

## 2.8 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

### Goals, Objectives and Policies

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**GOAL 1: To provide a variety of safe, efficient, and enjoyable on-campus recreation and intercollegiate athletics facilities, educational laboratories, and open space areas which promote the health, welfare and campus aesthetic ambience for faculty, staff, students, and visitors.**

**OBJECTIVE 1.1: To pursue a variety of public and private funding sources and programs to ensure the development and availability of recreational facilities, championship caliber intercollegiate athletics, and educational laboratories for campus students and other user groups.**

**POLICY 1.1.1:** The University's Student Development and Enrollment Services (SDES) and College of Education and Human Performance shall be responsible for the provision of adequate recreation and open space facilities for quality recreational and sports programs for all students of the University. The development of such programs and facilities shall be based upon existing and prospective student demand and user interest and the availability of funds from such sources as student and user fees.

**POLICY 1.1.2:** The University's Athletics Association (UCFAA) shall be responsible for the provision of adequate facilities for participants in intercollegiate athletic programs, consistent with the adopted Campus Master Plan. The need and phasing for specific facilities shall be based upon specific programming studies and the availability of funds from private and public sources such as spectator and user fees, alumni donations, etc.

**POLICY 1.1.3:** As necessary, the University shall continue to rely upon service contracts and other contractual relationships with off-campus, private and public facility providers to meet recreation, physical education, or intercollegiate athletic needs.

**OBJECTIVE 1.2: To pursue a variety of continuing in-house planning and facility development programs to ensure that high quality recreation, intercollegiate athletic facilities, educational laboratories, and open space areas are adequately and efficiently provided.**

**POLICY 1.2.1:** UCF shall continue to maintain and develop functional and aesthetically pleasing open spaces between structures and throughout the campus. This shall be accomplished through the application of building development and land use intensity guidelines consistent with the Urban Design, Future Land Use, and Conservation Elements of this Campus Master Plan.

**POLICY 1.2.2:** While future planning recognizes the distinct need that Recreation, Intercollegiate Athletics, and Sports Education programs have for separate facilities, program representatives shall coordinate and attempt to share facilities wherever feasible.

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**POLICY 1.2.3:** Future facilities shall continue to be developed in the south and northeast portions of campus, consolidating and strengthening recreation and athletic facilities. As these options become maximized, additional space shall be explored.

**POLICY 1.2.4:** Future on-campus development which impacts recreation and athletic land, shall occur in phases to coincide with the efficient relocation of recreational, intercollegiate athletic, and academic program laboratories. In order to implement this policy, the University's Facilities Planning and Construction Department, SDES, Intercollegiate Athletics, and the College of Education and Human Performance shall initiate a study to provide for the orderly, phased relocation of field and building facilities whenever such development occurs. The adopted Campus Master Plan shall be amended as needed to incorporate the results of this study, as well as space planning guidelines as recommended by the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA).

**POLICY 1.2.5:** As future campus development programs progress into the programming and design stage, the University's Facilities Planning and Construction Department, SDES, Intercollegiate Athletics, and the College of Education and Human Performance shall consider those facilities and programs which could be maintained in these areas as part of the campus open space scheme.

**POLICY 1.2.6:** The University shall provide an academic support facility, the Wayne Densch Center for Student Athlete Leadership, in the northeast corner of campus. This building will serve all student-athletes participating in intercollegiate athletics. It will also include office and meeting space for UCFAA administration and support staff.

**POLICY 1.2.7:** The University shall continue to identify in the Capital Improvements Element the timing and phasing requirements and priorities for improvements to athletic and recreation and open space facilities necessary to correct existing deficiencies and meet future demands.

- An intercollegiate Tennis Training Center will be built on the north end of campus. Intercollegiate Athletics currently shares a nine-court tennis facility with the UCF Recreation & Wellness Center, located on the south end of campus.
- Additional Intercollegiate Athletics facilities include a phased expansion of Jay Bergman Field (baseball stadium). and a minor expansion of Bright House Networks Stadium. This would include an expansion of the *Roth Tower* facility to provide additional premium seating and operational space. Major expansion is not anticipated during this planning period.

