

6.
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE
DATA & ANALYSIS

I. Overview

A. *Department of Recreational Sports*

The Department of Recreational Sports (RecSports) is a department of the Division of Student Affairs. Their mission is to offer experiences that enrich the lives of the University of Florida students through excellence in facilities, fitness, sport, adventure and play. Emphasis is placed on fostering leaders through experiences, encouraging well-being through participation, building relationships through engagement, promoting development through education and embracing diversity through inclusion. By providing opportunities through structured activities for leadership, socialization, self-actualizations and enjoyment, RecSports contributes to the mission of the university and strives to enhance student success and the health and wellbeing for each student. The Department of Recreational Sports is overseen by a Board of Directors comprised of students, faculty, and staff.

The Department of Recreational Sports operates approximately 201,581 gross square feet of recreation facilities including seven multi-purpose activity courts, ten racquetball courts, and two squash courts plus seven athletic fields, three outdoor lighted basketball courts, nine sand volleyball courts, twenty lighted tennis courts, a softball complex with four fields one roller hockey court, a skateboard park, high and low challenge courses, climbing wall, rowing waterfront facility, and two waterfront parks. These facilities are available for casual use and organized departmental programs and services, including the approximately 50 sport clubs that the department manages. In addition, four swimming pools (three outdoor and one indoor) are jointly managed for shared use among the Department of Recreational Sports, Stephen C. O'Connell Center, and the Department of Housing and Residence Life. Florida Pool and O'Connell Center swimming pool are used for both recreation and teaching. Funding for construction of recreation facilities comes from tuition fees that are released through the Capital Improvement Trust Fund. Recreation programs and facility operation and maintenance are funded through a variety of sources including student Activity and Service fees as well as other revenue sources. Management responsibilities for various recreational resources are depicted in a map at the end of this report.

The Department of Recreational Sports is the largest employer of UF students, employing over 730 students each year. The department is committed to providing opportunities and coaching to ensure these student-employees are competitive for hire upon graduation. Student employees are engaged in daily operation of all RecSports facilities and programs. The department offers a robust Staff Development and Training programming series that operates all year and comprises guest speakers, coaching sessions and training opportunities as well as opportunities to lead and serve. While serving the individual needs of UF students and many faculty/staff, the Department of Recreational Sports also plays an important role in the facilitation of team-building activities for the campus. Through programs including the UF Outdoor Team Challenge Courses at Lake Wauburg, Adventure Trips, Sport Clubs, and Intramural Sports leagues and tournaments, student organizations and university groups on campus learn to work together, communicate effectively, strengthen and maintain relationships and develop affinity for the university.

Program participation and facility use continues to grow on the university campus as new facilities are provided. The following tables depict the magnitude and continued growth of offerings from the Department of Recreational Sports. (Data Source: Department of Recreational Sports)

Number of Intramural Teams at UF, 2005-2019

Years	Total Intramural Teams/year						
	Basketball	Flag Football	Soccer	Indoor Soccer	Softball	Indoor Volleyball	Ultimate
2005	554	741	287	277	586	172	49
2010	NA	664	290	235	403	323	104
2014	520	462	245	261	231	146	89
2019	449	390	228	256	175	123	66

Source: Department of Recreational Sports, 2019

The total number of intramural teams has decreased from 2,666 in 2005 to 1,687 in 2018.

Indoor Facilities, 2005-2019

	Indoor Facilities											
	GSF Main Facility	GSF Satellites	Total # of Satellites	GSF Strength	# of Multi-Purp Rms	GSF Multi-Purp	# of Courts	# of Soccer Courts	# of Racquet-ball	# of Pools	Ropes Course	Climbing Wall
2005	100,000	43,100	1	24,600	3	9,000	7	1	14	1	no	no
2010	140,000		1	35,800	4	11,000	7	1				
2014	140,000	44,361	1	35,800	9	14,881	7	1	12	1	no	no
2019	138,704	62,877	2	25,600	7	12,509	7	1	12	1	no	no

Source: Department of Recreational Sports, 2019

The total amount of gross square footage for indoor facilities has increased since 2005 by 58,481 square feet. Strength facilities and multi-purpose rooms account for the majority of the increase.

