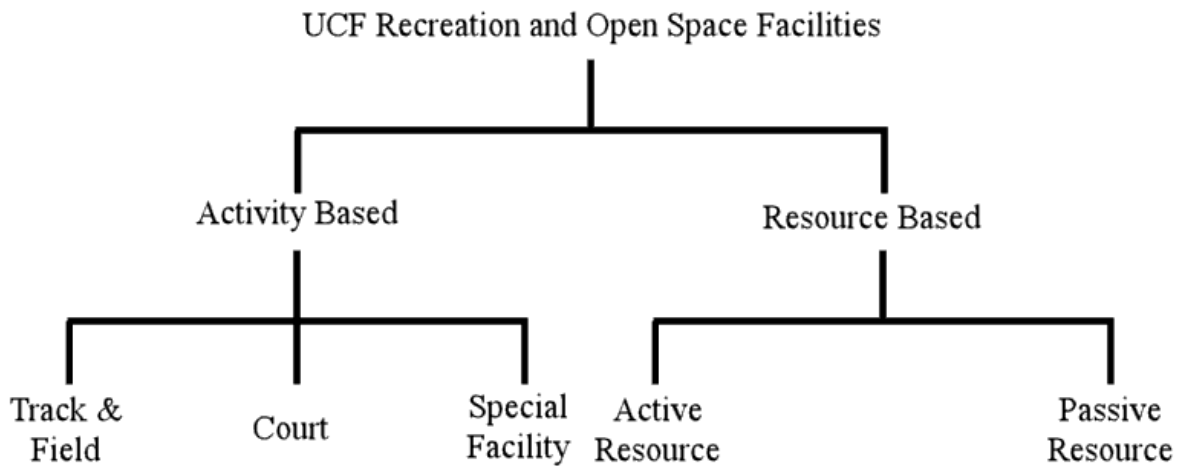


**2.8 Recreation, Intramural Athletics, Physical Education Laboratories and Open Space Element
Data and Analysis
2010-2020 Campus Master Plan Update**

In order to provide a comprehensive count of all existing recreation and open space facilities, an inventory of such facilities is organized based on the following chart.



Activity-based facilities are defined as those facilities designed, constructed and designated for specific sports or recreation activities, such as ball fields and tracks. Resource-based facilities refer to those facilities that are primarily used for general recreation or organized social functions. These resource-based facilities are open to all and not specifically designated for specific sports or recreational activities. Resource-based facilities may include open fields, public parks, nature trails or conservation areas.

Resource-based facilities can be further defined and categorized as active and passive resources. Active resource-based facilities are generally accessible open spaces or parks where recreation activities are not specific. Examples of active resource-based facilities include open fields, picnic areas, nature trails and public parks. Passive resource-based facilities refer to those areas that are relatively inaccessible to any types of recreation activities and may include conservation and environmental mitigation areas. Although these are not accessible, they provide visual and climatic enhancements to the campus.

Facility Inventory

Off-Campus Recreation, Intercollegiate Athletics, Physical Education Facilities and Open Spaces

Non-university-owned or -managed recreation and physical education facilities used by the University are listed below:

- 1) The UCF Golf Practice Facility is located at Twin Rivers Golf Course.

- 2) Oviedo Bowling Lane. Located approximately three miles from campus and within the City of Oviedo, this facility is privately owned. UCF uses this facility for physical education classes.
- 3) Econlockhatchee River Park and Canoe Trail, State Park. This facility is a resource-based recreation facility open to the public. The size of this regional facility is not available. The Trail provides access to the Econlockhatchee River.
- 4) Valencia East Campus facilities. These facilities are used primarily for physical education, intramural and intercollegiate sports and on-campus residential recreation. The facilities are also periodically rented and/or open to public use, as noted in the use column.

(1) FACILITY CODE #	DESCRIPTION	(2) Activity Based (in acres)			RESOURCE BASED (IN ACRES)		ESTIMATED USAGE
		TRACK & FIELD	COURT	SPECIAL FACILITY	ACTIVE	PASSIVE	
1-1	Facilities Primarily Used by Intercollegiate Athletics Dept.	0.45					Varsity Team Fall & Spring & Youth Camps (13 Wks) +Community Rental Fall/Spring Practice + Youth Camp (7Wks.) Fall/Spring Practice + Youth Camp (2 Wks) Fall/Spring Practice + Youth Camp (2 Wks.) Varsity Practice Varsity Games + Community Rental
1-2	Varsity	1.28					
2-1	baseball field	6.33					
2-2		2.72					
3-1	Varsity baseball	3.46					
3-2	practice field	9.20					
4	Varsity football field #1	Included in 3-2					
5	Varsity football field #2			2.30			
	Varsity (lower) soccer practice field						
	Varsity soccer game field Competition track						
	Arena courts (5 basketball or 5 volleyball)						

