Congaree National Park
Visitor Study
Dear Visitor:

Thank you for participating in this study to learn about the expectations, opinions, and interests of visitors to Congaree National Park. This information will help us better manage this site and better serve you, the visitor.

This questionnaire is given to a select number of visitors, so your participation is very important! It should only take about 20 minutes to complete.

When your visit is over, please fill out the questionnaire, seal it with the stickers provided on the last page and drop it in any U.S. mailbox.

If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Littlejohn, NPS VSP Coordinator, Park Studies Unit, College of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 441139, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83844-1139, phone 208-885-7863, email: littlej@uidaho.edu.

We appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

Martha C. Bogle
Superintendent

This visitor study is partially funded by Fee Demonstration funding.
DIRECTIONS

One person, at least 16 years of age, in your group should complete the questionnaire. It should take about 20 minutes. When you have completed the questionnaire, please seal it with the stickers provided and drop it in any U.S. mailbox. We appreciate your help.

PRIVACY ACT and PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT statement: 16 U.S.C. 1a-7 authorizes collection of this information. This information will be used by park managers to better serve the public. Response to this request is voluntary. No action may be taken against you for refusing to supply the information requested. Your name is requested for follow-up mailing purposes only. When analysis of the questionnaire is completed, all name and address files will be destroyed. Thus the permanent data will be anonymous. Please do not put your name or that of any member of your group on the questionnaire. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Burden estimate statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 20 minutes per response. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, WASO Administrative Program Center, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

Please go on to the next page ➔
Your Visit To Congaree National Park

1. a) Prior to your visit, how did you and your group obtain information about Congaree National Park (NP)? Please check (√) all that apply.

_____ Obtained no information prior to visit ➔ Go on to Question 2
_____ Previous visits
_____ Friends/relatives/word of mouth
_____ Travel guides/tour books
_____ Videos/television/radio programs
_____ Telephone/email/written inquiry to park
_____ Newspaper/magazine articles
_____ Internet—National Park Service or Congaree NP website
   www.nps.gov  www.nps.gov/cosw/
_____ Internet—other website
_____ State welcome center/Chamber of Commerce
_____ Highway signs
_____ Other National Park Service sites
_____ Other (Please specify:__________________________________________)

b) From the sources you used prior to this visit, did you and your group receive the type of information about the park that you needed?

_____ No
   ▼
   _____ Yes

   c) If NO, what additional information did you and your group need? Please be specific.

________________________________________________________________________

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

_____ Yes
   ▼
   _____ No
   ▼
   _____ Not sure
   ▼
   Go on to Question 3

b) If YES, what effect did it have? Please be specific. ________________________________
3. a) Prior to your visit, were you aware of what Congressionally designated wilderness is?
   _____ No  _____ Yes  ➤ Go on to Question 4
b) If NO, did you and your group learn about Congressionally designated wilderness during your visit?
   _____ Yes  _____ No

4. a) Most of Congaree NP (98%) is Congressionally designated wilderness. Did the wilderness designation affect what you were able to do in the park?
   _____ Yes  _____ No  _____ Not sure  ➤ Go on to Question 5
b) If YES, how did it affect your visit? Please be specific. __________________________
   __________________________
   __________________________

5. Prior to your visit, were you and your group aware of what programs (ranger-led walks, canoe trips, presentations, school group tours, etc.) were offered in Congaree NP?
   _____ Yes  _____ No

6. a) On this visit, what was the primary reason that you and your group visited the Congaree NP area (within 1-hour drive of park)? Please check (✓) only one.
   _____ Visit Congaree National Park
   _____ Visit other attractions in the area
   _____ Visit friends/relatives in the area
   _____ Business
   _____ Other reason (Please specify: __________________________)
b) What sites in the area did you and your group visit? Please check (✓) all that apply.
   _____ Riverbanks Zoo  _____ South Carolina State Museum
   _____ Shaw Air Force Base  _____ Columbia Museum of Art
   _____ Lake Murray  _____ Ft. Jackson Army Training Center
   _____ National Advocacy Center  _____ Harbison State Forest
   _____ University of South Carolina
   _____ Other (Please specify: __________________________)

Please go on to the next page ➤
7. a) On this visit to Congaree NP, did you and your group walk/canoe/kayak any park trails?
   