Outdoor Facilities – General, 2005-2019

Year	Total Acreage	Acres of Natural Turf	Acres Lighted	Acres No Lights	# of Dedicated Club Fields	# of Multi-Purp IM Fields Nat. Turf	# of Multi-Purp. IM Fields - Lighted	# of Multi-Purp IM Fields - No Lights
2005	28	28	26	2	3	12	10	2
2010	30	30	28	2	3	14	11	2
2014	32	32	32	0	3	14	14	0
2019	35	35	40	0	4	10	10	0

Source: Department of Recreational Sports, 2019

Outdoor Facilities – Sport/Use-specific Facilities, 2005-2019

Outdoor Facilities by Use										
Year	# Exclusive IM Softball	# Exclusive IM Softball - Lighted	# of Basketball Lighted	# of Basketball No Lights	# of Tennis Lighted	# of Tennis No Lights	# of Inline Hockey Courts	# of Pools	Ropes Course	Climbing Wall
2005	4	4	7	0	32	0	1	1	yes	yes
2010	4	4	7	0	32	0	1	1	yes	yes
2014	4	4	5	0	32	0	1	1	yes	yes
2018	3	3	3	0	20	0	1	1	yes	yes
2019	3	3	3	0	20	0	1	1	Yes	Yes

Source: Department of Recreational Sports, 2019

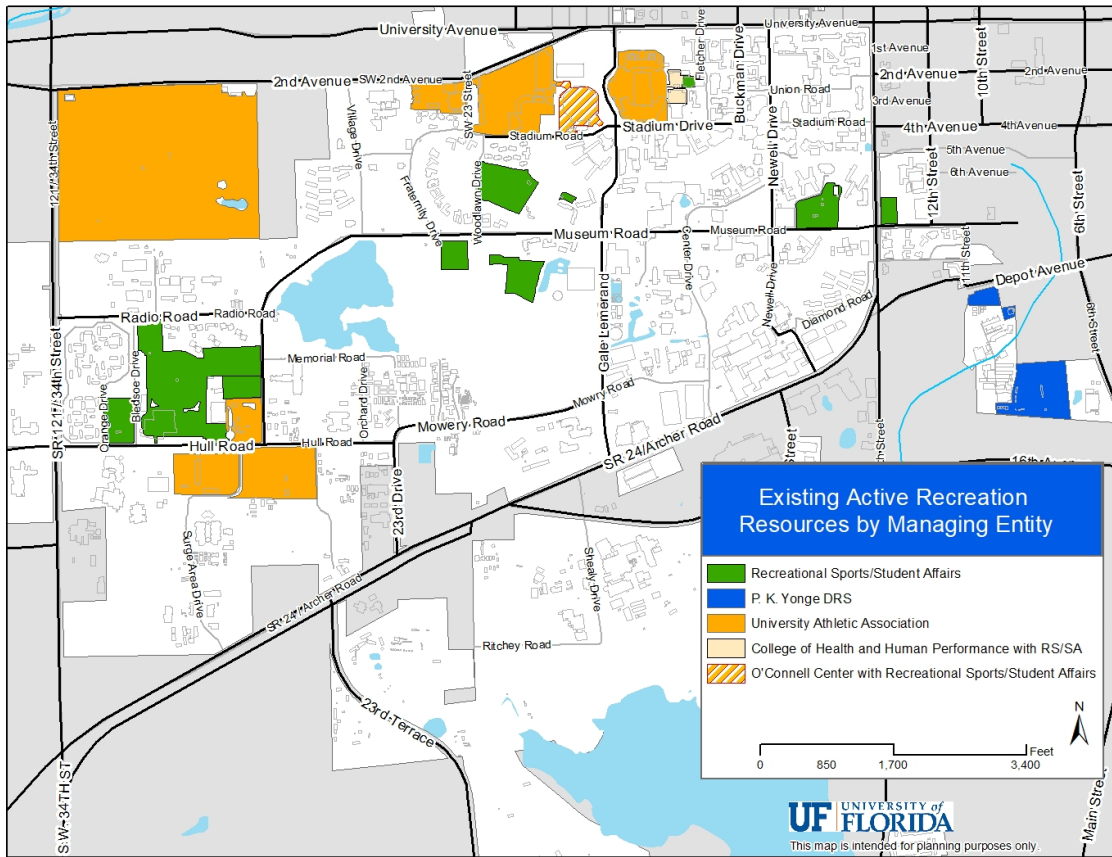
The total acreage for outdoor facilities has decreased with the change in designation of the use of half of Norman Field from recreation to Parking and the loss of Flavel Tennis Courts to parking.