**OBJECTIVE 1.3: To promote unrestricted or managed public access to all campus recreation and athletics facilities or open space areas to the maximum extent feasible.**

**POLICY 1.3.1:** Campus open space areas shall be developed and maintained as areas of unrestricted public access wherever feasible. Such provisions for access would include those special provisions or design criteria necessary under federal regulations to provide for people with disabilities. Access to certain areas of environmentally sensitive habitat may be restricted (on occasion) if it is determined by the University to be necessary in order to protect animal and plant species.

**POLICY 1.3.2:** The University shall establish the priority use of campus athletic and recreational facilities for campus faculty, staff, and students. Non-campus user populations of campus facilities will be accommodated on a fee basis, to the extent that campus user demands are adequately met while allowing for reasonable maintenance and restoration periods for the particular facility.

**POLICY 1.3.3:** The UCF Athletics Association, Inc. shall establish the priority use of intercollegiate athletics facilities.

**OBJECTIVE 1.4: To protect and enhance present campus open spaces.**

**POLICY 1.4.1:** The University shall protect from encroachment the existing conservation easements and maximize the retention of open space by strictly enforcing the future placement of buildings, parking facilities, infrastructure, and other man-made improvements consistent with sites selected and adopted in the Urban Design and Future Land Use Elements. The pattern of open spaces established in Figures 4-1, Future Land Use Map and 8-1, Recreation and Open Space Map, shall not be subject to encroachment without amending the adopted Campus Master Plan.

**POLICY 1.4.2:** The University shall maintain densities and intensities for the development of the campus, which maximize the retention of on-campus open space as identified in the Future Land Use Element.

**POLICY 1.4.3:** The University shall select sites for infrastructure and academic and support facilities which are designed to maximize the retention of campus open space.

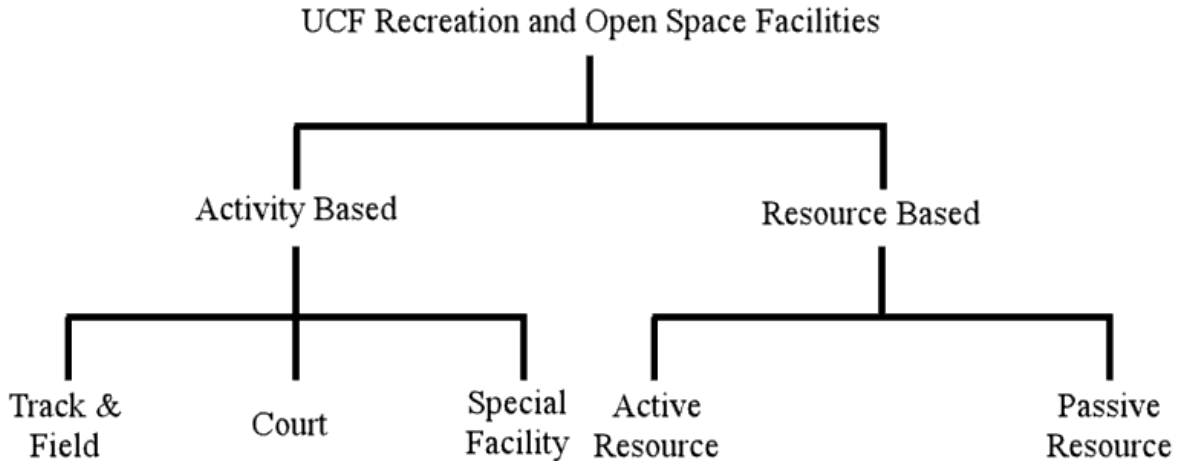
**POLICY 1.4.4:** The University shall create new, formal open spaces, or "greens" through the careful placement of buildings as adopted in Figure 8-1.

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In order to provide a comprehensive count of all existing recreation and open space facilities, an inventory of such facilities is organized based on the following chart.



