



2020 - 2030

# USF Master Plan Updates

Data Collection & Analysis

## Element 9: Recreation & Open Space

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

TAMPA CAMPUS

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## Element 9:

# Tampa Recreation and Open Space

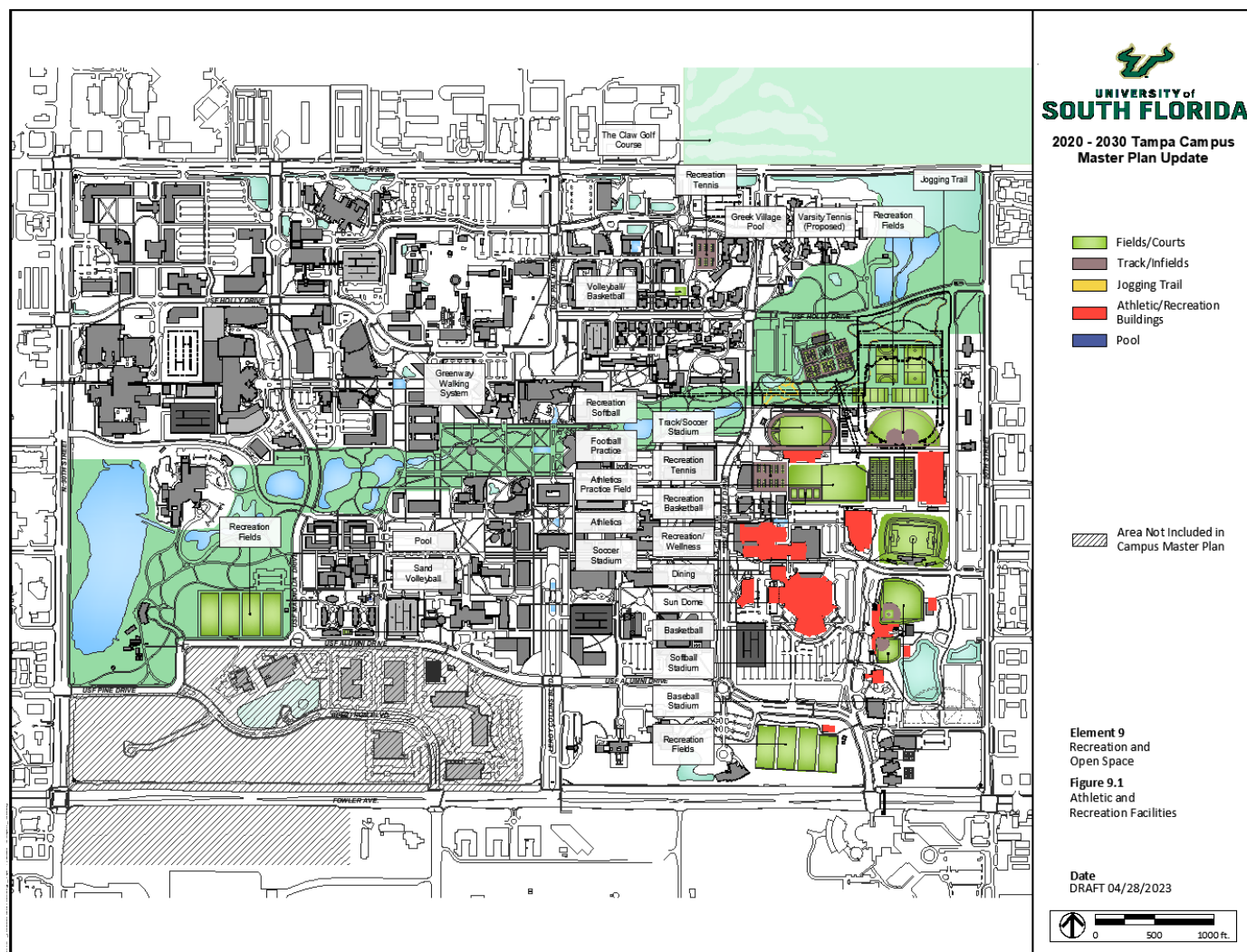
## Element 9 Recreation and Open Space

This element ensures the provision of adequate and accessible recreation facilities and open space to meet the future needs of the University.

Existing conditions university-owned or managed recreational sites:

### Recreation and Athletics

Campus recreation and open spaces are composed of dedicated recreation and facilities and varied informal open spaces. Table 9-1 and 9-2 present an inventory of existing recreation and athletic facilities.



### Campus Recreation

Campus Recreation offers students programs and facilities including a 43,000 square-foot, fully-wired fitness centers, group fitness classes, aquatics, intramural sports, club sports and outdoor recreation opportunities. Campus Recreation operates many fields and facilities across the campus as well as the Riverfront Park. <https://www.usf.edu/student-affairs/campus-rec/>

**Table 9-1 Inventory and Usage of Existing Recreation Facilities**

Facility Type	Number/Account	Estimated/ Projected* Usage	Acreage/ Square Footage
<b>Recreation Center</b>			
Rec 0001 (Storage)			814 sf
Rec 0002 (Storage/Mechanical)			3,507 sf
Rec 0003 (Storage)			1,100 sf
Rec 0004 (Exercise Science Lab)			1,698 sf
Rec 0005 (Group Fitness Studio)			2,701 sf
Rec 0006 (Athletic Training)			978 sf
Rec 0007 (Staff Office)			111 sf
Rec 0009 (Indoor Maintenance)			727 sf
Rec 0010 (Women's Staff Locker Room)	lockers and showers		1,042 sf
Rec 0011 (Group Fitness Studio)			1,346 sf
Rec 0011A,B,C (Women's Student Locker)	lockers and showers		2,302 sf
Rec 0011F (Sport Programs Office)			1,462 sf
Rec 0012 (Outdoor Recreation Center)			2,445 sf
Rec 0012A,B,C (Men's Student Locker)	lockers and showers		2,919 sf
Rec 0013 (Outdoor Recreation Center)			2,521 sf
Rec 0014 (Men's Staff Locker Room)	lockers and showers		1,326 sf
Rec 0021 (Weight Floor)			6,563 sf
Rec 0021C (Cycle Studio)			1,038 sf
Rec 0022B (Group Fitness Studio)			3,046 sf
Rec 0023 (Weight Floor)			8,763 sf
Rec 0023A (Laundry and Storage)			463 sf
Rec 0023B (Personal Training Suite)			257 sf
Rec 0033 (Group Fitness Studio)			1,930 sf
Rec 0034 (Squash Court)	1 court		800 sf
Rec 0032, 0030 0028, 0024 (Racquetball Courts)	6 courts		800 sf
Rec 0026 (Functional Training Studio)			800 sf
Rec 0100 (North Gym)	1 NCAA basketball court 2 high school basketball courts 3 volleyball courts 8 badminton courts		14,001 sf
Rec 0101 (Mat Room)			2,112 sf
Rec 0101A (Staff Office)			225 sf
Rec 0107 (Upper Aerobics)			3,584 sf
Rec 0108 (Indoor Pool)	25 yards, 8 lanes		10,783 sf
Rec 0109 (Lounge/Lobby)	Seating area and entrance into facility		1,408 sf
Rec 0111 (Administrative Office Suite)	10 offices, 5 cubicle stations, reception desk		4,432 sf
Rec 0124 (Cardio Floor)	Cardio equipment Circuit Station		7,735 sf
Rec 0139 (East Gym)	2 basketball courts 2 volleyball courts 8 badminton courts		15,274 sf
Rec 0200A (Flexible space)			680 sf
Rec 0201 (Indoor Track)			4,656 sf
		366,892 hr/yr 7,500 hr/wk	