Recreation Facilities Provided by Other UF Entities, 2005-2018

Unit	# of Pools	# of Equipped Playgrounds
Housing & Residence Education	4	37
O'Connell Center	1	0

Source: Department of Recreational Sports, 2018

The following map shows existing recreational facilities on the UF main campus by responsible entity. This includes facilities operated by the Department of Recreational Sports, University Athletic Association, Inc., P.K. Yonge, the College of Health and Human Performance, and the O'Connell Center.



B. University Athletic Association, Inc.

The University Athletic Association, Inc. (UAA) also provides and operates facilities on campus that are associated with sports and recreation. The UAA exists to advance the University of Florida’s teaching, research and service missions, and is responsible for the intercollegiate athletics program at the University of Florida. The Athletics Director, Scott Stricklin, reports directly to the President of the University, Dr. Kent Fuchs, and retains overall responsibility for the health and stability of the program. In addition, the UAA is governed by a Board of Directors that provides guidance and direction through approval of policies, procedures and the budget.

The University Athletic Association, Inc. exists to advance the University of Florida’s teaching, research and service missions. Through the education and promotion of the health and welfare of students, the University Athletic Association seeks to link experiences of all backgrounds, races, origins, genders, and cultures to prepare generations of students and staff, including women and minorities, to be productive members of society. The character of the athletics programs at the University Athletic Association reflects the character of the University of Florida as a major, public, comprehensive institution of higher learning.

The University Athletic Association is dedicated to the intellectual, physical and personal development of student-athletes, as well as staff, including women and minorities. Demonstrating leadership in all decisions affecting college athletics, the University Athletic Association will act in an ethical and honest manner, will promote an environment fostering the professional and

personal achievement of coaches, administrators and staff, will attain excellence in athletic performance, sportsmanship, financial strength, and superior fan satisfaction.

Florida Athletics: A Championship Experience with Integrity

UAA Strategic Purpose

Provide a championship experience with integrity on and off the field for student-athletes and the Gator Nation.

UAA Vision Statement

Be the model collegiate athletics program, combining excellence and integrity in academics, athletics, and fan engagement to elevate the UF brand.

UAA Core Values

- Passion
- Integrity
- Excellence
- Respect
- Innovation
- Teamwork

Gator Gold. Few schools in the country can match the rich Olympic tradition the University of Florida boasts. Since 1972, 180 Gators have represented 37 countries in 18 Olympiads, former and current Gator athletes have laid claim to 126 medals, including 60 golds. A total of 30 current and former UF athletes represented 16 countries in Rio at the 2016 Olympics and took home 13 medals, including eight gold. If the Gator Nation was a nation recognized by the International Olympic Committee, it would have finished 13th for total medals earned in the 2016 Games.

Giving Back. In an era when the NCAA estimates 90 percent of Division I schools are losing money on intercollegiate athletics, the University of Florida Athletic Association has contributed more than \$112 million since 2006 to help fund University of Florida academic endeavors.

The Office of Student Life / Otis Hawkins Center

Recognizing that student-athletes face unique pressures, the University of Florida Athletic Department instituted the Office of Student Life in 1979. Now the Otis Hawkins Center, the award-winning program of personalized, professional guidance in numerous areas on a day-to-day basis has become a leader in student-athlete services, while also demonstrating UF's commitment to the "total development" philosophy for UF student-athletes. The Hawkins Center staff responsibilities include orientation to college life, academic advisement, tutorial services, personal counseling and referral, study skills, career exploration and development, personal development, life management skills, community service and leadership training.

The University of Florida Athletic Association has a comprehensive substance abuse program and gambling awareness education program for all student athletes. In October 1998, the Office of Student Life was one of eight Division I programs to win the Program of Excellence for Life Skills Award, honoring excellence in academics and life skills program.

The state-of-the-art Hawkins Center opened in June of 2016. The \$25 million, 82,613-square foot Hawkins Center at Farrior Hall is the latest commitment by UF and the University Athletic Association to the success of the athletic program in the classroom.

The facility includes 74 study rooms/tutoring labs equipped with the latest digital media resources, a 125-seat auditorium, an 800-square foot fueling station, and in essence is the campus hub for student-athlete tutoring, academic advising, studying, job placement and other services.

Academics. Gators all-time have landed 149 times on College Sports Information Directors Association of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-America teams – which stands No. 6 among Division I programs. In the last four seasons, Gators have claimed 19 Academic All-America honors. Five Gators have been selected to the Capital One Academic All-American Hall of Fame, the second best total in the nation, while Gator student-athletes have earned NCAA post-graduate scholarships 56 times. UF is the only SEC school to place 100 or more student-athletes on the Southeastern Conference Academic Honor Roll each of the last 22 years. In 2018-19, UF student-athletes appeared 332 times on either the SEC Academic or First-Year Academic Honor Rolls.

