National Recreation Facilities Institute
Hollywood, Florida
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University Park

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Presentation Outcomes

• Identify the benefits of collaboration when bringing an outdoor complex to the students of James Madison University.

• Identify the LEED points gained in order to get an outdoor complex certified as Silver level.

• Identify how James Madison University overcame a very challenging site to provide for the maximum programming for both Recreation and Athletics.
About . . . James Madison University

- Founded in 1908 (as the State Normal and Industrial School for Women)
- Liberal Arts University, Female/Male Student Ratio – 3:1
- Size: 20,023 students & 700 acres
- Location: Harrisonburg VA (Shenandoah Valley on I-81)
- #28 of The Kiplinger 100 Best Universities
- Top Public, Master’s Level University in the South (USN&WR)
- 2004 FCS National Champions
The Site
Planning Phase

The Sports Program

**Athletics:**
- Field Hockey Complex
- Soccer/Lacrosse Practice Field (2)
- Track & Field/ Soccer Complex
- Throwing Events Field
- Perimeter Jogging Trail

**University Recreation:**
- Tennis Courts (4)
- Basketball Courts (2)
- Archery Field, Rugby Field (2)
- Ropes Course (by JMU)
- Disc Golf Course (by JMU)
- Multi-Purpose Field (Club & Intramural Soccer/Flag Football/Softball)

One of 30 over iterations
Planning Phase

Accommodation of Fields -

Additional Supporting Program
- Streetscape/Access/Parking
- Gate Houses
- Pavilions
- Concessions (shared)
- Future Athletic Admin. Building
- Maintenance Area
- Viewing Experience (Stands and Informal)
- Preservation of Monument Park
- Program and Event Control
- Accessibility

VHB conclusion: “Too much program for 82-acres.”

JMU directive: “No program reduction. Make it fit.”
The Plan – Place Making: refining relationships
Leveling the Playing Field: The Site
“Design Challenges”

- Program Requirements – separate programs (no crossover), differing functional requirements
- Lay of the Land – program forced use of a lot of retaining walls (over 100,000 sf exposed walls)
- Turner Ashby Monument - southerners are sensitive to their Confederate Monuments, Daughters of the Confederacy
- Spitzer Property
- Future Road Improvements - widening of Port Republic Road and Neff Avenue
- Harrisonburg Electric Company
“Design Challenges”

Massive Earthwork Operation

- 3 Phases of Grading/Erosion and Sediment Control
- Nothing moves forward without managing stormwater through all phases of construction

Utilities – providing adequate utility corridors with tight program elements; Where do we put the trees?

Permitting Hurdles

- Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
- City of Harrisonburg – Water, Sewer and Access
- Bureau of Capital Outlay Management (BCOM)
Grading and Drainage
Stormwater Management
Utilities

Water
Sewer
Electrical
Irrigation
Sports Turf
Architecture
CONSTRUCTION
SEQUENCE TO DATE
July 2010
May 2011
September 2011
January 2012
May 2012
Fun Facts

Site - 83 Acres with 65 Acres Constructed
Site adjacent to JMU Arboretum
9,930 Linear Feet of Wall
430K Square Feet of Artificial Sports Turf
401,097 CF UGD Capacity
12,400 Linear Feet of Fence
19,500 Linear Feet of Walks
1,076 Number of Trees Planted
Over 1,500,000 CY of earth/rock moved
Rock Blasting from April 2010 through December 2010
LEED Certification

Decision in early 2013
Very tough for outdoor space.
Hopeful for Silver.