

# Satellite Facility Needs Assessment

## Department of Recreational Sports

### Fall 2017

#### **Background**

The Department of Recreational Sports maintains a more than 400,000 square foot facility visited by thousands of students, faculty, staff, and family members each year. The Rec Center (or “The Rec”) includes a weight and fitness room with over 32,000 square feet after renovation, which was completed at the end of 2016. The Rec Center also includes indoor track, handball/racquetball/squash courts, an indoor climbing wall, dance/activity rooms for classes, a natatorium, an outdoor activity area, equipment check out, locker rooms, and gymnasium spaces that can be divided for basketball, volleyball, badminton, and soccer.

Staff from the Rec Center contacted Student Life Studies to assist with an assessment to gather some information from students regarding a proposed building of an additional satellite recreational facility on campus. More specifically, the Rec Center staff wanted to gauge student opinion regarding the building of the satellite facility and its accompanying fee increase, as even with the most current expansion and renovation of the Rec Center, there is concern that it cannot meet the needs of the growing student population. The assessment also would serve as an initial measure to find out what services students desire to have within a new satellite facility. This is the first time the department has worked with Student Life Studies to assess the proposal of building a satellite recreation facility on campus

#### **Method and Sample**

The 9-question survey was developed using Qualtrics®, survey design software for creating web-based forms and databases. Eight of the questions were quantitative, and one was qualitative. Due to survey branching, not all of the respondents saw all of the questions. The data was analyzed using SPSS®, a statistical software package, and Microsoft Excel®.

For this survey, Student Life Studies pulled a random sample of 4000 undergraduate and graduate students from the Texas A&M University student enrollment file. Students included in the random sample received an email invitation to take the survey on October 17, 2017 and non-respondents were sent up to three reminders (October 19, October 23, and October 26), with a close date of November 1, 2017. Six hundred and forty-two students responded to the survey, a 16% response rate.

#### **Results**

Results are reported as means, standard deviations (sd), and frequency percentages for the number of people (n) who responded to the question. For ease of reading, frequency percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole percent, so totals may not add up to exactly 100%. Tables are in descending means or frequency order unless otherwise specified. Summary themes are reported in this report; the entire list can be found in a separate document.

Respondents were asked how frequently they used the Rec Center facilities. As seen in Table 1, more than half of the respondents go at least once a week, but one-fifth reported never using the Rec Center facilities.

<b>How frequently do you use the Rec Center facilities?</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>3 or more times/week</b>	27%
<b>1-2 times/week</b>	26%
<b>Never</b>	20%
<b>1-2 times/month</b>	14%
<b>1-2 times /semester</b>	13%

Table 1: Frequency of Use (n=642)

Those who responded never were then provided a series of statements which queried their reasons for never using the Rec Center. As noted in Table 2, the most often selected reasons were that the Rec Center was not convenient, it was too crowded or the responder did not have time. Those who selected the response “The Rec Center doesn’t offer what I want”, were asked to provide input about what they wanted. Six responded with comments such as wanting affordable classes, extended hours, open access to mirrored studio and one indicated it was too far from the Bush School.

<b>What are the reasons you do not use the Rec Center? (Select all that apply)</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>It is not convenient for me</b>	57%
<b>Too crowded</b>	41%
<b>I don’t have time</b>	40%
<b>Parking</b>	25%
<b>Alternate gym membership</b>	21%
<b>Too intimidating</b>	20%
<b>I don’t work out or play sports</b>	17%
<b>The Rec Center doesn’t offer what I want</b>	7%

Table 2: Non-User Reasons for Not Using the Rec Center (n=126)

Survey respondents who indicated they use the Rec Center were asked to select what facilities they used when at the Rec Center from a select-all-that-apply list of facilities. Table 3 shows that the weight room and track were selected most often by the 629 who responded. Those who selected “other” could provide comment regarding that selection; of the 11 responses, nearly half were n/a or I don’t know. Others said elliptical, ping pong tables, turf room, badminton courts, yoga, archery and aerobic exercise class.