Goodwill Gators. University of Florida student-athletes, coaches and administrators continue to be a fixture in the Gainesville community and beyond, donating their time and effort to a number of community-related endeavors. The Goodwill Gators program has been honored with a White House Commendation for its community service. In 2018-2019, 423 UF student-athletes participated in 3772 hours of community service, partnering with 20 local schools and 90 organizations.

NCAA Certification and NCAA Compliance. The University of Florida is a national leader in the area of athletic compliance and institutional control by developing one of the most comprehensive compliance programs involving coaches, student-athletes, athletic administration, university administration, alumni, boosters and fans. The University of Florida has completed a campus-wide effort to study its athletics program as part of the NCAA Division I athletics certification program. The program, the first to focus solely on certification of athletics programs, addressed academic integrity, rules compliance, as well as a commitment to equity.

Facilities.

Gator athletic facilities continue to grow, expand or renovate. In September of 2016, the University Athletic Association Board of Directors approved \$100 million of facility upgrades. Those upgrades include a new stand-alone football complex, along with major renovations to the baseball and softball stadiums.

By the end of 2016, UAA had put the finishing touches on \$107 million worth of facility upgrades, which includes the UAA's construction of the \$17.5 million indoor football facility, a \$25 million addition to the academic center and partnering with UF for a \$64.5 million renovation of the O'Connell Center.

Gender Equity.

Florida funds the maximum number of scholarships allowed by the NCAA for each of its 11 women's sports, totaling 115 scholarships for the 2018-19 season. Florida has claimed a total of 18 NCAA women's team titles and leads the league with 131 Southeastern Conference crowns.

Gator Boosters, Inc. More than 13,500 boosters raise more than \$40 million annually to support athletic scholarships and capital improvements. There are more than 725 Bull Gators, individuals who give \$15,000 or more annually. Gator Boosters Inc. is chaired by the University of Florida President and served by an 80-member volunteer Board of Directors.

Athletics and Tourism. The athletic events that occur on the University of Florida campus draw visitors to Gainesville from across the State of Florida and beyond. This tourism provides income to the community in terms of bed tax and sales tax revenues in addition to an overall influx of visitor dollars spent in the community. The University recognizes that these benefits also come with some impacts to local facilities and services as a result of major special events. The UAA reimburses the City of Gainesville for these additional services through interlocal agreements.

C. Recreation Facilities and Programs for Employees

Employees can purchase a RecSports membership, which includes access to the Southwest Recreation Center, Student Recreation & Fitness Center and events, programs and services held in those facilities. The University Golf Course is also available to all students, faculty, staff, alumni and their guests with fees typical of other public or private courses. Fees and memberships are not required for the services and facilities listed below.

Employees have access to outdoor recreation facilities maintained by the Department of Recreational Sports (RecSports), such as designated outdoor courts, open recreation fields, and campus pools during regular hours as posted for normal access and in consideration of campus special events, etc. Employees are eligible for Intramural Sports leagues and tournaments that are held outdoors. The facilities of Lake Wauburg are available to employees and their guests free of charge. The indoor swimming pool at the O'Connell Center are available to employees and their families during designated open recreation hours free of charge.

An active Gator 1 Card is used to confirm access eligibility to the facilities listed herein, including spouses and UF affiliates such as UF Health employees.

D. Recreation Facilities for On-Campus Residents

The Department of Housing and Residence Education provides recreation facilities for housing occupants, including students and their families. Swimming pools are located at Broward Residence Hall, Graham Residence Hall, Maguire Village Complex, and one pool located at Tanglewood. There are a total of thirty-seven playgrounds for the children of students dispersed at Corry Village, Diamond Village, Tanglewood, University Village South and Maguire Village. There is also a small soccer field in Corry Village designed for children. In addition to these recreation facilities, residence halls and village communities provide a variety of basketball courts, sand volleyball courts and other active recreation resources along with passive recreation areas including barbeque grills for picnicking.

II. Facilities and Programs Inventory

A. Educational Plant Survey

The State University System of Florida Space Needs Formula provides definitions for each university space type to be used in the analysis of space need and capital project justification. The formula does not provide standards for recreation facilities; however, it does produce a space evaluation for teaching gymnasiums. A teaching gymnasium is defined as a room or area used by students, staff, or the public for athletic or physical education activities. Included in this category are rooms generally referred to as gymnasiums, basketball courts, handball courts, squash courts, wrestling rooms, weight or exercise rooms, racquetball courts, indoor swimming pools, indoor putting areas, indoor ice rinks, indoor tracks, indoor stadium fields, and field houses. Service areas such as locker rooms, shower rooms, ticket booths, rooms for dressing,

equipment, supply, storage, first-aid, towels, etc. are also included in this category.