   _____ Yes  _____ No  ➔ **Go on to Question 8**

b) If YES, which of the following trails did you and your group walk/canoe/kayak on this visit? Please check (✓) all that apply. If you did not use a trail, please leave that line blank. Use the map below to help you locate the trails you used.

c) On past visits, which of the following trails did you and your group walk/canoe/kayak? Please check (✓) all that apply. If you did not use a trail, please leave that line blank.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>b) This visit (✓)</th>
<th>c) Past visits (✓)</th>
<th>b) This visit (✓)</th>
<th>c) Past visits (✓)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low Boardwalk Trail</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bluff Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elevated Boardwalk Trail</td>
<td></td>
<td>River Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weston Lake Loop Trail</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sims Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oakridge Trail</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kingsnake Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cedar Creek Wilderness Canoe Trail</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Map of Congaree National Park](image-url)
d) Why did you and your group choose the trails you did?


8. 4,600 acres of land are authorized to be added to Congaree NP (see "proposed boundary expansion" on map on page 6). What type of activities would you like to have available there? Please be specific.


9. On this visit to Congaree NP, what activities did you and your group participate in? Please check (√) all that apply.

   ______ Fishing
   ______ Walking/hiking
   ______ Picnicking
   ______ Camping
   ______ Visiting the visitor center
   ______ Canoeing/kayaking
   ______ Birdwatching
   ______ Nature study (other than birdwatching)
   ______ Backpacking
   ______ Attending ranger-led programs
   ______ Exercising (jogging, rollerblading, etc.)
   ______ Photography/painting
   ______ Walking dogs
   ______ Other (Please specify: ________________________________)

10. a) On this visit, what was the total amount of time you and your group spent at Congaree NP? (Please list partial hours or days as 1/4, 1/2, 3/4)

   ______ Number of hours
   ______ Number of days

b) How many times did you enter Congaree NP on this visit to the area (within 1-hour drive of park)?

   ______ Number of entries
   ______ Don’t know/don’t remember

Please go on to the next page ➔
11. a) On this visit, did you and your group stay overnight away from home in Congaree NP and/or the surrounding area (within 1-hour drive of park)?
   _____ Yes  _____ No  \( \Rightarrow \) Go on to Question 12

b) Please list the number of nights you and your group stayed in the following areas.
   _____ Number of nights in Congaree NP
   _____ Number of nights in the area (within 1-hour drive of park)

c) In what type of lodging did you and your group spend the nights? Please check (\( \checkmark \)) all that apply.

   **Outside park in surrounding area**

   **In Congaree NP** (within 1-hour drive of park)
   - Lodge, motel, hotel, cabin, rented condo, B&B, etc.
   - RV/trailer camping
   - Tent camping in campground (in park—primitive camp)
   - Backcountry camping
   - Personal seasonal residence
   - Residence of friends or relatives
   - Other (Please specify:__________________________)

12. a) For the questions below, please indicate from 1 to 5 how safe you and your group felt from crime and accidents during this visit to Congaree NP? Please circle only one answer for each question.