<b>The FIT</b>			
Fit 0100 (Entrance/Lobby)			528 sf
Fit 0101 (Weight Floor)			2,161 sf
Fit 0101 (Weight Floor)			1,094 sf
Fit 0102 (Selectorized zone)			796 sf
Fit 0105 (Women's Locker Room)	showers and lockers		654 sf
Fit 0106 (Gender Neutral Restroom)			98 sf
Fit 0107 (Men's Locker Room)	showers and lockers		577 sf
Fit 0108 (Lifeguard Office and Storage)			262 sf
Fit 109 (Storage/Laundry)			264 sf
Fit 0110 (Outdoor Pool)	outdoor pool and pool deck		10,702 sf
Fit x0110 (Covered Lanai)	seating and entertainment		1,993 sf
Fit 0110A (Storage)			369 sf
Fit 0110B (storage)			370 sf
Fit 0201 (Cardio floor)			4,296 sf
Fit 0203 (Gender Neutral Restroom)			82 sf
Fit 0204 (Lounge space)			831 sf
Fit 0205 (office/meeting space)			541 sf
Fit 0206, 207, 209 (offices)			372 sf
Fit 0208 (Conference Room)			244 sf
		116,747 hr/yr 2,245 hr/wk	
<b>The WELL Fitness Center</b>			
1201 (Strength/Cardio Training Space)			4,061 sf
1200 (Lobby)			-
1202 Group (Fitness Room)			1,023 sf
1206, 1206A & B (Men's Locker Room)			825 sf
1207, 1207 A & B (Women's Locker Room)			1,165 sf
		23,518 hr/yr 452 hr/wk	
<b>Riverfront Park</b>			
Picnic Pavilion		500 hr/wk	12.6 ac
Boathouse			
Park Use			
Restroom Building			
Kayak/Rope Shed			
Ropes Course			
<b>Outdoor Facilities</b>			
Greek Village Pool			
Tennis Courts (lighted)	10 courts PE 3 courts Andros	850 hr/wk 650 hr/wk	64,800 sf 38,400 sf (20.82 ac)
Sport Program Fields	Fowler Fields (4 fields) Magnolia Fields (4 fields) Sycamore Field (4 fields) EW Field Softball Fields (2 fields)		5.4 ac 5.5 ac 6.8 ac - 3.12 ac
Outdoor Basketball Courts	8 courts 2 BB/VB Argos	1,000 hr/wk 300 hr/wk	30,324 sf 4,200 sf
Sand Volleyball Courts	1 court Argos Greek Volleyball Magnolia Volleyball	100 hr/wk	1,800 sf 1,800 sf 1,800 sf
Para Course Fitness Trail	1.4 mile loop, 18 exercise stations	650 hr/wk	16.5 ac

## Athletics

USF is a member of the American Athletic Conference, with 17 men's and women's varsity teams competing at the NCAA Division I level. New facilities for practice and completion, along with the Yuengling Center, previously known as the USF Sun Dome, put the University's sports teams compete for USF: soccer, basketball, softball, volleyball, tennis, golf, cross country/track and field, sailing, and lacrosse. USF men's intercollegiate teams compete in: football, soccer, basketball, baseball, tennis, golf, and cross country/track and field. <https://gousfbulls.com/>

**Table 9-2 Inventory and Usage of Existing Athletics Facilities**

Facility Type	Number/Account	Estimated/ Projected* Usage	Acreage/ Square Footage
<b><u>Yuengling Center</u></b>	4 BB or 6 VB Courts	Summer camp only	25,000 sf
Arena – Level 2 (multi-use arrangement)			
Arena – Level 1 (multi-use arrangement)	1 BB or VB Court	540 hr/wk (seasonal)	20,000 sf
Corral	1 BB or VB Court	200 hr/wk (seasonal)	11,000 sf
	3 Offices	160 hr/wk	
	Conference Room		
	Reception Area		
	3 Storage Rooms		
	Locker Room		
YC Service Level			
YC Administrative Suite	13 Offices/Reception	560 hr/wk	
Men's Basketball Suite	Offices/Support	320 hr/wk	
Women's Basketball Suite	Offices/Support	320 hr/wk	
Sports Medicine Clinic	Treatment Area/Support	215 hr/wk	
Strength and Conditioning	Weight Room and Storage	215 hr/wk	
Men's Basketball Locker/Shower		75 hr/wk	
Women's Basketball Locker/Shower		75 hr/wk	
Visiting Basketball Team Locker Room	2 Locker Rooms		
Ticket Office	2 Offices Conference Room	160 hr/wk	
Maintenance/Production	7 Offices Conference Room Support	320 hr/wk	
Housekeeping	Office/Support	160 hr/wk	
Concessions	2 Offices/Support	120 hr/wk	
Meeting Rooms	2 Meeting Rooms	150 hr/wk	
Performance Dressing Complex	6 Dressing Rooms	75 hr/wk	
Laundry	Laundry/Support	28 hr/wk	
<b><u>Lee Roy Selmon Athletic Center</u></b>			
Strength and Conditioning	3 Offices/Support Weight Room Cardio Room	2,400 hr/wk	10,696 sf
Sports Medicine Clinic	4 Offices/Support 2 Exam/4 Treatment Therapy/Work Rooms	2,400 hr/wk	6,133 sf
Equipment Room	2 Offices/Support Laundry	2,400 hr/wk	4,859 sf
AD Conference Room	Conference/Kitchen Support	150 hr/wk	1,388 sf
Athletic Director's Suite	13 Offices 2 Conference Rooms Kitchen/Support	1,040 hr/wk	5,869 sf
External Affairs Suite	16 Offices 20 Work Stations 2 Conference Rooms Kitchen/Support	1,440 hr/wk	5,951 sf
Olympic Sports Suite	15 Offices 10 Work Stations Conference Room Support	1,000 hr/wk	4,372 sf