Based on application of the State Space Needs Formula for the period 2019 to 2024, the University of Florida has a generated need for 166,945 NASF of teaching gymnasium space. In 2019, the University had an inventory of 43,227 NASF of teaching gymnasium space leaving an unmet need for 123,718 NASF of new space through the year 2024.

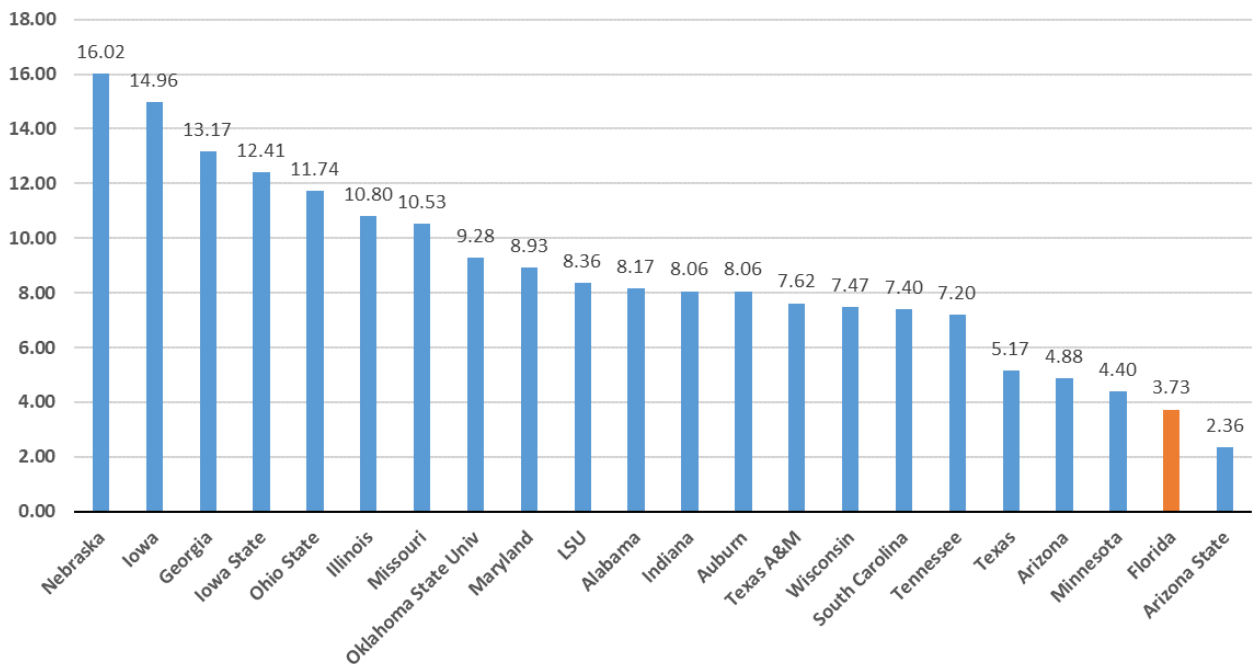
Comparison of Existing Satisfactory Teaching Gymnasium Space with Generated NASF Need by Category, 2019-2024

Space Category	Generated Need	Existing Space	Unmet Need
Academic Support Teaching Gymnasium	166,945	43,227	123,718

