

3.15 RECREATION

This section characterizes existing recreation facilities and opportunities and evaluates changes to the physical environment that may result from increased demand for recreation facilities under the 2018 LRDP. The analysis that follows evaluates the on-campus population increases under the 2018 LRDP and the associated demand for recreation resources that could be provided by the campus and/or by the City of Davis (City). The cumulative impact analysis in Chapter 4, “Cumulative Impacts,” addresses the direct and indirect effects of 2018 LRDP-related population growth in combination with other population growth on recreation facilities.

Public comments on the NOP included concerns regarding the availability of recreation facilities with implementation of the 2018 LRDP. These impacts are described and addressed within this section.

3.15.1 Regulatory Setting

FEDERAL

There are no federal plans or policies addressing recreation that pertain to the 2018 LRDP.

STATE

Quimby Act

The Quimby Act (California Government Code Section 66477) preserves open space and parkland in urbanizing areas of the state by authorizing local governments to establish ordinances requiring developers of new subdivisions to dedicate land for parks, pay an in-lieu fee, or perform a combination of the two. The Quimby Act provides two standards for the dedication of land for use as parkland. If the existing area of parkland in a community is 3 acres or more per 1,000 persons, then the community may require dedication based on a standard of 5 acres per 1,000 persons residing in the subdivision. If the existing amount of parkland in a community is less than 3 acres per 1,000 persons, then the community may require dedication based on a standard of only 3 acres per 1,000 persons residing in the subdivision. The Quimby Act requires a city or county to adopt standards for recreational facilities in its general plan recreation element if it is to adopt a parkland dedication/fee ordinance.

The amount of land dedicated or fees paid shall be based upon the residential density, which shall be determined on the basis of the approved or conditionally approved tentative map or parcel map and the average number of persons per household. There shall be a rebuttable presumption that the average number of persons per household by units in a structure is the same as that disclosed by the most recent available federal census or a census taken pursuant to Chapter 17 (commencing with Section 40200) of Part 2 of Division 3 of Title 4. UC Davis is not subject to Quimby Act requirements because it is not a local government entity. The Quimby standards are used as a guidepost not a requirement under the analysis.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

UC Davis Department of Campus Recreation Strategic Plan

The 2011-2015 Strategic Plan for the Department of Campus Recreation provides a framework for serving recreation needs in the UC Davis community. The plan is intended to guide decision-making for implementation of the plan. The core goals of the plan include wellness, student and staff development, community and inclusivity, and partnerships. Goals for recreation facilities include the following:

- ▲ Construct new and adapt existing space to continually meet the needs of our constituents;
- ▲ Explore alternative and non-traditional facilities for programs and facilities;
- ▲ Strive to stay modern and sustainable;
- ▲ Evaluate current use of space and prioritize usage based on trends;
- ▲ Continue to dedicate resources to the maintenance and upkeep of facilities; and
- ▲ Ensure a sustainable funding model for the replacement of equipment in non-fee-structured facilities (UC Davis 2015).

LOCAL

As noted in Section 3.0.2, “University of California Autonomy,” UC Davis, a constitutionally created State entity, is not subject to municipal regulations of surrounding local governments for uses on property owned or controlled by UC Davis that are in furtherance of the university’s education purposes. However, UC Davis may consider, for coordination purposes, aspects of local plans and policies for the communities surrounding the campus when it is appropriate and feasible, but it is not bound by those plans and policies in its planning efforts.

City of Davis General Plan

The City of Davis General Plan contains the following goals and policies that are relevant to recreation:

GOAL TRANS 4: Davis will strengthen its status as a premier bicycling community in the nation by continuing to encourage bicycling as a healthy, affordable, efficient, and low-impact mode of transportation accessible to riders of all abilities, and by continuously improving the bicycling infrastructure.

- ▲ **Policy TRANS 4.2:** Develop a continuous trails and bikeway network for both recreation and transportation that serves the Core, neighborhoods, neighborhood shopping centers, employment centers, schools and other institutions; minimize conflicts between pedestrians, bicyclists, equestrians, and automobiles; and minimize impacts on wildlife. Greenbelts and separated bike paths on arterials should serve as the backbone of much of this network.