Academic Enrichment Center	6 Offices/Support Study Lounge	1,200 hr/wk	7,518 sf
Football Suite	17 Offices 10 Meeting Rooms 3 Conference Rooms Kitchenette/Support	1,200 hr/wk	10,790 sf
Men's Staff Locker Room	24 Full, 12 Half	150 hr/wk	550 sf
Women's Staff Locker Room	15 Full/10 Half	100 hr/wk	438 sf
Football Staff Locker Room	19 Lockers	95 hr/wk	454 sf
Football Locker Room	116 Lockers	580 hr/wk	6,073 sf
Baseball Locker Room	36 Lockers	180 hr/wk	706 sf
Softball Locker Room	22 Lockers	110 hr/wk	593 sf
Men's Tennis Locker Room	12 Lockers	60 hr/wk	269 sf
Women's Tennis Locker Room	14 Lockers	70 hr/wk	327 sf
Men's Soccer Lockers Room	29 Lockers	145 hr/wk	450 sf
Women's Soccer Locker Room	33 Lockers	165 hr/wk	480 sf
Men's Track/XCC Locker Room	18 Full/12 Half	120 hr/wk	269 sf
Women's Track/XCC Locker Room	34 Full/42 Half	275 hr/wk	638 sf
<b><u>MUMA BASKETBALL PRACTICE Center</u></b>			
Basketball Courts	2 full court	60 hr/wk	51,000 sf
Locker Rooms	20 Lockers/each	20 hr/wk	
Support Offices	16 Offices		
<b><u>OUTDOOR FACILITIES</u></b>			
Varsity Tennis	12 Courts (no lights)	360 hr/wk (seasonal)	3.6 ac
Soccer/Track Stadium	Soccer Fields (lights) 400 M Track	1,000 hr/yr (seasonal) 1,200 hr/wk (seasonal)	6.9 ac
Soccer Practice Field	1 Field (no lights)	360 hr/wk (seasonal)	2.7 ac
Soccer Stadium	Seats 1,000		
Baseball Stadium	1 Field (lights) Seats 1,500	800 hr/wk (seasonal)	4.5 ac
Softball Stadium	1 Field (lights) Seats 750	480 hr/wk (seasonal)	1.8 ac
Football Practice fields	3 Fields (lights)	3,000 hr/wk (seasonal)	5.0 ac

**Currently, USF Athletics also uses the following off-campus facilities:**

- USF Football competes in the Raymond James Stadium, Downtown Tampa.
- USF women's and men's Golf teams use the following "home" courses for practice and competition; Lake Jovita in Dade City, Innisbrook in Innisbrook, Saddlebrook in Wesley Chapel, and Tampa Palms, Hunter's Green and The Claw, all in Tampa. The Claw, located on USF land immediately north of Fletcher Avenue from the core campus, includes an 18-hole course, club house and restaurant – all privately managed.
- USF Sailing sails out of USF St Petersburg Campus.

## Main Campus Open Spaces

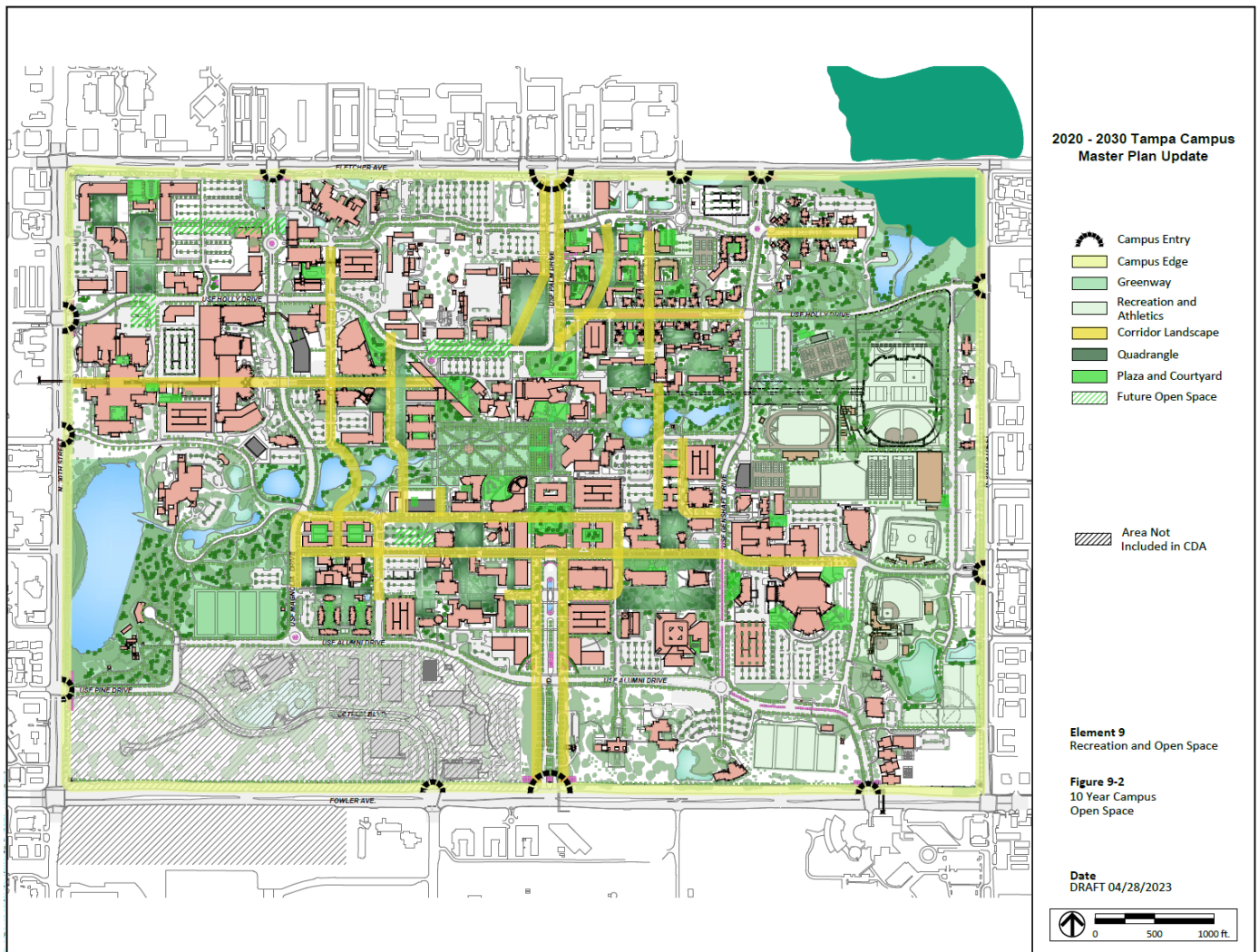
The framework for a system in interconnected campus open spaces has been promoted and developed through previous master plans. Within the main campus, the open space framework components include:

- perimeter landscape and gateways,
- pedestrian corridors,
- the Greenway,
- Central Quadrangle,
- precinct quadrangles, and
- courtyards and plazas.

