

## **2.6 Support Facilities Element Data and Analysis 2010-2020 Campus Master Plan Update**

- a) As enrollment continues to grow at the University, support facilities must be provided that parallel those demands created by academic facilities. The amount of space required for support facilities is related to enrollment growth and the type of facilities constructed. The amount of support space needed in the future will be determined by user demand and space needs as reported by support service providers in consultation with Facilities Planning.
- b) An analysis of the projected needs for recreation and open space facilities required to meet the needs of the future University population (faculty, staff, and students) based on University standards and calculations or established level of service standards.

The University of Central Florida outdoor recreation facilities are currently limited with regard to student use and number of facilities. Looking at the student population, number of intramural sports offered, number of sport clubs, and ideal standards for use, the number of fields at UCF are over capacity. The future expansion of intramural fields in the south section of the campus will allow increased capacity, and more flexibility for field rotation to avoid compaction and abuse.

Calculations used to assess facility sufficiency take into consideration a number of factors. These factors include variety of fields (club sports, intramural sports, or open recreation), frequency of use, student enrollment, and unique layout diminishing the flexibility for use (i.e., softball field).

The methodology used for determining the number of fields an institution needs for appropriate recreation use is based on a number of factors. The general standards, as recommended by the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA), are 0.94 acre per 1,000 students enrolled. Additionally, the number of fields can be adjusted based on number of teams, type of field (natural or synthetic surface), and appropriate field lighting.

Application of this standard is dependent on the extent of land available and can be adjusted based on number of teams, type of field (natural or synthetic surface), appropriate field lighting, and scheduling of nighttime play.

Presently at UCF there are 15 intramural sports that use outside fields, some with up to 250 teams, and 9 sport clubs. Current field space includes 15 acres of unlighted grass fields (with the exception of one softball field) and 4.83 acres of lighted turf fields. Natural grass fields should ideally be programmed 18 to 24 hours in any given week, with very few limitations on the turf fields. The current turf fields provide for additional usage, however since their completion, the size of intramural leagues have more than doubled – pushing usage again to the limit. While these new facilities have added

more space, available facilities for softball and sport clubs continue to be insufficient.

Given these conditions, it is clear that UCF needs to build additional fields in the south section of campus. If synthetic fields are used for future facilities, recreation use could be programmed for up to nine hours per day, reducing the impact on existing fields.

In summary, the existing and future facilities at the University do not appear to address the student's current and future needs for recreation space. The construction of additional recreation fields with synthetic surface and lights could provide flexibility for programming and alleviate poor field conditions.

- c) An assessment of the adequacy of the existing recreational facilities and open spaces to meet the projected needs of the University.

The 1995 plan highlighted the condition of the swimming pool, the need for an all-purpose recreation facility, the provision of lighting existing fields in order to extend use, additional tennis courts, and a more efficient layout of fields and corresponding support facilities.

The Recreation and Wellness Center, located by the Academic Village, has benefited the campus and helped alleviate many of the shortfalls identified in the 1995 plan. Additionally, the construction of a new leisure pool, repairs made to existing competitive pool, additional tennis courts, and a planned future addition to the Recreation and Wellness Center will also address previous concerns.