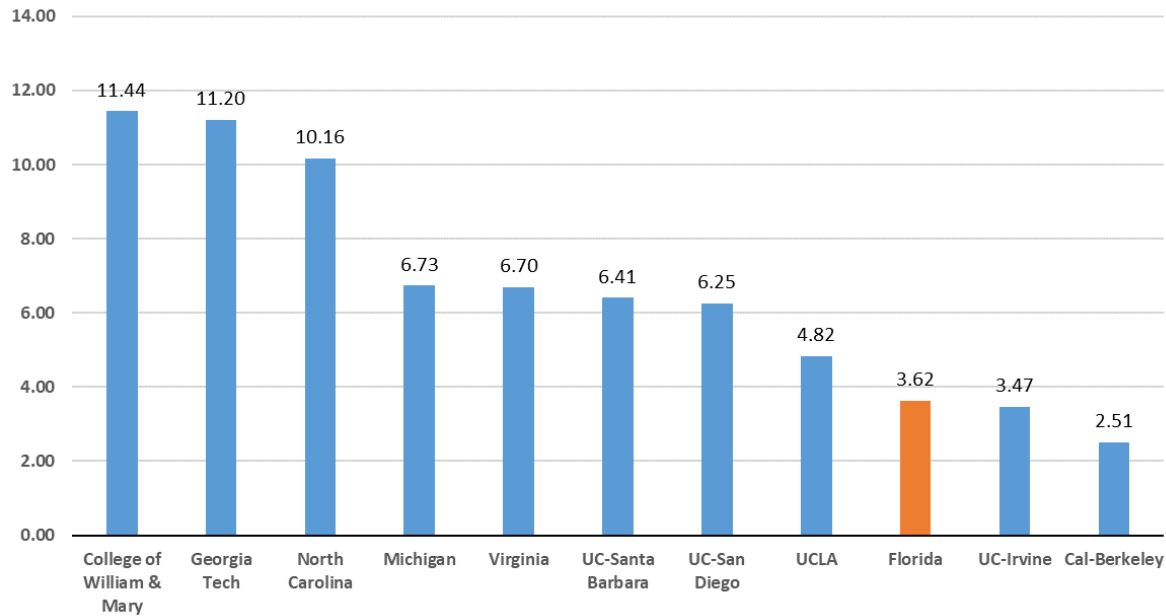
B. Peer Benchmarking

When compared to other universities with comparable student headcount enrollments, the amount of recreational facility space at the University of Florida is below average in many categories. Clearly, the University of Florida is managing its facilities for maximum utilization and efficiency, but the demand for additional recreational programs is outstripping even the most efficient utilization plans. This understanding of supply and demand highlights the difficulties often encountered when attempting to share student recreational facilities with other programs or user groups. The following tables present comparison data for the University of Florida and Collegiate Recreation Benchmark Institutions and Top 10 Public Universities as gathered by the Department of Recreational Sports.

**Indoor Recreation Space per Student
 Collegiate Recreation Benchmark Institutions**



**Indoor Recreation Space per Student
 Top 10 Public Universities**



C. Level of Service Standards

The University of Florida does not have adopted levels of service standards for various recreation facilities, because the programs and facilities are managed to respond to changing user needs and preferences. However, some generalizations are made at the national level to provide rule-of-thumb level of service standards that assist in the planning of recreational space needs. The following table displays the results of applying those standards for seven categories of active recreation space to the existing and projected main campus enrollment at the University of Florida.

University/College Level of Service* Analysis for Selected Recreational Facilities, 2019 and 2030

