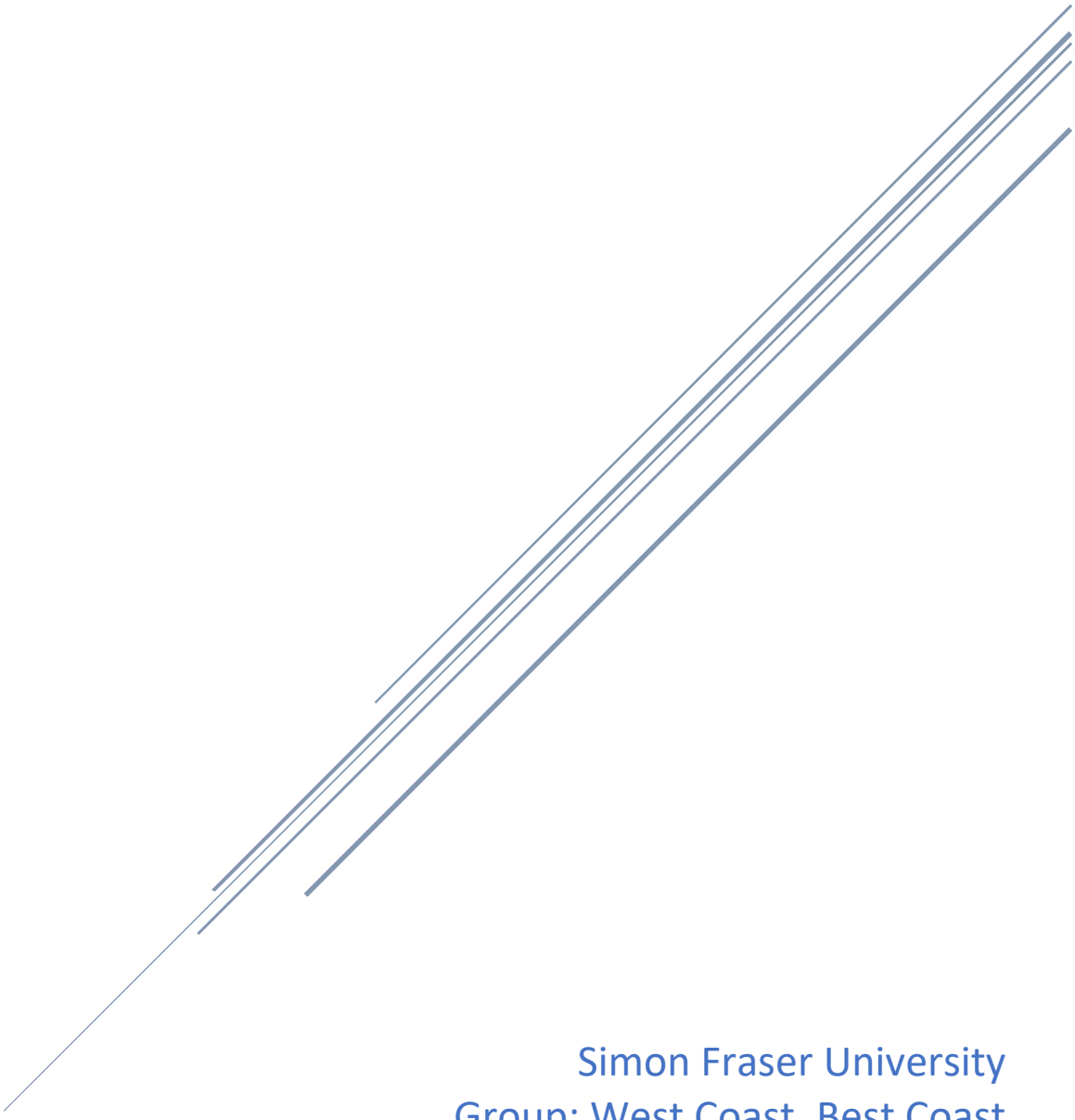
SPORT LOGIC

ESRI ECCE App Challenge 2018



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Mission Statement

In the modern digital age, now more than ever it is clear that sports provide a variety of benefits, beyond pure recreation. Physical activity in general has long been known to have a profoundly positive impact on both physical and mental well-being, and team sports offer additional benefits associated with social interaction. Sports help build a sense of community and belonging by bringing people together, and in the process can teach important life lessons such as dedication and teamwork. The City of Vancouver is largely considered to be an active city, with a relatively health conscious population that enjoys its personal fitness routines and social sports leagues. However, not everyone who would like to engage in organized sports has the money or time, which have fixed schedules and require a high level of commitment. Moreover, conflicting schedules can make meet-ups difficult when planning casual games among friends.