							Track & Cross Country Practice + Varsity Meets + Rental Men & Women Varsity Basketball practice & Home Games + Varsity Volleyball & Games + Youth Camps (10 Wks.)
	SUBTOTAL	29.44	0.00	2.30	0.00	0.00	
6	Facilities Primarily used for Recreation						Campus Recreation
7	Recreation & Wellness Center			2.00			Scheduled reservations for Campus & Research Park Groups + Individual Use
9-1	Lake Claire recreation area				4.45		Year-round Campus Recreation Use + Intramural Tournament & Community Use
9-2	Intramural softball field #1 (lighted)	2.75					Year-round Reservations + Intramural Football/Soccer (16 Wks.) + Sport club Games & Practice
11							
13	Intramural multi-purpose grass field (5 football or 4 soccer)	9					
15							
18	Outdoor basketball courts 3 (lighted) Sand Volleyball courts 4 (lighted)		1.5 1.00				
	Swimming Pool						Campus Recreation Use

(lighted)							
Sport Club field			0.90				Campus Recreation Use + Campus & Intramural Tournaments
RWC Park Turf Field	2.72						
Challenge Course				4.83			Open Space and Recreation Special Events
				need			Sport Club Areas and Practices
							Intramural Sports, Sport Club, Campus Recreation and Community Reservation Use
							Student group and community reservations
SUBTOTAL	17.07	32.4	3.02	20.37	0.00		

21	Facilities shared by physical education, recreation and intercollegiate athletics		2.43				Varsity Practice & Meets Fall & Spring + Intramural Tournaments + Campus Recreation + Youth Tennis Camp (2Wks.) + tennis club practice & Meets
23	Tennis courts 6 & 9 (lighted)			2.66			
24	Education building						
	A. gymnasium (basketball, volleyball and scheduled events (3)			0.84			Sports + Clubs +Intramural Sports + Varsity Volleyball Practice & Games + P.E. Classes
	B. Multi-purpose room (3)			4.42			
	C. Weight room (3)						
	Recreation Building						P.E. Classes (40 +hrs./Wk.) + Combat Arms Club (12 Hrs./Wk.) P.E. Classes
	SUBTOTAL	0.00	2.43	7.92	0.00	0.00	

Level of Service Standard

Based on a review by the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) the following level of service standards are presented for comparison purposes:

Field Space: 0.94 acre of space per 1000 students

Indoor Space Example: Total Fitness Equipment Space: 1,008 sq. ft. per 1,000 students

Collegiate College Comparisons (Indoor Recreation Space)

A. National schools similar in size

• University of Texas at Austin	50,006	370,000 sq. ft.
• Ohio State University	53,715	725,000 sq. ft.
• Texas A & M	48,029	346,000 sq. ft.

B. Florida Schools

• Florida State University	39,047	136,000 sq. ft.
• University of Florida	51,413	136,000 sq. ft.
• University of Miami	15,323	114,000 sq. ft.
• University of South Florida	46,174	125,000 sq. ft.

UCF 2008 Fall Headcount: 50,254 students
1 acre per 2,680 students (Field Space)
85,000 sq. ft. (indoor recreation space)
10,000 sq. ft. of Total Fitness Equipment Space
(200 sq. ft. per 1000 students)

Analysis Requirements

This section discusses the problems, constraints and opportunities to provide recreation and open space facilities which meet the future demand of the University. As indicated by the Level of Service standards, UCF currently has a lower existing level of service for recreation space than do the NIRSA standards or other universities with similar enrollment. In addition to the LOS standard, it is important to look at the Recreation planning principles outlined by the NIRSA and Society of College and University Planning through a joint effort. The planning principles include:

- Establish recreation as a pillar of the University's comprehensive plan
- Create and maintain a vision of physical development of recreational facilities, a vision which supports the mission and master plan
- Instill a real sense of community and enrich the experience of all who come to campus
- Foster a safe and secure environment

Summary

The 85,000 sq. ft. Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC) along, with the leisure pool, tennis courts, and sand volleyball complex, challenge course, RWC Park playing fields, artificial turf fields and support facilities help to support the recreation needs of the UCF community. Additionally, current expansion plans to add approximately 45,000 sq. ft. of indoor space on the south end, 4 acres of additional turf field space, and additional

enhancements at Lake Claire will help to bring the Recreation space closer to the level that is desired, based on national standards, use demands, and comparisons to other universities.

Existing recreation facilities still remain insufficient to support the current and future needs of UCF and its student enrollment. Various student groups are unable to use facilities due to the lack of, or overuse of, them.

In addition to the number of facilities available, several other factors need to be considered to increase facility sufficiency. These include scheduling, extension of playing time, seasonal demand, recovery time and flexibility of fields or courts to be used for various kinds of activities.

