



CPSP349T - Infrastructure and Society



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Introduction

For my Science and Global Change practicum project, I participated in the CPST 349T “Infrastructure and Society” course. The course focused on several important concepts ranging from the relationship between infrastructure and society in the US and around the globe, the importance of infrastructure that is resilient to change and the non-intuitive mutual effect of infrastructure on climate change.

Project

The final project in CPST 349T involved applying the concepts discussed in the course of resilient infrastructure, stakeholder analyses and walking audits to the real world. We were tasked with going out in our local communities and to if we could find examples of infrastructure that do a poor job of serving their purpose, analyze who uses said infrastructure, and attempt to offer a solution.

Methods Used

Two processes were used to study the local infrastructure and its impacts on the population. First, a walking audit was conducted, which is an assessment of the pedestrian safety, accessibility, and comfort of a particular area. Second, a stakeholder map was created which incorporated the information gained in the walking audit to better conceptualize the relationships between the local population, government, and organizations with the surrounding infrastructure (Fig. 1).

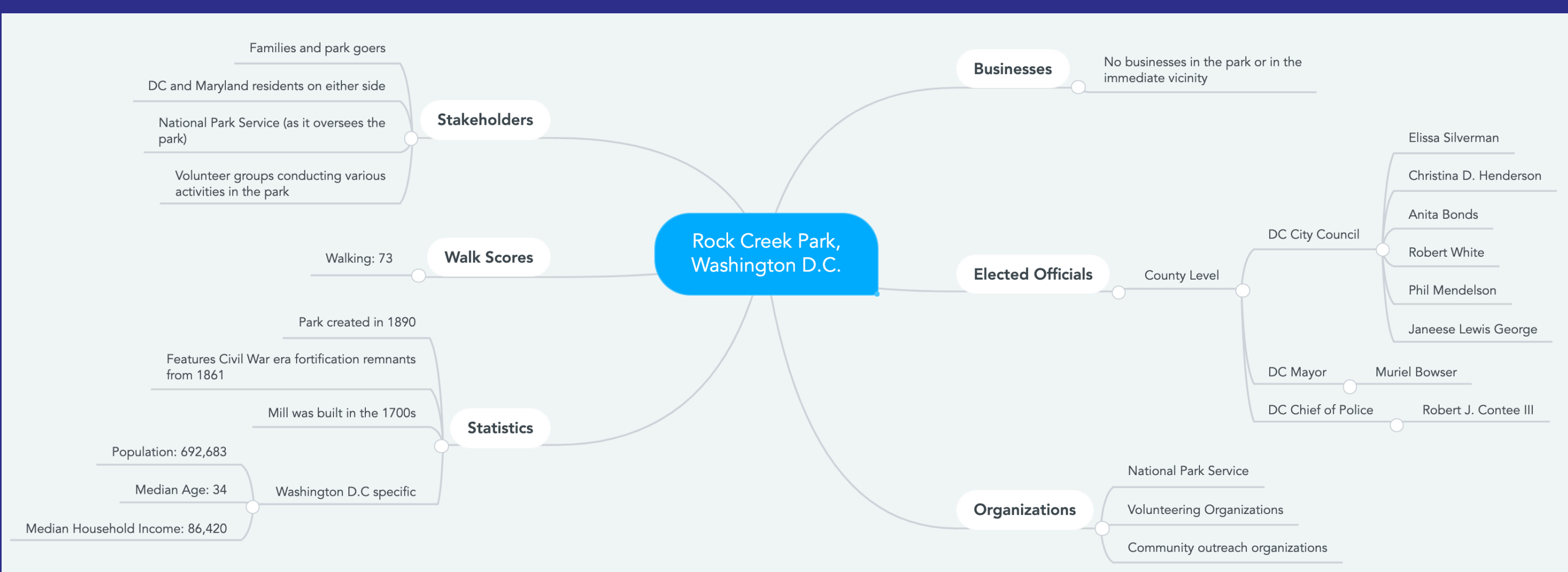


Fig. 1: Stakeholder analysis for the designated site

Site Information

Name of Site: Rock Creek Park, Washington D.C.

Supervisors: Dr. Mogul and Connor Pucci

Mission: Conduct a walking audit and stakeholder analysis to find, document, and relate infrastructure problems to the population that utilizes it

Future Work

In the future, I believe this work can be expanded upon by conducting similar analyses in other kinds of areas that are more widely used by the general public such as public transit centers, large bridges, and intersections. It would be interesting to compare the two given the greatly heightened use by one over the other.

Acknowledgments:

I would like to thank Dr. Holtz and Dr. Merck for not only offering an incredibly eye-opening course covering topics from climate change to geologic history of the Earth, but also for offering opportunities other courses normally do not, such a guest speakers, and former program members. Additionally, I would like to thank Dr. Mogul and Connor Pucci for their course and bringing to light an issue that I now believe is heavily under-reported and discussed in today's society.



Fig. 2: Massive erosion present on a walkway, this presents a hazard to park goers especially at night where they may fall into the river at right



Fig. 3: Total lack of sidewalks on either side of the road immediately leading to the park's entrance. This creates a dangerous scenario where pedestrians walk on a busy road

