail markers
- Boardwalk, big trees
- Boardwalk, birding
- Boardwalk, bookstore
- Boardwalk, brochure, solitude
- Boardwalk, cypress trees and knees
- Boardwalk, giant trees
- Boardwalk, guide to numbers on boardwalk
- Boardwalk, kayaking - peacefulness of park - very quiet season (11/1/11)
- Boardwalk, park personnel
- Boardwalk, plants, animals
- Boardwalk, quiet, trees/nature
- Boardwalk, quietness, center
- Boardwalk, ranger
- Boardwalk, talk with ranger and volunteer
- Boardwalk, trails
- Boardwalk, trees
- Boardwalks
- Boardwalks
- Boardwalks
- Boardwalks
- Boardwalks
- Boardwalks
- Boardwalks and chance to see swamp with dry feet
- Boardwalks, opportunity to walk in natural area
- Boardwalks, swamp trees, quiet picnic area
- Bottomland forest
- Breathing clean air
- Brochure with markers along boardwalks, easy walk
- Buttress roots and shiny green beetles
- Camping
- Camping, hiking, everything
- Canoe experience
- Canoe tour - wildlife, beauty of creek. Trails are also excellent
- Canoe trail
- Canoe trail, staff at visitor center, and nice beach to camp on Congaree River
- Canoe trip
- Canoe trip
- Canoe trip
- Canoe trip - ranger-guided, mosquito meter
- Canoe trip and hiking

- Canoe trip and hiking trails
- Canoe trip except for having to offload and carry canoes down hill to put-in area
- Canoe trip on Cedar Creek
- Canoe trip with ranger and volunteers was excellent; made our visit perfect
- Canoe trip, talks with ranger greeter
- Canoeing
- Canoeing
- Canoeing
- Canoeing
- Canoeing Cedar Creek
- Canoeing, kayaking
- Catching fish
- Cedar Creek
- Cedar Creek kayak trip
- Champion trees, beauty of nature, lack of litter (trash), clean air
- Champion trees, natural environment, being able to see this wonderful old growth forest and learn about it
- Chance for pleasant walking
- Chance to see very large trees
- Chance to visit protected wilderness area
- Clean
- Clean
- Clean air, quiet, photo opportunities, beauty and mystery of Congaree National Park
- Clean environment, not crowded, nice trails, clean facility
- Clean park and very helpful staff
- Clean trails, solitude, helpful staff
- Clean, quiet, peaceful
- Clean, thanks
- Clean, well maintained, friendly staff, great information, clean restrooms
- Cleanliness
- Cleanliness of park
- Close to major city. Total unaltered nature. Excellent ranger/volunteer.
- Closeness, quiet
- Congaree is unique in its narrow focus
- Connecting with nature
- Convenience, quality of park
- Convenient, quiet, beautiful place to stop for a break while on a bicycle tour
- Corrine was great as a guide
- Courteous staff, very knowledgeable. Tried to accommodate and wait out rain.
- Cypress nobs/knees
- Cypress trees
- Cypress trees
- Cypress trees
- Cypress trees
- Desolation

- Despite really tall trees, we saw quite a few birds
- Different ecosystem
- Different types of vegetation
- Different vegetation, trees at visitor center, signs on trails (with guide)
- Discovering it existed
- Displays
- Displays at the visitor center
- Diverse wildlife viewing opportunities
- Diversity
- Diversity in the wilderness
- Diversity of forest
- Diversity of species on trails
- Diversity of the ecosystems, availability of the boardwalk for the physically challenged
- Diversity of the walk and park, the solitude
- Ease of trails, trails clearly marked
- Ease of walking in the woods; we got the experience of being in thick forest with easy walking
- Ease to get around. Small groups of people. Trail markers on trees.
- Easy access, boardwalk trail, hike, film
- Education of youth in old growth, etc.
- Elevated boardwalk
- Elevated boardwalk trail with printed guide
- Elevated boardwalk, ease of use with stroller. We saw a woodpecker - beautiful.
- Elevated trails
- Enjoyed the ability to borrow a wheelchair for my grandma, so we could push her around the entire boardwalk
- Enjoyed walking the trail, looking at the different trees, seeing wild pigs, especially the piglets
- Enjoying nature as a family
- Enthusiastic, knowledgeable staff
- Environment
- Environmental purity
- Everything
- Everything
- Everything
- Everything but the biting insects
- Everything the park had to offer
- Everything, especially the big spiders
- Excellent volunteer-led walk
- Exercise
- Exercise, solitude, nature
- Exhibits
- Experiencing nature
- Experiencing pristine, old growth forest
- Experiencing such a unique place
- Explanations, exhibits, brochures
- Exploring nature

- Exploring nature while hiking/walking
- Exposure to a new ecosystem
- Extensive trails, solitude
- Extremely clean restrooms
- Fall colors
- Family time to explore peaceful nature
- Fantastic nature, the beauty of the park, the silence
- Finding an "unknown" park to all of us
- Finding lizards, turtles, a humming bird and an owl along the boardwalk
- Finding out about the trees and their history. Enjoyed the boardwalk, too.
- Fishing
- Floodplain forest
- Forest views
- Forest, peaceful, beauty
- Free access
- Free admission, beautiful, educational and fun family experience
- Free camping, night hiking
- Freedom to explore/walk to observe and enjoy nature
- Fridge magnets
- Friendliness of ranger (Mr. Greeter) and meeting other interesting people. Beautiful weather and educational
- Friendliness of staff. Cleanliness
- Friendliness of the rangers. The beauty of the place. The clean and accessible public areas (picnic)
- Friendly
- Friendly and helpful staff
- Friendly rangers, good trails, quiet, except for F-16 flyover
- Friendly staff
- Friendly staff and volunteers
- Friendly staff and volunteers in visitor center and on walks
- Full moon, cypress, campground layout, mosquito meter, large enough for number of visitors
- Getting away from people
- Getting back to nature
- Getting out and walking in the woods
- Golden Crowned Kinglet, red-headed woodpecker, birds in general, swamp
- Good condition - all trails are open
- Good experience, staff informative, easy to hike boardwalk
- Good hiking trails
- Good hiking trails and scenery
- Good kayaking and fee free
- Good trails, solitude
- Gorgeous swam - beautiful day; trees/forests awesome
- Got the feeling of South Carolina's unique historical environment. Self-guided tour was awesome. Liked peacefulness of boardwalk hike
- Great bird watching, wonderful talk by volunteer
- Great experience overall

- Great hiking, saw wild pigs
- Great park
- Great place for my scout troop; multiple opportunities for the boys to learn and use skills
- Great place to be
- Great ranger-led canoe trip
- Great trails
- Green time
- Guided canoe trip
- Guided tour
- Guided tour, natural canopy we paddled through
- Having access, via the boardwalk, to wet areas I would not have been able to see.
- Helpful national park ranger
- Helpful staff, beautiful trails
- Helpful staff, neat ecosystem - glad I stopped. Very clean restrooms
- Helpfulness of staff
- Hike on boardwalk trail
- Hiking
- Hiking
- Hiking
- Hiking and canoeing
- Hiking and spending time with family. We came to see the wild pigs and got to see a few. We had a great time
- Hiking on boardwalk
- Hiking on boardwalk, visitor center
- Hiking the boardwalks
- Hiking the trails, seeing animals, making whistles with leaves
- Hiking through this unique environment on well-marked trails and meeting enthusiastic park rangers
- Hiking trails and large trees
- Hiking trails, boardwalks, lack of crowds
- Hiking was most enjoyable, very quiet
- Hiking, bird watchers
- Hiking, friendly staff, camping, floodplain forest, visitor center bathroom
- History of the park/area, trails
- How nice the lady working was and how clean everything was
- How remote the backcountry trails are
- How safe the boardwalk was for my three year old
- I did not see anyone in the backcountry, exactly what I was looking for
- I enjoyed being out in nature in a natural habitat in the way it should be and away from civilization for a while
- I enjoyed hiking through the unique environment of the park and even a brush with a cottonmouth was enjoyable
- I like hiking and photography
- I liked being in the park early and experiencing a lot of wildlife without a lot of people
- I liked that you were more dog-friendly than most NPs; at least there were trails to walk them on

- I liked the fact that you could camp anywhere in the park, as long as you met the set distance requirements from water, etc.
- I liked the history, the past
- I liked the inside. It was well done. I also liked the boardwalk.
- I love the trails
- I loved the boardwalk - especially that it was stroller accessible; that made it possible for even the little ones to visit
- I only had about 40 minutes and I loved the boardwalk trail in the beautiful trees
- It was clean, the possibility of sighting snakes, lizards
- Immense peacefulness and affect of frequent flooding on the landscape
- Immersion in nature
- Incredible natural resource diversity
- Information about the champion trees
- Information and natural state
- Information building
- Information from staff, visitor center exhibits and movie
- Information from the ranger
- Interesting trees and plants, colorful, large spiders, skinks, hiking
- Interesting, great boardwalk hike
- Intimacy with nature
- Introduction video was very informative. Raised boardwalk was very nice.
- It is magical
- It satisfied our wish to see - be in - the swamp, enjoy a nice day
- It was a fun and inexpensive way to spend time with my family
- It was a surprise. Did not know it was there. Boardwalks nice.
- It was away from it all
- It was close to Columbia - that's where we were staying
- It was educational, serene and so relaxing
- It was like no place I've ever been before
- It was quiet. Maps were helpful
- It was so serene and quiet. Lovely birds and lots of them. Great boardwalks
- It was such a pleasant surprise to find it. Glad to see such beautiful trees and ecosystem protected
- It was very unexpected
- It's a fun place to walk
- It's a national treasure
- It’s a peaceful place to hike
- Its beauty, instructional value, solitude, and wonderfully helpful staff
- It's close to home, I visit frequently
- It's not often one sees the beauty of such a place
- It's the best place in Columbia
- It's wonderful to have the resource so close to home
- Junior Ranger
- Junior Ranger program and scenery
- Just a fun place. Lots to do, things to see, trails to hike
- Just being in the outdoors together as a family

- Just enjoying being outdoors in such an interesting place
- Just love the floodplain/swamp
- Just seeing the trees (boardwalk, Wise Lake), quiet
- Kayaking Cedar Creek
- Kayaking Cedar Creek
- Kayaking on Cedar Creek
- Kayaking was great, but I am a biologist so I loved seeing the snakes, spiders and life everywhere
- Knees
- Knowledge shared by the paid and volunteer staff
- Knowledgeable and professional guide
- Landscape unlike any other we have experienced
- Large bald cypress and other big trees
- Large old growth trees and forest
- Large pine trees
- Large trees
- Large trees, clean facility, the politeness of staff
- Large variety of wildlife, especially off-trail
- Leadership of John Cely and his knowledge of park and its resources
- Learning about swamp habitat
- Learning about the age of the trees and the natural flooding cycles
- Learning about the cypress "knees"
- Learning about the cypress trees and their "knees"
- Learning about the different kind of trees
- Learning about the local environment
- Learning about the uniqueness of the park
- Learning from the rangers about the park
- Learning why it is preserved as a national park
- Less crowded, old growth forest
- Loblolly pines
- Loblolly tree and cypress knees, boardwalks
- Long boardwalk through swamp
- Long, quiet hike, bird calls, champion trees, cypress "knees"
- Long, well-marked trails
- Loop boardwalk
- Lots of birds
- Love the trees
- Loved boardwalk and other hikes - lovely pines were amazing
- Loved everything
- Loved the canoe ride tour
- Lovely walk in peace and quiet
- Low key atmosphere, clean trails and boardwalks, helpful rangers
- Majestic trees
- Majesty of the old trees
- Minimal development and immediate wilderness feel

- Most of the flora and fauna
- Mostly solitude and change from upland pine hammock to bottomlands. Also, birds and butterflies.
- Mostly very quiet
- Mosquito meter, boardwalk with interpretive guide
- My group enjoyed the beauty and clean grounds of the national park
- National park staff, good boardwalk trail
- Natural beauty
- Natural beauty of the area
- Natural beauty of the swamp and forest
- Natural environment, not too crowded, quiet, easy to walk
- Natural forest
- Natural forest setting, quietness, beautiful
- Natural landscape
- Natural setting
- Natural surroundings
- Nature
- Nature
- Nature
- Nature
- Nature
- Nature
- Nature
- Nature
- Nature and kid-friendly boardwalk
- Nature and owl
- Nature-led programs
- Nature walks
- Nature, history, trails
- Nature, walking, cane trip with ranger
- Nature; access to nature via walking trail
- Nature, nice boardwalk
- Nature/trees
- Near virgin timber
- New environment, peace, quiet
- Nice boardwalk
- Nice boardwalk trail and benches
- Nice hiking trails, well sign-posted trails
- Nice trails, cypress trees, trails well-marked
- Nice trails; helpful staff
- Nice walk
- Nice walk and looking at forest
- Nice walk with self-guided tour, view, learning
- Nice, quiet, clean
- Night sky and storm

- No camping fees, the peace
- No crowds, boardwalk, ranger
- No noise
- Not crowded
- Observing the natural history and land preserved as it has been from time immemorial
- Old forest, solitude, fresh air
- Old growth floodplain forest
- Old growth forest
- Old growth forest, competent and friendly staff
- Old growth forest, plant and wildlife diversity
- Old growth trees
- Old growth trees
- Openness
- Opportunity for fresh air, quiet and exercise - free of charge experience
- Opportunity for good conversation. Learned about woodpeckers and cypress knees.
- Opportunity to hike the natural area
- Opportunity to see park a different way; fulfill school work project at no cost
- Opportunity to view plants and animals up close in their natural environments
- Our 2 year old granddaughter enjoying the big trees, birds (owls), squirrels, and big hollow trees
- Outdoors
- Outdoors
- Outside/nature solitude
- Outstanding interactions with staff and amazing resource
- Overall experience of walking the boardwalk
- Overall layout and presentation of park
- Overall peace and quiet, fresh air, walking beneath the canopy of tall trees
- Overnight camping with my son
- Paddle on Cedar Creek from Bannister Bridge
- Paddling Cedar Creek
- Paddling Cedar Creek wilderness trail
- Pamphlet walking tour
- Park personnel, boardwalk interpretation, shared area history
- Park ranger at visitor center was very nice and helpful
- Park ranger, solitude, views of the plant and animal life, time shared with family
- Park was kept and personnel were great
- Passport stamp program
- Peace and large trees
- Peace and quiet
- Peace and quiet
- Peace and quiet, free camping
- Peace and quiet, nature mural at visitor center
- Peace and quiet, sounds of birds, owls, wild hogs
- Peace, order, clean
- Peace, paths, preservation of trees and landscape and personnel

- Peaceful
- Peaceful
- Peaceful and quiet
- Peaceful family time
- Peaceful paddle, pig tracks
- Peaceful solitude, the opportunity to walk through wetlands without disturbing them
- Peaceful sounds of nature during our walk
- Peaceful surrounding - beautiful colors, lack of crowds
- Peaceful way of the park, fresh air, amazing trees, spiders
- Peaceful, beautiful
- Peaceful, beautiful walk
- Peaceful, clean, quiet. Park rangers were extremely nice and informative.
- Peaceful, unique environment
- Peaceful, very few visitors, pleasant weather, no Mosquitoes
- Peaceful, well-maintained, but rural trails for running
- Peaceful; boardwalk, self-guided brochure was very informative
- Peacefulness
- Peacefulness
- Peacefulness and beauty of old growth woods
- Peacefulness, campgrounds (hiked through all the vacant camps). Boardwalk trails were great. Indoor exhibits, too.
- Peacefulness, serenity, natural beauty access
- Peacefulness, the walk, boardwalk, wildlife
- Personal attention, self-guided tour
- Personnel
- Pine trees— how tall they are, wildlife
- Plants/animals - photography opportunities
- Plenty of trails. Not crowded. Clean facilities. Accurate signage.
- Preservation
- Preservation of swamp
- Primeval feel, giant trees, forest sounds, observing animals and birds, views
- Pristine conditions
- Pristine, old growth timberland. The state (SC) as it was.
- Private camping grounds
- Quality and quantity of trails
- Quality of the old growth forest
- Quiet
- Quiet
- Quiet
- Quiet - the nature, the boardwalks
- Quiet and calmness of the forest/sounds of nature
- Quiet and cypress
- Quiet and natural
- Quiet and solitude
- Quiet and solitude of kayaking Cedar Creek. All the birds.

- Quiet and solitude, except for leaf blowers for about 5 minutes
- Quiet and uncrowded
- Quiet area, huge trees, variety of trails, 2-mile boardwalk with interpretative booklet
- Quiet beauty
- Quiet boardwalk
- Quiet get away, nature
- Quiet on Sim Trail
- Quiet trails
- Quiet visit with interesting environment that is unique to other national parks
- Quiet walk in woods and swamp
- Quiet walk to stretch legs
- Quiet walk, peaceful setting, huge trees
- Quiet walk. "Knee" roots, which we've never seen or heard of.
- Quiet wooded autumn atmosphere
- Quiet, beauty
- Quiet, beauty, friendly staff
- Quiet, boardwalk, small number of visitors
- Quiet, condition/length of boardwalk
- Quiet, friendliness and helpfulness of the ranger on duty in the visitor center, numbers on the boardwalk
- Quiet, its natural state
- Quiet, old growth forest, champion trees, birds, boardwalk, lack of trash, friendly staff
- Quiet, serene, nature (animals - birds) up close
- Quiet, tree, diversity
- Quiet, wonderful smells, explosion of bird sounds, kindness of ranger
- Quiet; loved the trees
- Quietness
- Quietness, boardwalk, trees
- Quietness, solitude, walking route
- Quite beautiful nature/wildlife
- Ranger answered questions from our group while we were waiting for storm to pass over. Very knowledgeable, very interesting information. Impressed by their knowledge.
- Ranger professionalism, maintenance of the boardwalk
- Ranger volunteer knowledge
- Ranger was most helpful and knowledgeable and friendly - Kathleen
- Ranger-guided kayak/canoe tour
- Ranger-led canoe trip
- Ranger-led canoe trip
- Ranger-led canoe trip
- Ranger-led kayaking
- Ranger's help and the boardwalk and the quiet
- Rangers and their ability to communicate their knowledge of park natural history
- Rangers and volunteers very helpful
- Rangers and volunteers were friendly, knowledgeable and motivated
- Rangers were so happy we came

- Rangers were very nice and helpful, especially Kathleen
- Reading exhibit information and talking to park personnel
- Relatively unspoiled nature
- Relaxing near the lake
- Relaxing walk on boardwalk and sightseeing from there
- Remote feeling
- Remote, quiet, beautiful
- Remoteness, quiet
- Safe, friendly environment to enjoy the outdoors
- Saw a herd of deer
- Saw and heard wildlife
- Saw variety, of wildlife - pigs, owls, birds, lizards, ducks
- Scenery
- Scenery
- Scenery
- Scenery
- Scenery
- Scenery
- Scenery within the park, trails
- Scenery, quiet trails
- Scenic views with explanations in brochures. Wildlife, foliage, nature, solitude.
- Scenic walks, history of parks
- Scenic, peaceful, historic. Boardwalks were great
- Seeing a different ecosystem from Denmark
- Seeing a pileated woodpecker and turtles and skunks
- Seeing a preserved forest and it was very peaceful
- Seeing a rescued 3-day old fawn (baby deer) a local worker brought to the national park to get help for baby deer
- Seeing lizards on the boardwalk
- Seeing plants and trees and birds
- Seeing the floodplain environment
- Seeing the giant trees
- Seeing the large trees
- Seeing the large trees on our hikes; hikes were well-marked
- Seeing the tall trees
- Seeing the trees and taking a walk on boardwalk. Ranger's talk.
- Seeing the woodpecker
- Seeing turtles and spider
- Seeing undisturbed nature
- Seeing wildlife, large trees, learning from staff
- Self boardwalk tour and quality of brochure and information at each marked station; mural in visitor center
- Self-guided boardwalk tour
- Self-guided tours were easy to follow. Very pleasant walking experience.
- Serene setting, chance to see wildlife, boardwalk is stroller friendly, great for photography

- Serenity
- Serenity
- Serenity
- Setting
- Showing daughter/granddaughter the outdoors via the wonderful boardwalks
- Sidewalk
- Signage and trees and guided walks
- Silence
- Silence
- Silence
- Silence, nature (plants and animals)
- Size and age of trees
- Small number of visitors
- Small number of visitors, weather, large number of birds
- Solitude
- Solitude
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- Solitude
- Solitude
- Solitude and champion trees and hiking on trails
- Solitude and habitat
- Solitude and quietness with an occasional sighting of deer and pigs
- Solitude and remote
- Solitude and scenery
- Solitude and those old growth trees
- Solitude and trails for walking and enjoying each other and the area around us

- Solitude during hike
- Solitude of the surroundings, 2 pileated woodpeckers
- Solitude of the trails
- Solitude on the trail and seeing some wild pigs
- Solitude on the trails and the option to sign-up for a canoe trip and guided tour
- Solitude on trails
- Solitude once off the main trail
- Solitude, beauty of changing leaves
- Solitude, being around nature
- Solitude, change of season
- Solitude, ease of access, minimal expense, helpful/friendly National Park Service personnel
- Solitude, easy access and maintenance of Cedar Creek Canoe Trail
- Solitude, easy walking trails, visitor center
- Solitude, insect world
- Solitude, majesty of old growth forest, wildlife
- Solitude, natural balance of nature
- Solitude, nature
- Solitude, nice trails, no mosquitoes. Loved idea of canoe trip led - didn't know enough in advance
- Solitude, only few other visitors, peace and quiet
- Solitude, plants, animals
- Solitude, pristine environment, staff
- Solitude, quietness, and sounds of nature
- Solitude, sense of being alone in nature
- Solitude, serenity, beauty
- Solitude, silence, excellent trails, well-maintained foot bridges and boardwalks, wild pigs
- Solitude, the forest itself, beautiful camping spot, boardwalk, trails
- Solitude, trails, wildlife, unique flora
- Solitude, unique beauty, water - Swamp River, trees, birds
- Solitude, wildlife, very clean trails, constant birdsong, informative staff
- Solitude, wildlife/plant life, huge loblolly pines
- Sounds and sights of nature
- Speaking with volunteers
- Special event - Walk Through History
- Spending time with my kids enjoying the beauty of nature
- Spiders
- Spotting wildlife, setting
- Staff
- Staff
- Staff
- Staff - boardwalk
- Staff and volunteers
- Staff very nice and helpful. Trails well marked and easy to follow. Good directional signs. Maps corresponded to trails and bridges.
- Staff, boardwalk, movie, visitor center
- Stepping back in time - refreshing