Both spatial and programmatic considerations are important in evaluating the planning for the campus open space framework. Figure 9-2,

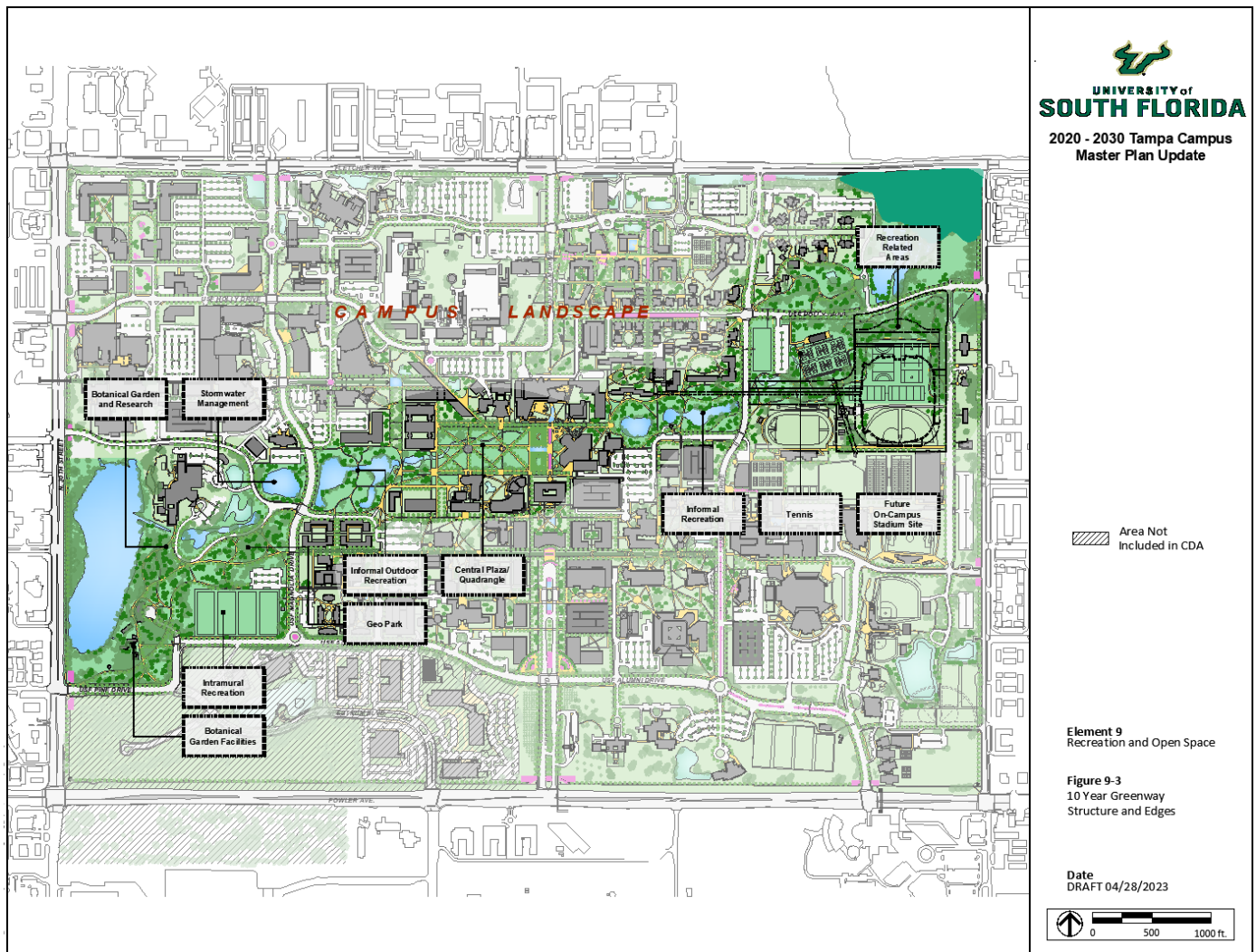


*Open Space*, provides an overview of the open space framework components of the USF Tampa campus.



### Perimeter landscape and campus gateways:

The landscape character of the campus perimeter is an important component of the public face of USF both as an institution and as part of the overall wayfinding of the USF Tampa campus setting. The existing perimeter landscape is generally a “low level treatment” landscape of open lawn and live oak trees with little active programmatic use or definition. As a large campus setting with almost five miles of campus edge, the perimeter landscape poses visual and maintenance concerns, as well as opportunities to shape a distinctive USF public identity that responds to the viewing speed of passing motorists. As a large distinct open space one passes through in entering campus, the perimeter landscape provides an opportunity to “layer” the entry, reinforce campus wayfinding, and establish greater cohesiveness of the overall campus open space framework. Within the context of the perimeter landscape, special gateway identification treatments further assist in establishing institutional identity and providing essential wayfinding cues. The Master Plan Update is being coordinated with signage and wayfinding design efforts and will address identification, hierarchy, and treatment of the gateways and campus edges.



### Greenway:

The Greenway is intended as the dominant element of the campus open space system. The identified boundary includes a contiguous corridor of over 125-acres from Lake Behnke at Bruce B. Downs Boulevard on the southwest corner to the wetland area at Fletcher Avenue and 50<sup>th</sup> Street on the northeast and continues across Fletcher to include the USF Forest Preserve area to the northeast. The Greenway has been established as a “no-build” zone because of the ecological importance and the role it plays in establishing an open space counterpoint to the urban environment and in providing a sense of clarity and orientation to the campus. Integration of stormwater management in the overall Greenway design continues to be a desired objective and one that is fitting with the desire for a more sustainable, low impact approach to campus site design, including a desire to make resource management and natural processes such as water cycle a “visible” element of the campus environment.

Efforts have been made, beginning with the 1995 Campus Master Plan, to establish continuity of the open space for the length of the Greenway by strengthening the definition of the edges through building placement, such as the Natural and Environmental Sciences and Interdisciplinary Sciences building at the south edge of the Central Quadrangle, and by prohibiting building within the Greenway. However, the discontinuity of the Greenway remains a challenge in establishing it as a visually strong, contiguous, organizing element. Continuity is impeded by the presence of two popular parking areas Lots 17 A and B near the Argos Complex and Lot 19 south of Hope Lodge and further reduced in impact by parking areas 5 and 35 (also near Argos) at its edges. The narrow “choke point” of the Greenway, located at its high point as it passes between Student Services Building and the Bookstore and Student Health Services, visually separates the Greenway into two distinct sections – east and west with minimal visual connection or even a “reminder” of its presence as it passes through this narrow link. Programming for varied experiences along the length of the Greenway is consistent with the desire for creation of a diversity of landscapes ranging from conservation areas, to naturalistic parkland, to highly developed plazas. Program ideas cited in interviews and observed on campus include:

- passive recreation, such as reading, sunbathing, socializing, observing wildlife, listening to and playing live music, and display of public

art; and

- active recreation, such as walking, biking, frisbee and games of catch, team recreational sports, and performances.

