

ATHLETIC FACILITIES

Intercollegiate competition is an important part of the university experience. Cougar Pride is not only about an exciting athletic program, but about being a part of a thriving university community. Current competition venues are dated, undersized and disconnected. They often share space with intramural programs, creating less than ideal conditions for both. Providing adequate centers for indoor and outdoor athletic programs will foster Cougar Spirit – that excitement that comes from being a part of something larger than ourselves.

The Prince Student Union and the Donoho Recreation Center house indoor athletics, both intercollegiate and intramural. This facility is able to serve each individually in a reasonable manner, but it struggles to serve both well. The plan calls for the addition of a competition arena that will provide nearly 3,000 seats for sporting events. In addition, this facility would house athletic department offices and dedicated practice space. When complete, it could enable the DRC to be exclusively dedicated to intramural programs.

Outdoor sports fields are currently spread across the campus which makes them difficult to maintain and sometimes difficult to access. Putting all of the intercollegiate fields in a centralized location would create efficiencies for support facilities, maintenance and transportation. Located on the south side of Delano Run, Varsity Plaza would feature a stadium for soccer, football and track & field events. The complex would also include baseball and softball facilities as well as numerous practice fields. Grouping these facilities together in a single large complex would enable them to share support functions such as concessions, locker rooms, restrooms, training facilities, press boxes and parking. Its location directly across the creek from the proposed new campus center (or campus living room) creates a strong visual connection and easy pedestrian access to the heart of the campus.

The Varsity Plaza complex is balanced to the north by a collection intramural fields serving student recreational needs. Due to the topography of the intramural area and its relationship to the flood plane, the region is well suited for this use. It is directly adjacent to the residential zone, making it very accessible for the students.

Combined, these facilities will foster a culture of pride and an atmosphere of excitement not only for a great athletic program, but for being part of a vital MVNU campus community. Go Cougars!