

Beach Use on Turner Beach

Winter 1992

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Prepared for:

The Captiva Erosion Prevention District

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Introduction and Summary

This report contains the results of a study of the use of Turner Beach on Captiva Island during the winter season of 1992. The winter season is defined to include the months of November 1991 through April 1992. The study was undertaken as part of the on-going monitoring of the 1988-89 Beach Restoration on the island.

Two major events have affected the use of Turner Beach since the beach restoration was completed. During 1991, the beach was closed as the upland area was used to facilitate reconstruction of Blind Pass bridge. On completion of the bridge reconstruction, new parking spaces were constructed which allowed for fewer parking spaces than were available prior to the Beach Restoration. Facilities at the beach were improved at the same time.

Data were collected on the use of Turner Beach and the characteristics of beach users, including their geographic origin and expenditures. There were a total of 31,079 visits made to Turner Beach during the winter of 1992. More than 50 percent of these visits were made by out of state residents, and less than one percent were made by residents of Captiva.

Visitors to Turner Beach in the winter of 1992 generated positive economic impacts by their spending on Captiva (\$0.5 million), their spending elsewhere in Lee County (\$4.2 million), and their spending elsewhere in the State of Florida (\$2.2 million).

The spending data show that the principal economic beneficiary of Turner Beach is Lee County, followed by the State of Florida, and that the benefits to Captiva itself are relatively small.

The data developed for the Turner Beach study were used to provide preliminary estimates of the use of all of Captiva's beaches in 1992. The estimates are subject to revision because they are based on such limited data.

During 1992, there were an estimated total of 502,735 visits made to Captiva beaches. This represented a decline of 4.7 percent from the estimated number of beach visits made during 1991. The decline resulted from a decline in the use of Turner Beach as newly constructed parking spaces reduced the available parking for visitors to this beach. There may also have been some reduction due to the effect of the recession on tourism. However, the number of visits to Captiva's beaches remained over 60 percent higher than the total estimated for 1987, prior to the construction of the 1988-89 beach restoration.

Turner Beach Use in the Winter of 1992

There were a total of 31,079 visits made to Turner Beach during the winter of 1992. More than 50 percent of these visits were made by out of state residents, and less than one percent were made by residents of Captiva. Residents of other parts of Lee County accounted for more than one in three visits made to Turner Beach.

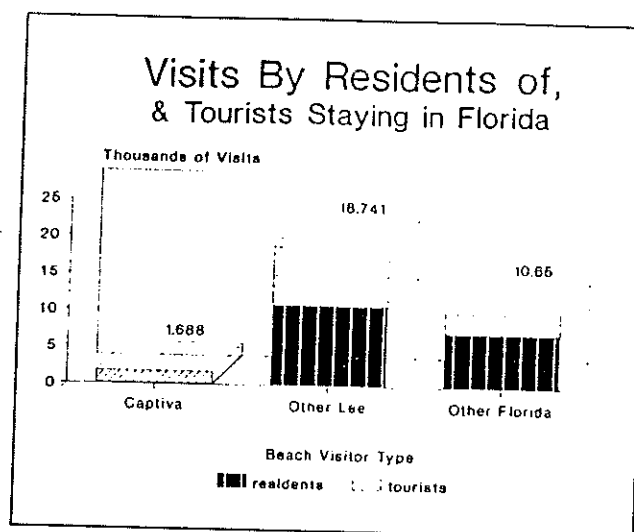
TABLE 1
VISITS TO TURNER BEACH
WINTER 1992

Geographic Origin	1992 Number	Percent
Captiva Residents	58	0.2
Other Lee County Residents	10,942	35.2
Other Florida	3,318	10.7
Out of State Visitors		
Staying on Captiva	1,630	5.2
Staying in Lee County	7,799	25.1
Staying Outside County	7,332	23.6
Total Out of State	16,761	53.9
Total	31,079	100.0

Note: Winter season includes the months of November through April.

The benefits provided by Turner Beach to the different parts of Florida, namely, Captiva, the rest of Lee County, and the rest of the State are the recreational opportunities provided to the residents of each of the three areas, and the beneficial economic impact of the spending by out of state tourists staying in each of the three areas who visit the beach.

Figure 1 shows that the Captiva receives the smallest benefit from Turner Beach because virtually no residents of the island use this particular beach, and because Captiva tourists make few visits to this beach also. The rest of Lee County receives the largest



benefits from Turner Beach because residents of the county are the largest users of this beach, and because tourists staying in the county are the second largest group of Turner Beach visitors.

Benefits to the State are also substantial because out of county state residents view the beach but, more importantly, out of state tourists drive to Lee County and visit Turner Beach.

TABLE 2
Characteristics of the Turner Beach Visit
Winter 1992

Characteristics	Winter 1992 Percent
Visit Purpose	
Swimming or Sunning	69.1
Walking or Shelling	22.3
Other	8.6
Total	100.0
Other Characteristics	
Average Party Size	4.0
Average Hours Spent	3.4
Percent who Parked at Beach	89.7

Economic Impact

Visitors to Turner Beach in the winter of 1992 generated positive economic impacts by their spending on Captiva (\$0.5 million), their spending elsewhere in Lee County (\$4.2 million), and their spending elsewhere in the State of Florida (\$2.2 million) (TABLE 4).

