

RECREATION AT CLEMSON

Introduction

Clemson students are known for their active lifestyles and participation in intramural and club sport activities. The result is a vibrant and energetic campus culture that places tremendous pressure on the Fike Recreation Center and outdoor recreation facilities across the campus. The feedback received from the Campus Planning Task Force confirms this need. Strategies are needed in the Framework Plan to meet this present demand for indoor and outdoor recreation space while anticipating future growth.

Existing and Proposed Recreation Fields

It is estimated that 24 acres of outdoor fields are required to serve a population of 25,000 students according on NIRSA guidelines. Currently, Clemson has 9.5 acres of fields; plans are underway to construct an additional 9.5 acres bringing the total field area to 19 acres.

The existing and proposed field space at Clemson is as follows:

EXISTING		
Number	Description	Acres
3	Dedicated – Soccer / Flag Football Fields	4.5
2	Shared – Soccer / Flag Football Fields	5.0
5		9.5
PROPOSED		
3	Dedicated – Soccer / Flag Football Fields	5.0
2	Dedicated – Softball Fields	2.0
2	Shared – Soccer / Flag Football Fields	2.5
7		9.5
TOTAL	Existing and Proposed Fields	19

As noted, the University is planning a number of new facilities to address current and future needs. These include the Snow Family Recreation Center at Ravenel, the new Hub fitness center under construction in Douthit Hills, and two additional recreation fields along Perimeter Road.

Snow Family Recreation Center

The Snow Family Recreation Center is located on Lake Hartwell and is home to the sailing and water skiing clubs as well as the Clemson Outdoor Recreation and Education (CORE) program. It includes the LoConte Family Field, artificial turf fields for Intramural Sports, Club Sports and the campus population. The master plan for the site provides a long-term vision and including the following: six flag football fields; five soccer fields; two rugby fields; two softball fields; and one multi-purpose field.

The Hub at Douthit Hills

The Hub is a multipurpose facility that will include dining, fitness space and a new campus bookstore. It will primarily serve the Douthit Hills population. The fitness center is intended to relieve some of the demand placed on the main recreation center at Fike.

Fike Recreation Center

The 175,000sf Fike Center is the main recreation center and is located on the west side of the Clemson campus. In addition to other program elements, the facility includes the Swann Fitness Center comprised of the following:

- The McHugh Natatorium
- 30' climbing wall
- 1/10 mile indoor track
- Eight racquetball courts
- Six basketball courts
- Two group fitness studios
- Wellness zone
- Fitness and cardio equipment
- 1/3 mile outdoor track

A recent study proposed expansion of the facility to meet existing and future needs. The recommendations of the study will be addressed in the Framework Plan, including an addition to the east side of the building.

Trends

As Clemson plans for the future, there are several trends underway in collegiate recreation facilities that may help inform the decision-making process:

- There is a shift toward individual activities vs. traditional team sports. Personal training is one of the key activities
- The focus on individual activities is resulting in the need for multifunctional flexible spaces serving a wider range of purposes
- Many institutions are focusing on the outdoor facilities as a way to more economically provide additional space for their indoor programs
- Adventure education is increasingly popular resulting in the construction of outdoor adventure centers
- Integrated health and wellness have emerged as a key organizing concept for recreation, health, and counseling programs impacting space needs and requiring cooperation and coordination among administrative units

Considerations

Based on feedback from the Campus Planning Task Force and assessments of the campus recreation facilities as well as broader campus, the following planning considerations are noted for the Framework Planning Process:

- The plans to renovate and expand Fike as the Hub or “Anchor” of campus recreation will need to be considered in the context of a broader range of campus land use, circulation and infrastructure issues
- Additional field space locations need to be explored in the planning process to ensure that existing and future demand for outdoor recreation is addressed. This includes dedicated fields for intramurals and club sport activities (fields that are not shared with Athletics)
- The efficient use of land in the Snow Family Recreation Center will be important as will maintaining and conserving the park-like setting

Opportunities

The Framework Planning process provides the opportunity to expand the range of recreation facilities and to create a comprehensive network of pedestrian, jogging, and bicycle routes all of which support mobility as well as healthy campus initiatives.

The Framework Planning process will examine the following opportunities:

- Redevelopment sites on the campus potentially offer opportunities for additional recreation fields; these opportunities will be explored where possible
- Changes to the circulation network, including the potential pedestrianization of the campus core provides the opportunity to create a pedestrian and bicycle friendly environment addressing mobility as well as health/wellness objectives
- Broader community initiatives for the bike route system provide the opportunity to create a comprehensive and coordinated network
- The location of the campus relative to Lake Hartwell and its associated trail network provide opportunities to integrate lake related recreation activities and the trail system into the campus
- The Clemson Forest and the Snow Family Center present opportunities for expanding outdoor recreation and adventure education

Constraints

While Clemson has notable land resources, areas suitable for recreation fields on the main campus are limited. As a result, it will be important to explore opportunities for additional fields as part of site redevelopment in key areas of the campus. It will also be important to get more use out of existing field space by addressing drainage issues and providing lighting to extend the hours the fields can be used.

The Snow Family Center will be an important addition to the campus providing much needed field and activity space. An important constraint to consider is connectivity of the Center to the main campus. Improvements for

pedestrian and bicycle connectivity over the Highway 93 Bridge will need to be addressed.

The Way Forward

During the alternatives phase of the Framework planning process, opportunities to integrate new recreation facilities across the campus will be explored as will strategies for establishing a comprehensive and coordinated network of pedestrian, jogging and bicycle routes. The goals will be as follows:

- To provide new recreation facilities (indoor and outdoor) to support existing and future demand
- To create a mobility network that facilitates and enhances human powered movement across the campus, along Lake Hartwell and into the surrounding community with the intent of supporting healthy lifestyle initiatives