Accommodating recreation and athletic fields while preserving the integrity of the Greenway is an ongoing concern.

### Central Quadrangle:

The 15-acre Central Quadrangle is the largest of the campus' discreet open spaces and the mid-point of Greenway activity. Buildings, including the Phyllis P. Marshall Student Center, Natural and Environmental Sciences and the Interdisciplinary Sciences building help to define the constrain the edges of the expansive space and provide activity at the edges. Double rows of trees on walks at the north and south edges and dense planting with pool and fountain at MLK Plaza on the east end provide strong edges that invite pedestrians with shade and cooling feel and sound of water. Two shade structures located within the Central Quadrangle along the east-west axis provide intermediate respite. Tree planting along the crossing quadrangle walks have made the crossing the quadrangle more comfortable and connect the structures with the open space more closely. Additional planting – primarily trees – will continue to help to shape the interior of this expansive space, create varied and more interesting spaces and use activity areas, and provide connection to the Greenway as it transitions east and west away from the Central Quadrangle.

Programmatically, the space is active on the edges from reasons cited above (spill over from buildings, plazas, shade, and water). Attention to the Central Quadrangle space as a whole, with an emphasis on enhancing connections to the Greenway, especially as it transitions to the west, provides opportunity to activate the lower portion of the Center Quadrangle. The scale of the space provides a distinct opportunity as a setting for on-campus large group outdoor gatherings and events in mild weather.

### Precinct Quadrangles:

Within campus precincts, quadrangles provide opportunity for larger scaled civic/community open spaces connecting individual buildings around the edges of the space into a community of facilities. Areas for quadrangles exist in all precincts, but generally lack strongly defined edges – neither through planting or architecture. Adjacent uses and programming of the quadrangles should be considered in planning for each precinct. Overlaying botanical data and public art locations will be useful in designing distinct quadrangles with institutional links to the larger campus (through campus landscape or art collection for example). [http://www.graphicstudio.usf.edu/PA/pa\\_about.html](http://www.graphicstudio.usf.edu/PA/pa_about.html)

### Courtyards and Plazas:

Courtyards, plazas and gardens, developed in high density areas of campus provide inviting, humane outdoor living spaces appropriate to the climate of west central Florida. As more intimate spaces, their direct relationship to adjacent building(s) provides an opportunity to extend interior activities and community to the outdoors, provide "owned space," and establish distinct identity. The introduction of "owned space" or sites in which campus users feel comfortable or a sense of belonging are essential and best accomplished in these active and intimate spaces. Particularly important for a campus with a large commuting population, students need places to belong – as participants and/or observers – to come together with other community members or spend time comfortably in quiet. The Marshall Student Center amphitheater works well in this regard, as does the Sessums Mall outside Cooper Hall. Shade and amenities such as seating, tables, food and wireless access are critical to the success of these spaces.

In addition to core campus open space, USF Tampa campus has these additional recreational/open space facilities – extending the Greenway to the north- north east and forming a valuable part of USF's open space framework:

### USF Forest Preserve:

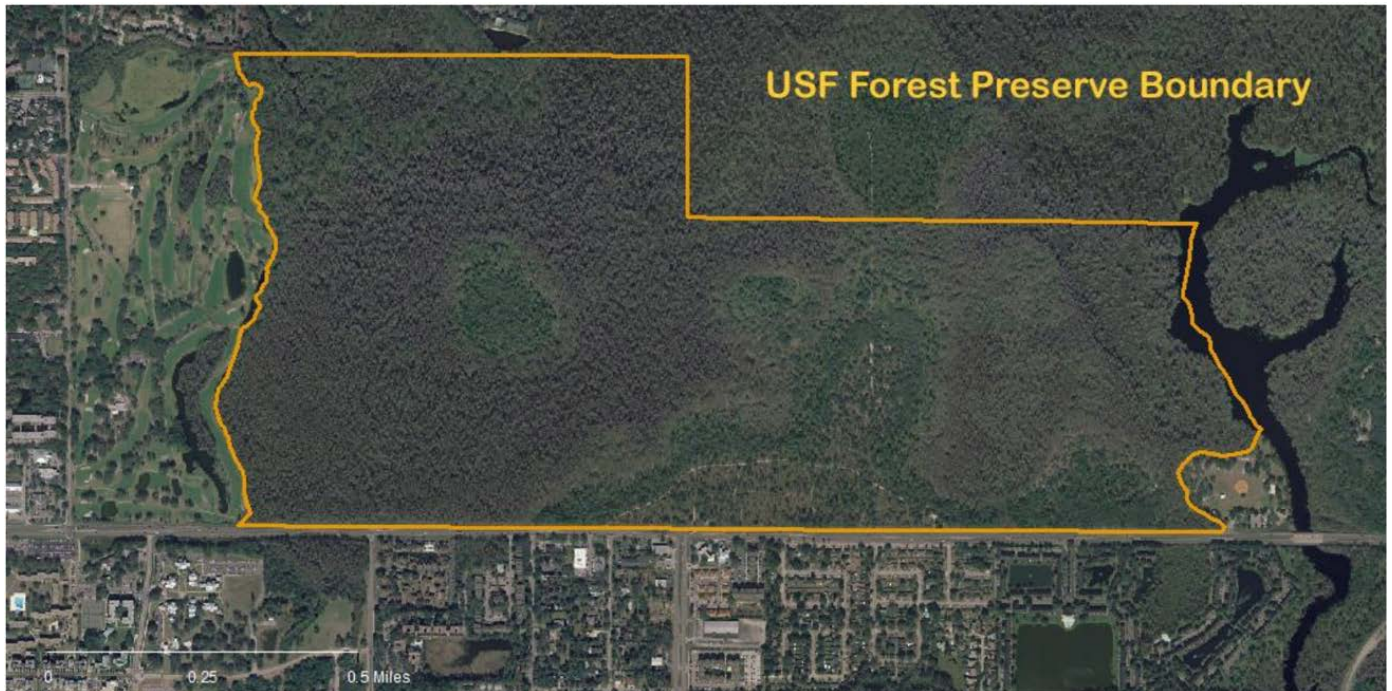
The USF Forest Preserve, is located north of Fletcher Avenue to the northeast of the campus proper. It consists of nearly one square mile of forest, mostly swamp/wetland. It was set aside by the University as a preserve for two primary functions: research and teaching. It is one of the largest urban forests in the country the area is administered by the Department of Biology. In addition to its use by the Department of Biology, it is also the site of research conducted by the Departments of Environmental Science and Policy, Geology, and Anthropology. For additional information see Element 8 Conservation. <https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/departments/ib/research/forest-preserve.aspx>

In April 2021 the university issued an RFI regarding the 500-acre USF Forest Preserve.