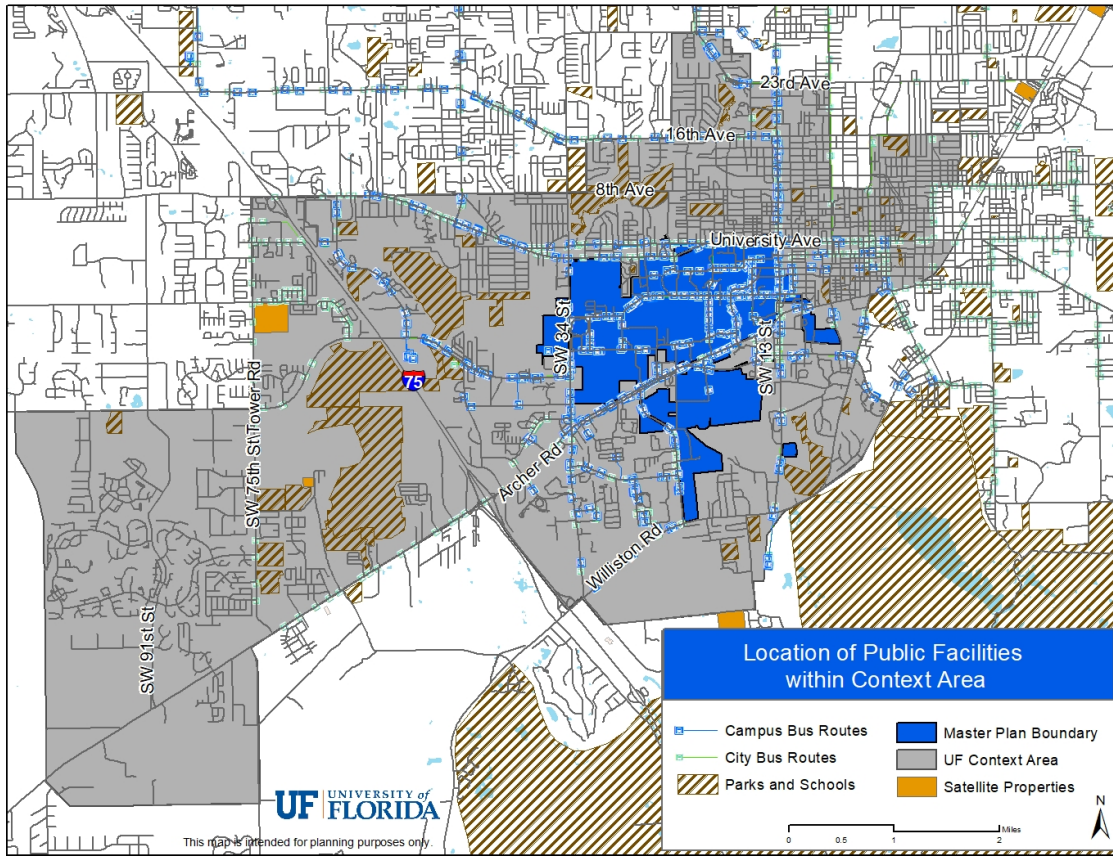
	2019 Main Campus Headcount Enrollment			2030 Main Campus Headcount Projected Enrollment	
	Need	Inventory	Deficit	Need	Deficit w/out New Capital Projects
Indoor Basketball Courts	13	7	6	14	7
Cardio / Weights (GSF)	49,042	42,605	6,437	49,500	7,000
Multi-Purpose Exercise Rooms	14	7	10	14	11
Racquetball Courts (Indoor)	17	13	1	17	3
Lap Swimming (Lanes)	20	8	10	20	12

Indoor Soccer Courts	5	1	4	5	4
Outdoor Tennis	8	32	(24)	8	(24)

* *Recreation Level of Service Standards were provided by RDG Planning and Design, Inc. as typical university/college standards used nationally. The following standards were used in this analysis: Indoor Basketball Courts = 1 court/3,500 students; Cardio/Weight = 1 GSF/student; MP Rooms = 1 room/3,500 students; Racquetball Courts = 1 court/3,000 students; Lap Swimming = 1 lane/2,500 students; Indoor Soccer = 1 court/10,000 students; and Outdoor Tennis = 1 court/6,000 students. Calculations are based on main campus headcount enrollment of 48,068 students in 2019/2020 and projected 47,422 on campus students in 2029/2030.*

The application of these standards to University of Florida enrollment provides one measure of the adequacy of recreation facilities. The facility utilization data, peer institutional data and Educational Plant Survey are additional measures of adequacy. The Department of Recreational Sports continually conducts user surveys and consults its Board of Directors to determine the appropriate mix of recreational facilities and programs to be provided at the University of Florida. Based on this user feedback, the facilities and services at the University of Florida may differ from national standards providing more of one activity and less of another depending upon demand. However, all of these various measurements of adequacy indicate an overall deficit in active recreational facilities, which the University plans to address provided that sufficient funding can be obtained from all available sources.

Host Local Governments Recreation Level of Service Standards. The City of Gainesville and Alachua County provide a variety of recreational sites and activities in close proximity to the University of Florida campus. As residents of the City and County, UF students have access to and enjoy those recreational amenities in addition to those located on campus. The following map depicts the location of City and County recreation facilities in the University Context Area.



The City of Gainesville’s comprehensive plan establishes the following level of service standards for development within the City. The City of Gainesville recreation level of service from a facility-based level of service uses a park/acreage standard.

City of Gainesville Level of Service Standards

Park	Adopted LOS Standard
Local nature/conservation	6.0 acres per 1,000 population
Community park	2.0 acres per 1,000 population
Neighborhood park	0.8 acres per 1,000 population
Total Acres per 1,000	8.80 acres per 1,000 population

Source: City of Gainesville Comprehensive Plan, Recreation Element (revised 5/17/12)

When compared to the level of service standards of the host local governments, the University of Florida meets or exceeds the City’s requirements based on main campus headcount enrollment of 48,068 students in 2019/2020 and projected 47,422 students in 2029/2030.