GOAL POS 3: Identify and develop linkages, corridors and other connectors to provide an aesthetically pleasing and functional network of parks, open space areas, greenbelts and bike paths throughout the City.

- ▲ **Policy POS 3.1:** Require creation of neighborhood greenbelts by project developers in all residential projects, in accordance with Policy LU A.5.

GOAL POS 6: Encourage local organizations, the Davis Joint Unified School District, UC Davis, and the private sector to provide, develop and maintain needed parks, open space, recreation facilities, programs, activities and special events to the greatest extent possible.

- ▲ **Policy POS 6.1:** Give local organizations, the School District, UC Davis, and the private sector opportunities and support for devising and implementing creative solutions for meeting recreation program and facility needs.

City of Davis Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

The City of Davis 1998 Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan was updated in 2012. The plan provides “an overall framework to guide the provision of parks, recreation and related quality of life services in the community.” The 2012 Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan Update includes a 10-year plan and funding strategy that prioritizes parks and recreation related capital projects that are needed to maintain existing amenities, respond to community requests for enhanced opportunities, and provide for expanded facilities to accommodate projected population growth in support of the General Plan’s goals (City of Davis 2012).

3.15.2 Environmental Setting

UC DAVIS PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM

The UC Davis Department of Recreation and Unions has a mission to provide outstanding recreation and leisure experiences. The UC Davis campus offers extensive recreation facilities and opportunities to further this mission, including 15 recreation facilities. The primary recreation facilities are described further below (UC Davis 2015).

UC Davis Facilities

- ▲ **Arboretum:** The Arboretum is an approximately 100-acre open space area that runs along the original Putah Creek channel through the campus and plan area and provides recreation, semi-natural habitat, storm drainage for the campus, and carbon sequestration and air purification (based on its size and extensive tree habitat) for the campus and surrounding Davis community. The area includes an array of different programming and uses, including a living museum, an outdoor classroom, public garden with over 2,400 species of trees and plants, and several lakes. The various paths of the Arboretum make a walking and running loop that is about 3.5 miles long. Approximately 0.2-mile of the loop is located within the plan area.
- ▲ **Quads:** The campus has formal outdoor spaces including Vanderhoef Quad and the Main Quad that are heavily used by UC Davis students, employees, and the general public.

In addition, to the informal recreation opportunities listed above, the campus has more than 115 acres of recreation and athletic facilities, which are described in more detail below:

- ▲ **Equestrian Center:** The 25-acre Equestrian Center operates a year-round English and Western riding program, and includes horse-boarding facilities, a 45,000-square-foot covered riding arena, a regulation dressage court, four barns, and several pastures.
- ▲ **Schaal Aquatic Center, Hickey Pool, and Recreation Pool:** Schaal Aquatic Center offers facilities for competitive swimming, diving, and aquatic sports, and includes diving boards, a movable bulkhead, locker rooms, and a pool that can accommodate 8 long course lanes or 24 short course lanes. Hickey Pool is designed for lap swimming, Hickey Pool is heated year-round, to current students and Campus Recreation members, and has seven 25-yard lanes and warm

showers. The Recreation Pool can be rented out for events on evenings during the late spring and throughout the summer.

- ▲ Sports Facilities and Fields: The campus offers a number of sports facilities including Hickey Gym, Aggie Stadium, the Pavilion, Dairy Outdoor Recreation Complex, Aggie Field Hockey Facility, Hickey Gymnastics Center, Dobbins Baseball Complex, Toomey Field, Marya Welch Tennis Center, La Rue Field, Hutchison Field, Russell Field, East Field, and the Intramural Field adjacent to A Street, which provide recreation facilities and host UC Davis's sporting organized events.
- ▲ Activities and Recreation Center: This facility provides exercise and dance classes, indoor soccer and hockey, squash and racquetball, martial arts, personal training, rock climbing, and intramural sports opportunities.
- ▲ Games Center: The games center offers various recreation opportunities including bowling, billiards, console gaming, and board games, and can be reserved for special events.
- ▲ Bike Trails: The campus has an extensive network of paved and unpaved bike trails throughout the campus.
- ▲ Solano Park Community Gardens: This community garden is coordinated by student staff and residents of Solano Park Housing (on campus) to make garden plots available to rent for a small annual fee and time commitment.