   **How safe did you and your group feel in Congaree NP?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How safe?</th>
<th>Very unsafe</th>
<th>Somewhat unsafe</th>
<th>No opinion</th>
<th>Somewhat safe</th>
<th>Very safe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal property - from crime</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal safety - from crime</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal safety - from accidents</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b) If you circled 1 or 2 on any of the above questions, please explain why.
13. a) Please check (✓) all of the visitor services and facilities that you or your group used during this trip to Congaree NP.

b) Next, for only those services and facilities that you or your group used, please rate their importance from 1-5.

c) Finally, for only those services and facilities that you or your group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a) Used service/facility?</th>
<th>b) If used, how important?</th>
<th>c) If used, what quality?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park brochure</td>
<td>1=Not important</td>
<td>1=Very poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park interpretive pamphlets</td>
<td>2=Somewhat important</td>
<td>2=Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park trail map</td>
<td>3=Moderately important</td>
<td>3=Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulletin boards</td>
<td>4=Very important</td>
<td>4=Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor center film</td>
<td>5=Extremely important</td>
<td>5=Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor center exhibits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor center sales publications</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance from park staff</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directional signs—in park</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directional signs—outside park</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic areas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranger-led programs (walks, talks, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Ranger Program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access for disabled persons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website (<a href="http://www.nps.gov/cosw/">www.nps.gov/cosw/</a>) used before or during visit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please go on to the next page ➔
14. a) During your stay in the park or in the area (within a 1-hour drive of park), were there any services that you and your group needed that were not available?  

   _____ Yes  _____ No  ➔ Go on to Question 15

b) If YES, what services did you and your group need that were not available?

15. It is the National Park Service’s responsibility to protect Congaree NP’s natural, scenic, and cultural resources while at the same time providing for public enjoyment. How important is protection of the following resources/qualities in the park to you? Please circle **only one** response for each resource/quality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource/quality</th>
<th>Not important</th>
<th>Somewhat important</th>
<th>Moderately important</th>
<th>Very important</th>
<th>Extremely important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scenic views</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural setting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native wildlife</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native plants</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural quiet / sounds of nature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking availability</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solitude</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16. On this visit, what kind of personal group (not guided tour/school group) were you with? Please check (✓) **only one**.

   _____ Alone  _____ Family

   _____ Friends  _____ Family and friends

   _____ Other (Please specify: ________________________________________)

17. a) On this visit, how many people were in your personal group, including yourself?  

   _____ Number of people

b) For this visit, please list the number of vehicles in which you and your group arrived.

   _____ Number of vehicles

18. a) For you only, are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?  

   _____ Yes  _____ No
b) For you only, which of these categories best indicates your race? Please check (✓) all that apply.

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- White

19. For you and your personal group on this visit, please indicate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current age</th>
<th>U.S. ZIP Code or name of foreign country</th>
<th>Number of visits to Congaree NP (including this visit) past 5 years</th>
<th>Number of visits to Congaree NP (including this visit) lifetime</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yourself</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member #2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member #3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member #4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Member #5</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Member #6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member #7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

20. For you and each of the members (age 16 or over) in your personal group on this visit, please indicate the highest level of education completed. Please check (✓) only one for each person. If you do not have the information for any group member, please leave that line blank.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest education level</th>
<th>Some high school</th>
<th>High school diploma/GED</th>
<th>Some college</th>
<th>Bachelor's degree</th>
<th>Graduate degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yourself</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member #2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Member #3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member #4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member #5</td>
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<td>Member #6</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member #7</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21. a) Does anyone in your group have any disabilities/impairments that limited their ability to visit Congaree NP?

- Yes
- No

Go on to Question 22
b) Because of the disability/impairment, did you and your group encounter any access/service problems in the park?

_____ Yes  _____ No  ⇒ Go on to Question 22

c) If YES, what was the problem?

____________________________________________________________________

22. Please indicate how the following elements may have affected your park experience during this visit to Congaree NP. Please check (✓) only one for each element.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affect your park experience?</th>
<th>Detracted from</th>
<th>No effect</th>
<th>Added to</th>
<th>Did not experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noise from:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airplanes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trains</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automobiles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park staff activities (such as chainsaws, leaf blowers, generators, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunshots from neighboring lands</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other visitors’ activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small number of visitors on trails</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large number of visitors on trails</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small number of visitors canoeing/kayaking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large number of visitors canoeing/kayaking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Please specify: )</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

23. 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?

