

## M. RECREATION

### Affected Environment

The University of Washington provides diverse recreational facilities for intercollegiate, intramural activities and passive recreation. The intercollegiate athletic program generally involves organized spectator sports such as football, basketball, baseball and track. Facilities typically include the Graves Building, Hec Edmundson Pavilion, the Husky Stadium and, on occasion, the Intramural Activities (IMA) Building. These facilities are also used to host community, as well as national, athletic events.

Hutchinson Hall, Denny Field and the IMA Building provide physical and health education and sports facilities that are restricted for use by students, faculty, staff, and their guests. Facilities are included for most popular sports and activities, ranging from semi-formal competition in basketball, volleyball, softball, and rugby, to pair or individual activities, such as tennis, handball, swimming, roller skating, fencing, boxing, badminton, weight-lifting, wrestling, squash, archery and jogging. Facilities for water-related recreation are available at the Waterfront Activities Center.

Passive recreation takes place on most areas of the campus that have been reserved as open spaces, specifically the Campus Green, Rainier Vista, Engineering Quadrangle/Frosh Pond area, Memorial Way, Drumheller Fountain, Liberal Arts Quadrangle, the HUB yard, the South Campus HUB lawn and Showboat Beach, Sakuma Viewpoint, the Ship Canal water front, Burke Gilman Trail, and natural areas of the East Campus. All passive recreational areas are open to the public as well as to students and University personnel.

Numerous outdoor recreational facilities are located nearby off campus, including Ravenna Park, Cowen Park, the Washington Park Arboretum and playing fields, Waterfront Trail, North and South Passage Viewpoints, Christie Mini Park, University Playground, McCurdy Park, West Montlake Park, East Montlake Park, and the Montlake Playfield. Indoor facilities are provided by the City of Seattle recreation centers at Montlake, Laurelhurst, and institutions such as the YMCA, YWCA and churches in the vicinity of the University.

### Impacts of the Proposed Action

Participation in active recreational activities and the use of intramural facilities would increase as the campus population increases. This anticipated increase in use could lead to demand for additional active recreational facilities and/or lead to a need for additional maintenance staff and equipment for existing facilities. Impacts to recreation resources are not anticipated to be significant.

Under the *Master Plan Seattle Campus*, all valued existing open spaces would be preserved and enhanced (where appropriate). New development would include the development of new open space and/or the reconfiguration of existing open space. Opportunities to gain landscaped open space would be pursued whenever possible. New primary and secondary open space is identified in the *Proposed Action*. New open space is primarily located in the South and West Campus areas, where the need for additional active and passive recreational space is greatest. Figure 6 in *Section II* of this Final EIS shows existing open space and planned new and improved areas.

Most existing developed recreational facilities are located in the East Campus (as described above). The *Master Plan* includes some improvements to existing recreational facilities and new recreational development. Improvements and/or new development is planned for the entrance to and east side of Husky Stadium, the Conibear Shellhouse and surrounding area, the bleacher area of Baseball II and the Soccer Field, the southeast end of the Golf Driving Range, the area southeast of the Douglas Research Conservatory, and the area west of parking lot E-16. Figure 4 in *Project Description and Alternatives, Section II*, of this Final EIS shows the location of proposed recreational developments in the East Campus area.

## Impacts of the Alternatives

### *No Action Alternative*

Under the *No Action Alternative*, the demand for active and passive recreational spaces would not be expected to differ from that described under the *Master Plan*; the campus population would grow with or without implementation of the proposed *Master Plan*.

### *Decentralized/Open Space Alternative*

This alternative would include less development than under the *Proposed Action* (approximately 50 percent less development). Although planned construction and development would be reduced, impacts to and demand for recreation resources would likely remain the same as that described for the *Master Plan*. This alternative would involve decentralization and an increase in off-campus development activity. It is unlikely that the demand for recreation facilities would increase significantly in off-campus areas or in the University District. However, some open space improvements included in the *Proposed Action* would not occur under this alternative; existing campus open spaces and recreation facilities would be used more intensively over time.

### *No Street and Alley Vacations Alternative*

Development associated with this alternative would result in a reduction of building area to avoid street and alley vacations under this alternative, as outlined in *Section II* and *Section III G.* of this Final EIS. Although planned construction and development would be reduced and/or relocated, impacts to and demand for recreation resources would remain the same as that described for the proposed *Master Plan*.

### *Lifting of Lease Limit*

Lifting of the existing limitation on University leasing in the University District could result in increased University participation in development in this area, consistent with the City of Seattle zoning regulations and *UCUC Plan* goals. It is not anticipated that University related development would significantly impact area-wide recreational uses.

## Mitigation Measures

Additional maintenance staff and acquisition of equipment for existing recreational facilities could be needed to effectively address the increase in use of active and passive recreation resources.

## Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

No significant unavoidable adverse impacts to recreation resources are expected to occur.