Activity-based facilities are defined as those facilities designed, constructed, and designated for specific sports or recreation activities such as ball fields and tracks. Resource-based facilities refer to those facilities that are primarily used for general recreation or organized social functions. These resource-based facilities are opened to all and not specifically designated for specific sports or recreational activities. Resource-based facilities may include open fields, public parks, nature trails or conservation areas.

Resource-based facilities can be further defined and categorized as active and passive resources. Active, resource-based facilities are generally accessible open spaces or parks where recreation activities are not specific. Examples of active, resource-based facilities include open fields, picnic areas, nature trails, and public parks. Passive, resource-based facilities refer to those areas that are relatively inaccessible to any types of recreation activities and may include conservation and environmental mitigation areas. Although these are not accessible, they provide visual and climatic enhancements to the campus.

### **Facility Inventory**

Off-Campus Recreation, Intercollegiate Athletics, College of Education and Human Performance, and Facilities and Open Spaces.

Non-University-owned or-managed recreation and education facilities used by the University are listed below:

- 1) Twin Rivers Golf Course. Located in Oviedo, this facility is privately owned. It is used for intercollegiate athletics golf practice, tournaments, and

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education classes. Other local golf courses such as Eastwood, Wedgefield, Winter Springs, and Stoneybrook have been used for Intramural Sports tournaments and Sport and Exercise Science classes.

- 2) Boardwalk Bowl. Located approximately three (3) miles from campus and within the City of Orlando, which is a privately owned facility. UCF uses the facility for Intramural Sports and Sport Club events. Oviedo Bowling Lane, located three miles from campus, is currently used for Sport and Exercise Science Classes.
- 3) Econlockhatchee River Park and Canoe Trail, State Park. This facility is a resource-based recreation facility open to the public. The size of this regional facility is not available. The Trail provides access to the Econlockhatchee River.

#### University-owned or-managed facilities

As mentioned, these facilities are used primarily for educational, intramural, and intercollegiate sports, and on-campus residential recreation. The facilities are also periodically rented and/or open to public use as noted in the usage column below.

Facility Code #	Description	Activity-Based (in acres)			Resource-Based (in acres)		Estimated Usage
		Field	Court	Specialty	Active	Passive	
<b>Facilities Used Primarily by UCFAA</b>							
1.1	Jay Bergman Field	4.7					Fall/Spring for Varsity Home Games, Practices, and Youth Camps
1.2	Softball Complex	1.65					Fall/ Spring Practice, Home Games, Youth Camps
2.1	Wayne Densch Sports Center	0.99					UCFAA Staff & Student Training Facility
2.2	Bighthouse Networks Stadium	10.12					Fall/Spring Football Home Games
2.3	Nicholson Field House	2.05					Fall/ Spring Practice, and Youth Camps
2.4	Football Practice Fields	4.57					Fall/ Spring Practice, and Youth Camps
3.1	Soccer Practice Field	2.37					Fall/ Spring Practice, and Youth Camps
3.2	Track and Soccer Complex	4.63					Fall/Spring Varsity Games and Practice, Community Use

