COMP 6000: Project Proposal
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Project: Escape To Nature

I am proposing a website designed for tourists who looking for ideas for their next vacation trip. During the Spring break, I was looking for places that I can visit within my budget and time. As I searched online, I found many websites that provide descriptions of places such as state parks, museums, lakes, etc. for the all states.

However, there were two issues that I faced when trying to decide on the details of the trip from this information. First, the necessary details were scattered across multiple sites. I got a good view of the place from one site, while reviews and ratings were available on others. Second, none of these sites provide a suggestion on the number of days one should visit the place to really enjoy it well. Although this varies from person to person, I think a close-enough statistics would really help the tourists on figuring out how many days they should plan to spend during the visit. I am proposing the project 'Escape to Nature' to address these issues.

For visitors, the application shall provide a catalog of beautiful places to visit in the US, categorized by cities and states. For example, we would have a listing for Chewacla State Park under Auburn, Alabama. For each listing, we will have a write-up with information on interesting things to do around the place and a set of nicely picked images. Tourists may also be interested in staying near any of these places. To help with the choice, the system will propose nearby hotels for a specific place, along with their contact information. The system will also provide a recommended duration of visit for the place. The duration is calculated from the votes given by other users of the site who visited the place before. This makes it a social website. The recommended duration is calculated as an average of the inputs from other uses, which I believe shall be a good approximation to a general tourist.

Finally, the system will provide all its features as a web-service. This is done to facilitate future development of the application for other platforms, such as a mobile site, an Android or an iOS app.

Technical Aspects
I plan to use the following technologies to implement the site.
- Website client: HTML, CSS, JavaScript
- Webserver: JSP, XML (web service)
- Database: XML and MySQL