



2020 - 2030

USF Master Plan Updates

Goals Objectives & Policies

Element 9: Recreation & Open Space

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

ST PETERSBURG CAMPUS

TABLE OF CONTENTS:**Goals, Objectives, and Policies (GOP)****Element 9 Recreation and Open Space**

Figure 9.a Recreation and Open Space Structure 10 Year



Element 9:

St Petersburg Recreation and Open Space

Element 9 Recreation and Open Space

The existing and proposed recreation/open space system will provide a green pedestrian framework around which future campus building development will be organized. The open space system will be an essential complement to the increased building density that will be necessary to accommodate campus growth. The recreation/open space fabric in the update is made up of these basic elements:

- Harborwalk on the Seventh Avenue South alignment is the principal “collegial” space that defines and unifies the campus academic core. The space reinforces the “traditional” collegiate atmosphere that will emerge with the growth of the full-time student population.
- The Bayboro Waterfront Park (Harborside) is a unique and significant amenity for the campus. The University has made open space improvements on the waterfront that made Bayboro Harbor a more integral part of campus life. Improvements on the ground floor of Coquina Hall to better connect the space to the park have helped activate the east end of Harborside.
- The recreation field at Fifth Avenue South (upgraded in 2015 through a partnership with the Tampa Bay Rowdies) functions not only for campus recreation purposes, but also as a “greensward” that announces the campus to visitors and the general public approaching on Fifth Avenue South and Third and Fourth Streets South.
- An additional field south of the Warehouse Labs will become increasingly important to the University to serve the growing resident and full-time student population.
- Improvements made to Haney Sailing Center through the expansion of the docks will encourage student engagement and activities offered by the Waterfront. Further improvements to the area, in accordance with the licensing agreement with the City, will serve to increase campus life and services.
- Poynter Park improvements for usability have recently been implemented with the addition of upgraded lighting, emergency call boxes and wider, more direct sidewalks through the park. USFSP has acquired the former Dali Museum. This building has been designated as Harbor Hall. Different pathway configurations have been installed, similar to Harborwalk, to connect Harbor Hall with the main campus and better accommodate pedestrian traffic. Any future changes would be with the approval of the City of St. Petersburg and the Poynter Institute.

Context

Existing developed campus open space is currently limited to the bayfront and recreation field. New recreation courts were added in 2007 in the northwest corner of the block bounded by Seventh Avenue South, Sixth Avenue South, Second Street South and Third Street South: two basketball and two volleyball. The courts are located two blocks from the Residence Hall One and in close proximity to the University Student Center, Osprey Hall and Harborwalk.

A new Aquatics and Recreation Center is being designed for the east side of Residence Hall One. This will replace the 80+ year-old pool and locate it much closer to the residence halls for more convenient access.

Plan Framework for Recreation and Open Space

The master plan framework for the USFSP campus is structured around a system of interconnected formal and recreational open space corridors. The open space system is designed to strengthen and distinguish the campus as a part of the City of St. Petersburg’s urban fabric by enhancing visual continuity between the campus, the waterfront, and the surrounding street grid. The open space system establishes a clear spatial order in which to locate future campus buildings. The plan proposes that the character of the campus open space reinforce the nature of the urban setting.

The overall landscape structure of the campus will be based on the establishment of regular rows of street trees to reinforce the city grid as it is extended into the campus, and to frame the major campus open spaces. Campus spaces should be clearly defined by consistent building edges. Each of the major internal and edge open spaces will contain either formal or informal groupings of trees as appropriate to accentuate the character of the space and to provide a diversity of landscape settings. (See Urban Design Element.)

The following open space and recreational amenities will be key to visually integrating the campus and connecting the campus with its

contextual setting:

- The principal organizing open space element consists of Harborwalk on the Second Street South axis and on the Seventh Avenue South axis. The two axes extend visually toward the surrounding urban area, forming the link between off-campus institutions and the academic core functions arrayed on these two axes.
- The tip of the peninsula will be strengthened as a campus landscape open space and identifiable campus feature as viewed from the water by the proposed removal of the interstitial parking and drop-off functions that are located within the existing lawn area and the introduction of high canopy planting at the edge of the lawn to provide shade, containment, and visibility.

(See Figure 9-a.)

Goal

The Recreation and Open Space goal of the USF St. Petersburg campus plan is to ensure the provision of adequate and accessible recreation facilities and open space to meet the future needs of the University.

Summary of Objectives and Policies

Objective 9.1:

Provide recreational facilities and open space to meet campus community demand and provide increased facilities to serve on-campus needs through the coordinated use of public and private resources.

Policy 9.1.1: USF St. Petersburg campus may establish a private donor program for the purpose of contributing to the development and maintenance of on-campus recreation and open space facilities and may coordinate the distribution of these funds with other public University funding sources.

Policy 9.1.2: USF St. Petersburg campus shall implement recreational facility improvements as identified in Element 9.

Policy 9.1.3: USF St. Petersburg campus shall establish within the 10 year planning time frame a hierarchy of campus open spaces including: Harborwalk, peninsula open space, and Bayfront Esplanade as described herein, and on Figure 9-a. The timing and phasing requirements and priorities for these improvements are established in the Capital Improvements Element.

Objective 9.2:

Provide increased opportunities for on-campus access to varied, high quality open spaces.

Policy 9.2.1: USF St. Petersburg campus shall require adherence to adopted build-to-lines as identified in the Architectural Design Guidelines and shall encourage maximum building heights within Airport limitations in order to maintain a consistent edge to the proposed open spaces in keeping with the urban setting and to establish and preserve a meaningful integrated system of contiguous campus open spaces.

Policy 9.2.2: USF St. Petersburg campus shall affirm a belief that quality planted outdoor spaces are necessary to the well being of urban life and that the institution seeks continuity with the natural communities and processes that support human life.

Objective 9.3:

Coordinate with the host community to promote provision of adequate recreation and open space off-campus to serve the campus community living in the context area and to ensure continuity of campus open space resources within the larger regional open space system.

Policy 9.3.1: USF St. Petersburg campus shall coordinate with the host community in the systematic implementation of on-campus recreation facilities and open space to ensure continuity of such facilities within the larger regional open space system. In particular, USF St. Petersburg campus will coordinate with the City of St. Petersburg in the planning, design and implementation of the street corridor open spaces and the Bayfront Esplanade connection to Poynter Park and points north (See Intergovernmental Coordination Element).

Policy 9.3.2: USF St. Petersburg campus shall meet with City and County officials on a periodic basis to review the status of recreation and open space facilities and to explore ways to facilitate coordination in the provision of those facilities. USF St. Petersburg campus shall pursue





interlocal agreements and memoranda of understanding as needed to provide for the joint use of recreation and open space facilities.

Policy 9.3.3: USF St. Petersburg campus shall promote the development and improvement of community recreation facilities by the host community in the belief that these facilities will enrich the quality of life for those living within the University context area and campus residences. USF St. Petersburg campus shall begin discussions with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) regarding the redevelopment of the FDEP site in order to extend the open space system onto the parcel of land on the northwestern corner of the peninsula, and maintain communications with City regarding possible development.



UNIVERSITY of SOUTH FLORIDA

2020 - 2030
St. Petersburg Campus
Master Plan Update

-  Planning Area
-  Open Space
-  Existing USFSP Facilities
-  Proposed USFSP Facilities

Element 9
Recreation and Open Space

GOP Figure 9.a
Recreation and Open Space
Structure 10 Year

Date
ADOPTED 06/13/2023