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4	Competition Track (Included in 3.2)			2.22			Fall/Spring Track and Cross Country Practice, Varsity Meets, Rentals
5	CFE Arena		3.15				Fall/Spring Varsity Practice and Home Games
5.1	The Venue at the CFE Arena		0.93				Varsity Volleyball Games and Youth Camps
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>31.08</b>	<b>4.08</b>	<b>2.22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Facilities Primarily Used for Recreation</b>							
6	UCF Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC)			2.41			Recreation Use for Students and Faculty/Staff.
6.1	RWC Lap Pool			0.23			Recreation Use for Students and Faculty/Staff
6.2	RWC Leisure Pool			2.06			Recreation Use for Students and Faculty/Staff
7	Lake Claire Recreation Area				44.2		Scheduled Reservations for Student Organizations and General Community Use
8	RWC Park Turf Fields and Support Facilities	14.81					Intramural Leagues, Sport Club Practices and Games, Rentals
8.1	RWC Park Sport Club Field	3.87					Sport Club Practice and Games
8.2	RWC Park Softball Field	2.02					Recreation Use and Intramural Tournaments
8.3	RWC Park North Grass Field	4.15					Reservations, Sport Clubs Games and Practices
9	Challenge Course			4.52			Student Groups, Campus Departments and Community Reservations
10	Outdoor Basketball Courts 3 (lighted)		0.43				Campus Recreation Use, Student Groups and community reservations
11	Sand Volleyball Courts 4 (lighted)		0.35				Campus Recreation Use, Intramural tournaments
12	RWC @ Knights Plaza			0.22			University Recreation Use for Students and Faculty/Staff.
13	Ferrell Commons			0.15			Sport Club Practices
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>24.85</b>	<b>0.78</b>	<b>4.89</b>	<b>44.2</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Facilities Shared by College of Education and Human Performance, Recreation, and UCF Athletics Association</b>							
17	Tennis Courts 9 (lighted)		1.62				Varsity Practice, Intramurals, Campus Recreation, Youth Tennis Camp, and Tennis Club

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18	Disc Golf			37.15			Campus Community Use
19	Band Field	1.79					UCF Marching Knights, and Campus Recreation Use
20	Education Building						Sport Clubs, Sport and Exercise Science Classes, UCFAA Practice
20.1	Gymnasium						Sport and Exercise Science Classes
20.2	Multipurpose Room						Sport and Exercise Science Classes
20.3	Weight Room						Sport and Exercise Science Classes
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1.79</b>	<b>1.62</b>	<b>37.15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
	<b>UCF OPEN SPACE</b>						
	Wetlands					273.37	
	Upland Preservation					25.36	
	Upland Riparian Habitat Preservation Zone					39.39	
	Lakes					32.18	
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>370.3</b>	
	Subtotal	57.72	6.48	44.26	44.2	370.3	
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>108.46</b>			<b>414.5</b>	

### Level of Service Standard (LOS)

Based on a review of the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) the following level of service standards are presented for comparison purposes:

Field Space: .94 acres of space per 1000 students

Indoor Total Fitness Equipment Space: 1,008 square feet per 1000 students

College Comparisons (Indoor Recreation Space)

A. National Schools Similar in Size

B. Student population versus square footage,

- University of Texas at Austin, 52,059 students with 500,000 sf. of space
- Ohio State University, 57,466 students with 725,000 sf. of space
- Texas A & M, 58,809 students with 413,000 sf. of space

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#### C. Florida Schools,

Florida State University, 47,710 students with 180,000 sf. of space

University of Florida, 41,913 students with 183,100 sf. of space

University of Miami, 15,323 students with 114,000 sf. of space

University of South Florida, 46,174 students with 185,000 sf. of space

UCF 2014 Fall Headcount: 49,923 students

24.85 acres of field space

1 acre per 2,009 students of field space

158,700 sq. ft. of indoor recreation space

32,545 sq. ft. of total fitness equipment space  
(650 square feet per 1000 students)

#### **Analysis Requirements**

This section discusses the problems, constraints and opportunities to provide recreation and open space facilities which meet the future demand of the University. As indicated by the Level of Service (LOS) standards, UCF currently has a lower existing level of service for recreation space than does the NIRSA standards or other Universities with similar enrollment. In addition to the LOS standard it is important to look at the Recreation planning principles outlined by the NIRSA and Society for College and University Planning (SCUP) through a joint effort. The planning principles include:

- Establish recreation as a pillar of the University's comprehensive plan
- Create and maintain a vision of physical development of recreational facilities, a vision which supports the mission and master plan
- Instill a real sense of community and enrich the experience of all who come to campus; and
- Foster a safe, secure, and accessible environment

#### **Summary**

The Recreation and Wellness Center, leisure pool, lap pool, tennis courts, sand volleyball complex, satellite facilities at Knights Plaza, Lake Claire, RWC Park with multipurpose playing fields, artificial turf fields, challenge course, and support facilities, help support the recreational needs of the UCF community. Additional enhancements at Lake Claire



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will help to bring the recreation space closer to the level that is desirable based on national standards, usage demands, and comparisons to other Universities.