- Supplied equipment/canoes, etc.
- Surreal atmosphere
- Swamp environment, trees, birds
- Tall trees
- Tall trees, extremely helpful Ranger O'Greely, unique look at climax forest
- Terrific natural resource that is close to home. Well kept trails.
- That it is a national park
- That we were here in February and had the park to ourselves. Could be leisurely walking, no bugs at this time of year.
- The ability to go into the wilderness
- The ability to see wildlife in natural habitat
- The absolute feeling that one is traversing through Jurassic environs
- The abundance of birds - many types
- The amazing trees and the boardwalk
- The amount of land preserved as well as how well the boardwalk is maintained
- The bald cypress root structures were something we had never seen before, and they really made the hike
- The bald cypress trees, Wise Lake, friendly people at visitor center
- The beautiful dog walk trails and boardwalks
- The beautiful nature
- The beauty
- The beauty and peacefulness
- The beauty and quiet
- The beauty and solitude
- The beauty and tranquility
- The beauty of the Cedar Creek Canoe Trail; the peaceful solitude of it
- The beauty of the forest
- The beauty of the forest and the peace that was found there
- The beauty of the old growth floodplain forest and the champion trees, especially the loblolly pines
- The beauty of the park
- The beauty of the park
- The beauty of the place, the peace and quiet
- The big old growth trees and the quiet forest
- The big trees
- The big trees
- The big trees, birds singing, squirrels
- The birds (Barred Owl) and on a previous visit spiders and dragon flies
- The Bluff Trail
- The boardwalk
- The boardwalk
- The boardwalk - peace
- The boardwalk - very wheelchair accessible
- The boardwalk - you can walk and see the nature without paying attention to your steps
- The boardwalk and guide made our experience relaxing and yet wild
- The boardwalk and helpfulness of staff, based on our limited time at Congaree

- The boardwalk and information guide
- The boardwalk and the information in the boardwalk brochure. Very interesting. Loved how quiet it was.
- The boardwalk and tranquility
- The boardwalk gave freedom to explore without the worry of getting lost
- The boardwalk trail
- The boardwalk trail
- The boardwalk trail
- The boardwalk trail and guide pamphlet
- The boardwalk trail and pamphlet
- The boardwalk trail and the big trees
- The boardwalk trail and visitor center
- The boardwalk trail with brochure pointing out points of interest
- The boardwalk trail with literature provided
- The boardwalk walk through the old growth floodplain forest and the historical moonshine still
- The boardwalk walking path
- The boardwalk was awesome
- The boardwalk was easy to access with a stroller
- The boardwalk was great
- The boardwalk was terrific
- The boardwalk was very nice
- The boardwalk, different landscape, learning about the ecosystem
- The boardwalk; the entire visit was very enjoyable
- The boardwalk. The staff were very nice and informative.
- The boardwalks
- The boardwalks and scenery with nature
- The boardwalks and visitor center
- The boardwalks were easy to walk through
- The boardwalks were fun and well-maintained
- The boardwalks were well-done
- The canoe tour was awesome
- The chance to see a biome we had never seen
- The cypress trees and "knees"
- The different areas
- The different insects and wildlife
- The diversity of the trees from what we have at home
- The easy access to a large floodplain old growth forest
- The ecosystem there and it's history; learning of and seeing the campsites and river activities
- The extent of boardwalk itself and the grand tour from it
- The forest
- The forest and its preservation
- The forest/wildlife
- The free canoeing, camping and hiking opportunities
- The free, ranger-led canoe trip
- The freedom to just go

- The great loblolly pines and ancient trees
- The help from the park ranger to find the champion trees and suggest the best hike for a 3-hour visit
- The hike and guide to read
- The hike to the park
- The hiking trails
- The hiking trails
- The history and environmental challenges of the park
- The hogs were so cool
- The huge trees and insects - spiders. It was really quiet. Visitor center.
- The huge trees and the trails
- The immensity of the forest
- The kayak trip and seeing wild pigs from the Weston Lake Loop Trail
- The kayaking opportunities, and knowledgeable staff/volunteers
- The knees and very tall trees were very interesting
- The large trees
- The large trees, and being quiet
- The large trees, the quiet, the nature
- The magnificence of the old growth forest
- The many unique biological scenes
- The mosquito marker
- The muck
- The mystery, magic, and majesty of the trees, the boardwalks, the pileated woodpecker
- The natural beauty and quiet. The remarkable trees.
- The natural beauty and solitude and no litter. Cleanest place in the county.
- The natural experience
- The nature and beauty of the park. I like the turtles, fiancé likes the "crazy squirrels."
- The nature, the quiet campground, attentive park staff
- The old growth forest
- The old growth forests
- The old growth trees
- The old growth trees are magnificent
- The old trees
- The old trees and the trails
- The opportunity to enjoy hiking and sightseeing with our dogs
- The opportunity to see this natural habitat on well-kept trails and boardwalks
- The organization and the beauty of environment
- The park ranger was a great guy. Very helpful and very attractive.
- The park rangers were very knowledgeable
- The park was designed to get you into the wilderness; the camping was walk-in; it is free
- The peace and quiet
- The peace and quietness. Very, very few people - maybe half a dozen.
- The peaceful atmosphere
- The peacefulness along with the birds and insects chirping
- The peacefulness of the trails and being able to visit/see one of the last floodplains

- The pileated woodpecker
- The pine wilderness and the untouched woods
- The quality of the boardwalk (construction)
- The quiet and being the only ones on the trail. It was natural, not accessible to non-exercisers.
- The quiet and the smells throughout the park
- The quiet and the trees
- The quiet atmosphere
- The quiet atmosphere and minimum outdoor lighting. Many NPS visitor areas are over-lighted outside.
- The quiet atmosphere and shade
- The quiet environment
- The quiet solitude, the scenery.
- The quiet walk and the beautiful green cypress trees
- The quiet walk on the boardwalk trail and the interesting scenery
- The quiet walks on the trails
- The quiet while walking the boardwalk
- The quiet, the swamps, the boardwalk, the staff
- The quiet, the trees, the river
- The quiet, the wilderness, types of trees
- The quietness
- The ranger who led our tour was stellar
- The ranger-led kayak trip
- The record-breaking trees
- The relaxing atmosphere, friendly park rangers
- The seclusion
- The seclusion, generous campsite, very positive and helpful staff
- The self-guided boardwalk tour
- The serenity and safety of walking around the trails
- The serenity of the boardwalk. It was very peaceful.
- The sights were wonderful and the tour guide and administrative personnel were excellent
- The sights, sounds of the forest, the smell and the quiet
- The size of the trees
- The size of the trees
- The solitude and champion trees
- The solitude and sounds of nature
- The solitude and the chance to see wildlife
- The solitude off the boardwalk; I saw no other hikers
- The solitude on the trail and the wildlife
- The solitude, friendliness of staff
- The staff was very informative
- The swamp
- The swamp
- The swamp, the wildlife - boars, spiders, lizards
- The talks with park rangers
- The trail walk for adults. Kids liked the visitor center best.

- The trails
- The trails - seeing the native plants and wildlife
- The trails and trees and water
- The trails were great. It's nice having trails of different lengths.
- The trails were wonderful; well taken care of; loved boy scout bridges
- The trees
- The trees
- The trees
- The trees
- The trees - simply amazing. The walkways/trails were awesome and well-maintained - if a bit slippery.
- The trees - wow
- The trees and the quiet
- The trees and trails
- The trees, just seeing such large beautiful trees
- The trees, the creek trip - astounding
- The trees! Absolutely beautiful. Want to visit the champions, all of them.
- The trees/forest
- The turtles in the water
- The unique beauty
- The unique scenery, variety of trails
- The uniqueness of the NP
- The uniqueness of the park
- The uniqueness of this eco-system
- The variety - and size - of trees and vines and birds
- The variety of hikes/walks. Excellent informational signs/pamphlets. Quiet and relative solitude. Incredible tree species. Sounds of bird life.
- The variety of plants to observe within a 2-hour walk
- The variety of trees and birds we got to see as well as other wildlife
- The various animals we saw, the awesome trees, the wonderful sounds of nature and most of all the solitude
- The vegetation, especially the trees
- The visitor center, large loblolly pine, Weston Lake
- The walk
- The way the trails (Western Lake Loop) weave through the old growth forest. The condition of the trails was great.
- The well-maintained boardwalks
- The whole atmosphere, the trees, the swamp, the nature, the boardwalk accessibility, trails, wildlife
- The whole experience was rewarding. Seeing the woods that had little human wear.
- The whole park
- The wilderness
- The wilderness, we felt nature all around us and the walk (self-guided came in hand) was beautiful
- The wooden path, good condition, friendly staff, film, AV presentation, restrooms, parking
- This park has a very nice visitor center
- Three + days of no driving and lots of beautiful nature

- To see animals, trees, and plants on the walk
- Toonses (the turtle) and Toonces Junior
- Touring with a volunteer guide (John Cely) to tell us information about what we were seeing
- Trail system
- Trail walk, seeing nature
- Trails
- Trails
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- Trails
- Trails
- Trails - elevated boardwalk, low boardwalk, the exhibits in the visitor center
- Trails - marked well/maintained well; visitor center - staff friendly/great exhibits and shops
- Trails and big trees, no mosquitoes or humidity
- Trails and solitude
- Trails and walks
- Trails open and clear for hiking
- Trails through the woods
- Trails to hike
- Trails were well-marked and an enjoyable hike
- Trails, coyote noises, close bathrooms, bluffs campsite
- Trails, nearby
- Trails, wildlife
- Trails, wildlife, quiet. There seem to be fewer pigs.
- Tranquility
- Tranquility, seeing wildlife
- Trees
- Trees
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- Trees
- Trees
- Trees
- Trees
- Trees
- Trees and birds
- Trees and plants
- Trees and quiet

- Trees and walkways
- Trees knees, walking tour of boardwalk
- Trees were amazing; good trails and the quiet frequent sitting places along boardwalk
- Trees, boardwalk
- Trees, great trails, quiet
- Trees, hiking, canoe trip
- Trees, knees in the water
- Trees, owls photographic opportunities. The forest and wildlife.
- Trees, plants, swamp
- Trees, spiders
- Trees, trails
- Trees, turtles, thunder/lightning, raw
- Trees, wildlife, nature
- Trying something new and being in nature
- Turtles and trails
- Turtles, spiders, wilderness
- Twenty-one points of interest along the boardwalk trail
- Uncrowded, pleasant
- Undisturbed wilderness, quiet, bird life
- Unfamiliar ecosystem and hiking
- Unique beauty
- Unique environment
- Unique forest, boardwalk, very pleasant staff and volunteers, John
- Unique habitats
- Unique nature of the hikes
- Unique park, boardwalks well-maintained, wonderful interaction (conversing with rangers)
- Unique primeval-like old-growth floodplain forest setting, which is beautiful and serene
- Unique swamp forest, no bugs, zero on mosquito meter
- Unique, uncrowded, recreational diversity
- Unspoiled solitude
- Unusual environment for us. We learned about new trees and birds.
- Unusual forest; nice, quiet atmosphere
- Unusual wilderness
- Varied scenes of nature visible from boardwalks - primitive campground
- Variety of plant life and unique ecosystem
- Variety of trails and walkways
- Variety of trails available
- Variety of trees and birds, fall colors of leaves
- Vegetational landscape
- Very accessible - my husband uses a cane or wheelchair
- Very clean, helpful, knowledgeable staff
- Very different plants and animals than we see in Ohio
- Very few people (visitors), the staff was extremely helpful and friendly
- Very free-form exploration

- Very good boardwalk trails. The marked places of interest. Seeing the large bald cypress trees.
- Very helpful staff in the visitor center
- Very peaceful
- Very peaceful - seeing and learning about the trees
- Very peaceful and interesting
- Very peaceful except for the airplane and gunshot noise. We appreciate the way you have kept things so natural and almost primitive.
- Very quiet, peaceful, calm, the animal spottings. Able to choose variety of trails long and short.
- Viewing bald cypress trees
- Viewing several wild pigs
- Viewing the forest and birds from boardwalk, talking with staff and volunteers
- Virgin trees
- Visit lead by know naturalist (Rudee Manke)
- Visited in February; unfortunately, not much blooming and little animal activity, but no mosquitoes
- Visitor center - Karen on staff at desk was very helpful
- Visitor center exhibits and boardwalk
- Visitor center is blended nicely into the forest; boardwalk was easy to walk
- Visitor center was outstanding
- Visitor center was very helpful
- Visitor center, giant trees, Weston Lake overlook
- Visitor center, trails
- Walk
- Walk on the boardwalk and trails
- Walking
- Walking
- Walking along elevated boardwalk, following numbered items in brochure
- Walking along the boardwalk trail and talking with the rangers about other opportunities
- Walking boardwalk
- Walking in an old growth forest
- Walking in quiet woods with knowledgeable ranger and volunteer
- Walking in the midst of towering trees and hearing mostly natural sounds
- Walking in woods, seeing big trees
- Walking on boardwalk
- Walking on boardwalk
- Walking on the boardwalk and the interpretation signage on the boardwalk
- Walking on the boardwalks, being in nature, swamp
- Walking on the elevated boardwalk trail
- Walking the boardwalk
- Walking the boardwalk
- Walking the elevated boardwalk
- Walking the trails
- Walking the trails
- Walking the trails
- Walking through forest, seeing virgin climax forest
- Walking trail

- Walking trails
- Walking Weston Lake Loop
- Walking, hiking and bird watching
- Walkways
- Watched a rat snake stalk a mouse and eat it. Saw a big hornets nest. Touched ancient loblolly pine trees.
- Watching a raccoon catch minnows
- Watching the wildlife at the lake and looking at cypress knees
- We came to see the bald cypress trees, but enjoyed champions, park staff, canoeing/kayaking
- We enjoyed hiking the boardwalk and completing the Junior Ranger program with the kids
- We enjoyed seeing the beautiful old growth forest and the large trees
- We experienced the vast boardwalk and enjoyed it
- We had a beautiful day and we loved the trails, the champion trees
- We like being alone to hear, see, audio record and photograph nature
- We liked the quietness and ability to walk at our leisure and sit and observe. We saw a doe and a yearling and we stood watching each other. So peaceful.
- We love nature. The boardwalk was awesome.
- We love the "by the numbers" self-guided tours
- We love the trails, the quiet. A wonderful place to hike. It was my birthday.
- We loved everything. The ability to see all that exists there and still feel like we are by ourselves in the wilderness.
- We loved walking the boardwalk, reading the brochure and finding the sites indicated
- We were there early and it was not crowded - very peaceful
- We were unfamiliar with this type of swamp - very beautiful
- Weather was great, quiet, was nice
- Weather, boardwalk
- Weather, boardwalk
- Weather/boardwalk
- Welcome center
- Well-designed boardwalk showed key features of the park
- Well -laid trails, absolute quiet, natural beauty
- Well-maintained and marked trails
- Well-maintained trails
- Well-maintained trails and boardwalk
- Well-organized
- Well-kept trails, Junior Ranger program
- Well-kept, nice trails
- Wild pigs - we saw eight and that was new for us
- Wilderness
- Wilderness, trees, owls
- Wilderness, quietness
- Wildlife
- Wildlife
- Wildlife
- Wildlife - turtles at Weston Lake

- Wildlife and plant interest. Ecology of Congaree.
- Wildlife observations - turtles, birds, exotic flowers (not identified), trees
- Wildlife, boardwalk, excellent facilities
- Wonderful boardwalk hike
- Wonderful trail through bottomland forested swamp with wonderful wildlife - hawks and snakes
- Woodpeckers
- Woodpeckers, birds

**Q32b.** What did you and your personal group like least about your visit to Congaree NP?

- 3 major obstacles on Canoe Trail
- A couple of loud walkers on boardwalk. There were two men - not adolescents or children.
- A few Mosquitoes
- After hours cars in parking lot near tent campsites
- After-hours restroom facilities
- Aircraft flew over
- Aircraft noise
- Airplane noise
- Airplane noise
- Airplane noise
- Airplane noise
- Airplane noise
- Airplane noise
- Airplane noises while hiking
- Airplanes were a bit distracting and we didn't realize this is out of your control
- All good
- All the kids from schools on boardwalk very loud
- All was good
- Almost no parking
- Anole
- Any sign of man, i.e.: Solo cups discarded alongside boardwalks
- Bad map and trail markings
- Bald cypress trees
- Barking dogs
- Bathroom facility at campground
- Being a swamp, we expected to see more water. It is not really a swamp. It is forest that floods for a few weeks a year.
- Being harassed by the park ranger. We were asked if we had been drinking. We were not loud or obnoxious. We asked him directions on the boardwalk. He waited in the parking lot for us for two hours and administered several tests, including a breathalyzer. Of course, I passed. He then called for backup and followed us out.
- Being tired
- Better advertised
- Bicyclist on boardwalk
- Blown down trees, but wouldn't have spotted tracks otherwise
- Boardwalk can be crowded and may not accommodate wheelchairs
- Boardwalk seemed a bit rickety in places
- Boardwalk slippery
- Boardwalk was made of wood. Thought that was a bit weird to have in a national park.
- Boardwalks in poor repair in some areas, particularly near visitor center
- Boy scouts a bit rowdy
- Boy scouts!
- Bugs
- Bugs

- Bugs
- Bugs
- Bugs and no bikes
- Came before blooming season
- Campground
- Campgrounds need upgrading. Need to have water at after-hours campground. Need sanitation facilities at Bluff Campground.
- Camping
- Can't think of any negatives
- Can't think of anything remotely negative
- Cannot think of anything
- Canoe ramps
- Canoe tour not available the days we were there - disappointed to not see old cypress trees on Cedar Creek
- Canoers
- Caught no fish, gravel in campground parking lot was noisy for sleeping in RV
- Cement fiber boardwalk planks hurt feel. Natural wood boardwalk planks had spring and give.
- Chatty persons in bird/lark tour loud and distracting
- Chiggers
- Chiggers, trail sometimes obscure, fallen trees on trail, no good places to stop and rest on trail
- Chilly wind
- Clearer trails
- Could do better identifying the numbered stops on the boardwalk tour. We missed several, hard to see.
- Could not spend enough time there
- Could you move it to my backyard? Nothing - it was a beautiful visit, perfect weather.
- Couldn't find a third of the trail numbers that matched brochure numbers to read
- Couldn't stay longer
- Crowded parking lot
- Crying babies
- Crying small children, bikes on boardwalk
- Cut our hike short because we thought gate locked at 5. It doesn't.
- Cypress and knees not as big as advertised
- Damage pigs are doing to forest floor. Not having a water spigot at the campground. Desk personnel did not know the distance by road between canoe landings.
- Dearth of wildlife (in Feb)
- Deer flies
- Definition of old growth
- Destruction by wild pigs
- Destruction by wild pigs. Unexpected water on Oakridge Trail.
- Destructive signs of pigs
- Did not have enough time - not your fault
- Did not have enough time to spend
- Did not see hogs
- Didn't have enough time

- Didn't have time to take a longer hike
- Didn't see any animals
- Didn't see as many birds as I'd hoped for
- Didn't see as much wildlife as we had hoped to see
- Didn't understand which trails we could take a dog on
- Difficult to locate
- Difficult to rate progress on unmarked trails
- Difficulty finding park - signage from Bluff Road unclear - lost 45 minutes. Website didn't give an address to put in GPS.
- Difficulty in getting there
- Directional signs off of approach highways
- Directions to the park
- Distance from home - 30 miles. If closer, we would come about once a week.
- Distance from major roads
- Distance from restroom
- Distances along trail not shown, trail distance not clear if you take more than one trail
- Dogs being walked where they were not supposed to be
- Dogs not allowed on boardwalk, but thrilled they were allowed in a national park
- Dogs on boardwalk
- Dogs on boardwalk and trails. Most trails start and end on boardwalk.
- Don't have an answer - nothing
- Driving cars
- Dry season, think it would have been better if water levels had been higher
- Dry streams
- Enjoyed the visit, no detriments
- Enjoying the quiet and peace
- Even the mosquitoes were not a problem
- Everything good
- Everything was fine
- Everything was great
- Evidence of destruction by pigs everywhere
- Exceeded expectations
- Excellent weekend - all great. Portajohn at campsite.
- Extreme heat required cancellation of ranger (outdoor) program
- Facilities were closing down. We came at the end of the day.
- Failed to see river otters
- Fallen trees on path
- Feral pigs - get rid of them
- Few signs to help you find it
- Fewer animal sightings - wrong time of year
- Fill along the walkway/path
- Filling out this extremely long form
- Finding the trash people are leaving behind
- Forgot to bring water
- Four employees/volunteers talking together inside visitor center did not offer greeting upon entrance

- Four hour drive each way from Atlanta
- Full parking lot
- Getting there. More signs might help just because it is such a rural area.
- Getting to the Bluff site too late to get a fire ring
- Gifts, shirts, etc., too sparse
- Gnats and Mosquitoes
- Got conflicting information from rangers and volunteers
- Great experience
- Great experience - no negatives
- Group of school students
- Had to flee because of armies of mosquitoes
- Hauling canoes to waterfront and back to truck
- Having to carry canoes. Too much talking from several groups on canoe trip. Couldn't hear nature noises.
- Having to leave my dog in the car for much of our hike, but I understand why
- Hearing gunshots
- Heat
- Heat
- Heat
- Heat
- Heat
- Heat
- Heat
- Heat - August, 95 degrees
- Heat - but there is nothing you can do about that
- Heat and humidity
- Heat and humidity, spiders
- Heat and humidity, the sights tend to get old
- Heat and Mosquitoes
- Hog destruction
- Honestly, pretty boring
- Honestly, the spider webs across the Oak Ridge Trail, but it was nice to have the trail to myself
- Hot
- Hot and sticky
- Hot weather
- Hot weather
- How clean and maintained
- How hot it was
- Humid weather
- Humidity
- Humidity
- Humidity
- Humidity
- Humidity
- Humidity

- Humidity
- Humidity
- Humidity - not your fault
- Humidity, but that's part of nature. Beautiful park.
- Humidity, heat
- Hurricane Hugo trees - dead
- I came unprepared for the hot temperature
- I can't think of any issues, I had a limited 2.5 hr. visit. Perhaps the signage to get into/to the park.
- I did not take more advantage of park resources - guided tours etc.
- I didn't expect to hear airplanes, but it didn't really effect the experience
- I didn't find much to complain of, but perhaps more easily accessible campsites
- I didn't see as many wild animals as I hoped for, but it was late morning when I hiked
- I don't feel like I learned much about the wildlife in the forest
- I don't know of any advertisement in Cola (30 min from park)
- I think there should be more history information in visitor center about the area
- I wanted more information about wildlife while on trails. Had to identify via iPhone.
- I was alone and therefore felt unsafe
- I wish they could make certain parts of the boardwalk access to dogs
- I would like to see a few benches on the trails
- Impact of wild pigs
- Impact of wild pigs, noise of other visitors
- Inability to see more of the park by car
- Inability to use boardwalk because dogs not allowed - feel missed best viewing
- Inefficiency of check-in after hike. We were exhausted, but had to wait due to only one clipboard with eight forms on it. Should have been one form per clipboard.
- Insects
- Intersection film/video did not provide a good overview of the flora, fauna, geology and history of the park
- Intrusive and seemingly unnecessary park police presence, especially in campground - treated people as suspects, not visitors
- Invasive plants (e.g. stiltgrass) and animals (hogs)
- It doesn't belong to the Indian
- It rained
- It rained during my visit
- It was all good
- It was great, forgot to buy postcards
- It was hot
- It was near impossible to find a clear bank to fish the Congaree River
- It was only great. To think I had no idea it existed only one week ago.
- It was perfect
- It was raining
- It was too short
- It was very hot and humid. Ranger-guided tour was cancelled.
- It would have been nice if we could have gone on canoes - lack of canoe available
- Kayak launch site