University of Florida Student Recreation Sports and Open Space Facilities Need Based on City of Gainesville Level of Service Standards, 2020 and 2030

CITY LOS	2020 UF Need	2030 UF Need	2020 Inventory
Local nature/conservation park (acres) - UF Conservation Future Land Use	267.74	281.60	456.6
Community park (acres) - UF Active Recreation Outdoor & Active Recreation Future Land Uses	89.25	93.87	259.40
Neighborhood park (acres) - UF Urban Park FLU	35.69	37.54	79.40
Total Acres per 1,000 (university population)	392.69	413.01	795.40

NOTE: This inventory does not include facilities of the University Athletic Association, except in the land use acreage calculations. However, some UAA facilities are available for student use as described herein. This inventory includes swimming pools and playground facilities provided by the Department of Housing and Residence Education, although other recreation facilities available at housing complexes are not included. This inventory also does not include 59 acres of Active Recreation and Conservation land use available to students at Lake Wauburg.

Alachua County has adopted, at a minimum, the following level of service standards for recreation: (1) 0.5 acres of improved activity-based recreation sites per 1000 persons in the unincorporated area of Alachua County; (2) 5.0 acres of improved resource-based recreation sites per 1000 persons in the unincorporated area of Alachua County. When compared to the level of service standards of Alachua County, the University of Florida exceeds requirements based on main campus headcount enrollment of 48,068 students in 2019/2020 and projected 47,422 students in 2029/2030.

University of Florida Recreation and Open Space Facilities Need Based on Alachua County Level of Service Standards, 2020 and 2030

Alachua County LOS	2020 UF Need	2030 UF Need	2020 Inventory
Activity Based Recreation (acres) - UF Active Recreation & Active Recreation Outdoor Future Land Use	22.31	23.88	259.40
Resource Based Recreation (acres) – UF Conservation and Urban Park Future Land Use	223.12	234.67	536.00

NOTE: This inventory does not include 59 acres of Active Recreation and Conservation land use available to students at Lake Wauburg North and South in unincorporated Alachua County.

D. Passive Recreation

Not all recreational pursuits require courts, gymnasiums and fields for active exercise and team sports. Equally important are the passive recreation pursuits such as hiking, recreational bicycle riding, walking, reading, bird-watching and informal games of Frisbee or catch. To ensure that adequate space is reserved for this purpose, the Campus Master Plan’s Future Land Use designation provides for an Urban Park Land Use and a Conservation Land Use. The Urban Park areas are intended to provide passive recreation opportunities within the built areas of campus in the form of courtyards, lawns, gardens and shaded walks. The Conservation areas will provide

varying degrees of public accessibility, but many are intended to provide walking trails, picnic areas, shared-use bicycle/pedestrian paths, and scenic overlooks into natural habitats. The proposed Campus Master Plan for 2020-2030 preserves open space with **455** acres in the Conservation land use, **79** acres in Urban Park land use and **20** acres in Green Space Buffer land use.

In addition to the main campus recreation resources, the University of Florida has 15 acres at Lake Wauburg North Park (21 acres including water resources) and 44 acres at Lake Wauburg South Shore (71 acres including water resources) located on US441 approximately eight miles from campus. These areas are placed in the Campus Master Plan's Active Recreation Land Use due to the variety of active recreation facilities available including boating, swimming, sand volleyball, bicycle trails, climbing wall and ropes course. However, large expanses of these properties are also used exclusively for hiking, picnicking and other passive recreational pursuits. All of the activities on the Lake Wauburg properties are sensitive to the environmental resources on the site, which enhance the recreational experience and make them attractive places to recreate. In recognition of certain environmental sensitivities at Lake Wauburg South Shore, a portion of this property has also been placed in the Conservation Land Use.

III. Recreation Facility Recommendations

Student Recreational facility expansions anticipated during the 2020-2030 planning horizon include a small expansion at the Southwest Recreation Center to add a weight room, a new lodge at Lake Wauburg North Park, and a new recreational facility on the east side of campus to better serve students living in that area. Also, planned for the next 10 years is the creation of multiple outdoor recreation fields where UVS and Maguire housing now sit. These new and expanded facilities will increase the availability and variety of exercise and recreation space for university students.

For UAA Facilities, capital projects for the period 2020-2030 will include a new Football Training Complex that consolidates all football support activities under one roof, including coaching, nutrition(dining), physical conditioning, and medical care. Some functions are "all-sport" and not limited to football. Portions of the east concourse of the football stadium will be renovated to improve functionality, image, and accessibility for both game day and non-game day uses. Finally, UAA is in the process of expanding its Soccer /Lacrosse facility on the southwest area of campus in order to provide facilities to permanently relocate UF Soccer to the Disney Stadium.