The Role of the Recreation System in Building Community Resilience and Adaptive Capacity

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Purpose

**WHY** should The Recreation System be considered as a component and major contributor to Community Resilience and Adaptive Capacity?

**HOW** can the Recreation System be applied to Community Resilience and Adaptive Capacity?
Simply

Apply the Benefits-Based Model (BBM) to the Recreation System so it can relate to and contribute to Community Health, Resilience and the Capacity to Adapt to crisis and major changes so to maintain a desired state of livability and preserve future options.
Recreation System

GREEN SPACES
the recreation settings in Parks, Trails, Rivers, Lakes, Open Space, and Forests

RECREATION SERVICES
the Activities, Experiences, and Benefit Outcomes

SERVICE PROVIDER NETWORK
that manages, monitors, markets and delivers Services in Green Spaces
Recreation Services

- Green Spaces – open space, watershed, parks, rivers, lakes, trails, forests, etc.
- Activities – Outdoor recreation activities like xc-skiing, mountain biking, hiking, etc.
- Experiences – On-site psychological experiences from outdoor participation.
- Benefit Outcomes – improved & maintained human conditions produced through experiences and activities.
Recreation System

Community Resilience Framework

**System Inputs**
Recreationists and Service Providers interrelate within the Community Infrastructure.

**System Throughputs**
Recreationists and Service Providers interface with the physical, social, and operational settings of the Green Space.

**Recreation BBM/OFM System**

**Recreationists**  
**Service Providers**

**Community**

**Green Space**

**System Outputs**
Recreation Activity, Experience, and Benefit opportunities are produced.

**System Outcomes**
Beneficial and negative outcomes feedback to visitors, residents, off-site supporters, businesses, community, economy, and the environment.

**System Outputs**
Recreationists and Service Providers interface with the physical, social, and operational settings of the Green Space.
Recreation Benefit Outcomes
(Psychometrics)

- **PERSONAL** – better health, fitness & mental well-being, reflection, adventure
- **SOCIAL** – better place to live, greater stewardship, improved family bonding
- **ECONOMIC** – increased home values, increased tax revenue
- **ENVIRONMENTAL** – improved air & water quality, healthier wildlife populations
Benefit Outcomes

- Are widely accepted in the literature and by social scientists
- Validity and reliability tested
- Popularized by public campaigns by NRPA and the Benefits Catalogue
Canada’s Eight Benefit Categories

1. Essential to **PERSONAL HEALTH**
2. The Key to **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**
3. Essential to **QUALITY OF LIFE**
4. Reduces **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR**
5. Builds **FAMILIES** and **COMMUNITIES**
6. **PAY NOW OR PAY MORE LATER**
7. Significant **ECONOMIC GENERATORS**
8. Essential to **ECOLOGICAL SURVIVAL**
Benefits Catalogue

Category Example – Recreating Outdoors produces healthier, more fit people

Evidence – Provides 32 citations of scientific work that support the claim
Outcomes are Real

There is no argument against the existence of the Benefit Outcomes or that they are attributable to outdoor recreation.

Benefit Outcomes produce:
- Enriched Quality of Life for citizens
- Stronger Families and Communities
- Stable and Diverse Local Economies
- Productive and Healthy Environment
So what’s the problem?

- BBM or managing for recreation benefit outcomes is not widely used.
- Activity–Based Model is utilized by an estimated 80-90% of Park Managers.
- ABM manages for activities, facilities, programs and projects and treats these means as an end.
- BBM manages for the outcomes as the desired end and the recreation settings to achieve targeted outcomes. Then utilizes the best mix of programs, facilities, and services to achieve the desired end.
Additional problems?

- Recreation is seen as fun & games
- Not viewed as an essential public service
- Is the 1st department cut when funding is tight.

- The Recreation Profession has not made its case to be taken seriously.
- It definitely has not made its case to be considered as a contributor to Community Resilience and Adaptive Capacity
Recreation System doesn’t exist in the Resilience & Adaptive Capacity world.

- A literature review has produced no articles that link recreation benefit outcomes to resilience & adaptive capacity.
- Communication with professionals and the academic community in both areas can cite no studies that link them.
- The Anchorage HAI Program identifies 83 indicators of Community Health, none are recreation-related.
Opportunities in Adopting BBM

- For Resilience, it is a chance to add Recreation as a major player that contributes significantly to a healthy more resilient community on a Personal, Social, Economic and Environmental level.

- For Recreation, it is a chance to be considered increasing relevant as an essential public service through outcome-based scientific data that contributes to quality of life, vibrant communities, diverse local economies and healthy ecological environments.
Why should The Recreation System be strongly considered as a component and major contributor to Community Resilience and Adaptive Capacity?

Recreation Benefit Outcomes are strongly linked with Healthy Communities.
How?