Faculty in the department of Integrative Biology brought concerns about the RFI, and potentially development of the Forest Preserve, to the Faculty Senate. On May 19, 2021 the Faculty Senate passed a resolution in support of the maintaining the land as conservation area, wildlife corridor, natural classroom, and research site.

In August when President Law took over as Interim President, she hired a consultant and appointed an advisory committee to evaluate options for the USF Forest Preserve. The committee began reviewing the Ecological Assessment Report and drafting recommendations for each section of the property. (See Appendix F for Guiding Principles, Recommendations, and Ecological Assessment Report.)





#### The Claw:

The Claw, the USF Tampa golf course, is professionally managed by Troon Golf. Troon is paid a monthly management fee and has the opportunity for profit sharing based on performance, as applicable. The course is State land and is leased to USF from the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund.

The Claw facilities are open to the public and include an 18-hole golf course, grass tee driving range, learning center, and putting/chipping green, as well as club house with golf shop and sports grill dining. The USF Golf Center, completed in 2013, replaced the existing facilities for the purposes of the golf team practice area. It contains locker rooms, coaches' offices, conference room, and a covered practice area. The USF women's and men's Golf teams use the following "home" courses for practice and competition; Lake Jovita in Dade City, Innisbrook in Innisbrook, Saddlebrook in Wesley Chapel, and Tampa Palms, Hunter's Green and The Claw, all in Tampa.



**Riverfront Park:**

Located on the Hillsborough River and Fletcher Avenue at southeast corner of the USF Forest Preserve, this 12.6 acre USF recreational park includes a picnic pavilion, boathouse, softball field, sand volleyball court, restroom facility, kayaks, canoes, rope course, disc golf and future research facility. The park is managed by USF Campus Recreation and is the base site for a variety of USF Outdoor Recreation classes, events, and recreational offerings. Access is limited to current USF students, staff and faculty. A current USF ID is required for all activities within the park. Storage structures are there to support activities at the park. Figure 9.3, *Riverfront Park*, identifies park facilities and layout.

**Projected Recreation and Open Space Needs**

The National Intramural Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) *Space Planning Guidelines for Campus Recreational Sport Facilities* identifies a level of service recommended for university recreation facilities. In applying these planning guidelines to USF-Tampa there are a number of considerations in defining the potential student population serviced by recreational facilities. The chart below identifies the recommended standard and presents varied student categories to arrive at a range of "needs". As the University continues to increase the number of students living on campus and works to develop the campus into a 24-hour vibrant area, identifying recreational needs for a changing campus population is critical to planning for the campus as a whole. Identifying recreation facility needs will involve weighing a number of "sustainability" factors, including large area land use, water consumption, and the physical and social health of students/faculty and staff.

The Wellness Center, currently in construction stage, it is a three-story, approximately 47,000-square-foot. It will include Student Health Services, Wellness Education and Promotion, among other student services. Located next to the Recreation & Wellness Center on USF Genshaft Drive, the new facility will deliver general medical, urgent care and specialty services, including sexual health and gynecology, physical therapy, dermatology, immunizations, psychiatry and behavioral health, nutrition and travel medicine. Ancillary services will include phlebotomy, point-of-collection laboratory services and a pharmacy.



**Table 9-3 Projected Recreation Facility Needs**

Recreation Facility	Space Planning Guidelines for NIRSA Recreation Facilities		2021 Total FTE USFT U/G		Existing Facilities	Current Usage (Weekly Avg)
			46,000			
	(# per 1,000 students)					
Outdoor Spaces						
Total Outdoor fields (acreage)	0.94	acres	43.24	acres	23 acres	
Football Fields	0.23	fields	10.58	fields	12 fields	
Soccer Fields	0.2	fields	9.2	fields	combined	
Softball Fields	0.15	fields	6.9	fields	2 fields	
Tennis Courts	0.41	courts	18.86	courts	13 courts	1500 hr/wk
Outdoor Basketball Courts	0.11	courts	5.06	courts	4 courts	1000 hr/wk
Outdoor Volleyball Courts	0.12	courts	5.52	courts	3 courts	100 hr/wk
					1 court (RFP)	
					2 courts (non-RecWell)	
Leisure Pool (1 per 25,000)			2	pools	2 pools	425 hr/wk
Para Course Fitness Trail					16 acres	650 hr/wk
Indoor Spaces						
Total Gymnasium Area	0.3	courts	13.8	courts	4 indoor courts	1700 hr/wk
					29,275 sf	
handball/racquetball	0.27	courts	12.42	courts	4 courts	250 hr/wk
squash	0.05	courts	2.3	courts	1 court	
Swimming pool lanes	0.54	lanes	24.84	lanes	8 lanes (Rec Pool)	175 hr/wk
					2 lanes (Fit Pool)	250 hr/wk
Locker room space	314	sf	14444	sf	10,810 sf	
Cardio Training Area	364	sf	16744	sf	14,062 sf	1250 hr/wk
Strength Training Area	560	sf	25760	sf	22,434 sf	4500 hr/wk
group fitness space	332	sf	15272	sf	12,607 sf	650 hr/wk
Indoor cycling	46	sf	2116	sf	1038 sf	400 hr/wk
Multiuse/Multipurpose Space	271	sf	12466	sf	0 sf	
Office Space					4018 sf	
Lounge Space					1906 sf	
Storage Space					2377 sf	
Indoor bouldering	23	climbing sf	1058	climbing sf	0 climbing sf	
Top Rope climbing	0.41	ropes	18.86	ropes	0 ropes	
Orec storage	122	sf	5612	sf	sf	

**Privately-owned, state owned, or local government-owned recreational facilities and open spaces**

The City of Tampa, Imagine 2040: Tampa Comprehensive Plan, has a strong sustainability focus that places great value on the role city parks,

open space, trails, and recreation facilities can play in creating a healthy urban environment. Previously, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan focused on evaluating existing conditions, establishing planning principles, and soliciting community involvement. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan implementation is ongoing and is intended to address a Local Level of Service Guideline (LLOGS) to delineate planning districts and criteria for LLOS calculation and determination of amount and types of facilities each district should be provided in order to more effectively provide park and recreation services to residents in all areas. Currently, the City of Tampa is developing a comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan to help guide the progress of park facilities over the next 10 to 20 years.