- Kayakers stopped at the sandbar on the river trail
- Kids screaming
- Knucklehead kids
- Lack of a campsite with showers and restroom facilities
- Lack of campsites for tenting
- Lack of canoe rentals in park
- Lack of canoe tours, maybe allow some canoe times for people on a first-come-first-served basis
- Lack of deadwood
- Lack of detailed information and education. Too broad, not enough scientific detail.
- Lack of distance signs on boardwalk. I'm handicapped and walked to where loops meet. The only sign was "no dogs."
- Lack of food/motels in immediate vicinity of park
- Lack of labels on trees, shrubs, etc.
- Lack of lodging in the park
- Lack of markers identifying plant life and trees. Not numbers, actually tell us what we see.
- Lack of native animals
- Lack of non-walk-in campsites
- Lack of outside directional signage
- Lack of parking, very overzealous law enforcement on power trips
- Lack of presence of park rangers on trails
- Lack of restrooms on trail
- Lack of signs for campground - after hour parking not a good description
- Lack of space to park RV
- Large groups
- Large school groups too much noise and running
- Last year we planned a visit and had reserved a spot on the ranger-led canoe trip. We had to cancel that trip and were disappointed to learn that the canoe trips have been cut way back.
- Launching canoes - uncertain what role we were to do
- Law enforcement being sneaky and walking into your campsite like they owned it
- Leaving
- Leaving the park behind
- Liked all of it
- Liked everything
- Liked it all
- Liked it all
- Liked it all
- Liked it all
- Liked it all
- Liked it all - exceeded expectations
- Limited drinks/snacks in center
- Limited fishing
- Limited information in exhibits at visitor center
- Litter
- Litter
- Long walk from car to #5 campsite

- Long walk to put kayaks in
- Long way to restroom if on other side of park
- Lots of mosquitoes
- Lots of people
- Loud children
- Loud group of summer camp kids and indistinct signage on trail regarding dogs
- Loud people who scared away birds
- Loud talking on trails
- Loud talking visitors
- Loud visitors at night
- Loud visitors on boardwalk
- Loud, running children on boardwalk
- Loved everything
- Loved everything
- Loved everything
- Loved it
- Map confusion on water
- Maps in the swamp and bathrooms were locked at 7:30 AM
- Marginal to poor water quality. The Congaree River seems to be in pretty bad shape.
- Maybe that there was nothing to eat nearby
- Missed the canoe trip due to storm
- Missing canoe tour because of personal time restraints
- More bike trails needed
- More to do and see
- More trails
- Mosquitoes
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- Mosquitoes
- Mosquitoes - comes with the territory
- Mosquitoes - not much you can do about that in a swamp
- Mosquitoes - our DEET didn't deter their ambitions

- Mosquitoes and other nibbling insects, a necessary, itchy evil
- Mosquitoes, but our repellant worked great and nothing bit us
- Mosquitoes were a nuisance
- Mosquitoes, but I could say the same of my own backyard
- Mosquitoes, but it is a swamp
- Mosquitoes, but we can't help that
- Mosquitoes, lack of signs to get in and out - they got us lost for over 2 hours
- Mosquitoes, no worries though because that is part of the experience
- Mosquitoes! But, not much one can do about that.
- Muck
- My feet hurt
- My mobility to walk the trails. My problem, not one of the trails.
- Narrowness of trail/boardwalk
- Need more rangers
- Needed a bathroom halfway around boardwalk
- Needed a bit more marking and directions on paths
- New experience for us, boardwalk
- Newer, changing programs in visitor center would be nice, but wouldn't change our decision to visit
- No animals
- No bathrooms at camping area. Very poor canoe launch areas.
- No bike racks at canoe launches. I left a bicycle at one launch - launched canoe at another, then rode bike to get truck.
- No birds
- No campground, just a parking area with no designated campsites
- No canoe tour available
- No changes in elevation
- No complaints
- No dislikes at all. It's a great place.
- No dogs allowed on boardwalks
- No guided tours and no canoeing possible in November, even very good weather
- No major complaints
- No mileage signs - i.e. how far to Weston Lake took two hours to walk. Would not have gone that way.
- No negatives
- No negatives
- No one had a complaint
- No opportunity to go out in a boat unless you canoed
- No plaques stating the age of the trees and the boardwalk was too long
- No public transport
- No ranger-led offered, improve signage
- No rest areas/not handicap accessible
- No restrooms or water at campground
- No RV hook-ups
- No sign leading to the park when coming from Columbia on Bluff Rd
- No signage explaining the area, trees, etc.

- No signs marking the way to the park from interstate
- No time to explore
- No toilet at after-hours camping
- No tour items on Sims Trail
- No vehicle access to river. No RV campground.
- No water available in organized camping area
- Noise - airplane, train
- Noise - trains, airplanes
- Noise from fighter jets
- Noise from other visitors
- Noise from school groups
- Noise from trains
- Noise of jets
- Noise, loud talking from others, a real lack of respect
- Noisy kid
- Noisy kids
- Noisy school children
- Noisy visitors
- Noisy visitors, dogs off leashes
- None
- None
- None
- None
- None
- None
- None
- None - can imagine visitor noise could be distraction if high volume
- None, very enjoyable
- Not a big enough area
- Not able to see lake clearly
- Not allowed to walk our dogs on boardwalk
- Not being able to kayak or canoe
- Not being able to take a canoe tour
- Not being able to take dog on boardwalks, long way around to trails
- Not enough
- Not enough informational markers along the boardwalk
- Not enough ranger-led trips/talks/programs
- Not enough time
- Not enough time
- Not enough time
- Not enough time spent
- Not enough time to do more
- Not enough trail maps
- Not enough trail markers. Park maps need to be redone - more clear and more specific.

- Not enough trails and close parking
- Not enough trails, especially in the eastern half of the park
- Not enough wildlife
- Not having the boardwalks better marked
- Not listed where to find the described champion trees
- Not much direction (signs) to exit. Wasn't sure where to turn to return to Columbia.
- Not much there, or at least minimal variety
- Not much to do
- Not much variety in scenery; least amount of time needed of all 29 NP I have been to
- Not much wildlife
- Not really a dislike, but with our last minute trip to South Carolina, we were too late (and disappointed) to be unable to go on ranger-led canoe trip
- Not seeing wild pigs
- Not seeing wild pigs
- Not so many animals
- Not sure
- Not sure - we really liked the park
- Not very good road signage on highways leading to the park
- Nothing
- Nothing
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- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing - all was fine
- Nothing - everything was great
- Nothing - exceptional visit
- Nothing - it was all pretty cool
- Nothing - love the park
- Nothing - we still are anxious to see it all
- Nothing - wonderful respite
- Nothing comes to mind
- Nothing comes to mind, really
- Nothing much, except the leaf blowing on one of the trails
- Nothing noted - it was a positive experience
- Nothing specific
- Nothing specific
- Nothing stands out
- Nothing unpleasant
- Nothing, but I always imagine we'll see animals and it's rare to do so - deer, pigs
- Nothing, but not enough time
- Nothing, except maybe mosquitoes
- Nothing, we love the Congaree
- Number of people
- Numbers for self-guided tour, hard to find, white paint might make them show up
- Numbers of trail map guide difficult to see on boardwalk
- On a very busy day, parking could be an issue
- On the higher boardwalk too many people, too noisy
- Only criticism is that the parking lot for oversized vehicles needs more room to turn around an RV touring a vehicle. Impossible as it currently is.
- Only one backcountry camping site

- Only one bathroom at the visitor center
- Other loud guests
- Other people
- Other people are allowed to go there
- Other people being loud
- Other people's litter (beer cans) on the beach at the river
- Other than trail, it didn't offer very much
- Others on trails making noise
- Our canoe trip was too crowded - boats bumping in turns and couldn't keep close enough to hear the ranger
- Our dog couldn't come on all of the trails that we wanted to go on
- Our feet hurt by the end
- Outdated video
- Overnight camping area needs a good bathroom
- Parking was tight - not enough spaces
- Path from canoe parking to launch; expected more information "guided tour"
- People falling into water when getting out of canoe along slippery bank adjacent to deep water
- People on trails
- People smoking outside entrance to visitor center
- People walking the trails must learn to converse in whispered tones in order to possibly observe wildlife
- People who had their dogs and bikes on the boardwalk
- Persons who disregard signs and allow children/pets to go off-trail or litter
- Pig damage, dangerously slippery boardwalk - and not particularly wet or muddy
- Pig damage
- Pigs
- Pigs in the backcountry
- Plane noise
- Plane noise
- Poison ivy and mosquitoes
- Poor or no signage on the routes leading to the park
- Poor park literature
- Poor selection in gift shop; hard to get feel for park in short time period
- Poor sign from main road
- Poor signage and map, noise on boardwalk
- Porta-potties, campsite signs from road, lack of firewood
- Primitive camping - no bath house at campground
- Problem with mosquitoes and other bugs
- Proximity to noise, no water source at Bluff Campground
- Railings on low boardwalk broken
- Rain
- Rain
- Rain during our visit
- Rain prevented us from fully experiencing the park
- Rained - can't control the weather

- Rained on us half way around
- Rainy day, but you cannot control that
- Rainy weather. I know you need it, but...
- Ranger programs only on weekends
- Really no complaints
- Restrooms had powerful urine smell
- Road "trail" bisecting boardwalk with National Park Service vehicle. It ruined my wilderness experience. Plus crowds with running children.
- Road directions
- Roads leading to it creeped me out
- Rained very hard when we camped
- Ruthless mosquitoes
- Saddened me to see that so many people litter such a beautiful place. I picked up a lot of trash while hiking.
- Sameness of the forest - homogeneity
- Saw less wildlife than we expected. Not a lot to see if you don't do a lot of hiking.
- School field trip was there. Love that they were there but not while I was visiting. Loud and scared wildlife.
- Screaming kids, and the man who kept calling to his lost dog
- Seeing limited wildlife - no snakes or deer seen
- Seeing several snakes, eaten up by mosquitoes
- Seeing the damage from wild pigs
- Seeing the littler in the creek, but we picked up what we could
- Seeing trash - offer incentive for collected trash
- Self-guided maps did not have color of trails indicated on them
- Signage on trail is poor or non-existent
- Signage to park and within (lack of)
- Signs
- Signs going to park
- Skeeters (mosquitoes)
- Skeets
- Small size of park
- Small size of visitor center
- Smoking near visitor center. Visitor sound of back up vehicle (staff) near picnic area.
- Snake encounter on the elevated boardwalk
- Snakes
- Snakes
- Snakes!
- So much of park is inaccessible to hikers; more information needed for day hikers in backcountry
- Solitude
- Some groups did not respect the need for quiet and we heard gunshots while in the woods. We even saw a deer stand off the park's road before the parking lot.
- Some guys had built a fire in the backcountry and did not put it out
- Some litter and office closed first time for my memory
- Some maintenance needed on trails. Benches would be good.

- Some of the numbers on the interpretative trail were hard to see; we missed some
- Some of trail signs confusing
- Some trail numbers were missed, location changed - some high - others low
- Some trash left by people and airplane noise overhead
- Some very noisy groups
- Some visitors control of personal trash - recent 1-6 hours
- Somebody had a dog; people were talking loudly; somebody had a stroller that was very noisy on the boardwalk
- Sound of the rain
- Sounds of all planes/trains
- Special trees
- Spiders
- Spiders
- Spiders
- Spiders
- Spiders and spider nets crossing the trail
- State map and GPS - very hard to figure out where main entrance; worst we have ever seen
- Strange man on trail
- Strange schedule of park video, i.e. that it was not available on demand
- Surrounding agricultural land, logging, chemical and nuclear industries
- Surrounding area
- Surrounding area
- Survey questions upon arrival in visitor center
- Tall dead trees along boardwalk
- Temperature
- Temperature too hot and humid
- That a backcountry camper can't have a fire, even with proper permits and training. It gets cold out there.
- That canoe tour wasn't available that day
- That I had to leave when I did. It was a beautiful day.
- That it is a day trip and can't visit more often
- That it was wintertime and there were no leaves on trees
- That we couldn't stay longer
- That we couldn't stay longer due to our schedule
- That we didn't plan more time there
- That we only had a few hours - would have liked more time there
- The "no dogs allowed" signs
- The amount of wild pigs
- The apparent impact of a drought - nothing the immediate "staff" could do anything about
- The Bluff Trail was marked with blue paint but merged with another trail also with blue and I got lost. The map on the bulletin board at the parking/camping lot did not help.
- The boardwalk was wet and slippery
- The brevity of the visit
- The bugs
- The bugs

- The bugs would have been but the volunteer/staff survey person gave "Off" spray
- The campground - lack of water at the site. Lack of sites.
- The canoe/launch area
- The cold and rain
- The cold weather
- The crazy-ass spider that tried eating my fiancé's head, and it looked like there was oil in the water
- The difficulty in reserving ranger-guided canoe tours
- The direction signs to get to park could be better. Wish you had a diorama of park (overview topo map).
- The dirty port-a-potty at the after-hours campground needs replaced
- The evidence of wild pigs, i.e. tearing up the ground
- The extreme heat and humidity, but we know we chose a day that would be hot and humid
- The heat and humidity. We need to visit again in the fall.
- The heat at 102 degrees
- The heat while we were there. Spider webs from few hikers.
- The heat. Not being able to take a guided canoe tour.
- The humidity under the tree canopy
- The humidity, but that can't be changed
- The lack of signs getting to the park
- The landmarks numbers need to be noticed by painting trim in red
- The littering on the roads leading to the park
- The markers identifying features on the boardwalk need to be easier to find
- The mosquitoes
- The mosquitoes
- The mosquitoes
- The mosquitoes! Put mosquito info more prominently on your website. Put how bad they are that day and to wear repellent.
- The mosquitoes
- The mosquitoes
- The mosquitoes - they drove us away
- The mosquitoes were insane, but that was to be expected at a swamp. The ranger even offered extra bug spray if needed.
- The noise from the leaf blower
- The number of fallen trees
- The outhouses at the campground are falling apart; the floor is rotting; no showers or running water
- The people who drove into park and do sin at whatever they wanted to do, loud radios, etc.
- The pigs are tearing up the backcountry very badly - signs almost everywhere
- The poor signage trying to get their
- The rain
- The rain
- The River Trail is poorly designed the furthest out point was an established utility road
- The runner that was stomping along the boardwalk
- The RV had to be parked away from the site in the parking lot, but it was free so it's okay
- The safety of the side walls of elevated boardwalk for toddlers, but not a huge problem
- The self-guided tour was a bit confusing at times, difficult to remember

- The terrible condition of the Kingsnake Trail. We got lost it was in such disrepair.
- The trail brochure was a little confusing
- The trail map was confusing
- There is nothing even close to outside of the park - restaurants and activities
- There was no bad experience
- There was no prominent trail marker where Cedar Creek makes a hard left downstream of Cedar Creek landing (we kept going straight)
- There was no scenic outlook, but that's to no fault of the park, as it is a swamp
- There was nothing not to like
- There was nothing that I disliked about the trip
- There was only one trail that allowed bikes and it was only one mile long
- There was some confusion at the major trail intersections where the Weston Lake Loop Trail continued
- There were no alligators
- They closed the bathrooms at 4:58! The mosquitoes.
- This questionnaire, which is far too extensive for this small national park. The questionnaire is partly inconsistent and too intimate.
- This survey
- This survey is too long
- This time was great, but in the past it has been loud on boardwalk with people
- Those mosquitoes
- Thunder and rain
- Time crunch of day
- Tires were slashed at river take out and van was towed
- To find the way to the park
- To learn that this national park doesn't support game management
- Too few opportunities to sign up for special events - volume limitations, canoe trips
- Too hot
- Too hot
- Too many canoers on tour
- Too many people on canoe trips
- Too short
- Took a while to get to
- Tour length long
- Trail marking
- Trail signage - need more information on signs about distances, should use map boards
- Trail signs were not very clear
- Trails could use more signage
- Trails were not marked at most intersections. Signs identifying plant species/"champion" trees would be helpful.
- Train noise
- Trash on sand bank on the Congaree River on the River Trail
- Traveled 13 miles from I-77 and only one road sign to notify drivers on distance to park
- Trip goes too fast. Not enough time to just relax and enjoy.
- Trying to find it from Highway 601 signs

- Unexpected cool weather
- Unleashed dog
- Unless we missed the exhibit in the VC, there's no stand alone exhibit about the bald cypress roots. We did find the one panel in the pine "forest" about the tree.
- Very difficult to find and no other signs to guide you into the park
- Very frustrating to find park. Locals are unaware of the national park and signs were poorly placed on interstate.
- Very impressed with everything
- Very little bird activity
- Very noisy family on the trail with us
- Visited in February; unfortunately, not much blooming and little animal activity, but no mosquitoes
- Visitor center could have had better identification of displayed species
- Visitors talking and not realizing how loud they are in the forest
- Vocally loud visitors on trail
- Walking
- Was not unhappy with visit
- We are coming back. Love it.
- We asked about an event schedule. The staff said there are none.
- We can't really think of anything because we enjoyed it all very much
- We did not allot enough time to fully appreciate the park
- We did not experience anything negative
- We did not see the donation drop box like we usually see at other parks
- We didn't get to go canoeing
- We didn't have enough time to enjoy the park to its fullest
- We disliked the heat
- We enjoyed all aspects of the park
- We enjoyed everything
- We enjoyed everything about the visit
- We enjoyed it all
- We enjoyed ourselves that day just as we always do. Nothing negative to say.
- We felt the Junior Ranger books were a little too heavy even for 10 year old children
- We got there too late and would have liked to have spent more time
- We had to back track the River Trail to get to sandbar because of lack of blaze/over grade
- We left three kids home for canoe trip as we could only reserve one, then found out multiple no shows. Very irritating.
- We like it all! No bads.
- We liked everything
- We liked everything
- We liked everything about the park. The canoe trip was great and the rangers made it unforgettable.
- We liked it all
- We loved it all
- We saw no animals and very few birds
- We saw trash underneath boardwalk and people ignoring the 'no dogs' sign and bringing their dogs on trails
- We should have come when leaves on trees formed full canopy

- We was not prepared for anything
- We were disappointed that we didn't see more larger birds
- We were not able to spend more time and do more hiking
- We were unable to attend the owl prowl. Would it be possible to have an owl hospital? Or video?
- We wondered about lack of food facilities, or at least food vending machines at welcome center
- We wouldn't have found the NP without our GPS
- Were offered a map but not description for numbers on boardwalk
- Weren't able to see all of the wildlife in our brief visit, but that's no fault of the park
- Weston Lake Loop Trail could use more guideposts or benches. I realize the swamp may not allow this.
- When we entered the park we weren't sure if we actually entered; it was desolate
- Wild hog ecosystem disturbances
- Wish we could have gotten closer to the river. It was far, but we have something to come back for now.
- Wished we could have rented a canoe on the weekday
- Without flood, not a lot to see
- Wonderful solitude was broken by frequent jet plane roar
- Would have appreciated better/more obvious trail markers. Hard to discern with other people in front of us.
- Would have liked more information in brochure about items along boardwalk

**Q33.** Congaree NP was established because of its significance to the nation. In your opinion, what is the national significance of this park?

