EKU Thomas E. McDonough Intramural Field Complex Renovation

Executive Summary

The Intramural Field Complex consisted of three multipurpose natural quads and one synthetic quad offering the possibility of two softball fields, eight flag football fields, 4 soccer fields, 2 rugby fields, one sand volleyball court, an Intramural Fieldhouse headquarters, and an Adventure Programs Base Camp rental center.

Correlation to the campus master plan and mission

The Campus Master Planning Project completed by the Perkins + Will Architectural Design Firm in July 2009 organized strategic areas of campus into development zones: academic, residential, athletic and special use zones. The Intramural Field Complex renovation was included in the athletic zone and master planning construction schedule.

During the planning process for the field renovation, the Athletic Department shared an idea for Campus Recreation to take control of their practice football fields and football locker room adjacent to the current Intramural Fields in exchange for funding 50% of the construction cost to synthetic turf their stadium field. Once completed the EKU Football team practices and plays on the stadium synthetic turf and use their game day locker room within the stadium. The university is now able to host more community events on the stadium synthetic turf due to less wear and tear that comes from not having a natural turf surface.

The athletic football practice fields consisted of two fields with one being natural and the other being synthetic. The synthetic turf was installed four years prior to the intramural field renovation. Campus Recreation chose to re-grade the natural turf field and blend with the four year old synthetic turf football practice area into one large 120 yard x 100 yard multifunctional synthetic turf field. The large multifunctional synthetic turf with the Musco Light-Structure Green™ provides nearly 24/7 access for recreational play.

The EKU football practice locker room is now being used as an officiating clinic and educational class room, bicycle mechanic shop, and Adventure Programs base camp. The base camp is the location for adventure gear rental, trip gear storage, pre/post-trip meetings, adventure workshops, and the storage facility for the commuter and mountain bicycle program.

The EKU Band practices on the synthetic turf before Intramural/Sport Club use each day. A band tower was installed to enhance their view and increase their performance level. The band tower also provides a bird’s eye view for Campus Recreation if the need arises.

Key elements from the collaborative efforts between Campus Recreation and EKU Athletics include:

- The ability for Athletics to synthetically turf their stadium field, which would not have been possible without Campus Recreation’s funding from the Intramural Field Renovation.
• The ability for Campus Recreation to secure a classroom for official’s clinics and adventure programming use.
• Opportunity to secure a multi-purpose, all-weather synthetic turf field for intramural and sport club use.
• The space for Adventure Programs to offer the free commuter bicycle program, bicycle mechanic shop, and the gear rental program utilizing the former football practice locker room facility.
• Providing the EKU Band a consistent location to practice

Intended and actual impact to your recreation program

• The intended impact was to provide multi-functional fields to accommodate various events throughout the year. The fields were originally rectangular, tiered, and segmented eliminating the ability to play soccer or softball on a regulation field. The new fields are larger, leveled, and multi-functional for softball, flag football, rugby, soccer, ultimate, lacrosse, kickball, etc.
• An additional impact was to provide access to the fields 24/7 with the addition of lights and a synthetic turf allowing for use during the winter months. Previously the fields were only functional, for the most part, during the months of April-October during daylight hours.
• Actual impact for intramurals:
  - Football: Increase of 25 teams (33% increase), added 4 v 4 season due to additional space and lighting 40 teams in first season
  - Soccer: Increase of 50 teams (300% increase)
  - Softball: Flat enrollment for teams but we did add competition fields
  - Ultimate: Increase of 12 teams (100% increase)
  - Sand Volleyball: Increase of 30 teams (150% increase)
• Actual impact for sport clubs:
  - Added competition softball field for fast pitch sport club, previously could not host games on campus
  - Added four full-size soccer fields, previously had one 55yd x 100yd field
  - Added two full-size rugby pitches, previously had one field that was not regulation size
  - Outdoor sport clubs can now host night games and tournaments as the fields are competition size and a destination for other sport clubs in the region
  - Club participation has increased in the past three years by almost 100 participants (40% increase).

Unique aesthetic or architectural design features

• Blending the existing synthetic turf with the new turf.

Relationship between facility design and staffing

• Centralized field house for equipment check-out, restrooms, first aid and storage providing natural sight lines to the three natural turf quads
• Provide student groups the ability to turn on the sand volleyball lighting with the push of button next to the court allows for less staffing
Innovative construction materials or methods

- The architect provided much less slope throughout the project for increased water infiltration with less water runoff.
- Installing a spring water box and wrapped stone area underneath the new synthetic turf to decrease low lying water issue
- Providing additional drainage under the skinned softball infields
- Installing Cannon irrigation system with larger pump instead of pop-ups

Sustainable/Green features

- MUSCO Light-Structure Green™ Lighting providing 50% less illumination spill, Control Link remote technology, and 50% less energy consumption.
- The recycled rubber system incorporates Nike Grind rubber into its system for the synthetic turf to provide excellent drainage with consistent play.
- Provides adequate field space to give the program the ability to rotate field use for increased natural turf recovery

Use of technology and how it benefits the customer, staff, and /or budget

- Wi-Fi enabled space, Intramural program has gone paperless with integration of tablet computers
- Real time scoring on games, and instant updates of rosters for Intramural Participants
- Internet enabled lighting allows for lights to be scheduled from anywhere by computer or phone, increasing weekend and late night participation
- The ability of participants to activate sand volleyball lighting with the push of button.