<b>What facilities do you use when at the Rec Center? (Select all that apply)</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Weight Room</b>	69%
<b>Track</b>	45%
<b>Basketball/Soccer/Volleyball Courts</b>	34%
<b>Smoothie King</b>	33%
<b>Fitness Rooms</b>	30%
<b>Swimming Pools</b>	26%
<b>Racquetball Courts</b>	15%
<b>Bike Hub</b>	11%
<b>Multipurpose Rooms: Dance/Meeting/Banquet</b>	11%
<b>Rock Wall/Boulder Wall</b>	9%
<b>Other</b>	4%
<b>Heavy Bag Room</b>	3%

Table 3: Rec Center Facilities Used (n=560)

Respondents who indicated using the Rec Center were also asked the reasons they did not use the Rec Center more often, and were presented with a series of statements from which they could select all-that-apply. Table 4, on the next page, illustrates the reasons that Rec Center users most selected as why they did not use it more often were that it was too crowded, they didn’t have time and the Rec Center was not convenient for them. Those who selected the response “The Rec Center doesn’t offer what I want”, were asked to provide input about what they wanted. Sixteen responded and three indicated the Center was too far away. Other comments included lockers were not free, needing more cardio and weight equipment, hours open, and unavailability of pool, volleyball and badminton courts. Responses to this question were cross tabulated to responses regarding frequency of use of the Rec Center and those results can be found in the attached documents.

<b>What are the reasons you do not use the Rec Center more often? (Select all that apply)</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Too crowded</b>	54%
<b>I don't have time</b>	43%
<b>It is not convenient for me</b>	41%
<b>Parking</b>	29%
<b>Too intimidating</b>	20%
<b>Alternate gym membership</b>	9%
<b>I don't work out or play sports</b>	6%
<b>I have no barriers to using the Rec Center more often</b>	6%
<b>The Rec Center doesn't offer what I want</b>	4%

Table 4: Users Reasons for Not Using More Often (n=579)

Next, respondents who used the Rec Center were requested to select from a list of facilities the three facilities they would most like to see in a satellite facility. As shown in Table 5, weight room, track and basketball/soccer/volleyball courts were chosen most frequently as the three facilities respondents would most like to see in a satellite facility. Those who selected the “other” option could provide comment, and 34 respondents chose to do so. About a fifth of those responded NA or none, and another fifth indicated they did not want a new facility. Other comments included facilities such as badminton courts, yoga room, table tennis, golf and tennis courts.

<b>Please select the 3 facilities you would most like to see in a satellite facility.</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Weight Room</b>	77%
<b>Track</b>	43%
<b>Basketball/Soccer/Volleyball Courts</b>	39%
<b>Fitness Rooms</b>	37%
<b>Swimming Pool</b>	28%
<b>Bike Hub</b>	15%
<b>Racquetball Courts</b>	10%
<b>Multipurpose Rooms: Dance/Meeting/Banquet</b>	10%
<b>Rock Wall/Boulder Wall</b>	10%
<b>Other</b>	6%
<b>Heavy Bag Room</b>	5%

Table 5: Three Most Desired Facilities for Satellite Facility (n=558)

Similarly, respondents were next requested to select from a list of services the three services they would most like to see in the satellite facility. Shown in Table 6, respondents most frequently chose day lockers, showers, and equipment checkout/sales as the three services they would most like to see in a satellite facility. Those who selected the “other” option could provide comment, and 19 respondents chose to do so. Nearly half responded NA or none, and four indicated they did not want a new facility. Other comments included services such as a steam room, yoga classes, sauna, earlier open hours and towel lending.

<b>Please select the 3 services you would most like to see in a satellite facility.</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Day Lockers</b>	62%
<b>Showers</b>	57%
<b>Equipment checkout and sales (basketballs/soccer balls/safety glasses etc...</b>	55%
<b>Food Service</b>	51%
<b>Towel Service</b>	32%
<b>Permanent Lockers</b>	19%
<b>Other</b>	4%

Table 6: Three Most Desired Services for Satellite Facility (n=562)

All respondents were asked their level of agreement with two statements surrounding their possible use of the new satellite facility and their willingness to vote in favor of the building of the satellite facility. Preceding the question the respondents were informed that the Recreational Sports fee would need to be increased from \$106 per semester to \$150 per semester if the satellite facility was built, and that the fee increase would not affect students locked into their current tuition and fees. Noted in Table 7 below, more than half agreed or strongly agreed to both statements, although more than a quarter of the respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with both statements. In addition, 128 of the 591 respondents currently live on campus and their possible use of the new satellite facilities was cross tabulated to their current dorm residence code. That data can be found in the attached documents.