- 
- "All" - the parks are important to save "wild" area. This park does that.
- A good example of what we should treasure for the future
- A link to nature (as it was), history, biosphere, etc.
- A place one does not find much anywhere
- A preserved natural landscape
- A preserved old growth floodplain
- A protected area in SC, a unique, special area for others to visit and enjoy
- A sample of the lowlands
- A unique biological environment
- A unique forest representative of the region's natural history
- A very rare wilderness
- Ability to handle flooding and naturally purifying water. Historic trees.
- Ability to see lands by the boardwalk without disturbing the lands
- Ability to see virgin forest
- Again, the ecosystem and its flora and fauna inhabitants and its location
- Age of trees
- Age of trees living here and animals that inhabit these areas
- All national parks are extremely important
- All old growth is important because there is so little of it left
- All parks are significant
- All parks are significant in efforts to preserve at least some of our natural/unspoiled areas
- Amazing trees
- An area of unspoiled land to experience nature
- An area to enjoy that is pure nature
- An environment for study and reflection
- An example of floodplain and forest
- An icon of the southern forest
- An intact ecosystem with all of its plant and animal diversity - available in a way I could walk and paddle through to experience. Truly a national treasure. Thank you.
- An old growth wilderness, preserved and intact
- An understanding that important natural resources are in my own backyard
- An untouched swath of land that serves as a biodiversity haven and an original reference point
- Ancient forest, floodplain
- Anyone that wants to see old growth forest can see it
- Anywhere that nature is being preserved and protected is of national significance
- Appreciating swamp
- Area to be protected due to uniqueness
- As a unique ecosystem found nowhere else
- As officially stated. NPS got it right.
- As one of the few remaining old growth floodplain forests, the preservation of this park is vital for historical, educational, and natural reasons
- As with all the national parks, the preservation of a remarkable ecosystem and landscape

- Awesome
- Battlegrounds
- Beautiful and peaceful park
- Beautiful area of USA
- Beautiful forest
- Beautiful, untouched
- Beauty
- Because it is a beautiful landmark and preservation of history, natural beauty of our nation.
- Being able to see an old growth forest as no other prominent ones seem to exist in the eastern US
- Being the only national park in the state and champion trees
- Big old growth trees
- Big trees in southeast
- Big trees, biodiversity, saving old growth forest
- Biodiversity hotspot. It also preserves one of the last old growth forests of the its kind.
- Biodiversity-education for future generations
- Biodiversity
- Biodiversity safe haven for wild animals, old trees, climate control
- Biodiversity, originality of primary forest
- Biological diversity combined with accessibility
- Biological, hydrological, cultural, geological and historic resources are a national treasure
- Bioreserve
- Biosphere, temperate forest
- Bottomland hardwood
- Breeding and habitat for unique and at-risk wildlife
- Can't wait to see it - the flooding
- Champion trees
- Champion trees
- Champion trees
- Champion trees
- Champion trees
- Champion trees and swamp
- Champion trees saved from loggers, birds
- Champion trees, old bottomland hardwood forest
- Champion trees, old growth, major drainage basin, cultural significance
- Champion trees, solitude and the birds
- Champion trees, very historical re: Civil War
- Champion trees, wildlife diversity, wilderness preservation
- Champion/large trees, floodplains
- Civil War history
- Climax forest unlike any other in such a large single tract
- Close to city, but far enough to feel like solitude
- Conservation
- Conservation and preservation
- Conservation of old growth swamp area

- Conservation of our natural habitat
- Contiguous old growth bottomland hardwood habitat with species diversity and preservation of this habitat
- Cross functional view of nature
- Cross section of unusual and rare biomes
- Cypress swamps, wildlife, natural heritage
- Cypress trees
- Cypress trees and other
- Cypress, tupelo trees, large pines
- Defines America
- Don't know
- Don't know
- Don't know
- Don't know enough
- East coast/south huge trees. Low country special area.
- Ecological; maintain as meant to be - keep concrete/man out
- Ecology and natural resources
- Every person should experience the peace and beauty here. We can't afford to lose this perfection.
- Everyone should have the opportunity to explore uninhabited woods and swamp
- Exceedingly important
- Exceptional - it would have been a giant loss had it not become a national park
- Exemplifies a particularly important type of biosphere
- Exposure
- Exposure to a different ecological setting
- Extremely important
- Extremely significant
- Extremely significant - forest saved from extinction
- Extremely significant as a unique aspect of the American landscape
- Extremely significant because the swamp environment is not one we were familiar with
- Few remaining old growth forest national park in the south
- Few such parks on the East coast; largest remaining old growth forest in the east; diversity of wildlife
- Floodplain ecosystem
- Floodplain forest
- Floodplain forest are few untouched tracts
- Floodplain old growth forest
- Floodplain old growth forest
- Floodplain trees
- Floodplains and forest
- Floodplain forest is a unique ecosystem, and it was protected through a grassroots movement
- Floodplain forests are an essential ecosystem. It's pretty.
- Floodplain protection; preserving old trees
- Forced Sherman to march further south? Just kidding, its uniqueness and natural state.
- Forest
- Forest
- Forest (old growth floodplain)

- Forest and wildlife preservation
- Forest lands, wildlife
- Forest preservation
- Forest protection, history of area, plants and animals
- Forest's importance to our nation
- Forest/swamp combinations
- Francis Marion, activities - an example of undisturbed wilderness
- Future generations
- Gives children/families an opportunity to experience swamp life
- Gnomes
- Good
- Good should preserve all areas like this in nation
- Great old swamp
- Great park - not Yosemite, but great
- Great park and beautiful wilderness
- Great place to visit nature
- Great significance
- Great significance
- Habitat and ecological studies
- Habitat and land
- Habitat protection
- Habitat, floodplain forest
- Has some of the oldest trees in the U.S.
- Have never been in a NP like this one
- Having a place where people can experience what this country was like hundreds of years ago in this area. Preserving it for future generations.
- Having the tallest forest canopy on the earth
- Helps keep nature safe
- High canopy. Floodplain, a place in SC for the people.
- High significance
- High, because it is so unique
- Highly significant
- Historic value, uniqueness - oldest/tallest trees
- Historic, reflection of nature's resistance to human influences
- Historical
- Historical and the trees
- Historical order of our state
- Historical value, ecosystems intact and beneficial to us
- History
- History
- History
- History and ecosystem
- History and the proof that we value and protect our land
- History being preserved
- History preserve

- History that occurred here, wildlife, plant life
- History to preservation
- History, preservation of forest, land and fauna
- How it was
- Huge save the old growth forests
- Huge trees
- Huge trees
- Huge trees, preserve ecosystem
- Huge. Historically important in US history and natural environment. Also, powerful story of how interested and committed people saved it from destruction.
- Hugely significant
- I do not know, but it is the only national park within driving distance and that is helpful to us
- I do wonder why this is a national park instead of a monument. And I believe that government should not own land.
- I don't know
- I don't know about significance of the park, but I would like to
- I don't live in the US, so I can hardly talk about this subject
- I live in the city. It's important to me to have "natural" area to visit.
- I think it is quite rare and significant - one of a kind
- I think it represents the natural/historic importance of this part of the country to our nation's history
- I trust that National Park Service in making that assessment
- I would have to say the large, unique trees and the swamp
- I'm not sure, however, I believe it should be
- Importance of maintaining our natural heritage, preserving swamp lands, etc.
- Important
- Important
- Important forest, but don't understand its criticality as a national park vs. national preserve, monument, etc.
- Important natural resource
- Important to recognize and maintain nature in original form
- Impressive forest; preserve unique habitat
- Interesting forest, worth preserving and protecting from development
- International bird habitat, national forest, old growth bottomland floodplain
- It adds to the overall recreational and scenic choices for all of us
- It has a unique environment
- It has saved the last hardwood forests in America from being destroyed
- It has some natural scenes that I have not seen elsewhere
- It has the largest bit of old growth floodplain forest here in the US
- It helps to preserve history and natural ecosystem
- It is a hidden gem. Great significance.
- It is a natural reserve which I hope can be maintained
- It is a one of a kind park
- It is a piece of pristine forest
- It is a singular ecological habitat
- It is a true sample of how the area was prior to white settlement

- It is a unique environment, so it must be preserved
- It is a very significant area. Its nearness to Columbia increases its significance.
- It is a wilderness area with one of the largest forests in the US
- It is a wonderful refuge for wildlife and a possible environmental barometer that should be studied
- It is an historical and rare ecosystem and located near such a populated area - it gives all the residents of Columbia a chance to enjoy nature
- It is an old growth, floodplain forest with beautiful sights
- It is beautiful
- It is fortunate to have been able to save 24,000 acres out of 52 million
- It is found nowhere else in the US
- It is hard for us to judge this on the basis of a short visit but the wetlands and tall deciduous forest seem to be of special significance
- It is one of a kind, a national treasure worth protecting
- It is one of only 2 bottom land old growth protected areas in southeast US
- It is one of the few remaining bottomland forests
- It is one of the last floodplain forests. Also has one of the highest canopy forests.
- It is one of the last old growth forests around. It shows how the land used to be and how detrimental humans can be to the planet.
- It is one of the last vestiges of a southern bottomland forest. We need to save, not destroy, the little that is left.
- It is our "national swamp"
- It is pretty unique to get to walk through a swamp
- It is rare
- It is significant in the sense that the old growth forest is protected
- It is the largest group of old growth floodplain forest in the world
- It is the largest intact tract of old growth river bottomland forest remaining
- It is very important to preserve whatever is left of natural habitats, not just for the nation, but for this world's survival
- It is very significant for educating people about its importance for preserving specific species like the loblolly pines and other wildlife that inhabit this area
- It is very significant forest, wetlands, and birds. We are blessed to have this.
- It is very unique to our area. The vegetation.
- It is very unusual - untouched old growth forest and champion trees
- it is wonderful
- It preserves a glimpse of our state's natural beauty before man exploited
- It preserves a rare and unique ecosystem
- It preserves a slice of what this area once was like
- It preserves a unique habitat and gives people of differing physical ability a chance to experience the park
- It preserves a world that normally would be destroyed by ourselves
- It preserves the land and protects the animals and plants
- It preserves the largest trees east of the Rockies and some great floodplain habitat. People need to see it.
- It preserves the old growth bottomland hardwood forest, in which itself preserves so much
- It preserves the unique area
- It preserves the way the land used to be and allows visitors to learn about it and its history

- It preserves/protects the largest tract of bottomland hardwood forest
- It reminds us of the past and how many died during war
- It shows how we can protect our land and preserve our resources
- It shows that large blocks of wilderness can exist close to major cities. And wetlands are important.
- It shows the interaction of the trees and the marsh and the delicate balance they have
- It shows what our forest can be
- It was an important ecosystem within its borders
- It was one of 3 or 4 on the east coast
- It's a natural forest
- It's a park to preserve old growth forest with champion trees
- It's a place of great natural beauty that should be preserved for America's citizens
- It's a place to see nature preserved
- It's a preservation success story near a large urban area. As the largest old growth bottomland forest in North America it is worthy of our respect and loving care. It is a classroom without peer.
- It's a rare old growth floodplain forest
- It's a very unique place with the floodplains and old hardwood forest, both which cannot be experience anywhere else
- It's an excellent example of an environment and habitat that's disappearing in other places
- It's an oasis of biodiversity
- It's an untouched jewel in the middle of the state
- Its beauty
- Its expanse in an increasingly fragmented habitat for wildlife
- It's important
- It's important to conserve these areas for future generations
- It's just different
- It's large old growth forest
- It's pristineness, all the knees, tall trees, old growth forest
- Its rarity and the fact it is protected
- Its significance to South Carolina its habitats
- Its status as old growth floodplain habitat, which is rare and yet critical for water and soil quality, wildlife, etc.
- It's the largest intact stand of hardwood bottomland left. It's a unique habitat type with unique organisms.
- It’s the last remaining section of hardwood old growth southeast bottomlands remaining
- It's the last stand of old growth pine forest
- Its unique ecosystem
- Its unique history, flora, fauna
- It's unique; tall trees, floodplain, very cool
- It’s beautiful and unique
- Its biodiversity as well as the historical significance of the area
- Its history and natural resources
- Its low country heritage
- Its natural preservation
- Its proximity to the downtown. Its habitat.

- Its true history - Francis Marion probably did not travel through it. Trees/watery world there. The results of any research that might be able to bless/help our nation.
- Its unique ecosystem
- Keeping a part of nature alive
- Keeping an old growth forest intact
- Keeping old trees safe
- Keeping the land safe
- Knees of the bald cypress
- Large cypress and other hardwood forest in natural state in floodplain of the river
- Large expanse of forests and biological diversity
- Large growth cypress
- Large number of record breaking trees
- Large trees
- Large trees
- Large trees, cypress, etc. that have been allowed to growth and the importance of large swamp areas
- Large trees, water, age
- Large variety of trees/vegetation and what it can teach us about ecosystems
- Largest and last stand of ancient forest in my homeland
- Largest deciduous forest in world
- Largest old growth floodplain forest of its kind
- Largest track of old growth floodplain forest in the USA
- Largest untouched temperate forest - we were impressed as we could get up close and personal
- Last contiguous remaining wild section of old growth river bottom floodplain forest
- Last major available area of its kind in the southeast
- Last of old forest
- Last of old growth
- Last of old growth forest
- Last remaining area of ancient hardwood bottomlands east of the Mississippi River
- Last remaining old growth floodplain forest
- Last remaining river bottom land
- Last remaining southeast old growth forest
- Last significant old growth forest in floodplain
- Last stand of bottomland forest
- Last stand of old growth forest
- Learn about swamp of southern states and tall trees. Protects wilderness area from development so all people can enjoy it.
- Learning of South Carolina's unique historical environment
- Leave everything untouched as the way nature intended
- Lets younger visitor see how the area used to look
- Little significance
- Location of park
- Love the untouched aspect
- Lowland forest, large tree preservation
- Magnificent and rare old growth forest
- Maintain nature for all to see for years to come

- Maintaining environment - untouched by man
- Maintaining old growth and education of leaving an environmental legacy
- Maintaining old growth floodplain plants and animals so we and future generations can experience them
- Maintaining old growth forests and floodplains along with great canoeing opportunities within driving distance of major population centers
- Maintaining some of our natural settings
- Maintaining the old timber for future generations
- Maintaining the unique biodiversity now and in the future
- Maintaining virgin swamp habitat
- Maintaining wetland habitats
- Maintains an old growth wild space and watershed
- Major tourism attraction for South Carolina - natural resource based
- Mangrove forest
- Many historic looks into past, information
- Minimal
- Monument trees and floodplain
- More visits
- Muck
- National champion trees, maintaining a floodplain park for us to experience
- National treasure
- Native trees and plants
- Natural area preserved for all to experience and enjoy
- Natural beauty
- Natural beauty, preservation
- Natural environment where early revolutionaries - Swampfox - established a base of operations
- Natural habitat
- Natural habitat
- Natural habitat and preservation
- Natural heritage
- Natural history of unmatched character
- Natural setting
- Natural setting of unusual wilderness and wildlife
- Natural South Carolina landscape, old growth canopy
- Natural surrounding
- Natural, wild part of our state. Old growth pines and habitat need to be preserved.
- Nature is being saved
- Nature, history. It is so refreshing.
- Nature, swamp, trees and their knees
- Need to be preserved
- Needed wilderness preservation
- No other park like it
- None
- Not enough national parks
- Not enough time spent to answer

- Not many sights like this remain for the public to visit
- Not many swamp areas like these left in the country due to development
- Not so sure; a lot of the old growth trees were destroyed by hurricanes and tornadoes
- Not sure
- Not sure why this qualifies as a NP - does not compare to most other NP's
- Not US resident, therefore difficult to say
- Oh my God - all of it. You can't find this anywhere else.
- Old forest maintained and preserved
- Old forest natural resource reserve, quiet and designated trails, accessibility to old growth plain forest
- Old growth
- Old growth
- Old growth
- Old growth and not lumbered
- Old growth and trails
- Old growth bottomland forest is something to be preserved. Any land not developed is important.
- Old growth bottomland habitat of major size - river and area
- Old growth canopy forest
- Old growth cypress
- Old growth ecosystem
- Old growth existence and area
- Old growth floodplain
- Old growth floodplain area
- Old growth floodplain forest
- Old growth floodplain forest
- Old growth floodplain forest
- Old growth floodplain forest, convenient from nearby large city
- Old growth floodplain forest
- Old growth floodplain forest
- Old growth floodplain is rare
- Old growth floodplain, biodiversity
- Old growth forest
- Old growth forest
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- Old growth forest
- Old growth forest
- Old growth forest - It's very important
- Old growth forest and public facility
- Old growth forest and river on east coast
- Old growth forest and swamp
- Old growth forest and wildlife preserve
- Old growth forest floodplain
- Old growth forest needs to be protected, especially in eastern United States
- Old growth forest on a floodplain basin
- Old growth forest preservation
- Old growth forest preservation
- Old growth forest that has been preserved
- Old growth forest was terrific
- Old growth forest, big trees
- Old growth forest, big trees, biodiversity
- Old growth forest, bottomland floodplain, wildlife sanctuary
- Old growth forest, tall trees - history
- Old growth forest, unique ecology
- Old growth forest; wetlands area
- Old growth forest.
- Old growth forest/habitat
- Old growth forests
- Old growth forests need to be protected
- Old growth habitat for unique plants and animals
- Old growth of unique trees - large variety of trees/plants in the park
- Old growth pine indicative wilderness
- Old growth southern forest
- Old growth swamp
- Old growth swamp bottomland forest
- Old growth timber, wildlife, natural settings
- Old growth tree preservation
- Old growth trees
- Old growth trees
- Old growth trees
- Old growth trees
- Old growth trees
- Old growth trees
- Old growth trees
- Old growth trees
- Old growth trees
- Old growth trees
- Old growth trees

- Old growth trees
- Old growth trees - protecting them
- Old growth trees and all of the wonderful creatures big and small that live there
- Old growth trees, few remaining areas with this ecology
- Old growth trees, floodplain must be protected
- Old growth trees, unimpacted environment
- Old growth trees, unique natural beauty
- Old growth, conservation
- Old growth, floodplain forest
- Old growth, huge cypress and pines
- Old growth, native animals
- Old growth, natural setting
- Old southern forest
- Old trees
- Old, large trees
- Oldest old growth forest
- Oldest old growth forest. Never seen anything like it, just moved here.
- One can imagine the forests that existed before Europeans came to the Americas
- One of a kind
- One of a kind
- One of a kind
- One of a kind old growth trees
- One of few places with a quality forest (not just trees)
- One of few similar areas
- One of last old growth forests in the east
- One of last stands of old growth floodplain forest. Ecosystem, size of them.
- One of the few old growth forests
- One of the few remaining natural growth forests
- One of the few remaining old growth forests in the world
- One of the largest and last old growth bottom and basin lands in this country
- One-of-a-kind
- Only old growth floodplain forest I've seen. Must protect.
- Only one of its kind in North America. So rich in its history and beauty.
- Opportunity to observe nature doing her own thing
- Originality
- Our national forests are dwindling. Our culture is being uprooted.
- Our young people have such a limited opportunity to see and experience nature as it once was; all NPs are truly a national treasure
- Peaceful floodplain forest; wildlife sanctuary
- Place to go where it is essentially the same for last 150 years
- Plants, animals
- Plants, animals
- Preservation
- Preservation
- Preservation

- Preservation
- Preservation
- Preservation
- Preservation and education for residents and visitors (especially for the children)
- Preservation efforts
- Preservation of a large tract of old growth bottom land forest
- Preservation of a particular environment
- Preservation of a significant environment
- Preservation of a unique ecosystem
- Preservation of a unique ecosystem
- Preservation of animal and plant life, especially the wild pigs
- Preservation of bald cypress tree forest
- Preservation of big trees and swamp
- Preservation of disappearing natural resource
- Preservation of floodplain forest and waterways
- Preservation of floodplain environment, trees, birds
- Preservation of forest resources for future generations
- Preservation of its unique ecosystem and champion trees
- Preservation of large trees
- Preservation of local fauna and flora
- Preservation of natural areas
- Preservation of natural forest's flora and fauna
- Preservation of natural habitat of nation's original inhabitants (wildlife)
- Preservation of natural resources
- Preservation of natural resources
- Preservation of natural resources
- Preservation of natural resources/habitat - a step back in time to DeSota's time
- Preservation of natural spaces
- Preservation of natural trees/landscape without logging
- Preservation of nature
- Preservation of nature
- Preservation of nature
- Preservation of nature and a place to go that doesn't cost an arm and leg
- Preservation of old growth biosphere
- Preservation of old growth bottomland forest can teach us how to re-grow this elsewhere
- Preservation of old growth bottomland forest, wildlife protection
- Preservation of old growth cypress-tupelo swamp
- Preservation of old growth floodplain forest
- Preservation of old growth floodplain forest
- Preservation of old growth floodplain forest
- Preservation of old growth floodplain forest and its accessibility
- Preservation of old growth floodplain forest. Preservation of designated areas in US is extremely important to me.
- Preservation of old growth forest
- Preservation of old growth forest and generally preservation of our natural landscape

- Preservation of old growth forest. National park available in South Carolina.
- Preservation of old growth, floodplain forest
- Preservation of old trees in river's flood zone
- Preservation of old growth forests
- Preservation of our growth forest
- Preservation of our nations old growth floodplain forest
- Preservation of our natural heritage
- Preservation of out natural forests
- Preservation of remnant landscape
- Preservation of the highest deciduous forest canopy on earth
- Preservation of the old growth floodplain forest
- Preservation of this old growth bottomland forest and its unique ecosystem
- Preservation of trees and floodplain
- Preservation of trees and natural habitat for animals
- Preservation of trees and swamps
- Preservation of unique ecosystem
- Preservation of unique natural setting and preservation and setting aside for present and future generations
- Preservation of unique species
- Preservation of wilderness
- Preservation of wilderness
- Preservation of wilderness
- Preserve a unique environment, quiet
- Preserve bottomland hardwood forest
- Preserve eastern mixed hardwood floodplain
- Preserve floodplain forests, educate public on floodplain forests
- Preserve for future generations
- Preserve local charms
- Preserve low country hardwood forest and territory
- Preserve natural beauty for future generations
- Preserve natural habitat
- Preserve natural history of old growth floodplain forest
- Preserve natural life
- Preserve nature
- Preserve nature untouched
- Preserve old growth
- Preserve old growth forest
- Preserve old growth forest
- Preserve old growth forest
- Preserve old growth forest
- Preserve old growth forest or wilderness
- Preserve the old forest - provide nature learning experiences in the SC area
- Preserve the swamp and old growth timber for future generations
- Preserve wetlands and forest environment
- Preserved forests for future. Great breeding/nesting for birds.