How can the Recreation System be applied and contribute to Community Resilience and Adaptive Capacity?

Application and refinement of the Recreation Management Benefits-Based Model (BBM) to link placed-based outcomes to Green Spaces and managing for a diversity of activities, experiences, outcomes and setting on a neighborhood scale.
# Benefits-Based Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inputs</th>
<th>Throughputs</th>
<th>Outputs/Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service Provider</td>
<td>Recreation &amp; Community</td>
<td>Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actions</td>
<td>Settings</td>
<td>Experiences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mgmt. Monitoring</td>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>Benefit Outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing Admin.</td>
<td>Social</td>
<td>Personal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Operational</td>
<td>Social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Economic</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Environmental</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Managing for Beneficial Outcomes

#### Recreation-Tourism Service Delivery System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Land Managing Agencies</th>
<th>Recreation Resource and Community Settings</th>
<th>Recreation Opportunities are Produced and Outcomes are Attained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Governments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Sector Businesses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Inputs

- Public Lands & Community Recreation Provider Inputs

#### Outputs

- Recreation Opportunities are Produced
- Outcomes are Attained

#### Management

- Marketing
- Monitoring
- Administration

#### Setting Character

- Experiences

#### Activities

- Benefits
Planning for Beneficial Outcomes

Recreation-Tourism Service Delivery System

Public Land Managing Agencies

Local Governments

Private Sector Businesses

Public Lands & Community Recreation Provider Inputs

Recreation Resource and Community Settings

Recreation Opportunities are Produced and Outcomes are Attained

Step 6:
Recreation Management Actions
- Resources ✓ Facilities

Step 7:
Information and Visitor Services
- Outreach ✓ Promotion
- Information ✓ Interpretation

Step 8:
Monitoring & Evaluation
- Social ✓ Environmental
  ✓ Administrative

Step 9:
Administrative Support
- Data ✓ Regulatory ✓ Budget

Step 1:
Determine Visitor & Resident Preferences
- Opportunities & Outcomes
- Setting Character Conditions
  ....by Management Zone

Step 2:
Analyze Supply / Demand
- Of all That is Desired
- Decide What is Most Needful
- Which Zones are Best Suited to Provide It

Step 3:
Chain Products & Write Management Objectives
- Link benefits -> Experiences
  -> Activities -> Settings
- Identify Recreation Niche for Each Zone
- Write Explicit Objectives

Step 4:
Write On-Site Setting Prescriptions
- Resources & Facilities

Step 5:
Write Community Setting Prescriptions
- Amenities & Infrastructure
  ✓ Guest & Resident Traffic
  ✓ Retail & Hospitality Service Environment

Step 8:
Monitoring & Evaluation
- Social ✓ Environmental
  ✓ Administrative

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Step 5:
Write Community Setting Prescriptions
- Amenities & Infrastructure
  ✓ Guest & Resident Traffic
  ✓ Retail & Hospitality Service Environment
### BBM Planning Results in Recreation Management Objectives

**RABBIT'S EAR/WILDHORSE MESA/MCDONALD CREEK (Zone 1)**

By the year 2010, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in Back Country Muscle-Powered Exercise for Scenic and Cultural Appreciation recreation activities, providing no less than 75% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a “moderate” realization of these beneficial outcomes (i.e., 3.0 on a probability scale where 1=not at all, 2=somewhat, 3=moderate, 4=total realization).

#### OUTCOMES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Primary Activities</th>
<th>Experiences</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
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</table>
| **Back Country Hiking** | • Enjoying easy access to diverse back country recreation  
• Escaping everyday responsibilities for awhile  
• Savoring canyon, river, and rock-art aesthetics  
• Feeling good about solitude and being isolated  
• Enjoying being able to discover and learn about earlier cultures | **Personal:**  
• Improved self reliance  
• Improved physical fitness  
• Enhanced sense of freedom in being able to get to this special place  
• Restored mind from unwanted stress  
• Greater cultivation of outdoor-oriented lifestyle  
• Improved outdoor knowledge, skills, and self-confidence  
• Greater sense of overall wellness  
• Enhanced cultural resource stewardship ethic  
**Household & Community:**  
• Improved quality of life  
• Greater household awareness of and appreciation of our cultural heritage  
• Improved cultivation of aesthetic appreciation for the area and an outdoor-oriented lifestyle  
**Economic:**  
• Increased work productivity  
• Reduced health maintenance costs  
**Environmental:**  
• Reduced looting and vandalism of prehistoric sites  
• Increased stewardship and protection of natural resources |
| **Horseback Riding**  
(McDonald/Wildhorse only) | | |
| **Rock Art Viewing**  
(McDonald/Wildhorse only) | | |
Conclusion

Managing for Recreation Benefit
Outcomes will enhance and improve community resilience and adaptive capacity in responding to crisis and major changes to remain in a desired state of livability.
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