CITY OF DAVIS PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM

The City of Davis maintains more than 485 acres of parkland including 37 parks and recreation facilities, as well as extensive greenbelt and open space areas. The following list summarizes major park facilities and open space features within the City of Davis and located within a mile of UC Davis.

- ▲ Civic Center Park: This 10.1-acre park is located at 23 Russell Boulevard and includes a lighted baseball field and barbeque grills, and hosts the annual Davis Turkey Trot.
- ▲ Central Park: This nearly two block park (5.8 acres) is located between B and C Streets and 3rd and 5th Streets and functions as Davis's major, centrally-located recreation and community gathering amenity. It includes many unique features such as the U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame (located at the southwest corner), the Hattie Weber Museum, restrooms, and a bi-weekly Farmer's Market. The park also contains a human-powered carousel, playground equipment, garden area, and amphitheater.
- ▲ Playfields Park: This 16-acre park is located at 2500 Research Park Drive and includes three baseball/softball fields, an all-weather soccer field, a sand volleyball court, batting cages, basketball courts, playground equipment, and a concession stand.
- ▲ Toad Hollow Dog Park: This 2.5-acre park is located at 1919 2nd Street and includes fully fenced areas for small and large dogs to play off-leash.

3.15.3 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

Based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, the plan would result in a potentially significant impact on recreation if it would:

- ▲ result in the increased use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreation facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated; or

- ▲ include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

The following analysis assesses the environmental effects of the 2018 LRDP with respect to the existing or currently proposed recreation uses and facilities in the plan area and the City of Davis. This analysis is based on review of existing documents, policies, ordinances, and other regulations pertinent to recreation.

ISSUES NOT EVALUATED FURTHER

No issues related to recreation have been eliminated from further discussion in this EIR.

IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Impact 3.15-1: Impacts on campus recreation facilities.

The increase in population under the 2018 LRDP would increase demand for recreation facilities. However, maintenance of existing on-campus recreation facilities would be increased as needed, and several new recreation facilities would be constructed as part of the 2018 LRDP to off-set increases in demand for recreational facilities. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant**.

Existing recreation facilities at UC Davis are maintained as needed to prevent deterioration based on the current use levels. Increased population at UC Davis under the 2018 LRDP, including the West Village Expansion and Orchard Park Redevelopment sites, is expected to result in increased demand for and usage of recreation facilities, which could result in the accelerated deterioration of UC Davis recreation facilities. However, as described above, the Department of Campus Recreation Strategic Plan includes goals to continue to dedicate resources to the maintenance and upkeep of facilities, and to ensure a sustainable funding model for the replacement of equipment in non-fee-structured facilities (UC Davis 2015). Therefore, maintenance levels of existing facilities would be increased as needed to counteract effects of increased usage. Increased maintenance of the current facilities would be adequate to prevent the accelerated deterioration of existing facilities.

The current campus population of 47,550 (2016–2017 academic year) is served by 115.45 acres of Campus Recreation & Athletics and 153.90 acres Arboretum & Public Garden, for a total of 269.35 acres of recreation facilities. This works out to approximately 5.7 acres per 1,000 population. Although the Quimby Act does not apply to the 2018 LRDP, it is used as a gauge to ensure an appropriate level of recreation facilities are provided. Under the Quimby Act, if the existing area of parkland is 3 acres or more per 1,000 persons, then the standard of up to 5 acres per 1,000 persons should be used for new development.

As described in Chapter 2, “Project Description,” the Campus Recreation & Athletics areas are used by UC Davis recreational programs, intercollegiate athletics, and members of the community and the Arboretum & Public Garden land use designation includes a significant amount of bicycle infrastructure; therefore, these land use designations result in recreational areas. Under the 2018 LRDP, on-campus population would increase by 9,719. The 2018 LRDP would designate an additional 3.48 acres of Campus Recreation & Athletics, 4.03 acres of Putah Creek Riparian Reserve, and 36.54 acres Arboretum & Public Garden, for a total of 44.05 acres of new recreation facilities. This would be approximately 4.5 acres of recreation facilities per 1,000 persons, slightly

less than the 5 acres called for under the Quimby Act; as stated previously, the Quimby Act is used here simply as a guidepost. However, when added to existing recreation facilities, the total 2018 LRDP population of 57,269 would be served by 309.37 acres, which is approximately 5.4 acres per 1,000 persons.