In considering park and recreational resources accessible to the host /campus community, it is useful to establish a service radius related to the campus area for various types of facilities. The City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Master Plan has established a guide for facility types and service areas, as identified in Table 9-4, Classification Structure and Service Area Radius. Table 9-4 also identifies host facilities that fall within the service area of USF.

**Table 9-4 Classification Structure and Service Area Radius**

Type of Recreation Facility/Resource	Typical size	Service Area	Identification of Facility(ies) Located within USF Tampa Campus Service Area
Major Parks	41-150 acres	3 miles	Lettuce Lake Regional Park Copeland Park Rowlett Park
Neighborhood Parks	2-40 acres	1 mile	Bonnie Brae Park Greco Softball Complex Takomah Trail Park
Mini-Parks	<2 acres	.5 miles	
Special Use Facilities	N/A	N/A	
Urban Relief	Varies	N/A	
Resource Based Parks	Varies	City-wide	
Greenways and Trails	Varies	City-wide	Tampa Bypass Canal

Source: Modified from city of Tampa Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2021 map. Special use facilities include sports fields and courts, dog parks, skate parks, cemeteries, marinas, etc.

<https://tampa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=0bdf586db6e34a3c9de532f566493839>

The City of Temple Terrace has 312 acres of park space. The City's recreational facilities include the Family Recreation Complex (25 acres) and Riverhills Park (34.5 acres) on the Hillsborough River. Hillsborough County provides district, neighborhood, and special parks, in addition to its regional park system. Total acreage of neighborhood, district, and special parks is approximately 21,335 acres, or approximately 38 acres per 1,000 unincorporated population and 24 acres per 1,000 total county population. The 240-acre Lettuce Lake Regional Park, located at 6920 Fletcher Avenue, immediately east of the University, is located directly on the Hillsborough River. The park offers boardwalks, a multi-level observation tower, trails, and a 2,000 square foot visitor center operated by the Tampa Audubon Society.

Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) manages a number of regional recreation facilities offering boating, hiking, and nature study. In general, SWFWMD owns the land and cooperates with City, County, State and Federal agencies to furnish and encourage recreational use.

SWFWMD sites within Hillsborough County include:

- Tampa Bypass Canal 12 ½ mile long canal
- Withlacoochee/Hillsborough Riverine Corridor "D" 8,412 acres
- Brooker Creek River System Corridor "A" 705 acres

Areas targeted for acquisition by the SWFWMD in Hillsborough County include: Buckhorn Creek (146 acres), Lithia Springs (160 acres supplementing the existing County Park) and the Cone Ranch site (12,000 acres).

## Planned future recreation and open space facilities On-campus

### On-campus

The following University Recreation and Athletic Facilities are planned for construction in the 2020-2030 Campus Master Plan Update.

Recreation facilities scheduled to be constructed:

As part of on-campus stadium there will be recreational fields and facilities replacement.

Expansion of Recreation Center

Outdoor pool

Athletic facilities scheduled to be constructed:

Women's Sand volleyball  
Women's Lacrosse  
Baseball/Softball Clubhouse  
Tennis Clubhouse  
Track Stadium Pressbox

The following major on-campus facilities have been discussed:

- On-campus Football Stadium - The University may explore the physical, operational, and fiscal feasibility of pursuing development of a new stadium (to include football) on campus or on land near the campus. A new stadium on campus would enhance the USF experience for students and the community at large, and serve a variety of uses and activities. It could also become a gathering place for all-campus events.
- Future redevelopment of The Claw golf course and land it occupies.

### Off-campus

The City of Tampa Parks and Recreation is currently developing a comprehensive Master Plan to help guide the progress of our park facilities over the next 10 to 20 years. <https://www.tampa.gov/parks-and-recreation/master-plan>

However, in the previous plan, of particular note in the City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Master Plan stated the need for improved linkages such as walks and bikeways between residents and park and recreational facilities. One of the most important issues/problems cited by residents is the ability to safely access facilities through adequate walks and trails, bikeways, and transit. This is a critical issue shared by the University and City of Tampa.

Another finding of the City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Master Plan with implications for the broader USF area community is the identification of "underserved" neighborhoods. The neighborhood of North Central Tampa, located immediately south of the campus, was identified as one of three areas of the City that are currently underserved by neighborhood park facilities, based upon the desired service area of a neighborhood park within 1 mile.





# UNIVERSITY of SOUTH FLORIDA

## 2020 - 2030 Tampa Campus Master Plan Update

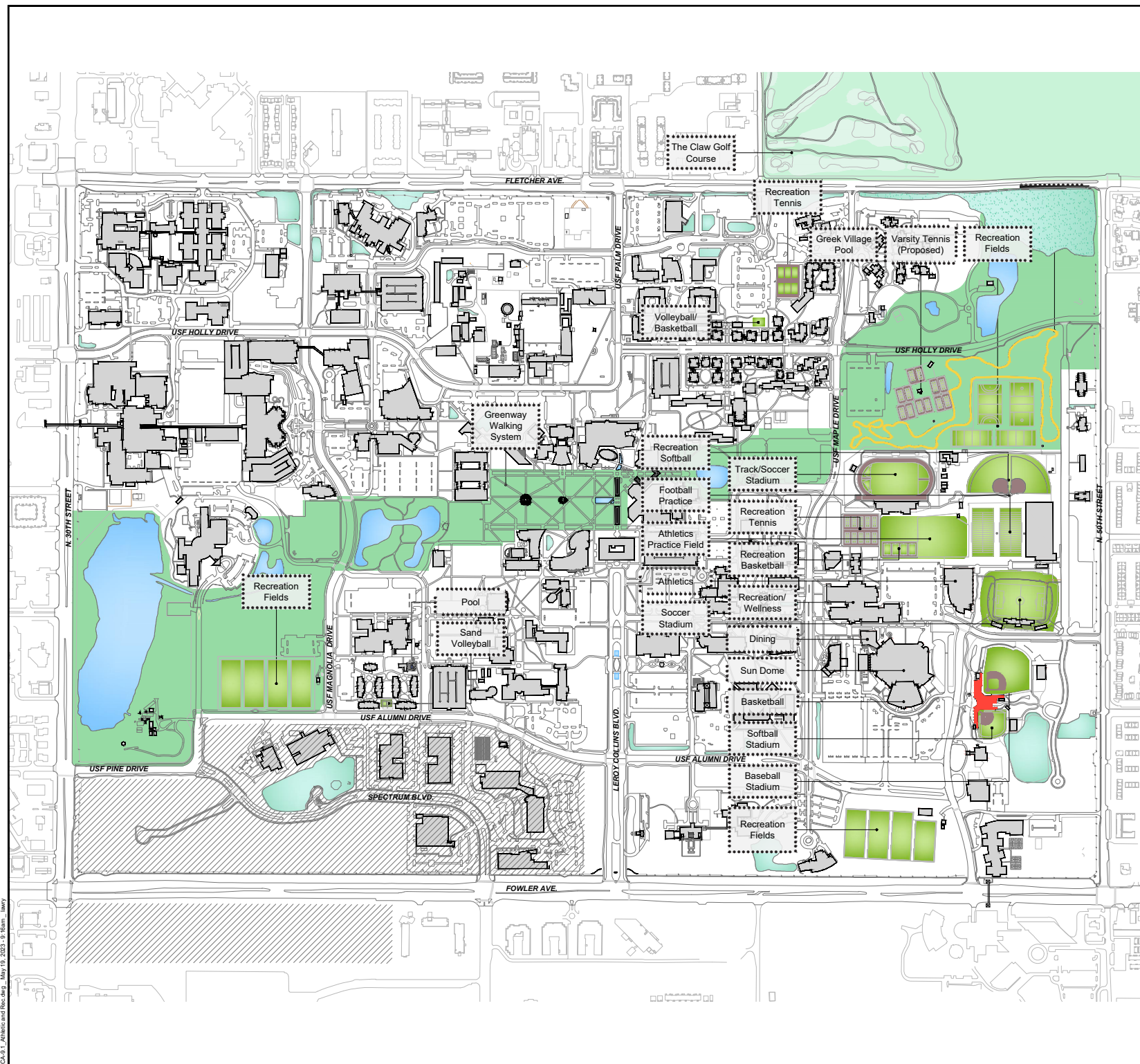
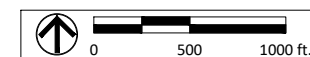
- Fields/Courts
- Track/Infields
- Jogging Trail
- Athletic/Recreation Buildings
- Pool