- Preserved old growth forest with champion trees
- Preserved part of our history
- Preserves a unique ecosystem and is closest park to a metropolitan area
- Preserves environment of old growth forest
- Preserves first growth forest
- Preserves virgin lowland forest and there is so little left
- Preserving a largely vanished ecosystem
- Preserving a rare environment
- Preserving a type of nature that is endangered in forestry
- Preserving a unique area
- Preserving an old growth cypress forest
- Preserving area for educational purposes, the forest, nature, animals, and water access
- Preserving forest
- Preserving habitat for plants and animals, allowing people to experience this preservation
- Preserving history
- Preserving natural floodplain forest
- Preserving nature
- Preserving old growth forest and the floodplain ecosystem
- Preserving old growth forests
- Preserving plants and ecosystems
- Preserving resources
- Preserving tall trees and introducing people to importance of ecosystem
- Preserving the champion trees and river floodplain ecosystem
- Preserving the land
- Preserving the land of our ancestors
- Preserving the natural ecosystem in South Carolina
- Preserving the natural habitat of the old growth floodplain
- Preserving the old growth swamp
- Preserving the trees
- Preserving this wonderful, unique area for future generations
- Preserving unique ecosystem
- Preserving unique environment
- Preserving unique forest
- Preserving what is left of this dramatic ecosystem and letting Americans enjoy it without impacting it too much
- Preserving what's left of this natural resource
- Preserving wilderness
- Preserving wilderness areas and our natural resources
- Preserving wilderness areas in general and old growth forests in particular
- Preserving wildlife
- Prevent nature from being destroyed by development and help instill appreciation of nature in young
- Priceless
- Pride - conservation
- Pristine forest/habitat
- Probably very little...things change, neither for better nor for worse, oftentimes

- Progressive history
- Protect area
- Protect old growth plants and species. Preserve floodplain for regional security.
- Protect old growth trees and associated wildlife
- Protect the old growth bottomland forest
- Protect this ecosystem
- Protect trees and wildlife. Have a place to study.
- Protect, preserve, restore
- Protected area for the enjoyment of citizens for free
- Protected floodplain
- Protected for the future
- Protected old growth forest
- Protected old growth forest
- Protected old growth hardwood forest with floodplain
- Protected wilderness to experience
- Protecting an ecosystem that would be destroyed in the absence of the park
- Protecting old growth trees
- Protecting the big trees and swamp
- Protecting the natural wildlife of South Carolina
- Protecting the old growth floodplain forest
- Protecting the past/future
- Protecting the swamp habitat and champion trees
- Protecting wild lands and diverse species
- Protection and preservation of unique wilderness area
- Protection of beautiful spaces
- Protection of few remaining old growth forests and wetlands
- Protection of large trees and hard wood forest/floodplain
- Protection of natural and historic assets
- Protection of nature, the unique environment at Congaree National Park. Preservation of pristine bottomland and swamp forest with all of its biodiversity
- Protection of old forest floodplain
- Protection of old growth forest and flood control
- Protection of old growth forest and research opportunities
- Protection of swamp for future generations
- Protection of the forest
- Protection of the old growth forest
- Protection of the old growth forest
- Protection of wilderness areas
- Protection of old growth trees
- Protects a beautiful swamp
- Protects an ecosystem that would have been destroyed by development
- Protects environment
- Quite high, but I'm not sure how well-known this is nationwide
- Quite important, unique nature
- Rare and undisturbed

- Rare ecosystem, and beautiful place
- Rare old growth forest
- Rarity of old growth forest, birds
- Rarity of species
- Rarity of wetland ecosystem
- Really special are the "landmarks" or areas - cypress roots, sugar cane, dwarf palmettos, lake
- Record trees, massive land area preserved
- Recreation, restore nature
- Relatively undisturbed bottomland forest which is now protected from extractive industry to benefit future generations
- Remaining old growth deciduous forest is very rare. Congaree National Park protects this forest type
- Reminder of the beauty and gift of nature to educate people about nature
- Reminder of the natural gifts we have largely lost
- Remnant bottomland forest
- Remnant of native ecosystem - best remaining example of it
- Remnant old growth hardwood swamp forest - trees and associated flora and fauna
- Reserve for birds; provides natural absorption of water to prevent flooding
- Retain natural woodlands, resources
- Role the land played in the war
- Sacred to have wilderness
- Safe this area from destroying, preserve seldom animals and plants, educate the people
- Same thing that qualified it as a International Bio Reserve
- Sample of what once was a larger forest - lowland swamp
- Save old growth trees
- Saving a floodplain forest
- Saving a piece of virgin South Carolina for future generations to see
- Saving an old growth floodplain forest from destruction and helping people understand its significance
- Saving important natural habitat
- Saving old growth trees and maintaining habitat for native plants and animals
- Saving one of the last virgin forests in the eastern USA
- Saving the champion trees
- Saving the old growth floodplain forest for future generations and in aiding climate research changes
- Scarcity of type of forest
- See a real forest - nature at its best
- Seeing what nature was like before man intruded
- Show that SC has a history to be explored
- Showing people why it is important to pay attention to nature
- Shows South Carolina wildlife and history
- Significance of stay wild
- Size of the forest
- Size of the trees
- Size, location, trails
- Snapshot of past forest; unique ecosystem
- So few wilderness areas left
- So significant it must be preserved

- So that all the world can experience God's great creation
- So unique
- Some of the only bottomland forest like it in the country
- South Carolina the way it used to look
- Southeast wilderness preservation; not much left
- Southern swamp
- Special ecosystem and habitat, plant and wildlife
- Swamp
- Swamp and its history. Trees - bald cypress, loblolly, etc.
- Swamp atmosphere and education, being able to view old growth forest and big trees
- Swamp ecosystem
- Swamp is unique
- Swamp land
- Swamp life
- Swampland trees
- Swamps are part of nature. Our parks are more than big trees and waterfalls. Swamps are unique ecosystems.
- Swamps need protection
- Tall canopy
- Tall loblolly pines, wetlands, mangroves
- Tall trees and cypress knees
- Tallest trees in nation
- Teaches about swamps and bogs
- Teaching and history
- That it's a floodplain forest. Many other ones have been destroyed by development.
- That national parks exist in South Carolina
- That our nation is supportive of parks and preserving natural habitats
- That part of our country's natural beauty has been preserved in its undisturbed state for citizens to experience now and in the future. This is a wonderful gift.
- That South Carolina has a place worth reserving for distinct use
- The beautiful creation God made left untouched
- The beauty of an old growth forest
- The biosphere and where/how it fits into the overall ecology
- The bottomland floodplain ecosystem
- The champion trees
- The champion trees and the collection of old growth trees
- The conservation of the champion trees
- The diverse plants
- The diversity bluff to floodplain
- The east is overpopulated and there is not much nature left so each park makes a difference
- The ecosystem
- The ecosystem and wilderness
- The fact it is a swamp
- The fact that it is an old growth bottomland forest
- The fact that it is one of the few old growth forests left in the country

- The fact that it is one of the few remaining old growth floodplain forests in the US
- The fact that it is one of the largest areas with growth and trees like the ones that grow there
- The fact that the NP has some of, if not the, tallest tree canopy in the country
- The floodplain forest ecosystem
- The floodplains, the old growth trees, the area's history, and to preserve
- The gorgeous nature there
- The great nature
- The growth and trees
- The heritage to the area
- The history
- The history and beauty of the land/trees/waterways, and how the park came to be. Places like this are too few to be found. We need more like this.
- The history and natural beauty
- The history of the land leading back to the Indians
- The impact of the wetlands to the environment - very crucial
- The importance of protecting wetlands
- The importance of tree conservation because of animal dependence on trees, especially woodpeckers
- The large deciduous trees
- The large trees and swamp land show what the land used to look like before human intervention
- The large variety of plants and animals found here in this beautiful swamp
- The large virgin hardwoods and unique ecosystem
- The largest floodplain, hardwood, swamp land tract of wilderness - unique ecosystem
- The largest remaining old growth bottomland forest
- The largest remaining tract of old growth bottomland floodplain with the largest trees in the trust
- The loblolly pines and bald cypress "knees"
- The nativity of nature
- The natural swamp atmosphere pertinent to South Carolina lowlands
- The old growth
- The old growth bottomland forest
- The old growth floodplain
- The old growth floodplain forest
- The old growth floodplain forest. Pristine wilderness.
- The old growth floodplain forest plants and animals
- The old growth forest
- The old growth forest
- The old growth forest and record large trees
- The old growth forest in a southern setting that is easily accessible in many different ways
- The old growth forest with the wide variety of vegetation all in one area
- The old growth forest. Also, the swamp and floodplain protection are very important to me.
- The old growth trees
- The old growth trees and the floodplain
- The oldest trees live here
- The only old growth floodplain - nothing else like it
- The park is the remains of a very productive ecosystem

- The pigs (and Toonces) and B.O.B.
- The plants and animals are unique and educational
- The plants and animals living in this habitat that make it unique
- The preservation of its unique environs
- The preservation of the large bald cypress trees
- The preservation of the old growth stand, something not seen where I live
- The preservation of this beautiful and rare landscape and ecosystem
- The rarity of old growth forests. Also, the total quiet. An ideal swamp.
- The scenery is very different. Not sure what type of animals are native, but it is a sanctuary for birds.
- The significance is exceptionally high. This is and must always be our nation's greatest investment. I enjoy the fact that my tax dollars are spent on this.
- The significance to us is that it is a swamp. A unique environment. Also the trees are special.
- The size of this forest and the age of many of the trees
- The size, age and diversity of trees and protecting the bottomland hardwood forest
- The solitude and abundance of gigantic old growth trees
- The southern swamp and lowland habitat
- The special environment of this forest
- The swamp
- The swamp and trees
- The swamp areas and trees, wildlife. A place for quiet exploration and beauty.
- The Swamp Fox and trees
- The swamp is rare now?
- The swamp land - unique forestry
- The swamp life, the beautiful trees
- The swamp, the cypress trees and knees, the old growth, etc.
- The tall trees
- The tall trees, the swamp itself
- The tallest deciduous canopy, maybe in the world. The biodiversity.
- The trees
- The trees
- The trees and biosphere
- The trees and the protection of the floodplain
- The trees are incredible. It is so vital to preserve these treasures for our planet and future generations.
- The trees are of exceptional height and age
- The trees, national vegetation, wildlife, historical reference
- The trees, the access - easy, but not invasive or intrusive
- The unique ecosystem
- The unique qualities of the old trees and animal life
- The unique terrain and habitat makes this a unique national treasure worth preserving
- The uniqueness of its biodiversity
- The uniqueness of its particular geographical and topographical site
- The untouched wilderness
- The unusualness of the trees
- The very large trees

- The way paper companies are clearing land, Congaree National Park may be the only forest left standing before long
- The wildlife and the trees that it protects
- The wildlife, the unique habitat and the champion trees makes Congaree a special place to be preserved
- The wildlife, tree
- The world (of commerce and politics) is too much with us
- There aren't many truly natural, wild places left. This is one of them.
- There is no other place quite like it and it should be preserved for future generations
- They never cut down these trees like the rest of the land. It is real.
- This is a section of our country that shows how we were. Importance of nature. Collection of data.
- This old growth forest! How wonderful to have trees that have lived so long
- This park is worthy of national park status. Cuyahoga Valley is not worthy.
- To be able to imagine what it was like when it was first explored
- To be able to see virgin forest
- To be protected
- To educate the peoples
- To enjoy
- To keep this unique land available so generations to come can experience it
- To maintain a unique environment for current and future generations
- To maintain nature and allow generation to enjoy
- To preserve
- To preserve "old growth" and history
- To preserve and protect the natural landscape and wilderness of the area
- To preserve natural resources and wildlife and access to public
- To preserve nature with its variety of species
- To preserve old forest
- To preserve our natural resources for future generations to enjoy
- To preserve our natural swamp lands, creatures, etc.
- To preserve our wildlife and our forests
- To preserve the old growth floodplain forest
- To preserve the old growth trees, etc. The citizen's role in saving the special space, the activism.
- To preserve this chunk of nature - a special place
- To preserve this piece of nature in its pristine condition
- To preserve what others take for granted and destroy
- To protect nature
- To see some nature that has not been affected
- To show the history of the places that we go and to see how the world changes
- To teach future citizens to care for nature
- Tranquil environment close to a state capitol
- Tree protection
- Tree size, age
- Tree species
- Trees
- Trees

- Trees
- Trees
- Trees and old growth floodplains
- Trees and plants
- Trees are beautiful, land for animals
- Trees cannot be harvested and nature can take its course
- Trees that can't be found anywhere else
- Trees, birds
- Trees, old growth, wetlands to be preserved. Also, bird habitats.
- Trees; diversity/scale
- Trees/plants
- Tremendous value to our nation because of the variety and type of plants/wildlife
- Undisturbed old growth forest
- Unique
- Unique and historical. "The way things were."
- Unique and threatened ecosystem that should be preserved as part of natural heritage
- Unique because of old growth bottomland habitat
- Unique biodiversity
- Unique biodiversity
- Unique ecosystem
- Unique ecosystem in park system and in our own experience
- Unique ecosystem/environment that people can easily enjoy
- Unique environment
- Unique environment
- Unique environment
- Unique environment
- Unique foliage, swamp
- Unique forest
- Unique forest
- Unique habitat
- Unique habitat preserved
- Unique landscape, "walk back in time"
- Unique lowland forest
- Unique natural environment
- Unique natural environment as surviving old growth coastal forest
- Unique old growth preservation
- Unique plants/animals, new species
- Unique wilderness preservation
- Uniqueness
- Uniqueness - should attract visitors to the area if promoted more
- Uniqueness of plant specifics
- Unknown
- Unobstructed by human impact
- Unspoiled nature, champion trees, conservation, recreational opportunities

- Untouched natural habitat; last forest of its kind, beautiful
- Untouched nature
- Untouched resources
- Unusual climate
- Unusually preserved high canopy eastern bottom land forest
- Value of landscape in its original, undisturbed form
- Varied - conservation, beauty, history
- Very few left that exhibit this untouched environment and old growth forests
- Very great
- Very high
- Very high - unique
- Very important
- Very important
- Very important
- Very important
- Very important because of old growth floodplain
- Very important because we have almost no old growth trees and forests left
- Very important never to lose
- Very important to preserve forever
- Very important to protect our national resources
- Very large area for old growth floodplain forest. Good example of multi-ecosystem across landscape.
- Very much
- Very neat ecosystem
- Very necessary. We need less people and more wilderness.
- Very old trees and wilderness
- Very significant
- Very significant
- Very significant
- Very significant
- Very significant
- Very significant
- Very significant
- Very significant due to loss of wilderness lands in the US
- Very significant historically and ecologically
- Very significant, even if not well loved by human visitors
- Very tall trees, unique landscape, but perhaps not as unique as some. Definitely for the region.
- Very unique and different than parks out west
- Virgin forest
- Virgin old growth forest
- Virgin timber
- We are foreigners
- We must preserve old growth forests and educate people
- We need more parks like this one
- We need more parks. This one was a nice surprise.

- We need to preserve old growth forests so kids can see what it was like
- Wetland environment, cypress knees
- Wetlands, habitats
- Where else can one see an old growth forest like the one at Congaree
- Where to start - nature is disappearing, must save as much as possible. Important to see how America looked at one time.
- Who knows
- Wild forest
- Wilderness area that needs to be preserved
- Wilderness area, old growth
- Wilderness swamp
- Wildlife and virgin forest
- Wildlife preservation - untraveled
- With an increase in human development in our country, it's important to maintain as much wilderness as we can
- Wonderful example of few remaining floodplain, old growth hardwood forest
- Wonderful park with importance to South Carolina
- Wonderfully natural
- World heritage site
- Worth keeping
- Yes - old growth - not many are left
- Yes, very

**Q34.** If you were a manager planning for the future of Congaree NP, what would you and your personal group propose?

- 1. Extend the boardwalk. 2. No killing of non-native animals
- A "current conditions" point on the web page so people would know if it was at flood stage
- A $5 entry fee
- A campground
- A campground area with restroom/shower facilities, a bike trail
- A close tip to the local community to build awareness and support
- A designated area to select camping spots - spread apart in a wilderness area
- A fee to enter the park
- A few more 1-3 mile trails
- A few more activities like mentioned
- A few more established campgrounds
- A few more information stations on the boardwalk - wildlife, trees, etc. Different seasonal festivities. Horseback riding, especially fall, winter, early spring, available on a trail or two - maybe only available a few months.
- A few more interpretive signs on walks. Continue to maintain and improve walks.
- A focus on improved interpretation materials to support ranger activities - especially introductory video
- A free recreation day
- A full hookup - water, sewer, electric, cable TV. RV campground located at the river
- A guided tour of the "champion trees" or at least a pamphlet of where in the park they are
- A little more promotion - I don't think people know about this park
- A live exhibit of the wildlife that you may encounter on the trail
- A lodge would be great
- A lodge, so that people that don't camp can stay in the park
- A long trail that goes through the whole park
- A movie that shows the park highlights and wildlife
- A nice restaurant would be lovely
- A night on the boardwalks to listen to nightlife with a park ranger
- A reminder to take water with you while touring
- A self-guided audio tour wireless with descriptions of all plants at dedicated locations. GPS reference points posted at intervals. We did not need them, but some visitors seemed confused as to their location and were hoping their phone would help.
- A sign at the beach asking folks to 'carry out' or a trash bin
- A way for all visitors to access the wilderness areas
- Ability to canoe/kayak during week
- Acquire any inholdings or adjacent land that could lead to incompatible development
- Acquire buffer areas adjacent to critical areas
- Acquire more land, especially on west bank
- Acquiring more land, adding an RV campground
- Acquiring more land, stopping environmental pollution upstream from chemical and nuclear
- Add a small botanical garden close to the visitor center
- Add access to other parts of the park where possible
- Add more about importance of wetlands as earth's filter. Improve/add trail direction signs/maps.

- Add more acreage to wilderness
- Add more boardwalks - add signs to inform visitors of the types of trees and plants
- Add more signs outside of park. Increase canoe trips - ranger-guided.
- Add more staff, i.e. rangers and volunteers
- Add more trails and add camping with restrooms and showers - no RVs
- Add more trails to the park
- Add running water at the camping areas
- Add to boardwalk trail
- Adding a few RV sites would be helpful so we could stay longer
- Adding canoe rides
- Adding trail marker colors on tree signs along the trails. For every visitor center signs along the trails, indicate distance to visitor center.
- Adding trails
- Additional boardwalks
- Additional signs posted to assist in locating the park
- Additional to the park on the south side of the river
- Additional trails
- Additional trails, Riverside Beach on river trails
- Advertise about the park in the Columbia area
- Advertise in publications like *Backpacker Magazine* to get more visitors to come to park
- Advertise more
- Advertise more to locals
- Advertise to the awareness of people. I think people (like me) would be interested. Canoeing/kayaking would be a great and unique attraction for this national park. Academic and educational activities for/of nature is nice and gentle, but can be a little dry for "fun and recreational" folks.
- Advertising, canoe and kayak rental and shuttle
- Advertise
- All photos in the exhibit should identify who took them, date taken, who are the subjects; more informational markers explaining flora, fauna and geologic or ground formations in more detail
- Allow campsite reservations
- An inn would be nice. Please mark biggest trees better on maps or near trees.
- An integrated national campaign for NP to increase awareness and attendance
- An observation tower or canopy walk to get up into the trees
- An RV campground
- An RV parking and camping area
- Another ranger or two to facilitate canoe program and presentations
- Anything to help keep the natural conditions and environmental significance of the forest intact
- Area for snake aquarium. I would like to see what species are there.
- Ask people what they would like to see - keep up the good work
- Ask the military to not fly over the park and involve the local community in the preservation of the park
- At least one additional backcountry campsite - maybe along the Oakridge Trail
- Attempt to hire locals to ensure more long-range success of park/local interactions
- Awareness of the park to residents in South Carolina
- Awesomeness! Basically just maintain what is there.

- Backcountry group camping site. Better canoe trail information.
- Balance preservation and use
- Balance protection/conservation and recreational use
- Be prepared. Schedule and plan.
- Be sure to let workers know their worth, appreciation for a job well done
- Because of the scope of the park and the variety of activities, ensure that park staff are trained in first aid
- Better advertising; more staff to conduct tours
- Better advertising. Put signs on I-95. This is not a well-known park but it has a lot to offer.
- Better awareness in the community
- Better camping facility; coordinating with lower Richland
- Better camping facilities. Canopy tours via zip line (if ecologically feasible). Pig removal. Upgrade educational experience of visitor center. Re-orient the map for ease of use - currently upside down to the way you walk out of visitor center.
- Better camping sites
- Better camping, kayaking, boat landing.
- Better creek maps and tree marking
- Better facilities at primitive campground
- Better facilities/area for non-tent campers, RV/trailers aren't given space/picnic table/fire pit
- Better maps and guide sheets
- Better off-site marking of location and routes to site
- Better promotion, expand kayak and canoe trips
- Better publicity - had never heard of this park before. Enchanted camping facilities.
- Better sign/directions to the park
- Better signage
- Better signage directing to the park from several directions. Continue programs which educate locals and visitors about the park's significance to disappearing ecosystems.
- Better signage on trails and keep up the good work
- Better signs of the trails. I did not bring a map of the trails and wanted to get off the boardwalk, but wasn't sure of the trail.
- Better signs outside park
- Better signs to find the park
- Better signs, better publicity of park and opportunities
- Better trail markers
- Better website - no information on picnic area. Educate the public of the value.
- Better wilderness camping
- Better/easier canoe put-ins
- Bike trail, night hiking guided
- Boardwalk maintenance
- Boat tours of 1-2 hour narrated by a ranger or knowledgeable guide
- Booklet with photos of plants and animals of Congaree National Park - with description of significance and scientific, local names
- Build a 'green' lodge
- Build a lodge to attract overnight guests. Flood the surrounding states with information about park.
- Build a more informative website with research results. Have more programs.
- Build specified bike paths

- Build trails on new property
- Build up the area/community surrounding park. "Clean it up."
- Buy more land. Remove invasive plants/animals. Research.
- Buying additional property to further buffer the park. Eliminating wild pigs.
- Buying and preserving as much land as possible to add to the park before it is too late
- Buying the land surrounding the park and preserving it for our future generations
- Cabins to rent for overnight, snack bar or vendor hot dogs/sandwiches
- Campground - RV
- Campground expansion
- Campground with electricity
- Campground with facilities. Visitor center should be a green facility - pervious drives and walkways.
- Campgrounds for large campers
- Camping and family activity events certain times of the year
- Camping areas inside the park that are marked as designated
- Can't do it better
- Can't think of anything
- Cannot think of anything
- Canoe rental at the park. They should sell mosquito repellent at the national park gift store.
- Canoe/kayak rentals
- Canoe/kayaks - free rental. Update primitive campground bathroom.
- Canoeing
- Canoeing, kayaking, boardwalk trails
- Canopy tour
- Canopy/zip line tours
- Change to national monument and use NP resources elsewhere
- Changing out the timber on the boardwalks with composite boards
- Charging a fee for guided kayak tours and increasing the number of tours
- Clean up deadfall on trails; have someone walk the trails once in a while
- Clean up fallen trees obstructing trails
- Clear the canoe trail. More hiking trails to reach more of the park.
- Closer access from car to put kayaks in
- Concern about water quality from upstream. Expand trails to eastern half.
- Congaree needs its own sticker for the passport books, it is a hidden treasure. More advertising to let people know about it.
- Connect in a more concrete way with local schools to integrate Congaree into science lessons at school
- Consider a shuttle for canoe trail. Run two or three times per day and charge a fee.
- Construction of certain aerial platforms (on trees) for observation above the canopy of trees
- Continue
- Continue "wilderness" aspect and exotic species work
- Continue acquiring land buffers if possible
- Continue educating the public on why/how to protect this forest
- Continue its preservation and maintaining the boardwalk
- Continue natural preservation
- Continue preservation and protection from invasive, nonnative species of plants and animals

- Continue protecting such a wonderful natural
- Continue purchasing land and manage to reduce impacts of invasive species
- Continue repair of boardwalks
- Continue the job well-done
- Continue the way it is presently
- Continue to do the great job you're doing. Maybe a little more educational programs.
- Continue to expand its boundaries. We have enough commercial space and homes. Protect this special place for my grandkids.
- Continue to maintain and preserve
- Continue to maintain beauty and access to public
- Continue to preserve this wonderful piece of America for our children and grandchildren
- Continue to preserve, remove feral hogs
- Continue to protect area
- Continue to protect forest, guided tours help educate us to its importance and benefits
- Continue to protect park and watershed as much as possible
- Continue to protect the environment
- Continue to purchase land as it becomes available
- Continue upgrading of hiking trails
- Continue what you are doing
- Continued efforts for financial stability to ensure protection from loss
- Continued excellent maintenance
- Continued funding for the National Park Service
- Continued funding to protect these trees
- Continued management of invasive plant and animal species and preservation of native species
- Decent campgrounds, but without cutting any of that wonderful forest. Also, get wealthy people to help acquire more land.
- Develop campground option - lack of showers, water
- Discuss the feasibility of adding bathroom facilities on the outskirts of the boardwalk trail. Improve boardwalk/interpretive trail marker, because we missed some. Perhaps have a detailed map that also outlines where to find the markers on the boardwalk loop trail.
- Do better maps; mark on the map and on the trail points to figure out where you are
- Do nothing. Leave it alone. Beautiful just the way it is.
- Do what you are doing
- Don't know
- Don't know
- Don't know
- Don't know
- Don't know, everything was fine the way it is
- Don't know; didn't spend enough time there to say
- Downloadable MP3 walking tour. History of the park prior to Congaree.
- Due to popularity, fix the canoe launch as number 1 and increase camping sites
- Easier access to canoe trips by park
- Easier access to champion trees and labeling of each
- Easier access to fishing
- Easy access to an unobstructed canoe trails

- Educate and protect
- Educating the public to the importance of protecting and preserving this natural resource
- Education on importance of old growth forest/biodiversity
- Educational lectures
- Educational programs that could serve to raise awareness of the importance of this area
- Educational weekend programs for kids
- Electricity and parking for RV's
- Elevated boardwalk at least 30 feet in the forest trees. This would offer a truly unique view of the forest and instantly attract visitors.
- Eliminate the wild hogs
- Emphasize the uniqueness of Congaree
- Encourage more people to visit
- Encourage or make mandatory for schools to visit the park
- Encourage outreach and education on native flora and fauna - workshops at local schools
- Enjoy nature
- Enjoyment
- Enlarge the borders
- Enlarge the lookout area for viewing the lake. Something about larger bodies of water that fascinate people. Tranquil, serene.
- Enlarged exhibits and film
- Enlarging
- Eradication of exotic species and increase educational opportunities in surrounding communities
- Everything was perfect
- Excellent park and facilities, so the only issue was airplane noise. What about establishing quiet hours for hiking in cooperation with nearby airport?
- Expand
- Expand
- Expand and improve visitor center and campgrounds. Broaden partnership with city, University of South Carolina, donors.
- Expand area under protection
- Expand boundaries and/or emphasize negative impact of litter
- Expand camping and add bathhouse with showers. Separate RV and tent camping.
- Expand camping facilities
- Expand it
- Expand its holdings. Ban all development in the immediate area. Protect the waters coming into the park.
- Expand land holdings. Kill wild pigs. Eliminate or control exotics.
- Expand natural areas adjacent to park
- Expand the boardwalk
- Expand the boardwalk areas, build a tower to view the canopy top
- Expand the borders of the park
- Expand the park
- Expand the park
- Expand the park
- Expand the picnic area, educate park visitors about litter and how much damage it does to plants and river and animals. This is crucial at this park.

