

UO Recreation Field Location Options Study

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to assess site options for locating physical education and recreation fields on and off campus, including potential partnerships, as directed by University President Michael Schill in his May 11, 2018 response letter to the UO Senate action (US 17/18-14) regarding the university's North Campus Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application to the City of Eugene. The results of this study will inform future Campus Plan amendments. Specifically, this study will be the first step in the process to amend the Campus Plan to incorporate the area of campus between the railroad tracks and the Willamette River, a portion of which the university has identified as a potential location for future year-round recreation fields.

Scope of Study

This study is not a site selection as there is no identified project at this time. The study is to understand the university's options for meeting future needs related to physical education and recreation fields. The study will also identify potential opportunities to partner with local agencies to fulfill the needs related to recreation fields.

Process

Working with stakeholders serving as a sub-group of the Campus Planning Committee, the Office of Campus Planning began the study during the fall of 2018. The process began by identifying a wide range of site options. Initial criteria, Level One, was established to evaluate sites to determine which sites merit further study. Sites that met the Level One criteria were then evaluated using more detailed criteria, Level Two, as a way to further understand considerations for each site related to locating recreation fields. The study is not comprehensive in that all considerations for each site have been investigated, for example easements, topography, utilities, etc. which may impact development of recreation fields. The intent of the Level Two evaluation is to understand initial key criteria that will need to be considered for each site. When a future project is identified additional due diligence will be required for all sites to understand the full breadth of considerations based on the specific program for the future project.

Level One Evaluation: The Level 1 evaluation is intended to assess a wide range of site options and determine which sites meet basic criteria to merit further, more detailed evaluation. This is not a site selection, but intended to narrow down potential sites to be further studied.

Level One Criteria:

1. Size: Multi-use fields must accommodate a variety of activities. Sites must accommodate at least one field at the minimum size. Single, isolated fields are not practical for programming or maintenance. Therefore, off-campus sites must accommodate two or more fields.
 - a. Minimum Field Size: 200' x 360'
2. Location: Sites must be accessible to students by multiple modes of transportation within a reasonable travel time. To be considered accessible sites must meet all of the following criteria:
 - a. Be accessible by bike in 20 minutes or less

- b. Be accessible by car or shuttle in 25 minutes or less
- c. Be accessible by public transportation in 25 minutes or less
3. Zoning: Land use must allow for recreation fields.

Level Two Evaluation: The Level Two evaluation is intended to understand initial key criteria that will need to be considered for each site. The Level Two evaluation is not comprehensive in that all considerations for each site have been investigated, for example easements, topography, utilities, etc. which may impact development of recreation fields. The intent of the Level Two evaluation is to understand initial key criteria that will need to be considered for each site.

Level Two Criteria:

1. Campus Planning Considerations
2. Environmental Considerations
3. Safety
4. Site Specific Cost Considerations
5. Neighborhood / Community Considerations

Partnership Considerations

The scope of this study includes understanding what options there are within the community to create partnerships to meet the university's needs related to recreation fields.

Key Findings:

1. Throughout the community there is a high demand for use of recreation fields, especially synthetic turf fields in the fall and spring when natural turf fields support less use.
2. Rental of facilities throughout the community currently support competitions or tournaments for UO Club Sports.
3. When the university rents other facilities it translates to less space for other users throughout the community.
4. There is potential to explore partnership with the City of Eugene at Golden Garden Park although proximity to campus is an issue.
5. There is potential to explore a partnership with the city to intensify use of Amazon Park fields.

Next Steps

The study will be finalized after the Open House and engagement with stakeholders. The study is not a site selection as there is no identified project at this time. Therefore, the study will not result in a decision about new field locations. Rather, it will provide information on a number of sites to understand considerations for locating future recreation fields and inform future Campus Plan amendments.

After the study is complete, the Office of Campus Planning will move forward with a Campus Plan amendment process for the area of campus north of Franklin Boulevard with the Campus Planning Committee, which will include opportunities for public engagement.

For more information, please contact:

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