Area Not Included in  
Campus Master Plan

### Element 9 Recreation and Open Space

**Figure 9.1**  
Athletic and  
Recreation Facilities

Date  
ADOPTED 06/13/2023





# UNIVERSITY of SOUTH FLORIDA

## 2020 - 2030 Tampa Campus Master Plan Update

- Greenway
- Perimeter Open Space
- Recreation/Athletics
- Quadrangles/Courtyards
- Gateways
- Gateways
- Parking Area within Greenway

Area Not Included in  
Campus Master Plan

Element 9  
Recreation and  
Open Space

Figure 9.2  
Open Space

Date  
ADOPTED 06/13/2023

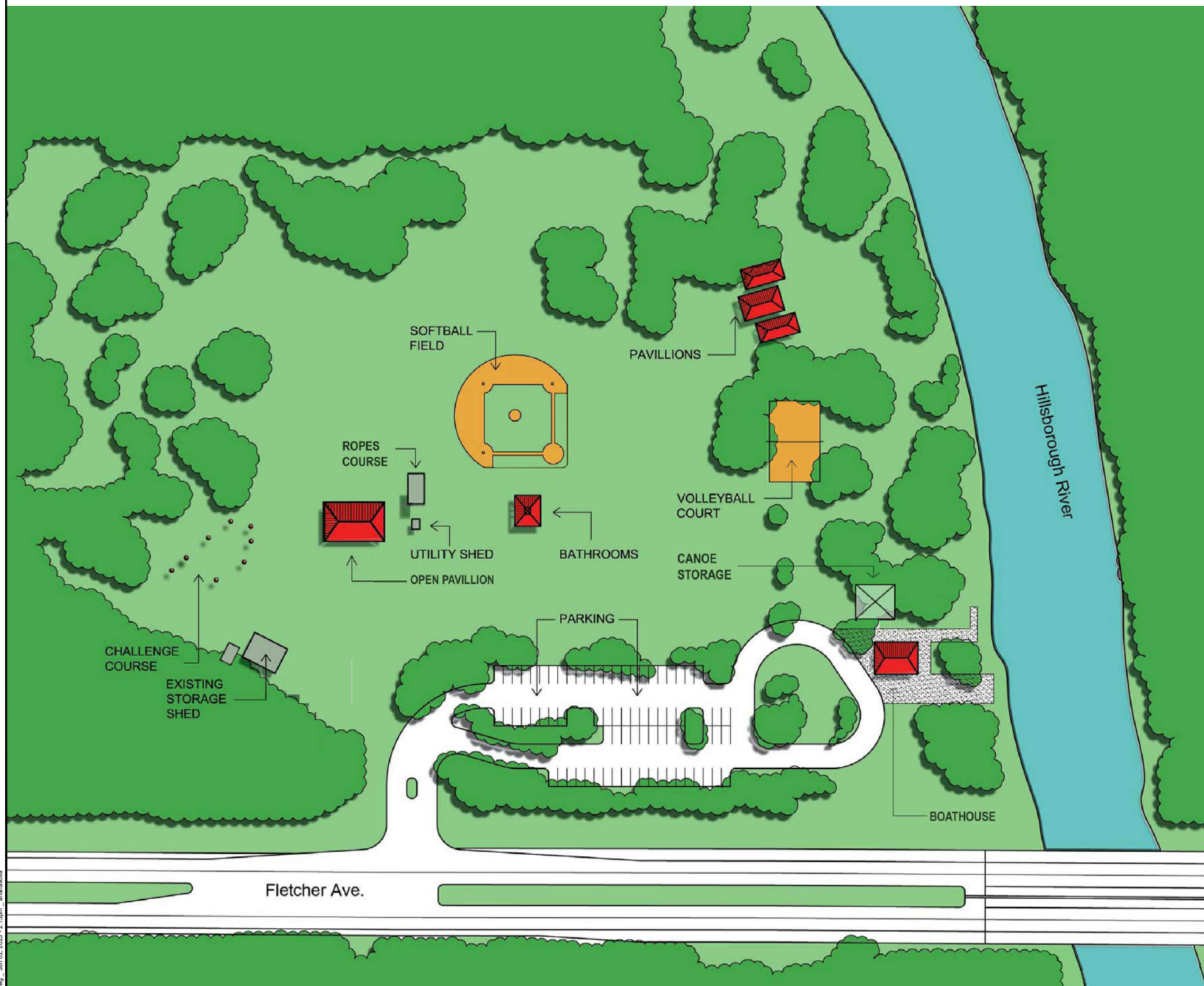






# UNIVERSITY of SOUTH FLORIDA

2020 - 2030 Tampa Campus  
Master Plan Update



**Element 9**  
Recreation and  
Open Space

**Figure 9.3**  
Riverfront Park Plan

**Date**  
ADOPTED: 06/13/2023