TABLE 4
SPENDING BY TURNER BEACH VISITORS
WINTER 1992

Origin of Visitor	Location of Spending		
	On Captiva	Elsewhere in Lee County	Elsewhere in Florida
Other Parts of Lee County	\$ 51,507	na	na
Other Counties in Florida	27,878	\$ 243,043	na
Out of State	476,352	3,992,562	\$ 2,198,428
Total	\$ 555,737	\$ 4,235,605	\$ 2,198,428

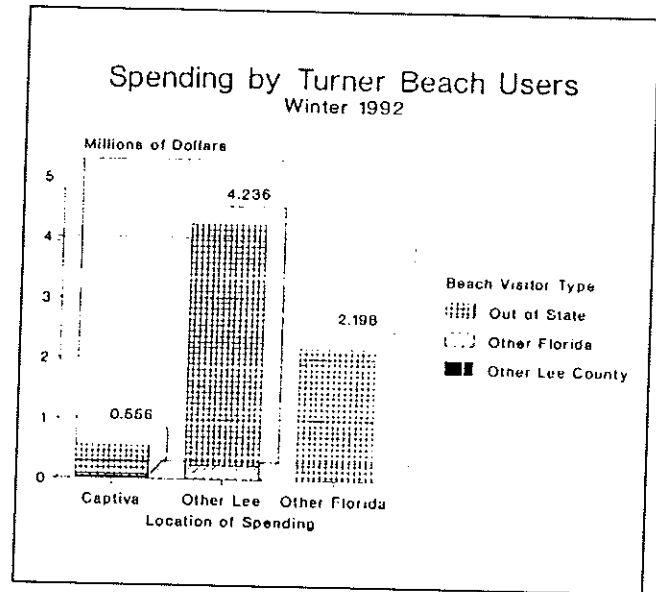
Note: na = not applicable

Turner Beach visitors spent \$555,737 on Captiva. This included spending by residents of other parts of Lee County amounting to \$51,507, and spending by residents of other parts of the state of \$27,878. The bulk of the spending on Captiva was made by out of state visitors (\$476,352).

Turner Beach visitors also spent money elsewhere in Lee County. Such spending by non-residents of the county amounted to \$ 4.2 million during the winter of 1992, almost eight times the spending of non-resident Turner Beach visitors on Captiva itself.

The bulk of this expenditure was also made by out of state residents.

Finally, out of state residents also spent money elsewhere in the state during their visits to Florida. This amounted to \$2.2 million and was also considerably larger than their spending on Captiva (almost four times as large).



The spending data show that the principal economic beneficiary of Turner Beach is Lee County, followed by the State of Florida, and that the benefits to Captiva itself are relatively small.

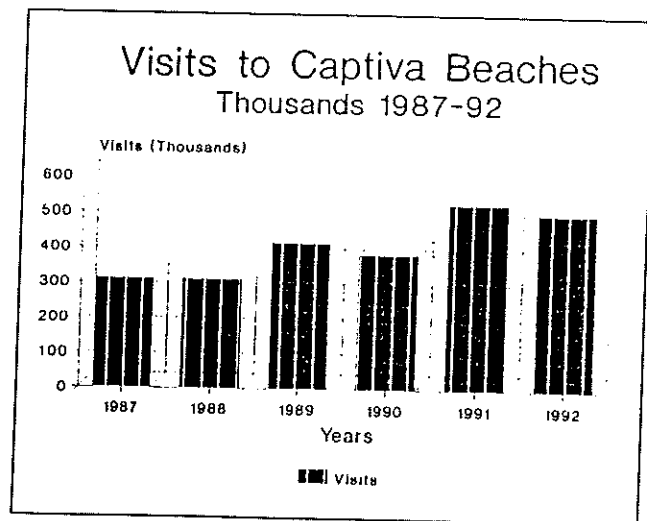
Beach Use and Value 1987-92

The data developed for the Turner Beach study were used to provide preliminary estimates of the use of all of Captiva's beaches in 1992 (TABLE 5). The estimates are subject to revision because they are based on such limited data.

TABLE 5 VISITS TO CAPTIVA BEACHES AND VALUE PER VISIT THOUSANDS AND 1992 DOLLARS, 1987-92		
YEAR	THOUSANDS OF VISITS	VALUE PER VISIT
1987	310.5	\$ 2.04
1988	310.5	\$ 2.04
1989	415.6	\$ 2.64
1990	385.4	\$ 3.34
1991	527.7	\$ 3.25
1992	502.7	\$ 3.21

Note: data for 1988 estimated as in 1987. Other estimations also make these figures subject to revision as new data are obtained. The decline in 1990 visits was due to the closing of Turner Beach to facilitate reconstruction of the Blind Pass Bridge.

During 1992, there were an estimated total of 502,735 visits made to Captiva beaches. This represented a decline of 4.7 percent from the estimated number of beach visits made during 1991. The decline resulted from a decline in the



use of Turner Beach as newly constructed parking spaces reduced the available parking for visitors to this beach. There may also have been some reduction due to the effect of the recession on tourism. However, the number of visits to Captiva's beaches remained over 60 percent higher than the total estimated for 1987, prior to the construction of the 1988-89 beach restoration.

The average value of a beach visit was \$3.21, slightly below the figure for 1991 of \$3.25. This figure, however, was more than 50 percent higher than the value of a beach visit prior to the restoration project, namely, \$2.04. The value of a beach visit reached a peak of \$3.61 right after construction was completed, and

has declined by about 11 percent in constant dollars in the two years since. This decline is in line with the loss of sand estimated by the engineer, and it is consistent with the view that recreational value declines as sand is lost from the beach.

