Much progress has been made in our consulting project with the UGA archway partnership project. We have been in contact with the Sumter County parks and recreation and have finished research on 3 main possibilities.

On our last report we mentioned Sumter County has about 2100 participants in programs, based on last year’s numbers, and Recreation Director Estes estimates that about 40% of those would use online registration. The key factor is online capability as well as the ability to create reports based on the information stored in the database.

The three main solutions that were researched are Parks and Recreation software from Active Communities, RecDesk, and RecPro. All three offer the basic functions which Sumter County is looking for as well as some extra features.

The lower range solution is from RecDesk. RecDesk is a completely online, web-based internet hub which is able to perform tasks such as program registration, scheduling, payment processing, online registration, membership management, and roster maintenance. The site is readily available, requiring no hardware or software for accessibility. The site also runs over a SSL secure channel so that no information is accessed by those who do not have proper authorization. Price for Sumter County would be approximately $1,900 per year, as the community (or users) would total less than 10,000.

The mid range solution is the RecPro software. RecPro offers basic functions, training and implementation of the software they create for your specific needs. Information and pricing on this solution is limited, and will require direct contact from the client due to the custom nature of the system. RecPro does require software and hardware to be installed.

The upper range solution is from Active Communities. The solution provided offers all of the following: 100% Web-Based Solution, Requires no software installation on a local machine, Can access the database and information from anywhere via internet connection, Activity Registration, Membership Management, Point of Sale solutions, Customer Relationship Management, Payment Processing, Reports, Facility Reservation, League Management, Child Care Management, Website Content Management, Access Control, and more. Prices are highly variable as the services are built “ala carte” based on what the client requires and size of the population using the system. Active Communities is used by many other Recreation departments and has a very high satisfaction rating.
The final recommendation according to our findings, the user needs and the consensus of the group is the Active Communities solution. The communities which currently use this system have been very pleased with the service offered as well as the ability to add functions as their community grows. Active Communities keeps up with the most recent developments in technology and trends in the market. An online system is beneficial due to the fact that it can be accessed by the director or his designee’s computer at any location that has an internet connection. It can also be used within the office for program sign up and other functions.