Recent expansion of the RWC and the addition of the Knights Plaza facility have greatly improved the indoor facility inventory. Existing recreation facilities still remain insufficient to support the current and future needs of UCF and its student enrollment.

In addition to the number of facilities available, several other factors need to be considered to increase facility sufficiency. These include scheduling, extension of playing time, seasonal demand, recovery time, and flexibility of fields or courts to be used for various kinds of activities.

Overall, UCF is currently below the national guidelines and standards for activity-based recreation facilities. This is supported by comparison to schools with similar enrollment that have much larger facility space. As the campus continues to grow, more land will be needed for buildings, parking and activity-based recreation facilities. Future resource-based recreation and open space must be carefully developed utilizing spaces formed between buildings.

### **Recommendations for Improvement**

Based on UCF observations, student surveys, and data available through the “Space Planning Guidelines for Campus Recreational Sport Facilities,” published by NIRSA, the following specific list of problems, constraints, and opportunities were identified:

The swimming pool condition is deteriorating and in need of upgrading and repairs due to age. The existing pool is in demand. The new leisure pool assists with the recreation needs of participants; however, repairs to the existing pool must be made to accommodate competitive programs such as lap swimming, water polo, scuba certifications, and possible swim meets

The Lake Claire Recreation Area is in need of repair and enhancement. Boathouse storage space at the Lake Claire Recreation Area is currently not adequate to hold the equipment stored. A total overhaul of the boathouse facility is needed to assure proper gear and boat storage techniques; to create more secure storage space; and to create a boathouse that is both fitting to the area’s aesthetics and allows its staff to serve students more efficiently.

Currently, the parking lot at the Lake Claire Recreation Area is composed of dirt and gravel, bordered by movable blocks of wood. There is a need to pave and paint this lot to eliminate and to create an efficient and defined parking system.

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There are a few unmaintained trails through the woods behind Lake Claire. The condition of these trails is questionable and they are not regularly maintained. To keep up with the progress and aesthetics of the trails created by the Arboretum, these trails would need to be extended, maintained, and connected with current on-campus trails.

1. The Recreation and Wellness Center helps to serve the recreation needs of the UCF community. The 85,000 square foot facility was expanded in 2010 to add 65,000 square feet, including more fitness space, multipurpose court space, racquetball courts, a new lap pool, and an outdoor adventure center. These additions are welcome, but still leave UCF with inadequate square footage. The current site will need to be built out with a completion of the footprint to serve the needs of the UCF community.

Nine (9) tennis courts shared by the entire campus are insufficient. Additional courts should be provided as determined by the number of users. NIRSA standards indicate .41 Tennis Courts per 1,000 students, which would make UCF twelve (12) courts short of the 21 needed.

2. The total number of current fields has improved with the addition of six (6) multipurpose artificial turf fields. Planned expansion of additional fields will get UCF closer to recommended standards and allow for maximized playing time. Future space must remain protected to allow for additional fields for Sport Clubs, as multiple outdoor teams currently share one space that is not adequate and not lighted.
3. It must be noted that UCF currently has a severe shortage of Softball Fields. UCF currently has one (1) field, and NIRSA standards call for 8 (.15 fields per 1000 students). As recent as 2000, UCF had three (3) fields but has decreased to one (1) due to expansion of University Housing. Due to the unique size of a softball field and space requirements, space for more than one (1) additional field on the current RWC park footprint does not exist. Additional space on campus or adjacent to campus should be identified.
4. A gateway building is desired at the RWC Park location to provide additional indoor administration and storage space, as well as to provide a central access point to enter the park.

Concern is expressed for any gap in reduction in service during expansion. This is a result of the severe need for recreational space for a residential campus.

