Riverview - A Total Recreational Environment

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A TOTAL RECREATIONAL ENVIRONMENT
RIVERVIEW
A Total Recreational Environment

by
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A terminal project submitted to the faculty of the College of Architecture, Clemson University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE

Committee Chairman

Head, Dept. of Architectural Studies

Dean, College of Architecture

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To my family for their continuing love and support through these six years of study.

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INTRODUCTION
Recreation has always played an important role in our lives. But, the need for recreational facilities has become greater over the past few years as leisure time has become more plentiful.

There is probably a misconception about recreation in that it must be in the form of an active sport. Quite the contrary, there are many forms of recreation. Sitting, observing, enjoying nature, or participating in an activity all fill that need for some kind of outlet. These activities can take place both indoors and outdoors. Therefore, different spaces are needed to fulfill the requirements for private and public opportunities within these areas.

With the increase in organized recreation, communities have been seeking ways to provide areas for these activities to take place. More importance has been placed on Recreation and Parks Departments. An increase in staff, especially during the summer months, has aided in this attempt. Establishing a sense of community as well as providing a well rounded program are major goals of these departments.
In order to consider a facility to house all of these needs, we must become aware of the importance that recreation plays in our lives. A recreational environment must encompass a large scope of activities and provide for a variety of users. Then, it will in turn provide community.
PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Parks and Recreation Department of North Augusta is presently located in several temporary structures throughout the city. Due to the growth of the area and the recreational needs of the residents, the department has the desire for a centralized facility for control as well as organization. This complex would serve as a nucleus for the smaller satellite parks around the city. A site has been purchased in order to integrate this facility and many outdoor recreational activities. Development of a master plan and the design of the recreation complex is the subject of this terminal project.
HISTORY

The town of North Augusta developed out of the estates of several prominent families. In 1902, land from these estates, which overlooked the Savannah River, was purchased by the North Augusta Land Company in order to create a community to bring the people closer together socially.

The first trolley line in the town linked the two major activities: an elaborate Natatorium and the Hampton Terrace Hotel. Recreation became a way of life in North Augusta thru this resort facility. The Hampton Terrace Hotel was a vital asset to the community as it drew such guests as John D. Rockefeller and Howard Taft. Golf, fishing, hunting, riding, and swimming were among the many activities afforded the vacationers. Despite the tragedy of fire in 1916, which completely destroyed the hotel, these activities continued to play an active role in the community.

During the 1950's, North Augusta saw a large influx of people with the opening of the Savannah River Plant by the Atomic
Energy Commission. The population tripled over a six year period. With this increase, organized recreation was established to meet the demands of a growing community. Privately owned ballfields were the location for these activities.

A Parks and Recreation Department was established to coordinate the activities. The department has grown from a one man operation to eleven full-time employees and twelve seasonal employees. This growth exemplifies the emphasis now placed on exercise, sports for all ages, as well as organized learning activities.
GOALS

To evaluate the recreational needs of the residents of the city and the Parks and Recreation Department

To create an environment of both active and passive recreation which would satisfy these needs.

To give the city a centralized facility in which their recreation program can function.

To provide the city of North Augusta an efficient program which would aid them in reaching these goals.
USER PROFILE

Creating an environment for a recreation complex must begin with a careful analysis of the user. Because of its community role, the facility must be available and functional for all income levels and age levels.

Riverview Park borders on both a middle income residential area as well as a low income neighborhood. The environment must be geared to reach both needs.

The facility is a gathering of many age groups and must be designed with each category in mind. Every generation must have a sense of belonging. In order to understand their sensitivity, a careful evaluation of the needed environment of the individual user must occur. There are four basic categories of users: the child, teenager, adult, and elderly.

THE CHILD

The infant and young child are continuously learning about their environment. Encouragement on all levels should be
of prime importance, yet they should be able to set their own pace. They are in need of activities which reach them at the level of their ability. Adventure and discovery play an important role in the child's life as well as the developing of his many senses. This development promotes the ability to become acquainted with certain strengths and limitations. He is interested in activity which requires movement of the major body parts. His coordination develops as he explores the possibilities in the smaller body parts, such as the arm, wrist or finger. Imitation is a characteristic that evolves as the child seeks to understand his physical world. He translates nature through climbing, sliding, and balancing. Role playing is also a means in which he interprets the "grown-up" world.

THE TEENAGER

The teenager, too, is seeking to understand his environment. Yet he enjoys the opportunity to help in creating that environment. Having a separate place to call his own is important to this user.
This awkward and unnoticed age sees many problems. He is constantly changing from the logic of a child to that of an adult. He wants responsibility, but is not always ready to accept it.

The process of understanding strengths and limitations is refined even more during the years between thirteen and nineteen. The development of his body and health is important in discovering these characteristics. The need for a recreational outlet is seen as the teenager becomes burdened with stress about school, social pressures, and a greater sense of responsibility.

THE ADULT

The adult's recreational needs are many faceted. He requires time by himself, with friends, his spouse, and with his children. The complex life style of an adult sees the need for a versatile recreational program, which encompasses physical, social, and cultural aspects.

At this age, the adult has usually established his preference in activities and is interested in maturing his skills in that particular activity.
Physical activity plays an important role in the adult's life. He is constantly exploiting ways to keep his body in shape. An interplay with other age levels as well as his own aid in maintaining and developing his body and health.

THE ELDERLY

The older adult's recreational needs are not always physical needs. Age and illness sometimes restrict the mobility of the elderly which, in turn creates an entirely different recreation program. The assurance of feeling self-sufficient and useful are essential elements as well.