As part of the 2018 LRDP, illumination of athletic fields may be extended to up to 12:00 a.m., which could increase use levels of some recreational facilities, as a result of additional hours of availability. However, UC Davis currently monitors and maintains existing recreational facilities such that physical deterioration of facilities is limited and maintenance and replacement of recreational features is conducted regularly to ensure the long-term viability of campus recreation opportunities. Monitoring and maintenance activities conducted by UC Davis would continue as part of the 2018 LRDP and be extended to include additional recreational facilities that would be constructed under the 2018 LRDP. This may include replacement of appurtenant facilities (e.g., light standards/bulbs), adjusted rates of watering, application of fertilizers, replacement of turf, and other landscaping consideration. As a result, substantial deterioration of recreational facilities would not occur or be accelerated as a result of 2018 LRDP implementation.

The construction of new facilities would take place when warranted by increased demand and when financially feasible. The impact of physical construction, resource demand, and employee population growth associated with these actions are included in the 2018 LRDP growth projections and development analyzed in this EIR. Because maintenance of existing on-campus recreation facilities would be increased as needed and new recreation facilities would be constructed to off-set demand for recreation facilities, this impact would be **less than significant**.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are necessary.

Impact 3.15-2: Impacts on off-campus recreation facilities.

Because the population growth under the 2018 LRDP would be located on campus, the increased demand for recreation facilities would primarily be for on-campus facilities. The new on-campus population would be adequately served by campus recreation facilities. Therefore, the 2018 LRDP is not expected to cause substantial deterioration of off-campus recreation facilities. This impact would be **less than significant**.

The increase in student population associated with the 2018 LRDP would be housed on campus. The increased population would primarily increase demand for on-campus facilities, which are discussed above under Impact 3.15-1. Although the Quimby Act does not apply to UC Davis and the 2018 LRDP, the ratio of 5 acres per thousand people established therein is used as a proxy for determining the adequacy of recreation facilities. The total 2018 LRDP population of 57,269 would be served by 310.78 acres of recreation facilities, which is approximately 5.4 acres per 1,000 persons. Therefore, it is anticipated that the on-campus recreation facilities would be adequate for the new population under the 2018 LRDP.

As discussed in Section 3.13, "Population and Housing," the number of faculty/staff associated with UC Davis are expected to increase by 2,440 (including non-UC employees) under the 2018 LRDP. While the percentage of UC-related employees within the city of Davis are anticipated to decrease, this is not attributed to employees moving away from the city of Davis; rather, it reflects the anticipated changes as a result of voluntary departure (including retirement). Current faculty and

staff members who retire or seek work elsewhere are largely expected to remain residents of the City of Davis due to the overall desirability of the city. Due to a variety of factors, including housing prices relative to University staff salaries and more ample housing availability outside of the city of Davis, new faculty and staff are anticipated to live in nearby communities (e.g., cities of Dixon, Woodland, Winters) at a higher proportion than current conditions. It is anticipated that off-campus faculty and staff would use recreational facilities at UC Davis and within the communities where they reside. Therefore, and with respect to recreational facilities in Davis, implementation of the 2018 LRDP, primarily because it would not contribute to a substantial increase in population within the City of Davis, is not anticipated to cause or increase the rate of deterioration of recreational facilities within the City of Davis.

With respect to other communities that may accommodate new UC-related employees, the projected increase in employees seeking housing would be distributed among the nearby communities, as noted in Section 3.13, "Population and Housing." Any increase in housing in these communities would be required to meet Quimby Act requirements, which ensure adequate open space is provided based on anticipated population. Should the new UC-related employees buy new development housing, including those anticipated within the cities of Woodland, Dixon, and Winters (refer to Table 4-1 of Chapter 4, "Cumulative Impacts"), the potential need for new recreational facilities would be addressed at the site of the new development housing or through the collection of development impact fees. Therefore, any necessary recreational facility improvements within neighboring communities related to new UC-related employees would either be addressed through the General Fund and/or through development impact fees of the respective community. Consequently, the increased population associated with the 2018 LRDP is not expected to cause substantial deterioration of off-campus recreation facilities. This impact would be **less than significant**.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are necessary.

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