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a) An analysis of the projected needs for recreation and open space facilities required to meet the needs of the future University population (, faculty, staff, and students) based on University standards and calculations or established level of service standards. The University of Central Florida outdoor recreation facilities are currently limited with regard to student use and number of facilities. Looking at the student population, number of intramural sports offered, number of sport clubs, and ideal standards for usage, the fields at UCF are over capacity. The future expansion of intramural fields in the south section of the campus will allow increased capacity and more flexibility for field rotation to avoid compaction and abuse. Calculations used to assess facility sufficiency take into consideration a number of factors. These factors include variety of fields (club sports, intramural sports, or open recreation), frequency of use, student enrollment, and unique layout diminishing the flexibility for use (i.e. softball field). The methodology used for determining the number of fields an institution needs for appropriate recreation use is based on a number of factors. The general standard, as recommended by the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA), is .94 acre per 1000 students enrolled. Additionally, the number of fields can be adjusted based on number of teams, type of field (natural or synthetic surface), and appropriate field lighting. Currently at UCF there are fifteen (15) intramural sports that use outside fields, some with up to 280 teams, and nine (9) sport clubs. Current field space includes 10.04 acres of unlighted grass fields (with the exception of one (1) softball field) and 14.83 acres of lighted turf fields. Natural grass fields should ideally be programmed 18 to 24 hours in any given week, with very few limitations on the turf fields. The current turf fields provide for additional usage; however, since their completion, the size of intramural leagues have more than doubled – pushing usage again to the limit. While these new facilities have added more space, available facilities for softball and sport clubs continue to be insufficient.

b) An assessment of the adequacy of the existing recreational facilities and open spaces to meet the projected needs of the University (on-campus, and off-campus), including a description of the extent to which off-campus facilities may meet some or all of the University projected needs.

The Recreation and Wellness Center expansion has benefited the campus and helped alleviate many of the shortfalls identified in the 2005 -2015 Campus Master Plan. Additionally, the construction of a new lap pool, the addition of more turf fields, and additional tennis courts help to address previous concerns. The provisions adding fields, tennis courts, as well as lighting facilities continues to be at a premium when addressing the 2015 plan.

c) An assessment of opportunities for alternative future facility siting in order to conserve the supply and character of campus open space:

The south end of campus, near the Academic Village, is an appropriate site for the expansion of future recreation facilities and allows for the consolidation of support facilities. The existing footprint of the Recreation and Wellness Center can hold up to

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200,000 square feet and should continue to be built out in phases as funding is available. There is also a desire to add additional multipurpose recreation space on the north end of campus. The 2013 addition of a fitness facility at Knights Plaza has given some relief to the demands on the main facility; however, it is desired to identify additional space on the north end of campus for other recreation spaces.

d) An analysis of planned future recreation and open space facilities, as adopted by the host community in their comprehensive plan or other best available data.

In the 2005 Plan, it was noted that Orange County Parks and Recreation Division was in the process of finalizing its two-year Capital Improvements budget, which included the expansion of the Innovation Way Trail and East Orange Trail. The next planned phase, subject to Board of County Commissioners' approval, would extend east from its current terminus at Blanchard Park, then north to the south entrance of the university (Central Florida Blvd.). The University will coordinate with Orange County regarding specific alignment and amenity details of the trail. While this has yet to occur, due to the popularity and benefits of bicycling use as a means for both recreation and transportation, a strong desire exists among students for a local network of trails on and around campus to provide safe access free of vehicular traffic. There is a strong need for a trail system within the campus to connect to current pathways in and around RWC Park and the Gemini Loop, which, if connected to the Orange County trail system, could provide more access to and from campus for UCF faculty, staff, and students, as well as a safe recreation space for cyclists, runners, and other activities.