- Expand the trail system into the eastern portions of the park
- Expand to surrounding countryside to show change in habitat, etc.
- Expand trail system, improve canoe/kayak landings
- Expand visitor education of Native American history within the general area
- Expand; get rid of wild pigs
- Expand/add observation deck/picnic area at Weston Lake. Add picnic area at Wise Lake. Make Kingsnake Trail a loop.
- Expanded educational opportunities, increased signage on trails giving specifics on trails
- Expanding boundaries whenever possible to protect more trees
- Expanding the park to include the other side of the Congaree River
- Expanding the visitor center (introductory film) and gift shop area (more maps, posters, calendars)
- Expansion
- Expansion and ensured protection. I would add another trail that would lead to river and develop trails in new additions to the park.
- Expansion of the park
- Expansion of the park, expansion of wilderness
- Expansion of trails and backpacking
- Expansion, coordination with other nearby preserves, protection from South Carolina highway development
- Extend network of trails east to US 601, overnight backpacking trail along Congaree River
- Extend the boardwalk down to the river
- Extend the boardwalks
- Extend the boardwalks. Improve the signs directing to the park.
- Extend the park area
- Extending the amount of the park that is viewable on the boardwalk
- Family activities
- Family camping
- Family camping and exotics control
- Fenced area for some wildlife. No dogs. Interferes with natural wildlife area.
- Find a way to keep politicians from doing any damage
- Find a way to make more people aware of this park
- Fish or hog hunting
- Fitness, stress reduction
- Flyers on what to look for
- Focus on water activities
- Free bug spray
- Free kayaks
- Friendlier park rangers with more experience
- Fundraising to buy adjoining land and expand. Link educational programs more to the high schools and emphasize high school "apprenticeships" or "internships."
- Further boardwalk trails
- Further promotion of education about the biological and historical significance of the park
- Further wildlife emphasis. Perhaps greater access to trails? But, perhaps not.
- Get as much land as possible. More canoe/kayak opportunities.
- Get involved; participate in group activities

- Get rid of McEntire
- Get rid of the pigs
- Get rid of the pigs, would like to know more about the different plant communities, how to help in preserving and restoring park to original wildness
- Get the word out that you are there so others will come
- Give it back to the Indian
- Give more history on land uses by Native Americans
- Great job! Loved it!
- Great just as is
- Great start - add to
- Greater nationwide education
- Guided canoe trips
- Guided hikes to discuss vegetation and animals
- Guided kayak trips
- Guided tours for photographers
- Guided walks off of the boardwalks
- Have only visited one time and had a good experience
- Have program in surrounding towns especially Columbia
- Have visitor center sell approved firewood. It was difficult finding good dry wood in a swamp.
- Higher bridges crossing to avoid submersion as often in some trail locations, continued trail maintenance, number and types of programs visitors would enjoy
- Hire more rangers
- Hunting of wild pigs
- I am not a manager
- I am not competent in this subject
- I do not have an overview that would make an opinion meaningful
- I do not know enough about the park to answer that intelligently
- I have no idea
- I think you're doing a good job balancing access to the park while maintaining the "wilderness" of the area. Keep doing what you are doing.
- I would "plant" more animals
- I would add canoe rentals on site
- I would be searching for a way to eliminate the wild pigs or significantly reduce their numbers. They are horribly destructive.
- I would propose more colorful maps and self-guided tours and mile markers
- I would propose mountain bike specific trails. The park would be a great experience on a bike.
- I would purchase as much of the surrounding property as possible
- I would try to preserve as much and for as long as possible. We are too much of a disposable society.
- I'm not sure what takes place already, perhaps triathlons, a fishing tournament on the Congaree with big names, engage local business and people, a music festival, photo competition, harvest specimen trees when they fall, charge fees. Have a storm plan - often trees fall in a big storm; I know that is part of the ecosystem, but something limited, a bird watching event(s), a large group camp site.
- If there is a desire to remove feral pigs (good luck on that) have good rational and educate!

- Improve bathroom facility at campground; add canoe/kayak launch. Buy additional canoes/kayaks offer additional canoe/kayak tours.
- Improve information displays on the boardwalk for types of vegetation
- Improve trail system - more loops instead of loopless trails
- Improving access or information at Congaree
- Improving the surrounding area by keeping industry as far away as possible
- Incorporate paths with natural features and make paths more defined
- Increase public awareness, identify key plant species
- Increase signage for direction. Large signs on interstate alerting potential visitors.
- Increase staff
- Increase the number of days that the kayak trips are offered
- Increase types of usage to maximize support for national parks
- Increased area so greater preservation area, better access from 601
- Increased marketing to attract more visitors. Increased interpretive rangers' presence on trails.
- Increased publicity for Congaree National Park. Perhaps a documentary television program. We heard about the park only by chance.
- Information plaques along boardwalk. More information in visitor centers.
- Interactive trail map online/web - attracts hikers. Google New Zealand national parks for examples.
- Interpretive plaques along trails. Is there a way to manage but not eliminate wild pigs by re-imaging them as part of the cultural history of the park?
- Introduce native animals that are gone
- It is a wonderful park the way it is, so just continuing to preserve it and making small improvements like creating a GPS guided tour app and coloring in the boardwalk numbers
- It is perfect now
- It's fine the way it is now
- Just continue protecting native species
- Just getting the word out and having lots of recreation opportunities, like the canoe tours
- Just more spreading of the word. I don't feel many know of the park.
- Keep adding more lands surrounding the core forest
- Keep and enhance its preservation. Allow no motors or bicycles.
- Keep as natural as possible
- Keep doing things as you are
- Keep doing what you're doing with excellence
- Keep everything exactly as it is. Allow no further development.
- Keep expanding, work on invasive plant control, and stop wasting park resources on unnecessary law enforcement
- Keep funding strong. Make paths clear.
- Keep it "as is"
- Keep it as it is
- Keep it as it is
- Keep it as natural as possible
- Keep it as natural as possible
- Keep it as natural as possible
- Keep it just as it is
- Keep it like it is

- Keep it like it is
- Keep it like it is
- Keep it like it is and add as much as possible
- Keep it like it is except add boardwalks
- Keep it safe, quiet
- Keep it simply
- Keep it the same
- Keep it the same
- Keep it the same
- Keep it the same
- Keep it the way it is
- Keep it the way it is
- Keep it the way it is
- Keep it the way it is
- Keep more parts primitive, walking trails but not asphalt
- Keep on doing what you are so our grandkids' children can visit and generations ongoing
- Keep park info available but do not force every visitor to know all about the park
- Keep politics out of the parks - primarily no liberal driven guilt trips about garbage or carbon dioxide
- Keep protecting and promoting the park as a great resource to learn about many areas (water, wildlife, biology) that can impact the greater area around the park and other places too.
- Keep public informed and involved. Do not over develop.
- Keep the park a place that a visitor has to want to visit. Don't add "flashy" things to attract visitors.
- Keep the park in its natural state and preserve trees; allow people to visit with minimal disruption
- Keep the park just like it is
- Keep the website up to date. The calendar of events was not current when we checked.
- Keep up good job of balancing needs of visitors while protecting park
- Keep up the good work
- Keep up the good work
- Keep up the good work
- Keep up the good work
- Keep up the good work
- Keep up the good work
- Keep up the good work, have knowledgeable people on hand
- Keep up the great job you are doing
- Keep up the great work
- Keep visitors to the trails and keep nature as untouched as possible
- Keeping it as natural as possible
- Keeping the boardwalk clean of debris
- Keeping the boardwalk well maintained
- Kill *Microstegium vimerium*. Make existing trails follow wilderness guidelines.
- Kill the wild pigs
- Killing the pigs in perpetuity. Whole system appraisal of resource.
- Label trees with botanical and common names
- Larger campground, more opportunity for canoe trips, better signage
- Larger size, more inclusion of ecosystem, greater amounts of water in ecosystem

- Leave as is
- Leave as is and add more canoe trips
- Leave it alone
- Leave it as is
- Leave the park as natural as possible
- Leaving it alone
- Let more people know about it
- Let more people know about the park
- Let more people know it is here
- Limit number of people per day access. More bicycle opportunities if not impacting.
- Limited access to wilderness areas
- Limiting groups of kids
- Listing miles on directional path signs
- Little additional development. If backcountry becomes crowded, implement permit system.
- Local focus - no one seemed to even know they had a national park next door
- Local outreach. Let the people of Columbia know you are here. Though, I'd prefer to keep Congaree National Park a secret.
- Look for ways to continue to preserve this small, precious piece of nature for future generations to come
- Look for ways to make money. Better gift shop, camp store, canoe rental.
- Look into purchasing neighboring land to make the park bigger. The human population is growing and land needs to be kept at a premium.
- Looking at nature's true beauty
- Lots of family activities, more public relations and marketing to community
- Lottery hunt for wild pigs
- Lure additional visitors
- Maintain beauty
- Maintain historical and natural plant life information availability to public
- Maintain it as is
- Maintain it as is and prevent too much infrastructure. Remove pigs.
- Maintain natural character of park.
- Maintain present condition, make it available to all
- Maintain present quality
- Maintain the boardwalk in top condition since most people use it
- Maintain the path that it's on; keep the area minimalist
- Maintain trails, education, and canoeing
- Maintain without change
- Maintained funding, good lobbyist
- Maintaining its natural features
- Maintaining the wilderness
- Maintenance into perpetuity
- Maintenance, expand borders
- Make daily trash pick up - 3 pieces of paper in swamp
- Make entrance more welcoming. Promote hiking trails more.
- Make it bigger

- Make it bigger
- Make maps and trail guides more visible, available - not just inside
- Make sure it remains wild and a national park
- Make sure there are small activities throughout the trails to see how the park came about
- Making it a bigger national park
- Making more and longer hiking trails
- Making people more aware that it exists
- Manage feral and non-native animals and create managed hunts - feral hogs
- Manage invasive species
- Manage wild hogs. Should have archery only for hogs.
- Marketing, add a nearby cell tower so visitors can share their experiences via smart phones/social media. Would like to have posted to my Facebook page.
- Maybe a campground for a small amount of RVs, travel trailers
- Maybe a couple more self-guides, like the numbered guide along the boardwalk, throughout the park
- Maybe add an observation tower, maybe a zip line, more access to Congaree River
- Maybe boardwalks or guided walks. More elevated boardwalk trails, slightly better trail markings - add distances. Are there guided canoe trips?
- Maybe build a canopy tower where visitors can see the forest at different levels
- Maybe instruction or small signs reminding visitors to be respectful and quiet for others
- Maybe more tours, more history of the forest to be taught, what Indians used to live here
- Maybe open Weston Lake all day or at a set time with a ranger on patrol
- Maybe we could extend the boardwalk
- Modern campground
- More "live" data and reports on website - water levels/quality, mosquito report, park conditions/updates
- More access by car and trails
- More access to backcountry
- More access to water through guided canoe trips, or easier accessibility for canoe rentals
- More accommodation available in the park - like cabins
- More activities
- More activities - ranger-led hikes - and more interactive stuff/information on the boardwalk - mostly. Don't damage much, protect and preserve the natural environment.
- More activities with guides
- More adequate signs to get there and back
- More advertisement
- More advertisement
- More advertisement so visitors respect and want to see this special place
- More advertising
- More advertising - most locals don't realize we have a national park
- More advertising - we didn't even know the national park was here
- More advertising and more places to stay around the park area
- More advertising around Columbia and the surrounding area; clear signs from highway
- More advertising of available programs
- More advertising of recreational opportunities at Congaree National Park
- More advertising to acquaint public of facility and activity

- More advertising, HD video in the visitor center
- More advertising; residents are not aware the park is here
- More animals
- More availability for canoe trips during summer travel months
- More awareness of National Park outside of South Carolina
- More backpacking trails for multi-day trips
- More boardwalk
- More boardwalk
- More boardwalk paths, better information on the canoeing
- More boardwalk trails
- More boardwalk trails
- More boardwalk trails
- More boardwalk trails
- More boardwalk trails
- More boardwalk trails, more information/advertising
- More boardwalks
- More boardwalks and interpretive signs
- More boardwalks, river walks, exhibits
- More camping areas. Possibly a road that goes to the river.
- More canoe and owl trips, increase staffing
- More canoe trips available; more ranger-guided tours
- More canoeing
- More cultural interpretation and community engagement
- More diverse trails identifying trees
- More educational classes, fun activities for children
- More educational opportunities for children
- More educational programs/studies
- More effort on the control of invasive plants and animals
- More exposure
- More exposure to attract more visitors. Better signage.
- More exposure to public with events
- More exposure to traveling tourists
- More family activities
- More fishing access
- More fishing areas, more trails, more camping areas
- More funding
- More guided tours for all activities including weekdays
- More historical facts
- More history of the native people in the area through time, more history of how the park was established
- More history on the area and books in visitor center
- More in-depth guides (paper) with more information about species, etc.
- More information about canoeing and plan of attack for the pigs problem
- More information about champion trees and ranger guided access
- More information about the trees and plants on signs or plaques

- More information about the trees, plants, area - make a video. More signage. Update website - correct directions.
- More information available on plants and trees. Unique flora of the park.
- More information on trails
- More information on website about times of ranger-led activities
- More information/guided tours daily
- More informational signs along boardwalk trail - i.e. real signs rather than numbers
- More informative placards/trail brochures for self-guided touring/audio tours
- More interactive activities during walk on boardwalk
- More interactive programs
- More interesting sites
- More internet exposure
- More interpretation of past human use and impact on park area. Better explanation of "cultural resources" of park area.
- More interpretive programs like campfire chronicles
- More kayaking opportunities with ranger
- More land. More land. Greenway as far upstream on (?) and downstream of (?).
- More local awareness, especially to parents and their kids. Word of mouth is the best marketing for the park.
- More marketing if you want more visitors. Personally, I was glad it was not crowded.
- More marketing of the park, more self-guided info
- More marketing to public for awareness and for attracting more volunteers, especially seniors
- More national publicity, although I would hate to encounter more visitors
- More outdoor activities, more restrooms
- More outreach and public education. More land protection, especially from road and bridge construction.
- More participation/outreach in greater Columbia community
- More places along boardwalk to look at water/turtles. More fun facts given along way on boardwalk.
- More posters
- More PR
- More programs for visitors
- More protection
- More public relations and advertising to get the word out about the park
- More publicity - roadside particularly
- More publicity nationally
- More publicity of park and its attractions
- More ranger-led canoe trips
- More ranger-led hikes, tours, activities just like this one. More publicity - maybe TV spots.
- More rangers who can lead canoe tours, program was full for this quarter so we need to come back for that
- More recreation opportunities
- More recreation; on site boat rental
- More robust visitor center explaining the park
- More running paths
- More scientific research related to climate change and environmental threats, bring in school groups

- More short trails
- More signage; explanation of plant and animal life
- More signs on 601, especially after Route 263 intersection. Get GPS companies to correct directions to park by providing GPS coordinates to park entrance on Old Bluff Road.
- More signs on I-95 - advertise
- More signs telling about specific trees, etc.
- More special events to get people excited about nature
- More staff on weekends
- More Toonceses
- More tours
- More trails
- More trails
- More trails
- More trails
- More trails - interpretive signs along the boardwalk
- More trails and a larger campground
- More trails and backcountry camping sites
- More trails into unexplored regions. Maintain them to current standards. Backcountry camping.
- More trails-just more trails and the ability to rent kayaks/canoes inside the park
- More trails, more access points
- More trails/accessibility
- More trash receptacles along the trails. More advertising for activities.
- More volunteers to maintain open water trails
- More walk ways
- More wildlife centered activities
- Mosquito control
- Mosquito control
- Move in gift shop and visitor center, especially exhibits
- Movie on history of South Carolina, paleological, geological natural environmental changes
- Multiculturalism, environmental education, wine/dine/hike
- My knowledge of this park is insufficient for answering this question
- Nature study
- Need more experience with park
- New campground with roads or driving lanes to each, water source there
- New movie
- Night tomb - Halloween. Emphasize spookiness.
- Night walks
- No changes
- No comment
- No dogs or other pets in parks. Limit numbers of visitors on trails to prevent wear and littering. Keep champion trees a secret.
- No idea
- No ideas at present
- No planes flying overhead
- No suggestions

- No suggestions that I can think of
- None
- None
- None
- Not change a thing
- Not qualified - you all are doing a good job
- Not such
- Not sue, more ranger-led things?
- Not sure
- Not sure - it's a great park
- Not sure, sorry
- Not sure. Maybe a viewing tower or platforms to get into the canopy and better appreciate tree size.
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Offer canoe trips on weekdays
- Offer kayak and canoe rentals with easy pick-up and drop-off right at the park or very close by
- Offering more canoe trips
- Offering programs more often
- Old growth forest
- One or two more long trails
- Open a pig hunt to reduce the population
- Open more sets for activities, everything is already booked until July
- Organized activities
- Other activities, more canoeing options
- Our visit was not long enough to comment
- Outhouse/bathroom on longest trails. Larger parking area for canoe/kayak access. Closer parking, so distance to carry boat is shorter.
- Outreach to inner-city kids and other that don't get to visit this extraordinary place
- Park brochures and maps in different languages, canoe trips in beginning dawn
- Park facilities
- Partnering with local outdoor clubs
- Perhaps a picnic area or maybe a music at night concert
- Perhaps additional boardwalk options, good for kids
- Perhaps expansion of the ranger-led canoeing trips within the park
- Permanent overnight accommodations, such as a few cabins, maybe seasonably available
- Photo wall of the natural (native) insects, birds, mammals, reptiles, etc.
- Pick up trash daily along trail. I saw old trash in 2 places.
- Placing name plates on or near various trees along boardwalk
- Please have identity markers placed under tree, flora and fauna to match self-guided tour pamphlet
- Possibly information along boardwalk instead of on pieces of paper
- Possibly provide information on the animals in the park
- Posted signboards within the trails system for those who forgot to pick up a trail map - distances, etc.
- Potentially opening up different areas of the park to exploration

- Preservation of natural state with addition of a non-invasive camping area with shower and toilet facilities
- Preservation of the land and expansion of hiking and canoe opportunities
- Preservation to the fullest
- Preserve and education
- Preserve as much wilderness as possible. Make available with as little compromise as possible.
- Preserve it
- Preserve it largely just as it is
- Preserve natural habitat
- Preserve natural state, educate in enthusiastic manner. Do not add commercial ventures.
- Preserve the native plants and animals
- Preserve the natural beauty by limiting access as necessary, but use for education - both formal and tourist
- Preserving forever. It is such a special place.
- Pretty low key NP compared to others we've been to, but we like that
- Primitive campsites for backpackers; canoe/kayak rentals on or near park
- Programs for occasional visitors. Improve a lot on information about what is special and where to find it.
- Promote educational opportunities more
- Promote its existence - not enough people know about it and its beauty
- Promote more widely
- Promote value as environmental success story through efforts of local people
- Protect area and maintain access
- Protect it
- Protect it
- Protect the land
- Protect the recreational opportunities while also protecting the resources; educate more about resources; get the state to improve the roads leading to the park
- Protecting, what is there, and enlarging the boundaries, if possible
- Protection against commercial/industrial influence and better protection against Republican budget cuts
- Protection of more land to be included in the park
- Protection of the area
- Provide bug spray or at least make sure guests know about the mosquitoes
- Provide more access into the park and more trails
- Provide water and dump facilities for RVs
- Providing camping areas other than primitive
- Public education of the forest ecosystem
- Publicity - attract more visitors to this unique place
- Publicize educational opportunities in SC media
- Publicize this park a little more
- Pursue visitor education then TV ads. Easy access to select areas of interest.
- Put distances on trail signs, i.e. fishing trail = X miles
- Put in a small campground with designated sites with picnic tables and toilet facilities (pit toilets minimum)
- Raise awareness of park

- Raising money to buy more land adjacent to the park
- Ranger out and about answering questions, maybe some visuals as well
- Ranger-led camping
- Ranger-led canoe/kayak trips
- Ranger-led walks
- Relate the significance of uniqueness
- Removal of non-native plants and animals
- Removal of wild pigs, electric RV hookups and sites
- Remove invasive, non-native species - both plant and animal
- Remove the hogs. High water backcountry campsites for the canoe trail.
- Repair boardwalk
- Responsible enjoyment - encourage use for recreation - hiking, canoeing, camping
- "Rest stations" along the way
- Retain rusticity. No more building construction. Constrain hogs.
- Rid the park of the feral hogs
- RV camping
- RV friendly parking
- Same, picnic and walk
- Satisfied
- Save the land
- Saving more land
- See the movie in the visitor center and walk
- Seems well-managed, no change
- Sell bug spray. Directional signs to Columbia from park.
- Sell some food at visitor center, along with drinks. Update the video.
- Selling the park to a private firm and no longer using tax dollars to support it. We need to drastically cut spending.
- Services, products for people to purchase like bug repellent, cameras
- Shorter questionnaire
- Shorter surveys
- Shorter, easy access path to river
- Signs to get to the park
- Signs to the park - without the GPS it would have been very hard to find Congaree National Park
- Slightly better family campsites
- Small cafe or snack shop
- Smaller, more applicable questionnaires, less entertainment activities
- Somehow getting the news out to South Carolina residents that there is a national park close by to raise interest in it
- Someone overseeing boardwalk daily to maintain it. Sweep out under benches so visitors aren't afraid of spiders and wildlife.
- Spread the news about this park's natural wonders
- Staff training/website update. Incorporate update of park without damage.
- Stay the course - great
- Steer clear of (hosting/harboring) left-wing political association
- Stronger advocacy - enlist help of legislators