The goal of our app is to encourage healthy, active lifestyles among citizens by facilitating the quick and easy creation, promotion, and attendance of recreational pickup sports events among users in Vancouver. The app allows users to host a pickup sports event by posting an event with its time, location, and other relevant information. Other users can then use tool functions in the app to systematically sort and search through the posts to find an event that best suits their lifestyle. Our app serves to not only support physical activity, but to encourage trying new sports and meeting new people.

App Characteristics

Our app is designed to facilitate the successful formation of pickup sport events by connecting hosts with potential interested players from around the city. 'Hosts' are users of the app who have an idea for a pickup game and are looking to recruit players for the day. Hosts can learn more about nearby parks by selecting locations within the parks layer. Selecting a park in the app will generate a pop-up window that returns information on the park's name, any recreational fields, assets, or facilities it offers, as well as a photo and a link to an online profile of the park. Once a venue is selected, hosts can advertise their event by placing a locational marker (i.e. sports icon), in the park they intend to play at. When adding a new location, hosts are prompted to specify additional information, including the sport being played, the date and time of the event, the hosts' skill level, the recommended minimum skill level for guests, equipment that guests will need to provide, and any additional comments or images that would be useful. All of this can be viewed by other users when selecting the icon in the app.

The app also features a variety of tools to streamline the process of finding the events that are best suited to, and most convenient for the user. If users have a particular sport or date in mind, the "Query" widget can be used to filter the events that fall within a specified time frame, and/or involve the sport of interest. Additionally, users can view all past or upcoming events by clicking on the respective tabs in the "Query" widget. The user can also specify additional search criteria, including recommended skill level, and keywords in the Comments field of events posted by hosts. Furthermore, users who are looking to minimize travel time can use the "Near Me" widget to display only those events located within a predefined distance of the user. Postings that do fall within this radius are listed in the output, and users can select from these to learn more about the planned event, and obtain simple directions for driving to the event from their current location. For more diverse directions options,

including mode of transportation, time versus distance priority, departure/arrival times and multiple destinations, the “Directions” widget can be used.

App Expansion

Although the current app design focuses on pickup sport events in the City of Vancouver, British Columbia, it could easily be extended to cover all of Canada, or potentially, the world. To transform the app from a regional to a national (or even international) one, all that would be required is the relevant data for all parks in the newly included areas; the same built-in functions and crowdsourcing opportunities would apply. Extending the geographic coverage of our app would encourage more people from all over to become more active and meet new people. This would greatly benefit those who have recently moved cities or countries and may not be familiar with the area and what it has to offer.

An attendee count or RSVP option could further improve the utility of our app. By allowing users to confirm attendance in advance, hosts would know how many additional players to expect (which could influence the amount of equipment or refreshments they bring), and prospective players could use this information to help decide which event(s) to join. Registration could be carried out anonymously, or through required user accounts. Establishing user accounts would create other positive opportunities, such as inviting other users to certain sport pickups, or sharing pickup events across other social media platforms. However, privacy issues would have to be considered prior to implementing such features.

Two potential modifications to the parks layer functionality would significantly increase the utility of the app and the information available to users. Firstly, incorporating an option to search or filter parks by recreational amenities would help users find their ideal venue more quickly and efficiently. Secondly, a feature could be added to the app that would allow users to share information on parking availability at and around the different park sites. As users become familiar with the parks they visit, they would be able to populate the ‘Parking’ and ‘Bike Rack’ information fields that are currently hidden in the city parks layer. Not only would this crowdsourced information benefit the individuals who are planning their transportation to the event, but it would also provide the City with valuable data on types and quantities of parking available near the parks, as well as data on the locations of bike racks and other bike parking opportunities.

Data Sources

Icons designed by Freepik from Flaticon
Park information and photos from Vancouver Park Board’s Park Finder
Park locations from the City of Vancouver Open Data Catalogue: vancouver.ca/open-government-licence

App Link “Sport Logic”

http://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c2368d10ec31461aa26a5248afa98e39