Overall, UCF is currently below the national guidelines and standards for activity-based recreation facilities. This can be supported in comparison to schools with similar enrollment that have much larger facility space. As the campus continues to grow, more land will be needed for buildings, parking and activity-based recreation facilities. Future resource-based recreation and open space must be carefully developed utilizing spaces formed between buildings.

Recommendations for Improvement

Based on UCF observations, student surveys, and data available through the “Space Planning Guidelines for Campus Recreational Sport Facilities,” published by NIRAS, the following specific list of problems, constraints and opportunities were identified:

1. The Lake Claire Recreation Area is in need of repair and enhancement. Boathouse storage space at the Lake Claire Recreation Area is currently not adequate to hold the equipment stored. A total overhaul of the boathouse facility there is needed to assure proper gear and boat storage techniques; to create more secure storage space; and to create a boathouse that is both fitting to the area’s aesthetics and that allows its staff to serve students more efficiently.

Current event space is inadequate for Lake Claire’s growing participant use. Larger covered meeting space with appropriate seating and restrooms is required to meet the growing needs of the student population. Structures such as the pump structure, gazebo, and sidewalk must be removed or relocated to open up the field space. Increased efforts must also be placed toward the landscaping of the recreation area, not limited to introducing more flora and replacing the current sod in the grassy space.

Currently, the parking lot at the Lake Claire Recreation Area is composed of dirt and gravel, bordered by movable blocks of wood. To pave and paint this lot would be to eliminate the constant fixing of potholes, and to create an efficient and defined parking system.

There are a few unmaintained trails through the woods behind Lake Claire. The condition of these trails is questionable, and they are not regularly maintained. To keep with the progress and aesthetics of the trails created by the Arboretum, these trails would need to be extended, maintained, and connected with current on-campus trails.

2. The Recreation and Wellness Center helps to serve the recreation needs of the UCF community. The 85,000 sq. ft. facility will be expanded by 2010 to add 45,000 sq. ft., including more fitness space, multipurpose court space, racquetball courts, a new lap pool, and an outdoor adventure center. These additions are welcome, but still leave UCF with inadequate square footage. The current site will need to be built out with a completion of the footprint to serve the needs of the UCF community.
3. Nine (9) tennis courts shared by the entire campus are insufficient. Additional courts should be provided and determined by the number of users. NIRSA standards indicate .41 tennis courts per 1,000 students, which would make UCF 12 courts short of the 21 needed.
4. The total number of current fields has improved with the addition of multipurpose artificial turf. Planned expansion of additional fields will get UCF closer to recommended standards and allow for maximized playing time. Future space must remain protected to allow for additional fields for sport clubs, as multiple outdoor teams currently share one space that is not adequate and not lighted.
5. It must be noted that UCF currently has a severe shortage of softball fields. UCF currently has one (1) field, and NIRSA standards call for 8 (.15 fields per 1000 students). As recent as 2000, UCF had three (3) fields, but that has decreased to one (1) due to various construction projects. Due to the unique size of a softball field and space requirements, space for more than one (1) additional field on the current RWC park footprint does not exist. Additional space on campus or adjacent to campus should be identified.
6. A gateway building is desired at the RWC park location to provide additional indoor administration and storage space, as well as to provide a central access point to enter the park.
7. Concern is expressed for any gap in reduction in service during expansion. This is a result of the severe need for recreational space for a residential campus.
 - a) 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 usage, 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 .94 acre per 1000 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. Presently at UCF there are 15 intramural sports that use outside fields, some with up to 250 teams, and nine 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.

- b) An assessment of the adequacy of the existing recreational facilities and open spaces to meet the projected needs of the University (on-campus, and off-campus), including a description of the extent to which off-campus facilities may meet some or all of the University projected needs.

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, a new lap pool, the addition of turf fields, and additional tennis courts, also help to address previous concerns

- c) An assessment of opportunities for alternative future facility siting in order to conserve the supply and character of campus open space.

The south end of campus, near the Academic Village, is an appropriate site for the expansion of future recreation facilities and allows for the consolidation of support facilities. The existing footprint of the Recreation and Wellness Center can hold up to 200,000 sq. ft. and should continue to be built out in phases as funding is available. There is also a desire to add indoor recreation to the north end of campus to serve that population, once the south side is built out completely.

- d) An analysis of planned future recreation and open space facilities, as adopted by the host community in their comprehensive plan or other best available data.

Orange County Parks and Recreation Division is in the process of finalizing its two-year Capital Improvements budget, which includes the expansion of the Little Econ Greenway Trail. The next planned phase, subject to Board of County Commissioners' approval, will extend east from its current terminus at Blanchard Park, then north to the south entrance of the University (Central Florida Blvd.). The University will coordinate with Orange County regarding specific alignment and amenity details of the trail.