- Summer workshops for K-12 teachers to develop more citizen scientist monitoring, and encourage more teachers to bring school-aged visitors to the park
- Survival training, more fire site camping, more fishing access on creeks and rivers
- Sustainability and maintenance of existing facilities. No cuts.
- Sustenance and maintenance of the park
- Take appropriate steps to preserve and maintain existence of Congaree NP
- Talks about proper hiking and trail care, first-hand educational opportunities
- Target small group activities to specific interests - hikers, photographers, kayakers
- Tell all visitors of guided tours at visitor center face-to-face
- Thanks for adding to the size of the park; consider a new trail deeper into the park
- That personal care be given to such a beautiful place
- The canoe/kayak tours were booked. We would have liked more activity options, but overall great experience.
- The continued and critical efforts to keep our rivers, Congaree, Saluda, etc., that is the life's blood of our park, clean and naturally flowing
- The film could show more about the park scenery and wildlife
- The movie was great, only too short for me. How about a longer movie, also? Give people a choice.
- The park is great the way it is. Maybe some picnic tables along the trails.
- The park manager should limit the affect of humans on the environment as much as possible
- The possibility of more bike trails to allow more movement through the park
- The signage on the boardwalk was not always visible
- The visit was really too short to have an informed knowledge base to answer this
- The website should have more information about why the park is compelling and why you should visit. Information from the visitor center would be good on the website.
- The wild pig population must be controlled. Would like to see trail extension from Kingsnake to old road to river.
- Theme park activities
- To continue to preserve it for many generations to come
- To expand borders and to enhance habitat for native species
- To expand it as much as possible
- To expand the trails into the east and add another entrance
- To get funding to keep the ATBI protest going
- To highlight more of the history of this area year-round. We enjoyed Congaree Campfire Chronicles.
- To increase the size of the park and to let the Bluff Trail forest grow naturally
- To keep as much of the park as possible natural. Reduce human interference and invasive species.
- To keep the Congaree National Park a pristine wilderness
- To leave it alone
- To let dogs on the boardwalk. New maps in color that are clearer.
- To limit development, keep plants and wildlife protected
- To maintain it as it is
- To preserve the park from dangers
- To publicize the park to area schools and children's groups and expand the educational programs offered
- To stay avid in the cleaning of the grounds, placing of trail markers
- To stress the importance of habitat conservation for the survival of plants and animals
- Trail maintenance

- Trail maintenance and preservation at open hours at the park
- Trail signs could be a little better marked as to distances
- Trail without dangerous roots
- Trails on new areas
- Tree identification signs posted on/near trees to help identify
- Try and educate as many people as possible why we need to protect areas like this
- Try and expand the park to include river and more floodplains
- Try to balance access to public with peace and tranquility
- Try to continue to buy more woodlands
- Try to get people of South Carolina to understand better the park's significance to them on the environment
- Try to limit plane/train noise
- Try to restore and protect more similar ecosystems in area
- Unsure, everything was fantastic
- Update visitor center, interpretive displays
- Updated informational film
- Upgrade campgrounds - water at after-hours campground, sanitary facilities at Bluff. Expand the trail system. There's only about 2 days worth of hiking there at Congaree National Park.
- Upgrade signage directing attention to specific areas and items of interest
- Upgrade the upper boardwalk. The lower boardwalk is smoother.
- Very little
- Walk your dog day
- Ward off wandering night time cars and campers
- Was not there long enough
- Water and "real" bathroom at campgrounds, more trails, eradicate fire ants
- Water source at campground
- Ways to promote nesting
- We came from the east and the signs were non-existent until we were right at the park, otherwise it was a delightful time. Thanks for all you do to make this available to us.
- We enjoyed our day and the 3-hour drive was worth it
- Weigh cost vs. benefit: we need to scale back
- Whatever is necessary to protect this place
- Wood duck boxes
- Work on pig eradication
- Would love a canoe/walking tour during flooding
- You need signs at all entrances/trails to entrances stating no dogs on the boardwalk. North from Wise Lake a sign says "1.2 miles to visitor center" and says nothing about the boardwalk.
- Your staff are amazing. Hire more like them.
- Youth programs to get children interested in preserving natural resources

**Q35.** Is there anything else you and your personal group would like to tell us about your visit to Congaree NP?

- 1 to 10, it was a 10
- A fabulous place
- A few more signs would have been nice on the boardwalk, indicating length of walks and names of trails
- A hidden gem
- A hidden treasure that is worth the detour
- A pleasant and enjoyable experience
- A sign indicating that there is a 'no dogs allowed' portion of the trail up ahead, so no one has to back track
- A treasure. We hope our children will also enjoy it in the future.
- A video would have been nice to see before going out on our walk
- A wonderful experience
- Absolutely love the boardwalk, maybe more information on trails with markers
- Add non-skid to slopes of boardwalk. Slick when wet.
- Additional canoe trip availability would be nice
- After this visit, we are planning to take my son's Boy Scout troop here. I just wish you took reservations for groups.
- Again, I just think it's a shame that this is the only large, old growth forest in the eastern US, but the visit was wonderful
- All employees very helpful and friendly
- All the park employees as well as other visitors were very friendly
- All was great
- Also, arrange for canoe/kayak rentals at the park. I could not locate a guide. Operate more ranger-led canoe trips. Arrange for a guide service to be available right at the park. I wished I could have paddled.
- Always a pleasure to visit, building family memories
- Always enjoy it
- Always enjoy visiting
- Always love it. Great memories of family outings.
- Always love this park
- Amazing place. Good job.
- An unplanned visit that was most enjoyable, educational and fun
- Appreciate the beauty
- Appreciate the opportunity to access this location and natural resources
- Appreciated ranger's offer to show film and we watched it
- Appreciated reading in state paper about upcoming events there
- Appreciated the enthusiasm of the staff and volunteers
- As mentioned, no signs on boardwalk and no map in "self-guided boardwalk trail" brochure. Walked to where path split on boardwalk and never saw a number. And because of no distance markers, we turned around and only saw the first sitting area. Wanted to see the bald cypress at #3, but didn't know if it was 1 mile or 2 miles.
- As replacement for wood on the boardwalk use plastic - lower maintenance cost
- Awesome experiences all the time. Enjoy it all the time and I always recommend to others.
- Bathrooms should be open 24 hours a day, or have another available clean option

- Beautiful park
- Beautiful park. We loved it. Employees were so helpful.
- Beautiful place, love to bring family and friends there
- Beautiful resource
- Beautiful, peaceful place
- Because it is a wilderness area it should promote "Leave No Trace"
- Better information about gate closure vs. visitor center hours
- Better posting of bike trails. More trails open to biking.
- Boardwalks and trails promote access to park areas that would be inaccessible otherwise
- Call Ben Clock at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and do bird projects. Congaree is one of the best parks on the east coast, but I am moving to the American West, never to return.
- Campsites looked awesome; we'll stay there instead of in town next time
- Can't wait to come back, thanks.
- Canoe guide Corrine and volunteer very nice and helpful. Tried to control "noisy" people as much as possible.
- Charge a small amount $1 per person, not to exceed $5 per vehicle, $20 year long pass and more valued when a fee. Compliment Corrine Fenner, ranger - tried so hard to get us on a guided canoe trip and sent us material left behind.
- Clear trails - very good with excellent blaze markings
- Confirmed the greatness of national park system
- Congaree is a special place and totally amazed my Welsh naturalist friend
- Congaree was not a destination point but rather a stop on our way to Charleston for a wedding
- Congaree is a treasure
- Congratulations. I will send all my friends here or at least try. Thank you.
- Consider a $2 campground fee
- Definitely keep the guided canoe trip
- Do not understand why it's one of 59 national parks vs. other national protected area
- Don't sell out or shut the park down or downsize - ever
- Each time I visit I stand in awe of the peace and beauty of this place and hope it remains that way forever
- Easy to reach, good location
- Enchanting
- Enjoyable and rewarding visit for an unknown and spur of the moment decision to stop in
- Enjoyable visit
- Enjoyed
- Enjoyed
- Enjoyed boardwalks - hiking
- Enjoyed it
- Enjoyed it
- Enjoyed it
- Enjoyed it a lot and found the staff to be enthusiastic and knowledgeable
- Enjoyed it and will be back
- Enjoyed it so much
- Enjoyed it very much
- Enjoyed it very much

- Enjoyed it. Especially like "Mosquito Meter."
- Enjoyed it. Thank you for supporting it.
- Enjoyed our visit and plan to return
- Enjoyed our visit, thank the staff
- Enjoyed our visit!
- Enjoyed our visit. Glad we stopped.
- Enjoyed our visit. This is too long.
- Enjoyed our walk and picnic
- Enjoyed seeing the turtles at Weston Lake and hearing my grandma tell us how they used to eat turtle legs
- Enjoyed the experience
- Enjoyed the staff - they were helpful and courteous
- Enjoyed, thank you
- Even in close to 100 degrees it was a wonderful experience for the whole family
- Even though it was a hot day, we thoroughly enjoyed our visit. Keep up the good work.
- Everyone in the park was very kind and helpful
- Everyone was so friendly and helpful. Thanks for all you do. We look forward to visiting you park again.
- Excellent staff
- Excellent visitor center! We've seen it before, not this time though.
- Exceptional staff - most friendly and knowledgeable
- Expand visitor center gift shop
- Fantastic trails, well marked. Will return.
- Favorite place to hike in the country. Always interesting, quiet.
- February - perfect time to visit. Love the mosquito meter. And dog trail.
- Friendly staff and clean bathrooms
- Fun and enjoyable
- Good experience
- Good job
- Good trip
- Good work
- Got lost - more signs
- Got several lifers
- Grateful
- Great
- Great
- Great
- Great day; thank you for this treasure
- Great experience
- Great experience
- Great facility
- Great family trip. Staff was very informative and friendly.
- Great interaction with Congaree rangers/staff
- Great job
- Great job done by the staff of the national park

- Great job. We will be back.
- Great park
- Great park staff
- Great park, clean. I had a blast.
- Great park, we'll be back. We didn't know about canoeing opportunities, but we are excited about doing a trip in future.
- Great place
- Great place
- Great place
- Great signage; we loved Congaree
- Great spot; great visit; thanks!
- Great staff at visitors center
- Great staff/great place to visit - a gem
- Great time. Needs improvement on gift store. Too much open space in the museum. Loved the whole park and its significance. I wish I could have met Mr. Hampton.
- Great time. Thanks.
- Great visit, nice staff
- Great visit; park staff was exceptionally helpful; love the skeeter meter
- Great visit. Great park.
- Great wildlife sightings
- Great, friendly rangers
- Great, friendly staff
- Great. We love the parks.
- Greatly enjoyed it
- Had a great time
- Had a great time
- Had a great time and no bugs
- Had a great time. Everyone was so helpful. Best of luck.
- Had a great time. Will come back.
- Had a great time. Glad we saw it on the map.
- Had a really nice time and will come back
- Had fun on a beautiful winter day
- Happy our tax dollars are sent here
- Have always enjoyed
- Have more of the children's books in particular that are specific to the ecology of the park rather than general books like the little golden books - so kids and adults can identify and learn about what they see in the park. Have the hands on exhibits at.
- Help visitors find the champion trees
- Helpful and friendly staff
- Hope I can return
- I am excited about signing up for a canoe trip
- I am so grateful that we have this national park. It is truly a hidden gem within the national park system.
- I asked a ranger for a private place to breast feed and she told me to use the restroom. I said that was unacceptable and another ranger provided me with a "movie room" that wasn't very private. Market better to families by providing a much needed air conditioned family feeding room.

- I could not access the November calendar on the website and found out that there had been a computer glitch. Sorry I blasted you on the website survey.
- I enjoyed it. Boardwalk needs the mileage on map and have smaller walk.
- I frequent national parks. I love the purpose. Keep up good work.
- I had a good time
- I had no idea it existed until studying my Passport Album. I am very glad we made time to see it and look forward to visiting again and spending a lot more time.
- I have enjoyed Owl Prowls in the past; I don't wish to attend other activities
- I have gone on the canoe trail several times and the new signs look great
- I have participated in several ranger-led activities. They are excellent and sufficient as they stand.
- I know mosquitoes have the place in the ecosystem, but we felt rushed as we were being hunted by the swarms of mosquitoes. Otherwise it was a great day.
- I like the fact most of the park is undeveloped; I'd like more trails, a larger main visitor center with more exhibits, but I wouldn't any roads through the park or a 2nd visitor center
- I love Congaree National Park
- I love it!
- I love the mosquito meter
- I love this park. It truly is a jewel.
- I love to bring visitors over from Europe to show this special nature areas of the park
- I miss it and think that I will go today
- I only experienced the boardwalk trails loop. My responses may have varied had I seen other park trails. Good survey questions, but too many. It takes real interest and patience to answer that much.
- I only had a very short time there. Very interested in venturing to canoe, fish and explore.
- I plan to visit again sometime in the near future
- I realize that budgets are strained, but bridges on backcountry trails need replacement
- I really enjoyed the Friday mid-day tech talks by experts in November-December 2011
- I thought it was great. I have wanted to go for years and I was not let down. Beautiful habitat, great trails/kayaking, and awesome animals.
- I took a group of Benedict College students today. Several of my students said they had never been to a national park before.
- I visit the park yearly to hike and see nature
- I visited in rain and was still wonderful
- I was extremely impressed by the boardwalk and the natural trails
- I was not aware of the park until I saw a documentary about it on public television. Excited to come back and walk the trails.
- I was pleasantly surprised by the enjoyable, educational experience. I liked the self-guided boardwalk tour; there should be posters for sale of park scenes. I really like that the park is free.
- I was very pleasantly surprised going on the boardwalk. It was great. Also spoke with several rangers and they all were very friendly and extremely helpful. Wonderful experience and we will come back.
- I will be less ignorant when I come back with a group. It may be available and I didn't ask.
- I would like to get a photo of the woodpeckers
- I would love to volunteer in some way
- I would prefer federal dollars go to protect national parks than many other federal programs

- I would put physical barriers after 9 pm or 10 pm to keep strangers out. Plus, perhaps a ranger hut or gatehouse to protect campers from strangers coming in during the night. The volunteer was a strange-acting man. He wanted to come and check on me in my van at 1 or 2 am.
- I'll be back
- I'm glad that this is a national park and just 2 hour drive from my home
- I'm glad this area got protected from urban development
- I'm thankful this place is being protected; an excellent use of tax dollars
- I've been going to Congaree since I was old enough to walk. I love it as much today as I did then.
- Idaho Vandals are in no position to mock the proud and historic mascot that is a fighting gamecock.
- If ever in the area again we would definitely go back again
- Immensely enjoyed seeing forest
- Increase gift shop to include other items found in national parks. Keep supply of 2009 Congaree National Park stamp series. They were out of the stamp for 2009 (passport to your national park stamp series).
- Interesting and unique. Easy to find.
- Interpretive staff was excellent. Law enforcement was unprofessional and of little help. They work for us.
- It has been a marvelous visit
- It is a great park - keep it up
- It is a peaceful and harmonious place to visit
- It is beautiful
- It is nice to take my kids to the same place my daddy took me when I was a boy
- It was a blessing to visit there
- It was a great experience on a lovely day, helped by the friendliness of the ranger on duty
- It was a great experience. We really loved the mosquito dial.
- It was a lot of fun. Thanks.
- It was a nice trip and we thank everyone who has made it possible
- It was a nice walk; we enjoyed spending time with our loved one in a serene safe environment
- It was a pleasant and amazing site
- It was a pleasing surprise to find it
- It was a pleasure to discover every little thing such as mushrooms, spiders, barred owl and a hawk. We greatly appreciate the park and all of the staff.
- It was a true surprise how wonderful this park is - a true hidden treasure that needs to be preserved. We absolutely will be back.
- It was a very nice visit. Good instructions, friendly people.
- It was a wonderful surprise and valuable walking tour
- It was an exceptionally rich visit to a unique ecosystem for my daughter and me
- It was excellent
- It was fun
- It was fun
- It was great
- It was great
- It was great
- It was great
- It was great
- It was great to meet and speak with "roving" rangers. Friendly staff get A+ at Congaree.

- It was great, as always, thanks
- It was great. Thank you.
- It was great. The ranger was knowledgeable and friendly at the visitor center.
- It was most enjoyable, surrounded by the swamp
- It was nice. Thank you.
- It was our first visit and it was very hot, but we would love to come back in the spring when it is cool and maybe not so dry
- It was overall a great experience, and we're glad we went there. Our son has already made a return trip.
- It was pretty empty that day. Maybe someone could of showed us around; not for nothing, but for something to do.
- It was quite enjoyable and the staff helped very much
- It was rather boring except for Ranger Kate who was fun and full of information
- It was wonderful to see such old and healthy trees and plants thriving - keep it up! Thank you.
- It was wonderful. Thanks to all who preserved it and made it possible.
- It was wonderful. We will return often.
- It was wonderful. Plan to return.
- It would be nice to provide at least minimal restroom facilities on the trails
- It's a great opportunity to build family memories. Thank you.
- It's a very special place and the ranger was very friendly and informative
- It's a wonderful park - proud SC has a national park
- It's hard to improve upon
- It's just awesome! I thank God it is protected and so well run!
- It's one of our favorite places
- It's the perfect place to visit Thanksgiving morning
- Joe (volunteer) and young female national park employee were very helpful
- Just a note - this survey is too long
- Just a pleasant surprise and a place of beauty
- Just how degrading it was to be accosted like I was by the ranger
- Just keep up the good work
- Kathleen was one of the best rangers I have ever met. Kathleen was an amazing ranger who went out of her way to make sure we were educated and entertained. Thank you to her.
- Keep it great
- Keep it protected. We are from Maine and may never be here again, but it's good to know it exists
- Keep it up
- Keep up the fight
- Keep up the good work
- Keep up the good work
- Keep up the good work
- Keep up the good work
- Keep up the good work
- Keep up the good work
- Keep up the good work
- Keep up the good work and expand the park
- Keep up the good work. Minimalism is good.

- Keep up the great work
- Kill the bugs
- Knowledge gained was used in my daughter's college wetland essay
- Leave it alone. It is very beautiful.
- Lots of fun. Wish I was able to come in summer.
- Love it
- Love the deer
- Love you guys!
- Love your logo
- Loved it
- Loved it
- Loved it, especially looking at the large trees. Unfortunately, their leaves were so high up, I had trouble identifying them. Perhaps a small plaque at bottom would help.
- Loved it. We will be back.
- Loved the free camping
- Loved the park overall - thank you
- Loved the park. Our ranger was great. Loved the owl prowl. Personnel at desk were extremely helpful.
- Loved the people working there
- Loved the tall trees, fall colors, peacefulness, birds, lake and helpfulness of Ranger Kathleen
- Loved the visitor center displays. We learned a lot.
- Lovely facility, enjoyed video, enthusiastic rangers and volunteers
- Lovely park - thank you to all staff (super)
- Make numbers on boardwalk more visible - maybe just paint with bright colors
- Mark roads to park better
- Miriam was less than knowledgeable compared to other rangers we have experienced. Increase her preparation so she can confidently answer basic questions.
- More advertising in southeast region
- More rewarding and interesting than anticipated. Thank you for all your work.
- Movie/film not informative enough - birds, trees names
- My family has loved the Owl Prowl and the canoe trip and invited out-of-town guests to join us on these
- My visit was short and spontaneous (a road trip); it is a gem of a park, I had never heard of it but saw it on a map - perhaps more advertising. I will plan to visit again when I have more time.
- Need more historical interpretation
- Need more signs pointing out different things, such as turtles, pig routings, etc. I realize budget cuts affect all this. Thanks.
- Need to specify that the guide doesn't do the canoeing just leads the group
- Never let out natural resources be misused, protect them
- Nice experience
- Nice park
- Nice road trip detour. Would have liked to take my dog on boardwalk.
- Nice staff
- Nice visit
- Nice walk, very quiet, relieved stress, friendly and helpful park ranger
- Nope, great visit

- Not a lot of camping sites. Thank you.
- Not at this time
- Not many mosquitoes. We got lucky.
- Nothing told in advance of what to expect
- One of my favorite places to go
- Our ranger, William, was amazing. The Junior Ranger books were really too hard for the 2nd-3rd graders; there should be an easier form for younger children.
- Out 2 year old grandson particularly liked the "stuffed" animals on display
- Outstanding rangers and volunteers
- Overall, a very enjoyable and worthwhile experience
- Park is litter free. Ranger was pleasant. Thank you.
- Park personnel are welcoming, friendly and professional
- Park Ranger Kathleen was very helpful, pleasant and knowledgeable about the park
- Park Rangers Kate and Corinne were especially helpful/knowledgeable with information on the park
- Parking area was terrible for visitors coming in a motorhome
- Passport stamp collectors - old stamp Congaree Swamp National Memorial - retired?
- Place boardwalk maps in more visible, accessible location right at beginning of boardwalk. Several visitors I met on boardwalk asked where I'd found the boardwalk map. They walked past the box on side of building.
- Pleasant, peaceful couple hours; will return when in Columbia
- Please add some road signs so that visitors know where to find the park's entrance
- Please do not give visitors surveys before they go hiking. I had to carry this survey all over the park.
- Please give better information about photographs used in interpretive exhibits in visitor center - date taken at a minimum, but name of photographer if know, names of subjects if known
- Please identify dates and photographers on pictures on display in visitor center
- Please include mileage information on trail signs
- Please put more and better signs to go in and out of park
- Positive
- Pretty cool place, loved the visitor center
- Probably already have a monthly calendar of events on website. Identify animal sounds, meet the native animals of the Congaree.
- Proofread trail guide - 'Saturday' is not spelled correctly
- Pure pleasure - I love visiting as often as I can when in town. I have been a visitor of this particular site since before the center and paths were created. I really enjoy the new boardwalks and informational center available. One of the things I most admire is how this was put together for individuals to enjoy and how it was done without interrupting the natural flow of the environment. I have many pictures within my home that I have taken, framed and enjoy. I will continue to visit the park as often as I can when I'm in town.
- Question 17 should include water fountains - extremely important
- Quite an enjoyable visit
- Ranger greeter was very informative
- Ranger help was awesome
- Ranger Kathleen is a rock star
- Ranger O'Brien was delightful
- Ranger personnel excellent and informative
- Rangers and volunteer we spoke with were knowledgeable and helpful

- Rangers and volunteers need to work on their interpersonal skills and educating volunteers on camping permits
- Rangers are friendly and knowledgeable
- Rangers David and Terry stopped and volunteered to take our picture together. Ranger in the visitor center gave us a tutorial on owls because we were disappointed that we could not attend Owl Prowl.
- Rangers were very helpful
- Really enjoyed the experience - wonderful. Had never seen B. cypress, etc. Saw hooded merganser for the 1st time and pileated woodpecker entertained us for quite awhile.
- Really enjoyed the very short visit and will be back
- Remind the squirrels of traffic safety rules
- Research is important, but the main emphasis of a national park should be to make it visitor friendly
- Road maps are not adequate - need more road/direction signs
- Saw sign on interstate. More exposure of park to public.
- Saw two groups of wild pigs
- Saw two large pileated woodpeckers on Cedar Creek
- See you next time
- Sell bug spray at the visiting center
- Shorter survey
- Signage for leaving park back to interstates in highways
- Signage for visitor entrance to the park needs to be improved. More brown directional signs (we needed to stop and ask the way at Gadsden post office).
- Some additional context of how the park compares to other federal lands (national forests, national wildlife refuges) in the area
- Some of friendliest rangers we have encountered; Congaree is an untold story to so many
- South Carolina is very fortunate to have this resource. Thank goodness someone had the foresight to save it.
- Staff (1) awesome
- Staff and intern very helpful
- Staff as visitor center helpful
- Staff at park were very good, very helpful, expressed high level of interest in outlining opportunities for hiking, camping, canoeing in park.
- Staff people were very helpful and nice
- Staff very friendly and helpful
- Staff was extremely pleasant and inviting us to return
- Staff was great, especially Kristin? Corinne?, not sure of ranger's name
- Staff was great, facilities appropriate for a wild area
- Staff was most helpful and professional. I've been to 75 of the national parks - one of the best.
- Staff was very friendly, knowledgeable and helpful; facility nice and park well-maintained
- Staff were exceedingly friendly and knowledgeable
- Staff were great. It was a wonderful day. Kids loved it.
- Staff were just lovely, so helpful and positive
- Staff were really friendly and helpful - enjoyed visited
- Staff's presence at the visitor center is great, but I appreciate the solitude on the trail
- Stopped by to check it out (and to check it off the list), will definitely come back to explore
- Such a helpful and friendly staff. All facilities were exceptionally clean.