_____ Yes  _____ No  _____ Not sure

24. Would you and your group be supportive of the control and removal of non-native species at Congaree NP? Please check (✓) only one for each option.

a) Non-native plants    _____ Yes  _____ No  _____ Not sure

b) Non-native animals    _____ Yes  _____ No  _____ Not sure
25. For you and your group, please report all expenditures for the items listed below for this visit to Congaree NP and the surrounding area (within 1-hour drive of park). Please write “0” if no money was spent in a particular category.

   a) Please list your group’s total expenditures inside Congaree NP.
   
   b) Please list your group’s total expenditures in the surrounding area (within 1-hour drive of park).

   NOTE: Residents from the surrounding area should only include expenditures that were **directly related** to this visit to Congaree NP.

   **EXPENDITURES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>a) Inside Congaree NP</th>
<th>b) In surrounding area outside park</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hotel, motel, cabins, B&amp;B, etc.</td>
<td>$__________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping fees and charges</td>
<td>$__________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoe/kayak rental charges</td>
<td>$__________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guide fees and charges</td>
<td>$__________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restaurants and bars</td>
<td>$__________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groceries and takeout food</td>
<td>$__________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas and oil (auto, RV, boat, etc.)</td>
<td>$__________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other transportation expenses (rental cars, auto repairs, taxi, but NOT airfare)</td>
<td>$__________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission, recreation, entertainment fees</td>
<td>$__________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other purchases (souvenirs, film, books, sporting goods, clothing, etc.)</td>
<td>$__________</td>
<td>$__________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$__________</td>
<td>$__________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   c) How many people do the above expenses cover?

   ——— Number of adults (18 years or over)
   ——— Number of children (under 18 years)

26. Do you or any member of your group have any interest in volunteering or providing research assistance in a national park such as Congaree NP?

   ——— Yes   ——— No   ——— Not sure

   Please go on to the next page ➔
27. In your opinion, what was the most important information you and your group learned during this visit to Congaree NP? Please be specific.

__________________________________________________________________________

28. Would you and your group be likely to visit Congaree NP again in the future?
   _____ Yes       _____ No       _____ Not sure

29. On a future visit to Congaree NP, what types of organized activities and programs would you and your group like to have available? Please check (√) all that apply.
   _____ Not interested in organized activities ➔ Go on to Question 30
   _____ Ranger-led programs
   _____ Family activities
   _____ Camping (family)
   _____ Outdoor recreation workshop
   _____ Night walk/night sky program
   _____ History tours
   _____ Special events/festivals
   _____ Other (Please specify:__________________________________________________)

   _____ Children’s programs
   _____ Canoeing/kayaking
   _____ Camping (educational)
   _____ Art/photography
   _____ Bird walks
   _____ Volunteering
   _____ Other (Please specify:__________________________________________________)

30. On a future visit to Congaree NP, what subjects would you and your group be most interested in learning about? Please check (√) all that apply.
   _____ Not interested in learning about park subjects ➔ Go on to Question 31
   _____ Old growth floodplain forest
   _____ Champion trees
   _____ International Biosphere Reserve
   _____ Challenges facing park
   _____ Recreational opportunities (canoeing/kayaking, fishing, camping, etc.)
   _____ Other (Please specify:__________________________________________________)
   _____ Plants/animals
   _____ History
   _____ Wilderness
   _____ Ways to help the park
31. a) What did you and your group like most about your visit to Congaree NP?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

b) What did you and your group like least about your visit to Congaree NP?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

32. If you were a park manager planning for the future of Congaree NP, what would you and your group propose? Please be specific.

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

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34. Overall, how would you and your group rate the quality of the facilities, services, and recreational opportunities provided to you at Congaree National Park during this visit? Please circle only one.

Very poor          Poor          Average          Good          Very good

Thank you for your help! Please seal the questionnaire with the stickers provided and drop it in any U.S. mailbox.

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