Time has usually developed skills which they are interested in maintaining. Individual attention is usually a requirement. They desire a program which brings them together socially. There is also a strong desire by many to have interplay with the younger generations.
SPATIAL REQUIREMENTS

MAIN LOUNGE

a multi-purpose area that will include
dancing, card games, activity classes,
and related functions, hub of all passive
recreation areas.

ADMINISTRATION

Reception

secretary and work area, to serve as
file area; direct contact to each of
the directors, adjacent to storage
room

Recreation and Parks Director

management office for entire Recreation
and Parks Department; administer over
Riverview Park

Assistant Recreation and Parks Director

Center Director

management office for recreation center
Storage

CLUBROOM

flexible for use as one room or broken down to smaller individual areas; used by different groups.

SENIOR CITIZENS ROOM

area flexible enough to be subdivided; adjacent to kitchen; exterior views important; direct access to storage.

Storage
Kitchen

MULTI PURPOSE ROOM

accommodate a variety of activities (dining, lectures, cooking classes); ability to be subdivided; adjacent to kitchen.
ARTS AND CRAFTS

1,500

to include ceramics, crafts, drawing
classes; ability to be subdivided.

Kiln Room 100
Office 100
Storage 200
Toilets 300

LOBBY

reception area; hub of all activity
areas; access to locker rooms

Attendant Station

information desk, checkout for game
equipment.

Canteen Area 600

access to all activity areas; easily
serviced; includes tables for eating.
Game Area
ability to accommodate a variety of activities and types of games (billiards, ping pong, cards, etc.)

Toilets

GYMNASMUM
space for basketball, volleyball; adjacent to storage area and locker rooms; located off reception lobby for easy accessibility; to include spectator areas.

Equipment Storage Room

NATATORIUM
Pool and Deck
swimming and diving areas with adequate deck; spectator viewing area; direct access to locker rooms; adjacent to storage room

Storage

Filter Room and Filter Storage

Exterior Deck
HANDBALL/RACQUET BALL COURTS

four courts provided; spectator viewing incorporated

MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM

area for karate, yoga, tumbling and gymnastics; adjacent to storage area; to include spectator viewing.

Storage

EXERCISE ROOM

weight machines and exercise equipment available; direct access to health club.

BALLET ROOM

MEN'S HEALTH CLUB

to include shower and toilet; direct access to whirlpool and sauna; adjacent to exercise room
WOMEN'S HEALTH CLUB

to include shower and toilet; direct
access to whirlpool and sauna; adjacent
to exercise room

LOUNGE

Toilets
Elevator Mechanical
Laundry
Outdoor Storage

MEN'S LOCKER ROOMS

Dressing and Lockers
access to both indoor and outdoor
activities; lockers are double stacked
with areas for dressing and sitting

Showers
Drying
Toilets
Checkout Area

equipment checkout and storage
for linens
WOMEN'S LOCKER ROOMS

Dressing and Lockers 1,000
access to both indoor and outdoor
activities; lockers are double
stacked with areas for dressing
and sitting

Showers 200
Drying 100
Toilets 250
Checkout Area 200

MECHANICAL 5,500

OUTDOOR FACILITIES

Playground

area for supervised activities and
free time games (relays, volleyball,
shuffleboard, badminton, horseshoes);
to accommodate 400-500 children
Play Lot

adjacent to building

Bike Trails

Nature Trails/Jogging Trails

provide stations for physical exercise along trail

Picnic Shelters

Softball Fields

2 fields to accommodate 4 women's teams, 16 girls' teams and 21 men's teams; (use: 4 nights per week, 3 games per night)

Baseball Fields

4 fields to accommodate 18 Dixie Youth teams (use: 2 games per night - 5 nights per week); 9 Pony League Teams (use: 4 nights per week); 10 Dizzy Dean Teams (use: 5 afternoons per week)
Soccer Fields
1 field to accommodate both adult
and children teams

Football Field
2 fields to accommodate the
Pee Wee Football Leagues

Tennis Courts
8 courts

Parking
400 cars

Maintenance
10 individual stalls to accommodate
maintenance equipment, vehicles and
supplies
North Augusta, South Carolina is located in the western part of Aiken County, directly across the Savannah River from Augusta, Georgia. The city is mostly a residential community with a population of approximately 20,000 people.
Recreation can be broken down into two different areas: active and passive. Active recreation includes such activities as baseball, football, jogging, basketball, swimming and tennis. Less active ways to become involved are through arts and crafts, playing games, and picnicing. These areas are even further broken down to spectator and participant. As a result of the increase in organized recreation, there are more spectators viewing the varied activities. With this increase, as much emphasis needed to be placed on the spectator as well as the participant. Both of these are taking an active role in the activities. Thus evolved the idea of creating a sloped area for the spectator which would enable him to view the participants. This theme could very easily be carried throughout the complex both indoors and outdoors. A pedestrian street--which could continue over the park--developed from this idea, providing the newcomer easy access to the area that he wished to go to.
SITE CONCEPT

A ring road evolved out of the existing conditions on the site. Because of the knoll which existed on the middle of the site, the more active recreation could be located within this ring road. Therefore, the area surrounding the ring road which were heavily wooded could be developed into more passive areas.

BUILDING CONCEPT

A similar breakdown existed within the building itself. Active and passive activities were separated by the main entrance. The pedestrian street was then carried into the building from the surrounding park.
SITE CONCEPT

ACTIVE

PASSIVE

PASSIVE

PASSIVE
REFERENCES