- Super sweet park
- Superb overall
- Surprised (delighted) to fine a NP so close to Columbia
- Survey was too long, too detailed, maybe too difficult for some to follow instructions. Please publish results for visitors.
- Swamps are rad
- Take an entrance fee
- Thank you
- Thank you
- Thank you
- Thank you
- Thank you
- Thank you
- Thank you
- Thank you
- Thank you :)
- Thank you all. We all had a wonderful time.
- Thank you for a great visit
- Thank you for a great visit
- Thank you for a rewarding and respectful experience
- Thank you for all that you do and for providing an excellent outdoor experience
- Thank you for allowing me to celebrate my birthday in old growth bottomland forest
- Thank you for being there and keeping the Park going
- Thank you for having us
- Thank you for letting us better experience the beauty of this earth
- Thank you for preserving such a special place
- Thank you for preserving such beauty
- Thank you for serving America at its parks
- Thank you for taking care of this place and making it an easy place to walk
- Thank you for the herculean efforts of those dedicated people, who realized a dream
- Thank you for the survey. We love this park and value this treasure. National Park Service should do this more often.
- Thank you for this park
- Thank you for your good work
- Thank you for your hard work and keeping the clean restrooms for our family to use. We visit many national parks, state parks, and other outside adventures. Not all places keep the restrooms clean.
- Thank you for your very helpful and devoted park rangers
- Thank you for your work
- Thank you. I was looking for an inexpensive way to celebrate my birthday and this was perfect for me.
- Thanks
- Thanks
- Thanks
- Thanks

- Thanks
- Thanks for all the hard work - it was a great experience
- Thanks for keeping it a special place
- Thanks for learning something new
- Thanks, I had a great time
- The bats did a great job eating the mosquitoes
- The beauty in South Carolina
- The boardwalk was fantastic. What an endeavor to provide this much accessibility above the forest floor - simply amazing.
- The boardwalk gets very slick after rain could get dangerous
- The boardwalk made the walk easy and leaves the landscape undisturbed
- The boardwalk was very nice
- The information was a little bit scarce regarding plants and animals
- The law enforcement guy must stop sneaking up on people
- The law enforcement rangers are getting a bad reputation with some dedicated long-term visitors - surliness, "command voice" at innocent kids, etc. I have heard the coon and (?) and seen a (?).
- The mosquitoes were really bad but without them it wouldn't be a "true swamp experience"
- The National Park Service always does an outstanding job. Thanks.
- The national park was very clean and staff was very helpful
- The numbered "points of interest" along the boardwalks were quite interesting. The boardwalk is a soothing walk.
- The park ranger (wonderful woman from Duluth) and volunteer (guy formerly with weather service) were spectacularly helpful and welcoming. An absolute joy.
- The park rangers and volunteer staff are wonderful
- The park rangers and volunteers were very kind and helpful. Basically, we were going to Bluffton to stay at our daughter's condo and knew that Congaree would be a possibility. Visited the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone in September.
- The park rangers were great. The facilities were in great shape. Please keep up the great work. Can't wait to come back.
- The park staff is excellent. The numerous ranger-led activities are great. I expect I will be visiting at least twice a month. Keep up the good work.
- The park was stunningly beautiful. So glad we (Americans and government) preserved this outstanding, remarkable place. I'm thankful for all those who worked so hard to get it designated as a national park and thankful to those who work so hard to preserve and manage it. I had great difficulty getting to the park from Rock Hill, SC. They say there is a sign on I-77 south bound north of Columbia. I didn't see it. I used Google Maps - great directions to somebody's house - but it was on the opposite side of swamp from park entrance. Took one hour to get to entrance.
- The paved parking area, the visitor center and the park service staff were excellent
- The peacefulness was outstanding
- The people mentioned in answer to 29 should be commended. Super friendly, helpful and accommodating.
- The ranger and volunteer were quite helpful
- The ranger and volunteers there are exceptional
- The ranger was extremely helpful in answering our questions
- The rangers and staff are always willing to help
- The rangers are a credit to the National Park Service
- The rangers were fantastic

- The rangers were so kind and helpful. Thank you.
- The rangers were very accommodating and knowledgeable
- The rangers were very friendly, informative, and helpful. The visitor center was beautiful. Loved the park. Thoroughly enjoyed visit. Will definitely visit it again.
- The signs entering the park were small and you only had one chance. We drove about 10 miles past park.
- The staff and grounds were great. Everything was clean and natural.
- The staff and volunteers were super-friendly and answered all my questions with enthusiasm
- The staff at the visitor center was very helpful; we really enjoyed
- The staff at visitor center were very friendly and helpful
- The staff is doing a great job with what they have to work with. Keep up the great job.
- The staff is exceptional
- The staff was passionate and welcoming
- The staff was very helpful
- The staff was very nice
- The staff was wonderfully helpful
- The two gals working in the visitor center were great - Corrine and Kristen
- The wildlife was amazing. The place is so serene and beautiful amidst the crazy world of Columbia.
- There 9am on 8/32011 - staff was helpful and very pleasant. In reference to Q6B - Animals change their habitat as climate dictates, so boundaries for them change constantly. No one can say they do or do not belong in an area. Part of nature adjustment plan. However, if introduced not naturally (released illegally by humans), then yes, remove.
- There appears to be a need for additional signage on Bluff Rd
- There should also be arrows on the trees for landmark
- There should be foreign language brochures available for visitors from other countries
- There was a lot of loud talking from other visitors. Maybe some 'quiet' signs would help.
- There was lots of life everywhere and the forest looked healthy
- This is a great park. Keep up the good work.
- This is a special forest deserving of preservation
- This is a wonderful place to experience. Rangers are great.
- This is a wonderful site. Please upgrade campground for family use. It is not appropriate for many families - showers, water especially.
- This is one of the best things about living here
- This is what a lake a federal funds should be used for
- This park is a jewel. We keep coming back over and over.
- This park is beautiful. Keep it for us, we will be back.
- This property is highly significant to the state and nation. So many children were around us with their parents learning about nature. There is so little old growth forest land left, we need to preserve more of it. Thank you.
- This sort of place is a spiritual refreshment for my soul. Thanks.
- This survey should be available online
- This trip was totally awesome
- This visit completed visiting all 46 national parks in 48 continental US states. Fun to complete the list with a more obscure park.
- This was a wonderful and educational experience for us and hope we can visit again
- This was our first visit, but will not be our last

- Truly enjoyed
- Very clean restrooms. Polite staff. Beautiful park.
- Very enjoyable
- Very enjoyable
- Very enjoyable experience
- Very enjoyable vacation; nice campground area; rangers were very nice, helpful, knowledgeable; really enjoyed ranger-guided kayak tour and hike (off trail) with park volunteer to champion trees - great prices/fees
- Very enjoyable walk on boardwalk. Nice area, scenery, quality. Free entrance is a major draw. Thanks.
- Very enjoyable, as always, except for loose dogs and shouting owners
- Very friendly and knowledgeable staff and volunteers
- Very friendly staff
- Very good trip
- Very happy
- Very helpful and friendly park staff and volunteers
- Very helpful rangers and volunteers. Thank you.
- Very helpful volunteer and paid staff at the visitor center very hospitable
- Very important to keep website current, park newspaper should be posted on website too
- Very interesting and educational
- Very interesting and educational. Would like to arrive earlier next time.
- Very neat park. Has wonderful natural resources. Enjoyed very much.
- Very nice facilities
- Very nice facilities, very, very important to keep this area safe from destruction and commercial development
- Very nice park and great staff
- Very nice staff - helpful and proud of their park
- Very peaceful, inspiring, beautiful. We are grateful for the experience.
- Very pleasant
- Very secretive place, not well known in the southeast or anywhere
- Very, very inspiring. It felt like a "monument" - a national monument in the midst of an otherwise environmentally challenged area. It must be respected and protected.
- Visit in November - temperature good, no bugs
- Visiting the park and Cedar Creek is like stepping back in time. Feel like I am the very first visitor.
- Volunteers were very welcoming and friendly
- Wanted to do photography, but little information available on good spots
- Was one of the nicest visits to a national park, surprising for a swamp
- We all enjoyed the boardwalk and appreciated the level of maintenance of walks
- We appreciate that park access is free but still well-staffed and maintained
- We are coming back to canoe
- We are completing the Junior Ranger programs and loved this park. We wish we could have spent more time, but we had been away from home for a week and just wanted to go home. Our family had no idea the park was so nice and we wish we could have allotted more time to do a longer walk.
- We are grateful for the Congaree and all those who work and volunteer there

- We are huge national park fans. The ranger and the exhibits were better than at some of the more renowned parks. Congaree is a great park. The ranger is fantastic.
- We are so grateful that this incredible place was preserved. Sad that there is so little of it left. Also, the staff was kind enough to let us park in the parking lot overnight because we arrived late. Appreciated not having to fool around late at night.
- We arrived when it was dark, there were no signs to tell us where the campground was; we didn't know where to turn and once we got to the campground, we thought it was just a trailhead
- We came a long way to see the area including Congaree. We felt the park helped justify the trip.
- We can see both why the site is a national park and why it previously was not. It's not as immediately compelling as some.
- We can't wait to go back for another visit
- We enjoy it very much
- We enjoyed it
- We enjoyed it
- We enjoyed it
- We enjoyed it very much and plan to come again with more family and friends
- We enjoyed it very much. Great exhibits at the visitor center, including the movie.
- We enjoyed learning about the park from talking to Ranger Corrine in the visitor center
- We enjoyed our first day so much we decided to stay (camp) another night - wonderful
- We enjoyed our first visit and we will come back
- We enjoyed our trip. Well worth the drive from Georgia.
- We enjoyed our visit
- We enjoyed our visit very much
- We enjoyed our visit, but would like to have had hiking gear with us to take better advantage of the park
- We enjoyed ourselves. Better signage from Highway 601.
- We enjoyed the natural beauty
- We enjoyed the visit. Would have liked greater access to water activities.
- We entered from 601 and State Route 48. Signs were poor or nonexistent leaving in some direction. Could easily miss a turn and get lost. At least put signs pointing to Columbia so driver knows to turn left or right exiting park. This is basic stuff dealing with tourists.
- We had a blast. See you soon.
- We had a great experience and learned a lot from our guide
- We had a great time
- We had a great time and learned a great deal
- We had a great time and we recommend this park to our friends
- We had a great time, loved camping and had a great experience at Congaree National Park. Very friendly staff at visitor center. Thanks.
- We had a great time. Good exercise and signs to the park were nonexistent.
- We had a wonderful day. Rangers friendly and helpful. Benches a help. We will be back.
- We had a wonderful hike
- We had a wonderful time
- We had difficulty finding a park street address for use with GPS. I think you should do some sort of advertising about the "gnomeland" created by the bald cypress roots.
- We had fun
- We had limited time to acquaint ourselves and walk elevated boardwalk. Next time, we will do one or more of the trails.

- We had lots of fun on the boardwalk trail, but would like more detailed information on the stations 1-22
- We had to cut our visit short due to mosquitoes
- We have been here several times and we were pleased to see so many people using the park this time perhaps because it was on a weekend, but it's always been underutilized on earlier visits
- We have enjoyed our repeated visits here over the past 15-20 years
- We have loved visiting several times. I like that there is a national park in this region, not all out west.
- We just felt that the Congaree River is central to the park and we couldn't get there to see it. We stayed at Barnyard RV Park on US-1 but that was too far for member #2 to drop off me and my kayak and return back to RV. Anyway, no access to river. We did appreciate use of NPS wheelchair on boardwalk loop. Member #2 used it a little but it was the only way I could persuade her to attempt doing the loop.
- We kind of like seeing wild pigs, but understand they are invasive and destructive. We loved it, great stuff, very cool park.
- We liked the courtesy of the park personnel
- We love Congaree National Park
- We love Congaree National Park and enjoy visiting
- We love cypress knees
- We love it. Thank you for all you do to make Congaree National Park such a wonderful place to visit.
- We love the "other worldly" aspects - unique like Everglades
- We love the park
- We love the park - helpful people but this is too much. Some of these questions are personal, did not answer. Questionnaire too long. Filled out what we could, please stop sending this - can do no more - having problems. No time, need to be left alone.
- We love the swamp
- We love the swamp
- We love this park
- We love to see the wild pigs
- We loved it
- We loved it
- We loved it
- We loved it
- We loved it
- We loved it
- We loved it
- We loved it and will come back frequently
- We loved it; volunteers were wonderful
- We loved our visit. What a gem.
- We loved the park and will tell our friends about it
- We loved the scenery and the quiet
- We may suggest some emergency call boxes along the boardwalk in case of medical emergency
- We plan to visit again this fall
- We really enjoyed our visit
- We really had the best time. I can't thank you enough.
- We spent a pleasant couple of hours in the NP that we wouldn't have found elsewhere
- We think you're doing a great job and we love to visit multiple times a year

- We thoroughly enjoyed it - better than expected
- We thoroughly enjoyed our visit and will return. This is the 2nd time I have filled out this questionnaire. What happened with the 1st one? Thank you for a beautiful park.
- We visit often. It is a treasure. We take our grandchildren just as we took our own children years ago.
- We visited in February, which is a very nice time, weather-wise, for a visit
- We visited in January and there was no activity at all. A tour would have been good. Area around park area unattractive and intimidating.
- We want to come back with our kids and grandkids - camp and canoe
- We wanted to go canoeing, but it was unclear how to do so. It looked like we needed to book months in advance, but we did not plan our trip so far in advance.
- We wanted to say it is a beautiful park and we thank you very much. We had a great time. It was a wonderful experience and we will be back to the park.
- We were blown away and will be back; the park staff are incredibly knowledgeable and helpful!
- We were impressed with the boardwalks, the work involved in them, and their maintenance. What a great job.
- We were so surprised at how beautiful and unique the park is
- We were taken away by the parks beauty and tranquility. The female ranger was very knowledgeable.
- We were very enjoy our visit at the park; learn a lot about wildlife. Have a great time.
- We were visiting Columbia and wanted to walk. Had two strollers. I suggested the park. It was very nice. Thank you.
- We will be back
- We will be back. Thanks for taking care of this park.
- We will return when the mosquitoes are less active and with repellent
- We wish we would have seen wild pigs
- We're glad we organized our family trip to visit CNP
- We're happy the area was preserved so those who are unaware of its existence (us) can see it
- We're so glad this is a national park! The rangers (including the law enforcement) we encountered and two volunteers we met were very knowledgeable, friendly, and helpful. Of the 18 national parks I've backpacked through, Congaree National Park is one of the best.
- We've been coming our whole lives and love the swamp; I would like the literature about paddling to include more information re: best times of year, appropriate water levels, etc.
- We've lived in Sumter for two years and finally came for a visit. What a treasure to have so nearby.
- What a jewel. We were totally blown away by your awesome park. So different from our beloved Shenandoah National Park. Loved it.
- What a unique place that is so near - never thought SC had it
- What action should people take if encountering wild pigs on trail.
- What Congaree lacks in majesty is made up by the personal service of rangers. Personnel-guided canoe trip was wonderful and cheap. Also made my son's day to become a Junior Ranger.
- Will try to get back sometime
- Will visit again
- Will volunteer
- Willing to archery hunt wild hogs on a volunteer basis; office closed Thanksgiving Day so most services were not available; first time in many years I remember it closed. For over 30 years friends and family have 'walked off' Thanksgiving lunch making room for dinner. Loved our Owl Prowl and Rudy Marke (unreadable) walk.
- Wonderful

- Wonderful day outing. You do need to check the aging boards of elevated boardwalk out to water's edge off of Weston Lake Trail.
- Wonderful experience every time
- Wonderful park, wonderful staff. We love it there.
- Wonderful park. Enjoyed our visit and will visit again.
- Wonderful place
- Wonderful place. I bring my students here as a reward at the end of each semester.
- Wonderful trip - we want to come back. Need outdoor amphitheater to talk to large groups, educate.
- Wonderful visit
- Wonderful. Thank you.
- Work on road markers
- Would be great if more ranger-guided canoe tours were offered - on weekdays as well as weekends. We loved the place, especially the grand trees.
- Would enjoy hearing more about park area ties to human development in South Carolina
- Would have been nice to have distance markers along trails - how far you've walked or how far to end
- Would have liked water pumps at the campsite, but overall wonderful experience. Will come back.
- Would have loved to enroll my children in the week-long ranger camp, but distance is too great. Loved the park. Please keep it open.
- Would like to canoe the river
- Would like to know we could have gone off trail
- Would like to see again in autumn
- Yes, dogs right outside visitor center. Dogs should not be allowed outside visitor center or on any boardwalk. Used park's wheelchairs need repairing - one is in bad shape.
- Yes, once night fell campers came and set up beside us creating noise, light and contrition
- You are doing good, thank you and shalom
- You guys do almost everything right. Fix Kingsnake Trail and you get two thumbs up from us.
- You need to sell more bug spray that is environmentally safe, along with sunscreen, etc. Sell more earth friendly products that people would like to buy.
- You've done a great job. Keep it up.
- Your staff was outstanding. They were excited to introduce us to the highlights of the park. We would recommend this experience to family and friends.
- Your visitors' study needs a lot more space for written answers like this. When I agreed to take this survey, I thought I might have some input, but there is no room.
- Your volunteers and rangers are very helpful and knowledgeable

# Appendix 1: The Questionnaire

# Appendix 2: Additional Analysis

The Visitor Services Project (VSP) offers the opportunity to learn from VSP visitor study data through additional analysis. Two-way and three-way cross tabulations can be made with any questions.

Below are some examples of the types of cross tabulations that can be requested. To make a request, please use the contact information below, and include your name, address and phone number in the request.

1. What proportion of family groups with children attends interpretive programs?

2. Is there a correlation between visitors' ages and their preferred sources of information about the park?

3. Are highly satisfied visitors more likely to return for a future visit?

4. How many international visitors participate in hiking?

5. What ages of visitors would use the park website as a source of information on a future visit?

6. Is there a correlation between visitor groups' rating of the overall quality of their park experience and their ratings of individual services and facilities?

7. Do larger visitor groups (e.g., four or more) participate in different activities than smaller groups?

8. Do frequent visitors rate the overall quality of their park experiences differently than less frequent visitors?

The VSP database website (http://vsp.uidaho.edu) allows data searches for comparisons of data from one or more parks.

For more information please contact:

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University of Idaho
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Phone: 208-885-2585
Fax: 208-885-4261
Email: lenale@uidaho.edu
Website: http://www.psu.uidaho.edu

# Appendix 3: Decision Rules for Checking Non-response Bias

There are several methods for checking nonresponse bias. However, the most common way is to use some demographic indicators to compare between respondents and non-respondents (Dey 1997; Salant and Dillman 1994; Dillman and Carley-Baxter 2000; Dillman, 2007; Stoop 2004). In this study, we used five variable group type, group size, age of the group member (at least 16 years old) completing the survey, whether the park was the primary destination for the visit, and visitor's place of residence proximity to the park to check for nonresponse bias.

Chi-square tests were used to detect the difference in the response rates among different group types, whether the park was the primary destination for this visit, and visitor's place of residence and proximity to the park. The hypothesis was that there is no significant difference across different categories (or groups) between respondents and non-respondents. If the p-value is greater than 0.05, the difference between respondents and non-respondents is judged to be insignificant.

Two independent-sample T-tests were used to test the differences between respondent's and non-respondent's average age and group size. The p-values represent the significance levels of these tests. If p-value is greater than 0.05, the two groups are judged to be insignificantly different.

Therefore, the hypotheses for checking non-response bias are:

1. Respondents from different group types are equally represented.

2. Respondents and non-respondents are not significantly different in terms of proximity from their home to the park.

3. Respondents and non-respondents are not significantly different in terms of reason for visiting the park.

4. Average age of respondents – average age of non-respondents = 0.

5. Average group size of respondents – average group size of non-respondents = 0.

As shown in Tables 2, 3, 4, and 5, the p-value for respondent/non-respondent comparisons except for group size were less than 0.05, indicating significant differences between respondents and non-respondents. The results indicate some biases occurred due to non-response. Visitors at younger age ranges (especially 35 and younger), visitors coming from the local area (within a 50 mile radius), visitors traveling with friends, and visitors who indicated the park as the primary destination were underrepresented in the survey results. Results of the study in this report only reflect the simple frequencies. Inferences of the survey results should be weighted to counter balance the effects of non-response bias.

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