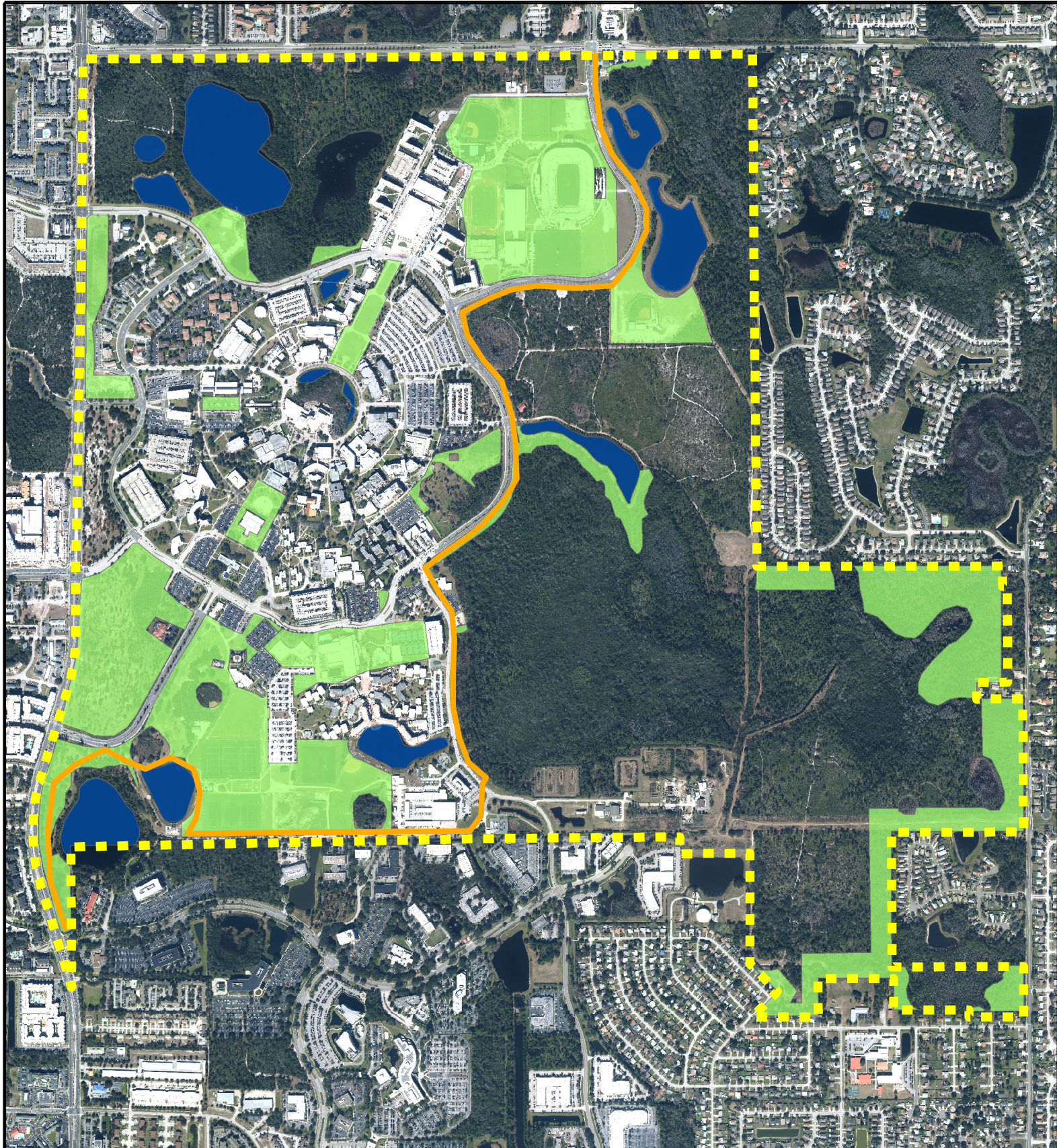






Figure 8-1

## Recreation and Open Space

Comprehensive Master Plan Update  
**University of Central Florida**  
 Orlando, Florida  
 2015-2025

### Legend

-  Boundary
-  Proposed Little Econ Greenway Trail
-  Recreation and Open Space
-  Lakes and Ponds



All maps are diagrammatic and conceptual. The various areas shown are approximate and not to survey accuracy. The intent of these maps is to illustrate general areas of existing or potential use.