<b>Please indicate your agreement with the following statements:</b>	<b>Strongly Agree (5)</b>	<b>Agree (4)</b>	<b>Neither agree or disagree (3)</b>	<b>Disagree (2)</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree (1)</b>	<b>Mean (sd)</b>
<b>If there was a smaller-scale Rec Center located on the east side of campus, near the Commons dorm or near the Bonfire Memorial, I would use the Rec Sports facilities more often.</b>	36%	26%	13%	8%	17%	3.56 (1.46)
<b>I would be willing to vote in favor of building a satellite Rec facility on east campus.</b>	38%	24%	9%	9%	20%	3.52 (1.54)

Table 7: Use and Vote to Build Satellite Facility (n=591)

All survey respondents were asked to share any comments they may have regarding the additional recreational facility. One hundred-thirty responded, and the number of comments from those who voiced support to build and not to build the facility were about equal. Roughly 20% of the comments were neutral in tone, commenting on the current facilities, parking or other aspects of campus. Those who seemed in favor of building saw it as necessary to alleviate the overcrowding of the current facility, and thought the east side of campus may add to more convenience. Those in favor also expressed the desire for facilities and services such as weight rooms, showers, track, extended hours and plentiful parking. Those whose comments were not in support of building the new satellite facility expressed dissatisfaction with the raising of the fee for current as well as future students, thought other services to students should take priority over the building of this new facility, and they were concerned the new facility still would not alleviate overcrowding and would increase or create more traffic or parking issues. Regardless of their stance about being in favor of building the satellite facility, many comments included concern over the location being too close to the Bonfire memorial, hindering the beauty and respectfulness of that site, as well as creating more congestion for the campus.

On the following page, Table 8 lists the demographics of the respondents to the survey as well as the demographics of the random sample of students sent the survey. Respondents are representative of the student sample within 5% in all demographics. Table 8 is in descending frequency order by demographic by survey respondent demographics.

<b>Demographic Category</b>	<b>Survey Respondents</b>	<b>Random Sample</b>
<b>Sex</b>	n=639	n=4000
Male	53%	53%
Female	47%	47%
<b>Classification</b>		
Senior	24%	28%
Junior	23%	19%
Sophomore	19%	1%
Freshman	18%	17%
Masters	11%	12%
Doctoral	5%	6%
Veterinarian, First –Fourth year	<1%	1%
Postbac Non-degree	<1%	<1%
Postbac UG	<1%	<1%
UG Nondegree	<1%	1%
<b>College</b>		
College of Engineering	31%	28%
Liberal Arts	12%	14%
Agriculture	12%	13%
Mays Business School	11%	10%
Education and Human Development	10%	12%
Veterinary Medicine	5%	5%
Architecture	5%	5%
Science	5%	5%
General Studies	3%	4%
Geosciences	3%	2%
Bush School of Government	1%	1%
Exchange	<1%	<1%
Galveston	<1%	<1%
Public Health	<1%	1%
School of Law	<1%	<1%
Medicine	--	<1%
Nursing	--	<1%
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
White (Only)	59%	56%
Hispanic or Latino of any race	22%	22%
International	8%	8%
Asian Only	5%	7%
Black Only +2 or more/1Black	3%	3%
2 or More/Excluding Black (NEW)	3%	3%
Unknown or Not Reported	1%	<1%
American Indian Only	<1%	<1%
Native Hawaiian Only (NEW)	--	<1%
<b>First Generation Status</b>		
Not First Generation	69%	63%
First Generation	21%	26%
Unknown	10%	11%

Table 8: Demographics

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Given the slightly low response rate, care should be taken when trying to generalize the results of this survey to all Texas A&M University students. However, the respondents reflected the demographics of the random sample of students sent the survey, and given the number of respondents and the sample size, the overall margin of error (or confidence interval) for this survey is +/- 4 at the 95% confidence level. Overall, a majority of students indicated they were willing to vote favorably for the building of the Rec Sports satellite facility, but about a quarter were not. Generally, students were concerned with the fee increase resulting from the satellite facility building plan, and parking. As well, quite a few students expressed concern that the satellite facility's planned location may interfere with the aesthetics and solemnity of the Bonfire Memorial, as well as negatively affect traffic on the east side of campus.

While summary themes were included in this report, the Department of Recreational Sports is encouraged to read all the qualitative comments for a fuller understanding of the feedback from the students responding to the survey. It is also recommended these results be shared with other interested stakeholders within and outside the Rec Center.

Report prepared for: Mark Haven, Recreational Sports  
Report prepared by: Susan Fox-Forrester, Student Life Studies  
Report prepared on: November 30, 2017  
Analysis prepared by: Ligia Perez, Student Life Studies  
Electronic survey designed by: Annie Lowak, Student Life Studies

*Services provided by Student Life Studies are funded, in total, by Texas A&M University Advancement Fee.  
Find Student Life Studies on Facebook!*